

Chapter 13

Spatial Clustering Phenomena of the Non-Native Resident Population in Italy¹

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ABSTRACT

The profound economic, social, and cultural rights battles have taken place in recent years raise the issue of migration the subject of extensive scientific debate. In Italy, it is the presence of a diffusion model, more or less evenly distributed throughout the national territory, with some differences in the different Italian provinces (Caritas Migrantes, 2008; 2009). In the work, the authors study aims primarily to check for actual regular foreigners in their country, analyzing the economic system at the provincial level and comparing the level of employment of non-resident foreign population than foreign. This objective is reached also through the use of methods of spatial cluster aimed at the aggregation of spatial units territorially contiguous, by forcing the various units making up each cluster.

1. INTRODUCTION

The profound economic, social and cultural transformations that have taken place in recent years have placed the question of immigration at the centre of extensive scientific debate. Such phenomena involve the overcoming of territorial boundaries and affect mobility within EU coun-

tries and between both EU and non-EU countries (so-called *third* countries). The same phenomena are growing constantly and rapidly, to the extent that the number and variety of recipient countries and societies of origin and, therefore, the resulting increase in annexed linguistic, ethnic and cultural heterogeneity, has produced a “globalization” of immigration.

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Immigration policies are principally aimed at responding to the numbers of non-native residents within a territory and their access to services and rights. Likewise, integration policies have been developed in this context, principally aimed towards three broad areas: the economic (labour market integration and systems of protection) the socio-cultural environment (access to education and skills for social integration) and the political-legal (legal status and access to rights). Such policies differ according to the territory in question and are in any case highly influenced by existing legal frameworks, the productive system and immigration trends already present within a territory as well as within the EU itself. Italy presents a model of diffusion, evenly distributed throughout the country to a greater or lesser extent, with some regional variations in the various Italian provinces (Caritas Migrantes, 2009).

The present work aims to verify the effective presence of legalized non-native residents in Italy, analysing economic systems at a provincial level and comparing the occupational status of both native and non-native residents. This objective is achieved, moreover, through the use of territorial cluster methods aimed at the aggregation of geographically contiguous units of space, through the imposition of limits on the number of units making up each cluster (Patil & Taillie, 2004; Kulldorff & Nagarwalla, 1995).

2 IMMIGRANTS WITHIN THE LABOUR MARKET

2.1 Key Employment Indicators

In spite of the scenario of economic and occupational crisis emerging towards the end of 2008 and taking on ever-greater significance during 2009 and 2010, the growth of immigration has continued unabated. The non-native population residing in

Italy has demonstrated continuous steady growth accompanied by a similar increase in the foreign presence within the domestic labour market. At a European level, Italy represents one of a group of countries that has witnessed relatively “new” immigration processes, characterised by flows of young first-generation immigrants. The rates for *economic activity*², *employment*³ and *unemployment*⁴ for non-native residents are generally higher than those of native residents. The recent crisis in the labour market has contributed, however, towards a general flattening of rate differentials between native and foreign populations and the emergence of critical conditions of inclusion in the labour market in some countries, such as Spain and Finland, where the rate of unemployment amongst non-native residents has come to exceed 15% (ISTAT, 2009).

An analysis of the temporal evolution of the different rates of the non-native population in Italy by gender demonstrates a gradual and steady decline in female unemployment rates falling from 15.3% in 2005 to 11.9% in 2008, accompanied by a steady increase in female employment rates rising from 49.1% in 2005 to 52.8% in 2008. As regards the male population, an apparent increase is seen in employment rates between 2005 and 2006 (81.5% to 84.2%) and economic activity rates (87.5% to 89.0%) (see Table 1).

In 2008 the foreign labour force represented 7.6% of the national total. The *economic activity rate* of the foreign population is, however, more than ten percentage points higher than that of the native population (73.3% as compared to 63.0%). The employment rate of non-native residents also results as higher (67.1% compared to 58.7%) as does the unemployment rate (8.5% for non-native residents and 6.7% for native residents). On a regional level the differential rates between the non-native resident population and native population are more evident in the South than in the Centre or North (refer to Table 2).

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