

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a blue coat, is seen from the back, holding a young child. They are looking out over a vast, hazy valley. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with some sparse vegetation in the foreground.

impact campaign

The Valley

*A feature-length documentary
by Nuno Escudeiro*

*Production France / Italie : Point du Jour /
Miramonte Film*

The story

Over the past two years, refugees started taking mountain routes to cross the French-Italian border. Soon, the population rushed to help them in order to prevent humanitarian tragedy, entering a battle with the State, which responded with a wave of repression that revealed a system of human rights violations.

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The context

On the border between Italy and France, migrants are risking their lives in the hope of a better life, having fled war, political persecution and poverty. This issue is most felt by the inhabitants of the Roya and Durance Valleys in the Alps.

It is through “their valleys” that refugees attempt to cross the border, having been refused entry at other, safer points of passage. Seeing the migrants’ suffering and dismay, the local population has taken action to provide them with basic aid.

About two years ago, the Roya Valley group decided to make their actions public. On a practical level, the mediatization has made matters worse, leading to frequent road blocks, night raids in the villages, and drones flying overhead. This arm-wrestling bout between the population and the authorities is still going on today, and having a nationwide impact in that it clashes with the French president’s commitment to fight “illegal immigration”.

Soon, with the support of lawyers, the helpers discovered that the local authorities were in fact violating their own laws. In response, they started to provide minors and refugees with legal support and to document the numerous human rights’ violations committed by the State.



ANAFÉ Ressources Observation report 2018/19

> Number of entry denials

15,745 including 4,079 at internal borders in 2015
63,390 including 51,779 at internal borders in 2016
86,320 including 70,076 at internal borders in 2017

> According to the French authorities, in Alpes-Maritimes

32,285 people were arrested in 2016 / **48,362** in 2017
12,538 from 1 January to 24 May 2018

> In Hautes-Alpes

316 entry denials were notified in 2016 / **1,900** in 2017

> In Haute-Maurienne

More than **7,000** denials were notified in 2018

These figures should be considered cautiously, considering that a person often makes several attempts to cross the border and would be notified as many denials. The misuse of figures reinforces the misconception of an alleged invasion of foreigners coming from Italy.

In 1951, the Geneva Convention guarantees the rights of persons seeking asylum, but does not resolve the issue of access to the territory. If a person enters in a territory without authorization, the state often considers it illegal.

In 2003, the European countries came together and established the Dublin II Agreement reformed in 2013 (Dublin III), in order to regulate the asylum requests in the European territory. In 2015, responding to the increase of the arrivals in Europe, several European nations decide to close their borders.

As a consequence, the locking Schengen space began jeopardizes migrants by putting them in misery, delivering them to smugglers and traffickers and by forcing them to take risky roads, especially in The Alps.

As France closes its border with Italy in 2015, the inhabitants of the Roya Valley, a borderland between both countries, are confronted with the arrival of many people who try to cross the border. They chose to act by helping them.

For the Roya's citizens called *les passeurs d'humanité* / the human smugglers it is not just a moral duty or a question of hospitality. They acting to compensate the failure of State. In 2017, the Prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes was convicted twice for violating the right of asylum because of illegal reappointment practices at the border, including minor persons.

Since 2015, the Roya's citizens have been carried out through the media. Thanks to them, the notion of crime of solidarity has awakened consciences.

While the French law prohibits the entry into the territory of any foreign person in an irregular situation, it does authorize

charity, material assistance and advices to preserve its dignity and physical integrity. The Asylum and Immigration Act of 10 September 2018 authorizes, in accordance with the principle of brotherhood, the support for the movement of irregular foreign persons (not to support the entry).

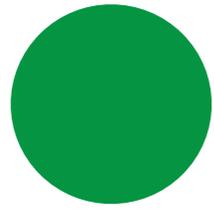
In Italy, the Salvini decree of 29 November 2018 abolished the humanitarian permits imposing the detention of migrants and authorized the police to use force against them. Moreover, on the 19th of December, Italy failed to adopt the Marrakesh Pact, a global pact for safe, orderly and regular migration and based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Marrakesh Pact was adopted by 152 of the 165 European member countries.

On the other side of the border, the number of Italian mayors refusing to apply the infamous Salvini's decree continues to grow like in Palermo, Naples, Florence or Padoue.

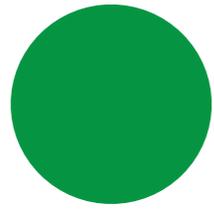
In 2018, the number of irregular people crossing Europe's external borders fell by 25% in 2017 in comparison with 92% in 2015. Now, the road has shifted to Spain and the Balkans.

This film focuses on the individual and personal stories of common men and women who – caught in the middle of an impossible situation of great legal, political and media-focus complexity – are struggling to keep a sense of morality and to do what is right according to their own ethical stance. As witnesses of the resurfacing borders, the local inhabitants have become engaged in reshaping their own nation's laws by engaging in civil disobedience.

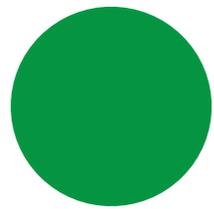
impact's goals



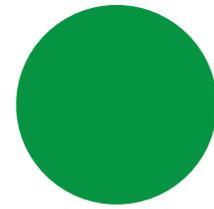
To highlight on the Roya Valley's situation in France and in Italy



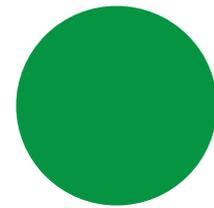
To encourage the learning of democracy and feed the public debate ahead of the Europeans Elections



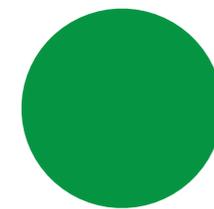
To engage social changes and raised awareness



To promote human rights and social engagement



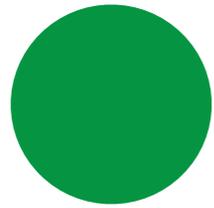
To value ordinaries people who began social heroes



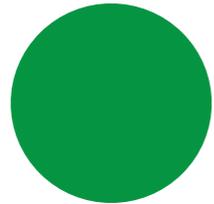
To bring together local French, Italian's communities and lawyers



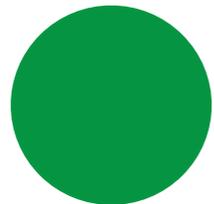
impact's dynamics



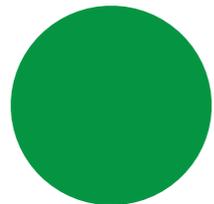
Bulding fair partnerships in Europe with NGO, associations, medias, institutions



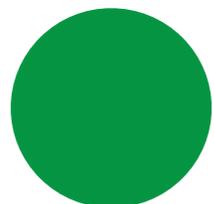
Organizing specials theatrical screening tour in Europe and in internationals Festivals



Open the debate : organizing specials events : round table, conferences, meetings to impulse a debate about democracy and immigration



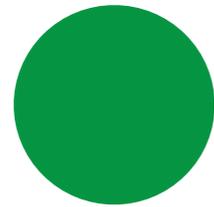
The film as a case studies for NGO, associations, researches, institutions, forums, ...



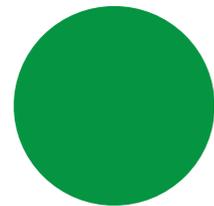
Promoting the film by a social media campaign



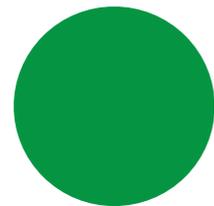
Together we can make it !



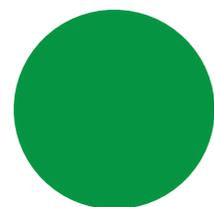
To support NGO, associations supports, lawyers who work with migrants in the Roya Valley



To help the promotional campaign



To contribute in the subtitling in various languages : Deutch, Finnish and others ...



To cover specials screenings fees for researches



*The love of one's country is a splendid thing.
But why should love stop at the border ?
Pablo Casals, musician*

*#noborderagain #humanright #fearlesscities
#migration #helpers #thevalley #noborders #free
#equality #brotherhood #dignity #helpers
#conscienceness #forAlps #change #move #revolve
#bonds #history #migration #laroya #awareness
#nonfiction #breackinglaws #defenders #goodpitch
#nomoreborders #equality #HelpsNoCrime
#WelcomingEurope #LetUsHelp #opendemocracie*

The more you can increase fear of drugs, crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all of the people.

Noam Chomsky

the crew



Nuno Escudeiro, 33 yrs, filmmaker

Nuno Escudeiro studied Media Studies in the University of Aveiro and Documentary Film Directing in Zelig, School for Documentary in Bolzano, Italy.

He works on different fields of the moving image, exhibiting both in Gallery and Film Festivals. His experimental dance short films have been screened in several national and international film festivals, such as Directors Lounge 2013 in Berlin, CineDans 2013 in Amsterdam, and Cinerail 2013, in Paris. His feature ***Moon Europa*** (2016) was screened in Dok.Fest Munich 2017 and Indielisboa 2017.

In 2012, he founded the creative group PostmodernSquare, a member of the firestarter network, which involves 11 European organisations collaborating on new projects in order to develop and enhance the use of art within different social contexts supported by the European Commission.

During his studies in Zelig Film School, he directed several exercises and films, including: *Chronicles of Wind and Stillness* (2015) which portrays the institution of border controls in order to prevent refugees from traveling from Italy to Austria and Germany; and *Moon Europa* (2016) working with migrants living in the European Arctic.

The Valley is his second feature length documentary.

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Luc Martin - Gousset, co-producer POINT DU JOUR

Point du Jour is a Paris based company which produces documentaries. Among them, *The dark side of the moon* (William Karel, ARTE), *Dashi, essence of Japan* (Shohei Shibata, Asia Documentary, ARTE, NHK) *Samurai and Idiots* (Hyo Yamamoto, Vesuvius, ARTE, BBC 4), *Judging Japan* (Tim Toidze, ARTE, SRC, HK TV) *Empire of Time* (Cedric Condon, Arya Suriwidjojo, IFA, ARTE, CCTV, CICC).



Andreas Pitchler, co-producer MIRAMONTE FLM

Born in Bolzano, a bilingual city in Italy close to the Austrian border; has studied and worked for many years in Berlin and Bologna. He started as dance film maker before entering in the field of documentary films in 2001. At the moment he is continuously working in Italy and Germany as director, author and producer. His award winning films have been shown in many festivals and TV stations worldwide. His latest long films *The Venice Syndrome* and *The Milk System* were also released in cinemas in various countries.

CONTACT

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