

A new classification of migration through a multidimensional approach

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Abstract. The studies on international migration are mainly carried out using the data available on country of birth and citizenship, which had to be considered along with additional information in order to conduct a more in-depth analysis. In this regard, the Labour Force Survey 2008 ad hoc module constituted a new important source, as it provided data on citizenship at birth, citizenship after birth and country of birth of the interviewee's parents. By combining the data regarding the individual (country of birth, current citizenship and citizenship by birth) and those regarding the interviewee's parents we can identify eighteen probable cases. It is possible to detect different kinds of migrant by applying hierarchical criteria to the analysis of the information available and to adopt a single international definition, meeting the specific needs of each country, by adopting a multidimensional approach, thus proving a higher comparability of data. With regard to Italy we will report the estimates for different groups.

Key words: migrant, foreign, multidimensional approach, new classification

1 Main criteria to define international migration

The studies on international migration are mainly carried out using the data available on country of birth and citizenship [2]. Migrant population is identified by country of birth, while foreign population (non-national) by citizenship.

The country of birth criterion is used to define the individuals who, regardless of their citizenship, were born outside the borders of the country object of study. Its use does not identify those children of immigrants born in host countries, but defines the people born abroad who hold the nationality of the host country.

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The citizenship criterion is used to identify the individuals who hold a citizenship other than that of the country where they reside, regardless of their place of birth. In this case the non-national population is represented by the foreigners who were born either abroad or in the host country. Unlike the country of birth criterion, the citizenship criterion cannot be used to define groups of long-term immigrants, who obtained the citizenship, or of generations born abroad who could hold the passport of the host country.

In accordance with national legislations that adopt the *ius soli* principle (implying the automatic acquisition of the host country citizenship by those children of foreign citizens born in the host country) and in compliance with the citizenship criteria, the people born in host countries cannot be considered part of the foreign population, the so-called second generation of migrants.

In countries where national legislations (as that in force in Italy) adopt the *ius sanguinis* principle (acknowledging kinship ties by which children automatically acquire the citizenship of their parents regardless of their place of birth) the citizenship criteria are more properly applied than those of the country of birth.

A good knowledge of national legislations and the way the process of migration develops is at the core of the analysis of the data available on the process.

The conceptual framework outlined above proves particularly meaningful for Italy, a country where cases of heavy emigration have been registered in the last few years and cases of extensive emigration were registered in the past. It is accordingly clear that the use of the country of birth criteria rather than the citizenship criteria and vice versa produces different results, when identifying immigrant and/or foreign populations.

A combined analysis of the data on country of birth and citizenship is unfortunately not possible at the moment, as there is no availability of personal data to help carry it out. Apart from the 2001 population Census, the only possible source of this kind of information is a survey. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is in particular the main quarterly sample survey collecting such information.

A more in-depth study on the process of migration required further information such as data on the possible acquisition of the citizenship of the host country and the migration background [1]. In this respect, the Labour Force Survey 2008 ad hoc module on "Labour market situation of migrants and their descendants" is a good source of valuable information. It proved extremely useful in the policy fields at the core of the labour migration issue and the breakdown of the resident population, as the data were processed using a multidimensional approach.

2 Country of birth and citizenship

An overall population of 4,098,000 residents born abroad and 3,356,000 foreign citizens are the figures resulting from the Labour Force Survey conducted in the second quarter of 2008 (Table 1). Of the people between 15 and 74 years old (ad hoc module reference population), the number of those born abroad is 3,701,000 (8.2% of the total population), which includes the individuals holding Italian citizenship (a little over one million). By contrast the number of people holding foreign citizenship is 2,678,000 (5.9% of the population).

If we consider the people born in Italy holding foreign citizenship we will notice a great difference between the population as a whole and the group including the

individuals between 15 and 74 years old: the ratio is in fact 450,000 to 20,000. This is the result of the fact that most part of the so-called second generation of foreigners is still represented by teen-agers under 15, who were not included in the reference population analysed in the ad-hoc survey.

Table 1: Resident population in Italy by citizenship and country of birth – second quarter of 2008 (*thousands*)

<i>Country of birth</i>	<i>Non nationals</i>	<i>Nationals</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Total		
Foreign-born	2,906	1,192	4,098
Native-born	450	54,746	55,196
Total	3,356	55,938	59,294
	15-74 year- olds		
Foreign-born	2,658	1,043	3,701
Native-born	20	41,589	41,609
Total	2,678	42,632	45,310

Source: Labour Force Survey

These figures do not however sufficiently analyse and give an insight into the effect of migration on the trends of the resident population. In particular, it is not possible to study naturalized citizens and migration background, since the people with Italian citizenship could have acquired it and those born in Italy who hold Italian citizenship could have foreign-born parents.

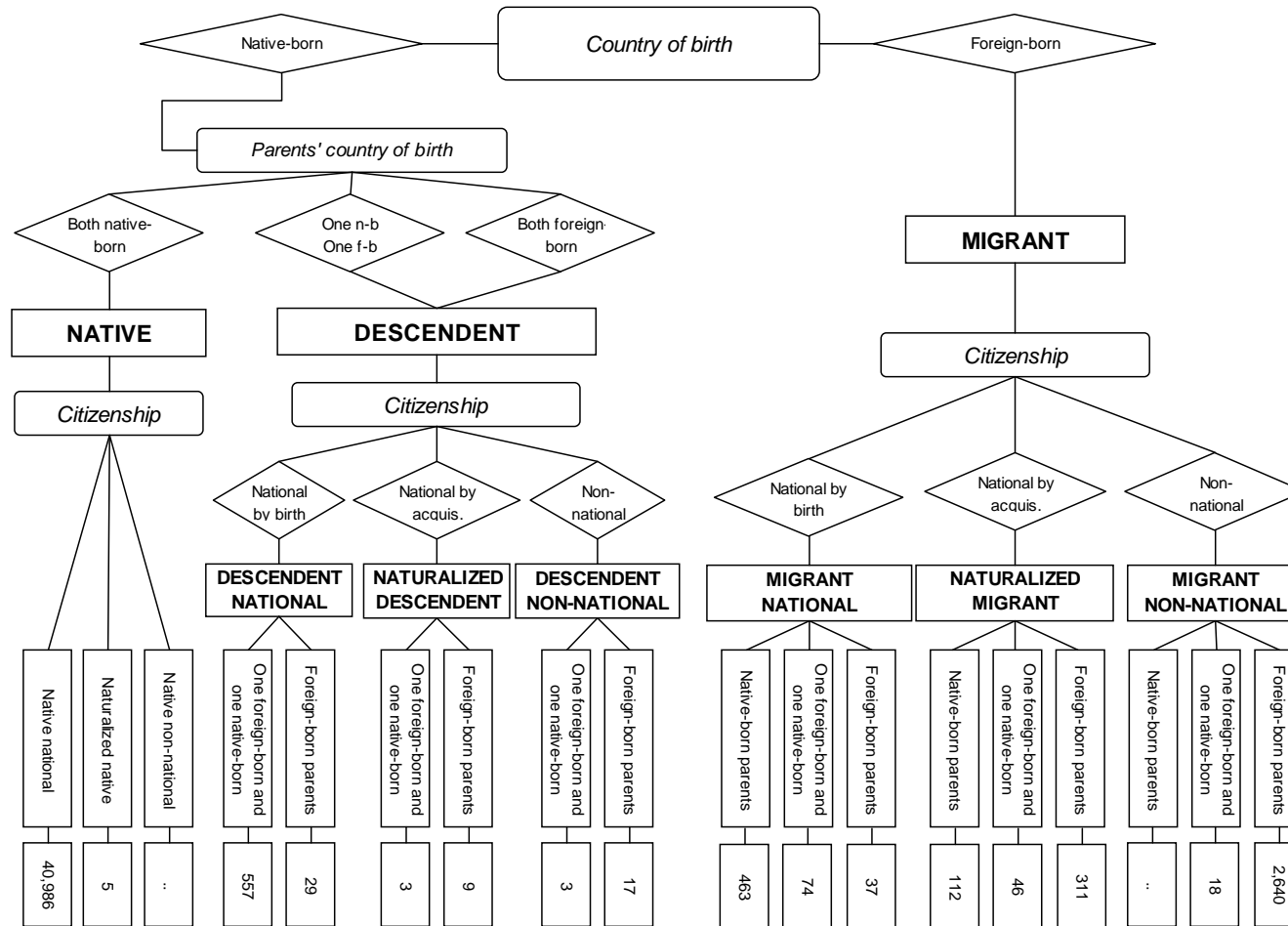
3 New information

In the Labour Force Survey 2008 ad hoc module nationals were asked whether they acquired their citizenship at birth or afterwards. By combining the data on current citizenship and citizenship by birth we can identify nationals by acquisition (naturalized citizens). It would not have been possible to detect this aggregate in the larger collective of nationals if data had been solely based on the citizenship criteria at the time of the interview.

The ad hoc module also provides information on the country of birth of the interviewee's parents. The combined use of data on both individuals and parents - applying a multidimensional approach to the analysis of migration processes - also leads to the identification of descendants, individuals born in host countries with at least one parent born abroad.¹

¹ In strictest terms, the second generation is defined as that consisting of foreign citizens born in host countries. More generally, the second generation also includes pre-school age children who joined their family in host countries.

Figure 1: A multidimensional classification of resident population



By combining the data regarding the individual (country of birth, current citizenship and citizenship by birth) and those regarding the interviewee's parents we can identify eighteen possible cases (Figure 1), nine concerning native-born individuals and nine foreign-born individuals.

It is also possible to detect different kinds of migrant by applying hierarchical criteria to the analysis of the information available. The data concerning the individual's country of birth are the first to lead to a division of the population into native-born and foreign-born citizens (subsequently divided by citizenship). With regard to foreign-born citizens those concerning the parents' country of birth lead to the identification of a possible tie with the host country (as if there had been a circular migration process for several generations). As for natives, those on the parents' country of birth are the first data leading to the identification of descendants. Using the information on citizenship we can divide descendants into three groups, which is valid for migrants as well. It is finally possible to further distinguish between descendants with both foreign-born parents and those with one foreign-born parent and one native-born parent (mixed marriages or parents living together).

We can adopt a single international definition, meeting the specific needs of each country, by making use of a multidimensional approach, thus proving a higher comparability of data. On the other hand the application of hierarchical criteria gives an insight -as deep as the analysis requires- into the legislation on migration and the stages of current migration processes in different countries.

4 Sub-groups of resident population in Italy

The analysis of the LFS 2008 ad hoc module provides the first estimates on the different sub-groups of resident population in Italy. A multidimensional classification is also valid for Italy, a country with a long history of emigration and a more recent history of immigration. On the other hand, the analysis of the data shows how a one-dimensional approach – solely based on information like that regarding the country of birth – can also be adopted, although the group object of this kind of study reveals itself too heterogeneous.

4.1 Population born in Italy (native-born)

In the second quarter of 2008, the number of people born in Italy ranging between 15 and 74 years old was 41,609,000 (Table 2). This group includes two main sub-groups: Italians and descendants.

It is not surprising that among the people born in Italy ranging between 15 and 74 years old there is an overwhelming presence of autochthonous residents: 40,986,000 Italian citizens by birth with both parents born in Italy corresponding to 98.5% of the population born in Italy.

Table 2: Resident population 15-74 years old born in Italy by citizenship and by parents' country of birth – second quarter of 2008 (*thousands*)

<i>Parents' country of birth</i>	<i>Non - nationals</i>	<i>Nationals by acquisition</i>	<i>Nationals by birth</i>	<i>Total</i>
Both foreign-born	17	9	29	55
One foreign-born and one native-born	3	3	557	563
Both native-born	..	5	40,986	40,991
Total	20	17	41,572	41,609

Source: Labour Force Survey

Descendants compose the other sub-group of individuals born in Italy with at least one parent born abroad,² including an overall of 618,000 people (figures in grey, Table 2). This results from the addition of 20,000 foreigners born in Italy, 12,000 Italians by acquisition born in Italy and 586,000 Italians by birth. Second generation foreigners are only a small part of the overall figures (20,000 units) and are associated with the small group of Italians by acquisition (12,000 units), which includes those children of immigrants born in Italy who became Italian citizens as adults. The number of descendants included in the overall figures consists of Italians by birth with one parent born in Italy and one foreign-born, for an overall amount of 557,000 individuals. The country of birth of the parent born abroad might often be a country where Italian emigrants were hosted in the past. Considering another portion of descendants, the parent born abroad (generally the mother) comes from one of the countries where a strong flow of immigration into Italy (mostly Romania, Poland and Ukraine) has been recently registered. The practice of mixed marriage has considerably grown in the last decade, thus leading to an increase in the number of individuals (15-year olds and people over 15) with one parent born in Italy and one born abroad but holding Italian citizenship by birth (*via ius sanguinis*).

4.2 Population born abroad (migrant)

The LFS 2008 ad hoc module classifies migrants by country of birth, since a comparison of international data using citizenship criteria results more difficult [3]. Nevertheless the use of country of birth criterion (at least in Italy) reveals a composite aggregate of foreign citizens and a considerable number of children of emigrants, which is the result of the analysis conducted in the ad hoc module.

² The number of people born in Italy reported by the survey also includes five thousand individuals with acquired citizenship and both parents born in Italy. These are people born in former Italian territories (now Slovenia and Croatia) who lost their citizenship during wartime and re-acquired it at a later stage.

In the second quarter of 2008, the population of immigrants ranging between 15 and 74 years old consisted of: 71.8% foreigners (2,658,000 units), 12.7% Italians by acquisition (469,000 units) and 15.5% Italians by birth (574,000 units) (Table 3).

Table 3: Resident population 15-74 years old foreign-born by citizenship and by parents' country of birth – second quarter of 2008 (*thousands*)

<i>Parents' country of birth</i>	<i>Non nationals</i>	<i>Nationals by acquisition</i>	<i>Nationals by birth</i>	<i>Total</i>
Both foreign-born	2,640	311	37	2,988
One foreign-born and one native-born	18	46	74	138
Both native-born	..	112	463	575
Total	2,658	469	574	3,701

Source: Labour Force Survey

Let us just try to summarize what the results of the ad hoc module are: foreigners (“non-national migrants” see figure 1), naturalized Italians (“naturalized migrants” with both parents foreign-born), “latent” Italians (“naturalized migrants” with at least one parent born in Italy), children of Italian emigrants (“national migrants”).

In order to outline the characteristics of these groups it would be useful to consider socio-demographic data (gender, age, geographical division), information on the year of arrival in Italy and age upon arrival.

The first group is represented by migrants with foreign citizenship (2,658,000 units, with an equal distribution of men and women) who arrived in Italy in the early 1990s. The age upon arrival of most of them ranged between 18 and 34 years old and 60% of the individuals have resided in Italy for less than ten years. Most migrants with foreign citizenship live in Northern and Central Italy and their countries of birth are places from which growing immigration flows have been coming. In the country ranking list, the first five countries (Romania, Albania, Morocco, Philippines and Ukraine) amount to a little less than half the immigrant population holding foreign citizenship.

The group of naturalized Italians consists of 311,000 Italians by acquisition with both parents born abroad. These are known as first-generation naturalized citizens, foreign citizens who generally arrived in Italy as adults in the early 1980s. Most of them acquired their citizenship by marriage or, in accordance with current regulations, after a minimum of ten years of continuous residence. Three of their countries of origin are characterized by a very strong migration flow (Romania, Albania and Ukraine). We can notice a high prevalence of females in this aggregate, thus proving the widespread practice of mixed marriages between Italian men and foreign women. The time that elapsed between the year of arrival of the individuals belonging to this group and the year when they obtained their citizenship is quite long: 40% of them have obtained their citizenship after 2000, that is rather recently.

The group of “latent” Italians, consisting of 158,000 migrants with acquired Italian citizenship (46,000 + 112,000), is particularly related to Italy as being part of it means having one or both parents born in Italy. The time of arrival in Italy of the people in this group is long gone, as most of them arrived before the early 1980s. The age upon arrival of most of them ranged between pre-school and adolescent years, and the year when the citizenship was acquired tends to be very close to the year of entry into Italy.

As regards Italians by acquisition with at least one parent born in Italy, European countries such as France, Switzerland and Germany (destinations of Italian emigrants and places of birth of those interviewed) are the interviewees' main countries of origin. The profile in question basically tends to identify the phenomenon of citizenship re-acquisition by descentance from Italian parents (or Italian ancestors). Venezuela and Brazil rank fourth and fifth respectively among non-European countries, in terms of number of residents born abroad who acquired Italian citizenship. The group of individuals born abroad, who acquired Italian citizenship, also includes the people born abroad who were adopted at a very young age by Italian families.

The children of Italian emigrants are Italian citizens by birth with both parents born in Italy (463,000 units). Over two thirds of the people belonging to this group arrived in Italy in the late 1970s, and over half of them arrived with their parents when they were still pre-school age children. About a half of this foreign-born population is currently living in Italy's southern regions. The fact that both Italian parents emigrated and later returned to Italy with one (or more) small or adolescent child is a common characteristic of the children concerned with the migration process that happened in the past. The three countries ranking first among those of origin (Switzerland, Germany and France) absorb 56% of the total number of residents born abroad who are Italian citizens by birth, thus confirming the importance of considering the migration process in the past to understand the results got. The use of the term migrant might therefore be misleading and reveal a paradox: a significant part of the people born abroad is actually Italian by birth as both of their parents were born in Italy; but they are migrants and native descendants³ in the meantime.

Of those born abroad 74,000 people (both those holding Italian citizenship by birth and children of mixed couples) have the same characteristics of the individuals belonging to the group with both parents born in Italy. They are in fact holders of a citizenship obtained in compliance with the *ius sanguinis* principle. In addition, the population of migrants with Italian citizenship by birth also includes a particular group of individuals with both parents born abroad. The population of those ranging between 15 and 74 years old reported by the survey (37,000 units) includes the descendants of Italian emigrants, who preserved their citizenship over the course of time.

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³ There is no expiration date on the citizenship of the descendants of expats in compliance with Italian legislation. Even when foreign citizenship is attributed *iure soli*, the absence of an explicit renunciation of Italian citizenship is a sufficient condition for the re-acquisition of it. The data collected abroad on registrations and cancellations approximately reveal 110,000 repatriations per year in the 1970s, which amounted to about 40,000 units per year in the 1990s.