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EMN European Migration Network

EMN ITALY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Civic and Language Training for Third-country Nationals in Italy: Good Practices, Policy Frameworks, and Future Perspectives

Concept note

11 November 2026, 09:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CET)

Venue : Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi – Piazza del Viminale 1, Rome (Hybrid event)

RATIONALE AND AIMS

The 2026 Italian National Conference intends to showcase the central role of civic and language training in the inclusion of third-country nationals. This is in line with the key orientations established both at European level through the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021–2027 (COM(2020) 758 final) and at national level through instruments such as the National Integration Plan for beneficiaries of international protection.
Within this framework, the Italian Regional Plans for civic and language training for third-country nationals stands as a key instrument. Promoted by the Ministry of the Interior under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, these Plans provide an opportunity to reflect on the results achieved in this field from a broader and more comprehensive perspective. The Conference will, thus, focus on institutional approaches, significant practices and future developments emerging at national level, while fostering dialogue with strategies and successful models developed within the wider European context.

The Conference is structured around three main thematic strands:

I) Policy approaches and institutional frameworks for civic and language training for third-country nationals
The opening session aims to outline the strategic and institutional framework of public policies concerning civic and language integration, with particular attention to coordination across levels of government and to the consistency and coherence of the interventions devised.
Building on the European Union Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021–2027, which identifies civic and language training as a structural driver for integration, the session will examine policy approaches at both national and European level, highlighting priorities, instruments, and areas of intervention.

From this perspective, the session will emphasise the importance of ensuring broad and continuous access to language and civic training pathways throughout all stages of the integration process, as a prerequisite for full participation in social, economic and democratic life. Particular attention will also be paid to the main regulatory and programming frameworks, as well as to the role of relevant administrations in their design and implementation.
The analysis will further explore key priorities of the current policy architecture, including improving the accessibility and quality of training provision, reducing territorial disparities, and promoting adaptable measures to the diverse needs of the target groups.
Finally, the session aims to foster dialogue among national institutions, European bodies and international stakeholders, contributing to the development of shared approaches and integrated strategies.

II) Civic and language training as a cross-cutting enabler for multi-level governance

Focusing on the national level, the panel intends to examine civic and language training as a pivotal area for coordination among the various institutional tiers involved in the multi-level and multi-agency governance of inclusion policies for third-country nationals in Italy.
Drawing on the experience of the Italian Regional Plans, the discussion will frame language training not merely as a measure supporting individual inclusion, but also as a mechanism for connecting different stakeholders and as a crucial public infrastructure for fostering cohesive, resilient, and participatory societies.
From this standpoint, the session will address the main dimensions of this cross-cutting governance framework, encompassing: the national and regional planning of interventions; the nexus between language training and inclusion pathways; the synergies among education, social and migration policies; and the potential for continuity between activities undertaken in countries of origin and subsequent inclusion pathways in Italy upon arrival.
The primary goal is to prompt debate among the different national institutions involved, shedding light on good practices that have emerged during the 2023-2026 programming cycle and identifying possible trajectories for strengthening the consistency, accessibility, and effectiveness of future interventions in the field of civic and language training.

III) The local dimension of civic and language training: experiences, models, and perspectives

In line with the framework established in the previous sessions, this panel aims to highlight experiences and good practices developed at local level to promote civic and language training for third-country nationals.
The session will open with an overview of the context in which the initiatives presented have been implemented, which draws on the monitoring activities of the dedicated Observatory. It will then explore projects developed according to the objectives and priorities of the Regional Plans for civic and language training, offering concrete examples of how institutional priorities and strategic orientations are translated into practice.
In particular, the session will shed light on the different ways in which civic and language training contributes to inclusion processes by presenting successful experiences developed in diverse territorial contexts across Italy. To this end, the panel will focus on two case studies selected from the Regional Plans, as well as on an additional initiative identified among the Innovative Language Training Services promoted by Italy within the framework of the AMIF programming period.
Specific attention will be devoted to initiatives targeting vulnerable groups, with a focus on their specific needs, as well as on the tools and approaches developed to address them. The panel will provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge on replicable models, with the aim of identifying common factors underpinning effective interventions and operational strategies to consolidate and further develop the practices implemented.

From a comparative perspective, the session will conclude with the presentation of experiences and good practices from other EU Member States, exploring different approaches to promoting civic and language training and fostering a structured exchange of knowledge and operational strategies.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Hybrid event
- Venue: Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi - guest access is through the premises of the Ministry of the Interior (Viminale), located in Piazza del Viminale 1, Rome. Presentation of a valid identity document is strictly required for access.
- Target group: EMN NCP members, EU and national senior officials/experts, stakeholders and civil society
- Language: Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in both English and Italian