



Attracting and retaining international students in the EU

Common Template for EMN Study 2018

Final version: 5th September 2018

Subject: Common Template for the EMN Study 2018 on "Attracting and retaining international students in the EU"

Action: EMN NCPs are invited to submit their completed Common Templates by **4th December 2018**.

If needed, further clarifications can be provided by directly contacting the EMN Service Provider (ICF) at emn@icf.com and to Veronika Vasileva (veronika.vasileva@icf.com) and Norma Rose (norma.rose@icf.com).

1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

In view of growing labour market challenges, the EU and its Member States have increasingly looked at migration as a means to address ageing populations, sustain welfare systems and find skilled workforce. According to the OECD, the EU welcomes more migrants than any other single OECD destination, with more than two million permanent-type migration flows to EU countries in 2016.¹ Labour migrants comprise about one in three new migrants to the EU, however, at the same time, third-country migrants only comprise 4% of the total EU working-age population between the ages of 15 and 64.^{2,3}

One way to tackle this shortage in skills is through the attraction and retention of third-country nationals who choose the EU for the purpose of higher education. While the EU/EFTA as a whole is becoming an increasingly attractive destination for international students, with a 4% increase of flows in 2016, the competition with other OECD countries, such as the United States, Australia and Japan persists.⁴ The retention of international students in the EU also remains a challenge, as only a small fraction of graduates resides in an EU Member State to take up employment. In recent years, the EU and its Member States have been working on several comprehensive strategies to enhance the attractiveness of Europe's higher education system.

¹ OECD, *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing, Paris. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2018_migr_outlook-2018-en#page24

² OECD/EU (2016), *Recruiting Immigrant Workers: Europe 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264257290-en>

³ Please note that a complete statistical overview will be presented in the Synthesis Report.

⁴ OECD, *International Migration Outlook*, OECD Publishing, Paris. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2018_migr_outlook-2018-en#page34

The most prominent example at EU level is the EU's new students and researcher's directive adopted in 2016 (Directive (EU) 2016/801),⁵ which notably seeks to improve and harmonise minimum legal standards for welcoming and retaining international students. At national level, some Member States have developed new national strategies for the attraction of students and many universities have increased their efforts to attract international students, for instance by organising information campaigns in third countries and increasing their social media presence. In parallel, Member States have concluded bilateral and multilateral agreements with third countries, with the aim of facilitating the admission of third-country national students to the EU.

A number of studies have been carried out in recent years on the topic of attracting international students (see "Relevant sources and literature" below). Most importantly, the 2012 EMN Study on "Immigration of international students to the EU" and the 2013 EMN Study on "Attracting highly qualified and qualified third-country nationals" looked into the immigration and mobility policies of (Member) States, as well as the policies and concrete practical measures in place that aim to attract (highly) qualified third-country nationals. The 2018 study aims to update this information and complement it with retention policies. This topic was also touched upon by the 2015 EMN Study on "Changes in immigration status and purpose of stay: an overview of EU Member States' approaches", by outlining the conditions that regulate the changes of status between different categories of third-country nationals.

Particularly in view of the deadline to transpose the 2016 Students and Researchers Directive by 23 May 2018, it is assumed that changes to Member States' policies with regard to attracting and retaining students have taken place recently, which this study aims to capture.

2 STUDY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this study is to explore what national practices are in place in Member States to attract and retain third-country national students. The Study will only focus on legal migrants issued with a residence permit or long-stay visa for the reason of studies, and will thus not include beneficiaries of international protection.

More specifically, the Study aims to:

- Provide a statistical overview of the number of third-country national students present in EU Member States and Norway from 2012-2017 and 2018 data if available, the duration of studies, the number of graduates who reside in the Member States after their studies, etc.
- Examine the incentives in place in EU Member States and Norway to attract and retain third-country national students;

⁵ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast).

- Describe the admission criteria of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), language requirements and the process for recognition of diplomas;
- Provide an overview of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements in place with third countries covering international students;
- Outline the challenges and good practices of EU Member States and Norway with regard to the attraction and retention of international students.

3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The overall focus of this Study are third-country nationals who are granted residence permits or long-stay visas for reasons of studies, and/or are undertaking a higher education degree (Bachelor, Masters or PhD level⁶). For the purpose of this study, higher education comprises tertiary education programmes at levels 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). The study only focuses on full-time students. The Study covers the period from 2013-2017 for statistics and 2012-September 2018 for policy developments, to take into account changes made as a result of the transposition deadline of the Students and Researchers Directive.

For abbreviation purposes, the terms 'international students' is used in the study in the meaning of third-country national students from non-EU/EEA countries. The definitions should be read in line with Articles 3 (3) of the Students and Researchers Directive.

The following categories are excluded from the scope of this study: researchers, part-time students, third-country national family members of EU citizens, vocational post-secondary education students, trainees and apprentices, au pairs and beneficiaries of international protection.

4 EU LEGAL AND POLICY CONTEXT

The importance of attracting international students is well-recognised by the European Union. Promoting the mobility of third-country nationals to the EU for the purpose of study has been part of the EU's policy since 1994 with the adoption of the Council Resolution on the admission of third-country nationals to the territory of the Member States of the EU for study purposes. This is also in the context of the Bologna Process, launched with the Bologna Declaration of 1999, which is one of the main voluntary processes at European level, as it is nowadays implemented in 48 states. The Bologna Process led to the establishment of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The 2015 European Agenda on Migration reiterated the need for promoting the mobility of international students, calling for the EU to provide a safe haven for those fleeing persecution and at the same time also to feature as an attractive destination for the talent and entrepreneurship of students, researchers and workers.⁷ In line with this objective, the

⁶ Please note that the inclusion of PhD students in this study depends on whether they fall within the realm of students at national level.

⁷ COM(2015) 240 final

international dimension of the Erasmus + Programme encourages student mobility from third countries, providing an opportunity for students from eligible partner countries to study in an EU Member State.

In terms of the legislative framework, in October 2002, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a Directive establishing common entry and residence conditions for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service. The Directive entered into force in December 2004 with a transposition deadline for Member States of January 2007.

The Council and the European Parliament adopted in 2016 the Students and Researchers Directive, which is the result of the recast of the 2004 Directive on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service and the 2005 Directive on researchers, based on the 2011 evaluations of these Directives by the Commission.⁸

The Students and Researchers Directive clarifies the admission and residence requirements by setting out general conditions for admission, and specific conditions for researchers, students, school pupils, trainees, volunteers and au pairs. The new Directive still follows a sectoral approach. While it sets uniform and binding rules on conditions for admission for students, researchers, trainees and volunteers participating in the EU's voluntary scheme, provisions on other volunteers, school pupils and au-pairs are optional.

The Study is very topical in light of the transposition deadline of the Directive. The Directive aims to make the EU a more attractive destination for students, in particular by improving their mobility conditions, allowing them to stay at least nine months after the completion of the studies period and allowing them to work (for at least 15 h/week). Furthermore, procedural guarantees have been reinforced for all categories (decision on an application within 90 days and provision of a justification of a negative decision).

5 PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE STUDY

The Study will aim to address the following:

- To what extent is the attraction and retention of students a policy priority for Member States?
- What is the number of students coming to the Member States for the purpose of studying? How many remain in the EU after finalising their studies to take up employment? What is the legal and policy framework in place in Member States and what recent changes have been made to policies and practices?
- In light of Article 7 and Article 11 of the recast Students and Researchers Directive, how are the admission and reception criteria for third-country national students implemented in practice by Member States (e.g. tuition

⁸ COM(2011) 587 final and COM(2011) 901 final.

fees, procedure to be granted a residence permit, recognition of diplomas, etc.)? For those Member States, which do not apply the Directive, what are the admission and reception conditions in place?

- In light of Articles 24 and 25 of the recast Students and Researchers Directive, how are the conditions⁹ for access to the national labour market or self-employment for third-country nationals while being enrolled as a student and after completion of studies implemented in practice by Member States? For those Member States, which do not apply the Directive, what are these conditions?
- Have Member States concluded bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements with third countries covering third-country national students? If so, how do these incentivise students to take up higher education in the EU?
- What is the role of universities, companies, local governments etc. in the retention of international students (e.g. scholarships, traineeship programmes, apprenticeship contracts)?
- What challenges do Member States face with regard to attracting and retaining third-country national students?
- Which good practices are in place in Member States related to the attraction and retention of students?

6 RELEVANT SOURCES AND LITERATURE

EMN Studies

- EMN (2015): Changes in immigration status and purpose of stay: an overview of EU Member States approaches. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn-studies-00.emn_study_on_the_change_of_status_final.pdf
- EMN (2013): Attracting Highly Qualified and Qualified Third-Country Nationals. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/attracting/emnsr_attractinghqworkers_finalversion_23oct2013_publication.pdf
- EMN (2012): Immigration of International Students to the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/immigration-students/0_immigration_of_international_students_to_the_eu_sr_24april2013_final_en.pdf

EMN AHQs

- 2017.1234 – **Talent mobility** – requested 11 October 2017

⁹ Article 25 of the Students and Researchers Directive

- 2017.1233 – **Implementation of the Directive (EU) 2016/801 (research, studies, training)** – requested 26 July 2017
- 2017.1189 – **Retaining TCN Students** – requested 26 May 2017¹⁰
- 2017.1136 – **Transposition of Directive (EU) 2016/081** – requested on 27 January 2017
- 2016.1111 – **Verification of the reliability of potential students** – requested 25 October 2016

Other studies and reports

- The Conference Proceedings of the EE EMN Annual Conference on “The EU in the global race for talents: Challenges and solutions in strengthening the EU’s competitiveness”, held on 21-22 September 2017.
<http://emn.ee/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nr9.pdf>
- OECD/EU (2016), Recruiting Immigrant Workers: Europe 2016, OECD Publishing, Paris.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264257290-en>. A study on the intra-EU mobility of third country nationals, by Yves Pascouau, Senior Adviser to EPC (European Policy Centre, a think-tank based in Brussels) on migration and mobility policies (2013)
http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/pub_3496_intra-eu_mobility_of_third-country_nationals.pdf
- A study by the Migration Policy Centre on “A Comprehensive Labour Market Approach to EU Labour Migration Policy” (2015)
<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/824e91bc-d642-4626-9267-676945e15053/language-en>
- A report on learning mobility, by the JRC (Joint Research of the European Commission) (2015)
http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC99969/learning%20mobility%20technical%20report_pubsy_pdf.pdf
- A study by OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), “The Impact of the Implementation of Council Directives on Labour Migration Flows from Third Countries to EU Countries” (2016)
<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5jlwxbzkbvfl-en.pdf?expires=1519893945&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=C2DDC88488C17F6BEEC76D45022311EB>

¹⁰ Please see the 2017 EMN Inform on Retaining third-country national students in the EU: <http://emn.ee/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Inform-student.pdf>

7 AVAILABLE STATISTICS

International level

Statistics on international mobility of students are provided by UNESCO¹¹ and OECD.¹²

EU level

Statistics are available through Eurostat on the number of residence permits issued to third-country nationals by reason, including education reasons. The Synthesis Report will also make reference to the Erasmus Plus/Erasmus Mundus Programme in the section outlining the EU policy framework and will present some general data on the number of international students who took part in these exchange programmes. This will be developed by the EMN Service Provider (ICF).

National level

Subject to availability, the following statistical data sources should be included insofar as possible:

- Statistics on the number of international students enrolled in HEIs in Member States and Norway;
- Statistics on the number of international students who have graduated in the Member State and Norway.
- Statistics on the number of international students remaining in the Member State and Norway after graduation per reason.

8 DEFINITIONS

The following key terms are used in the Common Template. The definitions are taken from the EU 2016 Students and Researchers Directive and the EMN Glossary Version 6.0.¹³

'Employer' means any natural person or any legal entity, for or under the direction or supervision of whom or which the employment is undertaken;

'Family members' mean a third-country national, as specified in Art. 4(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC (normally members of the nuclear family – i.e. the spouse and the minor children), who has entered the territory of the European Union for the purpose of family reunification;

'Higher education institution' (HEI) means any type of higher education institution recognised or considered as such in accordance with national law which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers recognised higher education degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, whatever such establishments may be called, or any institution which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers vocational education or training at tertiary level. The term 'higher education' encompasses all tertiary institutions which may include, inter alia, universities, universities of applied science, institutes

¹¹ <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>

¹² <https://data.oecd.org/education.htm>

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary/

of technology, *grandes écoles*, business schools, engineering schools, IUTs, colleges of higher education, professional schools, polytechnics and academies.

'International student' means a third-country national who has been accepted by a higher education institution and is admitted to the territory of a Member State to pursue as a main activity a full-time course of study leading to a higher education qualification recognised by that Member State, including diplomas, certificates or doctoral degrees in a higher education institution, which may cover a preparatory course prior to such education, in accordance with national law, or compulsory training. Member States will be asked to state at the beginning of their national contribution and in the statistics provided whether doctoral candidates (PhD students) are included when referring to "students" or not;

'Long-stay visa' means an authorisation issued by a Member State as provided for in Article 18 of the Schengen Convention or issued in accordance with the national law of Member States not applying the Schengen acquis in full;

'Residence permit' is defined as "an authorisation issued using the format laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 entitling its holder to stay legally on the territory of a Member State";

'Third-country national' is defined as "any person who is not a citizen of the European Union within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of TFEU and who is not a person enjoying the Union right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Schengen Borders Code";

9 ADVISORY GROUP

An "Advisory Group" (AG) has been established within the context of this Study for the purpose of providing support to EMN NCPs during the development of the specifications for the Study, as well as the drafting of the Synthesis Report. In addition to COM, and the EMN Service Provider (ICF and Odysseus), the members of the AG for the Study include EMN NCPs from AT, DE, EE, ES, FR, LT, LU and NL. EMN NCPs are thus invited to send any requests for clarification or further information on the Study to the following representatives of the AG:

- ★ COM: Magnus.OVILIUS@ec.europa.eu; Helene.CALERS@ec.europa.eu
- ★ EMN Service Provider: emn@icf.com; veronika.vasileva@icf.com; norma.rose@icf.com
- ★ Odysseus Expert (Philippe de Bruycker): debruyck@ulb.ac.be
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10 TIMETABLE

The following tentative timetable has been proposed for the Study going forward:

Date	Action
9 th February 2018	1 st Advisory Group meeting
27 th February 2018	Circulation of <u>Version 1 of the Common Template</u> for the Study to COM and AG members
22 nd June 2018	2 nd Advisory Group meeting
6 th July 2018	Circulation of the revised Common Template for the Study to COM and AG members
13 th July 2018	Deadline for comments on revised template from COM and AG members
23 rd July 2018	Circulation of the <u>revised Common Template</u> for the Study to COM and EMN NCPs
13 th August 2018	Deadline for comments revised template for the Study from EMN NCPs
22 nd August 2018	Circulation of the final draft Common Template to EMN NCPs and COM
5 th September 2018	Finalisation of the Common Template and official <u>launch</u> of the Study

Date	Action
4 th December 2018	<u>Submission of National Reports</u> to EMN Service Provider by EMN NCPs
31 st January 2019	Circulation of <u>Version 1 of the Synthesis Report</u> for the Study to COM and AG Members
11 th February	Circulation of the <u>revised Synthesis Report</u> for the Study to COM, AG members and EMN NCPs
March	<u>Finalisation</u> of the Synthesis Report for the Study and of the National Reports for publication on the EMN website

11 TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The template provided below outlines the information that should be included in the National Contributions of EMN NCPs to this Study. The indicative number of pages to be covered by each section is provided in the guidance note. For National Contributions, the total number of pages should **not exceed 35-40 pages**, including the questions and excluding the Statistical Annex. A limit of **25-30** pages will also apply to the Synthesis Report, in order to ensure that it remains concise and accessible.

Common Template of EMN Study 2018

Attracting and retaining international students in the EU

National Contribution ITALY

The aim of this study is to present the measures underway in Italy to attract international students in higher education institutions and to retain them at the end of their studies.

The context analysis was based on various tools: *the entry, residence and registration procedures of students requesting visas for higher education courses in Italy valid for the 2018-2019 academic year* and set annually by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) in agreement with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the analysis of statistical data from the Eurostat website, the OECD website and the USTAT-MIUR website, the analysis of current legislation and existing literature, with particular reference to the EMN studies on *Immigration of International Students to the EU* (2012) and on *Attracting Highly Qualified and Qualified Third Country Nationals* (2013), as well as information obtained through the MAECI website and through the Centro ENIC-NARIC Italia CIMEA [Centre for Information on Mobility and Academic Equivalences] portal¹⁴.

With regard to the regulatory and policy framework of reference, the implementation of Directive 2016/801/EU, with enabling act 163/2017, through Legislative Decree 71 of 11 May 2018 should be emphasised. The latter contains, inter alia, the Community provisions allowing international students (and researchers) to reside within the EU for at least 9 months (and a maximum of 12) to work after completing their studies and to move within the EU countries in order to further improve their studies. Another important element is the *Strategy for the Promotion Abroad of Italian Higher Education - 2017/2020*¹⁵, the result of the activity of the working group for the promotion abroad of Italian higher education created in 2016 by the MAECI, the MIUR and the Ministry of Interior, in close collaboration with the Conference of Italian University Rectors¹⁶, which aims at promoting Italian higher education abroad, simplifying access to courses and visa procedures for international students, as well as strengthening educational technology.

To emphasise the objective of internationalising the educational programmes available in Italy, the MAECI offers scholarships to international and Italian students residing abroad (IRE) with the aim of promoting cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technological fields, projecting Italy's economic system through the world, and disseminating the knowledge of the Italian language and culture. The good practices of the MARCO POLO and TURANDOT programs,

¹⁴ See <http://www.cimea.it/it/index.aspx>

¹⁵ Hereafter Strategy 2017/2020.

¹⁶ Hereafter CRUI.

started in 2005, have been used to promote the Italian university system in China and to facilitate the inclusion of Chinese students in Italian higher education institutions, both universities and Higher Education institutions for Fine Arts, Music and Dance (AFAM). Regional Authorities and individual Italian universities also offer international students the opportunity to benefit from scholarships.

Regarding the measures taken to encourage international students to stay in Italy after completing their studies, the MAECI, the agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of the Italian business (ICE) and Uni-Italia, in collaboration with Union Camere and Confindustria, will launch in December the fourth edition of the program *Invest Your talent in Italy* which provides in class-training courses at one of the participating universities followed by a period of internship in a company (approximately three months), scholarships from public and private partners as an incentive to the most deserving students (about 8,000 Euro/year) and university fee exemption to the scholarship holder.

Moreover, through the Executive Protocols¹⁷ of scientific and technological cooperation drawn up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a governmental agreement with third countries, the research areas in which bilateral and multilateral cooperation is concentrated between Italy and partner countries are specified. To cite some examples, the Italy - Japan Protocol 2017/2019 establishes cooperation programs in the fields of Agriculture and Food Science, Basic Sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics), Biotechnology and Health, Energy and Environment, Information and Communication Technologies including applications to Robotics and the Automotive Industry, Nanotechnologies and Advanced Materials, Space Sciences, Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage and the Cultural EP stipulated with Algeria for the 2016-2018 biennium embracing the sectors of Environment and Energy (including drought, water pollution, renewable energy).

There are also numerous agreements for the mutual recognition of higher education degrees both within the EP and in an autonomous form, jointly designed by the MIUR and MAECI. These agreements provide the framework for bilateral recognition procedures aimed at the continuation of studies¹⁸.

¹⁷ Hereafter EP.

¹⁸ It should, however, be remembered that the primary authority in these activities is always that of the higher education institutions, pursuant to Law 148/2002, and that these bilateral agreements are used to facilitate recognition procedures, both for the continuation of studies and for academic equivalences.

Section 1: National legal and policy framework in the Member State

This section aims to provide an overview of the national policies in the Member States and Norway related to entry and residence of third-country nationals as students. The focus should be put on the recent changes that have been introduced in Member States and Norway since 2012.¹⁹

Please note: Statistics provided in Annex 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 will be used to contextualise the national legal and policy framework reported on by Member States in this section.

Q1a. What is the **transposition status** of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in your national law?

[Possible visual element: map indicating transposition status in each Member State]

- transposition completed.
- in process: completion of transposition expected by:
- other, please specify:

Q1b. Are **doctoral candidates** (PhD students) treated as students or researchers under national law? *Please note that if doctoral candidates fall within the category of researchers, these should not be considered in the answers to the subsequent questions.*

- PhD students are treated as students
- PhD students are treated as researchers
- Other

Please elaborate:

Within the Italian legal system, PhD students are treated as students²⁰, despite having been selected on the basis of advanced research projects. Enrolment in a doctorate course in Italy can only take place through competitive examination.

There are numerous co-managed doctoral programs aimed at including international students in Italian doctoral courses, and which all provide the opportunity to carry out research and doctoral thesis in English.

Q1c. What are the **main changes** to: (a) law, (b) policy and (c) practice since 2012 with regard to international students? Please specify whether these changes were made in response to Directive (EU) 2016/081 or other national policy priorities.

Please describe briefly:

¹⁹ The last EMN studies related to this public were published in 2013 (see the study on Highly qualified migrants at https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/studies_en)

²⁰ Doctoral students receive the same guarantees as students regarding the right to study, as per the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of April 9, 2001. See <http://attiministeriali.miur.it/anno-2001/aprile/dpcm-09042001.aspx>

At the legislative level, Italy has adopted Directive 2016/801/EU, with enabling act 163/2017, through Legislative Decree 71 of 11 May 2018 which amended the conditions for entry and residence of third country nationals for reasons of research, study, training, voluntary work, student exchange programs, educational projects and au pair placement. The Community provisions contained in the decree include: the possibility for international students (and researchers) to reside within the EU for at least 9 months (and a maximum of 12) to work after completing their studies, and the possibility to move within the EU countries for purposes related to their studies²¹ during the validity of a study permit granted by one country, without any need to request an additional permit from the country in which they wish to enter. As a consequence, foreign citizens with a study permit issued by another EU country can stay in Italy for up to 360 days, simply by showing the other country permit.

Council of State Ordinance 617/2018 establishes that Italian universities are required to organise courses on the basis of respect for the national culture, providing classes both in English and Italian, and that - despite the phenomena of internationalisation - the latter should not be marginalised²².

2015 Council of State Ordinance No.1 amends the regulation concerning the mobility of international students, stating that the transfer of students to Italian universities should not require the entry tests mandatory for first-year students, but only an analysis of the studying "period" carried out abroad in consideration of the number of places available in the new institution²³. Each university regulates the methods for assessing the potential offer in order to determine, for each academic year and in relation to the individual years of the course, the places available for new students, on the basis of the distribution of positions made by the Ministry. Free access for international students to Italian courses is expected from the second year and in accordance with the universities' structural capacity.

Q1d. Are **any changes planned** to law/ policy/ practice regarding international students in your Member State? Such planned changes could relate both to the transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive or other changes not pertaining to the Directive.

- Yes, changes planned related to the transposition of the Directive.
- Yes, changes planned not pertaining to the Directive.
- No changes planned

If you have answered yes, please provide details about the changes planned and the approximate timeframe, i.e. are these changes planned for the short- or long-term?

²¹See http://www.normattiva.it/atto/caricaDettaglioAtto?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2018-06-20&atto.codiceRedazionale=18G00097&queryString=%3FmeseProvvedimento%3D%26formType%3Dricerca_semplice%26numeroArticolo%3D%26numeroProvvedimento%3D71%26testo%3Ddecreto%2Blegislativo%26giornoProvvedimento%3D%26annoProvvedimento%3D2018&xtPage=1

²² For more information on the judgment 617/2018, see the answer to Q13a.

²³See <https://www.giustizia-amministrativa.it/cdsintra/cdsintra/AmministrazionePortale/DocumentViewer/index.html?ddocname=NAX5PS6B5WD-EYZ2CQHF6VDWAVA&q=>

The present government policies are substantially the same as those of the past, although the new approved Strategy 2017/2020 for the internationalisation of Italian Higher Education (HE) gives greater relevance to mobility as part of the goal.

Q1e. Is attracting and retaining international students a **national policy priority, either within the national migration policies or compared to other national policies**? Please explain why.

- Yes, this is a national policy priority.
- No, this is not a major national policy priority.
- Other, please explain:

Please elaborate:

Attracting and retaining international students is an Italian national policies priority, as shown by:

- Law no. 148 of 11 July 2002 which deals with the recognition of foreign qualifications;
- Law 122 of 30 July 2010 which established the Uni-Italia Centres with the aim of attracting international students and researchers to Italian universities by promoting the educational programmes available in Italy and encouraging academic collaboration with universities in other countries²⁴;
- the numerous bilateral treaties referred to in Section 4;
- university regulations that provide a dedicated percentage of positions to international students, as well as an internationalisation of the training offering (in other words, courses also provided in English)²⁵;
- the budget law no. 205/2017 which allocates special funding to enhance the internationalisation of education;
- the Strategy 2017/2020 which provides for a large number of higher education internationalisation actions²⁶, such as the simplification of access to courses and visa procedures for international students, as well as the enhancement of educational technology.

Q1f. Does your Member State have a **national strategy**, or a **lower level (e.g. ministerial, regional) strategy**, for attracting and/or retaining international students?

- Yes, national strategy in place.
- Yes, lower level strategy in place.
- No, a national strategy is not in place.

²⁴ See the answer to Q3a.

²⁵ See Legislative Decree 286/1998, art. 39.

²⁶ The financing of the Strategy 2017/2020 is based on the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 6 July 2017 concerning the "Identification of interventions to be financed through the fund for the enhancement of Italian culture and language abroad, established pursuant to art. 1, paragraph 587, of the Law of December 11, 2016 no. 232 (Budget Law 2017)" which enables the MIUR to increase allocations by an amount of € 750,000 for EF 2017, and a forecasted amount of € 3,750,000 for EF 2018 and € 6,750,000 for both EF 2019 and EFF 2020, for the implementation of the aforementioned Strategy 2017/2020.

If you have answered yes, please indicate whether the strategy focuses on attraction, retention or both, and provide details about the main elements of the strategy (e.g. name, policy goals, year of adoption):

To meet the objectives set by the European Higher Education Area, our country has aimed, among other things, to internationalise universities, which represent the ideal environment for the exchange and circulation of ideas and people. In this regard, law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 provides for "strengthening internationalisation through greater teachers and students mobility, integrated study programs, inter-university cooperation initiatives for study and research activities as well as the activation (within the context of the human, financial and instrumental resources available under current legislation) of teachings and courses of study and forms of selection conducted in a foreign language"²⁷.

In addition, the working group for the promotion abroad of Italian higher education - created in 2016 by the MAECI, MIUR and Ministry of the Interior - drafted the aforementioned Strategy 2017/2020 that aims at:

- simplifying access procedures to courses (qualification assessments, issuance of visas and residence permits;
- improving the *Universitaly* website²⁸, which is currently the main tool for disseminating the Italian higher education offer;
- strengthening the role of Uni-Italia;
- using Roadshows to present Italian higher education institutions in countries considered priority areas²⁹, including those countries where the MAECI works for the *Invest your talent in Italy*³⁰ initiative, carried out together with the Agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of Italian companies (ICE), Confindustria, Unioncamere and with the support of Uni-Italia which acts as a link between the university and the world of work³¹.

Q1g. Does your Member State target **specific fields of studies/subject areas** (outside bilateral/multilateral cooperation) as regards the attraction and/or retention of international students? If so, please briefly elaborate on the reasons why these fields of studies/subject areas are targeted. *Please select all boxes that apply.*

- Yes, specific fields of studies are targeted for the attraction of international students.
- Yes, specific fields of studies are targeted for the retention of international students.
- No specific fields of studies are targeted.

²⁷ Law of 30 December 2010. Rules on the organisation of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to incentivise quality and efficiency of the university system. Art. 2, paragraph 2 (l).

²⁸ For further specifications, see the answer to Q13b.

²⁹ The first countries identified by the Working Group in order of when the targeted actions to promote the Italian system will be carried out, are: China, India, United States, Mexico, Israel, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia. See https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/04/strategia_fsi.pdf

³⁰ For more information on the IYT program, refer to question Q17b.

³¹ Cfr. https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/04/strategia_fsi.pdf

If you have answered yes, please provide a list of the study fields targeted and the reasons. Please differentiate clearly between attraction and retention:

The most interesting fields are currently those related to creativity and project/design sectors, involving Humanities, Architecture and Design faculties, as well as the higher education institutions for Fine Arts, Music and Dance.

Q2. Is there a current or recent **public debate** (i.e. within the past year) with regard to international students in your Member State (e.g. in Parliament, media, etc.)?

Yes, there is a public debate at national level.

No, there is no significant public debate at national level.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the main issues of the debate:

The newly approved Legislative decree n. 71 of 11th May 2018 implementing the EU Directive 2016/801 is reforming and improving this sector of mobility.

Q3. What is the **structure and governance of the national higher education system** in your Member State? *Please answer by elaborating on the following aspects:*

Q3a. Is there a specific **public entity(ies)** at national level which is responsible for international students in regards to their studies and what are they competent for? What is its role in the application process/supervision of these students?

Please explain:

UNI-Italia is the academic promotion and advising centre for studying in Italy, established on 30 July 2010 by the MAECI, the MIUR and the Ministry of the Interior. The aim of UNI-Italia is to attract international students and researchers to Italian universities by promoting the educational programmes available in Italy and encouraging academic collaboration with universities in other countries where it is present (China, India, Indonesia, Iran and Vietnam).

The UNI-Italia Centres at Italian Embassies abroad are responsible for providing information on available courses to students interested in continuing their studies in Italy, offering support in the pre-enrolment procedures and providing assistance to foreign universities interested in cooperating with Italian universities. In Italy, on the other hand, support is provided through tutoring at Centre Desks by Senior Tutors (present only in the Regions of Lombardy, Emilia Romagna and Liguria³²) assisted by a Junior Tutor provided by universities, using internal resources. The tutoring covers the following activities:

- Assistance during open days organised by universities;
- Help in dealing with bureaucratic issues related to visa policies, residence permits, health insurance;
- Sorting information on institutions and useful contacts, such as embassies, public safety services, hospitals.

³² See <http://uni-italia.it/it/l-assistenza-di-uni-italia/>

- Assistance in solving problems and requesting information from university offices;
- Assistance in dealing with bureaucratic issues related to university life;
- A guide to the city and to its useful services, a map of the neighbourhoods and public transport services;
- Organisation of extra-curricular activities (cinema, theatre, literary gatherings, etc.);
- Assistance in opening accounts at Italian credit agencies.

Students are also assisted through Hotline and email services, available for solving everyday problems³³.

Q3b. Do migration authorities cooperate with HEIs? If yes, in what ways do they cooperate? Is there an institutionalised cooperation mechanism?

Yes, migration authorities cooperate with HEIs.

No, migration authorities do not cooperate with HEIs.

If you have answered yes, please explain the ways in which they cooperate:

Migration authorities generally cooperate positively with Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in order to make it easier for students and academics to move within the EU. More specifically, Italian diplomatic and consular representatives in the third country and the Ministry of Interior are responsible, respectively, for issuing a study visa and granting a residence permit. The MIUR, in agreement with the MAECI and the Ministry of Interior formulate, on an annual basis, the entry, residence and registration procedures for students requesting visas for higher education courses in Italy³⁴.

The working group, created as part of the *Strategic Plan for promoting abroad the Italian higher education system* within the Strategy 2017/2020 and with the aim of internationalising education, should also be considered a form of positive collaboration between universities and authorities dealing with migration issues.

The National University Council (CUN), an advisory body with a proactive role within the MIUR, in exercising its duties as an elective representative body of the university system, also expresses opinions, formulates proposals, adopts motions and recommendations, and carries out studies and analyses on any subject of interest to the university system, including internationalisation³⁵.

Q3c. Is there an approval procedure³⁶ in place in your Member State for public/private HEIs for the purpose of hosting international students? If so, are international students only allowed to study in those HEIs?

³³ See <http://www.emnitalyncp.it> ; <http://www.uni-italia.it/it/>

³⁴ See the answer to Q4a.

³⁵ See <https://www.cun.it/cun/>

³⁶ Article 15 of the Students and Researchers Directive

Yes.

No.

Please explain. If you have answered yes, please indicate whether international students are only allowed to those in those HEIs:

See answer to question Q2.

For curricular internships, the regulation implementing the 2016 Directive added the paragraph "1-bis to article 39-bis of 286/1998. For curricular internships, the teaching institutions authorised to accept third-country students are those authorised by the Ministry of Education, University and Research to provide higher technical training courses and higher education courses, together with the Higher Technical institutes "³⁷.

A visa for study purposes is granted in cases where the international student applies to attend courses at institutions accredited by ministerial decree³⁸.

Q3d. Is higher education for third-country nationals funded by the state (i.e. state-sponsored) in your Member State?

Yes, higher education is state-sponsored for third-country nationals.

No, higher education is not state-sponsored for third-country nationals.

Other (e.g. state support depends on the student's country of origin):

Please elaborate:

The Italian legislation provides scholarships funds to international as well as foreign students, Italian students residing abroad, and students receiving international protection. Scholarships are provided for university courses³⁹, research doctorates, specialisation schools, advanced vocational courses in music, art and dance, and professional schools in artistic disciplines such as cinema or restoration.

More specifically, scholarships are granted by the Italian Government on the basis of the provisions of Law no. 288/55 and subsequent amendments and additions, as well as the following regulatory sources:

- Bilateral cultural agreements⁴⁰, ratified by law by the Italian Parliament, as well as the ensuing Implementation Protocols and, where appropriate, exchanges of notes;

³⁷See http://www.normattiva.it/atto/caricaDettaglioAtto?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=1998-08-18&atto.codiceRedazionale=098G0348&queryString=%3FmeseProvvedimento%3D%26formType%3Dricerca_semplice%26numeroArticolo%3D%26numeroProvvedimento%3D286%26testo%3D%26annoProvvedimento%3D1998%26giornoProvvedimento%3D%26tPage=1

³⁸ In Italy, each higher education institution is subject to an initial accreditation procedure set out with a specific Ministerial Decree with the assent of the University and Research System Evaluation Agency (ANVUR), aimed at verifying and certifying the presence of certain minimum requirements in terms of the order of studies, transparency, availability of lecturers, structural conditions and economic and financial sustainability. With the entry into force of Law 240/2010, the accreditation process involves a periodic evaluation of the venues and study courses by the ANVUR, aimed at ascertaining both the requirements already envisaged for the initial accreditation, as well as the additional requirements in terms of the internal organisation of teaching and research quality of the individual venues. See <http://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/istituzioni-universitarie-accreditate>

³⁹ See the answer to question Q5b.

⁴⁰ Please refer to the answer to question Q18.

- Multilateral agreements, also ratified by law, in which grants for scholarships within specific programs are provided;
- Intergovernmental agreements with countries with which there are long-term exchange relationships consolidated by international practice, even in the absence of agreements ratified by Parliament. In these cases, it is only possible to grant scholarships in the absence of legislation requiring containment of public spending.

See also provisions of Legislative Decree 286/1998, under Article 39, which require the granting of scholarships, grants and awards to be controlled by implementing regulations.

It should be added that for international students, as for Italian students, the university registration fee is calculated on the basis of the ISEE (equivalent economic status indicator)⁴¹, in accordance with the Prime Ministerial Decree 159 of 2013, art. 8, paragraph 5. Where those calculations are not possible, universities will apply a fixed fee: this fee is split into two different amounts depending on the country of origin (developing or developed country). That said, financial support services for students are generally managed by special regional bodies known as "DSU (Right to University Study) agencies". "DSU" refers to the set of rules that regulates public interventions aimed at ensuring that even economically disadvantaged students can acquire higher education qualifications.

In addition to regional agencies, individual higher education institutions may also offer and directly manage some services; information on this is available from the respective DSU offices. The various forms of assistance are awarded following an open competition and on the basis of precise income and merit criteria specified in the competition announcements. This principle applies to all types of services and assistance such as accommodation, meal vouchers, scholarships, loans, tax exemptions, etc.

The DSU offices additionally offer guidance and tutoring services; they are also a useful source of information on extra-curricular activities, such as various cultural initiatives, opportunities to play sports, public transport and other practical issues of interest to students⁴².

⁴¹ Indicator of Equivalent Economic Situation.

⁴² Cfr. <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/php5/study-italy.php?idorizz=3&idvert=52&lang=IT>

Section 2: Measures and incentives to attract international students

This section examines the measures and incentives to attract international students in place in the Member States in terms of admission conditions; hosting and welcoming international students; special incentives and measures; external factors; challenges and good practices in attracting international students.

2.1 Admission conditions for international students

Q4a. Which are the common immigration **admission conditions** applicable for all international students determined by the immigration authorities for the purpose of residence in the territory of your Member State?

Please elaborate:

Given that the final decision on issuing a visa for study reasons is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Italian diplomatic-consular representative in the third country and that the administrative procedure for issuing and renewing a residence permit is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior⁴³, the MIUR annually lays down, together with the MAECI and the Ministry of Interior, the entry, residence and registration procedures for students requesting visas for higher education courses in Italy at higher education institutions⁴⁴. These procedures do not apply to students receiving scholarships under European Union programs for education, training and research; the instructions given for the Erasmus Mundus program, extended to the Erasmus Plus program, apply to such students.

The formal application for admission to graduate and master's courses by international students applying for visas and residing abroad, must take place via a prior university pre-enrolment procedure, which precedes the subsequent registration phases. This pre-enrolment involves completing the procedures indicated by the relevant Diplomatic-Consular offices. As part of this procedure, the student should check the university's website for any additional tasks to be performed for individual local needs. The start date for the degree and masters course procedures is set by the universities in the second half of the year, while the deadlines are defined by the MIUR calendar, published annually.

Applications for admission to master's degree courses in medicine and surgery, medicine and surgery in English (where offered by universities), dentistry and dental prostheses, veterinary medicine and architecture, are carried out according to the procedures indicated on the portal <http://universitaly.it>. Admission applications are submitted by the student and are not subject to the beginning of the pre-enrolment procedures at the diplomatic-consular offices, which must, however, be initiated and formalised, as expected, no later than the deadlines set by the calendars.

⁴³ Specifically, it is governed by the Consolidated Law on provisions concerning immigration regulations and rules on the status of foreigners (Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, no. 286), the relative Implementing Regulation (Presidential Decree 31 August 1999, no. 394) and the law of May 2007 no. 68, concerning the regulation of short stays by foreigners for visits, business, tourism and study.

⁴⁴ See For the compilation of this template the procedures valid for the year 2018/2019 were considered.

The pre-enrolment procedures for master's and PhD programs, specialisation schools and introductory courses (*foundation courses*), in contrast, follow the separate terms laid down by the individual institutions according to the start dates of the courses themselves. Once they have completed their application, all students must apply to the Italian diplomatic consular representative of their country of residence for a university study/registration visa⁴⁵.

In order to obtain a study visa and, subsequently, a residence permit, it is not necessary to show proof of acceptance by the university of destination. Institutions wishing to directly select candidates for their study courses prior to the university pre-enrolment procedure will be able to carry out a preliminary assessment of the individual candidates, requesting from each student a copy of the study-related and any other documentation considered useful for this preliminary assessment. The institution will send a Letter of Registration Eligibility to those candidates considered suitable for enrolment; candidates must present this to the diplomatic representative at the pre-enrolment stage. Prior acceptance by the institution does not replace actual pre-enrolment to the course⁴⁶. To request a study visa, the student must also demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the language the course is given in⁴⁷, as well as sufficient economic resources for their upkeep in⁴⁸ the country of destination, possession of the amount necessary for repatriation⁴⁹, possession of adequate insurance coverage for medical treatment and hospitalisation,⁵⁰ and adequate accommodation in the country.

Are the following **admission conditions** listed under Q4b-Q4i required in your Member State? *Please answer with Yes/No and shortly describe the admission condition.*

IMPORTANT: *Please explain also under each question Q4b-4i how each of the below listed admission conditions are considered to attract international students / are used to attract them / are used flexibly in order to attract international students, or are there some that are considered disincentives.*

[Possible visual element: for the Synthesis Report, the applicable admission conditions (including fees) could be visualised in one infographic page]

Q4b. Is a proof of **acceptance** by HEI required in your Member State in order to obtain the visa/residence permit?⁵¹

Yes.

No. See answer given at question Q4a.

⁴⁵ *Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education.* See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

⁴⁶ *Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education, Part I, 4.2.* See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

⁴⁷ Please refer to the answer to question Q4f.

⁴⁸ Please refer to the answer to question Q4h.

⁴⁹ Please refer to the answer to question Q4i.

⁵⁰ Please refer to the answer to question Q4g.

⁵¹ Article 11 (1) of the Students and Researchers Directive.

Q4c. How is the **academic recognition** of foreign academic degrees regulated in your Member State? Is this done in a centralised manner (e.g. by a specific organisation) or by each HEI?

- Recognition of degrees carried out centrally.
- Recognition of degrees carried out by each HEI.
- Other.

Please explain:

Law 148 of 2002, Art. 2, states that: the authority for recognising the study cycles and periods carried out abroad and any foreign qualifications for the purposes of accessing higher education, continuing university studies and attaining Italian university qualifications, rests with the universities and institutes of higher education, which exercise such authority autonomously and in accordance with their respective rules, without prejudice to any existing bilateral agreements.

As such, these procedures are carried out directly by higher education institutions (universities or AFAM).

I. Access to the first cycle higher education courses

The procedure for assessing foreign high school qualifications for accessing the first cycle courses (Bachelor's Degree or First-level Academic Diploma) does not change the foreign high school qualification to an Italian equivalent, but rather allows entry to first cycle courses if the foreign qualification bears the following characteristics:

- official final high school qualification for the foreign system of reference;
- a qualification that allows entry into the same (e.g. academic) first cycle courses available in the foreign system of reference;
- a qualification obtained following an overall course of at least 12 years of schooling;
- if a national test or final exam for entry into higher education is required abroad, the same requirement is also requested for admission to Italian courses.

For some high school qualifications, specific requirements are requested. The list of such qualifications and additional requirements is laid out in the Appendix⁵² of the *Entry, residence and registration procedures for Foreign Students Applying for Visas for Higher Education Courses in 2018-2019*. Information on course enrolment and any documents to be submitted is provided directly by Italian higher education institutions.

II. Continuation of studies (access to second and third cycle courses)

The assessment procedure for first and second cycle foreign qualifications for access to second cycle (e.g. Master's) and third cycle (e.g. PhD) courses does

⁵² See <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/allegato1.pdf>

not change the foreign qualification into an Italian equivalent, but rather allows entry to second or third cycle courses if the foreign qualification bears the following characteristics:

- the official first or second cycle qualification for the foreign system of reference, issued by an official institution of the foreign system;
- a qualification that allows entry into the same second or third cycle courses available in the foreign system of reference;
- a qualification that presents the same features and subjects (academic or research-related) of the Italian qualification required for entry. These requirements apply to all students with a foreign qualification, regardless of their nationality (i.e. both those issued in European Union (EU) and non-EU countries). Information on course enrolment and any documents to be submitted is provided directly by Italian higher education institutions.

III. Attainment of university qualifications (equivalence)

The assessment procedure for first and second cycles foreign qualifications with the purpose of obtaining a corresponding Italian first or second cycle qualification, aims at issuing an Italian qualification with legal value in our system.

Historically, this procedure has been termed "equivalence", even though Law 148/2002 no longer uses this term. Furthermore, Art. 9 of Law 148/2002 repealed the previous equivalence procedure (Art. 9: The second and third paragraphs of Article 170 and Article 332 were repealed from the Consolidated Law on Higher Education, as referred to in the Royal Decree of 31 August 1933, No. 1592).

The assessment of a foreign qualification for this purpose can produce different results:

- the issue of the corresponding Italian qualification without the requirement to take further exams or present final papers (direct recognition); this procedure can be identified by the term "direct recognition" or "direct equivalence" (very rare);
- a requirement to take further exams/obtain further credits and/or present final papers to satisfy that part of the study curriculum not covered by the foreign qualification, in order to issue the corresponding Italian qualification; this procedure can be identified by the term "course abbreviation".

In order to obtain a corresponding Italian qualification, the foreign qualification must comply with all the following characteristics:

- be the official first or second cycle qualification for the foreign system of reference, issued by an official institution of the foreign system;
- allow entry into the same second or third cycle courses available in the foreign system of reference;
- present the same features and subject matter of the corresponding Italian qualification (number of credits, duration, academic features and/or research elements, etc.);

- it must exist a corresponding Italian qualification for the foreign qualification, in terms of type and subject field.

These requirements apply to all students with a foreign qualification, regardless of their nationality (i.e. both those issued in European Union (EU) and non-EU countries). Information on the procedures for foreign qualification recognition with the purpose of issuing an Italian final qualification is provided directly by Italian higher education institutions.⁵³

IV. Research doctorate equivalence

Under certain conditions, PhD degrees awarded by foreign universities may be recognised as equivalent to Italian PhD program as established by Art. 74 of Presidential Decree 382/80. The equivalence procedure for foreign doctorates does not fall within the scope of Law 148/2002; the Ministry of Education, University and Research is the competent authority, availing itself of the CUN (National University Council) opinion⁵⁴.

Q4d. What is the **level of tuition fees for third-country nationals** in your Member State? ⁵⁵ *If applicable, please distinguish between the different qualification levels (ISCED levels 5-8).*

- If possible, please provide here a range of the level of tuition fees per academic year in euro/national currency:

Regular fees for EU and Non-EU students depend on the student's family income and on the program being applied for, from a minimum of 900€ to a maximum of 4.000€ at a public University. For private universities range from 6.000€ to around 20.000€ per year⁵⁶.

- Is the level of fees for third-country nationals determined centrally (e.g. by the state) or by each HEI?

The regulation governing student contributions is established by the Decree of the President of the Italian Republic⁵⁷ no. 306/1997 and Article 9 of Legislative Decree 68/2012.

Students taking undergraduate and graduate (including specialisation) degree programs contribute to the cost of the services offered by the universities through the payment of university fees and the annual registration fee⁵⁸. The university fees together with the registration fee constitute the "student contribution"⁵⁹.

University contributions are determined autonomously by universities with a view to meeting their individual teaching and student services objectives, and according to the characteristics of their learning process. More specifically,

⁵³ CIMEA - Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalence. See <http://www.cimea.it/it/servizi/procedure-di-riconoscimento-dei-titoli/procedure-di-riconoscimento-accademico-dei-titoli.aspx>

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ See Article 11(1)(b) of the Students and Researchers Directive

⁵⁶ Cfr. https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/en/tuition_fees

⁵⁷ Presidential Decree 306/1997, Regulations governing university contributions.

⁵⁸ According to Presidential Decree 306/1997 - as amended by art. 7, para. 42, of Legislative Decree 95/2012 (Law 135/2012).

⁵⁹ Pursuant to art. 1, para. 1, lett. e) of Presidential Decree 306/1997.

universities set the university contribution amount for students enrolled in degree programs according to the economic conditions of the student, in order to protect students from more disadvantaged backgrounds⁶⁰.

The student contribution may not exceed 20 percent of the annual funding amount that the State assigns to the Ordinary Financing Fund (Art. 5, para. 1) to cover the institutional expenses of state universities, including personnel and operating costs⁶¹.

In turn, Article. 9 of Legislative Decree 68/2012 has arranged that, for the purposes of adjusting the amount due for university level course attendance, state universities and AFAM institutions assess the economic status of applicants, taking into account also the economic situation of the region in which the university is based, bearing nonetheless in mind the different costs needed for training in the various subject fields. The amount of the annual all-inclusive contribution due from students enrolled in degree and master's courses, as well as that due from those enrolled in specialisation courses or schools, are established in the student contribution regulations that each state university approves in compliance with the criteria of fairness, graduation and progressiveness. Said regulations may provide for further cases of exemption or contribution graduation for specific categories of students, identified in terms of their university career or particular personal situation; they also establish the contribution payment methods in one or more instalments as well as the surcharges due for late payments⁶².

Please explain:

– Is evidence of payment an admission condition?

Yes.

No.

Enrolment by students in higher education institutions is subject to the payment of fees.

– Are the fees capped in your Member State (i.e. is there a higher/lower threshold limit imposed)?

Yes.

No.

See response given to question Q4d.

– Are the fees for international students the same as those for domestic students? If no, what is the difference (i.e. are they higher or lower)?

Yes.

No.

⁶⁰ The registration fee figure is calculated on the basis of each student's financial family background.

⁶¹ For the functioning of legally recognised non-state universities, the State annually attributes the contribution envisaged by Law 243 of 1991. See <http://www.miur.gov.it/finanziamenti1>

⁶² See https://www.senato.it/iapp/bqt/showdoc/17/DOSSIER/0/997713/index.html?part=dossier_dossier1-sezione_sezione14-h3_h320&parse=si&spart=sj

If you have answered no, please elaborate:

– Are specific groups of international students exempt from fees? Which ones and why?

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on which groups are exempted and why:

Total exemption from registration fee and contributions is granted to foreign students receiving scholarships from the Italian Government as part of development cooperation programs and cultural and scientific intergovernmental agreements⁶³, as well as those who demonstrate particular financial disadvantage on the equivalent economic situation indicator (ISEE).

Q4e. What is the level of **administrative fees** for third-country nationals in your Member State? Please elaborate also on other types of fees (e.g. administrative fees at universities)

Please elaborate:

Universities require the payment of a contribution that students must pay to cover the cost of services and which may not exceed 20 percent of the funding that the university receives from the state.

In addition, according to current legislation, university students are required to pay the regional tax for the right to university study, the amount of which is determined by the regions (or autonomous provinces) and lies between a minimum rate, related to economic status, of 120€ and a maximum limit of 200€ (to be updated annually on the basis of the planned inflation rate): where such a determination is not done, the tax payable is 140€. The regions (and autonomous provinces) grant partial or total exemption from paying the tax to able and deserving students without means; students who receive scholarships and honorary loans are exempt from payment, as well as students who are eligible for such benefits through their contribution ranking⁶⁴.

Q4f. Are international students required to provide a proof of sufficient **knowledge of the language** of the course?⁶⁵ If so, what is the required level? Does the student have to provide an attestation (e.g. TOEFL test)?

Yes, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language of the course is required in general.

A proof is required for specific courses.

No, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language of the course is not required.

⁶³ See https://www.senato.it/japp/bgt/showdoc/17/DOSSIER/0/997713/index.html?part=dossier_dossier1-sezione_sezione14-h3_h320&parse=si&spart=si

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ See Article 11(1)(c) of the Students and Researchers Directive

If proof is required (either in general or for specific courses), please elaborate and specify the required level, using the levels defined by the CEFR:⁶⁶

Please elaborate:

- Proof of sufficient proficiency in the language in which the course is provided is required.
- Higher education institutions are tasked with verifying students' linguistic proficiency for access to courses. Each organisation provides proof of proficiency in Italian; this is not required for courses given in other languages, for which individual universities may issue a specific certification. Students who have obtained a minimum CEFR level B2 in the Quality Italian Language Certification (CLIQ) are exempted from the language proficiency test⁶⁷.
- The student has to provide an attestation.
 - Yes, an attestation is required for all courses.
 - An attestation is required for specific courses.
 - No.

Q4g. Are international students automatically qualified for **health insurance**?⁶⁸

- Yes, students automatically qualify for health insurance.
- No, students need to submit proof of health insurance.

Please elaborate:

When applying for a visa for university-study purposes, international students must provide proof of health insurance. One of the requirements for obtaining a visa for study purposes is to demonstrate possession of adequate insurance cover for medical treatment and hospital admissions when applying for a residence permit⁶⁹.

Q4h. Is there a pre-determined level of **sufficient resources** for international students at national level?⁷⁰ If so, what is the level of sufficient resources and what type of resources are accepted?

- Yes.
- No.
- What is the level of sufficient resources and what documents are accepted as proof?

⁶⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>

⁶⁷ "Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education"

See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

⁶⁸ See Articles 7(1)(c) and 11(2) of the Students and Researchers Directive

⁶⁹ "Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education"

See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

⁷⁰ See Articles 7(1)(e), 7(3) and 11(1)(d) of the Students and Researchers Directive

Please explain:

To obtain a visa for study reasons, the international student must demonstrate the means to support himself/herself financially for the duration of the planned stay i.e. 453.00€ per month for each academic year, equal to 5899.00€ per year⁷¹.

– *What type of resource(s) are accepted by your Member State? Please check all applicable boxes.*

Bank statement.

Guarantee by a third person.

Other, please specify:

Access to the abovementioned financial means in Italy must be backed up with personal or parental financial guarantees, or provisions from Italian institutions or established credit bodies, including universities, or local governments, institutions and foreign bodies considered reliable by the Italian diplomatic representative. Said access cannot be demonstrated through bank guarantees or cash or guarantees provided by third parties⁷².

Q4i. Other admission conditions

If applicable, please describe any other admission conditions for the purpose of residence on the territory of your Member State:

Please elaborate:

In order to obtain a study visa for university registration purposes (type D "national") and, subsequently, a residence permit, foreign students⁷³, in addition to proving to be in possession of means to support themselves financially for their envisaged stay and adequate insurance cover for medical treatment and hospitalisation, must also demonstrate (e.g. through presentation of a return ticket) possession of the sum needed for repatriation and the availability of suitable accommodation in the country⁷⁴.

2.2 Special incentives for attracting international students

Q5. Please indicate which of the incentives listed below (Q5a-Q5i) are in place in your Member State *and please provide a brief description*. What are the incentives/measures carried out 'centrally' or by individual HEIs. *If measures are carried out by the state/regional authorities, individual HEIs and/or private*

⁷¹ "Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education"

See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions apply exclusively to international students who need visa admission to study in Italy for long-term stays. As such, they do not apply to citizens from European Union countries, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, the Republic of San Marino and the Holy See, even if they hold foreign qualifications.

⁷⁴ Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education.

See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

entities (e.g. companies, research organisations, etc.), please provide examples.

NB: Please also state whether measures to attract are targeted to a specific qualification level (ISCED levels 5-8) or sciences/fields of education (e.g. STEM⁷⁵).

[Possible visual element to be included in the Synthesis report: the incentives used in Member States could be visualised in a one infographic page]

Q5a. Does your Member State carry out **promotional activities and dissemination of information in the countries of origin?** Please select all boxes that apply and elaborate.

- Yes, carried out centrally.
- Yes, carried out by HEIs.
- Yes, carried out by other (educational) organisations.
- No.

If you have answered yes, please explain/elaborate by giving 1-2 examples.

The activities of Uni-Italia abroad⁷⁶, the Italian Cultural Institutes (IIC) and the Dante Alighieri Society branches in third countries carry out promotional and informational activities regarding Italy and its university system. The IIC (Italian Cultural Institutes) across the world are a place for intellectuals and artists, Italians abroad or anyone wishing to cultivate a relationship with our country to meet and discuss. Among the IIC's main actions are the promotion abroad of Italy's image and its classical, but above all, contemporary culture, the management of Italian language and culture courses, the promotion of Italy's scientific culture, the management of an efficient network of libraries, the creation of contacts between Italian and foreign cultural operators, and the facilitation of dialogue between cultures based on the principles of democracy⁷⁷.

The Dante Alighieri Society, founded in 1889 by a group of intellectuals led by Giosue Carducci and established as a Charitable Trust with the R. Decree of 18 July 1893, no. 347, also aims to "protect and spread the Italian language and culture across the world, reviving the spiritual ties of compatriots abroad with the mother country and nurturing love and admiration for the Italian civilisation among foreigners". To achieve its aims, the Dante Alighieri establishes and subsidises schools, libraries, clubs and courses in Italian language and culture, issues books and publications, promotes conferences, cultural excursions and artistic and musical events, and awards prizes and scholarships. The Society has centres both in Italy and abroad. There are 401 committees throughout the world, spread across approximately eighty countries, which run about 8,700 Italian language and culture courses, with more than 122,000 members and students⁷⁸.

⁷⁵ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

⁷⁶ Refer to Q3a.

⁷⁷ Cfr. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cultura/reteiic.html

⁷⁸ See <https://ladante.it/chi-siamo.html>

Q5b. Are scholarships and bursaries available? *Please select all boxes that apply and elaborate by giving 1-2 examples (incl. the amount, type and length of the scholarship/bursary).*

Yes, provided by the state/regional authorities. *Please elaborate by providing 1-2 examples:*

Yes, scholarships provided by the state and regional bodies are available.

MAECI offers scholarships to foreign and Italian students residing abroad (IRE) with the aim of promoting cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technological fields, the projection of Italy's economic system throughout the world, and the dissemination of knowledge of Italian language and culture (Ref. Law 288/55 and subsequent amendments and additions). The scholarships are offered for study, training and/or research programs at state or legally recognised Italian institutions. The list of educational programs on offer can be consulted at <https://studyinitaly.esteri.it>⁷⁹

With regard to the regional authorities, Lazio - with its "Regional Law of 27 July 2018 no. 6 "Provisions for the recognition and support of the right to study and the promotion of knowledge in the Region" - has established a new body for the right to study and the promotion of knowledge (DiSCo) that will perform, and extend, the functions already undertaken by Laziodisu. In addition to exploiting ordinary and extraordinary tools for the promotion of the right to education in the Lazio Region, aimed at students and citizens in training and intended to promote the full integration of disabled students and combat all forms of discrimination in general by implementing the inclusion and promotion of both Italian and foreign individuals (often subjected to restrictions on their personal freedom) among other initiatives, DiSCo ensures the full implementation of Legislative Decree No. 68 of 2012, including the provision of all facilities and subsidies contained therein to university students, and increasing the resources dedicated to the right to education and knowledge in the Lazio Region as well as the contributions enabling international mobility⁸⁰.

Yes, provided by HEIs. *Please elaborate by giving 1-2 examples:*

Italian universities (a list of which can be consulted at <https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/servizi/stranieri/opportunita/borse-di-studio-offerte-dalle-universita.html>) grant to foreign students scholarships which are not managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. To cite a few examples, with the *Don't miss your chance* program, the University of Rome La Sapienza provides 24 two-year scholarships, valued at 4,300 euro per academic year, to EU and non-EU graduates who enrol in a master's degree course at the university. The winners will also be exempted from paying university contribution: they will just have to pay 30 euro as a single contribution for each year of registration⁸¹. The Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna also offers scholarships worth 11,000€ gross (Unibo action 2) or total exemption from tuition fees (Unibo action 1) to deserving

⁷⁹ See https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/servizi/stranieri/opportunita/borsestudio_stranieri.html

⁸⁰ See <http://www.laziodisco.it/chi-siamo/>

⁸¹ "Don't miss your chance" See <https://www.uniroma1.it/it/pagina/borse-e-opportunita-gli-studenti-meritevoli>

international students who intend enrolling in a degree course, a single-cycle master's degree or master's degree at the university for the academic year 2018/19. Scholarships and exemptions are awarded on the basis of scores obtained in the SAT and GRE tests⁸², for one academic year. The requirements for submitting an application for Unibo actions 1 & 2 are: having achieved, or being about to achieve, a qualification within a non-Italian education system that is valid for access to the chosen degree program (students with Italian high school qualifications obtained in Italian schools abroad may also apply); having taken, before the public competition deadline, the SAT test for enrolling in a degree course or single-cycle master's degree program and the GRE test for enrolment in a master's degree program; not yet having turned 30 at the time of the public competition deadline⁸³.

Yes, provided by private entities. *Please elaborate by giving 1-2 examples:*

The program *Invest Your Talent in Italy* was born from a collaboration between the MAECI, the agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of the Italian company (ICE), Uni-Italia, Unioncamere and Confindustria; as well as providing a teaching program at one of the participating universities, it offers a period of internship in a company (approximately three months) at the end of the program, as well as scholarships from public and private partners as an incentive for the most deserving students (about 8,000 Euro/year).

No.

Q5c. Are there any other financial incentives or financial support (e.g. loans, tax benefits, etc.) in place?

Yes, provided by the state.

Yes, provided by HEIs.

Yes, provided by private entities.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate by giving 1-2 examples:

Universities, other higher education (HE) institutions, regional bodies for the right to university study (EDISU) present in the various universities and the autonomous provinces, offer students a series of services aimed at eliminating any economic and social obstacles to their accessing higher education. These services are divided into two main categories:

- services aimed at students in general: university canteen, access to libraries, public transport facilities, access to university sports centres (USC);
- services aimed at individual students only: scholarships, part-time job opportunities, honorary loans, accommodation, interventions for disabled

⁸² SAT and GRE are aptitude and competence assessment tests that may be sat in participating centres present in different countries around the world. The tests are held in English. It is necessary to register for the tests through the websites of the responsible organisations.

⁸³ See <https://www.unibo.it/it/servizi-e-opportunita/borse-di-studio-e-agevolazioni/unibo-azioni-1-e-2-borse-di-studio-ed-esenzioni-tasse-per-studenti-internazionali/unibo-azioni-1-e-2-borse-di-studio-ed-esenzioni-tasse-per-studenti-internazionali>

students, contributions for students' participation in international exchange programs, etc. In some cases, the forms of individual assistance are assigned by way of a public contest (taking into account the student's academic merit and family's financial situation), in other cases following a request from the individual concerned⁸⁴.

To cite an example, the DiSCo Agency of the Lazio region mentioned above, as well as providing scholarships, allows all students to access the university canteens and affiliated restaurants. Access to canteens is open to all students (both on and off course) enrolled at state universities, non-state universities, university institutes and higher institutions of art, music and dance culture, which have registered offices in the Lazio Region. The scholarship winners are entitled to a free daily meal. In addition, with each annual public competition it offers university students more than 2,000 beds in single, double or triple rooms at its 16 university residences. DiSCo assigns accommodation places in proportion to the number of regular applications presented during the call for applications each year, ensuring a balanced access to housing for non-EU foreign students, Italian students and EU foreign students. Confirmation of accommodation for the winners is based on the student's relative ranking, without prejudicing the distribution between first years and subsequent years. Winners are entitled to stay in university residences for a period not exceeding eleven months and no later than 30 September of the year following the application's submission⁸⁵.

Q5d. Are any incentives with regard to family reunification in place?

- Do family members of international students have access to family reunification in your Member State?

Yes.

No.

Article 28 of Legislative Decree 286/98 establishes the right to maintain or regain the family unit allocated to foreigners holding permanent residence or a residence permit of not less than one year, issued for subordinate work, self-employment, asylum, study or religious reasons.

The family reunification procedure is used by the foreign citizen who is already in Italy and in possession of a residence permit (the application for the first issue of a permit is not sufficient). Possession of a long-term EU residence permit or an entry visa valid for no less than one year (for subordinate work, non-occasional self-employment, study), permits the application for family member clearance from the Single Desk for Immigration (SUI).

Clearance is required to obtain a visa for family members thereafter. A foreign citizen who regularly resides in the country with a residence permit valid for not less than one year may request clearance from the SUI for family members who are:

⁸⁴ See <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/study/welfare-service.html>

⁸⁵ See <http://www.laziodisco.it/le-nostre-attivita/residenze/>

- an adult spouse not legally separated;
- unmarried minor children, with the consent of the other parent;
- dependent (through total disability) adult children;
- dependent parents, if they do not have other children in their country of origin/provenance, or those over 65 with other children unable to keep them for serious health reasons⁸⁶

Requirements needed for the clearance request:

- income: the applicant must show an income not lower than the annual amount of the welfare grant (in 2016 equal to 5,824.91€ per year, or 448.07€ per month), increased again by half this figure for each family member to be brought over. For the reunification of two or more children under the age of 14, a minimum income not less than twice the annual amount of the welfare grant is required in all cases;
 - suitability of the accommodation: the applicant must demonstrate the availability of accommodation in Italy that complies with sanitary and suitability requirements⁸⁷.
- If yes, do family members have the right to work in your Member State?

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please explain:

Once the family member has obtained the residence permit, he/she may work (self-employed or subordinate), enrol in a course of study and have access to the services of the National Health Service⁸⁸.

Q5e. Is any support targeted at **spouses and other family members of international students** offered in your Member State (e.g. counselling spouses to find employment, continue their education or engage in voluntary work, social and networking activities for spouses, help with enrolling children in kindergartens/schools)? *Please select all boxes that apply.*

Yes, support for spouses available.

Yes, support for children available.

Yes, support for other family members available (please specify which family members this includes when elaborating below).

No.

⁸⁶ See One-stop Immigration Shop, <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/immigrazione-e-asilo/modalita-dingresso/sportello-unico-immigrazione>

⁸⁷ See <https://www.unibo.it/it/internazionale/docenti-e-ricercatori-internazionali/informazioni-utili-prima-e-dopo-larrivo-in-italia/viaggiare-con-famiglia>

⁸⁸ *Immigration of international students to Italy*, EMN National Contact Point for Italy within the European Migration Network edited by IDOS, pg. 61 2012. Cfr https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/immigration-students/14a_italy_national_report_international_students_april2013_final_en.pdf

Q5f. Are courses offered in English/other languages than the national language(s)? Yes. No.*If you have answered yes, please elaborate:*

Among the public universities, La Sapienza was one of the first Italian universities to offer master's degree courses taught entirely in English; its aim was to train international students of great value to the labour market, enrich and diversify the student and staff body, and promote language skills. The list of courses available for each academic year can be consulted in the University course catalogue⁸⁹. Among others, the Ca' Foscari University of Venice also offers degree courses and curricula in English in the fields of Economics and Management (three-year and master's degree), Languages and Cultures (master's degree), Science and Technology (master's degree) and Arts and Humanities (three-year degree)⁹⁰, while a complete list of courses in English offered by the Milan Polytechnic, the Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna and the University of Turin can be consulted at <https://www.unito.it/avvisi/i-corsi-di-studio-di-unito-lingua-inglese>.

Private universities also offer a variety of courses in English. To cite an example, LUÍS Guido Carli offers three-year degree courses (Economics and Business, Management and Computer Science) in English or which include an English course (Political Science), as well as master's degree courses (Corporate Finance, Global Management and Politics etc.).

As far as doctorate courses are concerned, it should be remembered that in Italy it is possible to carry out research and doctoral theses in English.

Q5g. Are there any incentives from the state for HEIs providing courses in other languages? Yes. No.*If you have answered yes, please elaborate:*

See the response given to question Q1f.

Q5h. Is there a possibility for a fast-track application for visa/residence permits? Yes. No.*If you have answered yes, please elaborate:*

As one of the special incentives intended to encourage TCN students to remain and enter the Italian labour market, Italy is contemplating the facilitated

⁸⁹ See <https://www.uniroma1.it/it/pagina/offerta-formativa-inglese>

⁹⁰ See <https://www.unive.it/pag/12860/>

conversion of residence permits granted for study purposes to residence permits for self-employment or non-seasonal work, with due respect for the conversion quotas defined by the annual flow decree⁹¹.

Q5i. Are any other incentives not listed above in place?

If applicable, please describe any other incentives in place not mentioned above.

Answer: n/i

2.3 Hosting international students: preparation, arrival and housing

Q6a. What is the nature of the document issued (long-stay visa or residence permit)? Please indicate the type and length of the residence permit. Please select all relevant boxes.

Long-stay visa issued in the third country:

Residence permit issued (please specify the type and length of the permit):

Other (please specify):

- If your Member State issues a residence permit, is this issued in the territory of your Member State or in the third country?

Residence permit issued in the third country:

Residence permit issued in the territory of the Member State. *If so, do you issue a long-stay visa in the third country first (yes/no)?*

First and foremost, a long-term visa is required, subsequently converted into a residence permit.

Once they have completed their application, all students must apply to the Italian diplomatic consular representative of their country of residence for a university study/enrolment visa. The issuing of a STUDY visa for university enrolment can only be granted for application to a degree or master's degree course and under no circumstances may such a visa be issued to foreigners enrolled for post-first year academic years. Within eight days of arrival in Italy with a type D "national" STUDY visa (university enrolment), applicants must apply for a STUDY residence permit from the relevant Police Headquarters in their intended city of residence. The application can be submitted through the Post Office or at one of the offices offered by some higher education institutions, using the appropriate kit available at post offices⁹².

⁹¹ Cfr EMN Ad-Hoc Query on AHQ on Retaining TCN Students, 2017. The residence permit for study can be converted into work permit by acquiring a quota within the annual flow decree, demonstrating the possession of the requirements for the type of work performed:

- from the foreigner already present in the national territory upon reaching the age of majority;
- from the foreigner who has obtained a degree or specialization degree in Italy, after attendance of the relevant course of study in Italy.

Circolare del 17.01.2018- *Flussi d'ingresso dei lavoratori non comunitari nel territorio dello stato per l'anno 2018*.

⁹² "Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education" See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studenti/stranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

Q6b. What are **processing times for visa/residence permit applications** for third-country nationals in your Member State (minimum, maximum and average)?

Please elaborate:

Regarding the issue of the "National Visa" (NV), the law establishes that the diplomatic-consular representation, after assessing the validity of the application and carrying out the required controls in relation to the type of visa required, issues the visa within 90 days from the request (30 days for subordinate work, 120 days for self-employment). In this case too, these terms may not be respected if controls, verifications and acquisition of data, documents and evaluations of foreign Authorities are needed⁹³.

Q6c. What are the main requirements for the **renewal of a residence permit** for international students (e.g. does the student need to prove his/her attendance in HEI courses or is the study progress measured)?

Please explain:

Following enrolment at the university, students must apply to the Police Headquarters in their province of residence for a renewal of their residence permit for the whole year, at least sixty days before its expiry.

At the time of the renewal, the foreign student must provide: proof of access to the same financial cover required for entry (i.e. no less than 453.00€ per month, equivalent to 5,889.00€ per year); their certificate of enrolment at university; and all other conditions required for the issuance of a residence permit.

Residence permits for STUDY (university) purposes are renewed "for students who have passed a final assessment their first year of study and at least two final assessments in subsequent years", determined in terms of university credits. In addition, "in cases of duly documented serious health problems or force majeure, the residence permit may also be renewed for students who have passed only one final assessment, subject to the total number of renewals. However, renewals may not be issued for more than three years beyond the defined study period"⁹⁴

The residence permit for study may only be renewed if the entry visa was issued for a multi-year course of study⁹⁵.

Q7. Please indicate if the **hosting initiatives and measures** listed below (Q7a-Q7e) are in place in your Member State. Please state which institution is responsible for these measures.

⁹³ Cfr. http://www.dirittierisposte.it/Schede/Persone/Immigrazione-e-cittadinanza/visto_di_ingresso_id1120633_art.aspx

⁹⁴ Article 46, paragraph 4 of the Presidential Decree of 31 August 1999, no. 394.

⁹⁵ "Entry, residence and registration procedures for students requiring visas for higher education courses in Italy for the academic year 2018-2019 at higher education institutions established by the Ministry of Education" See http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studenti/stranieri/moduli/2018/Circolare_2018_2019.pdf

Q7a. Is induction and orientation support provided in your Member State (incl. opening a bank account, registering in the healthcare system, etc.)? *Please select all relevant boxes.*

- Yes, state-organised measures for support in place.
- Yes, support provided by HEIs.
- No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the support measures provided:

Uni-Italia in Italy provides assistance to foreign students in the various stages of their academic life and offers support in dealing with bureaucratic and university matters with the Student Offices and Public Administrations⁹⁶.

This also happens at an individual university level, for example at the Milan Polytechnic, which dedicates a webpage <http://www.polinternational.polimi.it/life/living-in-italy/residence-permit/> to providing information aimed at helping international students acquire health insurance in Italy, gain access to the city's museums and theatres through a MILAN IDENTITY CARD (M-ID card), understand the procedures for obtaining a residence permit, learn how to get around Milan and where to live, and, if necessary, apply for a tax code through the University itself⁹⁷.

Rome La Sapienza, through its Hello - Welcome Office, also offers a detailed and personalised information service through various interaction channels (front-office, e-mail and social media). La Sapienza students of different nationalities collaborate with staff in running the Hello desk. Foreign students can receive information on the registration procedures for La Sapienza degree courses: bachelor's and master's degree programs, specialisation schools, research doctorates, master's courses, single subject courses, internships and thesis research. Hello, provides information and support for completing the application for issuance/renewal of a residence permit, the DiSCo scholarship or a tax code, as well as assistance in the search for accommodation. At the Hello desk students may make and print exam bookings, print certificates and any other operation required by the Infostud portal. Hello also offers information on services dedicated to students: access to libraries, museums, university canteens, sports centres, musical and cultural activities.

Q7b. Is support with finding housing and accommodation provided in your Member State? Please select all boxes that apply.

- Yes, state-organised measures for support in place.
- Yes, support provided by HEIs.
- Yes, support provided by other organisations.

⁹⁶ For more information, refer to question Q3a.

⁹⁷ Since 2014, international students no longer have to personally request a "tax code" at the local "Agenzia delle Entrate". Thanks to a special agreement with the "Agenzia delle Entrate" to simplify the issuing of tax codes, Milan Polytechnic may request "tax codes" on behalf of its international students and deliver these to them after enrolment. See <http://www.polinternational.polimi.it/life/living-in-italy/personal-tax-code/>

No, support not available.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the type of support provided:

As already specified in the answer to question Q4d, universities, other higher education (HE) institutions, regional bodies for the right to university study (EDISU) present in the various universities and the autonomous provinces offer students various services including the possibility of staying in university residences.

Some examples: the Milan Polytechnic offers its students, whether international or national, the possibility of accommodation in residences available in the cities of MILAN, LECCO and COMO. In fact, students enrolled (or who intend to enrol) at the Polytechnic, or international students participating in international exchange programs, can register to book university accommodation⁹⁸.

It is worth highlighting some of the best practices at University of Bologna Alma Mater Studiorum that, through its Student Accommodation and Information Service - SAIS, provides support to international exchange students in applying for short-term accommodation in university residences, colleges, guesthouses and private sector apartments. Support includes assistance in the signing of rental contracts. In addition, SAIS provides non-EU citizens with certification of accommodation, which is needed when applying for an entry visa. The SAIS service is free⁹⁹.

University of Pavia too, has a variety of colleges/ students' houses some of which date back to the XVI century, hosting a number of students admitted after passing a public exam (based on results and titles)¹⁰⁰.

Q7c. Are preparatory courses (incl. language courses, orientation courses, multicultural sessions, intercultural awareness/diversity courses) offered in your Member State?

Yes, state-organised measures for courses in place.

Yes, courses provided by HEIs.

Yes, support provided by other organisations.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the courses provided:

There are many public and private universities offering guidance services and, above all, Italian language courses to international students during their stay in Italy.

For example, Milan Polytechnic offers Italian language courses to its regularly enrolled international students (exchange or degree courses). For each course there is a tuition fee of 100€ to be paid by attendees¹⁰¹. In addition, Milan

⁹⁸ See <http://www.residenze.polimi.it/index.php?id=176&L=1>

⁹⁹ See <https://www.unibo.it/it/servizi-e-opportunita/borse-di-studio-e-agevolazioni/alloggi-e-sportello-registrazione-affitti/alloggi-e-residenze-a-bologna>

¹⁰⁰ https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collegio_Ghislieri

¹⁰¹ See <http://www.polinternational.polimi.it/life/living-polimi/italian-courses/>

Polytechnic offers its students the following language courses as extra activities:

- German: courses of 40 hours, two classes a week, provided during the 1st and 2nd semester;
- Chinese: courses of 40 hours, two classes a week, provided during the 2nd semester;
- French, Portuguese and Spanish: courses of 30 hours, three classes a week, provided in May and June;
- Russian: courses of 40 hours, two classes a week, provided during the 2nd semester.

All are beginner's courses and carry a tuition fee of 100€¹⁰².

In addition, all Polytechnic students may take part in cultural and sports events organised by the university; you can check the web page <https://www.eventi.polimi.it/?lang=eng>.

For what concerns private universities, the "Management of International Experiences" office at LUISS Guido Carli organises all activities for exchange students, both students who originally started their studies at LUISS and those international guests currently hosted by the University. It follows the student's study stages abroad, from training to re-enrolling, and manages the academic and logistical aspects of international mobility (organisation and management of student mobility, information material, internal promotion, student orientation, mobility monitoring, etc.)¹⁰³.

Q7d. If applicable, please describe **any other hosting initiatives and measures not mentioned above**.

Please elaborate: n/i

2.4 Rights of international students

Q8. Right to work

Q8a. How many hours are international students allowed to work per week or months per year?¹⁰⁴

[Possible visual element to be included in Synthesis report: map indicating the number of hours in each Member State.]

Please elaborate

The residence permit for study authorises the conducting of part-time work for a maximum of 20 hours per week and an annual limit of 1,040 hours¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰² See <http://www.polinternational.polimi.it/life/living-polimi/foreign-language-courses/>

¹⁰³ See <http://www.luiss.it/studenti/scambi-internazionali>

¹⁰⁴ See Article 24 of the Students and Researchers Directive.

¹⁰⁵ See <https://www.portaleimmigrazione.it/>

Q8b. Are any restrictions in place in your Member State in terms of the **type/field of work international students** are allowed to work in?

- Yes, restrictions in place.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the type of restrictions in place:

Q8c. Do students need to obtain **prior authorisation** for the right to work in accordance with national law?

- Yes, prior authorisation required.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the purpose of this prior authorisation and the entity responsible for granting it:

Q8d. Are international students entitled to exercise **self-employed economic activity**?

- Yes, self-employment possible.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

The residence permit for study purposes allows the student to undertake any work for 20 hours per week (cumulative over 52 weeks up to a maximum limit of 1,040 hours per year).

Q9. Do students have the right to **carry out in parallel to their studies or defer their studies for a training or a job** in the Member State?

- Yes, deferral of studies possible.
 Yes, carrying out a training/job in parallel to studies possible.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

The residence permit for study authorises the conduct of any part-time work for a maximum of 20 hours per week and an annual limit of 1,040 hours. For work services exceeding 1,040 hours per year it is necessary to convert the residence permit for study into a residence permit for work (self-employed or subordinate) under the decree governing the flow of immigrants¹⁰⁶, laid down annually by the Ministry of the Interior through the Immigration Quotas.

Q10a. Do students have to **complete their studies within a maximum period of time**?

- Yes.
 No.

¹⁰⁶ https://www.portaleimmigrazione.it/APR_PDS_Motivi_Studio.aspx

If you have answered yes, please indicate the period:

Study permit renewals may not be issued for more than three years beyond the duration of the study program. A residence permit may be further renewed for the duration of a specialisation qualification or research doctorate for the full duration of the course, renewable for a year¹⁰⁷.

Q10b. In accordance with Directive 2016/801 Article 21(3),¹⁰⁸ Member states may withdraw a visa/residence permit in case of a lack of progress in the relevant studies. Has your Member State transposed this provision?

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on how the lack of progress is assessed by your Member State:

Residence permits for study purposes are renewed for students who have passed a final assessment in their first course year and at least two final assessments over the following years, determined in terms of university credits¹⁰⁹.

Q11. Do the **number of years** an international student possesses a residence permit for the purpose of studying count towards being granted access to long-term residence or citizenship?

Yes.

No

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

According to the Consolidated Act on immigration, foreigners holding a valid residence permit for at least five years who can show proof of access to an income not less than the annual welfare benefit value and - in the case of an application for family members - sufficient income according to the parameters specified in article 29, paragraph 3, point b) of that Act, and can demonstrate access to suitable accommodation which meets the minimum parameters laid down by the regional law for public residential housing or the appropriate sanitary requirements laid down by the competent local health authority, may apply to the Police Commissioner for a long-stay EC residence permit, for himself and for those family members referred to in article 29, paragraph 1¹¹⁰.

Furthermore, non-EU foreign citizens legally residing in Italy for at least 10 years may apply for Italian citizenship¹¹¹.

¹⁰⁷ Art. 46, comma 4 del decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 31 agosto 1999, n. 394

¹⁰⁸ See Article 21(2)(f) of the Students and Researchers Directive

¹⁰⁹ See Article 46, paragraph 4 of the Presidential Decree of 31 August 1999, no. 394

¹¹⁰ With reference to Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, no. 286, Title II, art. 9- Provisions for entering, residing in and leaving State territory, and subsequent amendments.

See <https://www.meltingpot.org/articolo233.html#7>

¹¹¹ See http://www.dirittierisposte.it/Schede/Persone/Immigrazione-e-cittadinanza/cittadinanza_id1119730_art.aspx#Come%20si%20acquista%20la%20cittadinanza

External factors affecting attracting international students

Q12. Based on existing national sources (evaluation reports, media reports, etc.), what are the **external factors** affecting the attraction of international students in your Member State? Please select all relevant boxes.

- HEI rankings
- Member State is a hub for specific fields
- Language in which courses are taught
- Culture
- Socio-economic factors (e.g. living costs)
- Other (please specify): Poor perception abroad of the quality of the Italian educational system.
- No information available.

Please elaborate:

See answer given to question Q13a.

2.5 Challenges and good practices in attracting international students

Q13. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State on attracting international students and for whom is it considered a challenge/good practice (HEI, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice: why is this considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/surveys/evaluation reports/interviews/other?

a) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

According to *the proceedings of the CRUI Committee for internationalisation*¹¹², the main obstacles to attracting international students to Italy and, more generally, to the internationalisation of Italian universities and their educational programs, lie mainly in the weak promotion of the Italian university system abroad as well as the poor overseas perception of the Italian educational system's quality, which provides courses in English predominantly in the economic field, a field that faces very stiff competition internationally. The added value the Italian university system is able to give, in fact, is more evident in the humanities that are typically associated with Italy (design, art history, restoration, tourism, etc.); such courses, however, are rarely offered in English.

Moreover, following certain jurisprudential pronouncements, the dissemination of courses offered in English at universities continues to be considered a critical issue. To cite an example, in 2012, thanks to a decision by its Academic Senate, the Milan Polytechnic introduced undergraduate, master's and PhD research

¹¹² The internationalisation of higher education in Italy. The universities. Contributions from the CRUI commission for internationalisation. See http://www2.cruai.it/cruai/Rapporto_Internazionalizzazione_CONTRIBUTI_COMMISSIONE.pdf

degree programs in English in accordance with the provisions of art. 2 paragraph 2 letter 1 of the Law of 30 December 2010 no. 240. Following this, a group of professors at the university proposed an appeal to the regional administrative court that, in its ruling of 23 May no. 1348, cancelled the above resolution as detrimental to the centrality and official standing of the Italian language, which, it said, could not be placed in an inferior position to other foreign languages. The Milan Polytechnic, together with the Ministry of Education, appealed to the Council of State that, in its ruling of 29 January 2018 no. 617, reiterated that the phenomenon of internationalisation should not force the Italian language *"into a position of marginality: on the contrary... the primacy of the Italian language ... becomes even more crucial for the long-term transmission of the historical heritage and identity of the Republic, as well as guaranteeing the safeguarding and valuing of Italian as a cultural asset in itself"*¹¹³. As a challenge towards internationalisation, *Strategy 2017/2020* envisages actions aimed at improving the attractiveness of our university system, supporting the training of the managerial classes in intervention countries, mapping the data on international students keeping in mind the external movements of the Erasmus Plus program, simplifying the procedures for qualification recognition, supporting the internationalisation of the economic productive system and strengthening links with companies in training courses offered to foreign students¹¹⁴.

b) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

Bilateral and multilateral initiatives have been initiated between Italy and third countries that will be specified in the Q18 question. Even the services offered by the aforementioned¹¹⁵ Uni-Italia can be considered best practices in attracting international students. With regards to access to information and the best practices for attracting international students, it is worth mentioning the online portal, UNIVERSITALY - Italian University at a click, that the Ministry of Education, University and Research has created specifically to accompany students on their studies. The portal provides a section for foreign students in which it illustrates the methods for accessing courses, the programs that provide scholarships for international students, and a list of all the universities whose regulations provide access for foreign students, with the number of reserved positions indicated¹¹⁶. In addition, in order to facilitate academic level recognition for refugees without papers, Italy is supporting a Council of Europe project, already underway, aimed at issuing European Qualifications Passports for Refugees. Please check <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications>.

¹¹³ See. *The Judgment of the Council of State and the (inter)nationalisation of universities*, http://www.codau.it/sites/default/files/allegati_ufficio_studi/sentenza_consiglio_stato_1.pdf

¹¹⁴ See https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/04/strategia_fsi.pdf

¹¹⁵ For specifications relating to Unitalia, refer to the answer to question Q3a.

¹¹⁶ See <https://www.university.it/index.php/family/stranieri>

Section 3. Measures and incentives to **retain** international graduates

3.1. Measures and incentives for the retention of international graduates.

This section examines the measures and incentives to retain international graduates after their studies in place in the Member States. Statistics provided in Annex 1.4 and Annex 1.5 will be used to contextualise the measures and incentives reported on by Member States.

NB: in your answers to Q14-16, if applicable, please indicate whether the policy/offer/strategy differs between qualification levels (ISCED levels 5-8).

Q14. Measures and incentives to **retain** international graduates in Member States.

Q14a. What are the conditions for **access after study** to national labour market/ self-employment/ start up or spin-off activities/ research project?

Please briefly outline the conditions:

- For what period of time does your Member State allow students to stay after studies in order to seek employment or set up a business?¹¹⁷ What happens after this period?

Labour market access for international students is subject, as already indicated in the reply to Q8d, to the conversion of their residence permit for study purposes to a residence permit for work (subordinate or self-employment), within the framework of the decree governing the flow of immigrants. For the year 2018, a quota of up to 12,850 non-EU citizens are admitted to Italy for non-seasonal work and self-employment reasons, including allowances for those holding other types of residence permits to convert these to subordinate work or self-employment residence permits. The quota of 12,850 includes authorisation for 3,500 conversions of residence permits for study into residence permits for subordinate employment, and 700 conversions of residence permits for study, training and/or vocational training into residence permits for self-employment. The Directorate General of Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, based on the actual applications received at each individual branch, will then divide the quotas for conversions at a national level¹¹⁸.

Please elaborate:

- Does your Member State have any restrictions in place regarding the job field in which the international student can seek employment or set up a business?

Yes.

¹¹⁷ See Article 25(1) of the Students and Researchers Directive

¹¹⁸ "Circolare congiunta prot. n. 167 relativa al Decreto del presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri del 15 dicembre 2017 concernente la programmazione transitoria dei flussi d'ingresso dei lavoratori non comunitari nel territorio dello Stato per l'anno 2018". Cfr. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2017/circolare-dpcm-15122017-programmazione-flussi-lavoratori-non-comunitari-anno-2018.pdf>

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the restrictions in place:

- Does the international student require a minimum level of degree in order to be allowed to stay after studies in order to seek employment or set up a business?¹¹⁹

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please indicate the minimum level required:

Q14b. Are there any other particular **policy measures** or incentives to retain international students in place? *Please select all relevant boxes:*

Lowered salary requirement for a work/residence permit.

Unrestricted access to the labour market.

Other incentive(s).

No.

If you have answered yes, please briefly elaborate on the measures or incentives in place.

The possibility for TCN students to remain in Italy depends on the conversion quotas, required by the annual flow decree, of residence permits for study purposes into residence permits for non-seasonal employment and self-employment for work reasons¹²⁰.

Q15. Are there **initiatives of HEIs or the private sector** whereby support is provided to students following the completion of their studies? (e.g. in specialised or niche areas, in the form of counselling, contract with students to commence work with a company after the completion of their studies). Please also consider initiatives at a regional level. *Please select all relevant boxes and if applicable, please provide best practice examples of the initiatives of universities/HEIs, private sector, local governments, etc. in the retention of international graduates (e.g. in specialised and niche areas, in the form of scholarships, apprenticeship contracts, counselling, etc.).*

Yes, initiatives implemented by HEIs.

Yes, initiatives implemented by the private sector.

Other initiatives.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate and provide 1-2 examples of best practices:

Work-related services for national and international students are offered at both public and private universities, most often through online guidance desks.

¹¹⁹ See Article 25(2) of the Students and Researchers Directive

¹²⁰ EMN Ad-Hoc Query on AHQ on Retaining TCN Students, 2017

The SOUL (University Work Orientation System) portal, for example, is the result of the cooperation between eight Lazio universities (Sapienza University of Rome, Roma Tre University, "Tor Vergata" University of Rome, "Forum Italico" University of Rome, Rome Academy of Fine Arts, University of Tuscia - Viterbo, University of Cassino, and LUMSA - Maria SS. Assunta Free University of Rome), and provides students and graduates with a reference point for job placements and work orientation. The platform aims to facilitate the transition from training system to productive system and allows registered students and graduates to get in touch with institutions and companies, publish their CVs and apply for jobs and internships posted.

The Milan Polytechnic also offers, through its career service portal, information on the opportunities national and international students have for viewing job offers and internships. As far as the latter is concerned, non-EU students must be in possession of a residence permit for study or for expected work at the time the internship starts. As an alternative, students may present the CareerService with a receipt for a renewal request made before the expiry of the previous permit¹²¹.

Among the projects implemented by private universities, it is worth highlighting *The International Training Program*. ITP is a project of cooperation between LUISS University and Italian companies operating internationally: it aims to train the future company's country managers, equipping them with the highest standards in academic education. Successful candidates have the opportunity to: pursue their studies with a 2-year Master Program in Management; attend elective courses co-designed and co-delivered by LUISS faculties and executives from the companies sponsoring the ITP; and work as interns during the last six months of the Master program in their home country or other geographical areas to be agreed with the sponsoring company. The sponsoring company may also offer a summer internship at the end of the first year of study. BA graduates keen to study in a truly international environment and learn the 'Italian way of doing business' are encouraged to apply to the ITP. The sponsoring companies and LUISS University will carry out the selection process¹²².

With regard to the private sector, please refer to the Invest your Talent in Italy program, specified in the reply to question Q17b.

Q16. Does your government and/or HEIs implement any strategies in your Member State to **encourage former international graduates** (i.e. international alumni who have already left the Member State) to establish and/or maintain a connection to the national labour market)? *Please select all relevant boxes.*

- Yes, strategy implemented by HEIs.
- Yes, strategy implemented by the government.
- No.

¹²¹ See <http://cm.careerservice.polimi.it/laureati/>

¹²² See <http://programs.luiss.it/the-international-training-program-ity/>

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the main elements of the strategy:

Many universities offer graduates the opportunity to maintain contact with the Italian labour market. For example, the Milan Polytechnic offers the possibility to join the official community network of Milan Polytechnic Alumni, which aims to keep graduates in touch and enrich the professional lives of its registered members. It, therefore, exposes new members to the career opportunities available in their line of study¹²³.

The best practice of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, whose Career Service organises a training workshop dedicated to students and graduates who want to develop the skills for starting their own business or gaining an entrepreneurial attitude towards their professional career is worth noting. At the end of the workshop SPAZIOIDEE, an individual consultancy service that helps participants explore their eventual projects in more depth as well as check the specific critical elements and any doubts that have emerged, will be activated¹²⁴.

As a final observation on private universities, it is worth noting Bocconi University in Milan, which prepares and supports its students and graduates who wish to transform their innovative ideas into real business opportunities. Through the social incubator, *Speed MI Up*, it encourages young graduates to put their entrepreneurial skills to the test, creating start-ups in every type of sector. Furthermore, every year the Bocconi Start Up Day - an initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and new companies - is organised. During that day, through a series of specific activities, participants can meet potential investors and present their business plans to experienced managers¹²⁵.

3.2 Challenges and good practices in retaining international students

Q17. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State on retaining international students and for whom is it considered a challenge/good practice (HEIs, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice: why is this considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/studies/evaluation reports/surveys/interviews/other? Please briefly summarise the input and findings of these experts/studies/evaluation reports/interviews/other.

A) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

Even though Italy's academic environment often comes across as very competitive and attractive to international students, the country's present

¹²³ See <http://www.polinternational.polimi.it/life/living-polimi/alumni/>

¹²⁴ See <http://www5.unive.it/pag/7342/>

¹²⁵ See

https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/Bocconi/SitoPubblico_IT/Albero+di+navigazione/Home/Entrare+in+Bocconi/Studenti+Scuola+media+superiore/Perche+un+corso+di+laurea+in+Bocconi/Career+Support/

economic situation makes its job market less interesting. However certain sectors are growing (see answer to Q1g).

The teaching and learning of Italian can also be considered a positive challenge for international students and as an educational opportunity for Italian HEIs to retain international students following the end of their studies. However, European studies have emphasised the common problem of local language in order to retain students in the post-university phase¹²⁶.

B) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

MAECI, the agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of the Italian company (ICE) and Uni-Italia, in collaboration with Union Camere and Confindustria, will launch in December the fourth edition of the Invest Your Talent in Italy (IYT) program aimed at attracting young foreigners from priority countries to Italy in order to internationalise Italian companies.

The programme includes: a training course at one of the participating universities ending with an internship at the company (approximately three months); scholarships made available by public and private partners as an incentive for the most deserving students (about 8,000€/year); and university tax exemption for the scholarship holder. The Technical Committee, set up by the Sponsors, ensures:

- the selection and management of applications (companies and foreign students);
- assistance to the student on Italian entry procedures;
- the monitoring of academic performance.

The training areas envisaged by the project are those of Engineering and High technology, Design and Architecture, Economics and Management for master's degree courses and University Masters¹²⁷.

At the regional level, it is important to mention TORNO SUBITO, a program of interventions that finances projects presented by young university students and graduates between 18 and 35-year-old in the cinema and food and wine sectors; it is structured along integrated pathways of higher education and workplace experiences, in both international and national contexts. This is an idea of the Department of Education, Research and Schooling at the Lazio Region University, which - through Torno Subito - promoted a plan to develop training and experiences on the workplace. The Program offers recipients the chance to realise their dream, building a project based on their ambitions and divided into two phases:

- the first to be carried out outside the Lazio region, in Italy or in any other country of the world; this provides the opportunity to attend a training course or gain 'work experience' at an organisation/company;

¹²⁶ A. Cabiddu, *L'italiano alla prova dell'internazionalizzazione*, Guerini e associati, 2017

¹²⁷ See <http://investyourtalent.esteri.it/SitoInvestYourTalent/sintesi.asp>

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- the second to be carried out within the Lazio region, starting up an apprenticeship or a path of accompaniment towards self-employment in order to put the skills acquired in the first phase into practice.

Each project, in addition to being implemented in 2 phases, must provide for the direct involvement of training facilities and production companies, both public and private, profit and non-profit. Each project must therefore have 2 partners, one for the phase outside Lazio dedicated to study/work experience, and one for the phase within Lazio dedicated to putting the skills into practice. The objective of this pathway, in fact, is the acquisition and improvement of skills aimed at building opportunities for a qualified job placement in the regional production sector. Italian and foreign university students and graduates in the cinema and food and wine sectors, from 18 to 35-year-old and resident in Lazio for at least 6 months, may participate in the public competition process.

Section 4: Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries

Q18. Has your Member State concluded and/or intends to conclude any **bilateral and/or multilateral agreements** with countries of origin concerning international students? Please distinguish between agreements in place with countries with developed economies and those with developing economies¹²⁸ as classified by the United Nations¹²⁹ and summarise and provide an overview of the type of agreements – without listing all the agreements and detailed provisions.

[Possible visual element to be included in the Synthesis report: map indicating the regions/countries of origin with which agreements are in place.]

Yes, bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned with industrialised countries. *Please elaborate on the aspects listed below):*

- The most common provisions of the agreements;
- Most common world regions/countries of origin with which agreements have been concluded;
- Are specific fields of studies or qualification levels covered in the agreements?
- Are specific categories of persons covered under the agreements? (e.g. specific age groups; gender; other socio-demographic characteristics).

To achieve the objectives of bilateral scientific collaboration, a governmental agreement is adopted. Within this framework, scientific, technological and socio-economic contents and objectives linked to research take shape and form. This further phase is achieved through the creation of executive protocols for scientific and technological collaboration.

The executive protocols specify the research areas in which the bilateral collaboration between Italy and the partner country is concentrated: on the basis of these areas, a specific public competition is issued to select research projects financed by both countries.

The bilateral scientific and technological research projects that have been selected are listed in the executive protocols¹³⁰.

The list of Cultural, Scientific and Technological executive protocols can be consulted on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website,¹³¹ where the priority areas are also listed.

To cite some examples, Italy has signed a bilateral agreement with CANADA - QUEBEC for the period 2017 - 2019 in the following sectors: Big Data and Data Protection; Climate Change and Biodiversity Protection; Biotechnology and Precision Medicine; New Materials, Photonic Optics, Nanotechnologies and Nano

¹²⁸ This distinction is relevant as the objectives and purpose of such agreements could differ significantly between these two categories.

¹²⁹ http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications/DimCountries_DevelopmentStatus_Hierarchy.pdf

¹³⁰ See <http://www.miur.gov.it/accordi-bilaterali>

¹³¹ See

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html

Security; Food Security and Agriculture; Smart Cities and Communities; Aerospace and Physics; Sea Sciences and Oceanography, the Arctic.

With JAPAN, also for the period 2017 - 2019, collaboration programs in the fields of Agriculture and Food Science, Basic Sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics), Biotechnology and Health, Energy and Environment, Information Technologies and Communication including applications in the Robotics and Automotive Industry, Advanced Nanotechnologies and Materials, Space Sciences, Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage¹³².

In the case of China, the Marco Polo Program, launched in Italy in 2005 and undersigned in 2004 by the Conference of Italian University Deans (CRUI) on the direct request of the Presidency of the Italian Republic, was born with the aim of promoting the Italian university system in China and facilitating the inclusion of Chinese students in Italian universities. There is also the Turandot program, activated in 2009, which covers arts, music and design, allowing numerous Chinese students who possess or wish to obtain an artistic specialisation to access AFAM institutions, benefiting from the same prerogatives as the Marco Polo University Program.

More specifically, the agreement between the Italian and Chinese governments facilitates the issuing of entry visas for study purposes on condition of pre-registration at an Italian University, Conservatory of Music or Academy of Fine Arts, registration for the introductory Italian language course held at Italian universities with a minimum duration of 10 months and a minimum score on the final state exam - the infamous "Gaokao" comparable to the Italian school-leaving examination - of not less than 380 points out of 750. In order that Chinese students have access to their chosen faculty, it is essential that they attend an Italian language course in Italy in the months preceding the academic year of registration¹³³.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' estimates from 2009 to the end of 2017, the number of Chinese students participating in the Marco Polo and Turandot programs has doubled from 1,099 to 2,178¹³⁴.

In addition, since 1948 a special Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange between Italy and the United States (US-Italy Fulbright Commission) runs the Fulbright Program 90, promoting opportunities for study, research and teaching in the two countries and granting fellowships for Italian and American citizens jointly offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. State Department. As of today, about 8,000 Italian and American fellows have joined the program, which aims to encourage cultural exchanges in all subject areas.

Fulbright grants to Italy are awarded to U.S. graduate citizens enrolled in master's and PhD programs or young professionals and artists interested in post-graduate programs of study and research at universities and research institutes (U.S. Student Program). All Fulbright grants include a travel

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ See <https://www.unistrapg.it/it/rel/articoli/che-cosa-sono-i-programmi-marco-polo-e-turandot>

¹³⁴ See https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2017/12/i-programmi-turandot-e-marco-polo.html

allowance to cover round-trip travel expenses between United States and Italy as well as medical insurance cover provided by the U.S. government. The Fulbright Commission sets the number of grants to be awarded in several categories based on the annual review of the available financial resources ensured by the contributions of the two governments¹³⁵.

Yes, bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned with developing countries. *Please elaborate on the aspects listed below*):

- The most common provisions of the agreements;
- Most common world regions/countries of origin with which agreements have been concluded;
- Are specific fields of studies or qualification levels covered in the agreements?
- Are specific categories of persons covered under the agreements? (e.g. specific age groups; gender; other socio-demographic characteristics).

There are numerous bilateral agreements between Italy and developing countries. To cite a few examples, for the two-year period 2016-2018 Italy has established with **Algeria** a cultural executive protocol on the sectors of Environment and Energy (including drought, water pollution, renewable energy); Life sciences (including Biotechnology, Health); Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (including Smart Cities and Communities); Geo-Engineering Seismology; Technologies applied to the enhancement and conservation of cultural heritage; Agriculture and Food Sciences. With **India** too, an executive cultural protocol was signed for the 2017-2019 biennium in the areas of Information and Communication Technologies; Environment and Energy (with a particular focus on clean energy technologies, resource efficiency, land reclamation and sustainable agriculture); Health (with particular focus on personalised medicine and big data), Biotechnology and Medicine; Physical and Chemical Sciences (with particular focus on devices with 2-D systems); Technologies applied to Cultural and Natural Heritage¹³⁶.

No bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned.

Q19. Are there any measures or incentives in place to avoid **brain drain** in the country of origin when attracting and retaining international students?

Yes, measures related to brain drain in place.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the measures in place:

At the moment the only measures in place are devoted to facilitating the return of Italian students and researchers at the end of their periods abroad, such as with the Levi Montalcini programme¹³⁷.

¹³⁵ Immigration of international students to Italy, EMN 2012, pg. 71.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ Cfr. <http://cervelli.cineca.it/>

Q20. Do HEIs in your Member States have **initiatives and cooperation agreements with HEIs** in third countries in place? If so, what types of agreements and for which purpose (e.g. student exchange programmes)? *If there are many different agreements in place, please only provide 1-2 examples of agreements in place.*

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the initiatives/cooperation agreements in place and provide 1-2 examples:

There are many Italian public and private universities that make agreements with third country universities. To cite some examples, the University of Rome "La Sapienza" stipulated for 2017 only framework agreements for cultural and scientific collaboration with the Catholic University of Angola on the fields of Earth and Biological Sciences, with the Hassan II University of Casablanca on the fields of Sciences of Antiquity, Literary Philology and Artistic History, the Historical, Philosophical, Pedagogical and Psychological Sciences, with the Université de Ibn Tofail (Morocco) on the physical sciences field, and with Zululand University in South Africa on the fields of chemical, biological and medical sciences. The Milan Polytechnic stipulated 41 new inter-university cooperation programs in 2017, some examples being the Student Exchange Agreement with Universidade do Minato Gerais, the framework agreement with Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the framework agreement and double degree agreement with Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Argentina. The University for Foreigners in Siena stipulated 21 new inter-university collaboration agreements in 2017, including the Cooperation Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (U.S.A.) and the student exchange agreement with Nankai University (China)¹³⁸.

At the private university level too, there is a very large network of non-European partners. To cite an example, the Bocconi University of Milan has 275 partner schools in over 54 countries with regard to exchange opportunities for three-year courses, and 58 partner schools in 20 countries with regard to international exchange opportunities for jurisprudence (e.g. Tel Aviv University, George Washington University, Universidade de Sao Paulo in Brazil)¹³⁹.

Q21. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State with regard to bilateral and multilateral agreements and for whom is this considered a challenge/good practice (HEIs, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice, why is it considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/studies/evaluation reports/surveys/interviews/other?

¹³⁸ See <http://accordi-internazionali.cineca.it/>

¹³⁹ See

https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/Bocconi/SitoPubblico_IT/Albero+di+navigazione/Home/Entrare+in+Bocconi/Studenti+Scuola+media+superiore/Perche+un+corso+di+laurea+in+Bocconi/Scuole+Partner+in+tutto+il+mundo/

Please briefly summarise the input and findings of these experts/studies/evaluation reports/interviews/other

A) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

At the moment there are no specific challenges regarding specific students' countries of origin; any student is accepted without discrimination on the basis of academic requirements, and subject to the evaluation of the immigration authorities.

B) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

The VIII Office of the MIUR's Directorate General for the coordination, promotion and valorisation of research, finances the **Projects of Great Importance**, which can receive an annual contribution for executing the project, according to Law 401 of 1990.

These are, in essence, bilateral cooperation programs, involving universities, research bodies and business sectors as the main players, with the aim of mutually improving their scientific, technological and socio-economic levels.

The prerequisite for awarding the grant is that the project is selected at the signing of the individual Scientific and Technological Collaboration Executive Programs and that it has its own funding.

The request for a grant can be submitted subsequently following a specific public competition issued every year by the Directorate General and usually published during the period November/December¹⁴⁰.

A good practice underway is the *Constitution of Italian University Networks public competition, implemented through cooperation agreements between Italian universities and those of the member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation* organised by the Ministry of Education, University and Research on 10 May 2018¹⁴¹. The public competition aims to promote university and post-graduate training projects between Italy and member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, through the presentation of project proposals developed jointly by one or more Italian university institutions, to understand the phenomenon of radicalisation and improve integration in Italy, in line with the principles of the Strategy for the Promotion Abroad of Italian Higher Education 2017/2020.

Recipients of the public competition are the university topical networks composed of legally recognised Italian state and non-state universities, and including at least one institution from the Organisation's countries. The project proposals must cover at least one of the following topics and programs:

¹⁴⁰ See <http://www.miur.gov.it/accordi-bilaterali>

¹⁴¹ The intake call implements Article, 1 paragraph 664 of the Law of 27 December 2017, no. 205 State Budget for the 2018 financial year and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2018-2020, and is in line with the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2015 on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations (2015/2063 - INI).

Attracting and retaining international students in the EU

- encouraging the establishment of university networks;
- organising training courses in Italy;
- promoting academic and student mobility;
- encouraging the development of joint courses in strategic areas of reference;
- supporting the training of managers in the intervention countries in order to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral ties in all sectors - political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural;
- facilitating synergy through direct actions that support the internationalisation of the country's economic and productive system;
- strengthening the bond with companies through the offering of training courses to international students.

Annex 1 National statistics

Please fill in the attached excel sheet with the respective statistics for your Member State. The Statistical Annex consists of the following:

- Annex 1.1.: Contextual statistics on the types of HEIs
- Annex 1.2.: Number of students per field of study
- Annex 1.3.: Number of international students enrolled in universities by top 5 nationality and gender
- Annex 1.4.: International students who have graduated, interrupted or terminated their studies
- Annex 1.5.: International students who have remained in the Member State **at least two years** after graduation per reason

NB Annex 1.2-1.4 are not available for year 2017



Statistical
annex_students study_