



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: ITALY 2015

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 2015, including latest statistics.

2. Common European Asylum System

In 2015, Italy worked towards the improvement of its reception and asylum system. For this purpose, the President of the Republic issued two legislative decrees, n. 21 and n. 142. **Decree n. 21** of 12th January 2015 introduced the following changes:

- ★ extended to two years the validity of the humanitarian permit;
- ★ made possible the submission of the application for humanitarian protection in the applicant's language and in a written form, possibly recurring to a cultural mediator;
- ★ regulated the role of the Territorial Commissions (Commissioni Territoriali), which are in charge of processing the first instance asylum request.

Decree n. 142, dated 18th August, transposed into the national legislation the Reception Directive (2013/33/UE) and the Procedure Directive (2013/32/UE). The Decree aimed at making the asylum process more efficient and at improving the exercise of rights of asylum seekers.

- ★ According to the decree, the asylum seeker would receive a residence permit valid for 6 months and renewable, and would be already allowed to work two months after the submission of the application; rather than six months.
- ★ The decree guaranteed that already at the border adequate information on the applicant's rights and obligations was provided to the third-country national wishing to request asylum.

- ★ The decree entitled the Territorial Commissions to consult with external experts on aspects related to culture, health, gender, religious or age during the examination of the asylum request, and to request a medical examination to ascertain the presence of any outcomes of persecution.
- ★ The decree entitled the Commission to decide to omit the interview in case it deemed to have enough information to grant subsidiary protection.
- ★ The decree introduced the possibility to record the interview and, for the legal representative of the asylum seeker, to request a copy of the transcript.
- ★ The decree also ensured the provision of information to (potential) asylum seekers, on the procedures and reception conditions, with the help of an interpreter, if needed.
- ★ It introduced an order of priority whereby the requests made by unaccompanied minors (UAMs) or by persons coming from countries in the list drafted by the ministry whose citizens could be admitted to subsidiary protection without interview had to be examined first, as well as the requests manifestly unfounded or made by person in detention; the applications manifestly unfounded or reiterated were also subject to the accelerated procedure.
- ★ The decree also listed the limited cases in which the third-country nationals could be put in detention while the asylum procedure was under examination.
- ★ The decree set the deadline to appeal to six months.
- ★ It initiated the activities of monitoring and control on the availability and conditions in reception facilities.

In general, in 2015, Italy improved and made more efficient the functioning of the asylum system. The procedure has been fully digitalised so that all parties involved (Police, Dublin Unit, Territorial Commission) could consult the relevant documents for an application. The number of Territorial Commissions continued to increase and in 2015 it reached 40.

As a result, Italy was able to curtail the average **processing time** for issuing first-instance decisions from 250 days to 180 days, in line with the Procedures Directive.

On 17th June 2015, Italy adopted the **national operational plan** for the reception of asylum seekers, which foresaw the division of tasks between the local actors and divided the reception system in first and second reception. The first reception system was regional-based and addressed migrants who had not filled yet the request of international protection; the second reception system was for migrants who had presented the asylum request.

On 28th September, the Ministry of Interior issued a **road map** to implement the EU Agenda on Migration, and, in particular the **relocation** mechanism. Six hotspots were identified, where all migrants were supposed to be landed for the first identification process; five were in Sicily (Pozzallo, Porto Empedocle, Trapani, Lampedusa, Augusta) and one in Apulia (Taranto), and together they made for a total of 2,500 places.

On **resettlement**, the Ministry of Interior started a multiannual programme, financed by AMIF, to resettle 450 Syrian nationals from Lebanon and 50 Eritrean nationals from Sudan per year, with the support of IOM.

Finally, in March 2015, Italy signed with EASO a new **Support Plan**, which would consist in the support to the Territorial Commissions in providing information on countries of origin and in the preparation of administrative files; and in strengthening the capacity of reception measures. The support plan was expected to run until April 2016.

3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In 2014 and 2015, Italy was confronted with an increase in the number of UAMs. To tackle this phenomenon, in 2015, the Italian government financed additional first-reception facilities. As of January 2015, a new reception system was put in place also for UAMs, whereby they would be first hosted in centres where to carry out their identification, age assessment and where to trace their family; and then would be placed in other local structures, to foster their integration in the community, through specific integration programmes.

The Presidential Decree n. 142 included also some important provisions on UAMs and vulnerable persons. It laid down that the best interest of the child should be the guiding principle in the application of all reception measures.

Moreover, it defined the categories of vulnerable persons that could be in need of special measures of assistance, and required the authorities to take their vulnerability into account.

4. European Policy on Legal migration and Integration

4.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

No further developments were reported under this area in 2015.

4.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

On highly qualified employment, an important legislative amendment was introduced in 2015 with the objective of simplifying the procedure to hire third-country highly qualified workers. The so-called 'simplified procedure', already in place for some categories of workers, was extended to **Blue Card holders**. According to this procedure, when hiring a prospective Blue Card holder, the employers who signed an agreement with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs needed only to notify, instead of receiving the approval, the terms of the employment contract.

On 2nd April 2015, the Decree of the President of the Council of Minister set the annual quota for **seasonal workers** to 13,000 third-country nationals, coming from a list of countries Italy had an agreement with. A share of that quota, i.e. 1,500 persons, was reserved to third-country nationals who had previously worked in Italy as seasonal workers and wished to come back to take up seasonal employment.

On **change of status**, the Council of State issued an opinion in which it confirmed the government's line to prevent the change from the permit for religious purposes to the permit for subordinate employment. Moreover, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has issued an explanatory note on the change of status from a seasonal employment permit to a subordinate employment permit.

The legislative decree 15th June 2015 made easier for migrant workers to **renew their residence permit**. In particular, it acknowledged that the salary generated from the 'lavoro accessorio', which is a form of employment outside the standard contractual forms, paid by vouchers and introduced as a measure to tackle illegal employment, could be counted in view of the renewal of the residence permit.

Finally, throughout 2015, the government continued to monitor the **Start-Up Visa** and **Start-Up Hub** programme, for start-up entrepreneurs and graduate entrepreneurs, for which Italy received 40 and 5 successful applicants respectively.

4.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No further developments were reported under this area in 2015.

4.4. INTEGRATION

In 2015, Italy implemented some measures to improve migrants' integration into the Italian society.

Two rulings of the **Constitutional Court** were particularly relevant.

★ Third-country nationals who were long-term residents already enjoy the same social rights as nationals. In 2015, a ruling from the Italian Constitutional Court extended the social rights to all third-country nationals holding a residence permit of at least 1 year of validity.

★ Another ruling of the Constitutional Court declared the illegitimacy of the provision that excluded third-country nationals from being eligible to apply for the National Community Service.

On the **integration agreement**, the Circular of 3rd September 2015 of the Ministry of Interior clarified that in case the third-country national failed the integration exam foreseen by the integration agreement, this was prolonged by one year.

4.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY¹

In 2015 Italy introduced some changes in **visa policy**.

In view of the Jubilee starting in December 2015, Italy introduced the new Tourism-Jubilee Visa, available only for pilgrims who would participate in the diocesan pilgrimage organised by a local responsible person. The local responsible person of a diocese would act as guarantor for the pilgrims before the State.

In 2015, Italy introduced the request of biometric data for citizens of China, Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives applying for visas.

4.6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU MIGRATION POLICY

No further developments were reported under this area in 2015.

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

5. Irregular Migration and Return

5.1. THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

To tackle the increased number of third-country nationals trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach the Italian coasts, Italy reinforced the controls at the external sea borders. In 2015, the operation **Mare Sicuro** (Safe Sea) was launched, whereby the usual work carried out by the military navy (Surveillance and Security) and aviation was extended to cover a wider share of the Central Mediterranean, down towards the Libyan shores.

Italy continued also its participation in the **Foro di Roma**, a working group discussing security issues in the Balkans that included the states with which a visa liberalisation regime was in place. Following the first and second meeting, held in 2013 in Belgrade and in 2014 in The Hague respectively, the Foro di Roma held its third meeting in Rome and was coordinated by Europol.

6. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

During 2015, the adoption of the **National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings and Serious Exploitation** was planned. This aimed at the definition of a multi-annual strategy of intervention to contrast trafficking of human beings, and at proposing actions to raise awareness on the phenomenon, to prevent it and integrate the victims in the society.

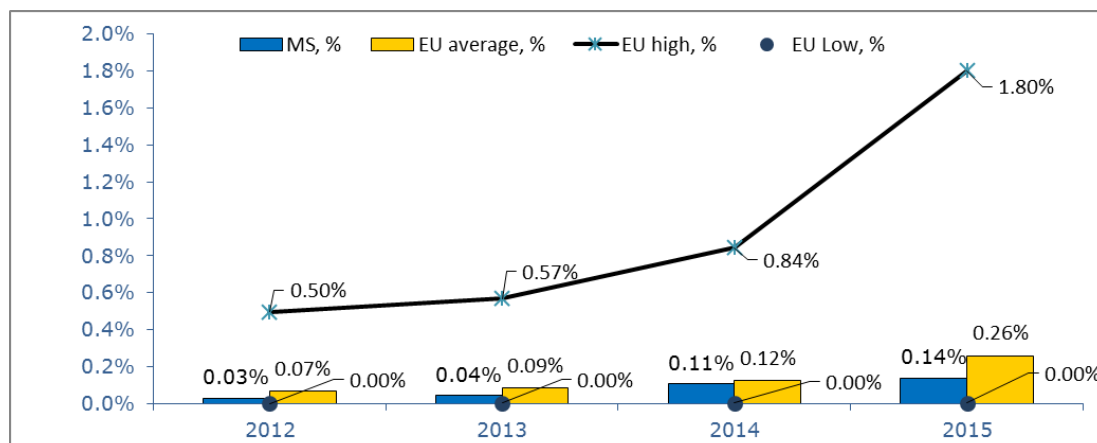
STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Italy on aspects of migration and asylum (2013-2015), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Italy (2012-2015)

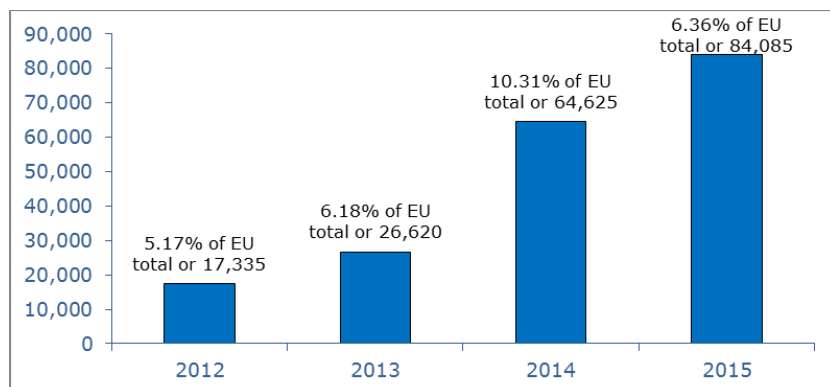
1. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Italy, EU average and EU high and low (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2012-2015)



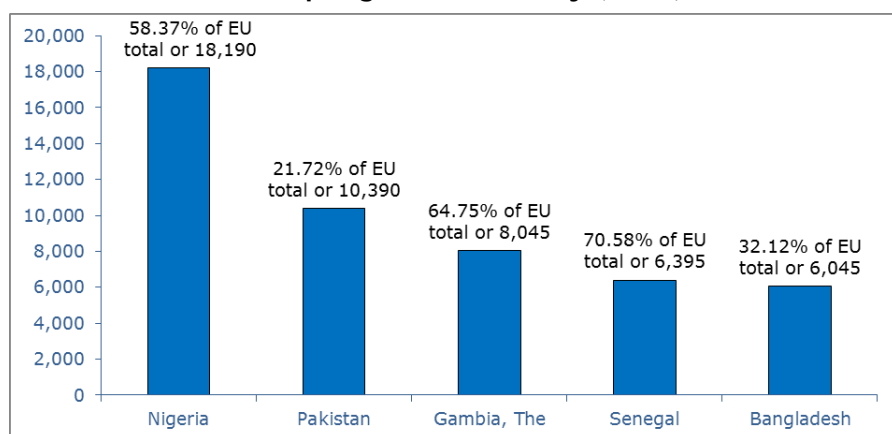
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2012–2015)

| 2012 | | | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------------|-------|------------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Nationality | Nr | % of total | Nationality | Nr | % of total | Nationality | Nr | % of total | Nationality | Nr | % of total |
| Pakistan | 2,600 | 15% | Nigeria | 3,520 | 13% | Nigeria | 10,135 | 16% | Nigeria | 18,190 | 22% |
| Nigeria | 1,615 | 9% | Pakistan | 3,230 | 12% | Mali | 9,790 | 15% | Pakistan | 10,390 | 12% |
| Afghanistan | 1,495 | 9% | Somalia | 2,775 | 10% | Gambia | 8,575 | 13% | Gambia | 8,045 | 10% |
| Senegal | 940 | 5% | Eritrea | 2,110 | 8% | Pakistan | 7,150 | 11% | Senegal | 6,395 | 8% |
| Tunisia | 895 | 5% | Afghanistan | 2,055 | 8% | Senegal | 4,675 | 7% | Bangladesh | 6,045 | 7% |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

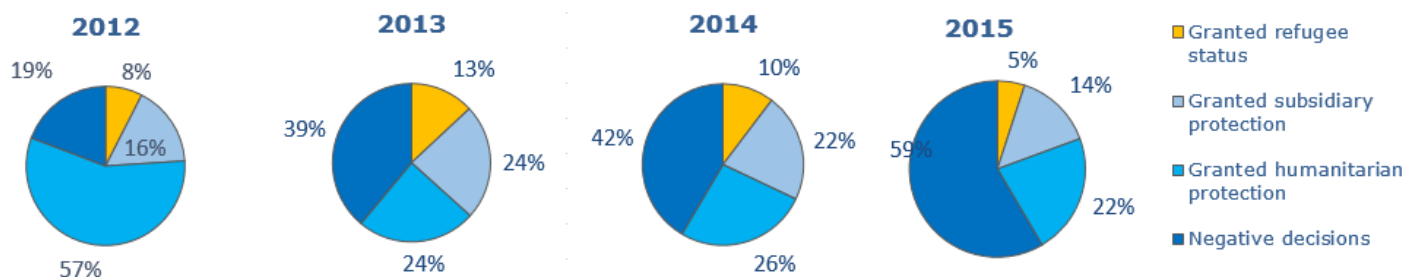
Note: the figure reads as: Italy received 18,190 asylum applications from Nigerians or 58.37% of all asylum applications lodged by Nigeria in EU in 2015

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)

| | Total decisions | Positive decisions | Of which: | | Humanitarian reasons | Negative decisions |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Refugee status | Subsidiary protection | | |
| 2012 | 27,280 | 22,025 | 2,050 | 4,495 | 15,480 | 5,255 |
| 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 |
| 2015 | 71,345 | 29,615 | 3,575 | 10,270 | 15,770 | 41,730 |

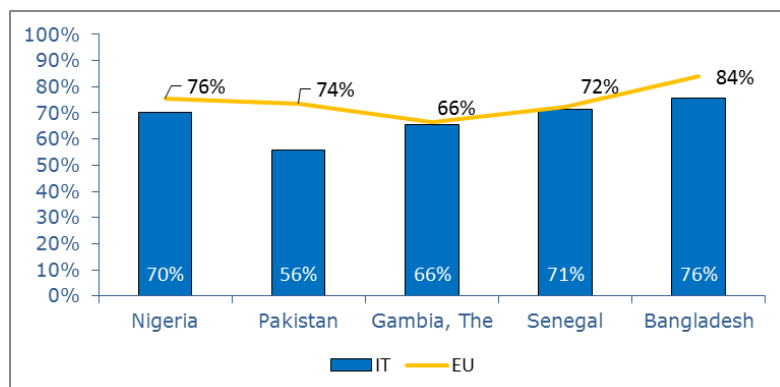
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)



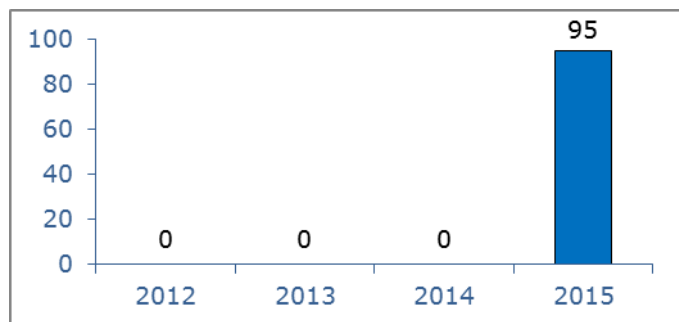
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

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 (2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 9: Third-country nationals resettled (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa), data extracted 04/07/2016

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 10: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2012-2015)

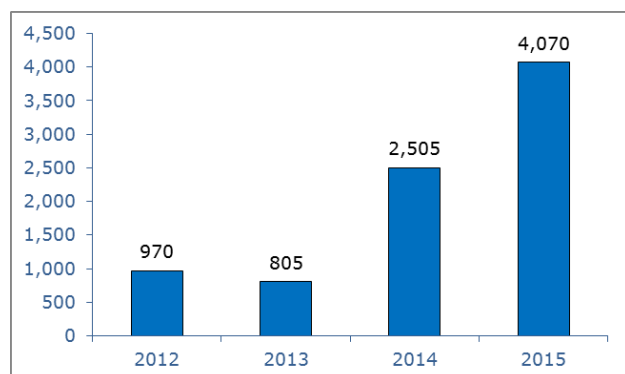


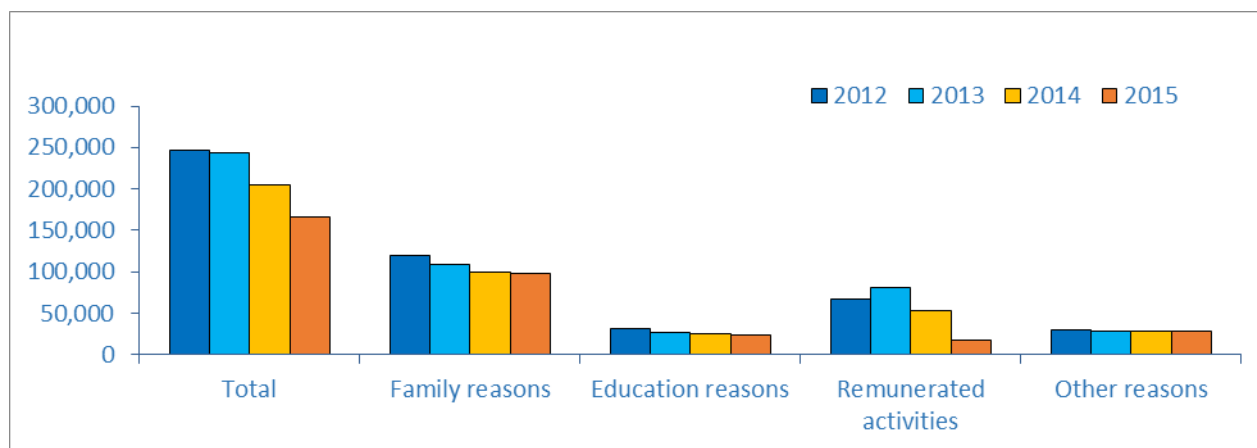
Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2012-2015)

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Unaccompanied minors (total) | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants | 185 | 380 | 605 | 8,805 |

Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr_asyunaa], data extracted 04/07/2016; EMN NCPs

3. EUROPEAN POLICY ON LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Figure 11: First residence permits, by reason (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016; EMN NCPs

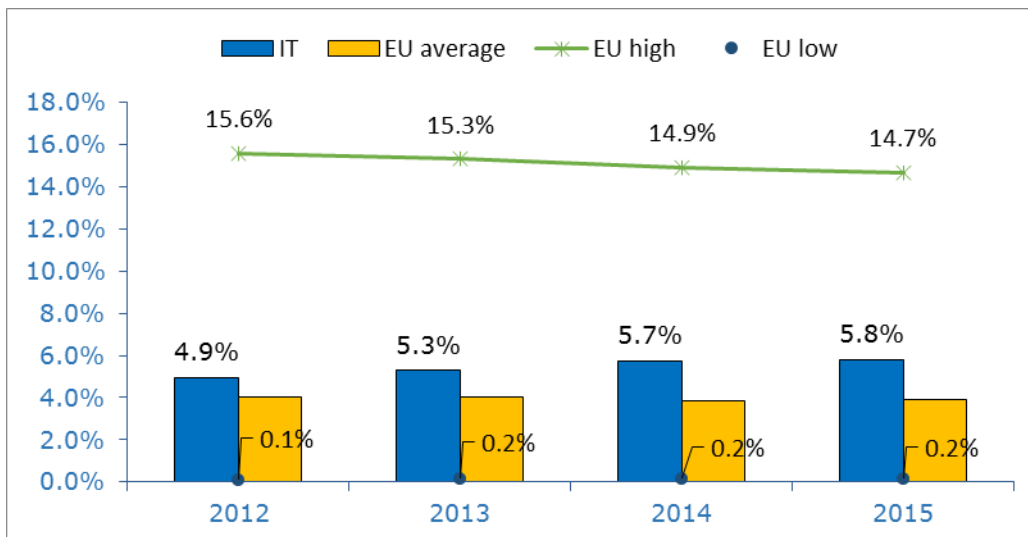
Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2012-2014)

| 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number |
| China (including Hong Kong) | 24,986 | Morocco | 25,165 | Morocco | 19,759 | Morocco | 16,948 |
| Morocco | 21,109 | China (including Hong Kong) | 19,967 | China (including Hong Kong) | 16,971 | Albania | 16,477 |

| 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|---------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number | Nationality | Number |
| Albania | 18,398 | Albania | 15,890 | Albania | 14,591 | China (including Hong Kong) | 14,722 |
| United States | 14,012 | India | 15,389 | India | 13,004 | India | 11,585 |
| India | 11,629 | Ukraine | 13,996 | Bangladesh | 11,785 | United States | 8,714 |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 12: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Italy, EU average, EU high and low (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), data extracted 04/07/2016

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2012-2015)

| Third country nationals: | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Refused entry at external borders | 7,350 | 7,370 | 7,005 | 7,425 |
| Found to be illegally present | 29,345 | 23,945 | 25,300 | 27,305 |
| Ordered to leave | 29,345 | 23,945 | 25,300 | 27,305 |
| Returned following an order to leave | 7,365 | 5,860 | 5,310 | 4,670 |

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

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2012-2015)

| | Returned as part of forced return measures | Returned voluntarily | Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme |
|------|--|----------------------|---|
| 2012 | 5,943 | 418 (provisional) | 874 |
| 2013 | 4,742 | 1,146 | 1,040 |
| 2014 | 5,310 | 980 | NA |
| 2015 | 3,655 | 1,014 | 0 |

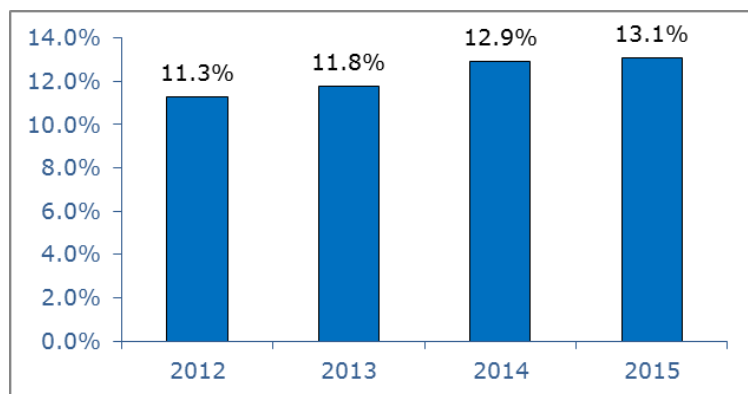
Source: EMN NCPs

5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2012–2015)

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Uniform visas (short-stay visas) | 1,706,536 | 2,036,829 | 2,164,545 | 2,023,343 |

Figure 13: Uniform visa applications received in Italy as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2012-2015)



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

| 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Country | Number | Country | Number | Country | Number | Country | Number |
| Russia | 635,043 | Russia | 775,469 | Russia | 832,146 | Ukraine | 118,045 |
| China | 277,802 | China | 339,106 | China | 386,669 | Russia | 53,719 |
| Turkey | 115,785 | Turkey | 139,071 | Turkey | 149,167 | China | 23,487 |
| India | 71,365 | India | 73,480 | India | 79,969 | Turkey | 22,155 |
| Saudi Arabia | 48,756 | Ukraine | 63,609 | Saudi Arabia | 70,630 | Belarus | 14,526 |

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

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

Table 9: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) allocation 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 10: Internal Security Fund (ISF) allocation in euro per area

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

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 11: 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) | NA | 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) | NA | 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

7. INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT TO DETECT EMPLOYMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Table 12: Number of Inspections carried out to detect employment of irregular migrants and share of inspections as a percentage of the employers in sector (in %)

| Risk sector | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|--|--------|----|--------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 5,434 | NA | 8,662 | 9,59 |
| Mining and quarrying | NA | NA | 129 | NA |
| Manufacturing | 15,379 | NA | 14,696 | NA |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply | NA | NA | 123 | 0 |
| Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | NA | NA | 580 | 12,61 |
| Construction | 40,555 | NA | 42,874 | 25,06 |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 26,536 | NA | 24,688 | 7,80 |
| Transportation and storage | NA | NA | 7,070 | 25,34 |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 21,132 | NA | 22,417 | 12,94 |
| Information and communication | NA | NA | 984 | 4,12 |
| Financial and insurance activities | NA | NA | 593 | 1,96 |
| Real estate activities | NA | NA | 673 | 4,18 |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | NA | NA | 2,028 | 1,61 |
| Administrative and support service activities | NA | NA | 4,662 | 13,63 |

| Risk sector | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|--|------|----|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | NA | NA | 373 | NA |
| Education | NA | NA | 559 | 6,99 |
| Human health and social work activities | NA | NA | 2,376 | 4,71 |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation | NA | NA | 2,046 | 16,00 |
| Other service activities | NA | NA | 6,789 | 13,68 |
| Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use | NA | NA | 1,443 | NA |
| Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies | NA | NA | 50 | NA |

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 13: Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected (I) and number of irregular migrant workers detected (IWD) – 2015

| Risk sector | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected | Number of irregular migrant workers detected | Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected | Number of irregular migrant workers detected |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | NA | 73 | NA | 180 |
| Manufacturing | NA | 471 | NA | 824 |
| Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | NA | NA | NA | 1 |
| Construction | NA | 90 | NA | 189 |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | NA | 126 | NA | 211 |
| Transportation and storage | NA | NA | NA | 15 |
| Accommodation and food service activities | NA | 142 | NA | 125 |
| Information and communication | NA | NA | NA | 15 |
| Real estate activities | NA | NA | NA | 2 |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | NA | NA | NA | 7 |

| Risk sector | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected | Number of irregular migrant workers detected | Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected | Number of irregular migrant workers detected |
| Administrative and support service activities | NA | NA | NA | 32 |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation | NA | NA | NA | 14 |
| Other service activities | NA | NA | NA | 59 |
| Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use | NA | NA | NA | 42 |

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs