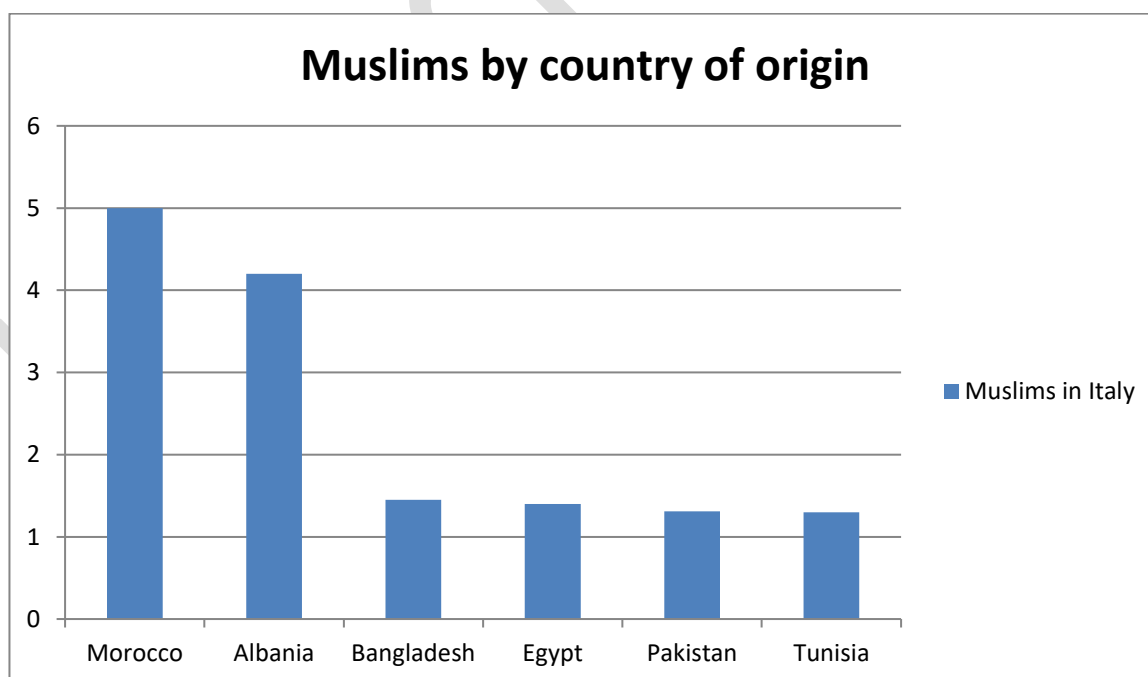


2019 ISLAMCITY INDICES – ITALY

SUMMARY

While Italy is a secular state and is not a Muslim country, it has a large Muslim population and one that includes many Muslim citizens from other countries. 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 six most numerous Muslim communities in Italy by country of origin are from: Morocco, Albania, Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

Number of Muslims by country of origin



Fonte: Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali

SCORES AND RANKS

As the chart below shows, Italy's rankings in the indices has hardly changed between 2018 and 2019.

2018								2019							
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
45	6,398	35	7,527	25	8,109	36	6,643	43	6,509	33	7,506	26	7,877	40	6,291
Overall															
29				7,274				29				7,215			

COMPARISON TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OVERALL AND THE REGION

In the overall European ranking Italy holds the 29 position, after Portugal, France and Spain, while Iceland is the country that has made significant progress with from 2018 to 2019.

2018			2019	
Rank	Score	Rank	Score	
Sweden	2	8,983	2	9,030
Netherlands	3	8,978	4	9,001
Iceland	4	8,869	3	9,020
Switzerland	5	8,922	5	8,879
Ireland	6	8,857	7	8,808
Denmark	7	8,817	6	8,851
Italy	29	7,274	29	7,215

ISLAM IN ITALY

In Italy there are four 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

There are 2.6 million Muslims in Italy, 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 with the support of the Moroccan association “CII – Islamic Italian Confederation” while a growing number is run by Bengali and Pakistani Muslims as well as Egyptian and Turkish. Besides the CII there are other associations that would like to represent Islam and they are: UCOII (Union of Islamic communities of Italy) and ANMI (National Association of Italian Muslims). In Italy we have only three mosques where the imams are Italian, and are in the cities of Brescia, Milan and Naples. 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-azhar while the imam in Ravenna comes from and was trained in the Saudi Arabia, in addition, the Italian Imam of Brescia studied in Yemen. 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, followed by Moroccans and Iranians.

EXAMINATION OF CHANGES IN THE INDICES

Compared to 2018, something has changed in dialogue with Institutions. Muslims, during the covid-19 emergency, have greatly contributed to the support of Italian institutions, in fact, the various Islamic communities, scattered throughout the country, have activated many fundraisers, intended for the healthcare sector, have distributed masks and voluntary activities are not counted. In response, the Institutions have become more sensitive to the needs of Muslims, and during the peak, many municipalities have activated a portion of public cemeteries used as

Muslim cemeteries. But there were accidents on the way too, as during the lockdown going out was prohibited, cases occurred, in which some Muslim citizens were fined by the authorities, because they were found on the streets looking for halal meat, unrecognized food as a basic necessity by the Italian authorities.

ISLAM AND POLITICS

Compared to 2018, the situation has improved significantly with the change of government, due to the succession of parties from right to left in government. The current political forces have restarted the dialogue interrupted in 2017, and significant steps have been taken towards the recognition of the Islamic religion in Italy, in fact the current government is dialoguing with the various Islamic associations in Italy, to have official recognition in the country, but this is a tortuous path, due to the lack of a single interlocutor. The hard clash between the Great Mosque of Rome (the only institution recognized by the Italian Government) and UCOII did not help, due to the dialogue with the Institutions. The Halal & Shari'a Compliance Academy, which is the only Islamic scientific body in Italy, will help in scientific matters, whose official presentation was scheduled for 11 March 2020 before the Italian Parliament, but it has been postponed to 2021, because of the coronavirus pandemic.


ISLAM AND ECONOMY

The Islamic economy in Italy is growing strongly, especially in the internal sector, due to the increase in the population of Islamic faith. Halal products are limited at the moment for meat and meat products, however, with regards to export, many companies are acquiring the halal certification, due to the raising of halal standards for export to other countries. At the moment, there is no actual rule for the regularization of halal foods as in other countries, but the Halal & Shari'a Compliance Academy is working on providing a proper regulation for all certification bodies in Italy. Modest Fashion is becoming increasingly popular within the country, with a large scale of consumers even among non-Muslims, giving birth to the first high-level Modest Fashion Boutique in Italy, managed by an Italian convert. From the Islamic media point of view, the Daily Muslim appears to be the only Islamic

newspaper, regularly registered in court. The whole community needs to have multiple products (not limited to meat), that can vary from baby food to training in Islamic professions.

Fonte: DailyMuslim.it

As per The Legatum Prosperity Index Italy holds 30 position in the world ranking.

Country	Rank	Safety & Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Market Access & Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment
	30	24	29	39	56	40	25	32	52	24	17	31	48

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 now 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 41 among 180 countries.

Italy holds position 29 in the report of Human Development Index (HDI).


Country	Rank	Human Development Index	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Expected years of schooling (years)	Mean years of schooling (years)	Gross National Income
	29	0.833	83.4	16.2	10.2	36,141

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 2019, 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 79 in the world ranking.

Country	Rank	GMI Score	Heavy Weapons Index Score	Military Personal Index Score	Military Expenditure Index Score
	79	623	2.14	3.89	5.96

CONCLUSION

In Italy, the lack of legal recognition of Islam is creating a series of related problems, above all, to carrying out spiritual activities. The lack of a single interlocutor greatly aggravates the situation, and the many ethnic groups present on the Italian soil create ethnic mosques visited, almost exclusively, by their compatriots, although they are open to everyone, despite everything, it is emerging more and more, the need from the indigenous community to have its rightful place. A notable improvement for the Muslim community came after the pandemic peak, due to the openness experienced by the Institutions, along with the great increase for halal food. In order to have a normalization of Islam in Italy, it is strictly necessary to have an agreement with the Italian Government, make customized regulations for halal certifications to apply to companies that export and also provide for a tax on this type of product, so that such proceeds facilitate the necessary resources for the construction of mosques, thus reducing the need of foreign funding, which is frowned upon by some political forces and the population at large, allowing, concretely, the creation of a national Islamic identity.