

# THE ECUADORIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants  
*Executive Summary*



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.

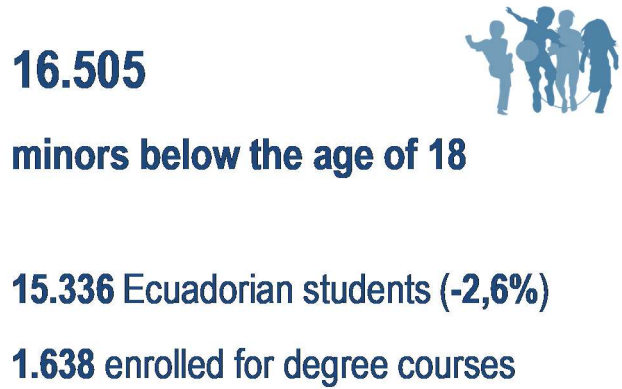
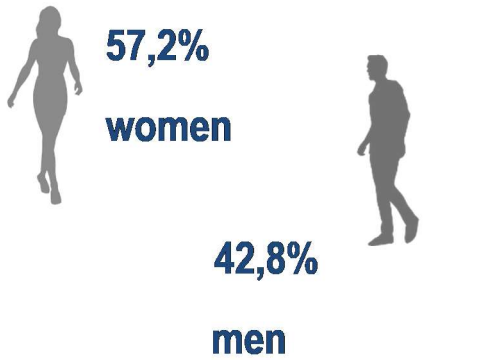
For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment angles are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration, welfare policies and processes of integration. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities.

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.

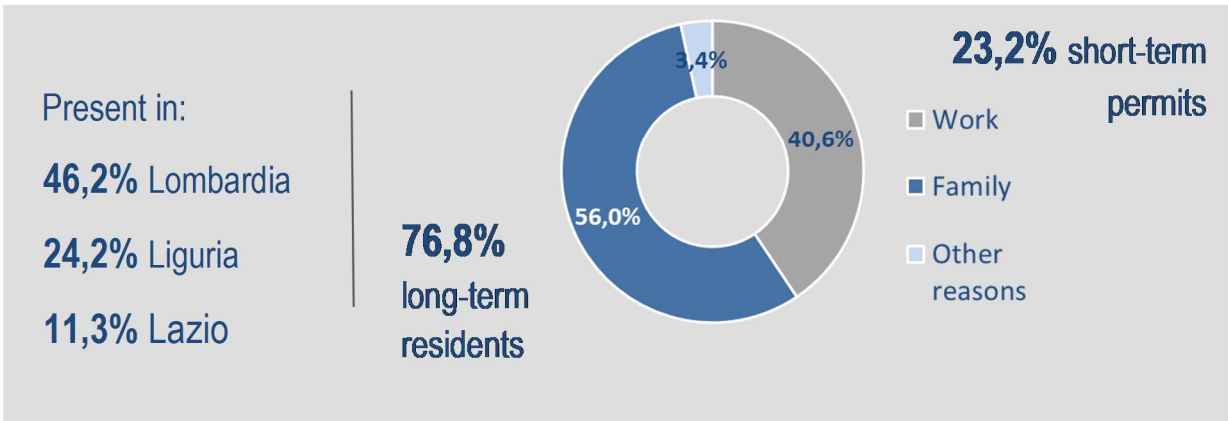
The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (community reports), editions 2012 - 2019, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the areas *Paesi di origine e comunità* (countries of origin and communities) and *Rapporti di ricerca sull'immigrazione* (immigration research reports) on the institutional portal, [www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it](http://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.

# Executive Summary



43% are aged over 40



## Demographic characteristics

**76,201 Ecuadorian citizens** are holders of a residence permit valid as on **1 January 2019**, accounting for 2% of the non-EU citizens in Italy.

The Ecuadorian community, which ranks sixteenth for number of legally residing members, has a long track record of migration to Italy. It is one of the most settled or entrenched foreign communities in Italy.

**Socio-demographically speaking**, two aspects characterise this community:

- ✓ **gender polarization oriented toward the female component**; women make up **57.2%** of this community, vs a quotient of 48.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole. As a result, this community ranks fourth among the main communities in Italy for incidence of female members. This polarization is owing to the migratory model characterising this community, which sees mainly its women (directed toward home help and care services) playing a key role.
- ✓ **A mean age that is slightly higher** (34.2) than the norm (vs 33.8 for non-EU migrants as a whole), accompanied by a prevalence of adult age brackets: 43% of the community are aged over 40 (vs 37.9% for non-EU migrants as a whole). Particularly noteworthy is the high quotient of women of this community aged over 60 (9% vs 4.2% for men).

As to geographic distribution, 81.5% this community favour Northern Italy (a quotient that is much higher than that noted for non-EU citizens residing in Italy as a whole: 61.1%). A marked concentration is to be found in Lombardia, hosting approx. 46% of the Ecuadorians in Italy (vs nearly 20% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

Characterising this community is its marked presence in Liguria, which is the region in which  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Ecuadorian citizens received or renewed their residence permits (vs 3.1% of non-EU citizens residing in Italy as a whole). We note the particularly high concentration in the metropolitan city of Genoa, hosting 19% of this community. Lazio ranks third as region in terms of numbers of Ecuadorians hosted (11.3% of the Ecuadorians in Italy reside here).

Analysis of **residence permits** indicates this community's marked progress in the direction of stabilisation. The quotient of **long-term residents** stands at **76.8%** (vs the decidedly lower quotient of 62.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole). Among the main non-EU communities, the Ecuadorians rank second (after the Moldavans) in terms of quotient of long-term residents. Furthermore, regarding short-term permits, those issued for **family reunification** reasons prevail, accounting for **more than**  $\frac{1}{2}$  of permits subject to renewal among migrant members of this community (56%, vs 43.7% for non-EU citizens as a whole). The incidence of **work permits** is higher than the mean (totalling **40.6%** vs 31% for non-EU citizens as a whole).

## 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's presences, 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.

We note a slight downturn in the number of Ecuadorians present vs 1 January 2018 (-1.1%), mainly due to **acquisition of citizenship**. Of the 103,478 citizenships granted to non-EU citizens in 2018, **2,306** went to citizens of Ecuadorian origin (2.2% of the total number). More than ½ of the cases of acquisition of citizenship (53.7%) on the part of citizens of Ecuadorian origin in 2018 took place via a process of naturalization, reflecting the marked extent of settlement or entrenchment of this community in Italy. The reason following in importance for acquisition of citizenship is transmission/elective acquisition (29.3%). 17% of acquisitions followed marriage with an Italian citizen.

In this community, the incidence of mixed marriages is high: 86.7% of the 429 marriages taking place in 2017 – when at least one spouse was an Ecuadorian national – were with an Italian (57.3% with an Italian husband; 29.4% with an Italian wife). In only 13.3% of the cases were the spouses both foreign.

### Minors and educational paths

On analysis of the Ecuadorian community in Italy, we note that the incidence of minors parallels the mean value for non-EU citizens as a whole: 21.7%. These **16,505** Ecuadorian **minors** account for 2% of the non-EU minors in Italy as on 1 January 2019.

**15,336 Ecuadorian students** enrolled for academic year 2018/2019 (2.3% of the non-EU school population as a whole). The number of students from this community fell off compared with the year before (-2.6%). Conversely and in equal proportion, there was a rise in number of non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students fell off in the senior secondary schools especially (-5.8%) and in preschool institutions (-3.8%). On analysis of this community, it was noted that the incidence of females was higher than the non-EU mean, this determining a **quasi-perfect gender balance (49%)**. The students who were Ecuadorian nationals and who enrolled for academic year 2018/19 in order to attend two-year or three-year degree courses in Italy totalled 1,638 (2.4% on non-EU university students). Running counter to the trend noted for non-EU students as a whole, the number of university students from this community saw a downturn over the last year (-3.4%). Within this community, the number of youngsters neither working nor engaged in education or training is decidedly lower than the non-EU mean. Approx. **15** out of 100 young Ecuadorian nationals aged between 15 and 29 are **NEETs** (Not engaged in Education, Employment or Training), while the mean incidence is 34.6%. Both the male and female components present with NEET rates of less than ½ of the rate noted in non-EU communities as a whole.

### Work and employment

Ecuadorian migration to Italy and its history are characterised by a migratory model with women – as the prime protagonists – seeking to meet the demand for a workforce in the sector of household and family service provision. These characteristics are clearly noted on analysis of employment, indicating that a marked orientation of Ecuadorian citizens toward the sector of **Public, Social and Personal Services** persists, in which sector **43%** of Ecuadorian workers are active. Specialization for this workforce has, to a certain extent, shielded the community from the rigours of a grave economic crisis. Services to households/families was, in fact, one of the sectors affected least.

*Industry* provides jobs for ¼ of Ecuadorian workers, the quotient paralleling that for non-EU workers in general. Following *Industry*, we note *Commerce and Catering* and *Transport and Business Services*, for which similar employment quotients are noted: 16% of the workers from this community. On comparison with the non-EU population as a whole, it is noted that many provide business services (16% vs 12%). We must also note that this community is practically absent from the primary sector. Those working in the sector of *Agriculture, Hunting and Fishing* account for a mere 0.1% of the total number of Ecuadorian employees.

On analysis of the main labour market indicators, it is noted that the employment conditions for the Ecuadorians in Italy are better than for the non-EU population as a whole: a **higher quotient of employees** and lower levels of inactivity and unemployment. Indeed, **65.3%** of the Ecuadorian population in the 15-64 age bracket in Italy are employed (a value more than 5% higher than for the non-EU community as a whole). An encouraging ongoing trend in regard to employment is to be noted: compared to 2017, the employment rate for this community rose by 3%, while the rise for the non-EU population as a whole stood at barely 1%.

Turning to the **unemployment rate**, the quotient of jobseekers in this community stood at **11.3%** of the workforce, which value is significantly lower than for non-EU workers as a whole (14.3%). Here too, the trend is encouraging; compared to the previous year the unemployment rate for the Ecuadorian population in Italy fell by more than 4% (vs a 0.6% downturn for the non-EU population as a whole). The **inactivity rate** for Ecuadorian citizens is **26.5%** (a value approx. 3% lower than for non-EU citizens as a whole).

The differences between the 'performance ratings' of this community and those of the non-EU population as a whole are also owing to the fact that the female component of the Ecuadorian community is most active in the field of employment. The **female employment rate** for Ecuadorian citizens is rather high (**58%**) – a rate decidedly more encouraging than that noted for non-EU women as a whole (among non-EU women the mean employment rate stands at 46.9%).

The Ecuadorian community presents with only **717 persons in receipt of wage subsidies** (approx. 91% of whom are men). These are, above all, persons in receipt of CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments (657), and 60 are in receipt of CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. Ecuadorian citizens make up **2.2% of persons in receipt of non-EU unemployment benefits** (9,799), and 9,909 beneficiaries prevalently of NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme). As opposed to the findings regarding wage subsidies, women prevail as beneficiaries of Ecuadorian benefits (68.3%).

27,068 Ecuadorian citizens were recruited in 2018 (1.8% of new employment relationships with non-EU citizens). Indicating 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 **54.7%** of the hirings of Ecuadorian 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 Ecuadorian workers were – by a large margin – in the **Services** sector (approx. 89%) while for women of this community the level approaches approx. 97%.

In regard to job typology, the data indicate that among employees of this community **unskilled manual jobs** prevail, undertaken by **44%** of the Ecuadorian workforce (vs 37% of non-EU employees as a whole), followed by office workers and those engaged in sales or personal services, accounting for 29% of the employees from this community. Skilled manual workers account for 26% of employed Ecuadorians (vs 28% of non-EU workers as a whole). Lastly, the incidence among Ecuadorians for managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields stands at a mere 1%.

## Economic conditions

According to the data produced by INPS (National Social Security Institute), the **mean monthly salaries** earned by the Ecuadorian community are in line with those of non-EU workers as a whole. The data clearly indicate that, in **gender pay gap** terms, female employees are at a disadvantage, this gap standing at more than 380 euros in this community (vs approx. 370 euros for non-EU workers as a whole). However, as to domestic work, the situation is reversed. Men receive less (however, the gap stands at a mere 14 euros vs 67 euros for the non-EU population as a whole).

Among the Ecuadorian citizens employed in Italy, a **medium-high level of education** prevails. More than half of the workers belonging to this community obtained at least a senior secondary school leaving certificate (53%), this value being approx. 15% higher than for the non-EU population as a whole). However, the number of holders of a higher education certificate is lower than the mean (6.5% vs 10.8%). Analysis taking into account gender variables indicates that the women of this community are academically more highly qualified; the quotient of female holders of a diploma stands at 52% (vs 41.6% for the men of this community) and the quotient of female graduates stands at 6.7% (vs 6.3%).

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 Ecuadorian community, the distribution of the various typologies of social security provisions is significantly different, with a prevalence of **survivor's pensions (49%)**, followed by **old-age pensions** (approx.

**29%**), and disability pensions (**22.2%**). Overall, with its 853 IVS pensions, the Ecuadorian community accounts for 1.5% of the total for non-EU citizens who are in receipt of such benefits, peaking (2%) with survivor's pensions, the quotient being particularly high within this community. Between 2017 and 2018, the numbers of IVS pensions provided to Ecuadorians rose more markedly than was noted among non-EU citizens as a whole: +17.3% vs +13%. The Ecuadorians in receipt of old-age pensions rose by approx. 24% (vs the 18% rise noted in the non-EU population as a whole).

**1,563 social assistance pensions** were provided to members of the Ecuadorian community in 2018 (1.7% of those provided to migrants of non-EU origin). In **37% of the cases**, the benefits took the form of **constant attendance supplements**; 36%, disability pension; and 26.9% pensions and social benefits. Also among Ecuadorian citizens, the number of those in receipt of social assistance pensions is rising (+9.1% vs the previous year): +12% for **constant attendance supplements**, approx. +8% for disability and +6.6% for pensions and social benefits.

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 Ecuadorian citizenship totalled **945**, or **3.3%** of non-EU beneficiaries. Among the Ecuadorians, the beneficiaries of maternity allowances fell in number by 11% 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). Among non-EU citizens, the increase in beneficiaries of parental leave rose significantly vs the previous year (+12.7%). A total of **665 Ecuadorian citizens** benefitted from this measure (2.8% of non-EU beneficiaries). For this community, there was a rise (approx. +15%) vis-à-vis the previous year. During 2018, there were **8,272** Ecuadorians in receipt of **family allowances** (2.3% of non-EU citizens as a whole; with a modest rise of +1% vs 2017).

As to transfers made by the Ecuadorians in Italy to their country of origin, these totalled approx. **142 million euros** (3% of the total outgoing remittances). The volume of remittances vs 2017 **rose by 18%**.

