

Political Participation in Italy

Year 2013

In 2013, about 5 million 700 thousand people (10.8% of the population aged 14 and over) expressed their political commitment participating in mass-meetings (6.7% of the population aged 14 and over, on the rise compared to 2012), participating in marches (4.5%), financially supporting a party (2.6%) or doing unpaid activities for a party (1.1%).

A much larger share of the Italian population participated in the political life of the country in an invisible manner, talking about politics, taking information or listening to political debates. They were more than 42 million people (80.2% of the population aged 14 and over).

In particular, 48.9% of people aged 14 and over (39.4% in 2009) discussed about politics at least once a week, 15.4% every day; while 21.9% talked about politics sometimes each month or less frequently. 64.3% of people aged 14 and over informed themselves about the issues of Italian politics at least once a week (60.7% in 2009), 37.7% every day and 12.7% more rarely. Listening to political debates was less common, it actually concerned 26.9% of the population aged 14 and over (23.6% in 2009).

Despite the decline, television still remained the most popular way of accessing news: it was used by 91.8% of those who informed themselves about politics (93.5% in 2009). It was followed by newspapers (in sharp decline, passing from 49.9% to 42.3%), radio (32.9%), weekly magazines (from 11.3% to 10.5%) and other magazines (3.6%). 30.3% of people took information by hearing and debating with friends (24.9% in 2009), relatives (from 18.8 to 24.5%), colleagues (15.4%) and acquaintances (from 10.4% to 14.1%); while only 2.3% of people informed themselves by using political organizations or trade unions.

In 2013, slightly fewer than 11 million 900 thousand people aged 14 and over got informed about politics through the Internet. They were, on the whole, 29.3% of those who informed about politics.

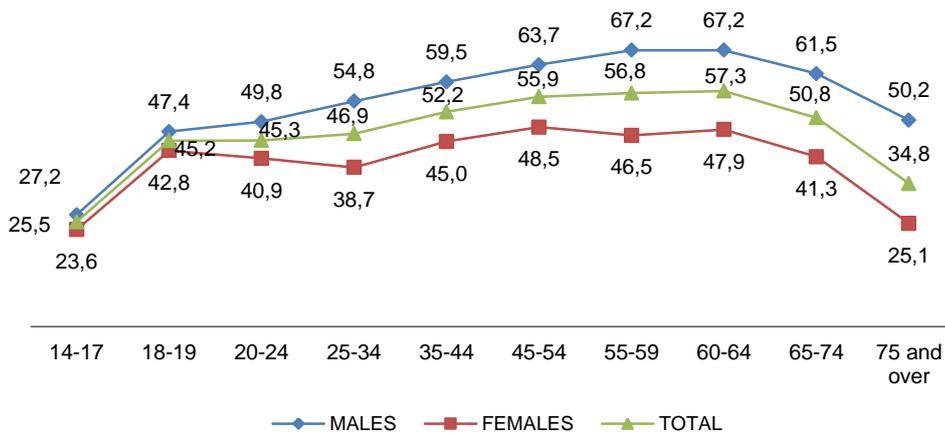
The most widely used access was online reading of newspapers, news and magazines (more than 9 million people, 77.7% of those who got information through the Internet); 45% used social network sites or blogs, newsgroups or discussion forums; 20.3% used online radio or television and 13.7% sites of parties.

Among young people aged 14-34 who informed themselves about politics through the Internet, 25.3% read exclusively online newspapers, news and magazines, and 12.1% used social networks sites. For people aged over 34, the proportion of those getting information exclusively through online newspapers, news and magazines doubled, and the share of those using exclusively social networks sites halved.

27.4% of the population aged 14 and over never talked about politics (about 5 million men and 9 million 400 thousand women) and 21.4% never took information (about 4 million men and 7 million 200 thousand women). Among those who never got information, 63.5% signaled the lack of interest, 28.6% the distrust. 12.7% considered politics a complicated topic and 4.9% did not have time to devote to politics.

Approximately 9 million 300 thousand people, i.e. 17.7% of the population aged 14 years and older, neither talked nor informed about politics, nor listened to political debates. They did not participate in marches, in mass-meetings and neither they did unpaid activities for a party nor supported it financially.

FIGURE 1 - PERSONS AGED 14 AND OVER WHO TALKED ABOUT POLITICS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK BY GENDER AND AGE CLASS. YEAR 2013 (Percentage)



For more details please refer to the Italian version

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