



THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Migrant population annual report
Executive summary



20
22

Curated by the General Directorate for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Annual Reports on the main foreign communities in Italy investigate and analyse the presence in Italy of the largest populations of non-EU migrants: Moroccan, Albanian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Indian, Filipino, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Pakistani, Moldovan, Sri Lankan, Senegalese, Tunisian, Nigerian, Peruvian and Ecuadorian.

For also in the 2022 edition is the contribution of the Institutions and Bodies that provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies with the necessary information, subsequently processed by the ANPAL Servizi Integration Services Area. Sincere thanks are due to ISTAT – National Institute of Statistics, INPS – General Statistical Actuarial Coordination, the Ministry of Education and University, the Ministry of University and Research, the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; CeSPI, CISL, UIL, UGL trade union confederations and U.O. Data Science Applications – ANPAL Servizi Studies and Research. The financial inclusion section was curated by Daniele Frigeri, Director of the National Observatory on Financial Inclusion of ANPAL Servizi.

The unabridged volumes of the 2021 – 2022 editions of the Reports on the Main Foreign Communities in Italy are available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, in the “Documents and Research - Reports by the Immigration and Integration Policies DG” area of the portal www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it and in the "Studies and Statistics" area of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies website - www.lavoro.gov.it. A statistical annex is also available at the same addresses, containing additional information with respect to the reports, or with insights on the existing analysis and a comparison between the main nationalities.

The 2022 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities, the translation of the overviews into the main vehicular languages and the Monitoring Report were produced by the “Services for Integration Policies” Area of ANPAL Servizi, in the framework of the project “START-Support to Integrated Multiannual Programming on Employment, Integration and Inclusion”.

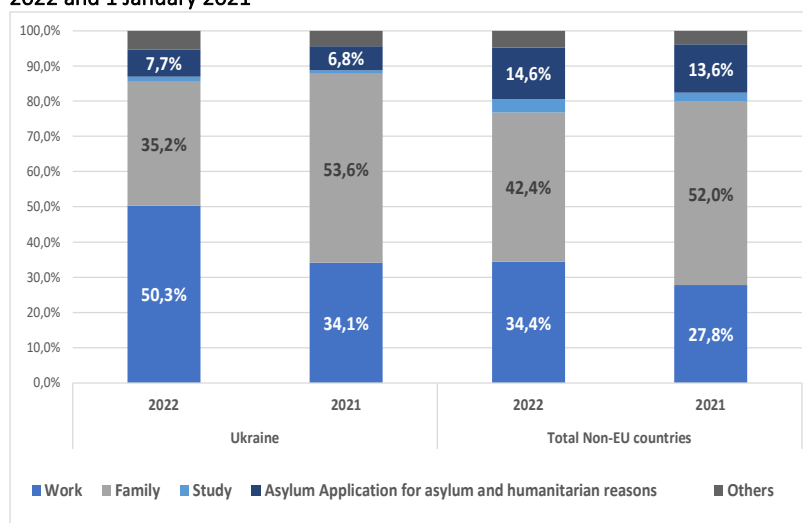
The Ukrainian community in Italy

The migratory history of the Ukrainian community in Italy is fairly recent, despite a large migratory large population. The first migratory outflows from the country began with the fall of the Soviet Union and effective Ukraine independence (1991); the exodus was triggered mainly by an exponential rise in the cost of living and a lack of job opportunities. In response to the labour shortage in European countries, this emigration immediately took on a gendered connotation: men to Spain, Portugal and especially Russia, while Ukrainian women picked up on the growing demand for domestic and care work in other countries, including Italy. Initially associated with widespread irregularity and instability, the situation of these female workers changed with the formalizations that followed the adoption of Law 189/2002 (law on female status – “Bossi-Fini law”), which allowed a large number of Ukrainian citizens to exit the illegal and grey labour market and definitively helped consolidate the community as one of the most numerous in terms of presence in Italy. Family reunification and new arrivals gradually helped to ease the gender imbalance in the community, with ever more minors and men joining the large female population that had long been present in the country. This process, which is ongoing, is likely to be further boosted by the ongoing tragic conflict currently under way in the former Soviet republic, which in February 2022 consisted in the Ukrainian army repelling the invading Russian army¹.

There were 230,373 Ukrainians legally residing in Italy as of 1 January 2022, placing the community in fourth position among the main non-EU citizens in numerical terms. Ukrainian citizens account for 6.5% of the total non-EU population, with population growth of around 3% with respect to 2021.

The age pyramid of the Ukrainian community in Italy shows a more unbalanced distribution than that of the Italian population, with a higher average age and fewer minors. In fact, the incidence of older age groups is higher, with an over 60s share almost three times higher than that total non-EU citizens: about 29%, versus 10.2% for the non-EU total. The figure highlights a well-known socio-occupational phenomenon: increasingly, in fact, senior age Ukrainian women come to Italy to meet the labour shortage in the personal care sector where the demand is constantly rising due to the ageing Italian population. It follows

Short-term residence permits by type and citizenship (v%). Data as at 1 January 2022 and 1 January 2021



Source: SpINT Area analysis of Anpal Servizi on ISTAT-Ministry of the Interior data

that the immigrant community has a very high average age (52), this factor to be considered together with a marked gender imbalance (women account for 79% of the community).

Despite these data, an analysis of residence permit types reveals the high level of stability achieved by the community: the number of long-term residents on 1 January 2022 was 81.2%, exceeding the figure recorded for non-EU citizens in total by more than 15 percentage points. This is in line with the overall findings for the non-EU population, in which long-term residents increased by 7.8% compared to 2020,

¹ In this regard, it should be stressed that, apart from a few specific parts (e.g., unaccompanied foreign minors), the data available at the time of writing concern 2021, making it impossible to analyse the effects of the conflict on the Ukrainian community in Italy.

Also, the Ukrainian community displayed an upward trend, albeit slightly less pronounced (+7.3%). Among short-term residence permits there is a clear prevalence of work reasons, which account for just over half of all short-term permits, an incidence that is more than 15 percentage points higher than that recorded for all non-EU nationals (where permits for work fall into second place behind those issued for family reasons).

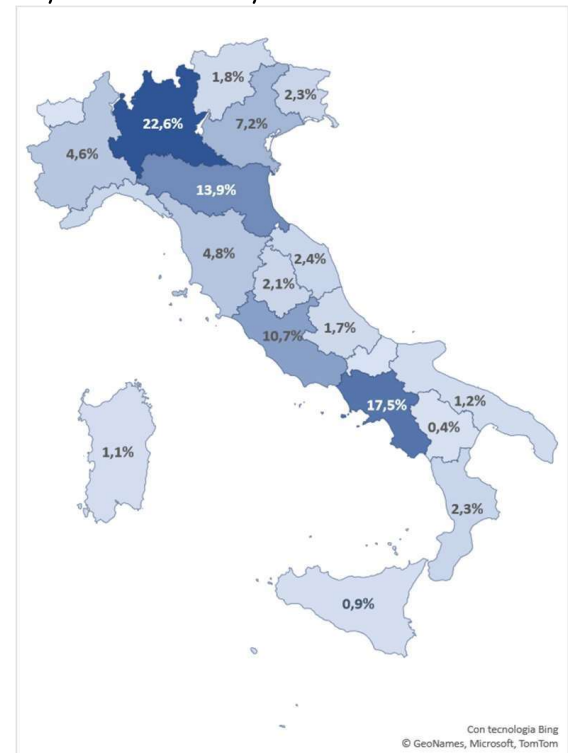
In 2021, after the drastic drop recorded in 2020 due to the worldwide travel restrictions introduced to combat the spread of the SARS-COV 2 virus, there was a general increase in new permits issued, also due to the legislation passed to counter the illegal job market (Decree-Law 34 of 2020), which allowed regularisation of non-EU citizens already residing in Italy without formal recognition. In more than half the cases (52.4%), the 10,000 plus Ukrainian citizens who entered Italy in 2021 did so for work reasons, with an exponential increase (+1,189.8%) compared to the previous year: one in ten new work permits in Italy in 2021 were issued to Ukrainian citizens.

With regard to geographical distribution, 54.7% of Ukrainian citizens in Italy are in the north of the country most notably in Lombardy, which has the highest number of Ukrainian immigrants with 22.6% of the total (versus around 26% of the non-EU population considered globally); this is followed by Campania which, with 17.5% of the total is the second region of residence for Ukrainian citizens (versus 11.3% of the non-EU population considered globally). Emilia-Romagna is in third place, with about 14% of the total Ukrainian population of Italy. Central Italy is home to 20% of the Ukrainian population legally residing in Italy: in particular, more than half (10.7%) of the total number of Ukrainian immigrants in central Italy reside in Lazio. The Ukrainian community has a higher-than-average presence in the south (25.3%, compared to an average of 14.6% of non-Community residents), although the presence in other regions is residual and the majority of the Ukrainian community is concentrated in Campania.

The presence of UFM's is a particularly distinctive feature of this community, especially in light of the conflict that swept through the country in February 2022. As of 31 December 2022 in fact, with 5,042 minors Ukraine is the first country of origin of UFM's in Italy: the number is so high that one out of every four Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in Italy is of Ukrainian nationality; to give an idea of the impact of the conflict on the number of Ukrainian UFM's, there were only five at 31 December 2021. 51% of Ukrainian unaccompanied minors are girls, with a small number approaching the age of majority (about 13% of Ukrainian unaccompanied minors 17 years of age).

Data on the job market² show a marked channelling of the community in the *Personal Services* sector, which is prevalent, accounting for more than half (around 57%) of employed Ukrainian immigrants, clearly driven by the marked presence of women in this sector (69.2%). The next area in terms of Ukrainian job holders, although very distant, is the *industry in the strict sense*, which employs one in ten Ukrainian workers: in this case, it is Ukrainian men who make up the majority of the statistic, with jobs held by one in four Ukrainian men.

Distribution of the Ukrainian population legally residing in Italy. Data as at 1 January 2022

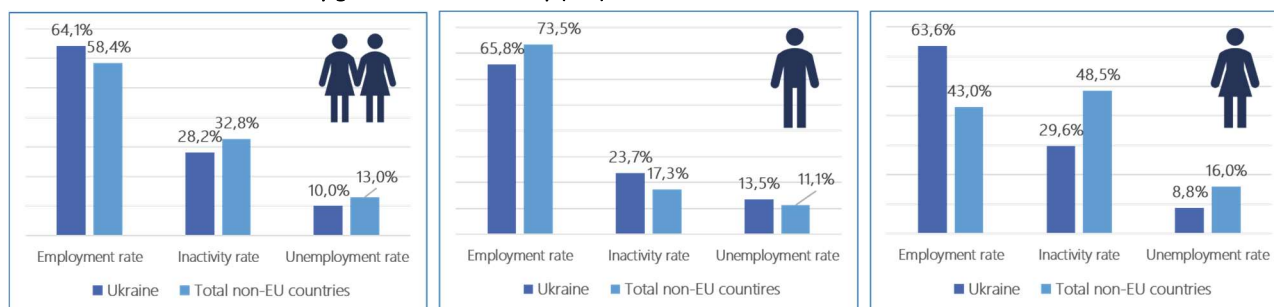


Source: Anpal Servizi SpINT Area analysis of ISTAT data

² Labour market data are from ISTAT RCFL as of 1H 2022.

An analysis of the main labour market indicators reveals better employment performance than that recorded for the non-EU population as a whole: in the first half of 2022, 64.1% of the Ukrainian population aged 15-64 in Italy was employed, a significantly higher share than that recorded for the non-EU population as a whole (58.4%); conversely, the inactivity rate of the community in question is 28.2% (compared to around 33% for the non-EU population as a whole), while the unemployment rate stands at 10% for the community (the non-EU average is 13%). As we have seen, the Ukrainian population in Italy is characterised by a strong female lead, as also confirmed in the employment sphere: in fact, the community is among those with the highest rate of female employment: 63.6% (more than 20 points higher than the non-EU women as a whole), a lower inactivity rate (29.6% versus the 48.5% recorded for non-EU women) and significantly lower unemployment than non-EU women overall (8.8% versus 16%).

Main labour market indicators by gender and nationality (v.%). H1 2022



Source: SpINT Area analysis of Anpal Servizi on RCFL - ISTAT microdata

In addition to the sector breakdown, the community also has an above-average level of education: of all communities analysed Ukrainian immigrants are those with the highest incidence of university graduates among the employed, more than double that recorded for the non-EU population considered globally (22% versus 10.5%).

In relation to job types, in line with the above information, the predominant job type for the community in the first half of 2022 was *white collar, sales and personal services*, accounting for 47.5% of Ukrainian employees. Unskilled manual labour accounts for 33.6% of the community workforce, while 15.3% are employed in skilled manual labour positions. Finally, the incidence of *executives and professionals in the intellectual and technical field* is 3.5%.

The Ukrainian community, which occupies fourth place in terms of the number of non-EU citizens in Italy, is twelfth in terms of the number of sole proprietors, highlighting the community's low level of entrepreneurial vocation: the 5,729 sole traders of Ukrainian origin (31 December 2021) represent 1.5% of non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy, a number that is growing compared to 2020 (+6.1%)

Regarding the use of welfare measures³, almost 4% of non-EU wage supplement recipients are Ukrainian, a percentage that rises to around 5% in the case of the redundancy fund in derogation (CIGD). With regard to unemployment benefit, note that 11.4% of non-EU recipients are Ukrainian, a further indicator of positive integration into the Italian labour market. Unlike the non-EU population as a whole, the community is also particularly affected by IVS and welfare pensions: some 10% and 7.4% respectively of non-EU beneficiaries are Ukrainian nationals. The percentage rises to almost 23% for old-age pensions, also due to migratory seniority and higher average age than other communities. Good percentages were also recorded for social assistance pensions and family allowances (5.5%) and attendance allowances (11%), further proving the community's deeply rooted presence in Italian society.

The final statistic shows a significant incidence in the Ukrainian community of Basic Income (Reddito di cittadinanza) and Basic Pension (Pensione di cittadinanza) recipients: 14,324 families receiving Basic Income or Basic Pensions (6.4% of non-EU recipients).

³ National Social Security Institute – Statistical and Actuarial General Coordination at 2021.

