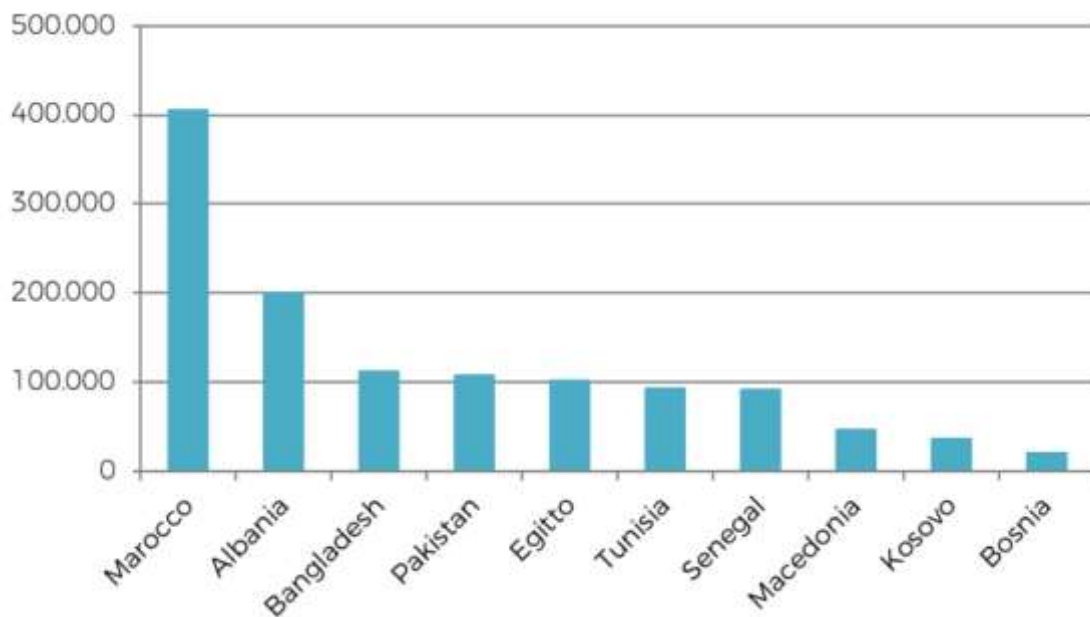


2018 ISLAMICITY INDICES - ITALY

SUMMARY

While Italy is a secular state and cannot be classified as a Muslim country, it has a large Muslim population and one that includes many Muslim foreign citizens. Over the last decade, Islam has become the religion with second largest number of adherents in Italy but has no official agreement with Italian state so far and thus is not officially recognized. Thanks to articles 3, 19 and 20 of the Italian Constitution, there is complete freedom of worship in Italy. The ten most numerous Muslim communities in Italy are from: Morocco, Albania, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Tunisia, Senegal, Macedonia, Kosovo e Bosnia, while estimates of autonomous Muslims vary from 80,000 to 130,000.

Number of Muslims by country origin



Dati: istat, Ismu e Pew (Elaborazioni e stima Fabrizio Ciocca)

SCORES AND RANKS

As the chart below shows, Italy's rankings in the indices hardly changed between 2017 and 2018.

2017								2018							
Economy		Legal and Governance		Human and Political Rights		International Relation		Economy		Legal and Governance		Human and Political Rights		International Relation	
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
44	6,45	35	7,55	26	7,96	19	7,14	45	6,398	35	7,527	25	8,109	36	6,643
Overall															
29				7,30				29				7,274			

COMPARISON TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OVERALL AND THE REGION

In the overall European ranking Italy holds the 22 position, after Slovakia and Spain, while Ireland is the country that has made significant progress with from 2017 to 2018.

	2017		2018	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Sweden	3	8,94	2	8,983
Neanderthal	2	8,98	3	8,978
Iceland	15	8,36	4	8,869
Switzerland	5	8,83	5	8,922
Ireland	4	8,85	6	8,857
Denmark	6	8,77	7	8,817
Italy	29	7,30	29	7,274

ISLAM IN ITALY



2030

2050

In Italy there are 4 officially recognized mosques, 4, 906 places of worship and 341 Islamic associations. Rome has one of the biggest mosques in the world.

Fonte: Ministero degli Interni

In Italy there are 2.6 million Muslims, representing the 4.3% of the total population with a projected percentage of 5% in 2030 and 10% by 2050. A majority of Mosques is

ethnic, that it is frequented mainly by the same community that runs it. Nevertheless, attendance is open to all Muslims and it is for cultural and linguistic reasons that Muslims from the same ethnicity tend to congregate. Those of Moroccan ethnicity run most of the mosques while a growing number is run by Bengali and Pakistani Muslims as well as Egyptian, Tunisian, Turkish and Albanese. Each and every ethnicity follows its own Madhhab: the most important is that of Malikita.

One of the most relevant issues facing the Muslim community is the lack of specific Islamic education for imams: just a few have Hijaza, or are Alim and Muftis are very rare, despite the best efforts by brothers to take the role of imams. The imam in the Great Mosque is extremely acculturated; imams in the Great Mosque are mostly trained in the Egyptian Mosque al-alzhar while the imam in Ravenna comes from and was trained in the Saudi Arabia. Another internal fracture (fitna) inside the Muslim community in Italy is the friction between Sufi and Salaf. There is a different point of view from Scia, which has an Italian religious representative, Abbas di Palma, that has needed religious authorization. Scia community is led by Albanese community, then by Moroccans and Iranians.

EXAMINATION OF CHANGES IN THE INDICES

A deeper dialogue in the Italian Muslim community is required in order to address and overcome diversities and private interests so as to have only one channel of communication with the Italian state (which would be highly appreciated at all institutional levels) and to start building a constructive relationship inclusive of the entire Muslim community in Italy. Another relevant point is that of education for imams that can be addressed through targeted agreements with Italian educational institutions and universities as well as foreign Islamic centers

ISLAM AND POLITICS

Italy is considered as a stable country with reference to security and economy but, the change in the government in 2018 has compromised the relationships with local Muslim communities. Moreover, the increasing mass immigration from Africa and Asia has generated the association Islam – migrants. Some of the far right parties in Italy also see Islam as a potential problem because of the



danger of the diffusion of Islam in Italy and may try to contain it. Islam is seen with suspect and rejection especially when it comes to women’s rights; it is to be underlined that, the richest Italian region, Lombardia, a few years ago adopted the so called “anti- Mosques” law, which strictly regulates Islamic cultural centers.

In light of all this, a better dialogue is deemed necessary among Italian institutions and Muslim communities; moreover, mosques should be open to local communities with interreligious dialogue.

ISLAM AND ECONOMY



Last updated data on Halal good profit in Italy is in 2016 and registers over 5 billion Euros. Many agribusiness companies in Italy are getting prepared to have Halal certification since, before, it was needed just to export to the Middle East and now it is required in order to have access to the internal and western markets. GDOs are gradually entering the market and target goods for western Muslims. In addition to this, Halal tourism is growing in Italy thanks to Filiera Islamica del Turismo in Italia and Muslim Hospitality criteria have started to be followed in restaurants and hotels. Women online business is flourishing since many sisters have started selling online clothes,

Halal makeup and other accessories. Muslim printing in Italy is proceeding fairly well with publications both for children and adults. A crucial issue from a Muslim point of view is that restaurants and take away shops run by Muslims in order to increase profits sell alcohol. Other companies and small business have chosen to sell just Halal products.

Fonte: HalalItaly Development

As per The Legatum Prosperity Index Italy holds 34 position in the world ranking.

Creating the Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity

Rank	Country	Economic quality	Business Environment	Governance	Education	Health	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Social Capital	Natural Environment
34	 Italy	48	68	44	35	39	27	32	41	64

More than 600,000 businesses, 9.9% of the total, are run by foreigners in Italy. Foreign business is an important structural part of Italian business and the economy. Among them, almost 80% (470,000) are micro individual business. In 400 of the municipalities there is no company owned by an immigrant, while in the remaining 7,500 Italian municipalities, in which just over 100 municipalities have 500 registered companies managed by foreigners for a total of 220,000 companies, which represent 46% of all companies run by immigrants.

Fonte: Unioncamere-InfoCamere sulla base dei registri delle Camere di commercio

GOVERNANCE

At the present time government is stable, nevertheless, being made up by two parties with opposite views on many issues a political crisis could happen at any moment that would trigger elections. Italy has undertaken actions to support inclusion of disadvantaged groups and their welfare. Many recent governments in recent years have also tried to open a table to reach a concordat but so far they have not succeeded. Some municipalities have started an opposition to the construction of new mosques, even when juridical requirements are met. Islam in Italy has survived so far on foreign funds especially from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey. But more recently, we have experienced a shortage of funds.

HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Italy supports and respects all human and political rights and is standing on this position even in hard times such as those nowadays with the continuous illegal flow of asylum seekers. Nevertheless, migrants are often confused with Muslims and, also under some political party pressures, Italians are asking for more regulations on migration. Some politicians also accuse Muslims of trying to “Islamize Italy and Europe”.

Freedom of the press holds position 46 among 180 countries.

Italy holds position 28 in the report of Human Development Index (HDI).

Table 1. Human Development Index and its components		SDG 3		SDG 4.3		SDG 4.8	
HDI rank	Country	Human Development Index (HDI)	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling		Mean years of schooling	
		Value	(years)	(years)	(years)	(years)	(years)
		2017	2017	2017	*	2017	
27	Czechia	0.888	78.9	15.9		12.7	
28	Italy	0.880	83.2	15.3		10.2	
29	Malta	0.878	81.0	15.9		11.3	


Italian Constitution grants civil rights: art. 3,1 recites: “All citizens have same social dignity and are equal under the law with no distinction of sex, ethnicity, language and religion, political opinion, personal and social conditions.” All citizens, both Italian and foreigners, have access to legal services.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Italy has a beautiful international reputation and also international cooperation plays a fundamental role. In 2018, Italy has confirmed its involvement in 36 international missions and has started 6

independently: leading operation ONU, NATO, UE or related to bilateral, multilateral or collaboration agreements that aim to “**combat terrorism and illegal immigration**”.

As per the Global Militarization Index, Italy holds position 83 in the world ranking.

Rank 	Military Expenditure Index Score	Military Personal Index Score	Heavy Weapons Index Score	GMI Score
83	6.03	4.09	2.12	651.69

CONCLUSION

In Italy, Islam is still seen as a religion of migrants. For the communication with some Italian municipalities, where Islam and foreigners are not seen in positive light, it would be of enormous help that the liaison with the mayor or whoever with other officials, in matters related to mosques, be managed by an Italian Muslim and supported by non-Italian brothers, thus overcoming the mistrust that the local administrator could have. Given the political climate, we can foresee issues for Muslim communities in Italy although responsibilities are shared by both parties—Muslims and the Italian State. It is deemed necessary to proceed with a collaborative and profitable dialogue in order for the Italian State to officially recognize Islam with a Concordat.