

Report on national migration policies and its impact on the situation of members of minorities in Italy

Report on the situation of allochtones in Italy

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I. Migration: history, trends, main groups

Emigration and immigration- who? how many? when? why?

EMIGRATION > Italy is a country with a long history of emigration and a very short experience of immigration. Mass emigration started with Italian unification: during the period 1861-1976 over 26 million people emigrated, half of them towards other European countries, the rest towards North and South America. Two fifths of all these emigrations originated from the regions of the South of Italy. The reasons were, on the one hand, the slow and difficult development of the Italian economy and, on the other, the economic expansion which characterized other countries between the second half of the nineteenth century and World War I.

After World War II, Italians emigrated mostly towards Europe, especially Germany. In the same years, the development of the industrial North stimulated mass internal migration from the South to the North-West. (approximately one Italian out of four emigrated). Emigration from the North of Italy was mostly European, while the emigration from the southern regions was mostly transoceanic, directed to the United States, Latin America and Australia. The geographical position and the cost of transportation played an important role in explaining the different initial destinations.

The characteristics of emigrants are well identified by statistical analyses: they were usually male, of working age, and tended to be economically active. In terms of skills and occupation characteristics, the agricultural sector would appear to have been dominant, with most emigrants having low skills. Nowadays only a few highly skilled and specialised workers leave the country in search of better job opportunities.

IMMIGRATION > Italy became a country of immigration during the 70s. The number of foreign residents increased from 143,838 in 1970 to about 300,000 in 1980 and, by the mid 80s it had reached half a million (1985). In the 90s, the foreign population increased further and workers are concentrated most.

The composition of the immigrants change remarkably in the 1980s and 1990s. The incidence of immigrants who came from the European Union declined, while the proportion of immigrants from outside the European Union increased, and in the late 1990s accounted for 86 per cent of the total . Among the non-Europeans, in spite of the increase in Afro and Asian immigrants, their relative incidence declined in relation to Eastern European immigrants from Yugoslavia, Albania and Rumania, who became the fastest growing group.

The growth of the African and Asian communities is clearly seen from the data emerging from the legalisation procedure. Where the African and Filipinos nationals accounted for the most important groups in the first and second legalisation procedures, the Yugoslavian, Albanian and Rumanian were more important in the third and last.

Today, according to the last figure (Caritas est. 2009), 5 million immigrants live legally in Italy, while estimates for undocumented immigrants vary from 0.8 million to 2 million.

2. Legal background, migration policy - who are the main groups of migrants? What categories does the current law specify?

The current Italian law specifies the following statuses of migrants:

Asylum seekers > In Italy a person can be recognized by the right of asylum under Article. 10, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, but not obtain the refugee status. The difference, as expressed by the United Sections of the Supreme Court ruling by December 17, 1999 No 907, is that the status of political refugee under the Geneva Convention of July 29, 1951 ... is different (from entitled to asylum) as a determining factor because it requires a well-founded fear of persecution. Until a final decision by the competent authorities, he/her is an asylum seeker and has the right to legal residence in the destination country. The applicant is therefore comparable to the irregular migrant.

Refugee: is someone who has been granted the refugee status under the Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951.

Beneficiary of humanitarian protection / applicants for international protection: defines people that even they cannot be recognized as refugees, however, have aspects that require different humanitarian protection measures.

Illegal immigrant: is a person who a) has entered unlawfully evading border controls, b) is lawfully entered the country of destination, for example with a tourist visa, and remained there after the expiry of the visa (becoming a so-called "overstayers"), c) has not left the territory of the country of destination as a result of a removal order.

The legal requirements for visiting or staying in Italy depend on citizenship - European Union (EU) or non-European Union (EU) citizen - reason for entry into Italy and intended duration of the stay.

All non-EU citizens require a visa for a stay of longer than three months (90 days).

Under Italian law, every foreigner in Italy is considered to be either a tourist or a resident. As a rule, a tourist is a foreigner staying in Italy for less than three months. People coming on a business trip, students enrolled in short courses, people doing research on their own, for example, are considered to be tourists, as long as the stay does not exceed three months.

A resident is anyone who plans to stay in Italy for more than three months. Foreigners working in Italy, seasonal workers, students enrolled in full-time education for a full academic year, or those who wish to live in Italy are considered to be residents. Residents require a permit.

- **Permesso di Soggiorno** (permit to stay): required by non-EU citizens, has an expiry date, is renewable, and is issued (with varying durations of validity) for the first six years of residence in Italy
- **Carta di Soggiorno** (permanent residence card for non-EU citizens): issued for an indefinite period, after the sixth year of residence in Italy
- **Carta di Soggiorno Cittadini U.E.** (permanent residence card for EU citizens): issued to EU citizens and their immediate family and dependents who intend to stay in Italy longer than three months

Non-EU citizens in Italy for over 90 days require a "stay permit" (*Permesso di Soggiorno*). This is a permit to stay in the country and not a residence card; it is not obligatory for a foreigner to have residency in Italy provided they have a valid stay permit and are therefore registered in the commune.

There are a variety of permits, each specific to individual circumstances. It is important that the permit type correlates with the intentions of the permit holder; if the applicant has a visa, the two must correlate (student, not working, employed and so on). The *Permesso di Soggiorno* has a limited period of validity which matches the purpose for stay. Permits can be renewed.

The following are the most commonly-issued stay permits:

- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per coesione familiare***: permit for the foreign spouse and children of an Italian citizen
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per lavoro***: work permit for employees
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per lavoro autonomo/indipendente***: permit for self-employed workers
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per turismo***: permit for tourists (anyone visiting for more than a week, who isn't staying in a hotel, official campsite or boarding house)
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per studio***: student permit
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per ricongiungimento familiare***: permit for the family and dependent parents of foreigners married to Italian citizens
- ***Permesso di Soggiorno per dimora***: for foreigners who are establishing residence in Italy and who are not planning on working

Criteria underlying legislation concerning citizenship

Italian citizenship is mainly based on "ius sanguinis" (right of blood), according to which a child born to an Italian mother or father is Italian¹. Italian citizenship is based on the following principles:

- Citizenship can be transmitted by descent "iure sanguinis"
- Acquisition "iure soli" (by birth on the territory) in given cases
- Dual citizenship is recognised
- Explicit statement of will is necessary to acquire or lose citizenship

Granting of the Italian citizenship to foreign citizens married to Italian citizens and to foreign citizens who reside in Italy. According to article 9 of Law No. 91 of 5th February 1992, citizenship can be granted²:

- To an alien who has legally resided for at least 10 years on the Italian territory
- To an European Union national, provided he/she has legally resided for at least four years on the Italian territory
- To a stateless person or to a refugee who has legally resided for at least five years on the Italian territory
- To an alien whose father or mother or one of his/her grandfathers or grandmothers had been citizen by birth or to an alien who was born on the territory of the Republic and who has been legally residing there for at least three years, in both cases
- To an alien of full age adopted by an Italian citizen and who has legally resided on the Italian territory for at least five years after the adoption
- To an alien who served the Italian State, even from abroad, for at least five years.³

¹ at present the issue of citizenship is governed by Law No. 91 of 5th February 1992, as subsequently amended and complemented, and by related implementing regulations, as well as by the provisions of Law No. 94 of 15th July 2009.

² (ART. 9 OF LAW 91/92, as subsequently amended and complemented).

3. Recent statistics (How many people? rising/lowering trends? countries of origin? demography? level of education, social status?)

The composition of the immigrants change remarkably in the 1980s and 1990s. The incidence of immigrants who came from the European Union declined, while the proportion of immigrants from outside the European Union increased, and in the late 1990s accounted for 86 per cent of the total. Officially, at the end of 2008, foreigners comprised 7.5% of the population or 4,800 000 persons, an increase of 470,000 since the previous year. In some Italian cities, such as Brescia, Milan, Padua, and Prato, immigrants total more than 15% of the population. Since the expansion of the European Union, the most recent wave of migration has been from surrounding European nations, particularly Eastern Europe, and increasingly Asia, replacing North Africa as the major immigration area. Some 900,000 Romanians are officially registered as living in Italy, replacing Albanians and Moroccans as the largest ethnic minority group, but independent estimates put the actual number of Romanians at double that figure or perhaps even more. Others immigrants from Eastern Europe are Ukrainians (200.000), Poles (100.000), Moldovans (90.000) Macedonians (81.000), Serbs (75.000), Bulgarians (54.000) Germans (41.000), Bosnians (40.000), Russians (39.600), Croatians (25.000), Slovaks (9.000), Hungarians (8.600). As of 2009, the foreign born population origin of Italy was subdivided as follows: Europe (53.5%), Africa (22.3%), Asia (15.8%), the Americas (8.1%) and Oceania (0.06%). The distribution of foreign born population is largely uneven in Italy: 87.3% of immigrants live in the northern and central parts of the country (the most economically developed areas), while only 12.8% live in the southern half of the peninsula. In **Sicily** foreign immigration reaches 114,632 residents belonging to 121 different ethnics (ISTAT 31 December 2008). Among these 114,632, the 66,2% result in working age. PALERMO: More than 1 out of 5 immigrants residing in Sicily, is located in Palermo, which has 23,812 residents and an increase of 12.1% over the previous year.

4. Terminology used in legal documents, social sciences, and common language

In Italy illegal immigration is fueled primarily by overstayers, all those foreigners who entered the country regularly, overstayed their visa or authorization to stay: a phenomenon that has achieved - according to official figures from the Ministry of the Interior 60% of total immigrants in 2005. Another 25% of immigrants arrive illegally from other Schengen countries, taking advantage of the abolition of internal border controls.

Terminology:

IMMIGRATO > in common language it indicates all those who are not Italians.

EXTRACOMUNITARIO > the term is often misused in everyday language and the media to describe immigrants in Europe often from economically disadvantaged countries. The word *EXTRA* gives the idea of being out of the host society.

³http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/temi/immigrazione/english_version/Entry_of_foreign_nationals_into_Italy.html

STRANIERO > Are all foreign nationals who have a nationality other than that of the Member States of the European community or do not have any. For Italian law, "foreigners" are then Americans, Australians, Russians, Brazilians, Argentineans, South Africans, Tunisians, Egyptians, etc..

APOLIDE > stateless person - regarding their entry and stay in Italy, it is valid the provisions provided for non-Legislative Decree 286/98 for *straniero*.

II. Migrants: unequal opportunities, challenges for integration

1. Asylum seekers and refugees

Asylum Seekers > They are aliens who, being outside the country of former habitual residence, are unable or unwilling to return to it owing to the well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. They can apply for asylum by submitting an application for the recognition of "refugee status".

Refugees > They are asylum applicants who have been granted the recognition of "refugee status", following acceptance of their applications.

Children holding refugee status or subsidiary protection status have access to studies of any level, in the manner provided for Italian citizens.

(See also above point I.2)

Examples of acts of persecution

- Acts of physical or psychic violence, including sexual violence
- Legal, administrative, police and/or judicial measures that, for their very nature are discriminatory or are carried out in a discriminatory way
- Judicial actions or criminal sanctions that are excessive or discriminatory
- Refusal to have access to legal remedy and ensuing excessive, discriminatory sanction
- Judicial actions or criminal sanctions resulting from the refusal to serve the army in a war, when this would imply the commission of crimes
- Acts specifically aimed against a person because of his/her sex or against minors

It was published (22.04.2010) the decree -of the Head of Department for Immigration of the Ministry of Interior- for the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) 2011/2013, which states a capacity to accommodate up to 3,000 units, of which 500 for vulnerable categories for the period 2011/2013.

On arrival living conditions

Centers for temporary stay and assistance (Ctsa)

These take in the aliens whenever a first aid intervention is necessary or it is regarded as advisable to proceed with further checks on their identity.

The acronym CPTA (CTSA) stands for the Centres for temporary stay and assistance

These are the structures, where the local Chief of Police (Questore) temporarily transfers the illegal migrants in the following cases:

- when it is not possible to immediately proceed with the removal by means of the turning back to the border;
- when it is necessary to proceed with the assistance of the alien, who is the holder of a removal measure
- when it is necessary to proceed with further checks on his/her identity or nationality
- when it is necessary to acquire the documents which are necessary for the journey.
- when no other means of transportation are temporarily available.

The measure of the Chief of Police (Questore) has to be confirmed by the competent judge

In the CENTRES FOR TEMPORARY STAY AND ASSISTANCE (CTSA), assistance activities in favour of the illegal migrants, who have to be removed, are carried out, in the full observance of their dignity, by ensuring also the free correspondence with outside, by means of the phone too.

The Centres for temporary stay and assistance have the purpose of avoiding the dispersion of illegal migrants on the territory as well as of enabling the competent authorities to perform the necessary procedures for the purpose of the removal. The maximum length of time for the stay of the aliens in the centres is of 60 days as a whole (30 days plus further 30 days by request of the local Chief of Police and on the grounds of the subsequent measure of extension of time by the competent judge). The Centres are planned and localized by the Central Direction of the civil services for immigration and asylum and are managed by the competent Government Local Administrations (Prefettura), by means of financial agreements with bodies, associations or cooperative societies, which have won the contracts of the service.

The services which have to be ensured by the financial agreements are

- 1) Assistance in favour of the person
 - General service in favour of the persons
 - Health assistance
 - Social assistance and linguistic cultural mediation
 - Administrative, store activities, and so on.
 - Delivery of personal and bed- belongings
- 2) Food
- 3) Cleaning and room hygiene service
- 4) Maintenance of the structure and of the plants

After the stay in a CTSAⁱ it follows the subsequent transfer to CIEⁱⁱ (centri di identificazione ed espulsione - centres for identification and expulsion) or to CARAⁱⁱⁱ (centri di accoglienza per i richiedenti asilo - centers for asylum seekers).

The identification and deportation centers (CIE), is responsible for the detention validated by a justice of the peace, of non-EU foreigners without residence permit, for a maximum period of 60 days.

The Centers for asylum seekers (CARA) host only refugees seeking political asylum or other asylum-seekers without identity papers, pending the approval of their refugee status and international protection, which is decided by the Local Commissions.

Contribution of primary care

Article 6 paragraph 7 of Legislative Decree no. 140/2005 agrees a financial contribution for those applicants who are eligible to receive a place in a reception centre but that was not possible to place due to lack of places. Applications for assistance must be submitted to the competent police who then forward it to the Prefecture. The contribution is equal to a sum of 27.89 euro per day per capita.

CIE face serious problems of overcrowding, worrying hygienic-sanitary conditions and an alarming promiscuity between men, women and children⁷. It is well known that the legal framework that is in force and regulates rescue, assistance and early reception interventions for foreigners appears to have shortcomings and gaps, and is liable to be interpreted in different ways and be applied with discretion. In particular, the rights of foreign recipients of assistance measures in so-called early reception centres, which are still exclusively disciplined by Law 563/95 (referred to as the Apulia Law), are not defined. Several reports have highlighted how, often, foreigners are effectively held in the current early reception centres for considerably long periods that may vary from a few days to weeks or months, without the legal framework establishing the rights of foreigners who are there in a clear or binding manner, and without that situation of de facto limitation of personal freedom being subjected to any form of judicial scrutiny. It must be stressed that this situation, which does not comply with Italian legislation in the field of measures limiting freedom and could also be considered a violation of art. 5 point 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), has been the subject of great concern expressed by the Group on arbitrary detention established within the UN Human Rights Council that has also recalled the Italian government's failure to redress a situation that has been highlighted for some time⁸.

2. Voluntary migrants: access to housing, labour market, education and social services

Engagement of foreign workers: The employer shall indicate an accommodation which falls within the minimum parameters provided by the regional law for public housing and fulfils living and sanitary requirements.

⁷Appeal to the institutions about the serious and imminent risk of widespread violations of the fundamental rights of refugees and migrants present in Lampedusa <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2009/jan/italy-%20lampedusa.pdf>, pag. 1

⁸ The UN experts, however, highlighted "significant human rights concerns with regard to the centres in which migrants and asylum seekers are kept", in particular with regard to the legal basis for the detention of those deprived of their freedom. The Working Group noted that in 2006 the Ministry of Interior had established a commission to study the matter, commonly referred to as the "De Mistura Commission" after the UN official appointed to head it. Its findings and recommendations remain to a large extent to be implemented.

On his/her presentation at the Sportello Unico (single desk for immigration) ⁹ after entering Italy, the worker shall handle the receipt which proves the lodging of a request for a housing pass certificate (to be issued by the territorial competent Municipality or Local Health Unit (ASL) and documentary evidence proving the actual availability of the house.

On renewal of the permit of stay, a self-certification signed by the employer proving that the worker lives in a house falling within housing fitness parameters shall be produced.

The minimum age for admission to work is fixed at the conclusion of the period of compulsory education and, in any case, cannot be lower than 15 turned years, as provided by Article 5 of Legislative Decree n. 345 of 4/8/99. With this respect, it is to be specified that, following the abrogation of Law n.9/99 by Article 7 of Law n.53/2003, the education duty is considered as performed after at least 8 years of school attendance. This circumstance shall be proved by adequate documentary evidence issued by a state school or other equal institute according to the existing legislation in the foreign citizen's origin country.

Many illegal immigrants from Africa and Eastern Europe work as day laborers in the agriculture of Southern Italy, especially in the citrus and olive groves of Calabria and the tomato factories of Puglia. African immigrants typically pay smugglers in Libya for a transit to the Italian island of Lampedusa. From there they are transferred to detention camps in mainland Italy.

3. Acceptance by the host society: issues of xenophobia, discrimination

Only those foreigners who comply with entry and stay provisions are entitled to stay on the territory of the Italian State. The foreigner who avoided border controls, who enters illegally or who stays in Italy without being entitled to, is considered illegal and therefore must be removed¹². When it is not possible to immediately remove the foreigner, he can be held in a "Temporary Stay and Assistance Centre", now called Identification and Expulsion Centres (art. 14). This measure is issued by the "Questore" who, within 48 hours since the notification of the act, must transmit this measure to the Justice of the Peace, who is responsible for the place where the centre is located, for its confirmation.

The "Security Package" (DdL 733) - (May 2008) is a Legislative Decree that results in migrants facing greater segregation and increased racism. The law means: - that migrants who go to hospital can be reported to the police if they do not have a residence permit

- ▶ that migrants without a residence permit cannot legally recognize their children
- ▶ that migrants must have the residence permit for two years before they can marry
- ▶ that migrants must present a residence permit to send any money home. Moreover, the proposed law: - increases the detention of migrants up to 18 months

⁹ It operates in each "prefettura" and deals with foreign workers' first recruitment and family reunification issues and has been set up in each "Prefettura". The Desk was set up as provided for by art. 18 of the "Bossi-Fini" law (which amends art. 22 of the "Turco-Napolitano" law.

¹² (art. 10 and 13 of the legislative decree no. 286, 25 July 1998 "Consolidated Act of provisions related to the control of immigration and rules on foreigners' condition").

- ▶ asks for a fee of 200 euro every time a residence permit is released or renewed
- ▶ makes illegal entry a crime. This law denies fundamental human rights such as the right to the private life and the right to live with our own children. This law regards all migrants because according to the Bossi-Fini law when a migrant loses her/his job she/he becomes illegal.

III. (Un-)equal opportunities in school (autochthonous vs. allochthonous pupils)

1. Statistics, trends (How many students, where?)

The number of students children of immigrants increases with 70.000 units/year and have almost reached to 600.000 units in the school-year 2007-2008 (574.133) with an average incidence of 6,4% and a major concentration in primary and secondary school (but by 10% or more in Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Umbria) and a major concentration in primary and secondary school. According to information provided by the Ministry of Education, in Sicily there are 14,544 foreign students and account for 1, 6% of the regional school population. Palermo has the highest number of foreign students in the island: 3,344 pupils, representing 86 different nationalities.

2. Do pupils who belong to a minority have the same opportunities in school than majority pupils?

The primary Italian school system highlights an unbridgeable gap between North and South, Italians and foreigners with different opportunities and evident inequities. The school cannot guarantee the same quality training and new technologies to all. The North-East and even more the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano have learning outcomes that place them at the top of world rankings, while the South and the islands collapse to third world levels. Considering the same age, a student from the North has 68 points Pisa (Programme for International Student Assessment) more than a student from the South. The children in the afternoon communicate through social networks and in the morning in class they use methods of study of the last century. Teachers do not know how to use the computer and equal opportunities are rarely guaranteed. The family of origin, school reference, the background determine the future of a pupil, his/her chance or not to enter into the working world, to create a life on his/her own and being independent and this chance changes if coming from the North or from the South of the country. The Italian school also fails as a channel of social promotion. The family gap, measured by

the study degree of parents, as well as the environmental context determine specific results, much more than individual talent. We have of one the most numerous teaching staff in Europe and our teachers are

the oldest in Europe: the average age of the new hires in 2009 is 40 years old and only 24.6% support the use of computers in the classroom (OECD data). 75.9% of teachers are poorly prepared to address the relationship with different cultures, 72.7% emphasize the lack of opportunities for training and comparison with other teachers, 56.6% underline the difficulties encountered in innovating the curricula according to the new intercultural needs (Censis). Numerous studies have focused on primary school teaching in order to verify the transformation of educational practices induced by the presence of foreign pupils in the classroom and to explore the construction of prejudice and cognitive categories of perception of the phenomenon. The educational experience highlights the fact that the teachers prejudices have increased, which also implies a potential factor of slowdown of the -daily and long term- educational activities and the worsen communication difficulties between teachers and pupils but also between peers. The heterogeneity and diversity of the school attendance of migrants is in many ways a transformation resource of educational and professional practices and should encourage the updating of the curricula.

A school system with precarious means for adequate insertion implies many problems especially when the transfer occurs during the school-year. According to ministerial sources 42,5% of foreign students cannot cope with study requirements, lack school preparation and get behind especially in secondary school where 19% of the students enrolled are over 18 years old¹³.

IV. Actions for more justice in school

1. What has to be done to improve the current, possibly unequal opportunity-situation in the area of education?

According to the Law no. 40 and following Decrees (D.Lgs 286/1998 and D.P.R. 394/1999), foreigners under age who are in Italy, have the right to education and must attend compulsory school; they are subjected to all regulations in force concerning the right to education, the right to use education services and the right to take part in the life of the school community. The effectiveness of the right to education is guaranteed by the State, Regions and Local Authorities also through specific courses and initiatives for the learning of the Italian language. To support the integration of foreign students, it is not foreseen the presence of support teachers¹⁴, unless pupils are disabled, in which case all the measures foreseen for disabled pupils are applied.

¹³ Dossier Statistico Immigration 2008 - The XVIIIth Caritas/Migrantes Report, *Along the roads of future*

¹⁴ Non teaching staff operate regularly in schools; they are permanent state staff called ATA (administrative technical-auxiliary). Other professional figures can be provided (for example, psychologists, physicians, social assistants, cultural mediators, etc.); however, they are not part of the school staff; they are employed by other institutions (communes, provinces, local health authorities, etc.) which collaborate with schools, sometimes also through special agreements. Given the low institutional budget for this kind human resources the is a permanent lack of those figures in school system

A press release of M.I.U.R¹⁵ (8th January 2010) states:

The Ministry will allocate special funds for assistance to schools to support the integration of foreign children and additional funding will be provided for schools in areas with high presence of foreign citizens.

The maximum percentage of non-Italian pupils in each class may not exceed 30 percent. The limit will be gradually introduced from the first classes in all school levels and may also be exceeded if the foreigners have already incorporated the language skills to be included in the class without any difficulty.

But it is easy to predict that the provision contained in the "Indications and recommendations for the integration of non-Italian children" will raise controversy. "The presence of foreigners in the Italian school, often concentrated in certain classes - said the minister - is not a problem of racism but a particular problem in school planning.

In primary school – public or private – the percentage of pupils not moving up to the next grade is really low. For not Italian citizen it does reach the 3,6%.

	% of pupils moved up to next grade ¹⁶			
	tot. of pupils (a)	with no Italian citizenship (b)	Italian citizens (c)	difference (b-c)
Primary School	99,70%	96,40%	99,90%	-3,60%
Secondary School 1st grade	96,80%	90,50%	97,30%	-6,80%
Secondary School 2nd grade	85,80%	72,00%	86,40%	-14,40%

There are signs of difficulty related to children of immigrants, among them school drop-outs are increasing, which is attributable to the difficulties of family context as a whole and also specific problems in the relationship with the school. Often the image that the school gives these children themselves and the contexts of origin is negative and at odds with the perception they have of themselves. This causes a feeling of not belonging and exclusion that then acts negatively on academic performance and socialization.

Based on the results of the ITAGEN²¹⁷ survey in Rome and Lazio immigrant children show a less brilliant performance in school - with significant differences if we consider the different migration generations - compared to children born in Italy (related also to different family backgrounds - low, medium and high social status). The best results are achieved - as expected - by the children of Italian high social extraction, while for the low level of extraction the performances are lower and similar to that of the second migrant generation (children born in Italy by parents born abroad and those living in Italy for over 10 years). As usual, female achieve the highest performances.

¹⁵ Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca – Ministry of Education, University and Research).

¹⁶ See website: http://www.pubblica.istruzione.it/news/2007/allegati/alunni_n_ita_def.pdf - the publication refers to a survey "Pupils with no Italian citizenship 2006/2007".

¹⁷ Casacchia O., Natale L., Paterno A. e Terzera L. (a cura di) (2008) Studiare insieme, crescere insieme? Un'indagine sulle seconde generazioni in dieci regioni italiane, Franco Angeli, Fondazione ISMU, Milano.

2. Best practices

Note: the following paragraph (point IV.2) is entirely taken by the official website of the Italian Ministry of Interior and reflects the views only of the above mentioned.

CE.S.I.E states its frown upon principles and used vocabulary related to migrant individuals and communities as defined by the Italian Ministry.

Initiatives related to integration²³

These initiatives have the purpose of favouring the creation of an open and multiracial society, by means of the reception and the integration of the foreign citizens.

The State, Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, in the framework of their own competences, favour the following initiatives:

- the diffusion of any kind of useful information with the purpose of a positive integration of aliens in the Italian society, such as the knowledge of their own rights and obligations, the opportunities of integration and growth from the personal point of view and at the level of the relevant communities, offered by the public administrations and by the associations, as well as the possibilities of a positive reintegration into the country of origin;
- the knowledge and the enhancing of the cultural, recreational, social, economic and religious expressions of those aliens who regularly stay in Italy as well as each initiative of information about the reasons for immigration and of prevention of racial discrimination (Art. 42 of the Legislative Decree 286/98).

THE “CIVIS” PROJECT – TOWARDS A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY”

This project has been started by the Ministry of the Interior in compliance with the European programmes regarding immigration. This is a three-year-project, consisting in a series of initiatives for the promotion of the integration of immigrants, elaborated by RAI (Italian Broadcasting Corporation), financially supported by the European Union with the resources of the structural Fonds 2000/2006 in the framework of the Programme for the Security and Development of the South, approved by the Commission of the European Union.

On the website of the RAI (Italian Broadcasting Corporation) there are two sections devoted to the children from 4 to 10 years (www.junior.rai.it/cittadiniimmigrati), and to the Italian and foreign citizens (www.cittadiniimmigrati.rai.it)

²³ http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/temi/immigrazione/english_version/initiatives_related_to_integration.html

The purposes

- to help the non- EU migrants, by means of specific multi-media supports, to get integrated into our country
- to inform the Italian citizens in order to create a new awareness of the multiracial society
- to widespread a new image of the migrants among the public opinion, by explaining their contribution from the point of view of the work, as well as at the economic and demographic level, with the purpose of underlining the importance of their presence in our country
- to inform about the new social action carried out by the Ministry of the Interior

The addressees

- adults of Italian nationality so that, by means of a correct information activity:
 - they completely understand the complex framework of immigration and can contribute to the process of integration of the several ethnic groups.
 - they get to know the activity of the Ministry of the Interior aiming, on the one hand, at limiting the flows of illegal immigration and in particular the herewith connected criminal activities, and, on the other hand, at ensuring adequate living standards to the legal immigration
- adult immigrants as a whole, so that, also thanks to the initiatives expressly addressed to them, they can overcome the integration difficulties in our country
- the children of Italian nationality, so that they can get in touch, since their infancy, also with the persons who don't belong to their same culture or to their same ethnic group
- the immigrant children so that, even by means of the initiatives expressly concerning them, they can get to know the cultural and reference codes of the receiving country, by getting gradually integrated into the Italian society

The practical initiatives

- production of information and educational material addressed to non-EU migrants, in the shape of press prospects, audio- and video cassettes; each product shall be accomplished in seven editions in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arab, Philippine, Albanian
- diffusion, by means of the radio and TV programmes of the RAI (Italian Broadcasting Corporation), of the contents and of the messages which explain the possibilities of integration of the migrants in Italy and which inform the Italian citizens in this respect

In Italy there is no institutionalized method of verifying whether (and how) what has been learned in in-service trainings actually applied to didactic best practice²⁴.

²⁴The countries which do not have a structured model of school evaluation are those where school autonomy reforms have been developed fairly recently, only partially or are weak (Bulgaria, Greece, France, Italy, etc.). However, this approach to accountability has begun to emerge in a few of these countries. Italy, for example, has recently decided to develop evaluation instruments to measure the value added by each school in terms of pupil attainment.

Moreover, the school community welcomes linguistic and cultural differences as values which help granting mutual respect, exchange among cultures and tolerance. To this purpose the school promotes and encourages initiatives for the reception, the protection of the culture and language of origin and for the carrying out of common intercultural activities. According to Ministerial circular no. 24 of the 1st of March 2006, the Ministry published its 'Guidelines for reception and integration of foreign students'; they provide for not only a regulation framework but also some suggestions for the organisation and teaching, to favor both entrance of foreign students in the schools and their success in their studies and training.

Foreigners can attend Italian courses BUT the government approved the creation of "classi d'inserimento" ('classes of insertion'): these should make easier the introduction of foreign children in the Italian classes. On the contrary these classes lead to regression and discrimination.

N.B. Many of the provided information is taken by the website of the Ministry of Interior (<http://www.interno.it>) which actually shows transparently the attitude of the Italian Government in field of migration and only rarely matches the actual daily school reality, especially in the South of the country.

i The CTSA centers operate in:

- Agrigento, Lampedusa - 804 places
- Bari, area by airport - 744 places
- Brindisi Restinco-180 places
- Cagliari Elmas - 200 places
- Caltanissetta, Contrada Pian del Lago - 360 places
- Crotona Sant'Anna places - 1202 places
- Foggia, Borgo Mezzanone - 342 places
- Gorizia, Gradisca d'Isonzo - 112 places
- Siracusa, Cassibile - 200 places
- Trapani, Pantelleria - 25 places

ii The CEI centers currently operating are ten, with a capacity of 1,219 places:

- Bari-Palese airport area - 196 places
- Bologna, Chiarini Barracks - 95 places
- Caltanissetta, Contrada Pian del Lago - 96 places
- Catanzaro, Lamezia Terme - 75 places
- Gorizia, Gradisca d'Isonzo - 136 places
- Milan, Via Corelli - 112 places
- Modena City Sant'Anna - 60 places
- Rome, Bridge Gallery - 300 places
- Turin, Corso Brunelleschi - 92 places
- Trapani, Serraino Vulpitta - 57 places

iii The CARA centers operating are:

- Caltanissetta, Contrada Pian del Lago - 96 places
- Crotona Sant'Anna places - 256 places
- Foggia, Borgo Mezzanone - 198 places
- Gorizia, Gradisca d'Isonzo - 150 places
- Milan, Via Corelli - 20 places
- Drills, Salina Grande - 260 places