

COUNTRY PROFILE – ITALY

ITALY: Country Profile

Italy, Roman emperor country, slightly larger than Arizona, is a long peninsula shaped like a boot, surrounded on the west by the Tyrrhenian Sea and on the east by the Adriatic. It is bounded by France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia to the north. The Apennine Mountains form the peninsula's backbone; the Alps form its northern boundary. The largest of its many northern lakes is Garda (143 sq mi; 370 sq km); the Po, its principal river, flows from the Alps on Italy's western border and crosses the Lombard plain to the Adriatic Sea. Several islands form part of Italy; the largest are Sicily (9,926 sq mi; 25,708 sq km) and Sardinia (9,301 sq mi; 24,090 sq km). Italy has population about 59 million with total geographic area of 301,336 sq. km. Venice, Rome, Florence, Pisa, Verona, Sea-side (Adriatic sea, Calabria) and island (Sicily and Sardinia) are most attractive place to visit in Italy.

NRNs in Italy

In the last 5 years, there has been increase in the number of Nepalese arriving in Italy with different motives and objectives. There are many difficulties to be settled and integrated of NRN's in Italy due to language, cultural and beaurocratic barriers. There is no any bilateral relation between Nepal and Italy government so it is too difficult to find Nepalese in public employment, academic research and studies. There are some Nepalese are working at academic research and universities on base of their individual skill, relation and opportunity. Due to low opportunity for settlement and lower economic status with respect to other countries of EU, many Nepalese have been transferred to other EU countries like France, Germany etc. There are about 500 Nepalese in Italy. Most of them are working in private sector like factories and restaurants. Some Nepalese have their own business like small shops or Nepali restaurants.

Immigration is still a relatively new phenomenon for Italy. Whenever, Italy is a most emigrant country itself. First time, Italy government proves first Immigration Act in beginning of 1990 for official immigration. The new 3 Immigration Acts in last 10 years from 5 governments shows clearly the problems of immigrants to be settled in Italy. Nepalese living here face challenges similar to those faced by

immigrants to other small nations around the world. Due to political instability, there are more difficulties for immigrants with respect to other normal problems.

NRN's are face difficulties getting their passport and travel documents issued and renewed because there is no diplomatic mission of Nepal in Italy. Due to this major problem, all Nepalese people involved to face much different kind of practical difficulties. Nepalese people living here already informed many times to Embassy of Nepal, France and Ministry of Foreign, Government of Nepal about this problem and ask to establish a diplomatic mission in Italy but no any response yet. There is no any Nepali diplomatic visit in Italy till now. Nepalese people do not have any identity or function in local or government authority. Because of this problem, Nepalese also do not have any reserve seat the quota immigration system like Sri Lanka, Pakistan etc.

Although, having all these problems, all Nepali living in Italy are very keen to join hands to NRNA in Italy. They hope that there are many solutions of their current problems joining with NRNA and they can also contribute to social and economical development of Nepal.