

ASSOCIATION NAME: **IALCA**
ITALIAN IN ITALY
COUNTRY: **ITALY**

National Report for FELCA AGM 2010

Providers

Has the number of language providers in your country grown or declined over the last year?
Declined

Has your number of members grown or declined over the last year?
It's the same, 25 members

Market Growth/Decline

If information is available, please provide the following:

- total number of **students** in 2009 32.000
- total number of **student weeks** in 2009 96 000
- **top ten nationalities** in 2009:
 - **Germany, Austria, Russia, Neitherland, Swiss, Sweden, Japan, Usa, Brazil, China**
 - of the **top ten**, which markets grew and which declined:
 - Russia, Germany, Swiss, Sweden, Japan, Brazil and China grew
 - USA, South Korea, Brazil and UK declined.

Please identify any other important market trends. What is the general "health" of the industry from your perspective?

It has been a hard period for the industry, due to the world economic crisis. Anyway Italy still maintains its appeal for its culture, art and lifestyle, We still face big visa problems of incoming from countries like China, India, Russia and also from Japan, USA, South Korea and South America .

If information is available, please provide an estimate regarding the economic value of your sector as an export industry in 2009.

Approximately 220 million Euro per year.

Other key issues for the industry

Please include information regarding the current key issues facing the industry in your country/region.

Due to volcanic ash we had many cancellation above from European countries.

Please include information regarding any recent or forthcoming developments in the visa regime for your country/region.

The visa regime has not changed much from last year. Italian Embassies abroad still ask the students, requiring a visa, to have at least a certified A2. Italian language competence in order to issue the visa. At present Visa for study are issued for the following reasons:

1. Enrolment at Italian Universities
2. Scholarship
3. Novitiater / Religious Studies
4. Post compulsory school Technical, Vocational Training Courses

Initiatives/Developments for your association

Please include information regarding the current priorities for your association.

The most important initiative for Italian in Italy is the Annual National Conference held in Campidoglio (Rome) where we present several issues related to the Italian Language Industry to representatives of Ministry of Foreign affairs, Ministry of Education and Trade.

Priorities:

- Efforts to have Italian Language Schools recognised by Italian Ministry of Education.
- Rebuilding the website.
- Italian in Italy is supporting its members with marketing initiatives like workshops with agents.

Accreditation/Registration/Legislation

Please include information regarding any developments in accreditation/registration/legislation for your country/region.

All schools in Italian in Italy are accredited through Testing Board Uniter (Sincert System of Quality Certification). There is no specific quality assurance for young learners or homestay programmes though there are guidelines issued to all schools for the care of young learners and the recruitment of host families. Schools are inspected initially and thereafter at least once every three years. Spot checks are also carried out. A committee of senior Italian in Italy members inspect once a year a sample of family throughout the ones working with all the schools members. We also issue a check-list to be used among members in order to have the same standards in choosing families.

The Association has been accredited by Italian Ministry of Education and University Research as National Training Body for teachers. All the schools belonging to our association are authorised centres of Certificate di Italiano issued by TELC, member ALTE (The association of Language Testers in Europe). Italian in Italy is member of Alto.

What issues would you like to discuss at the GAELA meeting?

Please identify items you would like the 2010 GAELA meeting to focus on.

- Qualification of teachers.
- Average of commissions.