

Technical and Vocational Education and Training Quality: Empirical Evidence from IFTS Programmes

Andrea Carlini, Claudia Spigola

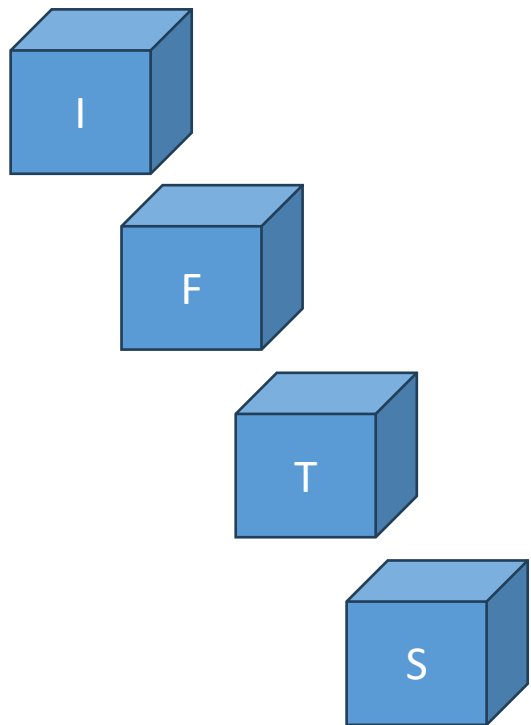
Roma, 1 settembre 2026

CONTENTS:

- **WHAT ARE IFTS PROGRAMMES?**
- **MONITORING DATA**
- **EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES**
- **CONCLUSIONS**



WHAT ARE IFTS PROGRAMMES?



Higher Technical Education and Training

- ❑ **Duration:** 800–1,000 hours (approximately 1 year).
- ❑ **Post-secondary vocational education and training programmes .**
- ❑ **Award a Higher Technical Specialisation Certificate(EQF Level 4).**
- ❑ **Programme structure:** Classroom instruction; Practical laboratory activities; Work-based internship (at least 30% of the programme).
Teaching staff: Teachers; Industry experts; Company professionals.



WHAT ARE IFTS PROGRAMMES?



Objectives of IFTS Programmes

- ☐ Provide **upskilling** and **reskilling** opportunities for young people and adults.
- ☐ Improve access to employment and support re-entry into the labour market.
- ☐ Reduce the skills mismatch between the supply of qualified workers and labour market demand.



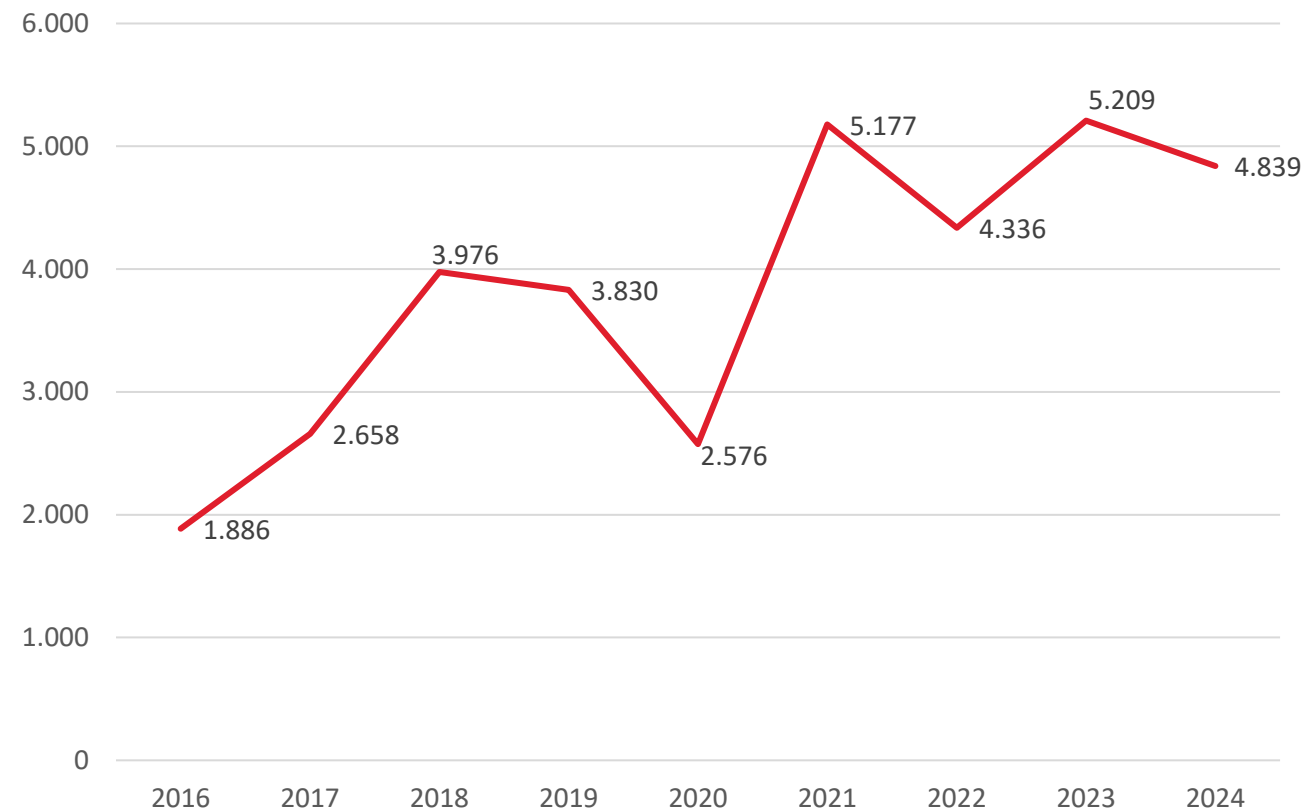
Regional Distribution of IFTS Programmes in Italy (2015–2024)

Region	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Piemonte	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lombardia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
P.A. Trento	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liguria	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Veneto	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Friuli Venezia Giulia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emilia-Romagna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marche	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toscana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abruzzo	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Campania	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Basilicata	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Puglia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

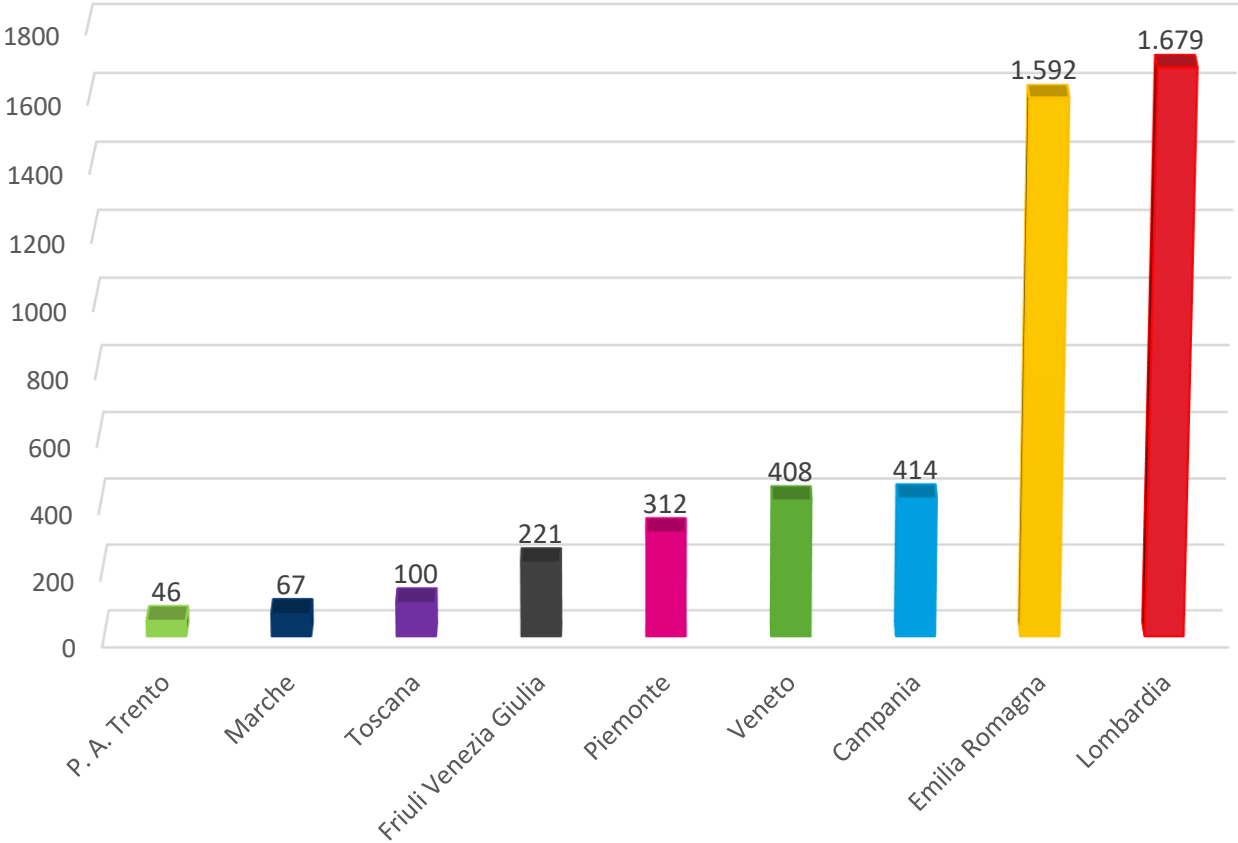
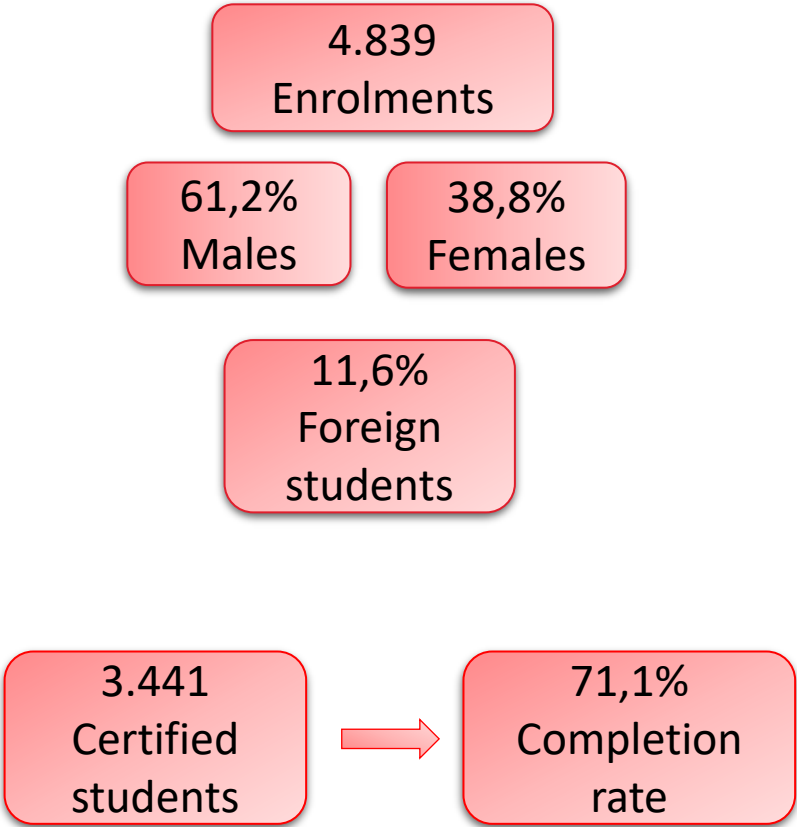
 = Programmes Offered  = No Programmes Offered



Number of IFTS Enrolled Students, 2016–2024 (absolute values)



Number of Students Enrolled in IFTS Programmes, 2024 (absolute values)

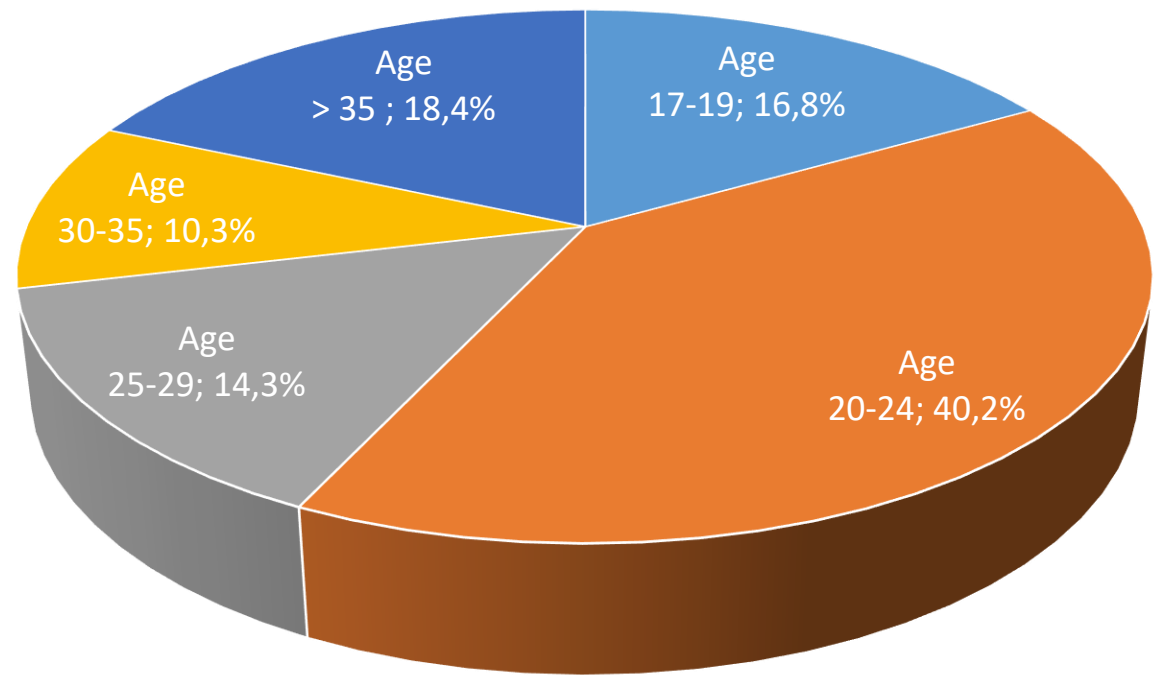


IFTS Enrolments by Economic Sector, 2024 (%)

Categories	Enrolments
Mechanical Engineering, Plant Engineering and Construction	39,7%
Culture, Information and Information Technologies	23,6%
Tourism and Sport	14,8%
Commercial Services	11,5%
Manufacturing and Craftsmanship	10,4%



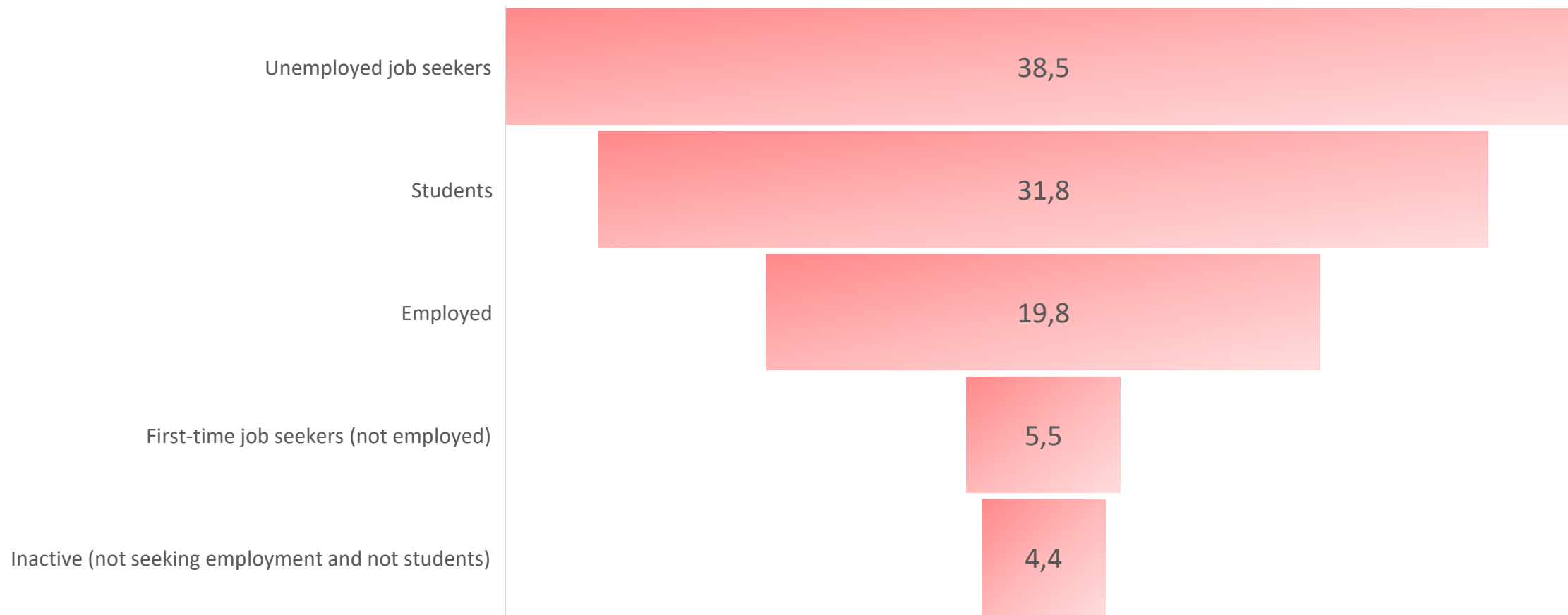
IFTS Enrolments by Age Group, 2024 (%)



Source: INAPP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (MLPS), based on regional and provincial data (IFTS Reports 2016–2025)



IFTS Enrolments by Employment Status, 2024 (%)

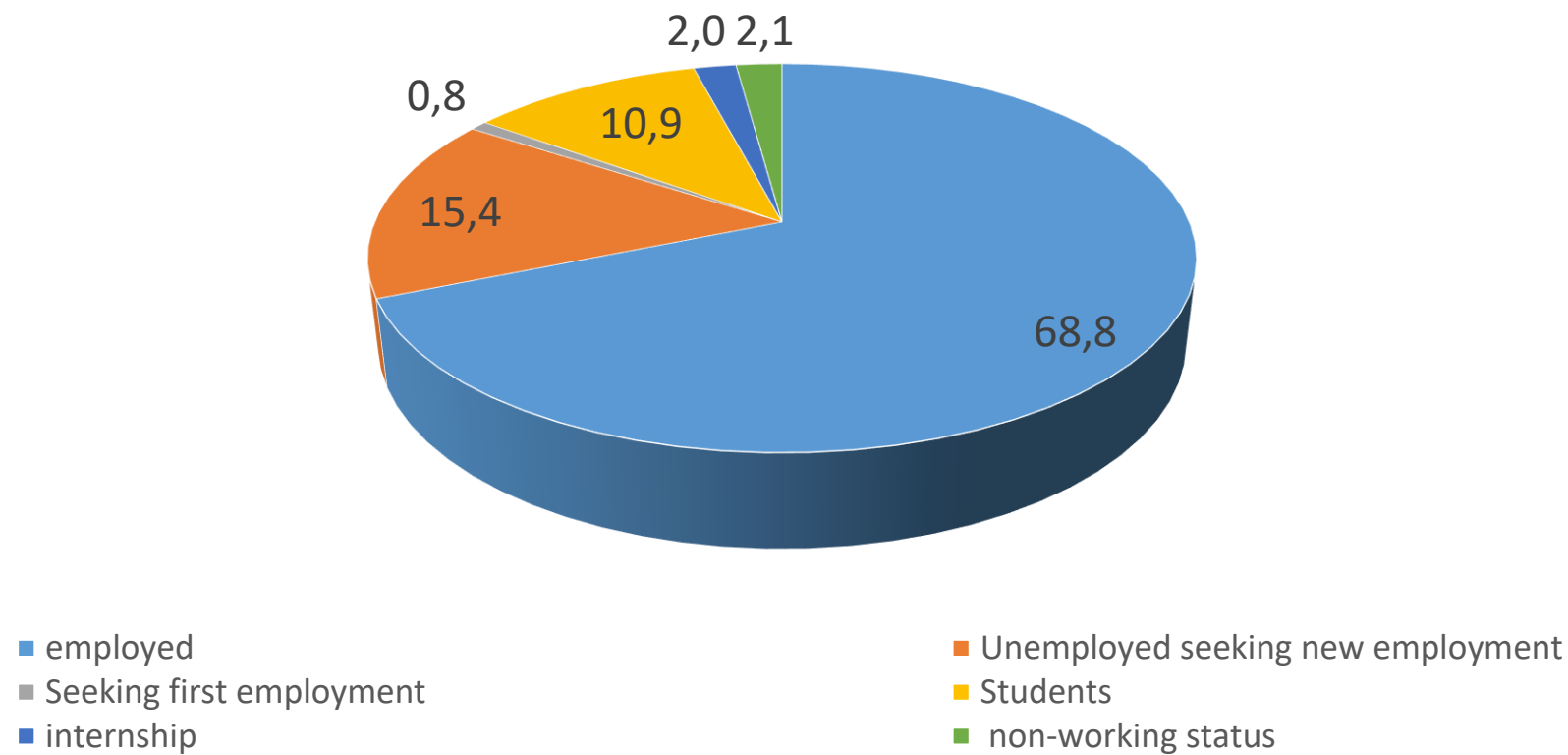


Survey on Employment Outcomes

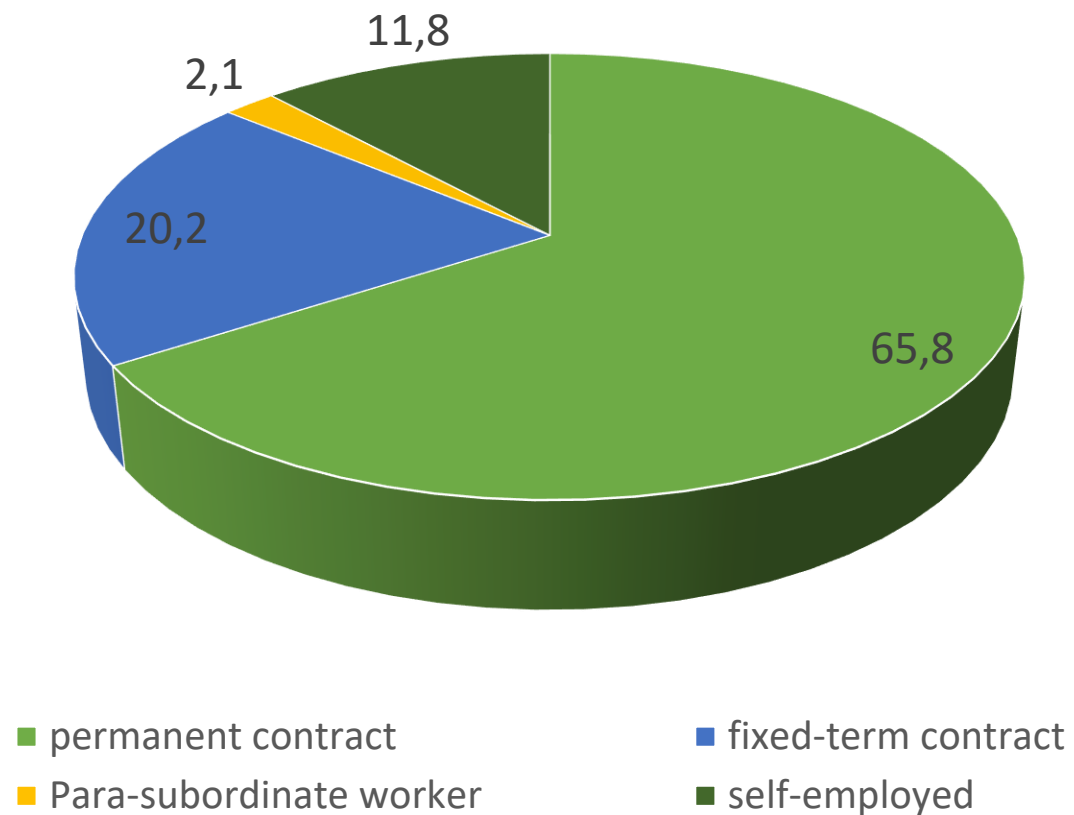
- ☐ **Type:** Recurring and census survey
- ☐ **Population:** IFTS graduates from 2019 interviewed two years after completing the programme.
- ☐ **Analysis of employment status and contract type**



Employment Status of Respondents Two Years After Programme Completion (5th Survey Edition) (%)



Contractual status of employed respondents two years after the end of the course (5th edition of the survey) %



Key Findings

- ☐ High employment effectiveness;
- ☐ Widespread use of permanent employment contracts;
- ☐ Alignment between acquired skills and companies' needs;
- ☐ Consistency between training and employment;
- ☐ The key role of internships as an entry channel into the labour market.



CONCLUSIONS

Strengths:

- ☐ Strong link between public investment, skills development and territorial needs.
- ☐ An integrated education and training system, oriented towards innovation and sustainable human capital development.
- ☐ High level of training completion and achievement.
- ☐ Capacity to support successful transitions into the labour market.

Key Challenges:

- ☐ Improve awareness and understanding of the IFTS system among students and families.
- ☐ Promote wider access to IFTS programmes across the country, reducing regional disparities.
- ☐ Strengthen connections with universities and ITS Academy pathways.
- ☐ Update the National Catalogue of higher technical specialisation profiles (last updated in 2013).





GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE



www.inapp.gov.it