

Vulnerability Assessment: Protection Seekers in Italy in 2016

Background

The international protection seeker is a person who has applied for international protection and is awaiting the decision of recognition of refugee status or another form of protection. In Italy, all immigrants are entitled to apply for international protection.

In 2016, the number of non-community admissions for asylum (refugee status), asylum seekers and humanitarian reasons were 77,927, represented by 88% by men (68859) and by the remaining 12% by women (9068).

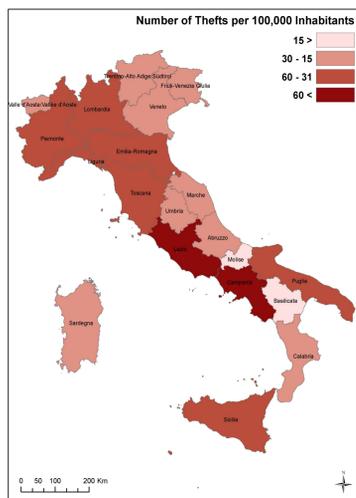
The refugees and in general International protection seekers are therefore a part (generally very small) of the share of foreigners residing on a territory, however, because they enjoy extended rights compared to those normally granted to economic migrants, we can say that International protection seekers are a stable component of Population. Nowadays according with UNHCR there are approx. 131000 people living in Italy with an International protection.

Methods

This project intends to determine "where are the International protection seekers most concentrated in Italy and of those areas of concentration, which ones have the highest vulnerability level."

These answers are particularly relevant to my topic because could reveal areas with the highest vulnerability scores through a geospatial vulnerability assessment and offer a valuable insight on where International Protection seekers are in the most need. To create a vulnerability scores 11 different factors were included as follow: Illiteracy rate, Unemployment rate, Number of health facilities, Number of school facilities, Number of reception centers (SPRAR), Number of place for Unaccompanied Minors, Number of crimes for Sex abuse, Number of homicides, Number of thefts, Number of crime for prostitution, and finally Number of Protection Seekers by Province.

Each attribute was given score based on natural breaks (Jenks), with four representing the most vulnerable and zero the least vulnerable Province (or Region). The vulnerability scores of Province were then aggregated and a final map was created to show the total vulnerability score of each Province.

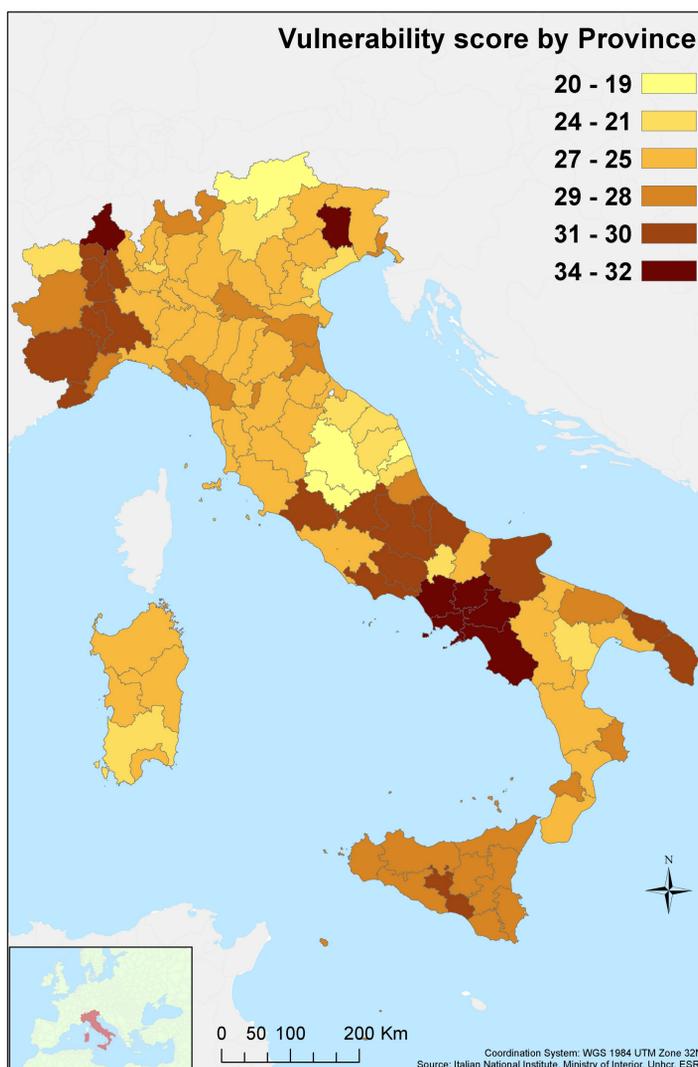
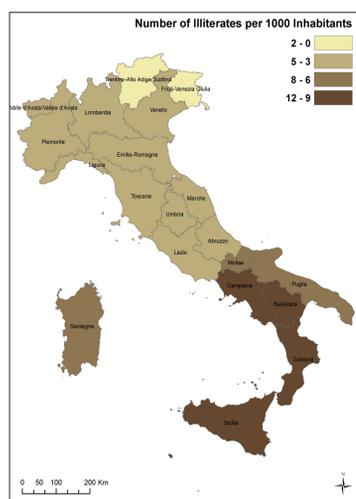


LESS VULNERABLE PROVINCES

- Perugia
- Bolzano
- Terni
- Fermo
- Trento
- Ancona
- Macerata
- Aosta
- Pesaro e Urbino
- Ascoli Piceno
- Matera



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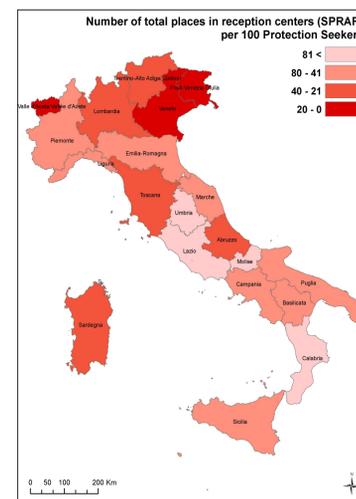
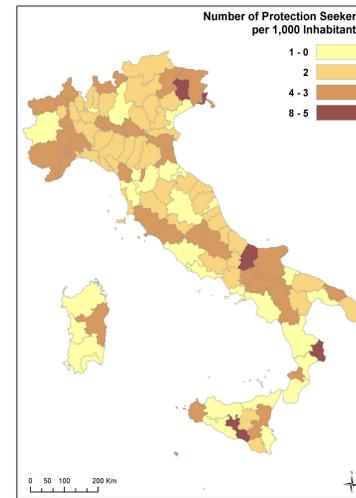


MOST VULNERABLE PROVINCES

- Avellino
- Benevento
- Caserta
- Verbano-Cusio-Ossola
- Pordenone
- Salerno
- Napoli
- L'Aquila
- Frosinone
- Rieti
- Viterbo



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Conclusion

To answer the first research question, a map is created to show the number of International Protection Seekers in Italy by provinces. The number of Protection Seekers was normalized for the total population of each province. The province with the highest rate of Protection Seekers are: Pordenone, Gorizia, Caltanissetta, Crotona and Campobasso.

According to the result of a vulnerability assessment, the most vulnerable province has resulted to be Avellino with a negative score of 34/40, followed by Benevento and Caserta (33/40), Pordenone, Salerno e Napoli (32/40).

Except some province located in the north of the peninsula, the data shows a strong concentration of vulnerability index in the south regions, particularly in Campania.

Some data were not available at the province level. Also, for some factors, data as of 2016 were not available, and they were analyzed by the previous years. The difference in time frame might hinder the accurate reflection of situation in the Italian peninsula in 2016, especially due to the recent change occurred in the Italian administration levels, particularly Italian municipalities (Province). Italy at the current day is subdivided into 20 regions, 107 provinces and 7,954 "Comuni" (sub-municipalities). Lastly, each factor was equally weighted, but it is evident that in this special context some factors could have more impact in the vulnerability of International Protection Seekers in Italy. Therefore, due to the lack of a basis of weight among factors, the nuanced analysis might have been missed.

