



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

GlocalEAST

Developing a new curriculum in Global Migration, Diaspora and Border

Studies in East-Central Europe

Project number: 2020-1-SK01-KA203-078263

GlocalEAST

Review of the HE programs in migration, diaspora and border studies - Italy

Date: December 2020

Version: Draft

Author: Marco Puleri (University of Bologna) – Annex I has been realized in collaboration with Marco Zoppi (University of Bologna)

Legal notice: This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the view or legislation of the European Commission. This report reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for the contents and any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Contents

Introduction	3
General information on the educational offer	4
Major characteristics of the programs	5
Final considerations	12
Annexes	14



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Introduction

The **GlocalEAST strategic partnership in migration, diaspora and border studies** is designed to address the contemporary Global and Local challenges in East-Central Europe by promoting research, practice and political links in dealing with migration issues, following both transnational and trans-sectoral perspectives. The project embodies the simultaneous creation of an innovative curriculum in Migration, Diaspora and Border Studies and a platform of experts from academic, NGOs and local governmental institutions monitoring migration and integration processes in East-Central Europe.

Within the frame of the activities planned by the consortium for delivering the first project output (“Transnational report on educational and training needs analysis”), here we present the national report on the Higher Education programs in migration, diaspora and border studies that are currently active in Italy. The aim of the report can be summarized as follows:

- To review higher education programs focusing on migration, diaspora and border studies in Italy.
- To map and summarize the characteristics of these programs at the national level.
- To assess the role and importance of these programs within the tertiary educational system, most notably within the field of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In order to provide a comprehensive overview of the educational offer in Italy, the author of the report has adopted the following methodology and tools:

- An extensive web-based search of the main programs running at national level.
- A classification of the programs according to level, disciplines and learning outcomes.
- A web-based survey shared among the coordinators of the programs identified during the previous steps of the investigation.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Finally, this report is supplemented by the following annexes:

- A table in excel format summarizing the list of programs.
- The template of the web-based questionnaire shared with the coordinators of the programs and survey data.

General Information on the Educational Offer

The general framework of the educational offer currently active in Italy at national level is very heterogeneous, including highly diverse structures and foci. In this report we collected the main information concerning programs in migration studies, where sub-fields in border and diaspora issues are mostly addressed. Throughout the last 30 years a true trend has developed in Italy around the study of migration, bringing to the creation and launch of several programs addressing research of migration dynamics from different scientific perspectives.

While gathering data for drafting this report, we collected information about **25 programs** currently active in Italy. The programs are mainly promoted by higher education institutions (**17 public institutions; 1 private institution**), whereby we also included in our analysis the training/specialization courses run by **2 non-academic institutions**. As for the level of the programs, the postgraduate level generally prevails, including **8 MA programs, 9 First level Master degree (60 ECTS)** and **5 Second level Master degrees (60 ECTS)**. Finally, specialization and training courses are hosted by both academic and non-academic institutions, and are generally open also to undergraduate students, NGO workers and cultural mediators. Here we selected the most representative programs among the ones currently running at Italian institutions.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Major characteristics of the programs

In this section of the report, we will analyse in detail the major characteristics of the programs mentioned above. In order to provide a comparative analysis of the programs, we have structured the investigation according to 3 different levels (MA programs; Master degrees; Specialization Courses and Non-academic programs) and 3 analytical categories (Thematic and geographic scope; Core disciplines; Skills/Occupational profiles).

a) MA PROGRAMS

The MA programs in migration studies currently running in Italy are 8 in total. Out of these, 5 programs address an international audience (teaching language: English), while 3 have a domestic scope (teaching language: Italian). Most of these programs have been created quite recently, since 5 out of 8 programs have been launched in the last 5 years. In some cases, these are study tracks devoted to migration dynamics, which have been created as a result of the further development of established programs in international relations (U. of Pisa) or historical studies (U. of Padua).

The thematic scope of the programs is quite heterogeneous. These are generally interdisciplinary programs, but are mostly grounded in legal studies. Among the recurrent core courses, we may identify: International and Comparative Law; European Law; Sociology of migration. Among the programs reported in the annex I, a special case is embodied by the MA *Crossing the Mediterranean: towards Investment and Integration*, which boasts a characterising interdisciplinary approach. Previously, the program was an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, jointly offered by Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier. Now the course is jointly organised with the latter, and in collaboration with the University of Sousse (Tunisia) and the Moulay Ismail University of Meknès (Morocco). Though focused on area studies, it is highly interdisciplinary, including courses in legal studies, social and political sciences, history and geography, and language studies.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

In MA programs, the geographic scope generally embraces domestic dynamics, the EU and the Mediterranean region.

Among the skills/occupational profiles targeted by the programs, we may identify very different objectives and foci, as follows:

Eg.

- "Experts, researchers and officials in the field of project management, definition and testing, in the field of international cooperation and integration policies in public and private entities and bodies (Public Administration, international organizations, local institutions and the business world). Officials in national and supranational bodies engaged in international cooperation and in the management of migratory flows and asylum seekers. Diplomatic career (Legation secretary - after passing a public competition). Experts working in NGOs as aid workers and in the management of international projects" (U. of Bergamo, MA in *Human Rights, migration and international cooperation*).
- "Graduates of this course may have access to: positions in public institutions, as officials and administrative managers at the national, regional and local level; positions with high responsibility in supranational and international institutions, both universal and regional; positions in non-governmental organizations engaged in the areas of migration and the right to asylum and international protection; positions in cooperatives active in the area of reception and integration of migrants, at the local, regional, national and supranational level, particularly as far as the management of the reception structures provided by the current legislation is concerned (CPR, hotspots); positions in public and private research centres (e.g. think tanks and foundations), trade unions, trade associations, with respect to the analysis of migration policies and the formulation of project proposals; partisan or office consultancy in legal disputes." (U. of Palermo, MA in *Migration, Rights, Integration*).



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

b) MASTER DEGREES

The HEI Master degrees belong to a specific educational level recognized by national educational institutions in Italy. Differently from other European educational systems, the Italian HEI Master degrees are awarded after attending “scientific specialization courses” (“corsi di specializzazione scientifica e di alta formazione permanente e ricorrente”) run by national HEIs. The First level Master degrees (minimum 60 ECTS) correspond to the 7th level of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), providing specialization and continuing education in specific fields. They can be accessed after earning a Bachelor degree (Italian “Laurea”, or a comparable foreign qualification). The Second level Master degrees (minimum 60 ECTS) correspond to the 8th level of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), providing a higher level of specialization and continuing education in specific fields. They can be accessed after earning a Master degree (Italian Laurea Magistrale, or a comparable foreign qualification). Both First and Second Level Master degrees are usually run by HEIs in collaboration with external institutions (i.e. governmental institutions, NGOs, research and cultural institutions).

The master degrees in migration studies currently running in Italy are 14 (9 First level master degrees; 5 Second level master degrees), thus embodying the largest portion of the educational offer at national level.

Out of these, only 2 programs address an international audience (in selected courses, teaching language is English), while 12 have a domestic scope (teaching language: Italian). Most of the master degrees seem to have a quite longer tradition than MA programs, as in most cases they have been launched in late 1990s and are the result of longstanding cooperation with international organisations and NGOs (see the case of the Master in *Migration Law* run by the U. of Bergamo, in cooperation with IOM, International Catholic Migration Commission and Italian Council for Refugees).

The thematic scope of the master degrees is quite heterogeneous. These are generally interdisciplinary programs, but are mostly oriented to migration management and migrants’ integration, and grounded in legal studies, economics, sociology, and psychology. Among the recurrent core courses, we may identify: law



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

studies; protection of asylum seekers and refugees; sociology; education/pedagogy; psychology.

The geographic scope generally embraces domestic dynamics, the EU and the Mediterranean region.

Among the skills/occupational profiles targeted by the programs, we may identify very specific professional skills, as follows:

e.g.

- “The Master aims to train and update professional figures capable of operating, with a coordinating role, in contact with immigrants and alongside cultural mediators, health workers, educators, social workers, law enforcement agencies, public officials, operators involved in hospitality. Faced with the complexity and extreme variability of the migratory phenomenon, the manager of reception and migratory integration must possess multidisciplinary skills and activate different levels of operations to trigger processes of integration and social inclusion, reduce the risks of marginalization and isolation and favor integration and reception actions in the host territory” (U. of Cassino, *Master in management of migrants reception and integration*).
- “The Master's aim is to train and enhance the planning and management skills of professionals who are called upon to design, manage and monitor services and measures aimed at facilitating integration of immigrants and their families. The professional skills produced and enhanced by the Master find their use in the Administrations of the State, in local Administrations and in Third Sector organizations, with reference to design, management and monitoring of services and measures aimed at integrating migrants and their families. These professional skills can also be used in companies, in roles related to human resources and the promotion of corporate social responsibility” (U. of Pavia, *Master in Immigration, Gender, Familiar models and Integration Strategies*).



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The coordinators of the master degrees have been the most responsive to the questionnaire (annex II - 4 out of 5 responses received), thus providing a quite comprehensive understanding of the rationale behind the formation of the programs. According to the additional information provided by the survey, for example, the second level Master degree in *Migration management, reception and inclusion* (U. of Naples Federico II) has been recently launched (a.y. 2019-2020), as a result of the restructuring of the former First level Master degree in *Immigration and Public Policy of reception and integration*. The average number of enrolled students is 15, including Italian, EU and extra-EU participants. The Master degree is organized in cooperation with the Association for Law Studies on Immigration (ASGI) and the social co-operative DEDALUS. The inter-sectoral rationale behind master degrees, which mostly provide students with internship opportunities (200 hours) at partner NGOs, associations or state and international organizations, is the most prominent feature of this portion of educational offer in Italy: the same is true for the Master of Sciences in *Migration and Development* (U. of Rome La Sapienza; launched in 2017), the Master in *Human Rights, Migration, Routes of Intercultural Inclusion* (U. of Bologna; launched in 2001), and the Master on *Immigration* (U. of Venice Ca' Foscari; launched in 1999).

c) SPECIALIZATION COURSES AND NON-ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Specialization and training courses are hosted by both academic and non-academic institutions, and are generally open also to undergraduate students, NGO workers and cultural mediators. Here we selected 3 most representative programs among the ones currently running at Italian institutions.

Generally, these programs address a domestic audience (only in selected courses, teaching language is English), covering educational skills which are usually missing in the national offer at other levels (see above, MA and master degrees). Most of these programs seem to have a quite younger tradition than programs running at other levels, as in most cases they are aimed to respond to missing competences and skills in the labour market.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The thematic scope of the programs is quite heterogeneous and frequently adapted to specific circumstances. These are generally interdisciplinary programs, but are mostly oriented to migration management and migrants' integration, and grounded in legal studies.

The geographic scope generally embraces domestic dynamics and the Mediterranean region.

Among the skills/occupational profiles targeted by the programs, we may identify very specific professional skills, as follows:

e.g.

- “The course aims to train legal operators specialized in the protection of foreign citizens who request - or to whom it has been recognized - a form of international protection or who are in the condition of victims of trafficking or severe exploitation or who are in Italy in status of unaccompanied foreign minors. This is a substantially innovative figure in Italy, which has not yet obtained formal recognition, but is considered by many to be fundamental in this sector. This professional figure is required to have a wide range of interdisciplinary skills, ranging from an accurate knowledge of the national and international legislation of reference, to a good command of the current geo-political framework; or again, from a basic familiarity with the main notions of forensic medicine to a strong capacity for building the territorial network necessary to ensure maximum protection for the recipient of the service, as well as relational and anthropological skills relating to cultural mediation” (ASGI – Association for Law Studies on Immigration, *Training course for legal operators specialized in international protection, protection of victims of trafficking and exploitation of human beings and reception of unaccompanied foreign minors*).

According to the additional information provided by the survey, for example, the *Training course for legal operators specialized in international protection, protection of victims of trafficking and exploitation of human beings and reception of*



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

unaccompanied foreign minors (ASGI) has been recently launched (2015), and its educational offer and course diagram is quite flexible, as being frequently readapted to specific needs arising in the social and labour spheres. The average number of enrolled students is high (50 students), including exclusively Italian participants.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Final considerations

According to the results of the report, at the time of writing we may identify the following trends and characterising features of the educational offer in Italy in the field of migration studies:

- The overall educational offer targets national students and has a domestic scope (Italy and EU). The number of programs in migration studies across the country is quite large, considering the novelty of this trend, but still does not cover the whole country. Globally, master degrees embody the largest portion of the educational offer at the national level, while the launch of MA programs in migration studies represents a quite recent trend.
- MA programs still do not follow a full-fledged and shared framework for the development of an established course structure diagram. This may depend on the recent formation of these programs, and the interdisciplinary rationale behind the field of migration studies.
- MA programs are mainly grounded in law studies. Generally, it is this portion of the educational offer that better reflects the initial formation of a shared framework for the development of an established course structure diagram, while within the field of Humanities and Social Sciences we still do not witness the presence of a specific frame of reference and/or best practices.
- In few cases where we witness the cooperation of Italian higher education institutions with foreign HEIs, it is the focus on area studies that seems to better encourage the need for the formation of interdisciplinary programs in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences, embracing the broader cultural and social dynamics emerging from a specific region/area of interest. In Italy, the focus on area studies has a prominent regional focus on the Mediterranean region: yet, today we do not witness an established cooperation with foreign HE, governmental and non-governmental institutions from the broader region yet. Along these lines, a promising direction for the further development of the educational offer could be embodied also by the analysis of other bordering areas/regions, such as East-Central Europe, and the cooperation with HEIs based in the region.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

- Master degrees embody the largest portion of the educational offer at national level. This may depend on the interdisciplinary rationale behind the field of migration studies that is best reflected by the flexibility of master degrees in establishing course structure diagrams, when compared to MA programs. More often than not, master degrees represent a true laboratory for the future formation of a full-fledged framework in MA programs.
- Master degrees are essentially skill-oriented, and are aimed to create specific occupational skills responding to emerging needs in the labour market. This intense connection with the labour market may depend on the long-standing collaboration with non-academic institutions, which is a prominent feature in master degrees, making trans-sectoral cooperation an outstanding feature at this level of the educational offer in Italy.
- The formation of course structure diagrams in master degrees is flexible, but does not reflect a shared rationale behind their creation. This may depend on the heterogeneous background and competences of experts from non-academic institutions collaborating in the creation of programs: more often than not, this impacts on both the geographic and disciplinary scopes of the programs.
- Specialization courses and non-academic programs run by public institutions, NGOs and sectoral associations embody an important portion of the educational offer in Italy, covering educational skills which are usually missing in the national offer at other levels. Most of these programs seem to have a quite younger tradition than programs running at other levels, as in most cases they are aimed to design and develop new learning-outcomes-based educational tools to meet the labour market and social needs, thus tackling skill gaps in managing migration issues in the domestic context.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Annexes

Annex I – List of programs in migration studies in Italy (Excel file, in attachment)

Annex II: National review – Survey Data (in attachment)