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Mobility dynamics in South of France: 
Traces of Italians workers in online platforms

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Intra-European migration is less numerous, and especially less visible than migration from non-European countries (Dubucs & Mourlane, 2017). However, their dynamic is alive and changes constantly.

Ten million Europeans currently live in a European country other than their own, which represents a significant change compared to the years prior to 2004, when only 3% of Europeans lived elsewhere than at home in Europe.

South-South migration of EU citizens and in response to the global economic crisis (Lafleur & Stanek, 2017; Salvatore et al., 2018).
Italian immigration to France has been one of the most important since the end of the nineteenth century before the flow dried up in the 1960s. The Italians constitute the first foreign nationality represented in France from the beginning of the 20th century until in the 1960s.

Composed of a non-qualified labor force coming to work in different sectors of the industry, in the building and public works as well as in agriculture.

- New migrants are mainly young skilled workers who choose more metropolitan routes.
- Economic crisis and the search for a job.
- The mobility of young graduates of the middle class responds to structural immobility of their original society, incapable of generational renewal (Dubucs, Pfirsch & Recchi et al., 2017)
More than 20,000 people emigrated since 2008 just from one Region

This Italian migration is more individual, concerning equal proportion of men or women, arrived in France without relying on family and regional sectors.
Questions of Research

- How do "new" Italian migrants use online social networks in the process of mobility and migration in a new territory?

- How do social dynamics support the process of mobility and migration in the new territory?
PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)

It constitute since the end of the 19th century one of the main region that welcome reception of Italian immigration. Only in Marseille there are about 300,000 Italian immigrants, making them the biggest foreign community in the city.

One online close group in Facebook “Italiani a Marsiglia” (https://www.facebook.com/groups/italianiamarsiglia/?ref=bookmarks) with 3,837 members, with the explicit aim to “bringing together Italians living in Marseille”. From this group, we select all the posts in a period of two months (July-August 2018) for a total of 100 posts.
FROM ONLINE GROUP

PREPARATION

“I live in Centre of Italy, married with two children, being a storekeeper currently looking for a job, could you tell me if this kind of work is required? thanks for everything and greetings from Italy ...”.

“To gather information, to have advice, suggestions and compare points of view in order to choose where to move in the city.

“To collect reliable information by Italians already there

“To receive job offers, also directly from Italy

“To “catch” the new opportunities/ready to move

“with my boyfriend we are thinking of moving there. At the moment we work in UK but we cannot stay there anymore. Thanks in advance”.
ADAPTATION

- “Hello everyone, to get the social cart (for medical assistance), do I have to go to the consulate ...? What should I know? I'm in Marseille for an internship”
  - about the bureaucratic formalities, not always easy to understand and perform.

INTEGRATION

- “We are new to the group and reading a little the answers, I see that there are many Italians from the South. We are Neapolitans. Greetings to all!”
  - More oriented to start and consolidate new social ties, find place to hang up, spend time together.

A feeling of belongings to the “Italian community in Marseille” start to born and grow = the establishment of relations with others.
FROM INTERVIEWS

to preparation, adaptation and integration

I made a balance and I decided to leave Paris. I wanted to look for a warmer, Mediterranean place ...

“At the Work office I often had concerns about the recognition of my Italian degrees and diplomas. I was sometimes told that I should have done exams in France to validate my diploma of architect”

“Doing an activity like capoeira, sharing an interest and goals with other people, immediately creates strong bonds that I could rely on. Later, still thanks to the music, I met an old Italian friend, whom I had known while traveling when we were very young. He too helped and supported me”

The new generation of Italian do not family relationship in the territory.

New Italian migrants can experience periods of precarious residential and professional life in the new city, as observed also by Pfirsch & Schmoll (2017) in the analysis of Italian in Paris

Re-position themselves in relation to the new environment. Mobility entails a transformative experience in a new personal becoming
AS CONCLUSION

• Marseille is not often a first destination in the trajectories of mobile Italians of the new generation.

• Many have moved elsewhere first, in Paris, or further north still Northern Europe and seeks to get closer to a way of life that they think is more similar to what they left when leaving the Italy. So it is a choice that is made and which is less related to employment opportunities in the region, which are less, than for destinations like Paris or London.

• So it's a compromise migration between work and out of work ... it's the culmination sometimes of a trajectory that was initially made elsewhere..

• The territory experienced by the Italian communities in Marseille is double: the first lived and the second online which became a reference group, in which express aspirations, desires, appreciation, needs and ask for helps and supports.