



**EMN European Migration Network**

# The impact of immigration on Italy's society



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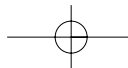
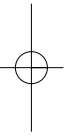
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## Foreword

The European Migration Network (EMN) is a project which is part of a wider plan of the European Commission to establish a permanent Observatory on immigration and asylum.

In December 2001, following various political initiatives and decisions, the Laeken European Council invited the Commission to "establish a system for exchanging information on asylum, immigration and countries of origin". In 2002, it was accordingly decided to carry out an experimental preparatory phase of the project for three years, at the end of which the Council could be presented a proposal for the setting up of a specific Observatory on migration and asylum provided that certain conditions are met.

The EMN is made up of national contact points representing the 25 Member States of the European Union. Its task is to build a basis to monitor and carry out multi-dimensional analysis of the immigration and asylum phenomenon, taking into consideration a wide range of aspects: political, legal, demographic, economic and social.

The EMN seeks to give a reliable response to the immigration and asylum information needs of the Community Institutions, the Member States and, in the long run, the public in general.

The Department for Citizens' Freedoms and Immigration, which I lead, has the responsibility for the databases on asylum and the last regularization of migrants and is bound to carry out outstanding tasks in the management of the procedures supporting the Single Desk for Immigration (entry for work and family reunion) established by the law no. 189/02. As a consequence, the data on immigration for work and for family reasons – in addition to the ones on asylum, which have already been managed – will become significant in the near future from both a

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quantitative and a qualitative viewpoint.

Thanks to its major role in terms of statistics, with specific reference to the data that has just been mentioned, the Department for Citizens' Freedoms and Immigration has become one of the main interlocutors of the European Commission and its statistical services. For this reason, its involvement in the European Migration Network seemed as a natural development of the Department responsibilities on a Community level, where, since the Treaty of Maastricht onwards, immigration and asylum policies are generally decided.

Since the EMN started in 2002, the Department has chosen to collaborate with Caritas and, more specifically, with the Editorial Staff of Dossier Statistico Immigrazione – which is now the “Centro Studi e Ricerche IDOS” – thanks to its noteworthy and consolidated experience in the domain of migration statistics. Thus, the Department designated it as a technical and scientific support for the activities of the national contact point.

Amongst the activities planned for 2003-2004, the European Commission asked EMN to work on a pilot study on “The impact of immigration in Europe's societies”. As a consequence, each national contact point prepared its own contribution to the overall project, starting from the sector data and studies already available on the national scene.

The study presented in this volume is the Italian "chapter" in the compendium of all Member States' experiences which will be published by the Berlin Institute for Comparative Research (BIVS) on behalf of the European Commission.

It is the first systematic joint research experience made by all national contact points that structurally participate in the EMN. It is also the first outstanding effort towards a more systematic outlook of the migration phenomenon and undoubtedly an important example of collaboration between the authorities and the Third Sector.

The opportunity provided by this short study is an occasion to begin the discussion on migration issues in a more aware and informed way.

Prefetto Anna M. D'Ascenzo  
*Head Department for Citizens' Freedoms and Immigration*

## Executive Summary

Over the past three decades, Italy has undergone a major transformation, shifting from an emigrant nation (there are currently four million Italians still living abroad) to an immigrant destination. From 1970 until today, the foreign citizens with regular residence permits in Italy have increased tenfold, and the rhythm of growth seems to be unstoppable. In 2003, following the last act of regularization, almost 700,000 non-EU workers were legalized. This figure, when added to the one and a half million aliens who were already living on the Italian peninsula, increases the total foreign population to two and a half million people, including minors.

These substantial figures outline a complex situation, characterized by immigrant flows from more than 191 countries, especially Central Eastern Europe (Rumania, Albania and the Ukraine), Northern Africa (Morocco), the Far East (China) and the Indian subcontinent (Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka).

This historically important phenomenon requires in-depth analysis and more effective intervention policies in order to find concrete solutions to help immigrants settling in our country, with its aging population and its labour market in need of additional workers.

Unfortunately, there is still a great amount of rigidity with respect to this new social phenomenon. Although Italian immigration legislation is one of the most advanced in Europe (Consolidated Act No. 286/98), its application is still difficult. The quota system still appears as inadequate with respect to labour needs, and the grant of a permanent residence permits is affected in some cases by slow and heavy procedures. In fact, the matching of labour demand and supply may seem as difficult to realize, which may result in encouraging irregular work.

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The immigration phenomenon is affecting the various regions in Italy in different ways.

Indubitably the greatest number of non-EU citizens resides in Central Northern Italy, where there are more job opportunities. Large urban centres, especially Rome (more than 200,000 immigrants) and Milan (more than 150,000), host substantial numbers of immigrant populations. Unfortunately, immigrants have difficulties in finding housing, since it is very expensive, especially in the cities, which forces them to reside together.

Various studies have indicated that immigration is not perceived negatively by the native population. On the contrary, the general attitude is more positive than in other European countries, despite the fact that the media tends to focus its attention almost exclusively on the negative aspects of this phenomenon, such as illegal immigration and crime, which, indubitably, are some of the biggest problems.

Over the past several years, great progress has been made in integrating foreign citizens into our country, beginning with the attendance of foreign minors at schools, a widespread phenomenon that has achieved good results.

The annual "Indici di inserimento territoriale degli immigrati" (Immigrant Territorial Integration Index), a study, carried out annually by Caritas on behalf of the National Council for Economy and Labour (CNEL), indicates that immigration is a significant, widespread phenomenon in Italy (it has even affected little towns and agricultural areas) characterized by considerable annual entries as well as by the significant needs of the labour market.

Nevertheless, it still has not been possible to strike a balance between the needs of immigrants and the needs of Italians, even if there are several indications that it is possible to go beyond the image of an immigrant as merely a worker and consider him as a citizen of a new inter-ethnic society with intercultural prospects. Sometimes, immigration is regarded as a temporary, rootless phenomenon that only marginally affects the receiving society. However, reality and, especially, data, prove otherwise.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Immigration in the Italian Context: terminology and current situation

In Italy, immigration is a relatively recent phenomenon. Generally, international immigration studies have labelled the Italian migration experience using what is commonly referred to as the “Mediterranean immigration model”. On the whole, this model applies to all southern E.U. nations where immigration – starting from the beginning of the 1970’s – has progressively replaced emigration. The Mediterranean immigration model (and, consequently, the Italian immigration model) can be characterised as follows: the consistent use of immigrants in seasonal agricultural work and in the service sector, especially in the area of domestic services and assistance to persons; a highly segmented labour market; the presence of an irregular immigration component; the initial absence of immigration regulations and the subsequent adoption of prudent migration policies; and reduced access of immigrants to social integration measures, even when provided for by legislation. The Mediterranean model is also characterised by a negative demographic trend and the growing need for labourers. One unique element of the Italian model with respect to the Mediterranean one is that in Italy immigrants are also used in industrial production. The reasons for migrating are the same as

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those that stimulate migration throughout the world (economic unbalances, wars..) <sup>1</sup>.

The particular geographic position of Italy exposes its to both regular and illegal immigration (with more than 7,000 Km of coasts that are difficult to control and, therefore, easy to violate). In principle, many immigrants did not consider Italy as an arrival destination but rather as a transit area towards those countries which, at that time, provided greater work guarantees and easier social integration conditions. Only in the last 15 years has immigration become a structural component in Italian society.

Another unique aspect is Italy's insubstantial colonial tradition; its lack of privileged economic and cultural connections with developing countries has contributed to the creation of a community of particularly heterogeneous foreigners: no national or ethnic group is present in great numbers. From the beginning, Italian immigration has been distinguished by the presence of an elevated number of nationalities and ethnicities which, with the passing of the years, have become progressively more defined and intensified. However, some sub-continental areas have greater importance than others: «currently the most substantial components of Italian immigration are represented by Maghreb countries and Eastern European countries. However, whereas the former have consolidated migration experience in our country and have stabilised, the latter have constituted a more sizeable immigration flow and have become the main actors on the migration scene over the last decade only: this implies, amongst other things, that Italian immigration, which has traditionally had a large Islamic component, is increasingly characterised by a Christian component.»<sup>2</sup>

With regard to terminology, in academic literature the term "immigrant" is generally used in reference to a foreign component from "countries with strong migration pressures" (poor countries), in contrast to a foreign component from "countries with low migration pressures" (wealthy countries).

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<sup>1</sup> For the Mediterranean migration model compare: Pugliese E., *L'Italia tra migrazioni internazionali e migrazioni interne*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2002, pg. 67; King R., Zontini E., *The role of gender in the South European Model*, University of Sussex - School of European Studies Falmer, Papers, n. 60, Brighton, 2000, pgs. 35-52; King R., Fielding A., Black R., *The international Migration Turnaround in Southern Europe*, in: King R., Black R., ed. *Southern Europe and the New Migrations*, Sussex Academic Press, Brighton, 1997; Boffo S., *Il modello mediterraneo nel quadro delle nuove migrazioni internazionali*, in: "La critica Sociologica", quarterly periodical by Ferrarotti F., no.143-144, Rome 2003, pgs. 88-104.

<sup>2</sup> Pugliese E., op. cit., pg. 73.

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However, not all studies adopt this distinction, which belatedly became a part of statistical analysis and current debate. In fact, in common language and in political discussion the term “extracomunitario” or “non-E.U. citizen” is used to indicate – even if inappropriately – foreigners from countries with strong migration pressures.

Alongside this issue there is the more generalised problem of gathering statistical data. Official Italian sources (Ministries, ISTAT, CNEL), which will be referenced extensively in following (par. 1.3), do not always follow the same data gathering criteria, and often the data are not comparable to a great extent. Currently, the data are being significantly revised by workers in this area.

In light of this situation, it is evident that the examination of available statistics should be conducted with the utmost care and attention, trying to capture the basic dynamics of the problem rather than the specifics of the individual data.

This study looks at immigrants who reside regularly in the Italian territory and do not belong to an E.U. Member State (as of May 1, 2004). This group, called “third country nationals”, includes different categories (refugees, those asking for asylum, students, long term workers, seasonal workers ...) which have been distinguished when necessary. When it has not been possible to follow this criteria, due to the lack of contextualised data, we have indicated the criteria we have used. With regard to the terminology used in this study, we have provided a brief glossary below to facilitate comprehension.

*Permanently settled immigrants:* Non-Italian citizens possessing various types of residence permits.

*Reasons for stay:* Reasons for which the authorities have granted a residence permit.

*Citizenship:* the standard for granting Italian citizenship is inspired by the principle of *ius sanguinis* (“right of the blood” - under which citizenship results from having an Italian parent or parents) as regulated by law 91/1992; only in a few residual cases is it possible to acquire Italian citizenship through *iure soli* (“right of the soil” - under which citizenship results from being born in Italy).

*Residents:* non-Italian citizens in the territory, whose place of residence is registered at the municipal registry office.

*Irregular immigrants:* are foreigners who have legally entered our country,

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but who subsequently have not been able to renew their residence permit and, as a result, no longer have their papers up to date with the relative residence norms.

*Illegal immigrants:* are foreigners who have entered our country illegally without following the proper regulatory admission and residence procedures.

*Regularisation:* an extraordinary administrative measure that makes it possible for an irregularly residing or illegal immigrant to obtain an Italian residence permit by presenting an application that respects certain residence and work conditions.

*Act of indemnity:* an extraordinary administrative measure that makes it possible for an irregular or illegal immigrant to obtain an Italian residence permit by presenting an application that demonstrates that he/she has been in Italy before a certain date.

#### 1.2 Type of material collected and analyzed

Over the past several years, a substantial amount of articulate literature has been produced on various aspects of immigration in Italy. These publications include sociological, economic and juridic studies as well as statistical studies by public authorities and private research centres and even market surveys.

For more than a decade, annual immigration reports that monitor the situation have been published, such as Caritas/Migrantes' *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione (Statistical Immigration Dossier)*, which is the leading, most up-to-date and complete socio-statistical instrument in Italy (it was first published in 1991). The wide distribution of these studies, which are often published in tens of thousands of copies, demonstrates that researchers, public and private operators, volunteer organisations and other various people dealing with Italian immigration are very interested in this subject.

For the past nine years, the ISMU research centre of the Cariplo Foundation has been publishing its annual *Rapporto sulle migrazioni (Immigration Report)*, which provides in-depth analysis on various aspects of Italian immigration, such as school, work and health.

The studies carried out by the National Statistical Institute (ISTAT) are also very valuable, but, they are not published on a regular basis. Moreover, Italian universities have recently created specialised degree courses in the field of immigration, which have produced numerous studies and some interesting publications.

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Even the Ministries involved in this sector regularly publish sector studies that analyse multiple aspects of Italian immigration, such as work, crime, illegal employment, school, and health. More specifically, the publications produced by the Ministry of the Interior, which deals extensively with immigration through the Department for Citizen's Freedoms and Immigration, are very useful.

In addition to the Ministries, the public welfare institutions, such as the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and the National Disability Insurance Institute (INAIL), gather social security data.

For this study, we also consulted publications produced by international organisations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the United Nations (UN). On-line publications, which can easily be consulted at several websites dealing with immigration, have also been very important. The following are worthy of specific mention: the service website [www.stranieriitalia.it](http://www.stranieriitalia.it), the press agency website [www.redattoresociale.it](http://www.redattoresociale.it), and the website of the CESTIM association ([www.cestim.org](http://www.cestim.org)).

### 1.3 Problems concerning the collection and analysis of material: research gaps

Below we have indicated the most important sources used to write this Pilot Study, indicating the type of data available and some of their limits.

#### ***Residence permit archive of the Ministry of the Interior***

This centralized archive of residence permits, which is fed with the data sent from the various police headquarters, is interesting for several reasons:

- it makes it possible to gather data instantly at any time of the year;
- it considers such an extensive range of variables (sex, country of origin, reason for coming, province of residence, age, marital status) that it is an indispensable foundation for detailed studies of immigration;
- it helps to quantify new flows, and their temporary or permanent nature, through the extrapolation of residence permits issued during the year to people who have physically arrived from abroad;
- it also makes it possible to check the length of stay of those possessing a residence permit at the national level;

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- it contains a subsystem regarding legal allegations, categorised by territory, country of origin, the type of allegation and whether the person possesses a residence permit. The latter information can not be found anywhere else.

This archive also has the following limits:

- minors are registered only in about one third of the cases; otherwise, when they are included on the residence permit of the head of the family, they are not given individual statistical importance.

In order to overcome this obstacle, this statistical system is being revised. In the past minors who had already reached 14 years of age could obtain their own residence permit and then the employment card;

- instantaneous data gathering makes it difficult to have complete information, since expired residence permits and those in the process of being renewed cannot be registered. Moreover, due to the complexity of bureaucratic procedures, the new and renewed permits are not registered in real time. As a result, the effective size of the archive can only be determined after a period of 5/6 months;
- current residence permits are no longer filed with expired ones. In the past, this mixing of permits created serious problems in terms of the reliability of this source. Since 1998, the Ministry of the Interior has been excluding expired permits from the information it provides;
- the data do not go beyond the provincial level, and, therefore, they are not useful for this purpose unless the data obtained by ISTAT from the municipal registry offices are used;
- since it is a general, but incomplete archive, it needs to be adjusted to obtain the effective immigrant population number, including minors and those permits that are in the process of being registered;
- the latest provided data do not distinguish between employed and unemployed workers or between married couples living with their children and those without children.

#### ***Registry archive (ISTAT)***

ISTAT feeds the information in this archive with the data made available by the registry offices of individual municipalities, which allow immigrants with a resi-

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dence permit that is valid for at least one year and those who carry out their activities in a specific municipality to register themselves.

This archive is useful for the following reasons:

- it categorises immigrants by sex, municipality, and country of origin;
- it counts minors as distinct units and divides them by sex (but not according to the country of origin, which is available only during census-taking, done every ten years);
- the relative rapidity with which the data are acquired (after approximately six months);
- it differentiates between residents on the basis of the size of the municipality in which they live.

This archive is limited because it is impossible to analyse other variables (this information can be obtained at the registry offices of some municipalities during census taking):

- marital status, age, length of residence and reasons for staying in Italy;
- it may overestimate data because the immigrants registered in it may not withdraw themselves from the list upon leaving a determined municipality.

ISTAT is also responsible for other archives:

- the mixed marriage archive (between Italians and foreign citizens), which records information on the municipality, citizenship and age;
- births (to one or two foreign parents), deaths of foreign citizens within the demographic movements of the current year and the movement of foreign citizens from one region to another;
- the archive of reported or convicted immigrants.

### ***The link between the archives of the Ministry of the Interior and the ISTAT archive***

By cross-consulting these two archives it is possible to increase their strengths and decrease their weaknesses. It should be recalled that the total number of immigrants, including those who are in Italy for a short period of time and are,

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therefore, not registered at the registry office, is greater than the total number of resident immigrants.

After a period of time, the complete Ministry and ISTAT data make it possible to correct initial analysis and to create a more vibrant, interesting picture of immigration as a social phenomenon in progress.

#### ***Other archives of national importance***

##### *Ministry of Labour (General Directorate for Employment)*

This archive is divided into three categories (unemployed persons, employed persons, and workers coming directly from abroad) that are divided by province and a variety of other variables: sex, country of origin, age, level of education, waiting time, work sector, job title, and type of contract. The provinces are responsible for collecting these data. They are no longer gathered at the national level.

Statistical data about new workers authorized from abroad are no longer available; they have been replaced by the visa issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The General Directorate for Employment also manages a territorial survey about the illegal employment of foreign workers, while the Head Cooperation Office determines how many foreign citizens are registered with cooperatives.

##### *INPS (National Social Security Institute)*

This Institute manages an archive of workers based on tax data that are broken down by province and work sector. It also contains a register of non-EU citizens with a work permit that is based on the resident permit holder information provided by the Ministry of the Interior. This collection of data, which is in the process of being perfected, makes it possible to outline aspects of immigrant employment in an articulate way.

##### *INAIL (National Disability Insurance Institute)*

This Institute registers the number of the accidents suffered by foreign workers, but it has some disadvantages since it refers to the foreign state of birth, which is the same information that is recorded when foreign workers are hired or fired over the course of the year.

However, it, like the INPS archive produced by the INPS, is fundamental for the information it provides on employment.

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### *Ministry for Education, University and Research*

For the past several years, this Ministry has been studying school attendance of foreign students, categorising the information by level of education, country of origin and sex. In the past, this research was done by the ISTAT.

### *Italian Exchange Bureau/Bank of Italy*

Since 1990, this Office has been studying immigrant bank transfers to their countries of origin. About three-fourths of the total funds are sent by money transfer services, for which there are currently no available data.

### *Ministry of Health*

This ministry provides data about the admission of immigrants to hospital, their duration of stay and their diagnosis upon release.

### *Ministry of Justice*

The Prison Administration Department manages and regularly updates data regarding the number of immigrants entering prison and the prisoners themselves, dividing them by prison, sex, country of origin and type of charge.

### *Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture (Unioncamere)*

Since 1998, the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture, has been working with the Ministry of Labour on the Excelsior project, estimating the additional need for immigrant workers.

### *Migrantes/Caritas*

These two ecclesiastic organizations use the data provided by the Ministry of the Interior to make annual estimates of the religious faith of immigrants, both at the national and regional level.

### *Regional archives*

The importance of regional archives is often underestimated. However, they are indispensable for contextualizing analysis conducted at the national level. For example, these sources include: the Local Education Superintendancy, the Provincial Observatories on Immigration, Municipal Registry Offices and various Municipal Councillor's Offices, employment centres, Chambers of Commerce, courts of law, volunteer associations, trade-unions and other professional organizations.

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### ***Analysis of immigration's materials***

During the '90s the studies about Italian immigration had a solid development in particular in the following contexts:

#### *Academic researches*

At the end of '80s just few universities in Italy were involved in this kind of studies. Nowadays there are many researchers studying the phenomenon of immigration from different point of views.

Demography: this discipline has showed a deep capacity of analysis thanks to the contributions of relevant scholars as Prof. Antonio Golini, Prof. Massimo Livi Bacci and Prof. Marcello Natale. Their studies are very useful for a better knowledge of the perspectives of immigration in Italy and Europe. Otherwise there is a time gap between the data survey and the scientific analysis. This condition doesn't help the timely knowledge of the immigration phenomenon.

Social sciences: Probably this discipline is the richest source thanks to the numerous researches and analysis published during recent years. At the beginning of '90s the contributions of several researchers from different Italian Universities opened a season of social studies on immigration in Italy. In particular the University "La Sapienza" of Rome (Prof. Maria Immacolata Maciotti, Prof. Umberto Melotti, Prof. Marcella Delle Donne), the Universities of Naples (Prof. Giovanni Mottura, Prof. Enrico Pugliese) and Salerno (Prof. Francesco Calvanese), the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Prof. Giovanni Mottura), the University of Genoa (Prof. Alessandro Dal Lago), the University of Milan (Prof. Vincenzo Cesareo). Nevertheless it is important underline a lack of researches concerning the '80s and the need of specific handbooks regarding theorist and methodological issues.

Moreover this kind of studies concerns only specific territorial areas and specific issues.

Economic Sciences: One of the most investigated issue on immigration in Italy is the impact of migrants workers on national labour market. In this field is important quote the contribution of Prof. Raimondo Cagiano De Azevedo, Prof. Maurizio Ambrosini, Prof. Nicola Acocella and Prof. Emilio Reyneri. The limit of this matter is the incapacity to reach a wide public due to the complexity of economic surveys.

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### *Researches carried out by study centres and social organizations*

There are many researches from study centres and social organizations but only Caritas/Migrantes and I.S.MU. (Foundation for Multiethnic initiatives and studies) give a regular contribution every year. The other ones, as national unions (CGIL, CISL, UIL), foundations and small associations, carried out researches concerning very specific issues and not regularly. These researches are mainly focused on empirical experiences and are often conditioned by private or public financial aids.

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## 2. Overview of immigration history and development<sup>3</sup>

### 2.1 Immigration history: development from the 1970s onwards

The first immigration flows began to arrive in Italy in the 1970's, but in the following decade this phenomenon became more evident. In 1970 there were 143,838 immigrants legally residing in our country (61.3% from Europe, 3.3% from Africa, 7.8% from Asia, 25.7% from America and 1.9% from Oceania). Over the next ten years the number doubled, reaching approximately 300,000 units in 1980 (mostly immigrants from European countries, accounting for 53.2% of the total). In comparison with 1970, there was a considerable increase in the percentage of immigrants from Africa (10%) and Asia (14%). In 1990, the number of immigrants with a residence permit doubled, hitting a total of 781,000. In following, flows increased constantly, although not significantly. In 1996, there were 1,095,712 immigrants (*Tab. 1 - Graph. 1*).

At the end of 2000, the incidence of foreigners on the total population was 2.4%, making Italy the fourth European country in terms of immigration, after Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

Since the 1970's, and especially since the 1980's, Italy has been transformed from a land of emigrants into an immigration destination. In this period - for a series of complex reasons, which can be attributed to an unfavourable eco-

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<sup>3</sup> In this paragraph, we consider immigrants with a regular residence permit based on the following statistical sources: the residence permit archive of the Ministry of the Interior and the statistical analysis of the information in this archive done by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione.

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conomic environment<sup>4</sup> - Italian emigration progressively decreased, and up to 1980, the Italian emigrants returned to their country were more than the ones left abroad.

Around the 1970's, as Italian emigrants started to return home, people from the poorest nations on the planet began to emigrate to Italy. This group was made up primarily of workers from Tunisia, who were employed in fishing and agriculture, and women coming from Eritrea, Cape Verde, the Philippines and Latin America, who were employed as domestic servants<sup>5</sup>. During this period, administrative provisions regarding immigration were not structured in a systematic way. Some of them dated back to 1931.

During the first phase - about thirty years ago - very few immigrants came from countries with strong migration pressures, and those who did arrive came a few at a time. Some of these immigrants came to Italy due to the restrictive immigration policies adopted by the countries of Central and Northern Europe, especially after the oil crisis in 1973. Others, as we have already mentioned, came to fill a need, especially in the service sector and in the field of agriculture.

The first important interventions in the field of immigration at the national level began in the 1980's. In 1981, Italy approved Convention No. 143/1975 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and, in 1986, the Italian Parliament approved Law No. 943/1986 regarding foreign workers, a progressive legislation that placed foreign workers in the same category as Italian labourers<sup>6</sup>. However, this law only pertained to workers with a company contract and excluded all other categories of foreign workers in Italy.

The mid-1980's to the mid-1990's was an emergency phase in which considerable flows from the former Yugoslavia began to arrive. To find a solution to this difficult situation, the Government, which was ruled by the central leftist parties, approved Law No. 39/90 (called the Martelli Law). This legislation was the first attempt to regulate immigration in a systematic way and was an effort to create the foundation of an immigration policy. Up until this time, the immigration question had been rather disjointed. The placing of foreign and Italian workers on an equal basis was extended to all foreign workers, and funds were allocated for the creation of reception facilities. Finally, amongst the merits of this Law was that it

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<sup>4</sup> For more in-depth analysis please see: Kammerer P., *Una ricerca sui rientri a Monopoli* in "Inchiesta", XIII, no. 62, Dedalo, Bari 1983, pg. 59.

<sup>5</sup> Pugliese E., op. cit.

<sup>6</sup> Law 943/1986, "Regulations regarding the employment and treatment of non-EU immigrant workers and against illegal immigration", published in Official Gazette no. 8, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1987.

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went beyond the “geographic proviso” concept, which hindered political asylum requests for persons coming from countries that did not belong to the Socialist bloc.

The act of regularization that was the result of this Law was based on a lower level of selectivity with respect to the previous one, and by extending the possibility of legalization to self-employed workers as well, it was applied to 218,000 people. The two objectives of this measure were to normalise work conditions and uncover illegal immigrant labour.

Law 39/90 was followed by several corrective measures and by a long, difficult debate between supporters and opponents, which further delayed the adoption of measures aimed at regulating the new immigration phenomenon.

In 1995, Legislative Decree No. 489/95 legalized an additional 255,000 immigrants.

At the end of the 1990's, following the Schengen Treaty, the Italian Government needed to create a stable, uniform legislative framework to define the guidelines and objectives of a new immigration policy<sup>7</sup>. Consequently, Law No. 40/98 was approved. It was more attentive to social integration issues, at least in principle.

In following, the issues associated with the immigration phenomenon and its flexible nature made it possible to adopt amendments and corrective measures during the implementation stage. The Government issued the *Consolidation Act of Immigration Provisions and Norms on the Condition of Foreigners (Testo unico delle disposizioni concernenti la disciplina dell'immigrazione e norme sulla condizione dello straniero* - Legislative Decree No. 286/98) as well as the relative *Implementation Regulation* (Presidential Decree No. 394/99). Law No. 40/98 was also followed by an act of regularization (Prime Ministerial Decree 16/10/98). At the end of 1998, it was estimated that there were about 1,250,000 immigrants with legal residence permits.

In following, there was a period of reflection in which immigration rules were made stricter. Legislative Decree No. 189, which contained some amendments to Consolidated Act No. 286/98, was enacted in 2002. At the same time, a measure legalizing about 700,000 illegal immigrant workers was approved. Some provisions of Legislative Decree No. 189 were restrictive, such as the ban on sponsoring and the tightening of work demand and supply mechanisms or the ban on staying more

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<sup>7</sup> Maritati A., *La legge italiana: governare l'integrazione*, published in “Gli argomenti umani. Sinistra e innovazione”. Lezione dall'Italia, editoriale IL Ponte, Anno 1, no. 4 - April 2000, pgs. 65-73; Caritas di Roma, edited by Pittau F., *L'immigrazione alle soglie del 2000*, Sinnos Editrice, Rome 1999.

## Overview of immigration history and development

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than six months in the case of unemployment and the extension from five to six years residence permit.

### 2.2 Immigration history: development from 2000 onwards

At the end of 2001, there were more than 1,360,000 immigrants registered with the archives of the Ministry of the Interior, and it was estimated that there was a total of 1,600,000 immigrants in Italy, including minors<sup>8</sup>.

At the end of 2002, the number of immigrants in Italy increased to 1,512,324. At the same time, it was estimated that there were 1.8 million legal immigrants (including permits that had not been registered, minors included on the residence permits of their parents and foreigners born in Italy), with an incidence of 3.2% on the total population (*Tab. 2*). On 2003 residence permits, following the regularization, exceeded 2.5 million with an incidence of 4.5% on the total population.

The Italian situation is characterized by the polycentric nature of the immigration phenomenon with foreigners coming from 191 countries.

Despite the large number of native countries, the following six nations have undergone a process of stabilization: Morocco (172,834 people with a residence permit as of 31-12-2002 or 11.4% of the total population of migrants); Albania (168,963 people with a residence permit or 11.2%); Rumania (95,834 immigrants – 20,000 more than in 2001); the Philippines (65,257), China (62,314) and Tunisia (51,384).

The continental distribution of immigrants confirms the constant percentage increase of Europeans, especially from Central-Eastern Europe (Albania and Rumania). At the end of 2002, 52.7% of all immigrants in Italy were from Europe (of which 42.5% were from non-EU countries), 26.5% were from Africa, 18.5% were from Asia, 11.8% were from America, 0.2% were from Oceania, 0.1% were not recognised by any state and 0.4% were from an unknown nation of origin.

Including the last act of regularization at the end of 2003, there has been a change in the countries of origin list, with a considerable increase in Eastern Europe immigrants. The latest national ranking (2004) shows Rumania as the first country of origin (240,000 immigrants), followed by Morocco (233,000), Albania (227,000), Ukraine (112,000), China (100,000) and the Philippines (74,000). The

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<sup>8</sup> For minors' calculation see pg. 14.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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Ukraine's fourth place ranking (at 112,802 units exactly) is noteworthy as of 31-12-2002 it was 27<sup>th</sup> (*Tab. 3*).

At the end of 2002, work (both company contracts and self-employment for 55.2% of the total) continues to be the main reason for issuing residence permits, followed by family reasons (31.7%), religious reasons, elective residence and student permits (with a total incidence of 9.6%): the act of regularization increased the percentage of immigrants with a work permit (about 50%). Refugees and asylum seekers are not as significant.

The number of permits for family reasons in the past few years has increased, which indicates that Italian immigration is undergoing a process of stabilization.

As far as territorial dynamics in Italy are concerned, immigration affects the whole country, including small towns and rural areas, with considerable annual entry flows to meet the needs of the labour market. At the end of 2002, the greatest share of foreign citizens was concentrated in Northern Italy (58.7%), especially North-Western Italy (32.8%) and North-Eastern Italy (25.9%), followed by Central Italy (28.3%), the South (8.9%) and the Islands (4.1%) (*Tab. 4*).



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## 3. The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

### 3.1 Taxes, pensions and the impact on the welfare system

In Italy, the immigration phenomenon is relatively new, and studies on the impact of immigration on welfare spending do not have adequate data for comparison, which makes evaluation possible only in part.

For shared social security systems, an ageing population causes problems for economic sustainability. The high level of demographic ageing – caused by both a decrease in the fertility rate and an increase in life span – expands retired population numbers and shrinks working population numbers.

We often wonder whether immigration can contribute to the sustainability of the social security system. Economic theories in this regard are cautiously positive or neutral, but everyone agrees that immigration by itself cannot resolve the financial imbalances of the social security system. The amount of social security contributions paid by immigrant workers is not insignificant, but it is not resolute either.

Although immigration is not the only solution for the significant financial problems of the social security system, it is impossible to deny its benefits. In fact, even if immigration alone cannot fully counteract the structural dynamics caused by a rapid decrease in fertility, it can contribute to decreasing and delaying their effects, which are significant.

According to an estimate by the Italian economic newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore* (March 3, 2003), foreign workers pay an average of 2,800 euros per year in social security contributions. If we keep in mind that there were 452,000 immigrant workers registered with INPS (excluding those who applied for regularization) in

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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2003, we can estimate that the institute received 1.27 billion euros. If we add the roughly 650,000 legalized immigrants to that figure, the revenues increase significantly. However, we should add that often immigrant workers in Italy go from a paid to an unpaid contribution situation due to widespread illegal employment<sup>9</sup>.

Things are different from an immigrant point of view. They generally perform "atypical jobs" with ongoing and coordinated contracts, for which there are very little data: for this group, the personal advantage in terms of benefits, as is the case for Italians, will not be significant since, as the CeRP (Centre of Research on pensions and welfare Policies) has indicated, not only are their jobs precarious, but their pension will be lower than the social allowance.

Estimates made by the INPS statistical service were more optimistic, indicating that the contributions paid by non-EU workers over the next 20 years will be greater than the expenses sustained by the INPS to pay these workers.

This simulation was based on an average annual recruitment of 25,000 immigrants. The difference between contributions and allowances will create a surplus of 41 billion euros by 2020. This simulation has also indicated that by 2020, 878,000 non-EU workers will provide for the payment of 82,000 pensions. Therefore, for the INPS, immigrants may not be a solution to its financial problems, but they will be a considerable help<sup>10</sup>, especially after the 2002 act of regularization, which legalized approximately 650,000 immigrant workers.

### 3.2 Immigrants as consumers

The advertising world is a good point of reference to provide us with a basic idea of immigrant consumption. In fact, advertising campaigns create expensive commercial initiatives based on considerable economic revenues.

There are numerous advertisements that are launched to sell cars, household cleaning detergents, video mobile phones and computers to immigrants.

We must, however, keep in mind that immigrants tend to save their money. The interest that mobile phone companies demonstrate in immigrants is shown by the increasingly visible advertising campaigns that reach out to them as a target group.

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9 Caritas di Roma, *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 1998*, Ed. Anterem, Rome 1998.

10 Peruzzi M., *L'immigrato dà una mano ai conti INPS*, in "Il Sole 24 Ore", Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2002, pg. 17.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

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According to an estimate made by an advertising agent (ISI Etnocommunication 2004), immigrants spend between 25 and 30 euros per month on telephone cards. This figure is significant if we consider that the immigrant population in Italy is estimated at two and a half million people (including minors). Even if only one third of the immigrant population had a mobile phone, annual expenditure would still be considerable.

Immigrants also have a significant affect on public transportation. Many of them have monthly or annual subscriptions with the local and regional transportation companies since they do not have their own means of transportation. Even the air transportation market benefits financially from the ties that immigrants maintain with their countries of origin. The airline companies stimulate immigrant traffic with special ethnic fares.

Money transfer companies, which are widespread in Italy, have also taken advantage of their need to send money to their countries of origin, often providing services that go beyond simple money transfers (telephone booths, Internet workstations, forwarding companies, etc.).

Real estate is the first investment made by immigrants. According to the Italian Federation of Professional Real Estate Agents (Federazione Italiana Agenti Immobiliari Professionali - FIAIP), in the first six months of 2002, non-EU citizens made up 15% of real estate purchases in Ancona and Rome, followed by Trieste (13%), Palermo (10%) and Milan (5%). These data show, on the one hand, a certain degree of immigrant stability in our country, but, on the other hand, they confirm the serious existing problem with housing in Italy. Immigrants, like Italians, are driven to buy a house due to the lack of accommodations for rent at moderate prices (which, is even more difficult for immigrants due to the resistance of Italians to rent to them) and to the fact that the difference between rental costs and the cost of loan instalments has continued to decrease.

### 3.3 Immigrants and employment

Many authors agree that immigration is tied to the economic structure of the destination areas. It is believed that in areas where unemployment rates are low and work demand is high, immigrants have a greater possibility of finding a regular job, whereas in areas with an informal economy, it is easier to find an irregular job.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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Taking this into consideration, immigrants in Italy play a more complementary role in the North, where the unemployment rate is modest and work demand is higher, while in the South, which is characterized by a structurally weak economy and by high unemployment rates amongst local workers, the role played by immigrants is fairly competitive, especially in the agricultural sector, when jobs are illegal. However, even in this sector, a need for workers is becoming more evident<sup>11</sup>.

We must be careful to not make the terms of this problem absolute. It is well known that in Southern Italy the supply of local youth with a high educational level does not correspond with the low skills levels of local work demand (especially in the sectors of agriculture, fishing, construction and services), which is often characterized by informal and residual work relations. This explains the paradoxical coexistence of immigration and unemployment in the South<sup>12</sup>.

The last act of regularization, however, showed that the problem of illegal immigrant employment affects all of Italy, not just the South. Applications were distributed as follows: North-West (233,943 amounting to 33.3% of the total), Centre (203,852 or 29.0%), North-East (132,291 or 18.8%), South (111,216 or 15.9%) and the Islands (20,854 or 3.0%).

Therefore, to analyse the role of immigrants on the Italian labour market, we must keep in mind the segmentation of the market and the differences between the North and the South.

In 2002, immigrants unemployment rate was 5.2%, far below the Italian figure of 9%. This information is provided by the archive of the Ministry of the Interior, while official data by ISTAT do not specifically include immigrants in its periodic unemployment surveys.

Therefore, in 2002, the immigrant unemployment rate was 4 percentage points lower than the Italian rate, and, if we also consider the many people who are forced to work illegally and the workers legalized after the act of regularization, their impact on the national labour market is evident.

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<sup>11</sup> Strozza M., *Costi e benefici apportati dall'immigrazione alle economie nazionali: rassegna dei principali contributi nordamericani ed europei - Immigrazione straniera ed economia irregolare: rassegna dei principali contributi relativi ai nuovi paesi europei di accoglimento*, Commission for immigrants integration policies, Department for Social Affairs - Office for the Council of Ministers, Working Paper no. 1, pgs. 15-19.

<sup>12</sup> Pugliese E., op. cit.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

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The contribution of immigrant workers is increasingly more evident not only in areas that are economically more dynamic, but in the weaker ones as well. According to INAIL data, in 2002, 659,847 non-EU workers were hired out of a total of 5,762,749 new workers, with an incidence of 11.5%. A total of 69% of the recruits were hired in Northern Italy (of which 37.8 % in the North-East), 20.5% were hired in the Centre and 10.5% were hired in the South (of which 2.8% in the Islands).

Small enterprises (up to 10 workers, which corresponds to 28.7%) and medium enterprises (up to 50 workers, which corresponds to 29.6%) are the companies that hire the most. Immigrant labour is distributed amongst the various sectors as follows: 13.8% agriculture, 26.4% industry, 39.2% services and 20.6% undetermined (*Tab. 5 - Graph. 2*).

These workers are mostly young people. In fact, 66.5% of immigrants are between 19 and 35 years old.

The balance between recruits and terminations is more favourable for immigrants than for Italians. For all workers, it was 523,502 units, of which 140,222 units regarded immigrant workers (one out of four on average in Italy). These data attest to the structural needs of the immigrant work force, since Italian citizens no longer suffice or are no longer available to replace retiring workers and new positions.

A high concentration of immigrants in the service sector is typical in all immigration countries, but in Italy this characteristic has played a special role due to the large number of positions available in the domestic service sector (in the form of domestic helpers and caretakers of the elderly, the ill and children) especially for female immigrants (who were initially from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Cape Verde, followed by Philipinos and - starting in the 1990's - Eastern Europeans).

Other important areas of the service sector include: hotels and restaurants, real estate activities/cleaning and commerce (wholesale, retail and car repair). The hotel and restaurant sector is especially subject to seasonal employment. The first immigrants to begin working in this sector were from North Africa, followed by immigrants from Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Rumania and, in fewer numbers, Albania. Women also made up a significant portion of the workers in this industry.

The sectors that have the greatest need for foreign labour (more than 15% of all new employees) are the leather tanning industry (22.8%), textile production (17.7%), metal industry (17.0%), rubber production (16.9%), wood production (16.7%), and the processing industry (15%). Construction is another sector that

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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employs immigrants throughout Italy. The replacement rate with respect to the lack of Italian workers is 13.7% (63,197 out of 462,814 new hires with a balance of 12,159) (*Tab. 6*).

Immigrants from Rumania are the largest group employed in the construction sector, followed by immigrants from Albania, Poland, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Bulgaria. Few of them have a regular contract (1 out of 10), and they are badly paid. Finally, the need for immigrant workers in the agriculture sector is considerable.

Despite the decrease in overall labourers in 2002 (-2.4%), the demand for immigrant workers has increased.

#### 3.4 Immigrants as ethnic entrepreneurs

The number of ethnic entrepreneurs is greatly increasing. Entrepreneurial initiatives, which have developed, above all, in Northern Italy, received a substantial boost in the 1990's, when, under Law No. 39/90 reciprocity was no longer a requirement for carrying out this activity: 5 out of 6 immigrants registered with the Chamber of Commerce after 1990. It seems that this decision was judicious since the so-called "death rate" is lower among immigrant businesses than among Italian ones. However, there are still serious problems to face, such as access to credit, training and professional assistance.

Immigrants are pushed towards this type of adventure despite the risks, especially for those who have not had a similar experience in their country of origin, by the hope of greater gratification with respect to employment with a company.

According to the Infocamere archive<sup>13</sup>, as of the end of 2002, 198,215 company owners and associates were born abroad (including repatriated Italians and immigrants with Italian citizenship), with an incidence of 4% of all companies. According to the Ministry of the Interior archive, in the same period, there were 108,615 immigrants with a self-employment residence permit. A study done by the National Confederation of Craft Sector and Small and Medium Enterprise - CNA (July 2003), together with the *Immigrazione Dossier Statistico* team, has indicated that there are 79,005 non-EU entrepreneurs, of which 56,421 are company owners with the remaining figure acting as partners. In almost one third of the cases, they are artisan businesses.

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<sup>13</sup> Infocamere is the Statistical Archive of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture (Unioncamere).

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

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These new entrepreneurs are not very young, but neither are they old: 68.9% are between 30 and 49 years old; four out of five are men; and four out of five are from non-EU countries, with Morocco, China and Senegal in the lead. North African immigrants work predominantly in the restaurant industry and the Chinese in commercial sector. Immigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan work as street traders and in small commercial businesses.

These entrepreneurial activities are mostly concentrated in Northern Italy (26.7% in the North-West and 23.3% in the North-East), and decrease as one goes further south (Centre 24.1%, South 17.5% and the Islands 8.4%). Milan and Rome are the provinces with the greatest concentration of immigrant entrepreneurs (one fourth of the total).

The service sector predominates (55%), especially commerce (36.2%), followed by industry (30.8%), where construction (16.7%) plays an important role. Agriculture accounts for 5.3%, with various other businesses holding an 8.9% share of the total. Individual concerns prevail, and companies are not widespread, since they require greater financial resources that immigrants do not possess.

#### 3.5 Highly qualified immigrants

At present, demand is not great for highly qualified labour in Italy. The Italian economic system still mainly requires low skilled immigrant workers. According to estimates made by the Excelsior Information System<sup>14</sup> (Union of Chambers – Ministry of Labour) regarding the need for additional non-EU workers, there was a heavy increase in demand during 2001-2003 (concentrated in the most developed regions of the country), but in reference to low-skilled labour. It seems that the increase depends on the lack of local workers in the most developed regions and on the need to find persons for low-skilled jobs. Forty percent of employment needs are in the industrial and construction sectors, which mostly require manual labourers. Sixty percent of needs are in the service sector, especially businesses that provide services to other companies (primarily cleaning services) and hotels and restaurants.

Since the aging of the Italian population is destined to last, the need for immigrant labour will tend to increase in the future and to involve new employment sectors, both high and low skilled.

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<sup>14</sup> See pg. 17.

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For now, the Government has set the quota for managers and highly skilled workers in 2004 at 500 units, out of a total of 79,500 new non-EU immigrants. The quota for self-employment, including researchers, entrepreneurs managing businesses that are important for the national economy, professionals, partners and cooperative managers, and internationally famous and highly qualified artists employed by public and private organisations, has been set at 2,500. Among these residence permits, not more than 1,250 have been reserved for the conversion of permits granted for study and vocational training<sup>15</sup>.

#### 3.6 Impact of immigration on specific economic sectors

In 2002, recruitment of non-EU workers, compared with the total number of recruitments in Italy, was mostly concentrated in the service (39.2%) and industrial (26.4%) sectors, while the use of immigrant workers in the field of agriculture made up 13.8% of the total (*Tab. 5 - Graph. 2*).

One fifth of recruitments were in non-specific sectors due solely to the fact that they were not reported (INAIL/Self-Declaration of Beneficiaries). If the division for undeclared jobs is the same as for reported ones, the values for the relevant sectors would increase considerably. For example, hotels and restaurants would total one third of all recruitments.

The individual employment sectors with the greatest number of recruits, which therefore have a higher percentage of the total, are as follows: hotels and restaurants (16.6%), construction (9.6%), real estate activities/cleaning (8.4%) and transportation (4.6%).

The metal, food and textile industries, wholesale and retail commerce and public services, on the other hand, have a more limited impact. In the individual sectors, it is important to look at the percentage of non-EU workers with respect to the total, since it demonstrates a significant need for immigrant workers (*Tab. 6*):

- sectors with a very high need for foreign workers, in which the non-EU workers are more than 15% (leather tanning, textile, metal, rubber, wood and processing industry);
- sectors with a high need for foreign workers, in which the number of non-EU workers varies between 10% and 15% (agroindustrial, construction, trans-

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<sup>15</sup> Decree of the Prime Minister, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2003, published in Official Gazzette no. 18, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2004.



### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

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portation industry, hotels and restaurants, mechanics, real estate activities/cleaning);

- sectors with an average need of foreign workers, with the number non-EU workers varying between 7% and 10% (foodstuff industry, mining, paper industry, chemical industry, electrical industry, commerce/car repair, wholesale commerce and healthcare services).

When we speak of the additional need of foreign workers and of the trend towards the ethnic predominance of some sectors, due to the lack or unavailability of local workers, we must refer to these values, which have been increasing significantly since 2002 (the year in which the INAIL archive began collecting the data that makes it possible to make this type of comparison).

In several sectors more Italians have left their jobs than have been hired, in contrast to the situation for non-EU workers. In some sectors, however, the number of Italians leaving is so great that it is impossible to replace them with non-EU workers. It is true that restructuring has decreased the number of employees, while in other sectors the need for labour is constant. Therefore, whenever Italians leave these sectors, a large number of non-EU workers replace them. In the metal industry, for example, Italian terminations exceed recruitments by 4,252 units, while non-EU worker recruitments exceed terminations by 3,107 units (*Tab. 7*).

The official job placement system for the Italian labour market is rather unstructured. Therefore, immigrants often learn of job openings by word of mouth amongst ethnic networks. In Italy, however, there are no rigid ethnic niches, but rather "ethnic based work communities"<sup>16</sup> due to the very multi-faceted nature of the phenomenon (191 nationalities). For example, the domestic help sector in Italy, which is often regarded as an ethnic niche, should be defined as a "multi-ethnic" niche, since it employs several communities. As we have already seen, many immigrant women are involved in this sector (in the past they were from Ethiopia, Somalia and Cape Verde, then the Philippines, and now from Eastern Europe too). The same applies to work in the hotel and restaurant sector (porterage services, cleaning, etc.), which employed immigrants from North Africa in the past and now employs immigrants from Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Rumania and Albania. In turn, the construction sector predominantly employs immigrants from Rumania, Albania, Poland, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Bulgaria.

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16 Waldinger R., *The making of an immigrant niche*, in "International Migration Review", vol. 28 1994.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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The Panjabi Indians, who work in the area of cattle-breeding in the Province of Reggio Emilia<sup>17</sup>, are an example of ethnic specialization. Currently, the number of non-EU workers in some sectors is slowly decreasing, and there is a trend towards their employment in more skilled positions. Women, in particular, are increasingly employed in the white-collar sector.

#### 3.7 Impact of immigration on export and import

We lack sufficient data on this subject, but we should take a moment to mention the phenomenon of immigrants who send money to their families in their country of origin.

According to the data of the Italian Exchange Bureau (UIC), 790 million euros (749 million in 2001) were sent through Italian banks (*Tab. 8 - Graph. 3*). In about ten years, money transfers have increased dramatically. In fact, in 1992 they amounted to 103 million euros. These figures are lower than the real ones, since most foreigners prefer to use unofficial channels for transferring money to their country of origin (due primarily to high service costs), and to the fact that the Bank of Italy only counts those transfers that are made through banks rather than through the post office or agencies. When we take this unregistered channels into consideration, the estimate of the total annual transfers is six times as great or even more. For example, according to some researchers, total transfers in 2002 would have totalled 7 billion euros<sup>18</sup>. If we also take into consideration the other goods that are sent by immigrants to their countries of origin, it is clear that the value of these flows is significant. If we compare the amount of transferred money with the number of residence permit holders, we can estimate the savings capacity of these workers.

Recently, the bank sector has taken an interest in foreign customers both in terms of money transfers and credit since it is known that immigrants are able to put aside substantial savings and that there is a dynamic entrepreneurial situation in immigrant communities. According to the information presented at the "Migrant Banking in Italia" conference (June 2004), Italian banks already have many information desks that offer special advisors to immigrants (intercultural mediators). Moreover, approximately 180 credit institutions have created basic bank services

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<sup>17</sup> Bertoloni B., *Le reti etniche come veicolo per la creazione di capitale sociale: il caso degli indiani inseriti in agricoltura nella provincia di Reggio Emilia*, paper, Pontignano, 3-4 June 2002.

<sup>18</sup> Giustiani C., *Fratellastri d'Italia*, Laterza, Bari 2003.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the economy

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for immigrants, which offer current accounts without credit risks.

There are other important initiatives in the area of social micro-credits that are linked to employment and micro-enterprise projects, such as, social micro-credit project for immigrant women that is promoted at national level by the S. Paolo di Torino Company in cooperation with San Paolo IMI and San Paolo Banco di Napoli and in agreement with some immigrant associations and social entities.

In any case, we must better protect bank savings, money transfers, and access to service structures (banks, post offices, money transfer services) and promote productive investments in the countries of origin with appropriate support policies.

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## 4. The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the cultural context

### 4.1 Immigrants and civil society

The immigration phenomenon has created profound, radical changes in Italian society that have affected several aspects of social, cultural, economic and political life. The nation is currently in the process of finding the right balance between the needs of Italian society and the needs of immigrants. Reflection upon these needs must not be limited merely to the work environment but rather the general reorganization of a society that will be characterized by a positive ethnic mix.

We should remember that foreign associations in Italy are spreading throughout the peninsula: there were 893 in 2000<sup>19</sup>, of which 74% were cultural, 83% were for assistance and information technology services, 72% for housing assistance, and 70% for legal advice. There are also a number of associations that provide assistance with work or economic support.

Although associations have their limits, they play a fundamental role for immigrants, especially during the first stages after arrival, in which they need a massive amount of support in order to face daily problems (language, housing, work) as well as psychological and integration problems in general. Moreover, associations play a very important role for Italian citizens too. In fact, pedagogic (meetings, intercultural education seminars etc.) and artistic (exhibitions, ethnic music, dance, and art courses) initiatives, favour intercultural dialogue amongst all of the people living in the new Italian society (including natives).

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<sup>19</sup> National Council for Economy and Labour - National Coordination Body for Social Integration Policies of Foreigners, *Le associazioni dei cittadini stranieri in Italia*, Rome, 12 July 2001.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the cultural context

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Unfortunately, the number of Italians who consider immigrants a danger for their own culture and identity (23.9%), an employment threat (29.2%) or a public order and safety threat (39.7%) continues to be significant, even if it is decreasing<sup>20</sup>. It was within this context that the debate on the political participation of immigrants recently intensified (*Tab. 9*).

#### 4.2 Immigrants and the cultural context: Food; Sports; Fashion; Arts & Media

Food: Italian food culture is strongly rooted in local traditions. Both ethnic cuisine, which has in part been favoured by immigration, and “McDonald’s” style restaurants, sponsored by the holdings of large scale globalised distribution are seeking a role within this difficult arena. Within this diversified market, ethnic restaurants have been very successful (especially Chinese restaurants), becoming a regular part of the food habits of the native population, particularly in the large cities of North Central Italy.

It is also interesting to note how some sectors and professions, tied to traditional Italian gastronomic culture, have become dominated by foreigners: for example, pizza makers are often Egyptians and farmers are from India or Macedonia.

Sports: currently, the integration of different cultures is greatly affecting sports and the heavy social impact they represent. Teenagers from different geographic origins can be found in Italian school gyms as well as in private gyms. This basic, positive, fertile terrain, however, is not reflected at the most obvious and well-known professional level of sports. The “important sport” of wealthy countries takes an interest in “different cultures” only when champions, medals and profitable titles are acquired through immigrants from abroad. Emblematic of this situation is the continual false passport scandal in football. It is significant that more than 10% of the Italian olympic team in 2004 were naturalised athletes.

Moreover, there are still some restrictive measures in place regarding the integration of immigrants in various sport leagues: the rigid approach of entry quotas is understandable for foreigners from abroad, but it is inconceivable when they already live in Italy.

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<sup>20</sup> Caritas/Migrantes, *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2003*, ed. Nuova Anterem, Rome 2003, pg. 193.

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**Media:** A six-week Censis study, which was part of a European Equal project (*The image of migrants in Italy through media, civil society and the labour market*), analysed how immigrants are represented on TV, concluding that they were not treated in a racist manner, but in an inattentive way that limited them almost entirely to the arena of crime news, impeding the process of integration and mutual knowledge.

The following was found with regard to immigrants on TV:

- as far as *age* is concerned, minors are much more visible (43.5%) than 19-65 years-old adults (56.3%);
- as far as *sex* is concerned, there are more men than women (87.8%), which does not correspond well with the immigrant population, which is almost half women;
- immigrant *roles* are predominantly negative (78.1%), either as actors (29.7%) or as accident victims (48.4%) and, more consistently, they are the victims of criminal acts, discrimination, legal errors, and bureaucratic delays;
- immigrants are considered more as representatives of an individual group than as individuals (so-called "impersonal personalization") and, in 75.9% of cases, they are represented either by the description of their ethnic characteristics or by reference to their *country of origin* (and this can facilitate the creation of stereotypes and generalisations). However, the use of racial categories of what can be judged as derogatory epithets, such as "foreigner", "immigrant" and "non-EU citizen" is rare;
- immigrants are discussed primarily on the television news (88.3%), and during half of the crime news stories. Little space is devoted to immigration on investigative programmes or on variety or comedy shows (*Tab. 10*);
- *the topic that is primarily discussed* is "illegal immigrants" (61.9%), "crime/illegal activities" (13.3%), followed by "legislation" (13.3%) and by "prostitution", which is dealt with in terms of news. Daily matters, such as "work", "sports" and "entertainment", or legal, ethical, social or historical matters are not very frequent;
- whenever immigration is the subject, the *background* is emotional, so that the audience is attracted by the tone (81.0% of cases) to which images are added (17.0%) and finally by content (1.9%);
- of the 72 *fictional programmes* produced in Italy, in which there are foreign *characters*, they were almost always in supporting roles (45.3%) or used as extras (43.5%). In 10.4% of cases they were co-starring roles, but they were never the leading actors;

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the cultural context

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- immigrants are never given *an opportunity to express themselves*: they are mostly quoted (64.9%) or consulted either as immigrants (8.2%) or experts (2.1%). In all other cases, they are guests on programmes (1.1%), interviewed either as persons who are directly concerned (18.6%) or a witness (5.1%) to an event or situation.

A study conducted by *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione*, which analysed 1,205 articles published in 2002 in four national daily newspapers, indicated that the most frequent subjects linked with immigration are almost always negative (negative perception of the public opinion on the latest regularization 2002-2003 28.4%; illegal immigrants/landings 23.2%; work 10.5%; intolerance 7.9%; crime 5.1%; prostitution 3.7%).

The terminology used to deal with immigration is also negative: illegal immigrants, illegal landings, criminality and prostitution are subjects that feed negative stereotypes in the collective image, acting on the delicate balance between safety and insecurity.

In-depth reports, reviews, and investigations by journalists are, however, limited. Reporters work scrupulously and tenaciously to uncover the integration process and the positive virtues of immigration, without hiding the problems.

The information is basic to ensure the social inclusion of immigrants, both in terms of access to information and its contents in relation to the theme of immigration.

Italy has a fairly substantial market of publications created by or for immigrants, which is in constant evolution, but it needs to be developed and stimulated for further growth. The most complete study on this subject surveyed 107 publications divided into the following areas: 29 managed by immigrants with the involvement of Italians; 46 managed by Italians with the involvement of immigrants and 32 managed exclusively by Italians<sup>21</sup>. Although this market is promising, we must not forget that the main influence of the public opinion is however in the hands of Italian media.

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<sup>21</sup> Compare Fusie/CNEL Research, *I media e gli immigrati in Italia. La stampa di immigrazione e per l'immigrazione*, 2004.

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## 5. The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the political context

Often when immigrants take advantage of trade union information desks, they are encouraged to join.

Information on the adherence to the confederated trade unions in 2001 indicates a general increase with respect to the previous year. For the Italian General Confederation of Labour (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro – CGIL) enrolments increased from 90,411 to 99,600 (+10.2%). For the Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Union (Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori – CISL) enrolments increased from 105,562 to 110,562 (+4.5%), and for the Italian Federation of Trade Unions (Unione Italiana del Lavoro – UIL), enrolments increased from 27,500 to 29,500 (+7.3%). These figures are much above the average unionization rate for Italians.

Another example of the growing vitality of immigrant representation is the elected members of the Trade Union Representatives Organization (Rappresentanze Sindacali Unitarie – RSU), which is even more significant since it is a general representative role that includes Italian workers. Another significant role is played by work safety delegates. The presence of immigrant workers has also increased within the managerial bodies of professional unions and the respective confederations. Immigrant representatives have increased from 727 to 776 for the CISL and from 113 to 126 for the UIL. Full time operators have also increased to 175 for the CISL and 28 for the UIL. In 1992, 85 immigrants were elected as immigrants or representatives for workers (41 CGIL, 32 CISL and 12 UIL)<sup>22</sup> and there were 132 immigrants on the trade union management boards (72 CGIL, 44 CISL, 16 UIL).

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<sup>22</sup> Mottura G., Pinto P., *Immigrazione e cambiamento sociale*, Franco Angeli, Milan 1996.



### The impact of immigration on Italy's society: the political context

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According to a study by IRES-Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali (Economic and Social Research Institute) in 2002<sup>23</sup>, immigrants seek the help of the trade union for the following priority interests: the protection of individual rights in the workplace (59%); information on living and working in Italy (24.1%) and a resolution of legalization and family reunion problems (37.8%). The request for help with legalization and family reunion problems is understandable, not only for the importance of the problem in and of itself, but also for the complexity of the procedures at the police headquarters, which makes access to these rights difficult.

Another important issue that raised a great debate in 2003 was the granting of the administrative vote to foreigners, who, obviously, constitute the topic of far-sighted politics. Currently, non-Italian citizens cannot vote, but despite this fact, data from the Annual Report of the North East Foundation (Rapporto Annuale della Fondazione Nord Est) of 1999 indicated that approximately 70% of Italians were in favour of granting the fundamental civic right to vote in the administrative elections of one's municipality of residence to legal immigrants. This propensity was also confirmed in the latest study conducted in 2002 by the North East Foundation, in which 72.5% of those interviewed (compared to an average of 67.5% in Europe) stated that they agreed with granting the right to vote without making distinctions based on whether the foreigner did or did not belong to the Union.

These data are not isolated: an opinion poll conducted by Abacus<sup>24</sup> in the first few months of 2003 on a sample of 1,000 people indicated that the idea of granting citizenship to people who have been working legally and paying taxes for some time was popular (80%), confirming an open attitude toward granting the rights of Italians to foreigners (*Tab. 11*).

According to art. 9 of Legislative Decree 286/1998, non-EU foreigners with a valid residence permit can "participate in local public life, exercising the right to vote when provided for by law..." (art. 9, paragraph. 4, letter D). Italy approved the European Convention on Immigration excluding the part that provides for the municipal right to vote. However, since the Constitution has been modified regarding the authority of local entities (Municipalities, Provinces, Regions), various municipalities (Venice, Brescia, Ragusa, and Genoa) are planning to include granting the right to vote to non-EU foreigners in their statutes. This decision is not shared by all consti-

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<sup>23</sup> IRES-CGIL Emilia Romagna, *Rapporto sull'immigrazione*, 2002.

<sup>24</sup> Abacus survey for the daily "Il Messaggero" of Rome, between December 2002 and June 2003.

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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tutionalists, and, as a result, a number of different bills that would add the right to vote for non-EU immigrants to the Constitution have been presented. This goal does not seem to be attainable in the near future however. From the 1990's it has been possible to create immigrant councils and to elect additional councillors within the municipality, which is what recently happened in the Municipality of Rome. In March 2004, four additional councillors were elected to represent the various immigrant communities. These representatives can bring the proposals and requests of foreigners living in Rome before the municipal council even though they do not have the right to vote on resolutions. Other initiatives of this type have been supported by Turin, Lecce and the Marche Region<sup>25</sup>.

With regard to citizenship<sup>26</sup>, the number of legally residing foreigners increased from approximately 800,000 to 1,400,000 between 1990 and 2000 while grant of citizenship doubled (from 5,000 to 10,000). Over the last two years, however, the increase has slowed down: between 2001 and 2002 it was a mere 264 units (+2.5%), confirming the restrictive nature of the specific Italian regulations, which, in the face of increasingly stable immigration, needs amending, just as it has occurred in many other European countries. This need especially concerns those who were born in Italy but, due to current regulations, must wait until they become adults to become Italian citizens : their tie with our country, where they have lived for many years even in terms of education and mentality, deserves to be taken into consideration more seriously. A total of 91.4% of the people who are granted citizenship have received it following marriage, whereas in the remaining 8.6% of cases, citizenship is granted based on prolonged residence in Italy. The former solution is, obviously, the most concrete, even if it is at times based on false ties due to the tough legal restrictions (Law no. 91/92). The nationalities of Italian citizenship applicants correspond only partially with the general picture of the permit holders: Europeans predominate with 44.3% (especially Eastern Europeans, who have reached a total of 36.6%), followed by Americans (31.4%, almost all from Central and South America), Africans (15.5%) and, finally, Asians (8.5%). Amongst the most significant nations in terms of numbers are Albania, Morocco, Brazil and Cuba: in every case marriage was the primary reason, reaching 100% in the case of Cubans and more than 95% in other cases, except for Morocco, in which citizenship granted for long-term residence has reached 28%.

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<sup>25</sup> Piagnerelli I., *Diritti disuguali*, in "Altri", Bimonthly magazine of the Erytros Association, Year I, no. 1, Rome, May-June 2004, pgs. 6-7.

<sup>26</sup> Compare: law 91 of 1992, published in Official Gazette no. 38, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1998.

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## 6 Factors affecting immigrants: provision of support and restrictions

Italian immigration legislation has been designed to harmonise the roles, limits and responsibilities of various State bodies (police, magistrature, defence, education, health and social security, local entities) and support entities (NGO's, trade unions, volunteer associations, private social work associations).

The specific geographic configuration of Italy imposes a dense network of contacts and agreements with other Mediterranean countries, which have become essential for effectively facing the smuggling/trafficking of illegal immigrants. To this end, Italy has stipulated 29 agreements with other immigrant countries of origin (among which 21 in force and 13 with Third Countries).

Once a foreigner has achieved the status of "resident immigrant", which is granted for work 55.2%, family reasons 31.7%, studying, religious reasons, elective residence 9.6%, or asylum 1.1% (*Tab. 2*), he/she has the same rights and duties as Italian citizens. The same applies to tax contributions as well as the duties and benefits of the welfare system.

With regard to health care for immigrants, the Italian Government, which is concerned with preserving the integrity of public health, has created sympathetic legislation that promotes health independently of a person's legal, social or cultural status. The current national legislation regarding immigrant health care guarantees that all foreign citizens in Italy, even illegal ones, have access to health care services. Urgent, essential and ongoing care and preventive medicine programmes are guaranteed<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> See Leg. Decree 286/1998, published in Official Gazette no. 191, 18<sup>th</sup> August 1998, and its Implementive Regulation (Presidential Decree 394/1999 published in Official Gazette no. 258, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1999).

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

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Social integration actions (Italian language and country of origin language and culture courses as well as cultural mediator training etc.) are referred by the state to local entities in collaboration with private entities and volunteer organisations. Foreign minors are subject to compulsory education, and all of the regulations regarding the right to an education and access to educational services are applied to them.

Public and private entities have organised reception centres that, in addition to Italian citizens, receive immigrants legally residing in Italy for reasons other than tourism, who are temporarily unable to provide for their housing and food needs.

The purpose of these centres is to make foreigners self-sufficient and to provide, when possible, social and cultural services that promote independence and social integration.

Legally residing foreigners, like Italians, can have access to the lists for the assignment of social assistance housing with restrictions in some territorial contexts (the number of years of residence, for example).

In fact, Italian law promotes civil action to counter all forms of discrimination for racial, ethnic, national or religious reasons and through the application of the Community Directive 2000/43/CE for the Equal Treatment, disregarding race and ethnic origin in all sectors, both private and public, established the National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR).

Various studies confirm that although public opinion is in favour of social integration programmes and is tolerant of cultural and religious differences, it displays a certain diffidence with respect to the expansion of the immigration phenomenon.

The lack of legislative continuity, caused by the instable political situation in Italy, has negatively affected the implementation of a well-defined immigration policy.

If on the one hand, the last act of regularization contributed to legalizing a large number of illegal workers, there are still problems in terms of work integration (rigid work supply and demand mechanisms), the pursuit of residence permits, the attainment of the residence card, the assignment of housing (critical even for native citizens), the accentuated flexibility of the labour market, the attainment of citizenship and the difficult access of immigrants to institutional networks.

In this regard, it is important to extend the right to vote to immigrant citizens, especially in light of the fact that public opinion seems to be in favour of it. In

### Factors affecting immigrants: provision of support and restrictions

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a survey conducted by Demoskopea (March 2003) Italians were willing to pay money out of their own pocket (31 euros per person) to promote the social integration of immigrants (Italian language and civic education courses, assistance in finding a job, professional training and skills courses, information on how public and social services work, assistance in handling bureaucratic procedures), which is more than they would pay (22 euros) to keep them out of our country with heavy controls and patrols at the borders. Two out of three citizens believe that the costs of integrating immigrants must be supported at the central level.

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## Conclusions

The picture that emerges from the analysis of the immigration phenomenon in Italy is a continually developing situation. In fact, besides the great number of immigrants residing in Italy since the past 10/15 years, 120/180 thousand new immigrants have been arriving in our country annually in search of their fortune, although, most come illegally. However, restrictive immigration policies that have been created over time are the main reason for the continual illegal flows.

As a result, there is a certain sense of widespread dissatisfaction with policies, which should not merely be based on countering illegal flows, readmission agreements, temporary stay centres, or even the simple view of immigration in terms of employment. We need, instead, to invest more in legal paths, which can be reached by creating an atmosphere of coexistence in which immigrants and natives are asked to demonstrate reciprocal responsibility.

Within the current scenario of stable settlement, the integration of immigrants into the new society must be based on the respect of cultures as well as fundamental principles such as the inviolability of individual human rights, equality before the law, the lay nature of the State and the use of democracy as a tool of coexistence in a climate of cultural pluralism and tolerance.

In order to make all of this a reality, we must rethink some decisions that have heavily slowed down a mature integration process. At an operational level, we must be ready to offer immigrants jobs a priori through the forecasting of realistic quotas and not through subsequent legalization measures. The current placement mechanisms, which are not available to all potential employers for financial reasons and for the limited connection between work demand and supply, are not very incisive.

## Conclusions

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It would also be opportune to review regulations for short term residence, for example, by transforming them into long term permits so that their expiration does not require costly repatriation operations.

It is also desirable that the admission of new foreign workers be tied to adequate investments in social services, starting from housing.

An issue that has remain unresolved over the years is the right to asylum, which still is not governed by a comprehensive regulation implementing art. 10 of Italian Constitution. The economic support for asylum seekers is still weak, and so are the guarantees with regard to procedures and appeals.

Nevertheless, it must be pointed out the ongoing parliamentary debate concerning a law proposal on asylum which implements the said constitutional norm and contains a comprehensive regulation of the matter.

The effort to fight against discrimination and to guarantee the participation of immigrants not just on the labour market but in social, cultural, civil and religious life as well is, indubitably, a priority. A great number of people have been working to reassess the image of immigrants even in cultural terms. Often it is tarnished by a blanket of suspect and diffidence based on differences. In this regard, the financing provided by the Equal Initiative of the European Social Fund has been a great help, making it possible to create numerous projects at the national level to combat discrimination and inequality on the labour market, such as "The image of migrants in Italy through media, civil society and the labour market", promoted by IOM Rome, Caritas of Rome and Archive of Immigration.

There is now greater collaboration between institutions and the private social work sector with regard to the immigration world. There are numerous agreements that the various ministries and local entities have created with lay and religious organisations and associations to lend support to the immigrant population. In this sense as well, it is desirable that there be greater complementarity between these subjects in the future.

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## Statistical Appendix

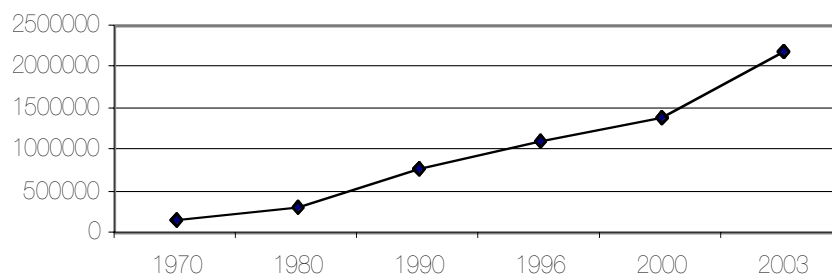
Tab. 1 - ITALY. Development of immigrants presence by continent of origin. Absolute values (1970-2003)

Year	Europe	EC	Africa	Asia	America	Oceania	Stateless and others	Absolute values
1970	88,215	-	4,756	11,177	37,006	2,684	-	143,838
1980	159,107	99,878	29,754	41,989	62,630	4,167	1,102	298,749
1990	261,851	148,611	238,130	145,812	128,362	5,907	1,076	781,138
1996	426,017	152,092	314,924	195,495	154,822	3,613	841	1,095,712
2000	556,567	151,799	385,630	277,644	164,942	2,519	851	1,388,153
2003	1,051,404	153,469	516,424	386,204	251,339	3,653	2,975	2,193,999

*N.B. The chart regards immigrants with any type of Italian residence permit: the permits are for more than three months for the 1970's and for more than one month from 1980 until 2003. The two periods are therefore not completely comparable.*

*SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from Ministry of Interior data*

Graph. 1 - ITALY. Development of immigrants presence. Absolute values (1970-2003)



*SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from Ministry of Interior data*

### The impact of immigration on Italy's society

Tab. 2 - ITALY. Prospect of immigration in Italy during last three years (2001-2003)

	2001		2002		2003	
	a.v.	%	a.v.	%	a.v.	%
<b>IMMIGRANT POPULATION</b>						
- registered by the Ministry of Interior	1,362,630	100.0	1,512,324	100.0	2,193,999	100.0
- total estimated population, including minors*	1,600,000	100.0	1,850,000	100.0	2,598,223	100.0
- % of population	-	2.8	-	3.2	-	4.5
Annual variation	-	-	+149,694	+11.0	+681,675	+45.1
<b>ORIGIN BY CONTINENT</b>						
European Union	147,495	10.8	154,076	10.2	153,469	7.0
Other European countries	416,390	30.6	488,276	32.3	897,935	40.9
Africa	366,598	26.9	401,440	26.5	516,424	23.5
Asia	259,783	19.1	279,816	18.5	368,204	16.8
America	158,206	11.6	178,593	11.8	251,339	11.5
Oceania/Stateless	3,285	0.2	3,509	0.2	3,653	0.2
Unknown nationality	10,873	0.8	6,614	0.4	2,975	0.1
<b>REASONS FOR RESIDENCE</b>						
Work	806,680	59.2	834,478	55.2	1,449,746	66.1
Family (including adoption)	393,865	28.9	479,330	31.7	532,670	24.3
Religion, elective residence, study	124,323	9.1	145,187	9.6	146,371	6.7
Asylum and application for asylum	11,806	0.9	16,702	1.1	17,318	0.8
Other reasons	25,956	1.9	36,627	2.4	47,894	2.1
<b>REGIONAL BREAKDOWN</b>						
North West: Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria, V. d'Aosta	444,876	32.7	495,609	32.8	731,851	33.4
North East: Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino Alto Adige, Emilia R.	328,488	24.1	392,212	25.9	536,972	24.5
Centre: Tuscany, Umbria, Marche, Lazio	396,834	29.2	428,509	28.3	614,555	28.0
South: Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria	133,263	9.7	134,678	8.9	230,534	10.5
Islands: Sicily, Sardinia	59,169	4.3	61,316	4.1	80,087	3.6
<b>IMMIGRANTS GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>						
Males	726,809	53.3	786,132	52.0	1,132,281	51.6
Females	635,821	46.7	726,192	48.0	1,061,718	48.4
Married (with or without children)	678,342	49.9	783,414	51.8	1,095,474	49.9
Single	584,013	42.9	646,440	42.7	1,015,505	46.3
Widows	14,000	1.0	19,168	1.3	35,241	1.6
Divorced and separated	21,289	1.7	24,325	1.6	27,459	1.3
Marital status not registered	62,405	4.5	38,977	2.6	19,156	0.9
<b>NEW ARRIVALS**</b>						
New residence permits during the year	180,303	100.0	118,880	100.0	107,515	100.0
For work	92,386	51.2	37,329	31.4	19,107	17.8
For family reasons	60,027	33.3	58,034	48.8	65,816	61.2
For religious reasons, elective residence, study	27,920	15.5	23,517	19.8	22,592	21.0

\* Also following data regarding settled immigrants in the chart should be increased to estimate the real presence.

\*\* The new residence permits given to refugees should be added: 2,102 in 2001 upon 9,620 requests, 1,270 in 2002 upon 16,015 requests and 726 in 2003 upon 16,455 requests.

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from Ministry of Interior data

Statistical appendix

Tab. 3 - ITALY. Settled immigrants. The main 30 national groups (2003)

Country of origin	a. v.	%
Rumania	239,426	10.9
Morocco	233,216	10.6
Albania	227,940	10.4
Ukraine	112,802	5.1
China	100,109	4.6
Philippines	73,847	3.4
Poland	65,847	3.0
Tunisia	60,572	2.8
Senegal	47,762	2.2
India	47,170	2.1
Peru	46,964	2.1
Ecuador	45,859	2.1
Egypt	44,798	2.0
Sri Lanka	41,539	1.9
Serbia-Montenegro	38,876	1.8
Moldavia	36,361	1.7
Macedonia	33,656	1.5
Bangladesh	32,391	1.5
Pakistan	30,506	1.4
Brazil	26,858	1.2
Nigeria	24,986	1.1
Ghana	23,060	1.1
Croatia	21,336	1.0
Russia	18,924	0.9
Bulgaria	17,080	0.8
Algeria	16,835	0.8
Bosnia Erz.	15,636	0.7
Colombia	15,182	0.7
Argentina	14,553	0.7
Rep. Dominic.	13,160	0.6
Others	426,748	19.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,193,999</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from Ministry of Interior data*

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Tab. 4 - ITALY. Settled immigrants by regions (2002 – 2003)

Region	2002	%	2003	%	2003/2002
Piedmont	107,564	7.1	167,615	7.6	55.8
Valle d'Aosta	2,913	0.2	3,792	0.2	30.2
Liguria	36,827	2.4	57,834	2.6	57.0
Lombardy	348,298	23.0	502,610	22.9	44.3
<b>North West</b>	<b>495,602</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>731,851</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>47.7</b>
Trentino-Alto Adige	38,647	2.6	43,366	2.0	12.2
Veneto	154,631	10.2	213,798	9.7	38.3
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	48,304	3.2	62,052	2.8	28.5
Emilia-Romagna	150,629	10.0	217,756	9.9	44.6
<b>North East</b>	<b>392,211</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>536,972</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>36.9</b>
Tuscany	111,460	7.4	175,026	8.0	57.0
Umbria	30,964	2.0	43,845	2.0	41.6
Marche	47,157	3.1	64,989	3.0	37.8
Lazio	238,916	15.8	330,965	15.1	38.5
<b>Centre</b>	<b>428,497</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>614,825</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>43.5</b>
Abruzzo	21,263	1.4	32,873	1.5	54.6
Molise	2,377	0.2	3,635	0.2	52.9
Campania	58,640	3.9	111,596	5.1	90.3
Puglia	31,293	2.1	43,163	2.0	37.9
Basilicata	3,505	0.2	5,782	0.3	65.0
Calabria	17,598	1.2	33,485	1.5	90.3
<b>South</b>	<b>134,676</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>230,534</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>71.2</b>
Sicily	49,577	3.3	65,194	3.0	31.5
Sardinia	11,737	0.8	14,893	0.7	26.9
Islands	61,314	4.1	80,087	3.7	30.6
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>1,512,324</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,193,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45.1</b>

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from Ministry of Interior data

Tab. 5 - ITALY. Recruitments of Italian and non-EU workers by sectors (2002)

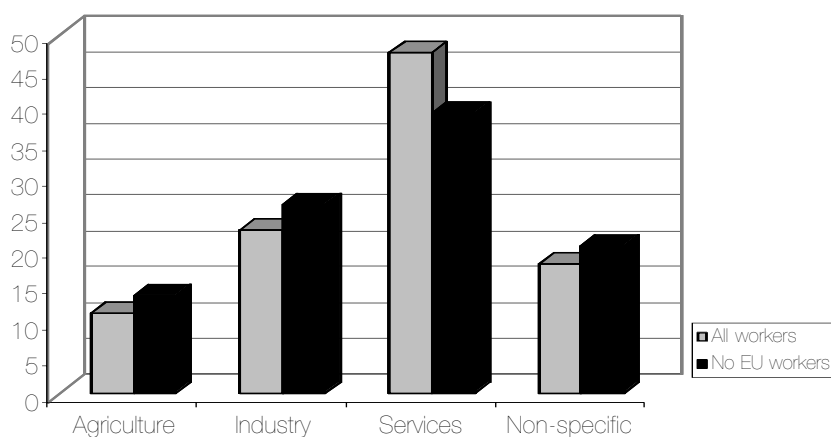
Sectors	ALL WORKERS		NON EU-WORKERS	
	Recruits	Balance	Recruits	Balance
Agriculture	11.3	8.7	13.8	8.9
Industry	22.9	-1.3	26.4	19.8
Services	47.7	30.1	39.2	24.7
Non-specific	18.1	62.6	20.6	44.6
Total %	100.0	-	100.0	-
Total a.v.	5,762,749	523,502	659,847	140,222

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from INAIL/Denuncia Nominativa Assicurati data



Statistical appendix

Graph 2. - ITALY. Recruitments of Italian and non-EU workers by sectors. Percentage values (2002)



SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from INAIL/Denuncia Nominativa Assicurati data

Tab. 6 - ITALY. Percentage of non-EU workers out of total recruits in Italy by job sectors (2002)

Very high		High		Medium	
leather tanning industry	22.8	agro industrial	14.1	food industry	8.8
textile industry	17.7	construction	13.7	mining	7.7
metal industry	17.0	transportation	12.7	paper processing	7.6
rubber industry	16.9	transport. vehicles ind.	12.3	chemical industry	7.5
wood industry	16.7	mechanics industry	11.6	electrical industry	7.4
processing industry	15.0	real estate/cleaning	10.8	auto sales/repair	7.4
				healthcare	7.2
				wholesale trade	7.0

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from INAIL/Denuncia Nominativa Assicurati data

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Tab. 7 - ITALY. Percentage of non-EU workers in individual sectors (2002)

Secotors	ALL WORKERS			NON EU WORKERS		
	Recruits	Balances	% Balances	Recruits	Balances	% Balances
Agroindustrial	645,503	45,343	7.0	90,945	15,292	16.8
Fishery	1,982	49	2.5	141	50	35.5
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>647,485</b>	<b>45,392</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>91,086</b>	<b>15,342</b>	<b>16.8</b>
Mining	8,804	618	7.0	674	81	12.0
Food industry	177,989	17,293	9.7	15,686	2,919	18.6
Textile industry	85,004	-21,739	-25.6	15,048	945	6.3
Leather tanning industry	32,118	-6,673	-20.8	7,323	320	4.4
Wood industry	28,493	324	1.1	4,746	859	18.1
Paper industry	41,398	392	0.9	3,164	737	23.3
Oil industry	2,061	-182	-8.8	95	23	24.2
Chemical industry	32,232	2,172	6.7	2,412	445	18.4
Rubber industry	32,177	145	0.5	5,441	1,010	18.6
Processing industry	38,344	382	1.0	5,742	1,036	18.0
Metal industry	151,931	-4,252	-2.8	25,757	3,107	12.1
Mechanics industry	76,214	-2,599	-3.4	8,875	1,579	17.8
Electrical industry	68,505	-5,097	-7.4	5,078	887	17.5
Transportation vehicle industry	24,381	-6,280	-25.8	2,993	544	18.2
Other industries	48,986	-2,239	-4.6	7,624	1,119	14.7
Electricity/gas/water	8,648	-5,109	-59.1	202	-14	-6.9
Construction	462,814	25,838	5.6	63,197	12,159	19.2
<b>Industry</b>	<b>1,320,099</b>	<b>-7,006</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>174,057</b>	<b>27,756</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Retail auto repair	52,496	1,783	3.4	3,896	930	23.9
Wholesale trade	206,923	17,821	8.6	14,529	3,173	21.8
Retail trade	272,385	25,583	9.4	15,766	3,349	21.2
Hotels and restaurants	905,003	38,895	4.3	109,424	8,558	7.8
Transportation	236,467	2,243	0.9	30,053	4,713	15.7
Financial Intermediary	50,475	-3,374	-6.7	1,769	132	7.5
Real estate/cleaning business	512,626	39,593	7.7	55,190	9,714	17.6
Public administration	110,896	10,331	9.3	3,281	307	9.4
Healthcare	112,061	9,959	8.9	8,025	1,850	23.1
Teaching	35,633	5,248	14.7	1,692	368	21.7
Public services	255,723	9,287	3.6	14,928	1,565	10.5
<b>Services</b>	<b>2,750,688</b>	<b>157,369</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>258,553</b>	<b>34,659</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Undetermined	1,044,477	327,747	31.4	136,151	62,465	45.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,762,749</b>	<b>523,502</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>659,847</b>	<b>140,222</b>	<b>21.3</b>

(a) The percentages were calculated for positive balances only.

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from INAIL/Denuncia Nominativa Assicurati data

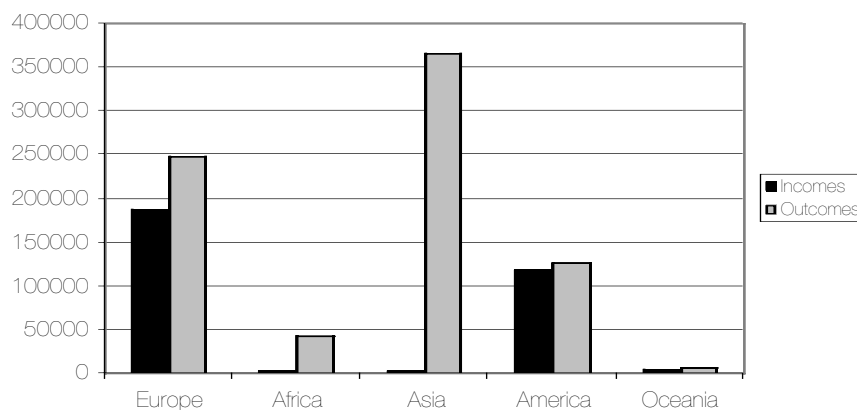
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Tab. 8 - ITALY. Remittances flows (incomes and outcomes) by area of origin and destination in thousand euros (2002)

Area	Incomes	%	Outcomes	%
European Union	151,784	48.1	216,177	27.3
Centre-Eastern Europe	4,714	1.5	19,052	2.4
Other European Countries	31,294	9.9	14,019	1.8
<b>Europe</b>	<b>187,792</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>249,248</b>	<b>31.5</b>
Northern Africa	911	0.3	30,072	3.8
Western Africa	377	0.1	10,606	1.3
Eastern Africa	230	0.1	1,304	0.2
Centre-Southern Africa	494	0.2	873	0.1
<b>Africa</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>42,855</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Western Asia	140	0.0	1,607	0.2
Centre-Southern Asia	24	0.0	4,606	0.6
Eastern Asia	1,715	0.5	359,918	45.5
<b>Asia</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>366,131</b>	<b>46.3</b>
Northern America	106,021	33.6	109,312	13.8
Centre-Southern America	12,344	3.9	17,932	2.3
<b>America</b>	<b>118,365</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>127,244</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Oceania	5,347	1.7	6,080	0.8
Not classified	133	0.0	58	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>315,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>791,616</b>	<b>100.0</b>

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from UIC data

Graph. 3 - ITALY. Remittances flows by area of origin and destination in thousand euros (2002)



SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from UIC data

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Tab. 9 - ITALY. Attitudes towards immigrants in 5 European Countries (2000-2002)

	IMMIGRANTS ARE A THREAT TO OUR CULTURE AND IDENTITY		IMMIGRANTS ARE A THREAT TO EMPLOYMENT		IMMIGRANTS ARE A THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER AND TO PERSONAL SECURITY	
	2002	2000/2001	2002	2000/2001	2002	2000/2001
Italy	23.9	-1.3	29.2	-3.1	39.7	-3.1
France	30.5	+5.2	27.7	+0.3	40.2	+4.4
Spain	25.8	+7.3	31.0	+4.7	34.2	+8.4
Great Britain	37.4	+1.8	46.0	-3.9	35.9	+3.9
Germany	22.7	+0.5	41.3	+11.9	31.9	+7.5
EU average	27.8	+2.2	35.8	+2.6	36.2	+4.3

SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from North East Foundation data

Tab. 10 - ITALY. Immigrants in TV according to programmes (% values)

	2001	2002
TV News	95.4	88.3
Special news programme	1.4	3.9
Inquiry	1.0	1.0
TV magazine	0.8	3.9
Talk show	0.6	1.9
Specific programme on immigration	0.4	-
Entertainment/Variety	0.2	-
Satirical programme/Comedy Show	0.2	-
Political programme	-	1.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

SOURCE: Censis survey "The image of migrants and ethnic minorities in the media" (Sept. 2002)

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Tab. 11 - Italians and immigration (2002)

	Completely in disagreement	Quite in disagreement	Neutral	Quite in agreement	Completely in agreement	Doesn't know	Total
Immigrants steal work to Italian unemployed	34%	24%	10%	16%	15%	1%	100.0%
Immigrants living in Italy contribute to our Country's cultural enrichment	14%	16%	11%	34%	21%	4%	100.0%
Foreigners legally working from a long time in Italy and paying taxes should take Italian citizenship	10%	6%	2%	34%	46%	2%	100.0%
Most of irregular immigrants are involved in criminal activities	20%	20%	10%	29%	18%	3%	100.0%
	<b>They are too many</b>	<b>They are a lot but not too many</b>	<b>They are not a lot</b>	<b>Doesn't know</b>			
What do you think about immigrants?	54%	35%	6%	5%			100.0%
	<b>Should be extended</b>	<b>Should be limited</b>	<b>Should remain as now</b>	<b>Doesn't know</b>			
What do you think about the rights granted to non EU immigrants?	33%	22%	30%	15%			100.0%

*SOURCE: Calculations by Caritas/Migrantes Dossier Statistico Immigrazione from data of the Abacus survey "Che Italia fa"*

