



Year 8 – June 2008



ON COURSE FOR THE LISBON OBJECTIVES



The roadmap laid out in Lisbon in 2000, which aims at transforming the European Union into a knowledge, competition and solidarity based economy, and which is to be achieved through a proactive overarching strategy of objectives over a period of ten years, provides a European response to the ever more pressing challenges our continent has to face, especially against the background of international competition and an ageing population. At the halfway point Europe looked in the mirror and saw that the results achieved at the time were not the best, which is why in 2005 the European Commission relaunched the Lisbon strategy concentrating its efforts principally on achieving more stable and long-lasting growth and the creation of new and better jobs in the framework of the wider long-term objective of improving the quality of life of all citizens, in the context of greater prosperity and social

justice. To achieve these objectives, it is ever more necessary to provide incentives and opportunities for education and training. Greater lifelong investment in human capital and individual creativity is undoubtedly the key to creating new and better jobs, a fundamental premise for economic recovery. It is a means to combat inequality and poverty and a tool that will undoubtedly not only reduce unemployment among young people, but also help all the disadvantaged groups with the greatest difficulty finding jobs, as well as reduce social marginalisation.

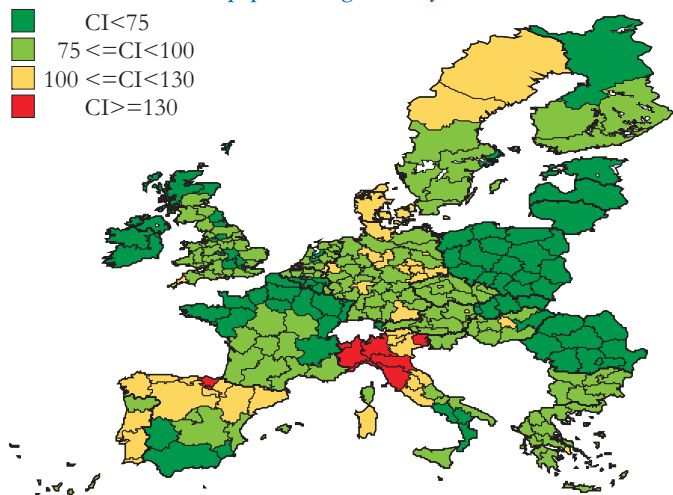
This issue of statistiche flash presents some very relevant data and a summary report on the progress toward the objectives set in 2000 for Veneto, Italy, the European Union and several Italian and European regions with which our region is often compared.

The demographic challenge

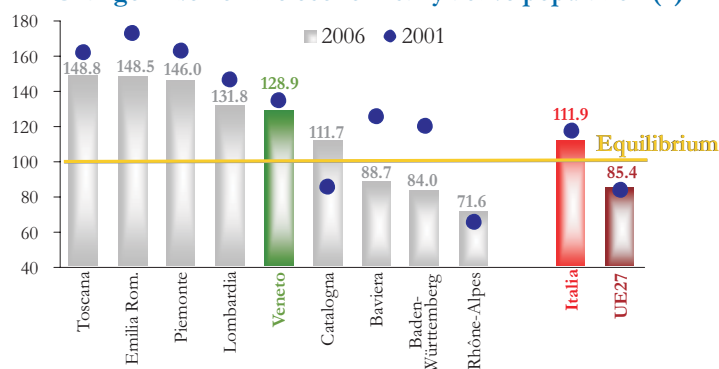
Change Index of economically active population (CI) – Year 2005

Ratio between the population aged 60-64 years and the population aged 15-19 years in %

- CI < 75
- 75 ≤ CI < 100
- 100 ≤ CI < 130
- CI ≥ 130



Change Index of the economically active population (*)

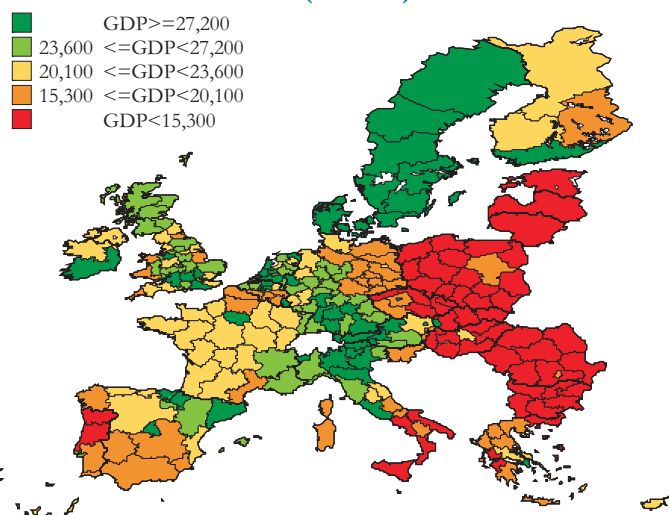


(*) The figure for Rhône-Alpes is from 2005

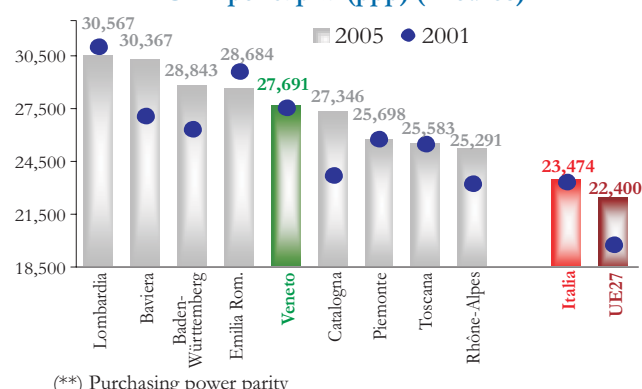
Wealth produced

GDP per capita (ppp) in the European Regions – Year 2005 (in euros)

- GDP ≥ 27,200
- 23,600 ≤ GDP < 27,200
- 20,100 ≤ GDP < 23,600
- 15,300 ≤ GDP < 20,100
- GDP < 15,300



GDP per capita (ppp) (in euros)

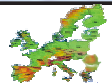












(**) Purchasing power parity

The maps highlight that a low generation turnover often corresponds to a higher level of wealth produced. On the one hand it can be seen that in Veneto there are not enough young people to replace those who retire (the people leaving the labour market exceed the potential entrants by 29%), and on the other hand, Veneto retains a good position in the production of wealth. For our European competitors young people have enough weight to ensure a generational turnover in the labour market.

Source: Processing by Regione Veneto - Direzione Sistema Statistico Regionale on Eurostat and Istat data

Lisbon Strategy and later revisions: some objectives and the degree of achievement in EU27, Italy, and a few Italian and European regions

	Objective by 2010	STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION IN										
		 EU27	 Italia	 Veneto	 Emilia Romagna	 Lombardia	 Piemonte	 Toscana	 Baden-Württemberg	 Baviera	 Catalogna	 Rhône-Alpes
EMPLOYMENT												
Employment rate	70% (Lisbona)	65.4% (year 2007)	58.7% (year 2007)	65.8% (year 2007)	70.3% (year 2007)	66.7% (year 2007)	64.9% (year 2007)	64.8% (year 2007)	71.8% (year 2006)	72.1% (year 2006)	70,4% (year 2006)	64.7% (year 2006)
Female employment rate	60% (Lisbona)	58.3% (year 2007)	46.6% (year 2007)	54.0% (year 2007)	62.0% (year 2007)	56.6% (year 2007)	56.3% (year 2007)	55.5% (year 2007)	65.8% (year 2006)	65.7% (year 2006)	60.3% (year 2006)	58.9% (year 2006)
Employment rate for workers eged 55-64	50% (Stoccolma)	44.7% (year 2007)	33.8% (year 2007)	31.0% (year 2007)	38.3% (year 2007)	31.6% (year 2007)	29.4% (year 2007)	35.5% (year 2007)	54.2% (year 2006)	52.2% (year 2006)	51.0% (year 2006)	38,8% (year 2006)
Unemployment rate	Reduce	7.1% (year 2007)	6.1% (year 2007)	3.3% (year 2007)	2.9% (year 2007)	3.4% (year 2007)	4.2% (year 2007)	4.3% (year 2007)	6.3% (year 2006)	6.5% (year 2006)	6.6% (year 2006)	7.8% (year 2006)
Childhood assistance and care for children aged above 3 until school-age	90% (Barcellona)	n.a.	100% (s.y. 2005/06)	100% (s.y. 2005/06)	96.1% (s.y. 2005/06)	97.8% (s.y. 2005/06)	98.9% (s.y. 2005/06)	100% (s.y. 2005/06)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
INNOVATION												
Expenditure for R&D as % of GDP ^a	3% (Barcellona)	1.84% (year 2006)	1.10% (year 2005)	0.59% (year 2005)	1.17% (year 2005)	1.14% (year 2005)	1.74% (year 2005)	1.09% (year 2005)	3.9% (year 2003) ^b	3.0% (year 2003) ^b	1.3% (year 2003)	2,6% (year 2003)
Expenditure for R&D aby the industrial sector as % of total expenditure	2/3 (Barcellona)	64.2% (year 2004)	50.4% (year 2005)	50.2% (year 2005)	60.8% (year 2005)	71.8% (year 2005)	80.0% (year 2005)	32.3% (year 2005)	79.3% (year 2003)	80.2% (year 2003)	66.1% (year 2004)	68,1% (year 2003)
SOCIAL COESION												
School dropout rate ^c	<10% (Bruxelles)	14.8% (year 2007)	19,7% (year 2007)	13.1% (year 2007)	17.4% (year 2007)	18.3% (year 2007)	17.3% (year 2007)	18.0% (year 2007)	n.a.	n.a.	31.6% (year 2007)	n.a.
Competition of secondary school ^d	>= all' 85% (Bruxelles)	78.1% (year 2007)	75.7% (year 2007)	82.9% (year 2007)	79.1% (year 2007)	78.0% (year 2007)	78.3% (year 2007)	77.7% (year 2007)	n.a.	n.a.	61.2% (year 2007)	n.a.
Graduates in sciences an technology per 1,000 inhabitants aged 20-29	Crescita del 15% (Bruxelles)	12.9 (year 2005)	12,2 (year 2006)	12.7 (year 2006)	17.4 (year 2006)	14.8 (year 2006)	14.4 (year 2006)	16.5 (year 2006)	n.a.	n.a.	17.2 (year 2005)	n.a.
Lifelong learning ^e	12,5% (Bruxelles)	9.7% (year 2007) ^f	6.2% (year 2007)	6.6% (year 2007)	6.5% (year 2007)	6.1% (year 2007)	5.4% (year 2007)	6.4% (year 2007)	8.5% (year 2006)	7.1% (year 2006)	9.6% (year 2006)	8,0% (year 2006)
Percentage of persons at risk of poverty ^g	Reduce significatly	16% (year 2005) ^{b,h}	19% (anno 2005)	10.3% (year 2004)	8.7% (year 2004)	9.3% (year 2004)	11% (year 2004)	9% (year 2004)	n.a.	n.a.	19% (year 2006)	n.a.
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY												
Electricity from renewable resource ⁱ	22% (Göteborg)	14.0% (year 2005)	14.6% (year 2006) ⁱ	11.0% (year 2006)	6.1% (year 2006)	13.8% (year 2006)	17.6% (year 2006)	27.7% (year 2006)	n.a.	n.a.	8.1% (year 2006)	n.a.

^a The objective set for Italy is 2.5%

^b Estimate

^c Percentage 18 to24 years/olds with no secondary school/leaving certificate who do not attend any training courses or follow other forms of education. The definition used in Italy slight differs slightly from the one used by Eurostat, because the threshold for the duration of vacation training courses was increased from 6months to 2 years.

^d This is the percentage of the population between 20 and 24 years old who possess at least a secondary school/leaving diploma

^e Percentage of the population aged 25/64 participating in education or professional training

^f Provisional data

^g The percentage is an estimate of the persons with an equivalent disposable income under the poverty threshold, which corresponds to 60% of the median national equivalent income

^h The figure refers to EU25

ⁱ Ratio of imports and foreign exports and for regional data, balance with other regions

^h The Italian national target is 25%

n.a. = data not available

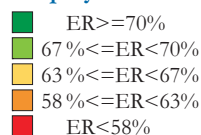
The Italian regions compared are all clearly above the average Italian employment rate: in 2007 Veneto recorded an employment figure of the population between 15 and 64 years of age amounting to 65.8%, ranking third among the Italian regions. Emilia Romagna is the only region in Italy that exceeds the European objective with an employment rate of 70.3%, more than four percentage points greater than the figure for Veneto. The employment situation of most of the foreign regions to which Veneto is compared is decidedly positive: in the German regions and Catalonia the European target has easily been surpassed, in some cases for several years. Rhône-Alpes on the other hand records employment levels similar to those of the Italian regions to which it is compared. The objective for female employment is surpassed as well as that for workers between 55 and 64 years of age in the German and Spanish regions has been surpassed, while Italy as well as Veneto are far from the mark. Although participation in the working world is generally greater in the European regions, they have, on average, registered higher unemployment rates compared to the rates in the Italian regions: in 2007 7.1% was the average European rate, a percentage point higher than the Italian rate and more than double that of Veneto

(3.3%).

Better levels and quality of employment are impossible without strengthening research, education and innovation. Only by investing in people throughout their entire lives and promoting high quality education can European success be assured. Human capital is the strategic resource for European development and, therefore, it is necessary to constantly improve the quality and effectiveness of the educational and training systems as well as ease access of all to the educational systems.

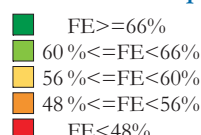
To promote social equity and cohesion, the Lisbon Agenda also provides for the reduction of poverty. In Europe 16 people out of 100 are at risk of poverty, while in our nation the percentage is equal to 19%. The figure for Veneto is decidedly lower and in line with the other competing Italian regions: about 1 person in 10 lives in difficult circumstances that compromise their standard of living.

Employment rate of 15-64 year-olds (ER) - Year 2006

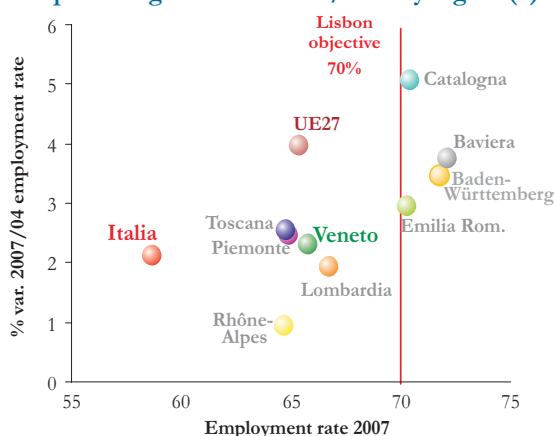


In the context of a rapidly changing economy and ageing population, the creation of new jobs is thus an economic and social necessity. The continuous reduction in the economically active population, together with an increasing imbalance between the number of young and old people, i.e. between those who produce (or have the potential to do so in the future) and those who benefit from past work, means that suitable measures have to be adopted to attract and keep as many people in the labour market as possible. Older workers need incentives to keep working longer and to dissuade them from retiring too early from their working lives. Furthermore, additional attention must be paid to the passage from school to employment, and more effort geared towards reconciling a person's professional and private/family life in order to tap the potential of women. The gender pay gap in general has to be reduced, the unemployed have to be helped and the inactive and disadvantaged integrated

Female employment rate (FE) - Year 2006



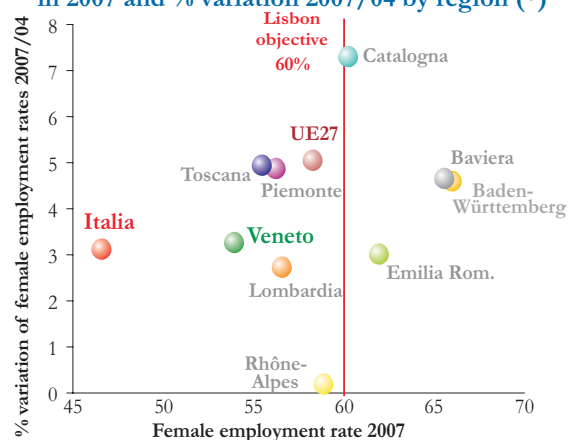
Employment rate of 15-64 year-olds in the year 2007 and percentage variation 2007/2004 by region (*)



(*) Employment rate = (employed persons / population aged 15-64) x 100

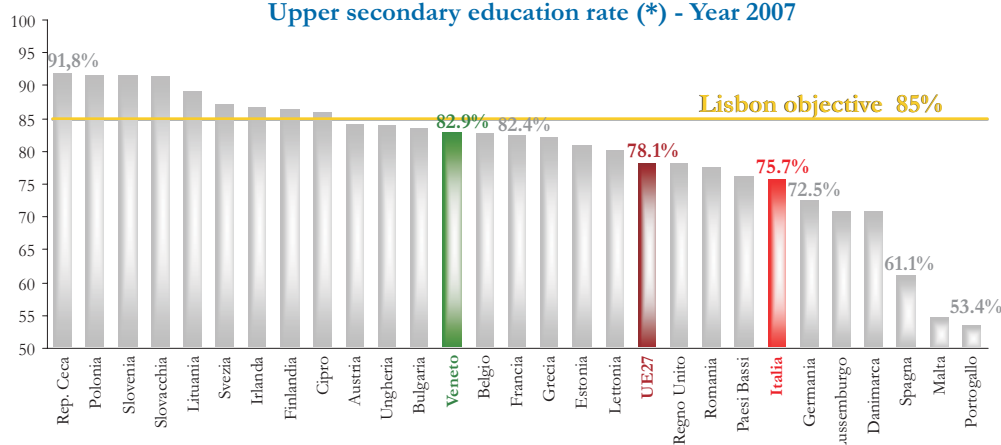
The most recent data available for all regions has been used: 2007 for the Italian regions and the EU27, 2006 for the European regions

Female employment rate of women aged 15-64 years in 2007 and % variation 2007/04 by region (*)



Education to build the future

Upper secondary education rate (*) - Year 2007



(*) Percentage of the population aged 20-24 that holds at least an upper secondary diploma

Source: processing by Regione Veneto – Direzione Sistema Statistico Regionale on Eurostat, Istat, MEF-DPS data.

To insure an adequate entrance into the labour market and professional growth for young people, it is necessary to improve education and training: a sound basis, i.e. completion of an upper secondary education, is fundamental.

In 2007 in Veneto nearly 83% of young people between the age of 20-23 had achieved at least a high school diploma, only two percentage points less than the target for 2010 fixed by the Council of the European Union. In only three years the region has seen the figure increase by six percentage points. The situation in Italy is less positive, even though in only three years it has seen an increase of over three percentage points: in 2007 it had reached a share of 75.7%.

In accordance with Regional Law no. 8 of 2002, Ufficio di Statistica della Regione Veneto gathers, analyses and disseminates statistical information for the benefit of the region. The processed data herein is the patrimony of the entire region and is published in brochures as well as on the Regione Veneto website at www.regione.veneto.it/statistica.



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