In 2016, the pilot phase of this initiative was launched in collaboration with the International University College of Turin (IUC), and more specifically the Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic (HRMLC), the ITCILO and the ILO. As part of this initiative, a joint seminar on the right of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to work and access social protection was organised to learn about ILO’s mandate and activities in the field of migration and social protection. Students then carried out research including through over 80 interviews, under the supervision of professors, the ILO and ITCILO staff, to identify the level of awareness of social and labour rights and their degree of implementation. The research materialised into a report analysing the relevant legal framework and local administrative practices which will serve to develop practical material that can promote learning and knowledge sharing and raise awareness as regards the right to social protection.

"People that can not return to their countries must have the same rights as citizens"
Ugur
Kurdish migrant
in Turin

To learn more about the project, and on how you can contribute to increase access to decent work and social protection for migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees in Europe:

visit: http://lawclinics.social-protection.org

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THE EXTENSION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EUROPE THROUGH LAW CLINICS
Despite all eyes being turned to Europe, with regards to what is commonly referred to as the ‘EU-Mediterranean migration crisis’, an effective rights-based response has yet to materialize.

Often fleeing humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses in their country, over 1 million migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, arrived to Europe in 2015 alone. Upon arrival they often experience human rights violations including arbitrary detention and expulsion but also constraints in accessing economic, social and cultural rights, including health and education.

Providing social protection to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is not only a way to give effect to their human rights but it can also address their basic and longer term needs and provide more sustainable and cost effective solutions to often protracted situations while reducing potential social and economic tensions with host communities.

Nevertheless, many obstacles, including legal and financial barriers, lack of information, language issues and complex administrative procedures and requirements, often hinder migrant, refugees and asylum seekers’ effective access to social protection.

The obstacle is one of communication. Firstly, refugees don’t know what to do, secondly they don’t know what to say, thirdly they don’t know where to find the hospital or what hospital to go to and if they go they worry about how they will explain things.

Mamadou Guinean refugee in Turin

Building Partnerships

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) have teamed up with the European Network for Clinical Legal Education (ENCLE) to support local actors in providing a very critical and timely response to the precarious situation of the rising number of migrants and refugees through law clinics.

Objectives and Strategy

Guided by the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, this project has three main objectives. (1) Partnering with law clinics, to compile and analyse information that can then be (2) transformed into user-friendly practical tools for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and local actors. This will help (3) increase information and ultimately access to social protection. This material will also be made available through existing relevant organizations and e-platforms and networks to promote knowledge sharing and knowledge development.

Outcomes

✓ Awareness about the rights and access to decent work and social protection has been raised
✓ Knowledge has been enhanced and shared
✓ Partnerships have been built, consolidated and extended.