



THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



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19

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 origine* (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.

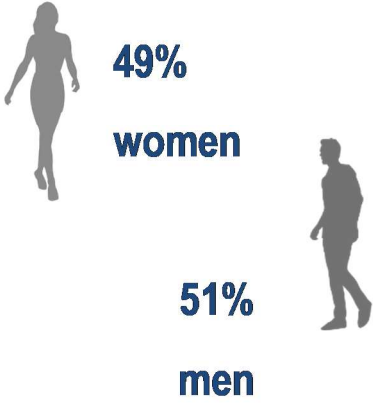
Version of 30/06/2020

Executive Summary



428.332
legally residing Albanian citizens
Ranking second for number of presences

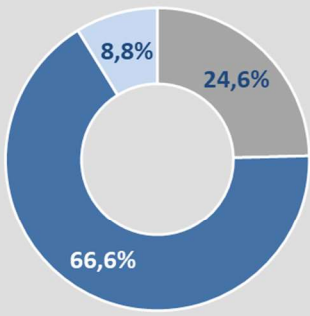
103,478 “nuovi italiani” (new Italians) in 2018
(10% are Albanian)



116.085 Albanian students (+1,6%)
9.129 enrolled for degree courses

Present in:

- 21,3%** Lombardia
- 14,9%** Toscana
- 13%** Emilia-Romagna



70,7%
long-term residents

29,3% short-term permits

- Work (24,6%)
- Family (66,6%)
- Other reasons (8,8%)

Demographic characteristics

428,332 Albanian citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2019**, accounting for 11.5% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Albanian community, which has for some years now ranked second for number of legally residing members, is one of the most stable foreign communities, this also being due to its long track record of migration to Italy. Albanians were among the first migrants to attract the attention of observers of migration flows, in the early 1990s in the wake of the socio-political changes in Albania when outflows started to become significantly large.

Various indicators underscore the degree of stability of presence of Albanians. Socio-demographically speaking, two aspects point to stable settling on the part of this community:

- a basic **gender balance** (women make up 49% of this community and men 51%);
- a high **quotient of minors** (indicating the presence of families). The number of minors stands at more than 109,000. The incidence reaches more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of legally residing Albanian citizens. Furthermore, this community presents a lower mean age than that of non-EU citizens as a whole. Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of the citizens of Albanian origin are younger than 30 (44.5% of the total).

As to geographic distribution, this community favours Northern Italy, where more than 6 out of 10 Albanian citizens reside. Accordingly, two of the regions with most Albanians are northern: **Lombardia** is the major Region of settlement for this community, with 21.3% of the total number of Albanian citizens. **Emilia-Romagna** (ranking third for number of Albanian citizens) presents an incidence of 13%. In any case, there is a marked presence in the Region of **Tuscany**, which is the second region in terms of number of Albanians present (63,662, or 14.9% of the total, and more than 6% higher than the level for migrants of non-EU origin as a whole). 12.7% of this community have settled in Southern Italy (a value slightly lower than that for non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy). Notably, the **Puglia** region hosts 5% of this community.

Analysis of residence permits indicates this community's marked progress in the direction of stabilisation. The quotient of long-term residents (holders of residence permits not subject to renewal) stands at 70.7%, as on 1 January 2019 (vs 62.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Regarding short-term permits, those issued for **family reunification reasons** prevail, i.e. 2/3 of permits subject to renewal among migrant members of this community (66.6%, vs 43.7% of non-EU citizens). Work permits, on the other hand, account for less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total.

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 number of presences. 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 (+2.7%), ranking eleventh in terms of number of presences, having risen from fourteenth the year before.

The most significant downturns regard the Tunisian, Moroccan and Moldavan communities (-4.6%, -2% and -1.8%, respectively).

Two factors are of greater significance with respect to trends displayed by number of presences. 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.

With its 23,479 new residence permits – the large majority of which linked to family reunification (67.4%) – the Albanian community ranks first for numbers of admissions. We note, however, a slight downturn in the number of Albanians present vs the previous year (-0.5%), due also to acquisition of citizenship. Of the 103,478 citizenships granted to non-EU citizens in 2018, 21,841 went to citizens of Albanian origin (a quotient as high as 21%), also to be ascribed to the stability of this community in Italy. Naturalization is the main reason for granting Italian citizenship to Albanian nationals (47.4%).

The degree of settlement or entrenchment of the Albanian community in Italy is also evident in the numbers of marriages with Italian citizens. In 2017, 1,177 mixed marriages took place, involving Albanian citizens (8.4% of mixed marriages as a whole: approx. 61% to an Italian husband and the remaining 39% to an Italian wife).

Minors and educational paths

As noted above, one of the indicators of geographic stabilization of a community is the high presence of families and minors within it. As on 1 January 2019, there were **109,441 Albanian minors**, i.e. 13.5% of the total for non-EU minors. Many are also Albanian children born in Italy: 7,486 in 2017 (14.5% of non-EU children born in 2017). In all, between 2010 and 2017, nearly 70,000 Albanian children were born in Italy.

A highly significant issue in regard to this community concerns the presence of **unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs)**, since Albania ranks first as country of origin. **As on 31 August 2019, 1,520** minors of Albanian origin were accommodated in *ad hoc* facilities (more than 1/5 of the number of UFMs accommodated in Italy). There has been a slight rise in numbers since 2018 (+1.5%).

Admission of Albanian minors into the Italian schooling circuit remains high. Albania ranks first as country of origin of non-EU students. Indeed, 116,085 students of Albanian origin enrolled for academic year 2018/2019 (17.3% of the non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students of this community increased by 1.6%. The growth rate was slightly lower than that displayed by non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students increased especially in secondary schools: +3.7% and +2.8% in junior and senior secondary schools, respectively. The incidence of students from this community vs non-EU students as a whole is higher in senior secondary schools, where 17.8% of the enrolled non-EU students are Albanian citizens. At primary schools, the quotient drops to 17%. There are also many university students (with its 9,129 students, Albania ranks first as country of origin of the non-EU academic population).

Among the main non-EU communities, this community ranks first also as regards the number (absolute values) of **NEETs** (i.e. persons aged between 15 and 29 not in employment, education or training). Young NEETs of Albanian citizenship amount to approx. 41,000 (i.e. more than 1/3 of Albanians youngsters in this age bracket).

Work and employment

Thanks also to its migratory seniority, the Albanian community's workers joined important sectors of the Italian economy, such as industry. In particular, as a factor, the marked influence of networks of personal relations led to a significant degree of specialization, channelling Albanian workers towards the *construction sector*, in which the quotient employed stands at 27.4% (vs 8.1% of non-EU citizens). Jobs in *industry, in the strict sense*, absorb 19% of the Albanian workforce. These sectors were hit hard during the most acute phase of the economic hardship, with repercussions on the employment levels of workers from this community. Analysis has revealed that work and employment conditions for the Albanian community in Italy are less encouraging than for the non-EU population as a whole. According to the key labour market indicators, this community presents with a lower quotient of persons employed and higher levels of inactivity and unemployment. The **employment rate** stands at **54%** vs 60.1% among non-EU citizens as a whole; the inactivity rate is approx. 5% higher than the mean value, equal to, among Albanian citizens, 34.1%; and the unemployment rate stands at 18% (vs 14.3% for the non-EU population as a whole). It must be noted that, within this community, significant differences subsist between the male and female employment rates (69.5% and 37.9%, respectively). The low incidence of employed persons from the female population contributes to an overall rate that is below the mean for non-EU citizens.

Unsurprisingly, Albanian workers are among the main beneficiaries of the **wage subsidies** made over by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) in the event of interruptions or reduction of production. In 2018, more than 1/3 of the beneficiaries of CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) or CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) arrangements, with non-European citizenship, were Albanian (18,025). This incidence is significant in view of the fact that approx. 12% of the non-EU workforce belongs to this community. The quotient is also high for Albanian citizen recipients of unemployment benefits, vs the total for non-EU beneficiaries: 14.7% (65,865). The Albanian citizens mainly benefit from *Naspi* (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) (approx. 74%); ¼ are in receipt of agricultural unemployment benefits, while the remaining portion are in receipt of various other forms of compensation.

During 2018, **174,087 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Albanian origin (approx. 4% more than the previous year). Indicating that women from this community are drawn to the labour market to a decidedly lesser extent than men, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveals that only 38.2% of Albanian citizens recruited are women (vs 46% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2018 for Albanian workers were in the *Services* sector (a level approaching 47%). However, gender analysis indicates that only 1/3 of work contracts activated with men regard *Services* while for women levels approach 70%

For the Albanian community, we note the prevalence of *skilled manual workers* (1/2 of the Albanian workers vs 28% for non-EU citizens as a whole). Numerically speaking, we then note *unskilled workers* (27%). This latter value is lower than for non-EU citizens as a whole (37%). 1/5 of employed Albanians are *engaged in sales and personal services*, while the incidence for *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* stands at 4%.

Involvement of the community in question in **the world of entrepreneurship** appears to be most significant. Indeed, with its 32,383 sole proprietorships, this community ranks third in terms of number of companies. The construction sector is the sector within which most investment takes place, for Albanian sole proprietors. Indeed, 70% of sole proprietorships under Albanian ownership operate in this sector, these undertakings representing approx. 1/3 of non-EU companies within this ambit.

Economic conditions

Although employment in the industrial sector and acquisition of skills exposed the workers belonging to this community to the negative repercussions of the economic crisis, they also brought benefits in terms of incomes. The data indicate that Albanian workers earn **monthly salaries** that are on average higher than those of non-EU workers as a whole (1,301 vs 1,166 euros: 135 euros higher mean monthly remuneration). In the case of agricultural labourers, the gap (again, a positive value) stands at 92 euros. Conversely, a further gap may be noted within the ambit of domestic work. Here, Albanian workers earn on average 119 euros less than non-EU workers as a whole. In any case, female Albanian workers lost out when it came to pay conditions: the gender pay gap, within this community is fairly large; on average, the monthly salary of male employees exceeds that of female employees by more than 550 euros. The gap is less marked for other typologies of work (for agricultural work the gap stands at 241 euros, while among home helpers it comes to 56 euros).

Among employed Albanian citizens in Italy, a medium-low level of education prevails. In line with the findings for non-EU citizens as a whole, 63.4% of the workers belonging to this community received, at best, a junior secondary school leaving certificate. Educationally, within this community, women are more highly qualified than men, with 12.8% of female employees as holders of a higher education certificate vs 4.1% among the men. In any case, the value is lower than that for non-EU women as a whole (16.1%).

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 Albanian community, survivors' pensions prevail, with an incidence of 41%, followed by disability pensions (35%). Approx. 24% are old-age pensions. Overall, with its 4,704 IVS pensions, the Albanian community accounts for 8.4% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of IVS pensions made over to migrants from Albania saw a more marked increase than was noted for non-

EU citizens as a whole: +15% vs +13%. In this community, the numbers of old-age pensioners increased by 31% (vs 18% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

The level of social assistance measures provided by INPS to Albanian citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civil disability) is high: 23,170 (approx. ¼ of migrant recipients of non-EU origin). Social benefits account for 54.6% of such cases. Slightly more than 1/5 are civil disability pensions. The remaining 24.5% consist in 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) . During the same period, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances with Albanian citizenship totalled 5,579, or 18.7% of non-EU female beneficiaries. Among the Albanians, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances fell in number by 2.3% vs 2017. As to parental leave, in 2018 there were a total of 344,529 such beneficiaries, denoting a 6.2% increase vs 2017, 6.8% of whom were of non-EU origin (23,445). A total of 3,406 Albanian citizens benefited from this measure (14.5% of non-EU beneficiaries). 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 (approx. 353,000) denoting a 3.7% increase on 2017. 66,711 members of this community were in receipt of family allowances in 2018 (19% of non-EU citizens as a whole; +3.3% on 2017).

As to transfers made by the Albanians in Italy to their country of origin, Albania ranks twelfth as nation of destination of remittances sent from Italy in 2018 (approx. 137 million euros), accounting for 2.8% of the total outgoing remittances (+8.9 million vs 2017).

