Unaccompanied foreign minors, the journey between legal protection and care for migrant subjectivity

by Maria Platamone | Pegaso International, PhD

This research project focuses on the methodological approach of most of the published research, which, despite a diversification resulting from the contents expressed and the phenomena investigated, shows a common denominator: the aggregation of numbers or a numerical reality often overlooking people, individual experiences and situations woven together. For this reason, this work uses methodological models that address the “migratory process involving minors” by studying its well-identified characteristics, or the “reasons” – detached from the context analysis of migratory flows – behind every single experience. Assumptions that help us deeply understand who the migrant minors arriving in our country “are” and how they are managed the research hypothesis: “The “minor’s autobiography” could get trapped in cultural and vital spaces far from those that belong to those who approach the study of this phenomenon, to the point that (and it is not so rare) the mechanisms of interpretation of personal stories appear to be limited and reductive.

The objectives of the research are: identifying, in principle, the strategies activated for promoting the integration of unaccompanied minors in Italy; assessing the quality of the social integration of unaccompanied migrant minors in the different reception contexts.

Research methodology: two main types of information gathering tools were used. With regard to context analysis, descriptive tools were used: data made available by research institutes, data and information obtained from published studies.