



# *“Yalla, the right of study”*

## *Short Report*



One year ago, in August 2022, the Forum Per Cambiare L'Ordine delle Cose launched the project 'Yalla, the right to study', for the right to study and international mobility, with the contribution of Open Society Foundation.

The project is part of the Forum's campaign to promote a policy of safe and legal access to the territory of the European Union to reach open and inclusive policy of flows in the European political agenda.

In 2021, a group of international activists between Syria and Italy, founded the Yalla Study project proposal, to guarantee the right to study recognised by Italian law, and to activate a reform of the law to allow freedom of movement, for safe and protected travel.

In Italy, Legislative Decree No. 286 of 25 July 1998, Consolidation Act regulating the rules on the condition of foreigners, allows a citizen born in a country outside the European Union entry to attend



university courses, vocational training and secondary education. The legislation provides for the granting of a visa for study purposes in the presence of certain conditions, which, however, do not meet the entry requirements of thousands of students, who in many cases are forced to undertake dangerous journeys at the hands of human traffickers.

*In recent years, especially from Syria and Lebanon, since the so-called refugee 'crisis' began, several thousand students - according to data from the OECD's International Migration Outlook - have attempted to travel to Italy and other European countries to start or complete their university studies, in a safe and affordable way. Often already with a degree in their pocket in biology, civil engineering, medicine, interested 'only' therefore in specialising in the 'old continent' and then returning to their countries of origin. However, more and more often it happens that Italian embassies or representations abroad implement practices that are characterised by discretion, which can be remedied starting from the concept of 'migratory risk', at the basis of most rejections.*

Yalla Study's activity was conceived with the aim of supporting the right to study and the international mobility of women and men stranded in countries at war or caught in the grip of civil or military conflicts and unable to access university studies: the information processed by the team reached over 4,000 people in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine through our social channels. In order to make this process of confronting consular bureaucracy and the right to study simpler, more accessible and protected, the team has drawn up a small legal vademecum explaining clearly and simply how students should defend themselves in cases where embassies act illegally in terms of procedure, while also informing them of the legal instruments available in the event of rejection: Yalla Study has provided assistance to over 100 requests for support, including appealing rejections before the Administrative Court. This shows that the governments that, on the one hand, call for a regular and orderly management of the migration phenomenon, claiming to want to strengthen regular entry channels for foreigners into Italy and Europe, on the other hand hinder precisely those regular entry channels, which simply do not exist or are hindered.

### ***Entering illegally and then somehow staying in Europe remains almost the only way.***

As was reiterated by several voices at the [Fluxes of Energy conference](#) held in Rome on 9 November, there is an urgent need for a reform of the flows, which would free up a considerable amount of energy to base migration and protect thousands of lives from human trafficking. The results of this advocacy, legal support and socio-political research activity on international mobility for study purposes, conducted to raise awareness among governments on the right to study and mobility, have illustrated on 25 May in the Foreign Press Association Hall, in a [report](#) drafted with the NGO Cospe present with its volunteers in many of the students' countries of origin.

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