



Cooperation and Dialogue on
Migration and Mobility (Phase II)



▶ INDIA-ITALY

Migration Corridor Analysis: Trends and Opportunities



International
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Organization



ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



Indian Council
of World Affairs



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ISBN: 9789220436417 (print); 9789220436424 (web PDF)
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54394/00034678>

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► Abbreviations

CAF	Centro di Assistenza Fiscale
CRUI	Conference of Italian University Rectors
DoV	Declaration of Value
ECR	Emigration Check Required
EPOC	Executive Programme of Cooperation
GJRP	Global Job Readiness Programme
ICCI	Indian Chamber of Commerce in Italy
ICWF	Indian Community Welfare Fund
IICCI	Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ITA	Italian Trade Agency
IYA	Indian Youth Association
JGU	Jindal Global University
JWG	Joint Working Group
KVTSDC	Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation
MADAD	MEA in Aid of Diaspora in Distress
MAECI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MI	Ministry of the Interior
MIM	Ministry of Education and Merit
MMPA	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement
MoLE	Ministry of Labour and Employment
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MSDE	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
MUR	Ministry of University and Research
NCS	National Career Service
NIU	Noida International University
NRI	Non-resident Indians
NSDC	National Skill Development Corporation

ODEPC	Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants
OMCL	Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd
PBBY	Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana
PDOT	Pre-Departure Orientation Training
PGE	Protector General of Emigrants
PoE	Protector of Emigrants
RA	Recruiting agents
RSLDC	Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation
SASSI Milan	Students' Association of Indians in Milan
SIIC	Skill India International Centre
SSN	Servizio Sanitario Nazionale
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
SUI	Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione
THAMM	Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa
TOMCOM	Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited
UNINT	University of International Studies of Rome



► Acknowledgements

As part of the European Union funded **EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (Phase II)** project, this publication was prepared by the Policy and Development Advisory Group (PDAG) with significant contribution from the project teams of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). We are grateful for the diligence of the team at PDAG who led the research and drafting process, ensuring that the study reflects a comprehensive and evidence-based perspective.

We wish to acknowledge the valuable inputs of the Indian, Italian and EU government representatives, policymakers, and officials who provided guidance and perspectives during the development of this study. Their engagement and feedback contributed to strengthening the quality of the analysis presented.

We also recognize the contributions of stakeholders engaged in advancing the fair migration agenda, whose participation and insights were helpful in shaping relevant and practical outcomes.

► Executive summary

The India-Italy migration corridor has emerged as one of the most significant labour mobility pathways between India and Europe, shaped by long-standing migration flows, expanding bilateral cooperation and complementary demographic and economic needs. Italy faces persistent labour shortages driven by an ageing population, declining birth rates and shrinking domestic workforce, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality and construction.

The corridor has evolved from predominantly low- and medium-skilled labour migration in the 1990s towards a more diversified mobility partnership anchored by the signing of the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) in November 2023. The MMPA provides a structured framework for promoting safe, orderly and mutually beneficial migration while expanding legal pathways for students, skilled and non-skilled workers, interns and researchers. It also establishes cooperation mechanisms on ethical recruitment, skills development, language and vocational training and the prevention of irregular migration.

This country brief maps existing migration and mobility pathways in the corridor for different categories of migrants. It outlines sector-specific demand in Italy and the available integration mechanisms such as language support, social security coverage, employment assistance, and access to public services.

The brief describes the *Decreto Flussi* system, a market-driven system that structures labour migration to Italy from third countries, including its administrative requirements and the end-to-end recruitment process that is guided by the *Decreto Flussi*.

It maps key institutional actors involved in facilitating migration, including public agencies, diaspora organizations, job placement agencies, and industry bodies. It highlights ongoing reintegration efforts for returning migrants, supported through bilateral and international cooperation, including recognition of skills acquired abroad and support for entrepreneurship and employment. It also identifies opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation through improved pre-departure orientation, transparent recruitment systems, stronger employer engagement and better institutional coordination to support safer and more efficient migration pathways between India and Italy. By strengthening institutional coordination, improving access to information, and investing in skills recognition and certification, and integration support, both countries can create a migration framework that is ethical, efficient and equitable.

► Methodology

The analysis of the India-Italy migration corridor followed a two-pronged approach – comprehensive desk research, analytical framing and secondary data analysis, followed by review and feedback by relevant stakeholders.

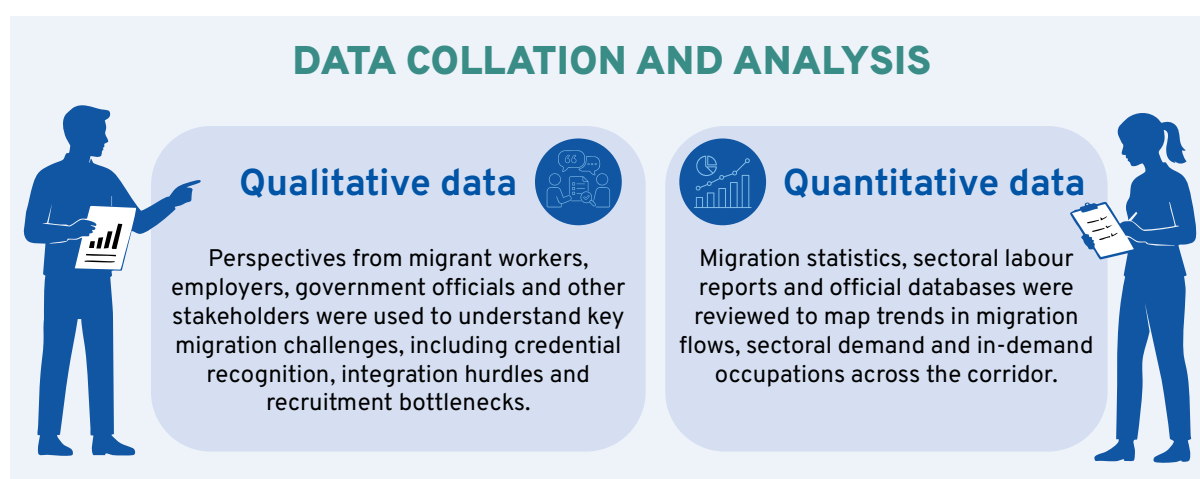
Phase 1: Targeted desk research and policy review

The desk review focused on policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, labour market trends, and migration pathways relevant to the India-Italy corridor.

- **Bilateral agreements:** The team closely examined the MMPA to identify safe migration pathways for students, apprentices and skilled workers, and reviewed the legal and procedural frameworks supporting their entry, stay and employment.
- **Labour market needs and skills gaps:** The team analysed government reports and labour market studies to identify demand in critical sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, construction and manufacturing, where labour shortages in Italy can be met by workers from the Indian workforce.
- **Migration enabling initiatives:** The team reviewed existing programmes, including Italy’s “Decreto Flussi”, a market-driven process based on the Italian government priorities that sets quotas for the admission of non-EU workers, and emerging bilateral initiatives supporting labour mobility and skills development.
- **Visa regimes and migrant support:** The team explored visa and work permit frameworks, including the role of migrant support organizations in improving awareness of rights, procedures and protections for Indian migrants.

Phase 2: Secondary data collation and analysis

The team gathered and analysed available secondary data to complement qualitative insights. This includes qualitative data and quantitative data.



Phase 3: Stakeholder review and validation

The draft country brief was shared with key stakeholders for review and feedback. Their inputs were incorporated to validate findings, strengthen policy relevance and refine the recommendations and analytical framing of the study.



► Introduction – India-Italy migration corridor

1.1 Overview

The India-Italy migration corridor represents an important pathway for Indian labour migration to Europe. Indian nationals make up the largest non-EU community in Italy and have recorded a 5.2 per cent increase¹ from 2021 to 2022, reflecting continued inflow and settlement dynamics rather than temporary or purely seasonal presence. Indian migration to Italy expanded significantly from the 1990s onwards, driven largely by labour demand in low- and medium-skilled sectors and characterized initially by male workers from northern Indian states, with inflows increasing steadily in the 2000s before moderating after the economic crisis of 2008.²

Migration flows operate through both seasonal and non-seasonal³ labour channels, primarily governed by Italy's annual quota system, which regulates entry for foreign workers based on

labour market needs. Seasonal migration is especially relevant in agriculture where there is a shortage of native workers. In 2021, half of the Indian immigrants were engaged in agriculture and groundcare.⁴

India and Italy have signed multiple agreements to formalize the migration process and to facilitate and encourage mobility of skilled workers primarily through the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA). The Joint Strategic Action Plan and the Youth Mobility Agreement complement the MMPA and other cultural exchange programmes.

1.2 Indian Emigration to Italy

Indian workers in Italy show relatively strong labour market outcomes compared to other non-EU migrants, with higher employment and lower unemployment rates.

Table 1: Percentage of Indian nationals in Italy's labour market

Sector	% of Indian nationals
Agriculture	36.5%
Industry	32.6%
Business and services	30.9%

Source: India-Italy Bilateral Relations, Embassy of India in Italy

- <https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/AnteprimaPDF.aspx?id=6153>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6105171/>
- Categories explained in Chapter 3
- <https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/AnteprimaPDF.aspx?id=6153>

1.3 Trends in migration

Significant Indian migration to Italy began in the early 1990s, with an initial wave of IT professionals and engineers, followed by a steady increase in low- to medium-skilled workers, particularly from Punjab, creating a pronounced sectoral concentration among Indian migrants in the dairy sector across northern Italy.⁵ Over the following decades, Indians, mainly Sikhs, filled critical labour shortages in northern Italy's agriculture and dairy sectors, especially in the Po Valley region, becoming an important part of the production of cheeses such as Parmigiano-Reggiano and Grana Padano. This made Italy home to the largest Indian diaspora in continental Europe.⁶ In March 2023, India and Italy signed a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility which laid the foundation for structured bilateral cooperation.⁷

India and Italy signed the MMPA in November 2023 to enhance legal migration channels for students, skilled workers, business professionals and young talent. The agreement formalizes cooperation across student mobility, skill development and training, internship and work placements and cooperation to address irregular migration. Italy is also exploring internship provisions for international students to facilitate a smoother transition into the labour market and improve post-study employment pathways. Under Italy's current *Decreto Flussi*⁸ (Flow Decree) framework, dedicated quotas have been allocated for Indian non-seasonal workers, amounting to 5,000 in 2023, 6,000 in 2024 and 7,000 in 2025.⁹ These allocations strengthen structured labour

mobility opportunities for Indian migrants within Italy's existing immigration framework.

The Agreement also promotes the development of mobility pathways through future arrangements on youth mobility. Additionally, Indian students completing academic or vocational training in Italy are eligible to apply for temporary residence, thereby creating a clearer pathway from education to employment.

In 2024, the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan (2025–2029) further strengthened migration cooperation within a broader bilateral framework. The plan promotes the development of safe and regular migration channels, alongside fair and transparent systems for labour training and recruitment. As part of this effort, a pilot initiative will focus on training health professionals in India for subsequent employment in Italy, operationalizing the provisions of Article 5.5 of the MMPA, which provides for linguistic and professional pre-departure training including sector-specific skills development to support labour market needs in Italy. The Joint Strategic Action Plan also seeks to expand academic mobility by strengthening cooperation between higher education institutions and authorities in both countries, facilitating greater exchanges of students, researchers, and academics.¹⁰

1.4 Indian Diaspora in Italy

The Indian diaspora in Italy is the largest within the European Union.¹¹ In Europe, Italy hosts the second-largest population of registered Indian immigrants, after the United Kingdom.¹²

5. <https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/PatternsofMigrationfromPunjabtoItaly.pdf>

6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33149580>

7. <https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?36318>

8. *Decreto Flussi* (Flows Decree): The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic (the Prime Minister) containing the maximum number of admissions of non-EU citizens into the Italian territory for work purposes.

9. <http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1990754®=3&lang=2#:~:text=The%20Agreement%20locks-in%20the,at%208000%20for%20seasonal%20workers>.

10. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/38541/ItalyIndia_Joint_Strategic_Action_Plan_20252029

11. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>

12. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>



Indian nationals are the seventh largest foreign community in Italy as of January 2025, representing around 3.25 per cent of all foreign nationals residing in the country.¹³ As of March 2025, there are 206,503 Indians in Italy (including 167,333 Non-Resident Indians and 39,170 Persons of Indian Origin).¹⁴ This sizeable and well-established community reflects Italy's long-standing role as a key destination within the India-EU migration corridor. Indian migrants are geographically concentrated in the northern region (60.8 per cent) and the central region (26 per cent), including Lombardy (31 per cent), Emilia-Romagna (11 per cent) and Lazio (21 per cent), where they are employed across agriculture, dairy farming, manufacturing, logistics, and service sectors.¹⁵ In southern Italy, the Campania region accounts for about 4.5 per cent of the Indian community.¹⁶ Milan alone hosts an estimated 60,000 Indian nationals, primarily originating from Punjab (85 per cent), Haryana (10 per cent), and other regions such as Rajasthan.¹⁷ While the majority of migrants are engaged in low and medium-skilled occupations, a smaller but visible cohort of professionals is employed in sectors such as information technology, hospitality, and the gems and jewellery trade. The presence of several temples and nearly 90 gurudwaras across Italy highlights the community's organized social and religious networks, which serve not only spiritual needs but also provide important support systems that facilitate migrant integration.

The demographic profile of the Indian diaspora is increasingly characterized by the presence of family units and minors, indicating a gradual transition from predominantly labour-driven migration towards longer-term settlement.¹⁸ At the same time, student mobility is emerging as an important priority within the corridor. In 2024, the annual flow of Indian students to Italy reached approximately 6,017, with most students concentrated in engineering, economics, finance and medicine.¹⁹ Although Italy hosts fewer students compared to countries such as Germany, France and Ireland, recent trends indicate a steady recovery and renewed interest post-pandemic.²⁰

Table 2: Annual flow of Indian students to Italy²¹

Year	Number of students
2019	6,955
2020	4,634
2021	8,856
2022	9,326
2023	5,196
2024	6,017

Source: Adapted from Rajya Sabha – Question No. 1191

13. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>

14. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/indian-population-by-country>

15. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>

16. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>

17. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations/>

18. <https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/AnteprimaPDF.aspx?id=6153>

19. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/india-italy-bilateral-relations>

20. https://www.icwa.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=3&ls_id=9349&lid=6063#:~:text=Italy%20is%20home%20to%20the%20largest%20Indian,are%20estimated%20to%20be%20in%20Italy%20bulk

21. https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/265/AU1191_6gQzeb.pdf?source=pqars

► An analysis of the India-Italy bilateral MMPA and other initiatives

Italy's migration system is governed primarily through its Consolidated Immigration Act (Legislative Decree No. 286/1998) and the annual *Decreto Flussi*, which sets quotas for the admission of non-EU workers. The MMPA, signed in Rome in November 2023, establishes a structured bilateral platform for cooperation between India and Italy and references the *Decreto Flussi* for relevant mobility provisions.

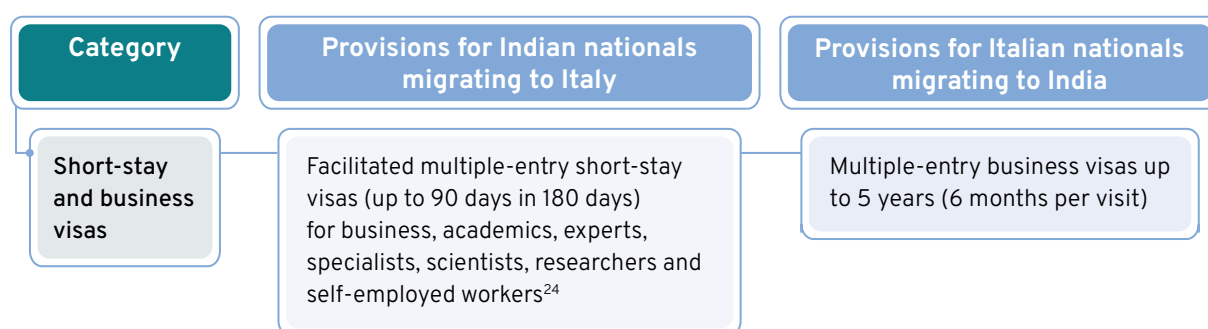
2.1 The MMPA: key agreement between India and Italy

The MMPA signed between India and Italy strengthens people's connectivity and mobility

and further cements the historical bond of friendship between the two countries.²³

2.1.1 Key provisions in the MMPA that facilitate legal migration

The MMPA includes provisions covering the following categories:



22. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/LegalTreatiesDoc/IT23B4159.pdf>

23. <https://www.mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/37594/QUESTION+NO1261+MIGRATION+AND+MOBILITY+AGREEMENT>

24. Self-employed worker: Someone who works in their own business, professional practice for the purpose of earning a profit. A self-employed person may also be defined as an independent worker/freelance.

Category	Provisions for Indian nationals migrating to Italy	Provisions for Italian nationals migrating to India
Students and trainees	The Italian Party shall issue long-stay visas for students enrolled in recognised academic institutions, with a residence permit renewable annually; post-study temporary residence (9–12 months for job search); provisions for internship, ²⁵ professional training, ²⁶ and youth mobility exchanges; residence permits may be converted into work permits subject to national legislation	The Indian Party shall issue student visas for Italian students pursuing full-time courses at recognized institutions, renewable annually for up to 5 years or the course duration; S-6 visa for internships valid for up to 12 months
Skilled and non-seasonal workers	Admission under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> quota system; cooperation in recruitment, selection and sectoral matching; compliance with labour laws and equal treatment principles	Employment visas issued subject to Indian visa regulations and salary thresholds; mandatory registration with authorities within 14 days of arrival
Seasonal workers	Quotas for seasonal work permits under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> ; admissions in sectors such as agriculture and tourism; facilitation of job matching in line with Italian legislation, including employer associations and Indian organizations	Provision for professional and linguistic pre-departure training involving relevant stakeholders
Intra-company transfers	Visa or residence permit for employees seconded between companies of the same group; Indian nationals holding an academic degree and employed under a contract dating back at least three months may receive the permit for career development or training in business techniques or methodologies	Visa or residence permit for employees seconded between companies of the same group. Italian nationals holding an academic degree and employed under a contract dating back at least three months may receive the permit for career development or training in business techniques/ methodologies

25. Internship: A type of temporary placement of people into the labour market, aimed at the development of knowledge, acquisition of professional skills and placement in the labour market. Internships are either included in a formal learning pathway when still attending universities ("Curricular internships") or outside of the period of formal education ("Extracurricular internships").

26. Professional Training and Internship Decree: the three-year Italian interministerial Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Policies of the Italian Republic, which contains the maximum number of admissions to the Italian territory of non-EU citizens for professional training and internship within an Italian company.

Category	Provisions for Indian nationals migrating to Italy	Provisions for Italian nationals migrating to India
Family members	Renewable dependent visa or residence permit; possible job-readiness projects	Renewable dependent visa or residence permit; possible job-readiness projects
Pre-departure preparation	Provision for professional and linguistic pre-departure training involving public institutions, employers' associations, and stakeholders according to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of the Italian Republic	N/A
Researchers and academics	Establishment of a bilateral exchange on the possibilities and improvement of procedures to encourage the mobility of doctoral-level researchers; temporary residence permit or appropriate visa valid for the duration of their research or teaching activities issued under national legislation	Establishment of a bilateral exchange on the possibilities and improvement of procedures to encourage the mobility of doctoral-level researchers; temporary residence permit or appropriate visa valid for the duration of their research or teaching activities, issued under national legislation
Joint Working Group (JWG)	Reviews labour market developments; identifies occupational needs; facilitates cooperation	

2.2 Provisions addressing return and reintegration

The MMPA includes a dedicated chapter on cooperation regarding irregular migration and return. It establishes procedures for nationality verification based on documents listed in Annex A, issuance of Consular Laissez-Passer or Emergency Travel Documents, and close coordination between the competent authorities, the Ministry of Interior in Italy and the Ministry of Home Affairs in India.

The Agreement promotes voluntary return mechanisms while ensuring that returns take place in accordance with national and international legal standards. Cooperation on

combating trafficking in human beings and document fraud is also included. The Agreement further calls for the development of a common programme of action to share best practices, strengthen institutional capacity, and conduct information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration.

2.3 Building on the MMPA: implementation priorities

The effectiveness of the Agreement depends on operational follow-through within Italy's quota-based system. The following implementation priorities emerge within the existing framework:



Table 3: Contextualizing the MMPA along current corridor trends

Category	Key insights
Multi-year planning under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i>	Italy has shifted from annual migration quotas to a multi-year planning framework under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> , with a three-year programme – the latest decree covering 2026–2028 – and forward planning for subsequent years. ²⁷ For India, this creates greater scope to align India's workforce training and skilling systems with Italy's labour demand, leveraging the improved predictability of labour demand in the corridor.
Sectoral alignment	For sectoral pilots to be effective, pre-departure training and recruitment processes must be aligned with key sectors historically covered under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> , including construction, agriculture (seasonal and non-seasonal), hospitality, logistics and domestic support services including care work. ²⁸
Recruitment transparency	Quota-based systems are vulnerable to informal intermediaries and speculative recruitment practices. Strengthening government-to-government coordination – including verified employer demand and regulated recruitment channels – can enhance transparency. For instance, the EU-funded – Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa (THAMM) Plus programme demonstrates a government-to-government recruitment model that links verified job offers, language training and worker protection mechanisms. ²⁹ Its design includes employer-pay principles, transparent matching and monitoring of labour standards. These elements help address operational challenges such as job-skill mismatches, limited pre-departure preparation and risks of informal or exploitative recruitment practices, offering a more structured and accountable approach to labour mobility.
Data exchange and labour market monitoring	Regular convening of the JWG is critical for updating sectoral priorities and adjusting cooperation in response to labour shortages. However, its effectiveness depends on sustained engagement and follow-through between meetings. More regular engagement, smaller working groups focused on specific sectors, and consistent information-sharing can help improve its effectiveness.

27. <https://www.iom.int/news/italy-multi-year-migration-plan-milestone-regular-pathways-says-iom-chief>

28. https://static.eurofound.europa.eu/covid19db/cases/IT-2023-1_3826.html

29. <https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/towards-holistic-approach-labour-migration-governance-and-labour-mobility>

Category	Key insights
Pre-departure training and skills preparation	Pre-departure training programmes can include language instruction, workplace safety training and labour rights awareness. Greater coordination between training institutions, skilling agencies and employers in both countries can help align pre-departure preparation with sector-specific labour demand under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> framework.
Irregular migration and human trafficking	India and Italy can enhance coordination on initiatives supporting migrants in vulnerable situations, including voluntary return, repatriation support and reintegration assistance. Expanding information campaigns, legal assistance and migrant advisory services can help raise awareness about safe migration pathways and reduce risks linked to irregular migration and human trafficking.

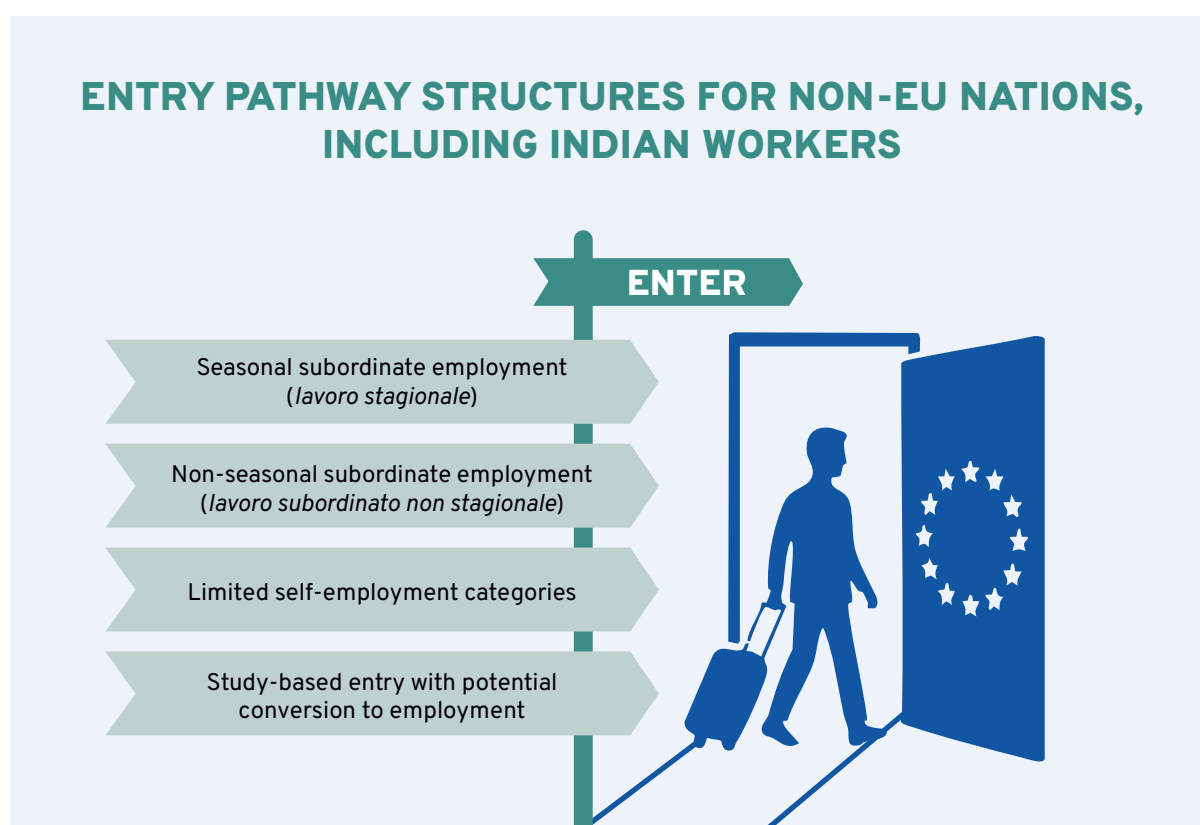


► Mapping key migration and mobility pathways in the India-Italy corridor

3.1 Overview

Italy's migration system is primarily employer-driven and regulated through quota-based admissions,

with entry linked to identified labour demand. Entry pathways for non-EU nationals, including Indian workers, are therefore structured around the categories illustrated in the infographic below.





The tables below map the legal and procedural structure of these pathways.

Table 4: Labour migration pathways under the Decreto Flussi

Category	Legal basis	Admission mechanism	Typical sectors	Permit duration	Long-term mobility prospects	Key constraints
Seasonal work (<i>lavoro stagionale</i>)	Art. 24, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Employer obtains <i>nulla-osta</i> within seasonal quota	Agriculture, agrotourism, agro-processing	Up to 9 months (within a 12-month period)	Renewable; may convert to non-seasonal under conditions	Strict quota ceiling; time-bound
Non-seasonal subordinate work (<i>lavoro subordinato non stagionale</i>)	Arts. 21–22, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Employer obtains <i>nulla-osta</i> within quota allocation	Construction, manufacturing, logistics, care work, hospitality	Linked to employment contract	Renewable; eligible for EU long-term residence after 5 years (subject to conditions)	Quota-dependent
Self-employment	Art. 26, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Quota-based admission and proof of financial and professional eligibility	Entrepreneurs, professionals	Authorized for 2 years	Renewable	Limited quota slots; financial thresholds apply

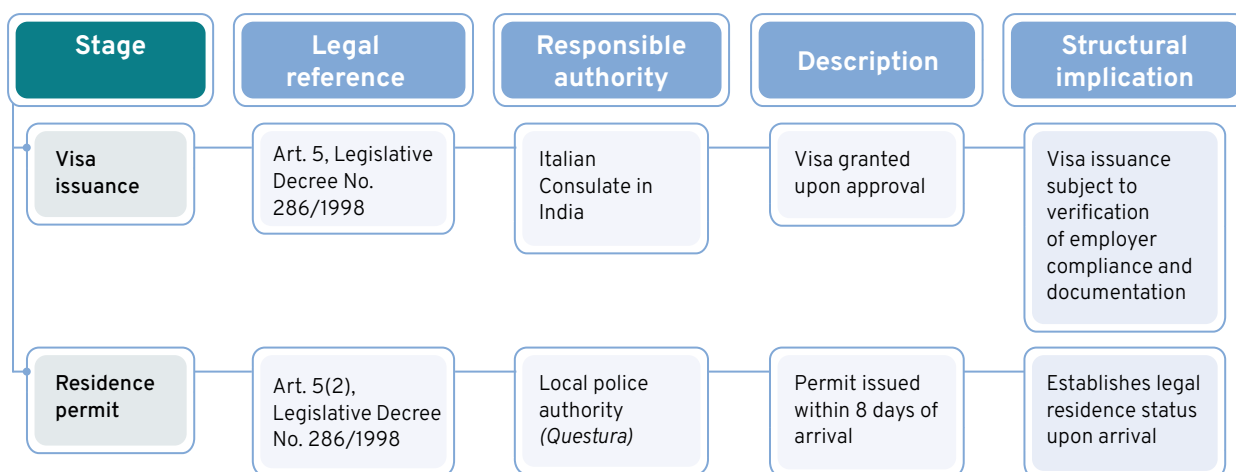
3.2 The *nulla-osta* procedure (employer-driven entry condition)

The *nulla-osta al lavoro* is a pre-entry authorization issued by Italian authorities confirming that a foreign worker meets all legal requirements for a specific job. A worker can

apply for an entry visa at the Italian consulate only after the issuance of the *nulla-osta*, making it a central step in the employer-driven migration process. The *nulla-osta* is issued for all categories of labour mobility, regardless of skill level, including highly skilled mobility under the EU Blue Card, though EU Blue Cards are exempt from the *Decreto Flussi*.

Table 5: The *nulla-osta* procedure (employer-driven entry condition)

Stage	Legal reference	Responsible authority	Description	Structural implication
Application submission	Art. 22, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Italian employer via <i>Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione</i>	Employer submits electronic request during quota window	Process is employer-initiated; migrant participation is contingent on employer sponsorship
Quota verification	<i>Decreto Flussi</i> Decree	The Prime Minister, in consultation with the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, signs off on the quotas in the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> ; implementation of the Decree rests with the Ministry of Interior	System checks quota availability	First-come, first-served processing
Labour compliance check	Art. 22(2), Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Labour authorities	Verification of wage and contract conditions	Verification of compliance with wage and contract requirements under national law
Issuance of <i>nulla-osta</i>	Presidential Decree No. 394/1999	<i>Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione</i> (single desk for immigration)	Authorization transmitted to consulate	The Consulate initiates the visa process for the foreign worker



3.3 EU Blue Card pathway

In Italy, the Blue Card is issued for highly skilled professionals outside the Decreto Flussi quotas, on the basis of a binding job offer or contract

meeting national eligibility conditions, including a minimum salary threshold set in line with EU parameters. The EU Immigration Portal indicates that Italy's salary threshold (set by the government) for 2024 is €33,500.³⁰

Table 6: EU Blue Card (Italy) – corridor-relevant snapshot

Feature	Italy (EU Portal summary)
Target group	Highly skilled non-EU professionals
Core requirement	Binding job offer or contract, qualification criteria and salary threshold
Salary threshold	€33,500 (2024, EU Immigration Portal)
Relationship to <i>Decreto Flussi</i>	The Blue Card is a separate high-skill channel, not subject to the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> seasonal or non-seasonal quota model, and is used for professional roles

3.4 Cascading visa system for business purposes

On 18 April 2024, the European Commission adopted a new visa cascade regime for Indian nationals applying for short-stay Schengen visas in India. The regime facilitates access to long-term, multiple-entry visas for travellers with an established travel history, subject to passport validity.

Under this framework, applicants may be issued a two-year multiple-entry visa after lawfully

using two visas within the previous three years, followed by a five-year visa where passport validity permits. This cascading visa regime is currently being implemented for Indian nationals applying for visas to Italy.

For more information, see European External Action Service (EEAS), “European Union adopts more favourable Schengen visa rules for Indians”: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/european-union-adopts-more-favourable-schengen-visa-rules-indians_en?s=167

30. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/eu-immigration-portal/eu-blue-card/eu-blue-card-italy_en

3.5 Student mobility and conversion pathways

Table 7: Student mobility and conversion pathways

Category	Legal basis	Entry requirement	Duration	Work during study	Conversion to employment	Sector linkage and value	Key observations
Study visa	Art. 39-bis, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Admission to recognized Italian academic institution	Residence permit renewable annually	Part-time work (up to 20 hrs/ week)	Convertible to work permit	Healthcare; hospitality management; logistics; supports language acquisition and formal credentials	Conversion subject to employment contract; documentation and timing sensitivity
Vocational training	Art. 27, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Admission to recognized programme	Duration of course	N/A	Convertible to work residence permit	Construction; hospitality; produces job-ready candidates for non-seasonal and seasonal hiring	Often linked to sectoral labour needs; requires employer demand and timely permit processing
Post-study conversion	Art. 6, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998	Secured employment contract	Based on work permit	N/A	Conversion may occur within or outside quotas depending on category	Relevant across sectors depending on employment secured	Temporary residence permitted for a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 months for seeking employment. In certain cases, graduates of Italian higher education institutions may convert their residence permits for study into work permits, as provided under Article 14 of Presidential Decree No. 394/1999 (implementing the Consolidated Immigration Act, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998). Inclusion in the annual quotas established under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i> depends on the category.

3.6 Migration to India: provisions for Italian nationals

Unlike Italy's employer-driven and quota-based labour migration framework under the *Decreto Flussi*, India regulates the entry of foreign nationals through a category-based visa system, where admission pathways are determined primarily by the purpose of stay. Italian nationals seeking to work, study, conduct research or undertake professional engagements in India may access mobility pathways through the following categories:³¹

- ▶ Employment visas for highly skilled professionals employed by Indian companies or institutions, including consultants, specialized technicians, chefs, interpreters, language teachers and other professionals meeting eligibility requirements
- ▶ Business visas for individuals engaged in commercial activities, investment, industrial collaboration or professional engagements with Indian partners
- ▶ Student visas for Italian nationals enrolled in recognized academic institutions in India for higher education or training programmes.
- ▶ Internship visas (S-6 category) for students and recent graduates undertaking internships with Indian institutions

3.6.1 Role of the Italian Mission in India

The Italian Consulate plays an active facilitative role in supporting mobility between Italy and India across education, recruitment, and cultural exchange.

31. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/LegalTreatiesDoc/IT23B4159.pdf>

KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE ITALIAN MISSION IN INDIA

Consular services for Italian nationals in India



The Mission provides dedicated consular support for Italian nationals pursuing study and internship programmes in India, assisting with visa procedures, documentation, and residence-related formalities

The Mission works with Indian academic institutions to organize seminars and student-focused sessions, promoting Italian higher education opportunities and facilitating student exchange partnerships

University outreach and student engagement



Italian language promotion



The Mission conducts outreach activities to promote Italian language learning in India, engaging with language institutes and cultural organizations including Italian Cultural Institutes

The Mission engages with employer organizations and vocational training institutes in India to strengthen recruitment pipelines and workforce preparedness aligned with labour market needs in Italy, supporting the operationalization of bilateral mobility provisions under the MMPA

Employer and vocational training partnerships



3.6.2 Student exchange programmes

Several Indian universities have established exchange programmes with Italian academic institutions to promote academic collaboration, research partnerships, and cultural understanding between the two countries. IIT Madras maintains a student exchange programme with the University of Naples Federico II and has a broader memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Fondazione Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia - Genova for academic and research collaboration.³² IIT Bombay,³³ IIT Madras,³⁴ and other IITs have bilateral agreements with Politecnico di Milano, one of Italy's leading technical universities, for student and faculty exchanges, particularly in engineering and architecture.

Additional examples include collaborations involving Chandigarh University with the University of Florence, D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara, Università della Calabria, and Pegaso Università Telematica.³⁵ Sapienza University of Rome maintains active collaborations with over 20 Indian universities and research institutions, including several IITs and central universities.³⁶ Many similar scientific collaborations exist between India and Italy for the mobility of scientists, researchers and the joint use of scientific and technological infrastructure. For instance, under the Executive

Programme of Cooperation (EPOC) for 2025–2027, both countries have agreed to fund 10 projects for the exchange of researchers and 10 joint research projects.³⁷

While many of these initiatives focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields – including engineering, architecture, design, sustainable energy, biomedical engineering and advanced manufacturing – opportunities for non-STEM disciplines such as management, humanities, social sciences, arts, heritage studies, fashion and design are also available.

These are supported through institutional agreements, the Italian Government Scholarships administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), Erasmus+ mobility for eligible programmes with European partners, and broader cultural-cooperation frameworks.³⁸ Universities such as Politecnico di Milano, the University of Bologna, Sapienza University of Rome, and the University of Naples Federico II are particularly active in offering broader academic exposure. Noida International University (NIU) has partnered with the University of International Studies of Rome (UNINT) to enable cross-border learning, facilitating student and faculty exchanges as well as joint research programmes.³⁹ For design, the Jindal School of Art and Architecture has partnered with the University of Palermo for global student exchange.⁴⁰ Istituto

32. <https://ge.iitm.ac.in/mou/foreign-universities>

33. <https://www.polimi.it/en/campus-e-servizi/international-mobility/study-abroad/the-opportunities/agreements/indian-institute-of-technology-bombay>

34. <https://www.polimi.it/en/campus-e-servizi/international-mobility/study-abroad/the-opportunities/agreements/indian-institute-of-technology-madras>

35. <https://www.cuchd.in/international/international-alliances/partners/italy.php>

36. <https://www.uniroma1.it/en/notizia/rectress-meets-indian-ambassador-italy>

37. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150814®=3&lang=2>

38. https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Public_Notice_Italian_Scholarship.pdf

39. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DMNaXE0sxxd/>

40. <https://jgu.edu.in/jsaa/b.des-new-admissions/pdf/JSAA-Brochure.pdf>

Marangoni, a premier Italian design and fashion school, operates a dedicated training centre in Mumbai that offers short-term, graduate and postgraduate courses.⁴¹ The Design Village, a non-profit university with campuses in India and Italy offers industry-centric B.Des and M.Des degree programmes in collaboration with O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) at its India campus.⁴²

The India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029 explicitly prioritizes greater collaboration and exchange between universities and higher

education institutions, along with increased mobility of students, researchers, and academics, with special attention to STEM fields.⁴³ The Indo-Italian Innovation and Incubation Exchange Programme, together with the Executive Programme of Cooperation (EPOC) for 2025–2027 on scientific and research cooperation aims to tap international expertise and strengthen India's academic and innovation capabilities, including contributions from Italian academic institutions.⁴⁴

41. <https://www.istitutomarangoni.com/en/schools/mumbai-training-centre>

42. <https://www.thedesignvillage.org/>

43. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/38541/ItalyIndia_Joint_Strategic_Action_Plan_20252029

44. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=2074459®=3&lang=2>



► Priority sectors and initiatives for Indian migrants in Italy

4.1 High-demand sectors and sector-to-pathway mapping for Indian labour migrants in Italy

Under Italy's 2026–2028 multi-year migration plan (*Decreto Flussi*), the Prime Minister, in consultation with the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic sets annual ceilings and allocates quotas by channel (seasonal,

non-seasonal, self-employment) and, within non-seasonal, by **eligible sectors**, including **agriculture, construction, accommodation and food services, tourism services, transport and logistics**, and **health and social assistance or private healthcare services**. These allocations shape both the scale and sectoral distribution of migrant labour. The table below outlines key sectors relevant to the India-Italy corridor, along with their entry channels and typical skill requirements.

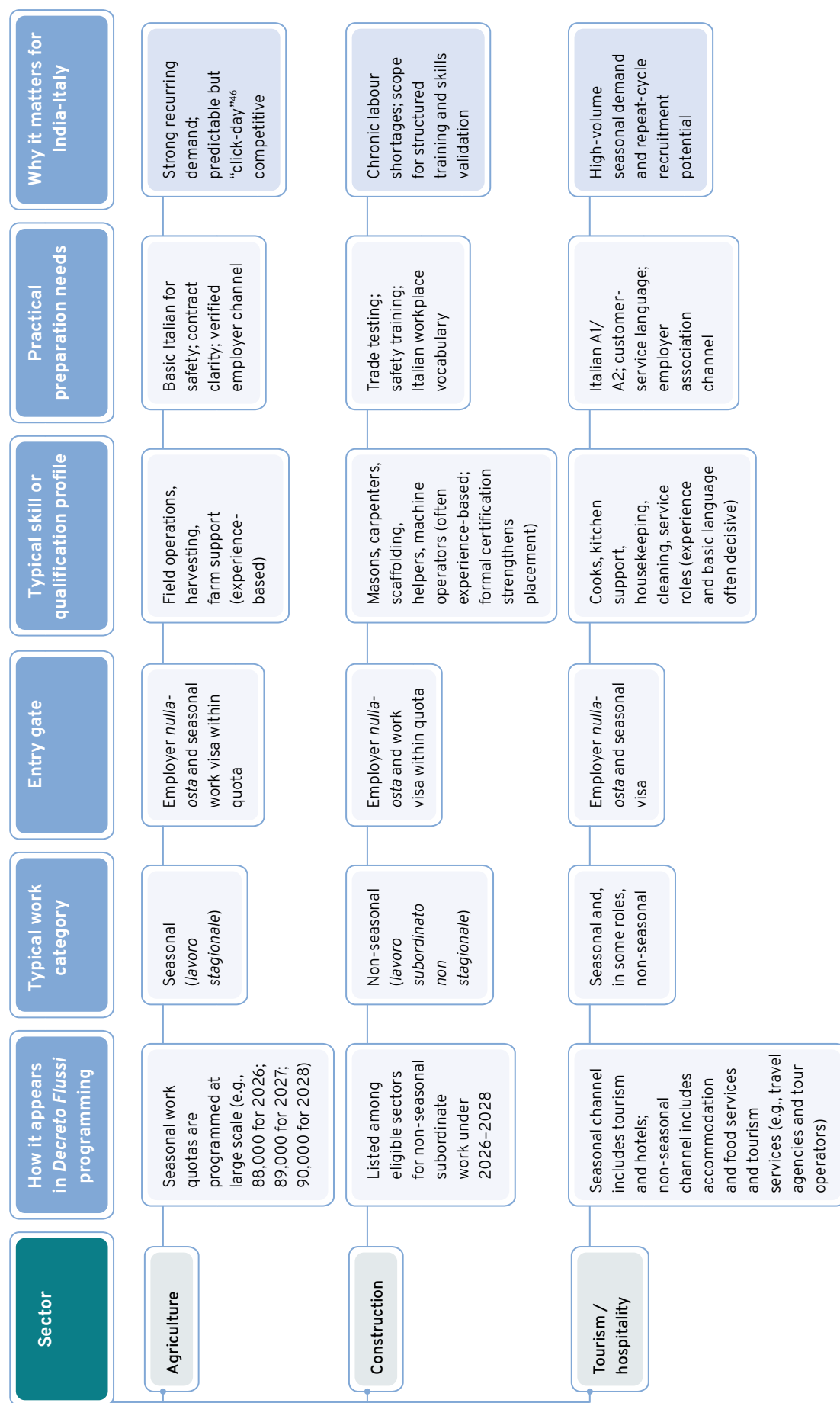
Countries with reserved quotas under *Decreto Flussi* 2026–2028

Under the *Decreto Flussi* 2026–2028, reserved quotas for non-seasonal and seasonal work are allocated to workers from 38 countries with active migration cooperation agreements with Italy: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Jordan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritius, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan (DPCM, 2025).⁴⁵

45. <https://schengenvisa.news/decreto-flussi-2026-2028-italys-new-497550-work-visa-plan-explained/>



Table 8: High-demand sectors and sector-to-pathway mapping for Indian labour migrants in Italy



46. 'Click day': Used to describe a situation similar to a high-stakes, first-come-first-served digital "race"

4.2 Stakeholder contributions: sectoral associations, training providers, employers' associations and trade unions

Employer associations matter in Italy because *Decreto Flussi* implementation often routes through organized employer channels, especially in seasonal agriculture and tourism. The 2026–2028 decree's implementation notes and subsequent allocations reference distribution

and coordination via major sectoral associations. Reporting has explicitly cited associations such as Coldiretti, Confagricoltura and Federalberghi in the seasonal allocation context for agriculture. Similar organizations also exist for construction, including but not limited to the European Federation of Foundation Contractors⁴⁷ and Federcostruzioni.⁴⁸

Trade unions and their service arms (*patronati*) play a major role in post-arrival support, particularly for permits and administrative access, functioning as practical integration infrastructure.

Table 9: Stakeholders that enable sector mobility and integration in Italy

Stakeholder cluster	What they do in the corridor context	Why it matters for priority sectors
Sectoral employer associations	Aggregate demand; support submissions; coordinate seasonal hiring	Agriculture and tourism rely heavily on organized demand pipelines
Training providers	Pre-departure job readiness; skills validation; language training	Construction and tourism outcomes improve with standardized pre-departure modules
Trade unions and <i>patronati</i>	Paperwork support, worker advice, rights navigation	Reduces irregularity risk and improves compliance and retention
Public institutions	Quota planning, authorization and local services	Determines access and timelines; critical for predictability

47. <https://www.effc.org/views/aif-italian-association/>

48. <https://www.federcostruzioni.it/who-we-are/>



► Nodal points and support systems

This chapter maps the core institutions and organizations that facilitate labour migration and decent work outcomes in the India-Italy corridor. It identifies the nodal agencies governing entry and residence procedures (with specific focus on the *Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione* and the *nulla-osta* process), highlights regional and local enablers, and lists practical points of contact that migrants typically rely on at each stage of the migration cycle. It also outlines the institutional ecosystem relevant for return and reintegration.

In practice, migrants in Italy often rely on *patronati* (authorized non-profit advisory bodies, often

linked to trade unions, that assist with social security and immigration procedures) and union-linked support services for immigration paperwork (permits, renewals), social security navigation and other administrative procedures. A practical explainer used in Milan notes that *patronati* are typically provided by major unions and associations and support documentation processes.⁴⁹ Developed under EU-India CDMM Phase I, a handbook for Indians in Italy⁵⁰ explicitly references trade unions, *patronati* and *Centro di Assistenza Fiscale* (CAF) as support points for migrants.

Table 10: Post-arrival integration support – corridor-relevant services⁵¹

Support layer	What it does	Who provides it
Initial documentation orientation	<i>Permesso</i> steps; local procedures; tax code and fiscal basics	<i>Patronati</i> and <i>Centro di Assistenza Fiscale</i> (CAF); community networks; employer HR
Immigration paperwork support	Permits, renewals, forms, guidance	<i>Patronati</i> linked to unions and associations
Local integration information	Service directories and integration information	National integration portal and local desks

49. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

50. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

51. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

5.1 Rights and entitlements: healthcare, social security and workplace protections

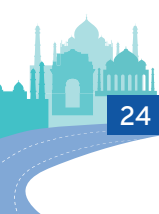
Table 11: Rights map (what matters operationally for migrants)

Domain	Practical entitlement or issue	Corridor-relevant note
Healthcare	Registration with Italy's National Health Service (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale [SSN]) and health card access	Must be built into post-arrival orientation (documents, local ASL procedures)
Social security	Contributory coverage through employment; benefit eligibility depends on contributions	Bilateral portability with India should not be assumed; treat as an advisory gap
Workplace protection	Contract formalization and collective agreement environment	Pre-departure training must include contract literacy and grievance routes

5.2 Institutional framework for labour migration

Table 12: India – institutional framework for labour migration

Functional layer	Key instruments	Institutional anchor	Core function	Corridor relevance
Emigration regulation and recruitment verification	eMigrate (including eMigrate 2.0)	Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)	Registration and monitoring of recruitment agents and foreign employers; verification of employment contracts; processing of emigration clearance for Emigration Check Required (ECR) workers; central digital interface for overseas recruitment governance	Reduces fraudulent recruitment practices and enhances transparency in labour mobility pathways; relevant in corridors with restricted entry quotas such as Italy under the <i>Decreto Flussi</i>



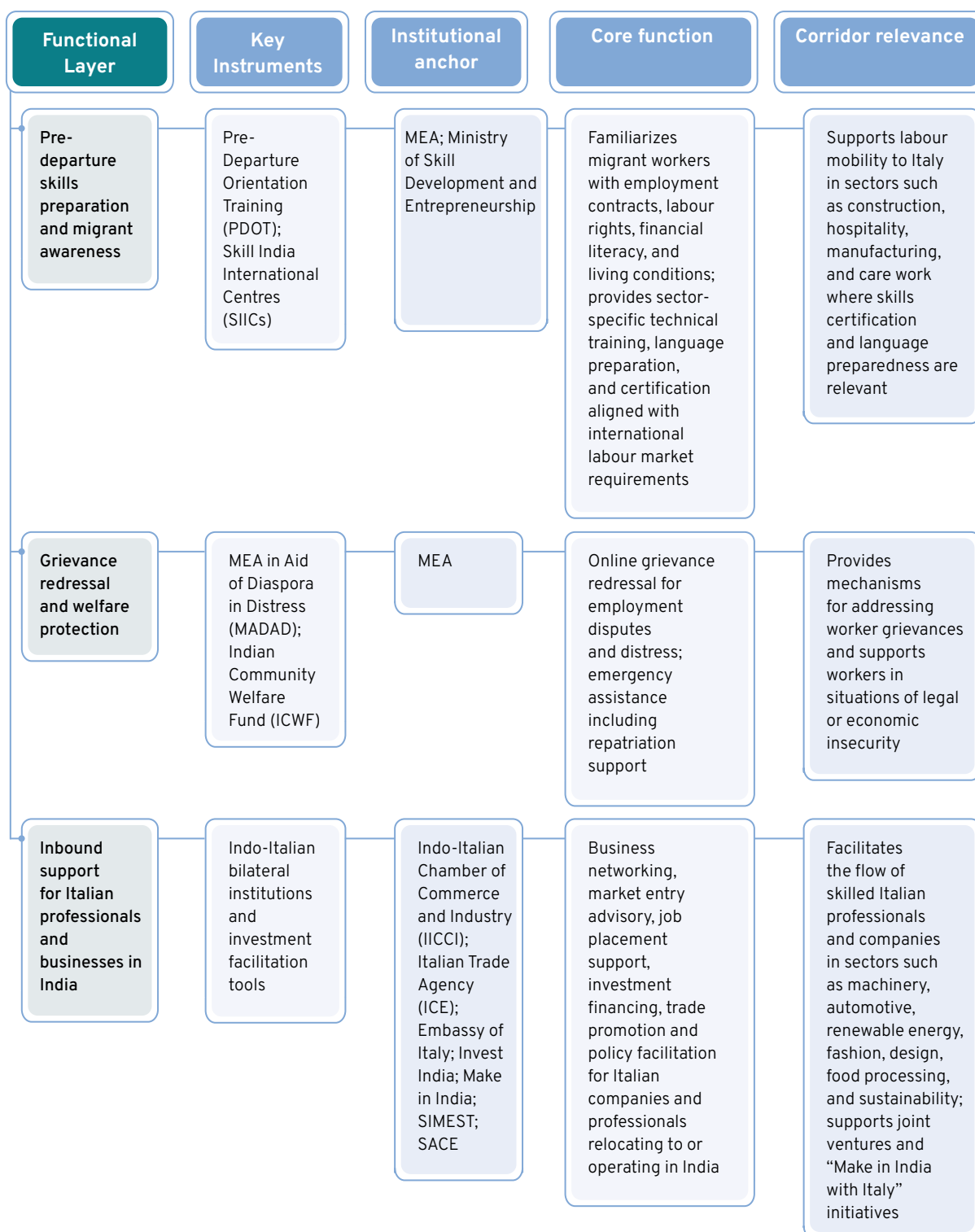


Table 13: Institutional framework for labour migration governance in Italy

Functional layer	Key institution or instrument	Institutional anchor	Core function
Policy and quota-setting	Consolidated Immigration Act; <i>Decreto Flussi</i>	Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers	Establishes legal framework and numerical quotas for the admission of non-EU workers
Administrative processing (authorization stage)	Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione (SUI)	<i>Prefettura</i> (territorial offices of the Ministry of Interior)	Receives employer applications; verifies compliance with immigration rules; issues <i>nulla-osta al lavoro</i> within quota limits
Visa processing	Entry visa procedure	Italian diplomatic missions	Processes visa applications based on approved <i>nulla-osta</i>
Post-arrival regularization	<i>Permesso di soggiorno</i> (residence permit)	<i>Questura</i> (provincial police authority)	Issues and renews residence permits for foreign nationals

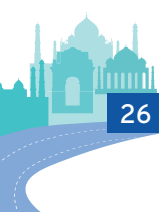
5.3 Key migration authorities in Italy

Key government bodies, employers' associations, and support organisations in Italy facilitate labour

admission, skills recognition and socioeconomic integration of Indian migrants. Below is a list of central and provincial institutions supporting skilled migration.

Table 14: Core migration authorities in Italy

Institution	Administrative level	Core function in the migration process	Website
Prime Minister in consultation with the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic	National	Determines immigration policy and establishes labour admission quotas through the <i>Decreto Flussi</i>	



Institution	Administrative level	Core function in the migration process	Website
Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (<i>Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali</i>)	National	Manages labour migration aspects; develops multi-year integration strategies (e.g., Pluri-annual Integration Strategy 2021–2027); oversees socio-labour inclusion; co-manages training and job placement programmes	https://www.lavoro.gov.it/
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)	National	Coordinates bilateral migration agreements; chairs the India-Italy JWG on Migration; handles visa policy aspects	https://www.esteri.it/en/ministero/
Ministry of University and Research (MUR)	National	Supports academic recognition and facilitates the mobility of students and researchers under bilateral agreements	https://www.mur.gov.it/it ; https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri
Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM)	National	Supports international educational cooperation and student mobility related to pre-university educational pathways	https://www.governo.it/it

Institution	Administrative Level	Core Function in the Migration Process	Website links
Italian Ministry of Health (<i>Ministero della Salute</i>)	National	Manages recognition of foreign healthcare qualifications; involved in pilot projects for the recruitment of Indian health professionals	https://www.salute.gov.it/new/
<i>Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione</i> (SUI)	Provincial (<i>Prefettura</i>)	Processes employer applications for <i>nulla-osta al lavoro</i> (work authorization)	https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/employment-of-foreign-nationals
Italian Diplomatic Missions Abroad	Consular	Issue entry visas to authorized workers	https://www.esteri.it/en/ministero/struttura/laretediplomatica/
Sviluppo Lavoro Italia S.p.A.	National/operational	Public agency under the Ministry of Labour; supports active labour policies, job matching, training and integration services for migrants	https://www.sviluppolavoroitalia.it/
<i>Questura</i> (provincial police authority)	Provincial	Issues and renews residence permits (<i>permesso di soggiorno</i>)	https://questure.poliziadistato.it



Table 15: Key employers' associations supporting Indian migrant workers

Association	Sector focus	Key initiatives
Confindustria (Confederation of Italian Industry)	Manufacturing, industry, mechanics, food processing, services	Advocates for pragmatic and open migration policies to address labour shortages and demographic decline; promotes active inclusion and training of migrants; supports regional hiring programmes
Unioncamere (Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce)	Multi-sector and regional coordination	Supports labour market integration of migrants through projects such as Futurae (migrant entrepreneurship orientation, training and coaching); publishes reports on labour needs and facilitates job placement; coordinates vocational training and upskilling programmes in partnership with employers, including in regions with significant Indian communities (e.g., Lombardy, Veneto)
Indian Chamber of Commerce in Italy (ICCI)	Bilateral trade and business (cross-sector)	Promotes trade and business relations between India and Italy; serves as a platform for the Indian business community in Italy; provides support services for Indian companies and professionals, including networking, market entry and integration support that indirectly benefits Indian migrant workers and entrepreneurs

5.4 Role of the Indian Embassy and Consulate General in Italy in supporting migrants and students

The Embassy of India in Rome and the Consulate General of India in Milan play a

critical role in facilitating the migration of Indian nationals in Italy and supporting the growing number of students. Both missions have put in place several support mechanisms aimed at ensuring consular assistance, welfare, and smooth integration of the Indian community.⁵²

52. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

THE EMBASSY OF INDIA IN ROME AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA IN MILAN



Uni-Italia is the national body responsible for the promotion of “Study in Italy” worldwide. Established in 2010 as a private non-profit organization, it was jointly founded by MAECI, MUR, MIM, the Ministry of the Interior (MI), the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) and the Conference

of Italian University Rectors (CRUI).⁵⁶ Its core objective is to support the internationalization of Italian academic institutions by attracting international students and researchers to Italy while strengthening academic cooperation with foreign countries.⁵⁷ Through its centres

53. <https://www.cgimilan.gov.in/page/student-corner/>

54. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

55. <https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/page-link.php?page=info-wing>

56. <https://uni-italia.it/en/institutional/who-we-are/>

57. <https://uni-italia.it/en/institutional/who-we-are/>

abroad, including offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, Uni-Italia provides guidance on academic courses, universities, and admission pathways, while assisting students with pre-enrolment procedures, visa-related documentation, Declaration of Value (DoV) requirements, and other administrative formalities linked to enrolment and mobility.⁵⁸ Working in coordination with Italian embassies, consulates, and Italian Cultural Institutes, the organization also promotes Italian language, culture, and higher education opportunities.

Students availing themselves of Uni-Italia assistance are supported throughout the admission and visa application process, with certain administrative and document-related services offered on a fee-paying basis.⁵⁹

Indian diaspora organizations in Italy form a vibrant network that supports cultural, social, academic, and welfare needs, fostering community building, cultural exchange, and India-Italy cooperation (Table 16).

Table 16: Indian diaspora organizations in Italy

Organization name	Description	Key locations
Students' Association of Indians in Milan (SASSI Milan) ⁶⁰	Student-led organization providing mentorship, study groups, resource sharing, networking, and cultural events to support the academic and social integration of Indian students	Milan
Indian Youth Association (IYA) APS ⁶¹	Supports the Indian community (students, professionals, and newcomers) through events, webinars, and initiatives for integration and welfare	Rome (main)
Indian Sikh Community Italy ⁶²	Promotes Sikh heritage, organizes cultural and religious events, and provides community support, especially for Punjabi migrant workers	Nationwide (with strong presence in northern and central Italy)

5.5 Regional and local implementation ecosystems

While immigration rules are nationally determined, outcomes are locally shaped.

Provincial and regional authorities often provide migrant-facing information, integration

orientation, and administrative guidance. The Autonomous Province of Trento, through its migration information *centro* *Centro Informativo per l'Immigrazione* (Cinformi), illustrates how subnational governance structures can reduce procedural opacity by providing accessible guidance on residence procedures and service access.

58. <https://uni-italia.net/india/blog/assistance-for-students-in-italy-india/>

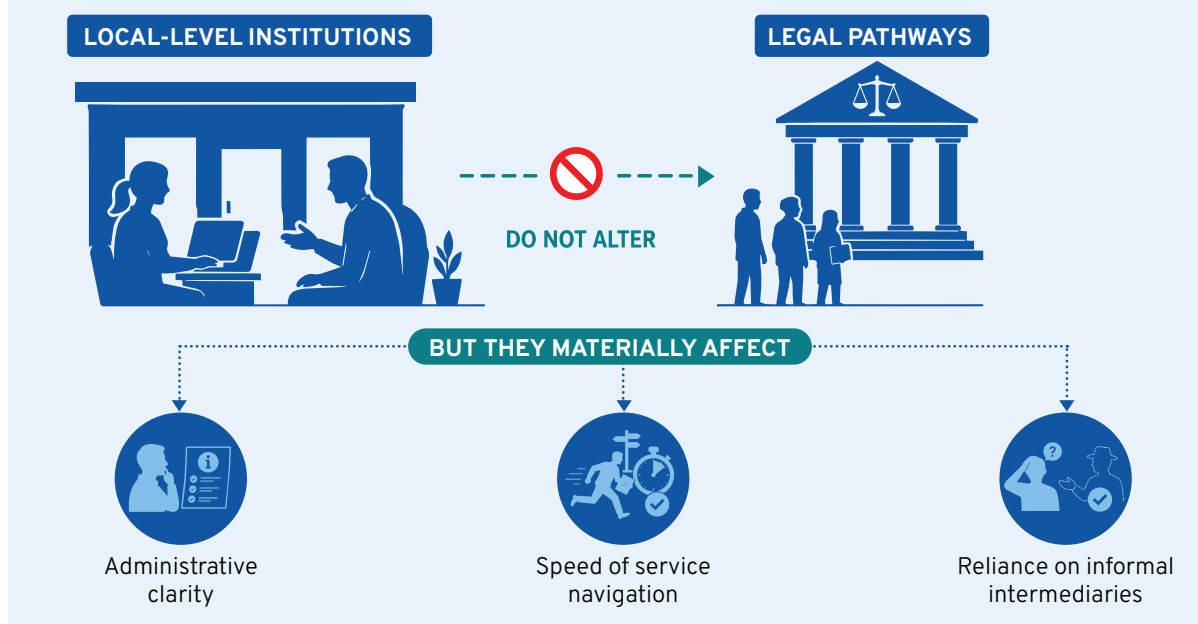
59. https://consmumbai.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-e-visti/servizi-per-il-cittadino-straniero/study-in-italy/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

60. <https://www.sassimilan.com/>

61. <https://indianyouthassociation.com/#>

62. <https://www.indiansikhcommunityitaly.com/>

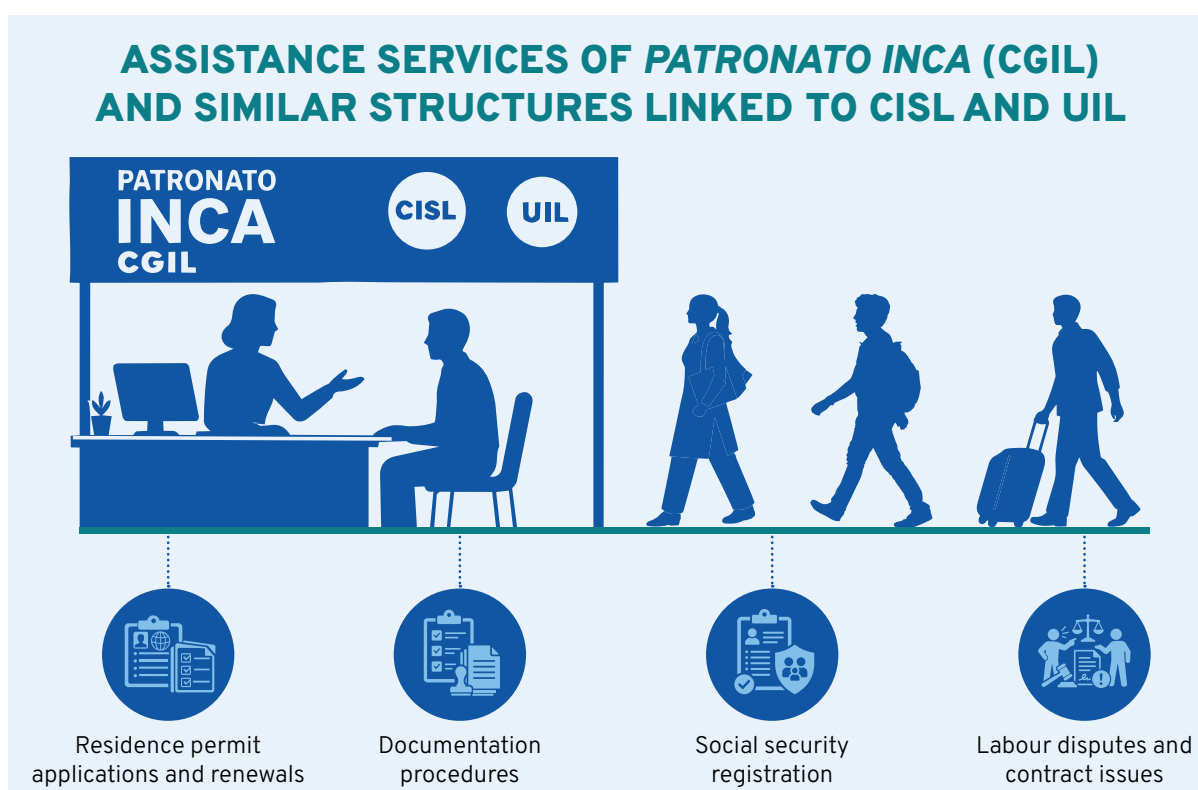
LOCAL-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS DO NOT ALTER LEGAL PATHWAYS



Variation across provinces therefore influences migrant experience within the same national legal framework.

Beyond formal state institutions, migrants frequently rely on *patronati* (union-affiliated advisory bodies) and trade union migrant help desks.

5.5.1 Worker-facing support organizations



Unlike recruitment intermediaries, patronati operate within a rights-based advisory framework.

Table 17: Migrant-facing support structures in Italy

Actor type	Example	Functional role
Patronato (union-affiliated advisory body)	INCA (CGIL)	Permit renewal, documentation, labour dispute support
Trade union migrant desk	CGIL, CISL and UIL migrant services	Workplace rights advocacy and case support
Local integration office	Provincial and municipal centres (e.g., Trento)	Information and service navigation

Table 18: Job placement agencies and skills matching services

Agency or portal	Sector focus	Key services
Centri per l'Impiego (public employment centres, managed by regions) ⁶³	General employment	Local job placement, counselling, CV registration, matching with employers
EURES - European Job Mobility Portal ⁶⁴	Multisectoral	Cross-border job search, labour market information
Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione (SUI) and ALI Portal (Ministry of Interior) ⁶⁵	Labour migration	Official platform where Italian employers apply for work authorisations (<i>nulla-osta</i>)

63. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/en/single-digital-gateway/seeking-employment/finding-employment-and-assistance-job-centres#:~:text=Once%20you%20are%20in%20Italy,for%20job%20opportunities%20in%20Europe.>

64. https://europa.eu/eures/portal/jv-se/search?page=1&resultsPerPage=10&orderBy=BEST_MATCH&locationCodes=it&lang=en

65. <https://portaleservizi.dlci.interno.it/Alisportello/ali/home.htm>

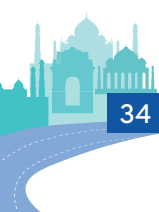
5.6 Initiatives and portals by the Government of India

The Government of India offers portals and resources that facilitate, regulate, and protect international migration and provide credible

information on migration processes and legal requirements. These help Indian nationals plan safe and informed migration for work. Foreign employers also use them to understand Indian regulations and migration provisions.

Table 19: Initiatives and portals by the Government of India

Initiative or portal	Description	Website
Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT)	PDOT sessions are carried out to enhance the soft skills of migrant workers.	www.pdot.mea.gov.in
Skill India International Centres (SIICs)	SIICs are established nationwide in India to prepare nationals for global job opportunities	www.pdot.mea.gov.in
Global Job Readiness Programme (GJRP)	The GJRP is designed for both students and professionals and offers a crucial avenue for skills upgrading	https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/courses/detail/f603465d94d7-4c46-b506-e016d1ef3f89
eMigrate 2.0 Portal	Central platform for emigration clearance, job matching, verification of recruitment agents, pre-departure training, etc.; integrated with Passport Seva, Bureau of Immigration and Protector of Emigrants (PoE); upgraded to capture disaggregated migration data	www.emigrate.gov.in
MADAD Portal	Online grievance redressal for Indian citizens abroad	www.madad.gov.in
e-Sanad	Online attestation and apostille of documents for use abroad	www.esanad.nic.in
e-SEWA	Consular services for non-resident Indians (NRIs) via Indian missions	https://presssewa.prgi.gov.in/#/
Pravasi Rishta Portal	An insurance scheme for overseas Indian workers, at a nominal premium rate	https://www.eoiparis.gov.in/page/global-pravasi-rishta-portal/



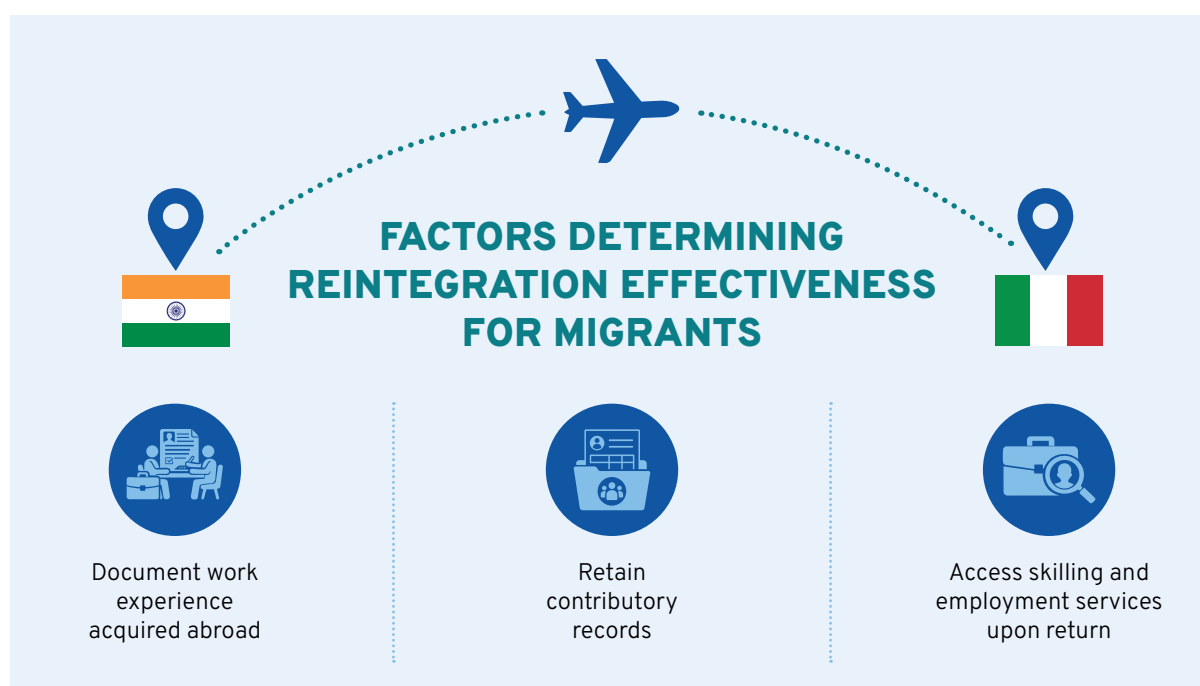
Initiative or portal	Description	Website
Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)	The fund aims to assist overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means-tested basis	https://www.mea.gov.in/icwf.htm
Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY)	The PBBY is a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian emigrant workers, primarily those falling under the Emigration Check Required (ECR) category, going for overseas employment to ECR countries	https://www.mea.gov.in/pbby.htm
National Career Service (NCS)	The NCS is a government-run digital employment platform operated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), which supports both domestic and international job postings. It currently has over 1.88 crore active jobseekers and more than 47.52 lakh registered employers, making it one of the largest repositories of verified labour market participants in India. The NCS serves as a demand aggregator for verified foreign employers, enabling them to publish vacancies and access jobseeker profiles. Validation of recruiting agents (RAs) and foreign employers is routed through the MEA's eMigrate portal, which is also integrated with the NCS portal, ensuring authenticity and adherence to emigration norms. MoLE supports the development of a shared registry of verified RAs and foreign employers, jointly maintained through technical integration between NCS and eMigrate. This helps mitigate fraud, protect vulnerable workers and enforce compliance with ethical recruitment standards.	www.ncs.gov.in
Common Service Centres (CSCs)	An MoU for providing emigration-related services through more than 500,000 CSCs at the grassroots level is in place	https://www.csc.gov.in/

5.7 Institutional linkages for return and reintegration

The MMPA provides for cooperation on return and readmission, including measures to facilitate the orderly and dignified return of nationals in accordance with domestic laws. The Agreement emphasizes coordination between

authorities on return procedures and the prevention of irregular migration.

In practice, reintegration pathways for returnees from Italy remain less programmatically structured and are largely dependent on domestic schemes rather than dedicated bilateral reintegration frameworks.



Where coordination between departure and return systems is weak, reintegration becomes ad hoc rather than institutionalized.

The Government of India, in coordination with Italian authorities and international

organizations, supports returning Indian migrants through documentation assistance, skills certification, job matching, and limited entrepreneurship schemes. The *Handbook for the Integration of Indians in Italy* also includes brief guidance on voluntary return options.⁶⁶

Table 20: Government-led facilitation – return and reintegration of Indian migrants

Key government institution or body	Role in reintegration
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India	Overall coordination of return assistance; the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) oversees welfare; the eMigrate portal handles documentation; supports emergency repatriation and provides guidance through Indian missions abroad

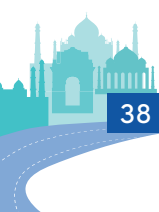
66. [https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20\(English\)%20-%20web%20version.pdf](https://www.indianembassyrome.gov.in/docs/Italy%20Handbook%20(English)%20-%20web%20version.pdf)

Key government institution or body	Role in reintegration
Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)	Links returnees with the NCS for job matching, reskilling and grievance redressal; promotes inclusion in domestic employment and skills schemes (https://betacloud.ncs.gov.in/)
Skill India Mission (National Skill Development Corporation [NSDC] and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship [MSDE])	Facilitates recognition and certification of skills acquired abroad; supports reskilling and job placement for returnees through various national missions
Embassy of India in Rome and Consulate General of India in Milan	Provides pre-return counselling, documentation support (e.g., certificates, passports) and guidance on reintegration; disseminates information on Indian government schemes; assists with the MADAD portal for grievances

Table 21: Job placement agencies and skills matching services

Name	Email	Phone
NORKA ROOTS, Kerala	ceonorkaroots@gmail.com	0471-2770501; 0471-2770507
Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM)	gmtomcom@gmail.com	040-23342040; 7997973358
Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd (OMCL), Tamil Nadu	ovemcl@gmail.com	044-22505886
Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants (ODEPC), Kerala	info@odepc.in	0471-2329440; 9495405142
Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh Limited (OMCAP)	gmomcap@gmail.com	040-23300686

Name	Email	Phone
Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC)	pdot.rsldc.rajasthan@rajasthan.gov.in; opb.rajasthan@rajasthan.gov.in	0141-2701164
Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC)	md.ksdc@karnataka.gov.in	080-29522222; 18005999918; 9141255573; 8762302557
World Skill Centre, Odisha Skill Development Authority	rajan.pradhan@worldskillcenter.org	9777389400
Bihar State Overseas Placement Bureau	det-bin@nic.in; bsopb12345@gmail.com	0612-2520045; 9470255809
Uttar Pradesh Rozgar Mission	info.diremp@gmail.com	



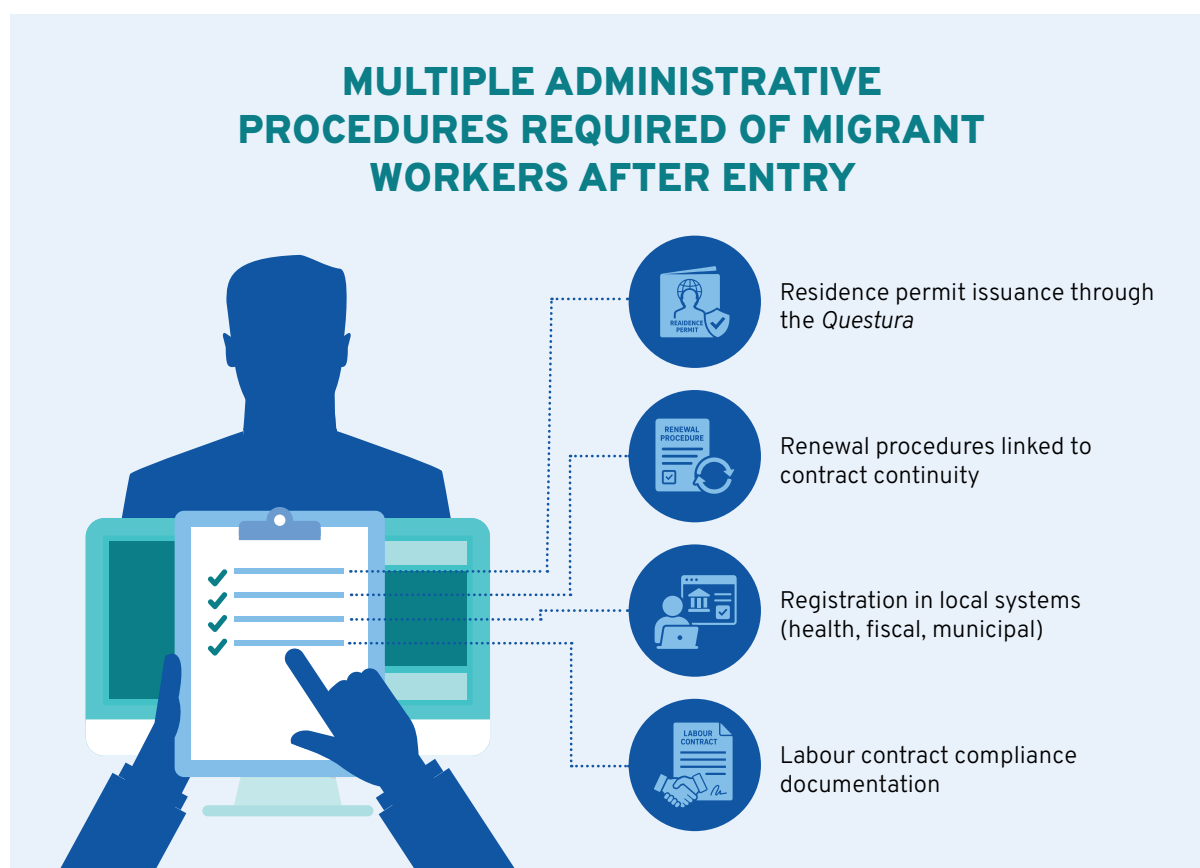
► Challenges and opportunities

6.1 Procedural structure and clarity under the Decreto Flussi

A central operational feature of the Italy corridor is that many labour migration pathways are routed through the Decreto Flussi system, which sets annual or multi-year entry ceilings for non-EU workers across non-seasonal, seasonal and self-employment categories.⁶⁷

Applications are processed strictly in

chronological order of electronic submission until quotas are exhausted. This has led to intense competition during opening windows, often resulting in quota exhaustion within hours. Implementation takes place through a decentralized administrative system at the provincial level, and processing timelines may vary across provinces. In addition, the administrative nature of the procedure and limited digital transparency at certain stages may create scope for informal intermediation.



67. <https://italianvisa.it/flows-decree-2026-2028/>

Although set out clearly under the *Decreto Flussi*, their operation depends on interaction with multiple authorities, including the *Questura* and other local administrative systems.⁶⁸ Admission is therefore only one stage of the migration process, and the continuity of legal stay and employment also depends on post-arrival administrative sequencing and timely completion of documentation.

Way forward: strengthening awareness and communication on the *Decreto Flussi*: The lack of information clarity needs to be addressed on both sides of the corridor. Joint coordination on particular elements related to pre-departure orientation, post-arrival guidance, employer support, and access to worker-facing advisory systems could enhance structural support to potential migrants. By leveraging support mechanisms (migrant resource channels, *patronati*, and Indian and Italian missions), easy-to-understand periodic information can be publicly shared on priority sectors, associated migration pathways and related documentation requirements. Such measures can reduce dependence on unscrupulous agents and improve access to credible and up-to-date information available to employers, skilling agencies and potential migrants. The JWG provides a critical forum to structure these support mechanisms and create sustainable and scalable solutions.

6.2 Employer-sponsored admission and the *nulla-osta* procedure

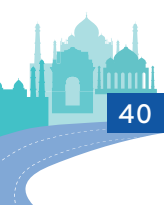
For salaried employment pathways, entry is generally linked to the *nulla-osta al lavoro* procedure, under which the Italian employer initiates the request through the *Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione*.⁶⁹ Only after this authorization is issued can the worker proceed to the visa stage and, after arrival, to residence permit formalities.

This employer-sponsored structure is a defining feature of how the corridor functions. It links entry, employment and legal stay to a specific job offer and to the administrative steps completed by the employer. In practice, this means that the predictability of the pathway depends not only on the legal framework itself but also on employer capacity, documentation and timing within the quota system.

Way forward: expanding employer engagement through verification and support measures: India has made continued efforts to strengthen access to reliable and verified recruitment agents, through both private and state-run agencies. These efforts can be connected to Italy's employer-led recruitment model to provide end-to-end support for migrants. This will allow migrants to access information, support and grievance redressal through a credible network, backstopped by government authorities, allowing for greater transparency and confidence in the recruitment channel, in both the country of origin and the country of destination.

68. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/employment-of-foreign-nationals>

69. <https://libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/sportello-unico-limmigrazione>



► Conclusion

Overall, the operation of the India-Italy migration corridor is shaped by a combination of quota-based admissions, employer-sponsored entry, post-arrival administrative procedures, and access to information and support systems. These features influence how predictable and navigable legal pathways are in practice.

From a corridor perspective, the key issue is therefore not only whether legal pathways exist, but how effectively systems across admission, arrival, residence, and employment connect with one another. This is also the point at which bilateral cooperation, pre-departure preparation, and post-arrival guidance become relevant to the functioning of the corridor over time.

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