OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

# Government at a Glance 2017

www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm

## Country Fact Sheet

# Italy

### Fiscal balances have improved, yet government debt levels remain high

Fiscal consolidation brought the deficit down from 5.3% of GDP in 2009 to 2.7% of GDP in 2015, close to the OECD average of 2.8%. However, the effects of the double-dip recessions in 2009 and 2012 have been reflected in government gross debt levels, which remain persistently high in Italy, reaching 157.5% of GDP in 2015 according to the *System of National Accounts* definition – the third largest gross debt level among OECD countries- as compared to an average of 112% of GDP across the OECD countries.

Chapter 2. Public finance and economics

General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP
General government debt as a percentage of GDP

### Italy has carried out several comprehensive spending reviews to help prioritize public expenditures

In order to make sure that government expenditure is allocated to the priorities of the country in the face of fiscal consolidation, Italy has carried out six comprehensive spending reviews between 2008 and 2016, which has helped the government navigate through fiscal tightening with better evidence at its disposal.

Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures

Frequency and scope of spending reviews

### Italy has the highest proportion of central government employees aged 55 or older

The share of Italy's central government workforce aged over 55 years is close to 45%, compared to the 24% average across the OECD countries. Italy also has the lowest share of young people working for the central government, where only 2% workers are between 18 and 34 years old. This calls for careful workforce planning that will ensure that the mass retirement of employees will not result in loss of institutional memory and will not affect the quality of public services.

Chapter 3. Public employment and pay

Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older
Share of people employed in the central government by age group

## How to read the figures:

Italy — Country value in **blue** (not represented if not available)

Average of OECD countries in **red**

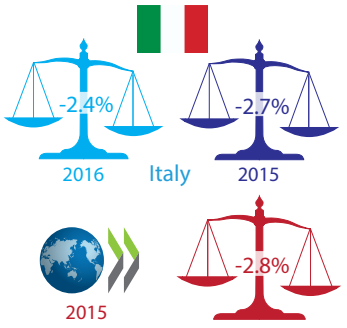
Range of OECD country values in **grey**

Values have been rounded. **n.a.** refers to data not available

# Public Finance and Economics

### Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

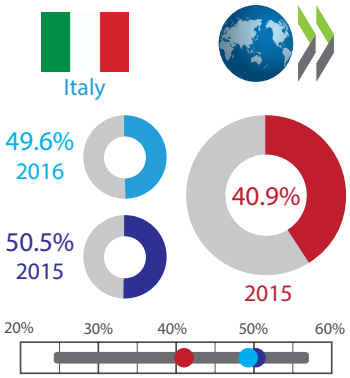



** See Notes*

Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government expenditures (2015, 2016)

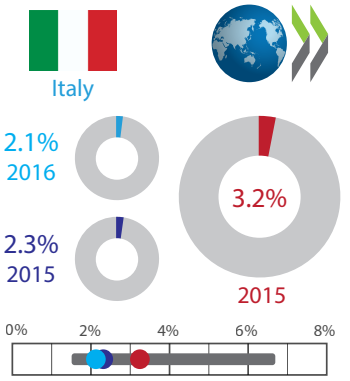
% of GDP




Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government investment (2015, 2016)

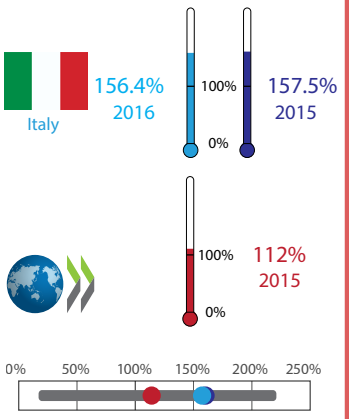
% of GDP




Source: OECD National Accounts

### Government gross debt* (2015, 2016)

% of GDP

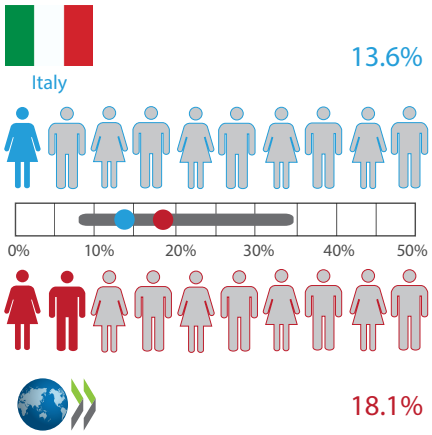



** SNA definition, see Notes*

Source: OECD National Accounts

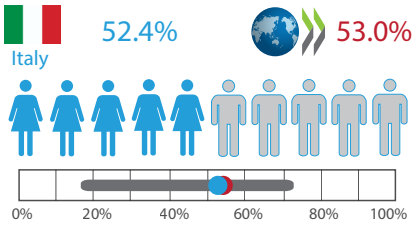
# Public Employment

### General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

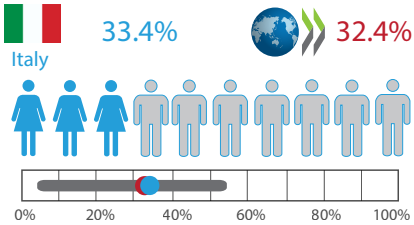



Source: OECD National Accounts

### Women in the civil service ...

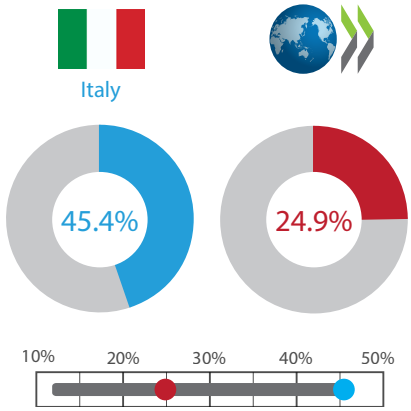



### ... and in senior positions (2015)




Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

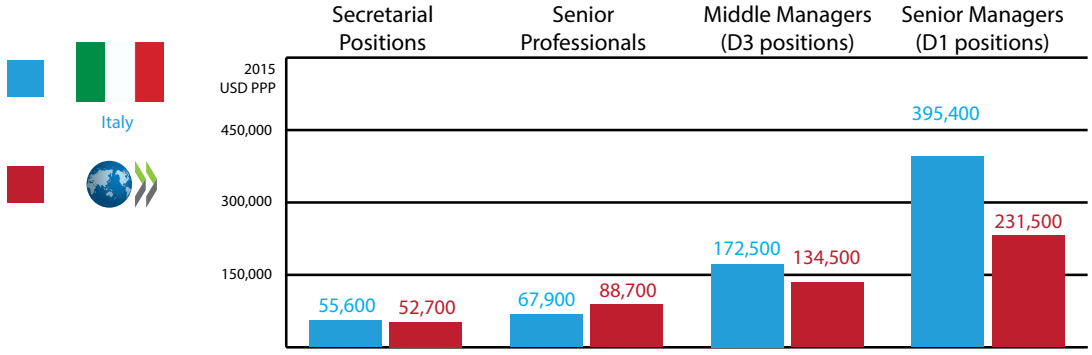
### Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)




Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

# Public Sector Compensation

### Annual compensation across central government positions* (2015)

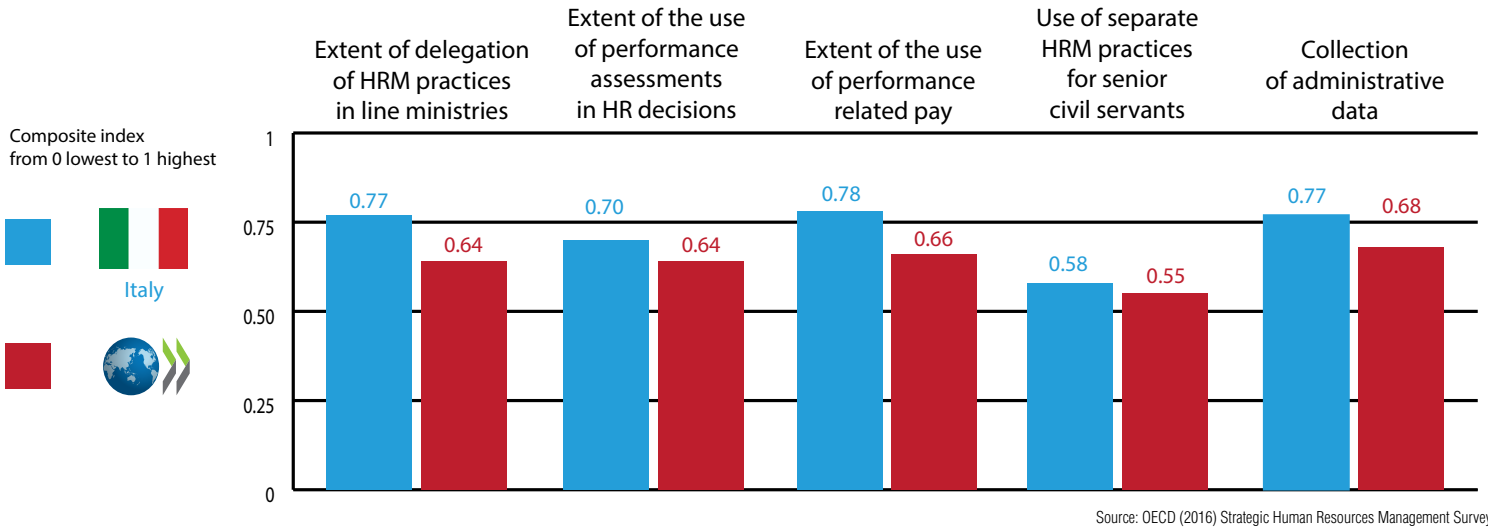



** The level of compensation for senior managers is maximized by law and as a result, their compensation has been reduced substantially compared to 2011.*

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

# Human Resource Management

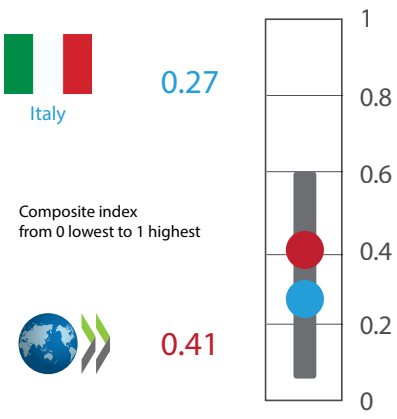
## Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)




Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

# Budgeting

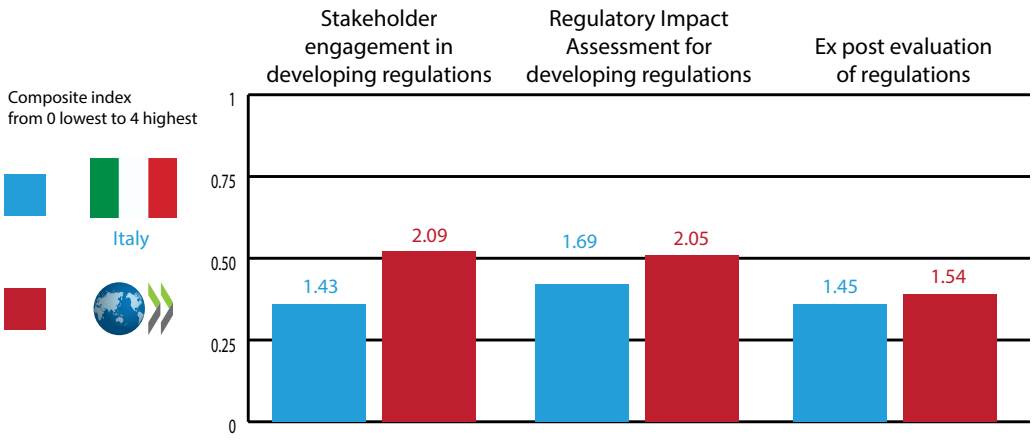
## Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)




Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

# Regulatory governance

## Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)



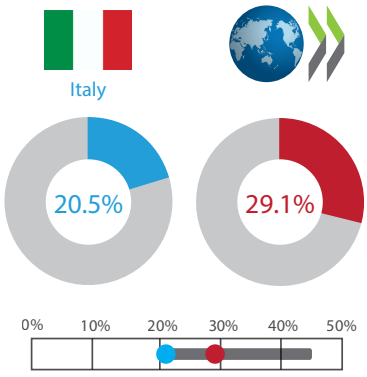

** See Notes*

Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance *(iREG)*

# Public Procurement

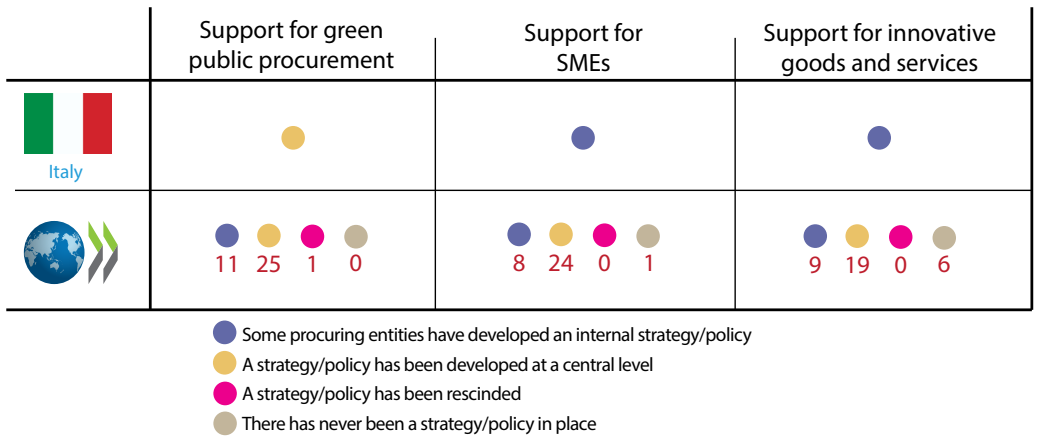
## General government procurement expenditures (2015)

% of government expenditures




Source: OECD National Accounts

## Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)

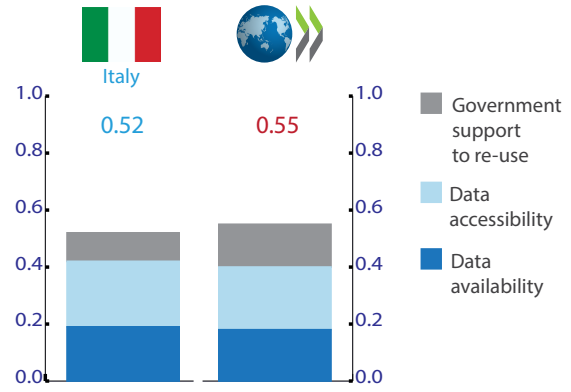



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement

# Open Data

## *OURdata* Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017)

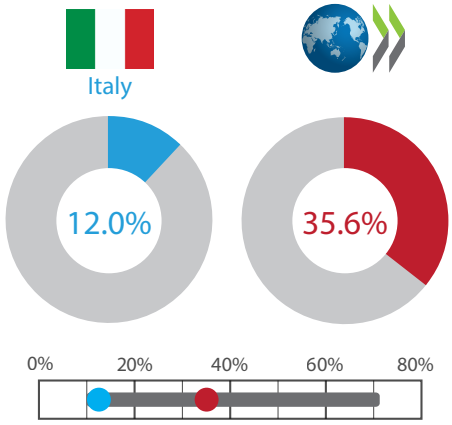
Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest




Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Open Government Data

# Digital Government

## Individuals using the Internet for sending filled forms via public authorities websites in the past 12 months (2016)

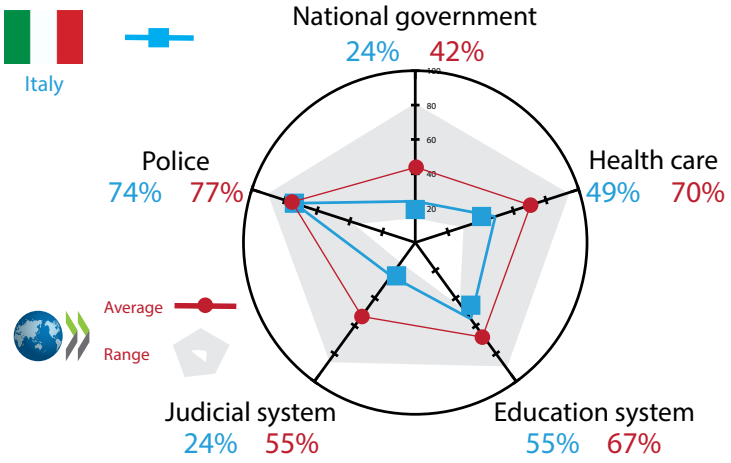



Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

# Core Government Results

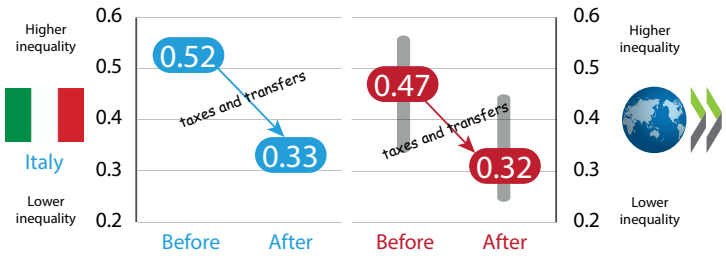
## Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2016)

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction




Source: Gallup World Poll

## Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2013)




Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

## Limited government powers (2016)

Source: The World Justice Project

**Notes**

- **Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- **Regulatory governance indicators:** The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).
- **Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

## Government at a Glance 2017

*Government at a Glance* provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

**The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in *Government at a Glance 2017* are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:**
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en

**For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets:** www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm