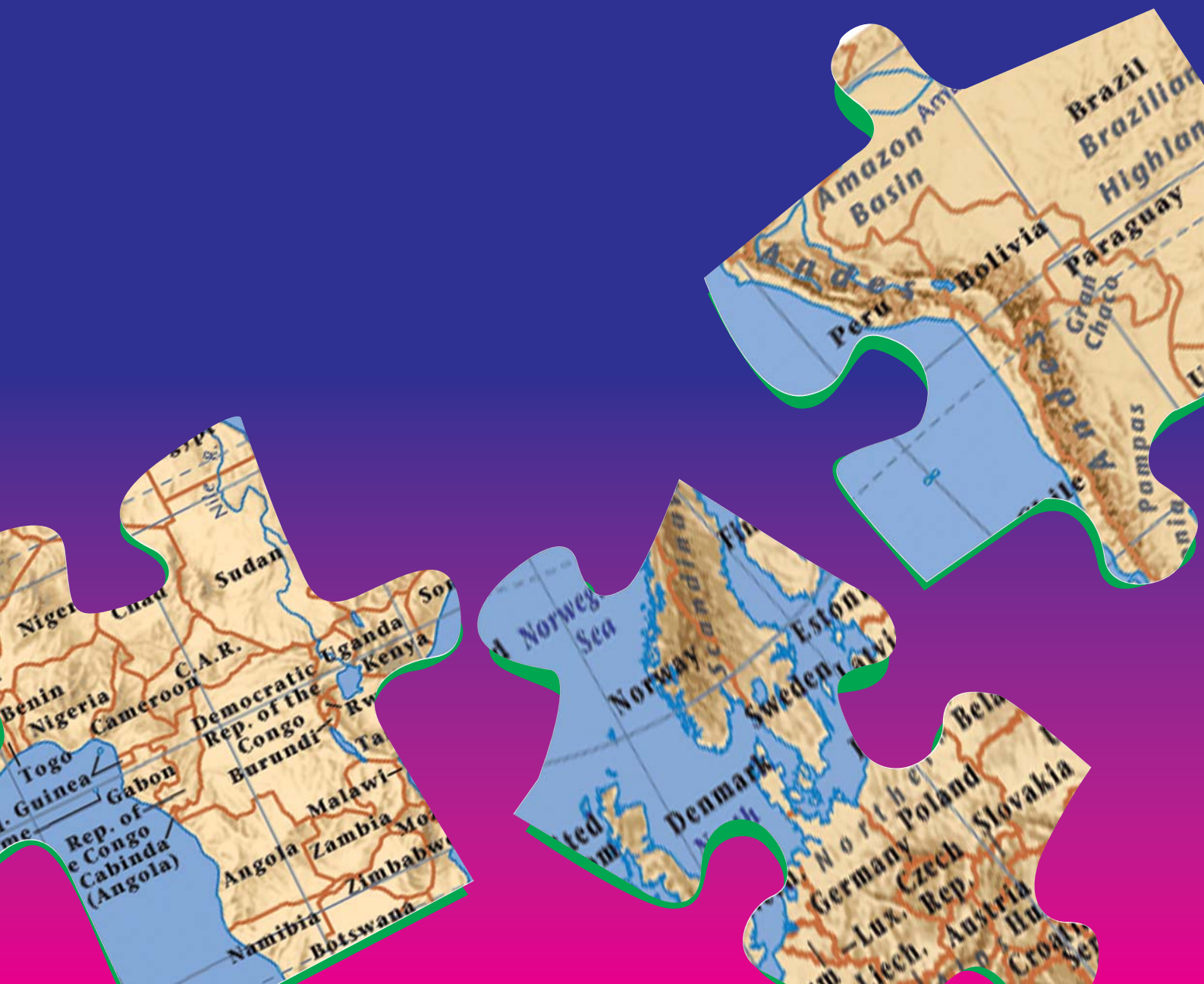


# CITTADIN GLOBALE



The world is  
changing!!!

Migration trends in the XXI century



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**CITTADINO**   
**GLOBALE**

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Special thanks to all the people who collaborated for this magazine.

The idea to edit, publish and promote a YAP Italy magazine came into the organisation planning just after considering together with some active Italian and International volunteers the importance of keeping alive, inside the organisation, the social and political discussion. During our meeting we asked ourselves what being a non partisan, non religious and non party affiliated organisation mean and we answered that this means mainly to give to ourselves, the young generation, the possibility to discuss and reflect about the different phenomena and the different events of nowadays world and society.

Cittadino globale was born and will be edited with the main aim to create discussion and to reflect upon certain important subjects which are affecting our daily life. It was born to be a way to express ourselves and to empower our voices and believes.

As voluntary service, intercultural learning, international mobility and practical activism, writing and reading are tools of active participation and involvement, are ways to say we are here, we exist and we would like to be part of what is going on. We want to be active!

In this sense the first edition, being the follow up of a series of activities and reflections about this topic, is about migrations. The activities inspiring our work and helping for the development and the creation of the articles were the YAP congress in February 2006 (more information on our web-site) and a seminar held in Italy about Citizenship, History and Migrations in May 2006. During those activities our members realised that people has always been moving all around the globe, that migrations have built many of the countries and the societies we live in now, that in one way or the other we are all potential migrants, that moving freely is a human right and they have, therefore, decided to speak about it and to share with all of you.

Due to the very different origins and cultural backgrounds of our members, the magazine will be published both in Italian and English. No need to say that you are all invited to write and send us your articles and ideas in order to enrich our experience and production.

Hoping that this initiative will be welcome by all of you, I wish you a very pleasant and interesting reading!

*Elisa Chiodi*  
YAP Italy Secretary General

## THE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IS CONSTANTLY RISING

All the new information that the UN presented about migration is very revealing for the present situation of it. The number of immigrants is rising, the governments are in favor for their presence and the immigrants are willing to do all the jobs that nobody else wants to do.

As expected, the immigrants are mostly migrating to the developed countries of Europe, to Canada and to the United States. In fact, one out of three immigrants is working in Europe and one out of five is working in the States.

Actually, according to a report of the United Nations about population and development globally, 80% of the receiving countries are taking measures and are applying special politics for the proper integration of the immigrants.

A very interesting information is that until 1996, 40% of the governments globally had as their first goal the reduction of the number of immigrants. From then until now this percentage has fallen to 22%. More

specifically, in the case of the developed countries this percentage has fallen from 60% to 12%. However, an exception to this global phenomenon constitute the United States, the Netherlands, France, Italy and Denmark that are trying to reduce the number of immigrants inside their territories.



A new information that came out thanks to the UN report is that the last years about 20 million immigrants returned to their home countries. These people are mostly

refugees who managed to come back to their countries after the ending of some war.

In any case, it is an undisputed fact that the migration influx is growing. More particularly, 60% of all immigrants are migrating at 28 countries, with first among all the United States. From 1990, every year one million people is migrating in the United States. The last 15 years Russia has received 12 million people, Germany 10 million while Europe in general has received 64 million immigrants.

To conclude the presence of immigrants has proven to be very important for all the receiving countries since they are willing to work in jobs that are not wanted any more by locals thus giving an enormous boost to the economies of these countries.

*Aris-Athanasios Ktenas*

## MIGRANTS IN ITALY (HOW DO ITALIANS FEEL ABOUT IT)

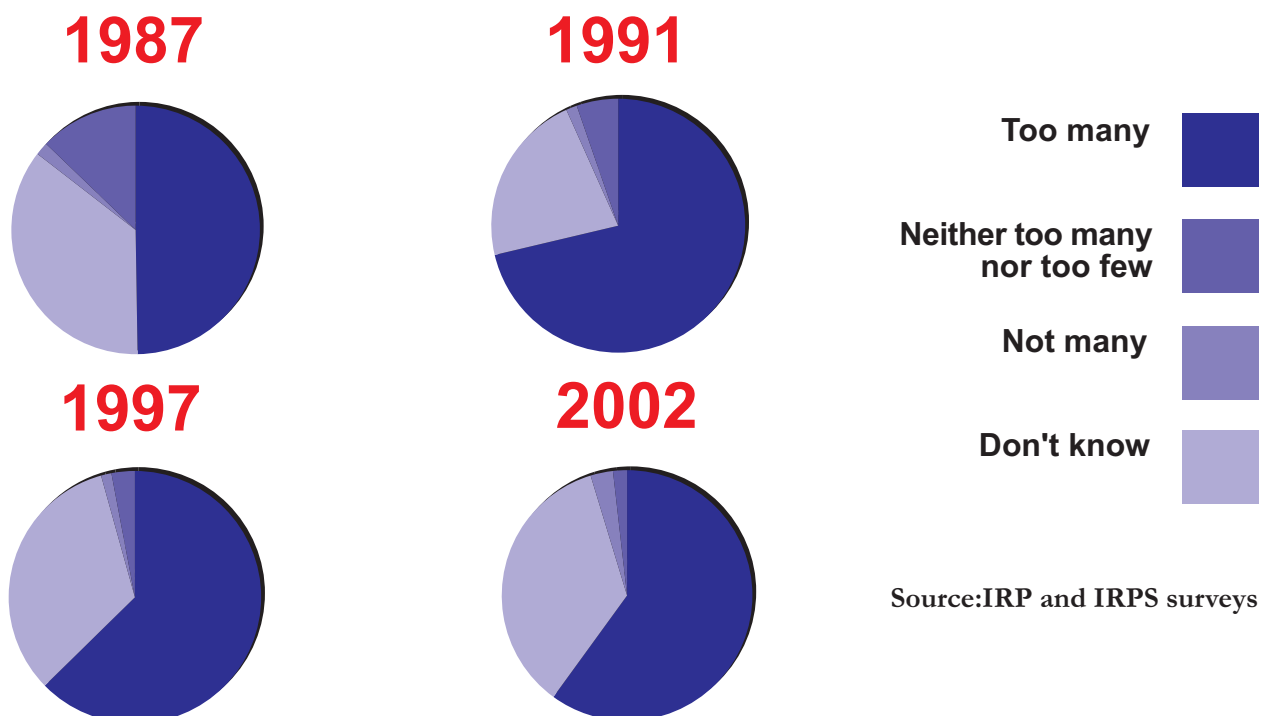
It is true that migration and its effects have been a very controversial and yet so popular topic for discussion in most of the Western European countries. A very complex topic with many different aspects and points of view, some of them very radical.. But whether we like migration or not, we have to accept it since it has become a part of our life.

But how do Italians feel about migration? Do they feel threatened by the presence of immigrants in their country or have they accepted it and are trying to help to the best adjustment of immigrants inside the Italian society? In Italy, IPRS has conducted four surveys about this topic, from 1987 until 2002. More specifically, in 1987 were asked 1500 people between 18 and 49 years old

to tell their opinions about migration, in 1991 were asked 1800 people between 18 and 64 years old and in 1997, 1519 people between 20 and 49 years old. Finally, in the most recent and most complete survey in 2002 were asked 3000 people between 20 and 69 years old. All four of the surveys were targeted at measuring the attitudes of Italians towards three basic subjects. The impact of immigration in Italian society, the role that migrants play in the labor market and the economy of Italy and finally the migration policies that have followed the Italian governments throughout all these years.

In the question regarding the opinions of Italians towards the number of foreigners living in Italy the following table shows the responses(%) given in all four surveys.

### Opinions about the number of foreigners living in Italy



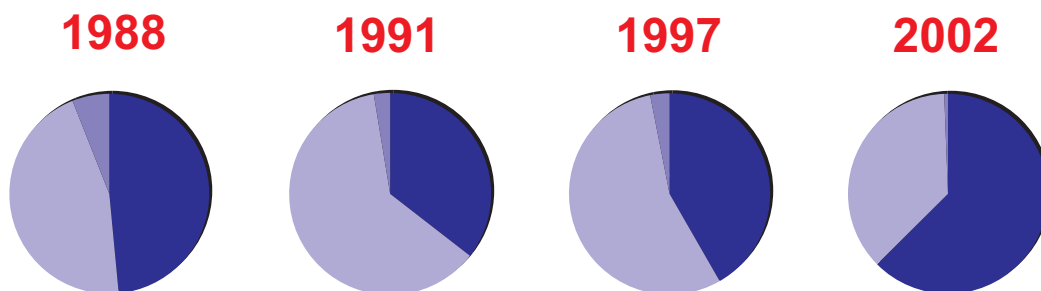
From the responses given to this question we can see that the percentage of Italians who feel that foreigners living in Italy is very high (60%), has remained the same with what it was 5 years ago but has decreased 10 percentage points from 1991. We can also see that the percentage of Italians who feel that foreigners in Italy are neither too many nor too few has increased to 35,3% from 22% that it

was in 1991. Finally, we have to underline the fact that in all four surveys only a very small percentage of Italians responded that foreigners living in Italy are not many.

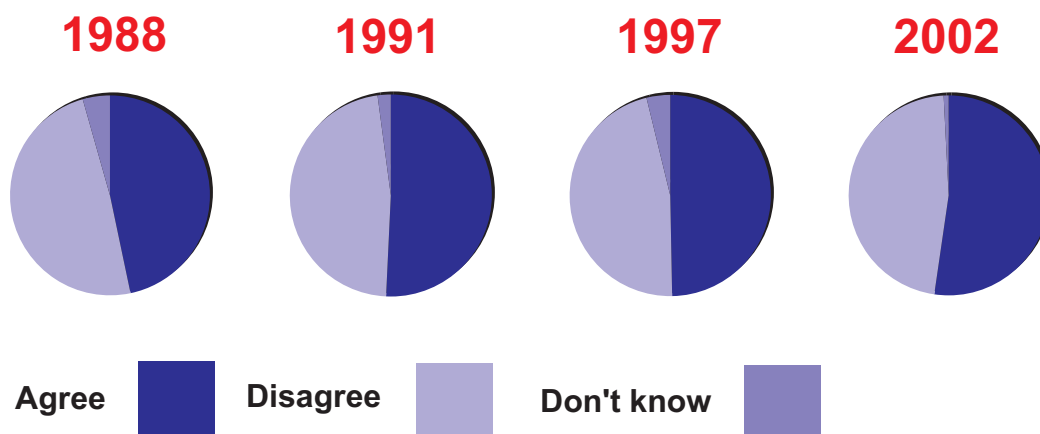
In the next questions that were posed to the people that took part in all four surveys, is asked from the participants to say if they agree or disagree with certain opinions. More specifically:

### Impact of immigrants to Italian society

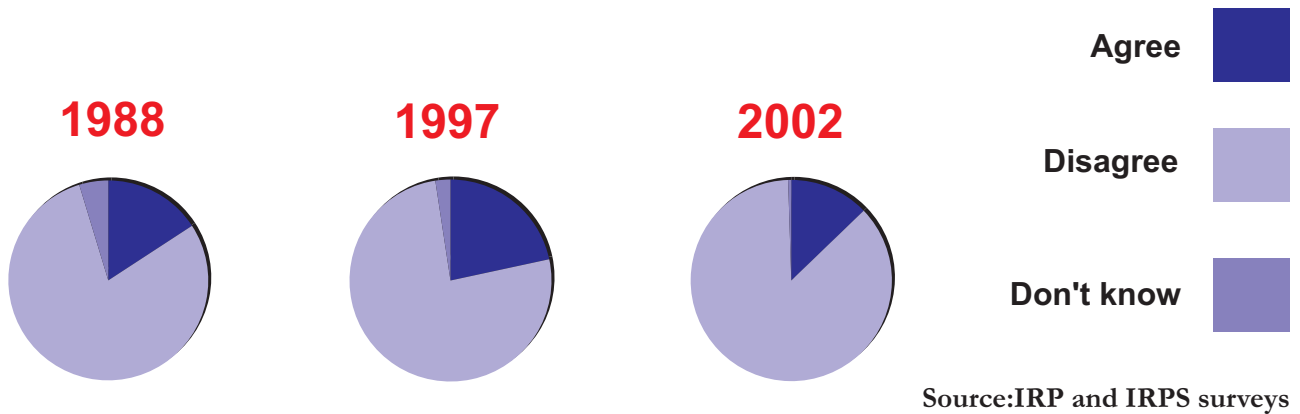
*Is immigration a good thing as it allows contacts with others cultures?*



*Does an increase in the number of immigrants leads to the spread of crime and terrorism?*



## *Does italians think that there is no place in Italy for immigrants?*

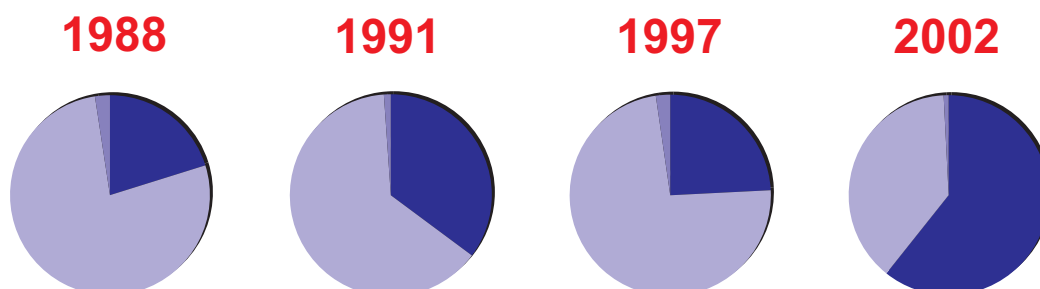


In the first question we can see that in 2002 a high percentage of Italians asked (62,5%) agree that immigration is a good thing as it allows contact with other cultures. Another very impressive factor is that we have a raise of about 20 percentage points from 1997 (41,7%) to 2002 (62,5), which may be explained as a sign of maturity of the Italian society concerning the subject of migration. In the second question about the connection between the increase of number of migrants and the spread of crime and terrorism, we notice that there is a balance

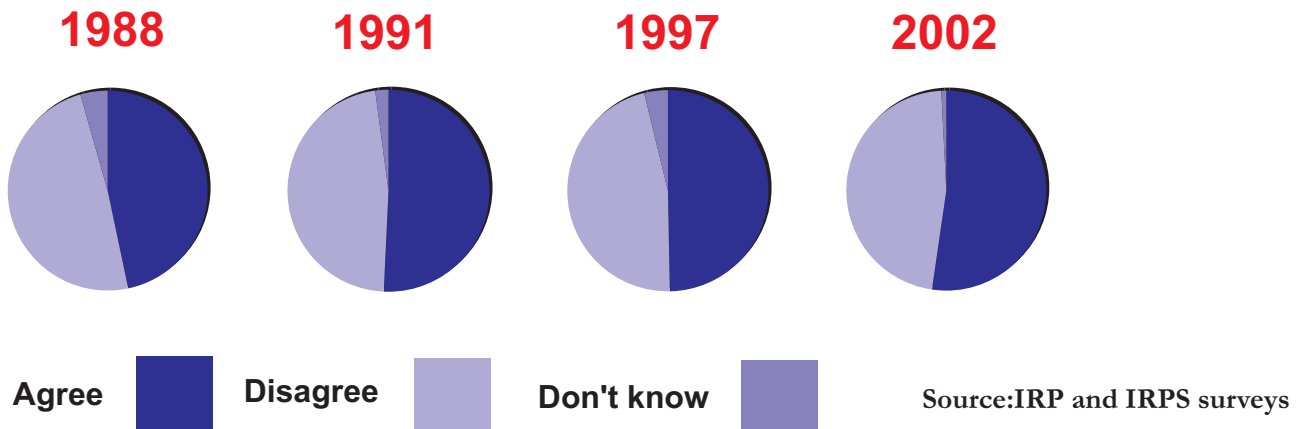
in all four surveys between the people who agree and those who disagree with the aforementioned statement. Finally, we should also stress the fact that about 12,8% of the Italians asked (2002) agree with the opinion that Italy is only for Italians. However, is very interesting that we have a decrease of nine percentage points between 1997 (21,7%) and 2002 (12,8%) even though the last survey was conducted only 1 year after the events of 11/9 who created a global phenomenon of xenophobia and incertitude.

## **Immigrants and labor market**

### *Are immigrants necessary for doing all the jobs that Italians do not want to do anymore?*



## *Are immigrants stealing the jobs of Italians?*

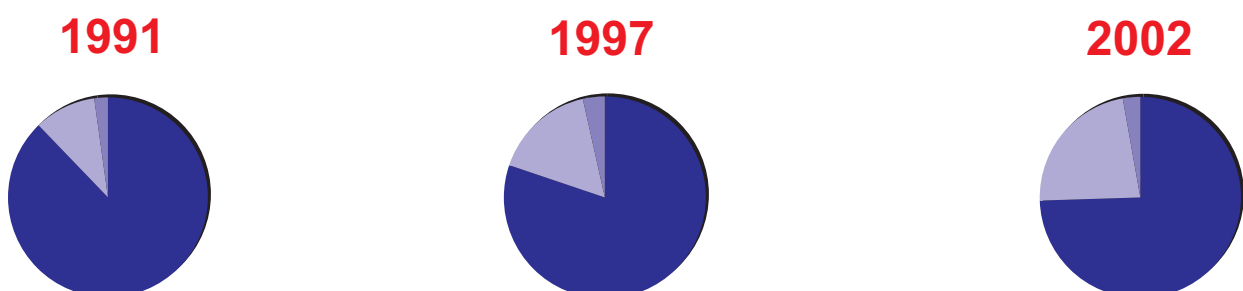


In this set of questions regarding immigrants and their impact to labor market we can see that as years go by, more and more a greater percentage of Italians is starting to believe that immigrants are necessary since they are willing to do jobs that Italians do not want to do anymore. As we can see in the table above in 1988 the percentage of Italians who agreed with this statement was only 20%, while 14 years later we have an impressive raise of 40%!!

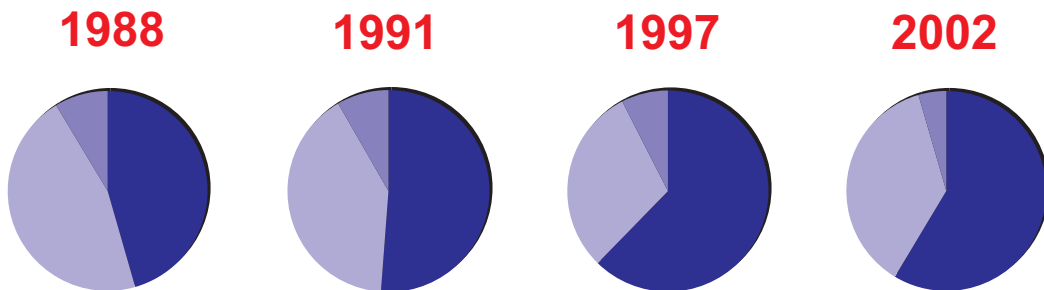
(2002-60,7%). In addition, in the question "Are immigrants stealing the jobs of Italians?" we notice the same phenomenon, since in 1988, 46,8% of the Italians asked believed so, while in 2002 we have a decrease of 20%(2002-23,7%). Of course, we can understand that the results of both questions can be explained only by the fact that Italians are starting to realize that migrants are indispensable for the well being of the Italian economy.

## Migration policies

### *Does should be defined by the Government the number of foreing workers in Italy?*



*Does should have the right to vote all foreingers in local elections after some years of residence?*



Source:IRP and IRPS surveys

Finally, this last set of questions about the policies that Italian governments have followed regarding migration is very useful to understand better the opinions of Italians about migration. We notice that the majority of people asked agree that the number of foreign workers in Italy should be defined by the government(74%-2002). However,

there is a decrease of 17% from 1991(87,8%). In addition, 58,6% of the people asked, agree that all foreigners should have the right to vote in local elections after some years of residence, a percentage that is 13% more than those who agreed in 1988(45,5%) but yet less than that of 1997(62,3%).

### General comments and conclusions

A very interesting information is how the results are interpreted when we divide them using the political beliefs of the Italians interrogated. So going from the left to the right we can see that the percentage of those who think that migrants are too many rises from 44,6% to 77,8% while those who agree with the correlation between migration and rise of crime are 11,5% and 40,5% respectfully. When we analyze the results using geographical factors we can see that in the South we have the highest percentage of those who think that immigrants are too many(67,7%) and of those who agree with the idea "Italy for Italians" (7,9%) while in the Northeast we have the highest percentage of those who agree with the connection between

crime and immigration(28,1%). Finally, we should underline that the highest levels of open-minded positions and acceptance of immigrants are found among teachers and students while among the most worried and hostile towards migration we find old people, low educated people, housewives, unemployed and retired workers.

To conclude, we can say that Italians have started to accept migration but fears and worries still exist among the Italian society. Whether these fears can be overpassed in the future, is something that only time can tell..

*Aris-Athanasios Ktenas*

## "AUSLÄNDER", FOREIGNERS WITHOUT ADJECTIVES

“All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal in front of the law, indifferently of their gender, race, language, religion political opinions, personal and social conditions.”



Despite the text of the law seems to limit the application of the principles to citizens only, the equality principle, as explained in the above quoted article, has been declared (by the Supreme Court) applicable to all foreigners, at least as far as basic rights and principles of individuals are concerned. Already in 1986 the Italian republic guaranteed to “all extra-communitary legally resident workers” “the equality of treatment and full equality to Italian workers”, as well as the rights “to maintain a cultural identity”, as an application of the O.I.L. Convention.

Law number 189/2002, also known as law “Bossi-

Fini”, has reconfirmed the above named principles, without modifying them, but it introduces harder penalties and expulsion mechanisms for all crimes connected to illegal immigration, reconfirming the principle that it is “labour that legitimises the entrance and the stay of foreigners in our country”.

In this sense, article 5 bis states that the permit of stay for work reasons depends upon the signing of a stay for subordinated work contract; it also establishes that the entrance of the immigrant worker must be subordinated to a preventive estimation of the internal work offer, offer which must be insufficient compared to the needs.

The necessary condition for the recognition of civil right, of the parity of treatment and of the full equality concerning national workers, is the permit of stay which guarantees the stay of the foreigner on the national territory. The conditions for the issuing of the

permit are a valid passport, an entrance visa and the obligation to photographic and dactylic printing. In the previous legislation these types of controls were limited in those cases where the identity of the applicant was uncertain.



The procedure for the entrance of the foreigners in Italy starts in the consulates of the foreigners' resident country, because all requests on behalf of foreign citizens who already live in Italy without legal authorisation are to be considered null. Therefore, if the foreigner has entered Italy illegally, they will always maintain the status of “foreigners without adjectives”, even if they manage to find employment. In other words, they would have to return to their country of

origin, wait until their employer presents a request to the respective immigration office, who will analyse the request, and then it will release the visa... if there is no availability on behalf of Italian citizens who desire that position and have the competences to acquire it.

Art. 22, paragraph 1, implementing art. 8 of the 1975 OIL convention, disciplines the situation that follows the loss of employment as a result of

resignations or dismissal.

It is excluded that these events lead to the automatic revocation of the permit of stay; the respective authorisation will continue to be efficient for the remaining validity duration, which, at any rate, cannot be shorter than 6 months. At the end of these months, if the worker has not found another employment, since we live in a democratic country which respects human rights, then the cost

of the return ticket must be covered by the employer. If the hypothesis of unjustified dismissal is ever confirmed, according to art. 18 n°300/1970, the worker has the right to reintegration: after his return to his country the worker has the right to return to Italy, to restart the work relation.

*by Andrea Rotondo*

## ENFORCED MIGRATION: THE CASE OF PALESTINE



On 14 May 2006, Israeli celebrated the 58th anniversary of the creation of their State, while for the Palestinians it is **Al-Nakbah** (The Catastrophe), as they were uprooted from their homeland by military force, eviction or fear of massacres, and other attacks induced by Jewish militant groups such as Haganah and Irgun. The issue of the “right of return” for Palestinian



refugees is one of the most central and critical issues beside Jerusalem, Border, Security, and Water issues, which still to be negotiated between Israeli & Palestinian. The Palestinian refugee problem was formed by Zionist colonization (1); and started since the creating of the UN General Assembly Resolution 181 dated on 29/11/1947, which specified the partition of Palestine between the Palestinian and the Jews (Partition Plan)) (2), as a result two wars happened, the War of 1948 and the 1967 War. The War of 1948 resulted in the creation of the state of Israel in 78% of Historical Palestine, while Palestinian were enforced to leave their homes to different countries mainly Jordan,

Syria, Lebanon, West bank and Gaza Strip (3) In June War of 1967 Israel occupied the remaining parts of Palestine (4), and some 300,000 Palestinians were displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, refugees were forced to flee for a second time. According to the United Nations Relief Works Agency, (UNRWA) there are over 5.5 million Palestinian refugees, constituting two-thirds of the total Palestinian population and making Palestinians the largest single group of refugees in the world (with a 3%-increase annually). Palestinian refugees - Christian, Muslim or Druze - beco the claim of the founding of one nation on the account of another one, especially because of the hard and terrible situation

they live in the refugee camps. International law and resolutions however, put no doubt that Israel is legally required to permit the repatriation of the Palestinians displaced in 1948 and that Palestinian refugees are entitled to full restitution, including the right of return, the right of return of properties, and the right to compensation for material and moral losses. The most well-known source of reference incidentally is UN General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948 (5) which has been affirmed by the United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) over 110 times to date (6).

(1) The Zionist movement had been founded to create a national home for the Jews. Theodore Herzl had tried to get a Jewish homeland in Palestine with a permission of the Ottoman Empire and the German Kaiser., but he could not grant that, and turned his efforts to securing a temporary home for the Jews in Uganda or Argentina or anywhere. The British government supported Zionist plans for a Jewish "national home" in Palestine, with the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 was a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, to Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation, a private Zionist organization. The Letter was as the following:

*Dear Lord Rothschild,  
I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.  
"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."  
I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.  
Yours sincerely,  
Arthur James Balfour*

(2) UN General Assembly (UNGA) Res. 181 of 29 Nov. 1947 ("Partition Plan") allocated 56.47% of Palestine to the Jewish state.

(3) The refugees in West Bank and Gaza called internally displaced persons as well the 1.2 Million Palestinian living in Israel which is 20% of the Israeli

Population.

(4) This Part is 22% of the historical Palestine which is West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip

(5) UN Mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, Report (UN Doc Al 648), 1948 declared:

*Today, there is a Palestinian minority in Israel that totals around 20% of the overall population, many of them internally displaced persons. Moreover Moshe Dayan said, on 4 April 1969 "Jewish villages were built in the place of Arab villages. Nablal arose in the place of Mahlul; Kibbutz Gvat in the place of Jibta; Kibbutz Sarid in the place of Huneifis; and Kefar Yehusbua in the place of Tal al-Shuman. There is not a single place built in this country that did not have a former Arab population"*

*Fifty-eight years have passed since the evacuation of thousands of families from their homes, and generations of Palestinians have been sent to refugee camps in neighbouring Arab countries. International resolutions and several peace initiatives have created to put an end to the Palestinian refugee problem, as well for Palestine to enjoy their life as others do. Occupation and invading Palestine was not just a catastrophic moment in the history of Palestinians, but it is struggle for their Citizen, identity and fairness in the face of enormous chances and overwhelming supremacy. Thus what is required is a concept that could transfer those variables and guide to equal peace for Palestinians and Israelis similarly, since The Nakba as a 58-year reality is coupled to the conflict and its endless heartbreak at this time.*

*by Mohammed Obidallah*

## THE IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS ON THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY

The term "Financial crisis" is an old/new term in the Palestinian dictionary; this occupied territory - that has scanty resources - is economically bounded with Israel. Nowadays Palestine lives a dramatic financial crisis that is considered one of the worst in the nation's history. Palestinians have been punished for their

democratic choice, where the Palestinians practiced choosing their representatives to the Palestinian Legislative Council; this choice practically brought Hamas up to the power by majority. This choice that has been embodied by the democracy became as a pretext to refuse this choice and stop the

international community subsidy to the Palestinian Authority.

I personally understand the term "Democracy" as the people's choice for their representative in a civilized, transparent and highly credited manner.

The main and most important factor of the crisis is the external



stipulated subsidy that has been cut by the American government and the European countries, in addition to the huge pressure that they practice in order to not transfer money to the newly elected government.

At the same time, Palestinian Authority has no control over their borders to import or export, That leaves Palestinian people depending on the international aid to keep the Palestinian economy and the infrastructure alive.

### **Political and security impacts**

First: security there is no doubt that the crisis came out as a result of the American, Israeli and European pressure upon the Palestinian

authority in general and upon Hamas government particularly, in order to force the government to change its political agenda. The continuation of this crisis means that the Palestinian authority will not be able to maintain its authority on the economical, social, health and security institutions; Which could be simply represented by the disability of what has remained from the security force, in securing the essential needs like food, health services etc, whether for its members or even the prisoners. In addition to that, the government is not able to pay the police force salaries. Therefore, the police force will not be able to practice its high demanded job, thus disorder, revelry and

robbery will spread out and prevail.

### **Second: compulsory resignation**

The other political impact is that the government becomes forced to resign or to be deposed.

This scenario is approaching for sure as this crisis continues, where the government will be forced out or will have to resign which will bring the region to a complex problematic situation that will inflame the anarchy and will have unacceptable and unpredictable results.

### **The economical impact of the crisis...**

The external financial subsidy equals 85 % of the total Palestinian income, a part of that goes to feed 150,000 employees' families, which is the soul source of life for them. These salaries help to keep the Palestinian economy surviving, which is also considered as the main factor that keeps the Palestinian economy functioning; since these subsidies were frozen, families are not able to secure their essential life necessities. Thus the economic life is frozen also; it's clearly embodied in Ramallah, Nablus and

Hebron as the biggest cities in Palestine territories; factories, supermarkets and companies were closed as a result of the economical stagnancy and not being able to bear extra cost.

Consequently that means what is called Palestinian economy will collapse at any time.

### **Humanitarian impact...**

The health sector can also clearly show the suffering which caused by the current financial crisis, whereby this institution is not able to offer its health services, in addition to the

huge lack of medical staff and medicine. Therefore they are not able to give the very basic needs of life, children's milk and health care services to the people, where also the problems of isolation and lack of mobility make it difficult for people to access essential services.

On the other hand, the education sector is highly affected by this crisis, Transportation is almost impossible because people would rather save money for basic needs of food. Finally, the continuation of the crisis is mainly

harming the lower class, Poor families are barely managing; about 150.000 families are having no money for the past three months and not clear future in the horizon, make it almost impossible for them to survive.

All this require a serious stand from the international community in order to stop the continuous suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of this financial sanction.

*by Qusay Hamed*

## **HUNGARY'S CHANGING COLOURS**



**T**oday Hungary is a sending, transit and destination country for migration.

Uncle Cohen is speaking about his life: "I was born under the monarchy, I went to school in Czechoslovakia, I got married

in Hungary, worked in the Soviet Union, and I am a Ukrainian citizen" One listener remarks, "You are a much travelled person." "Not at all," Uncle Cohen answers, "I never left my hometown..."

To understand this anecdote one should have a clear view of the political changes which redrew the map of central and eastern Europe from time to time. In Hungary

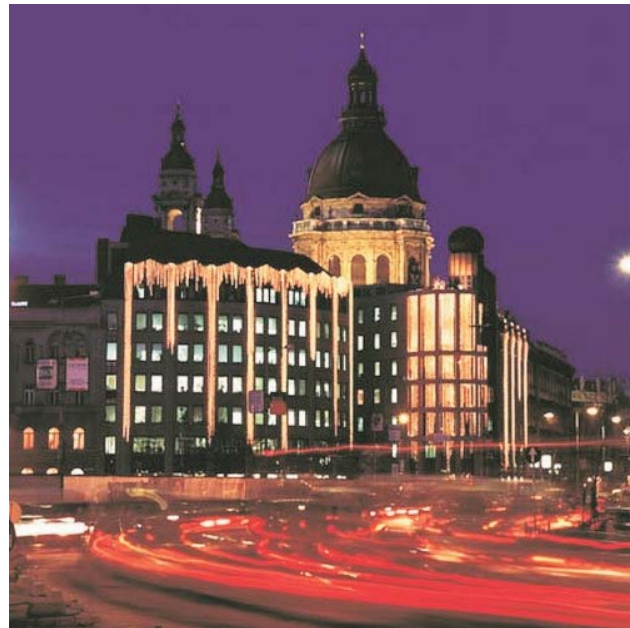
-not like in most of the other countries- there is a strong relation between those who arrive to the country and those who choose Hungary as the final stop. Probably the reason is that most of them come from neighbouring countries and are of Hungarian ethnicity.

As a result of the Peace Treaty of

Versaillaise which reshaped Hungary, today roughly three million ethnic Hungarians live in nearby countries. Besides these historical events another factor which determines the migration phenomena in Hungary is its geographical location. Situated in the heart of central and eastern Europe makes it a perfect gateway to the West. However being a transit country is a recent phenomenon. After the communist takeover in 1947 the borders were closed, migration was prohibited and considered as a crime. That was the case for long decades, until the 23th of October 1989, when Hungary became a Republic. Hungary is not a rich country, however compare to the nearby countries where the ongoing wars have caused social and economic crisis it is still considered to be a place of opportunities. According to the statistics, between 1988-1994 more than 127000 refugee arrived to Hungary. Most of them (99,25) came from the former Yugoslavia, the former Russia and Romania. Apart from them 110000 foreigners had been living in Hungary for more than one year.

As I have already mentioned a big part of immigrants are “former” Hungarian citizens, having Hungarian as their nationality and mother tongue and only victims of political decisions. Since the change of the regime however we are facing a new migration phenomenon. The opening of the borders has attracted many “business men”.

If I recall my childhood memories from the ‘80s there was not much diversity. It might be surprising but as a child I do not really remember seeing Africans or Asians not even in the capital. Now we even have an African football team.



Walking on the streets of Budapest I bump into a Chinese or a Turkish buffet at almost every corner. Chinese cloth shops have been spreading even in smaller cities. In the last few years the composition of the society has been gradually changed due to 1989 which brought diversity by the opening of the Western border. However in my opinion immigration compared to Western European countries is not a burning issue in Hungary. A part of the immigrants comes here with a financial background and set up their little shops like the Turkish or the Chinese. Another part of them – especially those who enter the Hungary illegally- uses the country only as a springboard to West. Joining the EU (1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004) has risen new challenges in relation to migration and has strengthened Hungary’s transit role.

*by Adrienn Major*

## ROMAS - A WONDERING TRIBE-

**I**t is true that almost all of us have seen or met sometime during our life people that belong to the Rom tribe. It is also true that many of us, including myself, have treated these people with skepticism or even with prejudice, just because we fear what we can not understand and what is not accepted as "normal" in the west world. How many times have we all thought that Romas are just beggars and thieves and nothing else. But the truth is quite different.. In fact, Romas are a tribe with a very rich culture even though it is known only to very few. But who are they? Let's try to find out...

### WHO ARE THEY

"There are some 15 million Romas dispersed across the world. Their history is one of suffering and misery, but it is also one of the victories of human spirit over the blows of fate. Today the Romas revive their culture and are looking for their identity. On the other hand, they integrate into the societies in which they live. If they are understood by their fellow citizens in their new homelands, their culture will enrich the society's atmosphere with the color and charm of spontaneity."

This is a part of the opening speech of the former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi at the International Romani Festival in Chandigarh, India on October 28, 1983 which summarizes perfectly the present state of Romas.

The history and the place of origin of the Romas has become a subject of debate since there is no accurate recorded evidence for Romas and their background. First of all, although Romas are often referred to as "Gypsies" , not all "gypsies" or nomadic

peoples are Romas. The Romas are descendants of the ancient warrior classes(the Kshatriyas, Rajputs, and Jats) of Northern India, particularly the Punjab, and they are identifiable by their language, religion, and customs, which can be directly linked to those of the Punjabi in northern India. Based on linguistic evidence (the similarity of the Romany language to Hindi, Punjabi, and related languages of Northern India), the religious analogies between Romas and the Hindu tradition and anthropological evidence (body habitus and ABO blood group distributions closely approximating those of the warrior classes of northern India), there is now a clear consensus of opinion that the modern day Romas originated in Northwestern India.



*This is a sketch of the proposed route of Romas first migration*

There is also a general consensus regarding the approximate timing of their emigration, in the 11th century. The most recent evidence, suggest a mixed population (warriors and their "camps") leaving Northern India in the 11th century in retreat from the advance of Islam. In particular, linguistic evidence points to a northerly exodus through the upper Indus Valley. After crossing the Himalayas, it is likely that they

followed the Silk Road west to the southern shores of the Caspian Sea, up along the west coast to the foothills of the Caucasus range, through Armenia and into the Byzantine Empire. This proposed route of migration is based on the numbers and types of words in Romani - Persian, Armenian, and Greek. Many attempts to summarize their appearances in Europe are available, most of which report them in Southeastern Europe sometime in the early 1300's, Central/Eastern Europe in the 1400's and in Western and Northern Europe later in the early 1500's

Since that time, their history is one of attempts at banishment, forced assimilation, persecution, deportation, slavery, and attempted extermination. If any one single aspect of their history has been dominant, it must, unfortunately, be that of their persecution, forced assimilation, enslavement, and even genocide carried out against them by the Nazi's. The recorded history of "anti-gypsyism" goes back to their first appearance in Europe in the 1400's where laws were enacted against them everywhere they went. The history of the response of the countries in which they have lived has been one of rejection, mistrust, fear, banishment, enslavement, torture, and murder. As recently as the 1930's and 1940's the Nazis of the Third Reich imprisoned and murdered 600,000 Romas, roughly 1/4 of their numbers in all of Europe and as much as 70% of those in areas where Nazi control had been established the longest. Even now they continue to be victims of persecution, especially in the eastern European countries of the former soviet block.

## ROMAS FLAG AND ANTHEM

In 1971 the International Gypsy Committee organized the first World Romani Congress in a location near London, Great Britain, with representatives from India and 20 other countries. At the congress, a green and blue flag embellished with the red, sixteen-spoked chakra, was affirmed as the national emblem of the Romani people. Furthermore, "Dzelem dzelem", written by Zarko Jovanovic at 1969, was adopted as the national anthem of Romas all around the world.

The blue color in the flag represents the blue sky and the heaven and symbolizes eternal spiritual values, while the green color represents the land and symbolizes earthly values. Finally, the red wheel (chakra) in the center symbolizes movement and progress.

### DJELEM DJELEM

- THE ROMANI ANTHEM -

Written by Zarko Jovanovic, 1969  
Adopted as the official Romani anthem  
at the First World Romani Congress  
in London, England, April, 8, 1971

#### Romani

*Djelem, djelem, lungone dromensa  
Maladilem baxtale Romensa  
Djelem, djelem, lungone dromensa  
Maladilem baxtale Romensa.  
Ay, Romale, Ay, Chavale,  
Ay, Romale, Ay, Chavale.  
Ay Romale, katar tumen aven  
Le tserensa baxtale dromensa  
Vi-man sas u bari familiya  
Tai mudardya la e kali legiya.  
Aven mansa sa lumiake Roma  
Kai putaile le Romane droma  
Ake vryama - ushti Rom akana  
Ame xutasa mishto kai kerasa.  
Ay, Romale, Ay Chavale,  
Ay, Romale, Ay Chavale.*

### English Translation by Ron Lee

*I have traveled over long roads  
 I have met fortunate Roma  
 I have traveled far and wide  
 I have met lucky Roma  
 Oh, Romani adults, Oh Romani youth  
 Oh, Romani adults, Oh Romani youth  
 Oh, Roma, from wherever  
 you have come  
 With your tents along lucky roads  
 I too once had a large family  
 But the black legion murdered them  
 Come with me, Roma of the world  
 To where the Romani roads  
 have been opened  
 Now is the time - stand up, Roma,  
 We shall succeed where  
 we make the effort.  
 Oh, Roma adults, Oh, Roma youth  
 Oh, Roma adults, Oh, Roma youth.*

## ROMAS CULTURE

Romas culture is rich with world class ethnic and jazz music, dance, theater, art and even literature. There are world famous people of Romani descent, including Django Reinhardt, Yul Brynner, Carmen Amaya, Tony Gatlif as well as many scholars and Romani leaders like Ian Hancock, WR Rishi, Vania de Gila Kochanowski, Sait Balic, Jan Kochanowski Poets Leksa Manu , Karlis Rudevis, Andro Loletye, Sali Ibrahim and Rajko Djuric.

There is also a big list of singers and groups that have been very successful in many countries around the world. Here, we will just refer some of them:

#### COUNTRIES

#### ARTISTS

<b>France</b>	Django Reinhardt, Tekameli, Moreno, Coco Briaval
<b>Hungary</b>	Ando Drom, Sandor Lakatos, Andras Farcas
<b>Romania</b>	Nikolae Gutsa, Taraf de Haiduks
<b>Spain</b>	Camaron, Carmen Amaya, Lola Flores
<b>Greece</b>	Vasilis Paiteris, Giorgos Magkas

Finally, the Romas have many particular dances that constitute a very important part of their tradition and culture. Probably, the most famous one is flamenco, a dance which represents the passion and the struggle of the Romas for survival over the centuries. Only, if you see flamenco performed by a Rom you can actually understand and feel the raw passion and the intensity that this form of dance expresses and transmits to the audience.

## CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, it is a fact that the erroneous and counterproductive stereotypical misconception of Roms as people that

only beg and steal has been the hallmark of the attitudes of the non-Romas ( Gajo) over the centuries the Romas have lived outside their native India. But as we have seen above this stereotype is far away from the reality. And the only way to overpass this misconception is by focusing on the rich culture and history of the Romas and all their achievements throughout the years despite all the enormous obstacles they had to face..

*by Aris Athanasios Ktenas*