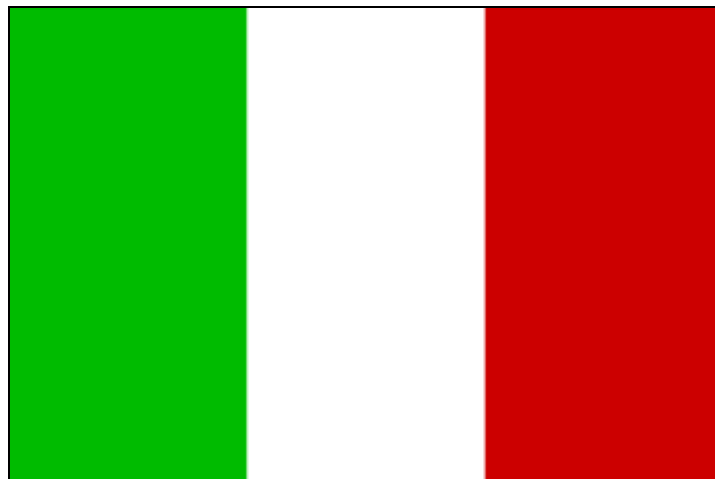


# FACTSHEET

## ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### IN ITALY



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## 1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age rank	%
At risk of poverty by age  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006	Less than 18	25,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>work income</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		77,80
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Unemployment benefit</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		2,50
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Family allowance</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		6,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		23,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		57,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		32,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		4,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Single parent with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		32,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household without dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		16,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		23,00

## 2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	<b>Annex 5</b>
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## 3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	<b>Annex 6</b>
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## ANNEX 5

### Social Substances/Protection

Italian system of social protection is organised along categorical provision of benefits. For each branch of social policy there is a separate administrative body that is responsible for the collection of contributions and the provision of benefits. Government departments are responsible for the supervising the implementation of legislation and other operational aspects of social protection delivery. (<http://www.oecd.org>) According to the Anglo Info (2008) the benefits are:

- sickness and maternity
- those relating to accidents in the workplace
- those relating to work-related illnesses
- invalidity benefits (contributory)
- old age pensions
- allowances paid to survivors
- benefits paid in the event of death
- unemployment benefits
- family allowances

Those who wish to preserve and transfer rights must be nationals of one of the Member States of the European Union or of the European Economic Area. The following individuals are protected by Community provisions: 1) employees and self-employed workers who are or have been insured in accordance with the legislation of one of the said states, 2) public employees, 3) students, 4) pensioners, including those who retired prior to the time their country joined the European Union or the EEA, 5) relatives or survivors of the persons referred to above, irrespective of their nationality. (<http://rome.angloinfo.com/countries/italy/socsec.asp>.)

Including all private and public institutions Italy spends less than other European countries on social protection. The average figure for the other EU countries is almost two percentage points higher than in Italy. Distribution of services according to the various sectors shows a prevalence of spending in Italy for the old age sector. The amounts for the other sectors– invalidity, family, unemployment, accommodation and social exclusion– have remained unchanged with the exception of a reduction in the amount spent on unemployment due to the improvement in the labour market. Voluntary service- the third sector- plays a central role in social protection including associations, voluntary organisations, social cooperatives, bank foundations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), other organisations and institutions, socially responsible companies. There is also wide-spread solidarity at a national level in the form of non-organised donations and informal assistance networks. Italy plans to strengthen integration between social, labour and macroeconomic policies within a framework of balanced, sustainable economic and social development. ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/docs/it\\_nap\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/it_nap_final_en.pdf)).

Social assistance policy is established in a National Social Plan (Plano Sociale Nazionale) that central government and the regions must draw up every three years. This plan specifies the actions that the integrated service network must carry out over the three-year period in order to guarantee standard services nationwide, avoiding geographical imbalances and inequality of access for citizens. The plan will also define the distribution of the costs of the services among the various institutions, the criteria on which users may have to pay some of the costs and guidelines for personnel training and professional updating. The National Social Plan will include service standards regarding the integration of older non-self sufficient people and people with disabilities, supporting families and children, the integration of immigrants and combating alcoholism and other forms of addiction. (<http://www.childpolicyintl.org/countries/italy.html#youth>).

Family relations and family support play an important role in Italian society. Italy has, together with Malta, the highest rate of youth dependency on families: in 2006 67% of males under 35 still lived with their parents. Recently, the reduction of certain levels of benefits, particularly to young unemployed people, has increased their material dependence on the family as a resource so that social inequalities on the whole become more pronounced in the transition from one generation to the next. This also explains the low rate of cohabitation in Italy which is not so much caused by adherence to traditional values among youth, but rather by economic uncertainty such as high youth unemployment in certain areas and difficulties in obtaining housing and general social support from public sources. Unemployment among 17-25 year olds is steadily falling from 35% in 1996 to 20,6% in 2006. Youth unemployment is considerably higher among young people in the south. (<http://www.socmag.net/?p=375>)

#### Sources:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/17/33743179.pdf>

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/docs/it\\_nap\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/it_nap_final_en.pdf)

<http://www.socmag.net/?p=375>

<http://www.childpolicyintl.org/countries/italy.html#youth>

<http://rome.angloinfo.com/countries/italy/socsec.asp>

## **ANNEX 6**

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **The Legal Framework**

The protection and promotion of rights - be it civil and political, economic, social and cultural - constitute one of the fundamental pillars of both domestic and foreign Italian policies.

The Italian legal system aims at ensuring an effective framework of guarantees, to fully and extensively protect the fundamental rights of the individuals, providing them with a wide range of protection means which have, as their core, the principle of non-discrimination set out at Article 3 of the Italian Constitution: "All citizens possess an equal social status and are equal before the law, without distinction as to sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, and personal or social conditions".

#### **The National Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Removal of Discrimination Based on Race or Ethnic Origin**

With the Prime Minister's Decree of 11 December 2003,<sup>30</sup> a National Office for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and the Removal of Discrimination Based on Race or Ethnic Origin (known as the UNAR), was set up in the Department for Equal Opportunities. This was to implement EU Directive 2000/43/EC, which invited member states to set up bodies to ensure and promote equal treatment. The Directive was transposed into Italian legislation through Legislative Decree No. 215/2003. As envisaged by Article 29 of Italy's "Community" Act No. 39/2002, the aim in establishing the UNAR is to set up a body in the country's legal system to oversee and guarantee equality of treatment and the application of protection instruments. The general function of the UNAR is to carry out activities to promote equality and work to remove any form of discrimination based on race or ethnic origin, taking into particular consideration the fact that, as pointed out in the first part of this report, forms of discrimination are often amplified when elements of diversity such as gender, culture or religious beliefs are added to those arising from race or ethnic origin.

The UNAR also intends to give a strong impetus to informal reconciliatory actions by putting forward solutions for the removal of discriminatory situations and thus avoiding, where possible, recourse to judicial action. Of particular importance in this activity is the support and help provided by the Office through its Contact Centre. This service can be reached on toll-free phone number 800.90.10.10 from 10.00 to 20:00 hours every day and is available in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Rumanian and Mandarin Chinese. The contact centre has the task of gathering observations, complaints and testimony on facts, events, situations, procedures and actions that undermine or compromise equality of treatment on racial or ethnic grounds, by offering immediate help for victims of discrimination and providing information, guidance and psychological support.

#### **The Register of associations working to combat discrimination**

With respect to capacity to take legal action, Article 29§1 (e) and (f) of Italy's Community Law envisages that, in cases of discrimination, associations and bodies representing the injured parties should also be considered competent to sue. To this end, Article 5 of Legislative Decree No. 215/2003 granted associations and bodies working to promote social integration and combat discrimination competency to take legal action to safeguard equal treatment including in the name, on behalf or in support of the victims of discrimination. More specifically, associations and bodies identified as eligible in the light of the programme aims and on-going experience are granted legal capacity to sue through the decree issued by the Minister of Labour and Social policies and the Minister for Equal Opportunities on 16th December 2005. Associations and bodies which, working in the field of social integration, are entered in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies Register in accordance with Article 52§1 (a) of Presidential Decree No. 394 of 31 August 1999, or those which, working specifically to combat discrimination, are entered in the register set up for this purpose in the Department for Equal Opportunities, can obtain recognition of this capacity.