



The LUISS Policy Clinic is a lab where students can put their skills and knowledge into practice developing projects together with real partners to find policy solutions in the public interest.

At the LUISS Policy Clinic we

- Use expertise to help institutions, NGOs, communities and decision-makers
- Devise options to improve policy, law and their implementation
- Offer and present deliverables to real stakeholders to advocate for change
- Work pro bono, for the sake of the common good

Class of 2018

Focus: Migration Policy Clinic

Projects

European Citizens' Initiative "We are a welcoming Europe"

On February 15th, 2018 a group of European personalities and NGOs launched a Europe-wide campaign named #WeAreaWelcomingEurope. The initiative aims to compel European Union authorities to amend EU legislation so as to ensure an enhanced protection of fundamental rights. The asks of the campaign are geared towards making sure that humanitarian acts of solidarity vis-à-vis migrants cannot be prosecuted, civil society organizations can benefit from EU funding in case they want to sponsor the arrival of refugees, and victims of crime are duly protected, whatever their migratory status.

The European Citizens' Initiative is a formalised procedure whereby citizens can prompt EU institutions to legislate on specific matters. To do so they need to collect one million signatures across at least seven EU member states. The signature collection process will be open until February 15th, 2019. If the objective is met, the promoters will participate in a hearing before the European Parliament, and the Commission will have to communicate what measures it is going to take to reply to the asks of the campaign.

Project 1: WelcomingEuropeIT with ActionAid Italia

In Italy, the European Citizens' Initiative #WeAreaWelcomingEurope is promoted by a large coalition of civil society organizations, ranging from [ActionAid Italy](#) to Legambiente and NGOs operating in the field of international development, the Italian Radicals and confessional organizations. The coalition operates through the website <http://welcomingeurope.it/> and the related social media @WelcomingEU_IT and <fb.com/welcomingeuropelT>

The purpose of the LUISS Policy Clinic ECI Italy team is to support the signature collection campaign by helping people to make an informed choice in support of the initiative.

To do so, we provide our partner, ActionAid Italia, with comparative analysis of relevant legislation across European countries and help them stay abreast of news on events relevant for the campaign in all the Southern Mediterranean area.

We focus on the so-called "crime of solidarity" and on existing private sponsorship initiatives: what are they? Where do they really exist? Are they mentioned in any legislation?

We work to provide accessible and comprehensive materials to explain the requests of the campaign to a wider public.

Project 2 Welcoming Europe EU with Migration Policy Group - Brussels

"Since our governments are struggling to handle migration, we - European citizens, students, volunteers, families, unions and communities of faith from all walks of life – have stepped in to help."

Our group provides research assistance to Migration Policy Group, a Brussels-based think tank, for the development of the campaign #WeAreaWelcomingEurope at the European level and across the member states. We focus the pros and cons of the refugee private "sponsorship" system and explain where and how it works at the through example such as <http://www.mediterraneanhope.com/>

In addition, we research about cases of individuals' prosecution due to the offering of humanitarian help in European Union countries in order to raise the awareness of public.

Our aim is to develop a survey and an informative brochure to be used by the campaign.

Our intention is to create a questionnaire that can be circulated through the LUISS website in order to provide us and our stakeholders with valuable feedback regarding the campaign. Through this survey we will be able to track whether the campaign has the support of young people, and additionally, if there are any of the proposals that seem to not be very popular. The informative brochure will contain our research results, highlight complicated cases and present the main reasons moving the campaign, with the objective of raising public awareness.

Project 3 Family reception with Refugee Welcome Italia

The task of our group is to help Refugee Welcome Italia (RWI) be integrated into the official Italian system for the reception of asylum seekers (SPRAR). Playing the role of a consulting equipe, we work to find the right way to introduce the possibility of having families hosting refugees, as provided by RWI, within the institutionalised pathfor the integration of refugees.

We work through data analysis and identifying loopholes links in the reception chain.

Family reception is not only about providing refugees with a temporary accommodation, it delivers results through trustful hard work against indifference, economic interests and distrust. We believe that the challenge of integrating refugees in the Italian society can be tackled through the cohabitation in families all around the Italian peninsula.

After a detailed analysis of the law and the problems faced by RWI and through interviews with various stakeholders, the members of the project are devising an advocacy plan to be presented by RWI to public authorities in order to integrate this private and voluntary initiative into the SPRAR system.

Project 4: A Hackathon for a family reunification app

Our project is focused on the organization of a “Hackathon” on the issue of migrants' family reunification within the European Union (EU).

With this hackathon we expect to attract and bring together different cohorts of experts and let them work on relevant information and data concerning family reunification for migrants in selected Member States of the EU: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and Hungary.

Through our project, we would like to facilitate the creation of an app to acquaint the people interested in family reunification with the different legal procedures that exist in the Member States where they reside. In doing so, we also hope to encourage more cooperation between the EU Member States, which should provide transparent provisions and norms, and the relevant NGOs, which should encourage them to do so.

In our view the app should be based on a data-sharing system, thanks to which it will be possible to trace the requests and collect the applicants' personal data, upon their approval.

In this way, we would like to make the information clearer and easier to obtain for the interested people, in order to provide concrete help. At the same time, we would like to facilitate the collection of data and provide an overview of the phenomenon that is independent from the willingness of the public authorities to share data.