XXVI ISMU Report on migrations 2020
Migration to Italy and Europe in the Covid era
Migrants in Italy: facts and figures
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Signs of an unprecedented stagnation

As of January 1st 2020

-0.7% variation compared to January 1st 2019

-40,000 Overall variation

-8.0% variation 2020-2019 in the number of undocumented migrants

+ 12.9% Naturalised citizens (127 thousand)

### Legal status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal status</th>
<th>1.1.2019</th>
<th>1.1.2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Residents</td>
<td>4996</td>
<td>5040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular non-Residents</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total presence</strong></td>
<td><strong>5962</strong></td>
<td><strong>5923</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

85.1% Regular Residents

6.2% Regular non-residents

8.7% Undocumented

9.9% of the Italian population
First resident permits issued (third-country nationals only)

The pandemic onset further reduced new inflows

- **57.7%**
  Total variation first semester 2020-2019

- **-18.9%**
  Variation Jan-Feb (pre-pandemic) 2020-2019

- **-93.4%**
  Variation April 2020-2019

- **-86.7%**
  Variation May 2020-2019

177,000 First resident permits issued in 2019

The reduction began before the pandemic onset

Non-EU citizens entering Italy in the 1st semester of 2019 and 2020 (values in thousands)

- **-26.8%**
  Total variation 2019-2018

- **-47.4%**
  Asylum-related permits variation 2019-2018

- **-8.0%**
  Total variation 2018-2017

Source: Istat, 2020
Trends in irregular migrants’ stock

The trend reverted before both pandemic onset and the 2020 amnesty, despite the growth in rejections of first instance asylum applications. The irregular population is a component of the foreign population highly reactive to economic cycles.

Estimates as of January 1st

-8,0% variation 2020-2019
+5,4% variation 2019-2018
+8,6% variation 2018-2017
+12,9% variation 2017-2016

Estimated % of irregular foreigners on total foreign population
Estimated number of irregular foreign citizens
Sea arrivals and land border crossings shows a diverging trend compared to the overall mobility

Irregular border crossings (as of all 26/11/20)

5.032


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sea Arrival</th>
<th>Asylum Requests</th>
<th>Asylum requests every 100 sea arrivals</th>
<th>% unaccompanied minors on sea arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>153842</td>
<td>83535</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>182657</td>
<td>122960</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>119369</td>
<td>128855</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>23348</td>
<td>59955</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>11,487</td>
<td>43,675</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>34,141</td>
<td>26,546</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ISMU analysis on Eurostat data

Source: Dipartimento PS (Mattinale sui Flussi Irregolari)
Decisions on asylum requests

Heavy impact of the decision to end Italy’s two-year “humanitarian protection” residency in 2018
Rejection rate rose to 77% in 2020 (it was 59% in 2017)

Strong differences by citizenship
- For some countries recognition of the refugee status rose
- For other countries rejection rate rose
The 2020 amnesty

- It is an answer to pre-pandemic issues
- **207,542** requests: 176,848 in the domestic and care work sector, 30,694 for the agricultural sector, 12,986 migrants asked a permit to search for a job
- Applicants are from the most relevant communities: Pakistan (5,681), Bangladesh (4,275), China (3,893), Morocco (3,663), Egypt (3,146), Albania (2,382), India (2,354) and Peru (1,788).
- Despite an emphasis on application for domestic work (85%), most applicants are from nationalities not traditionally employed in the domestic and care work sector
Take home messages

- Italy shown clear signs of a reduction in incoming migration flows before the pandemic onset (less legal inflows, more emigration, negative census corrections, less irregular migration)
- Preliminary data for 2020 show further reduction of legal migration, a substantial decrease in the presence of illegal migrants is also expected
- The pandemic and the economic crisis are expected to reduce mobility. The 2008 crisis shown a negative impact on migration, especially for individuals with low community ties and safety net-Sea arrivals show a different trend (long travels/persistence of push factors for humanitarian migration)
- Different impact by nationality of the recently amended 2018 "security decree"