

Dossier Statistico Immigration 2008
The XVIIIth Caritas/Migrantes Report
Along the roads of future

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The Dossier Caritas/Migrantes 2008 framing in advance the new numbers of immigrants with the slogan “Along the roads of future” wants to grasp first of all the social meaning.

In order to get ready for the new scenario is required a more inclusive mentality and able to approach immigrants not as the “others”, the different ones, the foreigners (and, according to some people even the deviants) but as new citizens, fellows able to bring their contribution to our development.

What is happening nowadays in Italy has already been experienced by many other European and overseas countries where Italians have migrated too. As the Church has many time emphasized, immigration can bring major opportunities for the local development but it requires attention and reception in a certain context of rights and duties.

The number of immigrants. Providing the total number of regular immigrants in Italy at the beginning of each year is the first purpose of a periodical report such as The Dossier Caritas/Migrantes. According to ISTAT, the resident foreign citizens, after an annual increase of half million units are at the beginning of 2008 3.443.000 including European citizens : 62,5 % in the North, 25,0% in the Center and 12,5% in the South.

Caritas and Migrantes provide a superior number of regular immigrants that vary between 3.800.000 and 4.000.000 units out of a total population of 59.619.290 people with an incidence of 6,7% (slightly over the UE average which in 2006 was 6,0%).

These two sources, even if different, they are not contradictory as they talk about different categories of immigrants: The Dossier takes into account also the most recent immigrants waiting for a residence permit which is usually obtained after more than one year.

The first community which has doubled within two years is the Romanian one (624.741 residents and, according to The Dossier, almost 1 million sojourners) followed by the Albanian (401.915) and the Moroccan (365.908): a little above and a little lower than 150 thousands units come the Chinese community and the Ukrainian one. European citizens come now first (52,0%) while the Africans maintain the percentage (23,2%) and the Asians (16,1%) and the Americans (8,6%) lose at least a percentage point.

ITALY. Caritas/Migrantes estimate on European and non-European immigrants (31.12.2007)

Foreign residents in 31.12.2006	2.938.922
Back numbers of residence requests given in 2007	300.000
New employees in 2007	251.190
New self-employed foreign workers in 2007	1.600
New born of both foreign parents in 2007 (estimate)	63.000
Non-European minors rejoined during 2007	32.744
Other non-European relatives rejoined in 2007	60.810
Non-European sojourners arrived for other reasons in 2007	45.886
European immigrants for family reunion or for other reasons in 2007	92.960
2007 European immigrants without residence permit, waiting for it	200.000
Estimate of total regular immigrants by 31.12.2007	3.987.112

Source: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistic Dossier. Estimate on various sources

The structural dimension and the flows. Statistic sources state unanimously the followings:

- The considerable total presence of foreign citizens
- The major annual increase
- The incidence of women equaling the male one
- The major pull-factor of Central-Northern regions
- The increasing presence in the South as well
- The continuous need for additional labor force
- The increasing trend towards settlement
- The increasing familiar character of the settlement
- The increasing ratio of minors and second generation
- The plurality of countries of origins and of cultural and religious traditions

Another indicator of establishment is also the increasing investment in houses. Among Italians, those who own their houses are 8 out of 10, whereas only 1 out of 10 immigrants does that but the gap is decreasing continuously: in 2007 120.000 acquisitions were made by immigrants.

This means that immigrants will settle in Italy and will increase in numbers: this is the reason why we can say that immigration gets a structural dimension. In Europe, our country is on the top as far as immigrants are concerned and the term “foreigner” doesn’t fit anymore to define a presence which has become so deeply rooted and increasing as well.

The global dimension of the major Italian cities foresees the future of the rest of Italy. In Milan the incidence of foreign citizens amounts to 14% and 1 out of 4 is minor (almost 50.000 out of a total of 200.000) whereas in Rome the incidence is of 10% and the whole immigrant population reaches 300.000 units.

The flows during the last three years. In the period 2005-2007 almost I million and 500.000 employment requests for foreign workers have been made by Italian family firms: 251.000 in 2005, 520.000 in 2006, and 741.000 in 2007, first with an incidence of 10 %, then 20% and then 25% in 2007 in comparison with already resident foreign population (as high as 33% in comparison with foreign workers already employed). The flows registered during the last decade are the highest in the history of Italy, comparable -if not higher- with the consistent exodus of Italians during postwar period.

Behind such huge and fast events we can also detect some abuses. This, however, cannot ignore the fact that immigration contributes a lot to the needs of our country. The demographic transition turns Italy from a country with an advanced average age into one of the oldest countries in the world, while the market – in order to produce wealth – continuously demands labor force. Immigrants are a young population: 80% are under 45 years old while over 55 are very few. Moreover, the fertility rate of foreign women can provide population replacement (2,51 children per woman) unlike Italian women (whose average rate is 1,26 children).

Taking into account the requests, but not considering the initial number of 170.000 new entries, we can argue that in 2007, in Italy at least half million people were already settled and inserted in the black labour market. However, they were not provided with residence permits and this stresses the need for a more efficient management of the employment market.

Therefore, more organic actions are requested to monitor the inflows that cannot be dealt with by identification or expulsion Centers or by repressive procedure.

ITALY. Italian immigration during 2005-2007

Demographic data	2005	2006	2007
Resident population (ISTAT)	58.751.711	59.131.287	59.619.290
of which foreign citizens	2.670.514	2.938.922	3.432.651
Foreign presence	4,5	5,0	5,8
Caritas Migrantes Statistic Dossier Estimate	3.035.144	3.690.052	3.987.112
% foreign women	49.9	50,6	50.4
Foreign new-born	52.000	57.000	63.000
Minors	586.000	666.000	767.000
School enrollment	424.683	500.512	574.133
Acquired citizenship	19.266	35.766	38.466
New workers's rates	170.000	170.000 +350.000	170.000
Presented requests	251.000	540.000	741.000

Source: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistic Dossier. Estimate on various sources

The increasing integration among Italians. The connection between immigrants and Italians is getting closer and closer each day, ones cannot go without the others even if the undeniable advantages are accompanied by problems that demand solutions.

We must underline three aspects that state for the stronger and stronger ties and show that a clear cut of the Italian and immigrant population is unconceivable.

1. For the majority of cases, immigrants are concerned with obtaining the long-time residence permits that used to be called "carta di soggiorno". As they understand that their stay will not be temporary they rejoin their families or get married and make up families. Thus, it doesn't surprise much that a lot of them begin their migratory story as regulars and end up as irregulars, due to the complexity and the contradictory aspects of the legislation.

2. Immigrants not only live close to us but also develop relationships of true sharing. In 2006, 1 out of 10 marriages involved an Italian and a foreign partner (24.020 out of 245.992 marriages), amount which is more than double in comparison with marriages involving both foreign partners.(10.376). In nine regions of the North the incidence of mixed marriages reaches even 25% of marriages. Mixed couples who last in time stand for a very promising reality regarding cultural exchange.

3. The acquirement of citizenship is more and more functional to the project of settlement and equal insertion, which shows also that they appreciate our country. In 2007, 38.466 immigrants became Italian citizens, almost double in comparison with three years before. However, this figure is very low if we compare it to those 700 thousands of citizenship cases registered in Europe, almost 2000 a day of which only one hundred in Italy, country that in The Union registers one of the lowest naturalization rates.

An indispensable labor contribution. In Italy, especially among immigrants, black labor market is enormously spread not only among both families and firms to an extent which is not experienced in other industrialized countries. Also the official labor statistics confirm the important contribution of these workers, both Europeans and from other continents. Altogether, we are dealing with more than one million and five hundred persons representing in some sectors more than 10% of the employees.

The major concentration of immigrant workers, which means two thirds of the total, is in the North. In Brescia 1 worker out of 5 is born abroad, in Mantova, Lodi and Bergamo 1 out of 6, In Milan 1 out of 7. While in Brescia 1 employee out of 3 is born abroad and in Milan 1 out of 4, in Lombardy this category represents almost half of the employees. In Veneto, at the beginning of year 2000, 20.000 firms resorted to foreign workers while now 40.000 firms do that. In Lazio only a

tenth of immigrant workers is born abroad, which equals the percentage of the South, where in some sectors like agriculture, constructions and family care for which immigrant labor force has become indispensable.

The high immigrant presence in the labor market accounts also for the high labor union membership (814.311 persons) which amounts to 15% of all members and as high as 12% of all active members, not counting the retired people.

ITALY. Immigrant's participation at economy and labor market (2007)

Activity rate		Workers born abroad	2.704.450
Foreign citizens	73,2%	New employees born abroad	599.466
Italian citizens	61,9%	Balance between employment and suspension	198.033
Employment		New employees over employees percentage	22,2%
Foreign citizens	67,1%		
Italian citizens	58,1%	Firms of foreign born immigrants	165.114
Unemployment		Foreign labor union members (CGIL, CISL, UIL, UGL)	814.311
Foreign citizens	8,3%	Work accidents involving persons born abroad	140.579
Italian citizens	5,9%	The incidence of foreigners over all accidents	15,4%
Foreign women	12,7%	Remittances sent from Italy (thousands of euros)	6.044.060
Foreigners workers in services	84,4%	Estimate of immigrant's fiscal drag (in euros)	3.749.371.530

Source: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistic Dossier. Estimate on various sources

A labour contribution necessary also in the future. Small firms are responsible for three quarters of employment cases and this due to the peculiar structure of our productive system. The plight differs greatly from post war migration context when millions of southerners were absorbed by big factories of Northern Italy, Germany, Switzerland and other European countries. This accounts also for immigrant's spread all over the territory.

Their entire activity rate is, on average, equal to 73,2% (of 88% for the male workers only) which is 12 percentage points higher than Italian's rate whereas their unemployment rate is two points higher (8,3% on average and 12,7% for the female workers only), but still having values three times higher in some communities like the Moroccan one.

The rates of agriculture workers (7,3%) and services employees (53,8%) in 2005-2007 have increased with 2 percents over industry (35,3%).

Insertion typologies reveal the different features of territory. In the north firm employment and self-employment prevail, in the Centre, self-employment and family care and in the South, family care and agriculture work.

In spite of a difficult economic context, the foreigners' work is needed for the welfare of the market. This implies a more flexibility of quotes rather than inflows closure on prejudgement bases. Immigrant workers are responsible for two thirds of Italian employment growth (234.000 new workers in 2007).

The increase of immigrant entrepreneurs. Immigrants accept the jobs offered to them and increasingly create their own jobs, especially after they would overcome the first difficult phase of their integration. Self-employment regards more than one tenth of the adult foreign population with 165.114 firm owners, 52.715 associates and 85.990 other societal structures, with an increase of one sixth in comparison with may 2007, with a faster pace than Italian firms.

85% of the firms having immigrant owners had been established since year 2000 when, under various aspects, immigrant settlement has become more obvious. In the top of communities

with highest numbers of firm owners (more than 2000) are the Moroccans, Romanians (greatly increasing) and Chinese, followed by the Albanians with 17.000 owners. A major concentration is to be found, at the present time, in certain sectors: 4 out of 10 firms are engaged in constructions, dynamic sector that covers the entire Italy, and almost 4 in commerce.

Supposing that entrepreneurial immigrants rate was equal to Italians' one, the number of firms would double and go over 300.000 units with benefits in terms of wealth production and new labour offer, hopefully also in other sectors with high technology and innovation character, thus avoiding the confinement of immigrant's contribution to lower levels.

The Dossier has chosen as case study "The Consorzio Interpreti Traduttori" (ITC) established in Rome, in 2006, but operating all over Italy. The consortium provides Commissions for acknowledgement of refugees' status and Centres for reception and identification, with 823 members of both genders, for the majority graduated (even though in 4 cases out of 5 their title hasn't been acknowledged), who come from different continents and have a relative residence seniority (only one third is living in Italy for less than 10 years) and are adults (more than half of them is over 35 years old), in a quarter of the cases born and grown up in Italy, speaking perfectly different languages.

Producers of wealth and not catered for. The dossier, in collaboration with the Commission for Social Exclusion Research, immigrant associations and cooperative society Codres has conducted in Roman area a representative research on a sample of more than 900 immigrants.

The results are significant and lead to the idea that immigrants are more exposed to poverty risk than Italians because they benefit of a minor social protection. They overcome the first major difficulties thanks to family and friends networks which are rarely supported by public structures.

Even though the average net income isn't high (about 900 euros), around two thirds of the interviewees consider themselves satisfied with their occupational insertion. They try to be content with what they have and their expenses cover mostly the basic needs. Research results and official statistics reveal that they do not feel like a group of assisted people.

According to ISTAT data (2005) 136,7 millions of euros have been spent by municipalities for specific actions in favour of immigrants. And this accounts for 2,4% of their social costs, equal to 53,9 euro per person. Considering that immigrants benefit also of social services assigned to population in general, the money spent on their behalf would reach maximum 1 billion euros and would be abundantly covered by their incomes.

An estimate of the dossier has emphasised that the fiscal taxes of immigrants in 2007 was 3 billions and 749 millions of euros of which 3, 1 billions only for Irpef taxes and the rest for different other items (additional regional Irpef, Ici, mortgage and cadastral taxes) among which the most consistent are those for registry taxes, (137,5 millions) and substitutive tax of the firm income (254,5 millions of euros)

These numbers are not surprising taking into account also that, according to Unioncamere, immigrants contribute with 95 to the Gross Domestic Product.

Immigrants assure also a substantial economic contribution for the countries of origin through remittances which in 2007 had amounted globally to 37 billions of dollars whereas in Italy have reached 6 billions euros, a quarter more than in 2006, prevalently towards developing countries, in particular towards China and Philippines.

ITALY. Estimate over immigrants' fiscal taxes

Taxes	Taxes estimates
IRPEF	3.113.421.680
Additional Regional IRPEF	146.324.372
Additional Municipal IRPEF	43.016.010
I.C.I.	10.536.068
Cadastral taxes	22.008.000
Mortgage taxes	22.008.000
Registry taxes	137.550.000
Substitutive tax	254.507.400
TOTAL	3.749.371.530

Source: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistic Dossier. Estimate on various sources

School and university. In 2007 65.000 children were born of foreign parents and considering also the number of minors who came immigrated for family reunion, it is obvious that the minor population is increasing in Italy at a pace of 100.000 units/year. The total number of foreign minors is 767.060 of which as many as 457.345 are second generation children or born in Italy, so foreigners only from a juridical point of view.

The number of students -children of immigrants increases with 70.000 units/year and have almost reached to 600.000 units in the school-year 2007-2008 (574.133) with an average incidence of 6,4% (but by 10% or more in Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Umbria) and a major concentration in primary and secondary school. A little less than 100.000 are Romanians (92.724), Albanians (85.195), Moroccans (76.217), almost 30.000 Chinese, 20.000 Ecuadorians, 15.000 Tunisians, Serbs and Montenegrins.

A school system with precarious means for adequate insertion implies many problems especially when the transfer occurs during the school-year. According to ministerial sources 42,5% of foreign students cannot cope with study requirements, lack school preparation and get behind especially in secondary school where 19% of the students enrolled are over 18 years old. Another major problem is the excessive orientation of these children towards technical-professional sectors.

Globalization concern also Italian universities where 47.506 foreign students are enrolled, double in comparison with just 10 years ago but still under represented. On the other hand, our school system has a low international profile since only two Italian universities (Bologna and Rome-La Sapienza) are among the most prestigious 200 universities in the world ranking only 173rd and 183rd place.

Foreign students are only 2,6 % of the whole university population (1.809.186), therefore a low rate in comparison with the average of OCSE countries(7%). The foreign new university students enrolled yearly are 10.000 (60% females). Moreover doctorate students are 2.136 out of 38.890 (5,9%), master students of both first and second level are 2.385 out of 43.127 (5,5%) and yearly 5000 bachelors.

Immigrants' languages and cultures. Relevant is also the cultural richness that immigrants bring with their many languages. (The Dossier, through a study conducted by Siena University for Foreign Students, has already counted in 2001 150 languages). Not only that these languages represent a richness for their contents but they also act as flywheels for the commercial contacts with the countries of origin as, for instance, chinese, arabian, russian and spanish language.

The mother tongues that usually not stand in the way of learning Italian are indispensable in protecting the original cultural identity and the life of different communities. The NGO Cospe has registered in 2007 146 publications in immigrants' languages of which two thirds created in the last 5 years: 63 newspapers (mostly mothly), 59 radio programs, 24 TV programs (mostly weekly) in

collaboration also with major publishing houses as “Metropoli”, “La Repubblica” newspaper and “Stranieri in Italia”. In this sector are employed 800 people of which 550 of foreign origin. In this connection the professions’ law is bound to be changed since, in Italy, a foreign publication can be directed only by Italian journalists who, many times, are not familiar with the languages of the publications themselves. Regarding deontology “Carta of Rome” has been signed, document that, on the other hand, needs concrete means of application.

Criminality problem. The charges against foreign citizens have increased from 89.390 cases in 2001 to 130.458 cases in 2005 (the most recent available ISTAT data). Total charges have increased by 45,9% in this period and the incidence of foreign criminality (involving both, regular and irregular immigrants) has increased from 17,4% to 23,7% while the regular foreign presence has doubled (from 1.334. 889 to 2.670.514 foreign residents).

It is usually believed that foreign citizens have a higher rate of delinquency than Italians, without considering the fact that charges against “foreign population” include irregular immigrants and transit persons as well, be them tourists or business man, not accounted for precisely.

A particular case concerned Romanian community which represents a quarter of the total foreign presence and is involved in a sixth of criminal charges against foreign citizens. This is why Romanians are pointed out as a presence with “high criminal potential”. Without ignoring that the issue is very delicate , the dossier argues on statistical findings that the majority of Romanians are honest persons.

Besides, according to the same Report over Criminality, published in 2007, by the Minister of Interior, taking into account that irregular immigrants are mostly involved , the incidence of regular foreign citizens on total criminal charges equals the percentage of foreign population on the total one. On the other hand, immigrants are involved especially in crimes in connection with exploitation of prostitution, extortion, smuggling and receiving stolen goods.

Another particular case concerns roma population towards whom people have resorted to the “self-made justice”(the case of Campo Ponticelli, in Naples, under the stereotypical belief that roma people kidnap children) and, for the first time, people expressed the hypothesis of fingerprinting the minors of the community, a group already so stigmatized.

According to Caritas and Migrantes also, criminality compromises a fair social living and the delinquents should be condemned and punished but in a re-educational approach and without any form of legal discrimination. The culture of lawfulness is not the mere result of repressive action but needs more inclusive social policies because prevention and integration must go together, while expressions as “zero tolerance” are more than abused in our country.

A future together with immigrants. The ISTAT estimate (June, 2005) on Italian population up to year 2050 gives new dimensions to the consequences of Italian population’s “extinction”. In the same time it underlines the increasing role of immigrants in a negative demographic context, even though births will not go below 50.000 units.

The three scenarios assumed by ISTAT (low, medium and high, according to different parameters) indeed take into consideration the increase of old-aged population and the decreasing of the active one. In all the three cases the average age will grow from 42, 8 years in 2007 to 49 years at the half of the century. The active population will decrease from 39 millions people in 2007 to 30,8 millions in 2051 according to the low scenario, to 33,4 millions according to the medium scenario and to 35,8 millions according to the high scenario. In comparison with the present 11,8 millions of people aged 65 or over , according to the high scenario, in 2051 they will be 22,2 millions, 20,3 millions according to the medium scenario and 18,3 millions according to the low one.

As far as the residents are concerned, in comparison with 59,1 millions at the beginning of 2007, their number will increase in 2031 in both medium (60,3 millions of which 53,9 Italians) and high scenario (64,6 millions of which 55,5 millions Italians). The same thing will happen in 2051 when we’ll have, 61,6 millions habitants of which 59,9 millions Italians (medium scenario), and

67,3 millions of which 54,9 Italians (high scenario). The low scenario, instead, foresees a decrease below the current level (56,6 millions of which 46,7 Italians, number that would thus diminish by 3,5 millions in comparison with 2007).

Italy's future is not conceivable without immigrants. At the half of the century immigrants, excluding those who would become Italian citizens, will be, according to the low scenario 8,9 millions; according to the medium scenario – 10,7 millions and according to the high scenario -12,4 millions, with an incidence between 16% and 18% on residents.

The annual population flows, according to ISTAT, excluding the exits, amounts to 150.000 new immigrants in the low scenario, to 200.000 in the medium scenario and to 240.000 (or even more) in the high scenario. In fact, there are already, annually, 170.000 immigrants for working reasons, less than 200.000 for family reunion, 64.000 are new-borns of both foreign parents and some tens of thousands of persons will com for other reasons, such as religion and study; this generates an inflow definitely higher than Germany's.

The priority of integration for Caritas and Migrantes. Caritas and migrantes are church organisms concerned with immigration that has it's own personal and multiple service structures since the 70's when the phenomenon became visible. This strong experience is a good auspice to overcome "Penelope's complex" which sees the political majority undoing what has been done before, thus preventing a common agreement freed of ideology or party positions.

The central problem is that immigration is not conceived as a structural phenomenon meant to concern more the society. The phenomenon cannot be dealt with basing on circumstantial needs of labour market, cannot be faced with a mere policy of closure and cannot be defined only according the needs of public order. The logic of number demands changing mentality and adopting more opened social policies, overcoming the a priori aversion towards immigrants differences (of colour, culture, religion).

Even accepting that legality and solidarity go together, the so called "security packet" does not cover the entire content of migratory policy and it's not even the most relevant part of it. This kind of policy doesn't get rid of impediments which make the lives of immigrants difficult and doesn't promote integration by adequate means. The need for long lasting integration strategies was reminded by The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue inaugurated under the slogan : "Together in diversity".

There are a lot of questions that need to be answered: the need to favour immigrants' regular employment, to comply with the family cohesion needs, to assure integration social support, asking employers to play their part, when necessary. According to Caritas and Migrantes, integration policies are the litmus paper of the government dealing with integration.

The slogans of Caritas/Migrantes Dossier in years 2000

- 2001 Integration time
- 2002 Workers and citizens
- 2003 Italy-immigration country
- 2004 Open society, dynamic and future society
- 2005 Immigration and globalization
- 2006 Beyond alternatives
- 2007 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- 2008 Along the roads of future