



THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants in Italy
Excutive Summary



2016

The 2016 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities Present in Italy renews the commitment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies in a publishing project by now mature and original in the vast panorama of analyses and researches on immigration in Italy. A project furthermore peculiar owing to its complementary relationship with the Sixth National Report on Migrants in the Italian Labour Market.

This fifth edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities took into consideration the nationalities that have always been the most numerous on the Italian territory: Moroccan, Albanian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Indian, Filipino, Egyptian, Bangladeshi, Moldovan, Pakistani, Tunisian, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Peruvian and Ecuadorian. Through the information provided by institutional and administrative sources, said communities were analysed with reference to their specificities, analogies and significant differences, all of which put in comparison with the related data on the total foreign population in Italy.

The five-year experience acquired with the International Labour Mobility Programme of Italia Lavoro (now Anpal Servizi) can be appreciated in this year's greater ability to synthesise information compared to the previous editions, notwithstanding the realisation of a broad mapping of the foreign communities' data. In particular, the reports provide information on the migratory phenomenon in its whole, as well as on the socio-demographic characteristics of each nationality, the presence of minors and related educational and training paths, employment, welfare policies and integration processes. Lastly, a specific chapter was devoted to the analysis of the general migratory picture in Italy comparing the various communities among each other, with reference to their main socio-demographic and employment characteristics.

Special thanks are owed to all Institutions and Agencies that provided their fundamental, well-established and effective collaboration: the Ministry of Interior – Central Directorate for Immigration and Asylum Civil Services and the Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities; the Ministry of Education, University and Research – General Directorate for Students; the Ministry of Health – General Directorate for Healthcare Planning; INPS – Actuarial Statistics General Coordination; ISTAT - National Statistics Institute; INAIL – National Insurance Institute for Industrial Accidents; Unioncamere – Italian Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture; CESPI and trade unions CGIL, CISL and UIL.

The complete series 2012-2016 National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities Present in Italy is available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, under the sections "Paesi di origine e comunità" and "Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione" on the institutional portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it.

The unabridged volumes of the 2016 Community Reports, as well as the statistical tables, are available upon request by writing to the following address: infomobilita@anpalservizi.it

Executive Summary

THE COMMUNITY IN FIGURES

REGULARLY RESIDING: 482.959

MEN: 51.7%; WOMEN: 48.3%.

MINORS: 137.033 (28.4%)

UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS (UFMs): 1.343

MAIN SECTORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: CONSTRUCTION (27%), INDUSTRY STRICTLY SPEAKING (18%)

SETTLEMENT AREAS: LOMBARDIA (21.1%), TOSCANA (14.5%) AND EMILIA ROMAGNA (12.9%)

EMPLOYMENT RATE: 52.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 20.2%

MAIN EDUCATION LEVEL: LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (48%)

CITIZENSHIPS GRANTED IN 2015: 35.134

The statistical analysis conducted for this report has uncovered aspects that characterise the Albanian community in Italy:

The Albanian Community in Italy - as well as the set of non-EU citizens, among which women make up 48.7% of the total - is characterised by a **gender balance**. Actually, women represent 48.3% of the community, whereas men cover the remaining 51.7%;

an average age slightly below that recorded for all non-EU citizens: in 2016 the average age of citizens in the Albanian community is 31, compared with 32 for the entire non-EU population residing in Italy;

a significant migratory history, so much so that, in 2016, 71.1% of the Albanian citizens regularly residing held a EU long term residence permit (+1.3% compared to the previous year), a value more than 12 percentage points higher than that recorded for the total amount of non-EU citizens;

a large number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) belonging to this community at 30 August 2016: 1.343 minors, or 9.7% of the total. Albania ranks second in terms of number of UAMs present in Italian reception structures;

a **geographical distribution** characterised by a strong presence in Northern Italy, chosen by the 61.8% of Albanian citizens. Two of the three regions that host the largest number of Albanian citizens are located in the North. **Lombardia**, the first region of residence of this community, hosts a little bit less than one fifth of the overall number of Albanian citizens, as opposed to 26.3% of the overall number of non-EU citizens, as well as **Emilia Romagna** (the third region in terms of number of Albanian citizens) with a percentage of 12.9%. The presence of the Community is particularly significant also in **Toscana**, second in terms of regularly residing Albanian citizens (14.5%);

a distribution of the Albanian workers in the different economic sectors that reveals another characteristic of the Community: a **significant involvement in the Industrial sector**, which absorbs the 45% of Albanian workforce. In particular, the construction sector absorbs the 27% of the Community workforce;

a considerable involvement of the community in the **entrepreneurship world**: the community holds the third place in terms of number of individual enterprises. Albanian enterprises owners at 31 December 2015 are 30.903, or 8.7% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy.

Demographical characteristics

The Albanian community has a significant migratory history in Italy. In fact, since the 90s Albanian migration has assumed a significant extent, following the socio-political events in the country, but also in relation to the geographical proximity and the historical ties between the two countries.

The Albanians have been for years the second community in terms of number of regularly residing: at 1 January 2016, the number of **Albanian citizens regularly residing in Italy numbered 482,959**, 13% of all non-EU citizens.

The Albanian community is one of the most deeply rooted communities in the Italian territory and there are different signs that point to that situation. In particular, from the social and demographic point of view, two aspects highlight their stable residence: the Albanian Community in Italy, as well as the set of non-EU citizens, is characterised by **a gender balance**. Actually, women represent 48.3% of the community, whereas men cover the remaining 51.7%. Within the Albanian community, there is **a high percentage of minors** (which is a symptom of the presence of families). Minors, who amount to about 137,000 units, have an incidence that exceeds 28% of the total of Albanian citizens regularly residing in Italy. This community turns out to be on average younger than the rest of non-EU citizens and almost half of Albanian citizens are under 30 years old (48.1% of the overall number).

The community under review is characterised by a strong presence in **Toscana**, second in terms of regularly residing Albanian citizens: 69,931, equal to 14.5%, a value that is six percentage points higher than that recorded for the overall number of non-EU migrants. In general, the Community's geographical distribution is characterised by a strong presence in Northern Italy, where approximately six Albanian citizens out of 10 live. Two of the three regions that host the largest number of Albanian citizens are located in the North. **Lombardia**, the first region of residence of this community, hosts a little bit less than one fifth of the overall number of Albanian citizens, as opposed to 26.3% of the overall number of non-EU citizens, as well as **Emilia Romagna** (the third region in terms of number of Albanian citizens) with a percentage of 12.9%. Southern Italy hosts over one tenth of the Albanian community, a figure a little bit lower than that referring to the overall number of nationals originating from non-EU citizens regularly residing in Italy.

The analysis of residence permits gives some idea of the stabilisation process regarding this community: the share of EU long-term residence permits holders within the community is higher than the non-EU average: 71.1% at 1 January 2016 (compared with 59.5% for all non-EU citizens). For Albanian citizens in possession of a renewable residence permit, family reasons represent the major motivation of their residence, thus affecting more than half of renewable residence permits of nationals pertaining to this community (62.6%). Residence permits for work reasons amount to 42,715, equal to 30.6%.

In 2015, 16,816 Albanian citizens entered Italy (+8.4% compared to the previous year). Also in 2015, there was a substantial decrease of the number of residence permits issued for work reasons (-47.7%) as compared to the previous year and the increase of new entries in Italy for family reasons, equal to +13%. Although the Albanian community ranks second in terms of entries for seasonal work (673 seasonal workers, one fifth of the total), this sector as well has registered a significant drop (29%) compared to the previous year.

Current trends

If during last year the overall presence of non-EU citizens turns out to be on the increase (+0.03%), in the case of the Albanian community, after years of a continuous rise, for the second consecutive year, the Community has experienced a drop of presences. The number of Albanian citizens regularly residing has decreased since 1 January 2015 by 15,460 units (-3.1%).

This decrease of presences has affected considerably one of the oldest foreign communities residing in Italy and it is due to the combination of several factors, the most important ones being the following:

- a substantial decrease, starting from 2010, of the number of Albanian citizens entering Italy, which moved from 48.330, to 16.183 – even if a slightly recover has been registered over last year;
- the increasing number of Albanian citizens who were granted Italian citizenship during last years: in 2015 there were 35,134 new citizens of Albanian origin, on the increase over 2014 of 66.1%. In particular, acquisitions by virtue of naturalisation (+80.5%) and election at the age of 18/parental transmission are on the rise. The granting of Italian citizenship determines a replacement effect: it reduces the number of non-EU citizens in favour of the number of “new” Italian citizens of foreign origin.

Minors and educational paths

Albanian minors amount to 137,033, representing 14.4% of non-EU minors. The number of Albanian minors has registered for the first time this year, after years of continuous increase, a drop of 1,149 units (-0.8% compared to the previous year). In addition, the substantial decrease of births from parents of Albanian nationality within the Community, with a drop of 6.7% registered between 2012 and 2014, has had an influence in this direction.

Albania represents the second country of origin of **unaccompanied foreign minors** (UFMs) present in reception facilities in Italy at 30 August 2016: 1,343, equal to 9.7% of the overall number and the figure is continuously on the increase.

The **inclusion of Albanian minors in the Italian schooling system** is very high: the 81% of Albanian minors are enrolled in Italian schools, compared to an average of 65% of non-EU minors. Albania is the first country of origin of over than 621,000 students originating from non-EU member states in Italy: in fact, the number of Albanian students enrolled in the Italian educational system during the school year 2015/2016 is actually 111,029 and they represent the 17.9% of school population coming from non-EU member states. The distribution among various school levels is similar to that of the overall number of non-EU students. Primary school receives the majority of Albanian pupils (39,682 pupils, representing 35.7% of the school population pertaining to this community); similar quota equal to 22% are distributed among infant schools and upper secondary schools, whereas one fifth of pupils of Albanian citizenship attend lower secondary school.

With regard to **university education**, the community, despite having the first place as regards the number of students enrolled in Italian universities, has shown, during last academic year, an opposite enrollment trend compared to the overall number of non-EU students. The number of university students belonging to the community under review turns out to be continuously decreasing over the last four years and, in particular during last year, moving from 10,683 up to 10,237 students, Albanian academic population has had a decrease of 9%, unlike non-EU students, which registered an increase of 7% during the same period.

The community under review holds the first place, in absolute value, of young **NEET - Not in Employment, Education and Training**: the number of young people aged between 15 and 29, who do not study or do not work is 49,933, a figure equal to 19.5% of all young people of NEET category, originating from non-EU member states. However, in comparison with last year, their number has decreased by 4,266 units, marking thus a drop of 7.9%.

Work and employment conditions

The already mentioned migratory history of the Albanian Community has meant for its workers a significant involvement in the most important sectors of the Italian economy, with particular reference to the industrial one. This involvement has developed a substantial specialization of the Community, channeling Albanian workers towards the construction sector – which absorbs the 27% of Albanian workers (compared to a figure of 8.5% of non-EU workers) – and industry strictly speaking that, however, absorbs the 18% of Albanian workforce. Both sectors have been hardly hit during the most acute phase of the recent economic crisis, with repercussions on the employment levels of the Community.

In fact, until 2014, during the most severe economic crisis period, the unemployment rate gradually increased, moving from 18.8% in 2012, to 22.7% in 2014. Finally, 2015 has been a turning year for the labor market of the community, since the unemployment rate decreased by 2.5 percentage points and stopped at 20.2%. The number of unemployed Albanian citizens is almost 60,000 and the unemployment rate within this community is substantially higher than that of the overall number of non-EU citizens (20.2%, compared to 16.7%).

Not surprisingly, Albanian citizens have benefitted from **wage supplements granted by INPS**¹ (in the event of suspended or reduced working activity), amounting to the overall number of 18,528, equal to more than one quarter of all non-EU beneficiaries; it is a significant percentage considering that 14% of the workforce originating from non-EU member states corresponds to the community under review. The 19.2% (76,337) of non-EU **beneficiaries of unemployment allowances** (different forms of Italian Social Employment Insurance) are Albanians. Albanian citizens benefit mainly from **ASPI**²

¹ INPS is the Italian acronym for “*National Social Security Institute*”.

² ASPI replaces previous and more narrowly-targeted indemnity and mobility programs with a more inclusive scheme applying to anyone who loses their job against their will. Potential beneficiaries include employees, apprentices, working partners at cooperatives, artistic workers, and fixed-term employees of the public administration.

(35.3%), 18.4% of them receive the unemployment benefits in the agricultural sector, 16.1% benefit from **Mini ASPI**³ and 27.9% of them from **NASPI**⁴.

In addition, the **employment rate** confirms the difficulties faced by the Community under review: the 52.3% of the Albanian citizens in Italy aged 15-64 is employed. This is the lowest figure of all the compared groups; in particular, the distance from the employment rate of non-EU citizens is approximately 5%. There are huge differences within the community with reference to men (71.2%) and women (34.3%) employment rate; the low employment rate of women contributes to define a lower overall indicator than the average of non-EU citizens.

The **inactivity rate** among Albanian citizens is equal to 34.4%; this figure is higher than the one resulting from all the compared groups, especially there is a difference of 3 percentage points as compared to the overall number of nationals originating from non-EU member states. In the course of 2015, **152,385 new employment contracts were initiated for Albanian citizens**, 7.6% more than the previous year. About 45% of new “subordinate” (economically dependent employed work) and “parasubordinate” (also known as economically dependent self-employed work) jobs started in 2015 for Albanian workers were in the Services sector, the first sector also for non-EU workers, even if with a more pronounced percentage compared to the community under review (60.4%). Agriculture represents the second biggest sector in terms of employment numbers during 2015, with 29.1% of new jobs going to the benefit of Albanian citizens, whereas the employment percentage in the industrial sector is constant and amounts to about 26%. Within the Community under review, manual specialized work prevails, involving almost the half of Albanian workforce, compared to the 28% of non-EU workers. Unskilled manual work follows with a percentage of 25%. Finally, one fifth of Albanian workers work as salesperson and providers of personal services, whereas the positions of directors and practitioners of intellectual and technical areas amount to 6%.

The involvement of the community under review in **the entrepreneurship world** is considerable: the community holds the third place in terms of number of individual enterprises. The sector with the biggest investments for Albanian entrepreneurs is the construction sector, in which more than 75% of individual companies owned by Albanian nationals conduct their activity.

During 2014, 9,236 Albanian nationals were involved in **workplace accidents**, a figure equal to 13.3% of all work accidents affecting non-EU workers. The Albanian community comes second among those originating from non-EU member states in terms of the number of workplace accidents. The number of workplace accidents involving workers born in Albania turns out to be decreasing, moving from 12,303 in 2010, to 9,236 in 2014 (-25%).

Socio-economic conditions

The Albanian Community specialization in the industrial sector shows its positive effects with reference to incomes. Albanian **employees' income** is on average higher than that of the overall number of non-EU citizens: 30% of Albanian workers earn more than 1,200 euro per month, compared to 20% of non-EU workers. The first two wage classes, the same for all compared groups, are those ranging between 800 and 1,200 euro, where 40% of employed nationals of the community are included, and the wages up to 800 euro, amounting up to 29% of the employed citizens of the community.

Among Albanian citizens employed in Italy, a **low to middle education level** is predominant. In accordance with the data of non-EU citizens – more than half of workers who belong to the community under review have only completed the compulsory education (54%). The 48% of Albanian workers completed lower secondary education.

During the course of 2015, the share of **IVS**⁵ pensions granted to non-EU citizens was just 0.3% of the total: out of over 14 million pensions, just 39,340 went to non-EU citizens. This difference is partly due to the average age of the foreign population, which is younger than the Italian one. More in detail 39% of non-EU citizens are granted old-age pensions, 36% receive survivors' pensions, while a quarter of IVS pensions granted to non-EU citizens in 2015 were for invalidity. Referring to the Albanian community, survivors' pensions prevail, amounting to 42.5%, followed by Invalidity pensions

³ Those who do not qualify for unemployment benefits can apply for a “mini Aspi” allowance if they made contributions to the scheme for at least 13 weeks in the year leading up to their dismissal. The amount of money unemployed people receives under the “mini Aspi” is granted for a shorter period. It is only granted for half the number of weeks a worker made contributions in the previous 12 months. While workers who were made redundant because of downsizing or the closure of a firm used to get paid a “redeployment” allowance, meant for people who are unable to find new jobs, that benefit will no longer be available by 2017

⁴ NASPI is a cash benefit granted, on request, in the event of involuntary redundancy or expiry of a fixed-term employment contract, to employed workers, which includes apprentices, cooperative members, artistic staff and fixed-term workers of public administrative bodies.

⁵ IVS is the Italian acronym for Invalidity, Old Age and Survivors' pensions (*Invaldità, vecchiaia e superstiti*).

(38.6%) and a percentage of about 19% is related to old age pensions. With a total of 3,206 IVS pensions, the Albanian community constitutes a percentage of 8.1% of the overall amount payable to nationals originating from non-EU member states. During 2014-2015, the number of IVS pensions payable to emigrants of Albanian origin marked a bigger increase than that of emigrants originating from non-EU member states: +12.8 % compared to +10 %.

INPS social assistance benefits in favour of Albanian citizens turn out to be very high: out of a total of 16,376 social assistance benefits granted in 2015, about 27.6% were destined to non-EU citizens. These are social allowances in the 64% of cases; a little bit more than one fifth are attendance allowances, whereas constant attendance supplements cover the remaining 14%.

In terms of **INPS family benefits**, a total of 346,007 individuals received the maternity allowances in 2015, 29.193 of which are non-EU citizens. The number of Albanian citizens who received maternity allowances during the same period was 4,816, or 16.5% of all non-EU beneficiaries. As regards parental leave, in 2015 the overall number of beneficiaries amounted to 300,070, and the number of non-EU beneficiaries was 16,310 or 5.4%. 2,497 Albanian citizens or 15.3% of all non-EU beneficiaries received this benefit as well. Family allowances are the benefits enjoyed by the largest number of people: during 2015, there were 2,800,195 beneficiaries altogether and about 321,000 of these were nationals originating from non-EU member states (11.5%). Referring to the community in question, 60,789 individuals have benefitted from family allowances during last year, representing 18.9% of all non-EU beneficiaries.

Albania represents the 11th destination of **remittances exiting Italy in 2015**, with 128.6 million euro (+1.8 million compared to 2014), equal to 3.1% of the overall figure of remittances sent from Italy (over 4 billion EUR).

The number of marriages with Italian citizens is a further element confirming the stable presence of the Albanian Community in our country. In 2014, the number of mixed marriages involving Albanian nationals was 1,295, more than half of them involved an Italian husband and an Albanian wife (55.8%), less than one quarter (24.4%) involved an Albanian man marrying an Italian woman and one-fifth involved two foreign spouses.

Although there is a greater vulnerability as regards foreign citizens' access to financial instruments, compared with national figures for the Italian adult population (87%), the number of foreign adults holding a current account has risen significantly, from 61.2% in 2010 to 73.1% in 2015 (+0.2).

The Albanian community has a higher **bank account rate** compared with the non-EU national average: the percentage of Albanian adults holding a current account is 78.3% (+4.7% vis-à-vis previous year). The 43% of these current accounts have been open for more than 5 years (banking stability index), four percentage points higher than the non-EU national average (39%). The number of current accounts held by Albanian women is lower than the national average: 39%, vis-à-vis 45% for all non-EU women in possession of a current account.

