

# Caritas/Migrantes

## Immigration Statistical Dossier 2004

### 14<sup>th</sup> Report on Immigration

#### *Open society, dynamic and safe society*

#### New flows and migratory pressure in 2003

2003 was characterised by the formalisation of residence permits and work contracts for immigrants who applied for regularisation the previous year. However, even during a **year of relative closure, 107,500 visas were granted in Italy** (19,500 visas for independent or subordinate work, 66,000 family reunion visas, 18,000 student visas, and 4,000 religious visas, not counting the 68,000 visas for seasonal employment).

A total of 85% of work **visas** were granted to Eastern Europeans, who only possess one-third of the family reunion visas: Morocco, on the other hand has a significant share of the latter type of visa. America holds a significant share of student visas (even more so than Europe), and Asia, followed by Africa, leads the way for religious visas.

It is, however, very difficult to assess the number of **irregular immigrants**: estimates range between 200,000 (indicated by the ISMU), 600,000 (indicated by trade unions) and 800,000 (indicated by Eurispes) immigrants. Inspections by social security institutions and the Ministry of Labour, just like the specific study conducted by ISTAT, confirm that there is a large scale hidden economy, which for immigrants implies the lack of tax contributions or the lack of a residence permit. The "Dossier" maintains, however, that it is more fruitful to study aspects that may affect irregular immigration. In 2004, 105,739 persons were either **rejected or expelled**. There were almost 150,000 in 2003 and 130,000 in each of the previous two years, but these pockets of irregularity have not decreased: the 2002 regularisation, which went greatly beyond expectations with 704,000 applications, reminds us to remain prudent. Moreover, in terms of rejected persons, it is difficult to estimate how many immigrants entered the country in an irregular manner: in fact, it would be reductive to limit ourselves to the disembarkation of immigrants on Italian shores, which is the most visible and least significant share of these flows. Moreover, it seems just as difficult to make all of the expulsion measures effective, despite readmission agreements, and to combine severity with legal respect for the rights of the persons involved.

If the **imbalances between the poorest countries** and the most developed ones continue, migration pressures will persist. As usual, the "Dossier" has dedicated the first chapter to demographics and wealth in the world. The 6.3 billion people who live on the Earth do not all share the same dignity: **60% of the world's wealth is held by America and Europe**, which only make up one-fourth of the world's population. The average annual income per inhabitant of the planet is 8,200 dollars, but this is only a virtual figure since it decreases to half this amount in developing countries and wavers between 36,239 dollars in Northern America and 983 in Eastern Africa (a 37 to 1 difference). Amongst the poorest persons, a good half billion live in Africa (two-thirds of the people living on that continent).

**The regulation of flows is not a sort of "clearing entry"** based on the expectation that foreign countries will control these movements on behalf of wealthy countries through suitable agreements: the basic problem is giving reasons for hope to the immigrant countries of origin, and in this respect, there are many words and promises and little action. One of the greatest resources of these countries is the savings put aside by immigrants, which were the leading source of their financing in 2003, totalling 93 billion dollars. The "Dossier" indicates that Italy is in ninth place globally for the quantity of sent money, with 2.6 billion dollars (half of which were sent through banks) and offers innovative jumping off points for studying the quantity and use of these resources.

Of all of the immigrants who arrive in Italy, a part of them, albeit it a minor figure, does not remain permanently. However, data is lacking on these **return flows**. We know that part of these immigrants return to their own countries and another part move to another foreign

country: for example, according to the UNHCR, only 13,000 refugees have held residence in Italy.

### **2,600,000 immigrants in Italy: new aspects of immigration**

During the 1990's it was true that programmed quotas and consistent regularisations made immigration a quickly growing phenomenon: between the 1991 and 2001 censuses, immigrant numbers tripled, increasing from 356,000 to more than a million.

Subsequently, **growth was well sustained**, and between 2000 and 2004, numbers doubled to 2,600,000 immigrants. The "Dossier" has estimated these total numbers, which are primarily based on prudential criteria, adding 400,000 minors, who increase to the rhythm of flows to 65,000 persons per year (35,000 as newborns and 25,000 as newly admitted immigrants), to the persons registered by the Ministry of the Interior (approximately 2.2 million people).

The top three **national groups** (Rumania, Morocco, and Albania), each of which has 230/240,000 resident immigrants, have reinforced their numbers. The Ukraine has jumped surprisingly into fourth place for the number of resident immigrants (113,000) and China fifth at 100,000. At the level between 70 and 60,000 immigrants we find the Philippines, Poland, and Tunisia, while the group of countries with 40,000 immigrants is more substantial (the United States, Senegal, India, Peru, Ecuador, Serbia, Egypt, and Sri Lanka).

With regard to the **continents**, European numbers make up almost half of the total (47.9% of which 7% is constituted by Community citizens), followed by Africa with almost a quarter (23.5%): these figures confirm the trend of the Italian migration policy to cultivate a Euro-Mediterranean dimension. Asia is also well represented (16.8%) while America is less significant (11.5%).

The notable increase in Eastern European immigrants, who are primarily Orthodox, has made Christians almost half of the total (49.5%), followed by Muslims with a third of all immigrants (33%). The faithful of Eastern religions total approximately 5%, whereas other groups maintain very low numbers (Jews, for example, total 0.3%). In the "Dossier" the objective of **multi-religious co-existence** within the context of a Christian majority is also dealt with in terms of concrete aspects, such as denominational classes and religious symbols, to which Italians have shown themselves to be fairly open (70% declare that they are against a restrictive law like the one approved in France).

Amongst resident immigrants, males have predominated in the past and have been increasingly represented during regularisations and in work flows, causing a certain family unbalance, which has been destined to slowly rebalance itself with subsequent family reunions. Males were 58% of the total in 1991, while today they make up 51.6% of the total, thanks in part to the equal role that women played in the 2002 regularisation, which made it possible to create substantial **equilibrium between the two sexes**, even if the relationship is still unbalanced for determined national groups. Women are the majority in a number of regions (Campania, Molise, Umbria, Lazio, Liguria, Abruzzo and Sardinia) and in a number of provinces.

In terms of **age categories**, minors have decreased to 15.6% according to "Dossier" estimates because the more than 600,000 regularised immigrants are mostly adults. The category between the ages of 19 and 40 (1.5 million people) is 58.5% of the total, while the age group between 41-60 years old is 21.1% of the total. Immigrants 60 years of age and older make up 4.8% of the total. Only in Rome the number of immigrants over 60 reach 10% due to the specific immigration characteristics of the area.

**Married couples** are half of the total (49.9%), a two point decrease with respect to the previous year, which corresponded with an increase of almost four percentage points of single immigrants, who hit 46%.

### **Decreasing distribution from North to South**

If we had to express the territorial distribution of immigrants using a type of football model we would say it was 6-3-1, or rather **decreasing distribution**: roughly 60% in the North (1,500,000 immigrants, with the clear predominance of Lombardy, which has 606,000 immigrants), 30% in the Centre (710,000, with the epicentre in Lazio, which has 369,000 immigrants) and 10% (357,000) in the South, where the leading region is Campania (121,000).

Often the **regional capital attracts** the largest number of foreigners, and sometimes monopolises the situation (such as Rome and Perugia, for example). Other times the power of attraction is exerted by provinces other than the capital or is very attenuated. The degree of "visibility" of foreigners, and the subsequent attitude of the population, is very different from one place to another. For example, the Provinces of Palermo and Catania each have

approximately one quarter of regional immigrant numbers as do Treviso and Verona in the Veneto Region, whereas Venice is stable at 13%.

At the national level immigrants make up **4.5%** of the overall population (one immigrant for every 22 inhabitants): 6.5% in the Centre, 6% in the North, 2% in the South and 1.5% in the Islands. There are roughly 7% in Lazio, Lombardy, and Emilia Romagna. There are provinces in which the incidence is 11% (Prato), 9% (Rome and Brescia), 8% (Reggio Emilia, Pordenone, Treviso), or 7% (Modena, Trieste, Mantua, Verona, Florence, Macerata, Perugia). In the South the highest incidence is in Abruzzo (3%) and in the Provinces of L'Aquila, Crotone, Teramo and Ragusa (4%).

The 2001 census demonstrated that **municipalities with less than 30,000 inhabitants** have half of the immigrant population: the distribution between large and medium-small cities, the capital and other municipalities in the province and between large regional areas is, therefore, more balanced than in the past.

To institutionalise the attention of the territories towards immigrants and make them an active part in integration, **Territorial Immigration Councils** have been formed in all of the provinces. Some studies have been conducted on these organisms, including one by Censis, which was published in 2004: in general, the opinions given are both positive and negative and are accompanied by the hope that these structures will have a less marginal and more incisive role. Indubitably, however, their institution is an important step towards moving away from the emergency logic.

A study conducted in 2004 by the ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipality) on municipal trade unions/councillorships that are responsible for immigration in municipalities with more than 15,000 inhabitants helps us to understand what happens at the territorial level in concrete terms. A total of 60% of the municipalities that answered the questionnaire do not have an immigration office (amongst large cities alone the percentage shrinks to 25%); in 87% of the cases a municipal immigration council does not exist, and in 97% of the municipalities there are no additional councillors. A total of 78% of the municipalities have never made agreements with associations for foreigners.

### **An important settlement process**

Two-thirds (66.1%) of immigrants came for **work** (resulting in both numerical and percentage increases) and approximately one-fourth (24.3%) came for **family reasons** (causing a numerical increase but a percentage decrease). These two reasons constitute 90% of the total and show the very strong trend toward **stable settlement**. The share of work permits following regularisation increased 10 percentage points: from 834,000 to 1,450,000. We must also keep in mind that amongst those immigrants who are here for family reasons, a third or perhaps one half of the total also work, so that almost three-quarters of the immigrant population contributes to the economy of the country.

Another 7% of the permits were granted for **partially-stable settlement** (studying, elective residence, and religious reasons). Overall, 97% of residence permits are granted for settlement reasons, which makes the idea of immigration as a cyclical phenomenon decidedly anachronistic.

**Student visas**, which total 2% on average, are higher in provinces with important cultural or university cities: Trieste 10.7%, Florence 9.1%, Siena 5.5%, Bologna 5.0%, Perugia 4.9%, Padua 4.7%, Pisa 4.1%, Ferrara 4.0%, Bari 2.7% and Lecce 2.5%. In Rome the percentage is lower even though there is a very high number of students at its state and pontifical universities: just at the Sapienza University alone there are more than 6,000 foreign students from 150 different countries.

Immigrants residing in Italy for a long time make it possible to study the process of **long-term settlement** that began in the 1990's, which implies the rooting of immigrants in Italian society, implementing the coexistence of traditions, languages, cultures and religious differences.

In effect, immigrants with **at least five years of residence** make up 60% of the total (approximately 700,000 people) while one-third have been settled for at least ten years. Community citizens have the highest degree of stability thanks to European regulations, whereas for Eastern European immigrants, the rooting process only began during the second half of the 1990's. With respect to the latter group, various African and Asian countries have a higher percentage of immigrants settled for the long-term: amongst the immigrants from Cape Verde, for example, they total 87%, whereas for immigrants from the Horn of Africa, the Philippines and some countries in Latin America (such as Argentina and Chile) they total 75%. The residence card, a precious document that ensures residence for an indeterminate amount of time, is difficult to obtain not just for bureaucratic reasons but also because it presupposes six years of prior residence (compared to five years at the Community level).

As of the 2001 census, 12% of **foreign citizens were born in Italy**. It can be estimated that today there are approximately 250,000 people who, despite the fact that they are foreigners, feel like Italy is their country. In 50% of cases they come from Morocco, Albania, Tunisia, China, the Philippines, Yugoslavia, Egypt and Rumania.

Using a study patronised by the CNEL, the "Dossier" team faced the difficult task of measuring the **degree of immigrant settlement** at the regional level, creating a type of integration thermometer. Amongst the extensive available data, 20 indicators were held to be more reliable and comparable and were unified into indexes regarding these issues: polarisation (presence and flows), cultural diversification (diversity of origins, ethnicities and religions, social stability (from family reunion and the duration of stay permits to the negative incidence of deviancy), work integration (from the size of workforce and its positive use in the subordinate and autonomous sector to the negative incidence of accidents).

The ranking for the individual indexes created a score that made it possible to divide the peninsula into **three integration areas**:

- above average, in the following order: Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Piedmont, Marche and Friuli Venezia Giulia;

- average, in the following order: Lazio, Trentino Alto Adige, Liguria, Campania, Sardinia, Abruzzo and Calabria;

- below average, in the following order: Umbria, Valle d'Aosta, Sicily, Molise, Basilicata and Puglia.

This complex scheme of analysis, applied for the first time in such a systematic manner, may be perfected in the future with the inclusion of new indicators and indexes, acting as the stimulus to reflect on local situations and orient interventions.

### **The difficult path of integration**

Newspapers attest to the persistence of **acts of violence based on racial intolerance** against foreign citizens. Over a five year period, cases of violence have decreased in absolute terms (often against single women, mostly by their exploiters or against minors), but cases that are declaredly racist (50 out of 236 in 2002, or rather 21% of the total), which lead to the death of the victim, have increased (study by "A Buon Diritto" Association, conducted using 18 national newspapers). Amongst the monitored cities, Rome has the highest level of racial aggressions (but it is also the city with the largest number of newspapers), whereas Naples is one of the most tolerant amongst the large provinces. Ancona, Pesaro and Avellino are some of the most tolerant small capitals.

Another study, conducted on a sample of young people between the ages of 14 and 18, shows how **racial prejudice** in Italy is greater against Muslims, Jews and non-EU immigrants and, at the regional level, occurs more frequently in regions in the North, like Lombardy, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia. Almost 50% of the sample believes that immigrants should "go home", primarily because they are afraid of being "surrounded" or because they fear the loss of their own identity and traditions, whereas they are not as worried that foreigners will take work away from Italians (La Sapienza University, D. Statera Department of Social Research 2004).

Various direct discriminations regard **access to housing**: 57% of landlords in 5 cities of Northern Italy and in 7 cities in Central Italy are against renting to immigrants. The negative record is held by Bologna (95%), followed by Perugia (70%) and Florence (62%). Milan (70%), Rome (51%), Genoa (52%) and Bari (54%) are more open.

There is **greater openness at the cultural level**. A survey conducted in Milan, Bologna, Rome, Naples and Palermo shows that a significant number of Italians are favourable to immigrants maintaining their customs (55%). A total of 63% of those questioned are favourable towards mixed couples and 69% are tolerant of the Islamic veil since it is comparable to the symbols of other religions, even if 40% is little favourable to or entirely against the building of new mosques.

A study conducted on behalf of the CNEL by the Andolfi Foundation on "**The Family in Immigration**" (La famiglia nell'immigrazione), which was published in 2004, demonstrated that between foreign domestic workers and employers continuous direct contact also becomes a vehicle of exchange and reciprocal knowledge: only 7.4% of the domestic workers declare that their employer does not know anything about them, whereas for 31.5% their acquaintance leads to the telling of their family history.

According to the indicated ANCI study (2004) in municipalities with more than 15,000 inhabitants, priority should be given to investments in immigrant assistance programmes in the following order: access to housing (43%), work (22%), school (12%), unaccompanied minors (6%), associations (4%), intercultural relations (2%) and the diffusion of the Italian language (1%).

In terms of school attendance, data is available from the Ministry for Education. In the 2003-2004 scholastic year there were 282,683 registered foreign students, an increase of 50,000 students with respect to the previous year. At this pace, Italy will reach a half million foreign students in four years, which explains why school interventions must be a priority.

### **Immigrants and the production system**

A series of data reported in the "Dossier" (percentage of growth, share in global trade, research gaps and a lack of investments in technologies, total or almost total disappearance of big industry, crisis in traditional "Made in Italy" sectors, lack of a presence in important new market sectors, negative demographic growth trend) indicate that for years now Italy has been living through **a structurally difficult phase** and needs a large number of foreign workers, who are not always considered a resource.

In 2003 in Italy, a country with accentuated mobility, 6,037,000 recruitments were made, a third of which with a fixed term contract (INAIL database). Immigrants have had a great impact on employment flows, constituting 771,813 of recruits for open-ended contracts (18.9% of total) and 214,888 of recruits for fixed term contracts (10.1% of the total). Overall, **one out of six recruitments is for an immigrant** (in 2000 it was one out of ten). Opportunities differ by territorial areas: 70% of recruits are concentrated in the North, with 20% in the Centre and 10% in the South.

The incidence of immigrants on **fixed term recruits is lower: one out of every five**, because this type of contract does not well protect them in terms of settlement in the country. In fact, the period of unemployment that follows allows the immigrant to remain for an additional six months, which is often not enough time to find another job.

**The positive relationship between recruits and terminations provides a balance of 684,569**, of which half are regularised immigrants. It is true that the concept of balance is not the equivalent of a new and stable job, but it does indicate a positive labour market tendency. Statistics over the last few years indicate that for immigrants it is easier to maintain their job at the end of the year: this happens in 26.3% of cases, whereas for workers overall it is 11.3%.

In 2003, the year in which contracts following regularisation were registered, **the incidence of women** on recruits increased to 49.6%; men continued to predominate clearly in the area of fixed term contracts (60%).

Dividing **recruits by sector**, there were 7.4% in agriculture, 21.7% in industry and 27.2% in services: the remaining 43.7% is constituted primarily by jobs in the domestic sector, which is part of the general service sector, which employs eight out of ten recruits. There are twelve production branches with the greatest number of recruits, which are reported here in order of importance: domestic work, construction, hotels and restaurants, agriculture, real estate/cleaning businesses, metals industry, transportation, retail commerce, wholesale commerce, food industry, textile industry and public services.

**Construction** is, so to speak, a cross-cutting sector because although it does not offer long term employment prospects it requires labourers in all areas of the country. The other sectors, on the other hand, are very differentiated based on the various territories.

Just like the industrial Milan-Turin-Genoa triangle formed during post-war reconstruction, currently **the "immigration triangle"** is constituted by Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna, regions that receive the greatest number of immigrant workers (between one-half and two-thirds of recruits in 2003) for almost all employment branches with a higher incidence on the total recruiting carried out in loco.

**Small companies** (up to ten employees) employ the greatest number of immigrant workers, which in 60% of cases are between **18 and 35 years of age**: there were approximately 7,000 regularly employed minors in 2003.

As far as regards **nationality** there is not an exact correspondence between manpower and the number of recruits. The labour market favours immigrants from continental areas that are similar in terms of culture, traditions, professional training and religion, or rather Eastern Central Europe and Latin America. Most open-ended contract recruits regard Rumania (14.4%), followed by Albania (9.4%), Ukraine (8.9%), Morocco (8.6%) and Poland (4.5%). Next come the top American country (Ecuador with 3.6%) and the top Asian country (the Philippines with 3.3%). Eastern European immigrants make up 45% of these recruits with North Africans and Latin Americans making up 15% and 14% respectively. A similar situation is found with fixed term contracts.

Amongst the most dynamic aspects of the work world is the **entrepreneurial sector**, which the "Dossier", together with the Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato - CNA, has been studying for several years, considering not just simply the foreign birth of the registered persons but their effective foreign citizenship. There were 71,843 foreign entrepreneurs as of June 31, 2004, one-fourth more with respect to the previous year (whereas for Italians the

situation is almost static) with an incidence of 2% on total businesses. In Prato this incidence is 13% of the total companies, while in Rome 4 out of 100 companies are established by foreign citizens (see CCAA Caritas Rome, *Gli immigrati nell'economia romana*, Rome, December 2003). Immigrants are especially active at the micro-entrepreneurial level, with concentrations in two branches: commerce and repairs (42%) and construction (28%). One-fourth of immigrant enterprises are artisan businesses.

Whereas for Italians the number of reported accidents is shrinking, for immigrants **the risk of accident is increasing**, as is shown in the chapter written in collaboration with the IIMS (Italian Institute for Social Medicine) and the support of INAIL: the 73,778 accidents in 2001 increased to 92,014 in 2002 and 106,930 in 2003, the year in which there were 129 cases. One-fifth of accident reports are concentrated in construction, followed by the metals industry, real estate and professional businesses and then transportation and communications. At the territorial level there is a very high concentration of cases in Northern Italy (87.6%) and a rather low concentration in the South (not even 5%), in part due to the lack of reporting. Of all of the accidents that take place in Italy, 1 in 9 regard a non-EU worker (1 every 6 in the Veneto Region): out of these there is an accident every 15 employed persons, whereas for Italians the ratio is 1 every 25.

Work risks emphasise the need for an effective network of contractual and insurance protection because within a framework that in and of itself does not allow for discrimination, careful vigilance is necessary. In 2003, 333,883 immigrants were **registered with trade unions**, a 49% increase with respect to 2000: an increasingly higher number of immigrants is, moreover, present in managing organisms and amongst full time operators. Forty eight contracts contain specific references to immigrants, whereas in 2001 only 30 did. However, this is only satisfying in part because a certain vagueness in the thematic references to their needs still exists.

An **INPS study**, the first results of which were published in the "Dossier", indicates that in 2002 there were 1,225,000 non-EU workers, a number that involves not just residence permit holders but also many of their family members and demonstrates how the problem for these workers is not so much getting themselves reported at the beginning of a job as continuing tax coverage. Distribution by sectors favours services (50.4%) over industry (41.6%), whereas agriculture only occupies 8%. The INPS data are a precious tool for better understanding aspects that have not been sufficiently studied at the territorial and category level. For example, by cross analysing the INPS data with regularisation data, it can be seen that there are more than a half million family helpers who serve as the structural base of our assistance system.

### **Open society, dynamic and safe society**

"Open society, dynamic and safe society" is the slogan that the Presidency of the "Caritas/Migrantes Dossier" (Mons. Vittorio Nozza, Mons. Luigi Petris and Mons. Guerino Di Tora) used to present the 14<sup>th</sup> Report on Immigration, insisting on three key words (planning, welcome and integration) and the need for a European perspective: immigration must be presented as an opportunity to resolve some of the deficiencies of the past, to face the present better, and to plan the future with greater faith.

### **Planning.**

Law no. 189/2002, which makes residence subordinate to the length of the work contract, not only demonstrated the functional purpose of immigration for the labour market, an aspect that is plainly evident, but it also made it so that the extreme mobility of the various forms of work influence the existence of immigrants, with outcomes that are not humanely acceptable and socially counter-productive. The problems of the last regularisation are starting to be seen now with residence permits that are starting to expire for many immigrants. Many immigrants have just a short period of time to find what are generally short term jobs and risk falling into irregularity again.

The labour market continually requires new workers. Quotas are insufficient, and the mechanisms for matching up work demand and supply are not so efficient, therefore, recreating areas of irregularity. It was indubitably a poor decision to suppress immigration through sponsorship, making nominative requests the only mechanism that can be used to match up work demand and supply since 2002.

In addition to the programming of flows, development assistance is lacking and does not attenuate immigration pressure: it is illusory to maintain that one can manage the immigration policy with the mere development of initiatives to counteract flows, which nevertheless must respect specific constitutional guarantees and protect the rights of those asking for asylum.

### **Welcome.**

Just as the labour market can be positively assisted by better regulated immigration, comparison with people from different cultural and religious backgrounds can be stimulating. However, immigrants often feel that they are not viewed in a friendly manner; they feel they are necessary but not well tolerated. Indubitably the new arrivals are asked to accept the fundamental rules of society and constitutional principles without reserve. On the other hand, the local population also needs to accept immigrants in all of their diversity.

In this process, unfortunately, religious differences have become a complicating factor, especially in reference to the relationship between Islam and the West. Following the teachings and example of Pope John Paul II, coexistence should be seen as a great opportunity because we can help Muslims living in Europe (as well as others) to go beyond the identification of faith with civil law, to consider consciousness inviolate, to respect all religious choices and to re-evaluate the sense of the divine, so that we all learn to invoke God as a source of peace.

### **Integration.**

Foreign citizens cannot consider themselves integrated into society if they do not enjoy a series of rights, including the right to the administrative vote. This objective, which was re-proposed in October 2003 by Vice Prime Minister Fini, is still slow in the uptake and continues to feed the paradoxical situation of immigrants as "citizens without the rights of citizens". This situation is even more unexplainable in reference to immigrant children born in Italy or who came while still very young. The fact that only 13,420 people were granted citizenship in 2003 (a tenth of the cases in France ) attests to the difficulty of becoming an Italian citizen. Moreover, all of these cases were all based on marriage with an Italian citizen.

We also should not neglect the problem of administrative practicability. The swiftness in getting through regularisation applications is now causing significant backlogs for ordinary paperwork (renewal of permits and family reunion), without including the procedures for residence cards (for which updated information is still not available) and citizenship. We must start to pay attention to the "administrative weight" of normative decisions, trying to simplify the life of immigrants as much as possible by reconsidering the duration of residence permits and preparing ourselves to accept the collaboration of the Municipalities without aprioristic closure.

### **The European perspective.**

The myth of closed borders has already produced numerous negative effects: we must now experiment with innovative policies that do not neglect the necessary controls but make it possible to involve immigrants and their countries. With 20.5 million immigrants and millions of naturalised citizens, Europe has been a multi-cultural continent for some time now.

Perhaps awareness of this situation is now beginning to take root, as the latest study by Fondazione Nord Est, which was conducted in Italy and in eight other European countries (France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Hungary), attests. The majority of the interviewees (57%) was favourable to enlargement, especially in terms of the greater weight that the European Union will have on the international scene. People are still fearful that more available labour will reduce work opportunities (42%, peaking at 64% amongst Germans). In Italy, like in Great Britain and France, foreigners are perceived as useful since they can fill in the production system gaps left by an aging population (see Caritas Italy, *Europa, Allargamento a Est e immigrazione*, Rome, IDOS, 2004).

"Open society, dynamic and safe society": we can only hope that this conviction will be adopted at a more general level!

**ITALY. Entrance visas: reasons and areas (2003)**

	Europe	Africa	Asia	America	Oceania	Total
Subordinate work	70,560	4,419	4,357	3,026	91	82,461
Autonomous work	3,177	77	418	1,431	41	5,146
Family reunion	22,820	21,891	15,546	5,549	7	65,816
Studying	12,512	3,259	8,788	18,436	450	43,453
Religious reasons	504	2,073	2,620	1,662	26	6,886
Elective residence	19	24	31	546	198	818
Other reasons	371,212	88,882	182,946	27,620	336	674,748
<b>TOTAL VISAS</b>	<b>480,804</b>	<b>120,625</b>	<b>214,706</b>	<b>58,270</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>879,328</b>

*SOURCE: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistical Dossier. Calculation of Ministry of the Interior data.*

**ITALY. Immigrants: top 30 nationalities (2003)**

Countries	Resident immigrants	% of total	Countries	Resident immigrants	% of total
Rumania	239,426	10.9	Moldavia	36,361	1.7
Albania	233,616	10.6	Macedonia	33,656	1.5
Morocco	227,940	10.4	Bangladesh	32,391	1.5
Ukraine	112,802	5.1	Pakistan	30,506	1.4
China	100,109	4.6	Brazil	26,858	1.2
Philippines	73,847	3.4	France	26,540	1.2
Poland	65,847	3.0	U.K.	25,100	1.1
Tunisia	60,572	2.8	Nigeria	24,986	1.1
U.S.A.	48,286	2.2	Ghana	23,060	1.1
Senegal	47,762	2.2	Spain	21,843	1.0
India	47,170	2.1	Croatia	21,336	1.0
Peru	46,964	2.1	Russia	18,924	0.9
Ecuador	45,859	2.1	Switzerland	17,832	0.8
Serbia-Montenegro	45,302	2.1	Unknown	2,975	0.1
Egypt	44,798	2.0	Stateless	886	0.0
Sri Lanka	41,539	1.9			
Germany	37,159	1.7	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,193,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*SOURCE: Caritas/Migrantes Immigration Statistical Dossier. Calculation of Ministry of the Interior data.*

For further information, please contact:

**IDOS – Centro Studi e Ricerche Immigrazione Dossier Statistico**  
**Viale Baldelli 41, 00146 Rome Tel. 06.54192300 – Fax 06.54192252**

E-mail: [idos@dossierimmigrazione.it](mailto:idos@dossierimmigrazione.it) Internet: [www.dossierimmigrazione.it](http://www.dossierimmigrazione.it)