

Following the routes of the Former USSR women in Italy: recent trends observed integrating micro-data

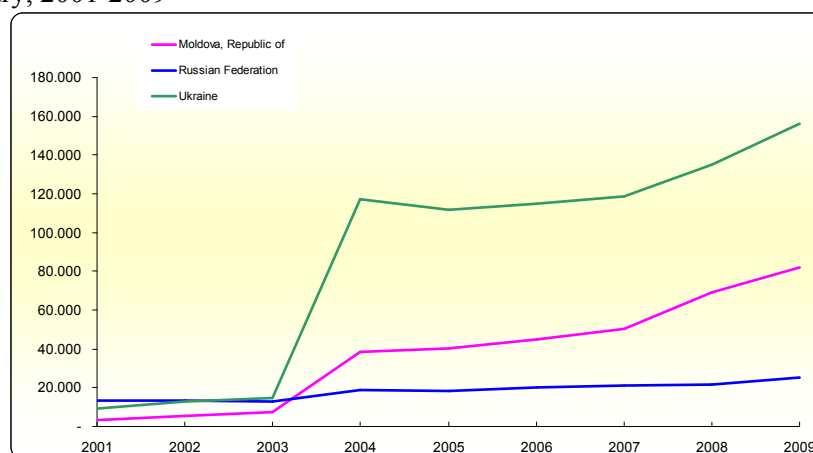
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Aims and general framework

In the first decade of 21st 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 2009 they were almost 240 000 (more than 140 000 Ukrainians) (fig.1). The regularization process (Law 189/02) had a strong effect in the growth of the regular presence coming from this area.

Fig. 1 – Moldavians, Russians and Ukrainians, total of residence permits, 1st January, 2001-2009



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

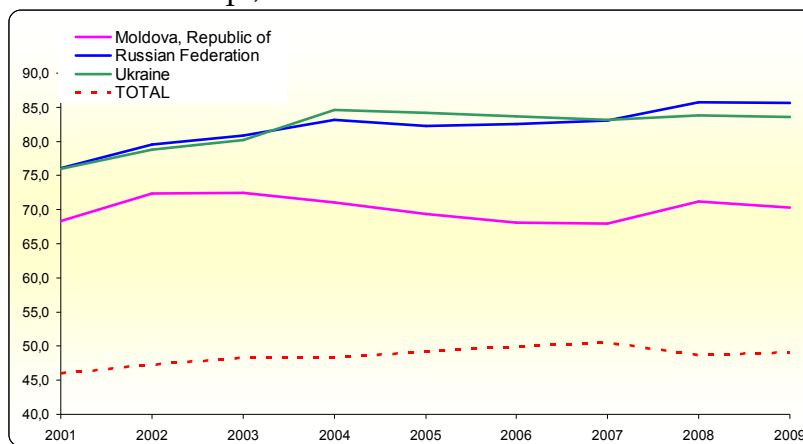
In the first part of the paper we enlighten the most relevant demographic trends regarding these communities in the last decade. We discuss the principal changes interested the three communities and we describe the specific characteristics (gender and age composition, territorial distribution, marital status, reason of the stay, etc.) and behaviours (marriages, births, etc.). We use data collected by different official sources, mainly residence permits and population registers.

We focus our attention on three communities coming from these area particularly consistent in Italy: Moldavians, Ukrainians and Russians.

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

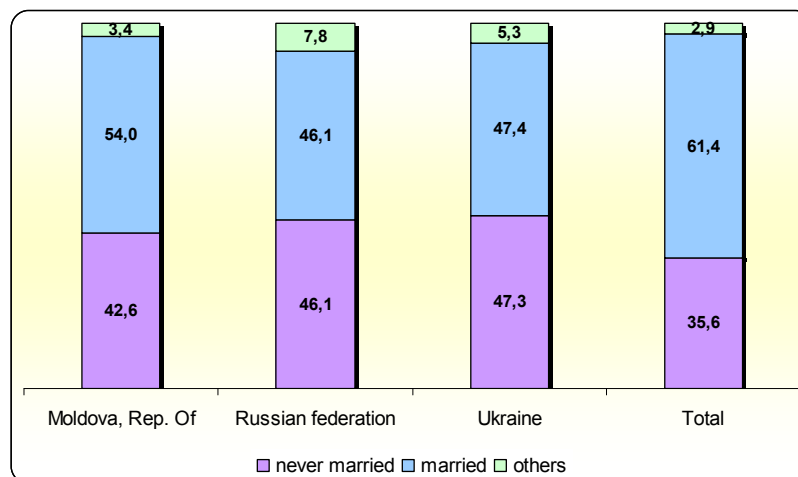
Also regarding the marital status former USSR women show a peculiar behaviour: they present a smaller quota of married compared to the total amount of women with a residence permit.

Fig. 2 – Percentage of women on the total of residence permits, total and selected citizenships, 2001-2009



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

Fig. 3 - Marital status, percentages for selected citizenship and total, women, 2009



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

The next step consists in applying record linkage techniques to enrich the information potential of the different sources considered and to better understand the integration paths of these women in Italy.

In particular we focused our attention on territorial mobility, work conditions and marriages, aspects of life towards which these communities show peculiar choices and conditions. The analysis will try to underline the relation between the studied behaviours and the individual characteristics.

Data and methods

The record linkage is used linking microdata deriving from residence permits (period 2008-2011), Social Security (years 2008-2010) and marriages celebrated in Italy (period 2007-2009).

The population of interest is the cohort of former USSR women arrived for the first time in Italy in 2007.

In a first step a record linkage between residence permits data and Social Security notifications has been carried out. The deterministic procedure uses as key the tax code; this variable is found in both files for almost all cases: 99.4% Social Security, residence permits 88.3 %.

The new residence permits issued for work reasons during 2008 have been linked with the records of the employees for reference year 2009. The Social Security archive contains data relating to declarations of contributions for employees made in 2009, with the exclusion of the public sector. From the archive are also excluded agricultural workers and domestic workers, which refer to other archives. These categories appear in the archive used for record linkage only in some specific cases (temporary workers).

In the case of linkage between residence permits and marriages celebrated in Italy it is particularly interesting to shed light on the different family formation paths.

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

In particular the application of regression models let us enlighten the relation among individual (and migratory) characteristics and some relevant behaviours.

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