

National Contact Point Italy

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Family Reunification for beneficiaries of international protection in Europe and the Netherlands

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Approaches to submitting the application for family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection: pros and cons of different national practices

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SYLLABUS



SPORTELLO UNICO PER L'IMMIGRAZIONE (S.U.I.): One-stop shop placed within the competent Territorial Office of the Government (Prefecture)

QUESTURA: territorially Police Headquarter



ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC-CONSULAR AUTHORITY: belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

- 1** Criteria for requesting family reunification
- 2** The procedure to apply for family reunification
- 3** (Government) institutions involved during the application
- 4** Recent developments regarding family reunification

1 Criteria for requesting family reunification

1. Relationship

Family members for whom family reunification can be requested:

- spouse not legally separated and not younger than 18 years of age
- minor children, including those of the spouse or born out of marriage, who are unmarried, provided that the other parent, if any, has given his or her consent
- dependent adult children, if for objective reasons they cannot provide for their indispensable living needs due to their state of health resulting in total disability
- dependent parents, if they have no other children in their country of origin or provenance, or parents aged 65 and over, if their other children are unable to provide for their subsistence due to perdocumented, serious health reasons.

2. Income

Commensurate with the number of people to be reunited (“[...] *Not less than the annual amount of the social allowance increased by half the amount of the social allowance for each family member to be reunited*”)

3. Accomodation

Statement of **how many people can live** in the housing and that the housing meets the **hygienic** and **sanitary requirements**

2 The procedure to apply to family reunification

1. **Telematic application at the *One-stop shop*** for the **submission of documentation** on the possession of the requirements about **income** and **housing** made by the third-country national residing in Italy who holds a valid residence card or residence permit of not less than one year issued for the following reasons: subordinate work, self-employment, asylum, study, religious reasons, family reasons.
2. Once the **authorization has been granted** by the One-stop shop, the family member submits an **application** for an **entry visa** to Italy at the Italian diplomatic-consular authority.
3. Once the **Entry Visa is obtained**, the reunited family member must request an **appointment to complete the first entry procedure** at the One-stop shop **within 8 days** of their entry into Italy.
4. **Presentation of the receipt** from the One-stop shop to the competent **Police Headquarter** to collect the First Residence Permit for the family member.

3 (Government) institutions involved during the application

- **Municipal office**: responsible for issuing the housing eligibility certificate, which is a prerequisite for applying for family reunification;
- **Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione (S.U.I.)**: responsible for issuing family reunification permission following the submission of the required documents;
- **Italian diplomatic-consular authority**: responsible for issuing the entry visa to Italy following the presentation of the authorization (issued by the S.U.I.) and the certification attesting to the family relationship;
- **Questura**: responsible for issuing the First Residence Permit for Family Reunification following the presentation of a receipt from the S.U.I.

4 Recent developments regarding family reunification (1/3)

Instances submitted in 2022

One stop shop	Applications	Beneficiaries	Authorization (<i>nulla osta</i>) issued	Rejected	Renounced	Archived
TOTAL	53,783	91,593	67,136	5,885	2,022	4,417

Instances submitted in 2023

One stop shop	Application	Beneficiaries	Authorization (<i>nulla osta</i>) issued	Rejected	Renounced	Archived
TOTAL	60,329	103,355	54,612	5,439	1,631	1,633

4 Recent developments regarding family reunification (2/3)

Top 5 nationalities of family reunifications requested in Italy

Applicant citizenship	No. of applications
Morocco	17,027
Bangladesh	15,593
Pakistan	12,842
India	10,610
Egypt	8,451

4 Recent developments regarding family reunification (3/3)

Key points for integration after reunification:

- Italy faces challenges in integrating women spouses of economic migrants into the labor market
- High percentages of inactivity among this group, estimated between 80% and 90%
- Challenges arise from traditional gender roles in communities of origin (e.g., Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt)
- Complexity of local services hinders effective outreach and support for these women

THANK YOU!

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