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**INTEGRA**



# **RUBANO CITY INTEGRATION AGENDA**

Lorenzo Segato and Nicola Capello  
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INTEGRA



## Activity 1.2

Lorenzo Segato and Nicola Capello

This document has been prepared in the framework of the INTEGRA project, co-financed by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund programme. The project aims to improve the process of integration of foreigners from third countries into the host communities by comparing the experiences of five cities in Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. For Italy, the Municipality of Rubano (Padova) was selected. The project identifies current and future integration challenges and proposes concrete actions to address them: a network of local actors and European cities, public events and tools that can be used at local level to further integrate foreigners.

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## Introduction

The INTEGRA project aims at improving the integration process of citizens from Third Countries of the European Union (TCN), through the sharing of knowledge between different cities of five member countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy and Slovakia).



The project aims to promote mutual understanding between migrant communities and host societies in order to improve integration policies.

The Rubano City Integration Agenda is a policy document devising the future strategy for managing immigration in the Municipality of Rubano.

In particular, the Agenda has the following objectives:

- outline the most likely future scenarios in terms of TCN/immigration;
- hypothesize how such scenarios would affect the integration of TCN/immigrants in Rubano;
- recommend to the Municipality of Rubano a series of actions to deal with such future scenarios with a view to ensuring greater integration.

The evaluations and actions proposed in this document may be shared with other cities involved in the INTEGRA project. The focus on the municipality of Rubano allows us to understand what strategy is suited for a small city.

## The construction of scenarios

### City Integration Audit of Rubano

In order to elaborate the Rubano City Integration Agenda, the researchers drew primarily on the results collected through the "Integration City Audit".

The Audit was carried out in Rubano between May and August 2018, through various activities:

- desk research on acts and regulations concerning local and national policies and strategies for the management of immigration;
- two focus groups with representatives of the current Municipal Administration of Rubano, employees of the Municipality and the Local Health Authority, representatives of local associations, and the management of the Asylum Seekers and Refugees Protection System (SPRAR);
- questionnaires filled out by experts and citizens of Rubano and the Province of Padova;
- a “photovoice” initiative to collect commented photographs on the theme of immigration.

The results of the Integration City Audit have been collected in a special Report available in Italian and English on the project website [www.integra-eu.net](http://www.integra-eu.net).



## Survey

The researchers developed and distributed an online survey aimed at collecting the opinions and evaluations of experts and citizens, in order to identify which future scenarios are most likely to occur in the next five years, both in Rubano and in the Province of Padova.

The survey focused on the possible developments of five specific indicators:

- 1) presence of TCN/immigrants
- 2) employment opportunities for TCN/immigrants;
- 3) services (education, health, language training, etc.) for TCN/immigrants;
- 4) level of crime linked to the presence of TCN/immigrants;
- 5) level of integration of TCN/immigrants.

In addition, the survey investigated the factors that will most likely affect these indicators in the near future.

The questionnaire was filled out by 51 people.

## Survey results

### *Participating subjects*

The subjects who filled in the survey are quite diverse.





Chart 1

Just under half of them belong to local organizations sensitive to, and active in the field of, integration: non-governmental organizations, local associations and cooperatives directly involved in the management and accompaniment of foreign subjects.

In addition, among the respondents are many officials from the current Municipal Administration.

Chart 1 presents the various categories of respondents.

With regard to the five above-mentioned indicators, the respondents expressed the following evaluations.

***Presence of TCN/immigrants***

Just under half of the respondents (47%) believe that in the next 5 years the presence of TCN/immigrants in Rubano and in the province of Padova will increase.

On the other hand, more than one in four believes that the number of TCN/immigrants will remain around the current figure (as of 31/12/2017, 9.7% of residents in Rubano are foreigners).

Overall, the majority of participants (3 out of 4) exclude the possibility that the number of citizens from third countries may decrease.

Only a small percentage (12%) expects the number to decrease.

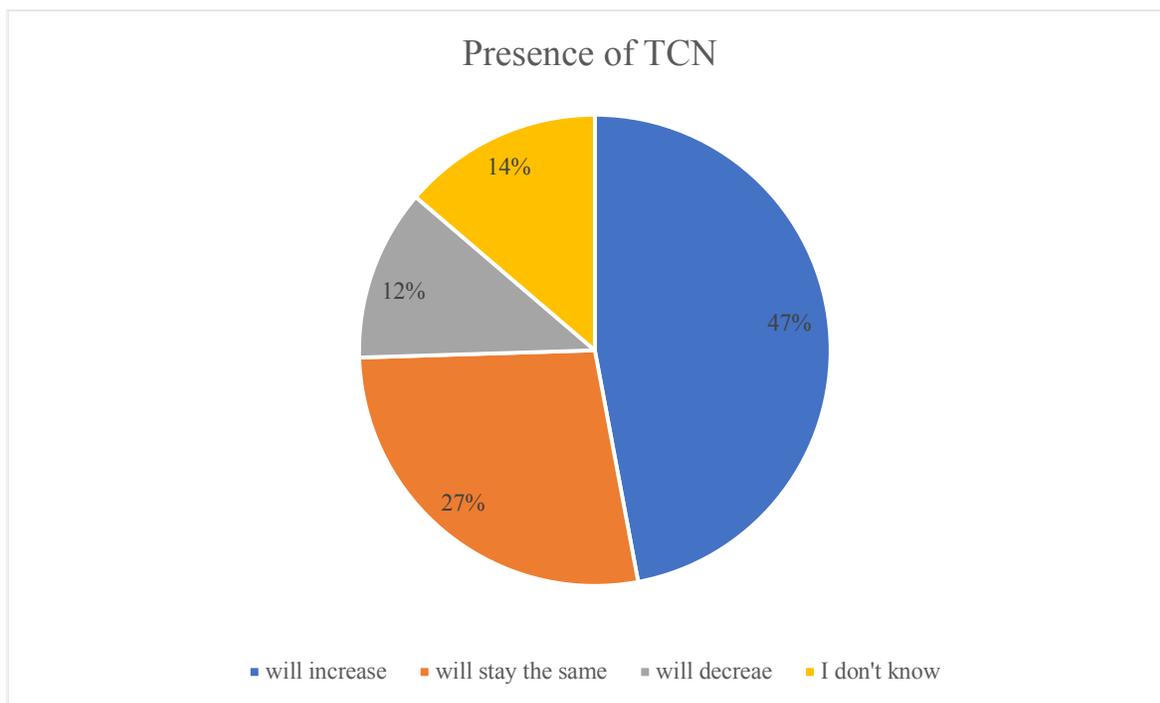




Chart 2

***Employment opportunities***

Almost half of the participants (41%) believe that, in the territory of Rubano and in the province of Padova, the amount of employment opportunities for migrants will not vary from the current situation. Just over one in three (35%) expects more job opportunities. The percentage of people who foresee a reduction in employment opportunities is 12%.

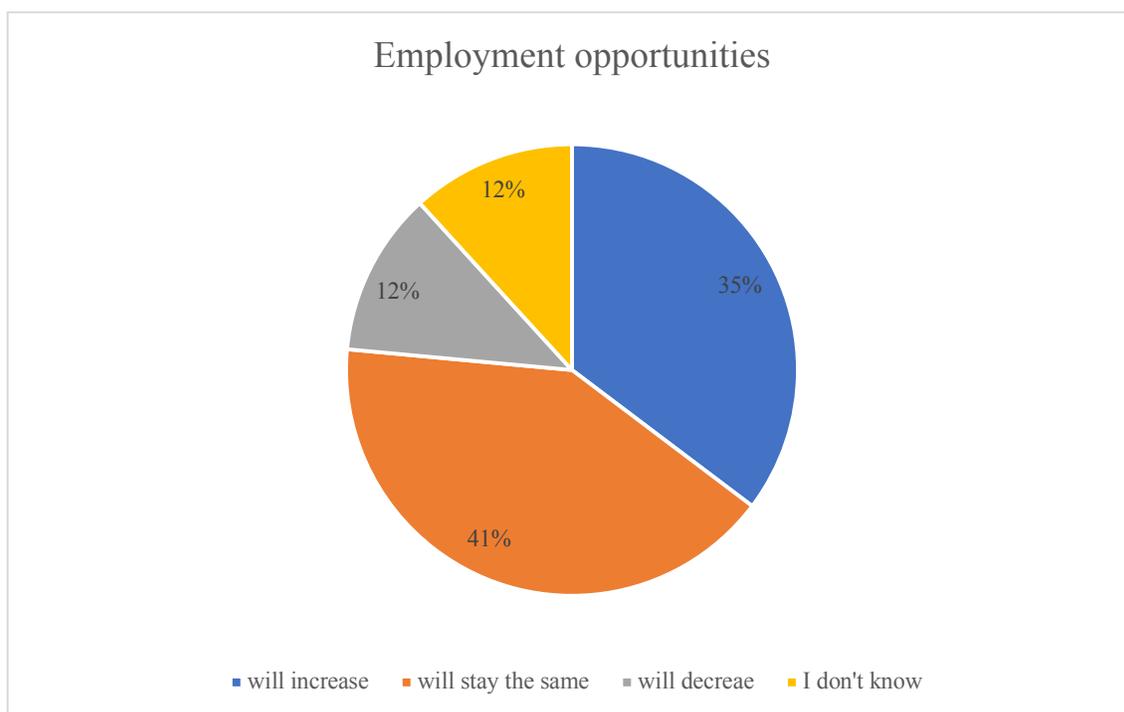


Chart 3

***Services for TCN***

Almost three out of four respondents (72%) predict that the number of services available to foreign residents of Rubano and Padova province will not decrease. The majority (37%) predict either an increase in services or their continuation (35%). A smaller but not insignificant share (20%) foresee, on the contrary, their reduction.

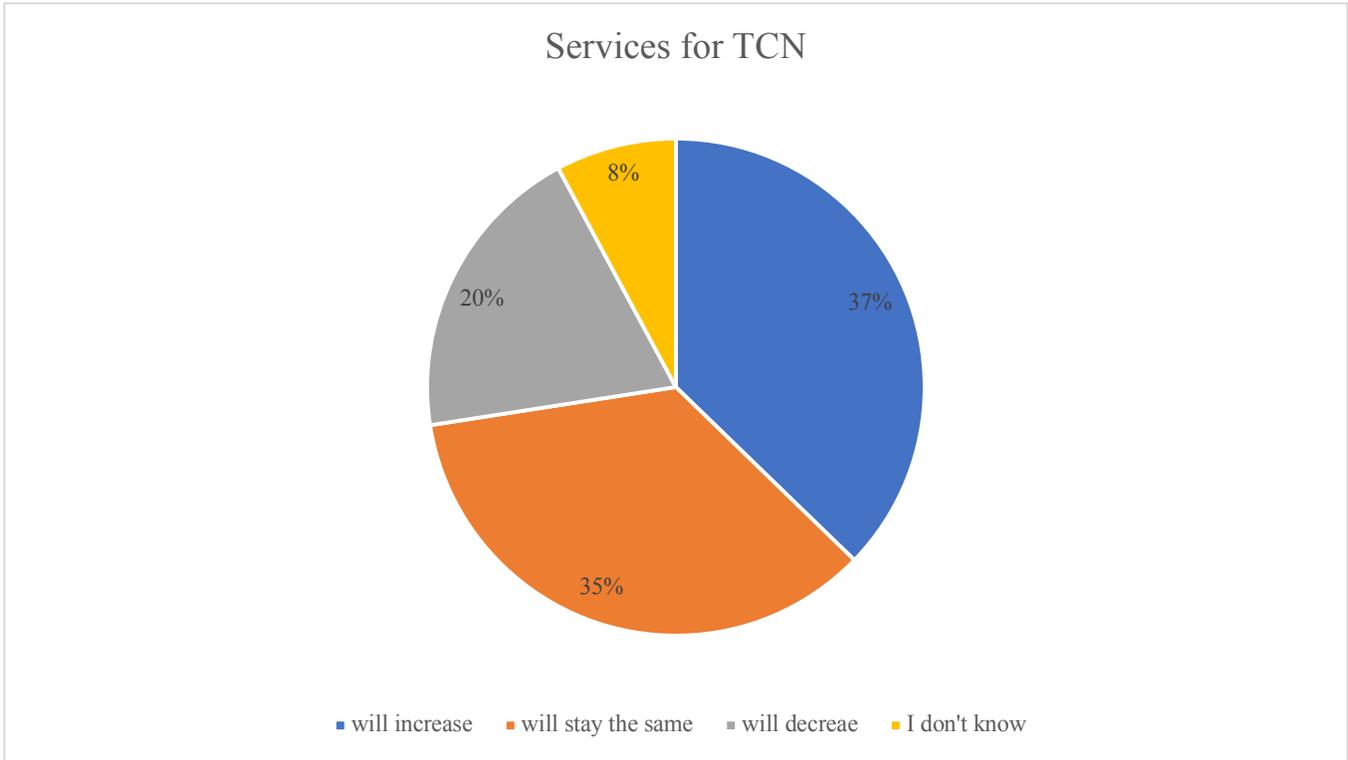


Chart 4

***Immigrant crime***

The results of the questionnaire show that more than half of the respondents (53%) believe that the level of crime linked to foreigners will remain unchanged over the next five years. A smaller percentage (21%) predict a decrease in crimes committed by foreigners. Only 14% predict that they will increase.

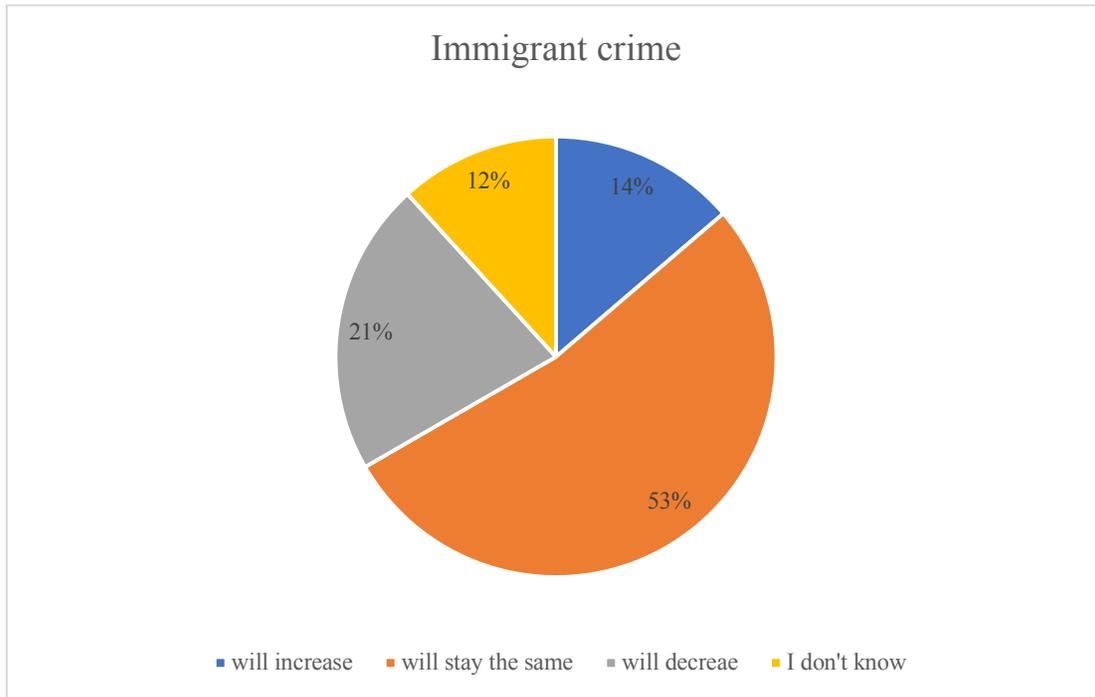


Chart 5

***Integration of TCN/immigrants***

The results of the questionnaires show that almost half of the participants (47%) believe that integration will increase in the next five years.

One in four respondents believes it will remain unchanged.

Overall, almost 70% of the participants believe that the level of integration of TCN/immigrants will not decrease.

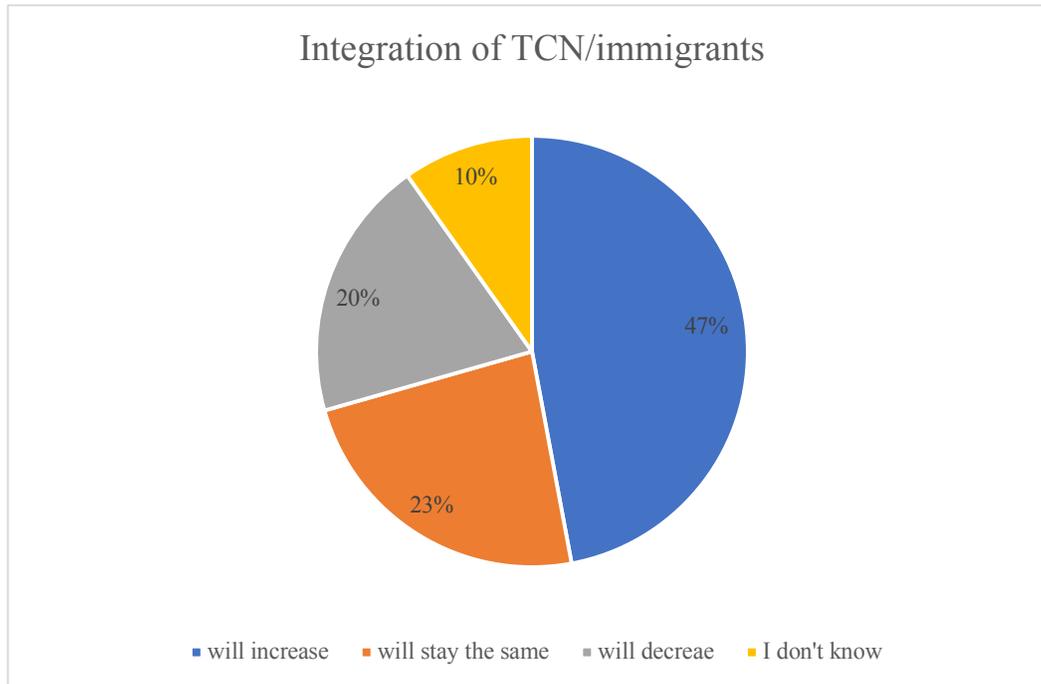


Chart 6

***Influencing factors***

Based on the results of the questionnaire, the factors that are most likely to influence the presence of TCN/immigrants, their employment opportunities, the services available to them, the level of crime and their integration can be traced back to an international dimension: the choices made by the European institutions on the subject of immigration, alongside the international political situation and the relations between EU Member States and the countries of origin of TCN/immigrants, are the factors considered most relevant in the perspective of future scenarios.

Future scenarios will also depend on the capacity and commitment that each host community will be able to demonstrate in terms of reception and social integration of TCN/immigrants.

The national political climate is also recognised as an important factor: the growing consensus for nationalist movements and parties is expected to have a major impact on the management of immigration in the future.

The factors that are considered to have the least impact concern national and international security: the subject of terrorism, in particular, is not given particular importance.

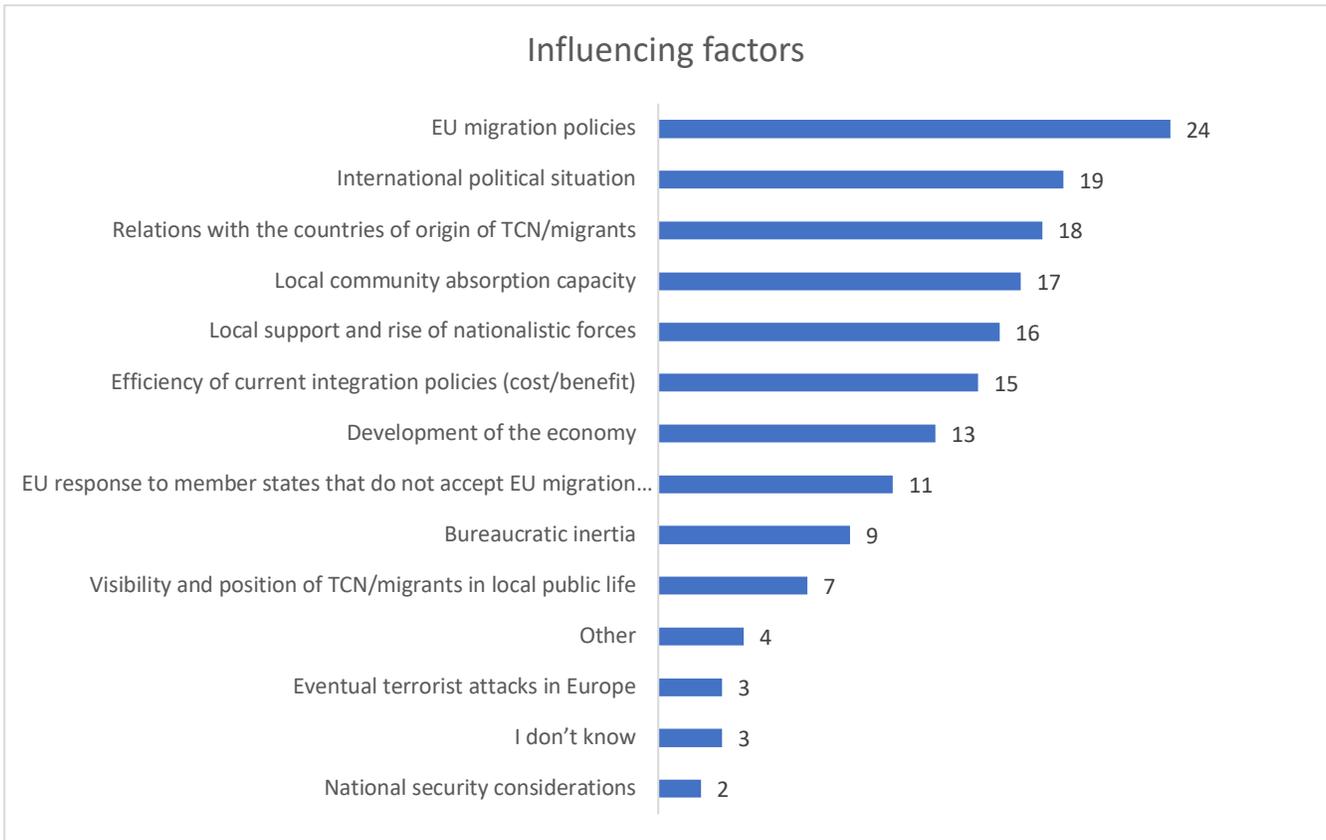


Chart 7

## City Integration Labs

The results of the questionnaires were also the subject of analysis and discussion in the scope of three "City Integration Labs" held in Rubano.



On 11 and 12 November 2018, RiSSC conducted three workshops.

The City Integration Labs aimed at discussing and analyzing the perceptions collected through the questionnaires, with a view to outlining the most probable future scenarios and identifying the most efficient actions to be recommended to the local



administration of Rubano for improving the integration of TCN/immigrants.

The first two workshops involved, respectively, refugees from the Rubano Asylum Seekers and Refugees Protection System (SPRAR) (from Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Liberia) and a dozen local experts on integration and immigration.



During these meetings, the results of the City Integration Audit were presented and the evaluations resulting from the questionnaires were discussed.

Finally, a third workshop was conducted in the presence of the Mayor and the Councillor for Equal Opportunities of the Municipality of Rubano.

This workshop was an opportunity to identify, together with the Mayor of Rubano and the Councillor for Equal Opportunities, a series of specific actions aimed at increasing integration and to be included within the City Integration Agenda.

## Scenarios

The following three scenarios are those considered most likely based on the assessments made through the questionnaires. The description of each scenario, reported below, is the result of an exercise whereby the project researchers built a hypothetical interpretation and joint analysis of the results of both the City Integration Audit and the City Integration Labs. These are fictitious, fantasy scenarios



elaborated only in order to trace possible developments. In fact, the individual indicators presented above provide a more accurate indication of the perception of experts on different issues related to immigration which can hardly be encompassed from a single point of view.

**1<sup>st</sup> SCENARIO**

Presence of TCN/immigrants	↑
Job opportunities for TCN/immigrants	=
Services (school, health, language training, etc.) for TCN/immigrants	↑
Level of crime linked to the presence of TCN/immigrants	=
Level of integration of TCN/immigrants	↑

In the next 5 years, the presence of TCN/immigrants in Rubano and in the province of Padova will increase. The proportion of foreigners in the total population will increase, exceeding 10% both at provincial and municipal level.

The number of TCN/immigrants from non-European countries will increase with the growing number of landings of ships carrying people from North and Sub-Saharan Africa: Tunisia, Mali, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sudan and Eritrea.

The socio-political dynamics of the African countries will lead to an increase in the number of people emigrating to Europe.

The Islamic terrorist faction Boko Haram and the war over the oil wells of the Niger Delta, the internal civil conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, the civil war and the military dictatorship of Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashīr in Sudan, the military dictatorship of Isaias Afewerki in Eritrea, are just some examples of political situations that have caused, and will continue to cause, the flight of thousands of people.

The increase in the number of TCN/immigrants from Africa will also be determined by international financial practices, such as "Land Grabbing", which consists in the appropriation, for agricultural purposes, of large plots of land in developing countries by transnational corporations, foreign governments, or individual private entities. This practice involves, in most cases, the expropriation of



land and the removal of the population that owns it, without any recognition of their rights. This practice causes the forced displacement and migration of thousands of people.<sup>1</sup>

Many TCN/immigrants will also come to Italy from the countries of the former Soviet bloc, such as Moldova and Ukraine. The very low average wages (the average monthly salary in Ukraine is 32 dollars) and the lower standards of living as compared to the nearby countries of the European Union, will push more and more people (especially women) in the countries of the former USSR to move to Italy, in particular to the North East of Italy, to seek a better future.

In addition, the presence of TCN/immigrants will increase due to the growth of so-called "climatic refugees": thousands of people forced to migrate to other states and continents due to drought, desertification, rising sea levels, floods, storms, interruption of seasonal weather patterns. The World Bank has estimated that by 2050 some 143 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America could become climate migrants.<sup>2</sup>

The number of TCN/immigrants will grow in Rubano, and generally in Italy, also for reasons related to relations between EU countries and the governments of the countries of origin of migrants. The lack of agreements on the fair distribution of migrants in the countries of the European Union will lead Italy, due to its geographical position, to receive a higher number of people from the African continent. Moreover, the absence of diplomatic agreements and treaties on immigration with the governments of the countries of origin of migrants will not allow reducing the numbers of those entering.

At the national level, the measures of rejection, blocking of landings and mass repatriations devised by the Italian Government will not have the expected effects and will not reduce the entry of growing numbers of people from non-European countries.

Another factor that will lead to the increase of foreigners in the Province of Padova and Rubano will be the tightening of the requirements for the acquisition of Italian citizenship by foreign residents. The growing consensus for nationalist and xenophobic political forces will prevent the adoption, at national level, of the principle of granting citizenship through *ius soli*. This will mean that all children born to foreign parents will also be registered as foreigners.

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<sup>1</sup> Article FanPage - <https://www.fanpage.it/che-cose-il-land-grabbing-e-perche-e-una-delle-cause-dellimmigrazione-in-europa/>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank - <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>



The growing numbers of TCN/immigrants in Italy will increase the number of foreigners seeking employment. In particular, the demand for "unskilled" labour (construction workers, carers, agricultural workers, etc.) will increase.

However, over the next five years, the supply of labour, even "unskilled", will not grow and will remain stable. This will lead to an increase in the level of unemployment among TCN/immigrants.

The strong growth of labour demand not supported by an equal increase in employment supply will require the intervention of the institutions, and in particular of the Municipality of Rubano at the local level, in the form of several services, in order to meet the needs and ensure socio-economic support of a large number of residents.

The efficient intervention of the institutions in managing the needs and requirements of foreign residents will allow them not to be tempted to commit illegal acts or join criminal organizations.

The lack of growth of criminal phenomena related to TCN/immigrants and, consequently, a greater perception of security by Italian citizens, will allow the increase of integration.

Integration will also be facilitated by the growing capacity of TCN/immigrants to integrate socially into the local community.

2<sup>nd</sup> SCENARIO

Presence of TCN/immigrants	=
Job opportunities for TCN/immigrants	↑
Services (school, health, language training, etc.) for TCN/immigrants	=
Level of crime linked to the presence of TCN/immigrants	↓
Level of integration of TCN/immigrants	=



In the next five years, the number of foreigners living in the Veneto region and in Rubano will remain constant, in line with the estimates reported in the City Integration Audit Report<sup>3</sup>: the province of Padova and Rubano will record a number of resident TCN/immigrants equal to, or slightly less than, 10% of the population.

The majority of the foreign population of Rubano will come from Romania (currently with a percentage of 40%, an increase of 2.9% compared to 2016), followed by Moldovans and Chinese.

The statistics published by the Ministry of the Interior on the number of immigrant landings on Italian coasts, according to which landings fell by 87.23% compared to 2017 and by 90.56% compared to 2016, will remain stable. Likewise, the tendency of many TCN/immigrants to enter Italy and then move on to another country will not change.

The strategies adopted at national and international level will not succeed in limiting the number of regular and irregular entries.

Foreign workers from outside Europe will mainly come from Morocco, China, Albania and Moldova. Foreign workers employed in the province of Padova and in Rubano will exceed 18% (exceeding the current average of 17.6%).

The expected growth is in line with the trend already recorded in the period 2007-2016, i.e. an annual increase of 1%.<sup>4</sup>

In the near future, companies managed by TCN/immigrants in the province of Padova and in Rubano will represent more than 10% of the total, with an average incidence higher than that recorded at national level. The provinces that already host most immigrant businesses today are Verona (10,556), Treviso (9,003) and Padova (8,900). These numbers will increase over the next five years.

As the number of companies in the hands of foreigners increases, so will the number of companies in the hands of Italians.

Opportunities for domestic work and home care will grow. The constant increase in the average age of the Italian population will increase the demand for care services and personal care in the home. In the next five years there will be no change in the tendency of the Italian population to leave the care of their elders to people from other countries, more than 80% of the Italian elders will be assisted by foreign people.

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<sup>3</sup> City Integration Audit Report by Rubano [https://www.integra-eu.net/images/City\\_Report/Audit\\_Report\\_Rubano\\_EN.pdf](https://www.integra-eu.net/images/City_Report/Audit_Report_Rubano_EN.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Veneto Immigration Report 2017 IDOS



The increase in employment opportunities, faced with a stable number of TCN/immigrants in Italy, will drastically limit the opportunities for these people to enter illegal markets and criminal mechanisms. A high level of employment among TCN/immigrants will reduce the demand for social welfare services and the institutions will not have to intervene to compensate for the inconvenience caused by the lack of work.

As reported in the City Integration Audit Report, work is a key tool for the social inclusion of foreigners in host communities. However, although the forecasts acknowledge an increase in work for TCN/immigrants, according to the participants in the questionnaire, it does not follow the increase in their integration.

3<sup>rd</sup> SCENARIO

Presence of TCN/immigrants	↓
Job opportunities for TCN/immigrants	↓
Services (school, health, language training, etc.) for TCN/immigrants	↓
Level of crime linked to the presence of TCN/immigrants	↑
Level of integration of TCN/immigrants	↓

In the next five years, the number of foreigners residing in Rubano and in the province of Padova will decrease, falling below 9% of the total population.

The reduction in the presence of TCN/immigrants from African countries will be a consequence of the decrease in the number of people emigrating to Europe.

As far as African countries are concerned, this could happen following the resolution of internal conflicts and the adoption of long-term policies by the European Union in agreement with the countries of origin of migrants. In particular, the European Union and individual Member States will implement policies and actions aimed at supporting the stability and economy of the places of departure, while also making returns more effective. Improving the effectiveness of European border access control systems will also reduce migration flows.



EU Member States will find arrangements to allow TCN/immigrants who have come to Italy with the aim of reaching another country to be able to do so without the risk of being repatriated.

The reduction of the number of TCN/immigrants in Rubano and in the province of Padova will be a consequence of interventions by the Italian Government which, on the one hand, will carry out policies aimed at rejecting, blocking landings and mass repatriations so as to reduce the entry of new subjects and, on the other hand, will facilitate the administrative process for the attribution of citizenship to TCN/immigrants already present in the territory, in particular with the introduction of *ius soli*. Already in the past, the Veneto region recorded one of the highest number of acquisitions of citizenship (29,313 new acquisitions in 2016), equal to almost 15% of the total number acquisitions at national level, and 44% in the entire North-East.<sup>5</sup>

Over the next five years, Italy's GDP will fall again, bringing Italy back into recession.

The lack of growth in the Italian economy will lead to the loss of thousands of jobs. Italians will be looking for job opportunities, even unskilled, thus putting themselves in competition with immigrant workers, who, according to estimates, offer their services mainly in the field of manual and welfare work such as construction workers, carers, farm workers, etc. ...

The lack of employment will require the intervention of the institutions in order to respond to the needs of a large number of economically dependent people.

The decline in employment opportunities will mean that many TCN/immigrants will be forced to commit crime in order to survive. The increase in immigration-related crimes will severely undermine integration.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.odisseo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Veneto-Capitolo-Dossier-IDOS-2017.pdf>



## Actions

### Italian language courses

**The municipal administration is invited to organise language training courses for foreigners living in Rubano.**

According to the results of the INTEGRA project (City Integration Audit and City Integration Labs activities), knowledge of the language is a key element for the integration of foreigners into Italian society: having a good knowledge of the language allows TCN/immigrants to access the labour market, the services provided by the municipality, as well as medical and health services.

Among foreigners, men tend to know Italian better than women, who are therefore less able to communicate: this has an impact, in particular, in the school environment, where foreign children play the role of intermediaries between teachers and their mothers during parent-teacher meetings.

Difficulties also emerge in the domain of health, as foreigners who do not know the language are not able to describe their health conditions, thus reducing the chances of the medical staff to treat the patient quickly and effectively.

Greater knowledge of the Italian language would thus undoubtedly facilitate the integration of TCN/immigrants into the host community.

The municipality of Rubano is urged to check the possibility of organizing and providing training courses using resources and personnel within the institution and/or through the involvement of local associations which already provide language training services for foreigners.

### School as a meeting place

**The municipal administration is invited to promote the school as a place of meeting and interaction between the Public Administration and foreigners living in Rubano.**

According to what emerged in the focus groups, in Rubano there is no strong willingness among Italians and foreigners alike to cultivate relations between different cultures in order to foster mutual understanding.

Foreigners often turn to their communities of reference, rather than to the municipal administration, to address their needs: family networks and groups support their own members in solving problems, especially when children are at stake.



The lack of dialogue between the local administration and foreign communities hinders the municipality's ability to address the needs of non-Italian citizens and prevents the latter from being informed about the municipal services available to them and the relevant procedures.

Educational institutions may play a key role in creating opportunities for dialogue.

The school attended by all parents of Rubano, both Italian and foreign, on a daily basis. In addition, foreign parents, as well as all other parents, are periodically summoned by the teachers to discuss the progress of their children's educational performance.

These situations represent an opportunity for dialogue between foreign citizens and the school, and thus also an opportunity for foreign citizens to learn about the services offered by the municipal administration.

The local administration is invited, in agreement with the school management, to prepare informative materials that can be disseminated at such meetings. The administration may also organise activities to introduce itself to foreign parents, to make sure that they are familiar with the services made available to the authority, to collect requests, and to detect possible problems.

Such an initiative would allow foreign people to become familiarized with the local administration, thus making the institution closer and better known to TCN/immigrants.

### **Assembly of new residents**

**The Municipality of Rubano is invited to organise an annual plenary meeting for new members of the Municipal Register.**

The data collected through the research show how, in the last three years, the registration of new foreign residents at the registry office of Rubano has strongly influenced the composition of its citizenry. The total number of new members has never fallen below 660, of which at least 28% are foreigners.

Every year new TCN/immigrants choose Rubano as their place of residence. The integration of these people into the community requires that they know the services made available to them by the municipality and how to access them.

The Municipality of Rubano is encouraged to organize, every year, an assembly to which all new residents of Rubano, Italian and foreign, should be invited, in order to allow the institution to get to know the residents and to facilitate their integration in the community.



## Intercultural calendar

**The Municipal Administration is invited to create and publish an "intercultural" calendar containing all the festivities and celebrations typical of the countries of origin of Rubano's foreign communities.**

Foreigners in Rubano represent almost 10% of the entire population. They come from more than 20 different countries.

Foreigners bring with them a cultural heritage of traditions, customs and celebrations from their country of origin.

The coexistence of so many people from different cultures constitutes the new collective heritage of Rubano, which deserves to be known and valued with a view to promoting mutual understanding.

The creation of a calendar including all the festivities and celebrations that each foreign community/group/resident of Rubano would like to see included may facilitate such mutual understanding and ensure that these festivities are known by the entire community.

The Municipality of Rubano is invited to establish a dialogue with foreign communities and residents in order to understand their willingness to implement this idea and to identify the relevant holidays. Once the calendar has been compiled, the Administration would be able to disseminate it on its institutional channels (also through social networks), making all citizens and residents of Rubano familiar with the celebration days of the different local cultures.

## Community Events

**The Municipal Administration is invited to promote the organization of events in foreign communities during the festivities included in the "intercultural" calendar.**

The Municipality could provide support to the celebration of the festivities typical of the countries of origin of Rubano's foreign communities in the form of an *ad hoc* patronage.

Such events would allow these communities to actively participate in the social life of the city and also to make their own cultures known to the public.

## Ius scholae

**The Municipal Administration is invited to grant honorary citizenship to all foreign children who have attended school in Rubano for at least 5 years.**



According to the data made available by the municipal registry office, 241 foreign children are currently enrolled in the primary, secondary and nursery schools of Rubano.

The Municipality of Rubano is invited to ensure that the integration of any individual in the community of Rubano, even if sanctioned only through the conferring of an honorary document, be based on their personal commitment and their sharing of places and educational paths with their peers.

The granting of honorary citizenship could be celebrated on the occasion of a meeting of the City Council or on a special event.

### **Original art**

**The Municipal Administration is invited to organize an exhibition of works of art from the countries of origin of Rubano's foreign residents.**

During the public discussion of the draft City Integration Agenda of Rubano, the participants proposed to design a cultural initiative, in the form of an art exhibition showcasing works from the countries of origin of foreign residents of Rubano.

The exhibition may have a broad theme guiding the selection of works.

The theme should be as broad and common as possible, so as to involve all communities. During the discussion the following themes emerged: motherhood, death, divinities.

If it is too expensive to recover and materially exhibit the original works, images that portray them could also be exhibited.

The Municipality of Rubano is invited, therefore, to open a dialogue with foreign residents and their communities, in order to invite them to participate and decide together upon the theme and the works to be exhibited.