

ITALY, ON THE PATH TO MULTICULTURALISM

Italy has only recently changed from an emigration country to an immigration one. Italy has a long history of emigration, which continued until the 1960s, but the phenomenon of immigration to Italy began relatively late, after the oil crisis of the 1970s, when England, Germany and France closed their frontiers to immigrants. As a result, migratory flows were diverted towards southern Europe and Italy became a host country, receiving immigrants from Eastern Europe and Asian and African developing countries. Today, given its geographical position as the natural crossroads between the Mediterranean Basin and northern Europe, Italy has to deal with immigration on the front line. Italy's population is 60 million, of whom just over 4,500,000 are foreign nationals, which amount to 7,5% of the country's population, with a constant increase in the influx of foreigners.

As a natural Mediterranean bridge with Africa, the Balkans and the East, Italy is perhaps the most vulnerable external border of Europe, and it is the most exposed country to the penetration by illegal immigrants from the South and from the East.

Italy's migration policy is designed to achieve two objectives: to favour the entry of foreign nationals into Italy, particularly to meet the demands of the domestic labour market, and to prevent illegal immigration on the grounds of security and public order.

As of 2011, the foreign born population origin of Italy was subdivided as follows: Europe (53.4%), Asia (16.8%), North Africa (14.8%) the Americas (8.1%), sub-Saharan Africa (6.7%) and other lands (such as Oceania) (0.2%). The distribution of foreign born population is largely uneven in Italy: 86.45% of immigrants live in the northern and central parts of the country, while only 13.55% live in the southern half of the peninsula.

VOCABULARY

● Explain in your words the meaning of the following terms and expressions.

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|------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| ① Host country | | ④ Illegal immigrants | |
| ② Developing countries | | ⑤ Labour market | |
| ③ Border | | ⑥ Public order | |

ACTIVITIES



WRITING

● Take some notes about the most important information on the topic "Immigration to Italy".

