

Analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources in Italy

Serena Piovesan

Information Centre for Immigration (CINFORMI) – Autonomous Province of
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List of acronyms and abbreviations

A.I.R.E.	<i>Anagrafe italiani residenti all'estero</i> (Registry of Italians Resident Abroad)
CINFORMI	<i>Centro Informativo per l'Immigrazione</i> (Information Centre for Immigration)
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
INAIL	<i>Istituto Nazionale per l'Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro</i> (National Institute for Insurance against Labour Injuries)
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISTAT	<i>Istituto nazionale di statistica</i> (Italian National Institute of Statistics)
NACE	<i>Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne</i> (Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community)
SISTAN	<i>Sistema Statistico Nazionale</i> (National Statistical System)

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Executive Summary

Italy used to be an emigration country in the past, but it has been rapidly and constantly evolving into one of the most significant European immigration countries over the years. Therefore there is a need for constant and close monitoring of the official statistics to obtain useful suggestions for a better management of the social transformations and for an improved orientation of the national and local policies.

The starting point of the analyses developed in this Report draws on observations already made by ISTAT on the definitions and methodologies for this multi-faceted phenomenon that includes: illegal aliens – illegal immigrants – aspiring legal immigrants – temporary immigrants – registered immigrants.

Since the early 1990s ISTAT has attempted to use the various existing administrative sources in a detailed way, namely the population register and the residence permits in the first place. From these data (and the information available from the Census) it is possible to derive the annual demographic features of the foreign population, even though they do not always refer to the same target of foreign individuals. In fact, the civil register provides only the core legal and stable element (long term settlers, usually living on the national territory), whereas the data from permits of stay refer to the legal immigrants (that may not need to sign in with the town hall registry office) and the census refers to all the immigrants, even though the core stable element is dealt with separately.

As for the residence permit archive it is crucial to underline that it currently refers to third-country nationals. As for EU citizens, instead, only the aggregated personal data are available at central level. Therefore there is clearly a need for further information, but also strategies ought to be developed for a greater use of the individual information contained in the municipal registers in order to solve the information gap due to the unavailability of national micro data on permits for EU citizens since 2007 (EU citizens, in any circumstances, are not required to apply for a permit to stay in Italy; those who are planning to stay in Italy for more than 3 months have to request residency in Italy – see chapter 2.1.4). Furthermore, the data on residence permits are no longer sufficient to measure the legal foreign presence, nor are the personal data. This highlights once again the need for more sources and a more fruitful dialogue between the local authorities collecting data and producing statistics.

However, the residence permit archive and the census also produce important information on the migratory details of foreign citizens (year of immigration and reason for the presence in Italy). The demographic events, instead, are available for the permanent legal immigrants, whereas the data on the acquisition of the Italian citizenship refer more in general to the legal foreign population.

To summarize, the Census is still the only data collection tool that currently allows us to identify also the stock of immigrated population or citizens with foreign background. In fact, the census contains questions on the country of birth, citizenship, Italian citizenship from birth or by acquisition and for these cases also on the previous citizenship. Moreover, numerous details on the distribution of the foreign population (immigrants or persons with foreign background – the second generation), also on the basis of basic variables (community, gender, age, civil status, education, family composition, housing situation, occupation, etc.) can be obtained only from the Census and in this case they also provide a more accurate territorial focus than other sources.

Over the last few years ISTAT has tried to respond to statistical requests coming from (EC) n. 862/2007. It asks the States to optimize the use of the data already available to produce statistics as close to the harmonised definitions as possible. This need implies that ISTAT commits itself to resolving certain limitations of the Italian data framework, thus placing more value to its coordination role of other authorities of the National Statistical System (SISTAN). It is worth

underlining the importance to enrich certain current administrative data collection and the survey models of the national sample surveys not only with information about the country of birth, the current citizenship and citizenship at the birth of the individuals, but also with information about country of birth and/or citizenship of the parents. Hence it would be possible to identify the possible target populations (for instance persons with foreign background and second generations, that are characterized by distinguishing patterns of integration and socialization, compared with immigrants).

Another strategic objective is the introduction in all national sample surveys of information allowing us to derive a sub-sample representative of the foreign/immigrated population. This will lead to an accurate comparison with the Italian population.

The process of amelioration of statistics on emigration requires a close cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and with associations of public officers in charge of Registers of Population, making them aware of the value of their work in a statistical perspective. The work on improvements in the production of data from current surveys has already started in terms of timeliness and accuracy (ISTAT 2008).¹ Italy is in a rather favourable situation, having an administrative system able to give detailed information on resident population stocks and flows. Even though not always perfectly in line with statistical requirements, data already collected are very valuable, and they can be used in a more extensive way.

Also the stakeholders (local administrations, policy makers, researchers) are a key factor in this context. Indeed, they are expected to further develop and maintain the constant dialogue with the authorities in charge of the production and collection of data, especially when the undoubtedly important surveys taken into account represent the by-product of administrative activities or are not oriented to a specific analysis of immigrants and migration-related processes. As emerges from the experience of the Autonomous Province of Trento, when the stakeholders who need specific detailed information on immigrants for designing policies and measures turn to the competent local administrations, they are often able to start a virtuous circle. In fact, the collaboration and the dialogue between stakeholders and administrations may lead to the computer processing of data, which otherwise would remain available only on paper forms, or to a more complete computer-assisted data collection also containing variables around which the interest of the stakeholders gravitates.

¹ Some data (for example: individual data on migratory flows based on the survey of residency transfers) are available with a certain delay. This creates a problem, as EU regulation asks for data 12 months after the reference year, and therefore ISTAT has been studying the way to shorten the time of availability of data. The method evaluated uses estimates in order to provide requested data. According to ISTAT (2008), a part of Italian municipalities (around 50%) uses a computerized system to transmit data via the web, allowing to process these data much faster than those arriving on the traditional paper forms. The estimation method requires the definition of a sample of municipalities sending data via the web, so that immigrants and emigrants characteristics for the whole country can be estimated from those recorded in these municipalities, introducing only an acceptable error.

1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this report is to gather and assess the quality of some data collected so far which currently allow us to learn the most relevant aspects of the migratory processes and the presence of foreigners in Italy. The discussion on the critical sides of data collection related to the migratory processes and the presence of foreigners in Italy will also take into account what has been done at local level, in particular in the Autonomous Province of Trento.

Since the sources detecting foreigners and nationals are now rather numerous and diverse it is crucial to focus on the quality of the data collected, on any possible discrepancy emerging from data in different sources examining the same aspects of the migratory process, and on the limits of data collection in response to the increasing need to gain familiarity with the migration-related processes as the foreign immigration in Italy started growing considerably.

The reference period of this report covers the decade from 2001 up to the end of 2011. Where possible, the reference period is extended to the end of 2012.

This report was drawn up by CINFORMI, the Information Centre for Immigration of the Autonomous Province of Trento. CINFORMI was set up in 2001 and serves as operational unit of the Welfare and Labour Department of the Autonomous Province of Trento. It facilitates the access of foreign citizens to public services and provides information and consultancies on how to enter and reside in Italy. Moreover, it offers linguistic and cultural support and promotes the initiatives of the local authorities as well as the private sector social projects for immigrants. It is also worth highlighting that CINFORMI also conducts researches and studies on the migration-related processes in order to better orient the technical and political decisions on immigration. In addition to this, the annual report on immigration in the province of Trento has celebrated its eleventh edition and it is sponsored by CINFORMI itself. This work gathers and comments on data related to the social and demographic profile of foreigners, their integration trends as regards housing, school, social and health care as well as their participation in the labour market.

CINFORMI has been collecting and analysing data on immigration in the province of Trento for over a decade. For this reason, it can count on the consolidated collaboration with various public administration structures of the Province (namely the Local Statistic Service, the Central Police Station, the Government Commissariat, the Labour Market Observatory, the Local Health Service, etc.) which have statistics on the foreign population at their disposal. At national level, CINFORMI has a collaboration with Caritas/Migrantes for the annual report on immigration in Italy (“Dossier Statistico Immigrazione”).

The frequent, ongoing dialogue with the Local Statistic Service and other public structures about the informative potential and limits of the currently available statistics has paved the way for the drafting of this report. Furthermore, these bodies also represent a solid starting point for the presentation and sharing of the main contents of the report as well as for a lively debate on the strategies that can be implemented for an improved monitoring of the foreigners in the Province.

This report presents the analysis of some of the main administrative and statistical data collections and surveys on the migration flows and foreign population stocks in Italy focusing both on the definitions of the target population and the information collected. The analysis will take into account particularly the surveys that allow us to measure the migratory flows directly as well as the foreign population and other events that contribute to the evolution of this aggregate. As regards the measurement of the migratory flows two sources are mainly used: the data collection from entry visas granted by the Italian diplomatic and consular authorities abroad, and the registrations in and cancellations from the civil register (for change of residence). As regards the stock of foreign

population, instead, the data collected from valid residence permits are particularly focused on as well as from registrations in the civil register and the information gained from foreign citizens in the population census. Additionally, other events have an impact on the balance of the foreign population, and so the data collected from the registered foreign citizens is broken down by birth and acquisition of the Italian citizenship. As for the data collected from specific population segments, the ongoing labour force survey will be referred to. Also the data on remittances and the estimates of illegal immigration in Italy will be discussed.

Finally, it is interesting to notice that over the years more and more public officials have been asking for detailed statistics on the foreign population, especially when dealing with the programming of specific plans on the territory and operations solely addressed to the foreign population (in particular the second generations, women, etc.). For this reason, certain technical structures of the Province will vastly benefit from the contents of this report, also because they have often needed further explanations and support in the use of the databases.

2. DATA SOURCES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

2.1. Administrative (register-based) data sources

2.1.1. Entry visas - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The foreign immigration flow towards Italy can be measured by means of the survey on entry visas granted by the Italian diplomatic or consular authorities abroad. The grant of visas to foreign citizens varies depending on the citizenship, the country of usual residence, the length of and reason for the stay in Italy. With Italy's entry into the Schengen system, the EU citizens can enter Italy without needing a visa. There exist different types of visa: short term visas (for stays up to 90 days), long term visas (in case of paid employment, self employment, family reunification, etc.). It should be noted that major changes in this context have occurred over the time, and as a consequence the type of visas as well as the conditions and requirements for the issuing of visas have been re-defined (for details, see EMN 2012a, 2012b). The most recent innovations are: the simplification of the discipline of visas requested for family reasons (the two visas for “accompanying family member” and “family reunification” has been merged together into the new visa for “family reasons”); the separation (and an autonomous discipline) of the student visa² and the one for “research”³; the abolition of the visa for “integration into the labour market”; the introduction of the new visa for “volunteering” (which allows entry for young people aged between 20 and 30 years who are admitted to participate in volunteer programs).

Since 2000 the Statistical Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the collection of visas, has published a statistical yearbook (available online on www.esteri.it) containing also data related to the entry visas in Italy from 1998 (the last year available is 2011). Data are not transferred to ISTAT. These data are classified by reason for the granted visa and by country issuing the visa. The reference time is the date of issue. In the available tables the data are also classified by: a) uniform Schengen visa (for short stays); b) national or long-term visas (for stays of over 90 days in Italy and only for travels across the Schengen area); c) visas with limited territorial validity (valid only in Italy, and other Schengen countries only under specific circumstances). The historical series allows us to contrast the requests submitted with the ones effectively accepted.

However, this data collection presents two major limits: a political and legislative limiting factor deriving from bilateral agreements allowing the citizens of certain countries to enter Italy without a visa and with no requirement to obtain a visa for certain entry reasons⁴ (see EMN 2012). Another

² Third-country nationals holding a study permit, once they have finished their studies in Italy and have obtained the required qualifications (bachelor's degree, master degree, postgraduate, PhD, postgraduate training of first level, postgraduate training of second level, specialization course), have the possibility to convert their study permit in a subordinate work permit, if they are offered a job.

³ The researcher should be selected by either private or public research institutions acknowledged in an official list set up by the Ministry of University and Research. The researcher can obtain a visa only within the framework of a hosting agreement with a selected research body. The duration of the residence permit for research is the same as the duration of the research project.

⁴ The citizens of the following countries are not obliged to require an entry visa for an intended stay for tourism, mission, business, invitation, and sports competition, if the allowed stay is no longer than 90 days: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Malaysia, Macao, Northern Mariana Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia,

limiting factor is connected with the object of the survey: not the migration itself but the authorisation needed to migrate (Strozza et al. 2002).

2.1.2. Register of residence permits – Ministry of the Interior and Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

The Ministry of the Interior keeps records of residence permits and these data are then revised by ISTAT. From 2002 to 2007 ISTAT elaborated and disseminated data on the foreign citizens having a valid residence permit granted by the Ministry of the Interior. From the entry into force of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 on the Community statistics related to migration processes and international protection, ISTAT has been collaborating with the Ministry of the Interior for the improved quality of the data disseminated, starting from the information obtained through the residence permits. This has led to a review of the criteria of data elaboration based on the suggestions coming from Eurostat about the statistical use of the data from the residence permits.

This source measures the legal foreign presence at the beginning of the year (every third-country national on the territory has to request an authorisation to stay in the country, which is granted by the department of public security. In case the citizen has lived in Italy legally and for at least 6 years and has a permit allowing him/her to obtain more extensions, he/she can request a long-term residence card. Legislative Decree 30/2007 removed the requirement for EU citizens to apply for residence permits).

For this purpose, the information derived from the residence permit archive is used. This archive is provided by the Ministry of the Interior at least 6 months after the reference date. The data of the Ministry of the Interior undergo revision processes (including the elimination of the expired and/or duplication of lost permits). In fact, not only does the counting include the residence permits in force from 1 January, but also the documents with a validity extended beyond the reference date. These are then inserted in the archive, due to the necessary long time to complete the documentation for the first issuing. The counting also includes those permits expired on 1 January and extended later on, and this refers to citizens who are to be considered legal also the beginning of the year. Over the last few years also the Ministry of the Interior has recognised the need to disseminate data on the permits without considering the expired ones by adopting a counting procedure similar to the one adopted by ISTAT. However, the outcome seems to indicate that these data are less (in number) than the ones deriving from ISTAT revisions (the data of the Ministry of the Interior are published in the volume “Le statistiche ufficiali dell’Amministrazione dell’Interno”, available online from 2006 to 2011).

The data elaborated by ISTAT are available from 1992 and offer information on the foreign population according to certain demographic characteristics (gender, age, civil status) and the reasons why they are in Italy. More detailed information regards the geographical areas where the immigrants come from, with particular reference to the most relevant communities. The territorial breakdown is necessarily limited to the provinces since the residence permit is issued by the State Police at the level of the local Police Headquarters. However, the country of birth is not available

Seychelles, Singapore, United States, Taiwan (non-recognized territorial entity), Uruguay, Venezuela. The citizens of San Marino, Holy See and Switzerland are exempt from the visa in any case. From 1st September 2010, citizens of countries exempt from short-term visa can enter Italy for stays of up to ninety days, even for study purposes, without the need to request the corresponding visa for study. The visa exemption applies to the holders of refugee travel document issued under the Geneva Convention, non-EU workers authorized to cross border, the students in the context of a school trip group, the citizens members of NATO forces, without prejudice that Member States may extend the exemption to several other categories of beneficiaries.

despite it appears in the residence permit application which the citizen has to fill in when submitting the request (information about country of birth is not recorded in the archive provided by the Ministry of the Interior and used by ISTAT).

Since 2008 ISTAT has elaborated a new series on residence permits which no longer includes the new citizens of the European Union (Romanians, Bulgarians) who do not need to have a residence permit from 2007.⁵ Moreover, unlike the period prior to 2008, the data include not only the valid documents (residence permits and long-term cards), but also the minors registered on an adult's permit (before 2008 only the minors who had a residence permit were counted. However, the residence permit archive underestimates the number of minors due to delayed registrations).

In 2011 for the first time ISTAT disseminated data on the long-term stayers (foreign citizens having a residence card or a permanent permit).

Also here the data can be analysed according to certain characteristics such as gender, age, civil status, country of citizenship (first 50 countries), and the territorial breakdown is limited to the provinces.

It is crucial to note that the citizens having a residence permit are not necessarily registered in the population register,⁶ and similarly the data of the citizens registered in the population register may include also foreign citizens whose residence permit has expired. Therefore the two sources provide different estimates.

The data are available online on [demo.istat](http://demo.istat.it) and on ISTAT's data warehouse.

The stock of valid permits at the end of reference year suffers from a lack of timeliness, and they are officially disseminated with a time lag due to the length of administrative procedures in some areas of the country. According to ISTAT (2008), this problem could be overtaken only by introducing a major change in the procedure itself or in the organization of police offices in charge of it, but it should be part of a general change in bureaucracy and cannot be expected only as a response to a statistical request.

2.1.3. Acquisition of the Italian citizenship – Ministry of the Interior

The possibility to acquire the Italian citizenship is currently disciplined by the law n. 91 of 5 February 1992. It addresses the foreign citizens who wish to acquire the Italian citizenship, persons who were born in Italy but have lost their citizenship and wish to re-acquire it, the descendants of Italians who wish to have their citizenship recognized.

By specifically addressing the foreign citizens the law currently in force provides for the grant of the citizenship for the following four reasons: a) *marriage* with an Italian citizen which allows the person to acquire the citizenship after two years from the marriage if the applicant is resident in Italy or after three years from the marriage if the applicant is resident abroad (art. 5). These terms are halved in the presence of children; b) *naturalization*, which may be granted after a 4-year lawful residence period for Community citizens, and a 10-year period for foreign citizens (art. 9); c) *iuris communicatio*, when the foreign citizen having acquired the Italian citizenship can communicate it to his/her cohabitating minor children (unlike the other cases, this is an automatic acquisition and therefore no formal request is needed); d) *benefit of law*, which regards the foreign persons who

⁵ EU-citizens who intend to stay more than three months in the country need to apply for a “certificate of registration” issued by the Register Office (Anagrafe) of the Town Council (Comune). Therefore, EU nationals are registered on the Municipal Population Registers.

⁶ Records of residence permits take account of foreigners staying in Italy for brief periods, including those who are in the country on holiday or for health reasons, for example. People who only intend to stay for a limited time are exempted from the obligation to register with the municipality.

were born in Italy and have resided in Italy legally and with no interruptions from their birth until the age of legal majority and who declare the will to become Italian citizens within a year from the age of legal majority.

The Ministry of the Interior collects the data on the citizenship grants from the requests submitted to the competent Prefectures (along with the relevant documentation) based on the province of residence of the applicants. These statistics include the cases of acquisition by marriage (art. 5) and by residence (art. 9). Hence, the cases of *iuris communicatio*⁷ and benefit of law for birth in Italy are excluded.⁸ Thanks to the data provided by the Ministry of the Interior it is possible to contrast, by country, the requests presented by the foreign citizens with the actual citizenship grants.

The difference between the data of the Ministry of the Interior on the Italian citizenship grants and place of residence and the data provided by ISTAT resulting from the demographic balance of the resident population is due to the growing number of persons who acquire the Italian citizenship for reasons that are different from the ones appearing in the statistics of the Ministry of the Interior. These persons are mostly cohabitating minors who acquire the citizenship of the naturalized parent, or foreign citizens who were born in Italy and request the citizenship when they turn 18 years old.

The data of the Ministry of the Interior are available online on the Ministry website. Also a historical series from 1995 is available: it contains the Italian citizenship grants by gender; from 1998 also by home country (macro areas and first ten countries); from 1999 also by grant type (marriage or residence). From 2006 to 2011 more detailed data are available: grants by place of residence (based on the region or province), gender, grant type, single citizenship countries of the applicant, age range. The detailed overview is available also for the citizenship refusals.

2.1.4. Foreign workers' remittances – Bank of Italy (former Italian Foreign Exchange Office)

The data source refers to the official statistics provided by Bank of Italy (Banca d'Italia) and is constituted by the flow records that the banks send to the Office. Therefore the remittances are the transfers running through the regular intermediation channels, whereas the informal channels remain excluded.

Over the last few years different bank intermediaries (like Money Transfer) have emerged on the market of remittances. All the international regulations regarding the Money Transfer transactions run through the banks. The principal operators gather the credit transfers, by means of the resident banks, on foreign financial markets which usually do not coincide with the residence country of the remittance transferee. This results in the poor quality of the international territorial breakdown of the bank system statistics. In fact, the banks are often unable to identify the residence country of the final transferee of the transaction. Also the domestic territorial data breakdown (at the level of provinces and regions) of the bank system may not coincide with the residence of the remittance sender. In order to better envision the actual remittance flows, Banca d'Italia has integrated the bank data with the ones transmitted to the Money Transfer operators since 2004. For this reason, a discontinuity is detected in the historical series available from 2000 and produced by the Italian Foreign Exchange Office for the period between 2003 and 2004. These data are commented in certain publications including the ones of Caritas/Migrantes and the Leone Moressa Foundation. On the website of Banca d'Italia are the monthly flows towards foreign countries in 2012, broken down by destination country, and the data on annual flows of remittances towards foreign countries in the

⁷ This is a case of automatic acquisition of the Italian citizenship. Citizens do not need to submit a request.

⁸ In this case, foreign citizens have to submit a request of Italian citizenship to their Municipality of residence (the Prefecture is not involved).

period 2005-2011 broken down by destination country and province of origin. All figures are in millions of euro.

Furthermore, in 2012 the National Observatory on Migrants' Financial Inclusion was set up in Italy. This operational body serves for the analysis and monitoring of the migrants' financial inclusion processes. Every year it presents an annual research aimed to study in depth the main characteristics of the bank-migrants relationship as regards savings, credit, money transfer services and micro finance. The agenda also contains studies on the channelling of remittances through the official channels as well as on the development of migrant savings.

2.2. Statistical data sources, sample surveys

2.2.1. Municipal Population Registers – Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

Persons registered in and cancelled from the register due to change of residence (MIGRATION FLOWS)

This annual survey regards the individual data on registrations in and cancellations from the population register, operated by the municipalities, due to a change of residence. The survey models of the municipalities are filled in so to respond firstly to administrative needs, and only secondly for statistical purposes. The survey only refers to the resident population. Each Italian municipality keeps a population register (*anagrafe*). Each official responsible for the population register, at least in theory, follows well-defined procedures in registering changes-of-residence – registrations (*iscrizioni*) and cancellations (*cancellazioni*) – to and from other Italian municipalities and to and from abroad. ISTAT produces statistics by using the Municipal Population Registers: summary and individual data on migratory flows are gathered through current surveys, requested from every municipal register office with a statistical form.

The legal background is the Regulation (EC) n. 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007. A substantial improvement is currently under-way as for the data collection and data elaboration system in order to meet the growing need of the European Union to avail itself of comparable statistics on migrations.

The information about the citizenship has been inserted among the collected data since 1980. The survey does not include the actual entry in Italy of foreign citizens, which is certainly prior to the registration in the civil register. In addition, the data on the cancellations may be underestimated because there is no specific interest for the foreign citizen to notify the cessation of residence.

The registrations and cancellations from and in other countries involving foreign citizens have been collected since 1980, but only since 1988 ISTAT has published also the data on changes of residence of foreign citizens within the country. Moreover, since 1994 in the aggregation model for the number of foreign citizens registered at the end of the year, an overview has been added dealing with the natural and migratory balance of the foreign population compared with the one at the end the previous year. In 1996 this overview was enriched with data on the acquisitions of the Italian citizenship. Since 1997 the aggregation model has contained information about the number of foreign residents younger than 18, classified by gender.

The survey is based on a model divided into three sections: registration in the population register, cancellation from the register and information about the individuals. The data about the persons

who change their residence include: gender, date of birth, municipality or country of birth, civil status, education, working condition, working position, economic activity sector, citizenship, date of marriage and date of divorce or death of the spouse.

The data are published every year online on ISTAT's data warehouse, on [demo.istat](http://demo.istat.it), and the database of Eurostat. They are also published in the Italian Statistical Yearbook.

On [demo.istat](http://demo.istat.it),⁹ for instance, the tables available contain the main outcomes on internal mobility and international mobility along with more detailed information about the historical series 1995-2011 and other indicators and data on migratory processes. As regards foreign citizens registered and cancelled, the historical series 1995-2011 is available by: registered and cancelled due to change of residence from or to other countries, by region; registered due to change of residence from another country, by home country; registered due to change of residence from another country, by country of citizenship; cancelled due to change of residence into another country, by country of citizenship. Since 2002 the online data have provided information on foreign citizens registered and cancelled, by region, due to change of residence within the province, between two different provinces and in another country.

As regards migrations to other countries, the expatriation and repatriation flows, that is the Italian emigration in general, in 1969 ISTAT set up the A.I.R.E. in all municipalities: a special registry for Italians residing abroad. This started a mechanism which allowed us to have data on this process for several years. In 1988 the provisions for the A.I.R.E. were improved and the law n. 470/1988 established that the registration in the A.I.R.E. was a right-duty of the citizen. The A.I.R.E. is a special registry present in every municipality gathering the registrations of all the Italians who have moved their residence to another country for more than a year. Subsequently, these persons are cancelled from the Italian population register (the same happens also in the opposite direction, hence if the Italian citizen returns to Italy). The event is registered in the municipal registration offices by means of the administrative model used also for the surveys on migration. Today the data on the persons registered in the A.I.R.E. fall within the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior (a copy of the archive of Italians living abroad is kept at the Ministry). Traditionally not all Italian emigrants notify the official of the local population register, especially when the envisaged period of emigration is short. That is the reason why the number of Italian emigrants and of Italian return migrants is underestimated.

The statistics regarding the updated list of the Italian citizens residing abroad are available on the website of the Ministry of the Interior and cover the time period 1990-2011. The variables available are: gender, age range, year of registration, geographical area (of the overseas constituency), state of residence, the Italian home region and province.

To sum up, the main problems concerning migration flow data from the population registers are missing or late registrations of immigration and non-cancellations in the case of emigration. The non-cancellation problem concerns Italian as well as foreign citizens (Bonifazi et al. 2009).

Records of foreigners recorded as resident in municipal register (STOCK)

Since 1993, by means of the administrative survey “Migration and calculation of foreign resident population and structure by citizenship”, ISTAT has calculated the foreign resident population, in the same way as the overall population, and has collected data on its distribution based on the citizenship. It is calculated on December 31st every year in all the municipalities undergoing the Census by adding the foreign population inflows and outflows recorded during every calendar year to the foreign population enumerated by the census. The result for each municipality is a detailed

⁹ <http://demo.istat.it/>

overview of its regular foreign presence by gender, citizenship and relevant demographic processes (births, deaths, registrations, cancellations). Since 1996 the municipal register offices have been requested by ISTAT to indicate on the data collection form the number of foreign minors by gender (however, these data are provisional since the definitive ones result from the “Municipal resident foreign population by sex and year of birth”, which is going to be dealt with soon). Since 2005 also the number of foreign citizens, born in Italy and appearing in the registry classified by gender at the end of the year has been requested. Since 2006 these data have been validated and published by ISTAT. In the data collection of 2007 the focus was on the number of households whose head was a foreign citizen, as well as the households with at least one foreign citizen appearing in the registry at the end of the year. These data have been validated and published since 2007.

In this data collection it is relevant to note that the foreign resident population is represented by individuals who do not have the Italian citizenship despite habitually residing in Italy. Clearly, once the Italian citizenship has been acquired, the immigrants disappear from these statistics. The registration of foreign citizens is a mandatory act and it can occur only when the presence in the territory has been proved to be legal. In fact, foreign citizens coming from countries outside of the European Union can be registered in Italy only if they have been granted a valid residence card or permit. As for Community citizens (and their family members), after the legislative Decree n. 30 of 06 February 2007 came into force, they have to be registered in the resident population registry (by producing the relevant documentation stating the reason for their presence in Italy) if they reside in Italy for a period of over three months. The register regulation and the further laws and circulars as regards the foreign presence have set the standards for the appropriate update of civil registers when it comes to the registration in or cancellation from the register of foreign citizens or EU citizens. The effects of the several laws regarding immigration (for instance, the regularisation of illegal immigrants and countries having entered the EU which had been previously refused the entry) on the migratory flows registered from abroad are evident. Furthermore, it shall still be noted that the data coming from the municipalities may be affected by the absent cancellations of foreign citizens who left the country without prior notice, or by any problems in the update of the civil registry.

Since 2002 ISTAT has collected data on the distribution of the foreign population by gender and age by means of the administrative survey “Municipal resident foreign population by sex and year of birth”. These data are available online on ISTAT's data warehouse and on demo.istat.it. They are discussed annually in the Italian Statistical Yearbook and in ISTAT's informative reports, “Statistics Report” and “Statistics shortly”. Also the data collected in the survey “Migration and calculation of foreign resident population and structure by citizenship” are available online on ISTAT's data warehouse and on demo.istat.it.

ISTAT employs the survey “Migration and calculation of foreign resident population and structure by citizenship” also in order to record, from 2002, the acquisitions of the Italian citizenship, yet only as far as the resident population is concerned. The time series 2002-2011 of ISTAT, containing data on naturalisations recorded by population register, is available online on the ISTAT's website, giving no indication of the channel through which Italian citizenship was acquired. All data are available by municipality and gender.

Live births registered in the Population Register

The statistical data collection on the citizens registered by birth in the Population Register was started by ISTAT on 1 January 1999. The legal background is the National Law n. 470/1998, Law n. 1228/1954, D.P.R. President Decree n. 223/1989, D.P.R. President Decree n. 323/1989.

It informs at municipal level about the births classified in the following variables: gender, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship, age of the mother and cohort, age of the father and cohort, civil status of the mother, civil status of the father, citizenship of the mother, citizenship of the father. This data collection was started in order to calculate the main fertility indicators (total fertility rate, average age at birth of the resident women in general or classified by civil status or citizenship) up to the municipal level. In the data collection of 2003 the survey model was enriched with a new variable (number of minors present in the registration form of the household). It was planned as a proxy of the order of birth.

The data collected refer to the births of residents regardless of the place (Italy or abroad¹⁰) in which they took place. The births of non-resident children taking place in Italy, instead, are still excluded. Since this survey is based on the civil registers, when it comes to the foreign population certain limitations of different nature emerge. First of all, the births from parents who are temporarily present in Italy are not considered. In addition, the only information about the citizenship of the parents at the child's birth does not allow the selection of the births from at least one parent with foreign background and having acquired the Italian citizenship (by marriage or naturalization).

In order to reconstruct the data series it is necessary to combine the use of the data available online on ISTAT's data warehouse and *demo.istat* with the consultation of the *Statistics in brief* (Statistiche in breve) by ISTAT. As regards the foreign population, the data are more detailed from 2006.

2.2.2. Labour Force Survey – Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

The Labour Force Survey is one of ISTAT's social face-to-face sample surveys. It started in 1959 and as will be said, it has led to the implementation of several revisions as for methodologies and definitions. From the Labour Force Survey ISTAT derives its official estimates of the number of employed persons and job-seekers as well as information about the main labour supply aggregates such as occupation, economic activity area, working hours, contract types and duration, and training. ISTAT collects the information on a quarterly basis by interviewing a sample of nearly 77,000 households representing 175,000 individuals residing in Italy even if they are temporarily abroad. Therefore, when it comes to foreign citizens, the observation perspective only regards the part of population that is duly listed in the municipality civil registry. As a result, this perspective does not include illegal immigrants or immigrants who are legal but do not reside in Italy (thus, not included in the population register).

The survey has been updated over the years to take into account continual transformations in the labour market on the one hand, and the growing information requirements of users about the Italian social and economic reality on the other hand. The most recent change was made at the beginning of 2004 in compliance with European Union regulations (Regulation EC 577/1998 of the Council of the European Union). The innovations of 2004, when the new labour force sample survey was set in motion, broke the continuity of all the economic aggregates and indexes deriving from the previous Quarterly Labour Force Survey.

The current sample survey is continuous insofar as information is collected during every week of the year and no longer during a single week per quarter. The harmonisation of the European Union provisions did not only affect its continuity obligation, but also the wording and sequence of questions used in the questionnaire, along with the definitions of the employed persons and the job

¹⁰ The registration of civil status events such as births falls within the remit of the Office of Civil Statistics, whose function is carried out in Italy by municipal offices, and abroad by consular offices. Acts regarding civil status events that take place abroad may be submitted by the parties concerned, or by anyone concerned, either directly to the office of the Italian municipality of residence or to the authorized consular office.

seekers. The definitions of the main aggregates correspond to the ones adopted by Eurostat and in the principal industrialized countries.

However, the main characteristics of the sample design remained unchanged: also in the new survey two sampling units are used, namely municipalities and households, with a stratification of the primary sampling units. For each municipality a sample of households is chosen randomly from the civil registry. The statistical units are the households whereas the analysis units are the individuals. The survey is carried out on individuals who are 15 or older, and for the persons younger than 15 only the personal data are inquired.

In 2004 when the sample was chosen, the municipalities were asked to indicate the citizenship of the holder of the so called household sheet, which was not available in the past. However, since the selection procedures of the secondary sampling units are run by the sample municipalities, any possible errors in the civil registry may alter the reliability of the data collected. Therefore any delayed update of the civil registry (especially due to the absent or delayed registration of movements within the territory) and the standards dealing with the citizenship grant to foreigners represent two hurdles for an improved quality of data on foreigners.

As mentioned before, the statistical unit is the household. The discriminating factors for a household are the habitual cohabitation of the family members who are tied by blood and/or a loving relationship. Hence the survey does not include the foreign domestic workers residing in an Italian household or the persons who share the same dwelling but are not tied by blood and/or similar relations. In both cases, these elements become particularly relevant when it comes to foreign citizens. Practically this translates to a lower potential number of foreign individuals to be interviewed.

In fact, the presence of foreign citizens upon the whole population is less substantial in the labour force survey than appears in the civil registry. This gap is mainly due to the absent interviews which are necessarily connected with errors in the civil registry and the absent update of personal addresses. Nevertheless, according to the results the impact of foreign households increases as the ones selected more recently enter the sample. However, as ISTAT highlights, a variance is to be expected also in the future between the number of foreign citizens in the civil registry and the number resulting from the sample interviewed (ISTAT 2006).

The survey investigates factors such as: characteristics of the working activity, socio-demographic features of the residents, unemployment, labour force, non-labour force, employment, part-time employment, working time, working hours, previous work experience, job seeking, work situation, education and training.

The main data available online (not for the historical series 1992-2003 reconstructed) allow us to have a distinct overview of the Italian and foreign individuals as regards the following aspects at detailed level (NUTS 1): population (15 or older) by citizenship and working condition (employed, job seeking, inactive); employment rate (15-64 years old) by citizenship; job seekers (15 or older) by citizenship, age range, education, working condition, unemployment duration; unemployment rate (15 or older) by citizenship; inactives (15 or older) by citizenship, age range, education, working condition, reason for inactivity, condition reported; activity rate (15-64 years old) by citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by gender and citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by age range and citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by ISCED education level and citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by economic activity sector (NACE rev. 1.1 division level – 2 digits) and citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by remuneration range and citizenship; job holders (15 or older) by employment type (open-ended or fixed-term contracts) and citizenship.

The results are still disseminated on a quarterly basis except for the data related to the Province which are disseminated annually. The results are disseminated by means of press releases and are available on the ISTAT website in the data warehouse. Detailed information as for the Province,

sectors and main socio-demographic features is published annually in the volume “Forze di lavoro” (“*Labour Forces*”) available for purchase. The main results are published annually also on ISTAT’s general volumes (Annual Report, Italian Statistical Yearbook, Noi Italia, Italia in cifre) and occasionally in the research series or in-depth analyses of the Institute as well as in volumes of international bodies (Eurostat, Oecd). Moreover, the basic data collected in the survey are made available free of charge for the users and researchers who present a relevant request justified by scientific research purposes (standard files and research files).

2.2.3. System of social multipurpose surveys on households – Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

Since 1993 an annual survey has been conducted on the “Aspects of daily life”. This sample survey is part of an integrated system of social surveys - The Multipurpose Surveys on Households - and it collects fundamental information on individual and household daily life.¹¹ It is based on a sample of households selected from the municipal registers. From 1993 to 2003 the survey was conducted annually, with data collected during the month of November. In 2004 the survey was not carried out and since 2005 it has been conducted every year in February. The survey provides information on the habits of citizens and the problems they face in the everyday life. In the questionnaires, the topic areas are those different social aspects of citizens which potentially determine the quality of their individual life, the satisfaction degree of their condition, their economic situation, the area in which they live, the functioning of all public utility services, etc. As a result, school, work, family and social life, spare time, political and social participation, health, lifestyle and access to services are all investigated through a perspective where behaviour objectivity, motivations and opinions contribute to define the social information. The survey is included in The National Statistic Plan which gathers the statistical investigations needed for the Country. It is a national representative survey.

The scope of the system of multipurpose surveys on household includes data such as the citizenship (distinction between Italian, foreign and stateless persons) and in some cases the country of birth of the members of the selected families. However, this information has not been systematically used and validated since the selection criteria of the analysis units (the actual families) do not always guarantee any statistical representativeness of this specific population segment. Nonetheless, in 2005 ISTAT disseminated data on the health status and the use of healthcare services of the foreign citizens analysed in the multipurpose survey on household.

In 2011 the analysis on the “Social condition and integration of foreign citizens” was started. This research aims at providing information on the life conditions of foreign citizens (including naturalized citizens that are citizens who acquired the Italian citizenship after birth). Here the foreign (or naturalized) persons of the selected family sample are interviewed. Indeed, each family is selected by lot from all the families registered in the civil registry of the municipality of residency. The sample consists in choosing a number of municipalities and then selecting families who live within these. Overall, the sample statistically represents the foreign citizens residing in Italy. The survey was conducted on a sample of 12 thousand families across 800 Italian municipalities of different demographic amplitude. A lot of information is asked and it covers different aspects of life including family, marriages, children, school education, religion, linguistic group, migration history, work history, working conditions, health status, use of healthcare services, lifestyles, social relations, social participation, discrimination experiences, security, victimisation experiences, housing conditions, etc. However, no publications or online data related to this research have been available up to date.

¹¹ The survey is part of the National Statistical Plan.

2.2.4. “Income and living conditions” survey – Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

In 2009, ISTAT carried out for the first time the “Income and living conditions” survey on a sample of 6,000 households resident in Italy with at least one foreign member (ISTAT 2011). The survey, which was funded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, made use of the same methodological tools used for the survey “Income and living conditions – EU-SILC” (questionnaires,¹² survey techniques, methods of correction, imputation techniques, etc.).

It collected a series of socio-economic information on households with foreigners: living conditions, conditions of housing deprivation; conditions of material deprivation, etc.

The picture of households with foreigners provided by this survey may be compared with that of households made up exclusively of Italians obtained from the EU-SILC survey, which was also carried out in 2009.

ISTAT published a note for the press with provisional results with reference to the most significant characteristics of households with foreigners, living conditions and distress indicators (economic difficulties, material deprivation, etc.). The note is available on the ISTAT website.

2.2.5. Estimates on irregular migration – ISMU Foundation

The study of the irregular foreign population is a particularly demanding challenge in the field of migration analysis. The greatest problem with such a study in Italy is posed by the heterogeneity of the sources, which makes it difficult to monitor the phenomenon on a continuous basis. Moreover, data quality is often insufficient for the needs of the research since it is usually based on empirical studies where the sample does not always meet the scientific standards but is instead dictated by other contingent elements, as occurs with workplace inspections (IDOS –EMN National Contact Point 2005). Furthermore, the number of irregular persons in Italy changes over the time and is closely linked to the legal estimates. Nowadays the irregularity is detected solely in foreign immigrants and has to do with the absence of the appropriate documentation (that is the necessary permits) for the lawful residence.

The source of the special sample surveys is mainly represented by the data collected over the last decade by the ISMU Foundation for Integration and Multi-ethnicity (Milan) to estimate the stocks of immigration, with particular reference to (but not exclusively in) the Italian region of Lombardy. The sampling method proposed is based on an augmented set of information about a number of “aggregation centres” that the target population of immigrants regularly visits for social contacts, health care, religion, leisure or simply for everyday needs (Baio et al. 2011).

The whole set of “aggregation centres” visited by undocumented migrants are identified and a random sample of “centres” is chosen from them, thus a sample of undocumented migrants is obtained from their regular visitors. A weighting procedure ensures the representativeness of the sample. The reports at the regional and the municipal level are routinely produced by ISMU. The estimates on the (overall) illegal presence have been available since 1991.

2.3. Census databases

¹² To facilitate fieldwork, the survey questionnaires have been translated into the 10 languages most commonly spoken by foreign citizens who are resident in Italy.

2.3.1. General Population and housing Census – Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

The General Population and Housing Census collects information on the habitually domiciled population (residents) as well as the population currently present.

The following units are measured: *families* (a group of people linked by marriage, affinity, adoption, guardianship or affective bonds who live together and are habitually domiciled in the same municipality), *cohabitants* (a group of people normally cohabiting for religious, medical, assistential, military, penitentiary or similar reasons, habitually domiciled in the same municipality, in addition to communal residential structures exclusively for non-habitually domiciled person), *persons temporary present on the census date* (i.e. those present in one domicile or cohabitation on the date of the census, but who are habitually domiciled in another domicile or cohabitation in the same municipality, another municipality or abroad), *domiciles* (i.e. space or group of spaces within a building, permanently destined for use as living space); *other types of lodging* (i.e. a lodging that cannot be classified as a domicile but which constitutes the dwelling place of one or more people on the date of the census); *buildings* (i.e. constructions containing spaces permanently destined for use by people as living space and/or for the production of goods and services).

The 9th of October 2011 is the reference date for the 15th Italian General Population and Housing Census.

The 2011 Census has benefited from a number of methodological and technical innovations. It was conducted using administrative registers to assist census operations. Households were no longer visited by census enumerators but received their questionnaires by post at the address printed in the municipal population registers of the municipality where the household head resided. In order to locate and count individuals not registered in the municipality auxiliary administrative archives (including the National Tax Register, the Permits of stay Archive and the Addresses Register) were used. The respondents had the option of returning questionnaires online by email or by delivery to the municipal collection offices) (ISTAT 2012).

One of the new features was the collection of some socio-economic data from a sample of households only. This was accomplished with the use of two questionnaires: a short version, including a few questions (on demographic and housing variables) necessary to comply with the EU Regulations, and a long version, collecting the overall set of census variables including educational level, occupational status and commuting. In this way, the demographic data have been collected for the whole population while the information related to the other variables have been surveyed on a sample of households.

The questionnaires were administered to face national and international requirements whereas the new census methodology was meant to ensure international comparability, meet the user's needs and guarantee the continuity of various time series.

For the first time the 2011 Census was disciplined by a European norm (namely Regulation n. 763/2008 of The European Parliament and the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses) binding the Member States as regards the contents, the divulgation plan and the quality of the data. ISTAT intends to certify the quality of the 15th Population and housing census through a sample survey of coverage assessment as required by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010 of 8th December 2010 implementing Regulation No 763/2008. A working group was therefore set up in order to design this coverage assessment survey (PES – Post Enumeration Survey).

Since the 2001 Census the translation of the questionnaire into eleven foreign languages has been available along with an "Individual sheet for foreign citizens not residing in Italy".

As far as the measurement of the actual foreign presence on the territory is concerned, the 2011 Census of foreign citizens aims at registering the individuals with no Italian citizenship, *i.a.* stateless

people. Instead the individuals having a foreign citizenship besides the Italian one (which in this case prevails) fall without the scope of this census. The census of foreign citizens aims to observe foreign and stateless individuals who habitually live in Italy upon grant of an appropriate residency permit, or who temporarily lived in Italy or were occasionally present on the date of the census.

In particular, the item “Individuals for whom the dwelling is the usual place of residence” gathers the Community foreign citizens who are usually present in the dwelling with an appropriate residency permit, namely a valid residency permit or waiver on entry in Italy for work or family reasons, or a request for residency permit renewal and request for first-time residency permit. For the enumeration of the foreign residents the civil registry was used.

As for the “Individuals for whom the dwelling is NOT the usual place of residence and who are temporarily or occasionally present in the dwelling on the date of the Census” no clear criterion was set in order to make an effective distinction between the two groups, therefore we can assume that the registration of the individuals who are temporarily present is fairly problematic. However, this does not closely regard those who are temporarily present in dwelling structures (such as school institutes or hotels, etc.), but especially those characterized by a greater mobility and dwelling uncertainty (for instance nomads or homeless) (Caritas/Migrantes 2012).

The questions in the 2011 Census questionnaire investigate crucial variables aimed at identifying the various populations resulting from immigration. It asks for: 1) place of birth, 2) citizenship, 3) possession of the Italian citizenship from birth or its acquisition along with the relevant acquisition channel (marriage or else), 4) place of birth of the parents, 5) year of move to Italy and country of the last residency (however, the reason for moving is not asked).

There was also another migration-related question: ever resided abroad? Usual place of residence one year before the census? Usual place of residence five years before the census?.

Regarding the resident population the questionnaire provided also information about socio-demographic characteristics (date of birth, gender, marital status and marriages, household members, etc.), household and dwelling, educational characteristics and training (highest educational qualification attained, educational qualifications awarded in the Italian educational system, educational qualification awarded abroad and corresponding to an Italian qualification, vocational training courses completed), vocational or non-vocational status (work activity, current activity status) and place of work or study.

The variance between the population undergoing the census and the population resulting from the civil registry is again confirmed in the 2011 Census. However, in the last census period the difference was more reduced compared to the data of 1991 and 2001. Such a variance is inevitable and results from the effect of two factors: the imperfect measuring of migrations in the civil registry (especially because of failed cancellations due to emigration and for this reason these data are overestimated) and the coverage error of the census (which determines a lower number of foreign citizens having undergone the census) (Bonifazi et al. 2012).

The definitive 2011 census data are available on the data warehouse that can be accessed through the ISTAT website. These data regard the Italian and the foreign/stateless citizens registered as residents, basically those individuals for whom the dwelling in Italy resulted as the usual residence on the date of the census. Nowadays the data on foreign and stateless population are available by gender, age and municipality.

These data have also been presented through Press release dissemination (“Statistiche-Flash”, “Statistiche-Report”, “Statistiche-Focus”, “Note informative”).

3. CASE STUDY ON LOCAL LEVEL ABOUT USE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF MIGRATION-RELATED DATA SOURCES

The Information Centre on Migration of the Autonomous Province of Trento (CINFORMI) produces on yearly basis an Annual Report on immigration in the province (at the moment the 12th edition of this report is under elaboration). Such report is produced thanks to the support of other provincial institutions, which provide the requested information on what is already established as an institutionalized cooperation.

The requested data for the province of Trento covers the following thematic areas:

Socio-Demographic Area

- Foreign resident population (defined as all those persons who do not possess the Italian citizenship) by gender and citizenship; by territorial distribution in the province of Trento. Age-distribution of the foreign resident population; distribution for age-group for the residents first top ten most represented foreign countries.¹³

Demographic balance of the foreign resident.

Live births by gender and country of foreign citizenship of birth.

Fertility rate by citizenship (Italian/foreign).

Mixed marriages celebrated in Trento, by type of celebration (civil ceremony, religious ceremony), type of couple (Italian groom and foreign bride; foreign groom and Italian bride; both foreign spouse), mixed marriages celebrated in Trento by citizenship of the foreign spouse.

All this data are provided to CINFORMI from the Statistical Service of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Data are harmonised with official statistical data published by ISTAT.
- Annual flow of residence permits issued by the Policy Headquarters (Questura of Trento), by country of citizenship and reason for which the residence permit is issued (work, family, study, asylum granted, asylum application, etc.).

Number of valid residence permit at the end of the year (stock) by country of citizenship and reason for which the staying permission is issued.

Annual flow of EC residence permits for long-term residents issued by the Questura, by country of citizenship.

Number of valid EC residence permits for long-term residents at the end of the year (stock), by country of citizenship.

The information is provided by the Questura of Trento. Minors registered in the residence permit of one of the parents are not included. For this reason, in the analysis presented in the CINFORMI report, whenever it is mentioned the stock of the foreign citizens with valid residence permits, it is referred also to data published by ISTAT. The Questura of Trento remains nevertheless an important source of data, which allows the process of monitoring the flow of residence permits released annually (this data is not available at the national level).
- Applications for family reunification received by the Government Commissariat of the

¹³ The current data collections give simultaneously information on single citizenship, age and sex. This is the result of a study conducted only in the province of Trento by the local Statistics Service. At the moment, there is not full information on population stocks, classified by citizenship, sex and age at the national level.

Autonomous Province of Trento¹⁴, by country of origin of the applicants.

Entries of family members (children, spouse or parents) following the authorization issued by the Government Commissariat.

The data provided by the Government Commissariat allows us to evaluate how many applications for family reunification have been received by the Government Commissariat, how many authorization (or denial) for the reunification have been issued by the Government Commissariat and how many family members have been effectively arriving in the province of Trento. The future objective of the cooperation with the Government Commissariat is to receive cross-cutting information on countries of citizenship and number of joining family members. Such detailed data are not available or published at the national level.

- Applications for Italian citizenship submitted at the Government Commissariat of the Autonomous Province of Trento, by gender and citizenship of applicant.
Applications for Italian citizenship granted in the Province of Trento by gender and previous citizenship of the applicant.

The data provided by the Government Commissariat does not include the acquisition of the Italian citizenship *per iuris communicatio*. The latter data is received from the civil state office. The data provided by the Government Commissariat counts the Italian citizenship oaths taken at the municipality of residence, while the data collected by the Ministry of Interior (at the national level) is based on the number of decrees issued for granting the Italian citizenship (prior to taking the oath).

Healthcare Area

- Foreign citizens registered with the Provincial Healthcare Service by country of citizenship.
Hospital discharges of foreigners in the province of Trento by citizenship and type of hospital admission (day hospital/ordinary admission).
Hospital discharges of foreign male patients by main Diagnosis-related groups.
Hospital discharges of foreign female patients by main Diagnosis-related groups.
Foreign citizens admitted to the emergency department of Trento by country of citizenship and gender.
Induced abortions in hospitals of the province of Trento by country of citizenship of patients.

The data is provided by the Provincial Service on Healthcare and the Service of Clinical and Examination Epidemiology. Their indicators are harmonised with official statistical data of the country.

Education Area

¹⁴ This is the Territorial Office of the Government that deals with all the procedures for family reunification (receiving the application, summoning the applicants for an interview, verifying their documents, etc). Foreign citizens holding a residence permit valid for at least one year, issued for work reasons, for asylum, studies, religious reasons or subsidiary protection, as well as holding a long-term EC residence permit, can be reached by close relatives. In particular: the spouse, if adult and non legally separated; unmarried minor children; adult children still dependent on parents, only if unable to provide autonomously to their means of subsistence due to health problems; dependent parents, unless other children in their country of origin are able to assist them (EMN 2012b).

- Non-Italian by citizenship students in state and non-state schools in the Province of Trento by school levels (nursery, primary, first level secondary, second level secondary/upper), gender and country of citizenship.
Non-Italian by citizenship students in the second level secondary/upper school by education type (classical, scientific, teacher training education; vocational education; artistic education; technical education).

This data is provided by the Statistical Service of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Since 2012 a specific collaboration is activated with an office of the Autonomous Province of Trento, in order to provide statistics on failures and withdrawals in the different school levels with a comparison between Italian and non-Italian students. Indicators are harmonised with official statistical data of the country.

Housing Area

- Territorial distribution of applications for public-renting-fee housing in the Province of Trento divided in EU and non EU citizens.
Applications received by the Provincial Service of Public Housing and number of granted applications divided on EU/non EU citizens;
Applications and granted applications for Provincial financial support in paying the rent of free-market housing divided for EU/non-EU citizens;

This data is provided to CINFORMI by the Office of Public Housing at the Autonomous Province of Trento on annual basis thanks to an official agreement by both institutions. The future objective of this data-collection exercise is to have the break-down not only on EU/non-EU citizens but even for the country of origin. There is not yet available in the province of Trento another interesting data, which has to do with the number of foreign citizens who are already owners of their home.

Area Deviance

- Foreign prisoners held in the detention centre of Trento by country of citizenship.
The data is offered by the Penitentiary Department of the Province of Trento (Ministry of Justice). The future objective of this exercise is to have updated statistics at the provincial level concerning persons arrested/offenders reported by the police forces to the judicial authority, by citizenship and type of crime (source: ISTAT). The latest data on this indicator is available only at the national level, dates back in 2009.

Labor Area

- Estimates of the number of employed persons (by gender, Italian/foreign citizenship, position in the profession, area of activity, profession) and job-seekers in the Province of Trento.

The data is provided by the Labor Market Observatory and derives from ISTAT's Labour Force Survey. Data are harmonized with the national official estimates.

- Annual flows of employment of foreign citizens in the Province of Trento by branch of activity (agriculture/ industry/ tertiary), gender, type of contract offered to employed citizens, and country of citizenship.

The data is provided by the provincial Labor Market Observatory on annual basis, while

this data is not available at the national level on annual basis.

- Foreign-born self-employed citizens in Trento by economic activity and country of birth.

The information on citizenship is not yet available, which risks to lead to some problems in reading this data because at the moment Italian citizens born abroad are included. This data is offered by the Chamber of Commerce of Trento.

- On-the-job injuries happening to foreign workers in the Province of Trento by country of birth and economic sector.

This data is provided by INAIL (Workers Compensation Authority) and it is harmonized with national statistical data.

The factors leading to the CINFORMI success in accessing different sources of data collection are the result of a common understanding of the earlier and the Provincial structures, which provide such information. This cooperation enables the drafting of the annual report, an important analytical tool to identify the presence of foreign citizens in the province of Trento. The deep and detailed analysis on the dynamics of the migration phenomenon in the province of Trento provided by the annual report, facilitate the process of planning and implementing carefully targeting interventions and can provide a guideline for the needed public policies.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the last few years the official sources have been contributing considerably to the description of migratory processes in Italy, both with contents and territorial details.

Since the early 1990s ISTAT has attempted to use the various existing administrative sources in a detailed way, the population register and the residence permits in the first place. From these data (and the information available from the Census) it is possible to have the annual demographic features of the foreign population, even though they do not always refer to the same target of foreign persons. In fact, the civil register provides only the core legal element (since 2008 only non-EU citizens), whereas the data from the residence permits refer to the legal immigrants and the census refers to all the immigrants even though the core legal element is dealt with separately. From the census and the residence permit archive other important information can be obtained about foreign migration details (year of immigration, reason for the presence in Italy). The residence permit archive and the census also produce important information about the migratory characteristics of foreign citizens (year of immigration and reason for the presence in Italy). The demographic events, instead, are available for the permanent legal immigrants, whereas the data on the acquisition of the Italian citizenship refer more in general to the legal foreign population.

At the moment, current data collections do not give simultaneously information on single citizenship and age and sex (with the exception of data collection available in the province of Trento). Large sample surveys, such as the Labour Force Survey, provide poorly detailed information (i.e. the classification is only by nationals, EU citizens, other foreigners) due to the great variability associated to the variable “citizenship” (ISTAT 2008).

Since the foreign immigration in Italy started becoming rather significant, besides the activity of Caritas/Migrantes with the annual immigration Dossier and of the ISMU Foundation with the annual Report on migrations, regional and provincial observation experiences have been developed with the aim to measure and assess the quality of the migration-related processes. These experiences have dramatically improved the analysis on immigration and the discussion on the quality of the data available as well as the limitations and potential of national and local databases. Taking into account the experience of the Autonomous Province of Trento, an intense dialogue and exchange has been started with the local administrations to better assess the quality of the data on residence permits (Trento Police Headquarters), on family reunifications and on acquisitions of the Italian citizenship (Trento Government Commissariat) and, in particular, on the integration of foreign citizens into the labour market (Labour Market Observatory of the Autonomous Province of Trento). This is a way to integrate the observations derived from the ongoing labour force survey which highlights the limitations of the data on the foreign population at provincial level. Furthermore, the collaboration and transmission of data from the Police Headquarters to CINFORMI is disciplined by an administrative agreement signed in 2001.

Therefore the current surveys are diverse and numerous and they allow us to better identify foreign citizens and national citizens. This is a positive result, yet it is necessary to continue to work on an effective coordination and standardisation of the various surveys (like the case of the counting of residence permits which calls for a stronger coordination between ISTAT and the Ministry of the Interior in order to obtain a common assessment of the process). This is particularly true upon considering that many surveys represent the by-product of administrative activities or are not oriented to a specific analysis of immigrants and migration-related processes.

Another critical point is that only the current citizenship is registered in all the surveys considered, whereas the country of birth often does not appear available even though it is present when the data

are obtained at central level through the aggregation models. This makes it difficult to broaden the focus from the foreign population to the population with foreign background.

The official statistics have gained particular relevance, however when it comes to in-depth analyses of certain migration-related areas and living conditions of the foreign resident population, they still present limitations or are not able to satisfy the information needs. The limitations appear evident in the ongoing monitoring of the social and economic integration of foreign communities in the Italian territorial divisions. In the other periods, besides the information resulting from the Census, the need for further data is not met. In this case the information need is not covered by Regulation EC 862/2007 but it is of the utmost importance in a time of economic crisis. In general, the situation is still the one recently described in other analyses on the topic: in order to reduce the current lack of information it appears necessary to use certain general sample surveys (including Italians and foreign citizens) and/or specific surveys on the foreign population (or citizens with foreign background) to be repeated periodically. A step in this direction, for instance, was taken with the sample survey “Households with foreigners: income and living conditions” conducted in 2009 by ISTAT. The survey resembles the EU-SILC one carried out in 2004 and based on Regulation n. 1177/2003 of the European Union. Also the multi-purpose survey on social conditions and integration of foreign citizens in Italy may spark the same level of interest (in 2011 a pilot survey was conducted followed by a data collection from approximately 12.000 households with at least one foreign resident).

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