The Moldovan Community in Italy

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

THE MOLDOVAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

89,693
legal residents
at 31 december 2024

-6.8%
compared to the previous year

32%

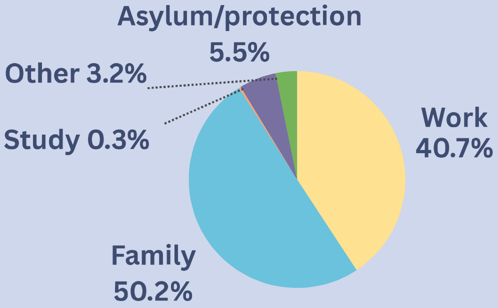
68%

14.3%
minors

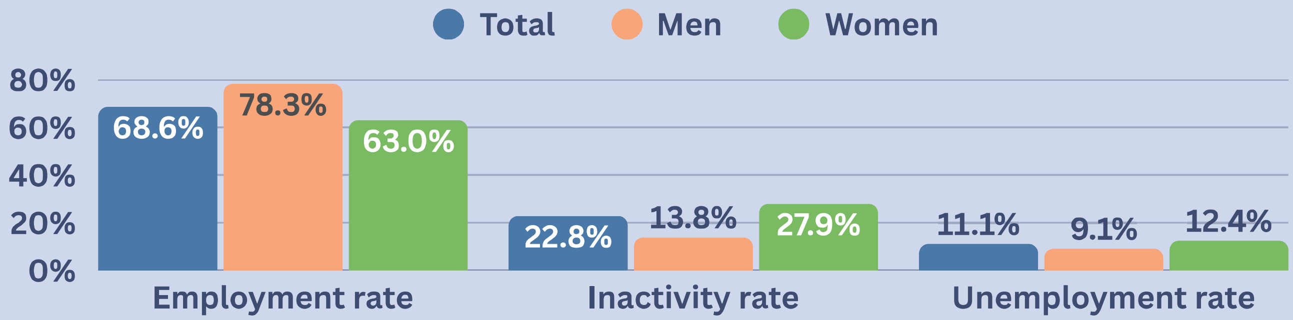
2,178
Entries in 2024

65.5%
for family reasons

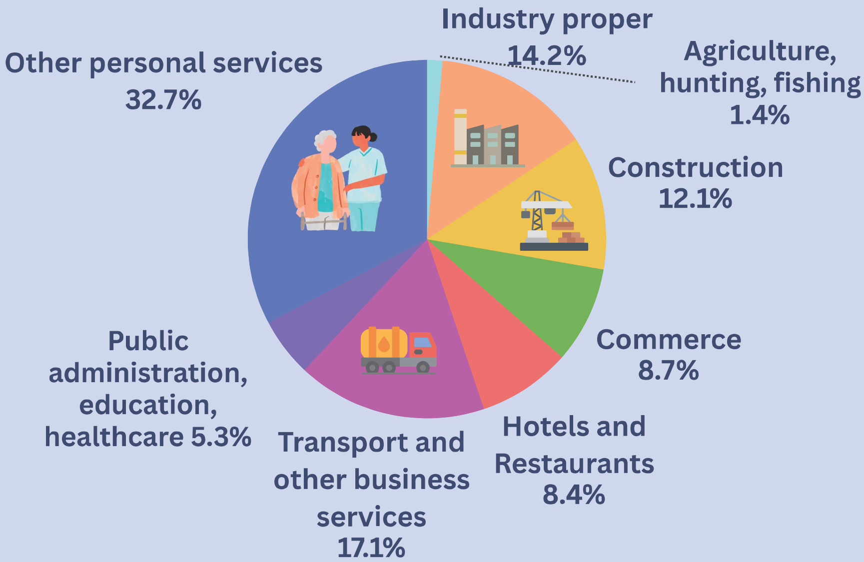
SHORT-TERM RESIDENCE PERMITS



83.2%
long-term residents



EMPLOYMENT SECTORS



9,247
sole proprietorships

2.4%
of all non-EU businesses

47.9%
of Moldovan businesses in the construction sector

The context of origin

Edited by World Bank

Macro-economic framework

Moldovan economy has been growing rapidly since 2015, with a 3.7% average annual increase in the GDP per capita. However, in the same period employment showed an average 1% decline, with an overall loss of about 154,000 jobs.

Demographics and the labour market

With a population slightly over 3 million people, Moldova is a relatively small country in Eastern Europe. More than two-thirds of the population fall in the working-age group (15–64), while only 11% are young people aged between 15 and 24. Demographic projections show that the total population will decrease by approximately 23% by 2050, with a reduction of almost half a million people. The progressive contraction of the population, especially in working age, is highly affecting the labour market trends. While the economy failed to create new jobs in recent years, the labour force participation rate has slightly increased (+1.5% between 2015 and 2024). Such increase does not reflect an improvement in job opportunities, rather a mechanic effect of the reduction of working-age population, which is contracting more rapidly than employment itself. Over the past ten years, the unemployment rate has also remained relatively steady, while the employment/population ratio has increased by 1.5% (from 68.3% in 2014 to 69.8% in 2024). However, such improvement primarily reflects the strong demographic contraction rather than an actual increase in jobs. In brief, labour market indicators show apparently positive signs, but such trends are mostly driven by population decline rather than an increased ability of the Moldovan economy to create jobs.

Social characteristics

Moldova is a predominantly Orthodox Christian country, with Catholic minorities and other smaller religious communities. The official language is Romanian, with Russian still widely used, especially in urban centres and areas with deep historical and cultural links with the former Soviet Union. English is becoming increasingly common among younger generations, mainly in urban areas and business communities. Education and literacy levels show continuous improvement. Literacy rate is basically universal (100%). Participation in tertiary education[1] is high,averaging 61.3%, with a particularly remarkable progression among women (from 58.1% in 2014 to 71.7% in 2022, latest available data). Despite such progress, investments in education and health have not yet resulted in full human capital improvement. According to the World Bank, the Human Capital Index was 0.58[2] in 2020: this means that a child born today will be able to reach only 58% of their productive potential in their best health and education conditions.

Quality of employment and gender and generational inequalities

Despite the increase in the ratio of employed persons to the working-age population, employment quality in Moldova remains a structural weakness. More than two-thirds of the labour force are concentrated in industries with low productivity and a high incidence of informal employment — including agriculture (51%), construction (4%), and trade (9%). Additionally, more than half of workers are self-employed or family workers, categories that tend to be more exposed to economic vulnerability, low levels of social protection and unsteady income.

[1] Calculated as the ratio of the total number of students enrolled to the university-age population.
[2] The Human Capital Index is a composite indicator resulting from the product of three indicators: child survival (up to 5 years of age), education, and health.

Figure 1 – Overview of the labour market in Moldova: key indicators

Source: World Bank elaboration based on ILOSTAT data

Pressures on the labour market and generations

Pressure on the labour market is uneven among different generational groups, even though there are no marked differences between men and women. While youth unemployment is still relatively low (3.3%in 2024), it is, however, more than twice the adult unemployment rate, showing how difficult it is for young people to enter and remain in the labour market. On the contrary, gender inequalities seem to be more moderate. Male and female unemployment rates are similar, and women and men are almost equally likely to be inactive: female inactivity rate is approximately 30%, against 28.3% reported among men.

Figure 2 –Moldovan migrant stock (% of total population)

Source: WorldBank elaboration based on UNDESA data: https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/global-migration-database

Migration trends

Migration continues to be a structural element of the country's socio-economic context. Over the past 20 years, the number of Moldovan citizens residing abroad has increased by 37%, from approximately 628,000 in 2005 to more than 864,000 in 2024. Italy is the very first destination, receiving about one-quarter of the total stock of Moldovan migrants, followed by Russia (19%), Ukraine (18%), and Romania (9%). Among European Union countries, France is the second destination after Italy, with approximately 6% of Moldovan migrants.

The increase in migration flows likely reflects both the presence of established migration networks and the persistent struggle of the domestic labour market in ensuring stable and quality job opportunities.

Trends in migrant presence

Table 1 – Legally resident non-EU citizens. Key indicators (data at 31 December 2024)

Country	Incidence of women %	Incidence of minors %	Total a.v.	2024/2023 % variation	Incidence of long-term residents %	New permits in 2024 %
Ukraine	75.00%	17.70%	392,389	1.70%	43.20%	13,505
Morocco	44.80%	21.70%	377,554	1.50%	61.50%	25,776
Albania	49.20%	21.10%	360,965	0.40%	54.20%	24,430
China	50.60%	19.30%	288,661	8.10%	65.00%	7,965
Bangladesh	23.30%	14.50%	195,523	16.90%	41.70%	28,045
Egypt	28.80%	24.60%	175,236	9.40%	48.30%	20,217
India	40.60%	16.30%	159,618	4.30%	51.50%	16,907
Philippines	57.80%	14.70%	145,694	-0.40%	71.60%	2,334
Pakistan	22.80%	14.60%	159,680	13.20%	40.60%	17,217
Tunisia	36.70%	20.80%	112,486	12.80%	53.90%	15,016
Nigeria	43.30%	26.30%	107,738	12.10%	32.00%	7,288
Peru	57.80%	17.10%	106,409	11.30%	49.60%	14,298
Sri Lanka	46.90%	18.50%	104,423	6.30%	66.80%	5,969
Senegal	26.20%	15.50%	103,818	7.00%	58.90%	6,033
Moldova	**68.00%**	**14.30%**	**89,693**	**-6.80%**	**83.20%**	**2,178**
Ecuador	56.20%	16.50%	53,337	-3.80%	73.40%	2,221
Total of non-EU citizens	**48.00%**	**17.30%**	**3,810,741**	**5.60%**	**52.80%**	**290,119**

Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat data

As of 31 December 2024, there were **89,693 Moldovan citizens legally residing** in Italy, a figure that has more than doubled over the past 20 years: from 40,232 in 2005 to nearly 90,000 (+122.9%).

Yet, the past year recorded a 6.8% decrease compared to the previous year (against a 5.6% overall increase of non-EU citizens), confirming a downward trend which started in 2015.

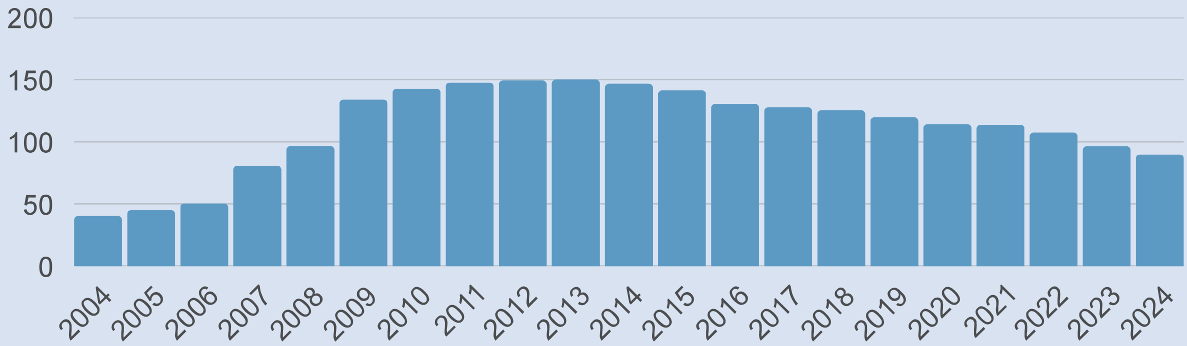
Ranked 13th the previous year, **the community dropped to the 15th place in the ranking of the main non-EU communities**, accounting for 2.4% of the non-EU population in the country.

89,693
legal residents

2.4%
of
non-EU citizens

-6.8%
compared to
31 December 2023

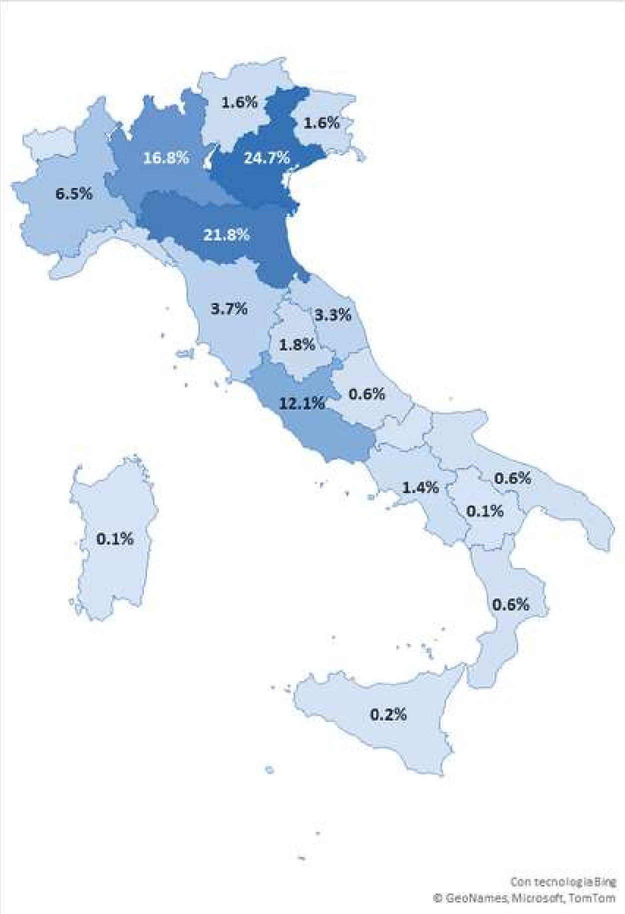
Figure 3 – Legal residents (absolute value in thousands). Time series 2004-2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat data

Territorial distribution

Map 1 - The regional distribution of the community (in %). Data at 31 December 2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat data

The Moldovan population in Italy is remarkably concentrated in the North, which is home to three-quarters of the community (75.4% against 59.8% of the overall non-EU citizens), and hosts the three regions with the highest Moldovan presence: **Veneto (24.7%), Emilia-Romagna (21.8%), and Lombardy (16.8%)**.

Just over one-fifth of the community concerned live in the Centre of Italy (20.9%), with Lazio recording the highest presence (12.1%), while only 3.7% are settled in the South and on the islands.

75.4% North	20.9% Centre	3.7% South and islands

Gender Composition

32% **68%**

The community shows a **marked gender imbalance in favour of women**, who cover **68%** of the presence, ranking second among the main communities with the highest female presence, outperformed only by the Ukrainian community. This figure should be linked to the features of Moldovan migration, mainly characterized by its female component. Women support their families in the country of origin through remittances, meeting the labour demand for domestic and family care services in Italy.

Breakdown by age groups and minors

Average age 41.6 years

12,858 minors

14.3% of the community

The Moldovan community in Italy is characterized by a rather mature population, with an average age of 41.6, which is significantly higher than the overall third-country citizens (37.2). **55.6% of Moldovan citizens were over 40**, against 44.3% identified in the overall non-EU community. **The prevailing age group was over 60**, which includes **about 18%** of the community (compared to the total non-EU population, where this figure drops to 12.2%). There were 12,858 minors, accounting for 14.3% of the Moldovan population (vs 17.3% of the overall non-EU citizens). This can be traced back to the channelling of Moldovan employment, particularly women, towards domestic and care services, which makes it hard to balance work and life and create or reunite families (especially with preschool-aged children).

Given the high female presence, the low number of minors is linked to the low birth rate[3] identified in the community (5.5%), which is second only to the Ukrainian community as for the lowest value of such indicator. In 2024, **562 Moldovan children were born in Italy**, accounting for 1.3% of births to non-EU citizens.

[3] The birth rate is the ratio between the number of births in a community or population during a period of time and the average population of the same period per 1,000.

Mixed marriages

Probably also due to the impactful gender imbalance, the community is greatly engaged in mixed marriages with Italian citizens: in 2023[4], 570 marriages were reported (in over 93% of cases the groom was Italian).

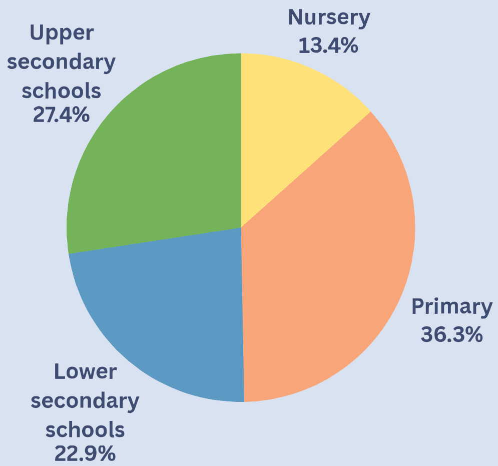
[4] Last year for which data is available

Youths and education

24,798

Moldovan students

Figure 4- Percentage distribution by school level of the community's students. School year 2023/24



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on MIM data

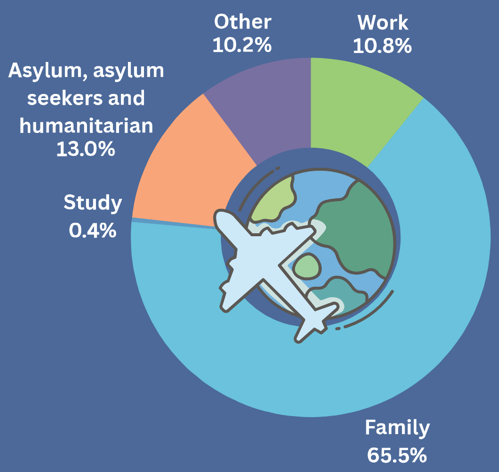
During the 2023/2024 school year, **Moldovan students** enrolled in Italian schools accounted for **24,798**, i.e., 3.3% of the non-EU school population. The number decreased by 2.7% as compared to the previous year. The number of Moldovan pupils in nursery school was quite moderate (13.4% vs 17%), while the concentration in lower and upper high schools was above average, with 27.4% attending upper secondary school (against an overall 24.3%). Female incidence was higher than the average (50.3% vs 48.3%), and it increased in lower and upper secondary schools: it was 47.7% in nursery school, reaching 53.5% in upper secondary school.

As for university, **2,368 Moldovan students were enrolled in the 2023/2024 academic year**, an almost steady figure compared to the previous year (+0.3%), accounting for 2.2% of non-EU university students.

The percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (**NEET**) among Moldovans aged 18–24 was **18.2%**, remarkably lower than 24.9% related to overall non-EU young people. There was a substantial gender gap in this area: the number of girls excluded from training and work was indeed 36.1%, against 3.1% reported for their male peers.

Entries

Figure 5 – New residence permits issued in 2024 by reason for issue (%). Data at 31 December 2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia computation based on Istat data

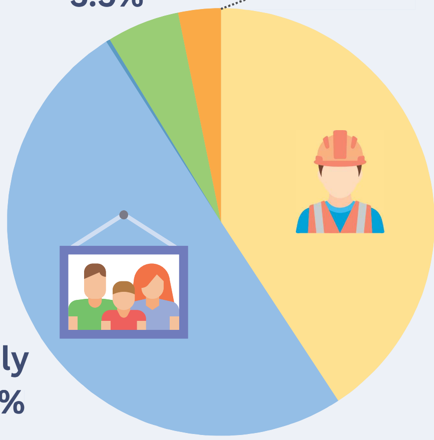
In 2024, **2,178 new residence permits** were issued to Moldovan citizens, a considerable decrease compared to the previous year (-25.6% against an overall -12.3%), **placing the community last by number of arrivals.** New permits were mainly issued to Moldovan citizens for reasons of **family reunification,** covering about two-thirds of arrivals (**65.5%**), despite a decrease of about 32% in the number of new permits linked to such reason. The Moldovan community was second only to the Ecuadorian community as for incidence of arrivals linked to family reasons. Other reasons to issue new residence permits were asylum requests or grants or other forms of protection (13%), while work accounted for 10.8%.

Types and reasons for issuing residence permits

83.2%

long-term residents

Figure 6 – Residence permits subject to renewal by reason for issue. Data at 31 December 2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat data

The analysis of long-term residence permits highlights an **advanced settling process** of the Moldovan community across Italy: the **percentage of long-term residents** was **83.2%** (against 52.8% relating to all non-EU citizens), the highest among the main non-EU communities, despite a 2.9% decrease compared to the previous year.

With regard to **permits subject to renewal**, **more than half** of the permits relating to the community were **linked to family reasons**, representing the main reason to stay in Italy, with a higher incidence than all non-EU citizens (37%). This was followed by work, accounting for 40.7%.

9,154

Acquisitions of citizenship

In 2024, 9**,154 Moldovan citizens were granted citizenship** (4.6% of the total related to third-country citizens) **mainly on the grounds of naturalization** (67.1%). Transmission from parents, acquisition at the age of 18 and ius sanguinis accounted for about one-quarter of cases (25.2%), while only 7.7% was linked to marriages to Italian citizens.

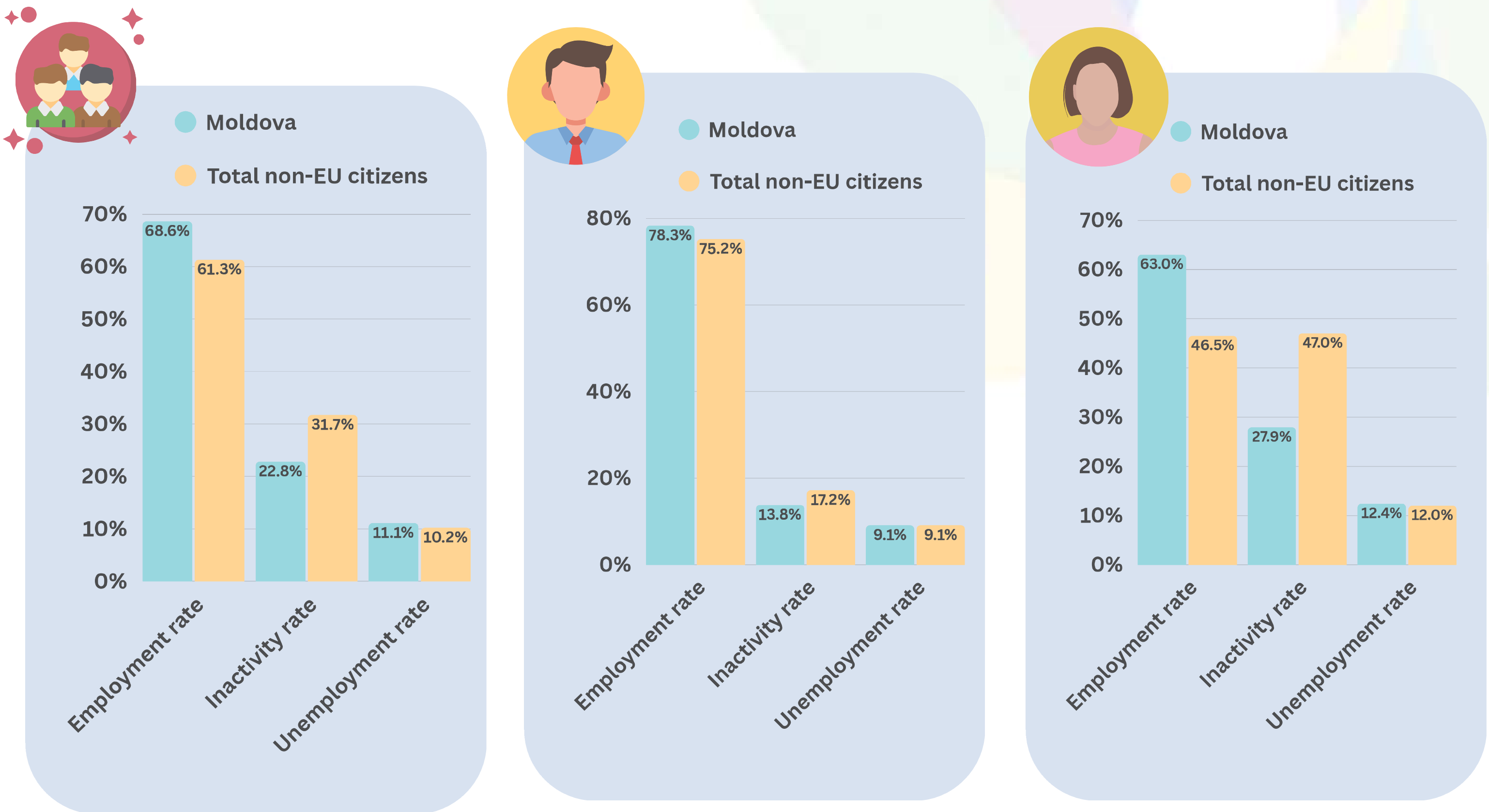
The labour market

Key indicators

The Moldovan community showed signs of positive integration into the Italian labour market: in 2024, the **employment rate** was significantly higher than the overall non-EU population (**68.6%** against 61.3%) and **inactivity rate** was lower (**22.8%** against 31.7%). Only the **unemployment rate** was slightly higher **(11.1%** against 10.2%).
A key role in reaching such performance was played by Moldovan women who seem to be well integrated into the labour market: female employment rate for the community was definitely higher than all non-EU women (63% vs 46.5%), while the inactivity rate was considerably lower (27.9% against 47%).

The community ranked fifth among the main non-EU communities, in terms of membership to the key trade unions in 2023 (4% of non-EU members), mainly CGIL (43.7%). Out of an estimated 78,000 Moldovan workers, 31,550 were union members, i.e., approximately two-fifths.

Figure 7 – Key labour market indicators by gender and citizenship. Year 2024

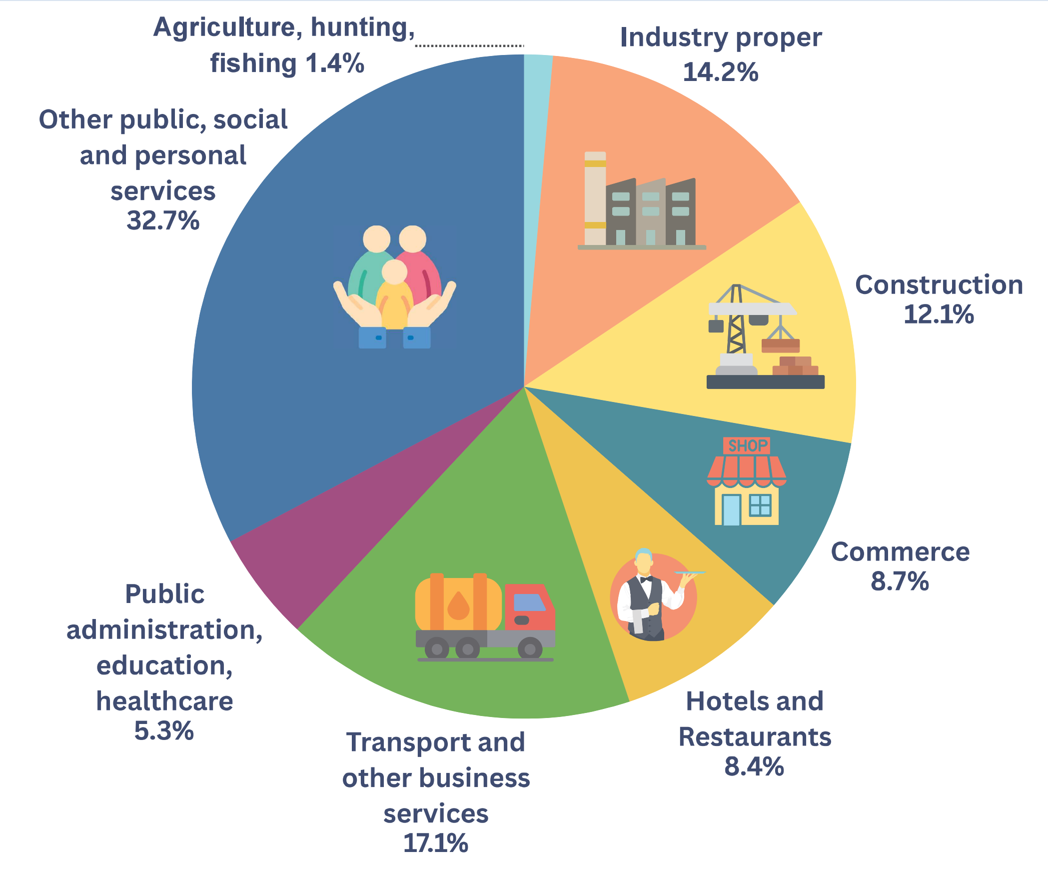


Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat RCFL data

Sectors of employment

Moldovan employment seemed to be channelled towards ***Other public, social and personal services***, which employed about **33%** of workers belonging to the community. This sector was followed by *Transport and business services* (17.1%) and *Industry proper* (14.2%).

Figure 8 - Employed persons (over 15) by sector of employment (%). Year 2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on Istat RCFL data

Relatively to the employment sectors, nearly two-fifths of Moldovan workers were employed as *Clerks, salesclerks and personal service providers* (37.6%). *Skilled manual labour* accounted for 30.9% of Moldovan workers, *unskilled labour* for 25.9%, while *Managers and professionals in intellectual and technical fields* accounted for 5.6%.

37.6%

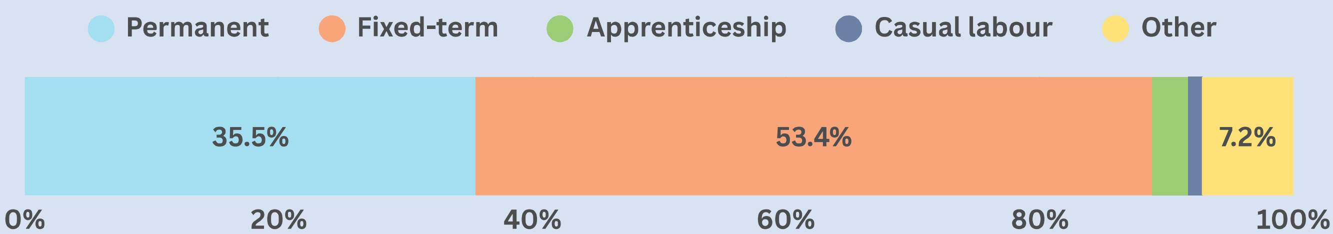
Clerks, sales clerks and personal services providers

Employment trends

In 2024 the number of **entries into the labour market** amounted to **33,248** Moldovan citizens hired accounting for 1.6% of non-EU citizens' new employment relationships. Just over half of recruitments relied on fixed-term contracts (53.3% against 71.8% for the overall non-EU population); the percentage of recruitments with permanent contracts was higher than the total of third-country citizens (35.5% vs 19.5%), revealing higher employment stability.

The data from Mandatory employment communications confirm the channelling of the community towards the Tertiary sector, which accounted for 76.3% of recruitments, against 50.8% concerning all non-EU citizens. In particular, the community's most common job qualification was *Skilled jobs in cultural, security and personal services*, covering 25.7% of contracts.

Figure 9– Initiation of employment relationships with Moldovan citizens by type of contract (in %).Year 2024



Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on SISCO data

As proof of Moldovan women's positive integration into the labour market, women accounted for 68.2% of recruitments, which is significantly higher than the figure for all non-EU citizens (28.7%).

On the other hand, **34,459 employment relationships involving Moldovan citizens were terminated**, due to the expiry of the contract or the cessation of activities (42.5%), dismissal (25.4%), resignation (23.2%), and other reasons (8.9%).

Businesses

At 31 December 2024, **sole proprietors born in Moldova accounted for 9,247,** i.e., 2.4% of the total, a substantial increase compared to the previous year (+8.8% against the overall +0.1%).

Unlike the overall findings for the Moldovan population in Italy, among sole proprietors belonging to the community, male gender prevailed, with an incidence of 70.7%. Sole proprietorships led by citizens born in Moldova were mainly based in Emilia-Romagna (23.7%), followed by Veneto (22.7%), and Lombardy (16.8%).

Regarding the investment sector, there was a **channelling of Moldovan businesses towards the construction sector,** which attracted the investments of 47.9% of sole proprietors born in Moldova (against 24.6% reported for all non-EU citizens).

47.9%

of Moldovan businesses in the Construction sector

The second investment sector for Moldovan businesses was Trade and Transport, with lower incidence than the overall sole proprietorships of non-EU citizens (18.6% against 39%). The incidence of the community among non-EU entrepreneurs working in the Transport sector was particularly striking: 9% were born in Moldova.

Welfare

Consistent with the community registered data, which showed an imbalance towards older age groups, the percentage of Moldovans among non-EU beneficiaries of old-age pensions was remarkable (6.8%), while the share of welfare pension holders seemed perfectly aligned with the community incidence on the overall non-EU population: 3%. The percentage seemed slightly higher (3.6%) in the specific case of legal disability.

A good level of community integration in the Italian economic and social fabric was also revealed by the incidence among the beneficiaries of family assistance measures. In particular, the prevalence of Moldovan women in the labour market was reflected in a marked percentage of beneficiaries of maternity allowances[5]: 5.7% of non-EU women benefitting from such measure. The percentage among parental leave beneficiaries was also high[6] (4%).

[5] Also known as "mandatory leave allowance": it is a form of income support that replaces wages and is paid to female workers who are obliged to take a total five month's leave from work for pregnancy and childbirth

[6] A form of income support for parents who are employees and who are entitled to take leave from work during the first 12 years of their child's life for a maximum of 6 consecutive months or fractions thereof for the mother, and a maximum of 7 consecutive months or fractions thereof for the father.

Table 2 – Beneficiaries of social buffers, invalidity, old age and survivors' and welfare pensions, cash transfers to families belonging to the community surveyed and to the non-EU population as a whole - Year 2024

Allowance	Moldova	Incidence of the Community on	Total non-EU beneficiaries	Incidence of non-EU workers
Wage subsidies				
Ordinary Redundancy Fund	2,464	28%	87,491	155%
Extraordinary Redundancy Fund	151	29%	5,187	32%
Exceptional Redundancy Fund	0	0%	16	7%
Total	**2,615**	**28%**	**92,694**	**127%**
Unemployment benefits				
NASpI (New social insurance for employees)	23,188	51%	456,263	167%
Old age, invalidity and survivors' pensions				
Old age	4,281	68%	62,837	5%
Invalidity	498	32%	15,694	18%
Survivors	1,762	47%	37,766	9%
Total	**6,541**	**56%**	**116,297**	**7%**
Welfare pensions				
Pensions and social allowances	1,532	30%	51,272	61%
Civil disability pensions	1,471	36%	41,299	40%
Caregivers' allowance and the like	1,163	25%	46,645	21%
Total	**4,166**	**30%**	**139,216**	**34%**
Family Care				
Maternity	1,667	57%	29,271	102%
Parental leave	1,372	40%	34,14	95%
Family allowance [7]	76	15%	5,225	83%

Source: Sviluppo Lavoro Italia elaboration based on INPS data – Coordinamento generale statistico attuariale

[7] As of 1 March 2022, Legislative Decree No. 230/2021 introduced the 2021 introduced the Universal Child Allowance, a measure to support families with dependent minors, or children of age but not yet 21 who are students or unemployed, as well as disabled children of any age. Family allowance remains in place as a measure to support families without children.

Remittances and financial inclusion

Edited by D. Frigeri - CeSPI

The financial behaviours and decisions of foreign citizens fall within a space-time dimension affected by objective and subjective factors. In percentage terms, three-quarters (76%) of savings were allocated in Italy and the remaining 24% were transferred to the country of origin in the form of remittance. Such money transfer, which has remarkably increased at the international level (more than $900 billion in 2024, according to the World Bank), has a significant impact in the contexts of the country of origin. Remittances sent by foreign citizens residing in Italy reached €8.29 billion in 2024 (Banca d'Italia), with a very limited growth of 1.3%, after years of significant increases.

According to the World Bank data, remittances to Moldova accounted for 10.5% of the national GDP in 2024. The country represented less than 2% of remittance flows from Italy in 2024, with a 4% contraction compared to 2023. Veneto and Emilia-Romagna were the two regions from which, collectively, 39% of remittances were transferred towards the country, followed by Lombardy (16%), and Lazio (10%). Rome (9%) and Padua (6%) were the two major cities as for remittance volume. In relation to cross-border money transfers made by Moldovan citizens to the country of origin, data collected from Italian banks revealed a 54% increase in volumes and a 9% increase in the average amount between 2023 and 2024.

Table 3 – Remittances to Moldova

Volume of 2024 remittances from Italy	137.655 (million €)
Incidence on total remittances from Italy	1.7%
2023-2024 % variation	-3.9%
Average cost of remitting €150 from Italy (September 2025)[8]	n.a.
Average amount of cross-border transfers from Italian banks	2,317 €

Source: CeSPI elaboration based on Bank of Italy data, www.mandasoldiacasa.it, Observatory on the Financial Inclusion of Migrants

The process of financial inclusion and financial well-being

Financial inclusion, defined as access to and proper use of a variety of financial instruments, is an enabling factor for the initiation and consolidation of the socio-economic integration process of individuals and their families. Such evolving process is based on access to bank accounts and the payment system, along with increasingly complex needs and the corresponding financial instruments, including access to credit, investments, different forms of stockpiling and protection/savings. The traditional concept of financial inclusion has gradually been accompanied by the term financial well-being, a multidimensional concept recalling an individual or a family's ability to manage their own economic resources in the present and in the future, ensuring stability and resilience.

[8] The average cost, calculated according to the methodology adopted and certified by the World Bank, includes the sum of commissions and the mark up on the exchange rate

In literature, it is associated with four dimensions [9]: the ability to manage current expenses in a sustainable way (having control over one's finance), the ability to absorb unexpected shocks with no serious difficulties (having a financial "buffer"), the ability to save for medium/long-term goals, and the ability to confidently plan one's financial future (freedom to make choices for one's well-being). These dimensions envisage the availability of a wide range of financial products, but also to adequate financial education, which is a necessary precondition.
The National Observatory on Financial Inclusion, created by CeSPI in 2010, is capable of observing several variables closely related to the mentioned dimensions. The first two indicators concern financial and digital education. Both show low levels for non-European citizens: the financial education index stands at 3.8 on a 0-10 scale, while only 46% deem their digital skills sufficient. A second key indicator concerns the Bancarization Index, the percentage of adults who are current account holders, the first step in the process. While the index stands at 97%[10] for Italians, it reached 90% for non-EU foreign citizens in 2023, still quite a gap. The Moldovan community in Italy is fully banked. A second set of variables allows for the representation of individuals' ability to plan their long-term goals and manage expenses in a sustainable way.

Table 4 – Financial inclusion indicators – Moldova

	2023	2022	2020	Delta 2020-2023	Non-EU countries' data
Bancarization index	99%	99%	99%		90%
Incidence on the number of bank account holders					
Passbooks	41.40%	41.10%	41.60%	(=)	60%
Payment services	236.00%	203.70%	226.90%	(+)	303%
Financing services	54.70%	47.20%	51.80%	(+)	54%
Mortgages	17.80%	16.70%	16.00%	(+)	12%
Savings/investment products	30.00%	27.50%	30.70%	(-)	25%
Insurance products (Non-Life)	29.00%	23.50%	28.20%	(+)	33%
Internet banking	84.00%	70.20%	72.40%	(+)	83%

Source: CeSPI– Observatory on the Financial Inclusion of Migrants

[9] A system of indicators was developed in 2015 by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. See: Measuring financial well-being - A guide to using the CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale.
[10] World Bank – Global Financial Index 2022.

A cross-sectional reading of the indicators between 2020 and 2023 provides a better understanding of a phenomenon that is dynamic by definition and includes, over the 2020-2022 two-year period, the impact of significant shocks related to the pandemic and inflation. In relation to banking service index, the community does not show any variation over the three-year period. All other indicators show an increase, even though they experience a limited contraction due to the crisis, proving adequate financial resilience. Similarly, when it comes to savings/investment products used to tackle difficulties, these are slightly lower than the 2020 figure. The increase in online accounts and mortgages is remarkable, even though with different values, highlighting a medium/long-term capacity of investment and borrowing.

A comparison with the average data of non-EU citizens does not show significant differences regarding the categories of financial products linked to credit, savings, and investments, with a higher incidence for mortgages and lower incidence for short-term savings instruments (passbooks). Payment instruments are also less developed, with an average of slightly more than 2 products per bank account, as compared to an average of 3.

The overall picture shows elements of solidity in the financial well-being profile of the Moldovan community, reflecting a more advanced financial inclusion process.

Methodological note

Subject of the survey and reference period

The Annual Reports on Migrant Communities (ed. 2025) analyse the specific characteristics of the 16 largest non-EU communities in the country, considering socio-demographic characteristics, types and modes of residence, presence in the school and university system, as well as integration in the labour market and access to welfare. The editorial line consists of 16 reports dedicated to individual nationalities.

The period analysed is the year 2024, although for some areas the latest available data date back to the previous year, 2023, while for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UAMs), the data are updated to June 30, 2025. The reference period is always specified both in the text and in the titles of the table or figure presenting the data.

Presentations and data sources

The survey used administrative and sample data from various sources. Where possible, the analysis took gender into account. Data relating to communities were compared with overall data for non-EU citizens and, where suitable, with data on the Italian population.

Each community report consists of two main chapters (Socio-demographic characteristics and The world of labour) and two in-depth analyses, one at the beginning, on The context of the country of origin (by the World Bank) and one at the end, on Remittances and financial inclusion (by Daniele Frigeri of CeSPI).

1.Socio-demographic characteristics. The first chapter analyses the socio-demographic aspects of the communities, the age structure, the presence of minors (and their integration into the school system), newborns and unaccompanied foreign minors, the reasons for and methods of non-EU citizens' residence in Italy, with particular attention to new arrivals in 2024. The sources used are: Istat-Ministry of the Interior on residence permits[11] (as of 31 December 2024), Istat on acquisitions of citizenship (2024) and marriages (2023); Istat (2024 estimate) on foreign births by citizenship; Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (MLPS) - Directorate-General for Migration Policies and the Social and Labor Integration of Migrants (UAMs, as of 30 June 2025, limitedly to communities with more than 15 minors); Ministry of Education and Merit (school year 2023/2024), and Ministry of University and Research (academic year 2023/2024).

2.The labour market. The second chapter focuses on work and welfare. The data used in this chapter are taken from various sources: Istat, RCFL - Continuous Labour Force Survey[12] (average 2024); MLPS, Mandatory Employment Communications Information System (SISCO[13], as of 31 December 2024); INPS, General Actuarial Statistics Coordination (as of 31 December 2023); Unioncamere – InfoCamere, Movimprese[14] (as of 31 December 2024, for foreign-owned companies); data from the main trade unions (CGIL, CISL, UIL, UGL) on members with foreign citizenship (2023).

[11] Data on legally resident non-EU citizens include all foreigners from countries outside the European Union who hold a valid residence permit (residence permit or EU long-term residence permit).

[12] Istat 's RCFL is a survey conducted on a quarterly sample of individuals registered in municipal registers, and for this reason does not collect information on non-resident foreigners, even if they hold a residence permit. This means that the scope of observation only concerns the regular part of the foreign population listed in the municipal registry, as the Istat survey cannot include citizens who are present illegally or, even if legal, do not reside in Italy. Due to the sample nature of the survey, the gender variable was not used to analyse groups which were not statistically representative (less than 1,000 units).

[13] SISCO collects data on employment flows relating to subordinate and associated employment relationships, internships, and other professional experiences provided for under current legislation. The scope of reference excludes employment relationships in the armed forces, which concern senior officials and involve individuals registered with the Seafarers' Register. Finally, employment relationships for socially useful works (LSU) were not considered among the employment relationships that were started and terminated.

[14] Unioncamere data consider the country of birth and not the citizenship of the entrepreneur.

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