

**THE INTEGRATION OF YOUNG MIGRANTS IN EUROPE:
CONFRONTING EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES**

COOPERATIVA
S O C I A L E



IL PONTE



CULTURE & IDENTITY

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The impact of immigration in the Italian society: the cultural context

- **The immigration phenomenon has created deep, radical changes in Italian society. Those changes involve several fields: social, cultural, economic and political life.**
- **In order to reach a positive integration between all the ethnic groups we need a rebuilding of all those social balances.**



The cultural context

- **The immigration flow to Italy is from more than 191 countries**
- **In the few recent years the Italian cultural background has faced the challenge of melting with foreign extra-European cultures**



The religious identity

- **The largest religious group in Italy, according to various estimates, is Catholics (97 %), followed by the Muslims (1.5 %); then there are 363,000 Protestants, 230,000 Jehovah's Witnesses, 30,000 Buddhists and 30,000 Jews in Italy.**
- **Religious denominations (excepted for the Catholic Church) have the rights to organize themselves according to their own statutes. Their relationship with the State is regulated through bilateral agreements, known as *intese*, between the Italian State and the Italian representatives of each denomination, (article 8.3 of the Italian Constitution).**
- **Now a days, a draft law on religious freedom and on the bilateral agreements is going to be discuss and will be submitted for approval to Parliament.**



Islam in Italy

- Islam has become the second religion in Italy, the Muslim immigrant community counts almost 1 million people and its process of reaching rights as a group is definitely under way. These facts and their mediatic echo produce a sort of polarization of the civil society and of the political class .
- A good example is provided by the issue of the construction of mosques and smaller sites for prayer, which has usually been one of the first step in the process of reaching visibility of Islam in Europe.



The best practices identified Intercultural education in Italy

The subjects of intercultural education are:

- **education on global issues** (human rights, ecology, peace, etc.), without specific reference to differences;
- information and exercises against racism and intolerance, without directly addressing the substance of other cultures, religions, traditions, and peoples;
- **World wide open minded** teaching about other cultures, religions, traditions, or peoples, without explicitly addressing issues of intolerance;
- **intercultural education**, aimed at promoting exchanges, fusion, or (as the Prime Minister's programme states) "*contamination*" following the encounter of different cultures.



The best practices identified

At the local level:

- **ARTURO Project** - intercultural education at school promoted by the Arturo Association of Santa Croce sull'Arno.
- Linguistic and cultural intermediation in pisan area schools promoted by **AMIC** (Associazione dei Mediatori Culturali).
- **The Intercultural Day** organized by Istituzione Centro Nord-Sud in Pisa.

For more information:
www.centronordsud.it



The best practices identified

- "Porto Franco" **Project**, promoted by the DG for Education Policies, Heritage and Cultural Activities of Regione Toscana.

Since 1999, the idea of Tuscany as a "free port" open to all kind of diversities (genre, age, cultural background, etc.) has taken shape in a network involving the regional administration, Tuscany's 10 Provinces, more than 200 city councils and nearly 100 public and private "intercultural centres", through a bottom-up and a top-down process simultaneously.



The best practices identified

At the national level:

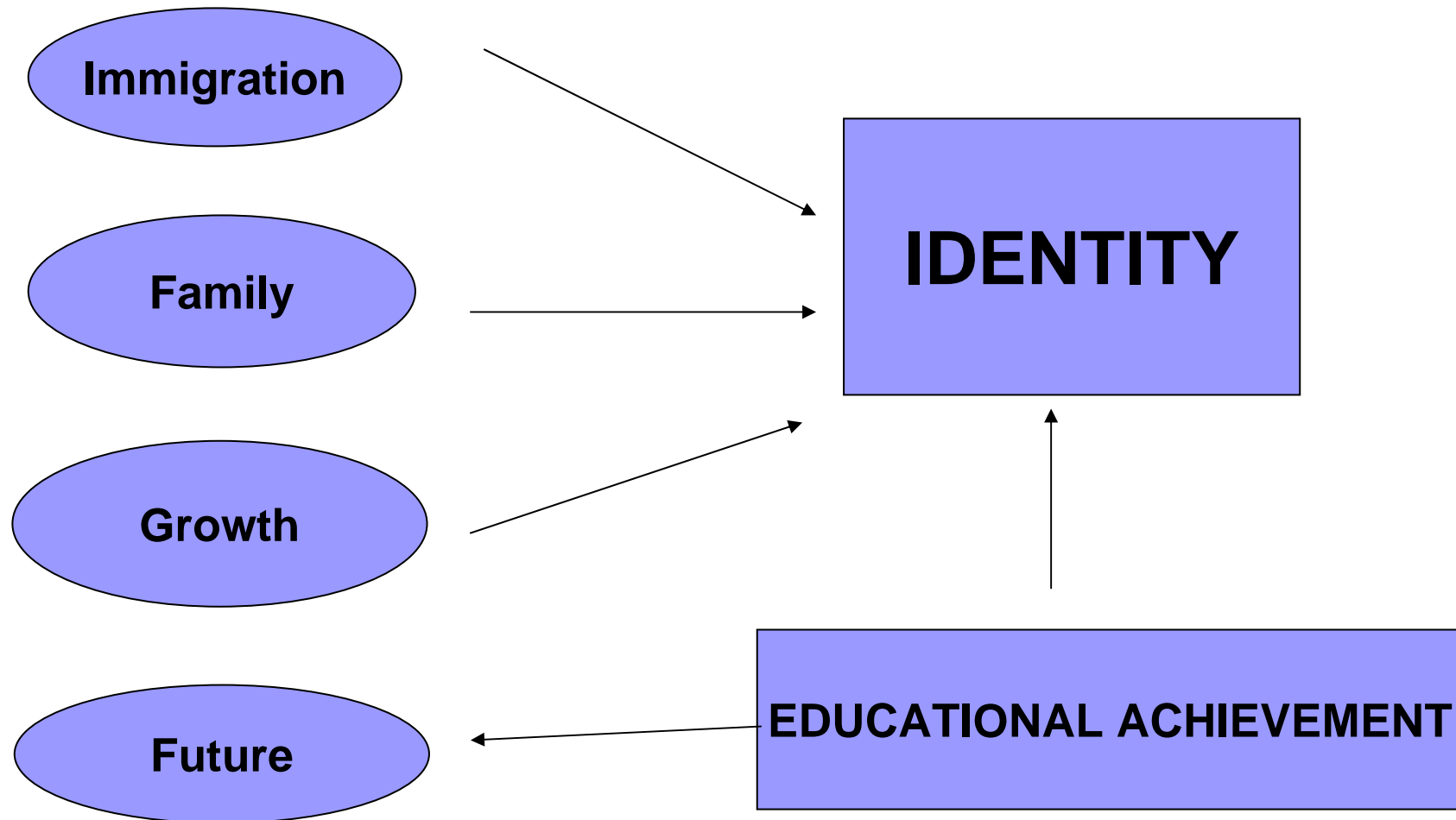
- **Educazione Interculturale Project by Rai Educational**

For more information:

<http://www.educational.rai.it/corsiformazione/intercultura/default.htm>

The Second Generation:

Foreign people between roots and future





Second Generation:

Difficulties and needs

The major difficulties faced by young migrants are:

- Marginalization in the groups of peers
- not match relation with mother language e contact with country of origin
- generational conflict inside the family
- Italian language and Integration into school

needs:

- value cultural diversity;
- understand the behaviour of others to solve problems arising from cultural misunderstandings;
- develop strategies and techniques to handle concrete conflicts arising from expectations,
- Italian language courses
- courses about mother language and mother cultures




Priority ladder

Integration field

- **Acceptance duty**
- **Build the educational achievement according to the different backgrounds**
- **Lead to job application**
- **Support high affluence schools**

Cross-cultural field

- **Cross-cultural education for school's teachers**
- **L2 first-approach language**
- **Upgrade the use of linguistic and cultural mediator**
- **Use of international curriculum**
- **Involve the parents of the foreign students**



Examples of good practice

- DEA- intercultural education Project of the language and country history of the roots, promoted by the Albanian Association “DEA” of Pisa.
for more information: www.dea-associazione.com
- Arabian language and culture courses for children in Santa Croce sull'Arno district.



Migrants and media

- **the role of media is very important in the construction of our perception of migrant people**
- **various journalists highlighted the critical role the media continues to play in portraying a negative image of migrants and associating members of the Muslim faith with crime, invasion, danger, stereotypes and prejudice of migrant people**
- **civil society and journalists stressed the need to sensitize the media concerning their responsibility in fighting racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination, and proposals were made for the elaboration of a media code of conduct in this regard**



Examples of good practice:

- *Agenzia Migra* is the first information agency in Europe with a staff prevalently made up of migrant correspondents, and promotes a close collaboration between autochthonous and immigrant journalists for an accurate representation of foreign communities in the Italian media;



Immigration and integration

The media agency most used by foreign people

- <http://metropoli.repubblica.it/>


on line agency of multi ethnic Italian society.

- www.stranieriinitalia.it

the web site concerning immigration with informatios abuot italian law and foreign citizens rights.

- www.associna.com

Association Comunità Cinese second generation. The website is promoted by a group of chinese and italian students,workers and entrepreneur. Inside of the website it's possibile to share at a forum and chat.



The role of the association for integration

- **foreign associations in Italy are spreading throughout the peninsula: there were 893 in 2000, of which 74% were cultural, 83% were for assistance and information technology services, 72% for housing assistance, and 70% for legal advice.**
- **there are also a number of associations that provide assistance with work or economic support. They play a fundamental role for immigrants, especially during the first stages after arrival, in which they need a massive amount of support in order to face daily problems (language, housing, work) as well as psychological and integration problems in general.**
- **Moreover, associations play a very important role for Italian citizens too. In fact, pedagogic (meetings, intercultural education seminars etc.) and artistic (exhibitions, ethnic music, dance, and art courses) initiatives, favor intercultural dialogue amongst all of the people living in the new Italian society (including natives).**



Examples of good practice

- **At the local level, the City of Pisa stands out for its innovative attitude towards civic integration of immigrant communities.**
A Special Council Multi-Ethnic has been appointed in 2006, elected by migrant residents, and a great effort placed on the creation of a network of formal and informal representative bodies.
- **Such institutional innovations have drawn the attention of other Italian cities, so much so that new councils for multi-ethnicity and religions are currently being planned by Florence, Turin and Bologna.**



The best practices identified

- **Project *Fondazione ISMU's* – MILANO**

"Cultural heritage and integration" programme explores innovative methodologies and tools for the planning and evaluation of "intercultural" heritage education activities jointly developed by partners working in different institutional contexts (cultural sector, schools, local authorities, associations, cultural mediators, etc.).

For more information: ***www.ismu.org***



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

THE END