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Global Migration: Perceptions and Reality

by *Ciro DeFalco*

The debate over immigration has raised such emotions that people find it difficult to differentiate between what is true and what is not. What is true is that there is a sizeable and unregulated flow of immigrants from the south to the north, both in the United States and Europe. What is untrue is that the economic difficulty facing the working middle class in the United States and Europe can be attributable to this flow of people.

There are no doubts that low-skilled workers and some skilled ones compete with these immigrants. But a number of studies indicate that the reasons for the overall stagnation of incomes and loss of jobs for the working middle class in the developed countries is attributable primarily to technological change (machines replacing workers) and globalization (jobs being moved abroad to lower-wage countries).

The narrative pushed by some political groups on both sides of the Atlantic that immigration amounts to an economic, political, and cultural threat seems to be gaining ground. As a result, the average voter tends to overestimate the size of the immigrant population. This makes it more difficult for governments to come up with effective solutions to the immigration problem. And these beliefs also seem to reduce the support for redistributive and safety-net programs for the poor in the recipient countries.

In a recent study by Harvard University, based on surveys in a number of European countries and the United States, coordinated by Professor Alberto Alesina, et al., tries to measure the magnitude of the overestimation of the immigrant population. It found that people across the board significantly overestimate the immigrant population in their country, as shown in the chart on the following page.

The results show that in all the countries, the

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At "Founders" Reception Robert Facchina Announces Major Grant to New Italian American Museum in D.C.



Fr. Ezio Marchetto, Susan Facchina, Robert Facchina, Francesco Isgro, Joe Lupo

At a reception held recently to honor donors to the Capital Founders Fund, a group dedicated to supporting the ongoing and future operations of Casa Italiana, Robert Facchina, an entrepreneur and philanthropist and his wife Susan, presented the Casa Italiana Socio-cultural Center with a check for \$125,000.

The amount represents one-half of his commitment to help establish the Robert and Susan Facchina Italian American Museum of Washington D.C. The Museum will be part of Casa Italiana and will focus on the Italian legacy in and around our Nation's Capital.

Mr. Facchina and Francesco Isgro, the newly-elected president of Casa Italiana, signed the gift agreement at the reception, which was held to show appreciation

to individuals who have donated or pledged at least \$5,000 to the CISC Capital Founders Fund, as Casa Italiana increases its footprint and begins a new chapter in its history.

Dr. Joseph Lupo, the outgoing President of CISC, welcomed the more than 70 guests to the reception and thanked the Board members for their work since June 2017, when the CISC was formally established. Dr. Lupo remains as President of the Casa Italiana Language School.

Fr. Ezio Marchetto, Chairman of CISC, presented a slide show outlining the plans and progress during the

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Concerts at Casa 5

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