

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the context of migration: a work-in-progress research in Florence and Perugia



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Introduction and Materials

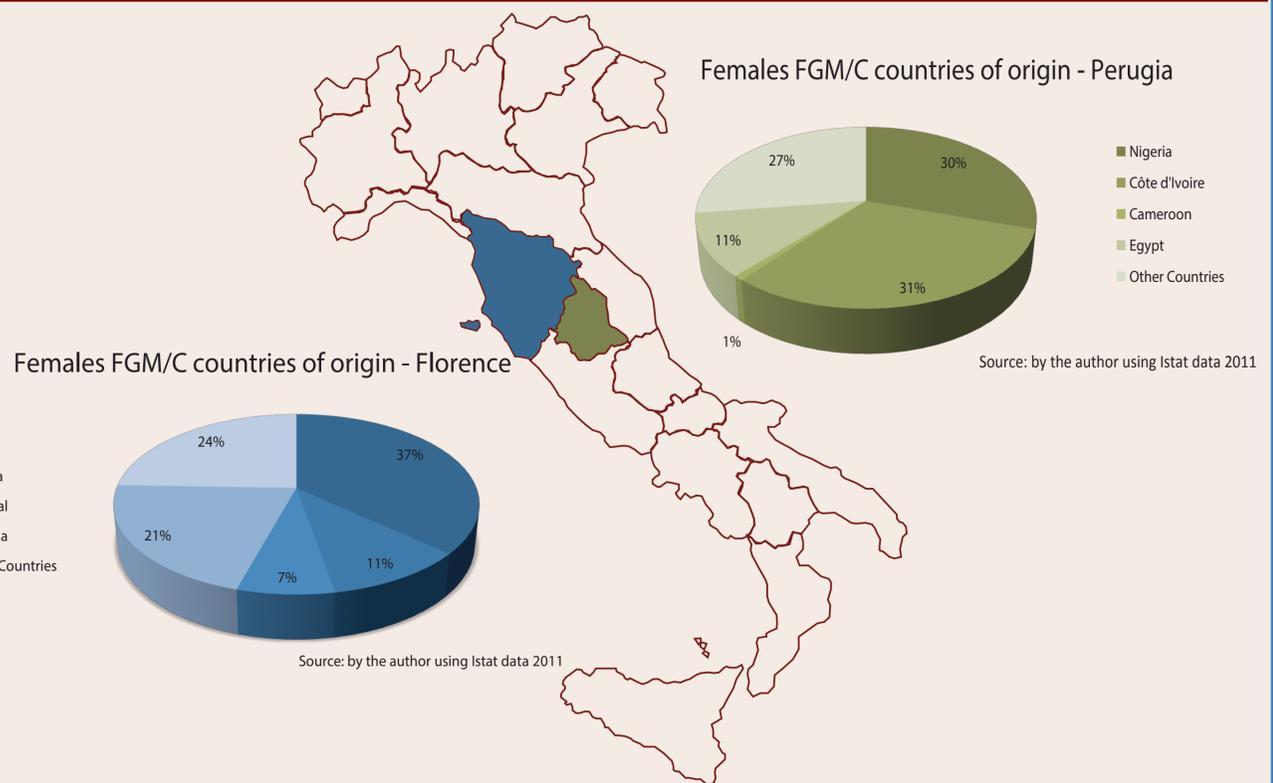
As a result of the **growing feminisation** in migration flows from Africa, the practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) has become an issue of increasing concern and attention in host countries such as Italy.

This **work-in-progress** study is being developed in the Ph.D. Programme in Peace and Development Cooperation at University for Foreigners Perugia focusing on two well framed case studies: Florence and Perugia.

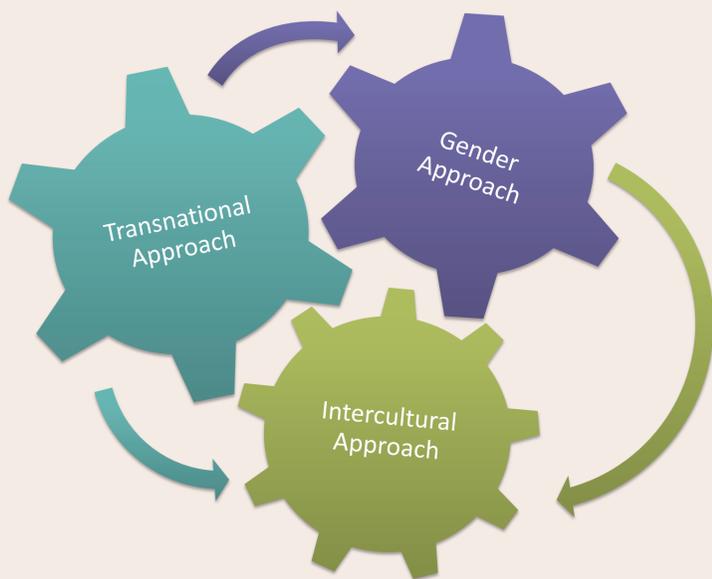
The research aims to find out if and how the practice is **spread** in the two contexts, furthermore to assess if the answers given by **National Health System** are effective.

The relevance of this research is due to the territorial focus and the **bottom-up approach**.

The most recent prevalence data (2009) show that there are **35.000** African migrant women with FGM/C and **1.000** girls are at risk in the country.



Methodology



The methodology is **qualitative based** on empirical analysis, implemented by semi-structured interviews and focus group; **quantitative** tools are used for data elaboration too.

The approach is **three-dimensional**:

- Gender Approach**
to frame the issue of FGM within the dimension of the Universal Human Rights, will allow to pay attention to the definition of gender identity through the internalization of patterns and different roles in societies. Support the analysis of migration processes through the specific gender dimension.
- Intercultural Approach**
Based on knowledge and dialogue between cultures, will allow to interact with the Diaspora, to open a dialogue as a pre-condition for field work.
- Transnational Approach**
Analysing diasporic everyday life and double identity following their mobility from Africa to Europe.

Preliminary results

The field work in the above mentioned two cities is conducted together with Nosotras a **non-governmental organization** (NGO) based in Florence and affiliated with the Inter-African Committee.

This collaboration provides a useful gateway to **Diaspora women** who have undergone the practice.

"My advice for you: be careful to the words, to the language" Khadija Grandmother - Senegal

"My parents have done many good things for me, except the infibulation" Jamila - Somalia

"Understand that the practice is harmful is quite different than being aware of!" Gloria - Nigeria



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