

Infosheet

main features of emigration
& immigration



+ E-LoCUM Project

... aims at empowering youth to shape a narrative about migration along the Balkan route that reflects the EU values of unity, solidarity and non-discrimination.



Overview

Italy has historically been a significant source of emigrants. The number of Italians living abroad reached approximately 5.9 million in 2023. In recent years, it has seen a substantial increase in its immigrant population, with around 5.3 million foreign citizens residing in the country as of early 2024.

Migration trends



Emigration

Emigration peaked between the 19th and 20th centuries, with millions moving particularly to the US, Argentina, and Brazil. A new wave of young professionals and graduated is ongoing (in 2022, 44% aged 18-34). In 2022, about 152.000 left the country. Top destinations were Spain (32%), Germany (14%), and Switzerland (12%).

Immigration

Italy has seen a significant rise in immigration since the 1980s. The immigrant population has grown steadily, with a notable influx from Eastern Europe and North Africa. The largest groups come from Romania, Albania, and Morocco. Ukrainians and Chinese are significant communities too; yet, about 50% are of European origin.

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WE ARE ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

(UN Global Compact on Migration)

In Italy, the media and the political debate about migration are mainly focused on refugees and asylum seekers. In 2023, such group totalled about 300.000 people, that is about 0,5% of the overall population.

However, the total number of both immigrants and emigrants is about 6 mln, that is 10% of the people each.

In conclusion, all the attention is captured by a demographic aspect that counts for 0,5% of the residents, while it disregards the wider phenomenon that actually involves as many people as 20% of the population (10% immigrants + 10% italian emigrants).



COMPLEXITY MEANS CURIOSITY

At the end of 2022, the Consulate of London registered 366.000 Italians. The English capital is the 7th Italian city with a population similar to Florence or Bologna.

As of the 2020-2021 school year, approximately 66.7% of foreign students in Italy were born in the country.

This means that about two-thirds of the foreign student population are second-generation immigrants, having been born, raised and educated in Italy.

According to the XIII Report 'Foreigners in the Labor Market in Italy' published by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, approximately 2.4 million foreign workers were requested in 2023, that is 10% of the workforce.

The E-LoCUM partners:



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