



**ANDISU**  
Associazione nazionale degli Organismi  
per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario



 Osservatorio  
regionale  
per l'Università  
e per il Diritto  
allo studio universitario



## Student support in Italy at a glance

————— *Luigi Filice, Federica Laudisa* —————

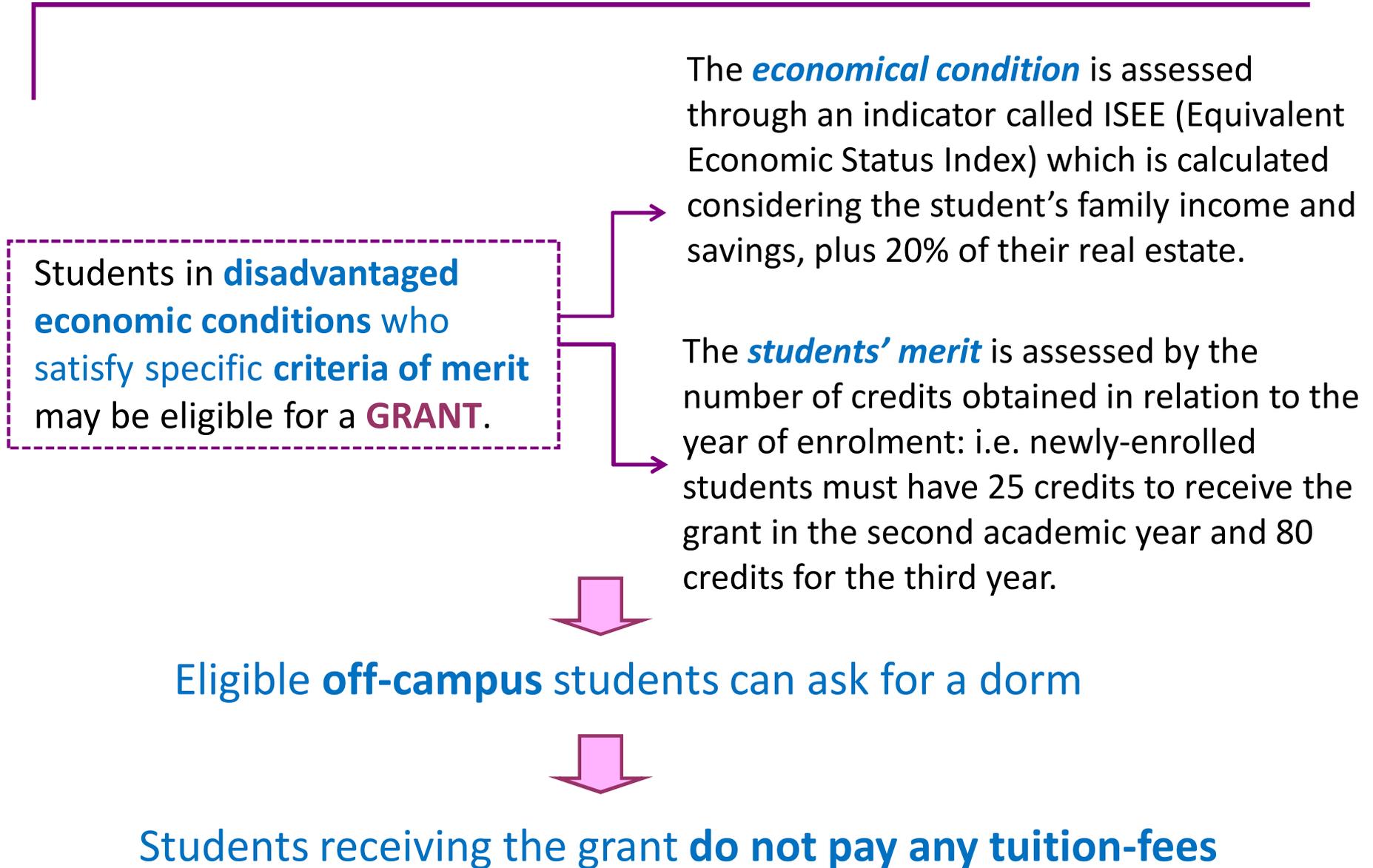
Strasbourg, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019

- Student support in Italy: how does it work?
- Are there critical points?
- Impact of the grant on students' performance
- Can “we” improve the Italian system?

## Student support in Italy: how does it work?



# Student support in Italy: how does it work?



## Student support in Italy: how does it work?

The system theoretically works because it offers:

- **grants**
- **free tuition-fees**
- **accommodation**
- **reduced rates in the university canteen**

to students with low income and good academic performance.

Moreover, eligible students participating **in mobility programs** receive an **additional amount of the grant**.



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**So, any problem?**

## Critical points



- Only few students are eligible for the grant

## Only few students are eligible for the grant

	ITALY 2017/18
University students	1,703,190
Eligible students	192,730
Eligible students vs. students ratio	11.3%

Note: the number of students includes enrolled to AFAM (Artistic and Musical Institutes)

**11.3%** of those enrolled in Italy are entitled to a grant.  
This percentage is increased by 1% in the last twelve years

## Critical points

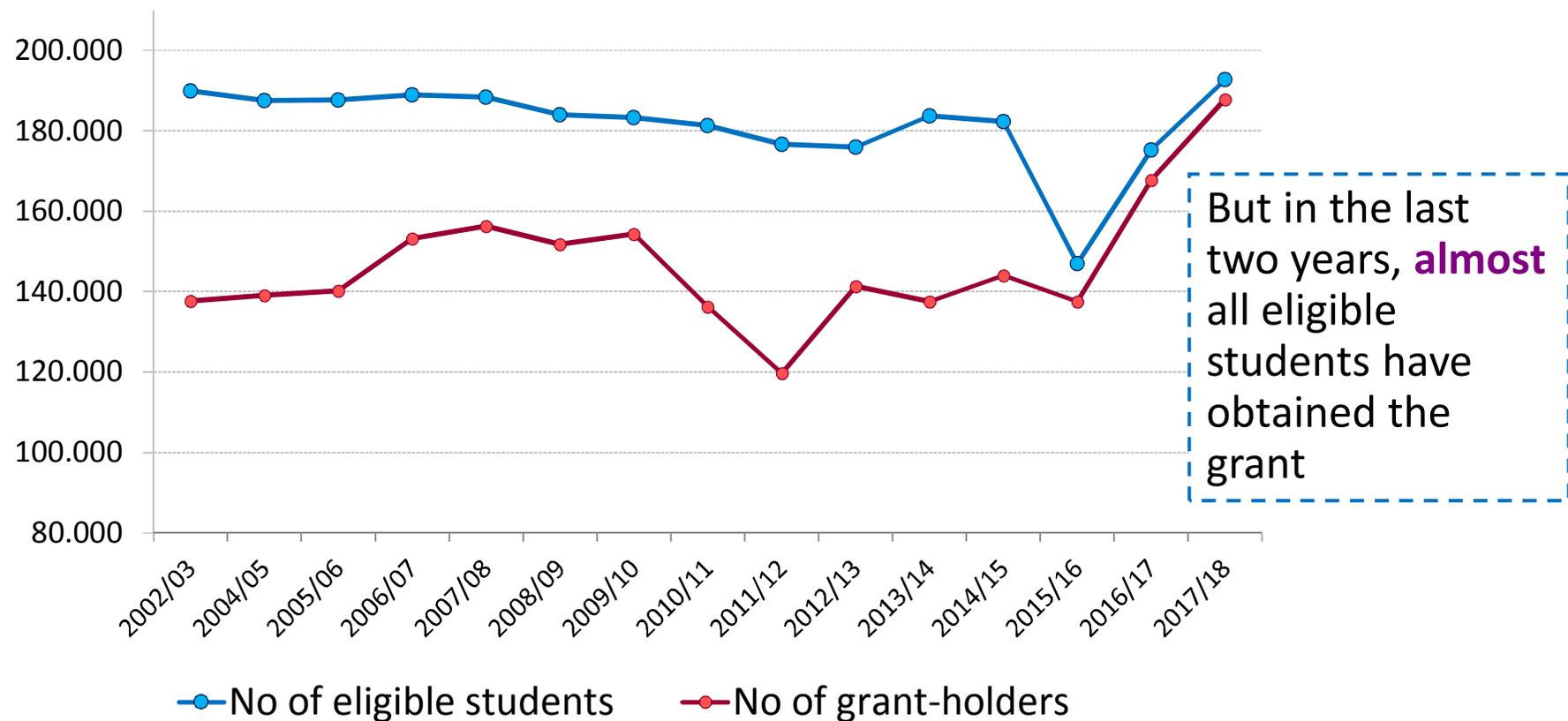
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- Only few students are eligible for the grant
- To be eligible for the grant doesn't automatically mean to be grant-holder

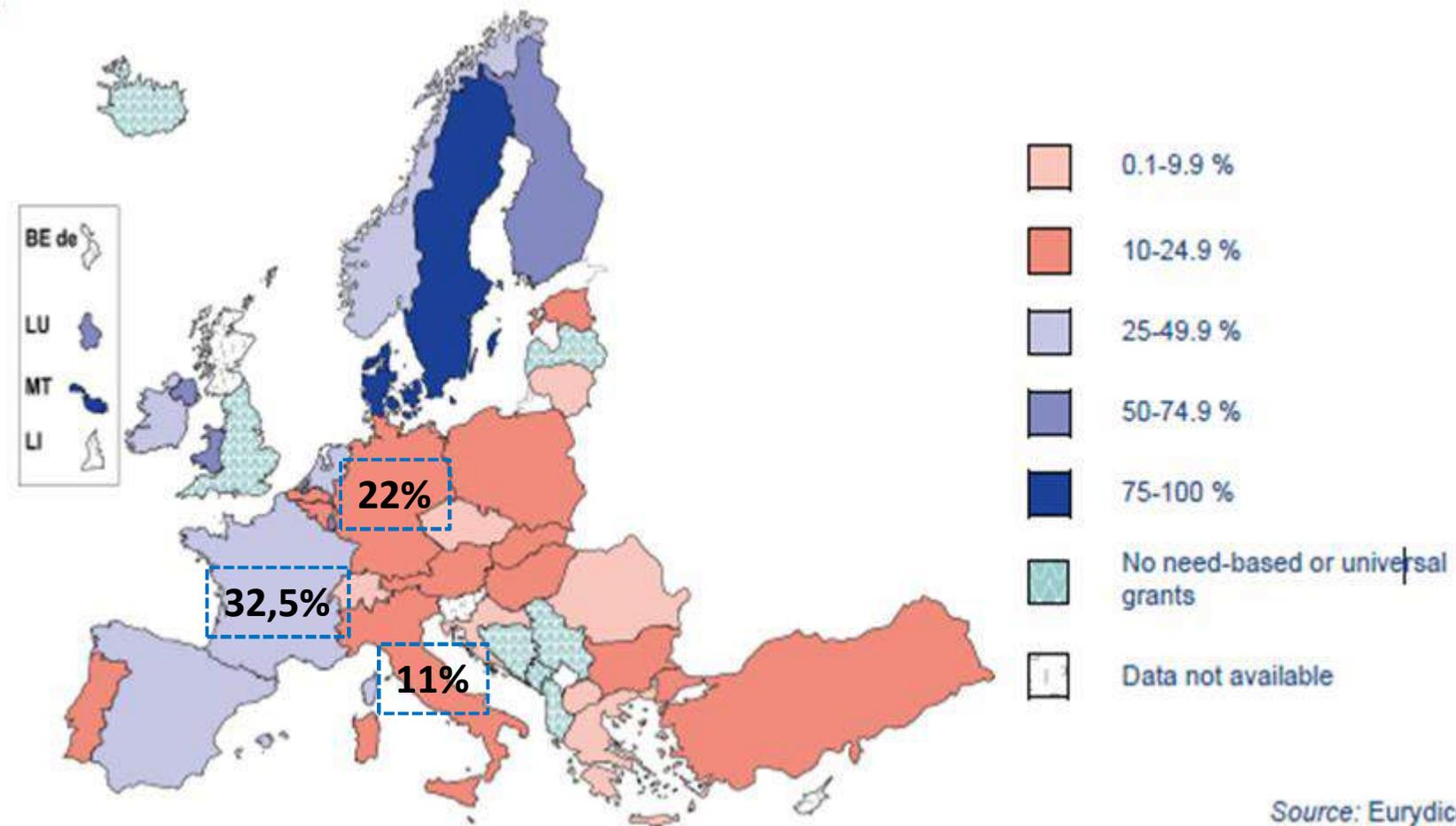
## Eligible ≠ grant-holder

Due to a lack of **funds**, the number of students receiving the grant is even lower: **187,867** in 2017/18

*Number of eligible and grant-holders students (2002/03 – 2017/18)*



## Percentage of full-time students who received a grant in European countries, 2017/18



- Only few students are eligible for the grant
- To be eligible for the grant doesn't automatically mean to be grant-holder
- Students know if they are grant-holders after the beginning of the university courses, usually in November
- Grant-holders normally receive the first tranche (50% of the total amount) in January and the second one, at the end of June or in September: an expense reimbursement instead of a grant!
- Few rooms available compared to the number of off-campus students

## Few rooms available



44,400 places for 1.7 million students

*In detail*



39,400 students live in public dorms,  
around 5,000 in the so-called “Collegi”  
(private dorms recognized by the State)

## Few rooms available

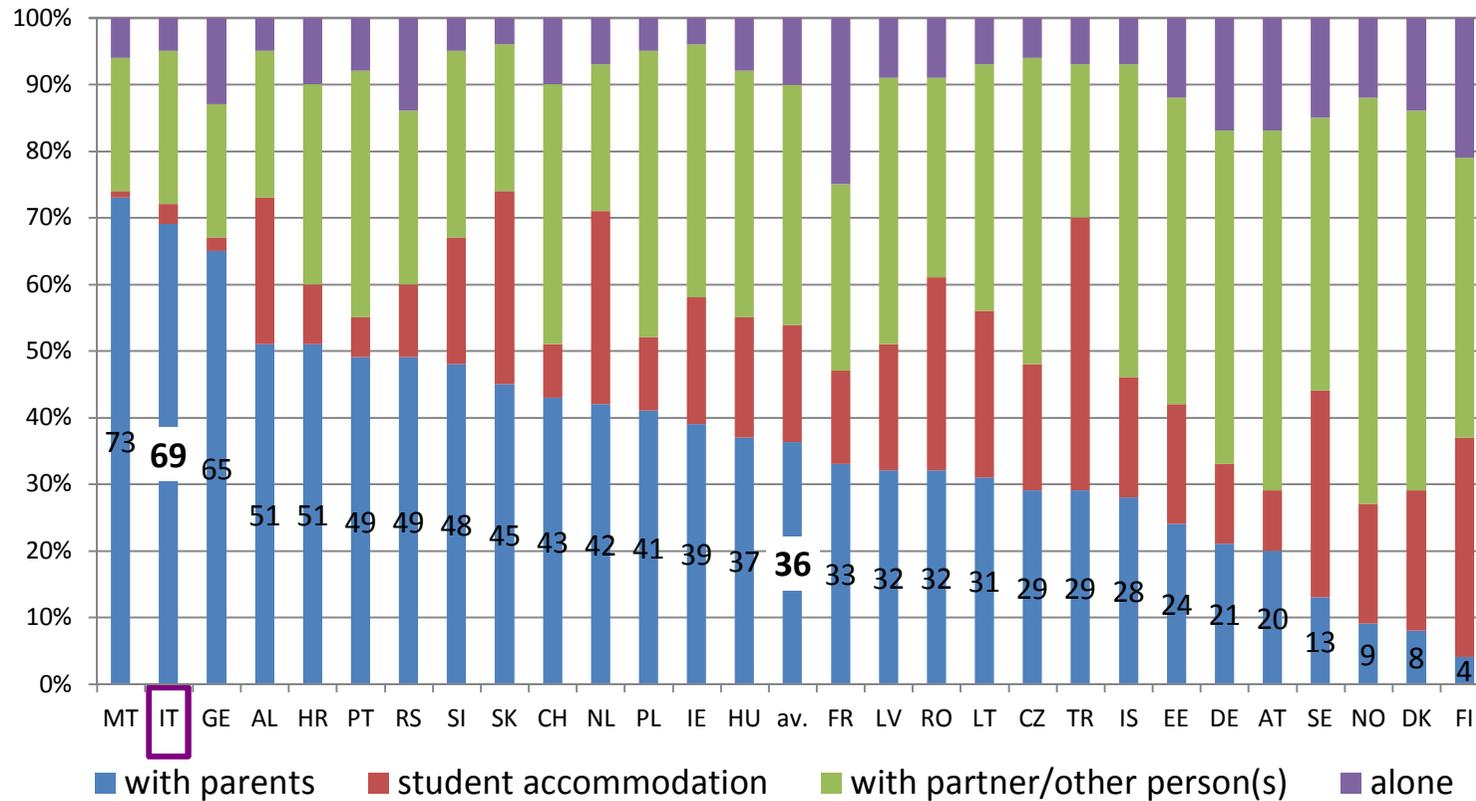
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In Italy, 400,000 students are off-campus, this means that  
**11% of them receives a room in a dorm**  
( the percentage varies considerably from region to region)

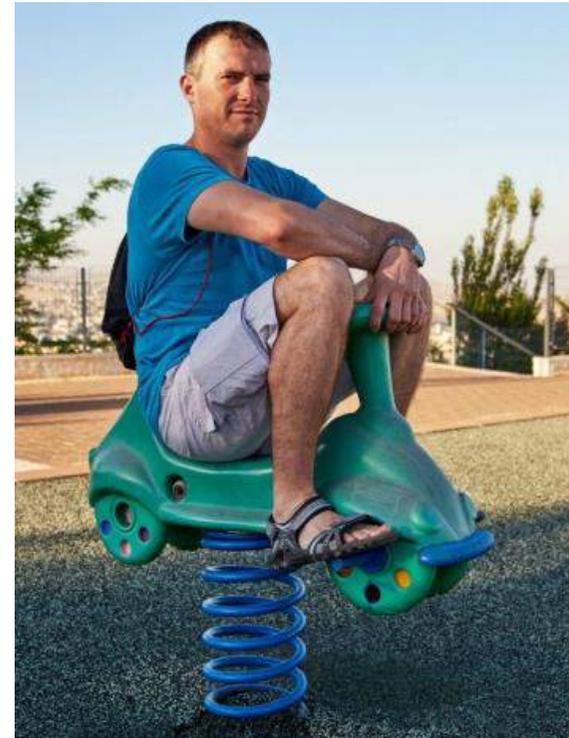
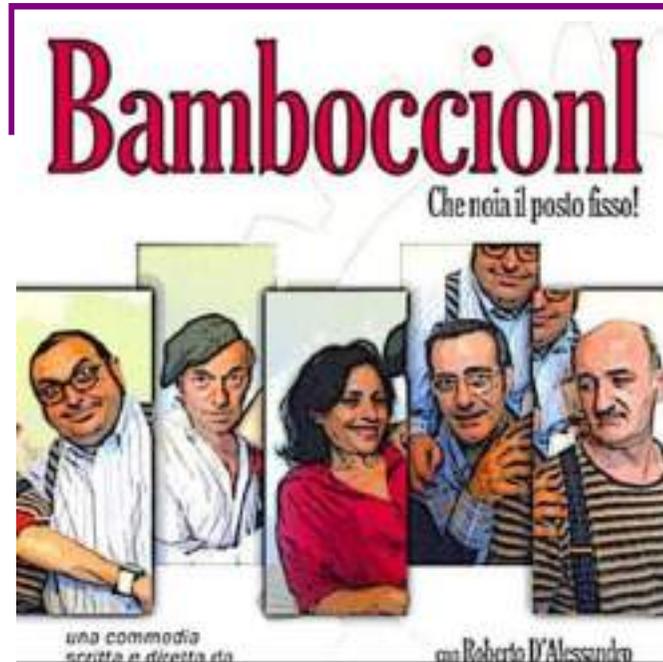
*One of the consequences is that...*

# Students' housing situation

69% of students lives with parents in Italy



It is one of the countries with the highest share of students that “chooses” this form of housing



Mammoni? (mama's boy)  
Impact on the society?  
(when adolescence finishes)  
Anyway, we need more dorms!

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- Canteen services underused

# Canteen services underused



In Italy, there are **252 university restaurants** plus plenty of agreements with private ceterias: in total **20,5 million meals** per year are consumed

On average, **a student eats 13 meals a year** = around 1 a month

a.y.	N° of meals	N° of meals per student a year
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>20,571,631</b>	<b>13</b>
2015/16	20,045,425	12
2011/12	21,245,753	12
2005/06	21,183,549	12

This figure has hardly changed compared to a dozen years ago!

## Impact of the grant on students' performance



## Impact of the grant on students' performance

Some studies show that **grant-holders have a better academic performance compared to their peers without a grant.**

In particular, using a *regression model*, we estimated that:

- the probability to drop out, in the first year, is 15.0% less for grant-holders than students without a grant;
- they obtain, on average, a higher number of credits a year (ten more than non-scholarship holders);
- they graduate in a shorter time: the probability to obtain the degree in 4 years is twice for the grant-holders



Probability to drop-out	%
<i>Female (vs Male)</i>	-3,9
<i>Age</i>	0,6
<i>Foreign student (vs Italian student)</i>	-5,9
<i>Commuters (vs living with parents)</i>	2,6
<i>Off-campus (vs living with parents)</i>	7,9
<i>Scientific school-leaving certificate (vs other institutes)</i>	-10,0
<i>Classical school-leaving certificate (vs other institutes)</i>	-2,3
<i>High school grade &gt;= 70 (vs grade &lt; 70)</i>	-0,3
<i>Polytechnic (vs University of Turin)</i>	2,0
<i>University of Piemonte Orientale (vs University of Turin)</i>	1,1
<b>Grant-holder</b>	<b>-14,9</b>

Note: In italics statistical results

## What about foreign student?

More or less 10% of Italian students are... not Italians



## What about foreign student?

Not everybody knows that:

Italian law considers the students without any distinction (richness, confession, **COUNTRY**,...)

12% of the total "Italian students" who have a grant are not Italians

Ministry of Interior has a yearly plan for refugees in which ANDISU is partner (100 grants)



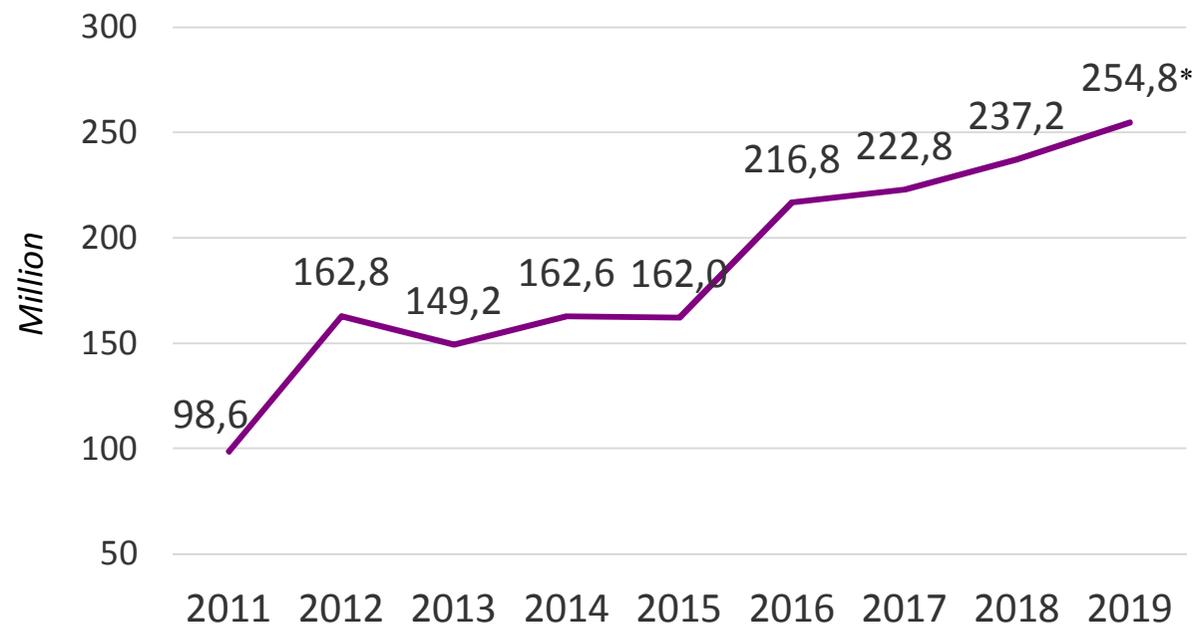
## Can “we” improve the Italian system?



## How to improve the Italian system?

- First, *ça va sans dire*, **more financial resources** are needed to pay all eligible students (even if the amount of the State Fund is increased by 57% in the last 5 years) – 660 M total budget/Y

*Amount of the State Fund, 2011-2019 (euro)*



# How to improve the Italian system?

- Second, *but not less important*, through **a greater national coordination**: ANDISU could play a tremendous role in that (with the Institutions, among the organizations, **with EU partners**)



# How to improve the Italian system?

For example, there are actually in Italy around 45 calls with different economic thresholds and deadlines.  
Moreover, they often use a language that is too much bureaucratic.



The challenge is to publish only one call to simplify students' life!  
*law4students, not students4law*



The road to become “one students’ nation” is still long  
and not obvious at all.

The Student Support Policy should have the same rules in  
all Italian **regions** and should be more **student-oriented**

Our Country have “to move” in this direction otherwise  
students will move Country!

Our systems have the major social responsibility  
for the World future

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