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This Guide

Working abroad sounds to many people as an adventure.

However, without thorough preparation, starting with a successful application, it is bound to fail. Therefore, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in over 40 countries. Are you interested in working in Australia, France or Japan? Has your partner accepted a job in Hungary, Switzerland, or the United Arab Emirates?

Are you looking for an internship possibility in the UK, Singapore or the United States of America? The Looking for work in... guides from ELM will help you with accurate information and practical tips on working cultures and differences in job hunting in over 40 countries.

As an extra addition to the series – following many requests - ELM introduced a new guide: Looking for work in International Organisations which explains how to successfully look for work in for instance the institutes of the European Commission, UN institutions and NGO's.

This guide contains information on Italy. It tells you how to apply for a job in Italy and the cultural differences that you will come across when looking for a job in Italy. Do not underestimate those national differences. What is common in one country might be very unusual in another country. Despite globalisations, to find a job abroad you need to be aware that national differences manifest themselves not only in

different languages, but also in different recruitment practices. Thus, looking for work in another country involves more than writing your CV/ resume in another language.

No matter the country in which you are looking for work, the key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for a job interview. Accordingly, your CV should be regarded as a marketing tool, adapted to the market in which you intend to use it. The information in this guide, together with the sample CV, will help you to adapt your application for the Italian job market. However, make sure your application remains a reflection of your personality. Working abroad is one thing, but having a job that does not suit you will definitely cause homesickness!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nannette Ripmeester', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nannette Ripmeester, MA
Managing Director
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Country Profile

Country

Italy - a boot shaped peninsula - is a Mediterranean country.

The republic has a surface of 301,000 square kilometres (187,033 square miles) and is divided into 20 regions, which are subdivided into provinces and communes. The Northern regions are Piemonte, Lombardia, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, Toscana, Umbria, Lazio and Marche. The southern regions are Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicilia and Sardegna.

The capital of Italy is Rome, which has approximately 3.8 million inhabitants (2009), other main cities are Milan (1,308,311 inhabitants, 2009), Naples (973,132 inhabitants, 2009), Turin (908,263 inhabitants, 2009), Palermo (663,173 inhabitants, 2009) and Genoa (610,000 inhabitants, 2009).

In the North, Italy is bordered by Switzerland and Austria, in the east by Slovenia and the Adriatic Sea, in the south and west by the Mediterranean Sea and in the north-west by France.

Enclaves within mainland Italy are the independent countries of San Marino and Vatican City; the last is the papal state almost completely enclosed by Rome. The islands Sardegna, Sicilia and Elba and many smaller ones are situated in the Mediterranean Sea.

Climate

There are notable variations in climate from north to south.

The North has a temperate climate, while the centre and South have a Mediterranean climate. Overall characteristics are the mild winters and the long, dry summers.

Population

Italy has a total population of approximately 58.13 million inhabitants (2009). The main minorities in Italy are from (North) Africa, former Yugoslavia, and from Slavic origin.

History

While Italy's status as a single political entity is relatively recent (1861), the country has existed in some form for many centuries. The Etruscans were the first people to rule the peninsula, arriving between the 12th and 8th centuries BC. The Ancient Greeks set up a few colonies along the Southern coast, which became known as

Magna Graecia and developed into independent city-states.

The first Roman Republic was founded in 509 BC, which was one of the largest empires in the world ever. Partly due to the Republic's triumphs during the three Punic Wars it could expand to Spain, Britain, North Africa and present-day Iraq. Meanwhile, relative peace at home enabled the infrastructure of civilisation to spread - roads, aqueducts, and cities. The empire grew so large; it had to be divided into eastern and western sectors just to be administered. Christianity was embraced by Constantine in 313, and the empire's capital was moved from Rome to Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). The Western arm of the empire was undone by plague, famine and wars, and was taken over by Odovacar, a German warrior, in 476. The Turks overran the Eastern Roman Empire in 1453.

Successive invasions of the peninsula took place by Lombards, Franks, Saracens, Germans and Normans who claimed the lost title of empire and emperor, culminated in Frankish Charlemagne's crowning as emperor in 800.

Muslim Arabs dominated the south until usurped by Normans. This ethnic cocktail began to settle in the 12th century, when powerful combative and competitive city-states arose in the north, supporting either the pope or the emperor (usually a foreign power). The rise of cities and a merchant class led directly to cultural adulthood, culminating in the Renaissance of the 15th century. Painters, architects, poets, philosophers and sculptors produced unsurpassed

works of genius, despite the turmoil of intercency warfare and invasion by countries in the North. First Spain and then Austria controlled the peninsula during the following centuries. After which Napoleon took control for a short period of time.

The defeat of Napoleon resulted in the urge for unification in the 19th century, led by Garibaldi, Cavour and Mazzini. The Kingdom of Italy was declared in 1861, although Venice was not prised away from Austria until 1866 and papal claims remained an issue until 1870. No label of unity, however, could hide the huge cultural and social differences, which split the industrialised North from the poverty-stricken south. Economic crisis and fickle politics dogged the new nation in the ensuing decades, as Italy muddled through World War I (at the side of France and England). In 1922, the King asked Benito Mussolini to take the reins of government under the auspices of his Fascist Party. Mussolini soon became head of state, outlawed the opposition, controlled the press and trade unions, and cut franchise by two-thirds. Italy took side of Germany during World War II, but after a series of military disasters and an allied invasion the relationship between Germany and Italy ended.

The monarchy was abolished in Italy by referendum in 1946, and Italy is a democratic republic since, led by a President. Due to large regional differences Italy remains difficult to govern, and since 1946 Italy has had over 58 governments.

In 1949 Italy became a founding member of the NATO, the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation, an alliance of 26 countries from North America and Europe committed to fulfilling the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty signed on the 4th of April 1949.

In 1957 Italy, along with five other nations, formed the EEC – European Economic Community. The five nations that accompanied Italy were France, West Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

From 1970 until 1980 the country's economic difficulties led to increasing violence within Italy. In 2001 Silvio Berlusconi was appointed as Prime Minister. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S., Berlusconi was among the European leaders who lined up to pledge support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism. The prime minister put the country on heightened alert and promised that Italy was "by the side of the United States and all who are committed to the battle against terrorism."

Disaster struck Italy in October 2001 at Milan's Linate airport when, in heavy fog, a Scandinavian airliner collided during takeoff with a small jet taxiing across its path, killing a total of 118 people.

Emblematic of a slowdown of the economy in 2002 was a decision in October by Italy's biggest automaker, Fiat, to lay off some 8,100 workers, nearly a fifth of the company's total employees. The overall jobless rate for the country stood at 9.1% in September. Also that month, Italy's inflation rate hit a 12-month high, and the official