

**Innocenti Working Paper**

**THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN  
IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN ITALY:  
CHANGES AND CHALLENGES**

**Letizia Mencarini, Emiliana Baldoni and  
Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna**

**Special Series on Children in Immigrant  
Families in Affluent Societies**

**IWP-2009-15**

**October 2009**

## **Innocenti Working Papers**

### **Special Series on Children in Immigrant Families in Affluent Societies**

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ISSN: 1014-7837

*For readers wishing to cite this document, we suggest the following form:*

Mencarini, Letizia, Emiliana Baldoni and Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna (2009), 'The Situation of Children in Immigrant Families in Italy: Changes and Challenges', *Innocenti Working Paper*, no. 2009-15, Florence, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

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<i>The Children of Immigrants in France: The Emergence of a Second Generation</i> by Thomas Kirszbaum, Yaël Brinbaum and Patrick Simon, with Esin Gezer
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<i>The Situation of Children in Immigrant Families in Italy: Changes and Challenges</i> by Letizia Mencarini, Emiliana Baldoni and Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna
<i>Children in Immigrant Families in the Netherlands: A Statistical Portrait and a Review of the Literature</i> by Helga A. G. de Valk, Kris R. Noam, Alinda M. Bosch and Gijs C. N. Beets
<i>Children in Immigrant Families in Switzerland: On a Path between Discrimination and Integration</i> by Rosita Fibbi and Philippe Wanner
<i>The Situation of Children in Immigrant Families in the United Kingdom</i> by Heaven Crawley

The findings presented in this series are based on data derived from sources of the countries' respective national statistical offices. In several cases, the basic estimates reported have been calculated directly by the national statistical offices on behalf of the country study teams. In other cases, microdata have been provided by the national statistical offices, and specific estimates have been calculated by the country experts.

The results reported represent the best estimates possible on the immigrant population as derived from official statistical sources. Given the fluid nature of the migration phenomenon, it is not possible to know precisely the extent to which the coverage is representative of the whole population of interest or is fully comparable across the countries studied. In general, the number of undocumented arrivals and undocumented residents is more difficult to measure through routine data collection processes, and the country researchers did not specifically address this segment of the immigrant population. Undocumented immigrants and their families may or may not be covered in some of the country analyses.

The country studies have been reviewed as individually indicated by national experts, by members of the international research team, including UNICEF IRC, and by the series editor.

The project has been supported by contributions to the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre by the Government of Sweden and the Swiss Committee for UNICEF and by a contribution by the Government of Spain to UNICEF for policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights.

# THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN ITALY: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

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**Summary:** According to 2001 Census data more than 900,000 children aged 0–17, 10 per cent of all children in Italy, were born abroad or had at least one parent who was born abroad. One or both of the parents of about 500,000 children in immigrant families were born in less developed countries. Children now account for almost 23 per cent of the foreign population. In this report, we have analysed household composition and wellbeing of children in immigrant families with 2001 Italian Census data and 2006 survey data. Inclusion and other social issues are reviewed through the most recent literature.

The following are among key findings of the study:

- The number of children in immigrant families has doubled in the last five years, and the range of countries of origin among these families is perhaps the widest in Europe.
- The majority of children of immigrant origin grow up in complete families, though one-parent households are rather common.
- Poverty rates tend to rise according to the number of children in a household. Immigrant families tend to be larger.
- Immigrant families tend to experience overcrowding in housing. A substantial share of second-generation immigrants owns their homes, though the homes tend to be smaller than the average across the population.
- Only 25 per cent of young people aged 18 to 24 in immigrant families are still in school. The share among native-born Italians is 40 per cent. Children in immigrant families tend to choose the vocational or professional tracks in the education system.
- Immigrants are at a general disadvantage in the job market. Even parents from countries of origin with older historical immigration flows to Italy tend to have less well qualified jobs.
- Economic activity rates among mothers in immigrant families are high. This is an effect of the large share of women working in home care and domestic services. They often work part time.
- There are differences in education and labour force participation between young fathers and mothers in immigrant families. These differences appear to be rooted in corresponding differences in the countries of origin.

**Keywords:** immigrant child, immigrant family, demography, education, labour market, discrimination, citizenship, health, poverty, deviant behaviour

**Acknowledgments:** An earlier version of the report was discussed at the project review meeting held at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, on 6 June 2008. Kristina Touzenis, advisor at the International Organization for Migration, Rome, reviewed the paper. Thanks to the staff at the ADELE Laboratory of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) and to Donatella Zindato for precious help. Eva Jespersen (formerly of UNICEF IRC) and Donald Hernandez (formerly of University at Albany, State University of New York) have provided additional comments. The study was edited by Robert Zimmermann.

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

EEA	European Economic Area: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, plus the EU
EU	European Union
EU-12	New EU member states admitted between May 2004 and January 2007: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
EU-15	EU member states before May 2004: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
2. RECENT PATTERNS IN IMMIGRATION .....	2
3. SIZE AND ORIGIN OF THE POPULATION OF CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES .....	3
4. CURRENT NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP POLICY .....	15
5. DATA ANALYSIS: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND CHILDREN WELLBEING .....	17
5.1 Definitions and methodological clarifications .....	17
5.2 Family environment .....	21
5.3 Youth and the labour market .....	40
6. LITERATURE REVIEW: INCLUSION AND OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES .....	48
6.1 Educational attainment among children .....	48
6.2 Children and health .....	56
6.3 Socialization and identity .....	56
6.4 Youth and deviant behaviour .....	59
6.5 Significance and function of the religious dimension .....	62
7. CONCLUSIONS .....	63
References .....	65





# 1. INTRODUCTION

Immigrants have arrived in Italy from a broad spectrum of countries. This diversity has meant that there is generally less concentration and ghettoization among immigrant groups, compared to other destination countries. However, this diversity has also required greater diversity in the responses of Italian society, including through social services. Immigration flows consist more and more of complete families and the number of children in immigrant families is on the rise. Until now, little research has been conducted on these issues, despite the extraordinarily rapid growth in immigration and in the number of foreign children in the last decade. The aim of this report is therefore to draw a full statistical portrait of children in immigrant families in Italy.

We first provide a brief perspective on recent immigration. We then sketch out the major demographic characteristics of immigrant groups in Italy, especially children and families, based on our elaboration on data of the latest census, in 2001 (see Table 1) and information derived from a more recent ad hoc survey in 2006. We combine the two data sources to examine the social and economic situation of children in immigrant families. Most of the tables have been created specifically for this paper and thus supply new and unique information on children in immigrant families in Italy. We also highlight the current regulatory framework on immigration and the naturalization process for immigrants and children of immigrant origin. In the literature review, we analyse the most recent studies on the social environment in which these children grow, including the education system, health care and the labour market.

**Table 1: Basic Data on Children in Immigrant Families, Main Countries of Origin, Italy, 21 October 2001, number and per cent of children**

Family origin	Number	Age at last birthday, %				Italian citizens, %
		0–4	5–9	10–14	15–17	
In native-born families	8,715,285	25.8	27.1	29.0	18.1	—
In immigrant families (all countries)	927,211	33.2	28.9	25.0	12.9	71.2
Switzerland	119,370	35.0	31.5	23.4	10.2	99.3
Germany	104,714	33.3	29.7	24.8	12.2	97.7
France	63,048	25.8	29.3	29.6	15.3	96.5
Morocco	59,300	43.9	27.2	17.9	11.0	14.7
Albania	49,956	39.6	28.2	21.8	10.4	13.1
United Kingdom	28,682	30.2	30.1	26.7	13.1	95.9
Belgium	26,196	22.8	27.2	30.8	19.2	98.4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	25,087	25.1	29.8	29.8	15.3	98.6
Romania	24,897	33.8	30.9	24.9	10.4	53.3
Brazil	22,628	23.5	28.3	31.9	16.3	92.1
United States of America	21,957	32.0	29.4	25.9	12.8	93.4
Tunisia	21,745	40.4	29.0	19.8	10.7	44.6
Argentina	21,165	22.7	26.5	31.0	19.8	93.3
Canada	15,281	31.7	31.6	25.7	11.0	98.8
China	14,695	36.1	23.0	26.3	14.6	9.5
Poland	13,806	42.4	27.5	19.7	10.4	74.4
Philippines	13,298	34.4	31.8	23.1	10.7	29.4
Egypt	12,999	34.6	28.8	24.2	12.5	45.7
Peru	11,284	32.7	24.0	28.5	14.8	46.6
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10,743	18.5	25.0	32.5	24.0	97.2
India	10,499	32.4	27.7	25.3	14.6	36.6

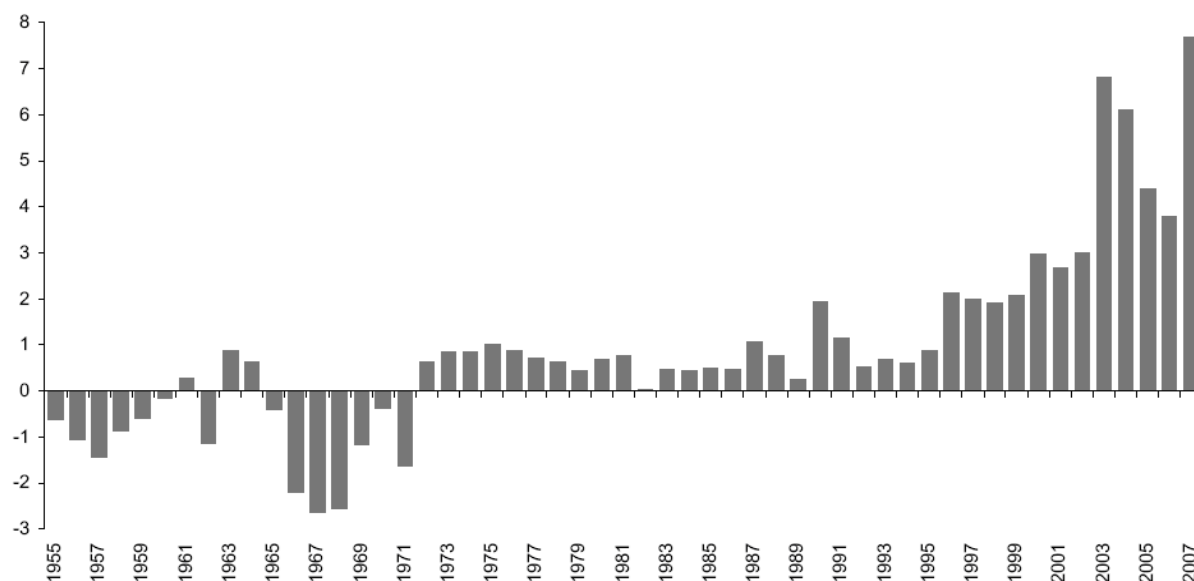
Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: The table shows countries of origin represented in Italy by at least 10,000 children in immigrant families.

## 2. RECENT PATTERNS IN IMMIGRATION

Until the beginning of the 1970s, Italy had been a country of emigration for more than a century. Estimates suggest that 26 million Italians have helped populate the Americas and Australia and sustained population growth in many European countries, including especially Belgium, France and Germany (Golini and Amato 2001). Until the 1970s, the balance between the emigrant and immigrant population was negative, meaning that there were more net emigrants than immigrants (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: International Migration Balance, Italy, 1955–2007**



Source: Istat (2007a).

Note: The figure shows the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants per 1,000 residents. A negative number indicates that there are more net emigrants than net immigrants.

Like the United Kingdom, Italy did not become a country of net immigration until the mid-1970s, but, unlike the United Kingdom, Italy experienced only limited immigration before the 1970s. Even in the 1990s, there was still substantial migration taking place from southern Italy – the regions of Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Sardinia and Sicily – towards northern Italy or abroad.

This has now changed. Over the last 10 years, the native-born Italian population has continued to shrink, mainly because the very low birth rates, but the number of resident foreigners has been expanding rapidly. The number of labour immigrants has risen more quickly in Italy and the United Kingdom than in any other countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD 2008). The early waves of immigration from Albania and, more recently, Romania have now been replaced in Italy by flows from a large range of countries. The number of foreigners in Italy in 1999 was a little more than 1 million (Table 2). By the end of 2008, the documented foreign population had reached about 3.7 million. The estimated 700,000 immigrant with irregular status resident in Italy add substantially to the total of at least 4.4 million foreigners, representing 7.3 per cent of the total population.

**Table 2: Italian and Foreign Population, Italy, 1999–2008***millions and per cent*

<i>Population segment</i>	<i>Number, millions</i>				<i>Average annual variation, 1,000s</i>			
	<i>1 January 1999</i>	<i>1 January 2003</i>	<i>30 June 2006</i>	<i>30 June 2008</i>	<i>1999– 2003</i>	<i>2003– 2006</i>	<i>2006– 2008</i>	<i>1999– 2008</i>
Resident population, total	57.6	58.8	59.8	60.3	+300	+286	+250	+275
Italians	56.5	56.3	56.1	55.9	–50	–57	–100	–70
Foreigners	1.1	2.5	3.7	4.4	+350	+343	+350	+348
Share of foreigners, %	1.9	4.3	6.6	7.3	—	—	—	—

*Source:* Billari and Dalla Zuanna (2008).*Note:* The foreign population and foreigners consist of documented and estimated residents with irregular status (and undocumented) in Italy who are not Italian citizens.

The pattern of immigration is also changing. In the past, low-skilled, low-wage and often undocumented men – less frequently women – seeking work dominated the immigration flows. Many were seasonal workers, and they normally arrived and stayed for brief periods without their families. Now, immigration flows consist more and more of complete families. This is an indication that the immigrants intend to settle permanently.

Another indication is the rise in the number of children in immigrant families, and the children are coming from an enormous variety of countries. Many of the children who have arrived in Italy since 1996 are from western Africa and Asia, particularly Bangladesh and India. There have also been large flows of children from Albania, the Republic of Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Many of the countries are new in the immigration flows to Italy.

### **3. SIZE AND ORIGIN OF THE POPULATION OF CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

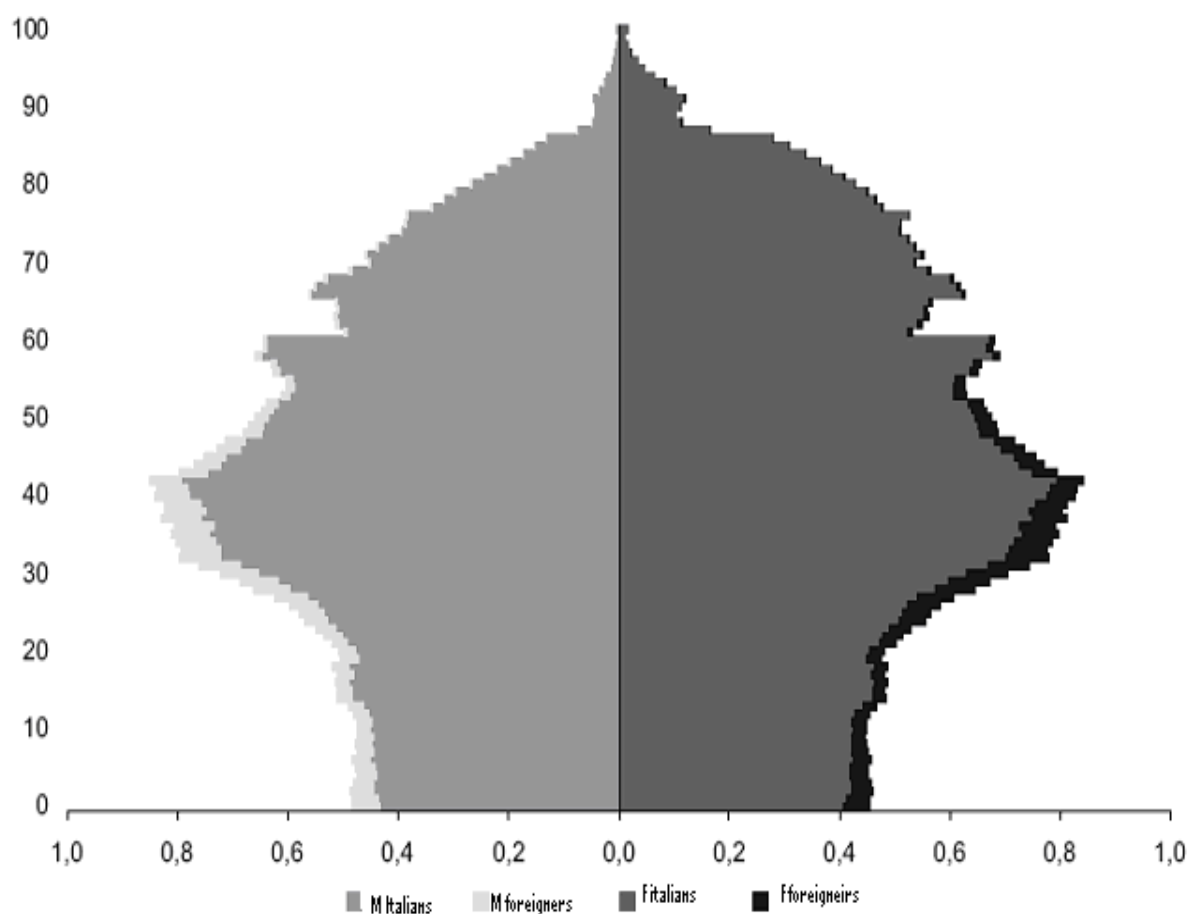
According to official data, in 2001, almost 700,000 households in Italy contained at least one foreign citizen. They accounted for 1.9 per cent of all households. Two thirds of these households were entirely foreign (Istat 2007b). According to estimates, for 2007, almost 4 per cent of all Italian households now have at least one foreign member. This rapid increase has been generated partly by the soaring number of family reunifications. At the same time, we have also observed a rise in the number of individuals of immigrant origin forming families in Italy.

There has been an annual average of 600,000 deaths and 850,000 additions in the population of Italy in the last decade. The additions consist of 500,000 newborns who have at least one Italian parent, 50,000 newborns who have two foreign parents and about 300,000 net immigrants. Births to foreign parents are the most important component of the growth in the number of foreign children in Italy and make up over 72 per cent of the total positive change. Children who have come to Italy from abroad to join their families also represent part of the increase. Births to mixed Italian and foreign couples have also risen, though these newborns, by Italian law, having one Italian parent, are automatically entitled to Italian citizenship.

The high birth rate among foreigners – 21 live births per 1,000 relevant population – is an indication that immigrant families are setting roots in Italy. It also represents a significant contribution towards overall population growth in the country. The number of children born to parents who were both foreign citizens was 56,765 in 2006. This represented an increase of

11 per cent over the corresponding number in 2005, which is greater than the corresponding increase in foreigners as a share in the total population (Istat 2007b). It also represented over 10 per cent of all births in the country. The highest share is 17 per cent in Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto. There are also high concentrations in some provinces: 1 in 5 births in Brescia (Lombardy) and Prato (Tuscany) and 1 in 4 births in Modena and Reggio Emilia (both Emilia-Romagna) and in Treviso and Vicenza (both Veneto). This is in stark contrast to the majority of the regions in southern Italy, where the share is only 1 or 2 per cent.

**Figure 2: Age Structure of Resident Population by Gender and Citizenship, Italy, 1 January 2007**



*Source:* Billari and Dalla Zuanna (2008).

*Note:* The y-axis indicates age in years. The x-axis indicates per cent (thus, '1,0' = 1.0%). Ages among men are shown on the left-hand side of the figure. Ages among women are shown on the right-hand side.

In 2007, 15 per cent of births occurred to couples including at least one foreign parent. Children now account for 22.7 per cent of the foreign population. This is 6 percentage points higher than the share of children in the overall population. Foreign children represent 6.6 per cent of all children in Italy. The number of foreign children is projected to reach 1 million by around 2010 (Blangiardo and Molina 2006).

Immigrants are also modifying the mechanisms of population change and population structure (Billari and Dalla Zuanna 2008). The resident foreign population in 2007 was younger than the Italian population (Figure 2). It had an average age of 30 years, while the Italian average was 14 years older.

The immigrant population played a role in the slight increase in fertility recorded in Italy between 1996 and 2004. However, relevant measures of fertility suggest that the contribution of immigrant families to the rise, 27 per cent, is not surprisingly large (see Castiglioni and Dalla Zuanna 2009). These considerations do not exclude the possibility that, in some areas, the contribution of fertility among immigrant families may have had greater significance. Almost all the births among women in immigrant families took place in the centre and north of the country; the number of women immigrants in the south was much smaller, and these women tended to have rather low fertility rates because most of them were not yet well established in their communities. Moreover, in some areas, the share of foreigners was especially large. Some studies find that the importance of births among immigrant women is growing in the population replacement rate in several cities (see, for example, Magherini and Mencarini 2001, Regina et al. 2003 and Ferro 2005 on the case of Florence). Fertility rates are highest among women in immigrant families from Egypt and Pakistan.

According to our calculations based on the 2001 census data, more than 900,000 children aged 0–17 as of their last birthday – 10 per cent of all children in Italy – were born abroad or had at least one parent who was born abroad (Table 3). One or both of the parents of about 500,000 children in immigrant families were born in less developed countries. From the data, it emerges a great range in the countries of origin. The most important countries in the less developed country group, Albania and Morocco, count for less than 7 per cent of the total of all countries and only 12 per cent of the total of all less developed countries.

In 2006, according to official statistics, the most important countries of origin of foreign residents in Italy included Albania, China, Morocco, the Philippines, Romania and Ukraine, which, together, accounted for almost 50 per cent of the total foreign population and the total population of foreign children (Table 4).<sup>1</sup> Although foreigners were residing mainly in large cities in the centre and north of the country, some smaller cities also contained large numbers of immigrants. This is tied directly to the typical structure of industrial production in Italy, where small factories are distributed across the country. In addition, immigrant concentrations were also being driven by the demand for home care services and other domestic services, in which there is a preponderance of foreign women, and the fact that the cost of living is generally lower in smaller, more isolated communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Children are minors in Italy until they reach their 18th birthday. For all practical purposes, minors are thus equivalent to children 0–17 years of age as of the last birthday.

**Table 3: Children according to Family Origin, Italy, 2001**

*number and per cent of children*

<i>Family origin</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Family origin</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>
All children	—	9,642,496			
In native-born families	—	8,715,285			
In immigrant families	100.0	927,211	In immigrant families (cont.)		
Africa	16.3	151,119	Europe (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	1.6	15,234	Luxembourg	0.3	2,636
Eritrea	0.3	2,959	Netherlands	0.5	4,673
Ethiopia	0.4	3,890	Portugal	0.2	1,810
Mauritius	0.2	2,301	Spain	0.9	8,081
Somalia	0.3	2,320	Sweden	0.3	2,452
Other Eastern Africa	0.4	3,764	Switzerland	12.9	119,370
Central Africa	0.5	4,845	United Kingdom	3.1	28,682
Northern Africa	11.6	107,975	EU-12 <sup>b</sup>	5.5	51,212
Algeria	0.3	3,188	Bulgaria	0.4	3,787
Egypt	1.4	12,999	Czech Republic	0.3	2,745
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1.2	10,743	Hungary	0.3	2,341
Morocco	6.4	59,300	Poland	1.5	13,806
Tunisia	2.3	21,745	Romania	2.7	24,897
Southern Africa	0.2	2,280	Slovakia	0.1	1,157
Western Africa	2.2	20,785	Slovenia	0.3	2,479
Côte d'Ivoire	0.3	2,814	Other EU-15, EU-12, EEA and Switzerland	0.3	2,664
Ghana	0.7	6,387	South Eastern Europe	9.9	92,123
Nigeria	0.6	5,247	Albania	5.4	49,956
Senegal	0.4	3,810	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.7	6,090
Other Western Africa	0.3	2,527	Croatia	0.9	8,599
Asia	7.7	71,663	TFYR Macedonia <sup>c</sup>	1.0	9,212
Eastern Asia	1.8	16,268	Other South Eastern Europe	2.0	18,266
China	1.6	14,695	CIS <sup>d</sup>	1.7	16,174
Japan	0.2	1,573	Western CIS	1.6	14,587
South Central Asia	3.0	28,233	Republic of Moldova	0.1	1,072
Bangladesh	0.4	3,410	Russian Federation	1.0	9,044
India	1.1	10,499	Ukraine	0.5	4,471
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.3	3,150	Other CIS	0.2	1,587
Pakistan	0.5	5,058	Other Europe	0.2	1,608
Sri Lanka	0.7	6,116	Latin America and Caribbean	12.6	117,180
South Eastern Asia	1.8	16,982	Caribbean	1.1	10,193
Philippines	1.4	13,298	Cuba	0.4	3,336
Thailand	0.2	1,982	Dominican Republic	0.7	6,857
Other South Eastern Asia	0.2	1,702	Central America and Mexico	0.4	3,676
Western Asia, Middle East	0.9	8,698	El Salvador	0.2	1,693
Israel	0.1	995	Mexico	0.2	1,983
Jordan	0.1	1,267	South America	10.8	100,368
Lebanon	0.2	1,662	Argentina	2.3	21,165
Syrian Arab Republic	0.1	1,171	Bolivia	0.1	1,178
Turkey	0.3	2,466	Brazil	2.4	22,628
Other Western Asia, Middle	0.1	1,137	Chile	0.4	4,112
East			Colombia	0.8	7,658
Other Asia	0.2	1,482	Ecuador	0.5	4,827
Europe	57.8	536,132	Peru	1.2	11,284
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland <sup>a</sup>	40.2	372,351	Uruguay	0.3	2,429
Austria	0.6	5,514	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2.7	25,087
Belgium	2.8	26,196	Other Latin America and Caribbean	0.3	2,943
Denmark	0.1	1,081	Northern America	4.0	37,238
Finland	0.1	1,044	Canada	1.6	15,281
France	6.8	63,048	United States of America	2.4	21,957
Germany	11.3	104,714	Oceania	1.5	13,879
Greece	0.3	3,050			

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

*Note:* The countries of origin are reported separately if the number of children is at least 1,000, except Israel. If results cannot be reported for a country because of confidentiality requirements, the small numbers, or another reason, the results for that country are combined with the results for other, similar countries, and the combined results are reported in the 'other' row for the relevant subregion, continent, or other country grouping.

a. EU-15 = member states of the European Union (EU) before 2004: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. EEA = European Economic Area, which, in our case here, refers to Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

b. EU-12 = New EU member states admitted between May 2004 and January 2007: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

c. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

d. CIS = Commonwealth of Independent States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

**Table 4: Foreign Residents, Total and Children, by Origin, Italy, 2006***1,000s, index and per cent*

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Number, 1,000s</i>		<i>Index 2006, by number (2001 = 100)</i>		<i>Children, %</i>		<i>Foreign citizenship, %</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Children</i>
Total	2,670.5	587.5	200	207	21.3	22.0	100.0	100.0
Albania	348.8	116.8	202	244	27.6	33.5	13.1	19.9
Morocco	319.5	101.5	177	192	29.4	31.8	12.0	17.3
Romania	297.6	53.5	397	434	16.5	18.0	11.1	9.1
China	127.8	35.6	273	246	30.8	27.8	4.8	6.1
Ukraine	107.1	10.4	1,239	820	14.6	9.7	4.0	1.8
Philippines	89.7	13.3	166	133	18.5	14.8	3.4	2.3
Tunisia	83.6	25.6	175	202	26.6	30.6	3.1	4.3
Serbia and Montenegro <sup>a</sup>	64.1	19.1	130	120	32.2	29.8	2.4	3.3
TFYR Macedonia	63.2	17.7	225	185	34.0	28.0	2.4	3.0
Ecuador	62.0	11.0	452	330	24.3	17.7	2.3	1.9
India	61.8	17.4	227	249	25.8	28.2	2.3	3.0
Poland	60.8	9.0	223	257	12.9	14.8	2.3	1.5
Peru	59.3	7.5	201	119	21.4	12.6	2.2	1.3
Egypt	58.9	10.6	215	140	27.7	18.1	2.2	1.8
Senegal	57.1	8.5	183	261	10.4	14.8	2.1	1.4
Other	809.2	130.1	157	170	14.8	16.1	30.3	22.1

*Source:* Barban et al. 2008.*Note:* a. So identified in the data.

Nonetheless, the range of countries of origin was still wide. Apart from exceptions such as immigrants from Tunisia in certain towns in Sicily or immigrants from China in Prato (Tuscany) or Milan, there was generally a lack of ethnic and linguistic concentration. Thus, the 10 countries of origin responsible for the most numerous immigration flows also represented 10 different languages. In Rome, only seven foreign groups each accounted for more than 3 per cent of the foreign population, and together they accounted for less than half of this population.

The lack of ethnic and linguistic concentration among immigrants in Italy contrasts with the situation in France, Germany and Spain. It will certainly affect efforts to include the children in these flows in the education system. Teachers may have to make adjustments for a variety of cultural issues and barriers to inclusion. However, the greater diversity in immigrant origins may also offset tendencies towards ethnic segregation and cultural isolation. These are often more difficult to overcome, the more concentration there is in immigrant origins.

The variety in nationalities has evolved quickly, occurring especially in the last few years. This is a feature of immigration that is not observed elsewhere in Europe. It is also apparent in the sample of children aged 11–14 interviewed during the First National Investigation on Second-Generation Immigrants (“Itagen2”), which was carried out during the 2005/06 school year (see Dalla Zuanna and Farina 2007, Rizzi 2007) (Table 5). A comparison of the results of this survey and the census data shows a rapid and striking increase in the number of children arriving from Asia and the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

**Table 5: Children Aged 11–14 in Immigrant Families according to Family Origin, Italy, 2006***number and per cent of children*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
In immigrant families	100.0	26,164	In immigrant families (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	1.2	308	South Eastern Europe	22.6	5,924
Central Africa	0.3	87	CIS	5.3	1,382
Northern Africa	13.6	3,570	Caucasus	0.0	8
Southern Africa	0.0	6	Central Asia	0.1	28
Western Africa	4.5	1,175	Caribbean	1.1	288
Eastern Asia	8.9	2,324	Central America and Mexico	0.7	188
South Central Asia	8.8	2,296	South America	12.1	3,174
South Eastern Asia	3.9	1,022	Northern America	0.3	70
Western Asia, Middle East	0.6	149	Oceania (Melanesia)	0.0	10
EU-15	3.9	1,029	Other origins	0.6	150
EU-12	11.4	2,977			

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.*Note:* For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

The majority of children and their parents from developing countries arrived in Italy during the five years preceding the 2001 census (Table 6). The immigration patterns in these years differed somewhat from the patterns in previous years. More than 60 per cent of the children and their parents arriving from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Republic of Moldova who had become settled in Italy by October 2001, when the census was conducted, had arrived in Italy since 1996. In the case of many countries of origin in Eastern Europe, where the immigration flows towards Italy had begun at the end of the cold war, in 1989–1991, more than 40 per cent of the new arrivals had come during this recent period, in 1996–2001. The table is thus remarkable in demonstrating how Italy was being transformed from a country of emigration to a country of immigration. Among some other countries of origin, typically the protagonists of the first flows of immigration, such as the Philippines and Tunisia, the share of recent immigrants was smaller in the late 1990s relative to the 1980s and the early 1990s. The smaller share of the recent immigration from some countries was a direct result of historical events. For instance, the share in immigration from the Islamic Republic of Iran was large during the 1980s following the revolution there in 1979, but is now one of the smallest flows.

The proportion of recently arrived immigrant families from advanced industrialized countries of origin also became much smaller relative to the 1970s and the 1980s. The majority of these children in families that had recently immigrated – about 40 per cent of all children in immigrant families – were Italian citizens born to parents who were Italian citizens and who were returning to Italy after a period of residence abroad, especially in other European countries, such as Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland. Children in immigrant families from the other European Union (EU) countries or North America share many household characteristics and socioeconomic characteristics with children in native-born Italian families.



**Table 6: Children in Immigrant Families according to Recent Settlement, Italy, 2001**

children as a per cent within each group

Family origin	Child arrived in past five years <sup>a</sup>	At least one parent in Italy less than five years	Family origin	Child arrived in past five years <sup>a</sup>	At least one parent in Italy less than five years
In immigrant families	13.8	16.3	In immigrant families (cont.)		
Africa	19.3	26.9	Europe (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	4.1	7.0	Luxembourg	0.3	1.0
Eritrea	2.2	4.3	Netherlands	3.9	10.4
Ethiopia	2.3	4.2	Portugal	4.9	10.6
Mauritius	6.8	8.0	Spain	3.1	11.4
Somalia	7.9	9.9	Sweden	4.8	9.6
Other Eastern Africa	3.8	9.6	Switzerland	0.2	0.9
Central Africa	10.9	14.9	United Kingdom	1.6	4.5
Northern Africa	21.2	30.3	EU-12	22.1	28.0
Algeria	9.7	24.4	Bulgaria	18.6	18.7
Egypt	8.5	21.5	Czech Republic	3.7	14.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1.1	1.6	Hungary	3.7	13.5
Morocco	35.5	40.6	Poland	8.5	19.8
Tunisia	8.1	22.3	Romania	35.5	39.3
Southern Africa	2.5	5.8	Slovakia	7.9	23.3
Western Africa	28.6	29.2	Slovenia	3.0	7.1
Côte d'Ivoire	47.1	30.7	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	5.5	12.2
Ghana	27.1	24.6	South Eastern Europe	41.9	47.0
Nigeria	16.7	25.4	Albania	55.3	58.8
Senegal	27.1	35.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15.2	23.1
Other Western Africa	33.1	37.8	Croatia	6.2	10.8
Asia	27.5	29.7	TFYR Macedonia	49.4	52.8
Eastern Asia	37.1	30.1	Other South Eastern Europe	32.9	37.0
China	38.8	30.1	CIS	19.7	26.6
Japan	20.6	30.3	Western CIS	19.6	26.0
South Central Asia	35.2	41.5	Republic of Moldova	66.3	72.4
Bangladesh	61.3	62.9	Russian Federation	9.5	16.7
India	29.7	39.1	Ukraine	31.9	33.9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4.4	9.4	Other CIS	19.9	31.6
Pakistan	63.5	64.1	Other Europe	1.2	4.3
Sri Lanka	27.4	31.7	Latin America and Caribbean	9.0	11.7
South Eastern Asia	14.4	14.4	Caribbean	25.3	27.3
Philippines	16.6	14.5	Cuba	41.9	49.4
Thailand	7.9	15.9	Dominican Republic	21.2	16.6
Other South Eastern Asia	4.1	12.2	Central America and Mexico	8.1	12.3
Asia			El Salvador	12.5	11.6
Western Asia, Middle East	14.2	21.0	Mexico	3.9	13.0
Israel	6.2	14.0	South America	7.8	10.2
Jordan	3.4	12.2	Argentina	2.1	7.3
Lebanon	2.4	12.3	Bolivia	10.4	14.2
Syrian Arab Republic	10.3	18.9	Brazil	4.6	9.0
Turkey	32.2	35.3	Chile	2.5	7.1
Other Western Asia, Middle East	12.7	21.0	Colombia	12.8	15.8
Europe	13.0	13.7	Ecuador	48.8	42.5
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	4.3	3.0	Peru	27.4	18.6
Austria	2.2	8.0	Uruguay	2.2	6.0
Belgium	0.6	1.7	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.8	2.7
Denmark	8.6	16.3	Other Latin America and Caribbean	3.5	8.2
Finland	4.9	11.3	Northern America	2.8	5.3
France	1.6	3.9	Canada	0.6	1.9
Germany	1.1	2.8	United States of America	4.3	7.7
Greece	3.6	6.7	Oceania	0.4	2.1

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3, a. Children 5–17 at last birthday.

Tables 6 and 7 show the same measures regarding immigration, but the figures in Table 7 are our elaboration from the “Itagen2” survey data<sup>2</sup>. A comparison of the tables reveals two striking phenomena. First, there were relatively more children involved in immigration in the five years up to 2006 than in the five years up to 2001. This was most likely a result of immigrant family reunifications, which had become the most common way for immigrant children to enter Italy.

**Table 7: Children Aged 11–14 in Immigrant Families according to Recent Settlement, Italy, 2006**

*children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>of family</i>	<i>Child arrived in past five years</i>	<i>At least one parent in Italy less than five years</i>	<i>Region of family origin</i>	<i>Child arrived in past five years</i>	<i>At least one parent in Italy less than five years</i>
Eastern Africa		6.6	0.0	South Eastern Europe	35.8	8.2
Central Africa		37.2	7.7	CIS	68.4	8.8
Northern Africa		31.6	3.0	Caucasus	7.9	7.9
Southern Africa		0.0	0.0	Central Asia	40.1	24.1
Western Africa		38.0	2.0	Caribbean	70.2	0.4
Eastern Asia		60.6	8.3	Central America and Mexico	57.4	2.2
South Central Asia		53.5	5.6	South America	49.9	12.2
South Eastern Asia		33.5	1.9	Northern America	32.4	13.6
Western Asia, Middle East		45.5	14.0	Oceania (Melanesia)	66.7	0.0
EU-15		21.3	3.3	Other origins	1.6	1.6
EU-12		59.0	15.2			

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.

*Note:* For definitions of country groups, see the notes to Table 3.

According to official data, the number of foreign children living in Italy was 353,500 in 2003, and over 666,000 in 2007 (Table 8). This means that, within less than five years, the number of foreign children had doubled, and, within ten years, it had quadrupled.

**Table 8: Foreign Children, Italy, 2001–2007,**

*number and per cent*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Change</i>		<i>Share, %</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Among all foreigners</i>	<i>Among all children, 0–17</i>
2001	284,224	—	—	21.3	2.9
2003	353,546	69,322	20.0	22.8	3.6
2004	412,432	58,886	16.7	20.7	4.2
2005	501,792	89,360	21.7	20.9	5.0
2006	587,513	85,721	17.1	22.0	5.9
2007	666,293	78,780	13.4	22.7	6.6

*Source:* Barban et al. 2008.

In 2006, the Italian National Institute of Statistics estimated the number of second-generation immigrants at 400,000 (Istat 2006). The second generation refers to individuals born in Italy who have at least one parent who has been born abroad; the term does not distinguish between foreign and Italian citizens (see section 5.1 for a discussion of the related issues). The definition of second generation and the measurement method used in the estimates of the National Institute of Statistics were approximate: the number of foreign citizens born in Italy was added to the number of foreigners living in Italy who had obtained Italian citizenship.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 5.1.2 for a description of the survey.

Still, the total accounted for 13.5 per cent of all resident foreigners, but also for over 50 per cent of the resident foreign population of children.

**Table 9: Children in Immigrant Families by Immigrant Generation, Italy, 2001**

*per cent of children*

Family origin	Generation		Family origin	Generation	
	First	Second		First	Second
In immigrant families	28.8	71.2	In immigrant families (cont.)		
Africa	26.2	73.8	Europe (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	17.5	82.5	Luxembourg	11.5	88.5
Eritrea	6.8	93.2	Netherlands	20.2	79.8
Ethiopia	19.8	80.2	Portugal	19.1	80.9
Mauritius	13.6	86.4	Spain	21.6	78.4
Somalia	17.5	82.5	Sweden	21.0	79.0
Other Eastern Africa	26.0	74.0	Switzerland	15.4	84.6
Central Africa	20.2	79.8	United Kingdom	15.7	84.3
Northern Africa	27.7	72.3	EU-12	42.4	57.6
Algeria	14.6	85.5	Bulgaria	67.8	32.2
Egypt	19.7	80.3	Czech Republic	18.3	81.8
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2.4	97.6	Hungary	19.1	80.9
Morocco	38.8	61.2	Poland	23.0	77.0
Tunisia	16.3	83.7	Romania	57.3	42.7
Southern Africa	19.1	80.9	Slovakia	19.9	80.1
Western Africa	27.1	72.9	Slovenia	21.7	78.3
Côte d'Ivoire	41.7	58.4	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	28.7	71.3
Ghana	25.0	75.0	South Eastern Europe	51.4	48.6
Nigeria	15.7	84.3	Albania	55.4	44.6
Senegal	29.0	71.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	44.5	55.5
Other Western Africa	37.1	62.9	Croatia	23.6	76.4
Asia	37.3	62.7	TFYR Macedonia	67.1	32.9
Eastern Asia	40.0	60.0	Other South Eastern Europe	47.7	52.3
China	40.7	59.3	CIS	65.7	34.3
Japan	33.8	66.2	Western CIS	66.9	33.1
South Central Asia	49.3	50.7	Republic of Moldova	63.3	36.7
Bangladesh	53.1	46.9	Russian Federation	66.5	33.5
India	62.0	38.1	Ukraine	68.4	31.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9.7	90.3	Other CIS	55.5	44.5
Pakistan	64.8	35.2	Other Europe	44.0	56.0
Sri Lanka	33.1	66.9	Latin America and Caribbean	32.4	67.6
South Eastern Asia	20.8	79.2	Caribbean	36.8	63.2
Philippines	19.5	80.5	Cuba	32.9	67.1
Thailand	28.0	72.0	Dominican Republic	38.8	61.3
Other South Eastern Asia	22.7	77.3	Central America and Mexico	35.9	64.1
Western Asia, Middle East	25.7	74.3	El Salvador	34.5	65.5
Israel	25.7	74.3	Mexico	37.0	63.0
Jordan	12.1	87.9	South America	31.6	68.4
Lebanon	13.7	86.3	Argentina	19.1	80.9
Syrian Arab Republic	18.2	81.8	Bolivia	68.3	31.8
Turkey	42.9	57.1	Brazil	44.9	55.1
Other Western Asia, Middle East	29.2	70.8	Chile	38.4	61.6
Other Asia	37.5	62.6	Colombia	57.0	43.0
Europe	28.7	71.3	Ecuador	57.2	42.8
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	19.6	80.4	Peru	46.9	53.1
Austria	27.1	72.9	Uruguay	13.5	86.5
Belgium	9.4	90.6	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	9.3	90.7
Denmark	30.0	70.0	Other Latin America and Caribbean	41.0	59.0
Finland	24.6	75.4	Northern America	20.5	79.5
France	10.8	89.2	Canada	7.7	92.3
Germany	32.9	67.1	United States of America	29.5	70.5
Greece	16.0	84.0	Oceania	6.1	93.9

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: For the definitions of first generation and second generation, see the accompanying text. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

Not surprisingly, the share of this second generation within immigrant families was larger in regions in the centre and north of the country that have been welcoming immigrants for some time already, including Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Marche and Veneto. The highest share was in Veneto, followed by Lombardy and Marche (all around 25 per cent).

A large portion of the people identified as second generation in Table 9, which is based on our calculations based on the 2001 census data, represents children born to mixed couples, that is, couples composed of one native-born parent and one foreign-born parent. In some

immigrant groups, the share of children born in Italy to foreign-born couples is, in fact, relatively small. This includes immigrant groups from Cuba, Thailand, the United States of America and the EU. In other immigrant groups, the share of children born in Italy to foreign-born couples accounts for over 50 per cent of the children. This includes immigrant groups from China, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland and Somalia, as well as other countries in eastern and western Africa.

**Table 10: Citizenship of Children in Immigrant Families, Italy, 2001**

*per cent of children*

Family origin	Child		Parents		Family origin	Child		Parents	
	Italian citizens	Naturalized Italians	Only one is a non-citizen	Separate origins		Italian citizens	Naturalized Italians	Only one is a non-citizen	Separate origins
In immigrant families	71.2	5.1	17.2	63.4	In immigrant families (cont.)				
Africa	38.0	1.7	12.8	36.4	Europe (cont.)				
Eastern Africa	75.7	6.2	18.2	67.1	Luxembourg	99.3	0.8	8.5	93.9
Eritrea	80.0	2.0	15.7	72.6	Netherlands	90.3	1.9	52.9	88.0
Ethiopia	92.0	12.6	13.6	74.0	Portugal	82.3	2.4	51.8	85.7
Mauritius	31.6	0.8	19.6	33.3	Spain	93.4	3.2	66.0	92.6
Somalia	65.5	2.6	16.4	62.1	Sweden	91.0	2.9	43.8	91.6
Other Eastern Africa	89.0	8.2	25.0	80.9	Switzerland	99.3	0.6	5.0	89.6
Central Africa	56.6	3.0	26.9	63.1	United Kingdom	95.9	2.0	28.9	92.2
Northern Africa	33.9	1.0	11.8	32.8	EU-12	66.8	15.8	32.6	55.8
Algeria	57.1	1.3	27.4	60.6	Bulgaria	73.6	41.6	17.9	33.1
Egypt	45.7	1.9	17.5	40.4	Czech Republic	92.4	3.9	59.3	95.8
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	97.2	0.2	6.1	94.7	Hungary	91.2	5.9	49.1	89.9
Morocco	14.7	1.2	8.4	14.5	Poland	74.4	7.7	48.1	77.5
Tunisia	44.6	0.7	18.0	43.9	Romania	53.3	20.3	21.8	34.8
Southern Africa	96.6	2.2	16.5	90.6	Slovakia	87.6	5.2	61.1	94.8
Western Africa	20.9	1.7	11.2	22.5	Slovenia	88.5	2.7	21.4	87.9
Côte d'Ivoire	18.7	2.6	10.4	22.9	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	90.4	6.5	54.2	88.3
Ghana	8.0	0.8	2.8	9.0	South Eastern Europe	18.9	1.4	9.5	20.9
Nigeria	36.8	2.2	21.8	38.4	Albania	13.1	1.4	9.2	12.8
Senegal	18.2	1.4	12.1	17.7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15.7	2.2	10.1	25.5
Other Western Africa	27.4	2.3	11.3	33.0	Croatia	70.5	2.4	20.5	73.0
Asia	32.2	6.1	13.3	25.7	TFYR Macedonia	4.3	0.4	2.6	9.8
Eastern Asia	15.2	1.1	8.6	13.4	Other South Eastern Europe	18.7	1.3	8.8	23.6
China	9.5	1.0	3.8	7.5	CIS	80.4	42.4	31.8	47.6
Japan	67.6	2.3	53.9	68.4	Western CIS	80.5	43.7	30.4	45.9
South Central Asia	26.5	11.3	7.1	13.7	Republic of Moldova	41.0	11.3	42.2	55.0
Bangladesh	4.0	0.7	2.1	3.6	Russian Federation	88.1	48.5	26.5	43.4
India	36.6	25.5	4.4	9.6	Ukraine	74.6	41.7	35.6	48.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	69.8	2.3	33.3	65.4	Other CIS	79.1	30.1	45.0	63.6
Pakistan	7.6	2.0	3.6	5.4	Other Europe	96.2	2.5	21.8	74.0
Sri Lanka	14.9	5.2	4.3	6.9	Latin America and Caribbean	84.4	14.3	26.7	71.6
South Eastern Asia	41.8	3.6	22.8	39.8	Caribbean	74.7	9.7	57.5	87.9
Philippines	29.4	1.7	16.1	29.7	Cuba	80.6	7.3	73.7	94.9
Thailand	91.7	9.1	55.4	90.8	Dominican Republic	71.8	10.8	48.3	83.9
Other South Eastern Asia	80.3	12.0	36.2	58.0	Central America and Mexico	78.0	15.3	37.4	66.3
Western Asia, Middle East	58.7	2.9	21.9	56.2	El Salvador	60.0	13.8	26.8	52.2
Israel	79.0	5.2	28.6	75.0	Mexico	93.3	16.6	46.2	77.8
Jordan	74.2	2.0	33.6	72.4	South America	85.4	14.5	23.2	70.2
Lebanon	69.8	4.2	25.1	63.9	Argentina	93.3	7.7	22.6	76.3
Syrian Arab Republic	54.2	3.9	21.2	49.1	Bolivia	80.4	44.0	14.3	34.5
Turkey	32.8	1.4	10.8	31.1	Brazil	92.1	27.5	31.1	63.1
Other Western Asia, Middle East	68.5	1.9	23.5	73.6	Chile	91.9	25.1	24.8	61.4
Other Asia	60.7	8.8	25.5	55.9	Colombia	82.4	35.5	31.4	54.5
Europe	80.5	4.0	16.6	71.8	Ecuador	37.6	7.7	25.4	43.3
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	97.5	1.3	15.3	87.5	Peru	46.6	12.0	21.7	40.6
Austria	93.8	2.9	48.9	89.2	Uruguay	92.3	4.0	24.0	81.3
Belgium	98.4	0.7	9.8	93.8	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	98.6	2.6	14.8	94.0
Denmark	87.8	4.4	59.6	85.3	Other Latin America and Caribbean	92.8	23.0	34.7	70.9
Finland	90.7	2.6	68.3	92.0	Northern America	95.6	4.4	22.1	87.2
France	96.5	1.1	18.7	93.7	Canada	98.8	2.2	14.7	95.4
Germany	97.7	2.0	12.9	77.3	United States of America	93.4	6.0	27.6	81.2
Greece	91.4	1.5	39.0	90.4	Oceania	99.1	1.2	16.4	96.5

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

*Note:* The data in the parents columns refer to children in two-parent families. 'Separate origins' may refer to mixed Italian-foreign couples or foreign couples from separate countries of origin. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

To clarify the issue of citizenship, Table 10 based on our calculations based on 2001 census data, indicates the share of citizens, including naturalized citizens, among children in

immigrant families for each country of origin. It also shows the share of the parents who have separate origins. In most cases, the parental couples with separate origins are of mixed Italian-foreign nationality. Such mixed couples are particularly common among children in immigrant families from the EU-15 and in the northern and southern American groups and somewhat less common among immigrant groups from other European countries. Thus, the shares among children in immigrant families from Brazil and Ecuador are high, while, among children in immigrant families from Morocco, 14 per cent have been born to mixed parents. Relatively low shares of children with parents of mixed nationality are also associated with families from Albania, China, the Indian subcontinent and Romania.

It is clear from Table 10 that, in general, mixed-nationality parents are less common among children in families of African or Asian origin and more common among parents in immigrant families from more well developed countries. For many of the immigrating parents in these latter cases, the relationship with the Italian partner represents the only solid link to Italian society (Istat 2006). The high prevalence of homogamy among parents in immigrant families from many other countries of origin, particularly Albania, China, Morocco and the countries of the former Yugoslavia, reflects more accurately the traditional pattern in immigration whereby the majority of individuals in immigrant families arrive in the country of settlement through family reunification. Even among subsequent immigrant generations, there is a strong trend towards homogamy through partnering or union formation within the traditional immigrant group, which reduces the opportunity for the establishment of mixed couples.

A closer analysis of differences by gender, age and country of origin gives us an idea of the immigration and reproductive strategies among various immigrant groups. The age structure is younger among children in immigrant families (Table 11). This is particularly true of children in families from, for example, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Senegal. In 2001, children aged 0–4 represented over half of all children in families from these countries. This pattern in the age structure in these country groups is driven by at least four factors not immediately visible in Table 11: higher fertility rates, low incidence of immigration for family reunification, low rates of immigration among adolescents, and more recent immigration flows to Italy.

Among children in families from South America, there is a larger share in the preadolescent and adolescent age groups. Thus, in 2001, more than 40 per cent of the children in families from Ecuador were above 10 years of age, but the corresponding share was only 21 per cent among families from Nigeria. The preadolescent and adolescent age groups among the immigrant population tend to encounter the most serious barriers to social inclusion and good school performance.

**Table 11: Children by Age and Gender, Italy, 2001**

*per cent of children and number of boys per 100 girls*

Family origin	Age at last birthday, %				Boys per 100 girls	Family origin	Age at last birthday, %				Boys per 100 girls
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17			0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	
In native-born families	25.8	27.1	29.0	18.1	105.4						
In immigrant families	33.2	28.9	25.0	12.9	105.7	In immigrant families (cont.)					
Africa	39.1	27.5	21.0	12.4	107.3	Europe (cont.)					
Eastern Africa	28.4	28.2	27.6	15.9	105.1	Luxembourg	32.4	33.8	23.4	10.5	106.1
Eritrea	25.4	24.7	28.6	21.4	106.8	Netherlands	34.9	30.7	23.0	11.4	101.3
Ethiopia	25.3	27.9	29.6	17.2	106.0	Portugal	29.9	28.4	26.6	15.1	106.6
Mauritius	38.4	31.7	20.9	9.0	104.2	Spain	35.8	30.9	22.7	10.5	107.3
Somalia	28.2	27.2	27.5	17.0	105.5	Sweden	33.0	30.7	24.8	11.6	110.7
Other Eastern Africa	28.0	29.6	28.9	13.6	103.0	Switzerland	35.0	31.5	23.4	10.2	104.1
Central Africa	30.0	27.5	27.0	15.5	100.5	United Kingdom	30.2	30.1	26.7	13.1	105.5
Northern Africa	39.5	27.5	20.6	12.4	109.5	EU-12	36.0	30.2	23.0	10.8	101.7
Algeria	42.8	26.1	20.6	10.6	105.5	Bulgaria	28.9	38.2	23.7	9.2	110.3
Egypt	34.6	28.8	24.2	12.5	111.6	Czech Republic	36.7	30.1	22.1	11.1	108.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	18.5	25.0	32.5	24.0	107.7	Hungary	40.5	32.3	17.7	9.5	102.5
Morocco	43.9	27.2	17.9	11.0	110.2	Poland	42.4	27.5	19.7	10.4	105.9
Tunisia	40.4	29.0	19.8	10.7	107.6	Romania	33.8	30.9	24.9	10.4	97.2
Southern Africa	31.2	29.2	25.2	14.4	99.6	Slovakia	47.5	30.3	15.5	6.8	102.6
Western Africa	47.6	26.5	16.6	9.2	100.6	Slovenia	23.6	24.7	29.8	21.9	104.0
Côte d'Ivoire	40.1	24.3	21.4	14.2	91.3	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	33.3	27.4	25.2	14.1	103.5
Ghana	42.2	28.1	20.3	9.5	101.1	South Eastern Europe	35.3	28.2	24.0	12.6	108.2
Nigeria	54.0	26.0	13.1	6.9	100.3	Albania	39.6	28.2	21.8	10.4	106.6
Senegal	55.8	26.3	10.9	7.0	104.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	33.1	26.0	27.4	13.5	110.7
Other Western Africa	44.2	26.5	18.2	11.1	105.6	Croatia	23.8	24.6	29.3	22.4	104.7
Asia	36.1	27.4	23.8	12.7	106.4	TFYR Macedonia	30.0	30.5	26.5	13.0	118.4
Eastern Asia	36.2	23.6	25.9	14.2	107.7	Other South Eastern Europe	32.4	29.2	25.1	13.3	108.8
China	36.1	23.0	26.3	14.6	107.6	CIS	38.6	29.5	24.0	8.0	108.2
Japan	38.0	29.5	22.3	10.2	109.5	Western CIS	39.2	30.1	23.0	7.7	109.9
South Central Asia	37.6	26.5	23.1	12.7	105.0	Republic of Moldova	39.5	28.2	21.9	10.5	99.3
Bangladesh	50.1	24.3	17.5	8.0	118.6	Russian Federation	35.3	32.0	24.9	7.9	105.5
India	32.4	27.7	25.3	14.6	95.8	Ukraine	47.1	26.8	19.3	6.9	122.3
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	27.1	30.8	29.8	12.4	103.9	Other CIS	32.8	23.6	33.6	10.0	94.2
Pakistan	36.1	26.3	23.5	14.1	122.5	Other Europe	30.5	31.0	25.2	13.3	109.1
Sri Lanka	46.5	23.6	18.8	11.2	101.6	Latin America and Caribbean	26.9	27.4	29.6	16.1	106.8
South Eastern Asia	34.4	31.8	23.0	10.9	108.3	Caribbean	41.5	25.8	22.0	10.7	102.9
Philippines	34.4	31.8	23.1	10.7	109.6	Cuba	64.1	18.5	13.1	4.3	104.2
Thailand	33.1	34.0	22.1	10.9	106.7	Dominican Republic	30.5	29.4	26.3	13.9	102.3
Other South Eastern Asia	35.3	29.6	23.2	11.9	100.2	Central America and Mexico	31.1	26.8	27.5	14.6	111.8
Western Asia, Middle East	33.9	28.5	24.1	13.5	105.8	El Salvador	26.2	25.2	30.9	17.8	117.6
Israel	33.3	27.9	25.7	13.1	119.6	Mexico	35.3	28.3	24.6	11.9	107.0
Jordan	35.0	30.3	22.6	12.1	94.9	South America	25.3	27.5	30.5	16.7	107.2
Lebanon	39.8	29.7	20.9	9.6	108.3	Argentina	22.7	26.5	31.0	19.8	106.6
Syrian Arab Republic	33.4	28.9	24.2	13.6	109.5	Bolivia	21.7	26.2	35.7	16.3	103.8
Turkey	31.6	28.0	24.8	15.7	102.8	Brazil	23.5	28.3	31.9	16.3	111.6
Other Western Asia, Middle East	30.2	25.9	27.3	16.7	106.7	Chile	22.0	23.5	34.3	20.2	107.3
Other Asia	39.3	29.0	21.5	10.3	103.0	Colombia	25.3	28.4	30.2	16.1	104.4
Europe	32.8	29.7	25.1	12.4	104.9	Ecuador	33.2	25.8	26.7	14.4	103.1
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	31.5	30.1	25.7	12.7	104.4	Peru	32.7	24.0	28.5	14.8	107.0
Austria	26.1	27.8	28.4	17.8	104.5	Uruguay	24.0	30.1	29.5	16.4	108.3
Belgium	22.8	27.2	30.8	19.2	104.6	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	25.1	29.8	29.8	15.3	105.7
Denmark	39.7	29.9	19.6	10.8	104.0	Other Latin America and Caribbean	25.6	30.0	28.2	16.2	101.2
Finland	28.0	31.6	28.7	11.7	107.1	Northern America	31.8	30.3	25.8	12.1	106.0
France	25.8	29.3	29.6	15.3	104.0	Canada	31.7	31.6	25.7	11.0	108.6
Germany	33.3	29.7	24.8	12.2	104.2	United States of America	32.0	29.4	25.9	12.8	104.2
Greece	24.2	27.4	29.1	19.3	111.1	Oceania	29.7	31.1	27.3	11.9	103.1

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

It appears that there are no wide differences in the gender ratio – boys per 100 girls – among children in immigrant families (Tables 11 and Table 12). There are notable exceptions, however (aside from countries with smaller immigrant flows, among which the ratios fluctuate much more from the average). Thus, there is a higher net prevalence of boys and men over girls and women among immigrant groups from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Ukraine. This outcome is not generated by prenatal gender selection; since the gender ratio at birth among children born in Italy is regular among these groups. Indeed, the gender ratio at birth among children born among these groups in 1999–2005 was 1.04 for Bangladesh (5,093 births), 1.03 for Pakistan (4,226 births) and 1.08 for Ukraine (1,281 births) (National Institute

of Statistics data; personal communication of Dr Loghi). The result is caused by the greater share of adolescent and adult men involved in immigration through family reunification or in separate, current immigration flows.

**Table 12: Gender Ratio among Children Aged 11–14, Italy, 2006**

*Boys per 100 girls*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Boys per 100 girls</i>	<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Boys per 100 girls</i>
All	109.8		
In native-born families	101.4		
In immigrant families		In immigrant families (cont.)	
Eastern Africa	232.3	South Eastern Europe	138.4
Central Africa	110.2	CIS	113.1
Northern Africa	127.0	Caucasus	8.5
Southern Africa	0.0	Central Asia	84.0
Western Africa	124.3	Caribbean	112.2
Eastern Asia	109.2	Central America and Mexico	123.5
South Central Asia	145.4	South America	128.8
South Eastern Asia	107.3	Northern America	102.2
Western Asia, Middle East	106.5	Oceania (Melanesia)	50.0
EU-15	117.9	Other origins	148.5
EU-12	114.2		

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.

*Note:* For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

#### **4. CURRENT NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP POLICY**

There is little evidence to suggest that immigration into Italy will subside. Immigration flows are expected to continue at the rapid pace of recent years. There are numerous push and pull factors behind these flows. One of the most important push factors is demographical. The young adult population is increasing by about 50 million annually in developing countries. This is especially the case in sub-Saharan Africa, where such increases appear to increase labour market imbalances (Mencarini 2006).

There are also important pull factors. The ageing population in Italy and the highly educated young generation of native-born Italians will not be able to replace the older generation retiring from the labour force. The demand for unskilled labour is high; much of manufacturing production in Italy is labour intensive. Traditional sectors such as tourism, crafts and home care and other domestic services will continue to require unskilled and semiskilled labour in years to come. Italy is an attractive destination for foreign immigrants not only because of the job opportunities, but also because of the country’s role as a crossroads in the Mediterranean and its long easily accessible coastlines. For many immigrants, moreover, Italy represents a bridge into other EU countries.

Despite the pull factors (or perhaps because of them), Italian legislation introduced strict criteria for family reunification in 2002 through the Law No. 189/2002, which was designed to facilitate entry only for foreigners who had found employment in Italy. The law also stipulated that annual immigrant quotas should be fixed for each country. Many difficulties have been encountered in implementing the law. The admissions mechanisms appear too

complicated, and it is rare for a family or firm to be willing to hire a worker before the worker has entered the country.

Many individual adult immigrant men continue to enter Italy as undocumented immigrants or fail to leave when their tourist visas expire after a few months. There are an estimated 700,000 undocumented immigrants who are participating in the labour market without work permits while waiting for the next government amnesty for undocumented immigrants.

Amnesty schemes were implemented most recently in 1991, 1995, 2002 and 2007. (The related peaks in immigration are visible in Figure 1 elsewhere above.) After passage of the Law No. 189/2002 and the amnesty in 2002, the debate eased over policy issues revolving around foreigners living in Italy. Thus, notwithstanding the stringency of the law, the number of residence permits issued for family reunification steadily increased from 14.2 per cent of all documented entries in January 1992 to 29.8 per cent in January 2006 (Istat 2006).<sup>3</sup>

Residence permits for family reasons are issued predominantly to adolescent women or women around the age of 30. This accounted for 77 per cent of all such permits, equal to 526,334 permits, in 2006 (Istat). Men receiving the permits are mainly in younger age groups (15 to 20 years of age). These results suggest that family reunification mainly involves adolescent children and younger wives, probably the wives of younger men.

Foreigners may become naturalized if they are able to demonstrate at least 10 years of continuous documented residence or, more frequently, if they have married an Italian citizen. Around 30,000 individuals were naturalized in 2005, almost 50 per cent more than the number in 2004.

In Italy, entitlement to citizenship is based on *ius sanguinis*, that is, the right (*ius*) conferred because of a blood relationship (*sanguinis*) to a citizen. To be entitled to citizenship by birth, an individual must have at least one parent who is an Italian citizen. Children in immigrant families (according to Law 5 February 1992, no. 91) may become Italian citizens if they were born in Italy and have been documented residents in the country without interruption until their 18th birthday. Foreign children who have not been born in Italy must wait until their 18th birthday before they may apply for citizenship. Citizenship is not automatic in these situations. Foreign children may also declare their desire to become Italian citizens within a year of their 18th birthday. In any case, the Government may exercise discretion and selectivity in granting citizenship (UNICEF and Caritas Italiana 2005).

Unaccompanied foreign children may obtain a residence permit upon their 18th birthday if they are able to demonstrate that they have housing and are gainfully employed under contract or are enrolled in school. In addition, they must certify that they have participated for at least two years in a programme aimed at facilitating social inclusion and civil integration

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<sup>3</sup> We are referring here to the *permesso di soggiorno* (literally, permit to stay), which is the residence permit issued by the immigration authorities. Each region also has a residence authority and residence registration requirements, and each *comune* (an administrative unit corresponding to township or municipality) has a separate, obligatory residence register, the *anagrafe* (see elsewhere below).



through an approved institution. They must also certify that the Commission for Foreign Minors has issued a finding that a procedure for repatriation cannot be initiated in their case.

## **5. DATA ANALYSIS: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND CHILDREN WELLBEING**

### **5.1 Definitions and methodological clarifications**

#### **5.1.1 Research issues**

There is a trend in the socio-demographic research on immigrants and children to stress differences among children by generation with respect to arrival in the country of settlement. Thus, immigrants who have arrived in Italy as adults would be classified as the 1.0 generation, and those who have arrived at a young age would be classified as the 1.5 generation (Rumbaut 2002). Children born in Italy of two immigrant parents would be children of the 2.0 generation, while the children born in Italy of mixed native and immigrant parents would be the 2.5 generation. The 3.0 generation would represent the children born in Italy of parents of immigrant origin born in Italy. Rumbaut (1997) has also proposed the use of additional subcategories, including the 1.25 generation (children who have immigrated between the ages of 13 and 17), the 1.5 generation (children who began primary education in the country of origin, but completed it in the country of settlement) and the 1.75 generation (children who immigrated before they had reached the age of compulsory schooling) (see Ambrosini 2005).

The term second generation thus includes children with at least one parent who has been born abroad (Ambrosini 2005). The use of such a general definition, capable of covering a variety of diverse situations, offers the advantage of helping to avoid the overly homogeneous and stereotypical images often connected with the terms immigrant and foreigner.

However, there are few statistical resources in Italy that are amenable to the distinctions drawn in the sociological taxonomy based on immigrant generations, and there is an absence of uncontested definitions. This absence reflects a general conceptual vagueness about immigration. Moreover, because a child born in Italy and having at least one Italian parent is entitled to Italian citizenship, the 2.5 generation, an important segment of the immigrant population, according to the existing legislation, is not defined as immigrant. Indeed, the terms immigrant and foreign are often conflated in Italy.

The definition chosen affects the statistical identification and counting of immigrants or people “of foreign origin”. To define who the immigrant children are, a number of interrelated factors should be considered: the place of birth, the age at arrival, the migratory experience, the citizenship and the potential acquisition of it, the geographical origin and the processes of socialization and formal education. The reference to the country of birth permits to distinguish between native-born and foreign-born, the citizenship between nationals and foreigners, the country of birth of parents between children with national or foreign background. The information on whether they ever been international migrants defines technically the immigrants, and, together with information on citizenship, permits to identify the “returned citizens”. There are advantages and disadvantages in each definition. Foreigners

are an unstable group since the status can individually change over the life course, the citizenship law can vary over time and there are problems with double-cizenship. The “foreign born” group, identified by the country of origin, is a more stable group because this characteristic is unique and does not change over the life-course, but includes also the national born abroad and exclude the second generation (Bisogno 2008).

Of course, the scant evidence on immigration in Italy is driven by the difficulties in obtaining appropriate data on foreign children and second-generation immigrants (Amnesty International 2006). The data currently available are often not comparable and are usually limited in scope. The data on residence permits cover young people aged 15 and above. Residence registers and other records cover all children, but are not regularly cleared of information that is outdated. The database of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research covers only foreign children enrolled in compulsory education. And so on.

Despite the significant number of foreign children in Italy and despite the substantial literature on this topic worldwide, most research on second-generation immigrants in Italy has been conducted only within limited areas of the country. Knowledge about the current situation is fragmented (but see Giovannini 2004), the available research is mainly in Italian and no major comparative efforts have been undertaken. At the same time, qualitative research on second-generation immigrants exists, but, as noted by Ambrosini (2007), the early efforts have focused primarily on inclusion in education, which is one of the areas in which second-generation immigrants are most visible.

### **5.1.2 Our data**

Here we have used the census as the basis of our original analysis and to develop new indicators. The population census is the sole official and complete (non-sample) source that gives detailed information about Italy’s foreign population. The census of 2001 was the 14th Italian general population census and general housing census. The information it contains refers to 21 October 2001. We have computed the related tables using the original census data for all children and adolescents without any weighting scheme.<sup>4</sup>

The data reflect the demographic information recorded in household questionnaires that were filled in by the “holder” of the household form, who is the individual to which the household form is addressed according to the Italian population register (*anagrafe*). The questionnaires solicited information on (1) each household member who was regularly residing in the household even if the individual was absent on the day of the census, (2) each individual who was living in the household temporarily even if the individual was absent on the day of the census and (3) each individual who happened to be in the household on the day of the census.

For the first time, the entire questionnaire was provided in the 11 languages that are most commonly spoken among the foreign population in Italy according to the data on residence permits. Each municipality was responsible for organizing the field enumeration. Typically, the municipalities sought the participation of associations of immigrants and other immigrant organizations. Native-speaking enumerators were hired among these groups. The main aim of

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<sup>4</sup> The data have been analysed by Letizia Mencarini, under the supervision of the National Institute of Statistics at the ADELE Laboratory, Rome.

this strategy was to ensure sensitivity to the foreign population (Gallo and Zindato 2003, Istat 2006). The structure of the 2001 census provided a means, at least theoretically, to accommodate the enumeration of foreigners whether they were usually resident or not. The distinction between short-term migrants and visitors was made only after the enumeration. This was possible because there were also questions on the place of usual residence and the duration of the stay in Italy (Gallo and Zindato 2003).

The information was otherwise the same as the information collected on any other individual included in the census. Thus, there were questions about gender, age, marital status and occupation.

Because of the significant number of adult foreigners who had acquired Italian citizenship from 1991 to 2000 (about 75,000), there were also questions about the acquisition of Italian citizenship and the country of former citizenship (or current dual citizenship).

In this report, a child is a person 0 to 17 years of age as of the last birthday. A child in an immigrant family is a child living with at least one parent in the home who is foreign born. Information about parents (fathers or mothers) is included only if the parents were living with the child. The immigrant status of parents who do not live in the same dwelling is unknown.

If a child is foreign born, then his or her place of birth is the child's country of origin. If the child has been born in Italy, but the mother is foreign born, then the country of origin of the child is the country of origin of the mother. If both the child and the mother have been born in Italy, but the father in the household has not, then the country of origin of the child is the country of origin of the father. Because this method of identifying immigrant and foreign children is somewhat different from the method used in the census, our results, though based on the census, are not fully comparable with those already published by the National Institute of Statistics (Istat 2006).

Because patterns in immigration have been changing rapidly in Italy and because the census data refer to 2001, we have recalculated the same indicators whenever possible from a nationally representative ad hoc sample survey conducted in 2006. The criteria for selecting data on children in immigrant families in the survey are the same as we describe for the census. We have also calculated the related tables specifically for this report.

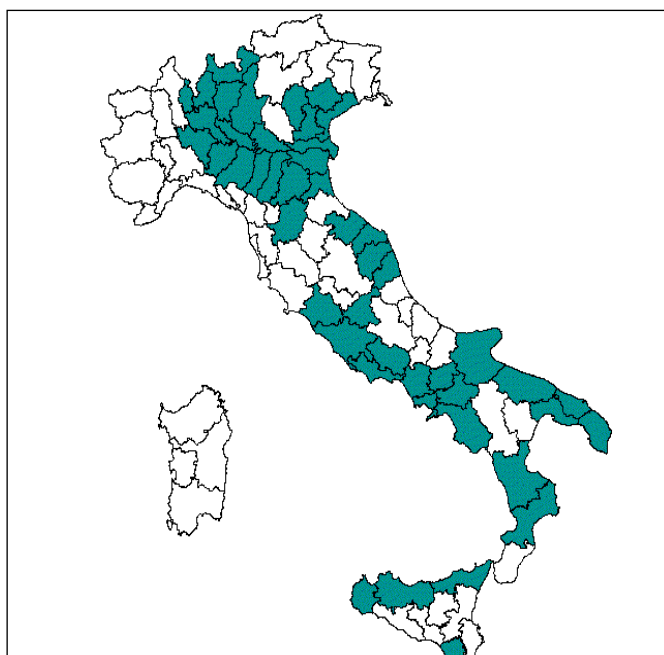
The sample survey we use, the "Itagen2" survey, was the first nationwide research study and the first longitudinal study into second-generation immigrants in Italy (see Casacchia et al. 2008, Gilardoni 2008, Dalla Zuanna et al. 2009). "Itagen2" is a representative survey of students aged 11–14 living in 48 provinces (Figure 3). Around 200 middle schools were sampled in which the share of foreign students was, in the south of Italy, larger than 3 per cent or, in the centre and north, larger than 10 per cent. The survey refers to the 2005/06 school year and covers around 8,500 foreign citizens and 12,000 Italian citizens. More than half the students had at least one foreign parent. There were practically no refusals and few non-responses.

The survey involved structured interviews and questionnaires among foreign students from Albania (15 per cent), Morocco (11 per cent), China (10 per cent) and Romania (8 per cent).

Of the sample, 20 per cent had been born in Italy, while 27 per cent had lived in Italy for up to three years (Dalla Zuanna et al. 2009). In addition to the preliminary results on the entire sample, partial results from an analysis of the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Marche and Veneto were presented at a conference in Padua, Italy on 3 March 2007 (see Comune di Bologna 2006, Casacchia and Natale 2007, Fava 2007, Dalla Zuanna et al. 2007).

“Itagen2” was a collaborative effort among various universities, as well as the Fondazione ISMU, in Milan. Although the researchers in each region worked separately, they used the same sampling procedure and the same questionnaire to collect the data. Their aim was to identify factors that facilitate the inclusion of foreign children by investigating a number of key areas, including the family, educational performance, networks of relationships (ethnic, family, friends) and aspirations and opinions on a variety of critical issues. The researchers sought to highlight five dimensions that may potentially impede successful social inclusion: limited knowledge of the local language spoken in the country of settlement, scarce or inadequate social capital among immigrant families, economic difficulties, maladjustment and frustration, and expectations that exceed reality (Dalla Zuanna et al. 2007).

**Figure 3: The Provinces Sampled in the “Itagen2” Survey, Italy, 2006**



*Source:* Dalla Zuanna et al. (2009).

Among the issues covered in the sample questionnaire, which was based on the most recent theories and concepts, were autobiographies of immigration (of the child and the parents), languages spoken, parental characteristics, school, leisure time, sports, household profile, the extended family, the household dwelling, wealth, friendships, attitudes, norms, and aspirations. The questionnaire was designed to take about 30 minutes to complete. It was filled out by the students in class at school; hence, the low number of refusals and non-responses. Because pupils are the basic statistical unit, parents with two or more children were oversampled. Because the responses were provided by the children, all the variables in the database have been filtered through the eyes of children. Data on income were not collected directly.

Addresses and telephone numbers were collected for a subsample of 4,000 individuals so as to enable a follow-up through reinterviews. The aim of this longitudinal panel structure was to collect information on school performance after the subsample group had completed middle school. The study was not really about foreign individuals living in Italy. Rather, the sample included children aged 11–14 (and their families) who were living in areas where immigrants were a significant share of the population. Thus, it was as much about all the people in the places where immigrant families live.

Any comparisons between the 2005/06 survey results and the results of the 2001 census must be viewed with caution. The data gathering methods are different. The census covered children 0 to 17 years of age. The survey covered 11- to 14-year-olds. Many of the responses collected in the survey could not have been derived from the census. Still, if nothing else, despite the different reference groups and methods, the two data sources demonstrate clearly the rapidity and extent of the transformation of the phenomenon of immigration to Italy.

## **5.2 Family environment**

### **5.2.1 Size and structure of the family**

From official data, we know that certain foreign communities are characterized by a higher incidence of children (Istat 2006). Some communities show a greater propensity to form families in Italy (for example, Tunisians) or to rely on family reunification (for example, Albanians). Communities that have become more settled in Italy do not necessarily have a better standard of living than communities that are less well settled. For instance, families with more children or with larger households in general often experience worse economic conditions (Istat 2006).

From the Census and the survey, we have analysed the data derived from the household roster, i.e. the presence or not of both parents and of at least one grandparent. The majority of children in immigrant families tend to grow up with both parents, though one-parent households are rather common. According to the 2001 census, father-only families are rare among both Italians and foreigners. In most cases, the children in one-parent households live with the mother. Mother-only families are common particularly among immigrant families from El Salvador (13 per cent), Nigeria (14 per cent), Republic of Moldova and Somalia (15 per cent each), Eritrea (16 per cent), Dominican Republic (20 per cent) and Ecuador (21 per cent) (Table 13).

**Table 13: Children according to Family Structure, Italy, 2001**

**a. Parents and grandparents in the home**

*per cent of children*

<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Two parents</i>	<i>Mother only</i>	<i>Father only</i>	<i>At least one grandparent</i>	<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Two parents</i>	<i>Mother only</i>	<i>Father only</i>	<i>At least one grandparent</i>
In native-born families	92.0	6.8	1.2	5.1	In immigrant families (cont.)				
In immigrant families	92.1	6.2	1.6	3.7	Europe (cont.)				
Africa	92.9	5.3	1.8	3.0	Luxembourg	93.3	5.8	1.0	4.4
Eastern Africa	87.4	11.5	1.1	3.9	Netherlands	91.3	7.3	1.4	2.6
Eritrea	83.1	16.0	0.8	5.4	Portugal	91.4	7.8	0.8	2.5
Ethiopia	87.5	11.1	1.5	4.6	Spain	92.3	6.5	1.3	3.7
Mauritius	93.7	5.6	0.7	1.3	Sweden	90.9	7.6	1.5	2.6
Somalia	83.7	14.9	1.4	4.9	Switzerland	94.0	4.7	1.4	2.9
Other Eastern Africa	89.1	9.9	1.1	3.1	United Kingdom	91.9	7.0	1.2	3.1
Central Africa	84.4	13.9	1.8	2.5	EU-12	89.8	8.5	1.6	3.5
Northern Africa	94.7	3.5	1.8	3.2	Bulgaria	89.8	8.7	1.5	5.3
Algeria	90.7	7.2	2.1	2.2	Czech Republic	89.0	9.4	1.5	3.5
Egypt	96.0	2.4	1.7	1.8	Hungary	89.9	8.9	1.2	3.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	93.5	5.6	1.0	4.5	Poland	89.2	9.6	1.3	1.9
Morocco	94.5	3.4	2.1	3.7	Romania	90.3	7.8	1.9	3.5
Tunisia	95.7	3.1	1.2	2.3	Slovakia	90.7	8.1	1.2	2.0
Southern Africa	91.7	7.1	1.2	3.9	Slovenia	89.4	8.6	1.9	11.0
Western Africa	89.7	8.1	2.2	1.1	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	90.1	8.5	1.5	3.2
Côte d'Ivoire	87.7	9.0	3.3	1.1	South Eastern Europe	93.0	4.5	2.5	5.9
Ghana	91.1	7.0	1.9	0.6	Albania	93.1	4.2	2.7	5.7
Nigeria	85.2	13.5	1.3	1.7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	91.1	6.0	2.9	3.9
Senegal	93.2	3.1	3.7	1.1	Croatia	91.1	7.4	1.6	9.0
Other Western Africa	92.2	6.1	1.7	1.1	TFYR Macedonia	97.2	1.1	1.6	3.8
Asia	93.4	5.0	1.6	3.2	Other South Eastern Europe	92.2	5.0	2.8	6.9
Eastern Asia	92.0	5.7	2.2	4.3	CIS	87.8	11.0	1.1	4.5
China	92.1	5.5	2.4	4.6	Western CIS	88.0	10.9	1.1	4.5
Japan	91.6	7.9	0.5	1.8	Republic of Moldova	83.6	14.9	1.5	3.8
South Central Asia	95.7	2.8	1.5	2.6	Russian Federation	89.0	9.9	1.1	4.5
Bangladesh	97.6	1.4	1.1	0.5	Ukraine	87.0	11.9	1.1	4.7
India	95.8	3.1	1.1	3.7	Other CIS	86.6	12.5	0.8	4.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	94.9	3.2	1.9	2.6	Other Europe	85.8	9.8	4.4	7.1
Pakistan	97.1	0.9	2.0	1.4	Latin America and Caribbean	89.5	9.3	1.2	3.9
Sri Lanka	94.0	4.3	1.8	2.9	Caribbean	83.2	15.6	1.2	5.1
South Eastern Asia	90.5	8.1	1.4	3.3	Cuba	91.7	7.1	1.2	4.7
Philippines	90.0	8.7	1.3	3.1	Dominican Republic	79.1	19.7	1.2	5.4
Thailand	91.5	6.4	2.1	4.1	Central America and Mexico	87.8	10.9	1.3	4.0
Other South Eastern Asia	93.0	5.4	1.7	4.1	El Salvador	85.6	13.4	1.0	4.1
Western Asia, Middle East	94.4	4.3	1.3	3.0	Mexico	89.6	8.8	1.6	3.9
Israel	91.5	6.8	1.7	2.7	South America	90.2	8.6	1.2	3.8
Jordan	96.2	2.7	1.1	1.7	Argentina	93.5	5.5	1.1	4.4
Lebanon	95.4	3.1	1.5	2.8	Bolivia	88.9	9.0	2.1	5.4
Syrian Arab Republic	95.6	3.6	0.9	2.5	Brazil	90.0	8.6	1.4	3.4
Turkey	95.0	3.9	1.1	4.4	Chile	90.3	8.2	1.5	4.2
Other Western Asia, Middle East	90.8	7.5	1.8	2.6	Colombia	86.6	12.2	1.2	3.8
Other Asia	90.7	7.6	1.8	2.4	Ecuador	77.3	20.6	2.1	4.3
Europe	92.2	6.0	1.8	3.9	Peru	83.9	14.6	1.4	4.5
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	92.6	5.8	1.6	3.4	Uruguay	91.4	7.6	1.0	3.7
Austria	88.4	9.9	1.7	5.7	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	93.9	5.2	0.9	3.1
Belgium	94.5	4.5	1.0	2.9	Other Latin America and Caribbean	90.2	9.1	0.8	3.7
Denmark	87.8	9.8	2.4	3.2	Northern America	92.5	6.5	1.1	4.0
Finland	92.8	5.8	1.3	1.6	Canada	95.3	4.0	0.7	3.1
France	93.5	5.5	1.0	3.3	United States of America	90.5	8.2	1.3	4.7
Germany	90.8	6.6	2.6	4.0	Oceania	95.1	4.2	0.7	2.7
Greece	90.5	8.1	1.4	7.9					

## b. Siblings in the home

per cent of children

Family origin	None	One	Two	Three	Four or more	Family origin	None	One	Two	Three	Four or more
In native-born families	36.1	47.8	13.3	2.1	0.6	In immigrant families (cont.)					
In immigrant families	33.9	46.2	15.1	3.4	1.4	Europe (cont.)					
Africa	28.9	40.3	21.0	7.1	2.7	Luxembourg	32.4	54.5	11.8	1.0	0.3
Eastern Africa	38.8	43.1	13.4	3.0	1.7	Netherlands	29.4	51.0	14.8	3.8	1.0
Eritrea	44.1	43.2	10.8	0.7	1.3	Portugal	39.1	42.4	15.8	2.2	0.6
Ethiopia	39.7	45.5	12.1	2.2	0.6	Spain	37.9	47.0	11.5	2.4	1.2
Mauritius	46.9	41.0	10.7	0.9	0.5	Sweden	33.4	50.5	13.3	2.3	0.7
Somalia	29.7	39.1	18.1	7.6	5.6	Switzerland	30.9	53.1	13.8	1.8	0.4
Other Eastern Africa	34.6	44.4	15.8	3.9	1.3	United Kingdom	29.6	51.1	16.2	2.5	0.6
Central Africa	31.6	39.3	19.9	6.8	2.4	EU-12	53.8	37.0	7.1	1.4	0.6
Northern Africa	27.1	39.9	22.0	7.8	3.1	Bulgaria	65.3	31.2	3.2	0.3	0.0
Algeria	35.6	40.4	17.9	4.6	1.5	Czech Republic	48.2	43.9	6.9	0.8	0.2
Egypt	23.4	44.0	24.1	6.5	2.1	Hungary	47.9	41.1	9.6	1.1	0.3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	40.9	45.1	10.9	2.1	1.0	Poland	48.9	40.8	8.1	1.7	0.6
Morocco	24.4	37.3	24.2	10.0	4.2	Romania	56.7	34.1	6.9	1.5	0.8
Tunisia	28.5	42.1	21.1	6.1	2.2	Slovakia	53.3	36.5	8.1	1.6	0.4
Southern Africa	34.1	51.4	12.8	1.3	0.4	Slovenia	47.1	41.8	8.2	1.8	1.2
Western Africa	29.6	39.5	22.1	7.0	1.7	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	37.6	45.2	13.5	2.8	1.0
Côte d'Ivoire	32.6	34.6	22.0	9.1	1.7	South Eastern Europe	31.8	43.4	15.7	5.0	4.2
Ghana	26.0	42.6	23.6	6.7	1.2	Albania	35.6	48.3	13.7	2.1	0.4
Nigeria	33.9	38.2	20.0	6.0	1.9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	26.0	42.5	13.8	5.1	12.7
Senegal	29.2	38.6	23.3	6.5	2.4	Croatia	48.4	38.5	8.2	2.3	2.6
Other Western Africa	27.5	41.3	21.4	8.3	1.6	TFYR Macedonia	17.7	42.8	27.0	8.5	4.0
Asia	34.1	42.9	16.7	4.5	1.8	Other South Eastern Europe	22.4	33.0	19.8	12.2	12.6
Eastern Asia	27.8	46.5	20.5	4.1	1.1	CIS	58.0	35.9	5.2	0.6	0.2
China	26.2	46.7	21.7	4.2	1.2	Western CIS	58.1	36.1	5.0	0.6	0.3
Japan	42.1	44.9	9.5	2.9	0.6	Republic of Moldova	58.0	33.4	7.9	0.5	0.2
South Central Asia	33.1	40.6	17.0	6.3	3.0	Russian Federation	55.6	38.3	5.2	0.6	0.3
Bangladesh	32.7	39.9	20.1	6.3	1.0	Ukraine	63.0	32.4	3.8	0.6	0.2
India	33.1	46.2	16.7	3.5	0.5	Other CIS	57.8	33.8	7.6	0.8	0.0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	36.2	49.9	11.9	1.7	0.3	Other Europe	42.2	43.7	11.3	2.0	0.8
Pakistan	11.8	23.5	28.6	21.6	14.5	Latin America and Caribbean	39.1	45.3	13.0	2.1	0.6
Sri Lanka	49.3	40.9	8.7	1.0	0.2	Caribbean	47.5	38.5	12.1	1.7	0.2
South Eastern Asia	44.5	42.6	10.9	1.6	0.3	Cuba	64.7	31.2	4.0	0.2	0.0
Philippines	44.6	42.3	11.2	1.5	0.4	Dominican Republic	39.1	42.0	16.1	2.4	0.3
Thailand	48.8	41.1	8.3	1.4	0.4	Central America and Mexico	41.6	43.2	12.1	2.2	0.9
Other South Eastern Asia	38.9	46.7	11.4	2.7	0.4	El Salvador	43.4	40.3	12.6	2.5	1.2
Western Asia, Middle East	26.9	43.6	21.2	5.9	2.4	Mexico	40.0	45.7	11.6	2.0	0.7
Israel	27.8	44.0	21.5	5.1	1.5	South America	38.1	46.1	13.2	2.1	0.6
Jordan	23.9	43.8	23.4	6.7	2.2	Argentina	35.2	46.9	14.8	2.5	0.6
Lebanon	28.3	47.2	19.4	4.2	0.9	Bolivia	45.5	41.2	8.9	3.8	0.6
Syrian Arab Republic	24.4	40.7	24.0	6.3	4.6	Brazil	43.5	43.2	10.8	1.9	0.5
Turkey	26.4	42.3	21.3	7.1	2.8	Chile	42.3	43.9	11.6	1.5	0.6
Other Western Asia, Middle East	30.7	43.5	17.7	5.4	2.7	Colombia	44.6	42.0	10.7	2.2	0.6
Other Asia	44.8	43.9	9.4	1.4	0.5	Ecuador	40.3	39.6	17.0	2.7	0.4
Europe	34.6	47.9	13.7	2.6	1.2	Peru	46.3	41.3	10.0	1.7	0.7
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	31.5	51.0	14.5	2.3	0.6	Uruguay	32.3	50.5	13.6	1.9	1.7
Austria	34.2	46.4	15.0	3.3	1.1	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	29.0	52.8	15.8	2.0	0.4
Belgium	34.0	49.8	13.4	2.3	0.5	Other Latin America and Caribbean	40.7	44.0	11.9	2.8	0.6
Denmark	31.1	49.9	17.7	0.9	0.5	Northern America	30.4	51.8	14.6	2.6	0.7
Finland	30.5	52.0	13.6	2.9	1.1	Canada	29.0	54.6	13.9	1.9	0.6
France	32.2	51.1	14.0	2.0	0.7	United States of America	31.3	49.8	15.1	3.0	0.7
Germany	30.7	49.6	15.9	3.0	0.7	Oceania	27.9	54.7	15.1	1.9	0.3
Greece	43.3	45.2	9.9	1.5	0.1						

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: 'One' and so on refer to the number of siblings aged 0 to 17 in the home. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

Although the ages of the children are different, our calculations based on the "Itagen2" survey data indicate that, by the 2005/06 school year, mother-only households may have become more common among children in families from the EU-12, for example, Romania (16 per cent) (Table 14). This family type is numerous among families from the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (23 per cent). The figures are also high for families from Central Africa (26 per cent), the Caribbean (36 per cent), Central America and Mexico (37 per cent) and South America (21 per cent).

An important issue is whether these one-parent families are genuine. In many cases, especially among immigrants from former socialist countries, one-parent families might be simply a result of the delayed migration of remaining family members. For instance, many women arrive in Italy to work in home care and other domestic services. Often, they come alone with their children, and the husband follows later. In the meantime, the households are classified as one-parent households. This is a new phenomenon in Italy.

Among both Italians and foreigners, the residence of extended families in the home, measured by the presence of at least one grandparent, is rare. However, this result hides an

important difference between children in native-born families and children in immigrant families in Italy: the difference in the geographical proximity of near relatives. The “Itagen2” survey found that 71 per cent of the children in native-born families who were interviewed were living less than one kilometre from at least one close relative (grandparent, uncle, or aunt), whereas the corresponding share among children in immigrant families was 40 per cent (50 per cent in families of Latin American origin) (Barban et al. 2008). This characteristic may be a source of disadvantage among children in immigrant families (Billari and Dalla Zuanna 2008). In Italy, family members play a key role in providing support during times of need, such as the need to assure care.

The Italian welfare system, in fact, is not comprehensive. Child benefits and other family allowances available to parents with young children are not generous. Poverty statistics for Italy show that, even among native-born families, poverty rates increase with the increase of the number of children living in the households. Relative to children with no siblings, children with one sibling show a 20 per cent greater risk of experiencing poverty; the risk is about 33 per cent higher among children with two or more siblings (Billari and Dalla Zuanna 2008). Thus, the opportunities for upward social mobility are strongly linked to family size. Because immigrant families are, on average, larger than native-born families, they more generally face a higher poverty risk.

**Table 14: Children Aged 11–14 according to Family Structure, Italy, 2006**

*children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Adults in the home</i>				<i>Siblings 0–17 in the home</i>				
	<i>Two parents</i>	<i>Mother only</i>	<i>Father only</i>	<i>At least one grandparent</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four or more</i>
In native-born families	93.9	4.3	1.1	11.7	14.1	54.1	22.3	5.9	3.6
In immigrant families									
Eastern Africa	87.6	9.1	0.5	2.9	19.2	53.5	11.6	7.4	8.3
Central Africa	73.6	26.4	0.0	2.4	8.0	12.0	4.4	42.7	32.9
Northern Africa	81.2	6.2	4.1	4.7	3.9	19.2	27.6	19.3	30.0
Southern Africa	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	53.1	0.0	0.0	46.9
Western Africa	88.1	7.0	3.2	3.2	5.6	22.1	31.6	21.7	19.0
Eastern Asia	88.5	3.5	3.4	4.0	12.6	51.4	25.1	6.8	4.0
South Central Asia	87.8	4.4	3.7	4.7	6.2	32.1	27.9	16.2	17.7
South Eastern Asia	86.6	9.0	1.2	6.5	20.2	39.6	24.1	8.7	7.4
Western Asia, Middle East	92.7	1.1	4.9	0.0	4.0	28.7	21.8	29.1	16.4
EU-15	90.5	6.8	0.7	7.5	11.3	51.2	25.3	5.9	6.2
EU-12	79.2	15.6	1.6	6.2	35.9	38.8	12.8	7.0	5.5
South Eastern Europe	92.8	3.0	2.4	8.8	5.8	45.6	28.6	9.3	10.7
CIS	72.0	23.2	2.7	5.4	31.3	40.5	11.6	2.7	13.9
Caucasus	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.1	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Central Asia	67.9	32.1	0.0	14.2	0.0	67.3	32.7	0.0	0.0
Caribbean	54.8	36.2	6.0	16.0	7.8	16.9	38.3	14.4	22.6
Central America and Mexico	59.0	37.0	2.0	5.0	15.3	35.9	17.9	8.7	22.2
South America	73.9	20.8	2.2	6.0	15.1	37.1	25.3	10.2	12.3
Northern America	63.0	11.2	17.1	0.6	27.5	33.0	26.7	8.9	3.8
Oceania (Melanesia)	66.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Other origins	96.3	3.7	0.0	23.8	16.6	33.3	32.3	4.5	13.2

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.

*Note:* For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

According to our analysis of Census and survey data (Tables 13 and 14), the share of children with two or more siblings among children living in immigrant families is higher than the



corresponding share observed among children in native-born families (according to the 2001 census, the respective shares are 20 and 16 per cent). The situation varies widely according to country of origin: 27.9 per cent for Nigeria, 38.4 per cent for Morocco, 39.5 per cent for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 64.7 per cent for Pakistan. Among families from some countries of origin, the share is lower than it is among native-born families, including the Philippines (13.1 per cent), Romania (9.2 per cent) and Republic of Moldova (8.6 per cent). These differences are caused not only by differences in fertility rates, but also by different strategies with respect to family reunification. The patterns are also linked to the duration of residence in Italy.

The complete family composed of mother, father and children is the most prevalent family structure among the foreign students interviewed during the “Itagen2” survey, irrespective of country of origin or the duration of residence in Italy. Youth of North African origin reported the largest share of complete families (about 70 per cent), followed by students of sub-Saharan African and Eastern European origin. Asian students, independent of the length of residence in Italy, are distinctive for the large share who live in extended families (30 per cent of the cases) in which relatives other than the mother, father, and children are in the household.

### **5.2.2 Educational attainment among parents**

Compared with parents in native-born families, parents in immigrant families show both lower and higher levels of educational attainment depending on country of origin (Tables 15 and 16, based, respectively, on our calculations based on 2001 Census data and of “Itagen2” survey data). This may be driven by the differences in educational systems across countries of origin, but it may also be driven by the fact that parents in immigrant families tend to be younger.

The tables show that the least well educated parents tend to come from Africa, but that some immigrant groups from Asia also have low educational attainment. Meanwhile, the educational level among immigrant parents from the former socialist countries and from South America is comparable with that of parents in native-born families.

**Table 15: Children according to the Level of Education of the Fathers, Italy, 2001**

**a. Primary and secondary**

*per cent of children*

Family origin	Father completed				Family origin	Father completed			
	Primary		Secondary			Primary		Secondary	
	No	Yes	Lower	Upper		No	Yes	Lower	Upper
In native-born families	1.9	12.1	43.6	32.4					
In immigrant families	4.5	9.8	41.0	32.8	In immigrant families (cont.)				
Africa	12.5	14.1	33.8	28.5	Europe (cont.)				
Eastern Africa	2.8	8.0	33.6	38.8	Luxembourg	1.4	5.8	45.0	39.5
Eritrea	2.6	5.9	33.1	43.7	Netherlands	0.8	4.6	31.5	37.6
Ethiopia	1.2	6.0	34.3	43.1	Portugal	2.2	12.5	42.9	30.6
Mauritius	8.0	17.7	45.8	23.8	Spain	1.3	4.6	33.1	40.2
Somalia	3.8	7.0	29.0	37.8	Sweden	0.3	3.6	28.3	44.1
Other Eastern Africa	0.7	6.1	28.0	40.9	Switzerland	1.1	7.5	50.8	34.4
Central Africa	3.4	10.3	29.1	35.8	United Kingdom	1.0	5.8	40.8	35.0
Northern Africa	15.0	15.9	34.3	25.5	EU-12	1.9	8.4	34.7	42.7
Algeria	6.2	9.8	36.7	31.9	Bulgaria	1.3	5.2	30.2	43.3
Egypt	3.8	4.4	18.1	46.2	Czech Republic	0.7	8.3	40.9	38.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1.0	8.3	36.2	41.7	Hungary	1.2	6.9	37.9	37.0
Morocco	22.6	19.1	33.0	19.2	Poland	1.8	8.6	37.6	39.8
Tunisia	8.8	18.9	46.1	21.7	Romania	2.4	8.9	31.8	46.1
Southern Africa	0.8	3.4	32.7	44.6	Slovakia	0.7	7.7	40.3	37.4
Western Africa	9.2	10.6	33.0	34.0	Slovenia	2.0	8.3	42.7	34.8
Côte d'Ivoire	9.1	8.5	29.6	40.3	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	1.1	7.7	29.9	37.0
Ghana	4.1	10.5	37.9	39.6	South Eastern Europe	8.7	10.3	41.1	32.4
Nigeria	2.6	6.3	25.7	40.6	Albania	5.3	9.5	42.3	34.9
Senegal	19.2	15.8	39.1	19.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	16.9	8.7	31.7	36.2
Other Western Africa	19.4	13.4	28.9	23.6	Croatia	3.9	8.4	34.8	39.9
Asia	7.0	10.2	40.1	25.9	TFYR Macedonia	9.8	13.3	52.6	21.3
Eastern Asia	9.4	11.8	50.7	18.3	Other South Eastern Europe	17.1	12.3	38.0	26.3
China	10.3	12.9	54.5	16.8	CIS	1.1	6.8	31.8	38.5
Japan	0.8	1.2	14.5	33.2	Western CIS	1.0	6.7	31.6	38.6
South Central Asia	8.4	9.1	40.9	26.1	Republic of Moldova	3.3	7.6	40.4	32.2
Bangladesh	9.0	10.7	40.6	24.3	Russian Federation	0.7	6.7	28.9	38.9
India	8.9	10.4	42.6	24.3	Ukraine	1.3	6.7	35.1	39.5
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1.9	1.9	8.7	36.6	Other CIS	1.2	6.9	33.7	37.3
Pakistan	12.3	10.7	50.4	18.5	Other Europe	1.0	8.7	37.9	35.4
Sri Lanka	7.4	8.5	46.8	31.4	Latin America and Caribbean	1.6	7.6	35.8	39.2
South Eastern Asia	4.5	9.6	41.7	29.9	Caribbean	2.8	11.6	44.7	33.6
Philippines	5.0	9.5	43.0	28.5	Cuba	0.7	5.2	39.8	42.6
Thailand	0.8	13.8	41.3	34.3	Dominican Republic	3.9	15.2	47.4	28.5
Other South Eastern Asia	4.8	5.3	31.8	35.4	Central America and Mexico	2.5	8.8	36.1	34.9
Western Asia, Middle East	3.3	12.5	18.5	30.6	El Salvador	4.5	13.2	46.5	28.0
Israel	0.5	2.4	13.9	34.0	Mexico	0.9	5.2	27.8	40.6
Jordan	1.3	1.5	8.1	36.0	South America	1.5	7.2	35.0	40.0
Lebanon	1.8	3.7	15.9	38.0	Argentina	1.3	6.8	36.2	40.2
Syrian Arab Republic	3.6	4.3	22.9	31.1	Bolivia	1.5	8.0	29.2	39.9
Turkey	6.5	35.9	25.7	20.1	Brazil	0.9	8.0	34.1	39.6
Other Western Asia, Middle East	3.0	4.1	17.8	33.1	Chile	1.0	7.0	34.8	39.3
Other Asia	2.8	4.6	18.8	32.3	Colombia	1.4	7.8	32.1	39.9
Europe	2.8	9.4	44.7	33.1	Ecuador	4.5	9.4	35.8	37.4
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	1.6	9.5	47.6	31.7	Peru	3.4	7.4	39.9	33.9
Austria	1.1	6.7	34.8	34.9	Uruguay	1.3	9.5	38.9	36.8
Belgium	1.5	9.5	45.3	33.8	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.9	5.9	33.4	43.5
Denmark	0.7	4.1	25.5	38.7	Other Latin America and Caribbean	1.3	8.2	33.4	36.0
Finland	0.6	1.9	25.6	41.6	Northern America	0.8	5.5	33.5	39.0
France	1.3	9.1	45.4	33.4	Canada	0.8	5.4	40.8	41.6
Germany	2.7	14.1	52.1	24.3	United States of America	0.9	5.7	28.2	37.1
Greece	0.6	4.6	16.5	35.5	Oceania	0.8	6.0	43.0	39.8

## b. Post-secondary, non-tertiary and tertiary

per cent of children

Family origin	Father completed			Family origin	Father completed		
	Post- secondary, non-tertiary	Tertiary			Post- secondary, non-tertiary	Tertiary	
		First stage	Second stage			First stage	Second stage
In native-born families	0.3	0.6	9.1				
In immigrant families	0.7	1.0	10.1	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	0.9	1.1	9.0	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	0.5	1.2	15.1	Luxembourg	0.2	1.0	7.1
Eritrea	0.4	1.3	13.1	Netherlands	1.2	2.3	22.0
Ethiopia	0.6	1.0	14.0	Portugal	0.9	0.7	10.3
Mauritius	0.4	0.5	3.8	Spain	1.0	1.2	18.6
Somalia	0.5	1.6	20.3	Sweden	0.6	1.8	21.3
Other Eastern Africa	0.7	1.7	21.9	Switzerland	0.4	0.6	5.1
Central Africa	1.2	2.1	18.1	United Kingdom	0.9	1.3	15.2
Northern Africa	0.8	1.0	7.5	EU-12	0.8	1.0	10.6
Algeria	1.7	1.6	12.1	Bulgaria	1.1	1.5	17.6
Egypt	1.6	1.8	24.1	Czech Republic	0.2	1.2	10.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.4	0.5	11.9	Hungary	0.9	1.9	14.2
Morocco	0.8	1.1	4.4	Poland	0.9	1.0	10.4
Tunisia	0.4	0.6	3.5	Romania	0.7	0.7	9.4
Southern Africa	0.8	1.7	15.9	Slovakia	0.3	1.7	12.0
Western Africa	1.4	1.5	10.2	Slovenia	0.9	1.6	9.8
Côte d'Ivoire	1.1	1.6	9.9	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	1.2	1.6	21.5
Ghana	2.1	1.2	4.6	South Eastern Europe	0.8	0.8	5.9
Nigeria	1.6	2.2	21.1	Albania	1.0	0.9	6.1
Senegal	0.6	1.0	4.9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.5	0.5	5.5
Other Western Africa	1.1	1.8	11.9	Croatia	0.5	1.0	11.5
Asia	1.2	1.4	14.2	TFYR Macedonia	0.3	0.4	2.5
Eastern Asia	0.9	0.9	8.1	Other South Eastern Europe	0.7	0.7	4.8
China	0.7	0.6	4.4	CIS	1.0	1.3	19.7
Japan	3.7	3.6	43.1	Western CIS	0.9	1.2	19.9
South Central Asia	0.9	1.3	13.2	Republic of Moldova	1.5	1.9	13.2
Bangladesh	1.1	1.6	12.7	Russian Federation	0.9	1.2	22.7
India	0.7	1.2	12.0	Ukraine	0.7	1.0	15.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2.2	2.9	45.7	Other CIS	1.6	1.6	17.7
Pakistan	0.8	1.2	6.2	Other Europe	1.1	0.8	15.2
Sri Lanka	0.8	0.5	4.6	Latin America and Caribbean	0.6	1.1	14.0
South Eastern Asia	1.2	1.8	11.3	Caribbean	0.6	0.6	6.2
Philippines	1.5	2.1	10.5	Cuba	1.0	1.3	9.3
Thailand	0.5	0.7	8.7	Dominican Republic	0.3	0.2	4.5
Other South Eastern Asia	0.5	1.6	20.6	Central America and Mexico	0.9	1.0	15.7
Western Asia, Middle East	1.3	1.8	31.9	El Salvador	0.3	0.4	7.1
Israel	1.4	2.2	45.6	Mexico	1.4	1.4	22.7
Jordan	0.3	4.0	48.8	South America	0.6	1.2	14.6
Lebanon	2.4	1.9	36.3	Argentina	0.5	1.3	13.7
Syrian Arab Republic	1.0	1.4	35.6	Bolivia	0.7	1.3	19.4
Turkey	0.5	0.7	10.7	Brazil	0.6	1.0	15.8
Other Western Asia, Middle East	3.0	1.7	37.5	Chile	0.9	1.1	15.9
Other Asia	6.1	4.2	31.2	Colombia	0.7	1.0	17.2
Europe	0.6	0.9	8.5	Ecuador	0.9	1.5	10.5
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	0.5	0.8	8.3	Peru	1.3	2.2	12.0
Austria	0.7	1.8	20.0	Uruguay	0.5	0.7	12.3
Belgium	0.4	0.8	8.7	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.4	1.0	14.9
Denmark	0.7	2.4	27.9	Other Latin America and Caribbean	0.3	1.2	19.7
Finland	1.1	1.2	27.9	Northern America	0.8	1.4	18.9
France	0.6	1.0	9.3	Canada	0.5	1.1	9.9
Germany	0.4	0.7	5.8	United States of America	1.1	1.6	25.5
Greece	1.0	1.9	40.0	Oceania	0.5	0.9	9.1

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: The denominator is children aged 0–17 living with fathers, irrespective of the presence or absence of mothers. For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

The countries of origin of immigrant parents with particularly low educational attainment include Morocco, where 42 per cent of fathers and 48 per cent of mothers have completed only primary education or no education at all, Senegal, where the respective shares are 33 and 40 per cent, and Pakistan, where they are 23 and 44 per cent. Among other immigrant groups, the corresponding shares among fathers are somewhat higher, but the averages among mothers are lower. Examples include Bangladesh (where the shares are 20 per cent among

fathers and 25 per cent among mothers), Bosnia and Herzegovina (24 and 30 per cent, respectively), China (23 and 27 per cent), Côte d'Ivoire (20 and 29 per cent), Ghana (14 and 24 per cent), India (19 and 24 per cent) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (23 and 30 per cent). These shares mirror the educational differences by gender in the countries of origin.

**Table 16: Children according to the Level of Education of the Mothers, Italy, 2001**

**a. Primary and secondary**

*per cent of children*

Mother completed					Mother completed				
Family origin	Primary		Secondary		Family origin	Primary		Secondary	
	No	Yes	Lower	Upper		No	Yes	Lower	Upper
In native-born families	2.3	12.8	39.0	35.5					
In immigrant families	5.8	9.0	37.8	34.8	In immigrant families (cont.)				
Africa	17.1	14.7	33.7	26.2	Europe (cont.)				
Eastern Africa	5.8	8.4	35.0	37.8	Luxembourg	1.3	6.5	38.6	43.6
Eritrea	6.9	9.0	34.7	38.6	Netherlands	1.2	2.8	24.5	46.8
Ethiopia	3.3	5.8	34.0	43.2	Portugal	3.8	15.1	47.1	22.2
Mauritius	10.1	18.7	45.9	22.0	Spain	1.3	4.1	31.3	37.4
Somalia	9.8	7.8	31.4	36.7	Sweden	0.3	1.7	22.7	51.1
Other Eastern Africa	2.4	4.6	31.9	41.9	Switzerland	1.0	5.8	47.5	39.0
Central Africa	10.2	14.0	32.7	30.6	United Kingdom	1.0	4.0	36.1	38.3
Northern Africa	20.0	16.0	33.2	23.4	EU-12	2.4	4.6	23.8	52.6
Algeria	6.8	10.4	35.1	33.8	Bulgaria	1.9	3.7	21.1	47.2
Egypt	4.7	7.2	24.3	43.0	Czech Republic	1.4	2.3	22.5	56.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1.2	7.8	34.1	45.8	Hungary	0.9	2.8	19.6	53.2
Morocco	30.7	17.5	31.9	15.5	Poland	1.7	2.6	21.5	55.1
Tunisia	11.4	22.0	41.3	20.6	Romania	3.3	6.1	24.6	53.2
Southern Africa	1.2	2.5	26.2	51.3	Slovakia	0.9	1.8	20.7	53.9
Western Africa	13.8	14.1	36.8	28.1	Slovenia	2.3	8.5	39.9	35.8
Côte d'Ivoire	15.7	13.9	39.5	26.1	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	1.7	3.8	25.1	40.1
Ghana	7.0	16.8	45.7	27.4	South Eastern Europe	11.1	10.8	40.2	30.1
Nigeria	6.5	7.3	33.0	38.9	Albania	5.9	9.0	41.9	34.8
Senegal	26.4	18.9	31.4	18.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	21.2	9.1	31.8	29.8
Other Western Africa	25.9	14.3	27.2	24.2	Croatia	5.0	8.2	30.2	41.7
Asia	9.3	11.5	38.2	25.6	TFYR Macedonia	12.3	18.2	55.2	12.4
Eastern Asia	11.6	13.5	48.4	16.2	Other South Eastern Europe	24.3	14.0	35.5	20.6
China	12.7	14.9	53.2	14.5	CIS	1.6	4.5	21.2	38.3
Japan	1.1	0.8	4.5	32.5	Western CIS	1.6	4.5	21.2	38.6
South Central Asia	11.7	12.4	38.2	25.1	Republic of Moldova	2.3	5.0	32.6	34.9
Bangladesh	11.0	15.0	45.5	19.3	Russian Federation	1.3	4.4	18.9	38.2
India	11.4	12.6	38.5	24.1	Ukraine	2.0	4.7	23.1	40.2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1.6	2.5	13.7	45.0	Other CIS	1.9	4.1	21.6	36.3
Pakistan	24.3	19.6	37.7	12.7	Other Europe	2.2	7.0	34.0	39.1
Sri Lanka	7.4	10.1	46.5	30.2	Latin America and Caribbean	2.5	7.1	32.6	40.4
South Eastern Asia	5.5	8.0	39.8	29.5	Caribbean	6.5	9.2	41.7	31.5
Philippines	4.8	6.3	40.6	30.1	Cuba	3.1	4.1	35.5	40.6
Thailand	9.6	20.8	40.1	20.3	Dominican Republic	8.2	11.8	44.7	27.1
Other South Eastern Asia	5.8	6.7	32.9	35.0	Central America and Mexico	4.2	7.9	30.6	34.7
Western Asia, Middle East	6.1	13.1	19.8	35.3	El Salvador	7.5	12.8	43.9	28.5
Israel	0.7	1.5	12.8	47.3	Mexico	1.4	3.7	19.1	40.1
Jordan	2.2	4.2	16.2	38.4	South America	2.0	6.8	31.9	41.6
Lebanon	2.6	3.4	19.9	43.6	Argentina	1.3	6.8	31.6	43.6
Syrian Arab Republic	3.7	7.1	27.2	36.1	Bolivia	2.2	7.5	27.9	41.9
Turkey	14.3	35.3	19.0	21.2	Brazil	2.3	8.9	32.8	37.9
Other Western Asia, Middle East	5.0	5.6	23.5	39.0	Chile	1.7	5.9	30.9	42.8
Other Asia	2.9	4.3	16.3	33.9	Colombia	2.4	8.0	28.7	39.0
Europe	3.3	7.9	40.7	36.4	Ecuador	4.0	7.5	31.4	40.4
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	1.5	7.8	44.2	35.6	Peru	3.8	6.3	37.2	36.4
Austria	1.0	4.3	31.0	42.9	Uruguay	1.5	6.5	36.7	41.0
Belgium	1.5	8.4	41.9	36.6	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1.2	5.0	29.9	46.5
Denmark	0.9	3.1	19.4	44.6	Other Latin America and Caribbean	2.7	8.0	30.0	36.3
Finland	0.2	0.9	15.8	49.5	Northern America	1.0	4.8	27.4	42.8
France	1.2	7.3	41.2	37.2	Canada	0.7	4.3	34.3	47.0
Germany	2.6	12.2	49.5	28.2	United States of America	1.1	5.1	22.5	39.8
Greece	1.8	5.7	15.4	36.3	Oceania	0.8	4.2	40.8	43.0

## b. Post-secondary, non-tertiary and tertiary

per cent of children

Family origin	Mother completed			Family origin	Mother completed		
	Post-secondary, non-tertiary	Tertiary First stage	Tertiary Second stage		Post-secondary, non-tertiary	Tertiary First stage	Tertiary Second stage
In native-born families	0.6	1.5	8.3				
In immigrant families	1.3	1.9	9.4	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	0.9	1.1	6.3	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	1.1	2.0	9.9	Luxembourg	1.2	2.0	6.9
Eritrea	0.7	1.5	8.6	Netherlands	3.7	5.2	16.0
Ethiopia	0.9	1.6	11.1	Portugal	1.1	1.6	9.3
Mauritius	0.8	0.5	1.9	Spain	2.2	4.7	19.0
Somalia	1.1	1.7	11.6	Sweden	2.5	5.4	16.4
Other Eastern Africa	1.9	3.8	13.5	Switzerland	0.9	1.3	4.5
Central Africa	1.2	2.2	9.2	United Kingdom	2.3	2.2	16.2
Northern Africa	0.8	0.9	5.7	EU-12	2.1	2.2	12.2
Algeria	1.4	1.5	11.1	Bulgaria	2.2	3.3	20.8
Egypt	1.9	1.9	17.0	Czech Republic	2.3	2.7	12.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.6	1.6	8.9	Hungary	3.1	5.1	15.3
Morocco	0.6	0.6	3.2	Poland	3.5	2.7	12.9
Tunisia	0.5	0.8	3.4	Romania	1.4	1.4	10.1
Southern Africa	2.5	2.4	13.8	Slovakia	2.5	2.3	18.1
Western Africa	1.1	1.1	5.1	Slovenia	1.2	2.7	9.5
Côte d'Ivoire	0.8	0.7	3.3	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	3.7	3.5	22.2
Ghana	0.8	0.5	1.8	South Eastern Europe	0.8	0.8	6.1
Nigeria	2.4	2.2	9.8	Albania	0.9	0.7	6.7
Senegal	0.6	0.9	4.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.8	0.9	6.4
Other Western Africa	0.6	0.9	7.0	Croatia	1.1	2.2	11.6
Asia	1.6	2.3	11.5	TFYR Macedonia	0.1	0.3	1.5
Eastern Asia	1.3	1.2	7.8	Other South Eastern Europe	0.8	0.6	4.2
China	0.6	0.6	3.6	CIS	2.8	3.5	28.1
Japan	7.7	7.1	46.3	Western CIS	2.7	3.5	28.0
South Central Asia	1.3	1.5	9.8	Republic of Moldova	4.8	2.5	18.0
Bangladesh	0.9	0.7	7.7	Russian Federation	2.5	3.7	31.1
India	1.2	1.8	10.4	Ukraine	2.5	3.3	24.2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2.9	4.0	30.4	Other CIS	3.7	3.7	28.7
Pakistan	0.8	0.6	4.4	Other Europe	1.8	3.0	12.9
Sri Lanka	1.1	0.8	4.0	Latin America and Caribbean	1.4	3.0	13.0
South Eastern Asia	1.9	4.2	11.2	Caribbean	1.6	1.6	7.9
Philippines	2.1	4.9	11.2	Cuba	2.9	2.6	11.3
Thailand	1.2	1.2	6.8	Dominican Republic	0.9	1.1	6.3
Other South Eastern Asia	1.2	2.2	16.3	Central America and Mexico	2.2	2.2	18.1
Western Asia, Middle East	1.7	2.8	21.3	El Salvador	1.6	0.7	5.1
Israel	3.6	3.5	30.6	Mexico	2.7	3.5	29.4
Jordan	1.8	7.3	29.9	South America	1.3	3.0	13.3
Lebanon	2.1	3.4	24.9	Argentina	1.5	2.9	12.4
Syrian Arab Republic	1.8	1.6	22.6	Bolivia	1.8	4.1	14.7
Turkey	0.5	0.7	9.1	Brazil	1.0	2.9	14.3
Other Western Asia, Middle East	1.5	2.0	23.4	Chile	1.5	3.4	13.9
Other Asia	8.3	4.8	29.5	Colombia	1.6	3.6	16.7
Europe	1.3	1.8	8.6	Ecuador	1.9	3.5	11.2
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	1.3	1.9	7.7	Peru	1.7	4.4	10.2
Austria	2.0	3.9	14.9	Uruguay	1.5	2.0	10.8
Belgium	1.5	2.3	7.9	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1.0	2.5	14.0
Denmark	4.5	6.4	21.1	Other Latin America and Caribbean	1.8	6.1	15.1
Finland	7.0	6.0	20.6	Northern America	1.7	3.0	19.4
France	1.5	2.5	9.1	Canada	1.2	2.2	10.4
Germany	0.9	1.3	5.4	United States of America	2.1	3.6	25.7
Greece	1.9	3.3	35.7	Oceania	1.3	2.0	8.0

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: The denominator is children aged 0–17 living with mothers, irrespective of the presence or absence of fathers. For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

It is difficult to compare the educational levels reported by the 2001 census and those reported in the “Itagen2” survey because the “Itagen2” survey collected responses from children about their parents (Table 17). Thus, there are a large number of missing values because the children were unable to answer the relevant questions. The analysis by Barban et al. (2008) of these same data sources shows that, among parents in immigrant families, educational attainment does not correlate well with job histories. This outcome, already well known through studies in other countries, reflects the fact that immigrants from poor

countries of origin are hired relatively more frequently for ‘3-D jobs’ (dirty, dangerous and difficult) that are poorly paid. Even immigrants who have completed tertiary education are found in these jobs. There is also a clear link between the educational attainment of parents and the educational attainment of children. In general, higher education among parents is associated with better outcomes among children in both education and social mobility.

**Table 17: Children Aged 11–14 according to the Level of Education of the Parents, Italy, 2006**

**a. Fathers**

*children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Some primary</i>	<i>Completed primary</i>	<i>Completed upper secondary</i>	<i>Completed post-secondary</i>	<i>Tertiary</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
In native-born families	4.0	27.6	28.6	12.7	6.5	20.0
In immigrant families						
Eastern Africa	2.4	9.6	16.0	17.2	36.4	18.4
Central Africa	0.0	4.8	28.7	34.1	3.6	28.7
Northern Africa	7.9	21.4	19.3	10.9	5.4	25.9
Southern Africa	0.0	0.0	53.1	0.0	0.0	46.9
Western Africa	4.1	8.7	17.1	15.6	9.6	41.7
Eastern Asia	5.5	17.9	19.7	4.4	2.7	42.9
South Central Asia	3.4	15.3	19.8	12.7	7.0	37.1
South Eastern Asia	2.6	7.3	22.3	19.2	7.5	40.3
Western Asia, Middle East	7.6	28.0	8.5	13.6	5.8	27.1
EU-15	5.2	29.1	27.6	12.7	4.9	19.8
EU-12	1.9	7.1	33.9	15.7	5.3	35.3
South Eastern Europe	4.5	21.9	31.7	11.7	4.2	25.4
CIS	5.6	9.5	20.2	19.1	15.6	29.3
Caucasus	7.9	0.0	92.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Central Asia	15.5	5.5	15.5	0.0	0.0	63.6
Caribbean	1.2	7.7	19.7	34.5	5.3	31.6
Central America and Mexico	9.6	9.9	24.1	12.6	12.8	31.0
South America	2.7	15.0	25.3	16.5	8.8	31.3
Northern America	0.7	7.3	11.2	53.9	15.9	11.0
Oceania (Melanesia)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Other origins	2.6	27.4	34.7	10.3	10.0	12.6

**b. Mothers**

*children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Some primary</i>	<i>Completed primary</i>	<i>Completed upper secondary</i>	<i>Completed post-secondary</i>	<i>Tertiary</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
In native-born families	0.3	3.2	28.0	29.9	14.1	5.6
In immigrant families						
Eastern Africa	2.2	0.3	14.8	35.5	18.6	10.3
Central Africa	5.2	0.0	9.6	20.4	34.8	1.3
Northern Africa	14.1	7.8	19.8	20.0	10.8	3.9
Southern Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	53.1	0.0	0.0
Western Africa	5.4	7.0	14.2	20.1	14.6	8.3
Eastern Asia	7.6	6.1	19.4	15.9	5.0	1.3
South Central Asia	5.3	4.6	15.6	24.5	9.7	4.5
South Eastern Asia	0.7	3.2	5.2	29.0	19.7	8.9
Western Asia, Middle East	26.8	5.2	19.5	13.9	7.0	2.4
EU-15	0.4	1.2	26.7	33.0	13.9	6.3
EU-12	0.4	1.4	6.3	34.4	18.3	5.8
South Eastern Europe	2.1	4.3	22.4	31.3	10.6	4.1
CIS	0.6	3.2	6.7	34.2	14.9	11.8
Caucasus	0.0	0.0	7.9	92.1	0.0	0.0
Central Asia	0.0	0.0	21.6	24.1	10.5	0.0
Caribbean	1.2	2.5	10.6	33.2	23.2	3.4
Central America and Mexico	2.1	6.1	11.6	22.9	7.5	9.8
South America	0.3	2.3	12.8	27.8	16.3	9.3
Northern America	0.0	0.0	2.0	11.8	38.8	28.7
Oceania (Melanesia)	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other origins	0.0	3.7	20.1	42.6	8.4	4.7

Source: Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.

Note: For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

### 5.2.3 Parental employment

In Italy, home care and other domestic services are a particularly common type of employment among women in immigrant families. It has been estimated that over 1 million individuals of immigrant origin were working in Italian homes in mid-2008 and that 350,000 of these individuals were undocumented (Barban et al. 2008). This phenomenon is driven by the fact that care in Italy is typically provided for the sick and the elderly not through the welfare system, but through the family. This feature of the immigrant job market differentiates Italy from, for example, Germany and the United Kingdom. The majority of caregivers and domestic workers in Italy are women aged 30 to 50 from Eastern Europe (mainly Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine), but also the Philippines and some countries in South America. Many of the youngsters arriving in Italy recently through family reunification are the children of such women. Some estimates put the number of these arrivals at 50,000 a year since 2002.

Economic activity rates among the foreign adult population are typically higher than the rates among native-born adults. This is so not only because the immigrant population is generally younger, but also because employment is often the most important motivation for immigration (Istat 2006). One should recall, however, that the results of the census may be biased because activity status is self-reported. Compared with other data sources, such as labour force surveys, the census tends to underestimate employment. The key difference is that labour force surveys include information about employment even if this has involved only a few hours during the week previous to the survey (Istat 2006). Moreover, the census is an official survey, and people may not always be inclined to declare undocumented labour activity. The data are therefore not easy to interpret.,

From our analysis of 2001 Census data, we have noticed that, as expected, fathers in immigrant families tend to show a lower incidence of non-activity compared with fathers in native-born families (13 and 15 per cent, respectively). They are also more likely to be involved in part-time jobs relative to fathers in native-born families (over 4 per cent and less than 3 per cent, respectively), although they show the same share (82 per cent) working full time, that is, 36 or more hours a week (Tables 18 and 19).

The differences in full- and part-time employment across immigrant groups are nonetheless important. Part-time jobs are particularly common in home care and other domestic services, and these part-time jobs are dominated by immigrants from Ecuador, Peru and the Philippines. Part-time jobs are less common among immigrants from Republic of Moldova and Romania. Mothers in immigrant families work less (13 per cent part time and 27 per cent full time) than mothers in native-born families (13 and 34 per cent, respectively). Among women, the differences across immigrant groups are substantial. Thus, less than one quarter of women in families from South Central Asia work. The share is especially small among women in immigrant groups from Bangladesh and Pakistan, only about 10 per cent. The rate of employment is also low among women in the groups from Morocco, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The activity rates among women calculated through the 2001 census appear to be underestimates, particularly the low shares for part-time work among women (Table 20). (Note that the part-time shares in Table 18 are self-reported, while the corresponding shares in Table 20 are based on our calculations.) Nonetheless, the results confirm, at least, that mothers in immigrant families from only a few countries of origin have heavy work schedules. This is especially true of women in the immigrant group from China: 12 per cent of the mothers work more than 48 hours a week, while 13 per cent work between 41 and 48 hours relative to an average of 4 and 6 per cent, respectively, among other women.

**Table 18: Children according to the Employment Status of the Parents, Italy, 2001**

**a. Fathers**

*per cent of children*

<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Not employed</i>	<i>Part time</i>	<i>Full time</i>	<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Not employed</i>	<i>Part time</i>	<i>Full time</i>
In native-born families	15.1	2.9	82.1				
In immigrant families	13.9	4.1	82.0	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	12.6	4.0	83.4	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	14.3	5.8	79.9	Luxembourg	9.2	3.2	87.6
Eritrea	15.6	3.9	80.4	Netherlands	11.8	3.0	85.2
Ethiopia	14.7	3.1	82.2	Portugal	14.1	3.0	82.9
Mauritius	13.7	17.8	68.6	Spain	10.2	2.7	87.1
Somalia	17.1	4.2	78.7	Sweden	7.5	2.8	89.7
Other Eastern Africa	11.6	3.2	85.2	Switzerland	12.4	2.9	84.7
Central Africa	17.2	4.6	78.2	United Kingdom	12.6	3.6	83.8
Northern Africa	12.9	4.0	83.1	EU-12	13.7	3.9	82.4
Algeria	16.2	5.1	78.8	Bulgaria	9.6	2.8	87.7
Egypt	12.2	6.2	81.7	Czech Republic	14.0	3.5	82.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	11.5	2.2	86.3	Hungary	11.0	4.3	84.7
Morocco	12.4	3.8	83.8	Poland	16.5	4.5	79.0
Tunisia	15.1	4.0	80.9	Romania	12.8	3.9	83.3
Southern Africa	9.7	3.1	87.2	Slovakia	11.5	3.0	85.5
Western Africa	8.6	2.6	88.8	Slovenia	16.7	2.7	80.5
Côte d'Ivoire	7.5	2.6	89.8	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	13.5	2.4	84.1
Ghana	6.4	1.2	92.4	South Eastern Europe	15.4	3.7	80.9
Nigeria	11.4	3.8	84.8	Albania	12.3	4.2	83.5
Senegal	9.1	2.4	88.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20.7	3.7	75.6
Other Western Africa	9.4	3.8	86.8	Croatia	18.7	2.4	78.8
Asia	10.4	9.6	80.0	TFYR Macedonia	8.8	2.9	88.3
Eastern Asia	12.7	7.8	79.4	Other South Eastern Europe	24.0	3.6	72.4
China	13.1	8.3	78.6	CIS	11.6	3.2	85.3
Japan	9.0	3.8	87.2	Western CIS	11.4	3.1	85.5
South Central Asia	7.6	7.1	85.3	Republic of Moldova	14.7	4.6	80.7
Bangladesh	6.8	7.9	85.3	Russian Federation	10.1	3.0	86.9
India	6.4	3.1	90.5	Ukraine	13.4	3.0	83.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	11.8	6.2	82.0	Other CIS	13.2	3.8	83.1
Pakistan	7.7	2.0	90.3	Other Europe	12.7	1.7	85.7
Sri Lanka	7.7	18.5	73.9	Latin America and Caribbean	12.9	3.9	83.2
South Eastern Asia	11.3	18.5	70.3	Caribbean	16.3	3.8	80.0
Philippines	11.0	22.9	66.1	Cuba	12.3	3.8	83.9
Thailand	15.4	3.0	81.6	Dominican Republic	18.5	3.7	77.8
Other South Eastern Asia	8.4	2.7	88.9	Central America and Mexico	12.5	4.5	83.0
Western Asia, Middle East	11.8	5.1	83.1	El Salvador	14.3	4.9	80.8
Israel	11.4	5.4	83.2	Mexico	11.1	4.1	84.8
Jordan	12.2	7.5	80.4	South America	12.6	3.9	83.5
Lebanon	8.5	4.6	86.9	Argentina	12.0	3.1	84.8
Syrian Arab Republic	11.7	7.3	81.1	Bolivia	11.2	4.5	84.3
Turkey	11.5	3.0	85.5	Brazil	12.3	2.9	84.8
Other Western Asia, Middle East	17.9	5.1	77.0	Chile	12.9	2.8	84.3
Other Asia	20.8	5.1	74.1	Colombia	12.7	3.2	84.2
Europe	15.1	3.4	81.5	Ecuador	16.5	9.8	73.8
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	15.4	3.3	81.3	Peru	13.2	8.8	78.0
Austria	10.6	2.9	86.5	Uruguay	12.5	3.7	83.8
Belgium	13.4	3.1	83.5	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	12.3	3.0	84.7
Denmark	10.8	2.6	86.7	Other Latin America and Caribbean	13.1	4.0	83.0
Finland	9.0	2.6	88.4	Northern America	13.6	3.6	82.9
France	12.2	2.8	85.0	Canada	10.4	3.1	86.5
Germany	23.3	4.2	72.5	United States of America	15.8	3.9	80.3
Greece	14.7	3.3	82.0	Oceania	10.4	2.9	86.7



## b. Mothers

per cent of children

Family origin	Not employed	Part time	Full time	Family origin	Not employed	Part time	Full time
In native-born families	53.1	13.0	33.9				
In immigrant families	60.5	12.9	26.6	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	68.0	9.9	22.1	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	48.4	17.5	34.0	Luxembourg	51.7	13.8	34.5
Eritrea	42.7	19.7	37.5	Netherlands	56.5	17.3	26.2
Ethiopia	41.9	16.3	41.9	Portugal	59.2	13.6	27.2
Mauritius	59.1	22.1	18.8	Spain	57.5	15.6	26.8
Somalia	55.5	14.2	30.3	Sweden	51.4	18.3	30.3
Other Eastern Africa	48.8	16.3	34.9	Switzerland	55.3	15.0	29.6
Central Africa	53.2	17.5	29.3	United Kingdom	55.9	15.0	29.1
Northern Africa	74.5	7.7	17.8	EU-12	58.4	13.7	27.9
Algeria	67.8	11.1	21.2	Bulgaria	45.1	16.6	38.2
Egypt	73.7	7.8	18.5	Czech Republic	61.6	13.2	25.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	39.9	14.6	45.5	Hungary	65.5	12.2	22.4
Morocco	81.6	6.2	12.2	Poland	64.3	12.9	22.8
Tunisia	73.9	7.7	18.5	Romania	56.7	13.7	29.6
Southern Africa	48.2	17.3	34.4	Slovakia	64.0	14.8	21.2
Western Africa	54.1	13.1	32.8	Slovenia	49.1	15.3	35.6
Côte d'Ivoire	45.5	15.0	39.5	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	59.7	13.8	26.5
Ghana	44.8	14.8	40.4	South Eastern Europe	71.6	9.8	18.6
Nigeria	57.2	13.2	29.7	Albania	73.0	9.8	17.3
Senegal	66.3	9.3	24.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	65.1	12.0	22.9
Other Western Africa	62.8	12.0	25.2	Croatia	53.1	14.5	32.3
Asia	58.8	14.3	26.9	TFYR Macedonia	83.1	5.4	11.4
Eastern Asia	50.8	9.2	39.9	Other South Eastern Europe	73.0	9.2	17.9
China	48.5	9.0	42.6	CIS	52.5	14.5	33.0
Japan	72.7	11.6	15.7	Western CIS	51.9	14.8	33.3
South Central Asia	73.1	8.7	18.2	Republic of Moldova	62.3	12.0	25.7
Bangladesh	88.6	3.9	7.6	Russian Federation	50.5	15.4	34.0
India	69.0	8.8	22.2	Ukraine	52.1	14.3	33.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	51.2	11.1	37.7	Other CIS	58.3	11.6	30.1
Pakistan	92.0	2.1	5.9	Other Europe	50.8	13.3	35.9
Sri Lanka	67.2	15.4	17.4	Latin America and Caribbean	52.6	15.9	31.5
South Eastern Asia	39.4	30.8	29.8	Caribbean	63.2	13.2	23.7
Philippines	32.3	36.5	31.2	Cuba	69.8	10.3	19.9
Thailand	73.6	8.5	17.9	Dominican Republic	60.0	14.6	25.5
Other South Eastern Asia	55.8	12.0	32.2	Central America and Mexico	54.0	17.8	28.3
Western Asia, Middle East	63.9	10.4	25.7	El Salvador	48.6	22.9	28.6
Israel	53.4	13.7	32.9	Mexico	58.6	13.4	28.0
Jordan	55.0	10.8	34.2	South America	51.5	16.1	32.3
Lebanon	59.3	11.5	29.2	Argentina	52.0	15.1	32.9
Syrian Arab Republic	69.6	9.9	20.5	Bolivia	45.5	21.7	32.9
Turkey	74.2	8.0	17.8	Brazil	54.6	14.2	31.3
Other Western Asia, Middle East	61.3	11.1	27.6	Chile	53.0	15.4	31.6
Other Asia	63.9	10.2	25.8	Colombia	52.0	16.2	31.8
Europe	60.8	12.9	26.3	Ecuador	41.4	28.8	29.9
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	58.9	13.4	27.6	Peru	42.3	26.4	31.3
Austria	52.8	18.9	28.4	Uruguay	52.3	14.3	33.3
Belgium	57.1	12.1	30.8	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	54.3	11.8	34.0
Denmark	55.2	17.3	27.6	Other Latin America and Caribbean	52.6	14.0	33.4
Finland	60.3	14.9	24.9	Northern America	56.5	13.0	30.5
France	55.1	14.0	30.9	Canada	54.1	13.8	32.1
Germany	68.1	10.3	21.7	United States of America	58.3	12.4	29.3
Greece	47.8	12.0	40.3	Oceania	51.1	16.7	32.2

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Part time = 1–35 hours a week. Full time = 36 or more hours a week. The denominator is children aged 0–17 living with fathers (mothers), irrespective of the presence or absence of mothers (fathers). The results are self-reported in the census. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

The activity rates for men, that we calculated from 2001 census data, are more in line with other data sources such as labour force surveys. The hours worked per week among fathers in immigrant families and fathers in native-born families are similar (the first two rows in Table 20, panel a). The shares are rather stable across countries of origin. The only exceptions are men in the immigrant groups from Mauritius, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. These groups are more prevalent in home care and other domestic services in which part-time work is usual.

**Table 19: Children according to Employment Status of Either Parent in the Home, Italy, 2001**

*per cent of children*

Family origin	At least one parent full time	In two-parent families		Family origin	At least one parent full time	In two-parent families	
		One parent full time	Two parents full time			One parent full time	Two parents full time
In native-born families	83.3	86.3	29.0				
In immigrant families	82.7	86.0	22.1	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	84.2	86.8	17.8	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	80.3	85.3	27.6	Luxembourg	88.2	91.3	30.6
Eritrea	79.7	86.4	30.2	Netherlands	84.6	88.7	22.1
Ethiopia	84.4	88.9	34.2	Portugal	81.8	85.7	23.7
Mauritius	70.7	73.0	13.6	Spain	86.7	90.2	23.1
Somalia	77.0	83.8	23.7	Sweden	88.5	92.8	26.7
Other Eastern Africa	84.3	89.6	30.4	Switzerland	85.8	88.4	25.8
Central Africa	77.8	83.7	21.8	United Kingdom	84.3	88.0	24.5
Northern Africa	84.2	86.0	14.2	EU-12	82.0	86.2	23.2
Algeria	78.9	82.9	16.4	Bulgaria	87.1	91.6	34.1
Egypt	83.7	84.9	14.9	Czech Republic	81.3	86.6	20.4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	89.8	91.9	39.3	Hungary	83.3	88.2	17.8
Morocco	84.1	86.1	9.2	Poland	77.9	82.6	18.0
Tunisia	82.5	83.9	14.8	Romania	83.4	86.9	24.8
Southern Africa	87.0	91.3	30.6	Slovakia	83.4	88.4	17.7
Western Africa	88.5	92.4	28.1	Slovenia	81.8	86.8	29.9
Côte d'Ivoire	89.6	94.0	34.5	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	82.8	87.2	22.5
Ghana	92.8	95.6	36.0	South Eastern Europe	81.4	84.0	15.0
Nigeria	82.4	88.9	23.8	Albania	84.2	86.3	13.6
Senegal	89.9	91.5	20.8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	75.3	79.4	19.8
Other Western Africa	86.9	90.5	21.0	Croatia	80.8	85.0	26.4
Asia	82.6	84.9	21.4	TFYR Macedonia	88.9	89.8	9.9
Eastern Asia	84.1	86.2	32.4	Other South Eastern Europe	72.4	75.4	14.9
China	84.1	85.9	34.5	CIS	83.3	89.0	28.6
Japan	84.2	89.1	12.9	Western CIS	83.6	89.1	29.0
South Central Asia	86.7	88.1	14.8	Republic of Moldova	79.8	86.2	17.0
Bangladesh	85.4	86.0	6.4	Russian Federation	85.0	90.4	30.2
India	91.5	93.0	19.0	Ukraine	81.5	87.2	29.3
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	87.6	89.4	30.4	Other CIS	80.8	87.5	25.0
Pakistan	90.7	91.6	4.6	Other Europe	84.0	88.7	32.1
Sri Lanka	75.5	77.4	13.2	Latin America and Caribbean	83.1	87.8	26.2
South Eastern Asia	73.8	77.1	22.2	Caribbean	76.8	84.8	16.9
Philippines	70.9	73.9	22.4	Cuba	83.2	87.7	15.7
Thailand	80.1	85.0	15.1	Dominican Republic	73.7	83.1	17.6
Other South Eastern Asia	89.1	92.2	28.7	Central America and Mexico	81.4	86.8	23.3
Western Asia, Middle East	84.9	87.5	21.2	El Salvador	78.9	85.0	22.6
Israel	84.3	88.4	27.9	Mexico	83.5	88.4	23.9
Jordan	86.2	87.6	26.9	South America	83.8	88.1	27.1
Lebanon	88.8	90.7	25.3	Argentina	86.5	89.2	28.1
Syrian Arab Republic	83.4	85.4	15.8	Bolivia	84.2	89.0	27.8
Turkey	85.9	88.3	14.6	Brazil	84.1	88.7	26.8
Other Western Asia, Middle East	77.8	82.5	22.7	Chile	84.6	88.8	26.6
Other Asia	74.0	78.0	21.9	Colombia	81.6	88.2	27.4
Europe	82.0	85.3	22.1	Ecuador	72.5	80.6	19.8
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	82.1	85.4	23.5	Peru	78.1	84.2	23.0
Austria	84.9	90.6	23.8	Uruguay	85.3	88.6	27.5
Belgium	85.4	87.6	26.3	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	86.4	89.0	29.3
Denmark	84.5	90.5	23.5	Other Latin America and Caribbean	84.0	88.8	27.3
Finland	88.5	91.3	20.7	Northern America	83.7	87.1	25.9
France	86.0	88.8	26.6	Canada	88.1	90.1	28.1
Germany	73.1	77.1	17.3	United States of America	80.7	84.8	24.3
Greece	84.3	89.1	33.9	Oceania	88.0	90.2	28.4

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Full time = 36 or more hours a week. For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

The “Itagen2” sample survey also includes questions about employment (Table 21). We find differences with respect to the census. The differences between the two sources are less apparent in the case of fathers. The “Itagen2” data indicate that most fathers in immigrant families work, and, as with fathers in native-born families, they tend to work full time. The differences between the two sources are more noticeable among mothers in immigrant families from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. According to the survey, around 80 per cent of the mothers in the immigrant group from the Commonwealth of Independent States work. The corresponding share from the 2001 census is below 50 per cent (see Table

18). The survey shows that mothers in immigrant families from the EU-12 and from South America work more than mothers in native-born families (over 80 per cent of the former are working). This is in stark contrast to mothers in immigrant families from northern Africa and Asia. This is not only because the latter have more children and are therefore more likely to become housewives, but also because of similar differences in the countries of origin. For instance, in the countries in which we observe sharp differences in employment by gender, we also find important gender gaps in education.

**Table 20: Children according to the Hours Worked by Fathers and Mothers, Italy, 2001**

**a. Fathers**

*per cent of children*

Family origin	Hours per week				Family origin	Hours per week			
	1-35	36-40	41-48	≥49		1-35	36-40	41-48	≥49
In native-born families	11.4	55.4	14.6	15.4					
In immigrant families	12.0	55.3	14.6	14.6	In immigrant families (cont.)				
Africa	11.0	61.6	12.8	11.0	Europe (cont.)				
Eastern Africa	15.5	52.3	13.2	15.5	Luxembourg	7.7	58.1	14.8	15.7
Eritrea	13.4	55.2	14.1	13.7	Netherlands	11.1	48.0	14.6	22.1
Ethiopia	11.6	54.9	13.4	16.1	Portugal	10.5	53.4	13.3	19.4
Mauritius	32.7	39.1	14.8	10.9	Spain	11.2	52.7	14.2	19.2
Somalia	14.1	55.0	10.9	15.6	Sweden	11.5	47.9	13.4	23.9
Other Eastern Africa	10.8	54.6	12.7	18.8	Switzerland	9.9	55.2	16.2	15.2
Central Africa	13.6	55.5	12.8	14.5	United Kingdom	12.7	50.8	14.5	17.9
Northern Africa	10.8	61.8	13.0	10.8	EU-12	12.2	54.2	14.3	15.8
Algeria	12.0	58.2	14.3	11.0	Bulgaria	11.8	53.5	16.4	14.7
Egypt	14.8	51.1	13.8	17.0	Czech Republic	11.7	46.8	14.7	22.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10.8	60.1	12.4	13.9	Hungary	14.0	49.8	12.9	18.9
Morocco	10.4	65.9	12.2	7.7	Poland	13.6	50.0	15.5	16.8
Tunisia	9.4	58.1	14.9	14.0	Romania	11.6	57.8	13.6	14.1
Southern Africa	11.7	51.5	14.5	18.0	Slovakia	11.5	50.8	14.7	18.9
Western Africa	8.1	69.5	11.3	8.0	Slovenia	10.7	55.6	12.9	17.2
Côte d'Ivoire	6.7	72.0	10.7	7.5	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	12.1	47.6	15.8	19.4
Ghana	6.0	75.7	10.8	5.1	South Eastern Europe	9.6	63.7	14.0	9.8
Nigeria	11.5	59.9	11.9	12.8	Albania	9.3	64.6	14.4	8.8
Senegal	8.3	68.4	12.1	7.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	12.8	61.6	12.6	9.5
Other Western Africa	8.7	70.7	10.9	8.4	Croatia	10.2	55.6	14.3	16.0
Asia	20.4	49.9	13.4	13.7	TFYR Macedonia	6.9	71.7	12.0	7.3
Eastern Asia	23.4	41.3	15.5	16.8	Other South Eastern Europe	10.7	60.3	14.0	11.7
China	24.3	41.0	15.7	16.1	CIS	12.1	52.8	14.2	17.7
Japan	15.3	43.2	14.2	22.6	Western CIS	12.1	52.7	14.3	17.8
South Central Asia	15.2	56.9	13.5	12.3	Republic of Moldova	11.4	54.2	14.0	17.0
Bangladesh	16.1	61.7	13.0	7.3	Russian Federation	12.1	52.6	14.1	18.3
India	9.0	59.9	15.2	13.6	Ukraine	12.4	52.6	14.7	16.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	16.4	40.0	21.2	19.9	Other CIS	12.1	53.9	13.3	16.8
Pakistan	7.1	74.1	9.3	7.3	Other Europe	12.2	52.3	13.6	17.5
Sri Lanka	32.0	42.6	10.5	13.3	Latin America and Caribbean	12.5	52.0	14.6	17.2
South Eastern Asia	29.7	44.9	10.9	11.8	Caribbean	11.1	52.8	14.3	17.4
Philippines	35.3	41.9	9.9	10.3	Cuba	11.3	52.7	13.4	18.1
Thailand	11.3	52.3	13.2	19.2	Dominican Republic	11.0	52.8	14.8	17.0
Other South Eastern Asia	8.6	58.6	15.7	14.6	Central America and Mexico	12.2	52.3	13.8	17.0
Western Asia, Middle East	15.3	51.2	14.3	16.4	El Salvador	13.8	55.3	11.7	14.7
Israel	17.7	39.5	16.2	24.0	Mexico	11.0	49.9	15.4	18.8
Jordan	22.1	44.8	14.3	15.5	South America	12.7	51.9	14.7	17.2
Lebanon	14.6	50.4	14.3	17.9	Argentina	11.9	50.6	15.5	18.4
Syrian Arab Republic	19.3	48.8	11.1	17.6	Bolivia	14.3	54.6	12.1	16.6
Turkey	9.1	60.1	14.8	13.3	Brazil	11.4	51.9	14.5	18.6
Other Western Asia, Middle East	16.4	52.9	14.7	13.9	Chile	9.9	53.8	13.9	18.3
Other Asia	17.3	48.5	12.8	17.3	Colombia	11.4	52.3	14.1	18.3
Europe	10.9	55.3	15.3	14.9	Ecuador	18.3	53.6	12.1	13.0
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	11.1	53.5	15.8	15.9	Peru	16.7	53.3	13.0	13.8
Austria	10.3	49.4	14.2	21.7	Uruguay	12.7	48.7	17.8	17.6
Belgium	10.9	56.3	14.0	15.3	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	12.7	52.1	15.4	16.5
Denmark	10.0	50.0	16.4	20.5	Other Latin America and Caribbean	11.0	52.1	14.0	18.8
Finland	11.3	53.1	11.8	20.7	Northern America	13.0	50.4	14.7	18.4
France	10.4	55.6	14.9	15.7	Canada	11.4	54.6	15.1	15.7
Germany	12.6	50.6	17.3	14.9	United States of America	14.2	47.2	14.5	20.4
Greece	16.0	47.0	14.6	19.1	Oceania	11.0	53.3	14.7	18.7

## b. Mothers

per cent of children

Family origin	Hours per week				Family origin	Hours per week			
	1-35	36-40	41-48	>49		1-35	36-40	41-48	>49
In native-born families	42.5	38.2	6.0	4.1					
In immigrant families	44.0	35.4	6.5	4.4	In immigrant families (cont.)				
Africa	41.4	40.5	5.1	3.0	Europe (cont.)				
Eastern Africa	47.6	36.1	4.6	3.1	Luxembourg	40.7	38.0	6.7	3.9
Eritrea	49.1	37.0	4.3	3.1	Netherlands	46.7	31.5	5.2	5.1
Ethiopia	42.2	40.7	4.2	3.6	Portugal	45.2	32.2	4.9	8.6
Mauritius	70.1	18.0	4.6	1.9	Spain	48.4	30.8	5.5	4.8
Somalia	45.2	36.4	4.6	3.5	Sweden	47.4	31.2	4.9	3.5
Other Eastern Africa	43.0	38.6	5.3	3.0	Switzerland	41.9	35.3	6.7	4.4
Central Africa	49.4	33.0	6.3	3.2	United Kingdom	47.1	30.9	6.7	4.9
Northern Africa	40.1	41.1	5.4	3.2	EU-12	45.0	35.3	6.4	4.3
Algeria	45.9	33.0	4.9	4.8	Bulgaria	46.0	35.4	6.4	3.5
Egypt	43.7	36.3	6.3	5.7	Czech Republic	45.7	30.5	6.6	6.7
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	35.6	50.2	4.2	2.7	Hungary	46.9	30.2	6.0	6.1
Morocco	41.4	37.4	5.3	2.3	Poland	47.4	32.3	6.1	4.5
Tunisia	39.6	42.0	6.3	3.6	Romania	44.1	37.1	6.6	4.0
Southern Africa	44.3	35.9	5.1	4.2	Slovakia	45.5	31.6	5.4	4.6
Western Africa	37.7	45.0	4.8	2.3	Slovenia	39.8	39.7	6.2	4.4
Côte d'Ivoire	36.6	44.7	5.5	2.0	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	48.3	31.8	5.6	3.8
Ghana	34.7	51.8	3.9	1.5	South Eastern Europe	42.5	38.9	6.3	3.1
Nigeria	41.9	38.2	5.2	4.2	Albania	44.3	37.2	6.5	2.8
Senegal	35.6	42.2	5.3	2.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	40.2	42.9	4.4	2.7
Other Western Africa	43.5	40.3	4.9	1.2	Croatia	40.4	41.1	6.1	4.2
Asia	47.7	31.4	7.9	6.5	TFYR Macedonia	35.9	44.9	5.6	2.3
Eastern Asia	33.0	36.4	12.7	11.9	Other South Eastern Europe	42.2	38.2	6.9	3.6
China	31.8	37.0	13.2	12.4	CIS	46.3	35.1	6.1	3.8
Japan	53.0	26.2	4.9	4.2	Western CIS	46.7	35.0	5.9	3.8
South Central Asia	47.0	34.9	6.4	4.1	Republic of Moldova	41.2	34.2	9.3	2.5
Bangladesh	45.2	30.9	5.5	6.5	Russian Federation	48.1	35.6	4.9	3.8
India	43.6	40.2	4.8	3.3	Ukraine	44.9	33.8	7.4	4.0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	38.8	37.9	9.5	5.4	Other CIS	41.3	36.7	7.5	3.7
Pakistan	34.7	41.8	8.1	5.3	Other Europe	38.2	35.6	6.8	6.2
Sri Lanka	61.6	23.3	6.4	3.9	Latin America and Caribbean	47.5	34.1	6.0	4.4
South Eastern Asia	60.8	23.4	6.0	4.7	Caribbean	42.2	34.3	6.9	5.5
Philippines	64.0	20.9	5.8	4.7	Cuba	38.4	33.5	5.6	4.2
Thailand	39.0	37.0	7.8	6.4	Dominican Republic	43.6	34.5	7.4	5.9
Other South Eastern Asia	37.4	44.5	7.7	3.5	Central America and Mexico	51.3	31.6	4.0	3.7
Western Asia, Middle East	46.0	35.4	6.0	4.2	El Salvador	58.0	28.1	4.2	3.0
Israel	49.3	28.7	4.4	7.2	Mexico	44.2	35.4	3.8	4.5
Jordan	43.1	42.6	5.3	2.5	South America	48.0	34.1	5.9	4.3
Lebanon	47.8	32.6	5.9	5.6	Argentina	44.7	36.4	6.1	4.6
Syrian Arab Republic	50.7	31.7	7.1	2.8	Bolivia	58.0	32.0	2.2	2.7
Turkey	43.4	38.0	6.4	4.5	Brazil	45.8	36.1	5.6	4.6
Other Western Asia, Middle East	43.5	36.6	7.4	1.9	Chile	47.8	36.9	5.1	3.7
Other Asia	36.4	39.4	5.1	7.2	Colombia	48.9	33.3	5.5	4.0
Europe	43.0	35.4	6.8	4.4	Ecuador	59.1	25.1	5.2	4.1
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	42.6	34.8	7.0	4.7	Peru	56.8	27.3	5.0	3.7
Austria	46.9	29.0	5.2	8.0	Uruguay	42.7	35.0	6.7	6.5
Belgium	41.3	40.1	6.2	4.5	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	44.8	36.0	7.2	4.4
Denmark	45.9	31.9	7.6	5.1	Other Latin America and Caribbean	42.5	37.5	7.5	3.7
Finland	46.5	25.9	8.3	5.1	Northern America	45.9	33.3	6.5	4.5
France	43.0	37.0	6.6	4.2	Canada	44.6	35.5	6.6	4.0
Germany	40.5	33.2	8.5	5.4	United States of America	47.0	31.7	6.5	5.0
Greece	42.9	37.5	6.6	5.7	Oceania	45.5	35.0	6.1	3.9

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Hours per week = hours worked during the week before the census. The rows do not sum because some parents, though employed, had not worked that week. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

**Table 21: Children according to Working Fathers or Mothers, Italy, 2006***children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Father works</i>	<i>Mother works</i>
In native-born families	97.4	67.9
In immigrant families		
Eastern Africa	95.8	79.0
Central Africa	75.5	84.4
Northern Africa	95.2	34.1
Southern Africa	100.0	53.1
Western Africa	97.0	67.1
Eastern Asia	92.4	80.2
South Central Asia	95.9	23.9
South Eastern Asia	96.9	84.9
Western Asia, Middle East	93.7	30.7
EU-15	94.5	68.9
EU-12	96.3	81.7
South Eastern Europe	96.3	58.9
CIS	97.3	80.2
Caucasus	100.0	92.1
Central Asia	100.0	79.6
Caribbean	95.9	74.5
Central America and Mexico	85.7	88.2
South America	96.3	83.3
Northern America	92.2	69.7
Oceania (Melanesia)	100.0	100.0
Other origins	96.1	58.6

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.*Note:* For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

### **5.2.4 Family socioeconomic status: housing**

If there is more than one individual per room, not counting bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or half-rooms, then the individuals in a household are living in overcrowded conditions. The measure is constructed by simply counting the number of individuals living in a household and dividing by the number of rooms in the dwelling.

Relative to children in native-born families, children in immigrant families experience more difficult housing conditions (Table 22, based on our calculations based on 2001 Census data). Earlier studies based on census data have shown that, although housing conditions among immigrant families are more stable and less problematic than housing conditions among the total foreign population, including individuals not in families, children in immigrant families are living in homes that are generally smaller and in which more people are residing (Istat 2006). Compared with 43.4 per cent of the children in native-born families, 56.8 per cent of the children in immigrant families live in overcrowded dwellings. The share of homeownership is 48.8 per cent for children in immigrant families and 66.7 per cent for children in native-born families. Nevertheless, it has to be underlined that homeownership is relatively more common in Italy than elsewhere in the developed world.

Some immigrant groups fare much less well in housing. Housing conditions are poor among many children in immigrant families from Africa, especially Ghana, Morocco and Senegal, Asia, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and Eastern Europe, particularly Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In all these cases, less than one fifth own their own homes, and overcrowding is rife. Overcrowding affects 80 per

cent of children in families from Morocco, Pakistan and Senegal. Some of these country differences may be explained by other factors besides poverty. For instance, there appears to be relevant differences in housing preferences.

**Table 22: Children according to Family Homeownership and Housing, Italy, 2001**

*per cent of children*

<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Own</i>	<i>Crowded</i>	<i>Family origin</i>	<i>Own</i>	<i>Crowded</i>
In native-born families	66.7	43.4			
In immigrant families	48.8	56.8	In immigrant families (cont.)		
Africa	29.2	75.2	Europe (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	49.6	56.5	Luxembourg	65.3	44.8
Eritrea	50.2	54.3	Netherlands	60.4	40.8
Ethiopia	59.5	50.0	Portugal	49.8	53.4
Mauritius	21.7	73.6	Spain	60.0	47.8
Somalia	43.2	63.6	Sweden	60.8	39.5
Other Eastern Africa	59.9	50.2	Switzerland	65.1	46.7
Central Africa	34.4	67.0	United Kingdom	63.0	46.7
Northern Africa	27.4	78.7	EU-12	45.7	48.1
Algeria	32.9	67.7	Bulgaria	56.1	36.1
Egypt	34.7	79.6	Czech Republic	57.7	41.4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	69.7	50.3	Hungary	56.6	43.2
Morocco	18.3	84.3	Poland	44.3	50.7
Tunisia	26.0	78.6	Romania	40.2	49.6
Southern Africa	62.7	44.6	Slovakia	51.0	45.7
Western Africa	18.9	75.7	Slovenia	66.2	49.8
Côte d'Ivoire	21.9	77.5	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	62.0	43.7
Ghana	11.0	77.6	South Eastern Europe	18.4	73.5
Nigeria	25.8	69.0	Albania	14.0	79.5
Senegal	17.6	81.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	16.8	60.4
Other Western Africa	22.8	74.4	Croatia	53.6	52.1
Asia	33.9	66.6	TFYR Macedonia	10.8	80.9
Eastern Asia	29.8	64.6	Other South Eastern Europe	18.3	68.0
China	27.5	67.5	CIS	60.0	34.2
Japan	51.2	37.8	Western CIS	60.5	33.9
South Central Asia	32.6	69.5	Republic of Moldova	30.0	52.6
Bangladesh	19.8	79.5	Russian Federation	66.7	30.8
India	39.3	58.8	Ukraine	55.1	35.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	52.1	51.6	Other CIS	55.6	36.6
Pakistan	33.4	89.6	Other Europe	66.2	40.7
Sri Lanka	17.4	75.2	Latin America and Caribbean	56.3	50.9
South Eastern Asia	33.8	67.4	Caribbean	45.8	54.7
Philippines	26.5	72.5	Cuba	51.6	46.2
Thailand	59.8	45.7	Dominican Republic	42.9	58.9
Other South Eastern Asia	60.3	52.6	Central America and Mexico	53.1	54.5
Western Asia, Middle East	44.2	62.6	El Salvador	41.2	65.9
Israel	56.5	50.0	Mexico	63.3	44.8
Jordan	46.7	66.9	South America	57.4	50.5
Lebanon	47.2	56.9	Argentina	57.6	54.4
Syrian Arab Republic	51.5	64.2	Bolivia	66.6	41.4
Turkey	32.0	71.2	Brazil	63.0	41.4
Other Western Asia, Middle East	44.9	56.6	Chile	61.4	43.2
Other Asia	46.4	46.2	Colombia	58.4	43.1
Europe	53.1	52.9	Ecuador	28.7	67.4
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	62.3	49.4	Peru	39.1	64.1
Austria	67.2	40.6	Uruguay	57.2	56.0
Belgium	66.6	46.0	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	64.5	49.3
Denmark	56.2	38.9	Other Latin America and Caribbean	58.9	45.8
Finland	60.4	43.0	Northern America	63.2	42.2
France	62.7	48.6	Canada	67.8	43.9
Germany	57.7	56.3	United States of America	60.1	40.9
Greece	62.7	40.5	Oceania	68.7	45.7

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: The table shows, for each category, the share of children in families that own their own homes and in families living in overcrowded housing. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

Families of Asian origin appear to prefer to own their own homes, but also to live together with more people. Thus, they do well in indicators of homeownership, but poorly in indicators of overcrowding. The observed country differences also depend on the duration of residence in Italy. The first years following immigration tend to be the most difficult, and economic conditions usually improve thereafter. It also appears that many immigrants purchase their first homes soon after their arrival, but are able to afford only smaller homes.

These conjectures are confirmed from analysis of the “Itagen2” survey data. Although housing strategies vary considerably by country of origin, a key tradeoff appears to exist among ensuring ownership of housing, maintaining close contact with relatives and living in a large home (see Dalla Zuanna et al. 2009).

A comparison of Tables 22 and 23 shows some of the most important changes in housing among immigrant groups between 2001 and 2006. Immigrants from Albania and Asia represent the two extremes. If we consider the behaviour of immigrants who have been in Italy for at least 10 years, immigrant families from Albania exhibit the lowest rate of homeownership (33 per cent), but are also least likely to live in overcrowded conditions (below 6 per cent). Immigrant families from Asia, on the other hand, show a strong preference for homeownership (46 per cent), even if this means accepting overcrowded living conditions (21 per cent). In a sense, the situation is more critical among immigrant families from Morocco and Tunisia, among which the prevalence of homeownership is low, while the prevalence of overcrowding is high (17 and 30 per cent, respectively).

**Table 23: Homeownership and Overcrowding in the Families of Children Aged 11–14, Italy, 2006**

*children as a per cent within each group*

<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Homeownershi p</i>	<i>Overcrowd ed housing</i>	<i>Region of origin</i>	<i>Homeownershi p</i>	<i>Overcrowde d housing</i>
In native-born families	78.5	10.6			
In immigrant families			In immigrant families (cont.)		
Eastern Africa	55.2	9.9	South Eastern Europe	25.4	35.2
Central Africa	40.3	40.1	CIS	46.8	19.8
Northern Africa	33.8	46.2	Caucasus	92.1	0.0
Southern Africa	100.0	0.0	Central Asia	24.1	10.5
Western Africa	43.2	37.9	Caribbean	43.4	21.0
Eastern Asia	29.0	33.2	Central America and Mexico	38.3	36.7
South Central Asia	45.8	43.1	South America	46.0	33.9
South Eastern Asia	36.2	54.0	Northern America	61.5	8.2
Western Asia, Middle East	46.6	57.0	Oceania (Melanesia)	0.0	100.0
EU-15	59.9	10.6	Other origins	76.9	26.1
EU-12	33.9	25.9			

*Source:* Own calculations based on 2006 “Itagen2” survey data.

*Note:* For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

The housing situation is rather particular in Italy. Since the 1970s, there has been a strong trend towards homeownership, including among families with young children. Even among newly married couples, it is much less common to move into rental housing (Barban et al. 2008). Moreover, native-born Italians tend to change homes infrequently. This is partly caused by the elevated fixed transaction costs associated with buying or selling a home. Also,

the expansion in homeownership has been accompanied by an increasingly marginal role for public residential housing construction. The portion of national revenue invested in public housing in Italy is among the lowest in Europe. Between 2000 and 2006, the average level of investment was 0.6 per cent of gross domestic product. This compares with the EU average of 1.0 per cent and the 3.0 per cent in the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The average native-born family is living in larger and more comfortable homes in Italy today compared with the situation 50 years ago not only because of improved economic conditions, but also because the average family is now smaller. Nonetheless, the situation has changed somewhat more recently. After a general decline during the early 1990s, home prices began rising substantially. The combination of rising home prices and, especially, rising average rents and low mortgage rates encouraged an ever greater number of families to purchase homes.

This economically favourable housing market seems to have been accessible to immigrant families as well. In 2006, 16.3 per cent of all transactions in the housing market were carried out by immigrants. Nonetheless, the housing market among immigrant families is characterized by relatively lower quality, as well as lower prices compared to the market as a whole. For most immigrants, buying a home requires a mortgage. Between 2004 and 2006, the average share of the purchase price covered by a mortgage rose from 70 to 86 per cent.

Immigrant families are often larger than native-born families. Yet, the homes they purchase tend to be smaller. The average surface area of homes bought in 2006 was 55 square metres (about 592 square feet), down from 58 square metres in 2005. In 2008, the average size of homes bought by immigrant families has been estimated at around 52 square metres. Home purchases among immigrants have also gradually become more concentrated in areas where housing prices are lower, including more rural provinces and smaller towns near major cities. The nature of the evolving housing market may partly explain the relative dispersion of immigrant families in Italy. Although immigrants make up a sizeable share of the population in some neighbourhoods and *comuni* (towns and municipalities), there is little evidence for the existence of ethnic ghettos (Barban et al. 2008).

### **5.3 Youth and the labour market**

When adolescents are approaching their 14th birthday and are about to complete eight years of compulsory schooling, they (or their parents) must make a decision about the direction they wish to take in secondary school. Although every student who has completed five years of secondary school and obtained a diploma is eligible to attend university or other institutions of higher education, the choice of secondary school has a great influence on the educational path. It also has a substantial impact on the age at which the young individuals enter the job market.

Data of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research show that enrolment rates among adolescents in immigrant families tend to be higher in the technical and vocational schools that prepare for the lower entry level in the labour market. In northern Italy in 2007, 20 per cent of young adults who were enrolled in vocational schools were living in families in which both parents were foreign citizens. The nationwide “Itagen2” survey in 2005/06 found



that students in immigrant families are two times more likely to attend technical or vocational schools and only half as likely to attend the academic track, the *licei*, in secondary school. The split is especially clear among immigrant young people who have arrived recently: 60 per cent of those who had arrived in the previous three years had enrolled in technical or vocational schools. The split persists among the second generation, but it is narrower.

This outcome is not necessarily driven by performance in middle school. Even if they obtain good grades, youth in immigrant families tend to choose the shorter courses in technical schools relative to native-born Italian adolescents with comparable grades. The 2001 census data confirm this tendency (though the census data may produce a downward bias in economic activity rates). Among young people aged 15 to 17 in immigrant families, 74.6 per cent were still attending school, which is 11 per cent below the share among their native-born peers (Table 24). The gap is even wider in the 18–24 age group: 26 per cent of youth in immigrant families are still in education; the corresponding rate among native-born Italians is 41 per cent.

Since the 2001 census, university enrolment rates have risen substantially. This conforms to the aims of the Bologna process that was launched in 1999.<sup>5</sup> We do not know yet whether youth in immigrant families are participating in this trend. However, we do note that no youth in the individual country-of-origin groups matched the enrolment rates among native-born Italians. Indeed, enrolment rates among youth in some immigrant groups were quite low. Thus, among young adults aged 18–24, only 7 to 13 per cent in the immigrant groups from Albania, Bangladesh, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are still enrolled in some form of education. An important reason for these low numbers is the fact that the majority of these youth are not children in immigrant families; rather, they are labour immigrants without families.

According to country of origin, the shares of youth who are not working and not in school appear large. The share is 35.9 per cent among 18- to 24-years-olds in immigrant groups, but only 28.1 per cent among native-born Italians (Table 24). These substantial shares reflect partly the high rates of unemployment in this age group and partly the significant proportion of short-term and insecure work contracts available on the job market to this group.

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<sup>5</sup> The Bologna Declaration of June 1999 set in motion a series of reforms in European education – the Bologna process – aimed at making higher education more compatible and comparable, as well as more competitive and attractive for Europeans and for students and scholars from other continents. To be achieved by 2010, the three priorities of the Bologna process are the introduction of the three-cycle system (bachelors, masters and doctorate degree programmes), quality control and standardized criteria for educational qualifications.

**Table 24: Young People Aged 15–24 in School and Work, Italy, 2001**

**a. Ages 15 to 17**

*per cent*

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	85.6	3.8	10.6				
In immigrant families	74.6	7.0	18.4	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	65.3	11.3	23.4	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	84.5	3.6	11.9	Luxembourg	84.8	5.1	10.1
Eritrea	85.4	2.3	12.4	Netherlands	89.3	0.6	10.1
Ethiopia	78.0	5.3	16.7	Portugal	78.6	5.7	15.7
Mauritius	84.9	2.8	12.3	Spain	89.7	2.8	7.5
Somalia	77.4	4.5	18.1	Sweden	93.2	4.1	2.7
Other Eastern Africa	93.8	2.9	3.3	Switzerland	85.6	3.2	11.2
Central Africa	86.0	2.4	11.6	United Kingdom	87.7	2.7	9.6
Northern Africa	61.8	12.2	26.0	EU-12	81.0	4.9	14.0
Algeria	74.4	2.3	23.3	Bulgaria	85.4	2.4	12.2
Egypt	80.8	4.5	14.7	Czech Republic	90.5	6.0	3.6
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	82.5	4.8	12.7	Hungary	89.7	1.7	8.6
Morocco	60.5	13.1	26.5	Poland	90.6	2.6	6.8
Tunisia	63.3	8.7	28.0	Romania	76.3	6.2	17.5
Southern Africa	96.2	0.8	3.0	Slovakia	81.6	7.9	10.5
Western Africa	66.1	13.0	21.0	Slovenia	88.3	1.7	10.0
Côte d'Ivoire	59.3	12.7	28.0	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	88.8	0.8	10.5
Ghana	75.4	8.6	16.1	South Eastern Europe	56.7	13.3	30.0
Nigeria	69.9	11.9	18.2	Albania	55.7	14.9	29.4
Senegal	52.1	26.8	21.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	77.1	5.8	17.1
Other Western Africa	67.2	9.5	23.2	Croatia	83.9	4.6	11.5
Asia	72.7	7.5	19.8	TFYR Macedonia	44.6	17.1	38.3
Eastern Asia	73.5	5.9	20.6	Other South Eastern Europe	52.4	11.0	36.6
China	72.9	6.0	21.1	CIS	87.7	3.3	9.0
Japan	98.2	0.0	1.8	Western CIS	86.6	3.6	9.8
South Central Asia	68.8	9.6	21.7	Republic of Moldova	69.5	10.2	20.3
Bangladesh	62.4	12.5	25.1	Russian Federation	93.9	2.1	4.1
India	72.8	10.6	16.7	Ukraine	77.8	4.3	17.9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	93.7	1.6	4.8	Other CIS	94.6	1.2	4.2
Pakistan	61.3	9.8	28.9	Other Europe	84.8	3.3	12.0
Sri Lanka	68.7	6.1	25.2	Latin America and Caribbean	88.0	3.4	8.7
South Eastern Asia	79.2	4.4	16.4	Caribbean	72.2	8.2	19.6
Philippines	78.1	4.4	17.6	Cuba	78.2	4.5	17.3
Thailand	85.6	4.1	10.3	Dominican Republic	71.3	8.7	20.0
Other South Eastern Asia	90.0	5.0	5.0	Central America and Mexico	88.8	2.6	8.5
Western Asia, Middle East	76.3	8.8	15.0	El Salvador	83.1	4.4	12.6
Israel	89.7	2.6	7.7	Mexico	95.5	0.6	3.8
Jordan	96.3	0.0	3.7	South America	89.7	2.8	7.5
Lebanon	95.1	0.0	4.9	Argentina	84.6	5.2	10.3
Syrian Arab Republic	88.9	2.8	8.3	Bolivia	93.0	2.6	4.5
Turkey	60.8	15.3	24.0	Brazil	92.2	2.1	5.8
Other Western Asia, Middle East	94.9	2.1	3.1	Chile	92.0	2.1	5.9
Other Asia	98.6	0.0	1.4	Colombia	91.1	2.2	6.7
Europe	72.9	7.0	20.0	Ecuador	83.2	5.0	11.8
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	80.4	3.8	15.9	Peru	92.7	1.9	5.4
Austria	91.2	4.2	4.6	Uruguay	89.4	4.7	5.9
Belgium	79.8	4.8	15.3	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	85.4	2.4	12.2
Denmark	94.4	1.9	3.7	Other Latin America and Caribbean	91.3	3.2	5.5
Finland	100.0	0.0	0.0	Northern America	89.6	1.7	8.7
France	84.7	3.7	11.6	Canada	85.9	3.1	11.1
Germany	74.9	4.2	20.9	United States of America	90.5	1.4	8.1
Greece	97.6	0.0	2.4	Oceania	83.0	2.7	14.4

## b. Ages 18 to 24

per cent

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	41.0	30.9	28.1				
In immigrant families	25.8	38.3	35.9	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	15.0	43.6	41.4	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	34.8	35.9	29.4	Luxembourg	29.5	36.5	34.1
Eritrea	32.1	40.7	27.3	Netherlands	38.1	29.1	32.7
Ethiopia	30.2	40.1	29.7	Portugal	29.9	46.1	24.0
Mauritius	23.5	35.8	40.8	Spain	36.6	43.2	20.1
Somalia	32.0	39.7	28.3	Sweden	48.1	26.5	25.4
Other Eastern Africa	49.3	27.1	23.6	Switzerland	37.3	30.6	32.1
Central Africa	45.2	31.0	23.9	United Kingdom	40.3	29.4	30.4
Northern Africa	11.4	43.6	45.0	EU-12	17.3	48.4	34.3
Algeria	17.9	22.6	59.5	Bulgaria	32.5	37.8	29.8
Egypt	13.7	37.6	48.7	Czech Republic	25.1	37.7	37.3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	42.1	23.3	34.6	Hungary	29.2	30.0	40.8
Morocco	11.0	46.0	43.0	Poland	25.0	34.4	40.5
Tunisia	9.6	34.9	55.5	Romania	12.2	55.2	32.6
Southern Africa	39.8	35.9	24.3	Slovakia	16.1	42.1	41.8
Western Africa	14.6	50.5	34.9	Slovenia	41.7	36.7	21.7
Côte d'Ivoire	18.7	46.5	34.8	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	41.1	23.5	35.4
Ghana	16.2	59.6	24.1	South Eastern Europe	13.8	51.1	35.1
Nigeria	13.1	46.4	40.5	Albania	12.7	52.3	35.0
Senegal	10.0	59.6	30.4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	22.1	46.4	31.5
Other Western Africa	19.8	35.6	44.7	Croatia	37.2	38.6	24.2
Asia	23.6	46.9	29.5	TFYR Macedonia	7.4	56.4	36.2
Eastern Asia	23.8	48.8	27.4	Other South Eastern Europe	13.8	47.0	39.2
China	22.0	50.0	28.0	CIS	25.8	35.1	39.1
Japan	74.8	14.4	10.9	Western CIS	25.0	35.4	39.5
South Central Asia	17.7	48.5	33.8	Republic of Moldova	10.5	44.0	45.6
Bangladesh	6.0	54.0	40.0	Russian Federation	35.0	33.0	32.0
India	26.2	43.4	30.5	Ukraine	19.9	33.3	46.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	62.2	21.6	16.2	Other CIS	30.9	32.7	36.4
Pakistan	10.4	55.3	34.3	Other Europe	44.5	32.2	23.3
Sri Lanka	15.5	50.1	34.4	Latin America and Caribbean	37.4	32.3	30.3
South Eastern Asia	25.7	50.9	23.4	Caribbean	12.7	36.4	50.9
Philippines	22.3	55.3	22.4	Cuba	6.0	30.4	63.5
Thailand	24.4	31.2	44.4	Dominican Republic	19.3	42.4	38.3
Other South Eastern Asia	47.1	38.7	14.3	Central America and Mexico	42.6	32.3	25.1
Western Asia, Middle East	40.3	31.1	28.5	El Salvador	35.5	37.8	26.7
Israel	73.4	13.8	12.8	Mexico	56.8	21.4	21.8
Jordan	31.0	24.6	44.4	South America	41.0	31.8	27.2
Lebanon	57.6	16.0	26.4	Argentina	36.0	37.8	26.2
Syrian Arab Republic	37.6	20.8	41.6	Bolivia	51.4	31.3	17.3
Turkey	21.8	48.2	30.1	Brazil	43.6	25.9	30.5
Other Western Asia, Middle East	58.6	18.1	23.4	Chile	47.5	24.7	27.8
Other Asia	65.1	19.0	15.9	Colombia	46.0	25.3	28.7
Europe	25.7	37.6	36.7	Ecuador	27.0	45.8	27.2
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	33.4	28.6	38.0	Peru	43.6	37.0	19.4
Austria	50.7	31.4	17.9	Uruguay	32.2	42.2	25.6
Belgium	30.5	28.5	40.9	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	42.9	24.1	33.0
Denmark	50.6	30.0	19.4	Other Latin America and Caribbean	50.7	27.3	22.0
Finland	54.3	31.0	14.7	Northern America	40.8	24.2	35.0
France	35.8	31.3	33.0	Canada	36.5	29.6	33.9
Germany	28.2	27.3	44.5	United States of America	42.8	21.7	35.6
Greece	89.0	4.6	6.4	Oceania	35.3	28.9	35.8

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Young adults who are both working and in school are counted only among those in school. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

While there was no appreciable gender difference in the shares of native-born Italians in the 18–24 age group who said they were not working and were not in school (27.7 per cent of young men and 28.6 per cent of young women), the gender differences among youth in immigrant groups were significant (Tables 25 and 26). Among 18- to 24-year-olds, 25.4 per cent of the young men in immigrant groups reported that they were not working and were not in school; the share was 45.2 per cent among the young women. The differences were larger among those immigrant groups among whom we have observed large shares of first-

generation women who are housewives or not otherwise participating in the labour force. Bangladesh (79 per cent), Morocco (64 per cent) and Pakistan (72 per cent) drive the results.

**Table 25: Young Men Aged 15–24 in School and Work, Italy, 2001**

**a. Ages 15 to 17**

*per cent*

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	83.8	5.2	11.0				
In immigrant families	72.0	9.6	18.4	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	63.5	14.8	21.7	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	81.8	4.9	13.4	Luxembourg	81.0	7.1	11.9
Eritrea	84.9	0.0	15.2	Netherlands	89.8	1.1	9.1
Ethiopia	75.0	8.9	16.1	Portugal	80.7	3.2	16.1
Mauritius	78.5	3.1	18.5	Spain	88.9	4.6	6.5
Somalia	78.7	5.6	15.7	Sweden	90.0	6.7	3.3
Other Eastern Africa	90.7	4.7	4.7	Switzerland	84.6	4.1	11.3
Central Africa	85.3	4.2	10.5	United Kingdom	86.1	4.1	9.8
Northern Africa	61.0	15.6	23.4	EU-12	77.6	7.2	15.2
Algeria	78.3	2.2	19.6	Bulgaria	81.6	4.0	14.5
Egypt	76.0	6.3	17.7	Czech Republic	83.7	11.6	4.7
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	87.1	3.2	9.7	Hungary	90.3	3.2	6.5
Morocco	60.0	16.5	23.5	Poland	90.3	3.3	6.4
Tunisia	58.3	12.8	29.0	Romania	71.3	9.3	19.5
Southern Africa	92.4	1.5	6.1	Slovakia	75.0	10.0	15.0
Western Africa	62.9	17.7	19.4	Slovenia	85.5	3.6	10.9
Côte d'Ivoire	57.9	16.9	25.3	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	88.5	0.0	11.5
Ghana	76.0	11.1	12.9	South Eastern Europe	51.7	17.9	30.4
Nigeria	67.0	18.9	14.2	Albania	47.6	20.3	32.1
Senegal	45.4	33.3	21.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	75.5	8.7	15.8
Other Western Africa	63.1	11.5	25.5	Croatia	83.3	5.3	11.4
Asia	70.1	9.9	20.0	TFYR Macedonia	48.5	20.5	31.0
Eastern Asia	72.6	6.7	20.7	Other South Eastern Europe	51.8	13.9	34.3
China	72.0	6.8	21.2	CIS	84.6	5.4	10.0
Japan	100.0	0.0	0.0	Western CIS	82.6	6.1	11.3
South Central Asia	64.9	13.5	21.6	Republic of Moldova	62.9	14.5	22.6
Bangladesh	59.6	15.0	25.4	Russian Federation	93.0	3.1	3.9
India	63.8	16.4	19.8	Ukraine	72.5	7.8	19.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	90.6	3.1	6.3	Other CIS	96.2	1.3	2.5
Pakistan	65.0	13.2	21.9	Other Europe	83.0	4.3	12.8
Sri Lanka	68.2	7.6	24.2	Latin America and Caribbean	87.6	4.3	8.1
South Eastern Asia	76.1	5.4	18.6	Caribbean	71.9	11.5	16.7
Philippines	74.7	5.6	19.7	Cuba	81.4	8.5	10.2
Thailand	84.4	2.2	13.3	Dominican Republic	70.5	11.9	17.6
Other South Eastern Asia	92.9	7.1	0.0	Central America and Mexico	88.0	2.7	9.3
Western Asia, Middle East	76.1	11.4	12.5	El Salvador	82.0	4.0	14.0
Israel	88.9	5.6	5.6	Mexico	95.2	1.2	3.6
Jordan	100.0	0.0	0.0	South America	89.1	3.6	7.3
Lebanon	95.8	0.0	4.2	Argentina	83.1	6.1	10.8
Syrian Arab Republic	94.1	0.0	5.9	Bolivia	94.5	4.1	1.4
Turkey	60.9	18.5	20.5	Brazil	91.5	2.8	5.8
Other Western Asia, Middle East	96.1	3.9	0.0	Chile	90.9	3.8	5.3
Other Asia	97.1	0.0	2.9	Colombia	92.1	2.9	5.1
Europe	69.5	9.8	20.7	Ecuador	81.5	5.5	13.0
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	79.4	4.9	15.6	Peru	92.5	2.0	5.5
Austria	89.5	6.0	4.5	Uruguay	90.2	9.8	0.0
Belgium	77.0	7.0	16.0	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	84.8	4.1	11.1
Denmark	93.6	3.2	3.2	Other Latin America and Caribbean	91.0	3.6	5.4
Finland	100.0	0.0	0.0	Northern America	89.6	2.3	8.1
France	84.4	5.0	10.7	Canada	84.4	3.3	12.2
Germany	74.2	5.4	20.4	United States of America	91.2	2.0	6.9
Greece	97.7	0.0	2.3	Oceania	84.9	4.7	10.5

## b. Ages 18 to 24

per cent

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	36.9	35.3	27.7				
In immigrant families	24.0	50.6	25.4	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	15.2	63.1	21.7	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	38.6	37.2	24.2	Luxembourg	26.4	41.6	32.0
Eritrea	36.3	39.5	24.2	Netherlands	37.0	32.5	30.5
Ethiopia	35.6	37.8	26.6	Portugal	25.4	54.1	20.5
Mauritius	26.7	46.6	26.7	Spain	47.3	37.4	15.4
Somalia	35.1	34.5	30.4	Sweden	52.5	23.2	24.2
Other Eastern Africa	50.4	32.4	17.3	Switzerland	32.8	36.1	31.2
Central Africa	43.8	36.2	20.1	United Kingdom	39.6	31.8	28.6
Northern Africa	12.1	65.7	22.2	EU-12	17.4	65.5	17.1
Algeria	26.4	45.4	28.2	Bulgaria	30.9	49.8	19.3
Egypt	14.4	67.9	17.7	Czech Republic	38.5	42.2	19.3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	46.5	24.4	29.1	Hungary	37.4	37.4	25.3
Morocco	11.3	66.2	22.5	Poland	36.9	42.5	20.6
Tunisia	11.6	66.6	21.8	Romania	11.0	73.0	16.0
Southern Africa	39.8	39.0	21.2	Slovakia	23.8	57.1	19.1
Western Africa	14.3	67.4	18.3	Slovenia	39.0	42.9	18.2
Côte d'Ivoire	20.7	61.2	18.2	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	49.0	26.5	24.5
Ghana	13.0	71.2	15.8	South Eastern Europe	11.5	72.2	16.3
Nigeria	17.2	61.6	21.3	Albania	10.0	75.6	14.4
Senegal	8.9	73.5	17.6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	22.9	57.1	20.1
Other Western Africa	24.6	54.6	20.8	Croatia	35.0	48.5	16.5
Asia	21.8	60.0	18.2	TFYR Macedonia	7.2	78.4	14.5
Eastern Asia	22.4	55.2	22.5	Other South Eastern Europe	12.7	62.0	25.3
China	21.0	56.2	22.8	CIS	38.5	39.9	21.7
Japan	70.5	19.2	10.3	Western CIS	37.1	40.3	22.6
South Central Asia	14.1	69.6	16.3	Republic of Moldova	11.5	62.6	25.9
Bangladesh	6.9	76.4	16.7	Russian Federation	54.7	27.3	18.0
India	18.6	69.4	12.1	Ukraine	27.6	44.8	27.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	55.4	26.3	18.3	Other CIS	47.8	36.7	15.6
Pakistan	9.5	75.0	15.5	Other Europe	37.8	40.3	21.9
Sri Lanka	14.6	63.4	22.0	Latin America and Caribbean	39.3	37.4	23.3
South Eastern Asia	28.6	52.2	19.2	Caribbean	19.0	54.8	26.2
Philippines	23.5	55.2	21.4	Cuba	12.6	54.0	33.3
Thailand	42.2	41.0	16.9	Dominican Republic	19.8	54.9	25.2
Other South Eastern Asia	51.3	40.4	8.3	Central America and Mexico	44.3	36.2	19.5
Western Asia, Middle East	43.6	41.2	15.2	El Salvador	35.0	43.1	21.9
Israel	74.1	12.0	13.9	Mexico	63.7	21.8	14.5
Jordan	42.6	41.0	16.4	South America	40.3	36.3	23.4
Lebanon	64.8	19.9	15.3	Argentina	30.9	43.6	25.5
Syrian Arab Republic	53.7	35.4	11.0	Bolivia	49.3	34.9	15.8
Turkey	21.3	63.6	15.1	Brazil	46.2	30.1	23.7
Other Western Asia, Middle East	63.1	19.3	17.6	Chile	44.7	28.8	26.5
Other Asia	61.2	25.5	13.3	Colombia	45.3	31.2	23.5
Europe	23.2	49.3	27.5	Ecuador	28.3	51.9	19.8
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	30.3	34.0	35.7	Peru	44.8	38.4	16.8
Austria	54.5	30.3	15.2	Uruguay	31.5	44.8	23.8
Belgium	29.3	34.8	35.9	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	40.4	30.3	29.3
Denmark	40.2	45.1	14.6	Other Latin America and Caribbean	49.4	31.3	19.3
Finland	65.5	24.1	10.3	Northern America	36.4	30.2	33.5
France	34.5	36.4	29.2	Canada	32.1	36.6	31.3
Germany	24.7	33.7	41.6	United States of America	38.4	27.1	34.5
Greece	91.4	3.9	4.7	Oceania	32.0	34.7	33.3

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Young adults who are both working and in school are counted only among those in school. For definitions of country groups, see the note to Table 3.

**Table 26: Young Women Aged 15–24 in School and Work, Italy, 2001**

**a. Ages 15 to 17**

*per cent*

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	87.5	2.3	10.3				
In immigrant families	77.5	4.2	18.3	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	67.6	6.8	25.5	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	86.8	2.6	10.6	Luxembourg	89.2	2.7	8.1
Eritrea	85.7	3.6	10.7	Netherlands	88.8	0.0	11.3
Ethiopia	80.3	2.6	17.1	Portugal	76.9	7.7	15.4
Mauritius	95.1	2.4	2.4	Spain	90.6	0.9	8.5
Somalia	76.1	3.4	20.5	Sweden	95.4	2.3	2.3
Other Eastern Africa	96.0	1.6	2.4	Switzerland	86.6	2.3	11.1
Central Africa	86.6	1.1	12.4	United Kingdom	89.2	1.4	9.4
Northern Africa	63.0	7.7	29.4	EU-12	84.3	2.7	13.0
Algeria	70.0	2.5	27.5	Bulgaria	89.6	0.7	9.6
Egypt	88.0	1.7	10.3	Czech Republic	97.6	0.0	2.4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	78.1	6.3	15.6	Hungary	88.9	0.0	11.1
Morocco	61.0	8.4	30.6	Poland	90.9	1.9	7.2
Tunisia	69.5	3.8	26.8	Romania	80.7	3.5	15.9
Southern Africa	100.0	0.0	0.0	Slovakia	88.9	5.6	5.6
Western Africa	69.7	7.5	22.8	Slovenia	90.8	0.0	9.2
Côte d'Ivoire	60.5	9.3	30.2	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	89.0	1.4	9.6
Ghana	74.7	6.0	19.3	South Eastern Europe	63.1	7.4	29.5
Nigeria	72.3	6.2	21.5	Albania	67.0	7.2	25.8
Senegal	68.0	11.5	20.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	78.6	2.9	18.5
Other Western Africa	75.0	6.0	19.1	Croatia	84.4	3.9	11.7
Asia	75.5	4.9	19.6	TFYR Macedonia	39.3	12.4	48.3
Eastern Asia	74.5	5.1	20.4	Other South Eastern Europe	52.9	7.9	39.1
China	73.8	5.2	21.0	CIS	90.3	1.6	8.1
Japan	96.8	0.0	3.2	Western CIS	89.9	1.6	8.5
South Central Asia	73.0	5.3	21.7	Republic of Moldova	76.8	5.4	17.9
Bangladesh	68.9	6.7	24.4	Russian Federation	94.5	1.4	4.2
India	80.0	5.9	14.1	Ukraine	83.2	0.7	16.1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	96.8	0.0	3.2	Other CIS	93.0	1.2	5.8
Pakistan	55.3	4.4	40.4	Other Europe	86.7	2.2	11.1
Sri Lanka	69.2	4.7	26.1	Latin America and Caribbean	88.4	2.4	9.3
South Eastern Asia	82.3	3.4	14.3	Caribbean	72.5	5.4	22.1
Philippines	81.5	3.1	15.4	Cuba	75.7	1.4	23.0
Thailand	86.5	5.8	7.7	Dominican Republic	72.0	6.1	21.9
Other South Eastern Asia	88.5	3.9	7.7	Central America and Mexico	89.8	2.5	7.6
Western Asia, Middle East	76.4	6.2	17.4	El Salvador	84.3	4.8	10.8
Israel	90.5	0.0	9.5	Mexico	96.0	0.0	4.1
Jordan	93.8	0.0	6.3	South America	90.3	2.0	7.8
Lebanon	94.6	0.0	5.4	Argentina	86.1	4.1	9.8
Syrian Arab Republic	84.2	5.3	10.5	Bolivia	91.6	1.2	7.2
Turkey	60.6	11.7	27.7	Brazil	93.0	1.3	5.7
Other Western Asia, Middle East	93.5	0.0	6.5	Chile	93.1	0.4	6.6
Other Asia	100.0	0.0	0.0	Colombia	90.3	1.7	8.0
Europe	76.6	4.0	19.4	Ecuador	85.1	4.4	10.4
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	81.3	2.6	16.1	Peru	92.8	1.8	5.4
Austria	93.0	2.3	4.7	Uruguay	88.6	0.0	11.4
Belgium	82.6	2.8	14.7	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	86.0	0.8	13.2
Denmark	95.7	0.0	4.4	Other Latin America and Caribbean	91.6	2.8	5.6
Finland	100.0	0.0	0.0	Northern America	89.6	1.2	9.2
France	85.1	2.5	12.4	Canada	87.6	2.8	9.7
Germany	75.6	3.0	21.4	United States of America	90.0	0.9	9.1
Greece	97.4	0.0	2.6	Oceania	81.4	1.0	17.6

## b. Ages 18 to 24

per cent

Family origin	In school	Not in school		Family origin	In school	Not in school	
		Working	Not working			Working	Not working
In native-born families	45.2	26.2	28.6				
In immigrant families	27.4	27.4	45.2	In immigrant families (cont.)			
Africa	14.8	25.9	59.3	Europe (cont.)			
Eastern Africa	32.4	35.0	32.6	Luxembourg	32.3	31.8	35.9
Eritrea	29.6	41.3	29.1	Netherlands	39.2	26.0	34.8
Ethiopia	26.4	41.7	31.9	Portugal	34.1	38.6	27.3
Mauritius	21.7	30.1	48.2	Spain	31.2	46.2	22.6
Somalia	30.4	42.5	27.2	Sweden	45.8	28.1	26.0
Other Eastern Africa	48.5	23.3	28.2	Switzerland	41.8	25.1	33.1
Central Africa	46.1	27.4	26.5	United Kingdom	40.9	27.1	32.0
Northern Africa	10.8	22.0	67.2	EU-12	17.2	38.4	44.4
Algeria	13.0	9.5	77.5	Bulgaria	33.6	29.3	37.1
Egypt	13.1	7.8	79.1	Czech Republic	21.4	36.4	42.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	37.0	21.9	41.1	Hungary	26.5	27.7	45.8
Morocco	10.7	25.5	63.8	Poland	20.8	31.6	47.6
Tunisia	8.1	10.9	81.0	Romania	13.2	42.4	44.4
Southern Africa	39.8	32.6	27.6	Slovakia	14.2	38.6	47.2
Western Africa	14.9	36.9	48.1	Slovenia	43.7	32.0	24.3
Côte d'Ivoire	17.7	39.2	43.1	Other EU-15, etc. and EU-12	38.2	22.4	39.5
Ghana	20.1	45.7	34.2	South Eastern Europe	16.5	27.3	56.2
Nigeria	11.6	41.0	47.4	Albania	15.8	26.3	58.0
Senegal	12.4	27.1	60.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	21.5	36.7	41.8
Other Western Africa	17.1	25.1	57.8	Croatia	39.0	30.5	30.5
Asia	25.5	33.3	41.2	TFYR Macedonia	7.7	24.3	68.0
Eastern Asia	25.2	42.6	32.3	Other South Eastern Europe	15.1	29.1	55.8
China	22.9	43.9	33.2	CIS	22.4	33.8	43.8
Japan	77.4	11.3	11.3	Western CIS	21.8	34.1	44.1
South Central Asia	22.0	23.2	54.8	Republic of Moldova	10.2	38.6	51.2
Bangladesh	4.5	16.1	79.4	Russian Federation	29.5	34.6	35.9
India	33.3	19.1	47.6	Ukraine	18.0	30.5	51.6
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	69.9	16.3	13.9	Other CIS	26.6	31.7	41.7
Pakistan	12.3	15.3	72.4	Other Europe	50.8	24.6	24.6
Sri Lanka	16.4	37.9	45.8	Latin America and Caribbean	36.0	28.8	35.2
South Eastern Asia	23.7	50.0	26.3	Caribbean	11.2	32.0	56.8
Philippines	21.4	55.4	23.2	Cuba	5.7	29.3	65.0
Thailand	18.7	28.0	53.3	Dominican Republic	19.1	36.0	45.0
Other South Eastern Asia	43.4	37.3	19.4	Central America and Mexico	41.4	29.6	29.0
Western Asia, Middle East	36.4	19.3	44.3	El Salvador	35.9	33.9	30.3
Israel	72.7	15.5	11.8	Mexico	52.2	21.2	26.6
Jordan	20.0	9.2	70.8	South America	41.6	28.1	30.3
Lebanon	48.6	11.3	40.1	Argentina	41.0	32.3	26.7
Syrian Arab Republic	24.0	8.3	67.7	Bolivia	52.9	28.6	18.5
Turkey	22.4	28.5	49.1	Brazil	41.6	22.5	35.9
Other Western Asia, Middle East	52.3	16.4	31.3	Chile	50.1	20.8	29.1
Other Asia	67.6	14.8	17.6	Colombia	46.5	21.0	32.5
Europe	27.9	27.0	45.1	Ecuador	26.1	41.7	32.2
EU-15, EEA and Switzerland	36.2	23.5	40.3	Peru	42.7	35.9	21.4
Austria	47.5	32.3	20.1	Uruguay	32.8	40.1	27.1
Belgium	31.6	23.1	45.4	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	45.3	18.4	36.3
Denmark	61.5	14.1	24.4	Other Latin America and Caribbean	51.8	23.7	24.5
Finland	50.6	33.3	16.1	Northern America	44.6	19.0	36.4
France	36.9	27.0	36.1	Canada	40.5	23.4	36.1
Germany	31.6	21.0	47.4	United States of America	46.5	17.0	36.5
Greece	86.5	5.4	8.2	Oceania	38.3	23.6	38.1

Source: Own calculations based on 2001 census data.

Note: Young adults who are both working and in school are counted only among those in school. For definitions, see the note to Table 3.

## **6. LITERATURE REVIEW: INCLUSION AND OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES**

### **6.1 Educational attainment among children**

The share of children in immigrant families is growing in the education system. According to data on the 2006/07 school year, 5.6 per cent of the students are foreigners (Caritas-Migrantes 2007). Milan and Rome show the highest absolute numbers of foreign students (48,000 and 40,000, respectively). The largest shares are in elementary school and in middle school (*scuole medie inferiori*). The share is only slightly above 3 per cent in secondary school (*scuole medie superiori*). Four in five foreign students in secondary education are in the vocational and technical tracks.<sup>6</sup>

#### **6.1.1 Education as a means of inclusion: enrolments among foreign students**

Together with the family, school plays an essential role in the socialization of the second generation in immigrant families both as an institution dedicated to the social promotion of each individual and as a place in which social skills are developed (or where exclusion mechanisms are produced). While some scholars have focused on straightforward quantitative reconstructions of the territorial distribution of foreign children, others have concentrated on more specific issues such as scholastic achievement, dropouts, socialization and interpersonal relationships. Research at the national level remains relatively scarce, however. The research at the local level is primarily descriptive and is generally carried out by educational administrative entities or local associations.

Among the most interesting statistical studies of foreign students is a national survey on students of non-Italian citizenship in public and non-public schools (MIUR, various). Carried out annually by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research since 1998, the survey provides a socio-demographic profile of the foreign student body and information on the distribution of foreign students across the country. According to the most recent report (MIUR 2008a), 574,133 foreign students were enrolled in public and private schools in the 2007/08 school year.<sup>7</sup> This represented 6.4 per cent of the total school population, and the number is 9.6 times the corresponding number during the 1996/97 academic year, when the immigration phenomenon seemed to be temporary and primarily associated with labour immigration. The increase over the 2006/07 school year was 14.5 per cent. The foreign students come from 191 countries. The largest shares are accounted for by Romania (16.2 per cent), Albania (14.8 per cent), Morocco (13.3 per cent) and China (4.8 per cent). Students from countries with Islamic traditions make up about a third. In elementary schools and middle schools, foreign students represent 7.7 and 7.3 per cent of the total, respectively, whereas the share is only 4.3 per cent among secondary schools. The share is higher in vocational schools (8.7 per cent) and in specialized technical schools (4.8 per cent) and lower

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<sup>6</sup> Elementary school corresponds to level 1 of the International Standard Classification System of Education Levels. Middle school corresponds to level 2. Secondary school corresponds to level 3. The vocational and technical tracks correspond to levels 3B and 3C.

<sup>7</sup> By law, all foreign students of school age, even if they are not covered by a residence permit, must be enrolled in the education system. Education registers and databases for immigration control are not cross-checked.



– less than 2 per cent – in the *licei* (lyceums).<sup>8</sup> There were 12,342 Roma registered at Italian schools in 2006/07, mostly in elementary schools. Only 1.5 per cent of the Roma were registered in secondary schools. This represents an increase of 4.3 per cent over the previous year, however.

The trend towards significant concentrations of foreigners in specific kinds of schools and in specific locations is, according to the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, one of the most critical issues facing the education system and must be addressed to avoid the emergence of segregation. Several research projects conducted in Genoa, Milan and Turin have found high concentrations of foreign students in these key cities, as well as in particular types of institutions and classes (Queirolo Palmas 2003, Fondazione ISMU 2002, Città di Torino 2003). Trends such as these have the potential to create educational ghettos or promote segregation (Queirolo Palmas 2003, Città di Torino 2003).

### **6.1.2 Dropouts and delayed school completion**

Empirical analyses of school dropouts among foreign children are scarce. The annual investigations conducted by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research do not provide data according to nationality. They do show, however, that the number of dropouts has declined considerably over the last 10 years, above all in elementary schools. The great majority of the students who abandon elementary school are Roma. The number of dropouts in middle school is small. In secondary schools, mainly in the vocational institutes, the dropout rate was 1.6 per cent in 2006/07 (MIUR 2008b). Nonetheless, in 2006, around 21 per cent of young foreign adults aged 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school and had completed only compulsory education.<sup>9</sup> The EU average was 15 per cent. Recent data indicate that foreign students tend to repeat grades more often (MIUR 2008a). Almost 50 per cent are behind in the educational path (52 per cent in middle schools and nearly 72 per cent in secondary schools).

The numbers vary widely depending on the type of institution and location. For example, based on research conducted by the Fondazione ISMU in Lombardy during the 1999/2000 academic year, 20 per cent of foreign students were behind in elementary school, 44 per cent in middle school and 41.7 per cent in secondary school (Mazzi 2000). Research in 95 per cent of the schools in the province of Arezzo (Tuscany) shows much higher levels that are similar to national rates: 31 per cent in elementary school, 66 per cent in middle school and 77 per cent in secondary school (Luatti et al. 2003).

Although opinions are diverse, a number of scholars find a close link between falling behind in school and the placement of the minor at a certain grade level at the moment of enrolment (Fravega and Queirolo Palmas 2003). According to Italian legislation, children should be

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<sup>8</sup> Most secondary schools are public. Access is free, and there are no required entry tests. Students are 14 to 19 years of age. There are several types of secondary schools. The *licei* are secondary schools with an emphasis on the humanities or sciences. They are five-year schools and are considered a preparation for university. There are also fine arts *licei* and foreign language *licei*. Specialized technical and vocational schools teach practical subjects. Students attend for three to five years depending on the training or apprenticeship programme. After graduation, students are ready to enter the labour force.

<sup>9</sup> Compulsory education in 2006 covered eight years in elementary and middle school, to age 14. A 2007 reform extended it to age 16.

assigned to a specific class based upon their age. However, each institution has the option of placing the child at a different level in light of the educational system in the country of origin, the skills the child has already acquired and the level of schooling completed. The results of the study in Arezzo reveal that more than half of the immigrant students were not placed at a grade level corresponding to their age (Luatti et al. 2003). The study suggests that the placement of foreign students at a grade level that is lower by a year with respect to the grade of the age group of the students may ultimately prove helpful in long-term educational success. However, placing the student two or more years behind often has negative consequences (Favaro 2003). Meanwhile, a study conducted in the province of Teramo (Abruzzo) found that the most prevalent criterion used for grade placement was the age of the child (Vardanega 2003).

### **6.1.3 Educational outcomes**

In the 2003/04 school year, the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research launched a project aimed at analysing the educational performance of foreign students. The related studies include a comparison of the rates at which foreign and native-born students advance through the grades according to location and the various levels of schooling. The studies also involve an in-depth examination of a statistically significant number of secondary schools and a comparison with data on other European countries.

The project highlights the poorer performance of foreign students. The gap between foreigners and native-born Italians in advancement from one grade to the next have widened steadily from elementary school through secondary school. In elementary school in the 2006/07 school year, for example, the rate of advancement was 96.4 per cent among foreign students compared with 99.9 per cent among native-born Italians. In middle school, the share fell to 90.5 per cent compared with 97.3 per cent among the native born, and it fell to 72 per cent in secondary school compared with 86.4 per cent among the native born (MIUR 2008c).

The issue of school performance is central in the “Itagen2” survey. Two years after the original “Itagen2” interviews, more than 1,800 students were reinterviewed by phone. For more than 1,400 of these students, scores on final examinations in secondary school are also available. As expected, the survey provided evidence suggesting that foreign students do not perform well at school. It found that the gap tends to persist between native-born Italian children and the second generation in immigrant families. Students in families in which the parents are well educated are five times more likely to obtain high grades than students whose parents have limited education. Students without parents or other adults in the household who can help them with homework are especially vulnerable (Barban et al. 2008).

The in-depth analysis of educational paths among students was the main goal of the research study *Una scuola in comune* (‘A school in . . .’ and a play on a word that may mean ‘common’ or ‘comune’ in Italian). The study was carried out during the 1998/99 school year on a sample of approximately 1,000 students – half of whom were foreigners – in the third year in middle schools in Arezzo, Bari, Bologna, Brescia, Genoa, Modena, Padua, Ravenna and Turin (see Giovannini and Queirolo Palmas 2002, Giovannini 2001, Fisher and Fisher 2002, Queirolo Palmas 2006). According to the study, the educational experience of the foreign students was subject to more disruptions relative to their native-born classmates

because of the frequency with which the former change residence and because of delays in schooling according to age in 60 per cent of the cases examined in the study. The study found that foreigners most often show poor or medium-poor school performance. In addition, overall educational achievement among foreigners and native-born Italians was directly related to the socioeconomic position of the families. However, 14.3 per cent of foreign students in families with higher socioeconomic status showed poor educational achievement. The corresponding share among similar native-born students was only 1.7 per cent.

The study also examined educational achievement as the result of several types of factors, including structural factors (sex, age, socioeconomic status, citizenship, geographical mobility and scholastic mobility), relationships (with teachers and classmates and through the support of the school) and attitudes (about the function of schools, values in life, commitment to studying, and future expectations). A multiple regression analysis in which educational success was the dependent variable revealed that relationship and attitude variables carry considerable weight such that scholastic achievement may be determined by feelings of well-being or malaise (revealed through analysis of the relationships with classmates and teachers), level of self-confidence or insecurity (reflected in the choices made between school and work and future expectations of employment), expectations about one's own future and structural variables such as age, socioeconomic status and linguistic ability.

Additional studies that have investigated educational inclusion and scholastic success among children in immigrant families include Besozzi (2004), Besozzi and Tiana (2004), Colombo (2004), Lonardi and Laboratorio per l'educazione interculturale (2005), Osservatorio Economico della Provincia di Treviso (2003), Osservatorio Scolastico Provinciale di Pisa (2005), Rinaldi and Schiavoni (2004), Santelli Beccegato (2005), Tué (2003) and Zurla (2004).

#### **6.1.4 Post-compulsory education, secondary education**

According to the "Itagen2" survey, foreign students tend to choose professional and vocational schools, which are the more rapid, easier routes through secondary school (Dalla Zuanna et al. 2009). This is confirmed by government data on education (MIUR 2008a).

According to the research project *Una scuola in comune* (see above), 78.9 per cent of foreign students (compared with 89.2 per cent of native-born Italians) declared that they wanted to continue their studies, while 11.2 per cent preferred to look for work, and 9.9 per cent were undecided (Giovannini and Queirolo Palmas 2002). Key factors involved in the choice made by the foreign students included household socioeconomic status, educational attainment in the family, family immigration history and gender. An analysis of data on enrolments in various types of secondary schools revealed that foreign students had more modest academic goals: 31.3 per cent were enrolled in vocational institutes or vocational courses, 26.3 per cent in licei (the secondary schools that prepare students for university), and 20.5 per cent in technical schools, compared, respectively, with 22.6, 40.6 and 25.9 per cent among native-born Italians.

Cologna and Breveglieri (2003) found that a significant number of foreign students in Milan also have jobs (43 per cent). This is the case especially among immigrant families from China

and the Philippines. Among the students in immigrant families from China, 26 per cent said they would exit the education system after middle school so that they could work full time (compared with 2–4 per cent among students in other immigrant groups). Among students in immigrant families from Egypt, 70 per cent said they wanted to continue on to university, while 39 per cent of the students in immigrant families from Eritrea said they wanted to finish secondary school.

Queirolo Palmas (2006) has explored the influence of cultural capital, socioeconomic status, educational achievement, age, prior educational experience, gender and place of birth on educational choices such as whether to work or study after middle school and whether to complete secondary school. He finds that the choice about secondary school is strongly influenced by family socioeconomic status: 67 per cent of the students in families in the middle class or above choose to go to licei, while 76 per cent of youth in blue-collar families choose a technical or vocational school. Relative to native-born Italians of similar socioeconomic background, foreign students are significantly underrepresented among students choosing to attend licei and considerably overrepresented among students choosing vocational schools. Queirolo Palmas (2006) suggests that this outcome may be generated mainly because of the experience of the parents in immigrant families. Many of these parents, even those who may have degrees from universities in their countries of origin, succeed only in obtaining low-level positions on the Italian labour market and therefore do not have confidence in the advantages of greater commitment to education.

### **6.1.5 Socialization and peer relationships among children of school age**

The quality of interpersonal relationships at school has a fundamental influence on educational performance in that “it defines the sense of well-being felt on the part of the individual in the school environment” (Besozzi 2002: 79). The school emerges as a place where children in immigrant families are able to build positive relationships.

The research project “Una scuola in comune” that was carried out in nine cities found that relationships among classmates were considered positive by 92.5 per cent of native-born Italians and 80.8 per cent of children in immigrant families (Giovannini and Queirolo Palmas 2002; see elsewhere above). Among the foreign interviewees, 5.9 per cent said they had “some relational difficulty”, while 1.7 per cent felt that they “did not fit in at all” (Besozzi 2002). Similarly, relationships among classmates were considered positive among foreign interviewees in the project in Modena and in elementary schools in Rome (Giovannini 2001, Pinelli et al. 2003). In the project study conducted in Teramo (Abruzzo), 37.5 per cent of the foreign students said they had invited classmates to their homes and had received like invitations from classmates (Vardanega 2003). In Milan, Cologne and Breveglieri (2003) found that 68 per cent of foreign youth had spent time at the homes of native-born Italian friends. A prevalence of friendships among children from the same country did not emerge in Milan except among children in immigrant families from China. Even among these children, however, only 6.8 per cent said they did not have even one Italian friend.

In general, the project found variation according to country of origin. For example, while adolescents in the families of Coptic Christians from Egypt and in immigrant families from Peru were more likely to interact with their native-born Italian classmates, adolescents in

families from China, Eritrea, Ethiopia and the Philippines tended to cultivate relationships among adolescents within the same immigrant group or in other immigrant groups.

The project study in Milan found that preadolescents in immigrant families and in native-born Italian families spent most of their free time at home, usually watching television, using computers, or playing video games. However, children in immigrant families helped more with household chores (Cologna and Breveglieri 2003, Giovannini and Queirolo Palmas 2002). Children in immigrant families spent significant non-structured free time in the streets and in courtyards, piazzas, parks, fast food restaurants and video arcades.

A questionnaire survey conducted in the province of Trento (Trentino–Alto Adige) during the 2005/06 school year relied on network analysis to examine the interpersonal relationships that develop within classrooms that include children in immigrant families (Martini 2007). The goal was to reconstruct the characteristics of class members who are marginalized by fellow classmates or have no ties of friendship with classmates, as well as the characteristics of the most popular students. The students in the sample were members of 74 randomly selected classes in the first three years in eight secondary schools. The survey involved 1,317 students aged 14–17. Among the 278 students in immigrant families included in the sample (21.1 per cent of the total), most were in families from Albania (13.2 per cent), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (11.7 per cent), or Morocco (10.6 per cent). In addition, 28.5 per cent of these students had been born in Italy or had immigrated, with their families, before reaching school age.

Nine in ten native-born Italians said they spent time in friendship networks consisting only of native-born Italians. About a quarter of the students in immigrant families said they spent time in networks composed solely of friends in families from their countries of origin. The friendship networks of the majority of these students (47.6 per cent) were mixed.

The researchers relied on an index to measure the friendship network activity and popularity of each student. The index was constructed on the basis of questionnaire responses about specific friendship ties among students. The network analysis found that gender was a significant factor influencing marginalization and popularity. Thus, boys in immigrant families were 22 times more at risk of isolation than girls in immigrant families. Citizenship and socioeconomic status were also factors. Adolescents in immigrant families of higher socioeconomic status were less at risk of exclusion than adolescents in immigrant families of lower status. Students who had been born in Italy or who had arrived as infants were more successful in forming networks with classmates than were students who had arrived when they were of school age.

Relationships were likewise central in a recent survey among middle school students (aged 11–14) in Tuscany (Recchi et al. 2008). The survey explored the relationships developed by native-born Italians and children in immigrant families inside and outside school, including individual friendships and contacts, informal groups and networks, and more formally structured associations such as religious groups and sports clubs. The researchers paid particular attention to household dynamics, that is, family structure, family cultural capital, socioeconomic status, immigration history (if any) and educational performance. The data were gathered during class through structured questionnaires distributed among 473 students

in 22 classes in 12 middle schools. Among the children in immigrant families, 24.4 per cent had arrived in Italy between 5 and 9 years of age, while almost 20 per cent had been born in Italy. The main countries of origin were Albania (19.2 per cent of these students), China (14.9 per cent) and Romania (9.3 per cent). Only 37 per cent were living in homes owned by their families, while 58 per cent were living in families that were rented. Among the native-born Italian children, 83 per cent were living in families that owned their own home.

The study found that the social networks of second-generation children are narrow. The analysis of friendship networks showed that second-generation children often do not participate in mixed groups of native-born Italians and children in immigrant families and that they are rarely at the centre of networks. Many of the children in immigrant families are isolated. Except among children in families from other EU countries, the study found that lower average school performance among the children in immigrant families is a factor in this outcome.

The nationwide “Itagen2” survey among 11- to 14-year-olds found that almost all students in immigrant families have at least one native-born Italian friend, but that the incidence and size of extracurricular friendship networks depend on the age of the children and the number of years they have been living in Italy (Barban et al. 2008). Most of the children – 88 per cent among the foreign students and 95 per cent among the Italian citizens – believe that schoolmates should also be friends. There is little difference in responses on this issue between Italians, foreigners who arrived in Italy at preschool age, and foreigners born in Italy. However, there is a difference between these groups and foreign students who have arrived more recently.

The survey found that the nature of friendship networks also varies according to country of origin and citizenship. Children in immigrant families from Albania and from Eastern Europe tend to form solid relationships with their native-born Italian peers, whereas children in families from Morocco and most Asian countries – possibly because of the language barrier – form networks that are more strongly tied to their own countries of origin. For instance, among children who have been born in Italy to families from China or who have arrived in Italy by age 10, less than a third meet their schoolmates frequently outside school, compared with the 70 per cent average among foreign children.

According to the survey, although young foreigners tend to be less self-confident and more vulnerable than their Italian classmates, the desires and expectations of all the children are similar. The similarity in aspirations increases and the lack of self-confidence decreases if the children have had time to become familiar with Italian society and if they have the tools and skills to understand Italian society. Birth in Italy and the number of years lived in Italy carry more weight in this outcome than birth to parents who are foreign citizens or birth to parents who are Italian citizens.

The few studies on networks of exclusive relationships among immigrant groups are generally qualitative. They may be divided into two types based on whether the networks are (1) the outcome of conscious decisions by children and youth in immigrant families to recover elements of their cultures of origin or (2) the result of a lack of choice because of

social exclusion or because of isolation within marginal or deviant subcultures or social behaviours.

The studies by Cologna and Breveglieri (2003) and Andall (2003) may be included among the first type. The former emphasize the tendency among students in immigrant families from China to spend much of their free time with others in the same immigrant group. These students even tend to favour imported Chinese products. The study also found that, among children in families from the Philippines, the religious dimension plays a significant role in network formation.

Andall (2003) conducted interviews with 27 residents of Milan between the ages of 13 and 22 who had parents from Africa (5 in families from Cape Verde, 3 from Egypt, 14 from Eritrea, 1 from Ethiopia and 4 from Sierra Leone). She underlines the importance among the young people in families from Ethiopia of gathering in the Centro Sociale di Leoncavallo, a social activity centre in Milan. The young people consider the centre conducive to the construction of a strong group identity.

An example of the second type of research on exclusive networks among immigrant groups is an ethnographic study conducted by Quadrelli (2003). Quadrelli spent time among a group of 30 youth between 16 and 22 years of age in immigrant families from Albania. The group members regularly met in Zona Expo, an event centre and gathering place in the old port in Genoa. Quadrelli suggests that these youth met regularly at Zona Expo because of a shared feeling of social exclusion. He observes that this friendship community is necessary, but that it is also negative. It has been constructed because of the isolation forced upon the youth by the society of settlement rather than because of a desire to reaffirm or defend a separate cultural identity.

Another example of this line of research is the study by Braccini (2000), who explores alternative types of associations that lead to new subcultures. Braccini uses participant observation and focus group interviews to learn about a group of approximately 60 youth who are known in the media as the *ragazzi del Flaminio* (youth of Flaminio). The group was formed in the 1990s and consists mostly of 15- to 25-year-olds in families of African origin, especially from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. The group regularly meets in Piazzale Flaminio near the centre of Rome. These youth have been marginalized and experience feelings of malaise within society. Braccini's objective is to reconstruct the organization and history of the group and to analyse the effects exerted on the members by the image of the group presented in the media, especially newspapers. The study explores the various factors that influence the process of the construction and development of identity among the group and the images of African youth propagated in Italian society. Braccini also analyses the role of music in uniting the members of the group. Music allows group members to establish a link between their cultures of origin in Africa and the society of settlement and to create a new subculture.

## **6.2 Children and health**

Because this sort of information is not collected from birth centres, statistical data on the health conditions of newborns in immigrant families must be based on various research efforts. It was regularly argued during the 1990s that there was a clear gap in health outcomes between newborns in immigrant families and newborns in native Italian families. However, UNICEF and Caritas Italiana (2005) report that the gap has been shrinking in recent years. For example, studies among 33 birth centres in 25 cities indicate that the stillbirth rate (measured as late foetal deaths) is 3.7 per 1,000 births among non-EU immigrant families and 2.7 among native-born Italian families. Small differences also exist in early and late neonatal mortality (up to one month) and post-neonatal mortality (up to one year).

Other recent studies find that the major factors in health risks among newborns and children in immigrant families are linked to the poor economic conditions among the families and the disadvantages associated with the lack of social inclusion (for example, see Mazzetti 2002). Thus, among immigrant families in Lombardy, only 41 per cent of the children regularly visit paediatricians. The corresponding share falls to 5.6 per cent among the children of undocumented immigrants. This low level of basic preventive health care has the unfortunate effect of increasing the number of visits to emergency services among these families (Gusmeroli et al. 2005).

## **6.3 Socialization and identity**

### **6.3.1 Identity formation**

There is little good research on the construction of identity among youth in immigrant families. A significant exception is the study conducted by Secchiaroli and Mancini (2002) in several cities, mostly in northern Italy. The authors use a structured questionnaire to explore the ways in which preadolescents and adolescents in immigrant families define their identities. They also investigate feelings of well-being and malaise among youth in school. Their results suggest that the preadolescents tend to define themselves in terms of a sense of belonging within an immigrant group or a geographical location, although the descriptions they provide of their identity within these groups do not always correspond to the countries of origin of their families. Moreover, among the preadolescents, the need to reinforce an ethnic or immigrant identity does not seem to be accompanied by any sense of superiority with respect to groups in which the youth are not a part. However, the preadolescents appear nonetheless to value Italian identity and are more liable to consider themselves similar to native-born Italians rather than individuals in other immigrant groups. They often say, for instance, that they are also Italian, or European, or citizens of the world. In light of such observations, Mancini (2001) hypothesizes that some of these preadolescents develop an alternate biculturalism derived from the subordinate position assigned by others to their immigrant groups. They appear to prefer to respond to the challenges and stresses involved in the construction of identity by assimilating themselves within the local culture or by identifying with a more general category, such as Europe or a religion, that is sufficiently broad to include their immigrant group and the native majority in the country of settlement.



Di Maria and Lo Coco (2002) used quantitative and qualitative methodologies to examine the development of precursors in the construction of ethnic identities among children in immigrant families in Sicily. The precursors included ethnic categorization, ethnic identification, ethnic constancy, knowledge and familiarity with the practices of one's ethnicity, ethnic preferences, and attitudes towards one's own group and towards others. The researchers worked with 39 children in families from Tunisia and 32 native-born Italian children. The children were 6 to 10 years of age. The results suggest that all the children felt a sense of belonging to a particular ethnic group. They had also assimilated certain characteristics that defined them as true members of the group. They were fully aware of being of Tunisian or Italian origin and realized that this origin was a stable characteristic that would define them over time. They also possessed a solid knowledge-base concerning the traditions and customs of their group. In addition, the study found that the children generally displayed a preference for other members of their own group. This was demonstrated through the choice of playmates and the use of positive descriptors for these playmates.

From a sociological perspective, Bosisio et al. (2005) conducted a study on identity formation among second-generation youth. They highlighted the many group associations of these youth and analysed the ability of the youth to manage diverse cultural points of reference routinely. The project consisted of 61 in-depth interviews and five focus groups among secondary school students in the Milan metropolitan area. The authors tested the hypothesis that second-generation youth are different from their parents because they have more frequent contact with a wider variety of social models and that they are different from their classmates because they have the experience of membership in an immigrant group. The authors propose six different types of self-identification among these youth: ethnic identification (within a network), isolation (marginalized), mimicry (an ability to camouflage nationality), transnational identification (partaking in identity at more than one level), double membership (favouring elements of connection), and cosmopolitanism. The adoption of each identity strategy is influenced by factors such as the existence of networks, cultural and social capital, socioeconomic status, individual experiences and discrimination in the new social context.

Rossitti (2006) uses a semi-structured questionnaire among 100 non-Italian students in technical and vocational schools in Rome in 2003/04. Three fourths of the students had been in Italy for less than 10 years. The survey investigated the language spoken most frequently, future prospects, inclusion in the local social environment, perceived racism and inclusion in the school environment. The results suggest that dual cultural membership is considered a resource rather than an impediment in the fulfilment of the goals of the young interviewees. The three factors that most influenced the ability of foreign students to become included were the age at which they arrived in Italy, their membership within a stable family group capable of guaranteeing a network of support and solidarity, and the cultural capital of parents.

### **6.3.2 The language spoken at home**

The important role played by the family in transmitting the cultural inheritance of countries of origin and the differences in this across immigrant groups have emerged in various studies. For example, Giacalone (2002) and Cologna and Breveglieri (2003) emphasize the concern shown among families of Egyptian and Moroccan origin to teach the language and religion of their countries of origin to their children. Similarly, a research project supported by the region

of Emilia-Romagna in 1997 found that, among immigrant families from Egypt, Ghana, Morocco and Senegal, linguistic competence in the language of origin was fostered among children by maintaining the use of this language at home (Giovannini and Morgagni 2000). Moreover, the children were also encouraged to master an additional non-Italian foreign language, often English or French.

### **6.3.3 Intergenerational relationships and social mobility: the issue of two cultures**

The intergenerational transition from the first generation to the second generation in the immigrant population, as observed by Demarie and Molina (2004), is often characterized by cognitive, behavioural and social discontinuities that augment the risk of deviance and social conflict. These emergent problems are important because they directly affect the process of social cohesion.

Children of immigrants are usually socialized within the life styles and cultural models of the society of settlement. They tend to reject the assimilation strategies that their parents have used, which most commonly result in a sort of social inclusion at a subordinate level.<sup>10</sup> The dissonance between the socioeconomic exclusion experienced by immigrants, manifest particularly in the difficulty of entering the labour force, and the expectations associated with the immigration experience can easily create malaise and frustration, which may become more apparent in the second generation.

In the delicate phase during which an adolescent matures into an adult, children of the second generation in immigrant families not only face the typical challenges of adolescence, but must also negotiate and reconcile two, quite different cultures, a task requiring much complex reflection. The reconciliation frequently takes place within the family, which thus becomes the locus of encounter, discussion and clash over the culture of origin and the new cultural context in which the family has settled.

As already state in the paragraph 4, an additional issue central to the discontinuity among the second generation is the acquisition of citizenship in the country of settlement. Acquiring Italian citizenship is not automatic. For the second generation, it usually becomes possible only after the individual has reached the age of majority (18 years of age). Certainly, citizenship carries significant implications not only in terms of the enjoyment of full civil and political rights, but also for important processes related to the construction of identity.

The family context cannot be ignored in discussions of the process of inclusion experienced by second-generation immigrants. Education within immigrant families is marked by ambivalence about the maintenance of the traditional cultural values of the country of origin and the desire to achieve socioeconomic stability in the country of settlement. There is tension between the desire of parents to exercise a measure of control over the choices made

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<sup>10</sup> This refers to the subordinate socioeconomic position of immigrants who often accept employment that is not paid well, is tiring and is generally refused by native-born workers. It is similar to the position of marginalized segments in the native-born population. Jobs with these characteristics are more usual in Italy in seasonal work, industrial production and home care for the elderly and the physically disabled. For a relevant analysis, see Ambrosini (2004).

by their children and the obvious comparisons with a society that emphasizes values such as freedom and emancipation, gender equality and personal independence (Ambrosini 2005).

Among the values immigrant families associate with good education, Besozzi (2003) describes the importance of transmitting the culture of origin to reinforce the identity of the children. There is apparently a tendency among parents in immigrant families to view the relational model of native-born Italian parents and children negatively and to worry that their own offspring will adopt this behaviour. This preoccupation often emerges in parental demands that children respect parental authority (Tognetti Bordogna 2000, Fondazione Silvano Andolfi 2003, Giovannini and Morgagni 2000, Giacalone 2002, Besozzi 2003).

The recognition by parents in immigrant families of the value of education and the desire of the parents to invest in the educational paths of their children emerge in the literature. A project in Emilia-Romagna demonstrates that immigrant parents who arrive in Italy with a high level of education, irrespective of their place of origin, envision that their children will pursue their studies to the university level. They consider advanced levels of education as a means for their children to obtain better jobs and as a way to maintain their prestige before kin left behind in the country of origin (Giovannini 2000). Based on their research in Milan, Cologna and Breveglieri (2003) underline that, in immigrant communities in which many children typically begin working at a young age, such as groups from China, Peru and the Philippines, education is still highly valued even if the necessity of contributing to household financial well-being forces these children to abandon their studies. Giacalone (2002) found similar results among parents in immigrant families from Morocco. During interviews, these parents emphasized the importance of school and described the possession of a diploma as a key factor in social mobility.

#### **6.4 Youth and deviant behaviour**

Recent data show that the number of cases involving children in immigrant families reported to the criminal justice system has been growing in the last decade, reaching more than 10,000 cases in 2002, which is about one fourth of all cases involving children in immigrant and native-born families (UNICEF and Caritas Italiana 2005). The relative share of cases involving children in immigrant families is even greater among under-14-year-olds. The rate of recidivism is also high, meaning that individual children may be involved in several cases. The data show that there is a high proportion of Roma among the children in immigrant families who exhibit deviant behaviour.

Surveys in Italy on the complex relationship between immigration and deviance have generally focused primarily on unaccompanied children, especially youth and victims. Little attention has been paid to the second generation and the structural vulnerability and exposure to deviant and criminal phenomena among the second generation (Melossi et al. 2007).

Recent research on unaccompanied children, especially those whom criminal organizations victimize or corrupt and the increasing number who are trafficked, is centred on two areas: (1) studies focusing on reconstructing the experiences of individuals and developing statistical and analytical typologies (Giovannetti 2000, Oltrelab and Comune di Modena 2003, Osservatorio Provincia di Arezzo 2002, Melossi and Giovannetti 2002, Marzin 2001)

and (2) studies focusing on interventions to reduce deviance and criminality or focusing on specific issues, particularly problems among children in immigrant families (Butticci 2003, Campani et al. 2002, Ambrosini and Boccagni 2002, Belluati 2002, SSI and IPRS 2001).

Giovannetti (2000) collected 16 life histories of unaccompanied 13- to 19-year-olds in Bologna and Modena in the region of Emilia-Romagna. She found that these youth had immigrated for different reasons. Some were escaping dangerous situations or social unrest; others were motivated by the possibility of finding employment, hoped to experience new life styles, or were following friends or relatives who had since gone elsewhere.

Oltrelab and the Comune di Modena (2003) conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with social workers and with 26 foreign children residing in a shelter for unaccompanied youth in Modena. The results suggest that the immigration experiences of youth from Albania are quite different from the experiences of youth from Morocco. The latter tended to have lower levels of educational attainment and to leave their country of origin earlier. The young Moroccans frequently had relatives or friends in Italy, and their decision to immigrate had been generally supported by their families, whereas the families of the youth from Albania had often been opposed initially to the plan to immigrate. The principal motive pushing these youth to immigrate was the need to earn money and to find better education and training or to find employment.

Economic motivations are also frequently cited in a study by Marzin (2001), who focuses on the services available and accessible to foreign children in Turin. Unlike the study described above, Marzin finds that almost all the families of Albanian youth had supported the choice to immigrate and often went into debt to help the children. The immigration experience of children from Morocco varied depending on the part of Morocco from which they had come.

Other studies have attempted to explore deviant behaviour among unaccompanied foreign children, including among victims of trafficking. Melossi and Giovannetti (2002) analysed life histories gathered through interviews with 70 foreign children in penal institutions and in shelters for unaccompanied immigrant youth. The children were mainly from Albania and Morocco. Many of the children had similar backgrounds, and almost all had survived dangerous clandestine sea voyages to reach Italy. The final outcome of the immigration experience greatly depended, however, on the specific situations and opportunities the young immigrants encountered, often by chance, upon arrival in Italy.

Renton (2002) addresses the trafficking of children from Albania to Italy for sexual exploitation. The children were brought to Italy between 1995 and 2000. The study involved interviews with girl victims of trafficking, teachers, social workers, police, local government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The analysis includes a profile of the victims, the majority of whom grew up in rural areas and have little education. It reconstructs the social context in which the phenomenon of trafficking occurred; the recruitment techniques employed, especially abduction; factors that facilitated the recruitment, and the routes to Italy. It also assesses assisted repatriation projects.

The exploitation of foreign children for labour or sex was investigated in a research project conducted by the Fondazione Internazionale Lelio Basso (2001) in Naples, Rome and Turin.

To document the unfavourable conditions faced by foreign children, some of which reduce the children practically to slavery, the project undertook interviews with 45 key informants who were working with children. The study found that, particularly in Turin, a significant number of foreign children were working as street vendors, which is often an excuse for begging, and, to a lesser degree, were involved in thievery, prostitution and drug-dealing (Lostia and Tagliacozzo 2001). In Naples, unaccompanied Moroccan children between the ages of 10 and 16 could often be found selling packets of tissues on the street and cleaning the windshields of cars stopped at intersections (De Filippo et al. 2001). However, in these contexts, it is sometimes difficult to determine whether the children are acting independently or willingly to subsist. In Rome, the study found that the choice to immigrate was often a family decision, and the young immigrants were providing for the welfare of the family as if they had been adults (Carchedi and Castellani 2001).

Carchedi et al. (2003) investigated the differences between the trafficking and the smuggling of people. They paid special attention to the dangers faced by children through the development of relationships resembling indentured service or even slavery that affect particularly younger or otherwise weaker foreign children, especially young girls.

Not only unaccompanied children are at risk of becoming involved in these precarious relationships, but also youth of immigrant origin who have friendship networks and family. Such youth are more likely to practice deviant behaviour if they are unable to earn the incomes necessary to sustain life styles similar to the life styles among native-born Italian youth (Melossi and Giovannetti 2002).

Queirolo Palmas and Torre (2005) discuss the results of an empirical study conducted in 2004 among youth in families from Latin America in the metropolitan area of Genoa (see also Queirolo Palmas 2004). The study endeavours to reconstruct the daily lives of these youth through interviews with them and with other key informants, including social workers and educators. The study analyses 72 in-depth interviews, informal conversations, and approximately 200 hours of participant observation in a variety of contexts, such as nightclubs, soccer fields, piazzas, bars, schools, churches and shopping centres. Two thirds of the youth interviewed were 15 to 17 years of age; most were living in mother-only families from Ecuador. The authors find that, for many of the youth, immigration is accompanied by a sense of disorientation and a loss of points of reference in the traditional culture. Among the youth, gathering in and taking over places open to the public serve as a means of affirming identity and establishing a sense of belonging to a community.

The authors also criticize local media for stigmatizing these youth as a source of trouble and disorder. They accuse the media of contributing, through regular attention, to the allure of membership in the gangs among this population group. Moreover, the attention tends to link in the public mind the phenomenon of the gangs and all youth in immigrant families.

The Ministry of Education, Universities and Research has been supporting a research project on culture, rights and socialization among young children and adolescents. A related study has examined the links between certain types of socialization and the incidence of deviant and criminal behaviour among youth in Bologna (Emilia-Romagna), particularly youth in immigrant families (for example, see Melossi et al. 2007). The study was based on the

hypothesis that barriers to social inclusion encourage second-generation youth in immigrant families to seek alternative forms of socialization. The sample consisted of 335 students – 177 boys and 158 girls – in 19 classes in the last year of middle school (eighth grade, 13- and 14-year-olds). The study found no significant correlation between the index of foreignness used in the study and self-reported deviant behaviour. However, as the index of foreignness rose for an individual, the measure of the socioeconomic position of the immigrant family tended to decline. The study also found links between deviant behaviour and other variables, such as gender (male), sense of well-being (low) and family ties (weak), among the immigrant group and among native-born Italians. The results demonstrate that the behavioural choices of adolescents are associated with conditions at home, especially the amount of control exercised by parents and the trust, confidence and esteem children feel towards their parents.

## **6.5 Significance and function of the religious dimension**

In the sociological literature in Italy, religion is not the subject of inquiry in many ad hoc research projects, but its significance emerges in broader analyses of living conditions among youth in immigrant families. Cologna and Breveglieri (2003), for example, find that mosques and other centres among young Muslims, religious communities among Coptic Christians and youth in families from Eritrea, and Catholic churches among youth in families from Peru and the Philippines are important meeting points and sites of socialization.

A study by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Milan examined the participation of children in immigrant families from countries outside Europe in activities organized by priests in over 300 parishes and the attitudes of parishioners towards these children (Caritas Ambrosiana 2000). The results reveal that there was a prevalence of boys among the children in immigrant families who attend religious functions and activities, as well as a concentration of youth 6 to 13 years of age. The children involved in the study had mostly been born in Italy, and most had attended the same parish for at least four years. Most of the immigrant families were from Albania, Latin America (especially Peru), or North Africa, while few families were from China or the Philippines. In fact, 64.7 per cent declared that they were Catholic, while 22.3 per cent described themselves as Muslims, 4.7 per cent as other Christian and 8.4 per cent as other non-Christian. Belonging to a non-Catholic family did not seem to deter youth from attending mass. By the same token, socialization and participation in various activities (especially sports) did not seem to be conditioned by religion or religious differences.

A study on the social inclusion of second-generation youth in immigrant families in Emilia-Romagna also explored the religious dimension (Barbagli and Schmoll 2007). The study was conducted among 3,801 middle school students (1,086 of whom were native-born Italians). The preliminary results highlight the enormous differences in religious practice among students depending on the countries of origin of their families. Children in immigrant families from Albania, Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine are fairly similar to native-born Italian children with regard to the frequency with which they pray, while children in immigrant families from Ecuador, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Tunisia and Turkey pray much more frequently. Children in families from China and the former Serbia and Montenegro are more secularized relative to

native-born Italians. The study found no evidence of reactive religiosity, that is, the positive influence of economic marginalization on religious practice. However, the data showed that, among families from India, Morocco, Romania and, to a lesser degree, Albania, children tended to pray more regularly, the longer the families had been in Italy. This contrasts with the study's finding that students who said they speak Italian with their brothers and sisters also tended to pray less frequently than others.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

A transformation has been occurring in immigration to Italy. The number of children in immigrant families is increasing, and the children and families are arriving from an enormous variety of countries and backgrounds. Many of the families from the EU and North America are headed by Italian citizens who are returning to Italy after a period as emigrants. Most of the children are therefore also Italian citizens. Among immigrant families from other countries of origin, the picture is different. Many of the children who have arrived in Italy since 1996 have come from western Africa and Asia, particularly Bangladesh and India. There have also been large flows of immigrants from Albania, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Many of the countries are new in the immigration flows to Italy.

The key findings of the our original analysis of data derived from the 2001 Census and the 2006 "Itagen2" survey are the following:

- The majority of children of immigrant origin grow up in complete families, though one-parent households are rather common.
- Poverty rates tend to rise according to the number of children in a household. Immigrant families tend to be larger.
- Immigrant families tend to experience overcrowding in housing. A substantial share of second-generation immigrants owns their own homes, though the homes tend to be smaller than the average across the population.
- Only 25 per cent of young people aged 18 to 24 in immigrant families are still in school. The share among native-born Italians is 40 per cent. Children in immigrant families tend to choose the vocational or professional tracks in the education system.
- Immigrants are at a general disadvantage in the job market. Even parents from countries of origin with older historical immigration flows to Italy tend to have less well qualified jobs.
- Economic activity rates among mothers in immigrant families are high. This is an effect of the large share of women working in home care and domestic services. They often work part time.
- There are differences in education and labour force participation between young fathers and mothers in immigrant families. These differences appear to be rooted in corresponding differences in the countries of origin.

The challenges of immigration to Italian society are substantial. However, there has been little research into immigration issues. There have been no exhaustive studies on children in immigrant families. Little is known about the health of these children or the extent of their social inclusion. The scant data available have been gathered mainly through small-scale

studies at the local level in a few places. Policy responses seem ad hoc, and they do not appear well coordinated and do not reflect any overall vision or direction.

The research community and policymakers must address the challenges more directly. There is a substantial demand for more information and analysis on children on immigrant family in Italy. We have examined the limited research available: it appears that children in immigrant families face disadvantages not only during the first years after the arrival of the families in Italy, but also among the second generation, the children born in Italy to at least one parent born elsewhere. The share of the children of this generation among all children in immigrant families is large.

One important concern about immigration revolves around the ability of the welfare state to accommodate the new arrivals. The Italian welfare system is not comprehensive. Family members play a key role in providing support during times of need. This is bad news for immigrant families not only because they tend to have more children (and more overcrowding in the household), but because they are less able to rely on extended family or other support networks.



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