

9. *Country Profile: Italy*

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9.1. Introduction

The information gathered in this profile is based on three different sources of information:

- Responses returned by the Ministero dell'Interno, Direzioni Generale dei Servizi Civili
- Background documentation (mainly statistics)
- Information gathered during visits and interviews with key actors in asylum procedure in Italy.

The visits and interviews in Italy were carried out between 25th May and 7th June 2000.

The following persons and institutions were visited:

Ministero dell'Interno, Direzione Generale dei Servizi, Civili

Head of Section, M. Compagnucci

CARITAS

Head of Section, Ms. Quyin Ngo Dinh

UNHCR

Head of Section, Mr. Ippolito

The Royal Danish Embassy

Ms. Karen Camacho, Consul

9.2. Background information on Italy

9.2.1. Trends in the number of applicants

Italy faced a steep increase in asylum seekers at the beginning of the nineties due to the war in former Yugoslavia. Figures then declined, but increased sharply in 1998 and 1999, with large influxes coming not only from the former Yugoslavia, but also from the Kurdish population of Turkey and Iraq. The overall development in number of asylum applicants from 1990-1999 can be seen from the following table:

Table 9.1: Overall development in number of asylum applicants from 1990-1999

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
3,618	24,442	2,588	1,568	1,844	648	680	1,887	13,119	Ca.15,000

Changes in the number of asylum seekers granted refugee status from 1990-1999

9.2.2. Number of statuses granted

The number of asylum seekers who has obtained refugee status has been varying during the last ten years with a minimum of status granted in 1995 (103) and a maximum of statuses granted in 1998 (1358). The average for the period is 549 persons granted refugee status per year.

Table 9.2: Changes in the number of asylum seekers granted refugee status from 1990-1999

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1,017	1203	151	168	320	103	204	397	1,358	ca. 565

9.2.3. Main countries of origin

Table 9.3 below shows the number of asylum applicants depending of country of origin. The vast majority of the applicants are from the former Yugoslavia or Iraq. It has not been possible to obtain the number of applicants from the previous years.

Table 9.3: Development in number of applicants and refugees from main countries of origin

1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
Natio- nality	Appli- cants								
						Ex-Yugo	5,298	Ex-Yugo	6,739
						Iraq	4,131	Iraq	3,401
						Turkey	2,158	Turkey	1,456
						Romania	288	Iran	161
						Sierra Leone	134	Afghani- stan	127

9.2.4. Costs

The Italian Ministry of Interior covers the costs of running the 'first reception centres' where most asylum applicants stay while waiting for a residence permit. Even though the costs are covered by the state, most centres are run by church organizations or NGOs. Social assistance to asylum seekers is to be provided by the Communes. The level of this assistance is often insufficient, and NGOs and charities provide substantial additional support to asylum seekers.

In the absence of a centrally coordinated government system for the management and funding of accommodation and social assistance to asylum seekers, a basis for calculating global costs currently does not exist.

9.3. Organisation of the asylum procedure

The key actors in relation to the Italian asylum procedure are:

Overview of Institutions involved:

- 1. Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Civil Services**
Responsibilities: Overall co-ordination of asylum policy, procedure and accommodation, provides chairperson for the Central Commission for the Granting of Refugee Status

- 2. Central Commission for the granting of Refugee Status:**
Administrative body, members nominated by the President of the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs. Chaired by Representative of the Ministry of Interior
Responsibilities: First instance examination and decision on asylum requests

- 3. Regional Administrative Courts:**
Responsibility: 1st Instance Appeal Decision

- 4. Council of State:**
Responsibility: 2nd Instance Appeal Decision

5. Departmental Police Offices (Questura): Office of the Central Government structure, on departmental (Provincia) level.

Responsibility: Registration of asylum requests and forwarding it to the Central Commission

6. Regional Administrative Courts:

Responsibility: 1st Instance Appeal Decision

7. Council of State:

Responsibility: 2nd Instance Appeal Decision

8. Communes:

Responsibilities: No direct role in the procedure, but relevant for its implementation, through their key role in organising accommodation and social services to asylum seekers. However, lack of regulatory clarity on their implementation of this role.

9. UNHCR:

Responsibility: Advisory Role, and representation in the Central Commission

9.3.1. Co-ordination

Italy's present asylum procedure falls into five main stages:

1. Submission of the initial request at the border: In principle, this is the first stage of the asylum procedure, to take place immediately upon a person's arrival in Italy. It should be noted however that in practice, the majority of asylum seekers enter Italy via sea, and very few of them present themselves to the border police upon their arrival. If a person presents himself to the Border Police, the latter formally registers the asylum application and makes a decision about its admissibility. Admissibility can be refused on a number of grounds specified by law, e.g. if the applicant has arrived from a "safe" country, or for other reasons which deny the right to asylum in accordance with national legislation and the Geneva Convention. It is possible to appeal against a negative decision; in which case the Ministry of Interior takes a second-instance decision. In practice, the majority of cases are accepted as admissible. Once the border police

has registered and accepted the request as admissible, it issues the asylum seeker with a temporary 45-day residence permit as an asylum seeker in Italy.

2. Submission of the detailed request and motivation to a Questura: The asylum seeker is requested to submit a detailed request for asylum to the Questura at the department (Provincia) where he/she chooses to register. This is based on two forms to be completed, one to provide personal details and formal information about the asylum request (“verbale”), the other to give an account of the reasons and justification for making the request (“memoria”). Because of the many countries of origin and the difficulty the communes have in providing adequate interpretation, asylum seekers may write their account in their mother tongue. The Questura registers the request and passes it within 7 days to the Central Commission for the Granting of Refugee Status.
3. Decision on Substance by the Central Commission for the Granting of Refugee Status: The Central Commission reviews the request and invites the asylum seeker for an interview, which is held in the applicant’s own language if it is spoken by at least one member of the Commission. Otherwise it is conducted in English, French, Spanish, or through an interpreter. According to Decree 136/1990, the Commission’s first instance decision must be taken within 15 days. However, due to the increased number of requests, which has yet to be matched by a corresponding increase in the Commission’s institutional capacity, a much longer period of up to 8-12 months is currently needed in practice. The Commission’s decision is of an administrative nature. The Central Commission’s decision and the justification for it are recorded in writing. Applicants receive written notification of the decision at their registered residence.
4. 1st instance appeals: In the event of a negative decision by the Central Commission, the applicant has 60 days in which to file an appeal to the Regional Administrative Court of the Region where he has his registered residence. This appeal has suspensive effect. In case the Court confirms the appeal as justified, the Central Commission has to review its decision on the case. An alternative, non-suspensive appeal can be submitted to the President of the Republic.
5. 2nd instance appeal: If the negative decision is confirmed, the possibility of a non-suspensive, second instance appeal to the Supreme Court is available.

Different procedures for specific regimes outside the normal asylum procedure:

Temporary protection:

Persons seeking temporary protection must apply – either to the border police or to the Questura - for a temporary residence permit to submit their request for temporary protection. (similar to step 1 of the regular procedure). The decision on their request is taken by the respective Questura, which may seek advice from the Central Commission.

Constitutional asylum:

Requests for the granting of constitutional asylum are submitted to and decided by the courts. Distinct from the normal asylum procedure which is of administrative nature, the decision on constitutional asylum is thus judicial. (On the institution of constitutional asylum, see further below, under legal framework).

9.4. Legal basis

Italy's asylum procedure is based on the following international and national legal instruments.

International Law:

- The Geneva Convention of 1951
- The Schengen Accord
- The Dublin Convention

National Law:

National Law:

- The Constitution of the Italian Republic of 27 December 1947 (Art. 10 (3))
- Law of 28 February 1990 No. 39 (Law on Aliens, known as *Martelli Law*). Presidential Decree 15 May 1990 No. 136 on the eligibility procedure
- The Law on Immigration (40/98; 286/98). Amongst others, it sets basic rules related to temporary protection (art. 18, 40/98, later transformed into art. 20 TU 286/98), specific rules on family reunion for refugees (art. 27, 40/98; then art.

29, 286/98) and establishes the possibility for individual humanitarian protection (art 5, 40/98; then art. 5 TU 286/98)

- Laws on temporary accommodation, related to specific groups / influxes of migrants: These were established in 1992 for people fleeing former Yugoslavia following the break up of the country; in 1997 for people fleeing Albania because of the emergency situation in this country, and in 1999, to offer protection to people fleeing the war in Kosovo . It is important to note that in responding different emergency situations, these laws also offered different conditions and benefits to the people they were covering.

It should be noted that Italy's legal framework on asylum is relatively recent. Until 1990, it was limited to the Geneva Convention and New York Protocol of 1967, and the relevant provision in the Italian Constitution.

The constitutional provision granting foreigners the right to request asylum is remarkably wide: Based on Article 10(3), "*aliens who in their own country are prevented from actually exercising the democratic freedom which is safeguarded by the Italian Constitution are entitled to asylum on Italian territory under the conditions determined by law*". The binding nature of this provision was definitely established by the Italian Supreme Court in 1997. It thereby provides the right to request *constitutional asylum*, which can be requested, and is decided upon, independently from a person's status related to the Geneva convention. However, constitutional asylum only grants a person the right to stay in the country, not the wider rights and benefits that are connected with convention status. While constitutional asylum is not frequently requested or granted, it has been applied for particular, including prominent cases, such as that of the Kurdish leader Ocalan.

The development of a specific legislative framework related to immigration and asylum started in 1990 with the adoption of an Aliens Act (Law of 28 February 1990, Nr. 39). This law, known as the *Martelli Law*, sets rules related to all foreigners. Provisions regarding asylum seekers are limited mainly to conditions required for admission to the territory and the appeal procedure. Of particular relevance is the fact that with this law, Italy also withdrew its original geographical reservation of the Geneva Convention, which had limited Italy's openness to refugees to persons from European countries.

In 1998, a specific law on immigration was passed (Nr. 286 of 1998), replacing the respective rules on immigration contained in the Martelli Law. A respective law on

asylum and humanitarian protection has been drafted and adopted by the Senate, but is still pending before the Chamber of Deputies. The current, rather tense public climate regarding non-European foreigners (“extracomunitarii”), and forthcoming elections in 2001, make a passing of the law in the next year period appear unlikely. (See also in final chapter, on political situation)

A number of provisions in the Law on Immigration presently also apply to asylum seekers: Thus based on article 40 of the Law, Italy’s Communes have a primary role in the reception of incoming foreigners. However, there are no harmonised or coordinated regulations on the application of this norm, and this lack of completeness in the legislation has led to regional differences and altogether to a low level of action by the municipality in favour of asylum seekers. The Law also grants immigrants and persons with residence permits (which includes registered asylum seekers) access to social protection and health care, however, without specifying implementation arrangements. This shifts responsibility to define and set up implementation arrangements to the municipalities, and creates uncertainty for asylum seekers regarding their rights for basic assistance. In the absence of binding legislation or central government coordination and assistance, each municipality sets up its own arrangements. In practice, most assistance is provided by local NGOs, under cooperation agreements with the municipalities. In some municipalities, including Rome, no formal arrangements have yet been set up such such cooperation.

9.5. Arrangements immediately upon arrival

Under the Martelli law (Art.1), aliens must submit their initial request for asylum to the border police as soon as they enter the country.

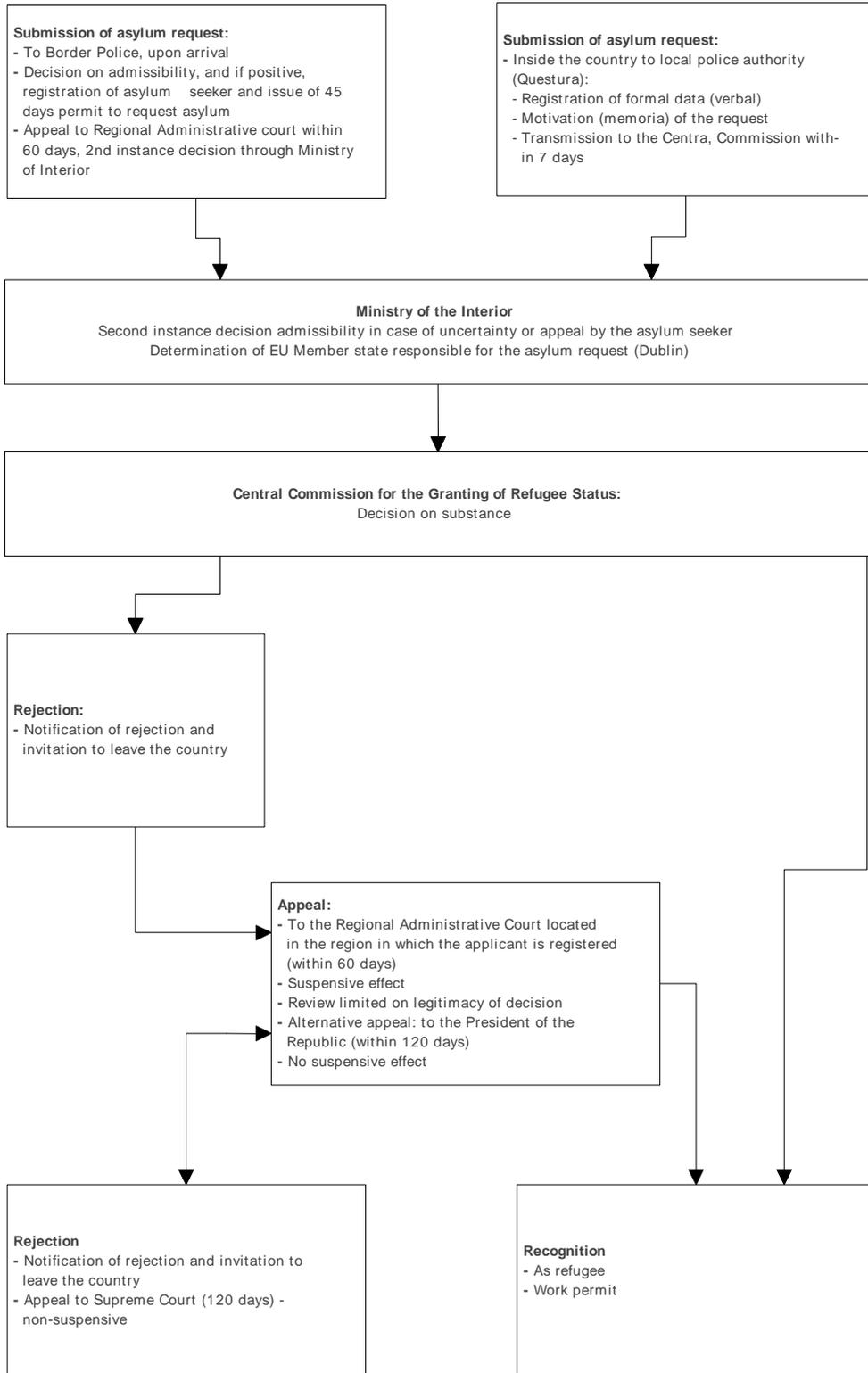
As previously described, this stage however only results in the formal identification and registration of the asylum seeker and a decision on admissibility. Through interviews, the police and/or NGOs also provide information to asylum seekers about the asylum procedures and the legal rights and obligations they enjoy to which they are entitled

The Border Police considers and decides on the admissibility of the request, which can be refused on a number of grounds specified by law, e.g. if an asylum seeker comes from a “safe” country, or for other reasons which exclude the right to asylum according to national legislation and the Geneva Convention. An appeal against a

negative decision is possible, and in practice the majority of cases are accepted as admissible. The border police then issues a temporary 45-day residence permit to enable the asylum seeker to request asylum in Italy. This action completes the first phase of the asylum procedure.

The asylum seeker is now asked to go to go and register at a Commune of his/her choice in Italy, and to file the actual asylum request to a departmental police office (Questura). No further guidance or assistance is provided to asylum seekers at this stage. According to the Ministry of Interior and the UNHCR, a significant number of people arriving in Italy intend to request asylum in other EU countries. These people usually escape the Italian system after the initial registration.

Figure 9.1: The asylum and reception procedure



The repeated waves of asylum seekers arriving in the southern region of Puglia led to emergency situations during initial arrival. Therefore, two reception centres were established in Puglia to provide for the accommodation of asylum seekers while awaiting their initial identification and registration. One of these centres is run by the Catholic Church, and the other by a social-sector NGO under a co-operation agreement with the Ministry of the Interior.

9.6. Accommodation

There are two reception centres, which serve the initial sheltering of asylum seekers upon their arrival and until the first stage of the procedure / registration / has been completed. These two centres are located in the Province of Lecce in Puglia. One is run by the local catholic church (circa 800 places), the other by the nongovernmental organization CTM (circa 500 places). The existence and location of these centres is explained by the large number and often massive influx of asylum seekers in this region of Italy, which is geographically particularly exposed to people coming in by sea. The reception centres offer basic care and are of a simple standard, their purpose being to provide temporary accommodation for 4-10 days.

For the accommodation of asylum seekers, no government system and/or budgetary funds currently exist. Consequently, there are few accommodation places, and these are organised by the church and social sector NGOs, largely under co-operation agreements with the Communes. Their overall capacity is estimated at ca. 2,500 places. The largest concentrations are in Rome (circa 540 places in centres run by 15 different organisations) and Milan (circa 500 places).

Table 9.4: Reception and accommodation centres

Number of reception centres	2
Capacity of reception centres	1,300
Number of accommodation centres	ca, 500
Capacity of accommodation centres	ca, 2,500
Total capacity of reception/accommodation centres	3,800
Number of persons accommodated in private housing	unknown

Table 9.4 above shows the capacity of Italian reception and accommodation facilities. Since there is no central government system of accommodation of asylum seekers, no exact figures on the number of accommodation structures exist, but current estimations of the Government and UNHCR mention circa 500 establishments.

9.6.1. Names and addresses of reception and accommodation centres

PLS Ramboll Management has not received any information on names and addresses of reception and accommodation centres or on authority financing the accommodation in reception and accommodation facilities.

9.6.2. Special treatment

Two main types of centres exist – one for families and mothers with children, and one for single men. The size and standard of these establishments varies greatly, depending on the facilities available and the capacities and professionalism of the provider organisation.

Single men are sometimes placed in centres originally intended for immigrants. These centres close during the day, on the assumption that immigrants, who have access to the labour market, then leave the centre to work. This puts asylum seekers, who are not permitted to work, on the street – i.e. without home or occupation - during the day.

The communes provide special accommodation for unaccompanied children. Otherwise no special accommodation for asylum seekers with special needs or for families is provided. By contrast, the Temporary Protection Regime (Legge Puglia) provides for special accommodation for families, as well as for specific ethnic and religious groups.

9.6.3. Standard of reception and accommodation facilities

The standard in the different reception centres varies across the country. Especially in the central and southern regions the conditions are extremely poor. The local authorities have not been able to construct sufficient reception centres - this means there is a great pressure on the existing ones. Since accommodation is only granted for a limited period of time asylum seekers have constructed unofficial camps in the suburbs of many of the larger cities. These camps are of a very bad standard often lacking sanitary installations and electricity.

9.6.4. Possible changes and developments

PLS RAMBOLL Management has not received any information suggesting that changes are about to be made with respect to the accommodation of asylum seekers.

9.7. Means of subsistence

Having received a temporary residence permit, asylum seekers lacking their own means of subsistence receive an allowance of 34,000 lire (circa 17 Euros) per day up to a maximum of 45 days. This sum is paid by the Ministry of Interior through the local administration (Prefettura) where the asylum seeker is registered.

The relatively short period for providing financial assistance corresponds to the previous brief period of circa 20 days in which decisions on the limited number of asylum cases in Italy used to be taken. Due to the current overburdening of the system, decisions take up to 12 months or more, so asylum seekers remain without regular subsistence for most of their waiting time. Some Communes continue to provide financial assistance to asylum seekers out of their own budgets after the first 45 days, and asylum seekers can turn to NGOs for shelter and other assistance.

People under the temporary protection regime are entitled to financial assistance for the entire period of their temporary stay in Italy.

Table 9.5: Financial assistance for independent asylum seekers at centres

	Cash	Kind
All individual asylum seekers	34,000 / 17,5 EUROS per day in max. 45 days	Ad hoc, mostly through NGOs

9.7.1. Possible changes

PLS RAMBOLL Management has not received any information suggesting that changes are about to be made with respect to the financial assistance granted asylum seekers.

9.8. Access to education

No official arrangements or programmes for education or training exist for adult asylum seekers. Children do have such access and are obliged to attend primary but not secondary education.

Table 9.6: Access to education

	Children	Adults
Mother tongue tuition	Under the Temporary Protection Regime, as far as possible	No

Language tuition	Provided by Communes / NGOs according to their resources	
Access to primary school	Yes	No
Access to secondary school	No	No
Access to vocational training	No	No
Access to further education	No	No

9.8.1. Possible changes

PLS Ramboll Management has not received any information suggesting that changes are about to be made with respect to the education of asylum seekers.

9.9. Access to the labour market

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work. However, given the absence of financial assistance during most of the procedure, most do in fact work illegally to make a living. In view of the long waiting periods, the government is considering to grant asylum seekers the right to work after the first 6 months.

People under some temporary protection regime have been granted access to the labour market, under the specific conditions set out in the regime. Full access to the labour market was granted to persons being granted temporary protection during the Kosovo crisis. The regime for persons from former Yugoslavia granted a right to work after 1 year, while the regime for people fleeing Albania during the 1997 crisis, altogether limiting protection to 3 months, did not foresee a right to work.

9.9.1. Possible changes

PLS RAMBOLL Management has not received any information suggesting that changes are about to be made with respect to the accommodation of asylum seekers.

9.10. Access to health care

The Law on immigration provides for people with residence permits, which includes registered asylum seekers, having access to State health care. They are, however, not covered by regular national health schemes and care is mostly restricted to emergency cases and the treatment of serious illnesses. In practice, asylum seekers' access to health care is restricted by a lack of clear information and guidance on their rights and points of access.

The temporary protection regime grants full access to national health care services.

Table 9.7: Access to health care

	Children	Pregnant women	Adults	Victims of torture or rape
Health screening on arrival	No	No	No	No
Psychological assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other specific Health Care for persons with special needs	Yes	Yes		Yes
Enrolment in health care programme	No	No	No	No

9.10.1. Possible changes

PLS RAMBOLL Management has not received any information suggesting that changes are about to be made with respect to the health care provided to asylum seekers.

9.11. Rules on detention and other restrictions on free movement

It is possible for the Italian authorities to take asylum seekers, whose identity is being investigated, to temporary holding centres run by the Red Cross. The police are allowed to detain asylum seekers for a maximum of twenty days.

Once the asylum seeker has obtained temporary residence permit he/she cannot be detained unless the person commits a crime.

If an asylum seeker does not obtain refugee status the person can be detained for a maximum of 20 days in a temporary holding centre before being expelled. This period can be prolonged with another 10 days if the police need more time to make the necessary travel arrangements.

9.12. Differences in treatment according to the stage of the asylum procedure and the type of status sought

There are some differences in treatment of the asylum seekers depending on the stage of the asylum procedure – or rather the number of days the asylum seeker has been in the country. In general the state gives financial assistance in the beginning of the stay in the country, but after this initial period asylum seekers are left to their own devices and depend assistance given by NGOs and charities.

The main difference depending of type of status sought is that persons seeking temporary protection get financial assistance from the state during the whole stay and persons seeking permanent permission to stay do not. Furthermore, temporary protection regimes have granted, albeit to varying extent, a right to work.

Table 9.8: Differences in treatment

Differences in treatment according to:			
	Stage of asylum procedure	Type of status sought	Vulnerable groups
Accommodation	Asylum seekers stay in reception centres for the first 4-10 days while registration (examination of admissibility) is completed. After recognition of admissibility they are moved to an accommodation centre.	No.	Special accommodation is provided for unaccompanied children only, who live in special centres. The Temporary Protection Regime provides for special accommodation for families and specific ethnic and religious groups.
Means of subsistence	Asylum seekers lacking their own means receive financial assistance for a maximum of 45 days after obtaining temporary residence. After 45 days the asylum seekers may turn to NGOs for shelter and other assistance.	Persons seeking temporary protection receive financial assistance for the entire period of their stay in Italy.	No.
Education		No.	No.
Labour market related activities	Asylum seekers are not allowed to work.	People under temporary protection have access to the labour market.	No.
Health care	Registered asylum seekers including people with residence permits have access to state health care. However, treatment is mostly restricted to emergency cases and the treatment of serious illnesses.	People under temporary protection have full access to national health care.	Special mental health care is provided for victims of torture and other organised violence, the mentally ill and for persons suffering from post-traumatic stress. Special health care is provided for minors and pregnant women.

9.13. Political atmosphere surrounding refugees and immigrants

9.13.1. The public debate

Like other EU countries, Italy has been facing a rise in the number of asylum seekers over the past few years. This is partly due to the general rise in international migration

flows to the EU. In addition, the entry into force of the Dublin Convention in Italy in 1997, also led to an augmentation of asylum applications in Italy, by requiring persons who entered Italy with the intention to request asylum in another EU country to submit their asylum request in Italy as the country of their first entry. The insufficient response of successive governments to cope with this influx of asylum seekers into the country has added to a sense of unease and confusion in the public debate about this issue.

9.13.2. The political debate

So far, no fundamental measures have been taken to adapt the existing system to the increased number of asylum cases. The main problems of the current asylum system can be summarised as follows:

- 1) the inadequacy of the existing asylum system to cope with the present large numbers of requests: This includes the staffing and organisation of the Central Commission, institutional capacities of the Questure to receive asylum requests, and institutional capacities and human resources of the border policy dealing with first entry.
- 2) The lack of a particular and detailed legal base on asylum, including implementation regulation.
- 3) A lack of central co-ordination, clear definition of roles, and co-ordination between the various entities dealing with implementation (Communes, NGOs).
- 4) The major role given to Communes in the registration and social assistance to asylum seekers, without adequate guidance and funding mechanisms to fulfil this role.; and
- 5) The lack of government policy and programmes for providing orientation and social support to asylum seekers during their waiting period, leading to a precarious social situation for the majority of asylum seekers, as well as a high degree of dispersion outside the official system.

The draft law on asylum constitutes a much needed legal basis to strengthen the clarity and effectiveness of Italy's asylum system. Inter alia, the law foresees a clearer definition of competences, institutional measures to accelerate the procedure, and stronger central government support to the communes for providing social and integration assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. This draft law was passed by the Senate in November 1998. It has, however, since then not been adopted by the Chamber of Deputies.

The fact that this important law has so far not been passed can be explained by a number of factors: the politically sensitive nature of asylum in general, the lack of clarity and hence apprehensive attitude among the public with regard to this issue, and frequent confusion with related issues such as illegal immigration. Against this background, the current left wing government coalition has been hesitant to pursue and active asylum policy on the domestic level, and it is unlikely that this will change before the parliamentary elections next year. Strong and binding rules on asylum procedures on the EU level are therefore in Italy's declared interest, not only to achieve greater harmonisation of conditions and "burden sharing", but also as a lever for more rapid progress on the domestic level. Given Italy's geographically exposed location at the southern and south eastern border of the EU, it has a strong interest in EU-cooperation and burden sharing related to temporary protection of people fleeing crisis situations. In particular Italy argues that if minimal standards for the reception and social rights of or asylum seekers or persons benefiting from temporary protection regimes are to be established at EU level, then the related costs must be equally shared by member states.

Looking back at the domestic level, our discussions with the different interlocutors in Italy showed a growing consciousness that the government should take more responsibility and develop active policies for the reception of asylum seekers, rather than leaving most action – as it currently does – to the nongovernmental sector.

The Ministry of Interior, together with the UNHCR and the Italian National Association of Municipalities (Associazione Nazionale dei Comuni Italiani, ANCI) is presently preparing a pilot programme to set up a national, integrated system for the reception, orientation and social assistance to asylum seekers. This programme is foreseen to start at the beginning of 2001 with a preliminary duration of 1 year. Ahead of new legislation being adopted, it could well serve to alleviate some of the current problems, as well as to test possible institutional arrangements, mechanisms for co-ordination and means for implementation for improving the system in the long term.

9.13.3. International co-operation

Italy is participating in a range of intergovernmental co-operations regarding asylum policies. These include the following organisations and tasks:

IGC (Intergovernmental Consultations)

- Informal forum for exchange of information and statistics

- Working groups on various subjects such as countries of origin and smuggling

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

- Participation in workshops and seminars
- Reception of refugees referred by UNHCR
- Information on countries of origin

Council of Europe/CAHAR (Ad hoc Committee of Experts on the legal aspect of territorial asylum, refugees and stateless persons)

- Reporting to the Council of Europe
- Exchange of experience
- Investigations, meetings and seminars on refugee- and asylum issues
- Writing of proposals for resolutions to the Committee of Ministers

