

## SOCIAL INCLUSION OF SICILY IMMIGRANTS: AN ATTEMPT TO MEASURE SOCIAL INTEGRATION

SUMMARY: 1. Background: immigrants concept. – 1.1 Migrant definitions. – 1.2 Regular vs irregular. – 1.3 Foreign Population. – 1.4 Integration. – 1.5 Social integration and inclusion. – 2. Young migrants and social inclusion. – 3. EU Policies on inclusion of migrants. – 4. Integration test. – 5. Migrant situation in Italy. – 5.1 Employment. – 6 Social Inclusion of Migrants in Sicily: the pilot study. – 6.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample. – 6.2 An attempt to measure social integration. – 7. Conclusions. – 8. Bibliography.

The socio-economic integration of immigrants is a complex problem, the study of which requires the use of advanced qualitative and quantitative survey methodologies. To realize the objectives of this research, we used a database obtained through the preparation and direct administration of ad hoc questionnaires in the Sicilian territory in 2019. Most of the interviews in this survey were carried out in the province of Messina with 50% of the respondents and in the city of Agrigento with approximately 27% of the respondents. The research deals with the level of life satisfaction as it relates to integration as well as other indicators of the integration process. From the first calculations, 87.1% of the foreigners interviewed said they have Italian friends while 92.7% have friends from the same country of origin. And again, 53.7% said they have an Italian driving license, 26.5% are members of associations, 58.8% are members of religious organizations and 47.6% participate in neighborhood and city activities.

### 1. *Background: immigrants concept*

It is common knowledge that the face of Italy is changing. Immigration has increased significantly over the last 20 years and continues to grow<sup>1</sup>. Italy has become the first landing place of individuals who are escaping war, persecu-

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<sup>1</sup> Migration data portal (2020). Retrieved from: <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/future-migration-trends>.

tion and hunger<sup>2</sup>. The consequent impact of the large number of immigrants has been felt in all areas of the Italian system, from government to health care, to the education system and finally to social welfare. However, it is important to define the various types of immigration because not all immigrants can be placed in the same category. The following section defines the various terms dealing with immigration, leading up to integration-

### *1.1 Migrant definitions*

A migrant or immigrant is defined as a person who decides to leave their country of origin to seek a better life, either for economic, security, or other reasons. In the past, the word 'migrant' defined was used to identify people who chose to leave their country of origin and cross an international border, without the need to escape. Today the terms 'migrant' and 'immigrant' are used interchangeably and used in the case of a person who moves away from their normal residence, internally or internationally, and without reference to whether the movement is voluntary or forced<sup>3</sup>.

### *1.2 Regular vs irregular*

A 'regular' immigrant resides legally in a country with a resident permit issued by the competent national authority. The 'irregular' immigrant is defined as someone who 1) has entered a country by avoiding border controls; 2) has entered a country with a temporary visa but who stays after the expiry date; 3) has been ordered to leave but remains<sup>4</sup>.

### *1.3 Foreign Population*

The Italian statistical agencies that study immigration have defined coined the phrase 'foreign population' when they are studying migrants, or people with foreign roots. The foreign population consists of all residents who were born abroad with foreign citizenship, including those who have acquired Italian citizenship. It also includes residents who have foreign citizenship, even

<sup>2</sup> Frigo, A. (2018). L'evoluzione del fenomeno migratorio in Italia negli ultimi vent' anni, <https://www.cittalia.it/asilo-e-rifugiati-2/l-evoluzione-del-fenomeno-migratorio-in-italia-negli-ultimi-vent-anni/>.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, (2020), Retrieved from: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44937/migrant-definition>

<sup>4</sup> IOM, (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms#Regular-migration>

if they were born in Italy<sup>5</sup>. Therefore the groups that are included in these studies are somewhat diverse and may not feel themselves to be ‘foreign’ at all. Many groups feel themselves to be already integrated and resent the label of ‘foreign’. Others make minimal efforts to integrate and are proud of it. Whatever the case may be, the blanket use of the term can have the effect of perpetuating the sense of not belonging often felt by members of the foreign population who have lived their whole lives in Italy and cannot even speak their ‘home’ language.

#### *1.4 Integration*

The general definition of integration is “the process of becoming part of a group of people”<sup>6</sup>. The type of integration dealt with here is also better known as social integration, which is a term that has been transformed into “inclusion”.

#### *1.5 Social integration and inclusion*

The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen<sup>7</sup>. decided that the goal of ‘social integration’ is to create an inclusive society. They defined an inclusive society as “a society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play<sup>8</sup>. The United Nations (UN) defines an inclusive society as one which contains “mechanisms which accommodate diversity” and enables the active participation of people in the political, economic and social areas of their lives. The UN believes that differences such as race, gender, class, geography and generation disappear when this happens, and all people are guaranteed equal opportunities “to achieve full potential in life, regardless of origin”. An inclusive society supports and also is continuously regenerated from the “well-being of each individual, mutual trust, a sense of belonging and inter-connectedness”<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> ISTAT (2019). Retrieved from: <http://demo.istat.it/str2019/index04.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Cambridge dictionary (2020). Retrieved from: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/it/>.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, (1995a). World Summit for Social Development <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-summit-for-social-development>.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, (1995a). World Summit for Social Development <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-summit-for-social-development>.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, (1995b). Social Integration, Social Policy and Development Division, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/social-integration-social-policy-and-development-division.html>

## 2. *Young migrants and social inclusion*

It is important to mention that social inclusion is extremely important for young people, especially young migrants. According to the Council of Europe (European Union), social inclusion for a young person is the process of their “self-realisation within a society, acceptance and recognition of one’s potential by social institutions, integration (through study, employment, volunteer work or other forms of participation) in the web of social relations in a community.” They extend the importance of social inclusion to “all young people as youth is the life stage when young people make the transition from family dependence to autonomy within the larger society. It has a particular meaning to those young people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and live in precarious conditions. For them social inclusion involves breaking various barriers before acquiring their social rights as full members of society.”<sup>10</sup> The Council of Europe states that social inclusion affects the economic, political, cultural and social domains; integrating processes depend on each other. Gender, health, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation can either promote or block social integration. It is adamant about the importance of social integration for all young people. The next section extends this concept further by discussing the link between integration and social inclusion.

## 3. *EU Policies on inclusion of migrants*

The “Europe 2020 Strategy of the European Union” identified social inclusion as a primary goal in order to lift 20 million people out of the risk of poverty. Social inclusion continued to be the main goal throughout the entire designated time period. Obviously this has not been accomplished in 2020, and the onset of the Covid-19 has changed the goals and very face of Europe. It is important to recall that the primary goal of the European integration process had inclusion as its primary goal from the beginning. The most recent economic crisis has put more focus on this objective. The programs ‘European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion’ and the ‘Social Open Method of Coordination’ both aimed at this objective. This type of program is financially supported by the EU through its ‘Social Investment Package’. This is a comprehensive fund including the “Programme for Employment and Social Innovation” and the European Social Fund. Member States continue to be concerned

<sup>10</sup> Council of Europe (2020). Retrieved from: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youthpartnership/socialinclusion#:~:text=From%20a%20youth%20perspective%20social,social%20relations%20in%20a%20community>

about inclusion of migrants and their offspring. There are many challenges to protect migrants from intolerance, xenophobia and racism. Especially worrisome are hate crimes and discrimination against migrants. Social inclusion of migrants and their descendants is being strongly promoted; the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) <sup>11</sup> stated that integration should occur in an environment that includes the respect of fundamental rights. The FRA affirms the rights of migrants to participate in European societies in all areas, including the economic, social, political and cultural areas.

It is hoped that this research will contribute to the knowledge of integration and social inclusion in Sicily and Italy in general.

### *3.1 EU Common Basic Principles*

It is important to mention the Common Basic Principles (CBPs) for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU (Council of Europe, 2004). Common Basic Principle 1 (CBP 1) states: “Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States”; CBP 2: “Integration implies respect for the basic values of the European Union”; CBP 3: “Employment is a key part of the integration process and is central to the participation of immigrants, to the contributions immigrants make to the host society, and to making such contributions visible”; CBP 4: “Basic knowledge of the host society’s language, history, and institutions is indispensable to integration; enabling immigrants to acquire this basic knowledge is essential to successful integration”; CBP 5: “Efforts in education are critical to preparing immigrants, and particularly their descendants, to be more successful and more active participants in society”; CBP 6: “Access for immigrants to institutions, as well as to public and private goods and services, on a basis equal to national citizens and in a non-discriminatory way is a critical foundation for better integration”; CBP 7: “Frequent interaction between immigrants and Member State citizens is a fundamental mechanism for integration. Shared forums, intercultural dialogue, education about immigrants and immigrant cultures, and stimulating living conditions in urban environments enhance the interactions between immigrants and Member State citizens”; CBP 8: “The practice of diverse cultures and religions is guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights and must be safeguarded, unless practices conflict with other inviolable European rights or with national law”; CBP 9: “The participation of immigrants in the demo-

<sup>11</sup> Fundamental Rights Agency, (2020). Retrieved from <https://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2015/social-inclusion-and-migrant-participation-society>.

cratic process and in the formulation of integration policies and measures, especially at the local level, supports their integration”; CBP 10: “Mainstreaming integration policies and measures in all relevant policy portfolios and levels of government and public services is an important consideration in public policy formation and implementation”; CBP 11: “Developing clear goals, indicators and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to adjust policy, evaluate progress on integration and to make the exchange of information more effective.

This research concentrated on CB3 (employment), CB4 basic knowledge of the language and culture of the host country, CB5 (School and education), and CB7 (interaction with host country nationals).

#### 4. *Integration test*

A literature review on efforts to design an “integration test” that accurately measures the extent that a migrant has become integrated revealed that the efforts have been inconclusive. There has been some research done but not enough<sup>12 13</sup>. There have been ongoing problems in defining the concept of migrant integration, and due to this it has become one of those terms that everyone uses but no one understands<sup>14 15</sup>. Different authors have pointed out that the concept is complex, and so widely used that the understanding of the term is obscured<sup>16</sup>. There are two definitions that emerge often in the literature. One states that integration is a two-way process<sup>17 18 19</sup>. The other defines integration

<sup>12</sup> Schinkel, W. (2018). Against ‘Immigrant Integration: For an End to Neocolonial Knowledge Production.’ *Comparative Migration Studies* 6 (1): 1-17.

<sup>13</sup> Saharso, S., (2019). Who Needs Integration? Debating a Central, yet Increasingly Contested Concept in Migration Studies. *Comparative Migration Studies* 7 (1): 16-18.

<sup>14</sup> Ager, A. & Strang, A. (2008). Understanding Integration: A Conceptual Framework. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 2(2):166-91.

<sup>15</sup> Penninx, R. (2019). ‘Problems of and Solutions for the Study of Immigrant Integration. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 7 (1).

<sup>16</sup> Puma, J., Lichtenstein G., & Stein, P. (2018). The RISE Survey: Developing and Implementing a Valid and Reliable Quantitative Measure of Refugee Integration in the United States. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31 (4): 605-25.

<sup>17</sup> Garcés-Masareñas, B. & Penninx, R. (2016). Integration Processes Policies and Policies in Europe. Contexts, Levels and Actors. Edited by Garcés-Masareñas, B. and Penninx, R. *Integration Processes and Policies in Europe*, IMISCOE Research Series. Springer, New York.

<sup>18</sup> Bijl, R., & Verweij, A. (2012). Measuring and Monitoring Immigrant. Integration in Europe. Netherlands Institute for Social Research: Amsterdam.

<sup>19</sup> Council of Europe (1997). Measurement and Indicators of Integration. Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs Retrieved from [www.coe.int/t/dg3/migration](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/migration).

as the end process in which migrants achieve the same status as the local citizens<sup>20 21 22</sup>. However criticisms include the fact that these definitions are too ambiguous; they do not identify the comparative terms between migrants and locals; they are also normative in that they expect that migrants should assimilate into the host country; policy affects research methods; national environments should not be compared with international environments<sup>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</sup>.

### 5. *Migrant situation in Italy*

This section presents the situation of regular immigration present in Italy in general and more specifically in Sicily.

There are almost 5.3 million regular immigrants residing in Italy<sup>31</sup>. Approximately (1.8 million) reside in the north western part of northern Italy, specifically, including the Milan area, Torino, Liguria etc.; 1.276 million reside in the north eastern part of northern Italy. Central Italy has 1.34 million. The remain-

<sup>20</sup> Schneider, J. & Crul, M. (2010). New Insights into Assimilation and Integration Theory: Introduction to the Special Issue. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 33 (7): 1143-48.

<sup>21</sup> Messina, A., & Williamson, A. (2014). Introduction. Dimensions of Variation in Newly Diverse Transatlantic Destinations, in Migration Policy Group/Institute of Public Affairs., 21 (6): 623-32.

<sup>22</sup> OECD/EU (2018), Indicators of Immigrant Integration, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264307216-en>.

<sup>23</sup> Schneider, J. & Crul, M. (2010). New Insights into Assimilation and Integration Theory: Introduction to the Special Issue. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 33 (7): 1143-48.

<sup>24</sup> Puma, J., Lichtenstein G., & Stein, P. (2018). The RISE Survey: Developing and Implementing a Valid and Reliable Quantitative Measure of Refugee Integration in the United States. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31 (4): 605-25.

<sup>25</sup> Messina, A., & Williamson, A. (2014). Introduction. Dimensions of Variation in Newly Diverse Transatlantic Destinations, in Migration Policy Group/Institute of Public Affairs., 21 (6): 623-32.

<sup>26</sup> Favell, A. (2003). Integration Nations: The Nation-State and Research on Immigrants in Western Europe. In *Comparative Social Research*, 13-42.

<sup>27</sup> Loch, D. (2014). Integration as a Sociological Concept and National. Model for Immigrants: Scope and Limits. *Identities*, 21 (6): 623-32.

<sup>28</sup> Saharso, S., (2019). Who Needs Integration? Debating a Central, yet Increasingly Contested Concept in Migration Studies. *Comparative Migration Studies* 7 (1): 16-18.

<sup>29</sup> Klarenbeek, L. (2019). 'Relational Integration: A Response to Willem Schinkel. *Comparative Migration Studies* 7, (1).

<sup>30</sup> Abdou, L.H. (2019). Immigrant Integration: The Governance of Ethno- Cultural Differences. *Comparative Migration Studies* 7 (15): 1-8

<sup>31</sup> ISTAT (2020). Retrieved from: [http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCIS\\_POPSTRRES1](http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCIS_POPSTRRES1)



ing numbers are distributed in various areas of northern Italy, with 641,000 residing in southern Italy and 256,811 in the Islands (Sardinia and Sicily). The main reason for the high concentration in the north is mainly due to employment availability. Regarding population statistics and the number of foreign born residents in Italy, the reported that in 2016, 9.7% of the population in Italy was foreign born, and of that, 6-7% are from extra-EU countries<sup>32</sup>. The regular immigrant groups residing in Italy include: Romanians (23%); Albanians (8.4%); Morocco (8.0%); People's Republic of China (8.0%); Ukraine (4.6%); Philippines (3.2%); India (3.2%); Bangladesh (2.7%) Moldavia (2.5%); Egypt (2.4%) and others (Tuttitalia, 2018). Some other groups have demonstrated a strong growth rate, including Nigerians, Ivorians, Bangladeshi, Egyptians, and Pakistanis. The recent increase in resident permits in 2018 included reunification with family members (43.2%), humanitarian reasons (38.5%) with work (4.6%), study (7%) and other motivations (6.7%) (Blog lavoro, 2019).

### *5.1 Employment*

Most of the employment positions held by migrants are classified as 'worker'. Migrants take up 10% of the official work force; they are classified primarily in the sector of "other collective and personal services" at 36%; restaurants and hotels (17.9%); agriculture (17.9%) and Construction (17.2%). 90% of them are dependent and of that number most are workers or laborers. There are comparatively few in the professional area and an extremely small number working in the management area. In a recent report on the situation in Italy, it was pointed out that the job market in Italy is characterised by a certain "ethnicization" of the labour market<sup>33</sup>. This can be seen more and more clearly by examining all the statistics available about national origin of immigrants and their occupations. It is beyond the scope of this work to explore this area further, but it is quite clear that migrants tend to be employed along cultural-ethnic lines. Because this study was based in Sicily, the next section discusses the situation of the regular immigrants in Sicily.

<sup>32</sup> Fundamental Rights Agency, (2017). [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2017-together-in-the-eu\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-together-in-the-eu_en.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> EUMC (2005). European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia, migrants, minorities and employment in Italy, [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/ar-06-p1-en-final.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/ar-06-p1-en-final.pdf).



## 6 *Social Inclusion of Migrants in Sicily: the pilot study*

As previously mentioned, this research deals primarily with the present situation of immigration in the region of Sicily. Before reporting the results, it is necessary to understand the various national groups currently residing regularly in Sicily. In a nutshell, there are currently 200,818 regular immigrants residing in Sicily<sup>34</sup>. The following is a short analysis of their occupational status, family structure, reasons for immigrating to Italy, and some cultural values that may have influenced their current state of integration. In the next paragraph we describe the experimental investigation in detail.

### 6.1. *Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample*<sup>35</sup>

The recipients of the questionnaire are the families of immigrants whose children attend an educational institution. The respondent to the interview is the head of the family or a member of the family, an adult (generally, one of the two parents). One of the children of school age attends the interview and responds jointly with the parent for the part of the questionnaire that concerns him more directly. A questionnaire was designed based on an extensive survey of the research on the identifying characteristics of an integrated person. What constitutes integration, the visible qualities, and evidence that it is present were all areas that were considered in designing the questionnaire and choosing the participants. The questionnaire used in the survey mainly focuses on information about the family and the head of the family; in particular, on his migratory path, his insertion into the world of work, access to services, social insertion and the perception of the subject himself about his current condition in Italy and future expectations and the insertion of the children that were interviewed at school. Most of the interviews were carried out in the province of Messina (Messina and Patti) with 50% of respondents and in the city of Agrigento with approximately 27% of respondents. Other survey cities were Palermo and Ragusa with 5.9% and 7.1% of respondents respectively (see in detail the interview Municipality table). The interviews took place mainly at school (48.2%) or in other structures such as churches, oratories, Caritas etc. (50.6%). The for-

<sup>34</sup> ISTAT (2020). Retrieved from: [http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCIS\\_POPSTRRES1](http://dati.istat.it/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DCIS_POPSTRRES1)

<sup>35</sup> The database is extracted from the FAMI (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund), Project - "Promozione dell'accesso ai servizi per l'integrazione", survey carried out by Centro Attrazione Risorse Esterne e Creazione d'Impresa (CARECI) research group of the University of Messina in 2018 whose report should be consulted for further details (FAMI Project, 2019).

eign citizenship status of the interviewees was: Morocco (17.3%); West African countries (15.7%); India (13.4%); Philippines (7.9%); Romania (7.9%); other countries of South Central Asia (7.9%) Tunisia (7.1%) followed by other states (see the table of foreign country of citizenship for details). The respondents were for the most part the head of the household (67.1%), the wife of the head of the household (17.6%), the son of the head of the household (11.8%), followed by the head of the household's parent and a person linked by friendship. The gender distribution of the family members of the respondents is balanced: 48.3% males; 51.7% females. On average, the interviewees declared a family unit of 3.31 members with a prevalent value (mode) of 4 members. Of the 47 children declared by the interviewees, 25 (53.2%) were born in Italy. The employment status of the householder is that of employed (77.2%), the percentage of unemployed or employed in the past is low (12.3%). Almost the same percentages are reached for the spouse / cohabitant of the head of the family with 62.5% and 10% respectively for employed and unemployed or employed in the past. Housewives are about 13% of the head of the household and the wife/cohabitant of the household head. Again for this subset of the sample, the years of study declared are on average 10.48 (years) while the prevailing occupation is that of the self-employed worker/occasional worker/carer for both the head of the family (58.7%) and the wife/cohabitant of the head of the family (80.8%). Seasonal worker, merchant and waiter follow.

## *6.2 An attempt to measure social integration<sup>36</sup>*

This pilot study deals with the concept of satisfaction as an indicator of integration. The questions were based on a combination of questions identified for measuring satisfaction according to the European Council CBs. The European CBs used were those of employment, basic knowledge of the language and culture of the host country, degree of insertion in the education system, and interaction with host country nationals. There has been very little research done about the satisfaction level of settled immigrants. One very interesting study was conducted by Cambridge University in 2013 which studied the integration of East Germans after the union of East and West Germany. It was found that well-being and satisfaction were linked more to economic levels than feeling accepted/discriminated against<sup>37</sup>. In this study we try to measure the social in-

<sup>36</sup> Considering the low number of respondents, we warn the reader to consider the results indicative.

<sup>37</sup> Koczan, Z. (2013). Does integration increase life satisfaction? Cambridge Working Papers in Economics, Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University; Cambridge.

tegration of the immigrants interviewed by taking into consideration, among the various aspects investigated by the questionnaire, three principal aspects: 1) activities carried out during free time; 2) agreement or disagreement with respect to some issues of the private and social sphere of the immigrant and satisfaction with some aspects of life. As can be seen in table 1 and figure 1, the activities most carried out were volunteering and (63.2%) religious (58.2%) activities. This could possibly be attributed to the number of Catholic Christian immigrants who attend religious services. The high percentage of volunteering is noteworthy because it indicates involvement in the host culture involving a certain proficiency in the Italian language and culture. Contrarily, here the responses indicate low participation in cultural events and concerts, minimal political involvement but higher religious involvement. The low participation in cultural events, sports, artistic events and concerts could also be due to the fact that most immigrants work in the service area which requires them to work off-hours. As per the results of table 2 and figure 2, the questions about some issues of the private and social sphere reveal a strong interest in economic stability (96.6%), owning property (94.9%) and work success (91.5%). It is not surprising because most migrants seek to create a better economic life in addition to other reasons for migrating. Other highest percentages are: having children (96.6%) and having faith (94.9%). Perhaps the ability to migrate and make a new life has a strong religious component. Next in line is the area of family and relationship. One can interpret this to mean that the groups involved in this study have strong family values. Another item is related to this-being supportive of others. It would seem that these groups tend to trust others and want to interact with others. The next part examines the life satisfaction data. Here the average is goes above 6<sup>38</sup> except for the family income item (5.93) See the table 3 and figure 3. This fact is normal since most migrants tend to work in low-paying jobs, many are not regular employees, and they are often exploited as cheap labor. However, their evaluation of their life as a whole demonstrates that they enjoy a certain level of life satisfaction. School and health care have relatively high scores. It is interesting to point out that research measuring life satisfaction in the EU showed an average of 6.5/10, with Italy at 6/10 in 2011<sup>39</sup>. However, in the most recent OECD measure, general life satisfaction in Italy came out at less than 5/10.

<sup>38</sup> Respondents had the option to choose between a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 10.

<sup>39</sup> OECD (2011), Better life index, Life Satisfaction, Retrieved from: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/lifesatisfaction/#:~:text=life%20across%20countries,Life%20satisfaction%20measures%20how%20people%20evaluate%20their%20life%20as%20a,average%20life%20satisfaction%20is%206.5>.

To better highlight the results of life satisfaction, we processed the results according to 3 factors: a) years lived in Italy, b) discrimination and c) feeling Italian<sup>40</sup>. For the first factor (table 4 and figure 4), on average we can see that the longer people have lived in Italy, the higher their life satisfaction (the only two exceptions were: access means of transport and presence of green spaces). And to extend this, obviously their level of integration. For the second factor (table 5 and figure 5), the numbers reveal a slight influence of discrimination towards the item of life satisfaction. The largest differences were reported in the areas of access to means of transport (+0.85), family income(+0.48) and presence of green spaces (+0.44). It can be noted that approximately 50% of the participants noted some discrimination. However, on average there are a small difference (discriminant Vs. not discriminant) which is actually quite surprising, given the current belief that migrant groups tend to suffer significant discrimination. In fact, if we consider the total sample, the immigrants who have felt discriminated against are only 25.4% against the 74.6% who have never been discriminated against. For the last factor taken into consideration (table 6 and figure 6), there are some very interesting results. Overall, more participants reported to feel Italian (30.5%) or somewhat Italian (52.5%). This is interesting because it indicates that they have indeed become quite integrated psychologically. The area of 'some respects' also reveals a strong trend towards more life satisfaction. In particular, if we consider only the answer categories "yes" and "no", family income (+ 1.97), work (+1.33) and housing (+1.27) are the areas that present the greatest differences (Yes Vs. No).

## 7. *Conclusions*

This pilot study has illustrated some important points regarding integration of regular migrants and the 'foreign population' of Sicily. In the end, the 'foreign population' does not feel 'foreign' at all, but demonstrates a strong quality of having become Italian. They also have shown a higher level of life satisfaction which we believe indicates successful integration. Although the analysis should be conducted on a larger and geographically representative sample, the results are optimistic and contribute to the knowledge about integration processes. However, more research need to be conducted to determine what (other) factors encourage integration. It is obvious that the more involved migrants be-

<sup>40</sup> In addition to the life satisfaction data classified by factor, these tables also contain the percentages of the factor in the total sample.

come in the host culture, the more they are able to speak the language, and the better employed they are, the more integrated they will be. Other changes are impacting Italy, and perhaps the most important one is the increasing brain drain and outflow of young people to other countries due to the unemployment situation in Italy. More than 250,000 young people have left Italy in the last 10 years and they continue to leave. The facts are clear: if Italy wants to survive as a developed, progressive nation, it needs to stop the outflow of young people. But it also needs to do something else: it needs to promote integration of the immigrants already living in Italy as well as prepare for more effective programs to promote integration. All of Italy faces this challenge, but Sicily in particular. Sicily has been subject to an alarmingly increasing outflow of its local young people, escaping to the north or to other EU countries or outside of the EU<sup>41</sup>. So it is even more important that immigrants be integrated because they are necessary to keep the region going. This study is based on the belief that integration is essential and it must be carefully monitored and nurtured. An outsider may look at the functioning of the Italian 'integration system' and wonder whether it works at all, and also if the 'foreign population' considers itself part of the general population. But the results in this study do show that diverse groups have been able to integrate themselves, at least at some level. The study of what encourages integration and creates social inclusion must be continued. Programs to promote both assimilation and differentiation leading to multiculturalism should be developed.

Someday Italy will be grateful to the 'foreign population' for sustaining it as the Italian workforce fades.

<sup>41</sup> Carli, A. (2019). In 10 anni l'Italia ha perso 250mila di giovani: la fuga all'estero costa 16 miliardi, <https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/in-10-anni-l-italia-ha-perso-250mila-giovani-fuga-all-estero-costa-16-miliardi-AC0kqkp>.

Table 1 - Which of the following activities do you participate in during your free time?  
(Total sample)

Activities		Count	Column N %
Cultural events	Yes	8	13.6%
	No	51	86.4%
Cinema/concerts	Yes	12	20.3%
	No	47	79.7%
Sports activity	Yes	7	12.5%
	No	49	87.5%
Artistic activities	Yes	18	32.1%
	No	38	67.9%
Seeing friends	Yes	47	81.0%
	No	11	19.0%
Volunteering	Yes	36	63.2%
	No	21	36.8%
Political activity	Yes	5	8.8%
	No	52	91.2%
Religious activity	Yes	32	58.2%
	No	23	41.8%

*Yes= at least once a week; No= never / once a year*

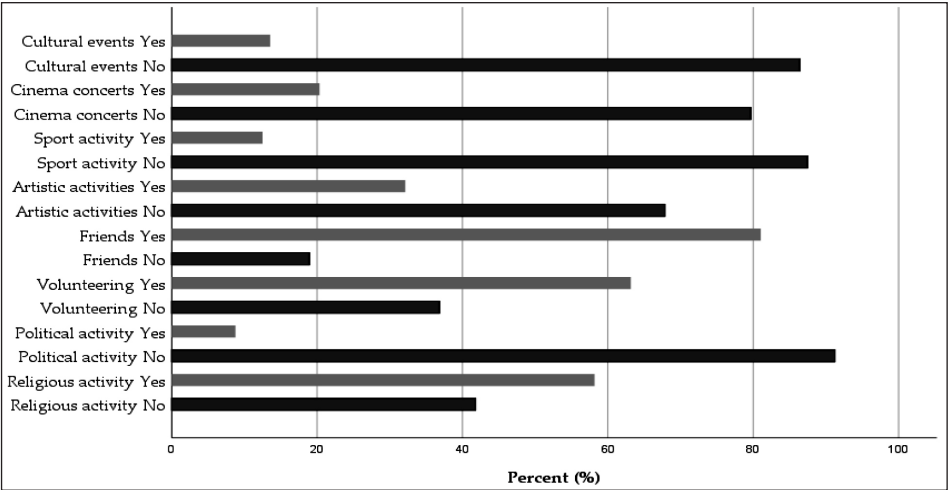


Figure 1 - Which of the following activities do you participate in during your free time? (Total sample) - (Bar charts)

Table 2 - How much do you agree with these statements ? (Total sample)

Statements		Count	Column N %
Overall, people can be trusted.	Agree	39	66.1%
	Disagree	20	33.9%
Nobody can be trusted these days.	Agree	28	47.5%
	Disagree	31	52.5%
Be economically self-sufficient.	Agree	56	96.6%
	Disagree	2	3.4%
Be successful at work.	Agree	54	91.5%
	Disagree	5	8.5%
Owning a home.	Agree	56	94.9%
	Disagree	3	5.1%
Having a happy marriage / relationship.	Agree	54	91.5%
	Disagree	5	8.5%
Have children.	Agree	57	96.6%
	Disagree	2	3.4%
Be supportive of others.	Agree	54	93.1%
	Disagree	4	6.9%
Being involved politically and / or socially	Agree	29	49.2%
	Disagree	30	50.8%
See the world (travel frequently).	Agree	39	66.1%
	Disagree	20	33.9%
Having Faith / being religious	Agree	56	94.9%
	Disagree	3	5.1%



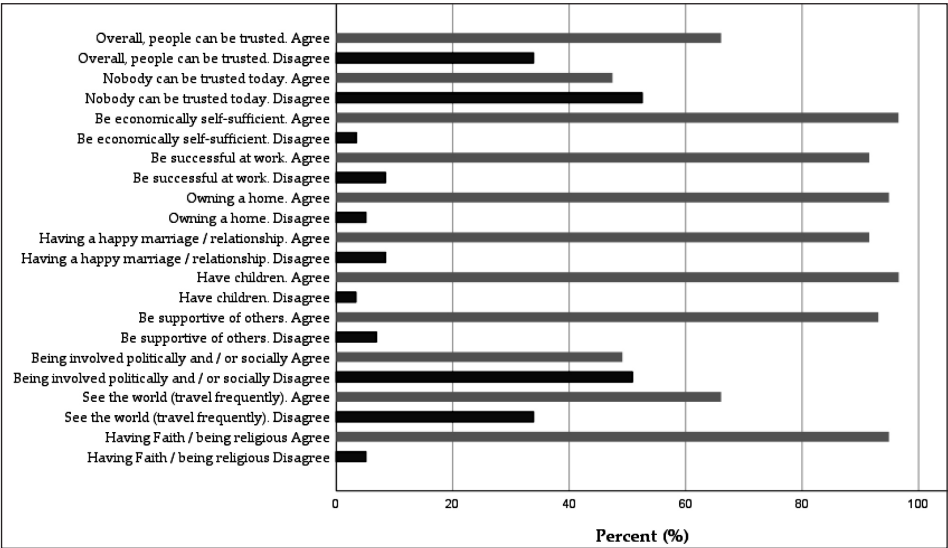


Figure 2 - How much do you agree with these statements ? (Total sample) - (Bar charts)

Table 3 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? (Total sample)

	Health	Work	Family income	Housing	Health care	Access means of transport	School	Presence of green spaces	Your life as a whole
Mean	7.25	6.78	5.93	6.40	7.05	6.36	6.94	6.60	7.44
N	59	59	58	58	57	58	54	57	57
SD	2.154	2.267	2.101	2.043	1.827	1.907	2.078	2.290	1.803

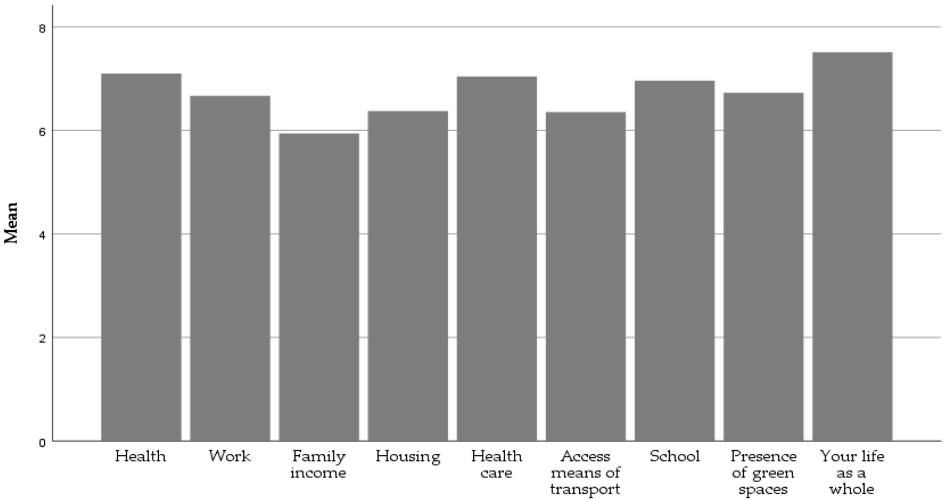


Figure 3 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? (Total sample) – (Bar charts)

Table 4 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs How many years have you lived in Italy?

How many years have you lived in Italy?		Health	Work	Family income	Housing	Health care	Access means of transport	School	Presence of green spaces	Your life as a whole
less than 10 years	Mean	7.14	6.24	5.60	5.70	6.86	6.57	6.63	6.95	7.10
	N	21	21	20	20	21	21	19	21	21
	SD	1.852	2.166	2.010	2.408	2.081	1.568	2.216	1.936	1.814
more than 10 years	Mean	7.32	7.08	6.11	6.76	7.17	6.24	7.11	6.39	7.64
	N	38	38	38	38	36	37	35	36	36
	SD	2.326	2.294	2.153	1.747	1.682	2.087	2.011	2.476	1.791

Total sample: less than 10 years = 35.6%; more than 10 years = 64.4%

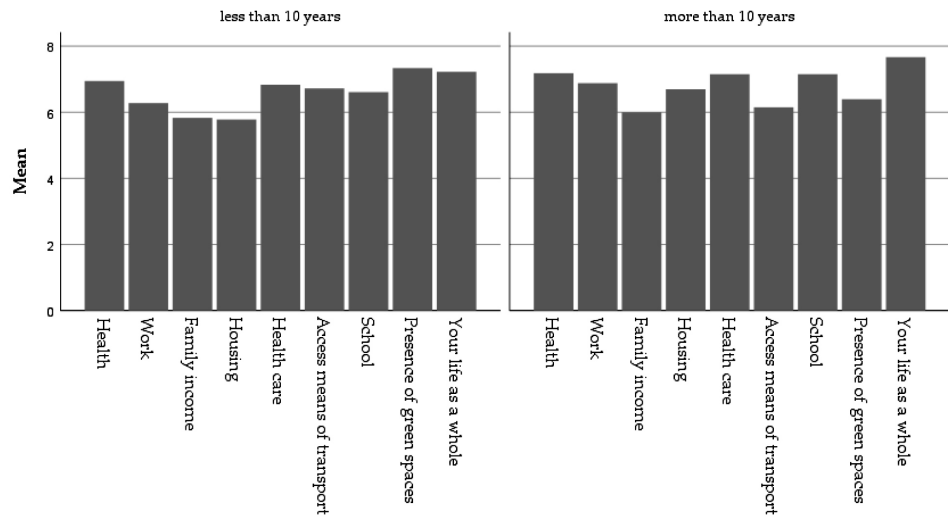


Figure 4 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs How many years have you lived in Italy? (Bar charts)

Table 5 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs Have you ever felt discriminated against?

Have you ever felt discriminated against?		Health	Work	Family income	Housing	Health care	Access means of transport	School	Presence of green spaces	Your life as a whole
No	Mean	7.20	6.73	6.05	6.47	7.00	6.58	6.97	6.71	7.38
	N	44	44	44	43	42	43	39	42	42
	SD	1.983	2.356	2.209	1.992	1.821	1.694	2.170	2.178	1.937
Yes	Mean	7.40	6.93	5.57	6.20	7.20	5.73	6.87	6.27	7.60
	N	15	15	14	15	15	15	15	15	15
	SD	2.667	2.052	1.742	2.242	1.897	2.374	1.885	2.631	1.404

Total sample: discriminated = 25.4%; not discriminated = 74.6%

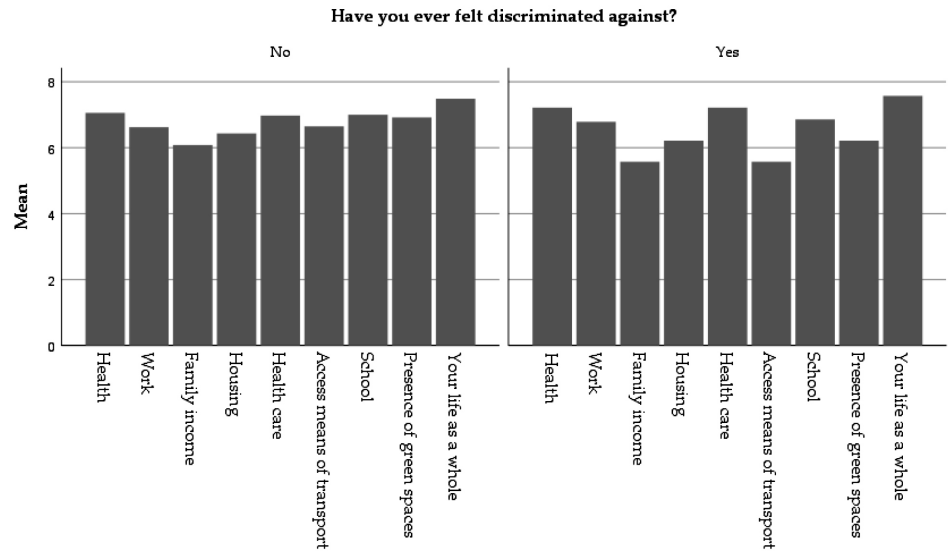


Figure 5 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs Have you ever felt discriminated against? (Bar charts)

Table 6 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs Do you feel Italian?

Do you feel Italian?		Health	Work	Family in- come	Housing	Health care	Access means of transport	School	Presence of green spaces	Your life as a whole
Yes	Mean	7.17	6.83	5.71	6.67	7.00	6.44	7.56	5.47	7.29
	N	18	18	17	18	17	18	16	17	17
	SD	1.978	2.595	2.494	1.715	1.768	2.255	1.504	2.918	1.724
In some respects	Mean	7.39	7.16	6.52	6.80	7.30	6.60	7.07	7.13	7.70
	N	31	31	31	30	30	30	28	30	30
	SD	2.376	2.018	1.730	1.827	1.784	1.653	2.124	1.814	1.915
No	Mean	7.00	5.50	4.50	4.70	6.40	5.50	5.60	6.90	6.90
	N	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	SD	1.886	2.121	1.841	2.497	2.066	1.900	2.319	1.853	1.595

Total sample: Yes = 30.5%; In some respects = 52.5% ; No = 16.9%

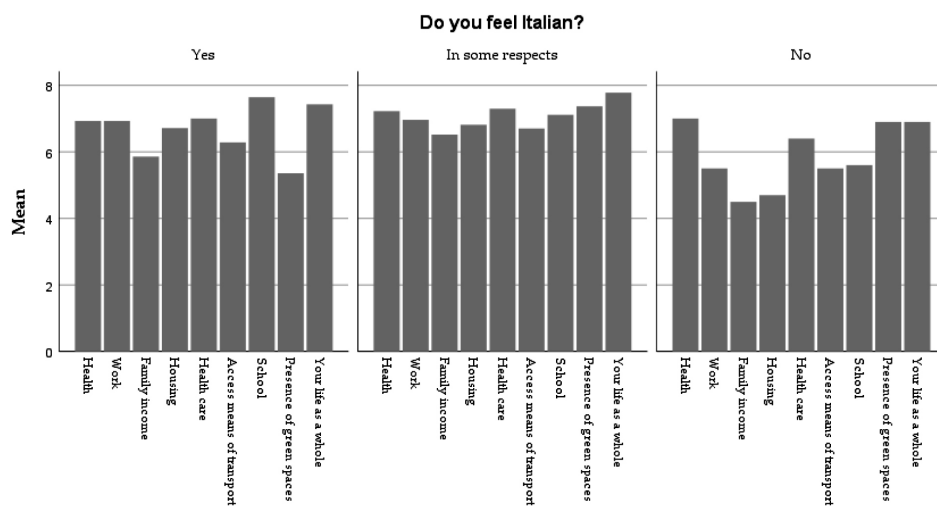


Figure 6 - How satisfied are you today with respect to the following areas of your life? Vs Do you feel Italian? (Bar charts)

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