



THE SENEGALESE COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



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For nearly a decade, the *Direzione Generale dell'immigrazione e delle politiche di integrazione* (General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies) has aimed to provide a detailed and balanced account of the complex phenomenon of the presence of foreigners in Italy and to do so by setting forth the various distinct aspects of the question while analysing the characteristics noted and also anticipating today's trends. The Directorate does so by means of its *Rapporto nazionale sui migranti nel Mercato del lavoro italiano* (National reports on migrants in the Italian labour market) (tenth edition), the *Rapporti nazionali sulla presenza in Italia delle principali Comunità straniere* (National reports on the main foreign communities in Italy) (ninth edition) and the *Rapporti sulla presenza dei migranti non comunitari nelle 14 città metropolitane italiane* (Reports on the presence of non-EU migrants in the 14 metropolitan cities of Italy) (fifth edition).

The series of national reports on the presence of the main foreign communities aims to investigate and study in depth the presence on Italian soil of the more numerically significant non-EU nationals: Moroccans, Albanians, Chinese, Ukrainians, Indians, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Moldovans, Nigerians, the Senegalese, Sri Lankans, Tunisians, Peruvians and Ecuadorians.

For each grouping, the main features from the socio-demographic and employment dimensions are considered, alongside presence of minors and their education, occupational integration and welfare policies. Each report starts with comparison among the various communities. The data used for the analysis relate to periods prior to the spread of the SARS-COV-2 virus. Therefore, this edition of the reports does not provide for an overview of the effects of the pandemic crisis on the social and labour integration of migrants.

Again, this year we duly acknowledge the contributions of institutions and bodies that have provided information in their possession. These entities include the Italian National Institute of Statistics; the General statistical and actuarial coordination body of INPS (National Social Security Institute); the Ministry of Education, University and Research; the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; the CeSPI (Centre for Politics and International Studies); the trade unions CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL; and the *Divisione Studi e Ricerca* (Study and Research Division) of ANPAL Servizi.

The full series of *Rapporti Comunità* (Community reports), editions 2012 - 2020, can be accessed – in Italian and in the main foreign languages – in the section “Studi e statistiche” (Studies and Statistics) on the institutional website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – www.lavoro.gov.it and on the institutional portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it. These addresses also provide access to a statistical annex providing information that supplements the reports or that, within a comparative framework among the main national communities considered, enables in-depth study of the data analysed.

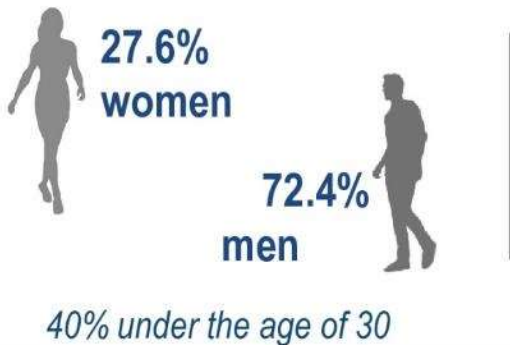
Within the ambit of the projects, *Assistenza tecnica per il Supporto alla governance integrata delle politiche migratorie tra lavoro e integrazione sociale* (PR.Au.D. - *Protezione, Autonomia, Dignità dal lavoro*) and *Supporto nelle politiche per l'immigrazione e di cooperazione bilaterale con i Paesi di origine*, ANPAL Servizi has drawn up and translated the 2020 edition of its *Rapporti nazionali sulle principali Comunità straniere* (National reports on the main foreign communities) – analytic reports provided in summary form.

Executive Summary



102,112
Legally residing Senegalese citizens
Ranking 12th for number of presences

2,869 cases of acquisition of citizenship in 2019 (3%)



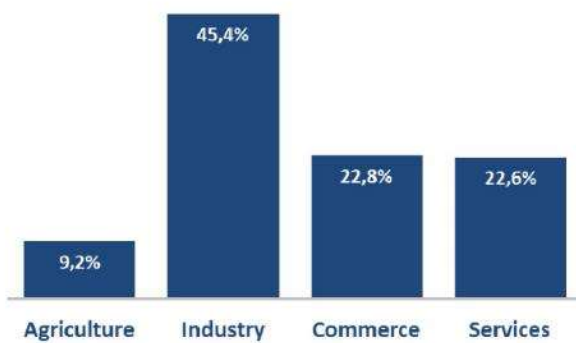
Present in:

- 32.6%** Lombardia
- 11.9%** Toscana
- 10.7%** Emilia-Romagna

61,1%
 Long-term residents

38,9% Short-term permits


- Work
- Family
- Other reasons




64,4% employment rate
77,9% male 25,7% female

60% female inactivity rate

45% employed in industry



49% skilled manual workers



5th position in sole proprietorship ranking (5%)

18,783 sole proprietors (-2.7%)

86.4% sole proprietorship in the **Commerce and Transport** sector

Demographic characteristics

102,112 Senegalese citizens are holders of a residence permit valid as on 1 January 2020. The Senegalese community ranks twelfth for number of legal residents in Italy, accounting for approx. 2.8% of the non-EU citizens in Italy and presenting with a 4% decrease vs the previous year.

Analysis of the main demographic characteristics of the Senegalese community in Italy, as on 1 January 2020, indicates

- a **marked gender imbalance, with men predominating**. Men make up 72.4% of the Senegalese population, and women 27.6%;
- **The prevalence of young age groups**: 41% of Senegalese in Italy are under 30 (vs 39.7% for non-EU citizens as a whole) and a **mean age**, in line with the mean age of non-EU citizens as a whole (34).

As to geographic distribution, for the Senegalese community, Northern Italy prevails. **Lombardia** is the major Region of settlement for this community, with 1/3 of the total number of Senegalese citizens (vs more than 1/4 of non-EU citizens as a whole). **Toscana** ranks second in terms of Senegalese presences (more than 12,000, i.e., 11.9% of the total). **Emilia-Romagna** (ranking third for number of Senegalese citizens) presents an incidence of 10.7%. A significant number from this community settled in Southern Italy, where 17.1% of this community obtained or renewed their residence permits (vs 14.4% of non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy). The numbers in Puglia, Campania and Sardegna are largely equivalent, standing at 3.5%, 3.4% and 3.4%, respectively.

The gradual **process of stabilisation** of this community in Italy is confirmed by the increase in the quotient of long-term residents, standing at 61.1% of Senegalese citizens, as on 1 January 2020. This level is significant for the Senegalese, albeit 2% lower than the mean for non-EU citizens as a whole (63.1%). Regarding permits subject to renewal, those issued for **family reasons** prevail (40%), followed by those issued for **application for asylum/humanitarian and international protection reasons** (29.1%), while **work permits** account for 28.7%.

Current trends

For the first time, after years of stable number of presences, a sharp decrease (-2.7%) can be noted in the number of legal residents compared to the previous year. Indeed, the presence of non-EU citizens in Italy decreased by 101,580 units between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020. Such decrease concerns all the main foreign communities except for Indian and Bangladeshi communities which increased by 1.7% and 1.8% respectively. The most significant reductions can be noted in the Nigerian community (-8.2%), which went from ranking eleventh to ranking fourteenth, the Ecuadorian community (-6.2%) and the Chinese community (-5.3%).

Two main opposite factors affect the trends of presences: on the one hand, the new permits issued attesting to an inflow impacting the stock of legally residing members, and, on the other, the granting of citizenship (which latter practice entail a replacement effect in the statistics as those who become Italian citizens are removed from the stock of foreign citizens).

Turning to admissions, 2019 marks a negative record with approx. 177 thousand new residence permits, 26% less vs 2018; this is the most significant reduction recorded since 2012 and the first six months of 2020 seem to consolidate the negative trend, with a further decrease of 57.7% vs the same period of 2019¹. The reduction concerns all reasons for admissions, and it is particularly relevant for permits ascribable to the request or possession of a form of protection: - 57.5%.

This is a value ascribable to the sharp reduction of the so-called "unexpected flows", with a sharp decline in the number of migrants landed on the Italian coasts: 11,471 in 2019, i.e., 51% less than 2018 and 90.4% less than 2017².

The growth trend in the quotient of new permits issued for family reunification consolidates, thus reaching 56.9% of admissions in 2019 (vs approx. 51% in 2018), while the percentage relating to the request or possession of a form of protection decreases: 15.6% of new permits³ vs 28.8% in 2018. The percentage relating to study reasons (11.5% vs 9.1% in 2018) and work reasons (6.4% vs 6% in 2018) is slightly on the rise.

¹ Istat, *Cittadini non comunitari in Italia*, Statistica Report (Non-EU citizens in Italy, Statistics Report), October 2020.

² http://www.libertacivilimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_31-12-2019.pdf

³ In all likelihood, the reduction in the number of permits linked to the possession of a form of protection is affected by the entry into force of the decree-law no. 113/2018 from 5 October 2018, converted with amendments by Law no. 132/2018, which abolished the residence permit for humanitarian reasons, replacing it, only under certain specific conditions, with some residence permits for "special circumstances".

On the other hand, the failure to plan entry flows for job purposes, with the exception of seasonal work, has now led to a sharp decrease in new permits issued for this reason.

With **4,637 new residence permits**, the Senegalese community ranks tenth in terms of the number of new residence permits issued in 2019, largely motivated by family reunification (66.6%), followed by request or possession of a form of international or humanitarian protection (approx. ¼ of the total) and, to a residual extent, by other reasons. The number of new permits issued for Senegalese citizens decreased by 37.7% vs 2018.

Out of 113,979 permits granted to non-EUR citizens in 2019, **2,869** (2.5% of the total) concern citizens of Senegalese origin. The main reason for **granting Italian citizenship** is the transmission from parents acquiring Italian citizenship or elective acquisition at the age 18 (45.8%).

The rooting of the Senegalese community in Italy is also proven by the number marriages with Italian citizens: in 2018⁴, 198 marriages were celebrated between Senegalese and Italian citizens (89% of the 222 marriages in which at least one spouse was of Senegalese nationality); 28 of these marriages concern an Italian husband and a Senegalese wife, while 170 involve a Senegalese husband and an Italian wife.

Minors and educational paths

One of the indicators of geographic stabilisation of a community is the high presence of families and minors within it. There are indeed many minors in this community. As on 1 January 2020, there were more than **21,400 Senegalese minors**, i.e., 2.7% of the total for non-EU minors. Many are also the Senegalese children born in Italy: 1,383 in 2018 (2.7% of non-EU children born in the same year). Overall, between 2010 and 2018, more than 14,000 Senegalese children were born in Italy.

A significant issue in regard to this community concerns the presence of **unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs)**. With 143 minors (approx. -52% vs 2018) **as of 31 August 2020**, the Senegalese community presents with 2.6% of all non-EU UFMs, practically all of whom (96.5%) are male, and soon to turn 18 (58.7% of Senegalese UFMs are aged 17).

Admission of Senegalese minors into the Italian schooling circuit is low. 16,679 students of Senegalese origin enrolled for academic year 2019/2020 (2.4% of non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students of this community increased in number by 4.4%. The growth rate was double than that displayed by non-EU students as a whole (+2.6%). The number of enrolled students increased in schools of all levels. The greatest increase regards junior secondary school, +11.1%. While the incidence of Senegalese students vs non-EU students as a whole varies little from grade to grade, we note a slight upswing in primary and junior secondary school enrolments (almost 2.5% of these children), and a downturn to 2.2% in senior secondary schools. The population of Senegalese university is quite small (305, i.e., 0.4% of non-EU university students in Italy). Accordingly, Senegal ranks fortieth among the countries of origin of the non-EU academic population.

This community a relevant presence of **NEETs** (young people aged between 15 and 29 who are not engaged in education, employment or training). More than 5,200 are Senegalese citizens, making up 37% of the Senegalese in this age bracket. This quotient reaches 38.3% for the female component of the population (vs 36% for males).

Work and employment

The Senegalese community is markedly characterised by its engagement in *Industry*, which is the prevalent sector for employment, involving 45% of Senegalese employed in Italy, +18% vs non-EU workers as a whole (27%) and in the *Commerce and Catering* sector (accounting for 23% of the Senegalese workforce).

Despite the low incidence of female Senegalese employees, the overall employment rate is higher than that for the non-EU population as a whole.

The **employment rate** stands at **64.4%** vs 60.1% for the non-EU population as a whole; the **inactivity** rate is 4.3% lower than the mean value, and stands, for the Senegalese, at 24.5%, while the **unemployment** rate stands at 14.6% (vs 13.8% in the non-EU population as a whole). Gender bias in Senegalese workers sees men predominate. The bias is much more marked here than in non-EU migrants as a whole.

⁴ Latest reference year.

Females make up a mere 25.7% of the employed Senegalese workforce, vs 46.5% in the non-EU employed workforce as a whole. Employment rate of the male component stands at approx. 78% (vs. 74% of non-EU men as a whole)

Turning to **wage subsidies** granted to workers in Italy by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) in the event of interruptions or reduction of production, only 3.2% of the non-EU beneficiaries are Senegalese. The Senegalese are mainly benefit from CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments (1,484), while 324 benefit from CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. 3.7% of non-EU citizens granted **unemployment benefits** are Senegalese: 13,906 beneficiaries mainly receiving NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego*, a social employment insurance scheme) payments, followed by those receiving agricultural unemployment benefits (*Disoccupazione agricola*) (3,494).

During 2019, **75,344 new employment relationships** were activated for citizens of Senegalese origin (16.3% more than the previous year). Indicating that women from this community are not drawn to the labour market to any considerable extent, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that only 12% of Senegalese citizens recruited are women (vs 31.3% for non-EU citizens as a whole). The largest portion of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs that began during 2019 for Senegalese workers (47.1%) were in the *Services* sector. *Agriculture* ranked second for this community in terms of numbers of placements during 2019, regarding 43% of activations, which is a decidedly higher level than that noted for non-EU citizens as a whole, 25.2% of whom were hired within this ambit. The incidence of the Senegalese community stands at 8% for agriculture. Gender analysis reveals that the *Services* sector rate, with 41.7% of the jobs activated for Senegalese men, rises for the women of his community to more than twice that value (87.3%). The female Senegalese workforce in *Agriculture* is markedly lower than the rate for men (9.6% vs 47.5%).

Senegalese workers are mainly engaged in *skilled manual labour*, where almost half of the community workers are employed (49%), vs 28% of the non-EU workers as a whole. This is followed by the number of employees engaged in *unskilled manual labour* (36%), a value in line with that recorded among those employed from other non-EU countries (36%). 14% of the Senegalese workers are engaged in *offices, sales and personal services*, while the incidence of *managers and professionals in the intellectual and technical fields* stands at 1%.

Involvement of this community in the **world of entrepreneurship** is significant. While twelfth in regard to presences in Italy, this community ranks fifth among countries of origin for incidence of **sole proprietorships** in EU, attesting to a marked level of entrepreneurial initiative. As on 31 December 2019, there are **18,783** sole proprietors of Senegalese origin (4.9% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy). However, compared to the previous year, the number of enterprises fell by 2.7% (-516 enterprises). The main sector of investment is *Commerce and Transport*, accounting for as many as 86.4% of sole proprietorships owned by the Senegalese, attesting to a marked degree of specialisation of this community within the said sector. Ranking second as sector (merely 3.2%), we note *Business Services*.

Socio-economic conditions

On analysis of remuneration of non-EU employees, we note that commitment to industry and the skills base have led to benefits in terms of earnings for the Senegalese. Mean levels of **monthly remuneration** are higher than among non-EU workers as a whole: 1,264 euros vs 1,191 euros (i.e., a 73-euro higher salary). Turning to home helpers and agricultural labourers, the difference is negative, with mean monthly earnings of 521 and 463 euros, respectively. In these cases, Senegalese workers earn on average 120 and 162 euros less than non-EU workers as a whole.

Data show that Senegalese women are at a disadvantage in regard to earnings. Indeed, the gender pay gap is fairly wide among employees, with mean monthly salaries for males standing at more than 680 euros more than for females. In the ambits of home help and agricultural work, females receive a mean salary that is higher than that of males (+182 and +160 euros, respectively).

Among employed Senegalese citizens in Italy, a medium-low level of education prevails. More than 82% of Senegalese workers hold, *baste case* scenario, a junior secondary school leaving certificate, a quotient standing at 22.6% more than for the non-EU population as a whole. Approx. 13.3% received a senior secondary school leaving certificate. A mere 4.6% are holders of a higher education certificate.

The quotient of **IVS (disability, old-age and survivors') pensions** granted to non-EU citizens has always been rather small. In 2019, this quotient stood at 0.5% of the total (out of almost 14 million pensions, 65,926 regard non-EU citizens). Non-EU citizens receive old-age pensions (in 43% of such cases), followed by survivors' pensions (37.4%); 19.8% are granted disability pensions. With reference to the Senegalese community, there is a rather small number of pensioners, especially due to the prevalence of a young working class.

The distribution of the different types of social security measures is different from that recorded for non-EU migrants as a whole: disability pensions prevail, with an incidence of 42.2%, followed by old-age pensions (33.4%), while the quotient of survivors' pensions stands at 24.4%. Overall, with 908 IVS pensions, the Senegalese community accounts for 1.4% of the total of non-EU citizens who benefit from these measures. Between 2018 and 2019 the number of IVS pensions granted to migrants from Senegal recorded an increase in line with that recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole: + 12.8% vs + 12.3%. As to the Senegalese community, the beneficiaries of old-age pensions increased by 21.2%.

The level of **social assistance measures** provided by INPS to Senegalese citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civilian inability) is also low: 2,107 in 2019 (a mere 2.1% of those for non-EU migrant beneficiaries). 37.4% consist in constant attendance supplements; 34.9% are attendance allowances. The remaining 27.7% are social pensions and benefits.

With reference to **monetary transfers to families** (maternity benefits, parental leave and family allowances provided by INPS), in 2019 a total of 304,465 women received maternity benefits, 9.1% of whom were non-EU citizens (27,714) (3.1% less than the year before). During the same period, the beneficiaries of **maternity allowances** with Senegalese citizenship totalled 427, i.e., 1.5% of non-EU female beneficiaries (-5.9% vs 2018). As to parental leave, in 2019 there were a total of 299,028 such beneficiaries, denoting a 10.3% decrease vs 2018, 7.2% of whom were of non-EU origin (21,564). A total of 946 Senegalese nationals benefited from this measure in 2019 (4.4% of non-EU beneficiaries). As to the Senegalese community, a decrease can be noted compared to the previous year: -11.3%. The benefit that is most frequently received consists in family allowances. During 2019, as many as 2,446,795 beneficiaries were granted family allowances (-13.8% vs the year before). 12.5% of the beneficiaries were non-EU citizens (approx. 305,000) denoting a 13.5% decrease vs 2018. 10,464 members of this community were granted family allowances in 2019 (3.4% of non-EU citizens as a whole; -11.2% vs 2018).

As to transfers made by the Senegalese in Italy to their country of origin, Senegal ranks fourth as nation of destination (among non-EU countries) of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2019 (375.9 million euros), accounting for 7.3% of the total outgoing remittances (+5% vs 2018)

