

## **Internal Migration and Educational Attainment in Italy.**

### **An Analysis of the 2001 Population Census.**

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The contribution aims at exploring the importance of educational attainment regarding internal migration in Italy.

In 2001 the Italian population census included for the first time the question regarding the residence one year earlier, instead of 5 years earlier. Of the 56,465,000 residents in households in Italy in 2001, 707,000 lived in a different province one year earlier (criteria adopted in this research to define interregional moves).

The first part of the contributions deals with the information obtained by this question. The diffusion of second homes or multiple residences in Italy, certainly limits the quality of the data. Contrary to the situation in other countries tertiary education seems to have little impact on the internal migration patterns in Italy, because participation in tertiary education is relatively low, young adults tend to leave the parental home rather late and, in the case students live during the university term independently, the official residence usually remains with the parents.

The focus of the second part is on the population in the economically active age group 20 to 64 and the about 575,000 inter-provincial migrants in this age group. Entering the labour market and family formation are the events causing inter-provincial moves or the confirmation or 'legalisation' of earlier moves.

Variation of interregional mobility and educational attainment in this age group over the 5-year age groups is fairly important: whereas 14 % of the 30-34years old have a tertiary degree, this value does not reach 6 % in the age-group 60-64, or, only 3,3 % of the 20-24 years old have at most primary education, whereas this value reaches 59,6 % in the 60-64 age group. And inter-provincial moves decline from a high of 3.9 per cent for the youngest age group to 0.4 per cent in the case of the 60-64years old.

A first focus of the analysis is the impact of educational attainment on the intensity and timing of internal migration. The authors try to confirm the hypotheses of a higher interregional mobility of individuals with a higher educational attainment.

A second focus of the analysis is on the outcome of selective migration according to educational attainment in origin and destination areas. The aim is to evaluate the importance of the selectivity of inter-provincial migration patterns according to educational attainment as an indication of the mobility of social capital. Preliminary analysis based on other data sources show inconclusive

results. The detailed census data, never analysed so far, allow to verify the hypothesis of a selectivity of migration flows according to educational attainment and a subsequent gain of social capital for the provinces with a strong economic growth and, consequently, a continuing loss of social capital in the disadvantaged provinces of the Mezzogiorno.

An in-depth analysis of the situation of specific provinces will serve to better understand the underlying processes: provinces of North-eastern Italy will be studied to explore the importance of in-migration of an educated labour force for their economic growth and their role as magnets of an inter-regional brain drain.

The role played by educational attainment in the process of internal migration is investigated using standard tools of migration analysis. Gender and age group specific migration rates by broad categories of educational attainment will be calculated. To analyse provincial brain gains or brain drains net-migration rates and the measure of demographic efficiency according to broad categories of educational attainment are applied.