

IMMIGRANTS COMMUNITIES FROM ITALIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract: *International migration is one of the characteristic phenomena of the contemporary world. Several countries in Western Europe, like Germany, France, England, Spain, Italy and others, were experienced in the last two decades, successive waves of immigrants, whom social and cultural integration difficulties raised many communities human adoption. For example, more than 7.5% of Italy's current population (60.6 million people) is represented by foreigners, who are concentrated in metropolitan areas in the North and Center of the country. This study, conducted from a sociological perspective gives us significant information on the characteristics of current Italian society, the distribution by region of the Italian population living in this country, the reasons for the presence of immigrants in Italy, the geographical area and country origin of the foreign citizens, their age group and sex, the dynamics of migration flows, etc. The largest foreign community in Italy is made up of Romanian, Albanian and Moroccan. The main objective pursued in our research was to see a picture of the immigrant population in Italy and to know its structure based on relevant indicators. The underlying assumption, from which we started, is that the process of immigration is, in social terms, one of the most important processes that define the Italian society at present, a society undergoing a difficult period, because of the consequences of financial crisis. Our conclusions are based on quantitative analysis of data collected by statistical method. Other interpretations are based on appeal to the historical method and the comparative method.*

Key-words: *Italian society, the structure of immigrants, immigrant population, immigration reasons, migration flows*

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Introduction

In the present days, mankind is facing some global problems, such as: underdevelopment in several human societies, poverty, illiteracy, expansion of diseases, pollution, natural disasters, defending peace, international terrorism, consequences of the global economic crisis, migration of people from a continent to other etc.

At the end of 2010, the total number of international immigrants was around to 214 millions, and the country that faced the biggest number of immigrants was the United States of America (International Organization for Migration, 2011, p.115). In Europe, during the last two decades, the Italian society knew a veritable assault of the immigrant flows that has arrived especially for working, completing their families and studying. We mention that other societies (England, France, Germany, Spain) have faced, them too, successive waves of immigrants, whom social and cultural integration generated certain difficulties for the local communities (e.g. ensuring houses for the exceeding population) and for the educational institutions (e.g. acquiring to school the immigrant children, who arrived of different social and cultural environments).

Sociological examination of the immigration phenomenon from Italy is requesting, from one side, to establish the structure of immigrants, and, on the other, to evaluate the different percentages of foreigners. We may conceive the immigrants structure if we are starting from several indicators, such as:

1. distribution on regions of the foreign population from Italy;
2. reasons for the immigrants presence on the Italian territory;
3. geographical area and the departure countries (the citizenship of the immigrants);
4. age, sex and marital status;
5. dynamics of the immigrants flows in different period of times.

The data that we will present in this study are regarding the immigrants who have legal documents for residence (*permessi de soggiorno*), who are officially registered in Italy, at the beginning by the Statistical Service- Ministry of Interior and, later, by the National Statistical Institute. In this context, we have to mention that the elaboration of a data base for Italian immigrants was first conceived in 1992 by the National Statistical Institute (*Istat*), which it is a component element of the *Sistema Statistico Nazionale*. Consequently, the informations on the foreign population from Italy (till 1992) are in the archive of the Italian Ministry of Interior. This means that the sociological research of the immigration phenomenon from Italy is deprived (in a statistical sense) by the informations on the other immigrants, that have arrived in this country without being registered in official documents, and whom number is hard to appreciate.

Therefore, statistical data offer us an overview on the immigration phenomenon, but not a complete, detailed one. Other data, sociological relevant, are those resulted from poll queries, case studies, interviews etc.

1. General and specific characteristics of the Italian society ■■■

In order to understand the present Italian society, with all its structures and manifestations, it is important to know certain specific data: historical data, cultural and educational data, and political, economic, demographic and administrative ones. Italy is one of the 48 countries of the European continent and it is situated on the south part of it. Its territory encompasses 301.230 square kilometres (being placed, on this criterion, on the 7 rank of the 191 world states) and consists mainly in a peninsula and two big islands – Sicily and Sardinia – situated on the Mediterranean Sea. In the North, Italy is crossed by the Alps Mountains and is neighbouring France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia (according to <http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia>, June 2010).

By its past and values created over the time, Italy was stated as a prodigious source of history (especially in ancient times), as a queen of European culture (especially in the Renaissance) and as diffusion factor of the attributed of civilized social life (in all historical eras).

Historically, Italy was the centre of radiation in ancient Roman Empire, which stretched almost across Europe, leaving deep scars and evidence of material civilization and social life in the territories that it conquered and dominated. Then, in the Middle Age there were built stately castles and religious establishments that are showing Italians sophistication in architecture and their creative power in the field of building. Later, the Italian Renaissance imposed to the world a gallery of brilliant minds, who are representative for the arts (Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello, Botticelli, Michelangelo), literature (Francesco Petrarca, Dante Alighieri, Giovanni Boccaccio), science and other fields of cultural creation.

In Modern times Italy became (like other European countries in the nineteenth century) a national state, on March 17, 1861. Then, King Victor Emmanuel II (from the Savoy dynasty) unified states of the peninsula and the *Two Sicilies*. However, for nearly a decade, Rome was under the authority of the Papacy, so that the final date of Italian unification is considered to be September 20, 1870 (the architect of this building is considered the prime minister of Victor Emmanuel). On the Peninsula territory, there are two small countries - the Vatican and San Marino - which are surrounded by Italian territory, being independent enclaves. The Vatican is even the smallest country in Europe and occupies a small area in the centre of the capital – Rome, and San Marino - is located in the western part of Italy with an opening to the Adriatic Sea and neighboring Venice

In terms of **culture** Italy is representative and unique in almost all branches of cultural creation. Art (painting, sculpture, architecture, music, fashion, film), nature sciences, law, literature, football are fields of creation and activity that are illustrative for the major contributions of all the thinkers and talents of the Italian society. From several centuries, internal spiritual life is complemented and supported the Roman Catholic religion. We know that Rome is the centre of this world religion, that is headed by a Pope, and the Vatican represents the Roman Catholic world headquarters (in 2010 statistics showed that, on the globe, there were 1.18 billion Catholics). In the same time, Italy is one of the most visited European countries, by the tens of millions of tourists, from all the continents, being a real country of world tourism.

Therefore, Italy represents not only a big economic power, but also a tourist power, qualities at which we can add also that it has a higher education system with an old tradition, well-known all over the world.

We mention that, for instance, the first university form the world was established in 1065, in Parma, followed by the one of Bologna (1088) - where in 1999 was set the higher education restructuring process, for the European Union Member States (with the three cycles: Bachelor - 3 years, Master - 2 years and Doctoral school - 3 years) – then by the foundation of the universities form Modena (1175), Padova (1232), Siena (1240), Perugia (1276), Rome ("La Sapienza ", 1303), Florence (1321) etc.

From a **political** point of view, Italy knew two distinct periods, between 1922 and 1948, which marked the transition from the fascist dictatorship and, then, to the republic.

Since 1922, Italy was ruled by Benito Mussolini and his political party, who has established the fascist dictatorship in the country and have made a disastrous alliance with Germany and Japan during the Second World War (Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis)

The Axis Power was defeated, and Mussolini ended by being executed. Soon after the war it was held a referendum on the monarchy, which took place on June 2, 1946, its results expressing the option of the Italian people for republic, which led to the adoption of a new constitution on January 1, 1948 (which established a bicameral Parliament - the Chamber of Deputies, with 630 members and the Senate - with 315 members elected).

Royal family was sent into exile, being accused that he supported Mussolini's fascist dictatorship. In fact, the choice of Italians for the republic, as that of the Communist Party of Romania (which forced King Michael I to abdicate, proclaiming the Romanian People's Republic, on December 30, 1947), was making the Royal presence unnecessary and risky, in a country devastated by war and affected by social disorder, the exile being the only solution.

Rebuilding the country after the war was difficult and time consuming. For this reason, many Italians have chosen the external migration, settling for a long time or permanently in other countries, that were less affected by the consequences of the Second World War.

Our days, the Italian political scene is dominated by the direct confrontation between the two alliances - the centre-right and centre-left ones, who are succeeding at the governance. The last elections, from April 2008, were in favour of the right-group leader, Silvio Berlusconi, who became premier for the third time, and the coalition of parties led by him won the most seats in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Although they were disappointed by inefficient role of the political class, the stagnant rhythm of the economy and the electoral law (because of which during the last 63 years have been 62 general elections), the Italians that were present at the second edition of the electoral show from Italy (April 13, 2008) decided to return to the political forces of right. Centre-right alliance assumed by Berlusconi's voice, "the campaign to save Alitalia from bankruptcy," stopping "of the immigrants and crime crisis", "implementation of economic reforms", etc.

Internationally, Italy is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and of the European Union. She also joined the group of EU countries which actively promoted the political and monetary European unification, thus requiring the adoption of the euro in Italy, since 1999. In the same time, Italy is part of the world's biggest industrialized states (G8), due to its economic performances.

Economically, we find out that Italy is the sixth economy in the world, after the United States of America, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and France. Although in the global hierarchy its rank is at the forefront, in relation to other European partners it occupies a certain place in order to mobilize it to get new economic performances and to resist to the European and international competitiveness. In this way, the Italian government initiated a series of short-term reforms, in order to stimulate the competitiveness of national economy and to generate its long-term growth. We may note that Italy has pursued, over the past decade, a strong fiscal policy, which has managed to maintain a low inflation rate, which allowed it to join to the countries that were using the Euro. This allowed it to control the external balance, with positive effects on the population's living standards. In this context, we must provide that most of the raw materials needed by the Italian industry and over 75% of Italian domestic energy consumption are covered by imports.

Italy has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1550 billion \$, which ranks it on the 8th position in the world, and per capita the GDP is around \$ 30.700. Generally, in the Italian society living is relatively easy, especially in large urban centres, where the ordinary citizen is earning enough to cover its material needs and to lead a decent

and civilized life (the average salary is 30,000 euro, per year). Italy's main cities are not only those that have the role of residence of the region, but also different others. For example, we may note: Rome (the capital city), Genoa, Turin, Milan, Bologna, Ravenna, Venice, Livorno, Florence, Naples, Palermo, etc. Among the best known rivers that cross the country we may highlight the Pad River, Tiber, Adige, Arno.

During the past three years, the Italian society has known, as most countries in the world, the negative impact on the socio-economic and political plan of the global crisis, which worsened, primarily, the situation of immigrants, who are the most exposed to the risk of unemployment (fact that forced them to think of returning to their countries of origin).

The excessive development of the budgetary system and the increasing of public debt (which places it, after Greece, on the second rank in the European Union, debt estimated at 1,9 trillion dollars, which is representing 116% of Italian GDP), the financial instability of banking institutions and their dependence on the European Central Bank, the decline of wages and deteriorating of the living standards, the phenomenon of corruption, the threat of financial bankruptcy of the Greek economy, etc. affected the situation of immigrants from all over Italy. The economic recession and the deterioration of life conditions has determined national public protests in Italy, which have obliged the government held by Silvio Berlusconi to resign, in November 2011.

Note that Italy has a capitalist economy, which is divided into two main branches of activities:

1. *Prosperous industrial activities*, dominated by private companies, especially present in the north of the country, illustrative being city of Turin (where is the famous firm *Fiat*) and Milan, but are also present in the middle of Italy;
2. *Agricultural activities*, land cultivation in the plains, especially the South, that are temporary and generate an unemployment rate of about 20% (dry land and prolonged drought in Sicily maintain this part of the country in a social and economic underdevelopment). The climate is Mediterranean and, generally, the temperatures are positive over several months

In terms of **demography**, Italy is also a world power, being ranked on the 22 place in the world, according to the number of inhabitants: 60,045,100 (on January 1, 2009). Regarding the population density, it is 196 inhabitants per square kilometres, which places it in 5th place among other European countries. Now, the Italy's population is lower than that of Germany (82,002,400 inhabitants), France (64,367,000 inhabitants) and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (61,595,000 inhabitants), but higher than all of other EU-27 countries.

Table 1
Population of European Union (2007 and 2009)

No.	Country	Total population 2007	Total population 2009
	Belgium	10.584.534	10.753.100
	Bulgaria	7.679.290	7.606.600
	Czech Republic	10.287.189	10.467.500
	Denmark	5.447.084	5.511.500
	Germany	82.314.906	82.002.400
	Estonia	1.342.409	1.340.400
	Ireland	4.314.634	4.450.400
	Greece	11.171.740	11.260.400
	Spain	44.474.631	45.828.200
	France	63.392.140	64.367.000
	Italy	59.131.287*1	60.045.100
	Cyprus	778.684	796.900
	Latvia	2.281.305	2.261.300
	Lithuania	3.384.879	3.349.900
	Luxemburg	476.187	493.500
	Hungary	10.066.158	10.031.000
	Malta	407.810	413.600
	The Netherlands	16.357.992	16.485.800
	Austria	8.298.923	8.355.300
	Poland	38.125.479	38.135.900
	Portugal	10.599.095	10.627.300
	Romania	21.565.119	21.498.600
	Slovenia	2.010.377	2.032.400
	Slovakia	5.393.637	5.412.300
	Finland	5.276.955	5.326.300
	Sweden	9.113.257	9.256.000
	United Kingdom	60.852.828	61.595.100
	EU-27	495.128.529	499.703.300

Source: Eurostat, *Population and Social Conditions in Europe* (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>)

Currently, the Italian society is mainly formed by older generations (average age was 41.4 years in 2004), and the birth rate is low (of 9.5 per thousand inhabitants), as in almost all of the other Western societies. The massive infusion of immigrants from

* In the archives of the National Statistical Institute of Italy (Istat), it is mentioned that the population of Italy was (on the 1st of January 2007) 58,751,711 inhabitants.

the last decade and a half is likely to stop the population decline and, in the same time, to provide an increased birth rate (especially by reproducing the families of Arabs, Muslims, Africans and Roma).

If from the economic, political and cultural point of view Italian society is characterized by diversity, from the linguistic and religious point of it is generally homogeneous. The official language is Italian throughout the country, but in some regions we meet also a second language as official, such as German and Latin in the South-Tyrol, Slovenian in Friuli - Venezia Giulia and French in Valle d'Aosta. In some areas of the country there are also minority ethnic groups, but numerically small, the largest one being that of the Germans in South Tyrol (in number of 287,503 people in 1991, and who are speaking German) and that of the Slovenes from Trieste (Slovene-speaking).

Except these communities, we meet other minority groups: the group of Valle d'Aosta - who are speaking French; of those who are speaking Catalan - in the city of Alghero and in Sardinia; of those who are speaking Albanian - in some villages of Calabria and Sicily; of those who are speaking the ancient Greek dialects - in the villages of Calabria and so on.

Religion shared by the overwhelming majority of Italians is Roman - Catholic, a fact that can be explained by the tradition of this nation and the existence of the Papacy in Rome. Statistics show us that 85% of native Italians are Catholics. Another religion important, according to the number of adherents, is the Protestant, which ranks the second place after Catholicism. In third place is situated Jewish religion, followed by Muslims - due to the increasing of the Islamic immigrant community

Italian society is a permanent source of international brands. So, they are well known foods like pizza or pasta; *Fiat* cars; *Cinecittà* studios; *Scala* opera in Milan; the *Duomo* in Florence; the Milan fashion houses; football teams and clubs like *AS Rome* and *Lazio*, *Juventus* in Turin; *Fiorentina* in Florence etc. Football is the main national sport in Italy and it brought to the country many European and world trophies

Popular lifestyle from Italy is a dynamic and noisy one; the Italians are talkative, adopting high tones in public places. For Romanian, Italian language is accessible and easy to learn: this is, perhaps, the reason that has determined them to work or to remain permanently in this country. Italians are generally opened people, communicative, cheerful and full of life.

2. Foreign population resident in Italy **(distribution by regions)**

At the beginning of the 90's, the immigration flows (or the main migration flows), which concerned the Italians, were those that have left from the North African

countries, especially Morocco and Tunisia, where it was a potentially explosive situation, generated by mixing between difficult economic situation and the high birth rate. The three countries from North Africa are Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. They called the *Maghreb*, which in Arabic means "sunset", "because the lands beyond the Egypt are considered Western ones" (Luigi Price, 1993, p. 59).

Morocco had about 21 million inhabitants and an average of 6 children per woman. Analysts have noted a shift in past migration flows from here - which were having as initial destinations Belgium, France, Holland and Germany - to new destinations such as Spain and Italy. Tunisia, located about 150 km from Sicily, had a population of about 5 million inhabitants, of which 65-70% is under 25 and a high fertility rate (3.39 children per woman). Algeria had a population almost equal to that of Morocco and a strong desire to emigrate, mainly satisfied by taking refuge in France, from historical and economic reasons.

In the past, Egypt did not represent an important source of immigrants for Italy, but the number of 50 million of inhabitants could be a latent source of growing the interest for the Peninsula. Turkey had an increasing population, as Egypt, exceeding 50 million, but emigration from here was especially to Germany. Among Asian countries, the Philippines had a low standard of living and an increased migration flow, its 50 million populations being oriented to the UK (ibid: 58-50). Other immigrants that have arrived in Italy came from Sri Lanka, Senegal, Bangladesh, Somalia, etc. The interest of the authorities for the migrant's knowledge was related in particular to their social absorption capacity and to avoid the amplification intolerant attitudes of the Italian population towards foreigners.

Later, after 1990, the hierarchy of the seven states mentioned above, which had over 10 thousands of immigrants in Italy, will undergo changes due to the entry into the current migration to the peninsula of the citizens from other European countries (especially from countries issued by the communist dictatorship). This explains why, later in the period after 1990, citizens of former communist countries, such as Albania and Romania, will come to lie on some of the first places among immigrants in Italy.

In terms of administrative-territorial organization, Italy is divided into 20 regions, of which five (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardinia, Trentino - South Tyrol, Valle d'Aosta) enjoy a special status of autonomy. We may note that each region has a capital city and that a region can be subdivided into provinces. The following table represents a list of the 20 regions, with their capitals and the number of foreigners registered in these regions. From this statistical evidence, we can form an eloquent image on the foreign distribution by regions.

Table 2
Regions and foreigners residents in Italy at January 1, 2007 and January 1, 2011

No.	Region	Capital	Foreigners - 2007 -		Foreigners - 2011 -	
			Absolute data	% from the population of the region	Absolute data	% from the population of the region
1.	Abruzzo	Aquila	48.018	3.7	80.987	6.22
2.	Valle d Aosta	Aosta	5.534	4.4	8.712	0.2
3.	Puglia	Bari	51.242	1.3	95.709	2.1
4.	Basilicata	Potenza	6.726	1.1	14.738	0.3
5.	Calabria	Cantazaro	35.216	1.8	74.602	1.6
6.	Campania	Napoli	98.052	1.7	164.268	3.4
7.	Emilia-Romagna	Bologna	317.888	7.5	500.597	11.0
8.	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Trieste	72.462	6.0	105.286	2.3
9.	Lazio	Roma	330.146	6.0	542.688	11.9
10.	Liguria	Genova	80.735	5.0	105.320	2.3
11.	Lombardia	Milano	728.647	7.6	1.064.447	23.3
12.	Marche	Ancona	99.285	6.5	146.368	3.2
13.	Molise	Campobasso	4.834	1.5	8.929	0.2
14.	Piemonte	Torino	252.302	5.8	398.910	8.7
15.	Sardinia	Cagliari	19.445	1.2	37.853	0.8
16.	Sicilia	Palermo	78.241	1.6	141.904	3.1
17.	Trentino – Tirolul de Sud	Trento	61.674	6.2	90.321	2.0
	Trento		- 33.280		48.622	1.1
	Bolzano Bolzen		- 28.394		41.699	0.9
18.	Toscana	Florența	234.398	6.4	364.152	8.0
19.	Umbria	Perugia	63.861	7.3	99.849	2.2
20.	Veneto	Veneția	350.215	7.3	504.667	11.0
	TOTAL		2.938.922	100.0	4.570.317	100.0

Source: Istat, date combinate din La popolazione straniera residente in Italia al 1° gennaio 2007, p. 17 și 18; La popolazione straniera residente in Italia al 1° gennaio 2011, p. 9

Statistical information shows us that, in absolute numbers, the largest foreign communities are established in the following regions: Lombardy (1,064,447 persons), with the capital in Milan; Lazio (542 688), with its capital in Rome; Veneto (504 667), with capital in Venice; Emilia-Romagna (500 597), with its capital in Bologna; Piemonte (398 919) with its capital in Turin; Tuscany (364 152), with the capital in Florence.

From the above table we find out that 23.3% of all foreigners in Italy are registered in the Lombardy region, where 8.4% of foreigners living in Milan. Other regions in which there is a large number of immigrants are: Lazio (11.9% of total immigrants), Veneto (11.0%), Emilia-Romagna (11.0%). In the Lazio region, most foreigners are concentrated in Rome (9.7% of all foreigners living in Italy). Overall, the population of immigrants from Italy increased within four years from 2,938,922 people (January 1, 2007) to 4,570,317 (January 1, 2011), which implies an increase with 1,631,395 immigrants (resulting an increase of 35.7%).

The statistical documents, released under the aegis of the *Italian National Statistics Institute* (ISTAT) operate with greater geographical divisions of the territory, including also the 20 regions listed above. In this sense, there is the following national reference structure (with corresponding regions) for presentation of statistical information:

- North-West of the country: Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta, Lombardia, Liguria;
- North-East: Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna;
- Centre: Toscana, Umbria, Marche, Lazio;
- South: Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria;
- Islands: Sicilia, Sardinia.

An examination, from a historical point of view, of the trend of immigrants in Italy leads us to the conclusion that in the early decades of the XXI century (January 1, 2003), the main regions of Italy where the immigrants with legal documents were established were, in decreasing their numerical order, the following:

1. *Lombardy*: 346,768 people (over 23% of total immigrants), the largest concentration being at Milan (170,300), capital of the region, and in Brescia (56.036), Varese (21,076), Como (15 310) and Mantova (15.175);
2. *Lazio*: 238,586 people (about 16% of the 1,503,286 immigrants), of whom 213,657 lived in Rome (i.e. 14.21% of all immigrants in Italy);
3. *Veneto*: 153,524 people (over 10% of total immigrants), mostly located in cities Treviso (35,839), Verona (35 817), Vicenza (34,870), Padua (11.524) and Venice (8,992), the capital of this region;

4. *Emilia-Romagna*: 147,787 people (9.83%) concentrated in this region - Bologna (34.660) and the cities of Modena (25.445) and Reggio nell'Emilia (20,544);
5. *Tuscany*: 111,133 people (7.39%), the largest group being in the capital of this region - Firenze (35.537);
6. *Piemonte*: 107,950 persons (7.18%), more than half (57,403) being in the capital of this region - Turin, and then in the cities Cuneo (13,214) and Novara (10,075) (Istat su dati del Ministero dell'Interno: 120)

Although all the 1.503. 286 immigrants were scattered in all of the 20 regions of Italy, a total of six of these had over a half (51%) of all immigrants with residence documents on January 1, 2003 (each of the six regions having over 100 thousand immigrants). Usually, the more the city is bigger, the share of immigrants is higher, the great urban concentrations from Italy absorbing the largest contingent of immigrants.

3. Reasons for the presence of foreigners in Italy

Western Europe is characterized by a high standard of living and a very low birth rate of the population. However, Third World countries, that are poor and very poor, have a relatively high birth rate index (in Africa, for example, it was 3% in the last decade of the twentieth century), and a poor economy, unable to absorb the surplus labor force. Because of the lack of jobs and of the possibility of living, the only saving was an emigration to these countries known for their better conditions of life, offered to their own citizens. Many people come from the African, Asian and Arabic world, from the former European communist countries began to exert a strong migratory pressure on industrialized nations, especially after 1990.

In Italy, the first legislation on immigrants was recorded in 1986. During the '60s, immigrants from underdeveloped states began to come to this country in large numbers. Later, the flow of migration to Italy has increased, and by the '70s, the foreign migration has become a real problem for the Italian society and for the institutions responsible for the fate of the country.

A research on the migration from Italian society, undertaken in 1978, has aroused the interest of governmental authorities, trade unions and political parties. Advanced data for the evaluation of the immigrants from Italy, at that time, stood to around 350.000 foreigners. In 1986 it was established the *Advisory Commission* – as a representative body of immigrants. Also in 1986, the Italian Parliament passed the Law no. 943, which established the day of January 27, 1987 as the last term to regularize the situation of immigrants in Italy. Because of the delay, the deadline was extended until the autumn of 1988 (Luigi Price, 1993, p. 40).

According to some appreciations, the Law no. 943 of 1986 "largely failed. The data speak clearly: those admitted were only 106,000. These, added to those who had been admitted before, reached about 400,000: a smaller number than the actual number of immigrants in Italy. It had a great influence on bankruptcy of the law from 1986 the fact that, those that were legally residents, if they did not managed to find a job, could be expelled" (Luigi Price, 1993, pp. 40-41).

In addition, "it was ignoring the immigration control and was making him even ineffective". The main reason for the immigration of foreigners in Italy was in the beginning, for working. Before 1989, this country was confronting with the phenomenon of unemployment, which affected about 2.5 million workers. Hence the fear, widespread among Italian citizens, that they will lose their jobs because of foreign workers who accepted lower wages than the Italians and had no complaints about working conditions. Some opinion polls showed that 7 of 10 Italians "wanted to send the immigrants of colour to their homes and to block their other future entries in Italy" (Luigi Price, 1993, p. 43).

The strong increase of the immigrants' flows, on the one hand, and domestic public reactions, on the other hand, have led the Italian official institutions to order a scientific research on immigration - completed in March 1990. This was giving a real perspective of knowledge of the phenomenon and was providing to the officials an important number of conclusive data.

For example, one of the research results at that time was that "the immigrant citizen is, on average, 30 years old and not married; 58.1% of immigrants are in Italy for at least three years, while 31.6% came to Italy previously during the increase of this process. Among the reasons for choosing Italy the most dominant are those of a stable job perspective (40.3%) and easiness of entering in Italy (40.3%)" (Ibid: 44). Other informations were attesting that among "the non-EU registered, self-dependent workers are about 25%. Those who are searching for a job are about 40%. The others are in Italy for family reasons, study and tourism" (Luigi Price, 1993, p. 64).

When we are examining the presence of foreigners in Italy we may use also other analytical descriptors, such as the residence documents (*permessi di soggiorno*). These were made available to all foreigners who are possessing legal documents to live in Italy. Holding a residence permit is an important for a foreigner to be included in the resident population registers. Because sometimes this permit was not obtained from any foreigner, means that the number of resident foreigners does not coincide with the number of foreigners who have residence permits.

The consultation of the data mentioned on the residence permits of foreigners - at January 1, 2007 and recorded by the National Institute of Statistics of Italy, on the basis of information provided by the Ministry of Interior - allows us to disclose the same main reasons for the presence of immigrant communities in this country:

- 1) For *work* – 60.60% of the total of the foreigners;
- 2) For *family reunion* – 31.62% of the total of immigrants; on sex: 48.4% of women and 14.6% of men came in Italy to reunion their family;
- 3) For *study* – 2.14% (more women came in Italy for study – 28,108 – than men). The 51.625 documents for study (their number increasing, comparing to 2005 – 40,355 and 2006 – 48,718) was interesting especially the Albanians, the Americans, Chinese and Romanians;
- 4) For *residence* - 1.85%: residence permits for selected residence in Italy – 44847- January 1, 2007 - were granted, at a rate of about 60%, to Germans, English, French, Swiss and North American. Their number has been decreasing compared to previous years (41,573 in 2006, 61,876 in 2005)
- 5) *Religious* - 1.33%: permissions granted for religious reasons (32,081- January 1, 2007) were mostly offered to Spanish, Polish and women from India and the Philippines. The number of permits issued for religious reasons was down from previous years (34,251 in 2006 and 53,249 in 2005);
- 6) *Political Asylum* - 0.66%; political asylum permits (16,079) and on humanitarian grounds (about 13 thousand, included in "other reasons") refers especially to those granted to persons coming from Eritrea and Kosovo (about 30% of cases), territories marked by internal ethnic conflicts. The number of permits for reasons of political asylum was maintained, with some deviations, relatively constant in the recent years (17,833 cases in 2005, 14,932 in 2006);
- 7) *Other reasons* - 1.80%; in addition to humanitarian ones, into this category are also the permits for adoption (being the least: at January 1, 2007 3,700 units.), mainly for children from Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Brazil and Colombia, as well as the support permits (about 3,500) offered to Albanians and Moroccans (Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno, p. 40)

4. Structure of immigrants according to geographical area and by country of origin

In order to ensure a thorough knowledge of the immigration phenomenon it is important to know from which countries are coming the immigrants (their citizenship), and what is their gender structure. In the first 8 years of the twenty-first century, the Italian society has received an impressive number of foreigners. Thus, if on 1st of January 2001 the residence permits were 1,379,749, on 1st of January 2007 their number had reached 2,938,922 people, which means an increase with 213% of immigrants.

Further, we present the structure of immigrants from Italy - holders of residence permits – according to the geographical continents of origin. In addition, we must specify that the development of the database relating to foreign presence in Italy was initiated barely in 1992 by the National Statistics Institute of Italy. Therefore, the informations about foreign immigrants in Italy, until 1992, are in the possession of the statistical office of the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Table 3
Foreign population in Italy, on continents of origin and sex
(1st of January 2001-2003)

Year Sex Continent	2001			2002			2003		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Europe	280.136	280.452	560.588	289.120	307.124	596.244	302.227	337.339	639.566
Africa	268.134	120.193	388.327	271.177	129.873	401.050	267.102	134.340	401.442
Asia	145.343	119.697	265.040	149.718	128.285	278.003	149.219	131.912	281.131
America	50.765	112.025	162.790	53.390	116.582	169.972	56.937	120.915	177.852
Oceania	1.087	1.343	2.430	1.555	1.392	2.547	1.204	1.476	2.680
Stateless	371	203	574	370	206	576	387	228	615
Total	745.836	633.913	1.379.749	764.930	683.462	1.448.392	777.076	726.210	1.503.286

Source : *Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno* (data collected in 2006 from the pp. 49-50; 105-106)

As we can see also from the table above, the number of immigrants in Italy has increased continuously during the first three years of the twenty-first century: with 68,000 people in 2002 compared to 2001, and 54,000 persons in 2003 compared to 2002 . So, on the 1st of January 2003 there were in Italy with 122,000 holders of residence permits more than on the 1st of January 2001. Most immigrants came from Europe, from Africa and Asia.

In 2003 the situation of immigrants in Italy, according to nationality and departure are was as follows:

- about 43% of those with residence permits were from Europe (especially from the central-eastern part: 467,434 people, coming mainly from Albania – 171,567 and Romania – 94,818);
- a number of 150,866 were citizens of the 15 countries Member States of the EU from that time;
- about 27% were from Africa (especially from Morocco – 170,746 persons and Senegal – 36,959);
- about 19% were from Asia (mainly from Philippines – 65,575; China – 64,100; India – 34,324; Bangladesh – 22,237);

- about 12% were from America (especially from United States – 45,632; Peru – 31,323 and Brazil – 20,941);
- 0.15% was from Oceania.

We may note that on all immigrants, males have a higher percentage (approximately 52% in 2003) than females (48% in the same year). For those coming from Romania, the men dominated only in 2001, because since 2002 there has been a sharp increase of female immigrants. They represented 51.79% of Romanians with residence permits in Italy in 2002 (82,555 persons) and 53.76% in 2003. Moreover, we can see a general trend of increase the number of female immigrants coming to Italy from the European continent. For example, in 2001 over 50% of immigrants were female, and, in 2003, their share in the total of the European immigrants reached to about 53%.

In exchange, the immigrants from Africa and Asia are, mostly, men; in 2003, African men represented about 67% from the total of the persons coming from the black continent, and the Asian men represented over 53% from the Asian arrived in Italy. Almost 70% of people coming from America to Italy were also male. Foreign nationals who possessed residence permits in Italy numbered 490,388 people in 1989. This year shows a massive presence of those coming from countries which granted a right to free movement for their own citizens. Thus, there are a total of seven nations that were having, in 1989, over 10,000 citizens' immigrants in Italy, registered with residence permits:

1. Morocco – 26.752 persons (5.5% of the total of 490,388 legal immigrants);
2. Yugoslavia – 17.124 persons (3.5%);
3. Philippines – 16.131 persons (3.3%);
4. Tunisia – 14.145 persons (2.9%);
5. Iran – 11.827 persons (2.4%);
6. Egypt – 10.209 persons (2.1%);
7. Poland – 10.091 persons (2.1%) (*Ibid*: 62).

Just after 1990, citizens of former communist countries such as Albania and Romania will arrive to rank on the first places among immigrants in Italy. For example, the number of legal Romanian immigrants in Italy has increased continuously from 8,250 persons in 1992 (January 1) to 12,026 persons in 1995, and later, to 26,894 people in 1997 (January 1). Similarly, the number of Albanians with residence permits in Italy has evolved rapidly upward, from 24,886 (January 1, 1992) to 25,245 (1 January 1995), reaching 66, 608 people (January 1, 1997). On the 1st of January 2003, 171,567 Albanians were registered in Italy and 94,818 Romanian were holders of residence permits in this country. On the 1st of January 2001, the first

five nations that "fuelled" the phenomenon of immigration in Italy were, in descending order of number of persons, the following:

1. Morocco – 162.254 persons;
2. Albania – 146.321 persons;
3. Romania – 69.991 persons;
4. Philippines – 65.073 persons;
5. China – 60.143 persons.

Total: 503.782 persons.

They were forming 36.51% of the registered immigrants from Italy (1,379,749) (Ibid: 51). In 2003 (January 1) there is a change at the top of the hierarchy of the five countries, meaning that Albania goes the first, although all five countries continue to remain in the top (Romania retaining, also in 2003, the third position, occupied since 2001). On the 1st of January 2007, a distinguished record of immigrants, on countries of origin, was like that:

Table 4
Number of immigrants, by countries of origin

1. Albania – 171.567 persons	26. Switzerland – 15.852
2. Morocco – 170.746	27. Ukraine – 14.802
3. Romania – 94.818	28. Russia – 12.787
4. Philippines – 65.575	29. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 12.776
5. China – 64.010	30. Ecuador – 12.281
6. Tunis – 51.137	31. Algeria – 11.943
7. United States – 45.642	32. Dominican Republic – 11.794
8. Yugoslavia – 40.237	33. Columbia – 11.490
9. Senegal – 36.959	34. Argentina – 11.266
10. Germany – 36.320	35. Cuba – 10.086
11. Sri Lanka – 35.696	36. Bulgaria – 8.535
12. Poland – 34.980	37. Austria – 8.254
13. India – 34.324	38. Greece – 7.271
14. Peru – 31.323	39. Japan – 7.124
15. Egypt – 31.061	40. Ivory Coast – 7.122
16. France – 26.274	41. Moldavia, Republic of – 7.111
17. Macedonia – 26.210	42. Turkey – 6.846
18. United Kingdom – 24.491	43. Holland – 6.763
19. Bangladesh – 22.237	44. Mauritius – 6.407
20. Brazil – 20.941	45. Iran – 5.814

21. Spain – 20.930	46. Eritrea – 5.598
22. Pakistan – 20.616	47. Somalia – 4.882
23. Ghana – 19.691	48. Belgium – 4.867
24. Nigeria – 19.508	49. Mexico – 4.772
25. Croatia – 16.858	50. Portugal – 4.732
	51. Other countries – 119.960
Total = 1.503.286 persons	

Source: *Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno*, data collected in 2006, p.107)

In 2005 (December 31), over a third (33.5%) of foreigners carrying residence permits in Italy (2,271,680) were people who came from Romania (11.9%), Albania (11.3 %) and Morocco (10.3%). In descending order of percentages, we find citizens of Ukraine (5.2%), China (4.9%) and others (Source: Ministero dell Interno e Caritas, ISMU - Centro Documentazione).

A comparative analysis of foreigners registered in 2004 and 2007 in Italy shows us that the main continents and demographic basins from where they started are Europe, Africa and America. Data in the table below are illustrative for the knowledge of the dynamics of immigrants and of their share, according to the states of origin.

Table 5
The resident foreign population – on sex, age, geographical area and the main citizenship countries (1st of January 2004 and 2007)

Geographical areas and the citizenship countries	1st of January 2004			1st of January 2007			Variation % MF in this period of time
	M	F	MF	M	F	MF	
EUROPE	423.600	490.020	913.620	629.282	756.224	1.394.506	52.6
E.U. 15	51.344	82.201	133.545	57.648	91.263	148.911	11.5
Countries that recently entered the E.U.:							
Poland	106.426	139.306	245.732	197.176	260.101	457.277	86.1
Romania	10.557	29.757	40.314	20.516	51.941	72.457	79.7
Bulgaria	86.754	91.058	177.812	162.154	180.046	342.200	92.5
	4.902	6.565	11.467	8.486	11.438	19.924	73.8
E.U. 27	157.770	221.507	379.277	254.824	351.364	606.188	59.8
Central and Eastern Europe:							
Albania	260.042	261.451	521.493	368.856	406.953	775.809	48.8
	155.082	115.301	270.383	209.209	166.738	375.947	39.0

Ukraine	8.551	49.420	57.971	23.058	97.012	120.070	107.1
Moldavia	6.607	13.038	24.645	19.488	36.315	55.803	126.4
Other European countries	5.788	7.062	12.850	5.602	6.907	12.509	-2.7
AFRICA	342.669	207.132	549.801	461.200	288.697	749.897	36.4
North Africa	244.166	136.114	380.280	328.538	193.995	522.533	37.4
Morocco	157.178	96.184	253.362	205.852	137.376	343.228	35.5
Tunis	45.775	22.855	68.630	58.294	30.638	88.932	29.6
Egypt	28.198	12.385	40.583	46.791	18.876	65.667	61.8
Other African countries:	98.503	71.018	169.521	132.662	94.702	227.364	34.1
Senegal	39.370	7.108	46.478	48.984	10.873	59.857	28.8
Ghana	16.910	12.342	29.252	20.729	15.811	36.540	24.9
ASIA	180.343	154.661	335.004	279.494	232.886	512.380	52.9
Eastern Asia:	79.706	94.758	174.464	124.462	140.426	264.888	51.8
China	45.688	41.050	86.738	76.739	68.146	144.885	67.0
Philippines	28.652	43.720	72.372	41.591	59.746	101.337	40.0
Other Asian countries:	100.637	59.903	160.540	155.032	92.460	247.492	54.2
India	27.465	17.326	44.791	42.275	27.229	69.504	55.2
AMERICA	63.940	124.515	188.455	101.735	177.225	278.960	48.0
North America	7.441	9.017	16.458	7.831	9.470	17.301	5.1
Central and South America:	56.499	115.498	171.997	93.904	167.755	261.659	52.1
Ecuador	11.343	22.163	33.506	27.004	41.876	68.880	105.6
Peru	15.824	27.185	43.009	25.884	40.622	66.506	54.6
OCEANIA	1046	1516	2.562	1.008	1.528	2.536	-1.0
Stateless	329	388	717	354	289	643	-10.3
TOTAL	1.011.927	978.232	1.990.159	1.473.073	1.465.849	2.938.922	47.7

Source: Istat, *La popolazione straniera in Italia al 1 gennaio 2007*, p. 6

The examination of data from the table above shows a strong increase of the number of foreigners that have arrived in Italy in the period 2004-2007. Compared to 2004, the number of those arrived from all over the Europe increased in 2007, with 52.6%. For those coming from the European Union (EU-27), the increase is even higher - 59.8%. Compared with 2006, the number of foreigners resident in Italy was much higher in 2007 due to the influx of citizens from Romania and Bulgaria, countries that on the 1st of January 2007 became members of the E.U. This explains why the number of Romanians grew by 92.5% in 2007 compared to 2004, while the number of Bulgarians with 73.8% (in absolute number the increase is small, but they still increased from 11,467 persons to 19,924 people in the years mentioned above). In the case of Romanian citizens, the increase is dramatic: from 17,812 in 2004 to

342,400 immigrant people in 2007. From Central and Eastern Europe had arrived in Italy 775,809 immigrants in 2007 compared with 2004, when 521,493 were recorded, resulting in an increase of 48.8%. Same important are the increases of citizens from Ukraine (107.1%) and the Republic of Moldova (126.4%).

Overall, Central and Eastern European countries, especially Romania and Bulgaria, have provided more than 1 million immigrants to Italy, which represents almost 39% of the total foreign population resident in Italy.

Asia continued to fuel the substantial flows of immigrants from Italy, the number of those coming from countries like China, Philippines, India, etc. reaching 512,380 people in 2007 (17% of all foreigners) comparative to 2004 (when there were 335,004 persons), resulting an increase of approximately 53% of the number of Asian origin foreigners. The most numerous are Chinese (144,885 in 2007) and Filipinos (101,377), while the Indians reach the number of 69,504 people.

A numerically significant group of immigrants in Italy is one of those coming from African countries. In 2007, their number reached 749,897 people (26% of total immigrants), increasing by 36.4% compared to 2004, when there were 549,801 people.

Depending on the geographic area of origin, the largest groups of immigrants in Italy are the citizens who came from Central and Eastern Europe (775,809 persons in 2007) and those of African origin (749,897). From African area we may mention those of Moroccan origin, who form a large community (343,228 people in 2007) and with old roots within the Italian Peninsula.

An increasing group of immigrants is one of those that have left from Central American countries (their share increased by 48% in 2007, compared to 2004). These are people who left Ecuador (68,880 people) or Peru (66,506 people) and came to Italy.

Some scientific studies reveal that the size of the number of foreigners in Italy is due not only to certain legislative measures, which have facilitated immigration, "but also to post-census adjustment operations, made in order to include in the documents those who were not included at the 2001 Census. The largest operation like this was done in Rome" (Istat, 2007, p. 5).

Analyzing immigrants by sex and country of origin shows us the following hierarchy of people coming to Italy and having legal residence documents (on the 1st of January 2003) (*Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno*, p.107):

Table 6
Number of Immigrants, by sex and country of origin

No.	Country	Male	Country	Female
1.	Morocco	113.384	Albania	70.693
2.	Albania	100.874	Morocco	57.362
3.	Romania	43.842	Romania	50.976
4.	Tunis	38.027	Philippines	42.408
5.	China	33.500	China	30.510
6.	Senegal	33.352	United States	29.741
7.	Egypt	24.026	Poland	25.282
8.	Philippines	23.167	Germany	21.450
9.	Yugoslavia	23.012	Peru	20.696
10.	India	20.199	Yugoslavia	17.225
11.	Sri Lanka	19.866	France	15.963
12.	Bangladesh	17.309	Sri Lanka	15.830
13.	Macedonia	16.882	Brazil	15.513
14.	Pakistan	16.512	Spain	14.244
15.	United States	15.901	India	14.125
16.	Germany	14.870	United Kingdom	13.819
17.	Ghana	12.006	Tunisia	13.110
18.	United Kingdom	10.672	Ukraine	11.875
19.	Peru	10.627	Nigeria	11.609
20.	France	10.311	Russia	10.334
21.	Poland	9.698	Macedonia	9.328
22.	Algeria	9.599	Dominican Republic	9.033
23.	Croatia	9.186	Switzerland	8.999
24.	Nigeria	7.899	Ecuador	8.528
25.	Bosnia-Herzegovina	7.250	Cuba	8.473
26.	Switzerland	6.853	Columbia	8.187
27.	Spain	6.686	Ghana	7.685
28.	Brazil	5.428	Croatia	7.672
29.	Argentina	5.292	Egypt	7.035
30.	Turkey	4.098	Argentina	5.974
31.	Greece	3.863	Bosnia-Herzegovina	5.526
32.	Ivory Coast	3.803	Moldova, Republic of	5.151
33.	Ecuador	3.753	Austria	5.128
34.	Bulgaria	3.583	Bulgaria	4.952
35.	Iran	3.426	Bangladesh	4.928
36.	Columbia	3.303	Japan	4.582
37.	Austria	3.126	Pakistan	4.104
38.	Ukraine	2.927	Eritrea	3.875
39.	The Netherlands	2.915	The Netherlands	3.848
40.	Mauritius	2.840	Senegal	3.607

No.	Country	Male	Country	Female
41.	Dominican Republic	2.761	Mauritius	3.567
42.	Japan	2.542	Greece	3.408
43.	Slovenia	2.472	Ivory Coast	3.319
44.	Russia	2.453	Czech Republic	3.215
45.	Belgium	2.128	Ethiopia	3.169
46.	Burkina Faso	2.117	Somalia	3.150
47.	Lebanon	2.113	Hungary	3.090
48.	Portugal	2.051	Cape Verde	3.047
49.	Moldova	1.960	Mexico	2.885
50.	Mexico	1.887	Turkey	2.748
51.	Other countries	50.725	Other countries	65.232
	Total	777.076	Total	726.210

Source: *Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno*, data collected in 2006, p. 107

As we may see, in 2003, in the hierarchy of foreigners from Italy (on sex), were those who came from Morocco, Albania and Romania. In the category of females, first place was occupied by Morocco, Albania - the 2nd (with over 100,000 people, each of them), followed at a distance by Romania, Tunisia, China etc. Regarding the foreign males, we find Albania on the first place (over 70,000 women), then Morocco and Romania, on the third, each of the three countries with over 50 thousands women in Italy. We find also important percentages also at women from the Philippines, China, USA, Poland, Germany etc.

On 1st of January 2007, the first 16 countries with over 50,000 immigrants for Italy (each of them) were the following:

Table 7
Foreign population resident in Italy and the residence permits, on sex and citizenship countries (on the 1st of January 2007)

Citizenship country	Foreign residents		Total	Residence permits			From which, presents from:	
	Male	Female		Male	Female	Total	At least	
							5 years	10 years
Albania	209.209	166.738	375.947	159.715	122.935	282.650	57,5	22,3
Morocco	205.852	137.376	343.228	162.847	95.724	258.571	63,5	37,1
Romania	162.154	180.046	342.200	127.777	150.805	278.582	27,5	7,3
China	76.739	68.146	144.885	64.729	57.635	122.364	53,5	25,7
Ukraine	23.058	97.012	120.070	19.887	98.637	118.524	21,0	1,0

Citizenship country	Foreign residents			Residence permits				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	From which, presents from:	
							At least 5 years	10 years
Philippines	41.591	59.746	101.337	29.225	47.188	76.413	75,0	55,8
Tunis	58.294	30.638	88.932	46.174	18.696	64.870	68,0	47,0
Macedonia	42.943	31.219	74.162	26.690	17.463	44.153	58,2	30,5
Poland	20.516	51.941	72.457	22.451	56.479	78.930	32,1	16,4
India	42.275	27.229	69.504	35.324	21.798	57.122	49,6	23,7
Ecuador	27.004	41.876	68.880	18.338	31.936	50.274	34,3	8,1
Peru	25.884	40.622	66.506	18.864	33.269	52.133	55,2	33,7
Egypt	46.791	18.876	65.667	38.789	10.763	49.552	55,8	34,3
Serbia and Montenegro	35.624	28.787	64.411	32.007	23.694	55.701	64,2	35,6
Senegal	48.984	10.873	59.857	42.991	6.814	49.805	71,3	50,4
Sri Lanka	31.667	25.078	56.745	25.641	19.316	44.957	66,7	38,9
Total 16 countries	1.098.585	1.016.203	2.114.788	871.449	813.152	1.684.601	50,4	25,3
TOTAL	1.473.073	1.465.849	2.938.922	1.198.452	1.216.520	2.414.972	50,5	26,2

Source: *Istat su dati del Ministero dell Interno*, data collected in 2006

It results that the same countries mentioned above, remain in the top, except that the share of immigrants is decreasing: Albania (375,947 foreign residents), Morocco (343,228) and Romania (342.200).

The examination of the residence permits from 2007 reveals that over half (50.5%) of the population legally present in Italy came from 16 countries (a total of 2,414,972 people) has a relatively a short presence in this country – less than 5 years. In the category of those who are in Italy for less than five years are the citizens of the Philippines (75% of the total population who came from this country are up to five years in Italy), those from Senegal (71.3%) of Tunisia (68%), Sri Lanka and Morocco (63.5%).

Among the immigrants with a long presence in Italy we may include Filipinos (55.8%), Senegalese (50.4%) and Tunisians (47%), which are in Italy for more than 10 years. Among countries with relatively recent emigration to Italy we may include Ukraine, Romania and Ecuador.

During 2010, 65,938 foreign citizens acquired the Italian citizenship, their number being with 11.1% bigger, comparing to the previous year. If we take into consideration the hierarchy of the first ten countries (by the immigrants' origin) the

first five places are occupied by Romania, Albania, Morocco, China and Ukraine. More than a half (2,314,000) of the total of immigrants are from these five countries (three are European, one is African and one is Asian):

Table 8
Number of immigrants from Italy (on the 1st of January 2011)

No.	Country	Number of immigrants
	Romania	968.576
	Albania	482.627
	Morocco	452.424
	China	209.934
	Ukraine	200.730
	Philippines	134.154
	Moldova, Republic of	130.948
	India	121.036
	Poland	109.018
	Tunis	106.291
	Peru	98.603
	Ecuador	91.625
	Egypt	90.365
	Macedonia	89.900
	Bangladesh	82.451
	Sri Lanka	81.094
	Total 16 countries	3.449.715
	Total immigrants (Italy)	4.570.317

Source: Istat, *La popolazione straniera residente in Italia al 1 gennaio 2011*

From the table above we may observe that the most numerous foreign communities that of the Romanians: it reaches about 1 million persons and represents 21,2% of the total number of the foreigners from Italy.

The second community, numerically significant, is that of the Albanians (accounting for 10.6% of the total foreign population), followed by the Moroccans (9.9% of immigrants).

The conclusion that the Romanians represent the largest immigrant community in the Italy is evident also from the table below, the statistical data showing that they are a majority in 15 of the 20 administrative regions of Italy.

Table 9
Share of foreigners in Italy (on regions and origin countries)

Region	First country	% of the total foreigners	Second country	% of the total foreigners	Third country	% of the total foreigners
Piemonte	Romania	34,4	Morocco	16,1	Albania	11,5
Valle d Aosta	Morocco	26,5	Romania	23,3	Albania	10,5
Lombardia	Romania	12,9	Morocco	10,3	Albania	9,4
Trentino Alto Adige	Albania	13,6	Romania	11,6	Morocco	9,1
Bolzano Bolzen	Albania	12,7	Germany	11,0	Morocco	8,1
Trento	Romania	17,6	Albania	14,4	Morocco	10,0
Veneto	Romania	20,2	Morocco	11,4	Albania	8,4
Friuli Venezia Giulia	Romania	18,7	Albania	12,4	Serbia	8,6
Liguria	Ecuador	17,6	Albania	16,7	Romania	12,0
Emilia Romagna	Morocco	14,1	Romania	13,2	Albania	12,1
Toscana	Romania	21,2	Albania	18,8	China	8,7
Umbria	Romania	24,4	Albania	17,0	Morocco	10,4
Marche	Romania	15,7	Albania	15,0	Morocco	10,0
Lazio	Romania	36,2	Philippines	5,9	Poland	4,5
Abruzzo	Romania	27,6	Albania	17,0	Morocco	7,1
Molise	Romania	34,9	Morocco	12,6	Albania	8,6
Campania	Ukraine	22,8	Romania	17,8	Morocco	8,1
Puglia	Albania	23,8	Romania	23,6	Morocco	8,0
Basilicata	Romania	41,4	Albania	11,2	Morocco	9,8
Calabria	Romania	32,2	Morocco	16,1	Ukraine	8,3
Sicilia	Romania	28,4	Tunisia	11,9	Morocco	9,0
Sardinia	Romania	26,2	Morocco	11,7	China	7,6
Total Italia	Romania	21,2	Albania	10,6	Morocco	9,9

Source: Istat, *La popolazione straniera residente in Italia al 1 gennaio 2011*, p. 9

Conclusions

The consequences of the global economic crisis and the economic and demographic contrasts that currently exist in the world (and the devastating effects of natural disasters will put further influence on the territorial mobility of population in different parts of the world. Those who belong to the younger generation will be not only the most committed to radically change their own condition of life, but the most qualified to assume the entry into the international trend of migration. The analyze of the world population by geographic region indicates the predominance of young people in

underdeveloped regions (80% of young people are living in these areas of the world) and their low share in developed societies (20% of all existing youth around the world).

Therefore, it is not only assumable, but also expected in the future a massive emigration of young people from underdeveloped countries to developed ones. According to the last U.N. estimations, if the number of the immigrants will continue to rise in the same rhythm like in the last 20 years, their total numbers will reach, till 2050, 405 millions. The international migration, along with its opportunities and challenges represents and it will continue to represent a subject of interest for the literature and the researches on this topic. Taking into consideration the evolution of the number of immigrants in Italy, during the last two decades, particularly within the current global economic-financial crisis (Nicolaescu, 2011, p. 114) we may conclude that the immigration represents one of the most relevant aspects of the contemporary Italian society.

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SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN AND THE LABOUR MARKET IN THE UK: ATTITUDES, BARRIERS, SOLUTIONS

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Abstract: This paper draws on research carried out in the UK which examined the views of South Asian women towards employment, looking in particular at why the participation rate of Bangladeshi and Pakistani women in the labour market is very low. The focus of the paper is on non-working women. The research was aimed at informing policy design, so that policies intended to assist certain groups of people enter, or get closer to entering, the labour market might be more effective. The research involved carrying interviews with 212 Bangladeshi and Pakistani women in West Yorkshire, a sub-region of the UK with a relatively high Asian population. 26 focus groups were also carried out. It is argued that there are three broad groups of South Asian women in relation to employment: women who are some distance from the labour market; women who wish to enter paid work; and women who do currently work but require support. There are different policy implications for each of these groups. The paper concludes that the barriers to labour market entry are deep-seated, complex, and rooted in cultural, familial, and societal norms. It provides a case study of an innovative programme which was piloted in a nearby sub-region of the UK, South Yorkshire, which was tailor-made to meet the specific needs of South Asian women and was very successful. The paper argues that this could provide a template for programmes in the future aimed at assisting groups facing challenges in relation to labour market entry, such as minority ethnic women.

Key words: ethnicity; gender; work; aspirations; attitudes; employability policy.

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