



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

DSPS
DIPARTIMENTO DI
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Da un secolo, oltre.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-GA-872209



European
Commission



Participation in International Conferences by the Global-ANSWER Team of the Department of Political and Social Sciences (University of Florence) within the project “Global social work and human mobility: comparative studies on local government and good social work practices in the Euro-Mediterranean region” (Global-ANSWER)

News

The UNIFI Team of Global-ANSWER participates in:

2024 Education & Health Research Hub Conference. College Students of Immigrant Origin: Research, Practice, & Community Engagement

Center for Social Science Research and the Institute for Immigration Research of George Mason University,
February 1-2, 2024

with the PAPER

“From ‘Lost’ to ‘Productive’ Time in the Reception System: Challenges for the Forced Migrant’s Right to Study and Lifelong Learning”

The paper examines the structural, cultural, and social barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequity in access to university education for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection across Europe. It further explores the pivotal role universities can play in fostering human rights protection within a framework of equity and social justice. The paper is structured in two parts. The first section contextualizes the right to education, emphasizing the significance of lifelong learning, while analyzing the inherent ambiguities and contradictions within European asylum policies and reception systems. These systems often fluctuate between charitable interventions and control mechanisms, effectively transforming forced migrants from a “historical and political subject” to an “object of care”. This process results in the reification of asylum seekers and refugees as “bare life”, dependent on assistance, which in turn becomes the foundational principle justifying their discrimination. The second section delves into the importance of the right to education as a means of healing biographical fractures. It highlights how education enables the reconstruction of interrupted schooling and addresses aspirations for a dignified life. Finally, the paper illustrates exemplary practices implemented by European universities aimed at reducing the discrepancy between the educational aspirations of forced migrants and the actual educational opportunities available in the countries of settlement. These academic actions have become part of the good practices highlighted within the framework of the project “Global Social Work and Human Mobility: Comparative Studies on Local Government and Good Social Work Practices in the Euro-Mediterranean Region” (Global-ANSWER - H2020-MSCA-RISE-GA-872209).

Participants: Ivana Acocella and Alberto Tonini

Link to Conference: <https://cssr.gmu.edu/events/15026>



This Project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 872209