

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS - DATA AND PERSPECTIVES

Report on dossiers
from 1 January to 31 December 2025



Governo Italiano
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri



Commission for Intercountry Adoptions
Central Authority for the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993



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Background

The data presented come from the database of the Commission for Intercountry Adoption (CAI), which for years has been producing a detailed analysis of international adoptions. The analysis concerns parents who applied for authorisation for foreign minors to enter Italy, as well as minors for whom such authorisation was ultimately granted.

To complete the picture, a specific in-depth section on the timeframes of the adoption process is included, as this is one of the most sensitive aspects for all stakeholders involved, starting with the child awaiting a family and the prospective adoptive parents. As will be seen in the main body of the document, timelines vary depending on several factors.

Introduction

This Report presents the statistical data on intercountry adoptions in Italy for 2025. It is part of the series of annual publications of the Commission for Intercountry Adoption, providing an updated and in-depth overview of trends in intercountry adoptions, with the aim of fostering understanding, and supporting the work of practitioners, policymakers, and families.

The Report is structured into four parts: the first outlines the organization and functions of the Commission for Intercountry Adoption; the second analyses the main statistical findings relating to adoptive families and adopted minors, with a focus on countries of origin; the third examines the issue of the timeframes of the adoption process; while the fourth contains a detailed statistical appendix.

While reference is made to the following pages for a comprehensive analysis, some general considerations are outlined below.

In 2025, the number of families applying for authorisation for foreign minors to enter Italy remained broadly stable at 527, with a slight decrease compared to the previous year. Similarly, the number of minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy stood at 664, showing a limited decline compared to 2024.

Overall, these figures point to a phase of balance in the intercountry adoption system, within a global context still marked by significant geopolitical, regulatory, and organizational challenges in the countries of origin.

Some structural features of the phenomenon remain unchanged. In particular, there continues to be a high incidence of adoptions of minors with special needs, which in 2025 accounted for 70% of the total. This figure confirms the central role of this dimension in the Italian adoption system and highlights the significant commitment of families in dealing with complex situations, often characterised by health-related or relational vulnerabilities, or by the child's age.

The age profile of adopted minors also remains relatively high, averaging around 6.8 years, with a significant proportion of children of advanced school age. This reflects the evolution of intercountry adoptions at the international level, increasingly oriented toward the placement of children with more complex profiles.

With regard to the timeframes of the adoption process, there has been a slight reduction in the overall average duration, which now stands at around 50 months. In particular, there has been a significant decrease in the time between assigning the cases to the Authorised Agencies and matching with the minors. This phase, however, continues to be the most variable and complex segment of the entire procedure, as it is strongly influenced by the procedures and operational conditions in the countries of origin. The Report also confirms, as emerged during the meetings of the Intercountry Adoption Network (ICAN) held in Oslo and Dublin in May and November 2025, Italy's leading role in the international adoption landscape. This is reflected both in the number of adoptions relative to the population and in the significant proportion of children with special needs welcomed, an aspect that continues to attract interest and attention at international level.

Finally, this document aims to contribute to the development of an adoption system that is increasingly effective, transparent, and focused on the best interests of the children, in compliance with the principles established by national and international legislation.

Referring readers to the detailed analyses contained in the Report, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those – families, members of the Commission, Authorised Agencies, professionals, and the institutions involved – who, with their expertise and dedication, make the adoption process possible, offering hundreds of children the opportunity to grow up in welcoming and stable family environments.

Dr. Vincenzo Starita
Vice President

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01 The Commission for Intercountry Adoption

1.1

Composition and functions

The Commission for Intercountry Adoption (CAI) is the Italian Central Authority for intercountry adoptions, established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to implement the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption concluded in The Hague on 29 May 1993. Its fundamental mission is to ensure that every adoption procedure takes place in full compliance with international rules and domestic legislation, ensuring transparency, legality and quality in the adoption process. In this sense, the CAI is an institutional watchdog ensuring the application of the principle of subsidiarity and the child's right to have a family, within the framework of the child's best interest, while promoting a culture of adoption based on ethics, responsibility and international cooperation.

Composition

The Commission's structure is designed to respond to the complexity of the adoption phenomenon through a multidisciplinary and inter-institutional approach. Its composition, governed by Presidential Decree no. 108 of 2007, includes representatives from various sectors of the public administration and civil society, and is headed by a President, who may be either the Prime Minister

or the Minister for Family Policies. The President is assisted by a Vice President, who is selected from magistrates with experience in the juvenile sector or senior officials in public administration.

The composition of the Commission provides for the appointment, by decree and for a term of three years, of three representatives from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and eight representatives from the Ministries of: Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Health, Education, Labour, and Economy and Finance. In addition, there are four representatives of the Regions, Provinces and Municipalities chosen by the Unified Conference, three representatives of family associations, and three experts with specific legal, psychological and social competences, as well as institutional representatives with experience in child protection and international relations.

The Commission is currently chaired by the Minister for Family, Birth and Equal Opportunities, Eugenia Roccella, whereas Dr. Vincenzo Starita, a Magistrate expert in juvenile matters, is the Vice President.

Functions

The functions of the CAI are multiple and strategic:

- It plays a central role in promoting and managing relations with foreign Central Authorities, proposing the establishment of bilateral agreements facilitating and regulating intercountry adoptions;
- It defines the criteria for the accreditation of Authorised Agencies listed in the relevant Register, authorises their activities, and monitors their proper conduct;
- It acknowledges the authorisation for adopted minors to enter and reside in Italy, as issued by the Vice President;
- It promotes cooperation among the various actors in the adoption system, and supports and encourages training and information initiatives aimed at practitioners and prospective adoptive parents.

Organisation

A dedicated technical unit, part of the Department for Family Policies, supports the Commission's activities: this is Office III - CAI Technical Secretariat, the operational heart of the entire structure. Coordinated by a general-level manager, Office III includes an Adoption Service and the Administrative and Accounting Affairs Service, headed by two non-general managers.

This organisation allows efficient management and timely supervision of activities.

Technical and administrative support for the activities of the Commission for Intercountry Adoption is one of the primary functions of Office III – CAI Technical Secretariat, which carries it out through the preparation of official documents, management of preliminary investigations, and operational coordination with the relevant administrations and bodies.

In particular, the Adoption Service prepares the necessary documentation for the Commission's meetings and carries out the preparatory work for the measures within its competence.

It also manages the translation of foreign documents, ensures the preservation and updating of documents relating to adoption procedures, and provides organisational and operational support for promotion, cooperation, training and information initiatives promoted by the Commission.

The Service handles relations with the Authorised Agencies and national and international public administrations responsible for adoption matters, including offices of foreign central authorities and diplomatic and consular representations. Lastly, it manages the Register of Authorised Agencies, supervises their work and draws up analyses and studies to support proposals for bilateral agreements between Italy and the countries of origin of minors.

1.2 Research, training and promotion activities

Thanks to its research, training, and production and dissemination of documents during 2025, the CAI further strengthened its driving and coordinating role within the Italian adoption system.

In particular, these activities, developed in synergy with national and international institutions, Authorised Agencies, Universities, and sector professionals, aimed at strengthening the quality of adoption processes, the transparency of procedures, and the central nature of the minor as a rights-bearing individual.

Thanks to the research activity, an in-depth study on access to origins was launched. The study involved Juvenile Courts, Authorised Agencies, and Central Authorities from some countries of origin and destination, through online surveys and interviews on the procedures and practices for handling related requests.

The insights gained from the analysis of the collected material have led to organising a national seminar, scheduled for May 2026, aimed at discussing and sharing reflections among the various stakeholders involved.

Regarding training activities, one of the key pillars of the Commission's action has been the process launched to qualify and standardise, across Italy, the training of prospective adoptive parents who intend to undertake an intercountry adoption.

To this end, an inter-professional working group was established within the CAI, whose aim was to initiate technical discussions on this topic in the pre-approval phase and at collecting local contributions, different professional approaches, and new operational insights. The overall objective was to develop – through a participatory and interdisciplinary approach – shared, consistent, and up-to-date practices that could serve as a reference point across the entire national territory.

The work of the working group resulted in a seminar held in Florence on 21–22 October 2025, which was attended by approximately 70 participants, including experts, representatives of social welfare services, judges from Juvenile Courts, and representatives of Authorised Agencies. The discussion arising from the seminar formed the basis for the development of a proposed intervention on the training of prospective adoptive parents that found its expression in the drafting of the Operational guidelines for training aspiring adoptive parents that will be presented at the conference organised with the technical-scientific support of the Institute in Rome on 23 January 2026.

Participation in public and scientific events further enriches the educational landscape.

Finally, during 2025, the Commission for Intercountry Adoption promoted a structured cycle of thematic working groups, conceived as tools to analyse, discuss and advice on certain issues of specific interest.

The work was carried out between July and November 2025, through regular meetings involving Authorised Agencies, Juvenile Courts, local services, as well as qualified experts in the field and institutional representatives. In particular, the Commission focused on four thematic working groups, described below.

Working group on cost analysis of the adoption process

The Group conducted a systematic examination of the cost structure of intercountry adoption procedures in order to acquire cognitive elements deemed useful to assess the current economic structure of the system.

In this context, the activities carried out aimed at defining an up-to-date map of costs, promoting economic transparency and identifying possible standardisation and sustainability criteria, also with a view to greater fairness in accessing adoption pathways.

Working group on the role of international cooperation

The Group explored the role of development cooperation as an integral component of the international adoption system, with particular reference to child protection policies in the countries of origin. Activities aimed at fostering more effective integration between interventions and cooperation initiatives, as well as enhancing the experiences gained by the Authorised Agencies, with a view to consolidating the Italian adoption model as a tool within a broader child protection system.

Working group on adopting children with special needs

The purpose of this Group was to develop an organic and shared approach to the adoption of children with special needs, also in light of the increasing complexity encountered in adoption processes.

In this context, activities were launched to define shared criteria to use to identify special needs, strengthen pathways to prepare adoptive families, and enhance support measures, both in the pre- and post-adoption phases, while also promoting a more widespread culture of reception.

Working group on coordination between the actors involved

The Group worked on improving the level of coordination between the different institutional actors involved in the intercountry adoption system. Activities focused on analysing critical procedural and organisational issues in order to identify possible interventions to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, reduce operational overlaps and improve the overall efficiency of the system.

The working groups provided a qualified forum for technical and institutional exchange of ideas and experiences, aimed at identifying critical issues and developing operational proposals. They also served as an important knowledge and planning base for defining strategic guidelines to relaunch intercountry adoption in Italy, including in view of subsequent developments at the General Assembly of Authorised Agencies.

02

Statistics on Intercountry Adoptions in Italy

2.1 Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

In 2025, 527 families applied for permission for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy, a slight decrease from the previous year, when there were 536 applications (-2%).

The 2025 figure confirms the stability in the number of adoptive families over the 2020-2025 period, with the exception of 2023, when the number of families dropped significantly (478).

At local level, the regions with the highest number of adoptive families were, in descending order, Lombardy (88 families), Veneto (56), Campania (48), Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany (44), Puglia (35) and Lazio (34).

Among these regions, there is a significant increase in the number of adoptive families in Emilia-Romagna (28 in 2024, +57%) and an equally significant decrease in Campania, from 77 families in 2024 to 48 in 2025 (-37%).

These are absolute figures. Relating the number of adoptive families to the number of resident families, however, reveals a slightly different picture. As in 2024, Basilicata remains the region with the highest adoption rate (8.3 adoptive families per 100,000 resident families), followed by Marche (3.5), Trentino-Alto Adige (2.9) and Umbria (2.8).

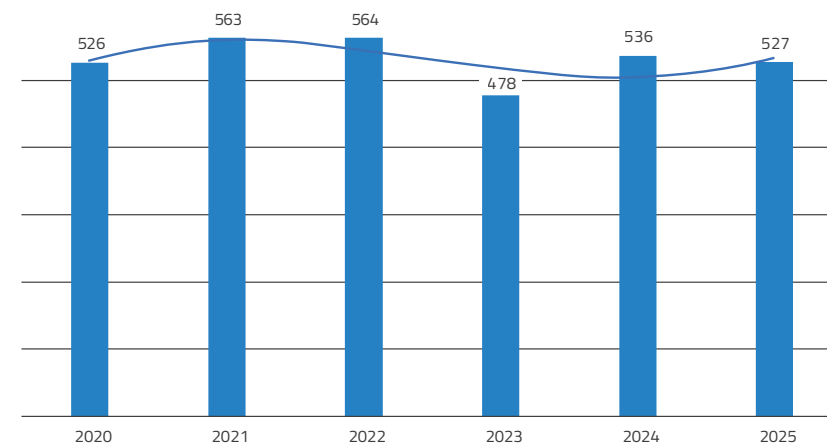


Figure 1 Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter Italy. 2020-2025

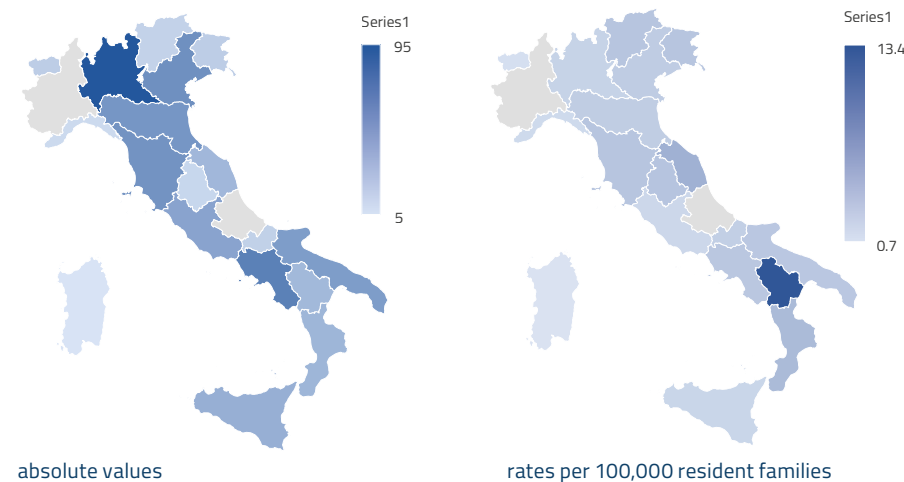


Figure 2 Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy by Region of residence (absolute values and rates per 100,000 resident families). 2025

2.1.1 Profile of families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter Italy

Age and educational qualification

The socio-demographic profile of prospective adoptive parents appears to be well defined, as this year also confirms the adoptive applicants' characteristics in terms of age and level of education. At the time of the decree of suitability, the most represented age group, both for husbands and wives, is the 40-44 range. The average age is 45 years for husbands and 43 years for wives (Figure 3). At the time of authorisation for the minor's entry, considering the duration of the adoption process, the average age is 48 years for husbands and 46 years for wives (Figure 4). The level of education is still generally high, with well-defined and stable characteristics over time: over 90% of spouses hold at least an upper secondary school diploma. In particular, 70% of wives and 50% of husbands hold a university degree (Figure 5).

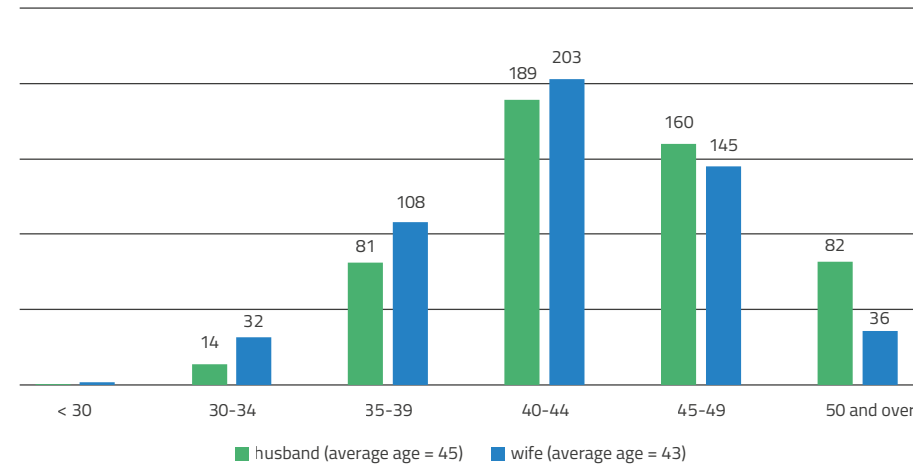


Figure 3 Age of spouses at the date of the decree of suitability, 2025

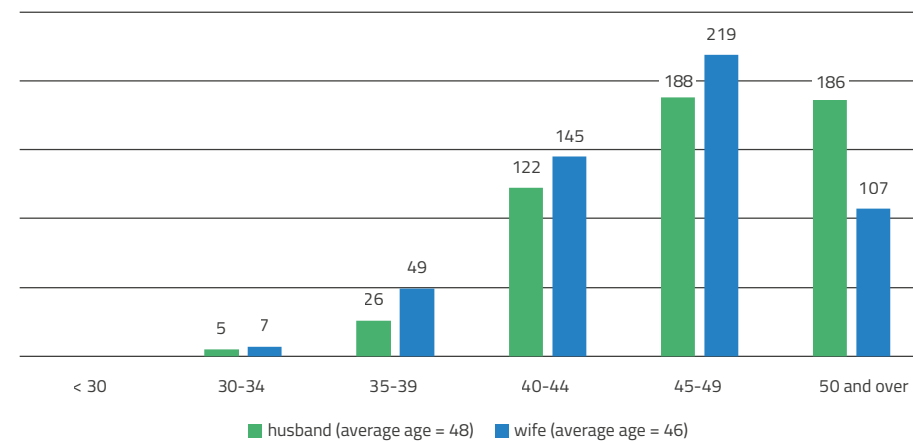


Figure 4 Age of spouses at the date of authorisation for entry, 2025

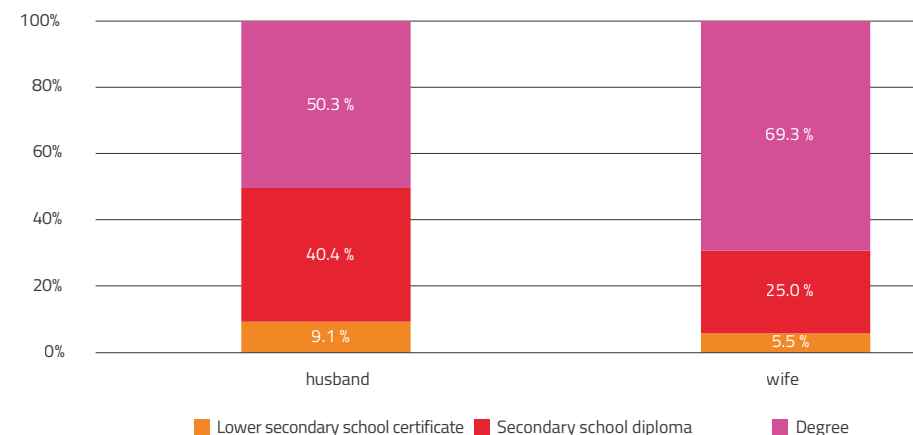


Figure 5 Spouses educational qualifications (percentage values), 2025

2.1.2 Profile of families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter Italy

Motivations

Among the motivations that lead families to undertake the adoption process, the inability to conceive continues to be the most frequently reported (62%), although it has declined significantly compared to 2024, when it stood at 78%. It is worth noting the increase in families reporting that they pursue the process out of an adoptive desire: this may be an indicator of a different approach to adoption. This proportion increases from 6% in 2024 to 17% in 2025, followed by general infertility (11%) (Figure 6). An additional 11% of cases are attributable to general infertility (Figure 6).

The percentage of families with no children is 83%, while in 15% of adoptive families in 2025 there is already at least one child, in line with previous years' data (Figure 7). In terms of adoption patterns, 78% of families adopted one child, 18% adopted two, and the remaining 4% adopted three or more (Figure 8). This data is also consistent with findings from previous years.

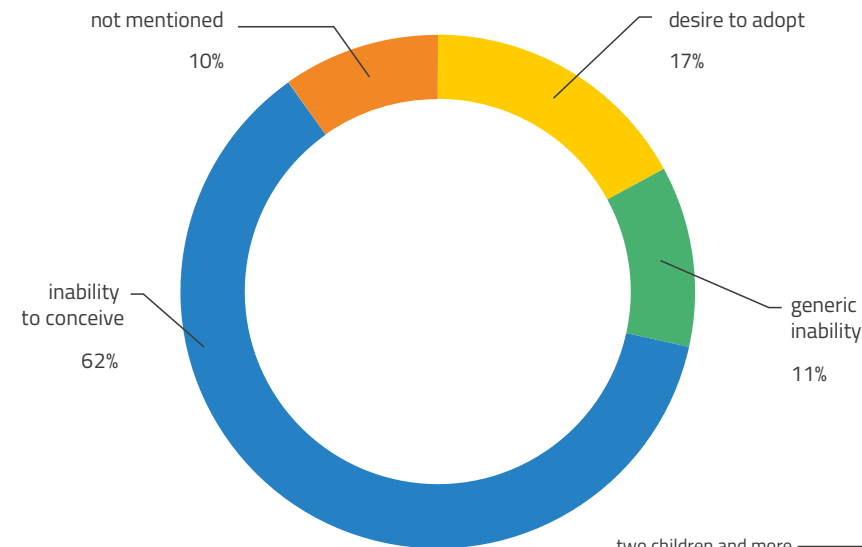


Figure 6
Motivation for undertaking the adoption process (percentage values). 2025

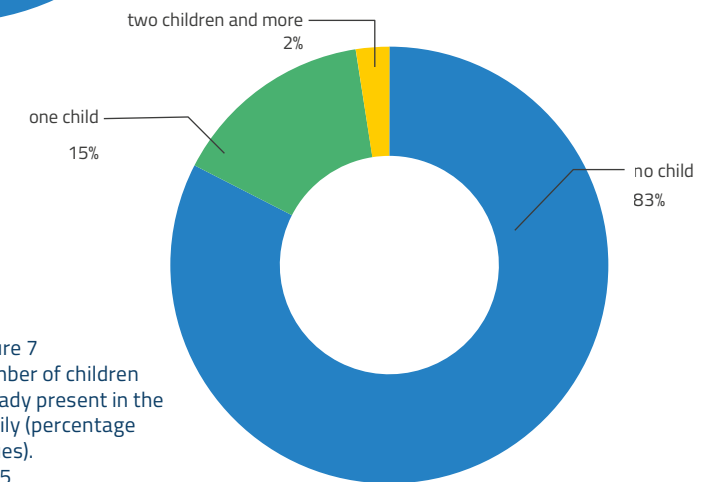


Figure 7
Number of children already present in the family (percentage values). 2025

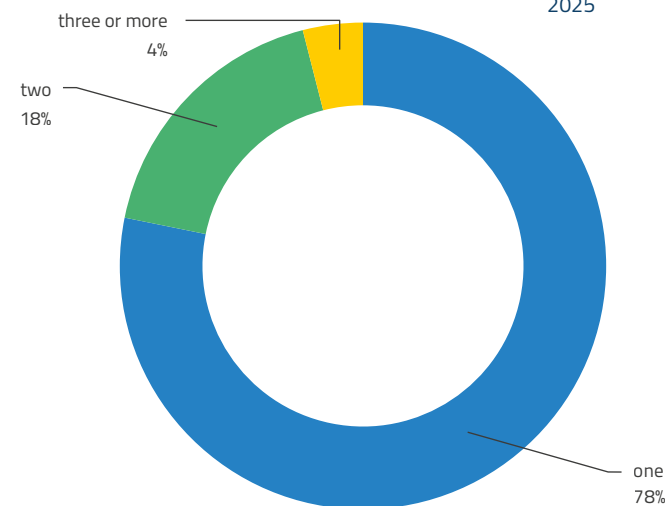


Figure 8
Number of adopted minors (percentage values). 2025

2.2 Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

In 2025, 664 foreign minors were granted authorisation to enter and reside in Italy, a slight decrease (-4%) compared to the 691 minors recorded in 2024 (Table 1).

Between 2020 and 2025, the total number of adopted minors showed substantial stability, remaining consistently below 700 annual entries, with a more pronounced decline in 2023, when the number fell below 600 (585).

Looking at the geographical origin of minors granted authorisation to enter and reside in Italy over the 2020-2025 period (Figure 9), the largest share comes from Europe (34%, or 1,373 minors), followed by the Americas (31%, 1,221 adoptees) and Asia (25%, 979 adoptees). Africa remains the continent with the smallest share of adoptees (10%, or 414), but it also recorded the most significant and steady increase over the period considered, with a +145% change (Table 1).

Asia (+11%) is the only other continent showing a positive change, while adoptions of minors from the Americas (-29%) and Europe (-8%) declined.

Continent	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Totale	Var % 2020-2025
Africa	49	54	46	61	84	120	414	145%
America	233	226	231	166	200	165	1,221	-29%
Asia	123	165	164	194	196	137	979	11%
Europe	264	235	257	164	211	242	1,373	-8%
Total	669	680	698	585	691	664	3,987	-1%
Var % annual	-	2%	3%	-16%	18%	-4%		

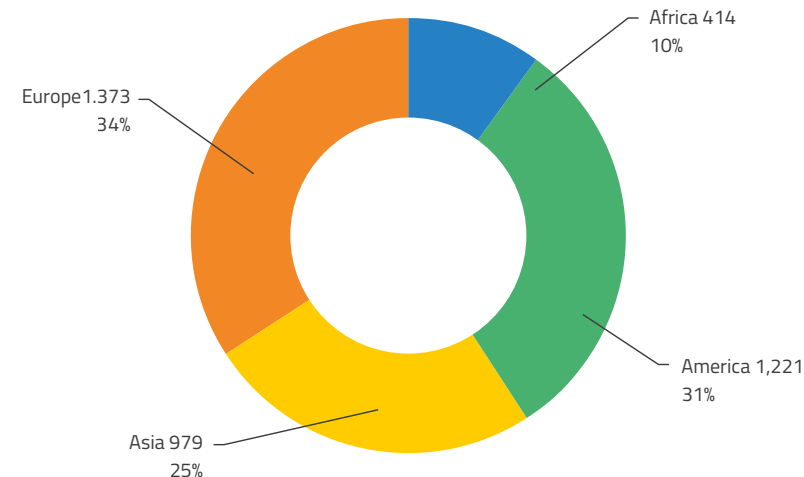


Table 1
Continent of origin. 2020-2025

Figure 9
Continent of origin (percentage values). 2020-2025

2.2.1 Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Among minors for whom authorisation to enter and reside in Italy was granted in 2025, there was a slight predominance of males, accounting for 53% (Figure 10). This higher proportion of males was observed across all continents of origin (Table 2).

As for countries of origin, Hungary ranks first with 163 adoptees, a figure significantly higher than that of all other countries. It is followed by India (87) and Colombia (80).

These three countries alone account for about half (50%) of all minors adopted in Italy during 2025.

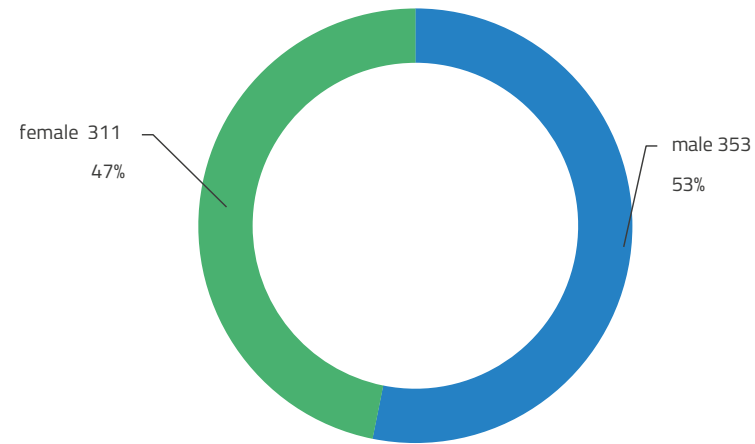


Figure 10 Gender of minors (percentage values), 2025

AFRICA	120
Burundi	31
Congo	24
Burkina Faso	23
Sierra Leone	19
Ghana	16
other countries	7
<hr/>	
males	63
females	57

AMERICA	165
Colombia	80
Brazil	35
Peru	40
other countries	10
<hr/>	
males	87
females	78

ASIA	137
India	87
Vietnam	22
Thailand	10
The Philippines	7
Pakistan	6
Taiwan	5
<hr/>	
males	78
females	59

EUROPE	242
Hungary	163
Bulgaria	39
Poland	17
Moldova	8
Romania	7
other countries	8
<hr/>	
males	125
females	117

Table 2 Gender continent and country of origin

In 2025, the average age of adopted minors was 6.8 years, a figure broadly in line with that recorded in 2024. However, this overall figure conceals significant differences across areas of origin.

The average age varies across a fairly wide range, from a low of 4.5 years for children from India to a high of 11.2 years for those from Moldova.

Among the countries with the highest number of adopted minors, differing values are observed: the aforementioned 4.5 years for India, 7.6 years for Hungary, and 8.2 years for Colombia.

It should also be noted that the share of children authorised to enter aged over 7 accounts for 47.3% of the total, highlighting a significant proportion of adoptions involving minors who are already of school age.

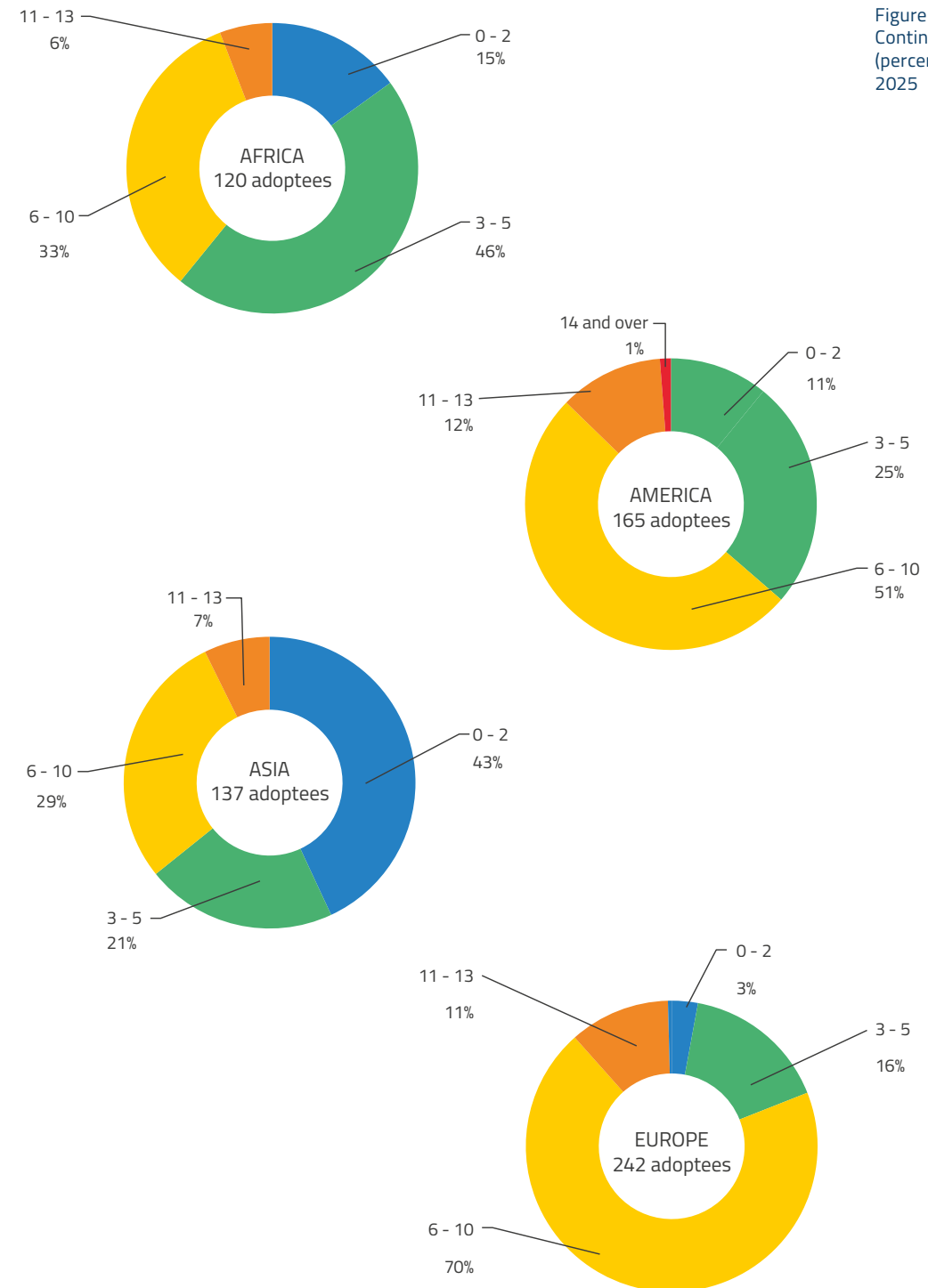


Figure 11
Continent, age group
(percentage values).
2025

2.2.2 Minors with special needs authorised to enter and reside in Italy

The adoption of children with special needs is a particularly significant and sensitive aspect of the adoption system.

The expression “special needs” does not refer exclusively to a severe disability. Rather, the term encompasses a broad and diverse range of situations: medical conditions, physical or cognitive disabilities, previous trauma, membership in sibling groups that must be placed together, or being over seven years of age.

In recent years, both nationally and internationally, attention toward this group of children has increased. On the one hand, many countries of origin are seeing a growing number of minors with health, psychological, or relational needs who require stable family environments; on the other hand, the preparation and support pathways for adoptive families have gradually become more structured, offering appropriate tools to address such complexities.

Within this context, the adoption of children with special needs - requiring particularly thorough assessment of parental readiness and competencies - is not a marginal phenomenon, but rather an increasingly central component of contemporary adoption policies.

Special needs are classified into four macro-categories which may, in varying combinations, also coexist in the same minor:

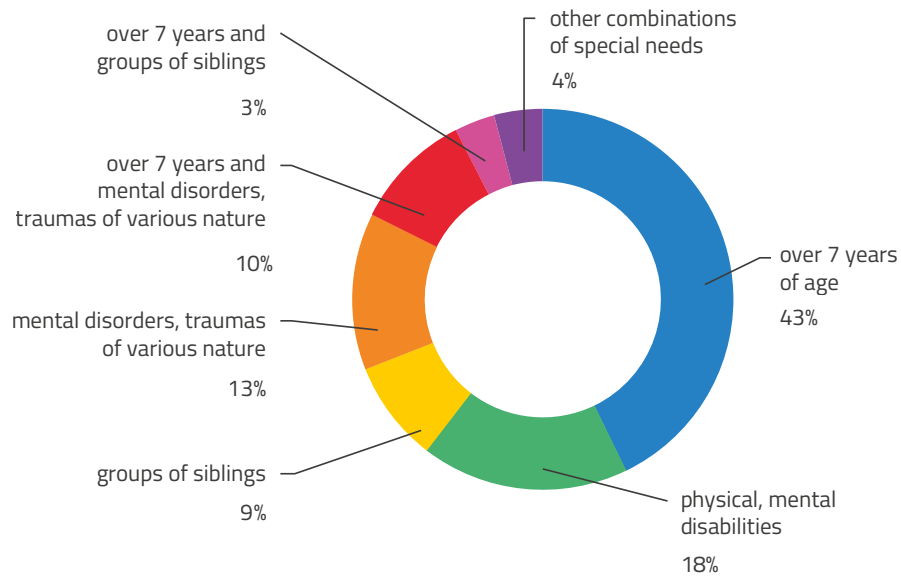
- over 7 years of age (from seven years and one day);
- physical and mental disabilities of various kinds;
- severe trauma or behavioural problems;
- groups of brothers and/or sisters (sibling groups).

Health-related information included in the documentation concerning adopted minors is provided by the country of origin. In some cases, this documentation may be affected by the partial nature of the information it contains. Of the 664 minors authorised to enter Italy, 465 presented at least one of the aforementioned conditions, accounting for 70% of the total number of adoptees.

Among these, children who have special needs solely for age-related reasons account for 43%, while 57% of children present diverse situations, including the other conditions listed above, either individually or in combination. Minors with special needs attributable to health-related causes make up approximately 30% of the total.

In about 1 case out of 10 (9%), the special need is related to the category of “groups of brothers and/or sisters (sibling groups)”.

Figure 12
Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy by type of special needs (percentage values). 2025



In relation to the continent of origin of adopted minors with special needs, Africa is the only case in which this share, out of the total number of adopted children, is a minority, standing at 35% of the total number of children from that continent.

In the other cases, this share is definitely prevalent and in similar proportions: 78% for America and Europe and 77% for Asia.

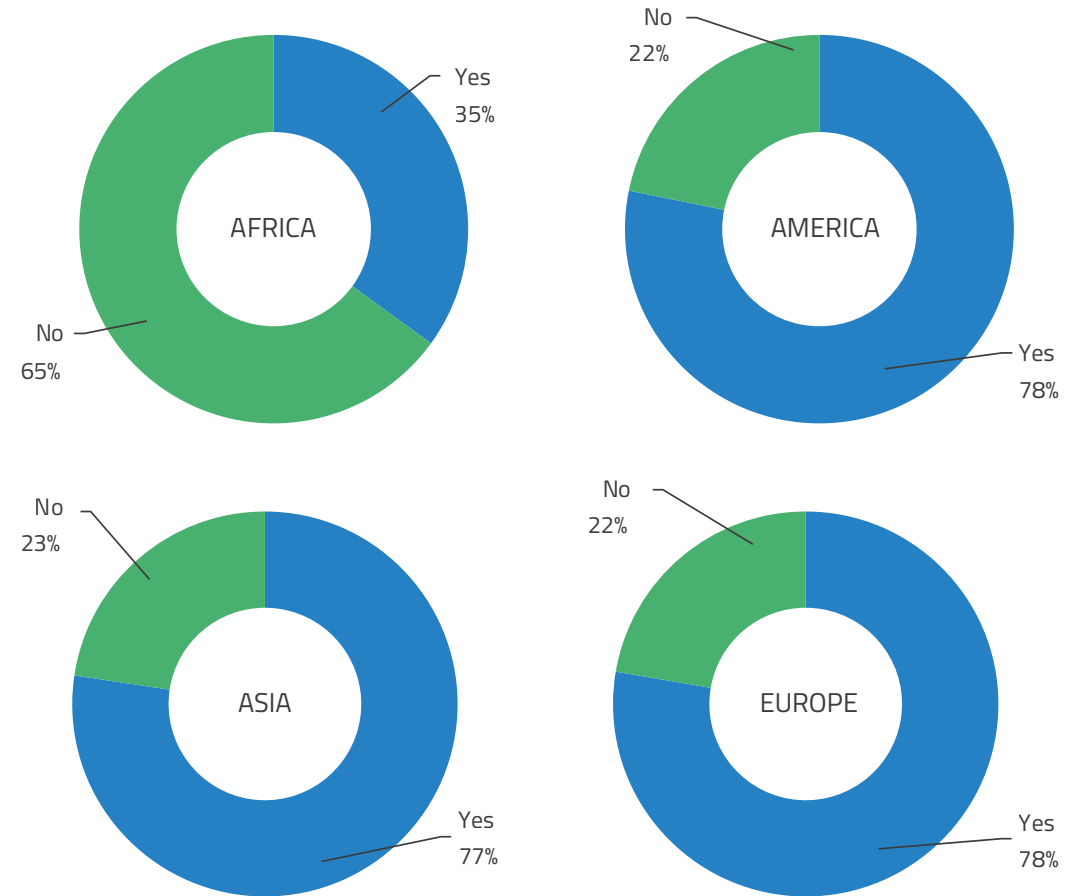
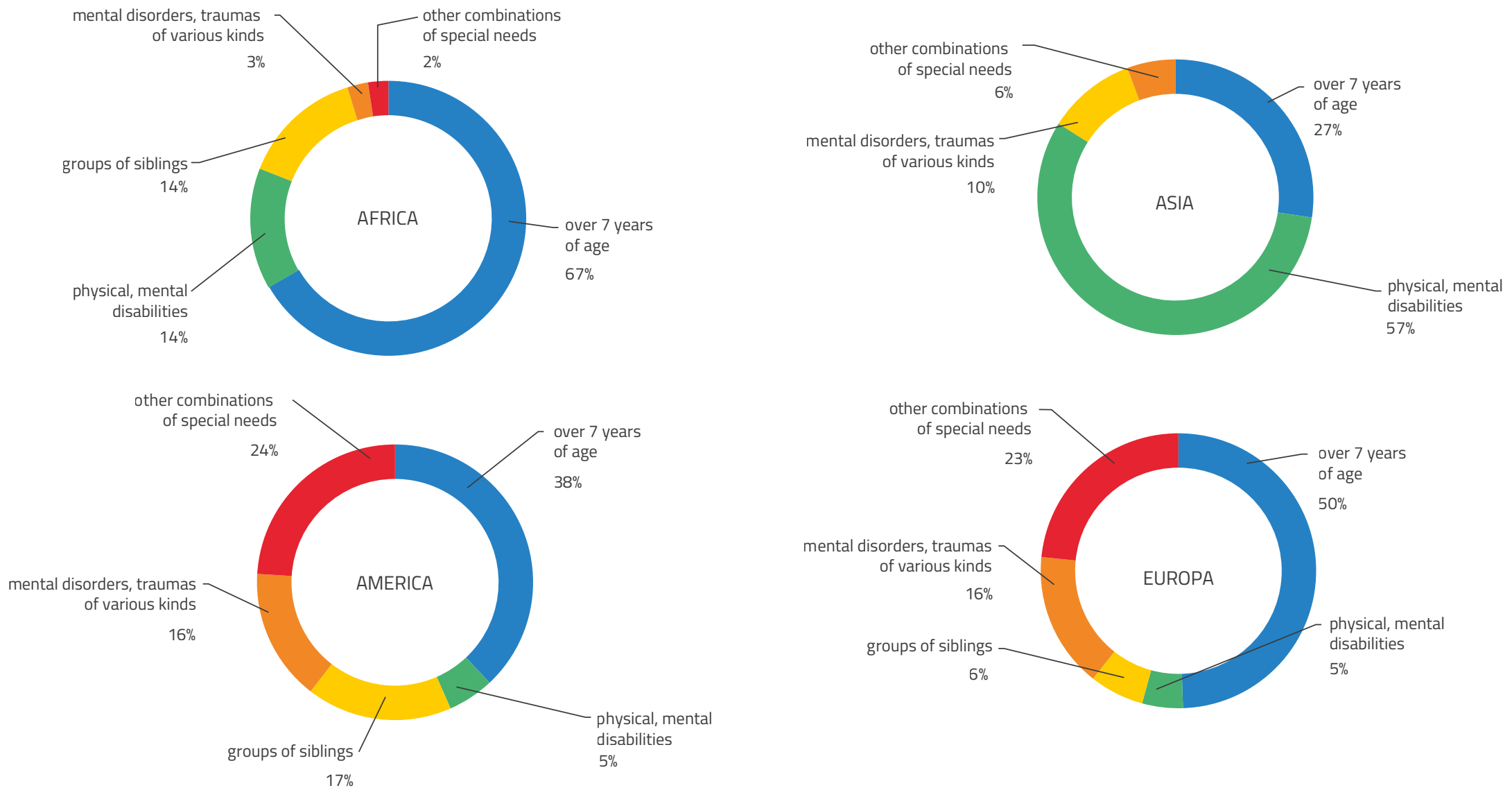


Figure 13
Percentage of minors with special needs by continent of origin (percentage values). 2025

The analysis of the type of special need in relation to the continent of origin shows that the number of cases in which the special need is related to being over 7 years of age is particularly significant for Africa (67% of adoptees), followed by Europe (50%), 38% for America and, finally, 27% among Asian minors. Among adoptees from this continent, however, the share of those with physical/mental disabilities stands out (about one in two minors: 57%).

Figure 14
Minors with special needs
by continent of origin and
type of special need.
2025



03

Timeframes in the Adoption Process: a Closer Look

3.1 Background

In the adoption process, the issue of timing is one of the most delicate aspects for families wishing to adopt. Indeed, this is not merely a matter of bureaucratic waiting, but rather a complex process involving all parties concerned: Juvenile Courts, the Commission for International Adoption, Authorised Agencies, local social services, and the Authorities of the children's countries of origin.

The duration of the process may vary significantly depending on multiple factors: the country chosen, the characteristics of the child, the availability of the competent Authorities, the completeness of the documentation, and the progress of the administrative and judicial procedures. Understanding how the different stages unfold - from the decree of suitability to the minor's entry into Italy - is essential for approaching the waiting period with greater awareness and preparedness.

Types of "time": some definitions

To truly understand the time variable, it is useful to distinguish between administrative time, procedural time and the waiting time perceived by families, three intertwined but conceptually different dimensions. Administrative time refers to all the bureaucratic and organisational activities required to initiate and manage the adoption file. This phase is devoted to collecting documents, certifications, translations, legalisations, as well as preparing the file for submission to the foreign country.

It involves public offices, local social services, Authorised Agencies, and Central Authorities, such as the Commission for Intercountry Adoption. This stage is partially predictable and manageable, but it is nevertheless subject to the pace and workload of the administrative bodies involved. Even minor bureaucratic delays may affect the overall perception of the duration of the process. Different, although closely connected, is the procedural timeframe, which corresponds to the formal sequence of stages established by Italian legislation and by the legislation of the minor's country of origin.

It is the time of official measures, judicial evaluations, authorisations and decisions that make adoption legally possible.

This aspect is also governed by the principles established by the Hague Adoption Convention, which regulates cooperation between States in international adoptions. The procedural timeframe is often less controllable by the individual actors involved and may be affected by legislative reforms, political changes, or operational suspensions in the countries concerned. For this reason, it is one of the most delicate and at times unpredictable components of the entire process.

Alongside these objective factors, there is also the waiting time as perceived by families, which does not always correspond to the actual duration of the procedures. It is an inner, emotional timeframe, shaped by expectations, hopes, fears, and uncertainties. It may be experienced as a period of preparation and maturation of the parenting phase, but also as a time of suspension and frustration, especially when information is fragmented or changes appear difficult to understand. The quality of support provided, the clarity of communication, and the presence of support networks can deeply affect this perception.

Ultimately, the timeframe of international adoptions is not merely a sequence of months or years, but a complex experience in which the administrative, procedural, and subjective factors mutually influence one another. Understanding its different forms means recognising that waiting is not a marginal element of the process, but a structural component that affects both the formal progression of the procedure and the experience of the families involved.

3.1.1

Why analysing the timeframes of international adoptions

Analysing the timelines of international adoptions means going beyond the mere chronological aspect in order to understand the structure, complexity, and critical issues of the entire process. Timeframes, in fact, cannot simply be considered a waiting period to be quantified, but reflect the interplay of legal procedures, psychosocial assessments, institutional relations between States, and the specific conditions of the children's countries of origin.

Examining this aspect more closely makes it possible to:

- increase families' awareness by providing a realistic overview of the different stages and the possible variables that may affect the duration of the process;
- reduce unrealistic expectations, which often generate frustration or a sense of helplessness during the waiting period;
- understand the role of the institutions involved, such as the Commission for Intercountry Adoption, Authorised Agencies, and the Central Authorities of the foreign countries;
- identify possible systemic critical issues related to regulatory changes, operational suspensions, or socio-political transformations in the countries of origin.

A thorough analysis of timelines therefore does not have only a descriptive function, but also an educational and guiding one: it helps to interpret and experience the waiting period not as a "void" but as an integral part of a complex process aimed primarily at safeguarding the best interests of the child.

3.1.2 Time as a cross-cutting variable of the adoption process

In the international adoption process, time is not an isolated phase but a cross-cutting variable that runs through every stage of the procedure: from the declaration of readiness, to the assessment of suitability, through to the matching process and the child's arrival in Italy.

Time has an impact on several levels:

- Legal, because each phase requires checks, authorisations, and formal recognitions between different legal systems;
- Organisational, in relation to variables linked to local services and Authorised Agencies;
- International, since diplomatic relations, legislative reforms, or possible suspensions in the countries of origin may lead to delays or temporary blockages;
- Emotional and Relational, influencing the motivation, stability, and expectations of the prospective adoptive family on the one hand, and the involvement, preparation, and expectations of the minor on the other hand.

Time, therefore, is not only an objective measure, but a factor that interacts with regulatory, institutional, psychological, and relational dimensions.

In this sense, it becomes one of the most significant indicators of the complexity of the international adoption system and of the need to support adoptive families and prospective adoptees not only at a procedural level, but also in terms of information and emotional support.

3.2

Timeframes in the adoption process: stages and definitions

In the context of intercountry adoptions, time is not understood as a homogeneous unit, but as a set of distinct time-related phases, each with its own characteristics, meanings, and variables. Understanding these factors makes it possible to view the adoption process in a more structured way. Below is a possible breakdown of the main time-related dimensions of the process:

- The time of decision: this is the preliminary phase, invisible from an institutional point of view but central on a personal and relational level. It includes the period in which the adoptive choice takes shape, the motivations are processed, and couples have internal discussions. This is a qualitative, non-regulated time, but essential for the solidity of the parenting project.
- The time of suitability: it begins with the declaration of willingness submitted to the Juvenile Court and includes several stages, such as meetings with social welfare services and the psychosocial assessment which, if positive, leads to the decree of suitability. This phase involves multiple institutional actors. It is an “evaluative” time, aimed at assessing parenting capacity in relation to the best interests of the child.
- The waiting time for matching is generally perceived as the longest and most delicate period. After assigning the mandate to an Authorised Agency and sending the dossier to the foreign

country, prospective adoptive parents enter a waiting phase that depends on multiple variables, including the characteristics of the child declared eligible for adoption, the available matches, and the procedural timelines of the countries of origin. It is a period in which no formal legal acts are carried out, but which is experienced with great emotional intensity.

- The time of the encounter begins once the matching proposal has been received and subsequently accepted by the prospective adoptive parents. This opens up the preparatory phase leading to the meeting with the child in the country of origin, and culminating in their first mutual acquaintance. It is a phase full of mutual expectations, which requires support and adequate preparation.
- The time of the final judgement and the authorisation for entry and permanent residence is the final part of the waiting period, a time rich in meaning, during which the child takes the adoptive parents’ surname and the new family prepares for life in the receiving country. From a legal standpoint, it definitively establishes the transition from a prospective adoptive parental unit to a fully recognised adoptive family. The child also acquires the legal status of son or daughter.

3.3

Average timeframes in the adoption process: 2025 figures

The pathway followed by prospective adoptive parents who finalised an adoption in 2025 – from the submission of the application for suitability to adopt to the Juvenile Court with jurisdiction, through to the authorisation for a child to enter and reside in Italy – had an average duration of 50 months, just over four years.

This overall figure is slightly lower than that recorded in 2024 (53 months). Among the various phases that structure the adoption process, the one that has the greatest impact on overall timing is the waiting period between assigning the case to an Authorised Agency and matching with the minor.

This is the phase in which the competent authorities in the child's country of origin identify a specific prospective adoptive family – among those declared eligible – considered best suited to respond to that particular child's needs.

This interval averages 24 months (Figure 15), confirming a downward trend: in 2024 the recorded duration was 31 months, and 33 months in 2023.

On average, the stages preceding the assignment of a case to an Authorised Agency – that is, the period from the submission of the declaration of availability to the decree of suitability – last less than one year. This is a significant phase, during which the psychosocial assessment of the prospective adoptive family is carried out and the formal determination of suitability requirements for accessing international adoption is established.

Slightly shorter, instead, is the duration of the subsequent phase, which occurs between the decree of suitability and the assignment of the case to an Authorised Agency, averaging about 8 months. This interval is not merely technical, but is a time for reflection and decision-making: prospective adoptive parents must identify the Agency to which they will entrust their international adoption journey, initiating a relationship that will be central in the subsequent stages. The choice of the Authorised Agency is not a purely administrative decision; it involves the establishment of a relationship of trust, the sharing of a working method, and adherence to a specific operational approach.

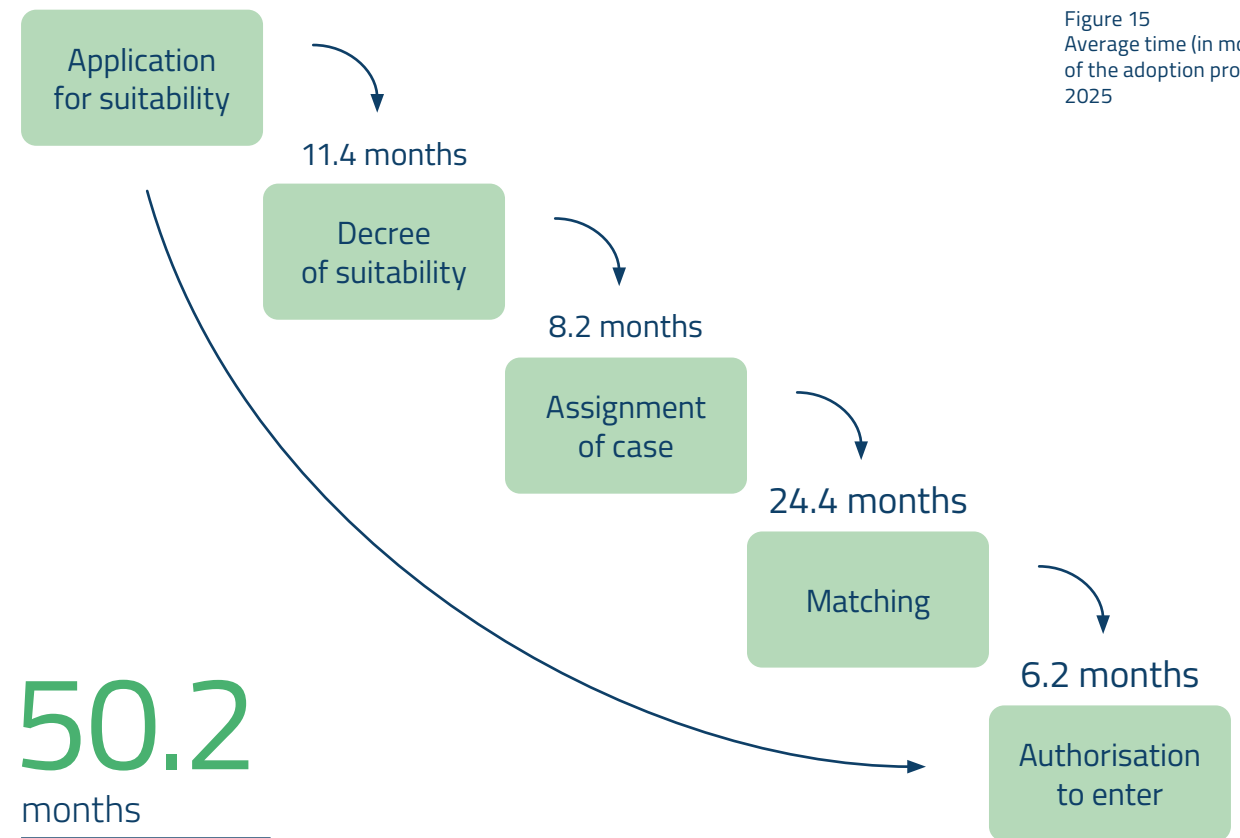


Figure 15
Average time (in months)
of the adoption process.
2025

3.3.1 Average, minimum and maximum timeframes in the adoption process by country of origin

The introductory section of this chapter underlined the fact that one of the factors affecting the duration of the process is the country chosen by the prospective adoptive parents. Some observations are provided below.

Considering the final two stages of the adoption process – from the assignment of a case to an Authorised Agency to the child's entry into and residence in Italy – the time intervals involved show significant variability. The first stage, from the assignment to the Authorised Agency to the matching process, is characterised by a waiting period during which various administrative, organizational, and assessment-related activities are carried out, both in Italy and in the child's country of origin.

When a child is declared adoptable in their country of origin, the local Authorities begin the search for the most suitable family. At this stage, an assessment of compatibility is carried out between the child's profile and the dossiers of the families available for adoption. Several factors are taken into consideration, such as the child's age, personal history, the presence of siblings, health conditions, and emotional and relational needs. These aspects are then compared with the characteristics and availability indicated by the prospective adoptive parents in their dossiers. The matching process is primarily aimed at identifying the solution that best safeguards the child's best interests.

When the foreign Authorities consider that they have identified a suitable family for a specific child, they formulate a matching proposal, which is then passed on to the Authorised Agency and to the Commission for Intercountry Adoption.

The proposal is subsequently submitted to the prospective adoptive parents, who are provided with detailed information about the child, including their age, personal history, health conditions, and the reports prepared by local professionals.

The prospective adoptive family then has the opportunity to carefully examine the documentation received, in consultation with the Authorised Agency and, where appropriate, with specialists, particularly when the information includes medical or psychological aspects requiring further assessment. This stage requires a well-informed and responsible evaluation, since the decision to accept the match is a crucial step in the adoption process. If the prospective adoptive parents decide to accept the proposal, their acceptance is formally recorded and communicated to the Authorities of the child's country of origin.

As noted, this stage of the process shows a wide range of values (Figure 16): from the minimum durations recorded in Sierra Leone (11 months) and Hungary (18 months), to a maximum of 53 months for the Philippines and 46 months for Vietnam.

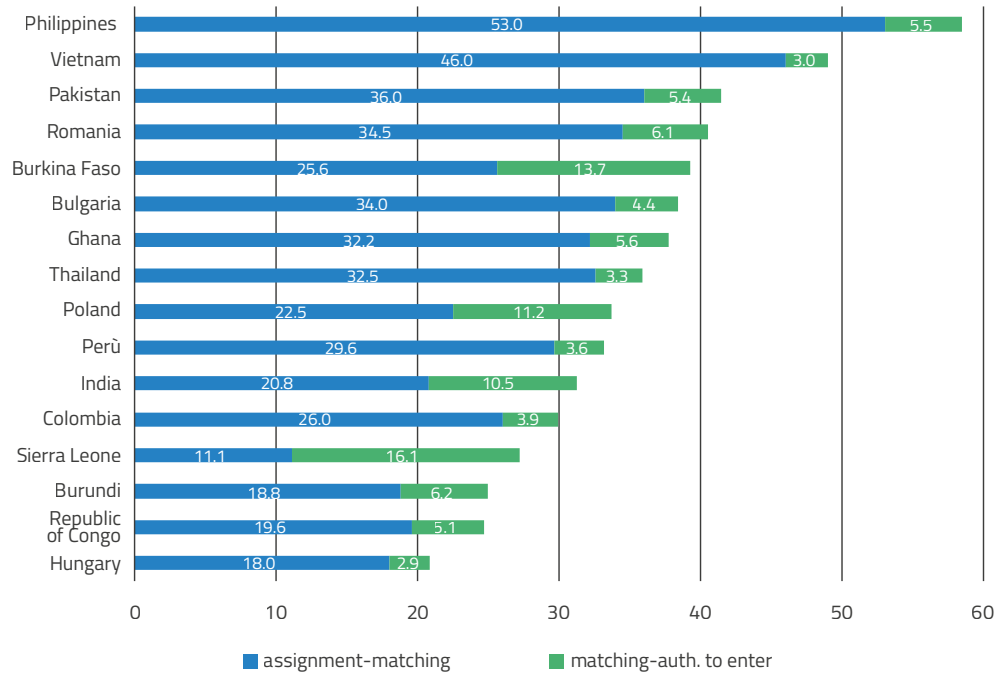


Figure 16
Average time (in months)
from assignment of case to
authorisation to enter, by
country of origin.
2025

The variability among countries of origin is due to a range of factors, including:

- local regulatory and procedural frameworks. Certain transparency requirements, such as the principle of “subsidiarity” in the Philippines and Vietnam, are applied very strictly and involve multiple judicial steps. The law requires that, before a child can be declared eligible for international adoption, all possible domestic adoption options or foster care placements within the country of origin must first be explored. In countries with complex administrative systems and procedures, this stage of “certification of abandonment” may take several years;
- the reforms introduced in recent years, which – due to the need to align with the principles and provisions set out in the 1993 Hague Convention and national legislation – may in some cases lead to a decentralisation of responsibilities in the field, and in other cases to a greater centralisation of the same;
- the longer duration of the pre-adoptive foster care period, which may vary depending on the country of origin and may have different impacts both in Italy and in the country of origin itself;
- the limited number of staff compared to the high number of adoption procedures ongoing across multiple receiving countries;
- the allocation of responsibility to multiple Authorities (administrative and judicial, e.g., Burkina Faso and Romania) and/or to multiple offices within the same Authority, with the consequence that, while on the one hand compliance with the required legal safeguards is strengthened, on the other hand the timeframes are extended due to the transitions from one office to another (e.g. Thailand);
- finally, any restrictions set out in the adoption suitability decree, for example regarding the age and characteristics of the child to be adopted.

Table 3 below shows that the continent of origin appears to be an influential and characterising variable in the duration under examination, with Asia recording the longest intervals, closely followed by the Americas, and finally, at similar levels, Europe and Africa.

It is, however, worth highlighting that these “differences in processing times” are, in any case, due to the systems of protection and transparency safeguards that each country chooses to implement in order to protect every individual minor. Long timeframes such as those observed in the Philippines often reflect highly precautionary regulations that prioritise absolute procedural certainty over the speed of placement.

Continent	Average time assignment-matching
Africa	21.3
Europe	21.8
America	26.7
Asia	28.0

Table 3
Average time between case assignment to an Authorised Agency and matching with the minor, by continent of origin. 2025

Once the matching has been completed, the next phase begins, leading to the authorisation for a minor to enter and reside in Italy. This stage generally involves the prospective adoptive parents travelling to the child’s country of origin in order to meet them and begin a period of acquaintance and relationship-building.

This phase is significant not only on an emotional level, but also in terms of the adoption process, as it allows for an initial mutual adjustment and prepares the transition to stable cohabitation, which will follow upon the completion of the procedure and the child’s relocation to the new family.

This final stage of the process, although having a significantly shorter average duration than the previous one (6.2 months versus 24), shows a considerable degree of variability across countries of origin (Figure 16).

One of the main reasons for this variability lies in the complexity of judicial procedures in the country of origin.

After the matching, it is in fact necessary for the local judicial authority to issue the order that makes the adoption effective. In some countries, courts experience very long processing times due to a limited number of judges, a high workload, or particularly complex formal procedures. A second factor concerns administrative and documentary checks.

Before a minor can leave the country, several steps must be completed: issuance of the adoption judgement, registration of the deed, issuance of new identity documents for the minor, obtaining a passport, and preparation of all documentation required for the international transfer. In less structured administrative contexts or those with limited resources, these steps may require longer processing times.

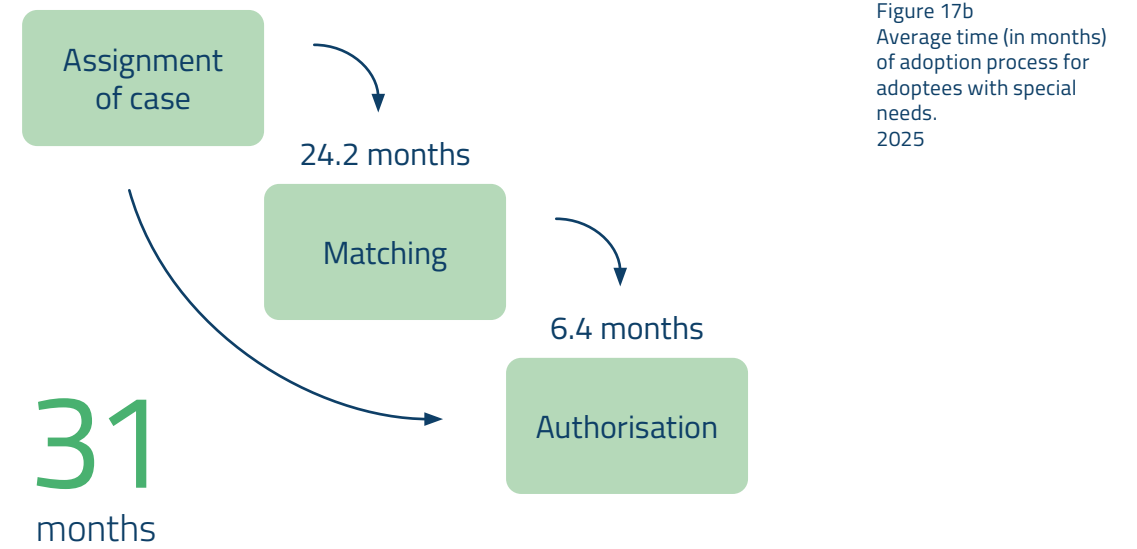
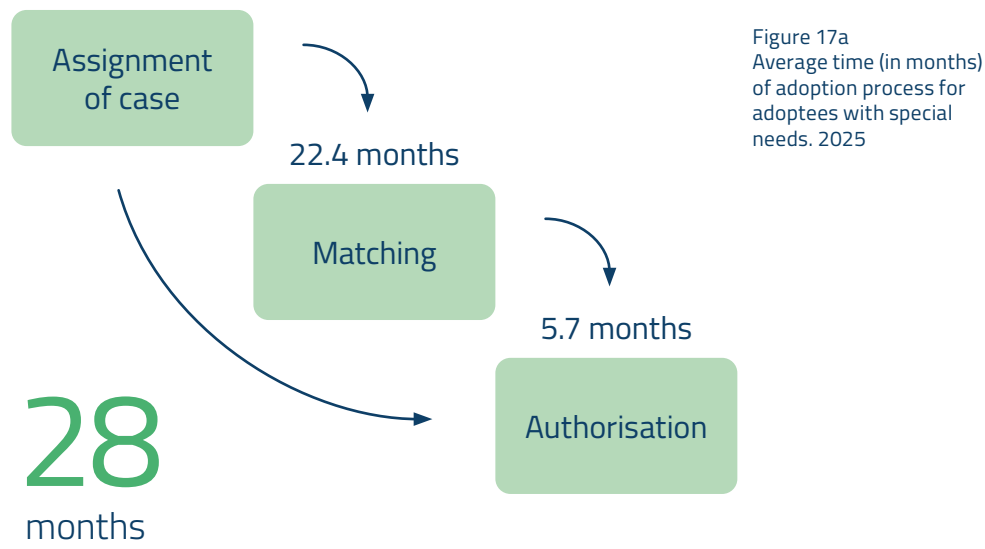
Turning to the 2025 data, Hungary shows the shortest average time among countries of origin (2.9 months), followed by Vietnam (3.0 months). The longest times are recorded for Sierra Leone (16.1) and Burkina Faso (13.7).

In light of the data presented, Hungary also shows the shortest overall duration in the final phase leading to the minor’s entry into and residence in Italy (21 months), followed by three African countries: Congo and Burundi (25 months), and Sierra Leone (27 months).

3.3.2 Adoption process timelines for minors with special needs

Finally, a breakdown is provided of the average duration of the adoption process, distinguishing between adoptions of minors with special needs and those of minors without such characteristics, in order to assess whether, and to what extent, this factor affects the overall length of the process.

The slight difference observed, consistent with the 2024 adoption data, is mainly concentrated in the phase from the assignment of a case to an Authorised Agency to the authorisation to let a minor enter and reside in Italy, although it appears less pronounced than in 2024. In fact, this phase lasts 28 months for adoptions of minors with special needs, rising to 31 months for those without such needs.



04 Appendix

4.1 International relations

During 2025, in order to maintain and consolidate existing collaborations, initiate, improve and/or resume adoption procedures, as well as address any issues related to individual cases, missions and meetings were held, both in person and via videoconference, with the Central Authorities of the countries of origin. In particular, a mission of the CAI to Peru, which included a training seminar held in Lima, is worth noting.

In-person meetings also took place with the Central Authority of Burkina Faso and with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam. Videoconferences were held with the Central Authorities of the following countries: Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Mongolia, Peru, Zambia, and, in particular, Senegal, where negotiations are ongoing to overcome the issue of the double decree, and Paraguay, where personal data protection legislation has been approved, paving the way for a bilateral agreement.

Several videoconference meetings were also held with the Central Authority of Cambodia to plan a mission to Italy, which took place in February 2026, with in-depth seminars in Rome, Milan, Turin and Florence.

These seminars, being finalised in December 2025, revolved around the following topics:

1. Analysis of Italian and Cambodian legislations in the pre-decree phase: from the declaration of availability to the decree of suitability of prospective adoptive parents;
2. Analysis of Cambodian adoptable minors' case files;
3. Preparation of the child prior to the meeting with prospective adoptive parents and post-adoption services;
4. The adoptable child: from the search for the biological family to preparation for matching;
5. Prospective adoptive parents: the role of local services in the adoption process, from preparation to the suitability decision in Italy for intercountry adoption;
6. Support measures for adopted minors with special needs.

Finally, numerous communications were sent both to countries newly opening to adoption procedures and to other countries, with a view to improving the system and increasing the number of procedures.

Informal biannual meetings with CAI and the ICAN network (Inter-Country Adoption Network) have also continued. The network is composed of 11 Central Authorities from European receiving countries and the Central Authority of the United States, and is organised each time by a different Central Authority (in 2025, in May in Oslo and in November in Dublin).

These meetings are a key opportunity for sharing and reflecting on common issues, such as the medium- and long-term effects of the pandemic, the decline in adoptions across all European countries and in the USA, the difficulties of certain procedures in countries of origin, and the complete suspension of new procedures in countries such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In addition, further in-depth discussions were held on topics such as post-adoption services, adoption breakdowns and crises, intrafamily adoptions, intercountry adoptions carried out directly between Central Authorities, adoption of minors with special needs, the search for origins, and the effects of investigations into irregular intercountry adoptions. These investigations led to the announcement of the planned closure of intercountry adoptions by the Central Authorities of the Netherlands and Switzerland by 2030, to the assessment of a possible closure of intercountry adoptions by Sweden, and to a sharp reduction in intercountry adoptions by the Central Authorities of Denmark, France, Norway and the Flemish community of Belgium.

These meetings also highlighted the fact that Italy ranks first in the world in terms of intercountry adoptions relative to population size, as well as first in terms of the proportion (around 70%) of intercountry adoptions involving minors with special needs. This data confirmed the strong interest among other ICAN members in the Italian system for the reception of adopted minors with special needs.

The CAI's close collaboration with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) has also continued. The HCCH, among other activities, organises a Special Commission (SC) every five years for the Central Authorities of States party to the 1993 Hague Convention.

Following the most recent SC in 2022, two working groups have also continued their activities: the first, coordinated by the HCCH Secretariat, deals with the financial aspects of intercountry adoption and included one in-person meeting and two additional virtual meetings in 2025; the second, coordinated by the Central Authority of Canada, discussed the organisation of virtual seminars on post-adoption services. The third of these seminars was held in December 2025 and focused on the topic of adoption crises. The CAI ensured active participation in both working groups through its representatives.

Finally, collaboration with the International Social Service (ISS) continued following the renewal of the 2025–2026 biennial agreement. At the express request of the CAI, and in order to improve knowledge of countries of origin and the functioning of their Central Authorities, during 2025, the ISS updated the Country Information Sheets relating to eight countries with which the CAI cooperates: Burkina Faso, Kosovo, Liberia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, and Pakistan.

In addition to this activity, during 2025 the ISS also provided the Commission, at its specific request, with targeted information -such as updates on intercountry adoption arrangements with other receiving countries, information on legislative reforms, or on the progress of ongoing investigations - on the following countries: Armenia, Botswana, Burundi, Chile, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.

A request was also made for feedback on intercountry adoptions by single individuals in all countries with which the CAI cooperates, as in many of these countries, although legislation provides for adoption by single persons, in practice this either does not occur or occurs only on a residual basis.

Finally, the ISS sent to the CAI and to all other Central Authorities with which it maintains a valid agreement, its bi-monthly newsletter (issues 276 to 281), periodic circulars (228 to 231), as well as an invitation to participate in a webinar on the search for origins scheduled for 9 January 2026, and an invitation to take part in a joint ISS mission to Thailand.

4.2 Statistical tables

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Region of residence. 2020-2025

Regions	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
						abs. values	as % of total
Piedmont and Aosta Valley	27	38	32	28	16	17	3.2
Lombardy	73	76	87	83	77	88	16.7
Liguria	13	19	19	10	6	10	1.9
Trentino-Alto Adige	7	13	10	15	5	14	2.7
Veneto	49	49	40	54	48	56	10.6
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	9	7	13	10	23	14	2.7
Emilia-Romagna	33	43	43	28	28	44	8.3
Tuscany	63	55	62	58	43	44	8.3
Umbria	8	12	19	9	9	11	2.1
Marche	15	14	19	13	15	23	4.4
Lazio	55	58	42	29	45	34	6.5
Abruzzo and Molise	14	17	15	17	12	13	2.5
Campania	44	46	70	50	77	48	9.1
Basilicata	11	10	7	5	13	20	3.8
Puglia	39	51	40	26	50	35	6.6
Calabria	34	22	27	20	38	22	4.2
Sicily	26	28	10	20	23	28	5.3
Sardinia	6	5	9	3	7	5	0.9
Abroad	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.2
Total	526	563	564	478	536	527	100.0

Juvenile Court with jurisdiction and year of the application. 2020-2025

Juvenile Courts	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
						abs. values	as % of total
Milan	47	44	59	46	53	61	11.6
Florence	65	53	62	56	42	45	8.5
Venice	48	47	38	53	45	54	10.2
Rome	54	57	40	28	45	33	6.3
Bologna	33	43	42	27	29	44	8.3
Naples	29	37	56	35	57	34	6.5
Turin	27	38	33	28	15	17	3.2
Brescia	25	33	29	37	22	29	5.5
Reggio Calabria	13	6	9	17	19	10	1.9
Bari	23	22	14	14	26	10	1.9
Ancona	15	14	20	13	15	25	4.7
Trieste	10	9	15	12	24	16	3.0
Salerno	12	9	14	13	20	13	2.5
L'Aquila and Campobasso	14	17	15	17	12	13	2.5
Lecce	7	15	11	6	11	10	1.9
Trento and Bolzano	7	13	10	15	8	14	2.7
Perugia	8	12	19	10	9	11	2.1
Taranto	10	14	15	7	13	14	2.7
Palermo	10	12	7	8	5	15	2.8
Cagliari and Sassari	6	5	9	3	6	5	0.9
Messina and Caltanissetta	11	7	3	6	13	8	1.5
Genoa	13	21	19	11	7	8	1.5
Potenza	13	10	7	6	13	22	4.2
Catania	5	9	0	6	5	4	0.8
Catanzaro	21	16	18	4	22	12	2.3
Tota	526	563	564	478	536	527	100.0

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Spouses' educational qualifications. 2025

Educational qualification	husband		wife	
	abs. values	%	abs. values	%
No formal education	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary school diploma	1	0.2	1	0.2
Lower secondary school certificate	48	9.1	29	5.5
Secondary school diploma	213	40.4	132	25.0
Degree	265	50.3	365	69.3
Total	527	100.0	527	100.0

Year of registration and assignment of case to Authorised Agencies.

	Year of registration													Totale
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
abs. values	1	0	4	11	7	14	15	18	44	90	173	128	22	527
%	0.2	0.0	0.8	2.1	1.3	2.7	2.8	3.4	8.3	17.1	32.8	24.3	4.2	100.0

	Year of assignment													Totale
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
abs. values	1	0	1	11	3	9	16	19	38	94	185	128	22	527

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Age group of spouses at the date of the decree of suitability. 2025

Age group at decree of suitability	husband		wife	
	v.a	%	v.a	%
< 30	1	0.2	2	0.4
30-34	14	2.7	32	6.1
35-39	81	15.4	108	20.5
40-44	189	35.9	203	38.6
45-49	160	30.4	145	27.6
50 and over	82	15.6	36	6.8
unknown	0	0.0	1	-
Average age	45		43	

Age group of spouses at the date of authorisation to enter. 2025

Age groups at authorisation to enter	husband		wife	
	v.a	%	v.a	%
< 30	0	0.0	0	0.0
30-34	5	0.9	7	1.3
35-39	26	4.9	49	9.3
40-44	122	23.1	145	27.5
45-49	188	35.7	219	41.6
50 and over	186	35.3	107	20.3
Total	527	100.0	527	100.0
Average age	48		46	

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Motivations for decree of suitability and year of application. 2020-2025

Motivation	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
absolute values						
Generic	421	403	413	341	384	145
Targeted	102	160	151	137	116	18
Identified child	3	0	0	0	0	0
Not chosen	0	0	0	0	36	360
Integration or correction	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	526	563	564	478	536	527
percentage values						
Generic	80.0	71.6	73.2	71.3	71.6	27.5
Targeted	19.4	28.4	26.8	28.7	21.6	3.4
Identified child	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not chosen	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	68.3
Integration or correction	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Number of children already present in the family and number of adopted minors. 2025

Number of children	Number of adopted minors			Total	as % of total
	1	2	3 or more		
No children	326	89	20	435	82.5
One child	78	1	0	79	15.0
Two children and more	8	4	1	13	2.5
Total couples	412	94	21	527	100.0
Percentage values	78.2	17.8	4.0	100.0	

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Motivation that led the couple to undertake adoption process. 2025

Motivation for adoption	abs. values	%
Adoptive desire	90	17.1
Generic impossibility	60	11.4
Impossibility to procreate	325	61.7
Not stated	52	9.9
Total	527	100.0

Number of children requested for adoption and year of request. 2020-2025

Number of adopted minors	Year of request					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
absolute values						
1	406	461	447	382	407	412
2	99	89	102	85	104	94
3 or more	21	13	15	11	25	21
Total	526	563	564	478	536	527
percentage values						
1	77.2	81.9	79.3	79.9	75.9	78.2
2	18.8	15.8	18.1	17.8	19.4	17.8
3 or more	4.0	2.3	2.7	2.3	4.7	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Families requesting authorisation for foreign minors to enter and reside in Italy

Average number of months between declaration of readiness for adoption and authorisation for minors to enter Italy, by country of origin. 2025

Country	Average time between application for adoption and decree of suitability	Average time between decree of suitability and assignment of case	Average time between assignment of case and matching	Average time between matching and authorisation to enter	Average time between assignment of case and authorisation to enter	Average time between application for adoption and authorisation to enter
Hungary	11.7	10.5	18.0	2.9	20.9	43.1
India	12.9	7.5	20.8	10.5	31.2	51.6
Colombia	11.9	8.0	26.0	3.9	29.9	49.9
Peru	11.1	6.3	29.6	3.6	33.2	50.6
Bulgaria	10.7	7.7	34.0	4.4	38.4	56.9
Burundi	11.8	5.2	18.8	6.2	25.0	41.9
Burkina Faso	11.1	8.2	25.6	13.7	39.3	58.6
Vietnam	9.4	8.9	46.0	3.0	49.0	67.4
Republic of Congo	11.2	11.4	19.6	5.1	24.7	47.3
Sierra Leone	8.3	7.9	11.1	16.1	27.2	43.4
Ghana	8.1	5.7	32.2	5.6	37.8	51.6
Poland	11.8	4.0	22.5	11.2	33.7	49.5
Thailand	9.1	5.8	32.5	3.3	35.9	50.7
The Philippines	14.2	13.4	53.0	5.5	58.5	86.0
Pakistan	11.1	6.9	36.0	5.4	41.5	59.5
Romania	6.7	4.0	34.5	6.1	40.5	51.2
Total 31 countries	11.4	8.1	24.4	6.2	30.7	50.2

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Region of residence of adoptive parents. Absolute values. 2020-2025

Regions	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
						abs. values	as % of total
Lombardy	93	78	94	84	106	95	14.3
Campania	70	69	106	73	88	68	10.2
Puglia	56	71	62	40	64	50	7.5
Veneto	51	54	41	56	63	58	8.7
Tuscany	79	65	73	73	60	56	8.4
Lazio	62	69	47	34	52	45	6.8
Emilia-Romagna	36	46	43	32	41	54	8.1
Calabria	51	35	40	31	41	34	5.1
Sicily	34	39	13	31	37	38	5.7
Marche	23	16	25	19	27	33	5.0
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	13	8	16	11	24	19	2.9
Piedmont and Aosta Valley	27	38	33	29	20	19	2.9
Basilicata	16	14	12	8	17	32	4.8
Abruzzo and Molise	20	22	19	21	14	17	2.6
Umbria	9	12	23	11	13	13	2.0
Sardinia	8	9	15	4	9	5	0.8
Liguria	14	20	21	10	8	11	1.7
Trentino-Alto Adige	7	15	15	18	6	16	2.4
Total residents in Italy	669	680	698	585	690	663	99.8
Residents abroad	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.2
Total	669	680	698	585	691	664	100.0

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Juvenile Court of residence of the adoptive parents^(a). Absolute values. 2020-2025

Courts	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
						abs. values	as % of total
Milan	62	46	66	47	72	67	10.1
Naples	49	54	83	51	66	49	7.4
Venice	50	51	39	55	61	56	8.4
Florence	82	63	73	70	59	57	8.6
Rome	61	68	45	33	52	44	6.6
Bologna	36	46	42	31	42	53	8.0
Bari	35	32	25	23	37	11	1.7
Brescia	29	33	29	37	30	30	4.5
Ancona	23	16	26	19	27	36	5.4
Catanzaro	28	22	25	25	25	15	2.3
Trieste	14	11	18	13	25	21	3.2
Salerno	18	15	23	19	22	18	2.7
Turin	27	38	34	29	19	19	2.9
Reggio Calabria	23	13	15	7	19	19	2.9
Potenza	18	14	12	10	17	35	5.3
Messina and Caltanissetta	15	12	5	9	16	13	2.0
L'Aquila and Campobasso	20	22	19	21	14	17	2.6
Taranto	12	17	20	8	14	21	3.2
Palermo	14	16	8	12	14	19	2.9
Lecce	10	22	17	10	13	16	2.4
Perugia	9	12	23	13	13	13	2.0
Trento and Bolzano	7	15	15	18	10	16	2.4
Genoa	14	22	21	11	9	8	1.2
Cagliari and Sassari	8	9	15	4	8	5	0.8
Catania	5	11	0	10	7	5	0.8
Residents abroad	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Total	669	680	698	585	691	664	100.0

^(a) For citizens residing abroad, reference is made to the Registry of Italians Resident Abroad (AIRE)

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Age group, gender, and year of entry. 2020-2025

Age groups	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
females						
< 1 year	-	0	-	-	4	1
< 4 years	73	57	83	68	84	121
< 9 years	156	170	189	140	193	181
10 years and over	52	52	46	34	58	50
Total	282	279	320	244	339	353
males						
< 1 year	0	1	1	5	5	3
< 4 years	115	106	127	105	89	89
< 9 years	217	232	203	192	199	155
10 years and over	55	62	47	39	59	64
Total	387	401	378	341	352	311
females and males						
< 1 year	-	-	3	7	9	4
< 4 years	188	163	210	173	173	210
< 9 years	373	402	392	332	392	336
10 years and over	107	114	93	73	117	114
Total	668	680	698	585	691	664
% females of total						
< 1 year	100.0	0.0	66.7	28.6	44.4	25.0
< 4 years	38.8	35.0	39.5	39.3	48.6	57.6
< 9 years	41.8	42.3	48.2	42.2	49.2	53.9
10 years and over	48.6	45.6	49.5	46.6	49.6	43.9
Total	42.2	41.0	45.8	41.7	49.1	53.2

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Country of origin and year of entry. 2020-2025

Country of origin	Year of entry					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	absolute values					
Hungary	86	81	103	97	149	163
Colombia	141	129	146	83	110	80
India	72	96	80	131	104	87
Brazil	26	14	18	20	38	35
Vietnam	15	16	46	32	37	22
Bulgaria	27	47	34	37	34	39
Peru	25	18	28	32	32	40
Republic of Congo	6	18	8	18	23	24
Sierra Leone	0	-	5	13	18	19
The Philippines	15	25	16	14	17	7
Burkina Faso	18	17	16	14	13	23
Haiti	23	12	11	13	10	1
Russian Federation	28	40	44	5	0	0
Other countries	187	167	143	76	106	124
Total	669	680	698	585	691	664

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Country of origin and gender. 2025

Country of origin	females	males	% females of total
Hungary	71	92	43.6
Colombia	36	44	45.0
India	38	49	43.7
Brazil	14	21	40.0
Burundi	15	16	48.4
Vietnam	9	13	40.9
Bulgaria	23	16	59.0
Peru	18	22	45.0
Republic of Congo	16	8	66.7
The Philippines	0	7	0.0
Burkina Faso	8	15	34.8
Other countries	63	50	55.8
Total 31 countries	311	353	46.8

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Country of origin and average age at entry^(a). 2025

Country of origin	average age at entry		
	females	males	total
Hungary	7.7	7.5	7.6
India	4.9	4.1	4.5
Colombia	8.5	7.9	8.2
Peru	5.1	5.2	5.1
Bulgaria	7.9	9.1	8.4
Brazil	9.5	7.7	8.4
Burundi	6.0	6.8	6.4
Republic of Congo	6.5	3.4	5.4
Vietnam	5.4	5.3	5.3
Sierra Leone	4.9	6.6	6.0
Poland	9.9	5.4	7.5
Ghana	5.4	5.7	5.5
Thailand	6.0	4.8	5.2
Moldova	10.1	12.3	11.2
The Philippines	-	9.0	9.0
Romania	7.0	9.6	7.7
Total 31 countries	7.0	6.6	6.8

^(a) Countries with more than 5 authorisation to enter

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Continent of origin and year of entry. 2020-2025

Continent of origin	Year of entry					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
absolute values						
Africa	49	54	46	61	84	120
America	233	226	231	166	200	165
Asia	123	165	164	194	196	137
Europe	264	235	257	164	211	242
Total	669	680	698	585	691	664
percentage values						
Africa	7.3	7.9	6.6	10.4	12.2	18.1
America	34.8	33.2	33.1	28.4	28.9	24.8
Asia	18.4	24.3	23.5	33.2	28.4	20.6
Europe	39.5	34.6	36.8	28.0	30.5	36.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Continent of origin and age groups. 2025

Continent of origin	Age groups				Total	"average age"
	< 1 year	< 4 years	< 9 years	10 years and over		
absolute values						
Africa	-	61	47	12	120	5.7
America	1	39	81	44	165	7.6
Asia	3	78	45	11	137	4.9
Europe	-	32	163	47	242	7.8
Total	4	210	336	114	664	6.8
percentage values						
Africa	0.0	50.8	39.2	10.0	100.0	
America	0.6	23.6	49.1	26.7	100.0	
Asia	2.2	56.9	32.8	8.0	100.0	
Europe	0.0	13.2	67.4	19.4	100.0	
Total	0.6	31.6	50.6	17.2	100.0	

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Status of the country of origin with respect to the Hague Convention. 2025

Country status	absolute values	as % of total
Ratifying	547	82.4
Signatories	68	10.2
None of the two	49	7.4
Total	664	100.0

Reason for declaration of adoptability. 2025

Reason	Continent of origin				Total
	Africa	America	Asia	Europe	
absolute values					
Abandonment	104	106	112	149	471
Loss of parental responsibility	4	54	3	56	117
Relinquished	10	5	21	21	57
Registered in database				15	15
Orphan	2	-	1	-	3
Previous failed adoption	-	-	-	1	1
percentage values					
Abandonment	86.7	64.2	81.8	61.6	70.9
Loss of parental responsibility	3.3	32.7	2.2	23.1	17.6
Relinquished	8.3	3.0	15.3	8.7	8.6
Registered in database	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	2.3
Orphan	1.7	-	0.7		0.5
Previous failed adoption	-	-	-	0.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Minors with special needs authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Type of special need identified. 2025

Special needs	abs. values	%
No	199	30.0
Yes	465	70.0
If yes, what		
Over 7 years	199	42.8
Physical, mental disabilities	82	17.6
Groups of siblings	40	8.6
Mental disorders, traumas of various nature	62	13.3
Over 7 years and mental disorders, traumas of various nature	47	10.1
Over 7 years and groups of siblings	16	3.4
Other combinations of special needs	19	4.1
Total	664	100.0

Minors with special needs authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Country of origin^(a).2025

Country of origin	total entries	of which with special needs	share of special needs cases in total entries
Hungary	163	128	78.5
Colombia	80	76	95.0
India	87	84	96.6
Brazil	35	35	100.0
Burundi	31	13	41.9
Vietnam	22	9	40.9
Bulgaria	39	33	84.6
Peru	40	10	25.0
Republic of Congo	24	9	37.5
The Philippines	7	7	100.0
Burkina Faso	23	9	39.1
Other countries	113	52	46.0
Total (37 countries)	664	465	70.0

^(a) Countries with at least 5 special needs cases

Continent of origin. 2025

Continent of origin	total entries	of which with special needs	share of special needs cases in total entries
Africa	120	42	35.0
America	165	129	78.2
Asia	137	106	77.4
Europe	242	188	77.7
Total	664	465	70.0

Minors with special needs authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Continent of origin and gender. 2025

Continent of origin	Female	Male	Total	% females of total
Africa	15	13	28	53.6
America	84	71	155.0	54.2
Asia	72	57	129.0	55.8
Europe	65	88	153.0	42.5
Total	236	229	465	50.8

Continent of origin and type of special need (percentage distribution). 2025

Type of special need identified	Continente di provenienza			
	Africa	America	Asia	Europe
Over 7 years	66.7	38.0	27.4	49.5
Physical, mental disabilities	14.3	5.4	56.6	4.8
Groups of siblings	14.3	17.1	0.0	6.4
Mental disorders, traumas of various nature	2.4	15.5	10.4	16.0
Other combinations of special needs	2.4	24.0	5.7	23.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Adoptive families and adopted minors by Authorised Agency

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Authorised Agency commissioned by adoptive parents (in descending order by number of adoptees), 2025

Authorised Agencies	Minors	Families
A.S.A. ASSOCIAZIONE SOLIDARIETÀ ADOZIONI ETS	66	44
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	58	51
GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO SOLIDARIETÀ ONLUS	58	44
A.I.A.U. ASSOCIAZIONE IN AIUTI UMANITARI ODV ETS	44	29
IL MANTELLO (ASSOCIAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO PER LA FAMIGLIA E L'ADOZIONE)	42	22
NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE DI GENITORI INSIEME PER L'ADOZIONE ODV	37	29
ASSOCIAZIONE ERNESTO ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO ETS	32	23
SERVIZIO POLIFUNZIONALE PER L'ADOZIONE INTERNAZIONALE - S.P.A.I. - ETS	29	24
AI.BI. AMICI DEI BAMBINI FONDAZIONE ENTE DEL TERZO SETTORE	28	24
ASSOCIAZIONE ARIETE APS ETS	27	24
C.I.A.I. - CENTRO ITALIANO AIUTI ALL'INFANZIA - ETS	23	22
LO SCOIATTOLO ETS	23	21
N.A.A.A. NETWORK AIUTO ASSISTENZA ACCOGLIENZA - ETS - ODV	22	22
FONDAZIONE AVSI - ETS	17	12
ASSOCIAZIONE MEHALA - SOSTEGNO INFANZIA E FAMIGLIA - ONLUS	16	16
FAMIGLIA INSIEME SOCIETÀ COOPERATIVA SOCIALE	15	14
REGIONAL SERVICE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (SRAI) - PIEDMONT REGION	14	10
NUOVI ORIZZONTI PER VIVERE L'ADOZIONE ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO	13	13
CENTRO ADOZIONI LA MALOCA ODV	12	9
ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PUBBLICHE ASSISTENZE ODV	11	8
I FIORI SEMPLICI - APS	10	7
ISTITUTO LA CASA ETS	9	8
S.O.S. BAMBINO INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE (APS)	8	6
AMICI MISSIONI INDIANE (AMI) ETS	7	7
FONDAZIONE PATRIZIA NIDOLI ETS	7	6
I BAMBINI DELL'ARCOBALENO ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO	6	6
COMUNITÀ DI S. EGIDIO - ACAP ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE	5	5
LA PRIMOGENITA INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ODV	5	4
OTHER 8 AGENCIES	20	17
Total	664	527

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Authorised Agency commissioned by adoptive parents (in alphabetical order). 2025

Authorised Agencies	Minors	Families
A.I.A.U. ASSOCIAZIONE IN AIUTI UMANITARI ODV ETS	44	29
A.S.A. ASSOCIAZIONE SOLIDARIETÀ ADOZIONI ETS	66	44
AI.BI. AMICI DEI BAMBINI FONDAZIONE ENTE DEL TERZO SETTORE	28	24
AMICI MISSIONI INDIANE (AMI) ETS	7	7
ASSOCIAZIONE ARIETE APS ETS	27	24
ASSOCIAZIONE ERNESTO ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO ETS	32	23
ASSOCIAZIONE MEHALA - SOSTEGNO INFANZIA E FAMIGLIA - ONLUS	16	16
ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PUBBLICHE ASSISTENZE ODV	11	8
C.I.A.I. - CENTRO ITALIANO AIUTI ALL'INFANZIA - ETS	23	22
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	58	51
CENTRO ADOZIONI LA MALOCA ODV	12	9
COMUNITÀ DI S. EGIDIO - ACAP ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE	5	5
FAMIGLIA INSIEME SOCIETÀ COOPERATIVA SOCIALE	15	14
FONDAZIONE AVSI - ETS	17	12
FONDAZIONE PATRIZIA NIDOLI ETS	7	6
GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO SOLIDARIETÀ ONLUS	58	44
I BAMBINI DELL'ARCOBALENO ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO	6	6
I FIORI SEMPLICI - APS	10	7
IL MANTELLO (ASSOCIAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO PER LA FAMIGLIA E L'ADOZIONE)	42	22
ISTITUTO LA CASA ETS	9	8
LA PRIMOGENITA INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ODV	5	4
LO SCOIATTOLO ETS	23	21
N.A.A.A. NETWORK AIUTO ASSISTENZA ACCOGLIENZA - ETS - ODV	22	22
NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE DI GENITORI INSIEME PER L'ADOZIONE ODV	37	29
NUOVI ORIZZONTI PER VIVERE L'ADOZIONE ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO	13	13
S.O.S. BAMBINO INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE (APS)	8	6
SERVIZIO POLIFUNZIONALE PER L'ADOZIONE INTERNAZIONALE - S.P.A.I. - ETS	29	24
REGIONAL SERVICE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (SRAI) - PIEDMONT REGION	14	10
OTHER 8 AGENCIES	20	17
Total	664	527

Minors authorised to enter and reside in Italy

Authorised Agency commissioned by adoptive parents^(a) and Continent of origin. 2025

AFRICA	120
GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO SOLIDARIETÀ ONLUS	48
AI.BI. AMICI DEI BAMBINI FONDAZIONE - ETS	13
NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE DI GENITORI INSIEME PER L'ADOZIONE ODV	13
C.I.A.I. - CENTRO ITALIANO AIUTI ALL'INFANZIA - ETS	11
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	8
FONDAZIONE AVSI - ETS	6
NUOVI ORIZZONTI PER VIVERE L'ADOZIONE ORGANIZZAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO	4
REGIONAL SERVICE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (SRAI) - PIEDMONT REGION	4
OTHER 6 AGENCIES	13

AMERICA	165
IL MANTELLO (ASSOCIAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO PER LA FAMIGLIA E L'ADOZIONE)	29
SERVIZIO POLIFUNZIONALE PER L'ADOZIONE INTERNAZIONALE - S.P.A.I. - ETS	26
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	14
CENTRO ADOZIONI LA MALOCA ODV	12
AI.BI. AMICI DEI BAMBINI FONDAZIONE ENTE DEL TERZO SETTORE	11
FONDAZIONE AVSI - ETS	9
NUOVI ORIZZONTI PER VIVERE L'ADOZIONE - ODV	9
ASSOCIAZIONE ARIETE - ETS	8
FONDAZIONE PATRIZIA NIDOLI - ETS	7
NETWORK AIUTO ASSISTENZA ACCOGLIENZA - ETS - ODV	6
BAMBINO INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE (APS)(APS)	6
ISTITUTO LA CASA - ETS	5
SENZA FRONTIERE - ETS	5
REGIONAL SERVICE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (SRAI) - PIEDMONT REGION	5
OTHER 6 AGENCIES	13

ASIA	137
ASSOCIAZIONE ARIETE APS ETS	19
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	17
LO SCOIATTOLO ETS	17
FAMIGLIA INSIEME SOCIETÀ COOPERATIVA SOCIALE	14
ASSOCIAZIONE MEHALA - SOSTEGNO INFANZIA E FAMIGLIA - ONLUS	13
N.A.A.A. NETWORK AIUTO ASSISTENZA ACCOGLIENZA - ETS - ODV	12
C.I.A.I. - CENTRO ITALIANO AIUTI ALL'INFANZIA - ETS	10
I BAMBINI E L'ARCOBALENO - ODV	6
NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE DI GENITORI INSIEME PER L'ADOZIONE ODV	6
AMICI MISSIONI INDIANE (AMI) ETS	5
ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PUBBLICHE ASSISTENZE ODV	5
COMUNITÀ DI S. EGIDIO - ACAP ASSOCIAZIONE DI PROMOZIONE SOCIALE	5
OTHER 4 AGENCIES	8

EUROPE	242
A.S.A. ASSOCIAZIONE SOLIDARIETÀ ADOZIONI - ETS	66
A.I.A.U. ASSOCIAZIONE IN AIUTI UMANITARI - ODV - ETS	44
ASSOCIAZIONE ERNESTO - ODV - ETS	32
C.I.F.A. CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE PER L'INFANZIA E LA FAMIGLIA ETS	19
NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE DI GENITORI INSIEME PER L'ADOZIONE - ODV	18
IL MANTELLO (ASSOCIAZIONE DI VOLONTARIATO PER LA FAMIGLIA E L'ADOZIONE)	13
I FIORI SEMPLICI - APS	10
GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO SOLIDARIETÀ ONLUS	7
LO SCOIATTOLO - ETS	6
LA PRIMOGENITA INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION ODV	5
REGIONAL SERVICE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (SRAI) - PIEDMONT REGION	5
AI.BI. AMICI DEI BAMBINI FONDAZIONE ENTE DEL TERZO SETTORE	4
ISTITUTO LA CASA - ETS	4
OTHER 5 AGENCIES	9

GRAND TOTAL	664
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^(a) Agencies with no less than 4 authorisations to enter

