

THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual Report on the Presence of Migrants
Executive Summary



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 international political studies organisation, CeSPI; 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



230.639 legally residing Ukrainian citizens

Ranking fourth for number of presences

113.979 “new Italians” in 2019 (2% are Ukrainians)



78,6%
women



21,4%
men

48% above the age of 50



21.012
minors under the age of 18

Ranking sixteenth for number of minors

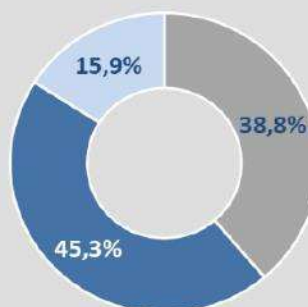
Present in:

Lombardia **22,3%**

Campania **17,5%**

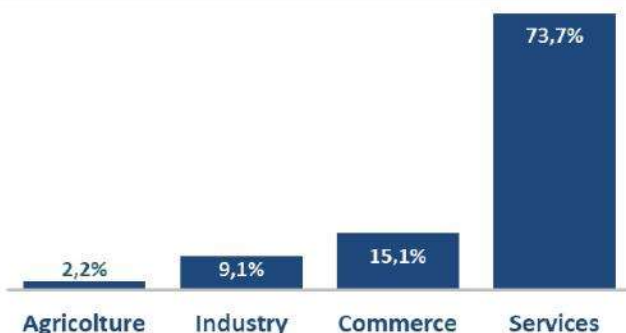
Emilia-Romagna **14%**

76,4%
long-term
residents



23,6% short-term permits

- Work
- Family
- Other reasons



65% employment rate

59,9% male 66,5% female

65% employed in personal services



55% services provision workers

Ranking twelfth for number of sole proprietorships (1,3%)



5.167 sole proprietors (+6,6%)

54,4% Ukrainian female sole proprietors

29,7% sole proprietorships in the **Construction sector**

Demographic characteristics

With **230,639 Ukrainian citizens** resident in Italy as on 1 January 2020, accounting for 6.4% of the non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy, Ukraine continues to rank fourth as non-EU community for number of residents.

The presence of the Ukrainian community dates back to the 1990s, largely made up of women who work prevalently in the sectors of family services (e.g., as home helpers, or care providers for the elderly or children).

As on 1 January 2020, socio-demographically speaking, two aspects most markedly set this community apart from the non-EU community as a whole:

- a **gender imbalance** with women markedly predominating (making up 78.6% of this migrant community), vs a quotient of 21.4% for men;
- a **mean age** that is much higher than that of non-EU migrants as a whole (**46** vs 34).

Characterising this community also is its marked presence in the Region of **Campania**, which is the region ranking second for Ukrainian presences (more than 40,400, i.e., 17.5% of the total, with an incidence 13% higher than that for migrants of non-EU origin as a whole). **Lombardia** ranks first as region of settlement of this community. Lombardia hosts slightly more than 22.3% of this community as a whole, i.e., slightly below the quotient of non-EU residents as a whole in this region (25.9%). **Emilia-Romagna** ranks third for Ukrainian presences (14%).

On analysis of residence permits, certain elements indicate progress in the direction of **stabilisation for the Ukrainian community**. The quotient of Ukrainian long-term residents (holders of permits not subject to renewal) stands at 76.4% (vs 63.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole). The incidence of long-term residents vs the total number of residence permits held has risen by more than 2% over the last year. In 2019, among the short-term permits, those relating to **family reunification** prevail (45.3%, i.e., approx. +4% during the last year and basically in line with the value recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole, 46.7%). 38.8% of Ukrainian citizens hold a permit due to work reasons, while 10.2% hold a permit for humanitarian and international protection reasons.

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 2019. 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 2017.

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 permits 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. 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.

There were **6,095 new residence permits** issued in 2019 to Ukrainian nationals, attesting to a sharp decrease in numbers vs the previous year (-23.3%). This community ranks eighth in terms of number of new residence permits issued in 2019.

The decrease in Ukrainian presences vs the previous year (-1.5%) is partly linked to **the acquisitions of citizenship**, which entail a replacement effect in the statistics. Out of a total of 113,979 citizenships granted to citizens originating from Third from non-EU countries in 2019, 2,400 were granted to Ukrainian migrants (2% of the total). Between 2012 and 2019, over 17,000 Ukrainian citizens acquired Italian citizenship. In 2019, more than ½ (54.8%) of citizenship acquisitions by citizens of Ukrainian origin were related to naturalisation.

The level of settlement of the Ukrainian community in Italy is also proven the number of marriages with Italian citizens. There are 2,706 marriages celebrated in 2018 in which at least one spouse is of Ukrainian nationality: 83.7% concerns an Italian husband and a Ukrainian wife, 15.1% involves both foreign spouses and 1.2% involve a Ukrainian citizen who marries an Italian woman. Compared to the previous year, marriages involving community members recorded a significant increase (+15.1%).

Minors and educational paths

As of 1 January 2020, there are **21,012** Ukrainian minors in Italy, accounting for 2.6% of the total number of non-EU minors. Among the communities under analysis, this community ranks last for number of minors within it (9%) This data is linked to the low presence of families with children. Ukrainian children born in Italy in 2018 were 1,034, accounting for 2% non-EU new-born nationals. Overall, over the last 8 years, approx. 513,000 children with non-EU citizenship were born in Italy, 10,000 of which are Ukrainian.

Due to the low quotient of minors within the Ukrainian community, Ukraine ranks twelfth among countries of origin of non-EU students; this value is well below compared to that relating to Ukrainian presences in Italy. However, almost all the minors in the community attend Italian schools: **Ukrainian students** enrolled in the 2019/2020 academic year are **20,278**, (approx. 3% of non-EU school population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the students from this community increased by a mere 0.8%, vs + 2.6% of non-EU students as a whole. The number of students increased both in primary school (+1.5%) and in junior secondary school (+3.5%). The incidence of students belonging to this community on the total of non-EU students is higher in senior secondary school, where approx. 4% of students are Ukrainian citizens, while it is lower in preschool institutions: 2.4%. The incidence of attendance in universities is higher. Accordingly, with 2,813 students (3.7% of non-EU students), Ukraine ranks sixth as country of origin of non-EU academic population

Among young Ukrainians, in absolute value terms, the incidence of **NEETs** (young people aged between 15 and 29 neither working nor engaged in education or training) is slightly lower than the mean value recorded for non-EU citizens as a whole (approx. 11,756 young people, and approx., 30.5% of Ukrainians in this age bracket, vs 33.1% of non-EU young people as a whole).

Work and employment

The distribution of employed persons of Ukrainian origin among the various sectors of economic activity is greatly influenced by the prevalence of the female component – itself leading to the formation of a most specific sectoral skills base –, influenced also by social relations orienting Ukrainian workers toward the sector of *Public, social and personal services*, which prevails (with almost 2/3 of Ukrainian workers in Italy, i.e., 65%).

The high incidence of women employed in the Ukrainian female population and the prevalent employment in the Services sector, less subject to critical economic downturns, with following repercussions on employment levels, contribute to achieving better performance in the labour market compared to those recorded among non-EU citizens as a whole. Accordingly, the **employment rate** stands at 65%, a value approx. 5% higher compared to the value recorded for non-EU population as a whole; the **inactivity rate** is lower than the mean value (approx. -7%) and, among Ukrainian citizens, stands at 23.5%. The **unemployment rate** stands at 14.3% (vs 13.8% for non-EU population as a whole), a 2.2% increase vs 2018. Within the community, we note significant differences between the male employment rate (about 60%) and the female one (66.5%). Indicators relating to women alone are very positive, especially when compared with those relating to the female component of the non-EU population as a whole.

84,666 Ukrainian workers were **hired** in 2019 (approx. 5.4% of the new employment relationships activated for non-EU citizens in the same year, with a 1.9% increase vs the previous year). Indicating that women from this community

are drawn to the labour market to a decidedly lesser extent than men, the data provided by the *Comunicazioni Obbligatorie* (mandatory notices) reveal that 76.1% of new job relationships involving Ukrainian citizens in 2019 concern the female component of the community (31.3% recorded I for non-EU citizens as a whole). Most of the new subordinate and para-subordinate jobs started during 2019 by Ukrainian workers (more than 85%), falls within the *Services* sector, which represents the first reference sector also for non-EU workers as a whole, albeit with a less marked incidence compared to the community under analysis (58.6%). *Agriculture* ranks second in terms of number of hires, involving 7.2% of Ukrainian workers. A gender analysis shows the high involvement of women in the *Services* sector. Accordingly, this sector employs about 61% of male workers and 93% of female workers.

Prevalent among Ukrainians are workers in the sphere of *skilled provision of personal and similar services*, who, alongside *unskilled home helpers*, account for almost 46% of placements. Among *personal and similar services* placements (33.5%), the incidence (vs non-EU workers as a whole) of new contracts with workers from this community is significant. The 28,325 contracts for this activity correspond to more than ¼ of such hirings among non-EU citizens as a whole.

Since Ukrainian citizens largely provide personal services and home help, which are sectors for which access to **wage supplements** is somewhat impeded, this community benefits little from CIGO (ordinary redundancy fund) payments and CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. 2.5% (1,395) of non-EU citizens granted supplements are Ukrainian. Since this community makes up approx. 8.6% of the non-EU workforce, the incidence is negligible. The beneficiaries are mainly granted CIGO payments (1,268), while 127 are granted CIGS (extraordinary redundancy fund) payments. Ukrainian citizens account for 10.6% of non-EU citizens receiving **unemployment benefits** – 49,517 granted mainly NASPI (*Nuova Prestazione di assicurazione sociale per l'impiego* – social employment insurance scheme) benefits. Women prevail as beneficiaries of the social employment insurance schemes including NASPI (approx. 87%) and *Disoccupazione Agricola* (agricultural unemployment) (60.5%). Men mainly receive payments termed *Mobilità* (mobility) (72.7%).

Involvement of the Ukrainian component in the world of entrepreneurship is limited. Indeed, with its **5,167 sole proprietors**, this community ranks twelfth in terms of number of enterprises. However, the number of sole proprietors of Ukrainians rose by 6.6% vs the year before (+319 units). The construction sector is the sector within which most investment takes place (29.7%), followed by *Commerce and Transport* (23.8%). The level of investment in this latter ambit is in any case decidedly lower than that noted for enterprises owned by non-EU citizens as a whole (43%).

Socio-economic conditions

Employment in *Services* and acquisition of the pertaining skills shielded these workers from the rigours of the economic crisis. **Average monthly salaries** for home helpers were much lower (approx. -440 euros) than those of employees, lowering the community's mean earnings, that are lower than those of non-EU citizens as a whole. The earnings of Ukrainian home helpers and agricultural workers are in any case slightly higher than those of non-EU workers in this sector as a whole (+35 euros and +40 euros, respectively). Employees earn slightly less than the mean calculated for non-EU employees as a whole (-75 euros). Female home helpers earn 60 euros more than their male Ukrainian colleagues. However, we note a wide gender pay gap among employees, with males earning more than 400 euros more than females. The gap narrows to 155 euros among agricultural workers.

As is not the case among non-EU nationals as a whole, a medium-high level of education prevails among the Ukrainian citizens employed in Italy. 46.6% of the workers belonging to this community obtained at least a senior secondary school leaving certificate (as many as 20.8% are also degree holders). The number of holders of a higher education certificate is higher than the non-EU mean (with more than 59.6% holding at best a junior secondary school leaving certificate). Women of the community have higher levels of education than men: 22.3% of employed women hold a degree (vs 14.8% of men), a value significantly higher than that recorded for the non-EU female population (16.3 %).

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. In the Ukrainian community there is a prevalence of old-age pensions (almost 58.3%), followed by survivors' pensions (34.1%), disability pensions account for 7.6%. Overall, with its 9,298

IVS pensions, the Ukrainian community accounts for 14.1% of the total for non-EU citizens granted such benefits. Between 2018 and 2019, the numbers of IVS pensions provided to Ukrainians doubled compared to those granted to non-EU citizens as a whole: +28.2% vs +12.3%. Above all, the number of Ukrainians receiving old-age pensions rose by 43.4% (vs 17.1% of non-EU citizens as a whole).

As to **social assistance measures** provided by INPS (the National Social Security Institute) to Ukrainian citizens (solely welfare services for the most vulnerable, due to age conditions reached or civilian inability), 7,109 (approx. 7% of those for non-EU migrants as a whole). 51.2% consist in social benefits; slightly less than 1/3 are attendance allowances, and the remaining 17.8% are constant attendance supplements. However, Ukrainian beneficiaries of welfare pensions increased in 2019 (+12.1% vs the previous year).

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). The Ukrainian beneficiaries of maternity allowances totalled 1,510, i.e., 5.4% of non-EU female beneficiaries (maternity allowances fell in number by approx. 3% vs 2018). As to parental leave, in 2019 there were 299,028 Ukrainian beneficiaries, i.e., 7.2% of non-EU beneficiaries (21,564), denoting a 10.3% decrease vs 2018. A total of 656 Ukrainian nationals benefited from this measure in 2019 (3% of non-EU beneficiaries, a 20% increase vs 2018). 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 (305,000), denoting a 13.5% decrease vs 2018. 7,995 members of this community were granted family allowances in 2019 (2.6% of non-EU citizens as a whole; -15.3%). Overall, the incidence of beneficiaries belonging to the Ukrainian community – vs the beneficiaries receiving benefits to families of all the various kinds analysed – is fairly negligible, given the low incidence of minors and families within this community.

As to transfers made by the Ukrainians in Italy to their country of origin, Ukraine ranks tenth as nation of destination of **remittances** sent from Italy in 2019 (approx. 173.7 million euros), accounting for 3.4% of the total outgoing remittances (+8.6% vs 2018).

