MINISTERO del LAVORO
e delle POLITICHE SOCIALI

THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants

Executive Summary

2019

For nearly a decade, the *Direzione Generale dell'immigrazione e delle politiche di integrazione* (general immigration and integration policies directorate) has aimed to provide a detailed and balanced account of the complex phenomenon of the presence of foreigners in Italy and to do so by setting forth the various distinct aspects of the question while analysing the characteristics noted and also anticipating today's trends. The directorate does so by means of its *Rapporto nazionale sui migranti nel Mercato del lavoro italiano* (national reports on migrants in the Italian labour market) (ninth edition), the *Rapporti nazionali sulla presenza in Italia delle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities in Italy) (eighth edition) and the *Rapporti sulla presenza dei migranti non comunitari nelle 14 città metropolitane italiane* (reports on the presence of non-EU migrants in the 14 metropolitan cities of Italy) (fourth edition).

The series of national reports on the presence of the main foreign communities aims to investigate and study in depth the presence on Italian soil of the more numerically significant non-EU nationals: Moroccans, Albanians, the Chinese, Ukrainians, Indians, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Moldovans, Nigerians, the Senegalese, Sri Lankans, Tunisians, Peruvians and Ecuadorians.

For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment angles are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration, welfare policies and processes of integration. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities.

Again, this year we duly acknowledge the contributions of institutions and bodies that have provided information in their possession. These entities include the Italian National Institute of Statistics; the general statistical and actuarial coordination body of INPS (National Social Security Institute); the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; the international political studies organisation, CeSPI; the trade unions CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL; and the Divisione Studi e Ricerca (study and research division) of ANPAL Servizi. We are also most grateful to dottor Daniele Frigeri, the Director of the *Osservatorio Nazionale sull'Inclusione Finanziaria dei Migranti* (national observatory on financial inclusion of migrants) who drew up the focus reports on remittances and access to credit.

The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2019, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the areas *Paesi di origine e comunità* (countries of origin and communities) and *Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione* (immigration research reports) on the institutional portal, www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it. This portal also provides access to a statistical annex providing information that supplements the reports or that, within a comparative framework among the main national communities considered, enables in-depth study of the data analysed.

Within the ambit of the project, *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi di origin*e (support for immigration and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin) ANPAL Servizi has drawn up and translated the 2019 edition of its *Rapporti nazionali sulle principali Comunità straniere* (national reports on the main foreign communities) – analytic reports provided in summary form.

Version of 30/06/2020

Executive Summary

234.058

Legally residing Ukrainian citizens

ranking fourth for numbers of presences

103.478 **"nuovi italiani" (new Italians) in 2018 (2.3% are Ukrainian)**

78,8% women

21,5% men

47% above the age of 50

20.854

Minors below the age of 50

ranking sixteenth for numbers of minors present

20.116 ukrainian students

2.753 enrolled for degree courses

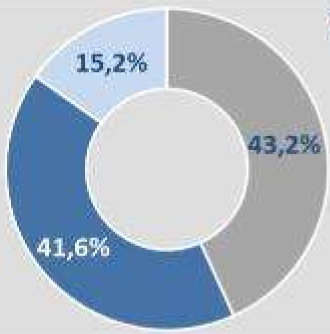
present in:

Lombardia **22,4%**

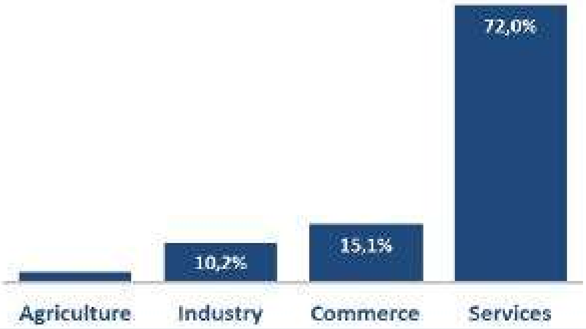
Campania **17,5%**

Emilia-Romagna **14%**

74,1% Long-term residents



25,9% shot-term permits



68% employment rate

70,5% male 67,2% female

64,8% employed in **personal services**

50,4% services provision workers

ranking twelfth for number of sole proprietorships (1,3%)

4.848 **sole proprietors (+6,3%)**

55,8% female sole proprietors

29,5% enterprises in the **Construction** sector

Demographic characteristics

234,058 Ukrainian citizens are residents in Italy as on 1 January 2019, accounting for 6.3% of the non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy. This community of non-EU nationals therefore ranks fourth for presences.

The presence of the Ukrainian community dates back to the 1990s, largely made up of women who work prevalently in the sector of service provision to families/households (e.g. as home helpers, or care providers for the elderly or children).

Socio-demographically speaking, three aspects, in terms of mean values, most markedly set this community apart from the non-EU community as a whole:

- **gender polarization** with women markedly predominating (making up 78.5% of this migrant community), vs a quotient of 21.5% for men. The non-EU community as a whole instead presents with a female quotient of 48.3%;
- **A mean age** that is much higher than that of non-EU migrants as a whole (**46** vs 34).

Characterising this community also is its marked presence in the Region of **Campania**, which is the region ranking second for Ukrainian presences (more than 41,000, or 17.5% of the total, with an incidence 13% higher than that for migrants of non-EU origin as a whole). For the citizens of Ukrainian origin, too, **Lombardia** ranks first as region of settlement or entrenchment. Lombardia hosts slightly more than 1/5 of this community as a whole, i.e. slightly below the quotient of non-EU residents as a whole in this region (25.9%). Emilia-Romagna ranks third for Ukrainian presences (14%).

On analysis of residence permits, certain elements indicate progress in the direction of **stabilisation for the Ukrainian community**. The quotient of Ukrainian **long-term residents** (holders of permits not subject to renewal) stands at 74% (vs the quotient of 62.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole). The incidence of long-term residents vs the total number of residence permits held has risen by almost 3% over the last year. Less than 26% are holders of a permit subject to renewal. Among the short-term permits, those relating to work still prevail (43.2%), while in any case those relating to family reunification increased in number by 3.4% over the last year, accounting for 41.6% of cases. This value is more closely in line with that for non-EU citizens as a whole (43.7%).

Current trends

Compared to 1 January 2018, the number of non-EU citizens in Italy is basically stable (+2,472 units). This apparent stability is in any case the result of the algebraic sum of opposing variations in the diverse communities. Indeed, the geography of origins of migrants sees significant changes taking place. For the first time, changes are noted also in the top 5 in the ranking for numbers present. The key increases are noted in the communities from the Indian subcontinent: namely, the Pakistani community (+4.9%), the Bangladeshi community (+4.5%) and the Indian community (+3.5%). The rise of the Nigerian community is also significant (+3%), ranking eleventh in terms of numbers present, having risen from fourteenth the year before. The most significant downturns regard the Tunisians (-4.6%), Moroccans (-2%) and Moldavans (-1.8%).

Two factors are of greater significance with respect to trends displayed by numbers present. These factors consist in, on the one hand, the new permits issued attesting to an inflow impacting the stock of legally residing foreigners, and, on the other, in the granting of citizenship (which latter practice of course removes those who become Italian citizens from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, in 2018, 242,009 new residence permits were issued (approx. 21,000 less than during 2017). Despite the downturn, the growth trend remains, as noted over the last few years, regarding family reunification (+8.2% vs 2017), which is the reason for issuance of most of the new residence permits (50.7%). There is a downturn in the number of applications for, or entitlements to, a form of protection (-35.9% vs 2017). Only 6% of the new residence permits were issued on the basis of work-related considerations.

There were 7,951 **new residence permits** issued in 2018 to Ukrainian nationals, attesting to a slight rise in numbers vs the previous year (+2.9%), prevalently for family reasons (51%). This community ranks fourth for the number of new residence permits issued in 2018.

Turning to **acquisition of citizenship**, of the 103,478 citizenships granted to non-EU nationals in 2018, **2,423** (2.3% of the total) are citizens of Ukrainian origin. The main reason for granting Italian citizenship to members of this community (regarding almost 1,020 Ukrainians as new citizens) has been that of marriage with an Italian citizen. This reason for granting citizenship regards, above all, the female component (54%). The second most important reason is naturalization (40.7%). Lastly, 17.2% of the new acquisitions of citizenship were the result of transmission from parents on becoming “neo italiani” (new Italians).

In regard to **mixed marriages**, the case of the Ukrainian community is most significant, with their 2,351 marriages of 2017 (approx. 14% of the marriages taking place with non-EU nationals). 82.6% were between an Italian groom and a Ukrainian bride; 16% were between spouses who were both foreign, and only in 1.4% of the cases was the spouse a Ukrainian citizen and the bride an Italian. With respect to non-EU nationals as a whole, the incidence is greater in this community of marriages with a non-EU bride (in 18.6% of cases).

Minors and educational paths

As on 1 January 2019, the **20,854** Ukrainian **minors** in Italy account for 9% of non-EU minors as a whole. This value is markedly lower than the non-EU mean (21.8%). This finding attests to the lower incidence of families with children in this community.

1.065 Ukrainian children were born in Italy in 2017 (2% of the births of on-EU nationals). In all, over the last 8 years, almost 463,000 non-nationals were born in Italy, 8,872 of whom were Ukrainian.

The low incidence of minors places this community ninth in the ranking among non-EU countries as to numbers of non-EU students, all Ukrainian minors being found to attend Italian schools. 20,116 Ukrainian students enrolled for academic year 2017/2018 (3% of the non-EU school population as a whole). The numbers of enrolling students rose by 1.2% vs the previous year, vs +2.6% for non-EU students as a whole. Growth in enrolments was noted in primary schools (+2.6%), preschool institutions (+2.2%) and junior secondary schools (+1.7%). Instead, there was a downturn in enrolments in senior secondary schools for the Ukrainians (-1.2%). In any case, senior secondary schools present with the highest incidence of Ukrainian students vs non-EU students as a whole (4%).

Among young Ukrainians, in absolute value terms, the incidence of **NEETs** (youngsters aged between 15 and 29 neither working nor engaged in education or training) is high (approx. 10,445 young people, and approx., 1/3 of Ukrainians in this age bracket).

Work and employment

The distribution of employed persons of Ukrainian origin among the various sectors of economic activity is greatly conditioned by the prevalence of the female component – itself leading to the formation of a most specific sectoral skills base –, influenced also by social relations orienting Ukrainian workers toward the sector of personal services, which sector prevails (with almost 2/3 of Ukrainian workers in Italy, or 64%). This quotient doubles that of non-EU workers as a whole. The **unemployment rate** for this community stands at 12.3% (this value is lower than that for non-EU migrants as a whole). We note in any case a 1.4% rise vs the previous year. This rise is more significant than that noted for the non-EU population as a whole (0.2%). However, the **inactivity rate** for these citizens stands at 22.1% (a value below that for non-EU citizens as a whole).

Although, within this community, there is a narrow gap between the male and female **employment rates** (70.5% and 67.2%, respectively), the indicators for women alone are most encouraging, setting these women well apart from non-EU mean values (with a female employment rate of 46.9%). The **unemployment rate** stands at 12.6%, vs 18.7% for the non-EU population as a whole. The **inactivity rate** stands at 22.6%, vs 43.1%. The high incidence of the employed among Ukrainian women is a driver of an overall index that is higher than that for the non-EU population as a whole, with positive impacts also on the unemployment and inactivity rates of this community.

83,063 citizens of Ukrainian origin started up **new employment relationships** in 2018 (almost 4% more than the previous year). Indicating a decidedly greater presence of women in the labour market than is noted for men, the data obtained by means of *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that 75.9% of the hirings of

Ukrainian citizens regard the female component of this community (vs 46%, in all, for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2018 for Ukrainian workers – more than 84.8% – were in services, this being the prime sector in any case for non-EU workers as a whole, albeit at lower levels than for the Ukrainian community (58.1%). Gender analysis points to a marked orientation of women toward the services sector in which only 2/3 of male workers are employed (while among women the rate stands at more than 90%).

Prevalent among Ukrainians are workers in the sphere of skilled provision of personal and similar services, who, alongside unskilled home helpers, account for almost ½ of placements. Among personal services placements, the incidence (vs non-EU workers as a whole) of new contracts with workers from this community is significant. The 27,239 contracts for this activity correspond to almost 1/3 of such hirings among non-EU citizens as a whole.

Since Ukrainian citizens largely provide personal services and home help, which are sectors for which access to wage supplements is somewhat impeded, this community benefits little from such supplements. Less than 3% (1,433) of non-EU citizens in receipt of supplements are Ukrainian. Since this community makes up approx. 9% of the non-EU workforce, the incidence is negligible. The beneficiaries are mainly in receipt of CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments (1,287), while146 are in receipt of CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. Ukrainian citizens account for 11.3% of non-EU citizens in receipt of **unemployment benefits** – 47,283 in receipt of practically solely of NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego* – a social employment insurance scheme) benefits. Women prevail as beneficiaries of the social employment insurance schemes of all kinds, ASPI, Mini Aspi and NASPI, with quotients of approx. 80%. A significant number of beneficiaries are in receipt of payments termed *Mobilità* (mobility) and *Disoccupazione agricola* (agricultural unemployment) (61.3% in both cases).

Involvement of the Ukrainian component in **the world of entrepreneurship** is limited. Indeed, with its 4,848 sole proprietors, this community ranks twelfth in terms of number of enterprises. However, the number of sole proprietors of Ukrainians rose by 6.3% vs the year before (+287units). The construction sector is the sector within which most investment takes place (29.5%), followed by commerce and transport (24.9%). The level of investment in this latter ambit us in any case decidedly lower than that noted for enterprises owned by non-EU citizens as a whole.

Economic conditions

While employment in Services and acquisition of the pertaining skills shielded these workers from the rigours of the economic crisis, earnings suffered a setback. **Monthly salaries** for home helpers were much lower (approx. -400 euros) than those of employees, lowering the community's mean earnings, that are lower than those of non-EU citizens as a whole. The earnings of Ukrainian home helpers are in any case similar to those of non-EU workers in this sector as a whole (+31 euros).

Employees earn slightly less than the mean calculated for non-EU employees as a whole (-97 euros). Female home helpers earn 95 euros more than their male Ukrainian colleagues. However, we note a wide gender pay gap among employees, with males earning more than 360 euros more than females. The gap narrows to 113 euros among agricultural workers.

As is not the case among non-EU nationals as a whole, a medium-high level of education prevails among the Ukrainian citizens employed in Italy. Approx. 2/3 of the workers belonging to this community obtained at least a senior secondary school leaving certificate (as many as 23.7% are also degree holders). The number of holders of a higher education certificate is higher than the non-EU mean (with more than ½ holding at best a junior secondary school leaving certificate).

The quotient of **IVS (disability, old-age and survivors') pensions** that are made over to non-EU citizens has always been rather small. In 2018, this quotient stood at 0.4% of the total (out of almost 14 million pensions, 56,071 regard non-EU citizens). Non-EU citizens receive old-age pensions (in 42% of such cases), followed by survivors' pensions (36.3%); 21.6% are in receipt of IVS pensions, provided for migrants with non-EU citizenship during 2018, and linked to disability. In the Ukrainian community there is a prevalence of old-age pensions (almost 60%), followed by survivors' pensions (34.8%), disability pensions accounting for 9.3%. Overall, with its 6,767 IVS pensions, the Ukrainian community accounts for 12% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits. Between 2017 and 2018, the numbers of IVS pensions provided to Ukrainians rose much more markedly than was noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: +27% vs +13%. Above all, the Ukrainians in receipt of old-age pensions rose by 41%.

The level of **social assistance measures** provided by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) to Ukrainian citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civil disability) is low: 6,308 (approx. 7% of those for migrant recipients of non-EU origin). 52.1% consist in social benefits; slightly less than 1/3 are civil disability pensions, and the remaining 17.5% are constant attendance supplements.

With reference to monetary transfers to families (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2018 a total of 321,157 women received maternity benefits, 8.8% of whom were non-EU citizens (28,414) (7.6% less than the year before). The Ukrainian beneficiaries of maternity allowances totalled 1,554, or 5.5% of non-EU female beneficiaries (maternity allowances fell in number by approx. 7% vs 2017). As to **parental leave**, in 2018 there were 768 Ukrainian beneficiaries, or 3.3% of non-EU beneficiaries, denoting a 4.6% increase vs the previous year.

The benefit that is most frequently received consists in **family allowances**. During 2018, as many as 2,836,868 beneficiaries were in receipt of family allowances (a value that was basically stable vs the year before). 12.4% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (353,000) denoting a 3.7% increase on 2017. 9,400 members of this community were in receipt of family allowances in 2018 (2.7% of non-EU citizens as a whole; +5.2%).

Generally speaking, the incidence of beneficiaries from the Ukrainian community – vs the beneficiaries in receipt of benefits to families of all the various kinds analysed – is fairly negligible, given the low incidence of minors within this community.

As to transfers made by the Ukrainians in Italy to their country of origin, the Ukraine ranks ninth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2018 (approx. 160 million euros), accounting for 2.8% of the total outgoing remittances (+4% vs 2017).

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