

Humanitarian corridors

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for the excellent conference on such an important and historic issue.

I would like to mention briefly the pilot project of the Humanitarian Corridors that the Community of Sant'Egidio together with the Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Waldensian and Methodist Churches in Italy have implemented.

The project is designed to

- avoid people undertaking dangerous and deadly trips in the Mediterranean sea
- oppose the business of human traffickers
- grant people in vulnerable conditions legal entry in Italy with a humanitarian visas and the possibility to apply for asylum
- entrance in Italy in a safe way for both migrants and welcoming country as visas are issued by Italian authorities.

The organizations that have proposed the project to the Italian state are committed to providing

- legal assistance
- hospitality
- economic support for their transfer to Italy
- support in the integration process in the receiving country

So far more than 500 refugees have been welcomed and received in Italy and by the end of 2017 the number should arrive to 1000.

In addition other agreements of the kind were signed with the Italian Catholic Bishop Conference and with the Polish one and with the France. Importance of the project in many aspects also with a comparison with the typical process of resettlement of refugees.