

# Marriages of Women from former-Ussr in Italy... a step towards integration?

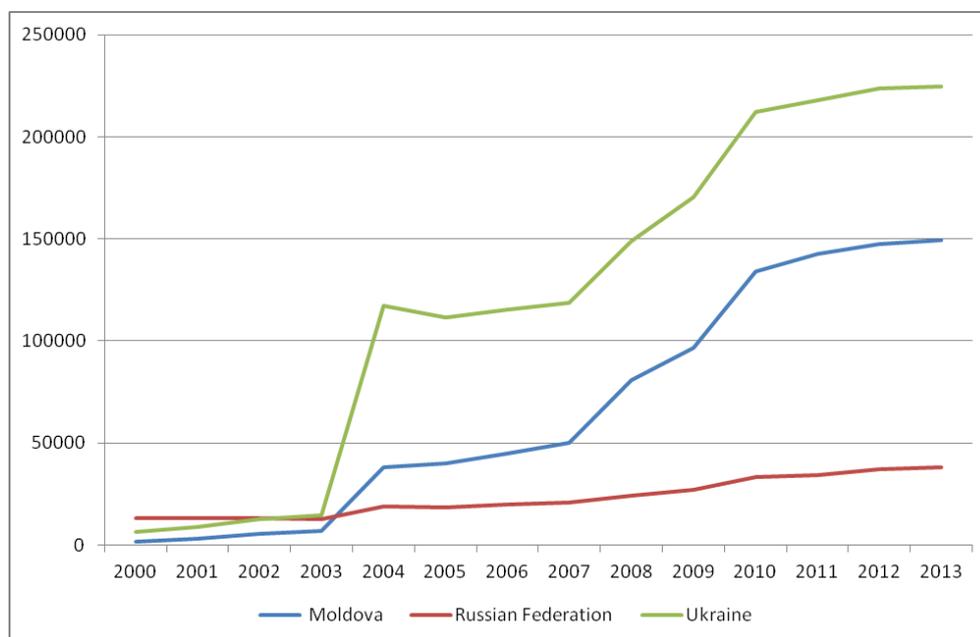
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*Istat*

## General framework and aims

In the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century the presence of former-USSR citizens in Italy has rapidly grown.

According to the data provided by the archive of residence permits at the beginning of 2000 they were less than 24.000. At the beginning of 2013 they were more than 430 000 (about 225 000 Ukrainians) (Figure 1). The regularization process (Law 189/02) had a strong effect on the growth of the regular presence coming from this area.

Figure 1 – Moldavians, Russians and Ukrainians, total of residence permits, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2000-2012<sup>a</sup>



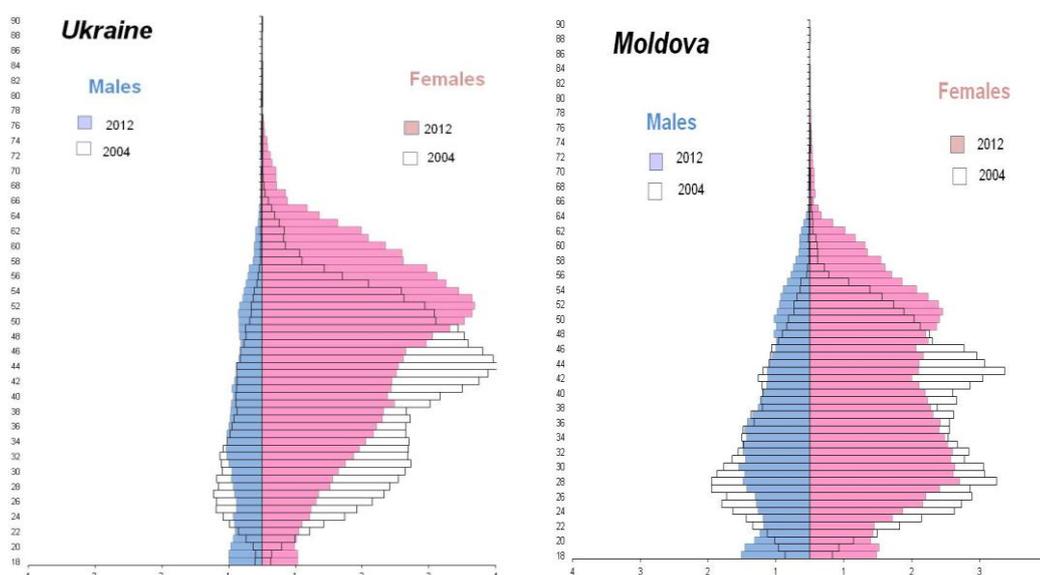
Source: Istat elaborations based on data of Ministry of Interior.

(a) Minors are not included in the figures.

The observed migrant communities have peculiar characteristics and show particular socio-economic behaviours. A large part of this presence is constituted by women (Figure 2), mostly employed in the sector of family services, with a mean age higher than that registered for other foreign communities.

Also regarding the marital status former-USSR women show a peculiar behaviour particularly towards marriages.

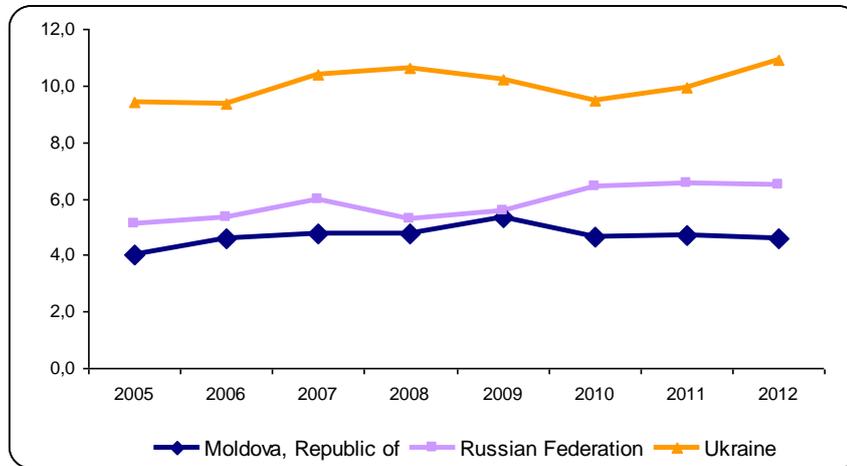
Figure 2 – Age pyramids of Ukrainian and Moldavian with residence permits, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 and 2004



Source: Istat elaborations based on data of Ministry of Interior.

In Italy in 2012, 30 724 weddings with at least one foreign spouse were celebrated (15% of the total). Mixed marriages in which one partner is Italian and the other is foreign represent the prevalent typology (68% of marriages with at least a foreign spouse) and amount to 20 764; around 8 out of 10 of these mixed marriages regard foreign brides. Among the citizenships mainly involved in this typology there are, after the Romanians, the ones belonging to the area of Eastern Europe and former USSR. The Ukrainian brides account for nearly the 10% of the marriages with foreign bride and Italian groom (Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Marriages of Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian brides with Italian grooms (per 100 marriages of foreign brides and Italian grooms). Years 2005-2012



Source: Istat, survey on marriages

The general aim of this contribution is to enlighten the most relevant demographic trends regarding the Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian communities in the last decade. We discuss the principal changes interested the three communities and we describe the specific characteristics (gender and age composition, territorial distribution, marital status, reason of the stay, etc.) and behaviours (marriages, births, etc.).

Foreign citizens present different attitudes as regards getting married in Italy, an attitude that is not directly to be referred to the demographic relevance of each community. The reasons behind these different attitudes toward marriage are most likely to be searched in the different migratory models of each community. Foreign citizens got married in their own country of origin in many cases live together the migratory experience, in other cases they reunite subsequently in Italy when one of the two has been living stably in our country. It depends also by the demographic characteristics of the community: e.g. age is a very important factor. Many middle aged women arrive in Italy having already a family in the country of origin (sometimes adult children) without the idea of family reunification.

The population of interest is the cohort of former-USSR women arrived for the first time in Italy in 2007. As a matter of fact, it is particularly interesting to shed light on the different family formation paths using as starting point this population of interest.

All the women from former-USSR have the same propensity to marriage in Italy? Using the different available microdata we will try to answer to these questions through the application of explanatory models.

## Data and methods

For this contribution we use data collected by different official sources, mainly residence permits and population registers.

The record linkage is used linking microdata deriving from residence permits (period 2008-2013), Social Security (years 2008-2012) and marriages celebrated in Italy (period 2007-2012). A deterministic procedure is applied using as key the tax code.

The linkages allow to better defining the profile of these communities in Italy also in a longitudinal perspective

The analysis will be completed using the datasets of marriages for studying the peculiarities of the brides of the three selected citizenships comparing to the ones of the entire communities present in Italy.

The record linkage's results will be studied through the application both of descriptive and multivariate analyses.

Descriptive and multivariate analysis will be carried out to enlighten the differential characteristics of the brides. In particular the application of regression models let us shed light to the relation among individual (and migratory) characteristics and some relevant behaviours.

## References

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