

Italy

Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Country Overview

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Population (2018) | 60,421,760 |
| GNI Per Capita (2018) | \$34,546 |
| Country Classification by Income Level (2018) | High-income |
| Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations (2018) | 336,275 |
| Philanthropic Environment Country Overall Score (2018) | 4.67 |
| Philanthropic Environment Cross-Border Flows Score (2018) | 4.50 |

Data: Population, GNI Per Capita and Country Classification by Income Level: World Bank, www.worldbank.org
 Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations: Global Philanthropy Environment Index: Eastern and Southern Europe, globalindices.iupui.edu
 Philanthropic Environment Country Overall Score and Cross-Border Flows Score: Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, *2018 Global Philanthropy Environment Index*. globalindices.iupui.edu

Cross-Border Resource Flows, 2018 (in millions of inflation-adjusted 2018 US dollars)

| Total Resource Flows | Philanthropy | Official Development Assistance (ODA) | Remittances | Private Capital Investment |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| \$23,341.33 | \$684.82 | \$5,189.59 | \$17,369.11 | \$97.81 |
| Quality of Data on Philanthropic Outflows | | | ++++ | |

Data: Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2020 *Global Philanthropy Tracker*

Summary of cross-border philanthropy

The *Istituto Nazionale di Statistica* (ISTAT, Italian National Institute of Statistics) is an independent public research organization which conducts research on a variety of subjects, including the Italian non-profit sector. After researching different sources of information on the nonprofit sector in Italy, both from government organizations and non-governmental organizations, they compiled a breakdown of nonprofit organizations by domestic regions and subject matter. Further, they collect data on volunteering in Italy (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2017a).

SENDING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS

As with all other countries within the European Union (EU), the Italian tax agency cannot deny tax deductions just because a donation went to a public-benefit organization in another EU member state. However, it can be difficult to understand the process, which is why organizations like Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) exist. TGE works in 21 European countries to help foster cross-border donors give in the most tax-effective way. Each country has a partner organization, and Fondazione Land Europe Onlus is the Italian foundation that fills that role. Philanthropic organizations in other EU countries might lose out on funds because the process of obtaining tax benefits for cross-border donations are burdensome to the public (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018).

RECEIVING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Italy, as a member of the EU, cannot legally tax domestic public-benefit organizations differently than those that work in other member states. Additionally, foreign public-benefit organizations can receive tax-exempt status in Italy, as long as it adheres to the same restrictions that regulate domestic organizations (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018). Still, there are logistical barriers within Europe that can deter cross-border giving, such as years-long processing times by the Italian government for refund claims filed by the Volkswagen Stiftung (Surmatz et al., 2017).

ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER GIVING

According to ISTAT, in 2016 Italy was home to approximately 4,192 non-profit institutions that focused on cooperation and international solidarity. Additionally, they estimate that in 2015 nonprofits that focused on cooperation and international development dispersed EUR 4.332 million (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2017a). Beyond that base number, ISTAT does not provide data that further breaks down the cross-border giving recipient sectors.

ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER VOLUNTEERING

The most recent data provided by the ISTAT shows that in 2015, 106,659 individuals volunteered for international cooperation and solidarity non-profit organizations, which is 1.9 percent of all non-profit volunteers. Unfortunately, the data does not differentiate between cross-border volunteering and domestic volunteering (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2017b).

CROSS-BORDER GIVING BY CHARITABLE CAUSES

N/A

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN CROSS-BORDER GIVING

Crowdfunding in Italy of all types is steadily increasing. Through over 7,000 successful crowdfunding campaigns, dispersed among 36 different rewards and donation platforms, an estimated EUR 24,754,678.91 was crowdfunded in 2016 (Ludvik, 2017). Although we do not know how many of these projects provide philanthropic donations cross-border, this still shows that crowdfunding platforms can be important arbiters of future international philanthropy.

Because Italy was the first European country to be hit hard by COVID-19, it received an influx of donations. Of the fundraising campaigns that Italia Non Profit mapped over the past several months, half of them used a crowdfunding platform. Donations came from all over the world, and they specifically targeted the overwhelmed Italian hospitals (Italia Non Profit, 2020a). Italia Non Profit tracked over EUR 750 million in aid for Italy as of July 7, which came from both cross-border and domestic sources (Italia Non Profit, 2020b).

References

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- Italia Non Profit. (2020b). L'Italia che (r)esiste: Numeri e dati della solidarietà ai tempi del Coronavirus. <https://italianonprofit.it/risorse/guide/dati-solidarieta-coronavirus/#gli-aiuti-dalla-filantropia>
- Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. (2018). *Global Philanthropy Environment Index: Italy*. <https://globalindices.iupui.edu/>
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- Ludvik, E. (2017). *Crowdfunding in Italy: All the numbers and platforms*. Crowd Sourcing Week. <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/crowdfunding-italy-numbers-platforms/>
- Sumatz, H., and Forrest, L. (2017). *Boosting Cross-Border Philanthropy in Europe Towards a Tax-Effective Environment*. European Foundation Centre. <https://www.efc.be/uploads/2019/03/Boosting-Cross-Border-Philanthropy-in-Europe-Towards-a-Tax-Effective-Environment.pdf>

ADDITIONAL READING

- Adamo, R., Federico, D., Intonti, M., Mele, S., Notte, A. (2020). *Crowdfunding: The case of Italy*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.90940>

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We greatly appreciate the contributions of researchers, scholars, and leaders around the world to the study of cross-border philanthropy. If you know of any additional information or newly available data that could be included in future editions, please send us an update at indices@iupui.edu.