

# IMMIGRATION, THE DAY AFTER

The integration of foreigners in Italy



9

**minidossier**  
September 2015

## **The context**

How many and from where

## **The labour market**

Salary level and social inclusion

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Performance and access to the labour market

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4.922.085  
foreigners living in Italy

28   
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20   
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190   
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present in Italy

3.874.726  
residence permits

This MiniDossier is based on official data released on the websites of Istat, Eurostat, Ocse, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior up until july 31st 2015.

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# INTRODUCTION

Between 2013 and 2014 the number of migrants that arrived in Italy recorded by Frontex and the italian Ministry of Interior went from being slightly over 40.000 to well over 170.000. A humanitarian crisis that in our country highlighted many organizational problems, especially in managing the emergency. Because of this our politicians were unable, or unwilling, to carry out policies that went beyond the assistance and management of migrants.

As a consequence for years immigration in Italy has only been an “emergency”, with too little being done for the “day after”. No effective national program was ever implemented to deal with the real challenge that comes with immigration: the integration of foreign citizens in the italian society. With this MiniDossier we will attempt, through numbers, to analyze the level of integration in both the labour market and the school system of non italians.

Compared to the rest of Europe, Italy is a country in which immigration is a relatively “young” phenomenon, with the so called “second generation” becoming a reality only recently: for the first time in italian history, during the school year 2013/2014, the majority of foreign students enrolled were born in Italy.

Starting with a general outlook of the current situation (amount of foreigners living in Italy, country of origin and residence permits), we will look at the working condition of foreigners in Italy, and how the young second generation is performing in the italian school system.

It is worth mentioning that while the percentage of foreign-born workers in the labor force is higher in Italy than generally in the rest of the European Union (even higher than in the United Kingdom, Germany and France), foreigners in Italy tend to earn less than their local colleagues. This could also have to do with the educational gap: the percentage of foreigners with a university degree in Italy is the lowest in Europe (12,4).

# NORMATIVE REFERENCES

## Italia Constitution

**ART 10** The Italian legal system conforms to the generally recognised principles of international law. The legal status of foreigners is regulated by law in conformity with international provisions and treaties. A foreigner who, in his home country, is denied the actual exercise of the democratic freedoms guaranteed by the Italian constitution shall be entitled to the right of asylum under the conditions established by law. A foreigner may not be extradited for a political offence.

**ART 117** Legislative powers shall be vested in the State and the Regions in compliance with the Constitution and with the constraints deriving from EU legislation and international obligations. The State has exclusive legislative powers in the following matters:  
a) foreign policy and international relations of the State; relations between the State and the European Union; right of asylum and legal status of non EU citizens;  
b) immigration;  
[...]

## Immigration Act

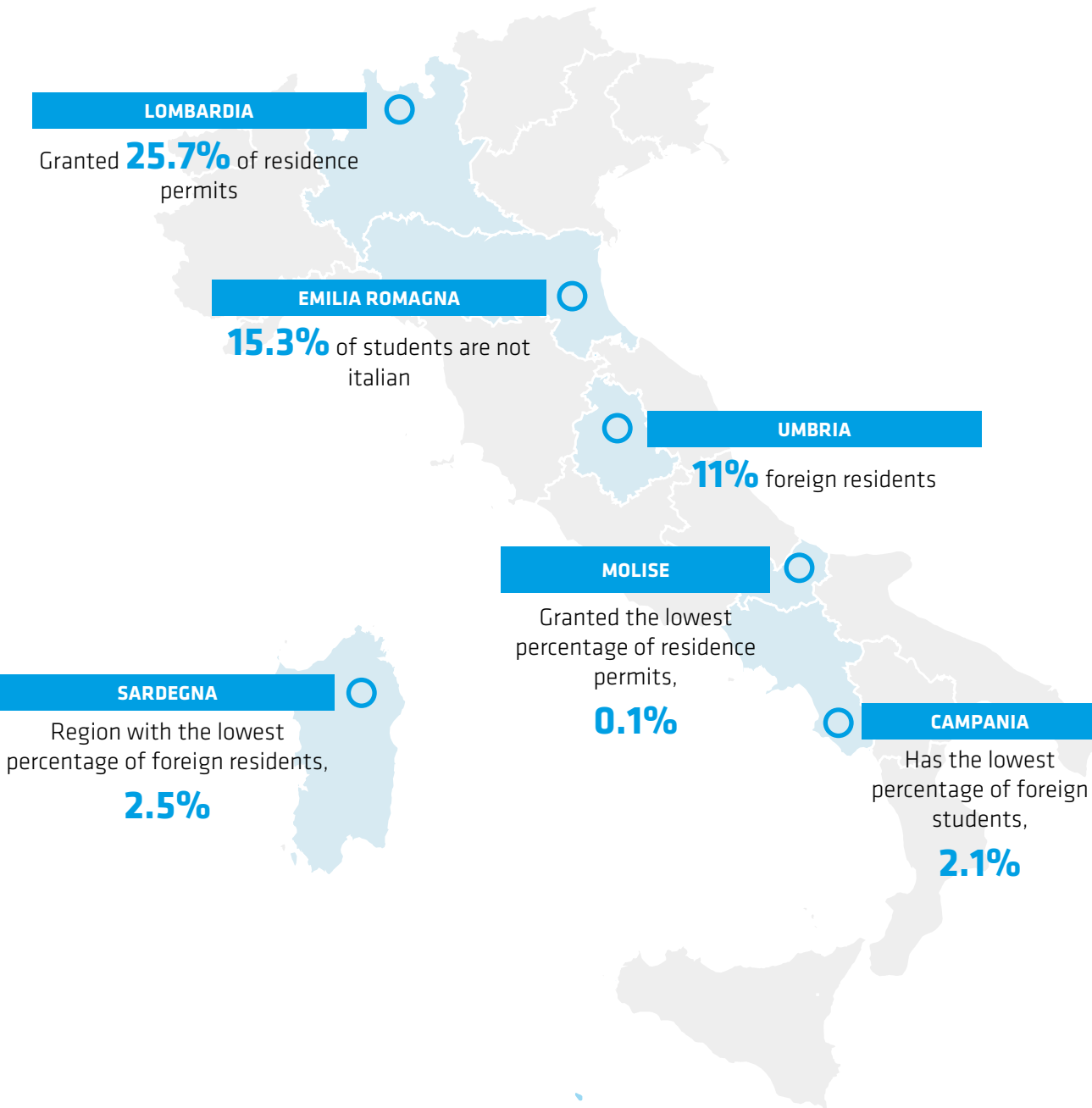
**ART 2** Foreigners who are at the border or in the State are entitled to the fundamental rights of the human person under the rules of national law, international agreements in force and the generally recognized principles of international law.

**ART 5** Foreigners may legally stay in the territory of the state in accordance with Article 4, if they have a residence card or a residence permit issued and valid, under this Act or are in possession of a permit of stay or equivalent document issued by the competent authorities of a member state of the European Union, within the limits and conditions provided by specific agreements.

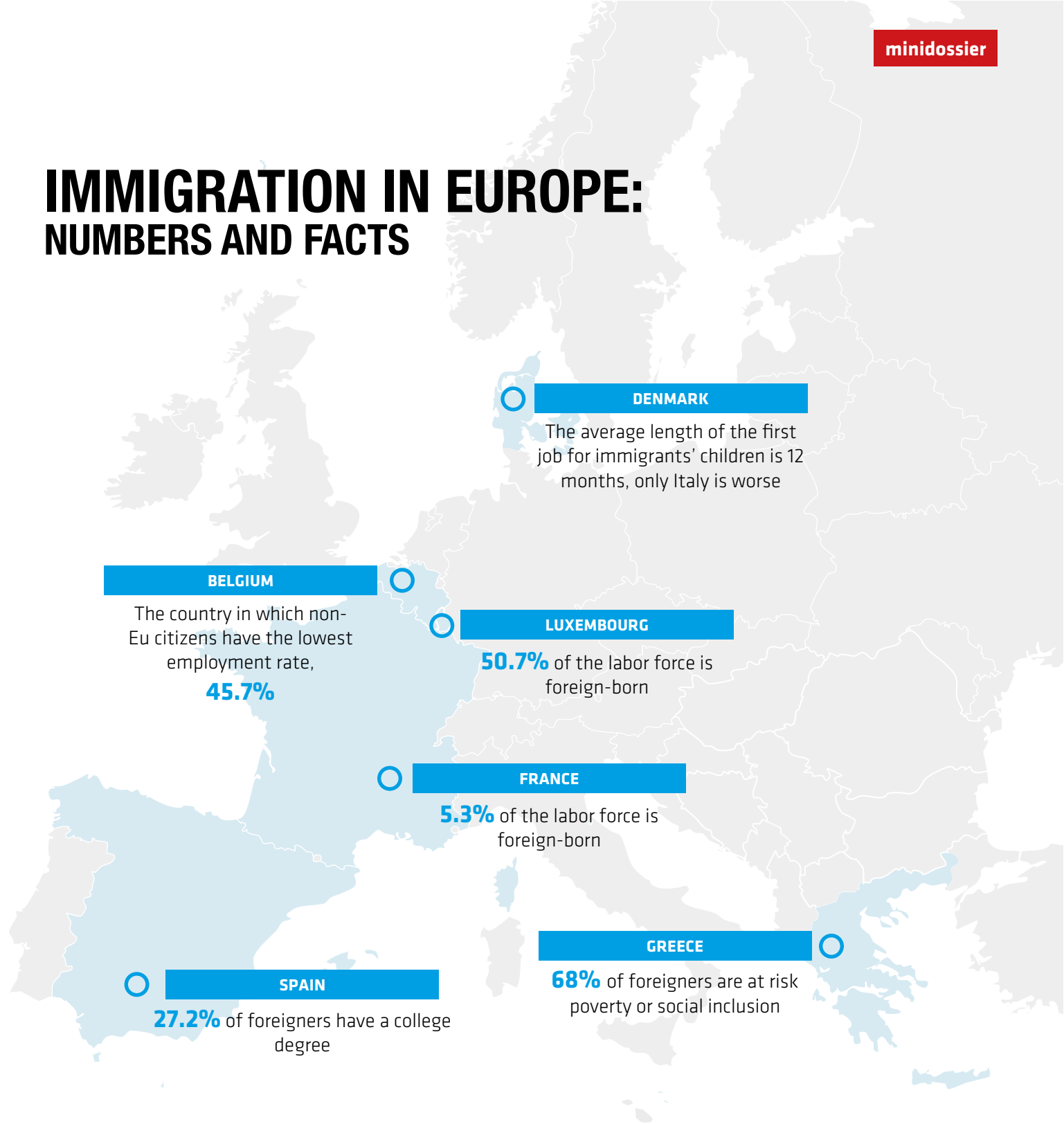
**ART 21** Entry into the territory of the country for reasons of employment, including seasonal and self-employment, shall take place within the entry quotas established by the decree referred to in Article 3, paragraph 4. In setting quotas the decrees decide the numerical restrictions to workers from countries that do not cooperate adequately in the fight against illegal immigration and in the readmission of their nationals recipients of return measures. The decrees also assign preferential shares reserved for workers of Italian origin by at least one relative to the third degree in a straight line of descent, resident in countries outside the EU, requesting to be included in a special list [...]

**ART 28** The right to maintain or regain family unity with family members living abroad is recognized under the conditions provided for in this Act, to foreigners who hold a residence card or a residence permit for no less than one year issued for employment purposes whether employed or self, or for asylum, study, religious reasons or for family reasons

# IMMIGRATION IN ITALY: NUMBERS AND FACTS



# IMMIGRATION IN EUROPE: NUMBERS AND FACTS



# THE CONTEXT

## HOW MANY AND FROM WHERE

The foreign population in Italy has been constantly growing. Since 2002 the percentage of foreign residence has quadrupled, going from 2.4% to 8.1% in 2014. Their distribution on the Italian territory is not very homogenous, with Sardegna having only 2.5% of foreign population, and Emilia-Romagna reaching 12%.



1 residence permit out of 4 was  
released  
in **Lombardia**



The percentage of  
foreigners living in Italy has  
**quadrupled**  
since 2002.

By January 1st 2014 non Italian residents were slightly less than 5 million (4.922.085). Though the biggest community comes from a European country (Romanians in Italy in 2014 were slightly over one million), non-EU citizens are probably the biggest challenge. At the beginning of 2014 3.874.726 non-EU citizens were regularly living in Italy, 56.15% of which with a long-term residence permit.

The contribution of the Italian regions to the integration of immigrants varies case by case, especially when considering the amount of residence permits granted. For example, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna have numbers significantly higher than other areas of the country. The two regions put together granted almost 40% of all residence permits.

Highlighting how the migrant emergency is only part of the issue, residence permits granted under international law or on humanitarian or political grounds in 2013 were less than 10%. On the other hand, 33% were granted for employment reasons, and 41% for family reunifications or weddings.

Weddings that are nonetheless decreasing year after year. In 2005 weddings with at least one foreigner were 28.353, in 2012, most recent data available, only 26.374. The highest level in recent years was reached in 2008 (more than 31.000) and the lowest in 2010 (less than 20.000).



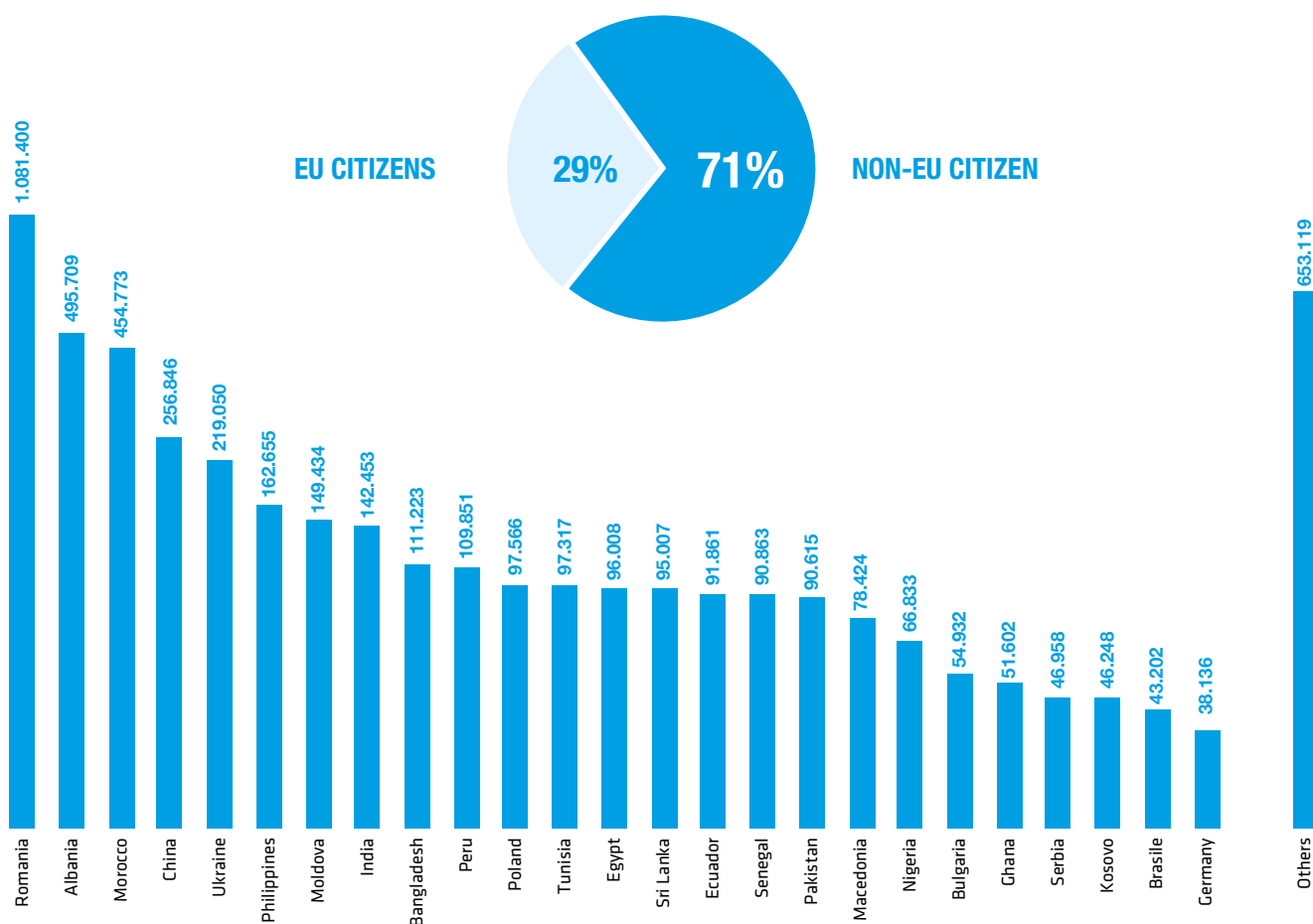
## FOREIGN RESIDENTS

On January 1st 2014 there were 4.922.085 foreign citizens living in Italy. The Romanian community in 2014 was the biggest in the country, with over 1 million people. We are

talking about 1.081.400 Romanian citizens living in Italy, 21.97% of the foreign resident population. Albanians and Moroccans, second and third biggest communities, do not reach 500.000 people.

### Foreigners living in Italy in 2014, where are they from?

The numbers concerning non-EU residents in Italy do not include all those that legally live in Italy with a residence permit that does not require changing residence (i.e. study reason)



There are 190 different nationalities present in Italy

## NON-EU CITIZENS

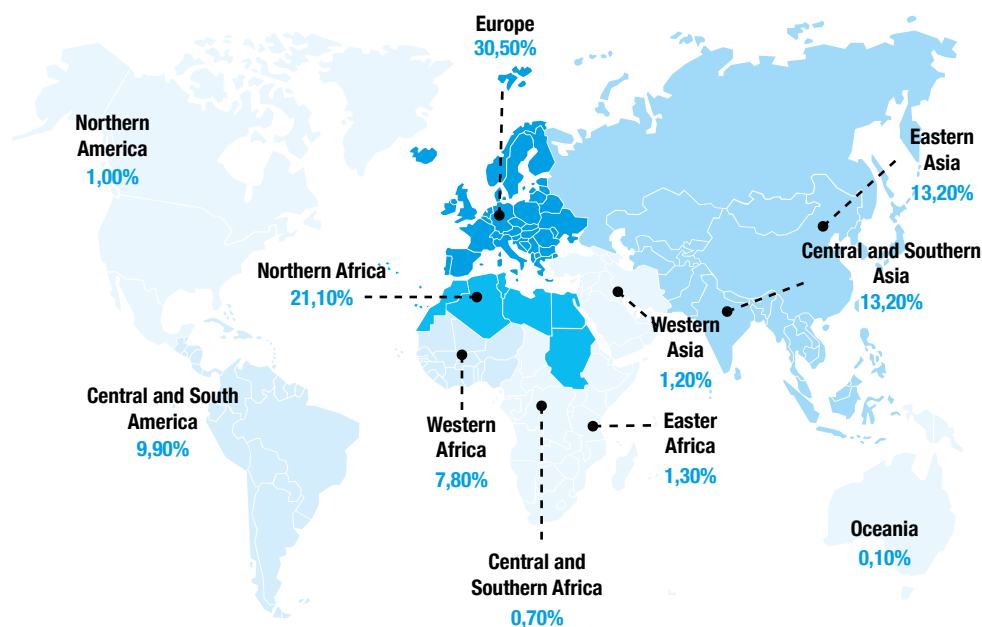
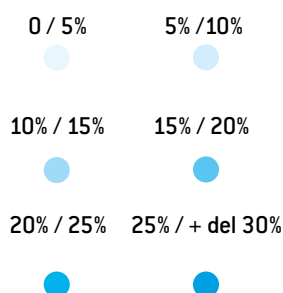
By January 1st 2014 there were 3.874.726 non-Eu citizens regularly living in Italy with a residence permit, 1.695.119 of which were limited, and 2.179.607 long-term. The top 3 communities are: the Moroccan (524.775 permits

granted), the Albanian (502.546 permits granted), and the Chinese (320.546 permits granted). As a whole, Africa leads with 30.90% of residence permits, then Europe (30.50%), Asia (27.60%), America (10.90%) and Oceania (0.10%).

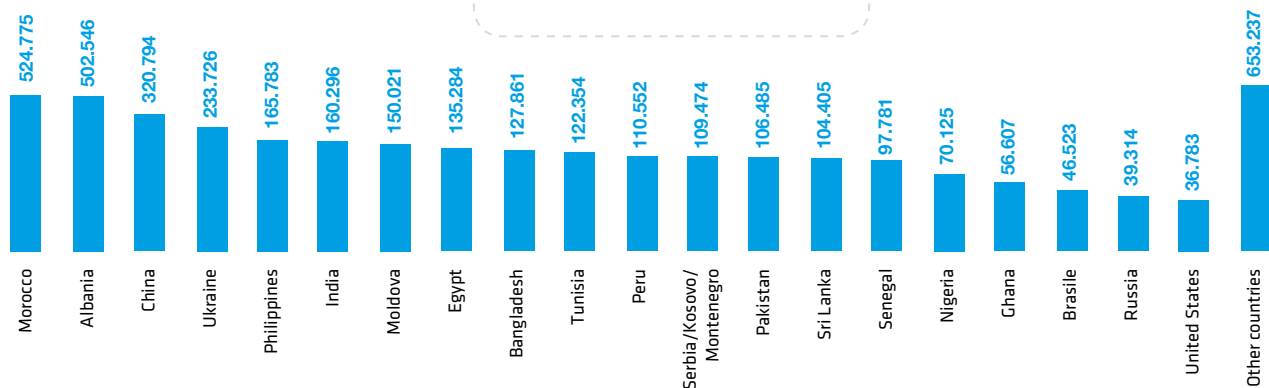
### Non-Eu citizens living in Italy in 2014

Long-term residence permits are unlimited in time, and are granted to non-Eu citizens after five years of continuous legal residence and with resources sufficient to live without recourse to the social assistance system.

From which macro-area



From which country



56.25% of residence permits active today are long-term, 43.75% are limited.

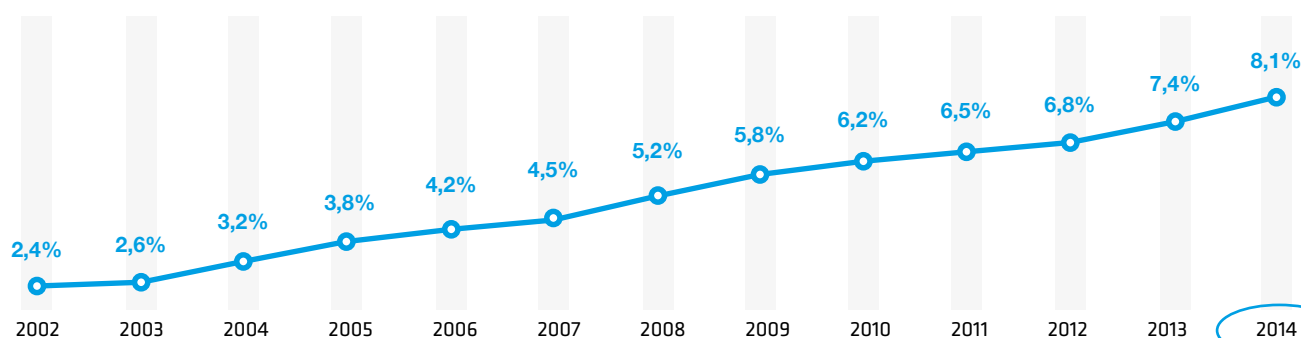
## FOREIGNERS IN THE ITALIAN REGIONS

Italian regions are demographically very different. If on one side we have 6 regions that have over 10% of foreign-born citizens, some, like Basilicata, Puglia and Sardegna, reached the 2% threshold only recently,

percentage that Italy as a whole reached in 2002. On top of the regional ranking we have Emilia-Romagna, where 12 residents out of 100 are foreigners, then Lombardia (11.3) and Umbria (11.1). Very different numbers for the South, with percentages that reach, in a best scenario situation, like in Calabria, 4%, half the national average.

### The percentage of foreigners living in the Italian regions (2014)

In Italy



In the 20 regions

0 / 3%    3% / 6%

6% / 9%    9% / 12%



#### TOP AND BOTTOM

😊 Emilia Romagna **12%**

😞 Sardegna **2,5%**

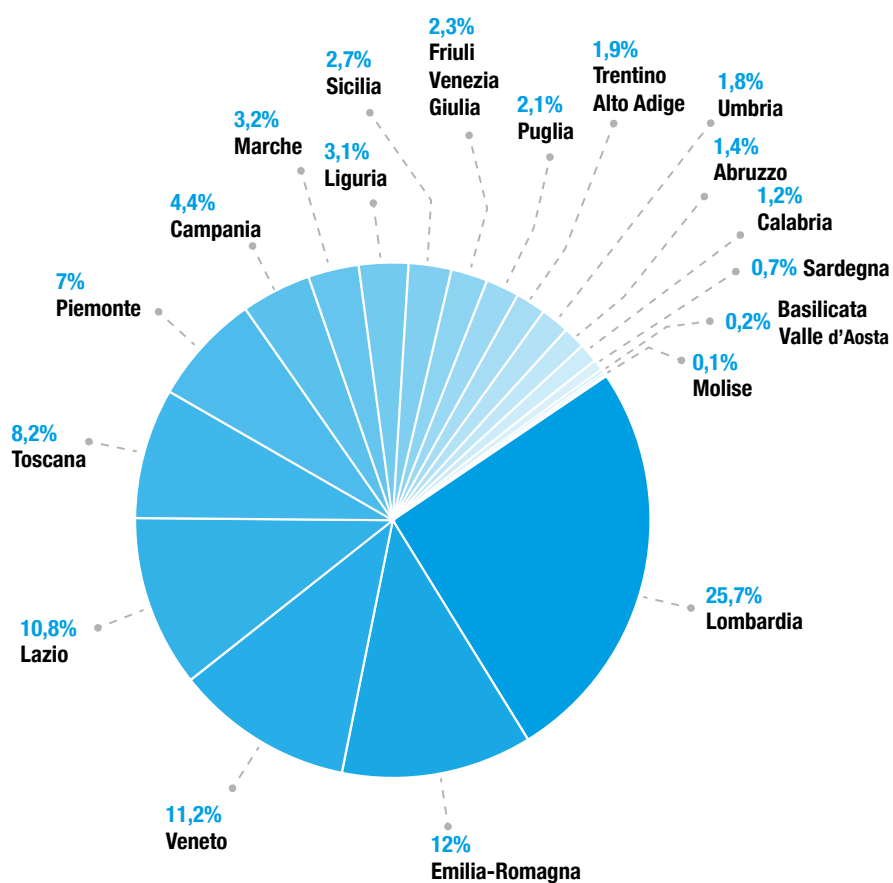
Since 2002 the percentage of foreigners living in Italy has quadrupled.

## RESIDENCE PERMITS

Italian regions contribute in very different ways to the amount of residence permits granted each year. 1

residence permit out of 4 was granted by Lombardia (25.7%), followed by Emilia-Romagna (12%), Veneto (11.2%) and Lazio (10.8%). The first region of the South is Campania, seventh, with 4.4% of the granted permits in 2014. Bottom three regions are Valle d'Aosta (0.2%), Basilicata (0.2%) and Molise (0.1%).

### Residence permits granted by the Italian regions in 2014



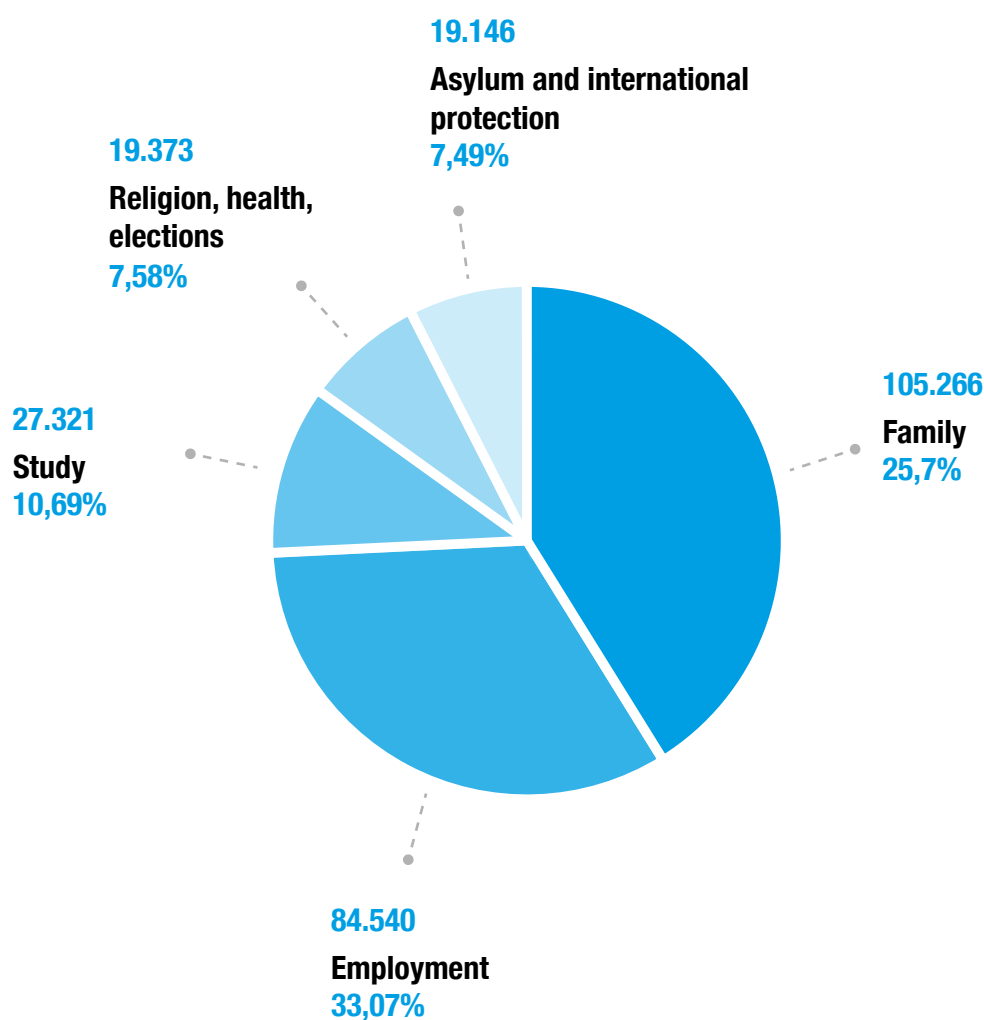
Lombardia, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto put together granted almost 50% of residence permits.

## TYPES OF RESIDENCE PERMITS

Over 41% of residence permits granted in 2013 were for family reasons. A very large category that includes family reunifications, weddings with a foreigner

regularly living in Italy and second degree relatives of an Italian citizen. Second most common reason for granting a residence permit was employment (33.07%), followed by education (10.69%). Residence permits that have to do with the refugee emergency (political asylum or international protection) in 2013 were 7.49%.

### New arrivals in 2013, residence permits by reason



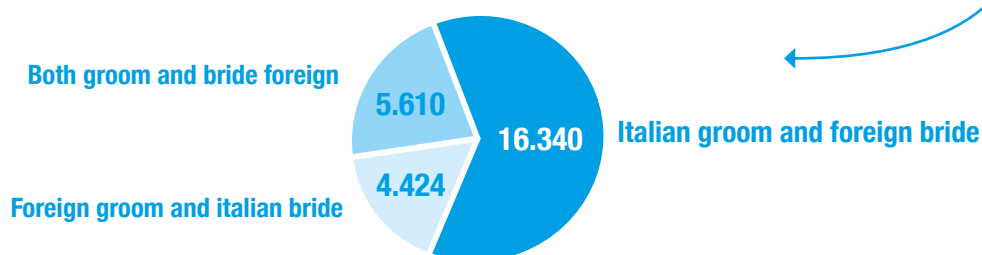
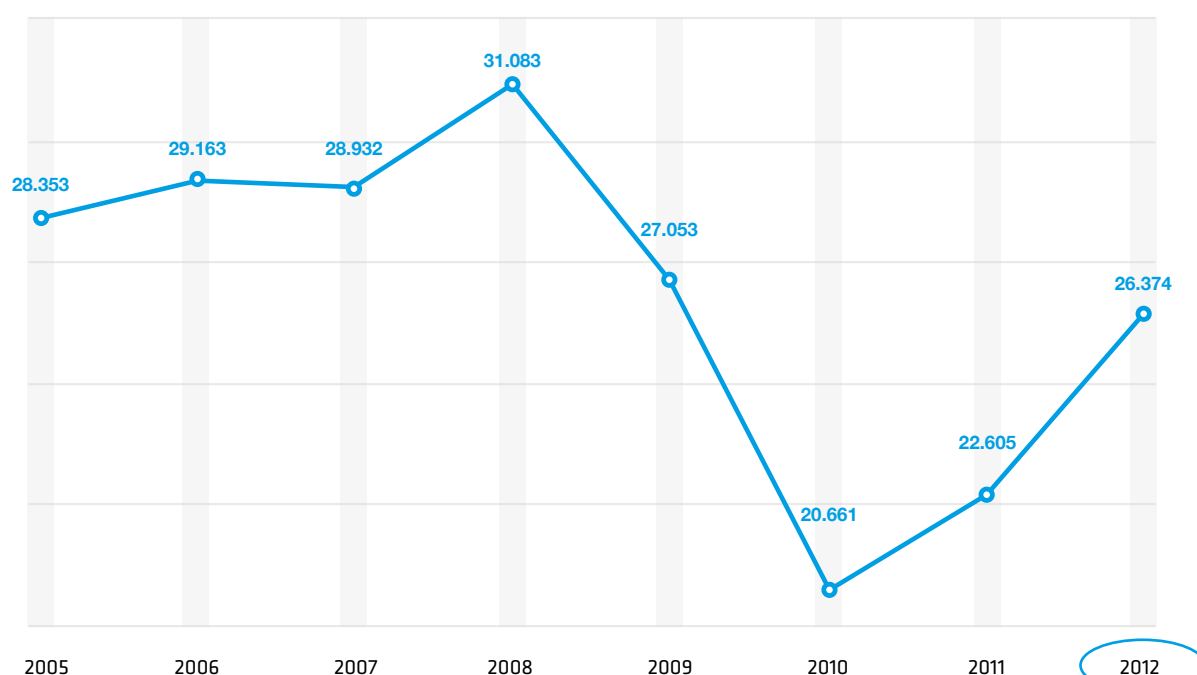
7.49% of residence permits granted in 2013 were for political asylum, or international protection

## WEDDINGS WITH AT LEAST ONE FOREIGNER

During the last years there has been a decrease in the number of weddings with at least one foreigner, going

from 28.353 in 2005 to 26.374 in 2012. In particular, considering the peak reached in 2008, with over 31.000 weddings, there has been a reduction of almost 5.000 marriages.

### Weddings with at least one foreigner (2005-2012).



From 2008 to 2012 there has been a 15% reduction in weddings with at least one foreigner.

# THE LABOUR MARKET

## SALARY LEVEL AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

### Foreign-born labour force

Italy: **10,82%**

Ue 28: **7,07%**

South of Italy: **5,26%**

In 2014 the percentage of foreigners in the Italian work force was 10.82%\*, significantly more than the EU average (7.07%), and higher than other European countries such as the United Kingdom (9.7%), Germany (9.3%) and France (5.30%).

In only 10 years the percentage of non Italian workers more than doubled, with the percentage in 2004 being slightly over 4%. Locally and regionally there are many differences, with the average percentage dropping to 5.3% in southern Italy, and reaching 13% in the Center and North-East.

The percentage of foreigners is substantially higher in specific sectors. Foreign-born workforce increases both in agriculture and constructions, reaching 14.20% in the first and 16.67% in the latter.

Historically the employment rate of foreigners in Italy has always been higher than the employment rate of Italians. In 2006 there was a 7 percentage point gap (58% of Italians vs. 66% of foreigners), that has been slowly decreasing. The main reasons can be found in the economic crisis, particularly harmful for foreign workers in the country, and in the demographic changes: while the first generation was mainly workers, the second generation also includes students.

One fundamental aspect of the issue has to do with the salary level of foreigners. If 80% of Italian managers earn more than 2.000 euro per month, this is the case for only 58% of non-EU managers working in Italy. Equal work does not mean equal pay. And again, if 8.3% of Italians earn more than 2.000 euro per month, the percentage drops to 0.6% for non-EU citizens working in Italy.

\* In this MiniDossier, and especially in this chapter, when we talk about workforce we mean reported employment. Under the table activities (black market) and unreported employment are not considered.

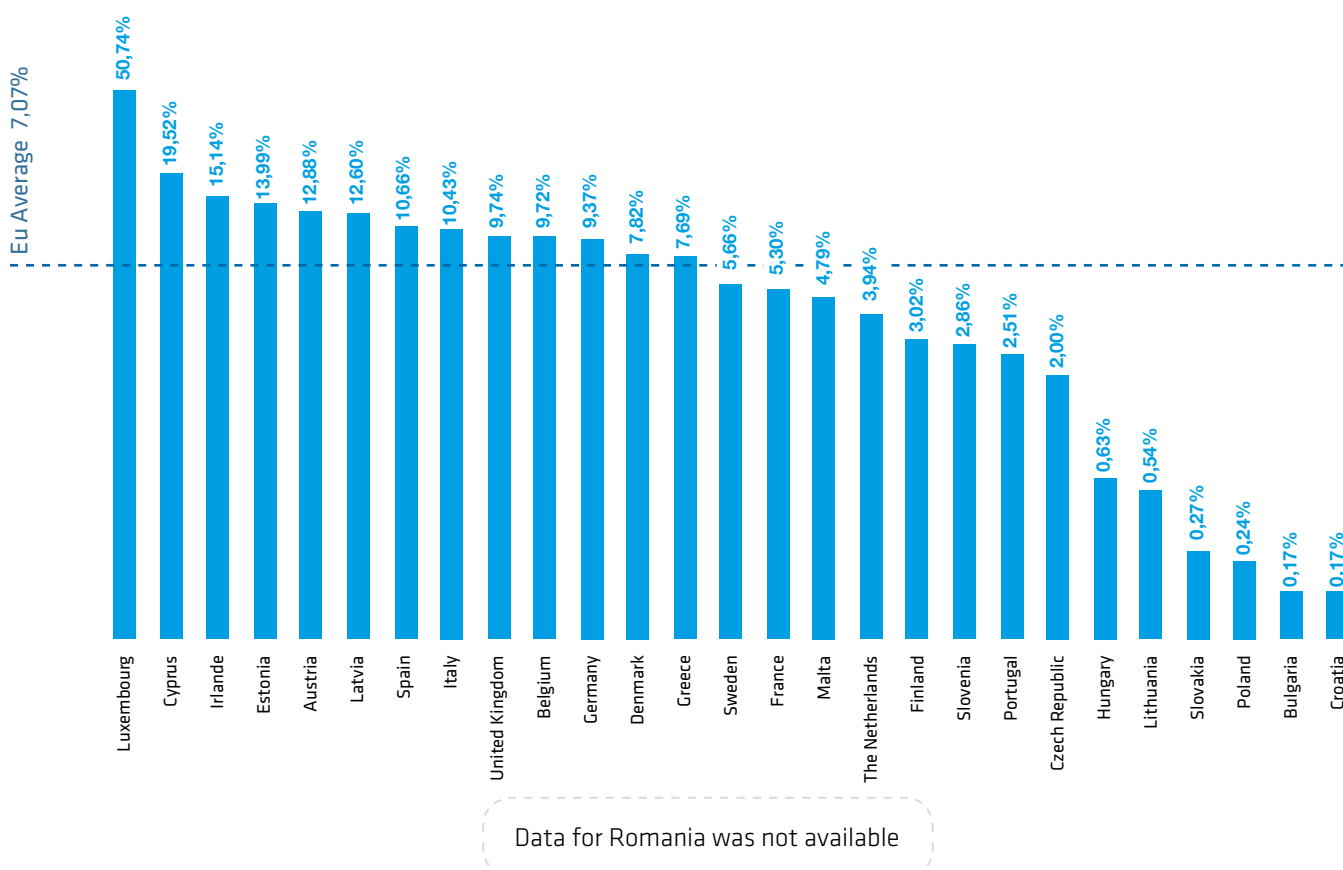
## FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Although immigration in Italy is a relatively recent phenomenon, the weight of the foreign workforce is much higher compared to the rest of Europe. In 2014 10.82%

of the workforce was foreign-born. The number is well over the EU average (7.07%). In other European countries as well, the percentage appears to be relatively lower: United Kingdom (9.74%), Germany (9.37%) and France (5.30%). The situation is very different in other EU Member States, such as Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and Croatia, all under 1%.

### Foreign workforce in European countries (2014)

Forza lavoro: parte della popolazione che comprende le persone occupate e quelle in cerca di occupazione.



In Luxembourg the workforce is mostly foreign, 50.74% of the total.

#### TOP AND BOTTOM

😊 **Luxembourg 50,74%**

☹️ **Croatia 0,17%**

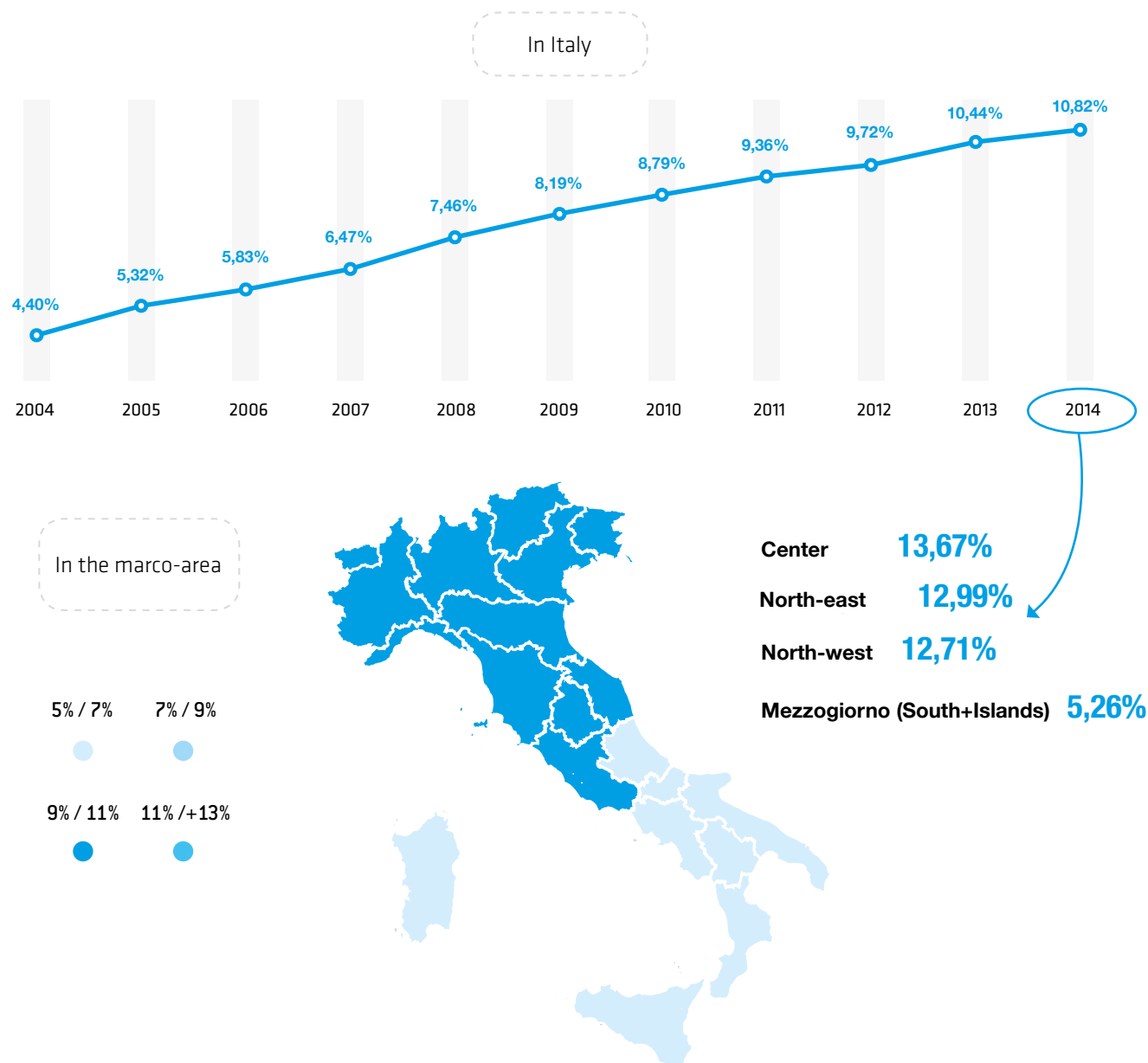


## FOREIGN WORKERS IN ITALY

Though the foreign workforce in Italy has doubled in the last 10 years, going from 4.4% in 2004 to 10.82% in 2014, in some areas of the country the numbers are

much lower. In the Mezzogiorno (south and islands) foreigners are 5.26% of the workforce, half the national data. The Center of Italy in 2014 recorded the highest percentage, with 13.67% of its workforce made up of foreigners. In the North the percentage is 12.83%, with the North-east “beating” the North-west: 12.99% vs 12.71%.

### Foreign-born workforce in Italy (2014)



In 10 years the foreign workforce in Italy increased by 146%.

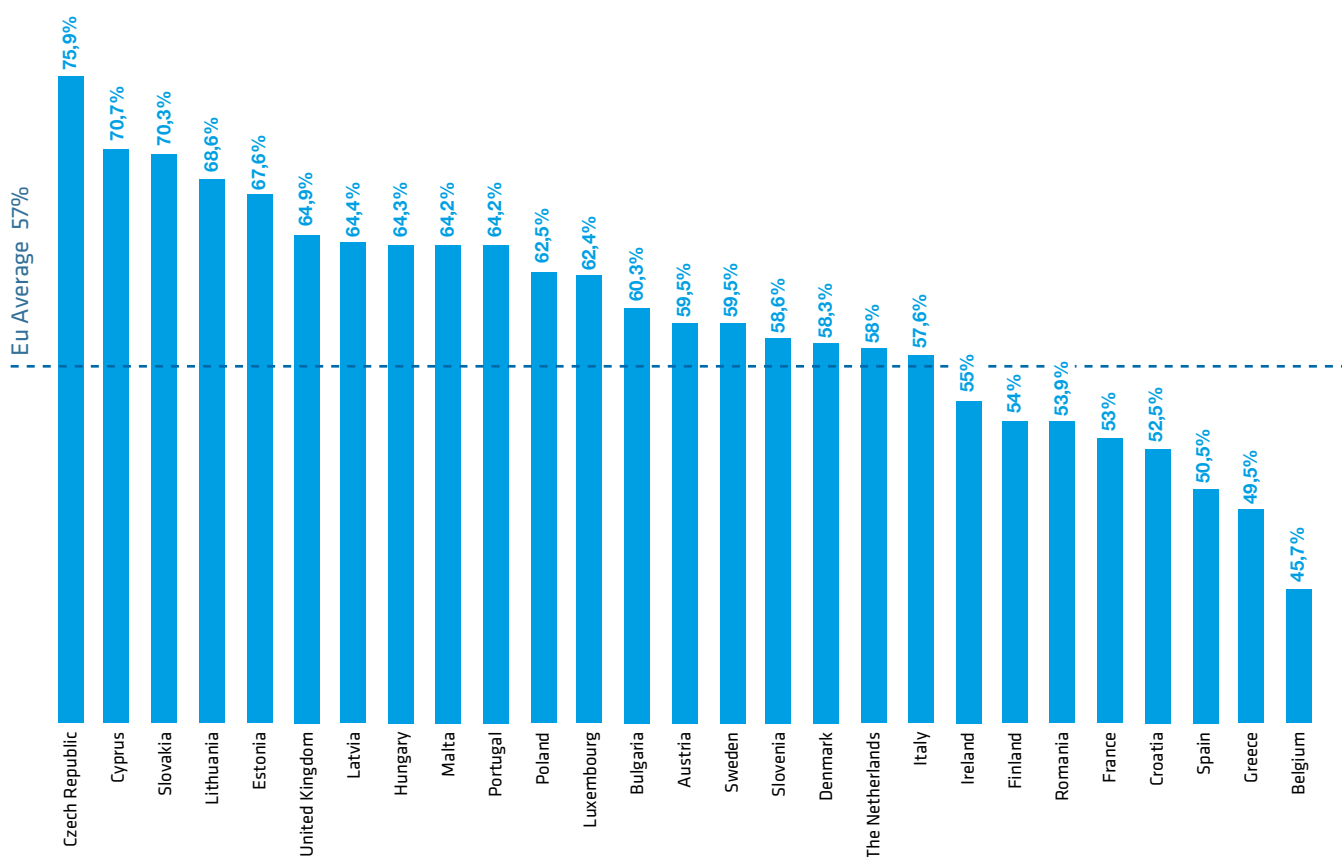
## EMPLOYMENT RATE IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The employment rate of non-Eu citizens in Italy (57.6%), is very close to the Eu average (57%). But while today's

number follow the European trend, it must be said that non-Eu citizens in Italy were heavily damaged by the economic crisis. Since 2006 their employment rate in Italy dropped 13%, while in the rest of Europe it dropped 8%.

### Employment rate of non-Eu citizens (15-64 years) in European countries 2014

Employment rate: People in employment as a percentage of the population of working age.



Data for Germany was not available

In Europe since 2006 the employment rate of non-Eu citizens dropped 8.21%.

#### TOP AND BOTTOM

😊 **Czech Republic 75.9%**

😞 **Belgium 45.7%**

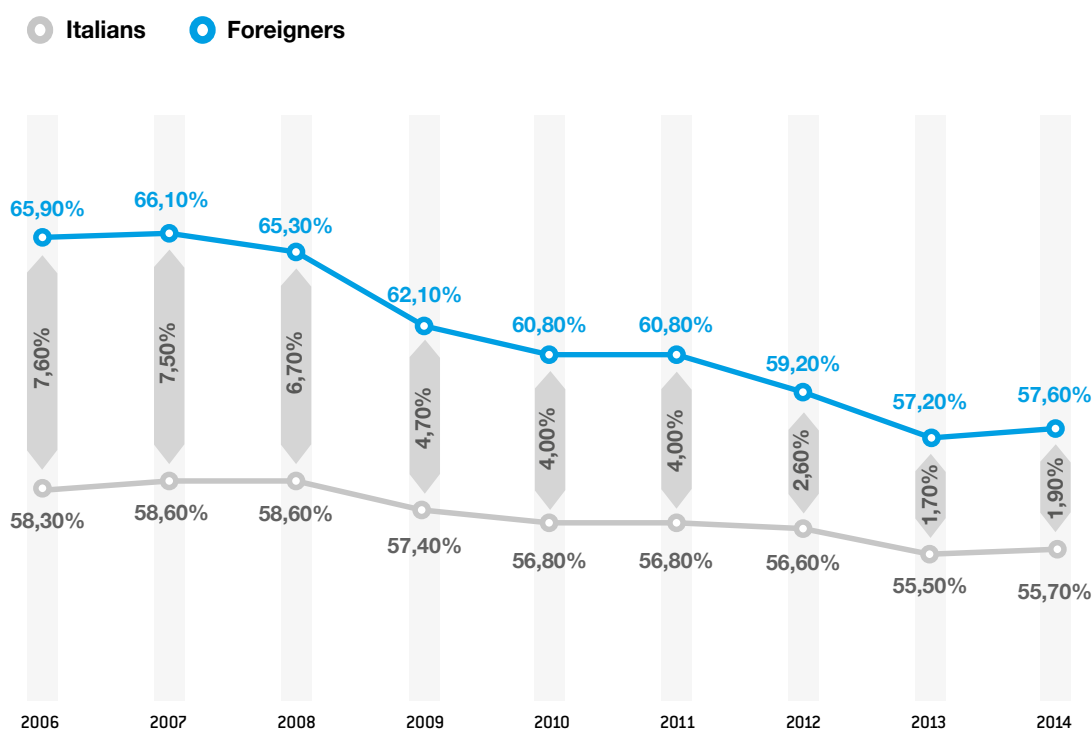
## EMPLOYMENT RATE OF FOREIGNERS IN ITALY

Historically foreigners have had a higher employment rate than italians. A situation very common in many european countries, simply for the fact that immigrants tend to arrive in working age. In 2014 the employment

rate of italians was 55.7%, and 57.6% for foreigners. A 1.9 percentage point gap, that hides how things actually got worse for foreigners during the economic crisis. In 2006 the gap was significantly higher, 7.6 percentage points, with the employment rate of foreigners being 65.9%, and the one of italians 58.3%.

### Employment rate in Italy: locals vs. foreigners (15-64 years)

Employment rate: People in employment as a percentage of the population of working age.



In Italy foreigners have a higher employment rate than italians

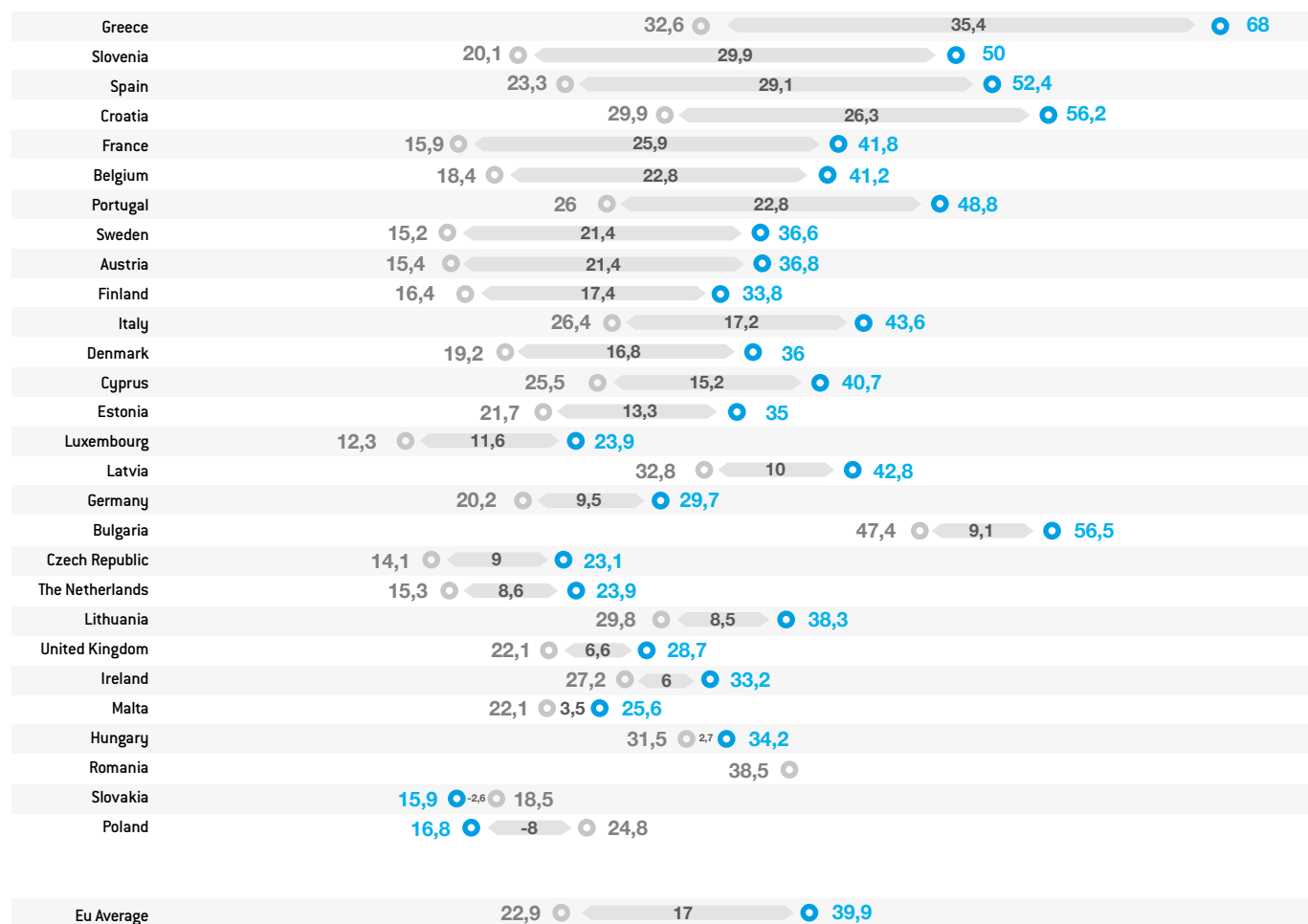
## PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY, LOCALS AND FOREIGNERS

In almost all european countries the percentage of people at risk poverty or social exclusion is much higher

for foreigners than for locals. In Italy there is a 17 percentage point difference, which follows the general european average. The gap is particularly wide in Greece, where we have a 35.4 percentage point difference between foreigners and locals. Slovakia and Poland have the lowest percentage in Europe of foreigners at risk poverty, and are the only two countries in which locals are actually more likely to be at risk of social exclusion.

### Percentage of people at risk poverty or social exclusion in european countries (2013)

○ Locals ● Foreigners



The data for Romania was not available

In Slovakia and Poland the percentage of people at risk poverty or social exclusion is higher for locals than for foreigners.

## PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY, WHERE DID IT GET WORSE

twice the Eu average. Particularly worrying the situation in Greece, where between 2005 and 2013 the percentage increased by 74.36%. Not in all countries the economic crisis made things worse. In 10 Eu Member States the percentage of foreigners at risk poverty decreased. In Poland, for example, it decreased by 62.5%.

In Europe foreigners at risk poverty increased by 12.71%.  
In Italy the percentage increased by 22.13%, almost

### The effects of the economic crisis (2005-2013) on the percentage of people at risk poverty



In 35% of Eu Member States  
the percentage of foreigners  
at risk poverty decreased

#### TOP AND BOTTOM

😊 **Poland -62,50**

😞 **Greece 74,36%**

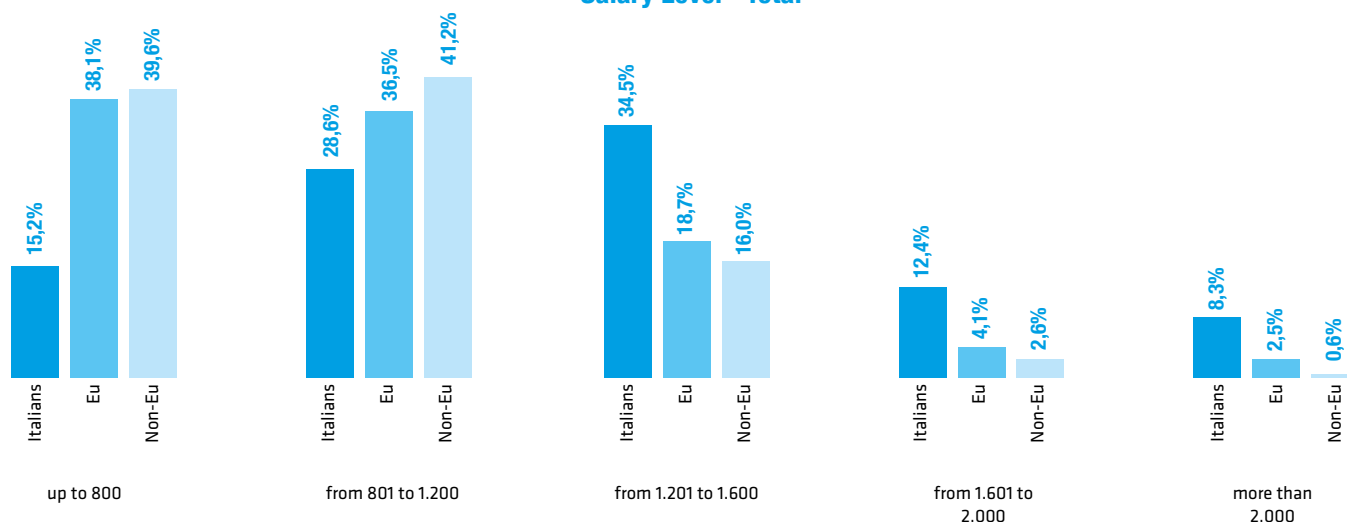
## SALARY LEVELS

To measure the real level of integration of foreigners in the Italian labour market, analyzing employment rate is not enough. It becomes necessary to add other

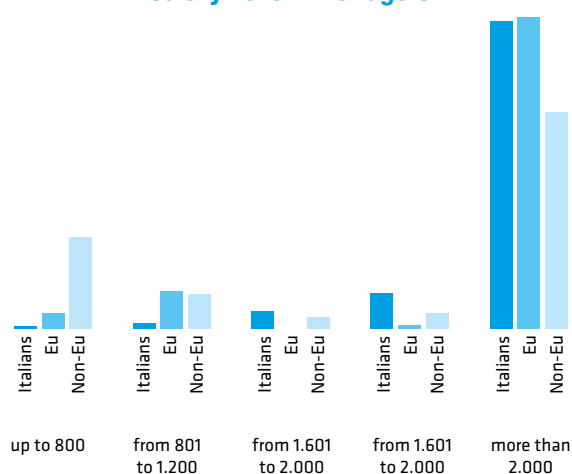
variables, starting from the salary level. How much do foreigners earn in Italy? How does it compare to the salary of Italians? 80.8% of non-Eu citizens earn a maximum of 1.200euro per month, almost twice as much as Italians (43.85). And while 55.2% of Italians earn more than 1.200 euro, the percentage drops to 19.2% when considering non-Eu citizens.

### How much do foreigners earn? The comparison with Italians (2014)

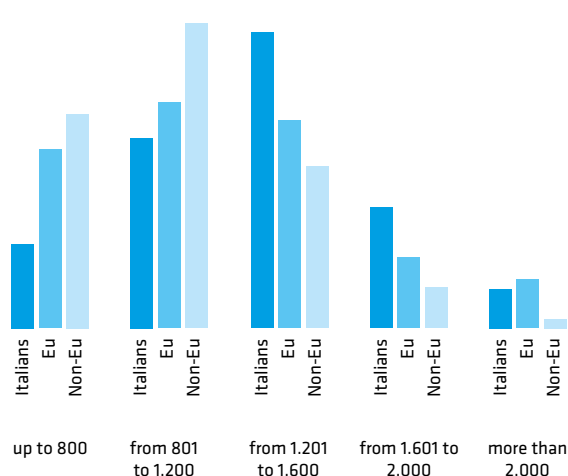
#### Salary Level - Total



#### Salary Level - Managers



#### Salary Level - Employees



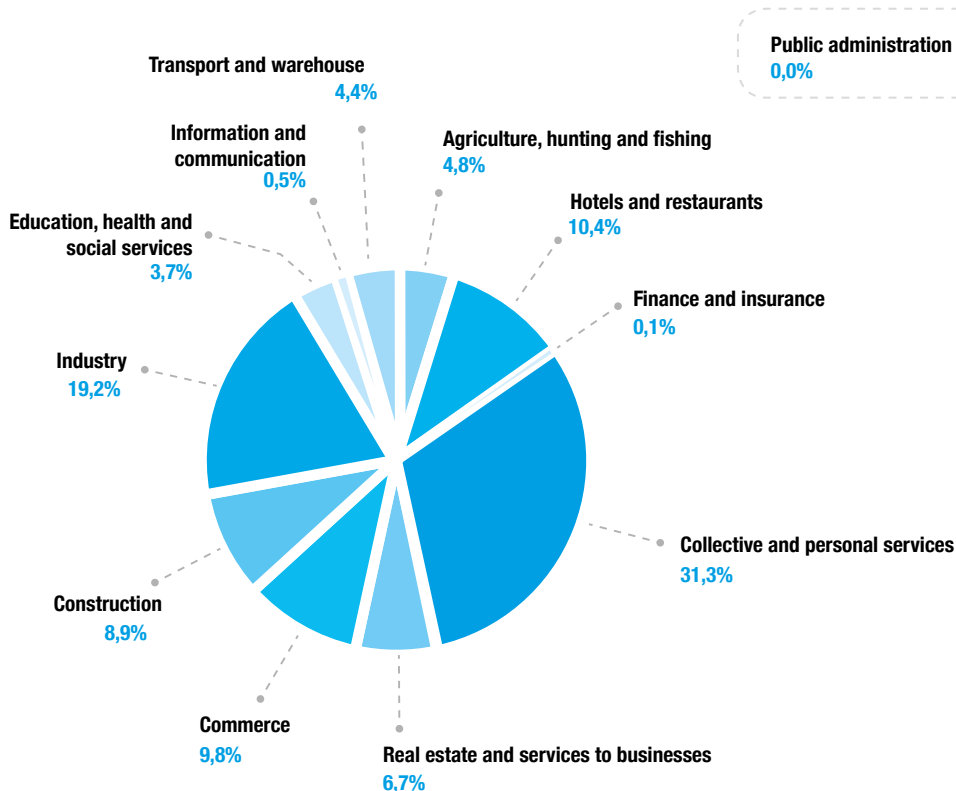
Solo lo 0,6% dei cittadini extra Ue guadagna più di 2.000 euro al mese.

## JOB S HELD BY FOREIGNERS IN ITALY

Italians and foreigners usually have very different jobs. 31.3% of non-Eu citizens work in the collective and

personal services sector, while only 5.2% of italians are part of it. On the other hand, while 16% of italians work in the "institutions, health and social services" sector, only 3.7% of non-Eu citizens are in it. The two groups have very similar numbers in the industrial sector, that gives an occupation to 20% of italians and 19% of non-Eu citizens.

### Foreign workers and job sectors in 2014



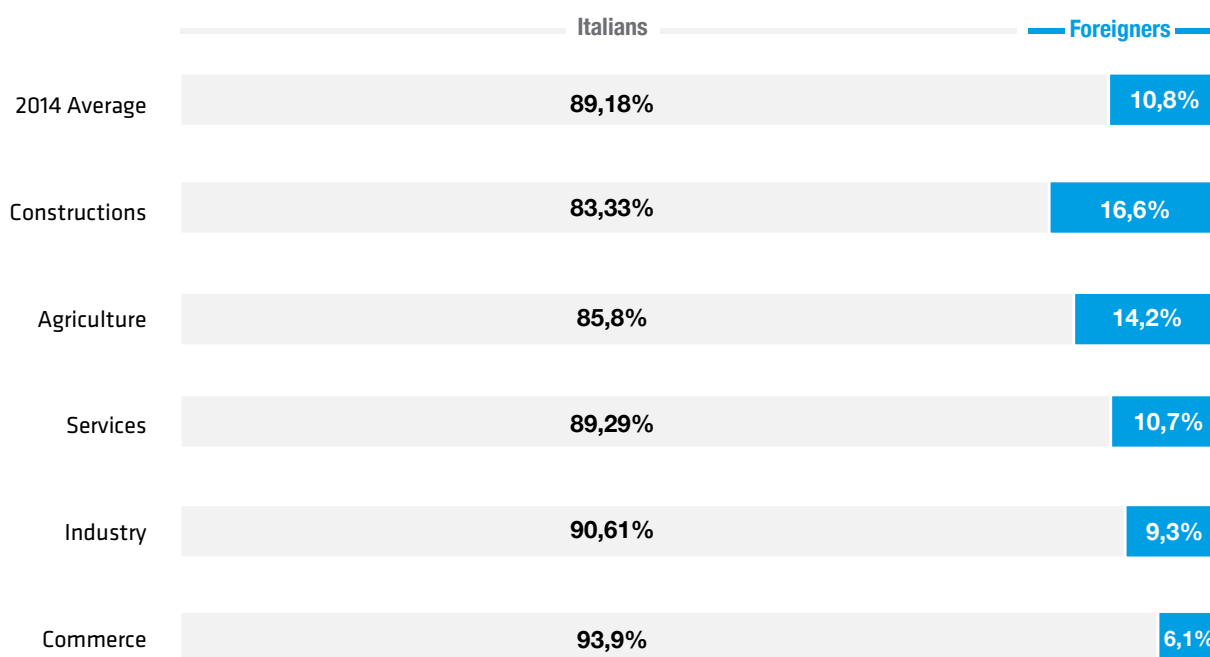
31.3% of non-Eu citizens in Italy work in the collective and personal services sector

## IMPACT OF THE FOREIGN LABOUR FORCE

Not in all sectors the weight of the foreign-born workforce is the same. While on average it represents

10.82% of the total, in some sectors, like construction, it reaches 16.67%. Similarly in agriculture, foreigners are 14.20% of the total workforce. Their role decreases in other sectors, such as industry (9.39%), and commerce (6.10%)

### Foreign-born workforce in the different sectors (2014)



In 2014 there were 2.294.121 foreign workers in Italy,  
10.82% of the total



# EDUCATION

## PERFORMANCE AND ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET

Italian school system

**dropout rate:**

Italian students **13,6%**

EU students **27,1%**

Non-EU student **34,4%**

The presence of a second generation of immigrants makes it necessary to start analyzing data and numbers that have to do with education. As we witnessed with the workforce, the percentage of foreign students enrolled in the Italian school system has been constantly growing. In 2005/2006 4.8% of students were foreigners, in 2013/2014 9%.

There are also other interesting stories behind these numbers. In the school year 2013/2014 of the 802.785 foreign students enrolled in Italian schools, 51.72% were born in Italy. For the first time in Italian history, foreign students born in Italy were more than the ones born abroad.

Numbers have been increasing, but the differences in performance remain. 11% of Italian students are behind grade level, the percentage increases to 36% when considering only foreign students. And again, the dropout rate for Italian students is 13%, while for non-EU students it is 34%.

These numbers concern only students enrolled in primary school, middle school and high school, but at the university level things are not better. Italy is the European country with the lowest percentage of foreigners with a college degree (12.4%), with a EU average of 32.3%. Furthermore the average length of the first job longer than three months for children of immigrants is the lowest out of the OECD countries: 11 months in Italy, considerably less than the average in France (18 months), Germany (25 months) and United Kingdom (32 months).

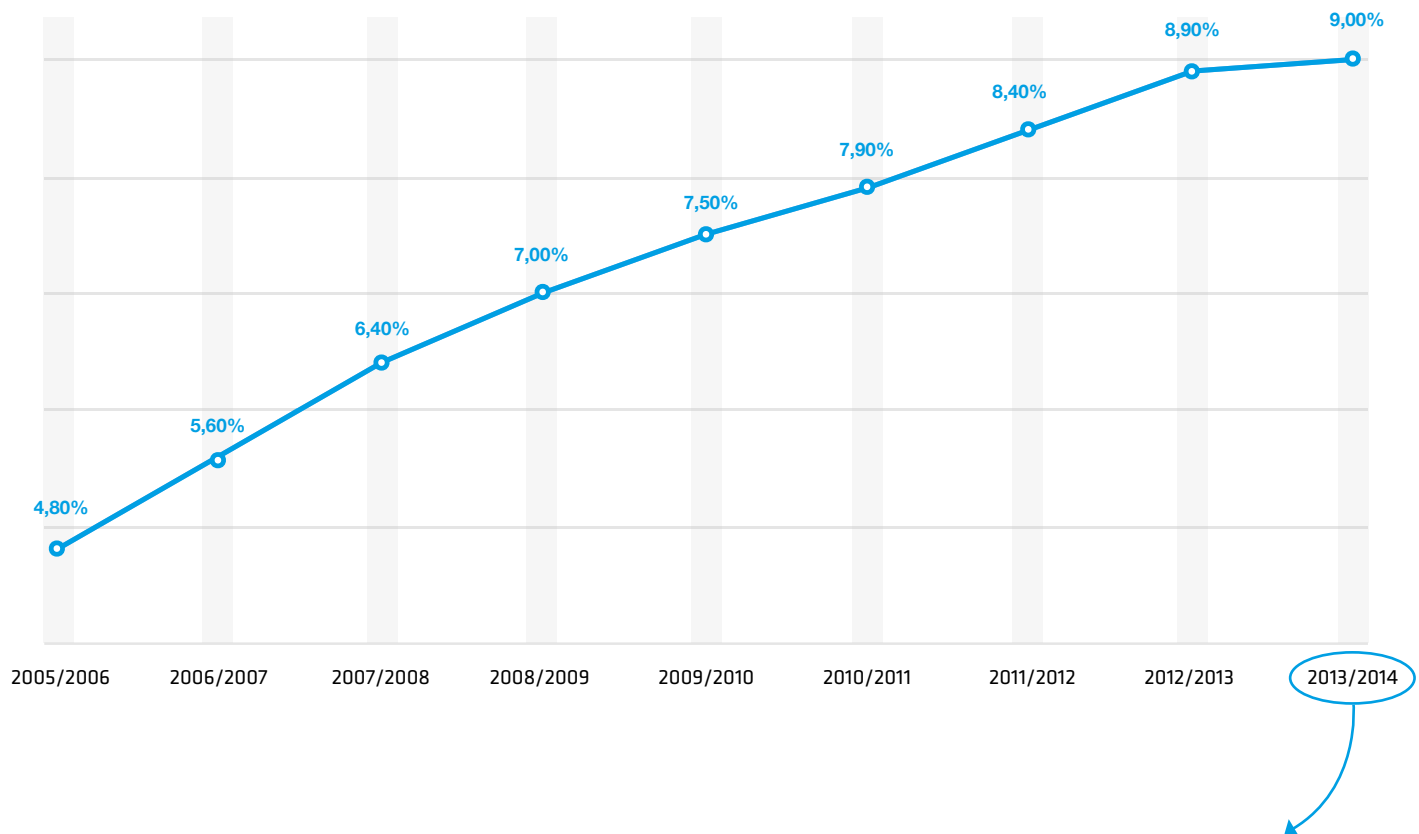
## FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE ITALIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Similarly to the labour market, the presence of foreigners in the Italian school system has been constantly growing in recent years. Foreign students went from being 4.8%

in the school year 2005/2006 to 9% in 2013/2014. A steady growth that however has recently slowed down, recording its smallest increase during the last year. Of the 802.785 foreign students enrolled in the school year 2013/2014, 51.72% were born in Italy. It is the first time in the country's history that foreign students born in Italy were more than the ones born abroad.

### Growth of foreign students in Italian schools

Only students from primary, middle and high school were considered



#### Total foreign students

Foreigners born abroad 48,28%

Foreigners born in Italy 51,72%

Since 2005 foreign students have doubled

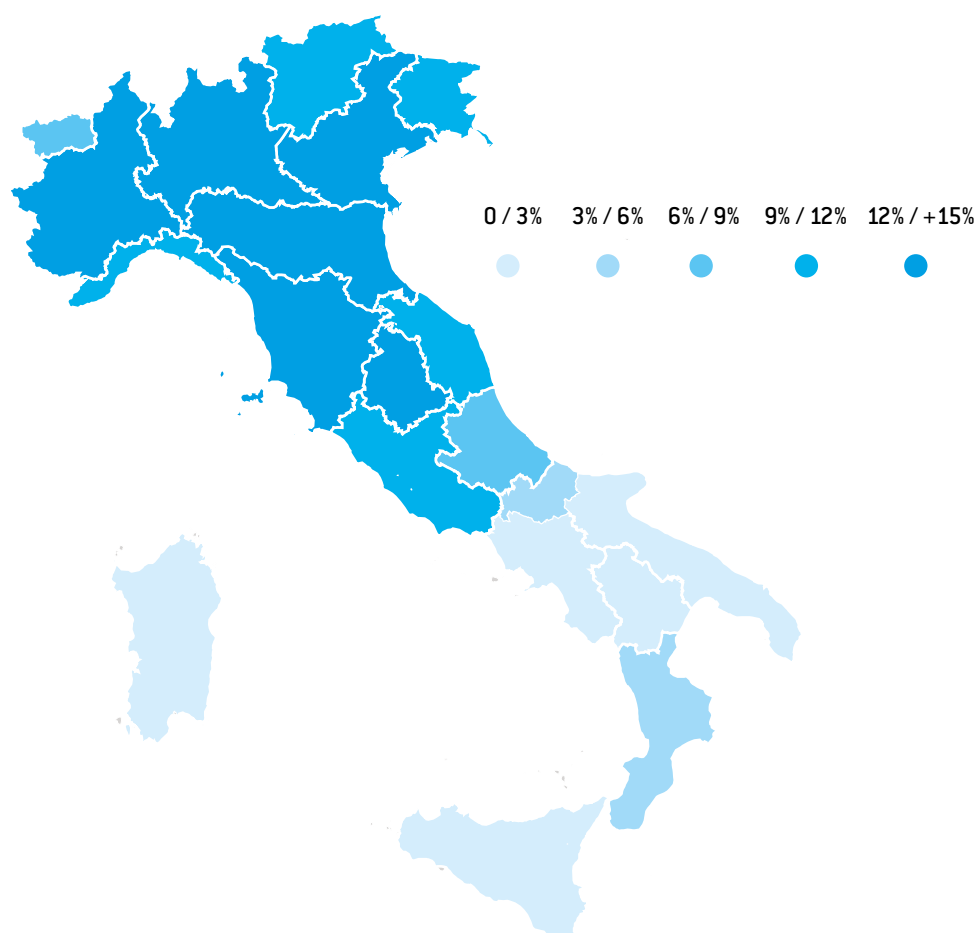
## FOREIGN STUDENTS AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

Emilia-Romagna, Lombardia and Umbria are the three regions with the highest percentage of foreign students, all three above the national average. The gap

between the first and the last of the ranking is very wide: Emilia-Romagna has 15.3% of foreign students, while Campania only 2.1%. The South holds all the last positions, and three other regions besides Campania, do not even reach the 3% threshold: Basilicata (2.8%), Puglia (2.5%) and Sardegna (2.2%).

### The percentage of foreign students in the 2013/2014 school year

Only students from primary, middle and high school were considered



15.30% of students in Emilia-Romagna are foreign, national record

#### TOP AND BOTTOM

😊 **Emilia Romagna 15,30%**

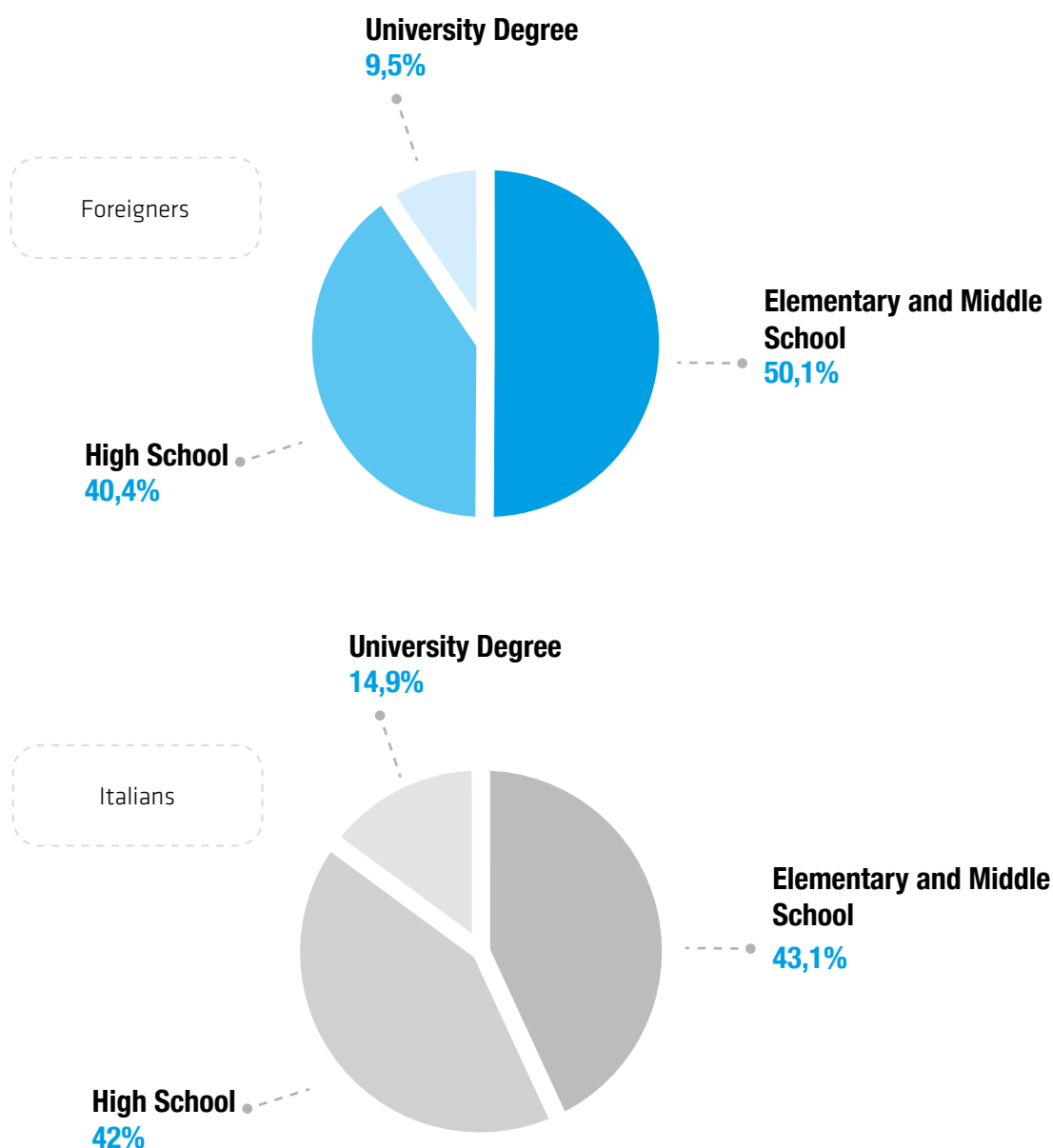
☹️ **Campania 2,10%**

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In 2013 9.5% of foreigners aged 15 to 64 had a college degree, the percentage peaks to 14.9% when considering italians. But while the numbers for italians have been constantly growing (in 2005 the percentage

was 10.7%), they pretty much stayed the same for foreigners. Though the percentage of foreigners with a degree did not vary in the past 8 years, what did grow is the percentage of foreigners with a high school diploma (in 2005 38.2%, in 2013 40.4%). As a consequence the percentage with either an elementary or middle school degree went from 53.5% to 50.1%.

### Educational attainment, italians and foreigners (2013)



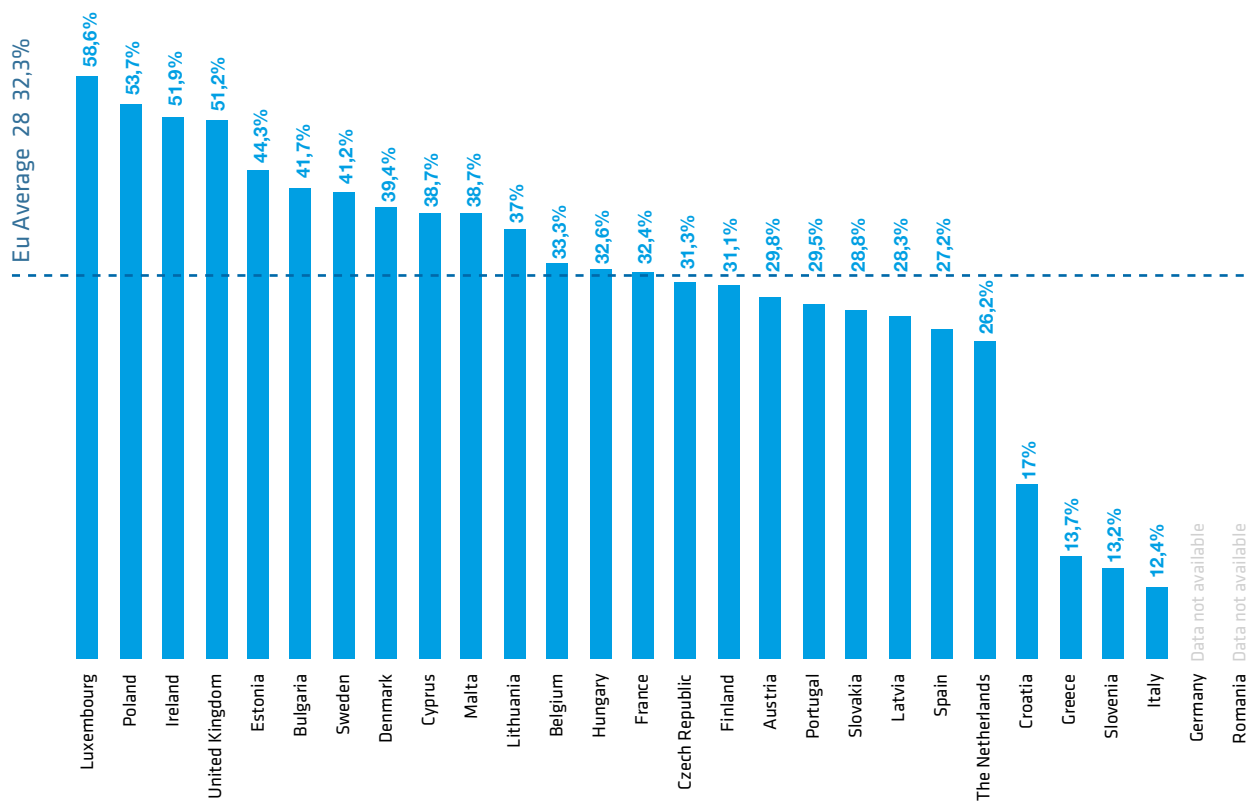
Since 2005, the percentage of foreigners with a college degree has remained the same

## PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Italy is the European country with the lowest percentage of foreigners (aged 25-54) with a college degree (12.4%).

The Eu average is almost three times higher (32.3%), and 82% of Member States double Italy's percentage. These numbers show how immigration is a recent phenomenon in Italy, and how crucial education is, especially university, in the process of integration.

### The percentage of foreigners (25-54 years) with a college degree in EU Member States (2014)



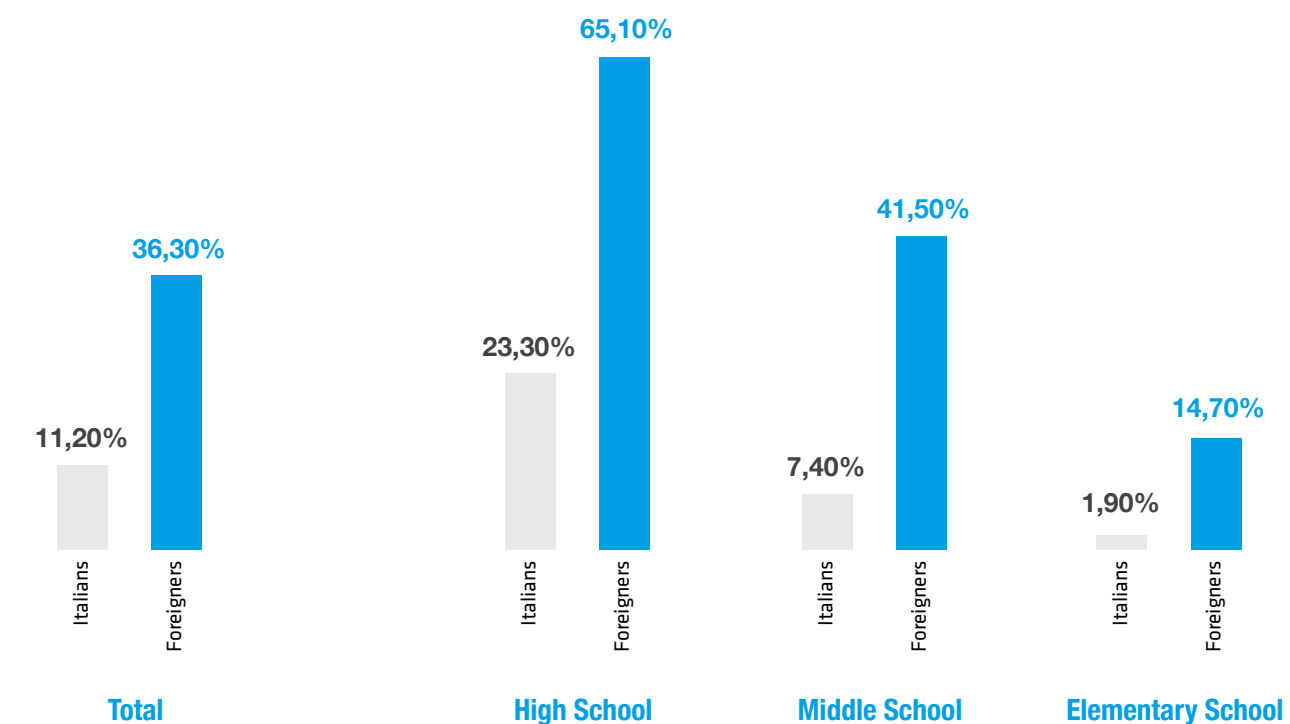
In only four EU Member States the majority of foreigners have a college degree: United Kingdom (51.2%), Ireland (51.9%), Poland (53.7%) and Luxembourg (58.6%).

## STUDENTS BEHIND GRADE LEVEL

Though foreign students have been constantly increasing, the performance gap with their Italian schoolmates is still significant. Italian students

behind grade level are 11.2%, foreign students 36.3%. In particular, the percentage increases if we consider specific school levels. Foreign students behind grade level in primary school are 14.7%, in middle school 41.5% and in high school 65.1%

### Percentage of students behind grade level (school year 2013/2014)



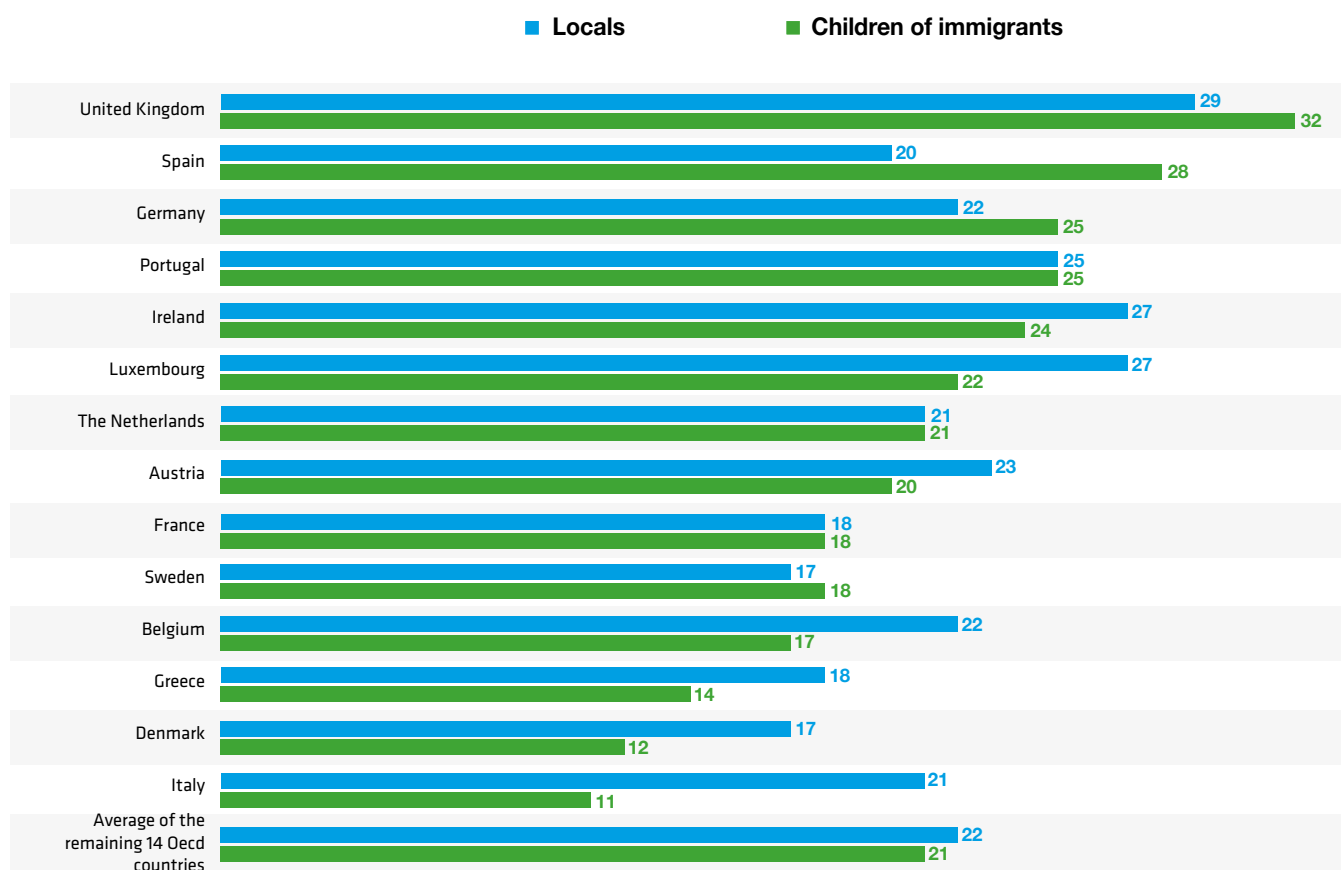
On average foreign students behind grade level are three times as much as Italians

## AVERAGE DURATION OF FIRST JOB

The school-to-work transition is a fundamental aspect of the integration of the children of immigrants. In Italy the average length of their first job is 11 months:

the lowest in Oecd countries. In the United Kingdom the average length is 32 months, almost three times as much as Italy. In Germany and France the average length is 25 and 18 months.

### Average length of the first job longer than 3 months (15-29 years, 2009)



Italy is the Oecd country in which sons of immigrants have the shortest first job longer than three months.

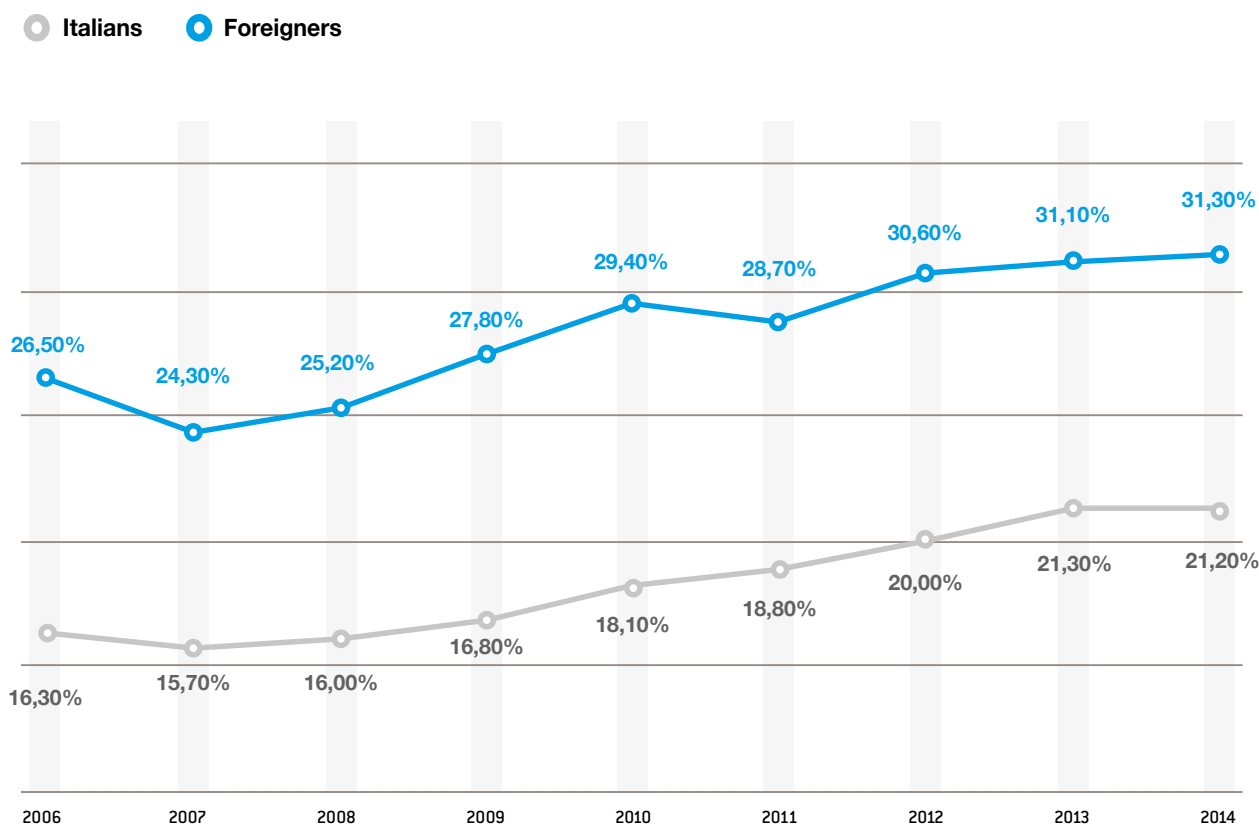
## NEETS IN ITALY, LOCALS AND FOREIGNERS

A Neet is a young person who is "Not in Education, Employment, or Training". With the economic crisis the percentage of Neets in Italy went from being 16.8%

in 2006 to 22.1% in 2014. Dividing up the percentage between italians and foreigners, the differences are substantial. In the last year recorded italian Neets were 21.2%, while foreign Neets were 31.3%. Since 2006 the 10 percentage points gap has remained unchanged: italians 16.30% and foreigners 26.50%.

### Percentage of Neets (15-24 years) in Italy

A Neet is a young person who is "Not in Education, Employment, or Training".



Since 2006 young foreigners not in education, employment or training (Neet) in Italy increased by 18%.

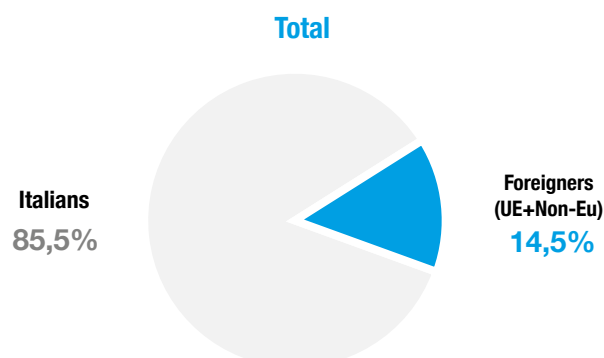
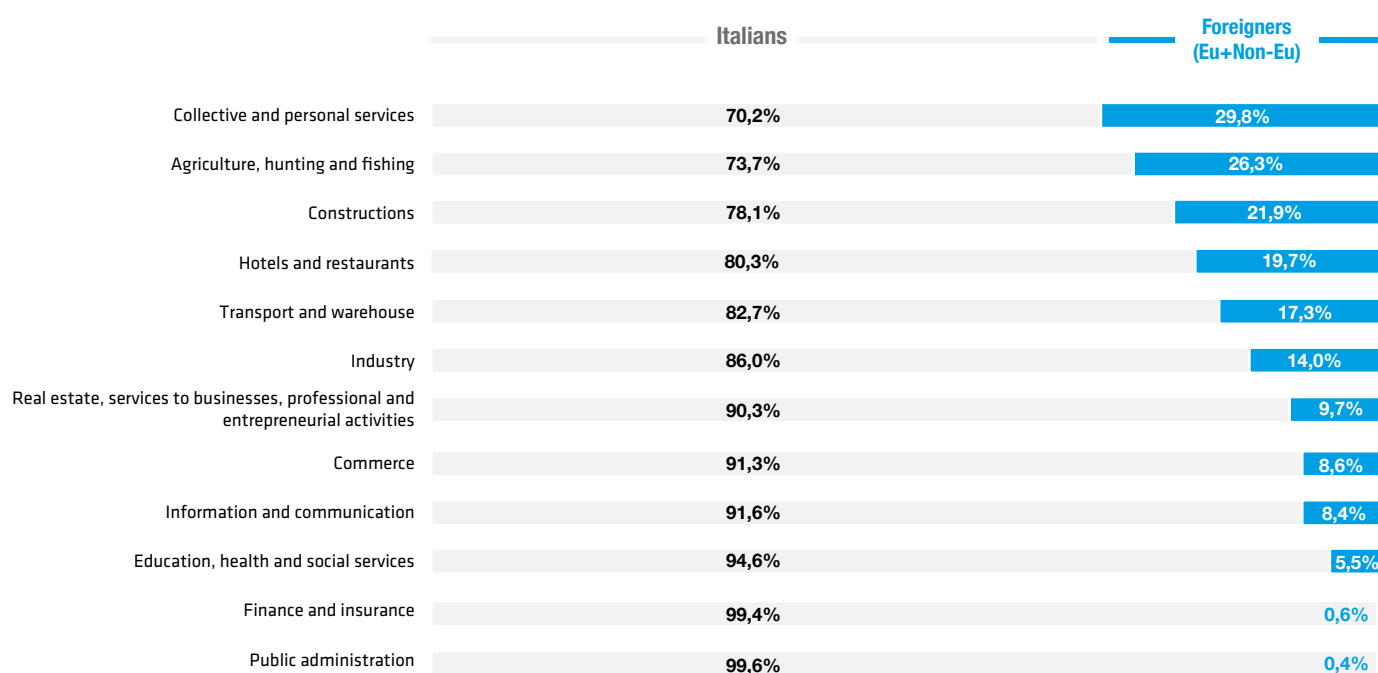


## UNDER 30 WORKERS IN ITALY

The foreign component varies significantly depending on the job sector analyzed. If on average 14.5% of workers under 30 are foreign (5% Eu citizens + 9.5%

non-Eu citizens), in the personal and collective services sectors the percentage reaches 30%. Similar numbers in agriculture, hunting and fishing (26.3%), constructions (21.9%) and warehouse work (17.3%). In some sectors young foreigners are completely absent, such as insurance and public administration.

### Under 30 workers in Italy: italians and foreigners (2013)



Foreigners are 14.5% of under 30 workers in Italy

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platforms for those that ask questions

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It constantly carries out research on e-democracy, e-gov, opendata and data journalism. It is one of the founding partners of the **Pan European e Participation Network** (PEP-NET), recognized and financed by the European Union, and it represents Italy in the **Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations** (PMO's).

Openpolis publishes a series called **“MiniDossier”**. Through a data journalism approach its goal is to verify, analyze and compare data from different official sources in order to suggest different point of views and tell different stories. On important issues and topics, such as politics and local finance, documented indexes and innovative indicators are created.

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