THE BIG REGULARIZATION
The Emersion Process of Undocumented Migrants' Irregular Labour
(Law 195, October 9th)

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2/3 of the regular immigrant population currently settled in Italy passed from an irregular status to a regular one because of one of the five mass-regularization laws:

- 1986: 120,000 beneficiaries, obtained whether an authorization to work (45%) or the entry in the employment lists

- 1990: 220,000 beneficiaries, mostly were officially unemployed (→generalized amnesty: the only required condition was to prove the entry in Italy before December 31st, 1989)

- 1995-6: 246,000 beneficiaries, mostly subordinate workers (100-150,000 migrants were excluded)

- 1998: 220,000 beneficiaries, mostly subordinate workers

- 2002: 650,000 beneficiaries, through to the applications submitted by their employers

Regularization applications by the first 10 major nationalities – 1990 ("Martelli" Law)

Country of origin	A.V.('000)	(%)	Per 100 R.F.
Morocco	48,7	22.1	206
Tunisia	26,3	11.9	211
Senegal	16,0	7.2	221
Philippines	13,7	6.2	96
Yugoslavia	8,9	4.0	59
China	8,6	3.9	114
Egypt	7,6	3.5	85
Ghana	6,5	3.0	148
Poland	5,4	2.4	60
Sry Lanka	5,3	2.4	117
Total	220,5	100.0	51
Total first 10	*146,9*	*66.6*	*137*

Regularization applications by the first 10 major nationalities – 1995-1996 ("Dini" Decree)

Country of origin	A.V.('000)	(%)	Per 100 R.F.
Morocco	34,8	13.6	43
Albania	32,4	12.7	107
Philippines	19,5	7.6	54
China	15,8	6.2	98
Peru	13,5	5.3	169
Romania	11,9	4.6	84
Tunisia	11,4	4.5	37
Senegal	10,8	4.2	52
Nigeria	9,3	3.6	193
Egypt	9,0	3.5	58
Total	256,0	100.0	35
Total first 10	*168,5*	*65,8*	*65*

Regularization applications by the first 10 major nationalities – 1998 ("Napolitano-Turco" Law)

Country of origin	A.V.('000)	(%)	Per 100 R.F.
Albania	35,7	16.3	49
Morocco	23,9	10.9	20
Romania	22,8	10.4	79
China	15,4	7.0	44
Senegal	11,2	5.1	35
Nigeria	7,3	3.3	56
Bangladesh	7,2	3.3	60
Pakistan	7,1	3.2	66
Philippines	6,9	3.1	12
Egypt	6,5	3.0	28
Total	219,3	100.0	21
Total first 10	*144,1*	*65,7*	*35*

Regularization applications by the first 10 major nationalities – 2002 ("Bossi-Fini" Law)

Country of origin	A.V.('000)	(%)	Per 100 R.F.
Romania	143,1	20.4	173
Ukraine	106,7	15.2	846
Albania	54,1	7.7	34
Morocco	53,8	7.7	32
Ecuador	36,6	5.2	297
China	35,7	5.1	58
Poland	34,3	4.9	104
Moldavia	31,1	4.4	545
Peru	17,4	2.5	55
Egypt	16,0	2.3	50
Total	701,9	100.0	48
Total first 10	*528,8*	*75.3*	*89*

Regularization applications by gender and mean age – SUBORDINATE JOBS – 2002

Men		Women	
Country of origin	Mean Age	Country of origin	Mean Age
Romania	29.2	Romania	26.9
Morocco	27.4	China	29.5
Albania	25.5	Ukraine	34.8
China	29.6	Poland	27.0
Egypt	27.5	Albania	27.7
India	28.0	Ecuador	28.7
Ukraine	31.0	Morocco	28.1
Pakistan	28.3	Moldavia	30.8
Senegal	29.8	Russia	28.4
Ecuador	29.7	Bulgaria	30.8
Total	28.3	Total	28.9

Regularization applications by gender and mean age – HOME-HELP JOBS – 2002

Men		Women	
Country of origin	Mean Age	Country of origin	Mean Age
Romania	29.9	Ukraine	40.9
Morocco	27.6	Romania	30.1
Philippines	31.4	Poland	33.1
Sri Lanka	29.3	Ecuador	31.0
Ukraine	32.8	Moldavia	36.0
Senegal	29.7	Peru	30.8
Bangladesh	25.1	Albania	30.0
Albania	25.8	Philippines	31.6
Ecuador	30.1	Morocco	29.4
Peru	29.9	China	31.9
Total	29.2	Total	33.4

Regularization applications by gender and mean age – CARETAKER JOBS – 2002

Men		Women	
Country of origin	Mean Age	Country of origin	Mean Age
Romania	30.1	Ukraine	43.4
Ukraine	35.1	Romania	32.1
Ecuador	30.9	Poland	41.9
Peru	31.4	Moldavia	39.0
Albania	27.2	Ecuador	32.6
Morocco	27.6	Peru	32.0
Sri Lanka	30.1	Albania	31.8
Moldavia	33.0	Russia	43.7
Bangladesh	24.9	Bulgaria	42.1
Philippines	32.2	Morocco	30.6
Total	30.1	Total	38.3

Despite the entry management system in force, there remains a worrisome gap between granted authorizations and actual number of immigrants who enter every year the Italia labour market without having a residence permit allowing them working regularly, because of:

- A quota restriction policy, undersized not only in relation to the migration pressure, but also to the requirements declared by the economic system

- Law procedures that scarcely reconcile themselves with the urgency characteristics through which the demand for workforce reveals itself

- Spreading and taking roots of shadow economy, which represents an enormous absorption reservoir for immigrants' concealed labour

→Any legislator's action aimed at renewing the juridical framework concerning immigration has unavoidably been followed by an amnesty, which has always been announced as the last one

→The recurrence of regularization measures may have actually contributed to delegitimaze the normative structure, and strengthen the belief that both the Italian borders and the Italian society are extremely "porous" towards irregular immigration

Causes of Irregular Migration

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