#### Milano



# Narrative change on migration and integration at the municipal level

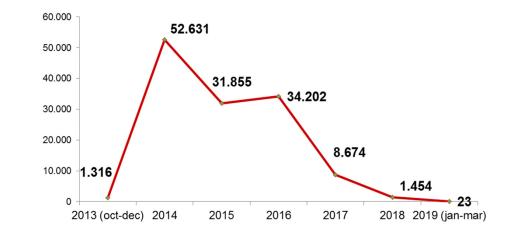
Oxford Autumn Academy 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

# **Municipality of Milan**

**Cosimo Palazzo** Director of Social Rights, Inclusion and Projects Area, Social Policies Department



#### **Reception and public opinion**



- Since October 2013, Milan has welcomed more than 130,000 asylum-seekers
- Reception facilities' impact on neighbourhoods
- Local administration's tasks: governance of complex dynamics and creation of **conducive conditions** in **public opinion**





#### **Communication levels**



# Factual communication

- Direct management of reception centres
- Involvement in the integration process at local level

### **Political communication**

Clear message of Milan as welcoming city



Some examples...



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#### 20 MAY 2017

#### "Together Without Walls"

promotion of solidarity values and positive narratives in the public debate around migration.

It included a march joined by 100,000 people, who sent a message of support for refugees and migrants' reception and inclusion.



Pictures: Corriere della Sera



2nd NETCOM Meeting

07.05.2019

## 20 MAY-23 JUNE 2018

A month of public meetings, conferences, cultural events on integration's positive effects on the society, the economy, the cultural debate.

The final event was the **"Ricetta Milano"** lunch in Sempione Park, attended by 8,000 people.



Picture: Corriere della Sera



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## 2 MARCH 2019

More than 200.000 people participated in "**People first**" march – the 3<sup>rd</sup> yearly event dedicated to inclusiveness and the fight against discrimination, and the most impressive in terms of participation.



Pictures: Today, Il Fatto Quotidiano



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# FAMILY REUNIFICATION

- One-stop shop: facilitating the integration of newly reunited families, and improving the Administration's ability to reach out to families and disseminate information
- Welcome Guide: helping all newcomers navigate Milan's service system









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Picture: Consorzio Farsi Prossimo

Pictures: Merits S.r.l



# 'BELLA MILANO'

- Fostering the culture of integration
- Communicating a different perception of asylum-seekers to the community
- Experiencing life outside centres
- Establishing positive relationships with the neighbourhood

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#### **Lessons learnt**

Such experiences as 'Bella Milano' exemplify the importance of:

- taking **responsibility** of the phenomena happening in the city
- activation of **volunteering**, which produces ownership and consensus
- the adaptation of welfare systems to **change**
- communication to promote a change in narratives



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# Thank you