“Welcome. Working for refugee integration” Project

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has decided to award, starting from 2017, a recognition to those companies that in Italy distinguish themselves for putting in place actions and activities promoting the integration process of beneficiaries of international protection.

The mentioned recognition will be assigned by awarding the “Welcome. Working for Refugee Integration” Logo, that companies will be allowed to use for communication purposes.

The logo will be awarded on a yearly basis according to the unquestionable assessment of a Committee specifically formed by professionals coming from different backgrounds and that are dealing in different ways with the social responsibility within the private sector.

Meeting the UNHCR' due diligence requirements is the prerequisite for the companies to be awarded the logo.

The logo will be awarded to the companies that put in place one of the following actions:

a) Companies that, in line with their possibilities, distinguished themselves for the new hiring of beneficiaries of international protection or for supporting them on an actual labour integration, also through effective training programmes or innovative and high-quality language learning programmes;
b) Companies that fostered the social inclusion process of the employees who are beneficiaries of international protection within their own local environment, through actions aiming at facilitating intercultural dialogue or concrete actions of support;
c) Companies that supported the creation of self-employment businesses by beneficiaries of international protection, through actions of free of charge support addressed to start-up ventures.

With regard to awarding the logo, a preferential attention will be given to those companies that, besides the above-mentioned activities, are committed to supporting refugees even out of the national boundaries. Furthermore, special consideration will be given to the companies that foster labour integration of women beneficiaries of international protection, demonstrating greater sensitivity toward gender dimension and the issue of equal opportunities.

Participation process

Applications can be sent by the company itself or its employees, as well as by trade associations, labour unions, Chambers of commerce, local institutions, associations and cooperatives engaged in the assistance and the safeguard of beneficiaries of international protection.

Applications must be made by duly completing the specific form and submitting it via email to the following address: info.welcome@unhcr.org by October 31st 2017.
Composition of the awarding Committee

Dott. Pierangelo Albini, Director of Confindustria’s Work and Welfare Area
Dott.ssa Stefania Congia, Head of Migrants’ Social and Labour Integration Policies and foreign minors’ protection Department, at the General Direction for Immigration and Integration policies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
Dott. Andrea De Bonis, UNHCR Protection Associate
Prof. Marco Frey, full professor at S. Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa and professor at Cattolica University of Milan and at Bocconi University
Dott.ssa Laura Iucci, UNHCR Associate PSP Officer
Dott.ssa Laura La Posta, Sole 24 Ore editor-in-chief

For any further information or clarification, an email can be sent to info.welcome@unhcr.org