

# Italy

## Introduction

According to the DEA analysis in St Aubyn (2009), Italy is located below the production possibility frontier, essentially due to a small number of graduations compared to the average.

## Indicators

Italy has a relatively small academic staff per capita and the number of students per capita is also below average. As regards research performance, academic staff productivity is above average, as measured by the number of publications per academic staff and the quality of research is above average, as measured by the citation index. The research output measured in number of publications per capita has increased in recent years.

**Table - Summary of indicators in St. Aubyn (2009)**

	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
IT	4,12	9	1,08	12	1,15	12
<b>best performer</b>	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
<b>worst performer</b>	RO - 1,63	26	CZ - 1,06	16	GR - 1,02	16

	Funding rules		Staff policy		Evaluation	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
IT	5,20	10	7,9	10	6,8	5
<b>best performer</b>	PT - 7,8	1	CZ, DK, NL, AT, SK, SE,	1	HU - 8,3	1
<b>worst performer</b>	SK - 2,9	18	FR - 1,8	18	GR - 2,3	18

	Academic staff	Students	Graduates	Publications	Students	Graduates	Graduates
			<i>per capita</i>		<i>per academic staff</i>		<i>per student</i>
IT	1,5	32,2	6,2	0,5	21,8	4,2	19,3
EU27	1,9	33,7	7,1	0,6	17,8	3,7	19,8

	PISA	
	Score 2000*	Rank
IT	473	15
<b>best performer</b>	FI - 540	1
<b>worst performer</b>	RO - 410	18

The number of graduates per student is below average. However the number of graduates per capita has more than doubled between 1998 and 2005 and there was a recent improvement in performance on both research and graduation outputs. Still, Italy has the highest drop-out rate in the OECD.

The recruiter review indicator, which reflects graduate employability, and the peer review indicator, which reflects the ranking of Italian Universities, are both below average. The average PISA scores are also below average.

As regards the efficiency indicators, the scores for the funding rules indicator is below average, the score of the staff policy indicator is above average and the score of the evaluation indicator is high.

### ***Policy developments***

The academic staff is ageing (in 2008 the median-age was 61 years). The staff policy tends to discourage young graduates to undertake an academic career. In order to encourage the hiring of young people, the Finance Law 2009 specified that at least 60% of new entries must be reserved to 'new researchers'.

In 2009 a new mechanism for the allocation of public funding for State Universities was introduced, which focuses on strategic objectives (the 'rewarding share'). This complements the 'baseline share' (historically-based) and the 'balancing share' (based on a set of quality indicators).

Italy has a comparatively small destination for international students. There are more outgoing than incoming students with reference to the EU area.

The majority of students who enrol for the first time at University choose a degree programme in their region of residence (80%) mainly due to the presence of University head offices or University study courses in many municipalities and economic reasons (above all expenditure for accommodation given insufficient number of University residences). Still there seems to be a certain degree of regional mobility towards more qualified Universities that ensure better quality of teaching and higher employability prospects.