

Muslim Migration to Europe
Cast Study: ITALY

History of immigration/citizenship policies:

- Since the 19th century Italy primarily has been a nation of emigration with Italians migrating all over the world. Since the 1970s and 1980s, immigration to Italy has increased and has opened up debates on immigration policies.
- In 1992 ...
- Italian citizenship has primarily been based on *jus soli* (law of ground) and/or *jus sanguinis* (right of blood).

Source:

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=121>

Recent immigration/citizenship policies:

- Italian citizenship is granted by *jus soli* (law of ground) and/or *jus sanguinis* (right of blood).
- In order to gain naturalization, immigrants must have ten years of legal residence in Italy, no criminal record, and sufficient financial resources.
- Refugees and asylees may apply for naturalization after five years. However, many refugees and asylees arrive in Italy without legal documents so they are ineligible for naturalization.
- Even though most labor migrants can work in Italy it is extremely hard to get Italian citizenship.

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_nationality_law

Key Issues

- One the major controversies about immigration to Italy concerns undocumented migrants. Italian immigration laws have tried to restrict the numbers of undocumented migrants and have denied them access to citizenship:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8170187.stm>
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=177>
- There is increasing concern over undocumented routes of migration, especially by people from North Africa using boats to get into Italy and Europe.
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=80>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8037803.stm>
- There is also a lot of concern on the trafficking of migrant women and children through Italy.
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=318>
- For more on Mediterranean migration patterns:
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=230>