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THE MARE NOSTRUM OPERATION AND THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Expert Online Survey

Presentation

This Preview of the survey results is drawn from the responses given to the survey questionnaire items by 105 Italian experts (see the expert categories in the final page of this report).

The objective of the research, so far in progress, is to know how much are the Italians aware of the task accomplished by Mare Nostrum, and of the unanticipated consequences the Operation has brought to Italy and the European Union since migration, not an unusual phenomenon in human history, has turned into a momentous crisis.

The invitation to participate in the survey was sent to the experts on 21 September. The questionnaire form was uploaded online on 29 September. The form was filled in by the experts from 30 September - 20 October 2015.

The questionnaire was in Italian. This Preview is the translation of the Italian version of the Preview.

The extensive analysis of the survey results, which will be made by the members of the research group in the next months, will be published as chapters in books, scientific journals, and websites.

The members of the research group are Fulvio Attinà (PI), Luigi Caranti, Simona Gozzo, Daniela Irrera, Francesca Longo, Stefania Panebianco, Rossana Sampugnaro, and Rosa Rossi. They are affiliated to the Department of Social and Political Sciences. This Project is funded by the University of Catania, Call: FIR 2014.
A – MIGRATORY AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

1. The current migration crisis is

![Bar chart showing two categories: a temporary, short-middle term phenomenon and a phase of the long-term growth trend of the migration flows.]

2. The present Mediterranean migration is

![Bar chart showing three categories: a case of widespread illegal migration, a humanitarian crisis born out of wars, persecutions, and poverty, and a case of complex crisis generated jointly by illegal economic migration and by asylum-seeker and displaced person movements.]

3. After the current phase in which the European governments proved to be not ready and up to managing the crisis

4. The costs of the SAR operations in the Mediterranean should be borne by (multiple answer possible)
5. Who should bear the task of providing settlement to the migrants rescued by SAR operations? (multiple answer possible)

6. The free participation of non-governmental and non-profit organizations in rescue and reception operations is (multiple answer possible)
7. The European response to the increased migration flows falls short of (maximum 2 choices)

8. The economic and financial crisis excuses the European governments for using strict border control against persons though these want to escape war and persecution
9. The crime smuggling organizations increase the size of the migration flows

10. Italy and the European countries have to receive immigrants (multiple answer possible)
B – THE MARE NOSTRUM OPERATION

11. The October 2013 decision of the Italian Government to launch the Operation Mare Nostrum is legitimate and fair on the basis of (multiple answer possible)

- moral duty to rescue persons in distress and at risk of life
- political responsibility to contain the negative effects of crises beyond the State borders
- compliance with international legal standards (especially the SAR norms)
- other

12. The decision of the Italian Government to launch the Operation with no public discussion and no parliamentary debate and vote was
13. Despite the burning opposition by some political parties, newspapers and groups, the prevailing permissive consent of the Italians to the government decision is explained by (multiple answer possible)

![Bar chart showing reasons for Italian consent (multiple answer possible)](chart13)

14. What effects on the Italian public had the negative reaction of the other European countries to Mare Nostrum? (multiple answer possible)

![Bar chart showing effects on the Italian public (multiple answer possible)](chart14)
15. How much the negative reaction of the EU and the Member countries to Mare Nostrum influenced the declining Europeanism of the Italians that also the Eurobarometer has detected?

16. Some reproach Mare Nostrum transferred from the sea to the Italian territory persons in distress without having arranged appropriate reception. How much do you agree with this statement?
17. Italy has to bear the costs of the reception of such a high number of people with the contribution of (two answers maximum)

18. The decision about the final destination of the rescued migrants is up (maximum 2 answers)
19. Fighting the trafficker organisations brings criminals to justice but does not affect the size of the migration flows

20. If the Italian Government had not run Mare Nostrum, illegal immigrants in Italy today would be considerably less
21. If the Italian Government had not run Mare Nostrum, the European Union would still be far from recognizing the humanitarian dimension of the migrant flows.

22. The EU and Member Governments accuse the Italian Government of not fighting illegal immigration vigorously and of inadequate control of the reception centres (CDA; CARA; CIE). This blame (multiple answer possible)
23. Which public policies are more overloaded by the presence of illegal immigrants? (3 answers maximum)
C – EU AND TRITON

24. The EU and the Member Governments refrained from helping Italy and the Operation Mare Nostrum arguing that according to international and EU law border surveillance is the responsibility of the State; rescue at sea is the responsibility of the coastal State; the control of foreigners in the territory of a State is the responsibility of the state Government. Do you agree with this position?

25. In recent years, and especially since 2011 as the Arab uprisings began, the EU has ignored the need for exceptional measures of crisis management; has expected the Member States employ the usual visa and border control measures; and has negotiated agreements with the countries of origin offering economic aid in exchange for readmission. Do you agree on the effectiveness of this response to the crisis?
26. The response of the European Governments to the immigration and humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean (multiple answer possible)

27. FRONTEX assists the Member States in border control, the SAR actions and the return of the migrants not eligible to asylum. The Member Governments have the task of providing reception and filling the asylum procedures albeit with the assistance of the Union. Does this package improve the migration crisis management in the short to medium term?
28. According to some observers, the EU agencies like FRONTEX assist the Member States in border control missions but do not take care of the humanitarian dimension of the missions.

29. Readmission and capacity-building border control agreements, negotiated by the Commission and the Governments of the countries of origin of the migratory flows, are an effective measure of unauthorized migration management.
30. The Commission's proposal to relocate, by the quota system, the migrants eligible to international protection from the frontline states to the other EU countries is an appropriate humanitarian measure.

31. Outsourcing the reception of migrants and refugees to third countries with the concrete support of the EU is a fair humanitarian measure.
32. The EU responsiveness to migration flows has been weak for the following reasons (multiple answer possible)

- Underestimation of the causes of migration
- Lack of leadership in the formulation of appropriate responses and communication with the public
- The veto of Member Governments to the common policy of asylum and immigration
- Lack of adequate crisis management tools
- Underestimation of the humanitarian obligations under international law
Expert category

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Catania, 3 November 2015