



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: ITALY 2014

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Italy during 2014, including latest statistics.

2. Common European Asylum System

Italy faced a **very high influx of asylum seekers in 2014**, the overall number of arrivals increased from 3,000 to 20,000 in one year. As a result, Italy increased its reception capacity with additional 6,490 units in 2014 and implementing 456 projects.

As of 12th December 2014, Italy adopted the **Regulation on procedures for recognition and revocation of international protection** aiming at strengthening the access to procedure and to protection for applicants for international protection. In addition, the Law No. 146/2014 doubled the number of **territorial committees for the recognition of international protection from ten to twenty**, in order to improve and speed up asylum procedures. The new law amended some aspects of the review procedure of applications for international protection, in particular rules on the interview. Also, in order to strengthen the capacity and services of reception facilities, funding for the National Fund for asylum policies and services was increased by 50.8 million euro.

The transposition of Directive 2011/51/EU on the extended scope of beneficiaries of international protection included the harmonisation of procedures, requirements and administrative treatment applying to refugees and to those persons receiving subsidiary protection. The transposing law also established the **National Coordination Forum** within the Ministry of the Interior with the purpose of optimising reception systems for asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. The Forum, composed by representatives of different ministries from the regions and local entities, presented its first findings in December 2014 which led to the adoption of the above mentioned Regulation. Moreover, the Forum will draw

up a **national plan** every two years with actions to be taken in the field of social inclusion, access to health, housing, language training, education and fight against discrimination.

In line with the effort to make the asylum system more rationalised and efficient, Italy implemented a **National plan to face the extraordinary flow of migrants, adults, families and unaccompanied minors**. The Plan contains special procedural provisions to handle asylum applications in a situation of high influx, with a specific focus on the protection of unaccompanied minors.

A **Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry** was also appointed **to evaluate the system of reception and identification and to ascertain the conditions of detention of asylum seekers** in the Centres for Identification and Deportation (CIE), Reception Centres (CDA) and reception centres for asylum seekers (CARA). The Committee tasks are expected to last one year and will explore the conditions of stay and use of detention measures in the light of fundamental rights; the respect of procedures in management and inspection of centres in view of possible legislative changes.

3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

The year 2014 was marked by a **high number of arrivals of unaccompanied minors (UAMs)**. The above mentioned National plan for extraordinary flux of migrants included the **establishment of specialised facilities for first reception** of UAMs and a **second level reception system**.

Furthermore, legislative Decree No 24 introduced **changes in the age assessment procedure**. These provided that the child's origin and his/her cultural background should now be taken into account and when appropriate with support from diplomatic authorities of the country of origin. If the applicant's age remains doubtful, this one should be considered under age.

Furthermore, a bill under discussion at the Parliament proposes several changes, these include: firstly, to unify the definition of unaccompanied minor with the asylum-seeker minor which are currently separate; secondly, to establish a National Reception System for minors; thirdly, introducing a single procedure to identify minors, new rules on assisted return and a specific residence permit valid until the age of majority.

4. European Policy on Legal migration and Integration

4.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

At national level, the User Manual for integration has been updated with a new section containing instructions on how to register in associations and other entities operating to the benefit of migrants. Moreover, with special reference to Mare Nostrum, a study workshop named "Before sailing: from resettlement to humanitarian admission" - also aired on WebTV- was organised to promote safe migration channels and alternatives to smuggling for those in need of international protection.

On the occasion of the Fourth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on migration and development, held in the framework of the Rabat Process, the "**Declaration of Rome**" and a **2015-2017 Programme on mobility and promotion of regular migration were signed in November 2014**. The Declaration and the Programme focus on immigration in relation with regional dialogue in countries of origins to promote and facilitate the correct functioning of migration procedures.

4.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In 2014, **Italy transposed the Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU)**, by introducing the required changes to procedures for residence permits and harmonising the rights of TCNs workers in a number of different areas.

Italy has also introduced **some measures to facilitate entry and stay of researchers and qualified workers** in order to address the shortages of specific skills. Amongst others, the Italian language test is now exempted, applications of innovative business or research plans are facilitated, and some financial and accommodation requirements have been relieved. Along the same line of intervention, the government adopted the 2014 guidelines for start-up related visas to attract innovative entrepreneurs.

Law No. 9 of 2014 also liberalised the entry of students who intend to access university education, definitely suppressing the quota system.

In 2014 the annual quota of entry for third-country nationals was set at 17,580, including 2,000 reserved for employed at the Universal Exposition in Milan.

4.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Following a case law of the Court of Cassation, a visa for the purpose of family reunification may be now granted to a minor, not only in the case of an inter-country adoption, but also in the case of a kafalah handed down by a foreign court (guardianship under Islamic law). In addition, conditions provide that the child shall be dependent or shall reside with an Italian national in the country of origin, or if the minor is in need of personal assistance due to serious health reasons.

4.4. INTEGRATION

A major reorganisation of Ministerial competences concerning integration took place in 2014. For example, the Minister of Labour and Social policies has now competence on policies concerning integration.

Moreover, the **access to some social security benefits was extended to long term residents TCNs**, in particular these included: an allowance for large families, the allowance for new born child and the State funded debit card "Social Card" for individuals with very low revenues. With regard to access to healthcare, in 2014 important progress was made on the implementation of a State-Regions agreement for the provision of healthcare services to third-country nationals. The former included amongst other developments: the publication of the final report of the project 'The health of the migrant population: the monitoring' carried out by Regional Healthcare Services which provided 36 useful indicators for healthcare in centres for identification and deportation; the implementation of a national strategy to address social inequalities health-related has started; and a National Institute for promoting Health in Migrant Populations and fighting Poverty-related Diseases (INMP) was established.

Furthermore, **a map of operational migrants' associations in Italy has been developed** in which 2,114 migrants' associations have been identified, more than twice the number identified in previous mapping exercises.

4.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY¹

During 2014, Italy extended the Visa Information System (VIS) which is now active in 73 diplomatic missions and consular posts. Moreover, the following IT systems to prevent illegal entries have been introduced in 2014:

- ★ Security features to check travel and identification documents;

¹ "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

- ★ An experimental “e-Gates” system at the Rome Fiumicino Airport to check the electronic passport.

The **Mare Nostrum** border control and rescue operation was effective both as a deterrent for facilitation of irregular migration and to rescue migrants at sea. The **Operation Triton** started on 1st November 2014 with a reduced territorial scope and the purpose of jointly patrolling maritime borders.

4.6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU MIGRATION POLICY

The importance of linking migration with regional development was the focus of the Rome Declaration of November 2014, as mentioned in section 4.1. Furthermore, Law No 125 has designed a **new governance of the cooperation for development**, aiming at aligning Italian cooperation to prevailing practices of the EU partner countries. The law emphasises the importance of development in the countries of origin to boost legal migration and recognises the main role played by diaspora communities thanks to their relations with those countries.

5. Irregular Migration and Return

5.1. THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Several bilateral and multilateral initiatives with other Member States took place during 2014, aiming at increasing cooperation in the field of border control and prevention of irregular migration.

With regard to the fight against smuggling by sea, the National Anti-Mafia Prosecutor Office issued the **"Guidelines to solve issues in the field of criminal jurisdiction and preliminary injunction when crossing international waters"**. The document is addressed to Local Prosecutor Offices (DDA), to national enforcement authorities and to the Police Command Centres in order to coordinate and harmonise their action against facilitator of irregular migration. The guidelines recommend an effective interpretation of international law and operational methods to apprehend "mother ships" which drive smaller boats with migrants on board until international water to then release them to reach the Italian coast.

At international level, the launch **Conference of the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Process of Khartoum)** was held on 28 November 2014. The Conference was attended by representatives from several African countries where most of the irregular migration flows arriving to Europe by sea originate or transit. It aimed to create stable international cooperation networks to monitor and collect aggregate information on migration routes.

5.2. RETURN

Law 30 October 2014, the so called the “European Law”, introduced a number of changes to regulations on the removal of irregular staying TCNs. In particular, removal on the grounds of failure to declare one’s presence was abolished and replaced with a fine. Moreover, the limit period of detention waiting removal was fixed at 30 days which can be extended only by a judicial decision up to a maximum of 90 days.

6. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

The legislative Decree No 24 transposed Directive 2011/36/EU² against trafficking in human beings. In particular, some measures have been introduced with the purpose of integrating the administration responsible for trafficking and the one responsible of asylum applications to strengthen the information exchange between them. These measures respond to the need to investigate efficiently cases of trafficking emerging during the process of application for international protection.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

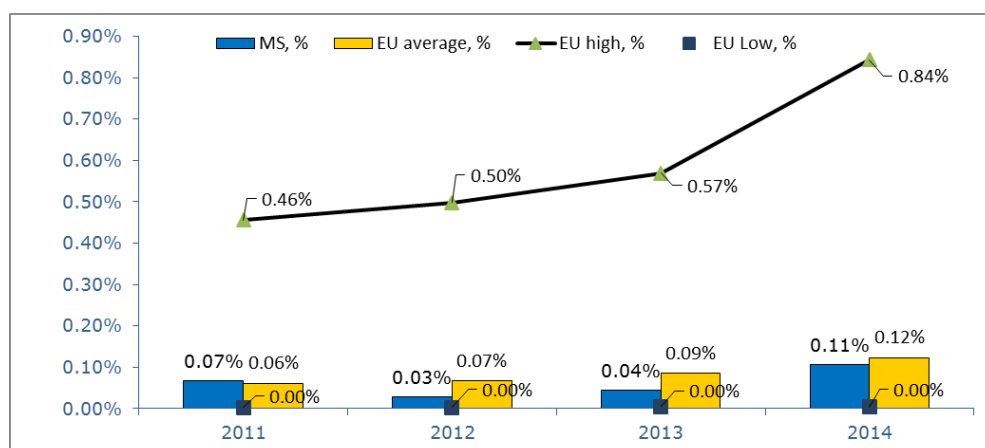
The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Italy on aspects of migration and asylum (2011-2014), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “**N/I**” and when statistics are not applicable, this is indicated as “**N/A**”.

² Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament And of the Council of 5 April 2011 on Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Italy (2011-2014)

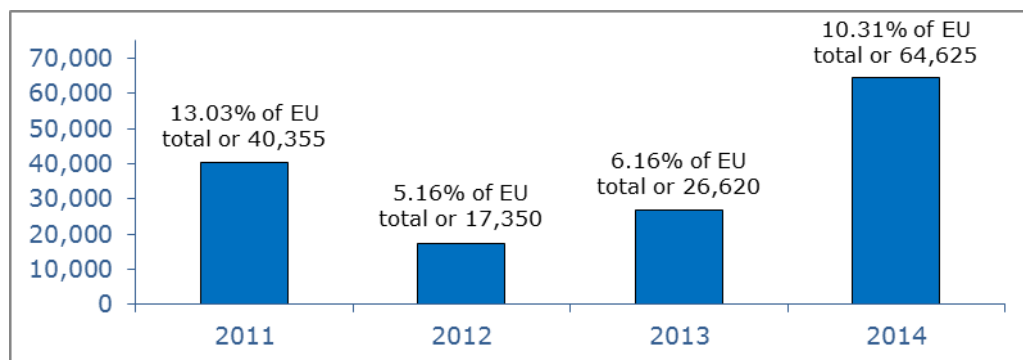
1. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Italy, EU average and EU high and low (2011-2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 20/07/2015

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2011-2014)



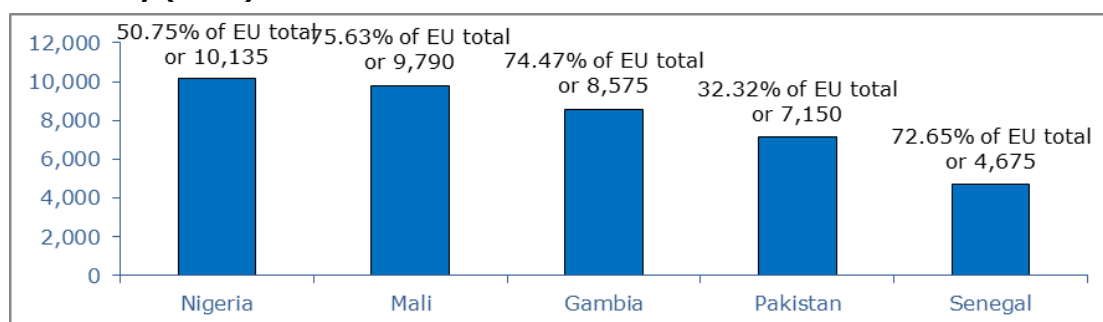
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2011-2014)

2011			2012			2013			2014		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
Nigeria	7,760	19%	Pakistan	2,600	15%	Nigeria	3,520	13%	Nigeria	10,135	16%
Tunisia	5,035	12%	Nigeria	1,615	9%	Pakistan	3,230	12%	Mali	9,790	15%
Ghana	3,650	9%	Afghanistan	1,495	9%	Somalia	2,775	10%	Gambia	8,575	13%
Mali	3,015	7%	Senegal	940	5%	Eritrea	2,110	8%	Pakistan	7,150	11%
Pakistan	2,560	6%	Tunisia	895	5%	Afghanistan	2,055	8%	Senegal	4,675	7%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2014)



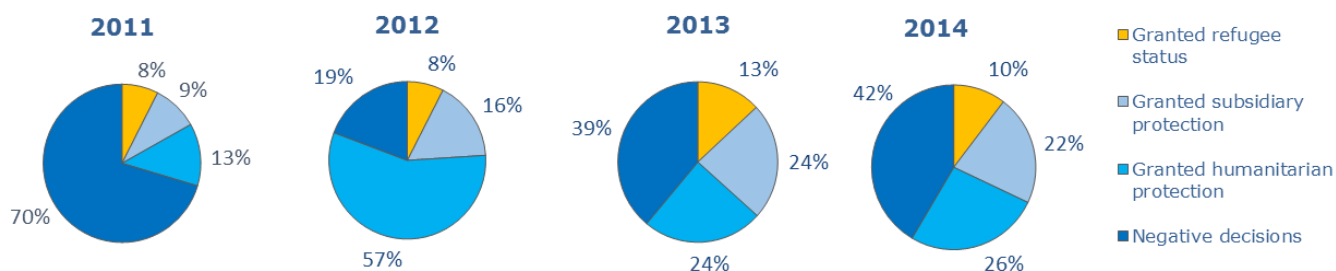
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 21/07/2015

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2014)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2011	24,165	7,155	1,805	2,265	3,085	17,010
2012	27,290	22,030	2,050	4,495	15,485	5,260
2013	23,565	14,390	3,080	5,565	5,750	9,175
2014	35,180	20,580	3,640	7,625	9,315	14,600

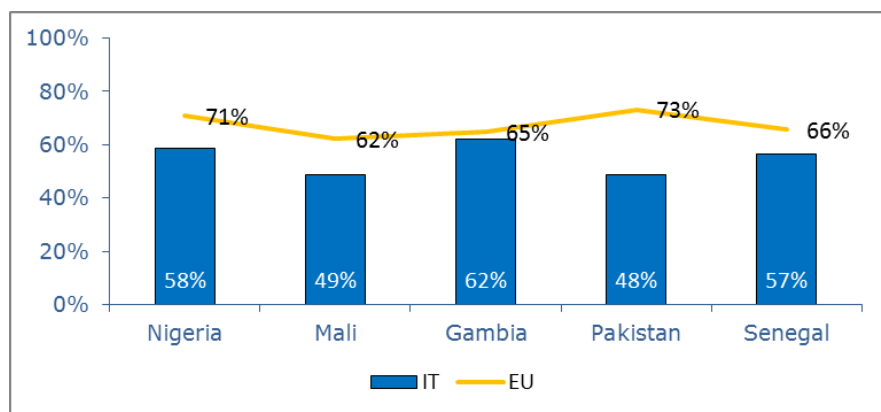
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 22/07/2015.

Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2014)



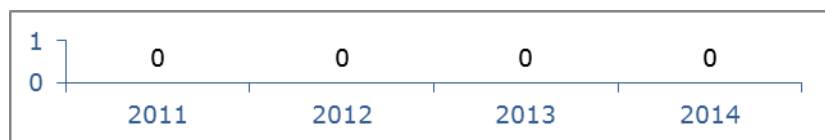
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 22/07/2015

Figure 8: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 23/07/2015

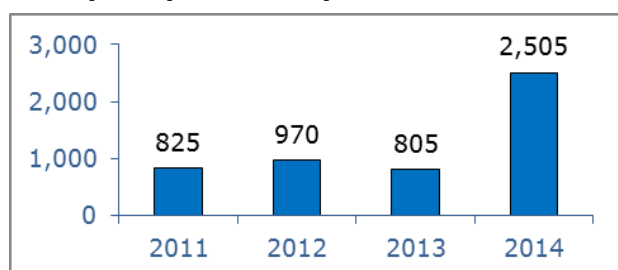
Figure 9: Third-country nationals resettled



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa), data extracted 23/07/2015

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 10: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2011-2014)



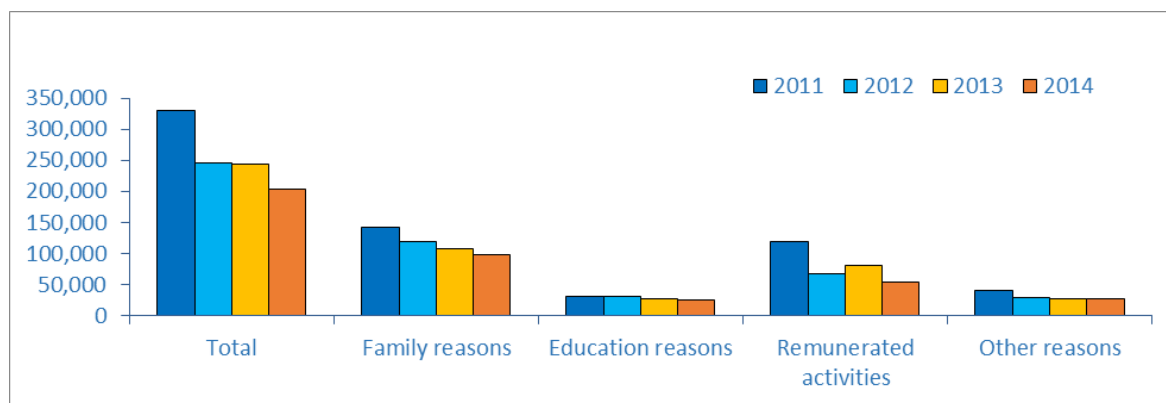
Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr_asyunaa], data extracted 23/07/2015; * Information on Total UAMs provided by EMN IT NCP.

Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2014)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Unaccompanied minors (total)*	7,750	7,575	8,461	14,243
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	825	970	805	2,505

3. EUROPEAN POLICY ON LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Figure 11: First residence permits, by reason (2011-2014)



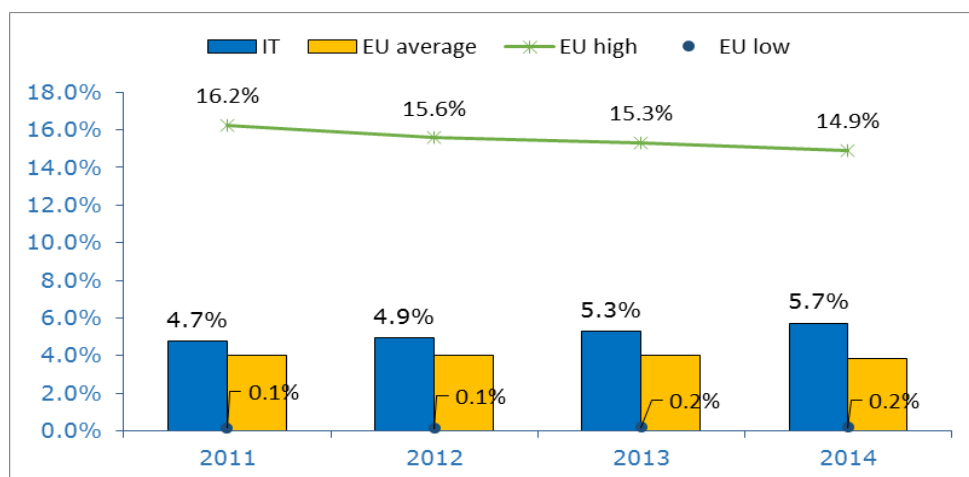
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst), data extracted 26/08/2015

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2014)

2011	2012	2013	2014
1. Morocco - 31,000	1. China – 25,211	1. Morocco- 25,165	1. Morocco- 19,759
2. China - 26,903	2. Morocco – 21,585	2. China– 19,967	2. China– 16,971
3. Albania - 25,006	3. Albania – 18,889	3. Albania – 15,890	3. Albania – 14,591
4. Tunisia - 19,638	4. USA – 14,344	4. India– 15,389	4. India– 13,004
5. India - 18,484	5. India – 11,718	5. Ukraine – 13,996	5. Bangladesh - 11,785

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), data extracted 26/08/2015

Figure 12: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Italy, EU average, EU high and low (2011-2014)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), data extracted 23/07/2015

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2011 – 2014)

Third country nationals:	2011	2012	2013	2014
Refused entry at external borders	8,635	7,350	7,370	7,005
Found to be illegally present	29,505	29,345	23,945	25,300
Ordered to leave	29,505	29,345	23,945	25,300
Returned following an order to leave	6,180	7,365	5,860	5,310

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)(migr_eipre)(migr_eiord)(migr_eirtn) data extracted 24/07/2015

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2011-2014)

	Returned as part of forced return measures**	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme**
2011	6,180	473	477
2012	7,365	418 (provisional)	780
2013	5,860	1,146	1,034
2014*	5,310	980	923

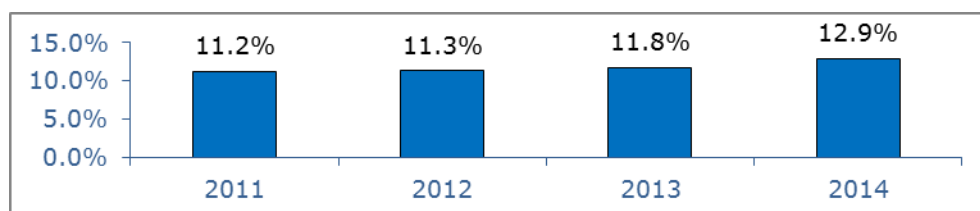
Source: EMN Country Factsheet 2013 and *EMN Annual Policy Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014, Statistic Annex; **Data provided by EMN IT NCP

5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2011 – 2014)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	1,516,237	1,706,536	2,036,829	2,164,545

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 13: Uniform visa applications received in Italy as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2011-2014)

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Italy was lodged

2011		2012		2013		2014	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russia	583,155	Russia	635,043	Russia	775,469	Russia	832,146
China	238,404	China	277,802	China	339,106	China	386,669
Turkey	100,242	Turkey	115,785	Turkey	139,071	Turkey	149,167
India	76,209	India	71,365	India	73,480	India	79,969
Ukraine	43,885	Saudi Arabia	48,756	Ukraine	63,609	Saudi Arabia	70,630

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

6. ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Table 9: Number of traffickers arrested as suspects and traffickers convicted

	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Convictions	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I
Arrested / otherwise involved in a criminal proceeding	N/I	N/I	N/I	73

Source: *EMN Annual Policy Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014, Statistic Annex

7. ASYLUM AND MIGRATION EU FUNDING SOURCES (2007-2013 AND 2014-2020)

Table 10: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) allocation to Italy in euro per area

Areas	AMIF 2014-2020
Asylum	132,105,777
Legal Migration and Integration	126,500,000
Return	33,750,000
Technical Assistance	18,000,000
Special cases (resettlement/transfer)	5,000,000
TOTAL	315,355,777

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 11: Internal Security Fund (ISF) allocation to Italy in euro per area

Areas	ISF 2014-2020
ISF Borders	156,306,897
ISF SA Frontex	31,950,000
ISF SA Consular cooperation	-
ISF Borders Emergency Assistance	492,408
ISF Police	56,631,761
TOTAL	245,381,066

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 12: SOLID funds allocation in euro and share of total funds allocated to Italy (2007-2013)

SOLID FUNDS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
European Refugee Fund (ERF)	N/A	2,821,520 (3.8%)	4,471,406 (4.5%)	7,202,618 (7.6%)	7,740,535 (7.8%)	6,992,321 (6.6%)	6,858,797 (6%)	36,087,198 (6.2%)
European Return Fund (RF)	N/A	5,867,478 (10.6%)	6,029,380 (9.7%)	6,769,510 (8.3%)	6,921,174 (6.3%)	9,066,985 (6%)	9,155,188 (5.2%)	43,809,715 (6.9%)
European Fund for the Integration of TCN (EIF)	6,314,588 (9.7%)	8,590,945 (11.1%)	962,600 (1%)	20,445,053 (18.5%)	27,136,905 (20.6%)	34,173,524 (21%)	36,956,522 (20.1%)	134,580,137 (16.2%)
External Borders Fund (EBF)	24,910,329 (17.2%)	17,153,194 (12.8%)	17,712,943 (11.2%)	20,265,224 (10.6%)	32,715,581 (13.8%)	52,787,940 (16.4%)	84,633,220 (19.9%)	250,178,433 (15.5%)

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs