



THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY

Annual report on the presence of migrants
Executive summary



20
23

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

A key factor also in the 2023 edition is the contribution of the Institutions and Bodies that provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies with the necessary information, subsequently processed by the Integration Services Area of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia. Sincere thanks are due to ISTAT – National Institute of Statistics, INPS – General Statistical Actuarial Coordination, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of University and Research, the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture; CeSPI, the CGIL, CISL, UIL, UGL trade union confederations and the Data Science Applications B.U. - Studies and Research Division of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia. The financial inclusion section was curated by Daniele Frigeri, Director of the National Observatory on Financial Inclusion of Migrants.

The unabridged volumes of the 2012 – 2023 editions of the Reports on the Main Foreign Communities in Italy are available, in Italian and in the main foreign languages, in the “Documents and Research – Reports by the Immigration and Integration Policies DG” area of the website www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it and in the “Studies and Statistics” area of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies website - www.lavoro.gov.it. A statistical annex is also available at the same addresses, containing additional information with respect to the reports, or with insights on the existing analysis and a comparison between the main nationalities.

The 2023 edition of the National Reports on the Main Foreign Communities, the translation of the overviews into the main vehicular languages and the Monitoring Report were produced by the “Services for Integration Policies” Area of Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, in the framework of the project “START-Support to Integrated Multiannual Programming on Employment, Integration and Inclusion”.

The Ukrainian community in Italy

As of 1 January 2023, there were **383,511** Ukrainians legally residing¹ in Italy, accounting for 10.3% of all third-country nationals. This figure places the community in **third** position among the main non-EU citizens in numerical terms. It is worth recalling that the community was in fourth position the previous year and represented 6.5% of the total non-EU population. Indeed, the community's presence increased by 66.5% compared to 1 January 2022, clearly due to the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, which caused a massive influx of refugees into Italy.

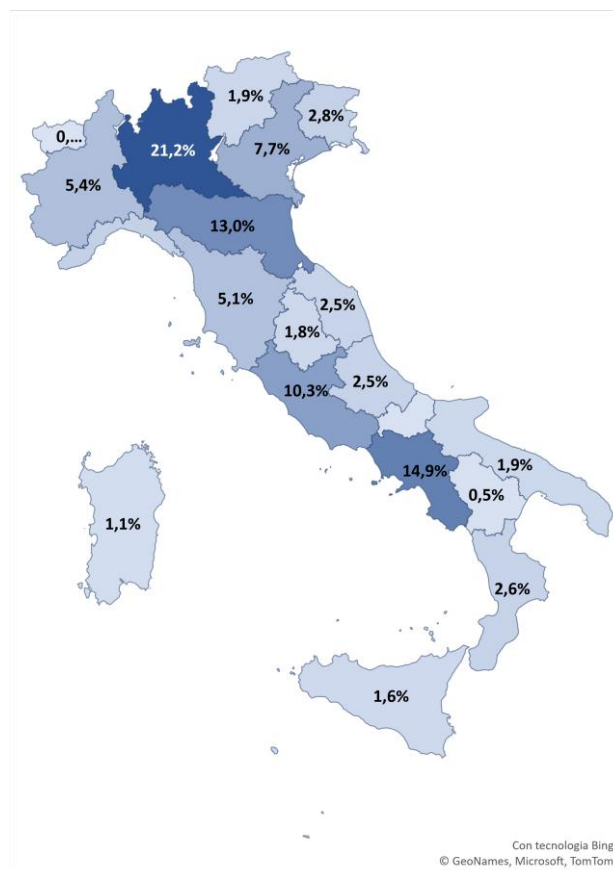
55.1% of Ukrainian citizens in Italy are located in the North of the country. In particular, the first region of Ukrainian settlement is Lombardy, which hosts just over a fifth of the community (21.2%, compared to around 26% of the non-EU community as a whole), while in third place we find Emilia-Romagna with 13% of the community's total settlements. What characterises the community, however, is its strong concentration in the South, and especially in Campania, the second region of Ukrainian settlement (around 15%): for comparison purposes, it is worth noting that just 5.1% of the total number of non-EU citizens considered as a whole are to be found in the Campania region. Precisely because of this strong presence of Ukrainians in Campania, more than a quarter of the community is settled in the South, including the islands (compared to around 15% for the non-EU population as a whole).

The Ukrainian population in Italy is mainly made up of women, as confirmed by the data on the incidence of women, which is the highest among the main non-EU communities: indeed, women represent more than three quarters (75.9%) of the community, and men about 24%.

The community also shows an unbalanced age distribution towards the older age groups: unlike in most non-EU communities, the prevailing age group is the over-60s, who make up 22.2% of the community; more generally, compared to a 23.5% incidence of the over-50s recorded for the non-EU population as a whole, in the Ukrainian community the figure rises to about 38%. The percentage rises further to 44.6% when considering only the female component of the community (for males it stops at 16.7%). It is worth emphasising that 42.5% of Ukrainian males legally residing in Italy are minors (females minors are 13.2%), compared to an overall incidence of minors in the Ukrainian community of 20.3%, compared to an overall non-EU average 20.6%. Interestingly, in the previous year, the incidence of minors in the Ukrainian community was significantly lower (8.7%). This figure underscores the impact of the ongoing conflict on the presence of minors within the Ukrainian community in Italy.

The prevailing family type for the Ukrainian community is of 3 or 4 people and accounts for 42.5% of the total; the incidence of single-person households is 30.2% (compared to 16.2% for the non-EU population as a whole)

Distribution of the Ukrainian population legally residing in Italy.
Data as at 1 January 2023



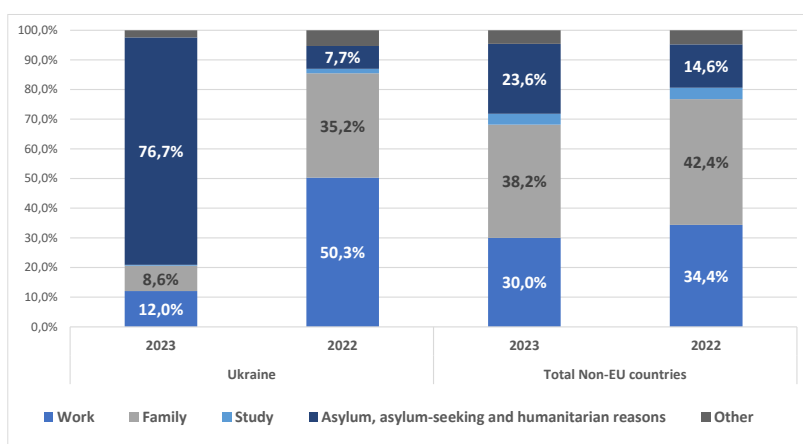
Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on ISTAT data

¹ Statistics on legally residing non-EU citizens include all foreigners from non-EU countries who are in possession of a valid residence document (national residence permit or long-term EU residence permit). Not all legally resident foreign citizens are included in the total count of residents in Italy: the statistical source employed therefore also includes foreign nationals who for whatever reason have yet to qualify for official residence in Italy.

and those with 2 people is about 20% (12.6% for non-EU nationals). More generally, families with 3 or more members account for exactly half of the Ukrainian community, a percentage that for non-EU citizens exceeds 71%², highlighting a lower presence of large families for the Ukrainian population in Italy.

During 2022, **167,106 Ukrainian citizens entered Italy**. This is an unprecedented number, and exceeds the previous year's figure by 1,556.6%³: again, the effect of the war, which led to a very high number of people fleeing to Italy, is evident. As a result, *Asylum, asylum-seeking and humanitarian reasons* were the most prevalent reasons for entry (around 92% of the entries of Ukrainians), with an increase of 42,999.7% over the previous year. The community's second reason for entering Italy was work (3.4%, up from the previous year: 8.6%).

Short-term residence permits by type and citizenship (v%) Data as at 1 January 2023 and 1 January 2022



Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on ISTAT-Ministry of the Interior data

An analysis of the type of residence permits shows a strong decrease in long-term residence permits, due to the dramatic increase in short-term ones: **the share of long-term residents⁴ within the community on 1 January 2023 was 47.4%**, whereas the previous year it stood at 81.2% and was the highest among the major communities.

With regard to short-term residence permits, permits for asylum-seekers and other forms of protection represent the clear majority of those issued to the community (76.7%), further confirming the impact of the conflict on the community's statistics.

The second reason for seeking residence was work, with an incidence of 12% (compared to 30% for the non-EU population as a whole). Compared to the previous year, the community's permits subject to renewal increased by a total of 365%, driven by a 4548.9% increase in permits linked to forms of protection. The community has therefore experienced - and is experiencing - great internal changes, triggered by the arrival of many compatriots newly welcomed into Italy.

The predominant - though not exclusive - profile among Ukrainian employed persons is that of **female worker employed in the personal care sector**.

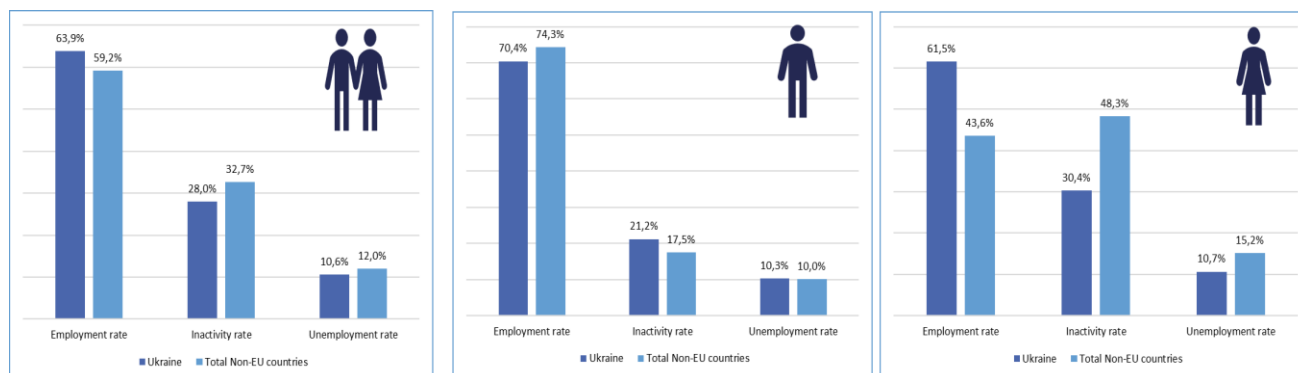
The Ukrainian community in Italy registers better employment performance than the non-EU population as a whole: the employment rate in 2022 was about 64% (vs. 59.2%), the unemployment rate was 10.6% (12% for non-EU nationals), while the share of inactive people aged 15-64 was 28% (vs. 32.7%). In contrast to the non-EU population as a whole, the community under review showed a slight decrease in employment (-0.4%, compared to +2.7% for non-EU nationals) and an increase in inactivity (+1.3%, -0.9% for non-EU nationals), while unemployment fell for both groups (-1.5% and -2.7% respectively). Within the community, there is a rather small gap between the employment rate of men (70.4%) and women (61.5%).

² Source: RCFL ISTAT - Year 2022.

³ The increase recorded for the non-EU population as a whole was 85.9%, a figure that can be linked both to the war in Ukraine, which led to the entry of about 148,000 citizens fleeing the Eastern European country and granted temporary protection, and to the regularisation of citizens already present in the territory based on Italian Leg. Decree 34 of 2020, whose applications were largely examined in 2022.

⁴ A long-term EU residence permit may be issued to foreign nationals who have held a valid residence permit for at least five years, provided they can prove that they have a minimum income of no less than the social allowance calculated annually.

Population (15 years and over) and main labour market indicators by gender and citizenship (v.%) Year 2022



Source: Processing by SpINT, Sviluppo Lavoro Italia, based on RCFL - ISTAT microdata

With regard to the distribution of employed persons of Ukrainian origin across different economic sectors, the marked concentration in *Other public, social and personal services* is confirmed: as has been apparent for many years now, the Ukrainian community - especially its female component - is heavily involved in personal care professions, with 54.7% of all employed Ukrainians being employed in this sector—a percentage that reaches almost 70% for women. Personal services are also the predominant sector for non-EU employees as a whole, but the rate is 23.3%. The second sector is *Industry in the strict sense*, with an incidence of 11.4% (20% for non-EU nationals), immediately followed by *Transport and business services* with 9%, compared to 13.8% for non-EU employees as a whole; 7% of the Ukrainian workforce is employed in restaurants or accommodation facilities, 6.4% in *Trade*, 5.5% in *Construction* and 5.5% in *PA, education and healthcare*. Finally, 1.7% of employed Ukrainians work in the primary sector. Compared to 2021, a 3.4% decrease in employment in personal services and a 3.3% increase in the industrial sector should be noted.

The Ukrainian community **ranks 12th in terms of number of sole proprietorships**, after the Indian community and ahead of the Sri Lankan community. As at 31 December 2022, the number of sole proprietors of Ukrainian origin was 6,038, or 1.5% of the non-EU entrepreneurs in Italy. Compared to the previous year, the number of Ukrainian sole proprietorships grew by +5.4%, while the number of non-EU entrepreneurs as a whole fell slightly. The majority of sole proprietorships belonging to the Ukrainian community are women (51.8% of the total), while men (1,328) account for just over 48%. In the entrepreneurial sphere, there has been a shift in the community towards the construction industry, in which almost a third of Ukrainian sole proprietorships operate, accounting for about 2% of non-EU sole proprietorships in the sector.

Data regarding the use of certain welfare measures, and in particular wage supplements, shows reasonable integration of the Ukrainian community into the Italian socio-economic fabric: despite the fact that only about 3% of non-EU wage supplement recipients are Ukrainian, the number of Ukrainian recipients of the “Naspi” monthly unemployment benefit is rather significant (43,868, just under 11% of the total). In line with the age composition of the community, the incidence of Ukrainians among non-EU recipients of old-age pensions is also quite high (22.5%); conversely, the community is not particularly represented among the recipients of invalidity pensions, with just 6% of non-EU recipients being Ukrainian. This percentage rises to 13.3% in the case of survivors’ pensions, highlighting the community’s fair share in the total number of non-EU recipients of this measure. The incidence of Ukrainian recipients of welfare pensions on the total non-EU population is also quite low (about 8%): specifically, for Disability allowances the community’s incidence on the total is 7.2%, while in the case of Social security retirement benefits and allowances it rises to 11.7%. Regarding the use of family assistance measures, 5% of non-EU maternity allowance recipients are Ukrainian, a rather low incidence considering the demographic weight of the community. Even lower is the share of recipients of parental leave (3.2%) and family allowances (2.6%). Finally, in the Ukrainian community, 14,570 families receive a basic income (Reddito di cittadinanza) or basic pension (Pensione di cittadinanza), accounting for 8.2% of non-EU recipients.

