

5. Social relationships¹

The domain includes a set of indicators that capture different aspects of Social relationships, some of which show an improvement in 2023 with respect to the previous year.

In particular, a positive picture emerges as regards the possibility of counting on a potential support network and the satisfaction with friends. The share of the population aged 14 and over stating that they have relatives not living with them, friends or neighbours they can count on in case of need is rising and reaches 83.9% (+2.9 percentage points). This growth compensates for the slight decline recorded during the pandemic, thereby allowing the indicator to exceed in 2023 the 2019 level and achieving the highest value in the last ten years (Table 1). Satisfaction with friends relations, which had recorded a marked decline during the pandemic, especially among young people, settles in the last year at 22.7%, recording a growth of 1.1 percentage points over 2022, and almost reverts to pre-pandemic levels (23.0% in 2019). In 2023, 33.2% of the population aged 14 and over are very satisfied with family relations (as against 32.6% in 2022). After a slight drop during the pandemic, the value is now in line with that of 2019.

Table 1. Social relationships indicators: value for the latest available year and percentage changes compared to the previous year and 2019

INDICATORS	Year	Value	Unit of measurement	Polarity	Percentage variations	
					compared to the previous year	compared to 2019
Satisfaction with family relations	2023	33,2	%	+		
Satisfaction with friends relations	2023	22,7	%	+		
People to rely on	2023	83,9	%	+		
Social participation	2023	26,1	%	+		
Civic and political participation	2023	60,7	%	+		
Voluntary activity	2023	7,8	%	+		
Association funding	2023	11,0	%	+		
Nonprofit organizations	2021	61,0	per 10.000 inhab.	+		
Generalised trust	2023	24,8	%	+		

Source: Istat, Bes Indicators

Note: The green colour indicates improvement, red worsening and grey stability, taking into account the polarity of the indicator. The indicators have positive polarity if the increase in their value shows an improvement in well-being, negative polarity if the increase in their value shows a deterioration in well-being. For variations within $\pm 1\%$ the indicators are considered stable in the reference period.

In 2023, some indicators show a worse value than in the previous year. This is particularly so for two indicators that had improved during the pandemic: civic and political participation (such as discussing politics, informing about the facts of Italian politics, reading or posting opinions on the web and taking part in online consultations or votes) and financing associations.

The share of people aged 14 and over who state that they are engaged in civic and political activity declines by 2.7 percentage points (from 63.4% in 2022 to 60.7% in 2023), thereby confirming the dwindling interest of the population especially as regards discussing and informing about politics. Despite this drop, civic and political participation still records values in excess of the pre-pandemic phase (it was 57.9% in 2019).

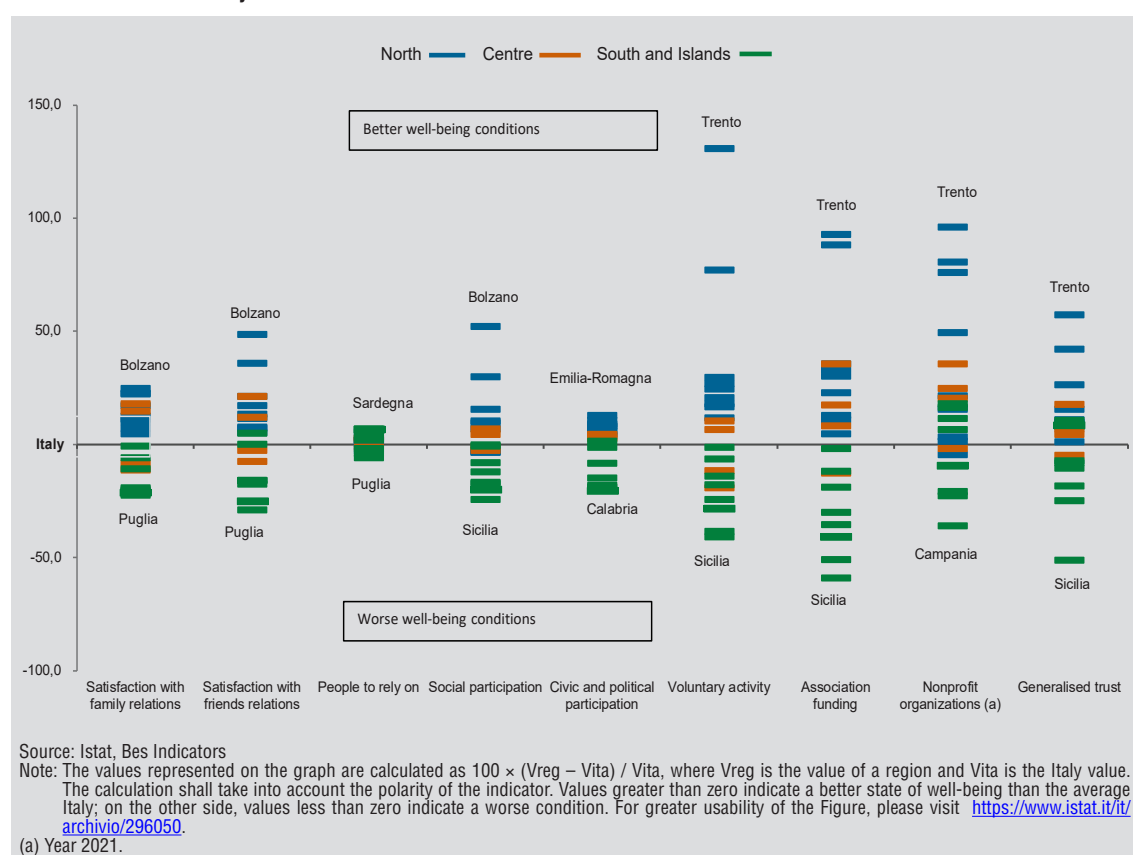
¹ This Chapter was edited by Miria Savioli, with contributions from Isabella Latini and Massimo Lori. The box “Social relations in Europe” was edited by Miria Savioli, with contributions from Francesca Gallo and Daniela Lo Castro.

The share of people aged 14 and more who declare having made financial contributions to associations is also decreasing, settling at 11.0% (-1,8 percentage points compared to 2022), the lowest level since 2005 and far below the 2019 value (13.4%).

Likewise, a lower value than the pre-pandemic phase is recorded for voluntary activity: in 2023, the share of population stating that they carry out voluntary activity stands at 7.8%, 2 percentage points down from 2019.

If we compare the gap between each region or autonomous province and the national value for the domain indicators, we notice that northern regions generally attain higher values than the national average (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Social relationships indicators: percentage differences between the regional values and the Italian value. Year 2023. Italy = 0



As regards social participation and satisfaction with family and friend relations, most of the regions have values that are not too far from the national average. The autonomous province of Bolzano, where the share of people undertaking social participation amounts to 39.7% (+52.1% on the national average), and the autonomous province of Trento (33.9%), stand out. The autonomous province of Bolzano stands out also in respect of satisfaction with family and friends relations (respectively +48.5% and +24.7% compared to the national average). On the negative side, with lower values than the national average, Puglia stands out for both family and friends relations (respectively -22.6% and -29.1%) and Sicilia for social participation (-24.5%).

A less pronounced territorial variability is encountered for the potential support network indicator, which evinces the highest values in two regions of South and Islands: Sardegna with 89.7% (+6.9% over the national average) and Calabria with 89.4% (+6.6%), as opposed to the 78.9% for Puglia (6.0% down on the national average). Even the indicator on civic and political participation manifests a substantial homogeneity, with the highest value detected in Emilia-Romagna (+12.7% compared to the national average) and the lowest one in Calabria (-20.4%). Sardegna and Abruzzo are the only two regions of South and Islands displaying levels compatible with the national average.

As for the other domain indicators, on the other hand, what emerges is a greater territorial dispersion. This is particularly clear when it comes to voluntary activity and financing of associations. In the autonomous province of Trento, the share of the population aged 14 and over who carries out voluntary activity (18.0%) is nearly four times higher than that recorded in Sicilia (4.6%). Bolzano, too, stands out for a value far above the national average (+76.9%). Sicilia (-41.0%) and Campania (-38.5%) show a negative trend, while Sardegna is the only region in the South and Islands division that records a value in line with the national average.

As with voluntary activity, even the share of the population stating that they finance associations is higher in the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano, where it stands at approximately 21% (respectively +92.7% and +88.2% compared to the national average). The value reaches its bottom value in Sicilia (4.5%) and in Campania (5.4%).

Also with respect to the two indicators of the presence of non-profit organisations across the territory and trust in others, we notice a clear heterogeneity.

The highest number of non-profit organisations every 10 thousand inhabitants is found in the autonomous provinces of Trento (119.5) and Bolzano (110.1), followed by Valle d'Aosta (107.4). The region with the lowest number of non-profit organisations is instead Campania, with just 39 organisations every 10 thousand inhabitants (36.1% less than the national average).

The share of the population who believes that most people are trustworthy shoots up to 39.0% in the autonomous province of Trento (+57.3% compared to the national average), a value thrice as high as that recorded in Sicilia (12.1%).

The analysis of the dispersion on the set of indicators of the domain shows that the autonomous provinces of Bolzano and Trento are the territories that record the best values for most of the indicators. The sole exceptions are Sardegna, as regards the possibility of counting on a potential support network, and Emilia-Romagna, which records the highest level of civic and political participation. Conversely, the regions of South and Islands often rank among the weakest, and four Southern regions alternately disclose the most negative values compared to the national average: Campania, Calabria, Sicilia and Puglia.

Satisfaction with friends relations on the rise

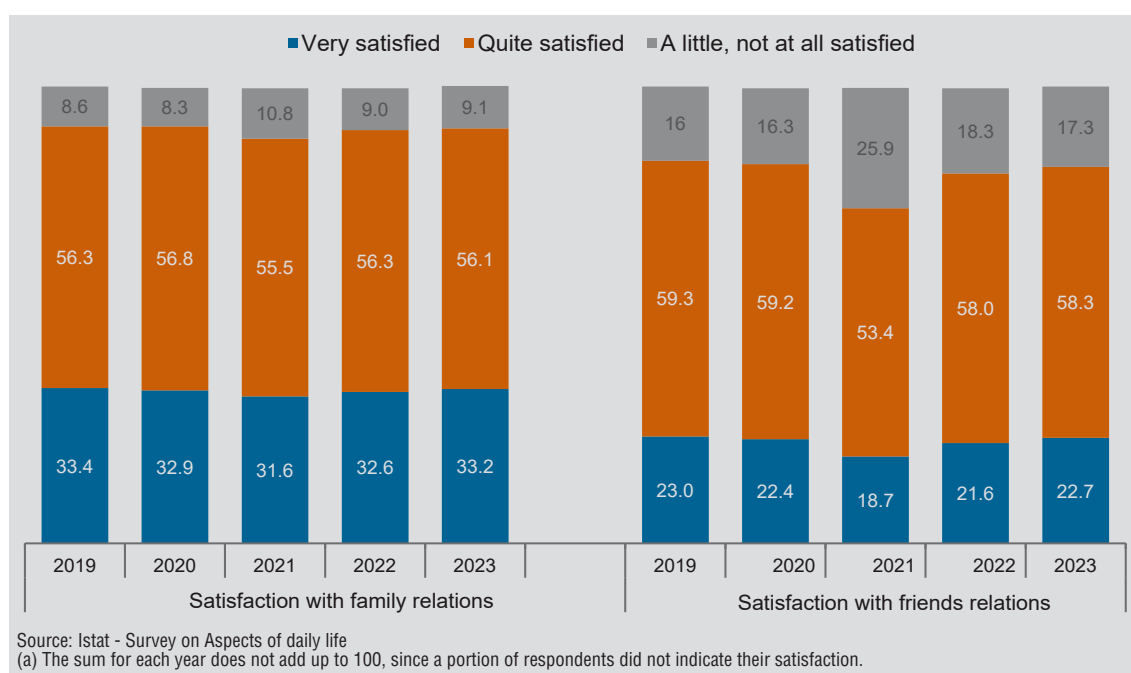
Family, friendships and, more generally, relational networks, represent an essential support to people, an important reference point both when carrying out normal daily activities and when facing critical and difficult moments.

In 2023, 33.2% of people aged 14 and over declare themselves very satisfied with family relationships; if we consider even those who declare themselves quite satisfied, the total share reaches 89.3%.

Satisfaction with friends relations stands instead at a lower level: 22.7% of people aged 14 and over declare themselves very satisfied, a figure that shoots up to 81.0% if we also consider the share of those who declare themselves quite satisfied (Figure 2).

In 2023, the share of the population very satisfied with friends relations records a growth of 1.1 percentage points (from 21.6% to 22.7%). The growth is concentrated among women (+1.3 percentage points) and among the population aged 55-74 (over 2.5 percentage points). The share of very satisfied persons increases in the central regions (+2.8 percentage points) and in the key municipalities of the metropolitan area (+3.2 percentage points).

Figure 2. People aged 14 and over by level of satisfaction with family and friends relations. Years 2019-2023.
Percentage values (a)



Both satisfaction with family relationships and with friends relations show moderate gender differences in favour of men, while age-related differences are more pronounced.

Satisfaction with family relations is in fact higher between the ages of 14 and 44, where the share of very satisfied persons attains in 2023 values ranging between 35.0% and 38.0%, and then declines slightly in later ages to eventually register the lowest value among the population aged 60-64 (27.6%); the share then rises a bit within the elderly population (32.2% among those aged 75 and over) (Figure 3). The lowest levels of satisfaction are discerned among single people, particularly men aged 55-74 living alone, among whom the share of very satisfied people drops to approximately 18%.

As expected, satisfaction with friends relations is higher among young people aged 14-19 (38.6%) and 20-24 (3.0%), but unlike satisfaction with family relationships, starting from the age of 25 satisfaction with friends network decreases significantly, reaching the lowest value in the elderly population (14.5% in the age group of 75 and over) (Figure 3).

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Figure 3. People aged 14 and over who state that are very satisfied with family and friends relations by age group. Year 2023. Percentage values



Satisfaction with family relationships in the North is close to 37% in 2023, whereas in the South and the Islands it stops at 27.9% (approximately 9 percentage points less). The gap dips to 6.5 percentage points for friends relations, with the share of very satisfied people equal to 25.3% in the North and only 18.8% in the South and Islands.

Throughout the age groups, the most satisfied persons are those with a high educational level. Among people with a university degree, satisfaction with family relationships stands at 36.0% (compared to 31.7% for those with a middle school diploma at most) and that for friends relations at 25.7% (compared to 20.5%).

The possibility to rely on a potential support network is on the rise

The network of relationships with non cohabiting relatives, friends and neighbours continues to play in Italy a fundamental role in the provision of help individuals and families can rely on. The year 2023 records a growth of 2.9 percentage points for the share of the population aged 14 and over who state that they have non cohabiting relatives, friends and neighbours they can count on in case of need (from 81.0% in 2022 to 83.9% in 2023) (Figure 4)².

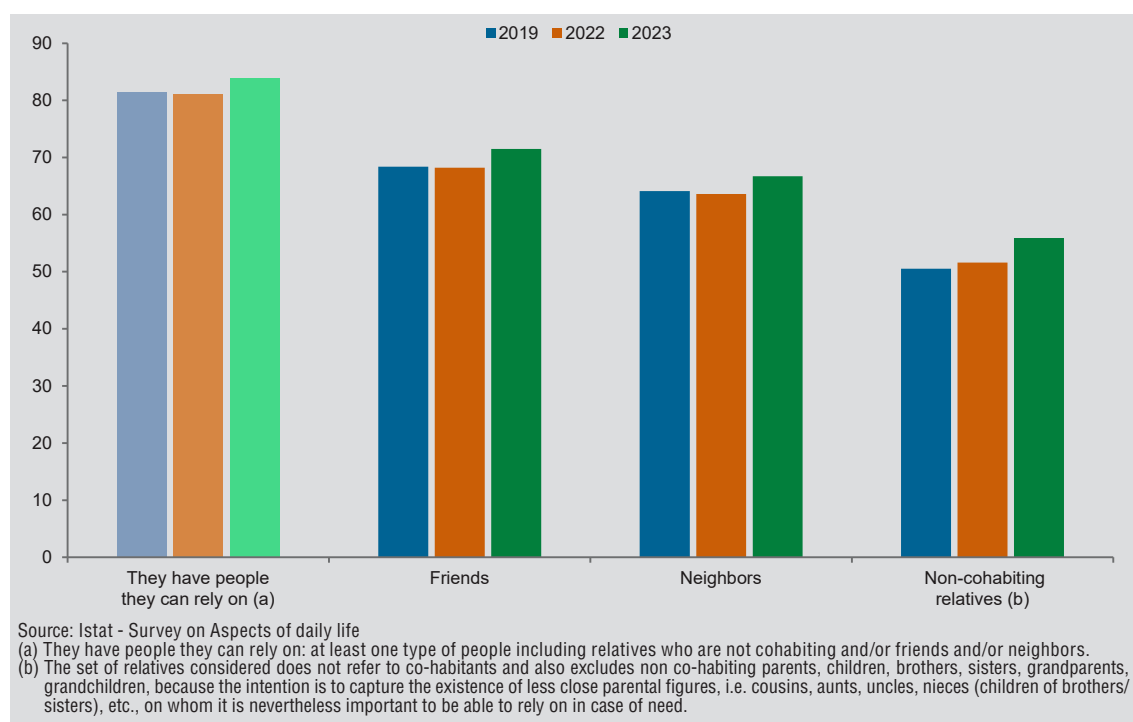
The growth is more pronounced in the Centre-North (+3.3 percentage points) compared to the South and Islands (+2.3 percentage points), among males (+3.2 percentage points), in the population aged 55-59 (+3.9 percentage points) and that of 75 year-olds onwards (+4.6 percentage points).

If we analyse the components of the indicator, what emerges is that 71.5% of the population declare that they can count on friends in case of need (+3.3 percentage points compared to

² The indicator is calculated by taking into account respondents who have provided at least one positive answer to three separate questions about the possibility of counting on relatives or friends or neighbours in case of need. The set of relatives one can rely on does not refer to people living together and excludes also any parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and grandsons not living together, as the purpose is to grasp the existence of other relatives (such as cousins, uncle and aunt, children of brothers/sisters etc.) who are less close, but on whom it is nevertheless important to be able to count in case of need.

2022), 66.7% that they can count on neighbours (+3.1 percentage points) and 55.9% that they can count on non cohabiting relatives, such as uncles, cousins and nephews (sons of brothers/sisters) (+4.3 percentage points) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. People aged 14 and over that have people they can rely on (non-cohabiting relatives, friends or neighbours). Years 2019, 2022 and 2023. Percentage values



The possibility of relying on an extended support network is perceived in the same way by women and men and follows a trend that decreases as the age progresses: it goes beyond 87% among people aged 14-44, and then declines to eventually reach its lowest value among people aged 75 and over, although the share is still high in respect of them (77.0%).

Territorial differences are very contained: the possibility of counting on relatives not living together, friends and neighbours in case of need is in fact equally spread across all geographic areas, with values around 83-86% throughout. Differences by educational qualification are instead more pronounced. Among people with a degree, the possibility of counting on a support network is 9.5 percentage points higher than among those with just a middle school diploma.

Low trust in others, yet above the pre-pandemic period

In 2023, 24.8% of people aged 14 and over consider most people worthy of trust (compared to 24.3% in 2022); the value of the indicator confirms itself at a higher level than that recorded prior to the pandemic (23.9%).

The share of those expressing trust in others continue to be higher among men, 26.5% of whom declare that most people are trustworthy compared to the 23.3% recorded by women. Gender differences are minimal in all age groups, except for young people aged 14-19 (27.0% of males compared to 18.7% of females).

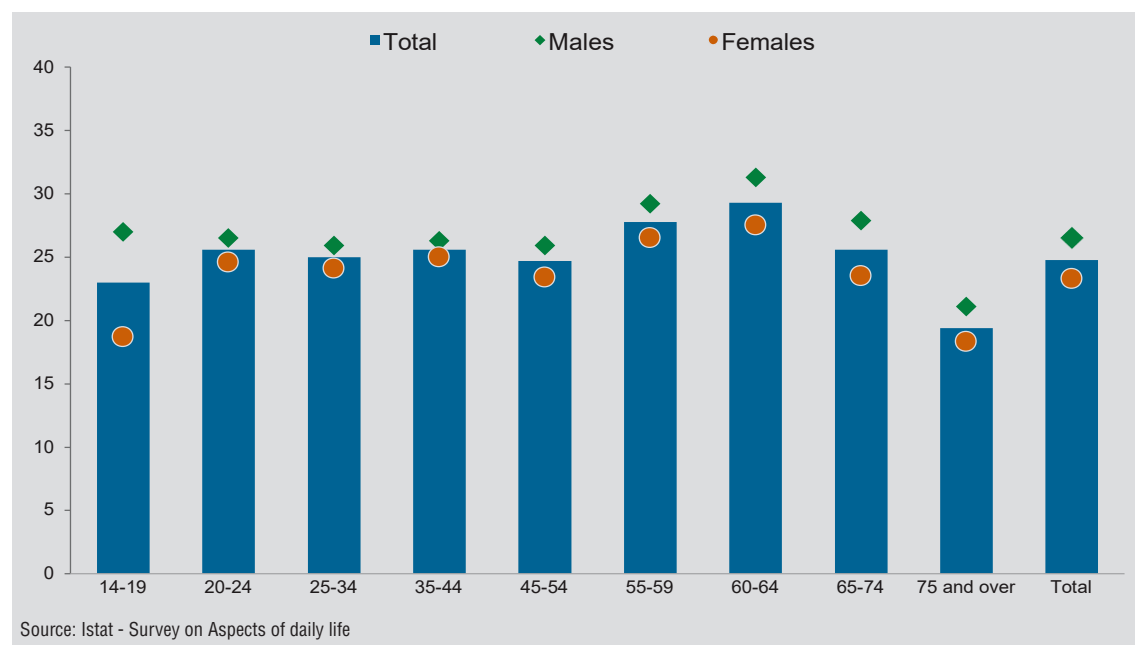
No major age-related differences emerge. Trust in others settles at around 23-29% throughout the age groups (the highest value is found among the population aged 60-64, with

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29.3%), and then decreases only among the population aged 75 and over, where we come across the lowest share (19.4%) (Figure 5).

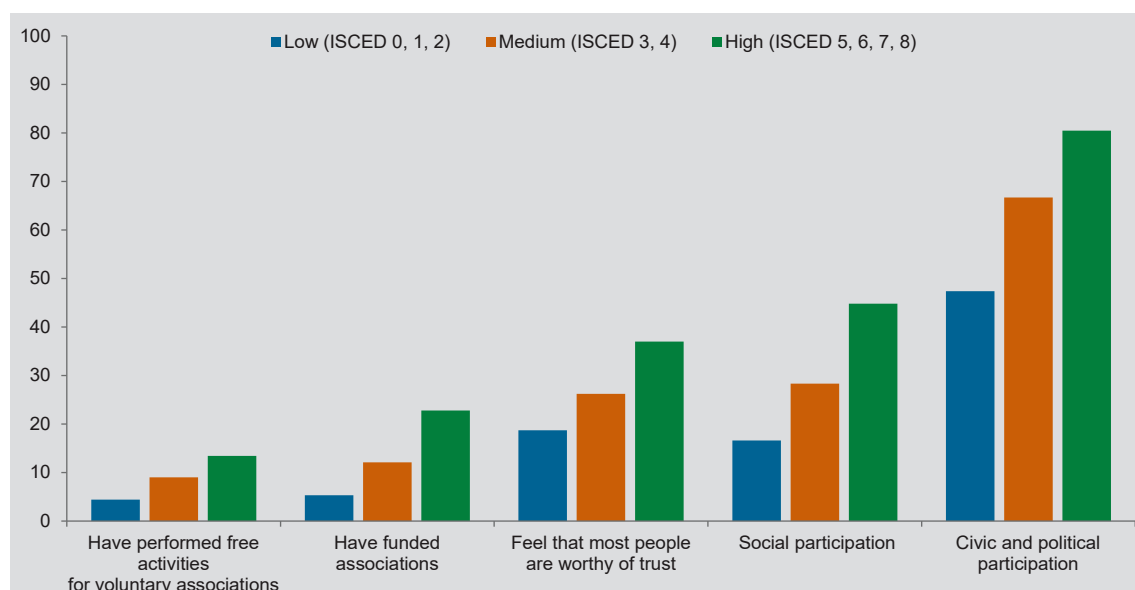
Figure 5. People aged 14 and over that feel that most people are worthy of trust by age group and gender. Year 2023. Percentage values.



As other domain indicators, the trust people place in others reaches the lowest levels in the South and Islands, where 20.4% of the population aged 14 and over believe that most people are trustworthy, whereas in the Centre-North the level, though still low, exceeds 26%.

Among people with tertiary qualification, the share of those who think that most people are trustworthy reaches 37.0%, a value nearly twice higher than that found among those with a low educational qualification (18.7%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Social relationships: some indicators by level of education (a). Year 2023. Percentage values



Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life

(a) High level of education (Isced 5-8): University degree and beyond; Medium level of education (Isced 3-4): upper-secondary school diploma; Low level of education (Isced 0-2): up to lower secondary school diploma.

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN EUROPE

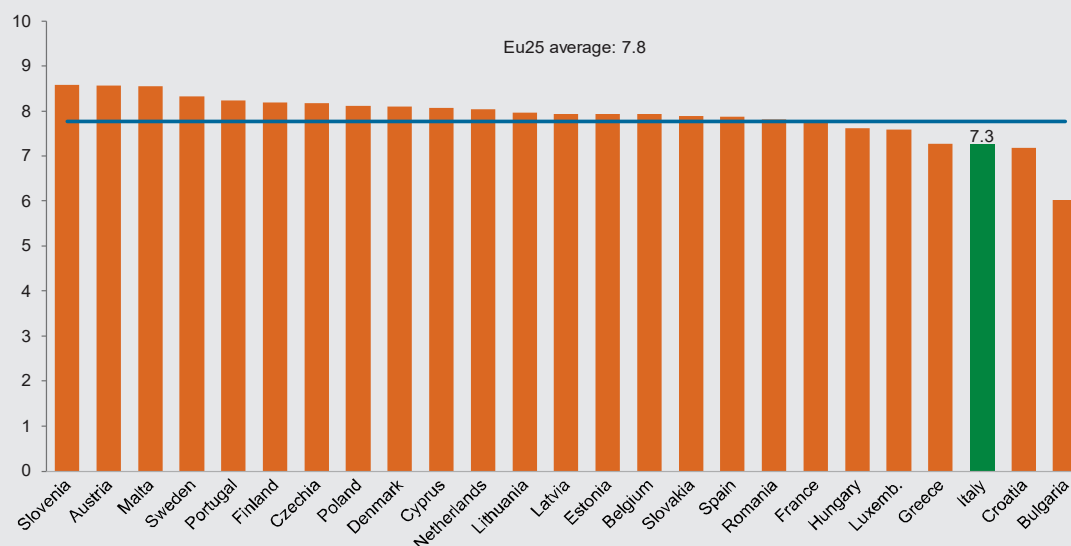
Based on the data collected by Eurostat, it is possible to draw a picture of Social relationships in Europe in 2022¹.

In the European context, Italy shows a more difficult situation when it comes to satisfaction with personal relationships and the possibility of drawing beneficial support from the network of relatives and friends. Conversely, if we consider the level of trust in others and socialising with relatives and friends, Italy records values in excess of the European average, occupying one of the top positions in the ranking.

In Europe, the average level of satisfaction with relationships involving relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances is 7.8 (on a scale from 0 to 10)². Italy, with an average value of 7.3, is in third to last position among EU25 countries, followed by Croatia (7.2) and Bulgaria (6.0). The highest levels of satisfaction are found in Slovenia, Austria and Malta, all of which show an average value of 8.6.

Italy slips to second-to-last position if we consider young people aged 16-24, among whom the average level of satisfaction stands at 7.2 compared to an average European value of 8.0.

Figure A. People aged 16 and over by level of satisfaction with personal relationships with relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances in EU countries (a). Average value on a 0-10 scale (where 0 indicates “Not at all satisfied” and 10 “Completely satisfied”). Year 2022



Source: Eurostat, Eu-Silc Survey
(a) Data not available for Germany and Ireland.

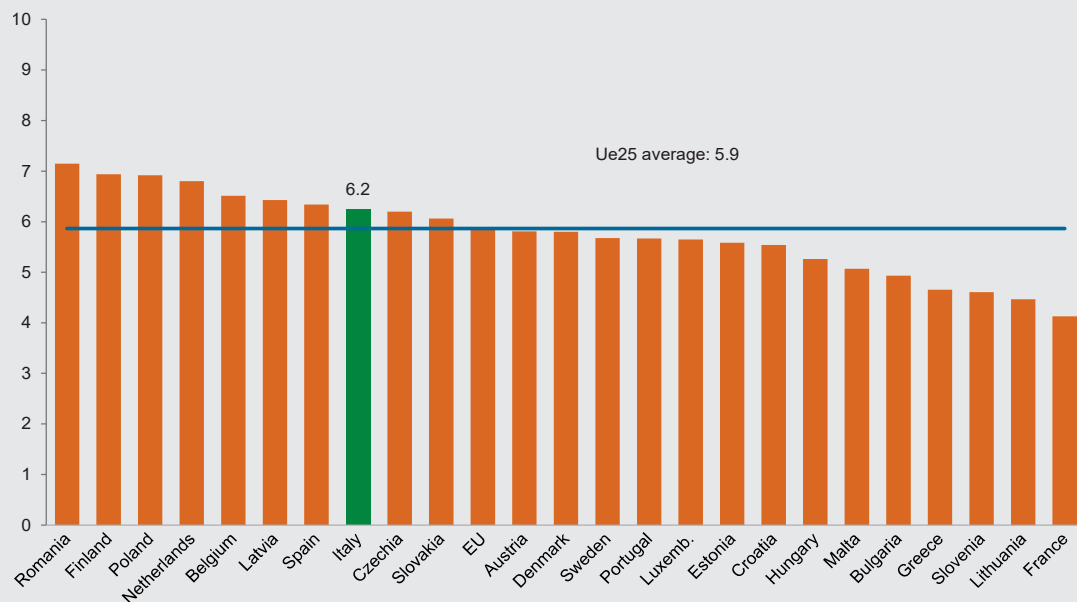
- 1 There are no harmonised surveys at European level that allow the state of Social relationships in Europe to be compared annually. A comparison restricted to some indicators is however possible using the information of the 2022 ad hoc module on subjective well-being, included by Eurostat in the Eu-Silc survey on income and living conditions. Although these are indicators thematically similar to those used in the Social relationships Bes domain, some differences in the questions formulated and the response scale adopted preclude a direct comparison.
- 2 The question included in the questionnaire of the Eu-Silc survey is: “Overall, how satisfied are you with your current personal relationships with relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues, acquaintances, etc.?”.

The possibility of drawing beneficial support from the network of relatives and friends is quite widespread in all European countries. In fact, 90.1% of the population aged 16 and over states that they have relatives, friends, neighbours or acquaintances they can approach for help (moral or material) in case of need³. Italy, though recording a very high value at 82.3%, is in second-to-last place in the EU25 ranking, followed by Romania (71.2%). The top two positions are occupied by Portugal (97.0%) and Cyprus (96.6%), trailed by Lithuania, Sweden and the Czech Republic, all with values hovering around 96%. Italy's position in the ranking does not change if we take into consideration young people aged 16-24 (still second to last with a value of 80.7% compared to the European average of 92%).

The situation improves if we consider the level of trust in others⁴. In this case, in fact, Italy occupies the eighth position with an average level of trust of 6.2 (on a scale from 0 to 10), a value above the European average (5.9). At the top of the ranking we find Romania (7.1), followed by Finland and Poland, both of them with an average level of 6.9. France (4.1) and Cyprus (3.6) languish at the bottom.

Italy gains 2 positions in the European ranking if we consider young people aged 16-24, among whom the average level of trust is 6.8 (as opposed to 6.2 for the European average).

Figure B. People aged 16 and over by level of trust in others in EU countries (a). Average value on a 0-10 scale (where 0 indicates “No trust in others” e 10 “Complete trust in others”). Year 2022



Source: Eurostat, Eu-Silc Survey
(a) Data not available for Germany and Ireland.

- 3 The question included in the questionnaire of the Eu-Silc survey is: “In case of need, can you count on the help of relatives, friends, neighbours or acquaintances? Consider both material help (e.g. money or food) and non-material help (e.g. comfort or moral support).” The question excludes relatives living in the household.
- 4 The question included in the questionnaire of the Eu-Silc survey is: “In general, how much trust do you currently place in others? Assign a score from 0 to 10 where 0 indicates “No trust in others” and 10 “Complete trust in others.” This question differs from the one included in the questionnaire of the Aspects of daily life survey: “Do you generally think that most people can be trusted or do you have to be very careful?”, which is used to construct the Bes indicator “Generalized Trust.” For this reason, the two indicators are not directly comparable.

Even if we consider the frequency with which relatives and friends meet, Italy is at the top of the ranking with values exceeding the European average.

In Italy, the share of people aged 16 and over who state that they meet relatives (not living with them) once a week or even more stands at 64.7%, a value 14.3 percentage points above the Ue25 average (50.4%). This value puts Italy in fifth position after Cyprus (79.2%), Bulgaria (67.3%), Portugal (67.1%) and Slovakia (64.9%).

If we take into account the share of people aged 16 and over stating that they meet friends once a week or more in their leisure time, Italy ranks sixth with 61.2% (compared to 49.1% the European average). Among young people aged 16-24, it climbs to fifth position with 87.6% of them declaring that they meet friends often (as against 80.1% of the average for European youth).

Volunteer activity is more widespread among adults

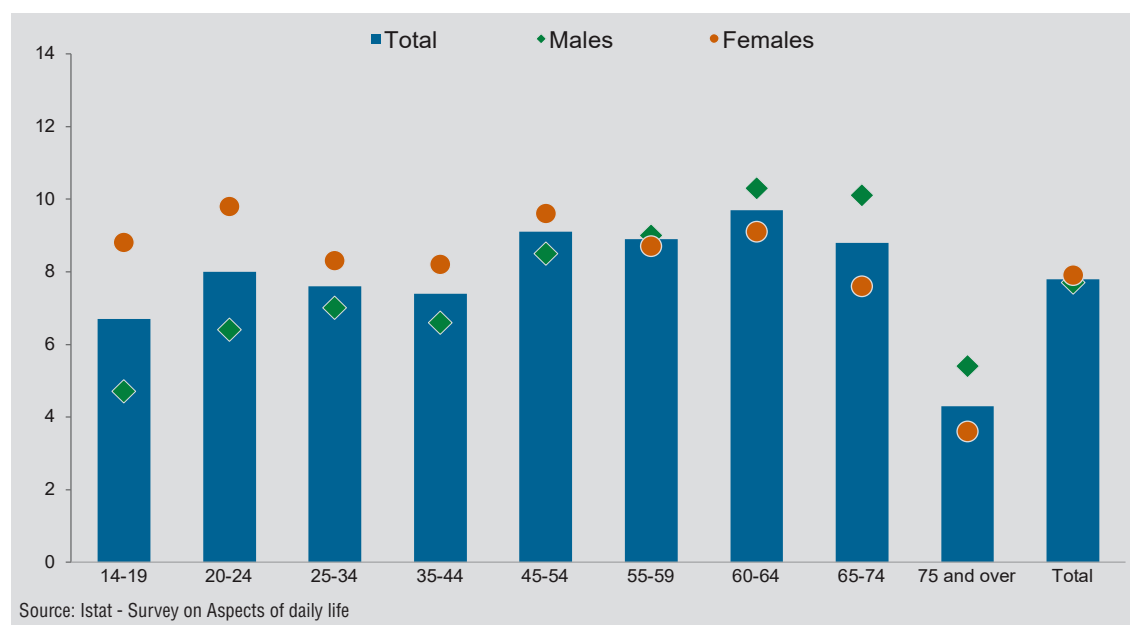
In 2023, the share of the population aged 14 and over stating that they carry out volunteer work stands at 7.8%, a value still below the pre-pandemic phase (9.8% in 2019). The indicator, with a trend of constant but moderate growth, had reached in 2016 the highest peak (10.7%), but had then began a decline before the pandemic set in. In 2021, it eventually recorded the most emphatic decrease (7.3%), dropping to the lowest value since 2005.

In 2023, the highest levels of involvement are encountered between 45 and 74 years of age, particularly within the population aged 60-64 (9.7%).

If gender differences do not emerge out of the total population (the value is 7.7% for men as opposed to 7.9% for women), once we consider the various age groups the analysis shows that up to the age of 54 levels of involvement in voluntary activities are higher among women (in particular those aged 14-24), gender differences disappear in the 55-59 age group, and are later reversed in favour of men starting from the age of 60 (Figure 7).

Marked differences by geographic area and educational level emerge. The share of the population stating that they engage in voluntary activity amounts to 10.0% in the North-East, a value 1.8 higher than that recorded among the resident population of South and Islands.

Figure 7. People aged 14 years and over have performed free activities for voluntary associations by age group and sex. Year 2023. Percentage values



Among graduates, voluntary activity reaches 13.4%, thrice as much as the percentage of those possessing no more than the secondary school diploma (4.4%) (Figure 6). The gap widens within the adult population, in particular among women aged 35-54. In their case, the share of those who have undertaken voluntary activity climbs to 14.5% for graduates. This share is 4.7 times higher than that detected among women from the same age group with a middle school diploma at most.

The financing of associations diminishes

In 2023, the financing of associations recorded a drop, settling at 11.0% (-1.8 percentage points down from 2022); it is the lowest value of the entire time series since 2005.

The financing of associations declines both among men (-1.8 percentage points) and among women (-1.9 percentage points). The decrease is concentrated within the population aged 65-74 (-3.2 percentage points), in the regions of the Centre (-2.4 percentage points) and of the North (-2.1 percentage points) and in the municipalities up to 2 thousand inhabitants (-3.7 percentage points).

Giving monetary contributions to associations is an uncommon activity among young people (less than 5% among young people aged 14-24) and reaches its peak among people aged 45-74 (between 13% and 15%).

In the North East, the share of the population stating that they have contributed to the financing of associations is more than double what is discerned in the South and Islands (14.3% as opposed to 6.6%). Differences based on educational level are even wider: 22.8% of graduates state that they give financial contributions to associations, a percentage four times higher than that detected among people with no more than the middle school diploma (5.3%) (Figure 6). These differences are confirmed across all age groups, but are more emphatic among younger persons (in the 14-34 age bracket, the difference reaches 6 percentage points).

Social participation is not yet back to pre-pandemic levels

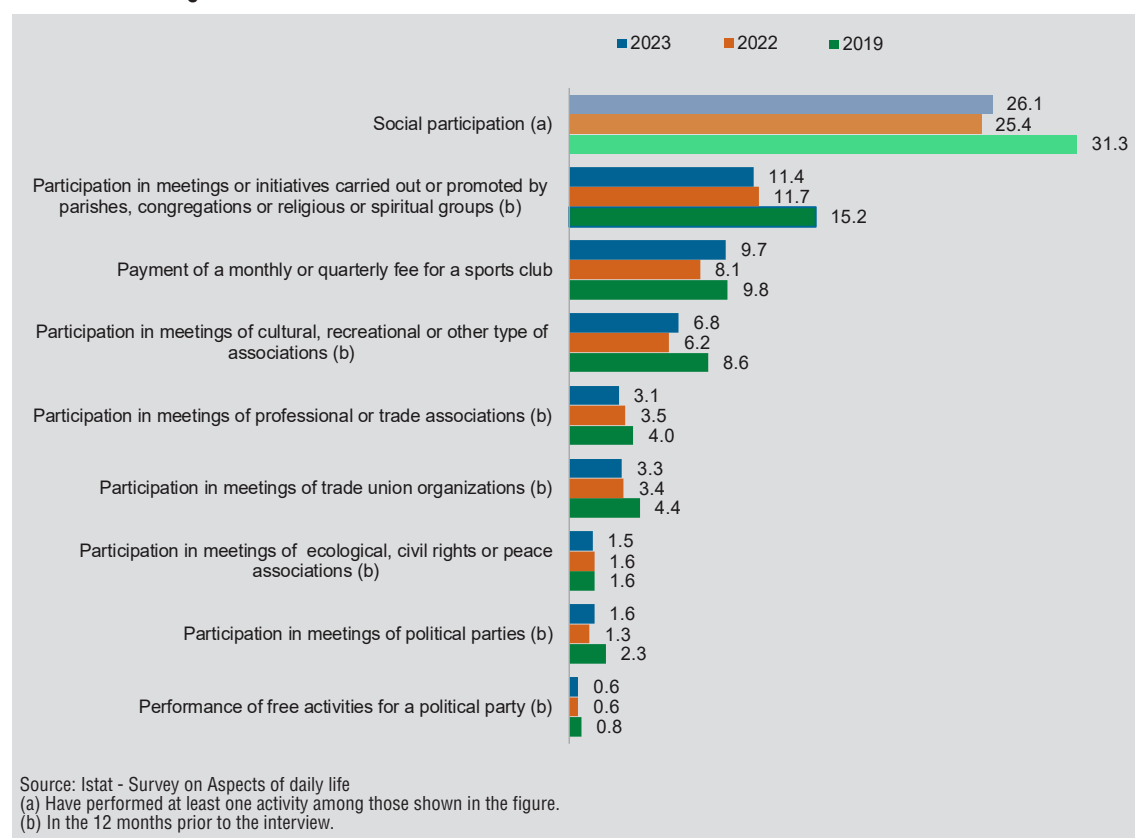
In 2023, 26.1% of the population aged 14 and over states that they are engaged in social participation, taking part in the activities of recreational, cultural, political, civic, sports, religious or spiritual associations.

Social participation, which during the pandemic had touched the lowest value of the entire time series (available since 2013), in 2023 has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels (31.3% in 2019).

If we analyse the components of the indicator, what we notice is that the most widely practiced activity is participation in meetings organised by parishes, religious or spiritual groups, which in 2023 stands at 11.4%, in line with 2022 though still below the 2019 figure (-3.8 percentage points); it is followed by payment of a monthly or periodic fee for a sports society/club, with 9.7% which, instead, records a growth of 1.6 percentage points over 2022 (Figure 8).

Social participation decreases with increasing age. It is higher among people aged 14-19, among whom it almost shoots up to 40%; remains constant around 26-31% between the ages of 20 and 64, and then gradually declines, reaching the lowest value within the population aged 75 and over (13.1%).

Figure 8. People aged 14 and over that have carried out social participation activities. Years 2019, 2022 and 2023.
Percentage values

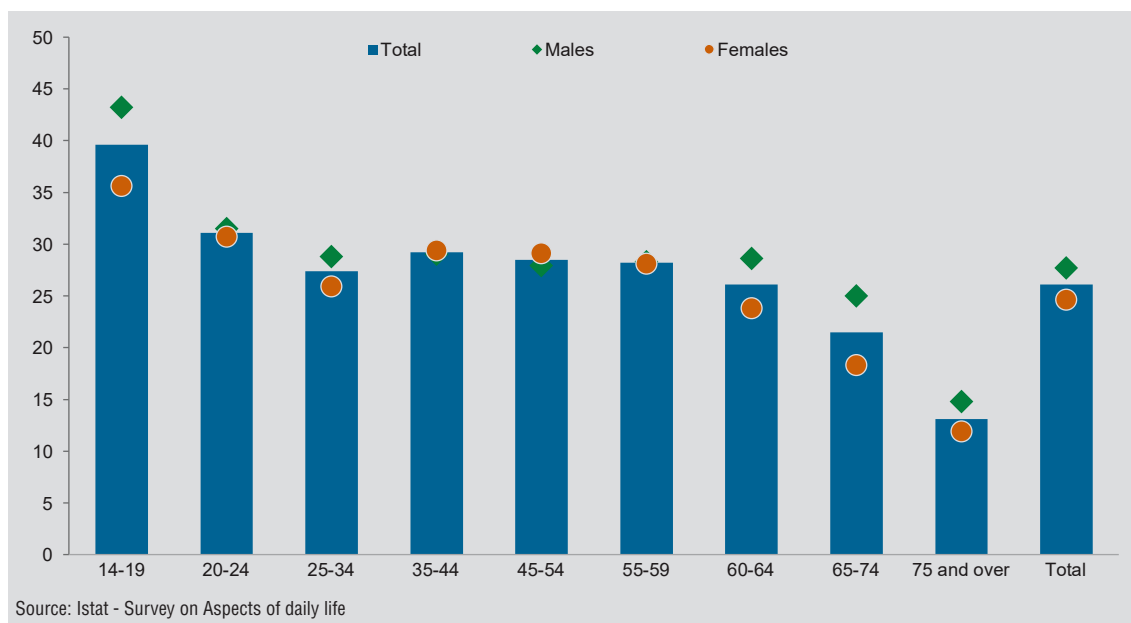


Gender differences are minimal and in favour of men, 27.7% of whom state that they undertake social participation activities as against 24.6% of women. In the various age groups, gender differences are more pronounced among 14-19 years old and within the population aged 60-74 (Figure 9).

Differences in favour of men come across throughout the components of the indicator, except for participation in meetings organised by parishes and religious or spiritual groups, in which 12.1% of women are active as opposed to 10.5% of men. In the Centre-North, approximately 27% of the population aged 14 and over stated that they carry out social participation activities, whereas in the South and Islands the percentage drops to 22.2%.

Social participation is more widespread among people with a high level of education, where it reaches 4.8%, a value 2.7 times higher than the one detected within the less educated segment of the population (16.6%) (Figure 6). The gap by level of education widens as the age increases: among the population aged 55 and over, social participation is 3.8 times above that of the population of the same age in possession of no more than the middle school diploma.

Figure 9. People aged 14 and over that have carried out social participation activities by age group and sex. Year 2023.



Civic and political participation continues its downward course, especially among young people

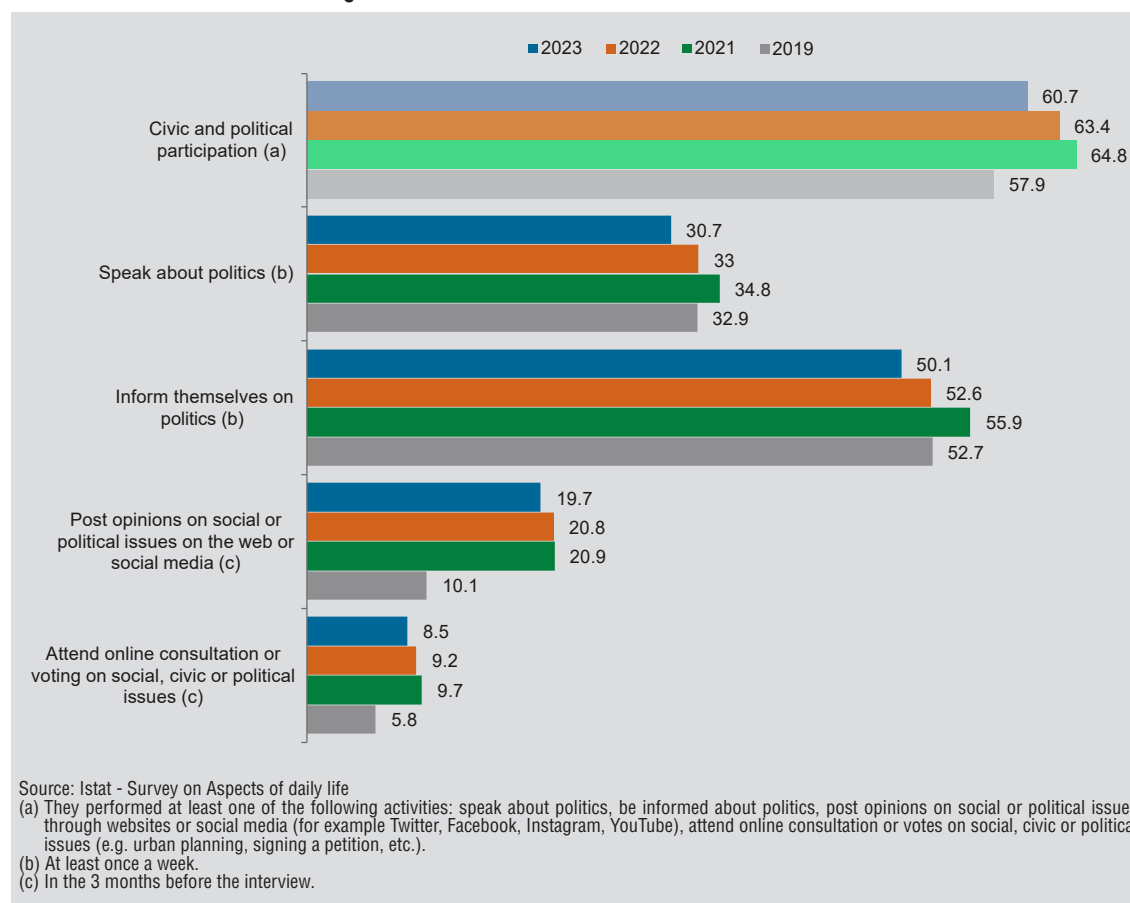
In 2023, 60.7% of the population aged 14 and over state that they performed at least one social participation activity, such as talking about politics, informing about the facts of Italian politics, reading or posting opinions on the Web, and taking part in online consultations or votes (Figure 10).

Civic and political participation decreases by 2.7 percentage points when viewed against 2022 (63.4%), confirming the tendency among the population to lose interest, especially in debating and finding out about politics.

The analysis of the components of the indicator evinces the fact that in 2023, the main decline concerned the share of the population informing about the facts of Italian politics, which settles at 50.1% (-2.7 percentage points compared to 2022), and the share of the population declaring that they discuss politics, which records a drop of 2.3 percentage points (30.7% in 2023).

Even online participation, which had grown significantly during the pandemic, dips in 2023 to lower levels: the share of the population stating that they express opinions on social or political issues through websites or social media stands at 19.7% (-1.1 percentage points less than 2022), and the percentage of those declaring that they take part in online consultations or votes around social or political issues at 8.5% (-0.7 percentage points compared to 2022) (Figure 10).

Figure 10. People aged 14 years and over who perform activities of civic and political participation. Years 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Percentage values



Between 2022 and 2023, civic and political participation decreases among men (-2.0 percentage points) and even more markedly among women (-3.4 percentage points), who already showed lower levels of involvement, resulting in a further widening of the gender gap; the decrease is concentrated within the population aged 14-44, particularly the, 25-34 age group (-4.5 percentage points among males and -7,4 percentage points among females) (Figure 11).

With the exception of the North-West where the data remains stable, all the other geographical divisions record a drop, more pronounced in the South and Islands (-3.6 percentage points compared to -3.1 in the Centre) and in the suburban municipalities of the metropolitan area (-5.4 percentage points). Within the timeframe considered, participation remains constant among graduates, while it decreases in the segment of the population with medium-low educational qualifications (-3.6 percentage points among holders of high school diplomas and -3,5 percentage points among those with a middle school diploma at most) and in particular among women aged 14-34 with medium-low study qualifications (about -8 percentage points).

In 2023, civic and political participation confirms to be less widespread among young people (45.2% in the 14-19 age group), records a trend that grows with age, and reaches its peak in the adult population (68.2% in the 60-64 age group), to eventually shrink all the way down to 54.0% among the people over 74, a level that is anyway higher than that detected among the younger people (Figure 12).

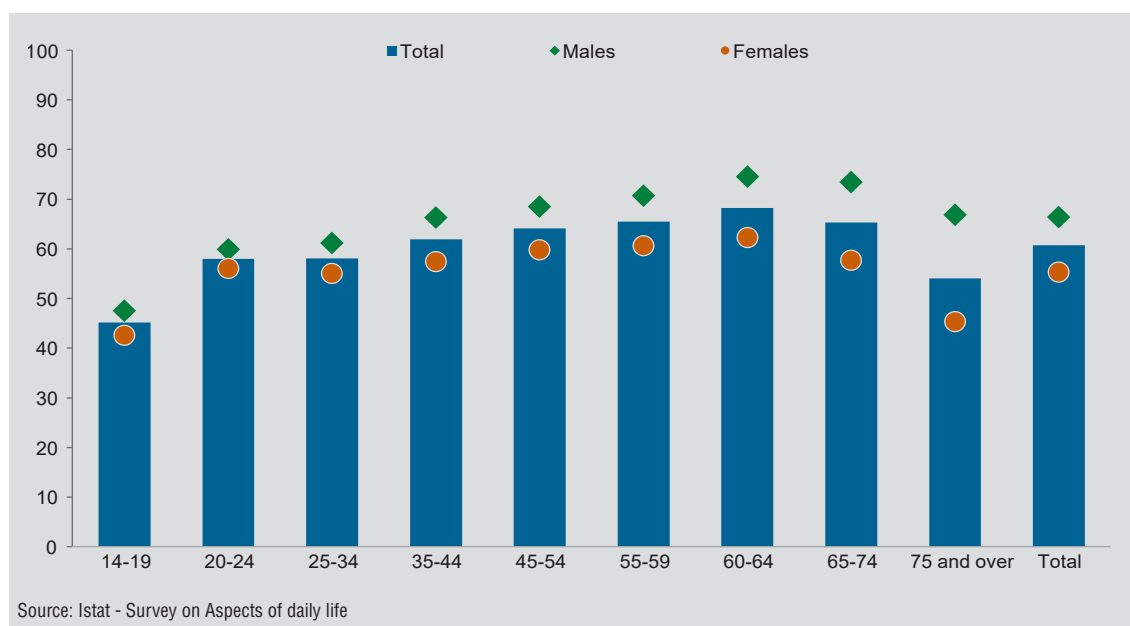
Figure 11. People aged 14 and over who perform activities of civic and political participation by age group and sex. Years 2022 and 2023. Percentage values



As with social participation, for civic and political participation, too, gender differences in favour of men emerge. In this case, however, the gap is wider, with 11.1 percentage points more for men in 2023 (66.4% compared to 55.3% for women).

The gender gap in favour of men is very contained up to the age of 34, stays at 8 percentage points in the 35-54 age group, and then increases to eventually reach the maximum value in the population aged 65 and over (15.7 percentage points in the population aged 65-74 and above 21 in the population aged 75 and over) (Figure 12).

Figure 12. People aged 14 and over who perform activities of civic and political participation by age group and sex. Year 2023. Percentage values

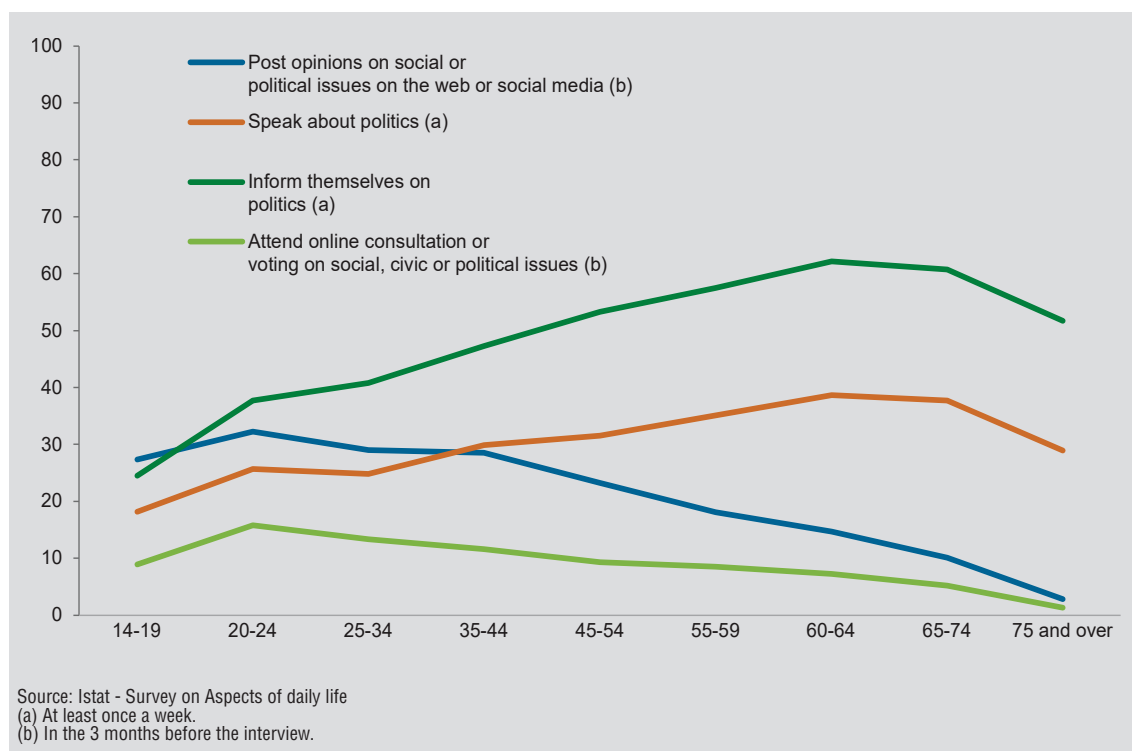


The territorial gap approximates 15 percentage points with 66.4% of the resident population in the North stating that they are engaged in civic and political activity compared to 51.5% of those residing in the South and the Islands.

Civic and political participation is more widespread among those with a high educational level: it stands at 80.5% among graduates, a value markedly above the 47.4% observed among those who possess no more than a middle school diploma (Figure 6). This difference is retained across all age groups.

If we analyse each component of the indicator by age, we discern that political participation on the web is more widespread among young people aged 20-24 (32.3% express opinions and 15.8% take part in online consultations) and then decreases significantly with age, to eventually reach the lowest values in the population aged 75 and over. By contrast, discussing politics and getting informed of the facts of Italian politics are behaviours that grow as the age increases and reach their peak among the population aged 60-74 (over 37% of whom state that they discuss politics and more than 60% that they get informed about the facts of Italian politics) (Figure 13).

Figure 13. People aged 14 and over who perform activities of civic and political participation by age group. Year 2023. Percentage values



Nonprofit organisations on a slight decline, while the number of employees is up

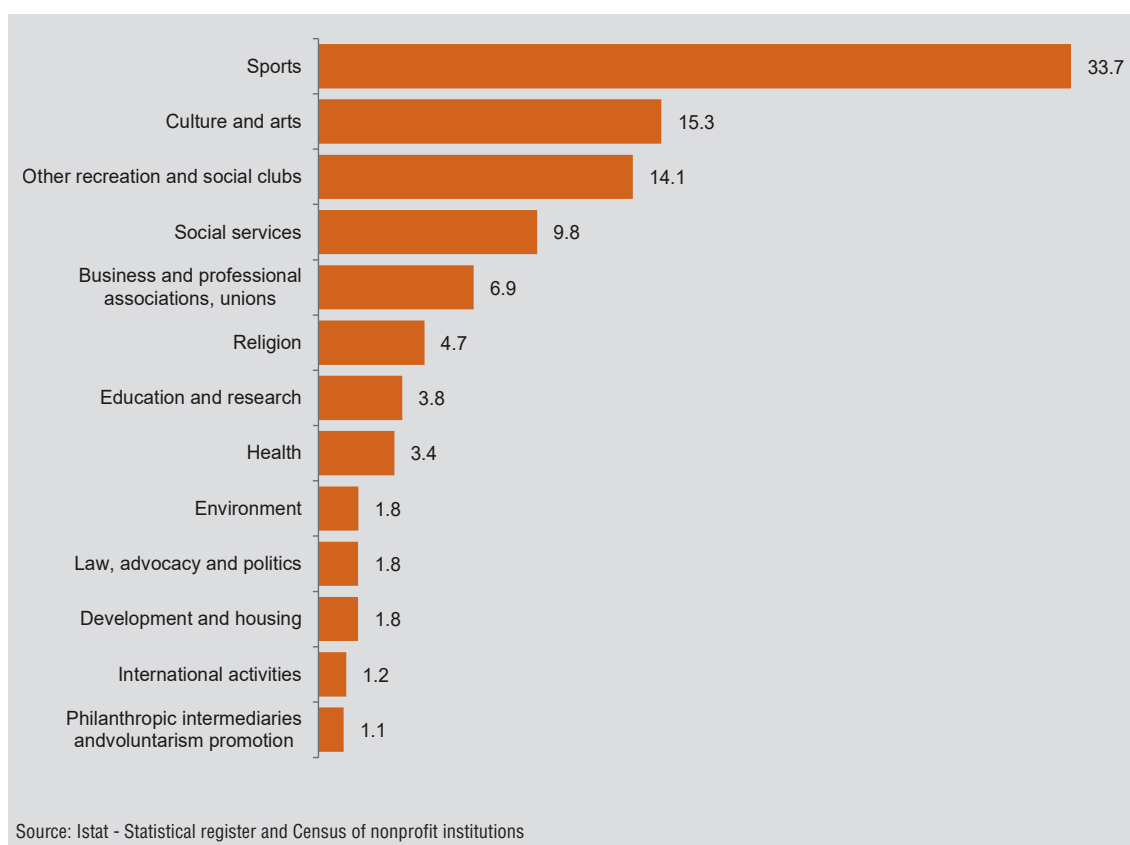
In 2021, non-profit institutions operating in Italy were 360.625 (equal to 61.0 every 10 thousand inhabitants) and altogether employed 893,741 workers. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of non-profit institutions dropped by 0.8%, a change in contrast with the trend of the dynamics observed in previous years. Conversely, the variation of employees is positive, rising by 2.7% between 2020 and 2021.

The decrease of non-profit institutions is visible across all geographical areas, particularly in the regions of the South (-1.2%) and the Centre (-1.1%). On the contrary, the variation of employees is positive in the various geographical divisions, especially in the Islands (+7.9%) and in the South (+5.7%).

Between 2020 and 2021, non-profit institutions decreased to a greater extent in the sectors of cultural and artistic activities (-4.0%), protection of rights and political activity (-3.8%), and international cooperation and solidarity (-3.4%), whereas the most significant increases concerned the sectors of environmental protection (+2.3%), trade union relationships and interest representation (+1.7%), and sports activities (+1.6%).

In 2021, the main sector of activity was the sports-related one (33.7% out of the total number of such institutions), followed by cultural and artistic activities (15.3%) and by recreational and socialisation ones (14.1%) (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Nonprofit organisations by sector of activity. Year 2021. Percentage values



Indicators

1. **Satisfaction with family relationships:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that are very satisfied with family relations on total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
2. **Satisfaction with friends relations:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that are very satisfied with relations with friends on total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
3. **People to rely on:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that have non cohabiting relatives (excluding parents, sons, siblings, grandparents, nephews), friends or neighbors they can rely on, on total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
4. **Social participation:** People aged 14 and over that have performed at least one social participation activity in the last 12 months on total population aged 14 and over. The activities in question are: participation in meetings or initiatives (cultural, sports, recreational, spiritual) carried out or promoted by parishes, congregations or religious or spiritual groups; participation in meetings of associations cultural, recreational or other type; participation in meetings of associations ecological, civil rights, peace; participation in meetings of trade union organizations, participation in meetings of professional or trade associations; participation in meetings of political parties; performance of free activities for a party; payment of a monthly or quarterly fee for a sports club.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
5. **Civic and political participation:** People aged 14 and over who perform at least one of the activities of civic and political participation on total population aged 14 and over. The activities in question are: The activities in question are: to speak about politics at least once a week; to inform of the facts of Italian politics at least once a week; to attend online consultation or voting on social issues (civic) or political (e.g. urban planning, sign a petition) at least once in the 3 months prior to the interview, to read and to post opinions on social or political issues on websites or social media at least once in the 3 months preceding the interview.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
6. **Volunteer activity:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that have performed free activities for voluntary associations or groups in the last 12 months on total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
7. **Association funding:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that have funded associations in the last 12 months on total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.
8. **Nonprofit organisations:** Number of no-profit organizations per 10,000 inhabitants.
Source: Istat - Statistical register and Census of nonprofit institutions.
9. **Generalised trust:** Percentage of people aged 14 and over that feel that most people are worthy of trust on the total population aged 14 and over.
Source: Istat - Survey on Aspects of daily life.

Indicators by region and geographic area

REGIONS GEOGRAPHIC AREAS	Satisfaction with family relationships (a)	Satisfaction with friendships (a)	People you can count on (a)	Social participation (a)
	2023	2023	2023	2023
Piemonte	36.4	24.3	85.7	25.2
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	40.7	30.8	88.4	25.2
Liguria	38.9	26.6	81.4	25.3
Lombardia	36.9	25.3	83.0	28.8
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	41.0	30.5	85.3	36.8
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>33.7</i>	<i>85.5</i>	<i>39.7</i>
<i>Trento</i>	<i>40.6</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>85.1</i>	<i>33.9</i>
Veneto	35.5	24.4	86.3	30.1
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	34.7	23.9	83.9	27.9
Emilia-Romagna	37.3	25.7	85.3	28.6
Toscana	39.1	25.4	85.4	25.8
Umbria	38.1	27.5	86.1	25.4
Marche	29.4	21.0	86.1	27.2
Lazio	30.4	22.1	82.7	27.9
Abruzzo	31.2	23.8	85.6	26.0
Molise	26.5	19.1	87.3	22.9
Campania	26.8	19.1	82.4	21.6
Puglia	25.7	16.1	78.9	24.0
Basilicata	26.4	19.1	86.4	21.7
Calabria	26.1	17.0	89.4	20.9
Sicilia	29.6	18.7	80.4	19.7
Sardegna	32.9	22.7	89.7	25.9
North	36.8	25.3	84.5	28.5
North-West	37.0	25.2	83.6	27.5
North-East	36.6	25.4	85.6	29.9
Centre	33.6	23.4	84.2	27.0
South and Islands	27.9	18.8	82.9	22.2
South	26.8	18.4	82.9	22.6
Islands	30.4	19.7	82.8	21.3
Italy	33.2	22.7	83.9	26.1

(a) Per 100 persons aged 14 and over;

(b) Per 10,000 inhabitants.

5. Social relationships

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Civic and political participation (a)	Volunteer activity (a)	Financing of associations (a)	Non-profit organisations (b)	Generalised trust (a)
2023	2023	2023	2021	2023
64.2	9.1	11.5	70.4	25.1
63.8	9.9	13.5	110.1	31.3
65.4	8.7	12.4	74.0	27.5
67.1	9.7	14.6	58.1	27.1
65.6	16.0	21.0	113.5	37.1
65.5	13.8	20.7	107.4	35.2
65.6	18.0	21.2	119.5	39.0
66.2	9.4	12.2	63.0	28.6
63.0	10.1	14.3	91.0	27.2
68.4	9.2	14.9	61.8	26.7
63.3	8.6	14.9	73.4	26.5
62.2	8.3	11.9	82.7	23.6
62.5	6.9	12.9	76.1	29.2
63.3	6.3	9.6	59.9	25.9
61.6	6.7	9.7	64.9	22.2
55.6	5.9	7.1	71.9	18.6
49.2	4.8	5.4	39.0	23.0
51.6	6.4	7.7	48.3	20.2
48.6	7.3	8.9	67.9	22.8
48.3	5.6	6.5	55.3	26.9
49.7	4.6	4.5	47.1	12.1
59.9	7.7	10.8	70.9	27.4
66.4	9.6	13.9	66.2	27.4
66.1	9.4	13.6	63.4	26.6
66.6	10.0	14.3	70.1	28.5
63.1	7.2	11.8	67.8	26.4
51.5	5.6	6.6	49.8	20.4
51.1	5.7	6.8	48.2	22.6
52.3	5.3	6.1	53.0	15.9
60.7	7.8	11.0	61.0	24.8

