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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 and agenda

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

AGENDA

11 November 2026	
09:00 – 09:30	**Participant registration and welcome coffee**
Chair -	*Mariella De Santis*, Policy Officer, Social Work Methodologist, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
09:30 – 09:40	**Institutional greetings and opening session** *Prefetto Rosanna Rabuano*, Head of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
09:40 – 10:20	**Session 1:** **Policy approaches and institutional frameworks for civic and language training for third-country nationals** *Helena Sales*, Policy Officer, Unit on Legal Pathways and Mobility, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission – "The framework for the integration of third-country nationals into European Union policies" *Vice Prefetto Maria Corsaro*, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior – "The Italian model of civic and language training: institutional continuity, multi-level governance and service development" *Arzu Burcu Tuner,* Programme Manager within the Language Policy Programme, Education Department, Council of Europe – "Shaping inclusive societies: the Council of Europe's strategic vision for linguistic and civic integration in Europe" *Professor Cecilie Hamnes Carlsen,* Western Norway University of Applied Sciences – "Language and civic tests – door openers or gatekeepers to migrant integration"
10:20 – 10:50	**Session 2:** **Civic and language training as a cross-cutting enabler for multi-level governance** *Vice Prefetto Ferdinando Santoriello*, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior – "Regional Plans for civic and language training for third-country nationals" *Fiorella Palumbo,* Head of Office IV – Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Directorate-General for Technical and Vocational Education and for Higher Technical Education and Training, Ministry of Education

	and Merit – "Language training as a tool for coordination among the actors involved in multilevel governance" *Marina Maggiore,* Head of Division III Policies for Immigration and for combating labour exploitation and "*caporalato*"– Directorate General for Migration Policies and for the social and labour integration of migrants – Department for Social Policies, third sector and migration policies – Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – "Civic and language training as an enabling factor for the social and labour inclusion of third-country nationals: the experience of art. 23 of the Consolidated Immigration Act"
10:50 – 11:05	**Coffee break**
11:05 – 12:30	**Session 3:** **The local dimension of civic and language training: experiences, models and perspectives** ***National focus*** *Lorenzo Rocca*, Società Dante Alighieri, "Contextual report based on the monitoring of language training services carried out under the AMIF Project 233 Observatory" *Marzio Barbieri*, Policy Officer, Integration, Inclusion and Fight against Poverty Area, Emilia-Romagna Region, AMIF project "Futuro in Corso 3 – Piano regionale di formazione civico linguistica" (PROG-194) *Saverino Richiusa,* Project Coordinator, Sicilia Region, AMIF-funded project "S.I.C.I.L.I.A. – Studiando l'Italiano Cresce l'Integrazione il Lavoro l'Inclusione e l'Accoglienza" (PROG-205) *Claudio Tosi*, Italian L2 teacher trainer at Casa dei Diritti Sociali ODV, Secretary of FitCEMEA – AMIF project "L'Alfabeto dei diritti" (PROG-210) ***International focus*** *Arnaud Joly,* Deputy Head of the Office for language and citizenship education, Sub Directorate for Integration of Foreign Nationals, Directorate of Integration and Access to Nationality, General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, Ministry of the Interior (EMN France) *Marcelle Breemans*, Programme Manager Civic Integration at Divosa, Association of Directors of Social Domain, with a short introduction by *Sanne Kos*, Senior Policy Officer for Civic Integration, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment in the Netherlands (EMN Netherlands)
12:30 – 12:45	**Q&A**
12:45 – 13:00	**Closing session and concluding remarks** *Prefetto Roberta Lulli*, Deputy Head of Department and Central Director for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

	Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
13:00	**Lunch**

SPEAKERS' SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

EMN ITALY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

1. **Chair** - *Mariella De Santis,* Policy Officer, Social Work Methodologist, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
   Short bio:
   Mariella De Santis is an official at the Italian Ministry of the Interior, serving as a specialist social worker in the field of migration policies and as the contact point for Italy's National Contact Point of the EMN. She is specialized in strategic planning and neuroscience and works as a methodologist for institutional empowerment processes within the public sector. For ten years, she taught social work methods and professional writing at the University of Milano-Bicocca. She has also conducted research and training initiatives, authored scientific publications, and is the creator and editor of the first Italian-language dictionary of Social Work.

2. *Prefetto Rosanna Rabuano,* Head of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
   Short bio:
   Rosanna Rabuano is *Prefetto* and Head of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration at the Italian Ministry of the Interior since 2025. In this role, she coordinates national policies on immigration, asylum, reception, and citizenship, ensuring coordination among central administrations, local authorities, and international organizations. She also oversees the operation of the Reception and Integration System (SAI) and manages measures for the protection of unaccompanied minors and applicants for international protection. Previously, she held senior positions within the same Department, gaining extensive experience in migration policies and civil rights.
3. *Helena Sales*, Policy Officer, Unit on Legal Pathways and Mobility, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
   Short bio:
   Policy officer in the Unit *Legal Pathways and Mobility*, working on talent retention and migrant integration, with a particular focus on labour market integration and access to employment opportunities. Her work also covers integration in education, promoting equal opportunities and access to learning for third-country nationals.

4. *Vice Prefetto Maria Corsaro,* Central Directorate for Migration Policies – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior
   Short bio:
   Maria Corsaro is *Vice Prefetto*, Deputy Central Director for Migration Policies – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Authority, and Head of Office I for Migration

Policy Planning at the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior. She began her career at the Prefecture – Territorial Office of the Government of Arezzo and later held senior positions within the Ministry, dealing with compensation for victims of terrorism and organised crime, administrative litigation and migration flow planning. After a period at the Prefecture – Territorial Office of the Government of Bologna, she returned to Rome in 2007, where she managed the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and coordinated national migration policies.

5. *Arzu Burcu Tuner,* Programme Manager within the Language Policy Programme, Education Department, Council of Europe

Short bio:

Arzu Burcu Tuner is a Programme Manager in the Council of Europe's Education Department, working within the Language Policy Programme. A linguist by training, with experience in teaching, interpreting and international programme management, she works on plurilingual and intercultural education, language support for migrants, and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Her work promotes inclusive language education and assessment, linguistic diversity, and democratic participation.

6. *Professor Cecilie Hamnes Carlsen*, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Short bio:

Cecilie Hamnes Carlsen holds a PhD in language testing and assessment and worked for 20 years in language test development for adult migrants in Norway. Her main research interest is the use of language tests in the migration context – for access to higher education, for the labor market and for residence and citizenship. She is particularly engaged with questions of how language tests can promote social justice and be door-openers rather than gatekeepers for adult migrants.

7. *Vice Prefetto Ferdinando Santoriello*, Central Directorate for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior

Short bio:

Ferdinando Santoriello is *Vice Prefetto* and Head of Staff Office III of the Central Directorate for Migration Policies – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Authority, at the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior. He began his career at the Ministry's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and later held senior positions at the Prefecture – Territorial Office of the Government of Rome, including Chief of Cabinet and Head of the Single Desk for Immigration. After a period at the Higher Council of Public Works, he returned to the Department in 2021, heading offices responsible for immigration, litigation, communication and citizenship.

8. *Fiorella Palumbo*, Head of Office IV – Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Directorate-General for Technical and Vocational Education and for Higher Technical Education and Training, Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM)

Short bio:

Since September 2025, Fiorella Palumbo has headed Office IV of the DG TVET of the MIM, whose responsibilities include adult education, also in prison facilities, and lifelong learning. Previously Technical Director since 2015 at the USR Sicily, she oversaw the implementation of the adult education system from 2013/14, followed the implementation of AMIF pathways from 2015 for the Regional School Office of Sicily, and since 2025 has been overseeing them at national level.

9. *Marina Maggiore,* Head of Division III Policies for Immigration and for combating labour exploitation and "caporalato"– Directorate General for migration policies and for the social and labour integration of migrants – Department for social policies, third sector and migration policies – Ministry of Labour and Social Policies

Short bio:

Marina Maggiore, Head of the Division responsible for immigration policies and combating labour exploitation, at the DG for Migration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. A graduate in International Relations, she has worked in the field of immigration since 2018. She has served as a member of the Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection of Palermo (Ministry of the Interior) and as a trainer for the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), now the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

10. *Lorenzo Rocca*, Società Dante Alighieri

Short bio:

Lorenzo Rocca is Head of the Research Projects Unit at the Società Dante Alighieri in Rome. Since 2006, he has gained expertise in coordinating national and supranational projects focused on the migration context. He has been an elected member of the ALTE Board of Trustees since 2016. He has served as a language expert for the Council of Europe since 2014 and has been a member of the CLIQ Scientific Committee since 2013. In 2020, he was awarded the National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor.

11. *Marzio Barbieri,* Policy Officer, Integration, Inclusion and Fight against Poverty Area, Emilia-Romagna Region, AMIF project "Futuro in Corso 3 – Piano regionale di formazione civico linguistica" (PROG-194)

Short bio:

For over 25 years, building on a background in sociology, he has worked on interventions aimed at the inclusion, guidance and empowerment of foreign nationals, including information desks, Italian language and civic education courses, digital facilitation, intercultural mediation and intercultural policies. He oversees the design and procedural aspects of European, national and transnational projects, particularly those financed by the AMIF and Erasmus+ funds, participating in transnational, national and local working groups and coordination tables. He also carries out research, monitoring, analysis and planning of services for the third country nationals (TCNs), as well as monitoring and coordination of social policies for integration, with particular reference to migration issues.

12. *Saverino Richiusa,* Project Coordinator, Sicilia Region, AMIF-funded project "S.I.C.I.L.I.A. – Studiando l'Italiano Cresce l'Integrazione il Lavoro l'Inclusione e l'Accoglienza" (PROG-205)

Short bio:

Regional contact person for projects targeting legally staying third-country nationals funded by the AMIF 2021-2027, the NOP Inclusion ESF+ and the NOP Inclusion ERDF. Technical Coordinator of the Immigration Commission of the Conference of Regions.

13. *Claudio Tosi,* Italian L2 teacher trainer at Casa dei Diritti Sociali ODV, Secretary of FitCEMEA – AMIF project "L'Alfabeto dei diritti" (PROG-210)

Short bio:

A trainer in active education methods, he is a member of the Board of the International Federation and Secretary of the Italian Federation of CEMEA (Centres for Training in Active Education Methods). He is an expert in adult education in the social and educational fields, with particular focus on teaching migrants, civic service and educational communities. As Vice-President of CSV Lazio, he works to promote solidarity-based and civic engagement across the broad landscape of social actors.

14. *Arnaud Joly,* Deputy Head of the Office for language and citizenship education, Sub Directorate for Integration of Foreign Nationals, Directorate of Integration and Access to Nationality, General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, Ministry of the Interior (EMN France)

Short bio:

Arnaud Joly, after graduating from Sciences Po Rennes, where he specialised in political science, law and public administration, he joined the French Ministry of the Interior in 2018. Since 2020, he has been working on migration and the integration of foreign nationals. At the Île-de-France Prefecture, he worked on integration policies and the reception of migrants and displaced people from Ukraine. In 2024, he joined the General Directorate for Foreign Nationals in France, where he has been Deputy Head of the Office for language and citizenship education since February. He is France's national focal point for implementing the civic exam, introduced in December 2025.

15. *Marcelle Breemans*, Programme Manager Civic Integration at Divosa, Association of Directors of Social Domain, Netherlands (EMN Netherlands)

Short bio:

Marcelle Breemans leads the Divosa Civic Integration programme, co-funded by the European Union through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The programme supports municipalities and network organisations in implementing the Dutch Civic Integration Act (Wet inburgering 2021), fostering collective learning. By connecting municipal teams with network organisations and national authorities, it helps address bottlenecks in legislation, regulations and preconditions, contributing to the further development of the Act and service delivery for permit holders. It also strengthens professional knowledge by disseminating insights and best practices.

16. *Prefetto Roberta Lulli,* Deputy Head of Department and Central Director for Migration Policies - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Authority, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior

Short bio:

Since July 2025, she has held the position of Deputy Head of Department and Central Director for Migration Policies – Managing Authority of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, at the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior.

Previously, she served as *Prefetto* of Vibo Valentia, starting in April 2021, and as Director General for General Administration at the Department of Firefighters, Public Rescue, and Civil Protection since 2023. She has held several senior positions within the same Department, gaining extensive experience in areas such as regulatory and institutional frameworks, evaluation activities, contract consulting, and general and legislative affairs.