



THE MOROCCAN 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: 510,450

MEN: 54.9% - WOMEN: 45.1%.

MINORS: 161,325 (31.6%)

UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS (UFM): 211

EMPLOYMENT RATE: 44.1%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 25.4%.

MAIN SECTORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: INDUSTRY STRICTLY SPEAKING (27%), COMMERCE (20%)

SETTLEMENT AREAS: LOMBARDIA (23.7%), EMILIA ROMAGNA (15.2%) AND PIEMONTE (13.6%)

MAIN EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION (45%)

CITIZENSHIPS GRANTED IN 2015: 32,448

On the basis of the statistical analysis carried out, the main aspects characterising the **Moroccan** community in Italy are as follows:

a **substantially balanced gender distribution**, with a slight male prevalence: in fact, men correspond to 54.9% of the community, while women cover the remaining 45.1%, a datum more than 3% lower than what identified for the non-EU regularly residing population, among whom female citizens correspond to 48.7%;

a **lower average age compared to that of the total non-EU citizens**: in 2016, the average age of Moroccan-born citizens was 31 years old, against the average age of 32 registered for the total non-EU population;

a **significant migratory history**, so much so that, in 2016, 68.2% of the Moroccan citizens regularly residing held a residence permit for long-term residents (+1.7% compared to the previous year), while 31.8% held a residence permit subject to renewal. This datum characterises the Moroccan community compared to the total non-EU citizens present in the Country, highlighting a longer migratory history compared to other nationalities;

a **high percentage of residence permits for family reasons**, a value more than 16% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens;

a **strong involvement in entrepreneurship**: the Moroccan community ranks first in terms of individual enterprises owned;

a **territorial distribution** with more than 71% of the Moroccan citizens residing in Northern Italy: this area represents the first destination for the community, with a value about 8% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens;

the **main sector of economic activity** is the *Industry sector*, which employs about 39% of the community's workers, distributed among *Industry strictly speaking* and the *Construction sector* as well as the *Commerce and Hospitality sectors*, with a value more than 6% higher than what registered for the total amount of non-EU citizens.

Demographic characteristics

The Moroccan community in Italy ranks 1st among non-EU citizens in number of presences.

On 1st January 2016, Moroccan-born migrants regularly residing in Italy amounted to 510,450, equal to 13% of the total amount of non-EU citizens, with a 1.5% decrease compared to the previous year. It is a community characterised by a male prevalence: in fact, men amount to 280,487, equal to 54.9% of the community's total population, while women amount to 229,963 **corresponding** to the remaining 45.1%.

After years of a constant rise in presences, many foreign communities have been experiencing a reversal in the last years, including the Moroccan community, whose presences decreased passing from 518,357 on 1st January 2015 to 510,450 on 1st January 2016, with a 7,907 unit drop (-1.5%). This datum is due to two parallel phenomena: the decrease of new entries on the one hand, and the increase of Italian citizenship acquisitions on the other. Consequently, with reference to the total amount of non-EU citizens regularly residing in Italy, the percentage of the community under exam has dropped, passing from 14.8% in 2008 to 13% in 2016.

In parallel with the drop in Moroccan presences, the community has been experiencing a strong stabilization process, so much so that, in 2016, the percentage of EU long-term residence permits held by Moroccan citizens regularly residing was equal to 68.2% (+1.7% compared to the previous year), while 31.8% held a residence permit subject to renewal. This datum characterises the Moroccan community compared to the total amount of non-EU citizens present in Italy, proving a very marked migratory history compared to other nationalities. In fact, it is important to highlight that, within the Moroccan community, the amount of EU long-term residence permits issued is almost 9% higher than what registered for the total amount of non-EU citizens.

On 1st January 2016, the main motivation for residence permits subject to renewal held by Moroccan citizens resulted to be family reasons, involving more than half of said permits (57.9%). Therefore, it is not surprising to find the female component prevailing with 54.3% of the total permits issued to Moroccan citizens. Whereas, permits issued for work reasons amounted 64,896, equal to 40%. Comparing these data with those of the previous year, it is evident that there has been a 26% decrease in residence permits for work reasons, while those for family reasons have increased by more than 10%, confirming the trend of the last years. Residence permits subject to renewal issued to Moroccan citizens for study reasons are equal to 0.4%, a percentage analogous to permits issued for humanitarian and asylum reasons, while 1.4% of the permits are issued for other reasons (medical treatments, religious reasons, etc.).

Lastly, in 2015, out of 3,438 non-EU entries for seasonal reasons, 507 involved Moroccan citizens, equal to almost 15%, making Morocco rank third among the non-EU countries in terms of entries for seasonal work.

Current trends

After years of a constant rise in presences, many communities have been experiencing a reversal during the last years, including the Moroccan community. In fact, on 1st January 2016, Moroccan migrants regularly residing in Italy amounted to 510,450, equal to 13% of the total amount of non-EU citizens, highlighting a 1.5% drop compared to the previous year. This datum, as mentioned, is due to two parallel phenomena: the reduction of new entries on the one hand, and the increase of Italian citizenship acquisitions on the other.

In fact, in these last years there has been a constant and relevant increase in Italian citizenship acquisitions. From 2012 to 2015, the total amount of citizenships granted to non-EU citizens rose above 165%, passing from 60,059 to 158,891. In particular, against a drop in citizenships acquired by marriage (-18%), there has been a significant and analogous increase in acquisitions of citizenship due to naturalisation, election at the age of 18/transmission of citizenship from parents (about +240%).

With reference to the community under exam, the amount of citizenships granted in the last year has increased by about 12%. In particular, the rise has especially concerned citizenships acquired by transmission from parents or election at the age of 18 (+18.5%), and by naturalisation (+10.6%). In line with what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens, the rise is due exclusively to citizenships acquired by residence and transmission/election, with an increase of 134.7% and 178.5% respectively.

Minors and educational paths

Moroccan-born minors amount to 161,325 and represent **16.9%** of the total amount of non-EU minors. Against the negative trend registered for the community's total population, minors have increased by 512 units, corresponding to an increase of 0.3% compared to the previous year.

Moroccan minors represent 31.6% of the community in its whole, a value 7% higher than the non-EU average, equal to 24.2%. The minors' male component is equal to 52.1%, while the female presence is equal to 47.9% with a gender distribution analogous to what identified for the total amount of non-EU minors. The mentioned data thus highlight a more balanced gender distribution among minors than in the adult population, where the female presence amounts to 45%.

In order to complete the picture involving the younger segments of the population, it is necessary to take into consideration minors falling within the particularly vulnerable category of **Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UFM)** for whom both international and Italian laws provide specific protection. Referring to the community under exam, the UFM present on 30 August 2016 amounted to 211, equal to 1.5%.

With reference to the **educational system**, Moroccan-born students enrolled in school year 2015/2016 amounted to 102,179, equal to 16.4% of the total amount of non-EU students. Compared to the previous year, students belonging to this community have increased by 0.6%, with a growth rate slightly below what registered for the total amount of non-EU students. This increase has concerned mainly the primary education (+4.9%), followed by the upper secondary education (+2.2%), while there has been a decrease in the early childhood education and the lower secondary education, equal to 4.4% and 2.9% respectively. Compared to the total amount of non-EU students, the percentage of Moroccan students is higher in the lower education, with 19.6% enrolled in the early childhood education, and 17.9% in the primary education. Finally, the community registers a **high female presence in every school order** with values analogous or even higher with reference to the community's average. In particular, the upper secondary education is characterised by a higher percentage of Moroccan female students compared to the male component (49.2%).

With reference to **university enrolments**, the number of Moroccan university students has increased steadily in the last four years, passing from 1,870 to 2,163 students, corresponding to a 15.7% rise. In line with the trend identified in the secondary education, also university students are characterised by a female prevalence (1,230 enrolled, equal to 56.9%) over the male component.

Lastly, similarly to the Italian youngsters, also the foreign youth falls within the phenomenon of youngsters who do not work, do not study and do not undergo training – NEET (Not in Employment, Education and Training). With reference to the community under exam, Moroccan youngsters between 15 and 29 years of age that do not study or work amount to 40,703, equal to 15.9% of the total non-EU NEETs. Compared to the previous year, their number has decreased by 3,031 units, corresponding to a 6.9% drop, due to the reduction of the male component, that registers a net decrease equal to -24%, while the Moroccan female youngsters not in employment have increased by +2.6%.

Work and employment conditions

The employment rate of Moroccan citizens between 15 and 64 years of age is equal to 44.1%, a value almost 6% lower than what identified for the other North African migrants, while it is more than 4% lower than what registered for the total amount of African migrants, and nearly 13% lower than what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens. Moreover, the community shows relevant differences between the male employment rate (58.4%) and the female employment rate (23%), with the low percentage of female employment contributing in determining a total rate lower than the non-EU average.

The **inactivity rate** of the community under exam is equal to 40.8%, a value 9% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens, about 4% higher than what registered for the total amount of African migrants (37.1%), and more than 3% higher than what identified for the other North African migrants (37.3%).

The Moroccan **unemployment rate** is equal to 25.4%, in decrease compared to the previous year by about 2%. Nonetheless, said value is higher than what registered for the migrants belonging to the groups compared

(geographical area and total amount of non-EU citizens). In fact, 11,846 Moroccan workers benefit from wage supplements recognised by **INPS**¹ in case of suspension or reduction of the productive activity. Specifically, the main integration recognised concerns CIGO (7,399), while those benefitting from CIGS amount to 4,447. With reference to the total amount of non-EU workers benefitting from integrations, 17% are Moroccan: a relevant percentage when considering that the Moroccan community represents more than 10% of the non-EU labour force. The high amount of Moroccan workers benefitting from wage supplements is very likely due to the community's considerable involvement in economic sectors strongly affected by the economic crisis.

In fact, 39% of the Moroccan workers are employed in the *Industry sector*, against 27% of the total amount of the non-EU labour force. In particular, about 27% of the Moroccan workers are employed in the *Industry sector strictly speaking*, a value more than 8% higher than what registered for the total non-EU workers. Whereas, 11.7% of the community under exam are employed in the *Construction sector*, a value 3% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU workers (8.5%). Finally, 28% of the Moroccan workers are employed in the **Commerce and Hospitality sectors**, a value 6% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU workers.

The **employment relationships entered into** with Moroccan-born citizens are an encouraging datum: in fact, in 2015, the new employment relationships amounted to 126,910, a value 5.8% higher than the previous year. The most significant increases were registered in the Agricultural sector and in the Industry sector strictly speaking.

A fundamental aspect concerning the Moroccan community's involvement in the labour market concerns its **entrepreneurial activity**: in fact, first among the non-EU citizens in terms of presences in Italy, the community under exam ranks also first in terms of enterprise ownership. On 31 December 2015, the Moroccan-born owners of individual enterprises amounted to 67,415, equal to 19% of the non-EU entrepreneurs present in our Country. Compared to the previous year, the number of individual enterprises owned by Moroccan citizens increased by 4.8% (+3,115 units). Almost 73% of the enterprises owned by Moroccan citizens operate in the Commerce sector, as registered also for the total amount of non-EU citizens: this level of specialisation and concentration in the same sector represents a characterising aspect of the community under exam, corresponding to more than 30% of the total amount of non-EU enterprises in the sector. The Construction sector ranks second, with a percentage equal to 13.2%, a value more than 8% lower than what identified for the total amount of non-EU enterprises (equal to 21.4%). Lastly, the sector of Services to enterprises involves a definitely lower share of Moroccan enterprises, with a value equal to 3.6%.

The **regional distribution of enterprises** presents various analogies with the community's distribution on the territory. Lombardia and Piemonte rank first among the Italian Regions in terms of number of Moroccan individual enterprises, hosting, respectively, 14.5% and 11.7% of the community's total amount of entrepreneurs. Following, there is Campania with 10.5% of the Moroccan entrepreneurs, despite hosting only 4% of the total amount of Moroccan citizens regularly residing in Italy.

Socio-economic conditions

The Moroccan-born citizens employed in our Country show a prevalence of a **medium-low education**. In line with what identified for the total amount of non-EU citizens, but with a higher percentage, 72% of the workers belonging to the community under exam have, at the most, a lower secondary education, a value 17% higher than what identified for the other North African workers, 4% higher than what registered for the total amount of employed Africans considered in their whole, and 19% higher than what identified for the total amount of non-EU workers.

With reference to the Moroccan-born employees' **income**, about one fourth of the workers belonging to the community under exam receive a monthly pay above 1,200 Euros, a value significantly lower than what identified

¹ INPS is the Italian acronym for "National Social Security Institute".

both for the other North African workers (26.5%) and the employed Africans in their whole (25.1%), but higher than what registered for the total amount of non-EU workers (20.7%). Similarly to the other groups compared, the first salary class is the one ranging from 800 to 1,200 Euros, involving 42% of the community's workers, while the second is the one up to 800 Euros, involving 33% of the community's workers.

The Moroccan community, 1st among the non-EU citizens in number of presences, ranks 2nd in **citizenships granted**. In 2015, out of a total of 158,891 citizenships granted to citizens coming from Third Countries, those involving Moroccan-born migrants amounted to 32,448, equal to 20.4% of the total amount granted. The first motivation for citizenship acquisitions is transmission from "new" Italian parents or birth in Italy, which involves 7,746 new Moroccan-born citizens, equal to 49.3% of the total. Whereas, citizenships acquired by naturalisation amount to 42.6%, while the remaining 8% concern citizenships acquired by marriage with an Italian citizen.

The high percentage of "new" Italian citizens with Moroccan origins is indicative of the community's strong rooting on the territory and of an increasingly noticeable stabilisation process. During the past year, the number of new Italian citizens belonging to the community under exam has increased by about 12%, concerning especially citizenships acquired by transmission from parents or election at the age of 18 (+18.5%), and by naturalisation (+10.6%).

Similarly, to the other communities, also the Moroccan community shows a percentage of citizenships acquired by marriage significantly different between men and women: about 3% of the Moroccan male population acquired Italian citizenship by marriage, while for the female population this percentage rose to 14.3%.

Lastly, with reference to involvement in trade unions as a form of participation in the public and political life of our Country, the Moroccan community ranks first in number of citizens registered with the three trade unions considered, representing 9.6% of the foreign members.

Although the comparison with the datum concerning the Italian adult population (87%) highlights foreigners' greater vulnerability in accessing financial tools, the number of foreign adults holding a bank account results to be in significant increase, passing from 61.2% in 2010 to 73.1% in 2015 (+0.2).

The Moroccan community shows a lower **bank account rate** compared to the foreign average at national level: in fact, the percentage of bank account holders for this community is equal to 67.2% (+2% compared to the previous year). With reference to this datum, 42% concern bank accounts held with the same bank for more than 5 years (banking stability index), a value 3% higher than the foreign average at national level (39%). Finally, the number of bank accounts held by Moroccan women is significantly below average: 31% against 45% of the total amount of non-EU female bank account holders.

