

**18<sup>th</sup> AlmaLaurea Report**  
**On Profile and Employment Condition of Graduates**  
**UNIVERSITY AND WORK,**  
**A COUNTRY MOVING AT TWO DIFFERENT SPEEDS**

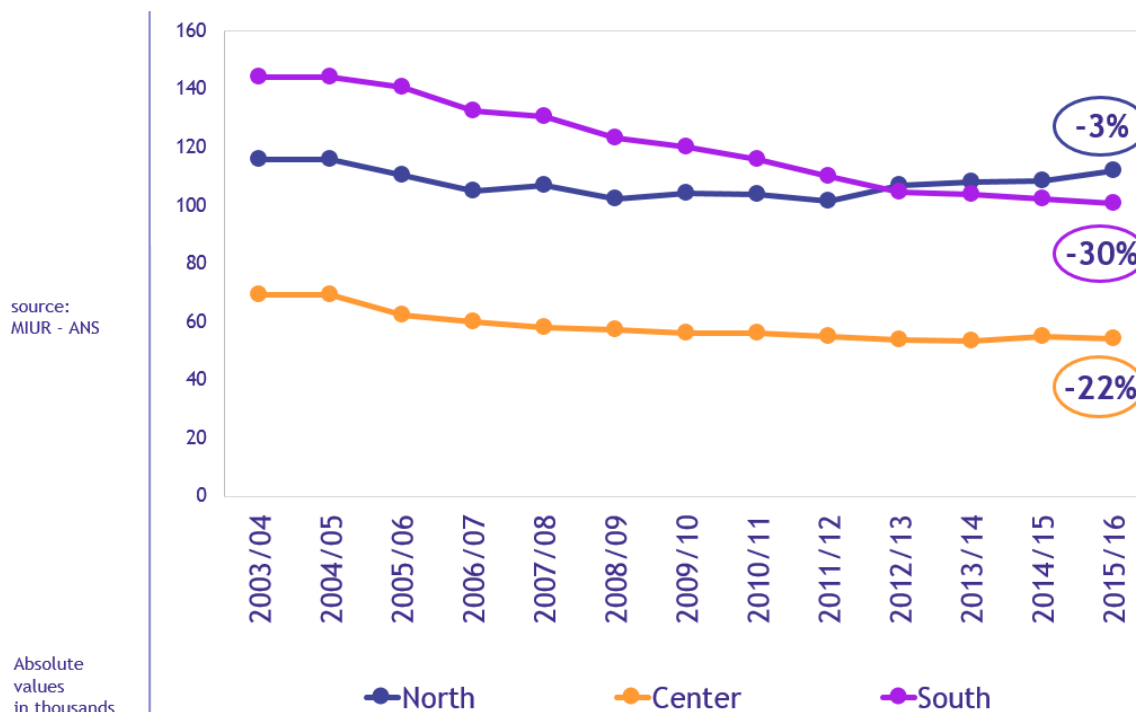
*Naples, 27 April 2016* – The **18th AlmaLaurea Report on the Profile and Employment Condition of Graduates** confirms that geographic mobility, while a positive phenomenon by which students and schools can reach their full potential, at the same time reflects the deep social and economic gap that distinguishes Italian regions.

Territorial mobility found in AlmaLaurea Reports underline the fact that **in the past 10 years Southern regions have consistently lost human capital**, migrating to the Center-North of Italy.

**Enrollment has continued to drop**, in the past few years affecting the entire Italian university system and involving the various regions in different ways. Southern regions are paying the highest price, not only because registration numbers are markedly dropping, but also because young people are moving away from the Southern regions, preferring to relocate to other regions of the country.

Enrolment trends show that after the increase recorded from 2000 to 2003 (+19%), linked to the fact that ample categories of adults enrolled in the University system, and notwithstanding the slight recovery recorded in the past year, **from 2003 to 2015** universities lost an average of almost **70,000 first-year students (-20%)**: for the **South the decrease is equal to 30%**, for the **Center 22%**, for the **North 3%**.

**AL** Enrolments by geographical areas



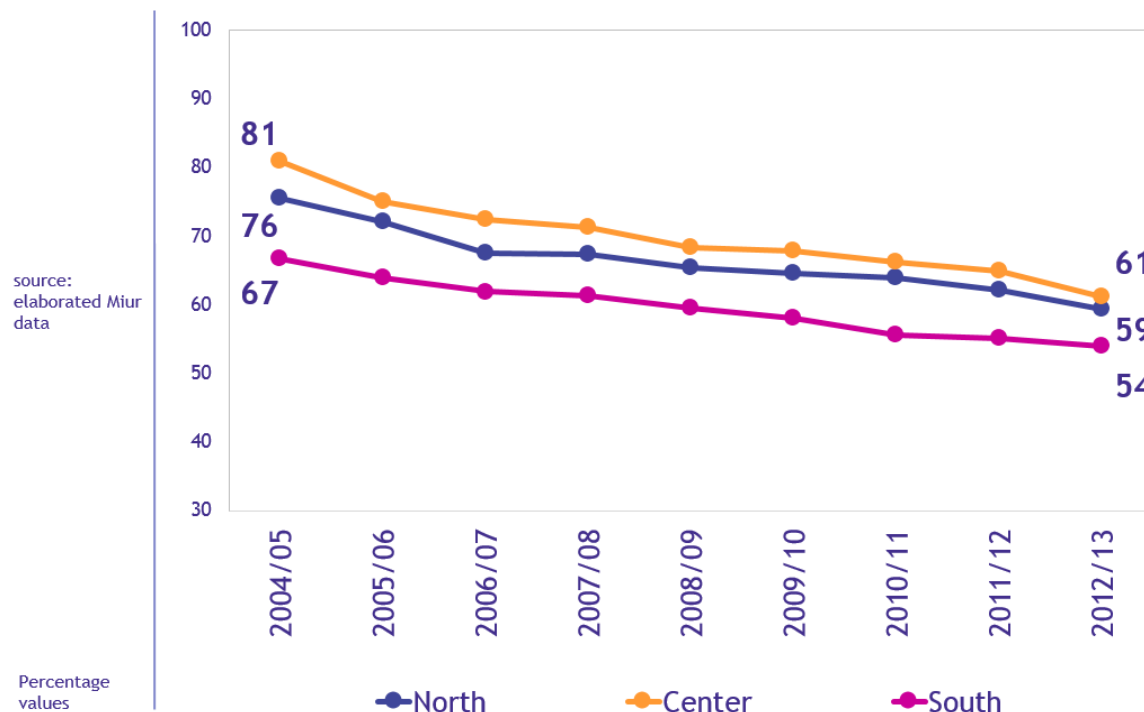
Various factors have an impact on such result, and not all factors are connected to the universities. In the first place, **there has been a demographic decline**, over the past 30 years in Italy the population of 19 year olds has decreased by more than 40%. Although there were no particular differences at a regional level, ISTAT forecasts confirm that in the next 15 years this decrease will mostly affect Southern regions, worsening even more the already evident territorial differences.

**Within 2030 the estimates say that the population of 19 year olds will increase in Northern regions by 21%, thanks to the recent immigration flow, and it will decrease in the South by 13%.**

Another element that definitely influenced the decrease in enrolments is **the decrease in students finishing secondary schools and choosing to get a university education**. Data show that, also taking into account the recession, the number of university applications have decreased throughout the country, although in the South there are fewer applications than in the Center and North.

In the academic year 2012-2013 **the application rate was 54% in the South and 59% in the North.**

**AL** Application rate from secondary schools to the university



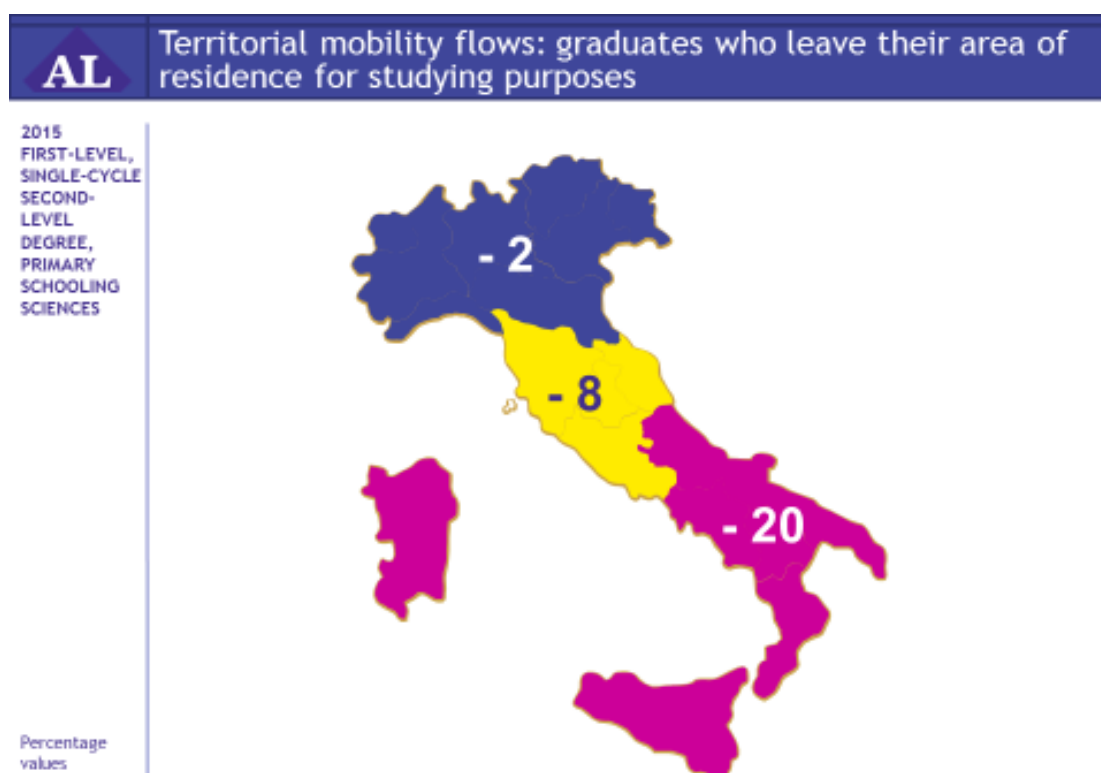
### MOBILITY FOR WORK AND STUDY

In Italy **mobility for study** is a phenomenon that is still not frequent today: only 9% of university graduates moved far away from home. Graduates who moved are primarily those who can, that is to say, all things being equal, those that come from **families who are culturally advanced and economically well off**. It is true that mobility motivated by the need to study varies based on the area of origin and it is more marked for Southern regions.

Young people from the South are the ones who move to study in other regions, studying psychology (32%), chemistry/pharmacy (27%), agriculture and veterinary science (26%), and foreign languages (25%). Graduates who studied economics/statistics (15%), education (16%), law (18%) and engineering (19%) are all less mobile.

### AlmaLaurea surveys show that mobility for studying purposes:

1. It is very low in the North, where only 2 percent of graduates move away;
2. It increases in the Center, where the percentage of the people who move to study is equal to 8%;
3. It increases for the graduates coming from the South: 20% decide to move from the place of origin.



**Passing from the first-level degree to the second-level degree** inevitably increases the phenomenon of long-range mobility, from 9% of the first-level graduates to the 16% of the second-level graduates, confirming that most of the students prefer to move immediately after earning their high school diploma.

In particular, focusing on second-level graduates coming from the South, data shows that about 65% of them completes both cycles in the South, 19% moves immediately after their high school diploma and gets both graduate levels in the Center-North, and 14% completes the first-level degree in the South and moves to the Center-North to continue with the second-level degree.

**Territorial mobility regarding the move from the university to the job market** is more frequent compared to mobility for studying reasons. Even in this case, graduates who moved are primarily those coming from families who are culturally advanced and economically well off.

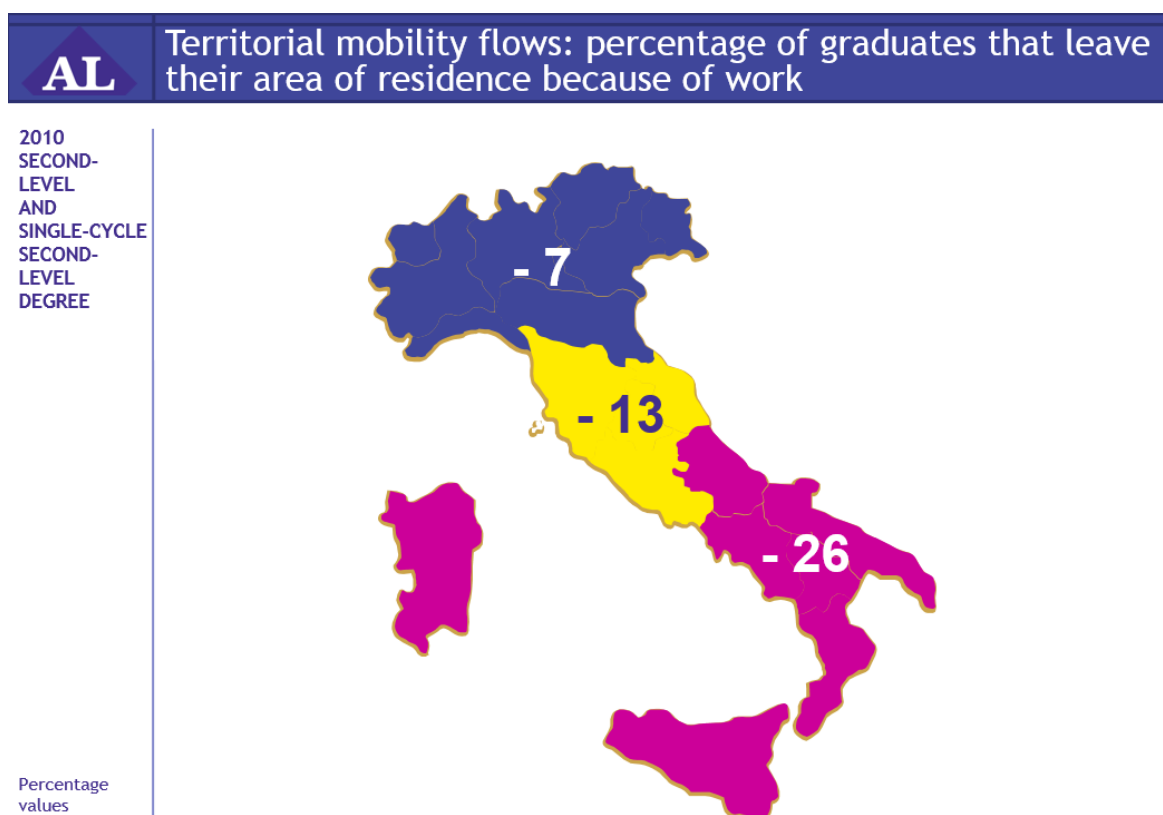
Moreover, mobility calls for mobility: those who already moved for studying reasons or who studied abroad for a time moves more frequently to work.

The survey shows some differences associated with type of studies: graduates belonging to the scientific group are the most mobile (43%), followed by agriculture and veterinary medicine (42%), and foreign languages (41%). Graduates who studied education (25%), medicine (26%), and law (27%) moved a lot less.

### Mobility for work purposes

Five years after graduation:

1. out of 100 graduates who live in the North, 7 go away to work, primarily abroad;
2. the 13% of graduates from the Center move primarily to the North;
3. the South loses more than a quarter of its human capital: 26% work far from the family of origin.



## THE JOB MARKET

On the work front, among graduates with a second-level degree the territorial gap remains elevated and always in favor of the North, after one year and after five years from finishing the degree.

As time passes, all variables considered improve considerably, and the occupational differential goes down from **21 percentage points** at twelve months from graduation, to **15 percentage points at five years from graduation, always in favor of the North.**

The survey concerns only graduates who started working after graduation. In the South, the percentage of those who continued working at the job they were doing before graduation is higher (after one year, 39% against 28% for the North). They are primarily people who graduated in adulthood coming from less wealthy families, who work in the public sector and chose to graduate to increase their possibility of professional growth.

### ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION

One year after graduation, among the **second-level graduates the occupational differential** is equal to **21 percentage points**: 74% of graduates living in the North and 53% of graduates living in the South are working. The **unemployment rate is equal to 17% among colleagues from the North and 36% in the South.** In this context, graduates living in the Center are in an intermediate position between the two.

People working in the South enjoy better **job stability** (self-employment and permanent contracts) compared to colleagues in the North: one year after graduation 30% can count on stable contracts against 25% in the North. This is due to the fact that in the South, to make up for the local job market difficulties, self-employment rates are higher, involving 11% of the workforce, against 7% in the North.

There are ample differences between North and South as far as **unregulated job activities**, which involve 3% of second-level graduates from the North and 10% of those from the South.

**Earning differences** are high: among the newly graduated who started their actual jobs after graduation and that are working full time, the differential is equal to 16%. **In the North, the monthly net earning is 1,290 euros, against 1,088 euros** of colleagues from the South.

This differential is considerable, even though it does not take into account the different cost of living in the different regions.

As far as **degree effectiveness** is concerned, an indicator that combines the degree's requirement for the specific job and the use of abilities learned at the University, the differences are marginal. **The degree is rated effective or very effective by 51% of workers in the North against 53% in the South.** As far as this result is concerned, it is because in the South there are more entrepreneurial businesses, characterized by higher levels of effectiveness.

### **FIVE YEARS FROM GRADUATION**

**Five years after getting the degree**, the territorial differences between North and South diminish markedly, though they always remain favorable to the North. Among the holders of second-level degrees, the **employment differential** between North and South goes down to **15 percentage points**. 89% of graduates in the North are working, while in the South 74% of graduates work.

Between one and five years even the **unemployment rate differential** goes down to about 12 percentage points: it is equal to 6% in the North and 18% in the South.

**Stability increases**, after five years it more elevated in the North, with 72% employed, against 67% in the South. Even in this case, the different job opportunities offered by the local economic and production environments play a significant role. In the North, the percentage of people working as employees with permanent contracts is higher, 54% vs 36% of workers in the South. Self-employment is an active answer to the difficulties in finding jobs in the South, involving almost a third of employees in the South, against 18% in the North.

Five years after graduation, the percentage of graduates **working without a contract** drops in the South, 2,5% vs 1% in the North.

**Earning** improves: in the North the net monthly salary is 1,480, while in the South it is 1,242 euros. **Effectiveness** grows: **the degree is deemed very useful or useful for 55% of workers in the North and 59% of workers in the South.**

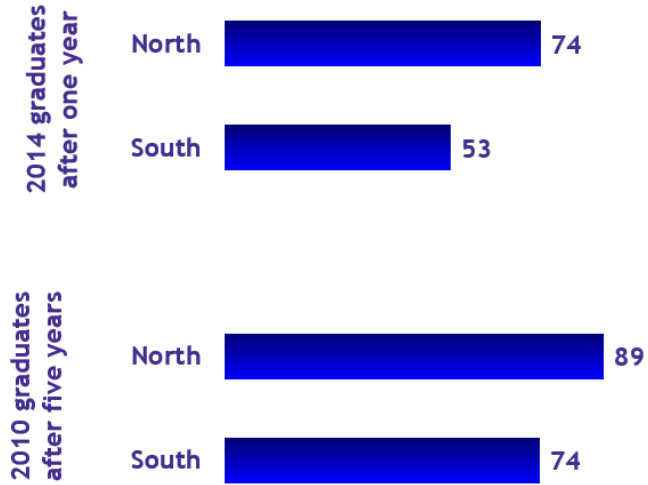
Once again, since the entrepreneurial activities are more widespread in the South, the result is affected because there is a higher level of effectiveness.

**AL** Employment rate by on residency at graduation

2014 AND  
2010  
SECOND-  
LEVEL  
DEGREES

Only people  
who are not  
employed at  
graduation are  
considered

Percentage  
values



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