

National Report for FELCA AGM – 2014

YOUR ASSOCIATION NAME: **IALCA**

COUNTRY: **Italy**

AGENTS numbers in your country

Approximately, what is the total number of agents operating in your country? **N.A.**

How many of these agencies are members of your association? **19**

Markets

Please estimate the following, for your association:

- total number of language students in 2013 **20.000 approx.**
- total number of high school **N.A.**
- and university students **N.A.**
- the percentage of students your association accounts for from your country **N.A.**
- did the overall market grown or declined from 2012? **(+ 3%)**

Top 5 destinations for your members in 2013 and % of the market of each

	<u>Destination</u>	<u>% of your students</u>
1	UK	55%
2	Ireland	15%
3	Malta	10%
4	USA	10%
5	France	5%

Trends in student numbers and student nationalities?

The total amount of students grew slightly (3%) in 2013. Major % increase towards Australia and Canada. In this two countries the work and study/Working Holiday Visa programmes attract many students.

Visa regime – any new developments?

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Government Relations – any developments with your or other governments?

In the last few years many Italian students have been able to study a language abroad thanks to the European funds PON. Ialca welcomed PON action but nevertheless witnessed that many foreign language schools are dealing directly with Italian schools, and the other way round. Ialca produced a document that has been sent to the Italian Ministry of Education underlining that these conduct is not legal according to the Italian legislation – these kind of programmes should be organized by professional operators such as specialized language travel agents or tour operators - and it generates an unfair competition that damages the Language Travel Agencies professional work. Ialca target for is to go further on this issue with the Italian Ministry of Education in order to re-establish a legal and fair situation as far as PON programmes are concerned.

Initiatives/Developments for your association?

In September 2013 Ialca and English Australia signed a collaboration agreement. Growth of 60% over the last two years in the number of Italians going to Australia to study English has seen Italy become the #1 source of students from Europe and the #8 source of students across all nationalities for Australia. The agreement provides for the two groups to exchange information on best practices from both countries and both sectors, collaborate in the advocacy of advantageous policies, foster promotional activities, and uphold rigorous standards in their respective industries.

Felca Agency Accreditation Code

Please confirm that your members' brochures/websites have now been checked against the Felca Accreditation Code. **YES**

The Felca logo needs to be distributed to all your agency members and included on their brochures, business cards and websites. Has this been done? **YES**