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Social exclusion of immigrants in Italy

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INTRODUCTION

The demographic changes that has characterized Italy in recent years showed no constant trend. After twenty years in which the number of residents remained virtually unchanged, at the beginning of this century there has been a sharp increase in population. However, although between 1981 and 2001 the population had remained fairly constant, its age structure was radically altered: the falling birth rate and the increase in life expectancy have led to the progressive aging of the population. In absence of migration, the Italian population seems inevitably to decline. The demographic contribution of the foreign population has therefore had a braking effect against this trend.

In the Italian context, are 4,570,317 the foreigners resident in Italy on 1 January 2011 (ISTAT, Popolazione straniera residente in Italia), 335 thousand more than the previous year (+7.9%). The increase is slightly lower than that recorded in 2009 (343 thousand units). To these values must be added other 400 thousand regularly present people but not yet registered. In addition to immigration contributes to this data the birth in Italy of children by foreign parents: in 2010 were 78082, as much as 13% of "born residents" in total. During 2010, 65938 foreigners have acquired Italian citizenship. The acquisition of citizenship increased by 11, 1% over the previous year. These will obviously decrease the foreign resident population. Is also confirmed in 2010 the contribution of foreign residents in the population growth of Italy. Without it, Italy would be a country with a population decline: in 2010, in fact, Italian citizens decreased by over 49 thousand units. The increase of the total population residing in our country (Italian and foreign), which by 60340328 in early 2010 passes to 60626442 in early 2011, is entirely due to natural and migration dynamics of foreign residents described above . In particular, the natural balance of the foreign population (+72,958 units) largely offsets the negative natural balance of residents of Italian citizenship (-98,502 units).

Considering the origin it is clear that foreigners resident in Italy are citizens of a wide range of foreign countries, but limiting the analysis to the first five countries (Romania, Albania, Morocco, China and Ukraine) they exceed 50% (2 million 314 thousand) of the total number.

If the provenance is rather homogeneous, the same can not be said of the immigrants distribution on the Italian territory: the majority is concentrated in the north (35% in the north-west, 26.3% in the north-east) and, to a lesser extent, at the center (25.2%) while in the south lies only 13.5% of foreign residents. This heterogeneity persists despite the relative growth of the foreign population was higher right where the amount was lower, that is islands (+11.9%) and south (+11.5%).

1. LEVEL AND STRUCTURE OF IMMIGRANT EXCLUSION.

The existence and the persistence of ethnic and race-based discrimination prove that the path towards coexistence within a country is still incredibly long. The removal of such obstacles represents a starting point in pursuing social inclusion of immigrant communities. Given its complexity, integration cannot be measured directly (no data can provide its size at once) but indirectly: it is necessary to identify its size through a model made up by partial, measurable and integration-related indexes. These sizes are afterwards analyzed in order to create a final index (ranging from 0 to 100) summing up the potential of each Italian region about integration between immigrant communities and local residents. Two partial indexes have been considered in order to evaluate such a phenomenon:

- Social inclusion index. It measures the degree of integration within the social fabric and the stage of access to basic services by immigrants in each context;
- Employment insertion index. It measures the degree and quality of employment insertion of immigrants in the local market.

Nevertheless a third partial index is not included in realizing the final one: however its features are important in order to fully understand the integration phenomenon in a certain region. This index, the territorial attractiveness index, defines how much power each territorial context has in attracting and retaining immigrant people on a national scale.

When elaborating the final index, indicators and partial indexes (with the exception of the territorial attractiveness index and its indicators) a dual method is followed: absolute (immigrants only) and differential (evaluation of the difference between immigrants-related data and Italians-related data). As a result every indicator and every index will have a double classification (absolute and differential) on the basis of territories (areas and regions are

considered separately) ranking from the highest value to the lowest (the opposite for indicators negatively related with the integration).

1.1 Social inclusion index

This index measures the level of access to basic goods and services (such as house and higher education) by immigrants and their rootedness in the social fabric by the achievement of certain status that lead to social inclusion. Social inclusion of foreign people is better accomplished in small town and administrative contexts, in cities on a human scale where rhythms of modern life are less frenetic and competitive, social relationships are less anonymous and detached, human relations are more direct, bureaucracy is less complex and heavy than in larger metropolitan and urban conglomerations.

Tab. 1.1 Social inclusion index (Region)

	Absolute		Differential	
	Region	Index value	Regione	Index value
1	Emilia R.	70,40	Piemonte	-0,13
2	Friuli V. G.	64,60	Umbria	-0,17
3	Veneto	61,80	Friuli V.G.	-0,17
4	Trentino A.A.	61,80	Emilia R.	-0,20
5	Basilicata	60,80	Sicilia	-0,20
6	Sicilia	60,60	Baslicata	-0,25
7	Puglia	60,10	Veneto	-0,26
8	Lazio	59,50	Molise	0,30
9	Marche	58,30	Trentino A.A.	-0,33
10	Molise	58,00	Puglia	-0,34
11	Lombardia	57,70	Lombardia	-0,39
12	Umbria	57,40	Marche	-0,40
13	Calabria	52,90	Liguria	-0,44

14	Liguria	48,60	Campania	-0,44
15	Campania	48,60	Valle d' Aosta	-0,46
16	Valle d' Aosta	46,80	Toscana	-0,53
17	Toscana	46,10	Lazio	-0,54
18	Piemonte	45,80	Calabria	-0,60
19	Abruzzo	43,30	Sardegna	-0,65
20	Sardegna	30,60	Abruzzo	-0,67

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

Tab. 1.2 Social inclusion index (Area)

	Area	Index value
1	North east	77,1
2	Centre	63,9
3	North west	51,3
4	South	36,7
5	Islands	25,8

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

Widely speaking, on the basis of the absolute index (listing five indicators about immigrants only), the Northeast turned out to be the area where social inclusion is best accomplished. Work opportunities (SMEs) and widespread territorial rootedness (small, medium-sized cities) contributed in achieving this specific goal. On the contrary the Northwest, where great resources have been invested (especially subsidies for house purchase), has not succeeded yet. The South and the Islands are characterized by poor willingness for rootedness and even if regions like Sicily, Puglia and Basilicata appear in the top ten.

1.2 Employment insertion index

In spite of the 2008 financial crisis and its consequences on the Italian market, immigration flows kept boosting because of working reasons. This situation pointed out some critical points of our production system and proved that immigrants contribution to the Italian market is essential.

Tab. 1.3 Employment insertion index (Region)

	Absolute		Differential	
	Region	Index value	Regione	Index value
1	Lombardia	56,60	Sardegna	0,35
2	Toscana	54,40	Lazio	0,17
3	Lazio	54,60	Valle d' Aosta	0,11
4	Friuli V.G.	54,00	Campania	0,11
5	Emilia R.	51,30	Sicilia	0,09
6	Veneto	48,30	Molise	0,01
7	Trentino A.A.	47,20	Trentino A.A.	0,00
8	Piemonte	46,50	Calabria	-0,01
9	Liguria	42,90	Abruzzo	-0,09
10	Calabria	42,30	Toscana	-0,13
11	Campania	41,20	Piemonte	-0,14
12	Sicilia	38,20	Veneto	-0,15
13	Molise	36,50	Friuli V.G.	-0,17
14	Valle d' Aosta	35,50	Liguria	-0,18
15	Sardegna	34,70	Basilicata	-0,19
16	Abruzzo	34,30	Lombardia	-0,20
17	Marche	31,40	Emilia R.	-0,35
18	Umbria	27,50	Marche	-0,38
19	Basilicata	21,20	Puglia	-0,47

20	Puglia	14,60	Umbria	-0,50
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Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

Tab. 1.4 Employment insertion index (Area)

	Absolute		Differential	
	Area	Index value	Area	Index value
1	Centre	44,6	Isole	0,09
2	North east	38,5	Centro	0,01
3	North west	38,4	Nord ovest	0,00
4	Islands	21,5	Sud	-0,48
5	South	8,5	Nord est	-0,60

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes



1.3 Territorial attractiveness index

Tab. 1.5 Territorial attractiveness index (Area)

	Absolute	
	Region	Index value
1	Lombardia	84,30
2	Emilia R.	78,60
3	Veneto	73,60
4	Friuli V.G.	67,40
5	Marche	63,60
6	Liguria	61,10
7	Trentino A.A.	59,40
8	Umbria	59,00
9	Piemonte	55,70
10	Lazio	52,90
11	Toscana	44,70
12	Valle d' Aosta	32,50
13	Abruzzo	21,20
14	Basilicata	16,80
15	Sicilia	15,60
16	Calabria	15,60
17	Piuglia	13,30
18	Molise	11,40
19	Campania	10,50
20	Sardegna	2,60

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

Tab. 1.6 Territorial attractiveness index (Area)

	Area	Index value
1	North east	93
2	North west	76,3
3	Centre	60,2
4	Islands	5,8
5	South	5,7

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

As you can see in the chart, there is a strong polarization, nothing new for the Italian economic context. The North the most attractive area, followed by the Centre and the South.

1.4 Final index of the integration potential of Italian regions

Attention should be focused on the fact that in this final index the extreme levels (maximum and minimum) are both empty. It means there are neither regions with highly favorable nor unfavorable structural conditions.

Tab. 1.7 Final index of the integration potential of Italian regions (Region)

	Absolute		Differential	
	Region	Index value	Region	Index value
1	Emilia R.	60,82	Sicilia	-0,06
2	Friuli V. G.	59,29	Piemonte	-0,13
3	Lombardia	57,17	Molise	-0,14
4	Lazio	57,06	Sardegna	-0,15
5	Veneto	55,04	Trentino A.A.	-0,16
6	Trentino A.A.	54,48	Campania	-0,17
7	Toscana	50,42	Friuli V.G.	-0,17

8	Sicilia	49,40	Valle d' Aosta	-0,17
9	Calabria	47,62	Lazio	-0,18
10	Molise	47,21	Veneto	-0,20
11	Piemonte	46,14	Basilicata	-0,22
12	Liguria	45,77	Emilia R.	-0,27
13	Campania	44,92	Lombardia	-0,30
14	Marche	44,85	Liguria	-0,31
15	Umbria	42,44	Calabria	-0,31
16	Basilicata	41,00	Toscana	-0,33
17	Valle d' Aosta	40,85	Umbria	-0,33
18	Abruzzo	38,84	Abruzzo	-0,38
19	Puglia	37,36	Marche	-0,39
20	Sardegna	32,65	Puglia	-0,40

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes



Tab. 1.8 Final index of the integration potential of Italian regions (Area)

	Area	Index value
1	North east	57,8
2	Centre	54,3
3	North west	44,9
4	Island	23,7
5	South	22,6

Source: CNEL - Dossier Statistico Immigrazione Caritas/Migrantes

Northern regions, and central regions sometimes, can be defined as the most attractive since their indexes are rather high. A different situation has been found in the southern regions and in the Islands. In confirmation of that, you can see that the differential index raises (negatively) and it proves that integration becomes more and more difficult when moving from the northern Italy to southern Italy.

2.CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF IMMIGRANTS EXCLUSION.

The persistence of discriminatory behaviors based on certain ethnic and racial factors confirms that the road to harmonic coexistence is still obstructed by attitudes of intolerance and rejection of all forms of diversity.

There are various causes that lead to the exclusion of immigrants. Among these we can mention first the difficulty for foreigners to obtain Italian citizenship. The status of citizen is the one of the individual to whom the state recognize the full set of civil and political rights, and in Italy the rules for its loss and acquisition are not established by the constitution but by the ordinary law. In Italy citizenship is based on 'jus sanguinis', which is recognized by birth, adoption or approval, if at least one parent is Italian. On the contrary, it isn't recognized by mere birth on Italian territory independently of the nationality of the parents, but only after having resided continuously for at least 10 years in the country. This means that for those born on Italian territory but with foreign parents, the timing for

obtaining citizenship are very long. Currently, the majority of European countries have citizenship laws based on the 'jus sanguinis', but often with softer rules than those applied in Italy, where you need 10 years of continuous residence plus an additional 4 or 5 for the paperwork.

Tab 1.9 Italy. Concession of Italian citizenship for reason, absolute values

	2002	2004	2007	2008	2009	2010
FOR MARRIAGE	9.741	9.994	31.609	24.950	17.122	21.630
FOR RESIDENCE	929	1.947	6.857	14.534	22.962	18.593
TOTAL	10.670	11.941	38.466	39.484	40.084	40.223

Source: Dossier statistico immigrazione 2011

A second aspect of Italian regulation which does not favor the inclusion of immigrants can be identified in the Bossi-Fini law, passed in July 2002; it provides that, when an illegal foreigner is tracked down, the deportation is immediately performed with the accompaniment to the border by the police. In addition, the law provides for the issuing of residence permits only to people who prove to have a job which enables their economic maintenance. But this leads to an increase in the bargaining power of employers, which, in this way, not only provide a work to immigrants but also the possibility of staying on the territory, thus forcing them to accept worse working conditions.

Another aspect of the Italian regulations that should be mentioned is the exclusion of immigrant without citizenship from voting, which can be found in Article 48 of the Italian Constitution, which states as follows: " Electors are all citizens, men and women, who have come of age ", effectively excluding foreign residents but not Italian citizens. In some Italian municipalities were introduced foreign Councillors elected by immigrants without the right to vote, invested only with representative functions for the foreign community, but this representation is still being tested.

Still remaining on legislation topic, one should conclude by pointing out the "security package" approved by the government in 2009, which contributed to make life more difficult for foreign people. In synthesis: restrictions on the acquisition of citizenship by marriage,

with the obligation to present a residence permit to get married, introduction of the crime of illegal entry and residence, with a fine from 5,000 to 10,000 Euros, subordination of the registered residence to suitability of the house in which people live, obligation to present a residence permit for the operations of money transfer to the countries of origin, tax from 80 to 200 Euros for the renovation of residence permits. But the worst aspect is the abolition of the so-called "ban on reporting": in other words, a doctor who cures a "clandestine" could denounce him to the authorities of Public Safety, and thus allow his expulsion.

A final aspect that we want to mention among the causes of social exclusion is the residential question. In addition to the difficulties of accessing decent housing for foreigners, it seems that in recent years a process of redistribution of population from metropolitan to outlying areas, where there are more housing opportunities but also worst housing conditions, have been developing. The more affordable prices and the dynamics of solidarity implemented by immigrant communities lead to a concentration of immigrants in specific areas, thus creating a further marginalization from the Italian population. There are many other causes that could be considered responsible for social exclusion of immigrants, but our analysis has tried to focus on the main distinctive features of our nation. The following is a table on the contexts of discrimination in the first five fields for frequency.

Tab 1.10 Italy. Context of discrimination in the first five ambits for frequency.

AMBIT	CONTEXT OF DISCRIMINATION	%	AMBIT	CONTEXT OF DISCRIMINATION	%
MASS MEDIA	Newspaper	11	WORK	Access to employment	41
	Television	2,8		Working conditions	21,3
	Radio	-		Conditions of dismissal	1,6
	Internet	80,7		Remuneration	1,6
	Missing	5,5		Bullying aggravating	1,6

	Total	100		Access to training	-
PUBLIC LIFE	Policy	19,8		Colleagues	16,4
	Xenophobic writing	9,4		Other	4,9
	Public space	15,6		Missing	11,5
	Aggression	49		Total	100
	Missing	6,3	HOUSE	Rent	18,8
	Total	100		Purchase	6,3
PROVISION OF SERVICES BY PUBLIC ENTITIES	Social services	27,9		Estate agency	6,3
	Master services	18,6		Public house	2,1
	Other	40,7		Neighbours	41,7
	Missing	12,8		Other	12,5
	Total	100		Missing	12,5
				Total	100

Note: Missing means that the information was limited and not includable in a specific field.

Source: Dossier statistico immigrazione 2011, Caritas italiana

Many are also the consequences of exclusion, starting from poverty of immigrants who are forced to work in inadequate working conditions in order to provide themselves a dignified life, which brings as a consequence a growing number of children begging outside supermarkets or shopping centers, an increase in demand for primary support to care centers, an increase of homeless people, a growing incidence of poverty on the nutrition regimes of immigrants caused by their low income level. The emergence of these situations of extreme poverty tends to determine the risk of slipping into forms of exploitation and crime. The crimes we are referring to include all criminal events that appear to be extemporaneous and

without stable links with criminal groups, committed by foreign nationals for reasons of survival and social exclusion, and are for example theft, bag snatching, assaults, but also illegal work and all acts of crime to survive made by people who are illegally on the Italian territory.

These phenomena are becoming increasingly diffuse, especially in large urban areas. They produce alarm and insecurity among citizens and to them it must be pay close attention as easily susceptible to degeneration, both socially and on the criminal field.

Tab 1.11 Italy. Prisoners distributed by nationality. Series: 1991 - 2008

PRISONERS DISTRIBUTED BY NATIONALITY			
series : 1991 - 2008			
DATA COLLECTION	TOTAL PRISONERS	NATIONALITY	
		FOREIGN	% of total prisoners
31/12/1991	35.469	5.365	15,13
31/12/1992	47.316	7.237	15,30
31/12/1993	52.348	7.892	15,67
31/12/1994	51.165	8.481	16,58
31/12/1995	46.908	8.334	17,77
31/12/1996	47.709	9.373	19,65
31/12/1997	48.495	10.825	22,32
31/12/1998	47.811	11.973	25,04
31/12/1999	51.814	14.057	27,13
31/12/2000	53.165	15.582	29,31
31/12/2001	55.275	16.294	29,48
31/12/2002	55.670	16.788	30,16
31/12/2003	54.237	17.007	31,36
31/12/2004	56.068	17.819	31,78
31/12/2005	59.523	19.836	33,32
31/12/2006	39.005	13.152	33,72

31/12/2007	48.693	18.252	37,48
31/12/2008	58.127	21.562	37,09

Source: ISMU, National Database, judicial area

3. GOVERNMENT ROLE IN PREVENTING IMMIGRANTS EXCLUSION.

In the last decade, demographic, socio economic and cultural indicators, show that immigration has become a structural phenomenon, both as a strategic and essential factor of economic development and to alleviate the negative aspects of the alarming aging in Italy.

Immigration with such characteristics profoundly affects society. After analyzing the effects of migration is therefore necessary that the State, Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, commit themselves to promoting, together with the private world, actions on to promote reception, integration and social cohesion. As part of its powers, they shall promote the dissemination of all information relevant to the positive integration of foreigners in Italian society, as knowledge of their rights and duties, opportunities for integration and personal growth offered by government and by ' associations, as well as the possibility of a successful reintegration into the country of origin.

The territorial councils for immigration, established in 1999 in all prefectures, make monitoring of foreigners by promoting initiatives and making proposals through the inter-institutional collaboration. They are chaired by the Prefect and consist of representatives of the State, of the Region, of local authorities, of chamber of commerce, of local authorities active in assisting immigrants, of workers' organizations, of employers and workers immigrants. They are a resource to promote integration initiatives and to solve problems related to migration through a work of mediation between different interests. The territorial councils in fact put in place initiatives and practical solutions to mitigate conditions in vulnerable contexts that may promote deviance or the occurrence of widespread social unrest.

The activities include:

- research of urban solutions with a focus on urban areas with high population density, promoting access to credit facilities, places for meetings and workshops, strengthening of inadequate services, identification of the phenomenon of marginality;
- projects to bring together demand and supply of labour through vocational training

initiatives to provide practical job opportunities to foreigners;

- initiatives for the teaching of Italian language and civics;
- channels of information and documentation addressed to all citizens for a better understanding of migration, legislation and initiatives and the contribution of immigration to our society and economy;
- initiatives to give voice to the expectations of foreign participation in the management through a proactive immigration policy to promote greater social inclusion;
- search for new solutions for the reception of foreigners;
- analysis of any signs of intolerance in the area of jurisdiction.

In each prefecture there is also a "One Stop Shop" ("Single desk") for immigration, established in 2002 under the Bossi-Fini, active for the practices treatment of recruitment of foreign workers, of family reunification and of the conversion of a residence permit.

On 28.07.2011 the "Agreement of integration between foreigner and state", a presidential decree which provides a two-year training course for foreigners to acquire the basic knowledge of Italian, organization of public institutions and civic life in Italy, was approved by the Council of Ministers. By accepting the agreement, the foreigner is also obliged to respect the principles of the "Charter of values" established by the decree of the Minister of the Interior in 2007. The Charter of values summarizes and makes the fundamental principles of Italian law, which govern collective life of citizens and immigrants, trying to focus on the main issues related to integration. The "Agreement of integration between foreigner and state" is regulated via credits. A residence permit in points was introduced, which requires the participation of foreigners in a range of activities recognized to increase the initial 16 credits (courses of vocational training and civic education, attainment of educational qualifications and skill levels of Italian language, membership in the NHS, entering into a lease or purchase of a property, volunteering). Credits can also be curtailed, for example, due to a conviction even if not definitive. If at the end of the biennium, 30 credits were achieved, the Agreement shall be considered fulfilled. If, however, the credits are over 16 and less than 30, the agreement is extended by one year to give the possibility to reach 30 credits. Finally, if less than or equal to zero, the expulsion is expected.

With this agreement, the commitment of the state is to ensure the fundamental rights of

people without any discrimination, facilitating the flow of information as possible to foreigners themselves. The intention is also to pursue the enforcement of labour standards and employee to ensure that foreigners have full access to all health services provided.

The level of attention in health policy towards immigrants is generally medium to high in Italy, but there are strong regional heterogeneities, not correlated to the presence of different migrant population in the territories.

The Italian state guarantees the right to education for foreign children in the territory of the State and indeed defines a social duty.

As for the Italian language, the Ministry of the Interior, in collaboration with RAI - Italian Radio, launched in early 2011 the television program of language training and civics' Shipyards in Italy - the Italian basic building citizenship. The program can also be followed online to provide a flexible and innovative training tool. It is co-financed by the EU through the European Fund for the Integration of third country nationals, and is part of the project interventions to support the achievement of the goals of integration. In addition to Italian basic literacy, there is a course of education for the knowledge of the legal rights and duties of foreign citizens resident in the country.

Vocational training or educational experience, even for non-EU citizens, are offered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. It then also conducted training programs in non-EU countries of origin, aimed at integrating forms of international cooperation, and thus to help non-EU countries, and to develop training components inside the territory, in order to allow the system of firms to choose more targeted the subject to enter our country for subsequent employment. To the foreign participants are reserved quotas decided in the annual programming decree of the input streams for work.

Within the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has been established in 2003 UNAR (Office for the promotion of equal treatment and removal of discrimination based on race or ethnic origin), which has the task to ensure, in full independence of judgment, the effectiveness of the principle of equal treatment between persons. It is also monitoring the operation of anti-discrimination instruments and helping to remove discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

4. INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ACTIONS.

The National Coordination Organization for the policies of social integration of foreigners (CNEL) has, as its objectives (assigned by the Consolidation Act and the implementing Regulations, article. 56 of DPR 394/99), the following goals:

- supporting the development of local processes of reception and integration of foreign nationals, of their representation and participation in public life;
- promoting the comparison between institutional and social actors at the local level, but also with realities of other European countries for a continuous socialization of experiences.

The National Coordination Organisation includes at the institutional level the presence of regions, provinces, municipalities especially, and also representatives of the major social services. At the social level there is the presence of representatives of local social forces, associations, volunteers and representatives of foreigners.

The organization's work is divided into working groups and their activities include: entering and working conditions, school and second immigrants generations, cultural mediation and training in countries of origin, housing, regional observatories. The aim of mapping the condition of immigrants in the territory is to guide future integration policies toward the most sensitive goals and areas that require more public assistance.

As discussed previously, assistance to immigrants on the territory is carried out throughout Italy by a One-Stop Shop ("Single Desk") activated at every prefecture and by Territorial Councils for immigration.

The Councils, that are working in synergy between individuals and institutions to solve problems related to migration, to promote integration initiatives and to send to the "center" proposals that are emerging at the provincial level. Then they cooperate closely with the provinces, which consider them, relating to the labour market management and social policy coordination, as a natural extension of its institutional functions.

Regarding Trentino, it is important the role of Cinformi (Information Centre for Migration). It is an operating unit of service for social and housing policies of the Autonomous Province of Trento, which promotes appropriate action to overcome the difficulties that hinder the integration of immigrants in the community of Trentino. The Centre was established in 2001 according to an agreement between Questura and Autonomous Province of Trento, in order to

allow the simplification of the administrative procedures for requesting the issue and renewal of residence permits for immigrants.

It complements the State jurisdiction about immigration with the provincial responsibility about work and social issues and it anticipated “One Stop Shop” established according to immigration law in 2002.

It is currently conducting a large activity about: information on the procedures for access to existing services within the province and how to enter and stay in Italy; legal and social advice; support for form fulfilling for practices related to residence permits, family reunification and request for citizenship; support and accommodation activities for asylum seekers and trafficking victims; contributions to organizations and associations for initiatives to help non-EU immigrants and their families; research on the foreign population to address more efficiently political and technical decisions on immigration; management of projects through a network of partnerships to include foreigners in the community of Trentino.

Another type of institution that supports and promotes research and publications on immigration and it implements integration initiatives is Italian Caritas, a pastoral organization of the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) for the promotion of charity.

Italian Caritas has an Office of Immigration, whose purpose is to promote and support the efforts of the diocesan Caritas on issues of human mobility, with an approach designed to overcome the logic of mere emergency and aimed at promoting acceptance and integration initiatives in the territories. The Immigration Office has a unique coordination in which representatives of each ecclesiastical region establish operational strategies on key Italian migration issues.

The Tridentine Caritas’s Foundation Community of Solidarity is concerned to ensure urgent and temporary fulfilment of housing needs, food and other basic needs for minors or adults. The three services available are: the welcome home with 21 beds, which provides a temporary shelter (20 days) or more lasting (1 to 2 years) to those who have entered into a project of social services, the hostel for foreigners with 10 seats, the day centre which dispenses a hot meal, provides personal hygiene care and some social activities.

Since September 2005 the foundation has started a new project in collaboration with the City Council by creating a “Road Unit” consisting of four operators, which is a service for anyone

that wants to give support to people in listening and guidance need, contacting them on the street and directing them to services they need.

The Caritas in Rovereto and Vallagarina founded CEDAS, which is a listening and solidarity center that intervenes with various kinds of aid in isolation and loneliness cases. In particular it offers: small services for financial assistance (vouchers, phone cards, food, gift certificates for medicines), distribution of clothing, collection and distribution of furniture, a listening service for people and families in relationship difficulties, a listening service for carers.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

In this part of the report we would like to focus on associations which are in the form of non-profit organization and all those associations which are not enacted by the government but at most are financed by or co-operate with government and local authorities. These associations are innumerable on the Italian territory, reason why we will limit ourselves to a general classification of these organizations and to describe their main activities through a few examples. There is a marked heterogeneity of associations of migrant history, degree of formality, level of articulation and consolidation of the internal organization, ethnic composition, quality of relationships with local institutions and with other associations, number and type of activities carried out.

A traditional approach to classification, reviewed and adapted to the Italian situation, considers four types of solidarity organizations:

1. Organizations that play a strictly assistance function, which take "care" of people in difficulty, providing them a direct and material support, of orientation to services and to available opportunities. This support is often realized on a voluntary basis and to "light" benefits and services. This represents the more traditional action;
2. The structured organizations, which are able to manage "heavy" and continuous operations thanks to a remunerated and expert staff, and to public funds, which are the most important resource, although not the only one, because almost never adequate to the needs to be answered. This kind of assistance is sometimes organized as a cooperative in order to provide more complex services to immigrants (such as care centers), implemented through specific projects;

3. The pressure groups of associations aimed at the protection of rights through advocacy activities with impact on public opinion and normative texts. It is a kind of intervention with strong political motive, aiming at the protection of weak and vulnerable individuals to discrimination, racism and unfair treatment.

4. The mutual aid organizations that represent a self-organized way to respond to their needs. Due to the fact that the intervention is promoted by immigrants, this is a kind of organization which can be assimilated to networks and ethnical associations.

The activities of these associations are substantially the same as those already mentioned in the previous paragraph. Here are some examples of these associations:

- Immigration Project Today NPO is a non-profit social organization which proposes to carry out activities such as health and social care, charity, education and training, scientific research in the social sphere.
- ANOLF (National Association beyond the borders) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization sponsored and supported by CISL, which aims at the growth of friendship and fraternity among peoples, in the spirit of the Italian Constitution. Established nationally in 1989, is present in Rieti since July 1999, and offers bureaucratic advice to foreigners, participates to summer camps for foreign children, organizes meetings at preschools and elementary schools where there are foreign students, during which a mediator of the same nationality as the child speaks of the country of origin to the whole class through stories, tales and games and offers language support to the foreign child during the lessons.
- The Intercultural Narramondi Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 in Palermo. Narrative, education in listening and the theme of living together are the basis of educational and cultural activities carried out by this association. Using methodological narrative approach the organization promotes initiatives for the integration of children of residents foreigners and their families.
- PIAM NGO, Integration Project of Migrants is a small lay association based in Asti and composed by social workers and Italian migrants who deals with women and immigration since 2000. It provides health and social care and manages two reception centers for women who escape prostitution. Next to these areas of intervention are also

enabled other services: an information desk open to all migrants in the city, a group of social research on immigration, plans for equal opportunities in the labor market, plans for integration of new generations of immigrants.

- An example of activity that promotes integration with an international range as well as local, is a non-profit organization called Trentini in the World. This Association promotes and manages the activities in support of economic, social and cultural condition of Trentini emigrants who live abroad. It makes use of the Clubs of Trentini for the diffusion of Italian culture in the world, and to facilitate contacts and relations between communities abroad and their homeland, conducts information and training aimed at integrating social and economic of Trentino emigrants in the places of residence, organizes meetings and seminars, exhibitions and events intended to mutual understanding and development of relations between the region and foreign countries.

With regard to the NGO in our region we have identified ATAS NPO, which will be described in more detail in the following point.

6. CHARACTERISTICS OF “ATAS ONLUS”

Thanks to the grater availability of information about the services offered by our region, we chose to analyze an association which offers support to immigrants present locally in Trentino: ATAS ONLUS, Tridentine Association for foreigners' reception (non-profit social organization).

ATAS was born in 1989, and it is an apolitical, nondenominational and nonprofit organization based on the respect of diversity and on the development of dialogue as the only means to grow and improve. ATAS o.n.l.u.s. collaborates with public institutions and private social organizations and operates in order to:

- Let the local community know the positive potential of migration, in order to foster peaceful coexistence and prevent xenophobia and racism;
- Spread, among the immigrants who reside in Trentino, the awareness about their rights and duties, offering them support in dealing with the state, accessing public

services, finding a job and a house, and in the process of social and cultural integration on the territory.

The activities defined in the Statute of the Association are various:

- Listening, informing and guiding, social and legal counseling, career guidance and social secretariat, support in contact with services.
- Management of housing for foreigners.
- Paths of social integration of foreigners.
- Education and Training Project to foreigners.
- Promotion of relations with organizations, institutions, universities.
- Bibliographies and texts about migration.
- Activities in prison, courses and exchanges.

A.T.A.S. o.n.l.u.s. is made up of partners, employees, students, trainees, interns, volunteers and conscientious objectors. The institutional organs are:

- the General Meeting
- or the Board of Directors
- or the Board of Auditors
- or the Board of Arbitrators

The association is present with its regional branches in four different places: Trento, Arco and Rovereto Tione. It is a recognized association at the local level and in continuous growth. In the past years, in fact, it has been a point of reference at the provincial level, and sometimes even at the national one, in the development of resolutions regarding immigration issues. In addition to the tasks already mentioned above, (reception services for immigrants, help in carrying out paperwork, in search a house and a job, legal and social counseling, listening and training,) ATAS has developed, over the years, numerous specific projects, among which we can mention, for example:

- EQUAL - PONTEST "A network for the integration of immigrants"
The project aims to addressing the difficulties of integration and reintegration into the labor market of migrant workers by acting on the same skills that immigrants bring with them and relating them to specific needs expressed by the economy. The project's purpose is removing the underlying causes of under-employment of immigrants by

building a model intended to facilitate the match between supply and demand for labor through the construction of a transnational network for experimental actions recruitment, selection and training centered on skills needs.

- ABILITY or "creativity to the job orientation and re-socialization"
The project has been created for 10 foreign prisoners of the prison of Trento. The main project objective is to promote job orientation through a process of re-socialization and consolidation of self-esteem of foreign prisoners by means of the acquisition of manual skills and expressive in a creative sense.

- ATAS-POINT:"new technologies to foster communication between migrants and their families abroad"
It's called "ATAS - POINT" and is the first project of penetration of the Internet phone industry, for immigrants in disadvantaged conditions in Trentino. The project aims at creating new services for the foreign communities in Trentino, through the development of contacts among immigrants in Trentino and their loved ones through the Internet, allowing them save on phone bills or call charges.

- EQUAL CARE PROMO

The project "Equal-Promo Care", financed by the European Social Fund under the EQUAL program, aims at promoting and regulating the entry of skilled foreign women into the labor market. It points to a more adequate professional development for immigrant women who work in the province of Trento, in order to limit the negative effects of `double` discrimination.

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