

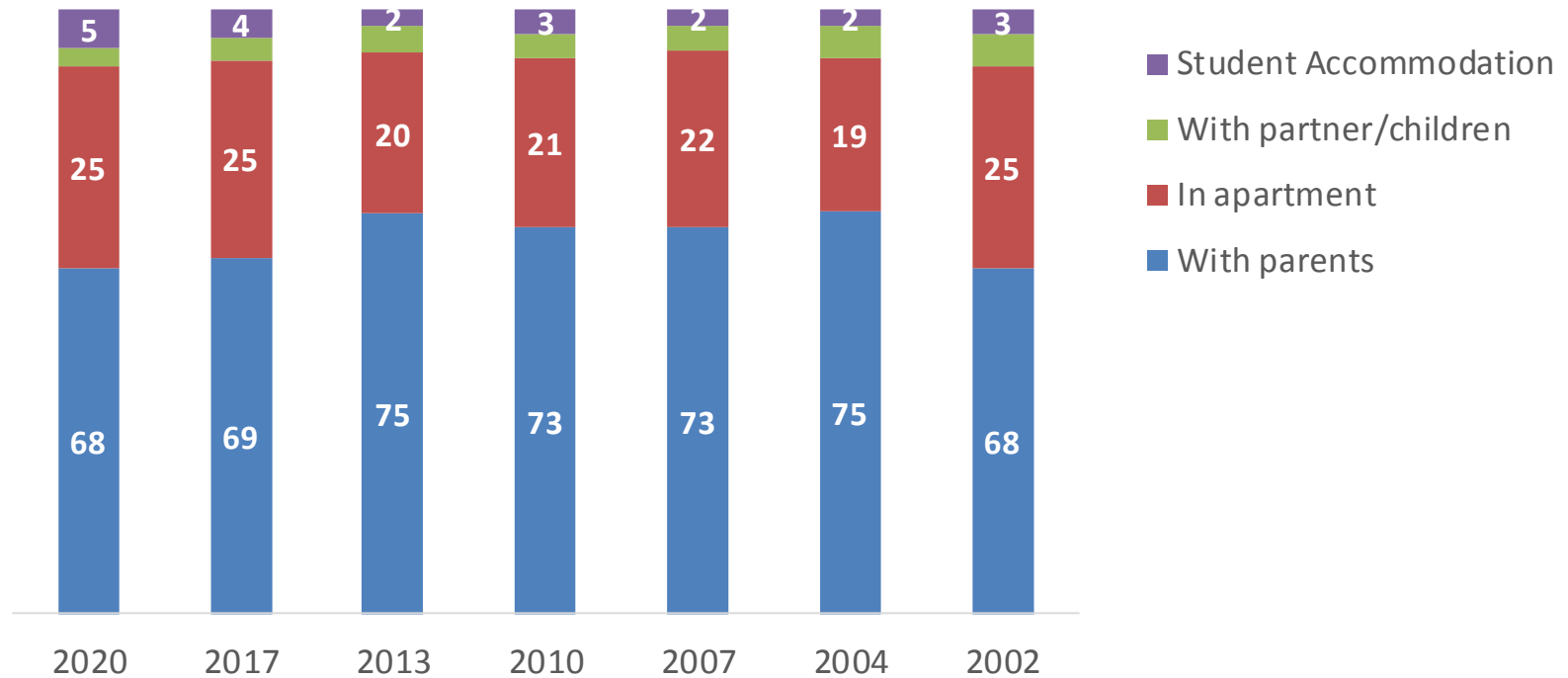


Demand and supply of student accommodation in Italy:
the role of public investment
changing patterns of student demand
open challenges for the Social Dimension

Giovanni Finocchietti, Federica Laudisa

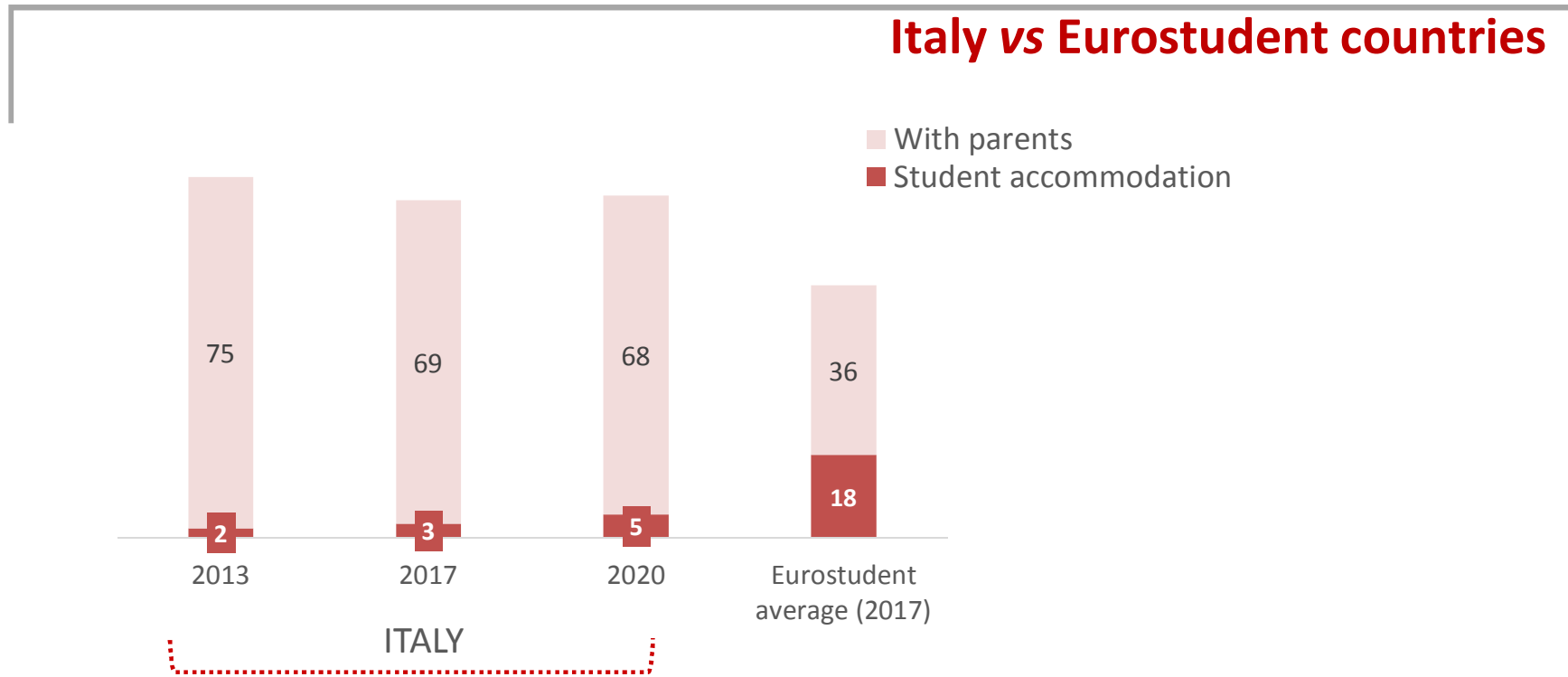
Eurostudent VII – Final Conference
19th May 2021

Student housing situation in Italy: comparison between different Eurostudent editions



Source: Eurostudent.

Share of students living in student accommodation: Italy vs Eurostudent countries



Source: Eurostudent V, VI, VII

In Italy, the share of students living in student accommodation has increased from 2013 to 2020 (+2 p.p.). Nevertheless, the available supply is still significantly lower than the potential demand (5%).

Furthermore, student accommodation is a much less used form of accommodation in comparison with the average of Eurostudent countries (18%).

Few places available

49,000 places for 1.7 million students

Three different forms of student housing:

- halls of residence **managed by Regional Bodies for Student Services**: 40,500 places



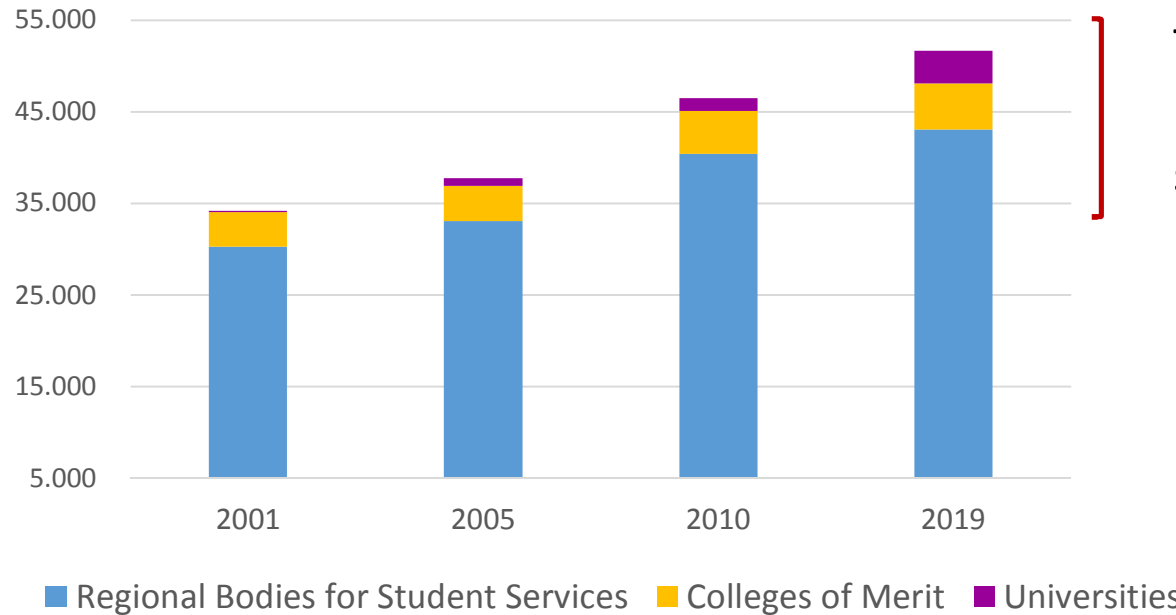
...of which **31,000 places**
at a low rate
for 106,000 grant-holders

- **“Colleges of Merit”** (private halls of residence recognised and co-financed by the State): 5,000 places
- halls of residence **managed by Universities**: 3,600 places

Source: UFF. STAT. MUR.

N. of places increased by 44%

Number of places by managing organisation



The increase has been particularly evident since 2005 because...

Source: UFF. STAT. MUR.

Available places have increased by 44% in 18 years
(2001: 34,200; 2019: 49,100).


N. of places has increased thanks to Law 338/2000

...in 2005, the Law n. 338/2000 began to produce its effects.

This law co-finances (up to 50%) new halls of residence **built or renovated** by Regional Bodies for Student Services, Universities, Colleges of Merit or other entities

| Years | New accommodation |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 2005-2020 | 18,413 |
| 2021- | 5,600* |

*Expected, presently accepted for co-funding.

A critical point  The increase of new places has been delayed by long implementation times (bureaucracy)

Next Generation EU: National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) allocates 960 million euros to build student housing.

The **target** stated in the Plan is to **create over 60,000 places by 2026**.

The expected outcome is to reach more than 100,000 places available overall.

How?

The Plan provides for the promotion of private investments, granting financial benefits to investors.

Why is public investment in student accommodation important?

- It helps to reduce student living costs, especially for those in disadvantaged economic conditions
- It encourages geographical mobility across the country
- It supports good study performance:
 - “ Eurostudent data show that students not living at home have a time budget for studies higher than those living with parents
 - “ An IRES survey shows that they progress more regularly and drop-out less
- It helps to create a community among peers. In some focus groups*, students say:
 - “Living in halls of residence makes you grow; you learn to respect others when you live together”*
 - “Here there is also a lot of collaboration in the studies, it comes from the need for help and support in the study”*
 - “Being in a community made me feel immediately at home, we are all united”*

*F. Laudisa (2017), *Il costo di gestione delle residenze universitarie: un'analisi comparativa, Regione Piemonte, Celid, Torino*

The National Scenario

- Public investment is strategic to face the mismatch in demand/supply of student accommodation
- The present policies and future plans are challenging for the Italian HE System and the whole country but could result in a structural upgrade of the student accommodation supply

Social dimension

Investment in (new) public student housing is a well-targeted political measure

- to contrast the risk of declining social and geographical mobility due to the effects of Pandemic on access to Higher Education
- to create an inclusive environment that fosters equity, diversity, and responsiveness to the needs of local communities (EHEA Rome 2020 – Ministerial Communiqué)

Post-Covid student accommodation demand

Effect of pandemic on the balance of onsite/online education - shift to a mixed model?

- “ expected increase of distance education students (traditional/non-traditional)
- “ expected impact on student accommodation: increasing demand of flexible/non-continuous accommodation in addition to “traditional”, medium-long time demand

A national commitment

Fulfilling the existing and the new student accommodation demands cannot be spasmodic or be delegated to the private sector; it must be a goal of the whole public student welfare system.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Giovanni Finocchietti (Director Italian Eurostudent Survey – CIMEA)
g.finocchietti@cimea.it

Federica Laudisa (Senior researcher – IRES Piemonte)
laudisa@ires.piemonte.it

www.eurostudent.it

www.cimea.it

www.ossreg.piemonte.it

www.ires.piemonte.it

