

HUI216

Italian Civilization

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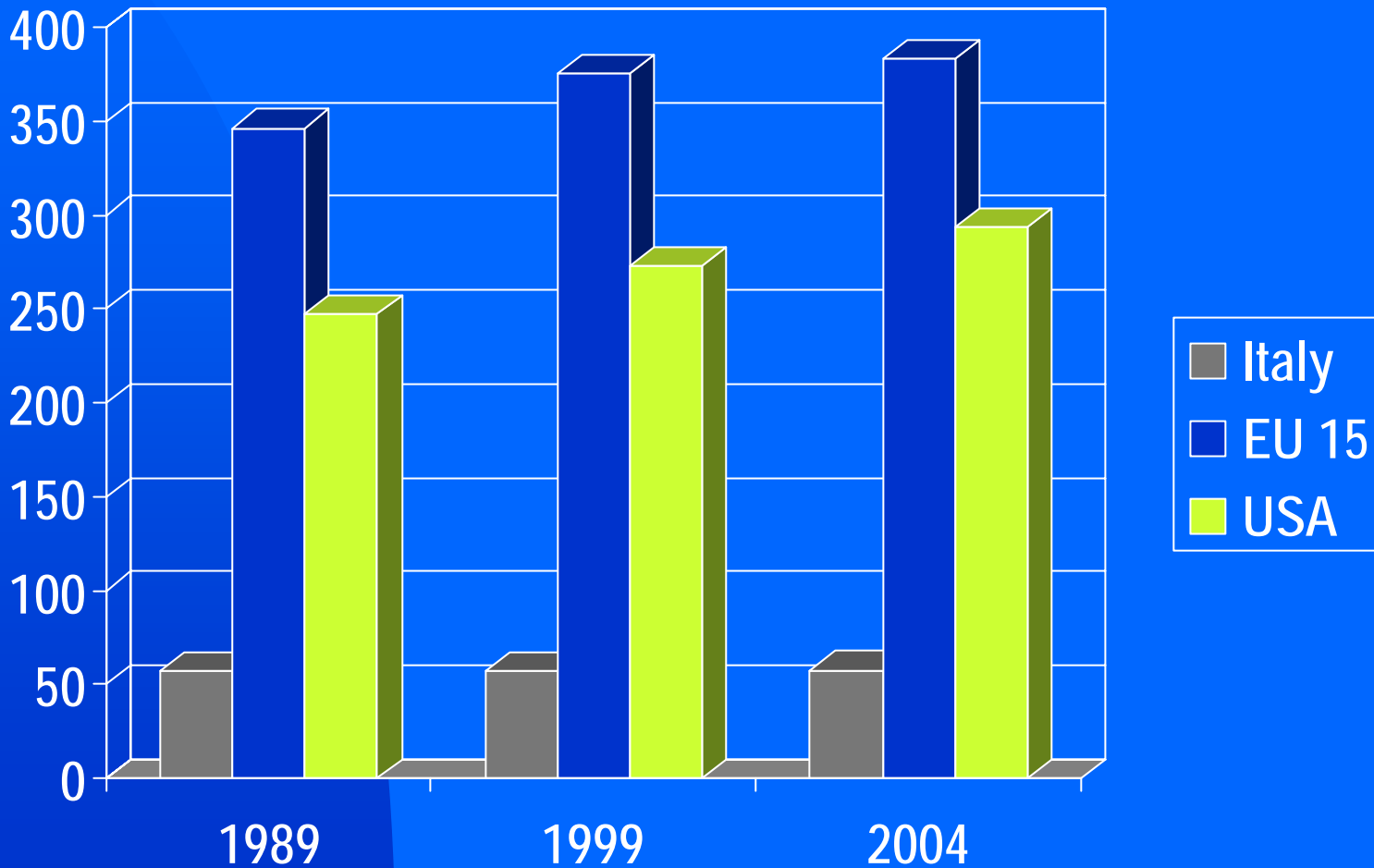
The class Web site

- <http://www.campo7.com/hui216w>
 - updates

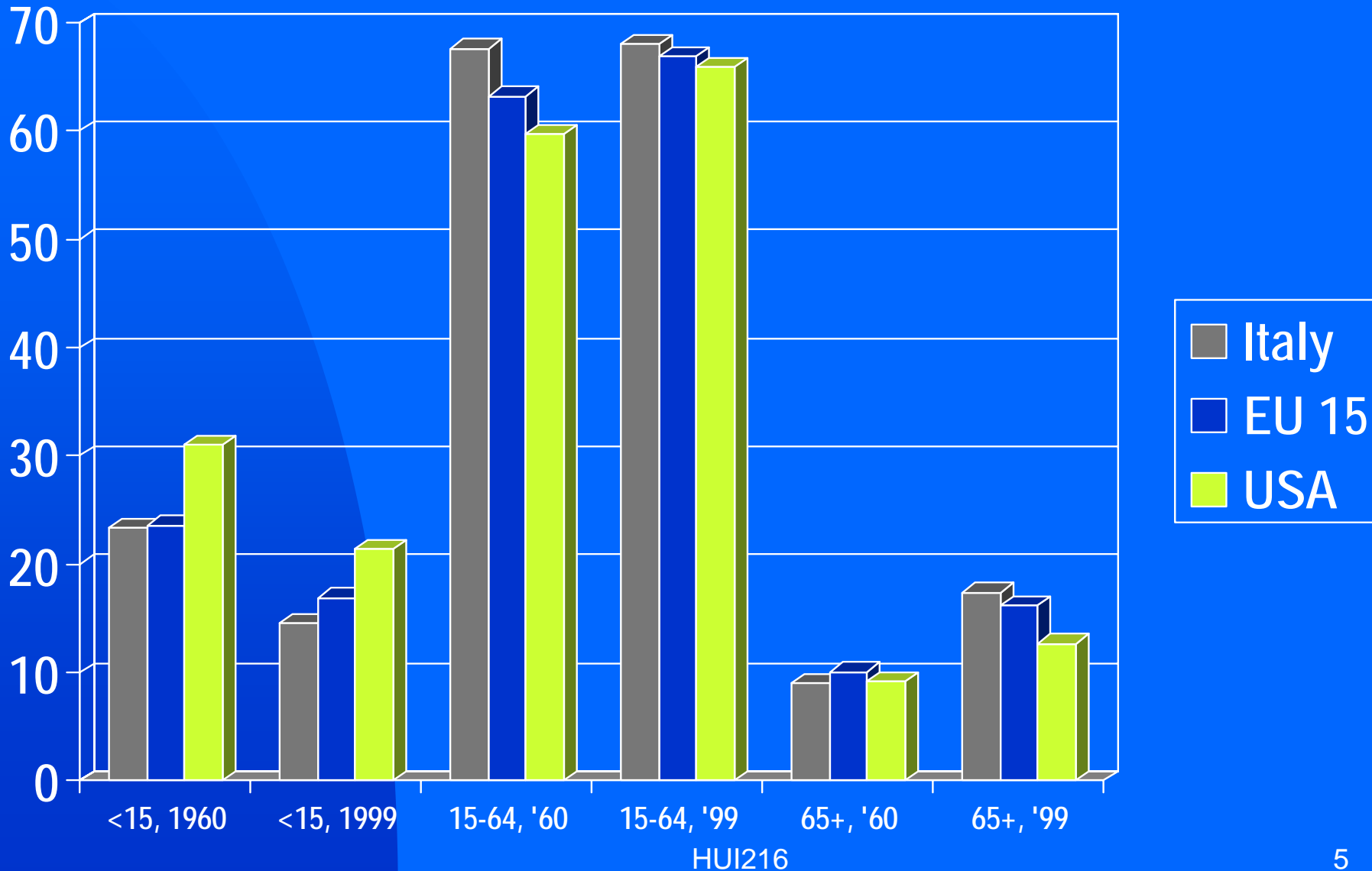
2.1 Statistics and data about modern Italy

- The following slides contain tables highlighting relevant features and trends in contemporary Italian society
- Many of these slides are based on data provided by OECD, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- If you are interested, look at the [latest global statistical data published by OECD](#), organized by topics and country

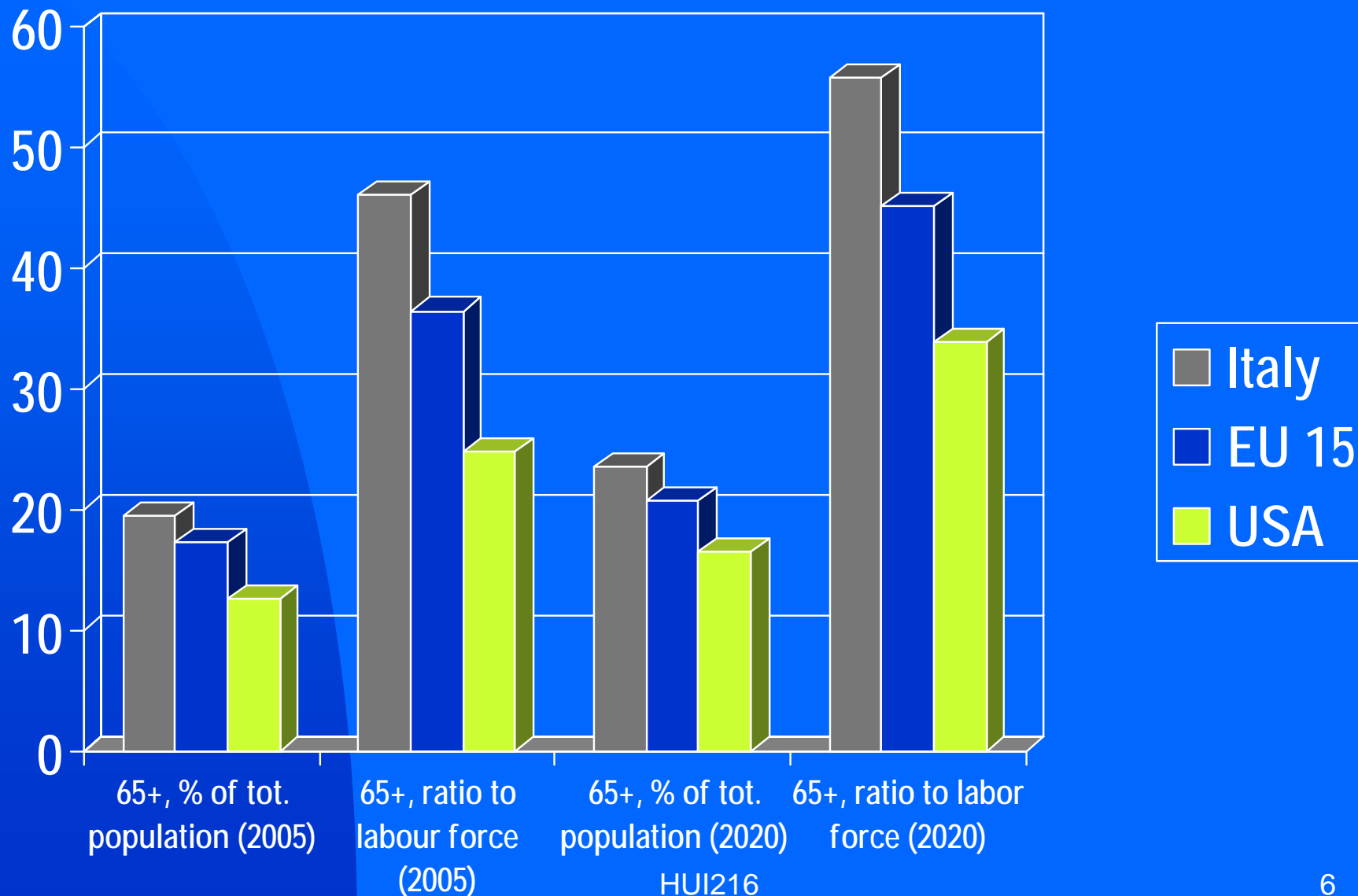
2.2 OECD: demographics, population, millions (1989-2004)



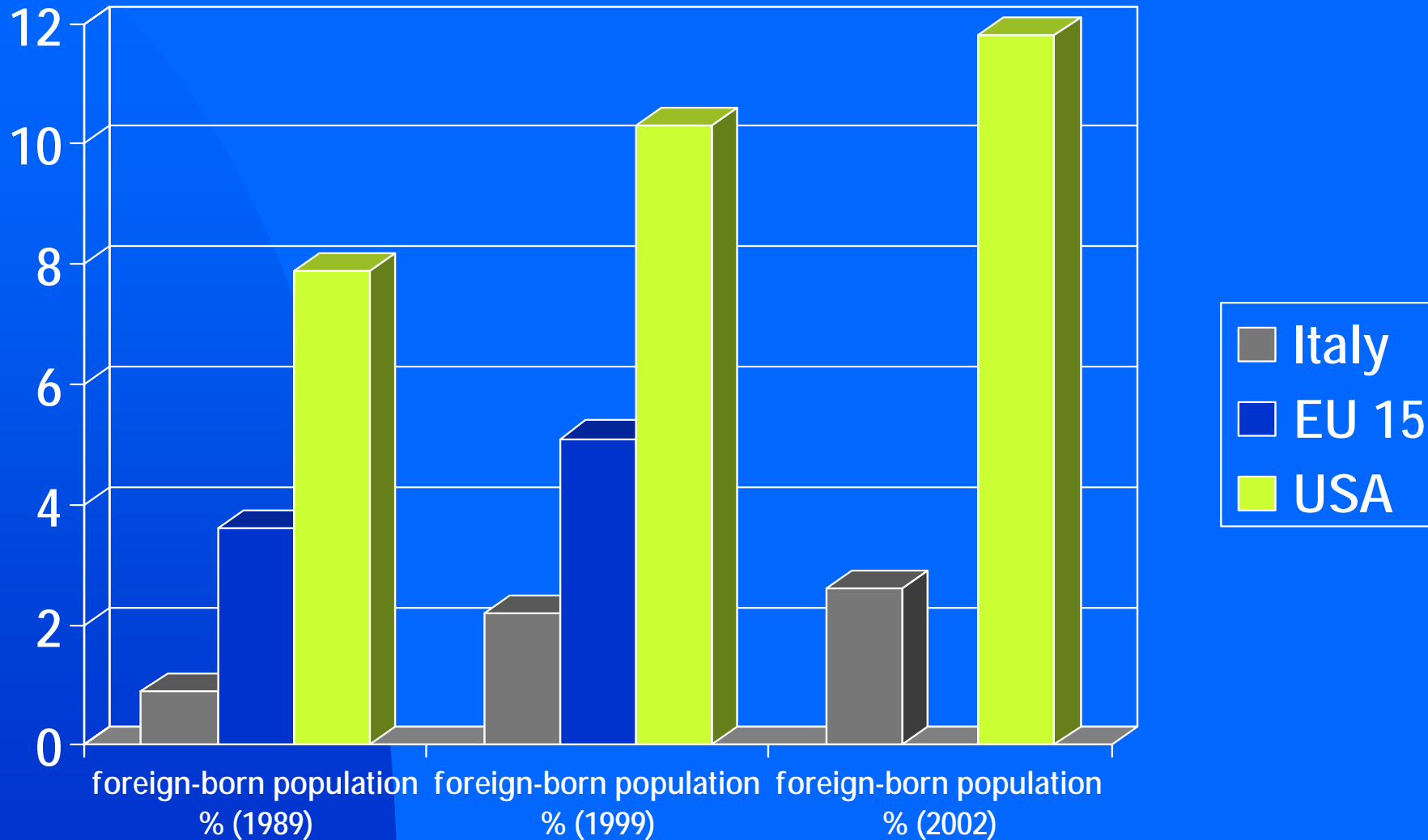
2.2 OECD: demographics, by age and percentage of the tot. population (1960-1999)



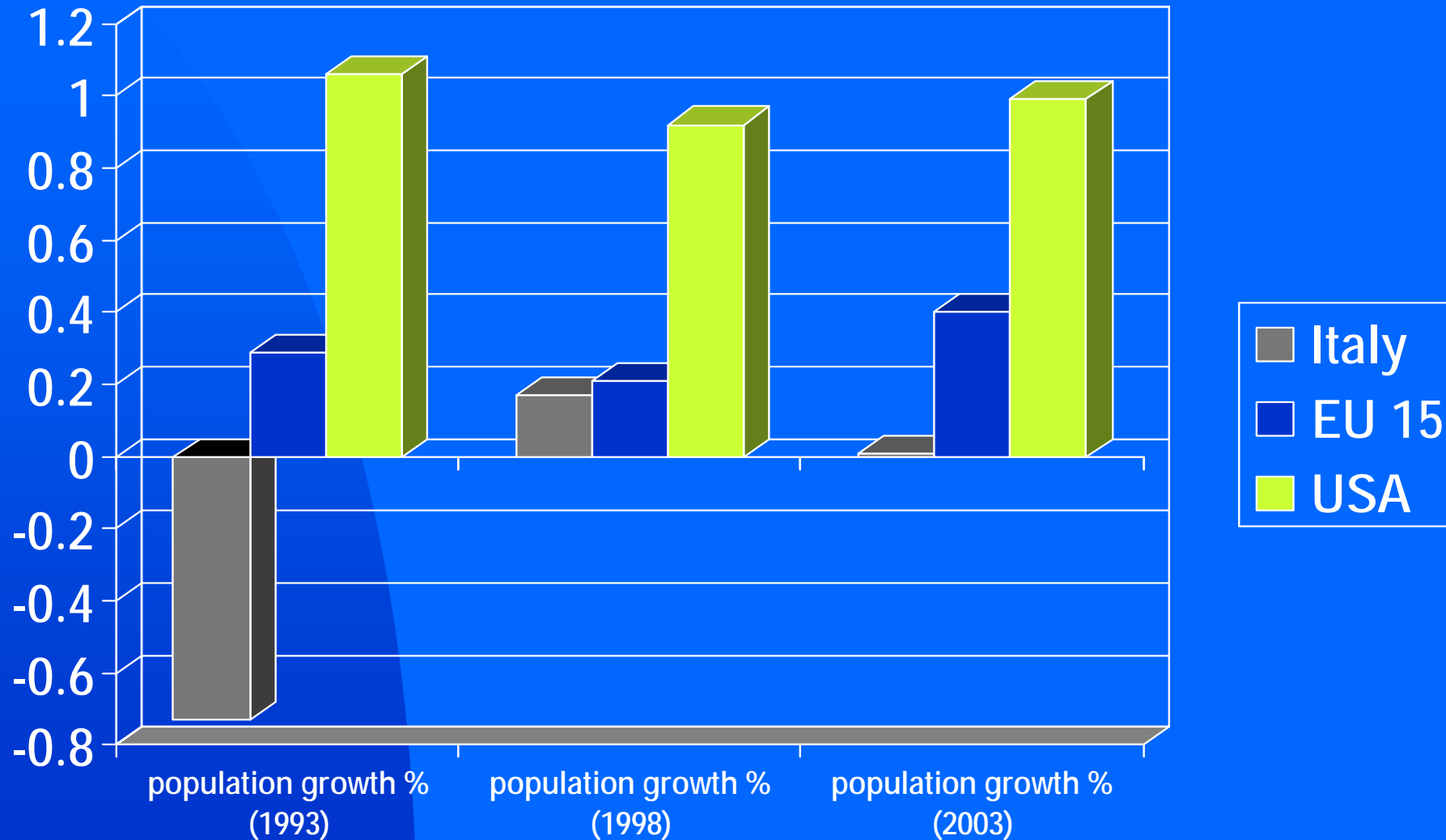
2.2 OECD: ageing societies, percentage of the tot. population, ratio to labor (2005, 2020)



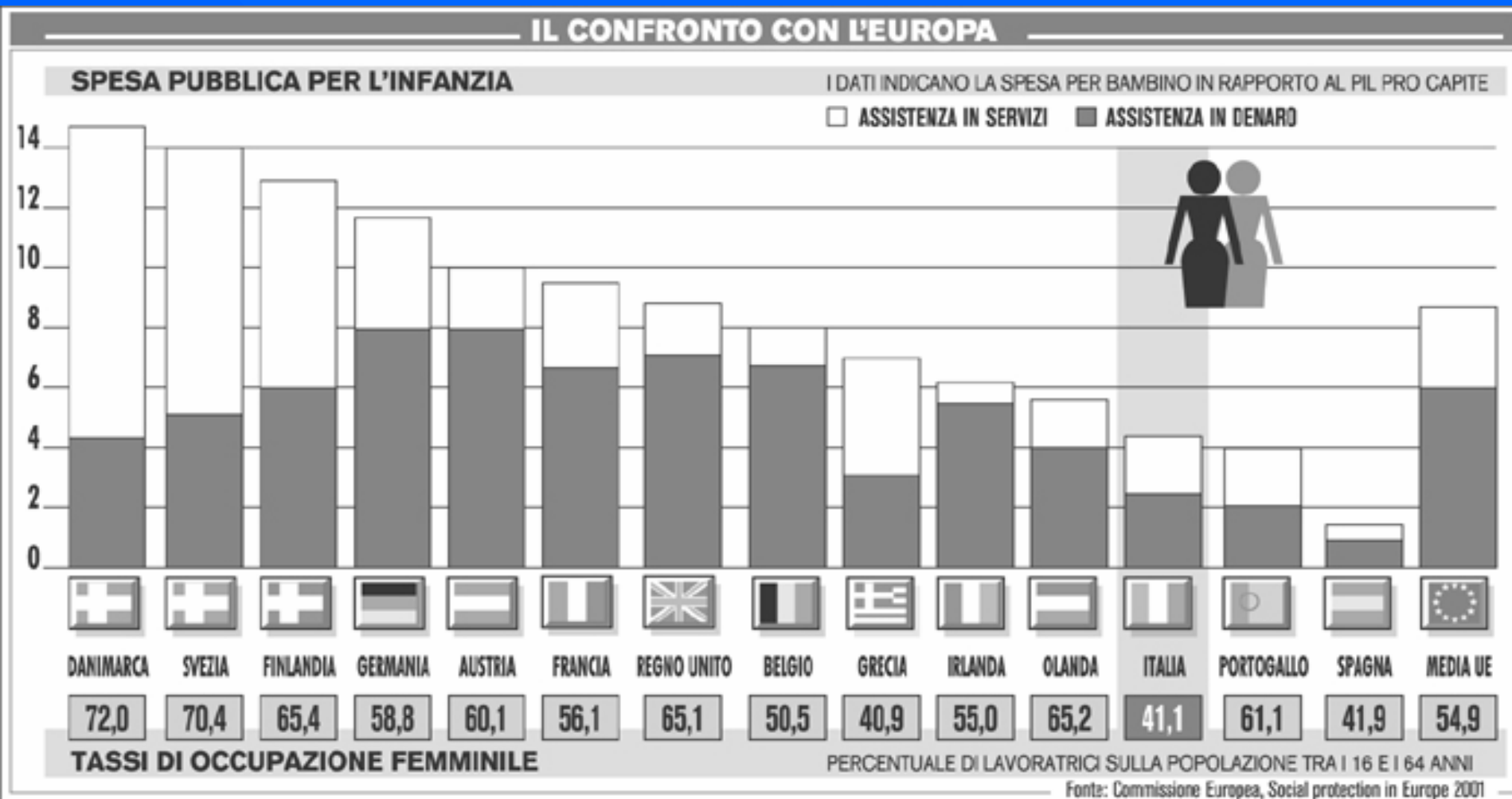
2.2 OECD: demographics, foreign population (1989-2002)



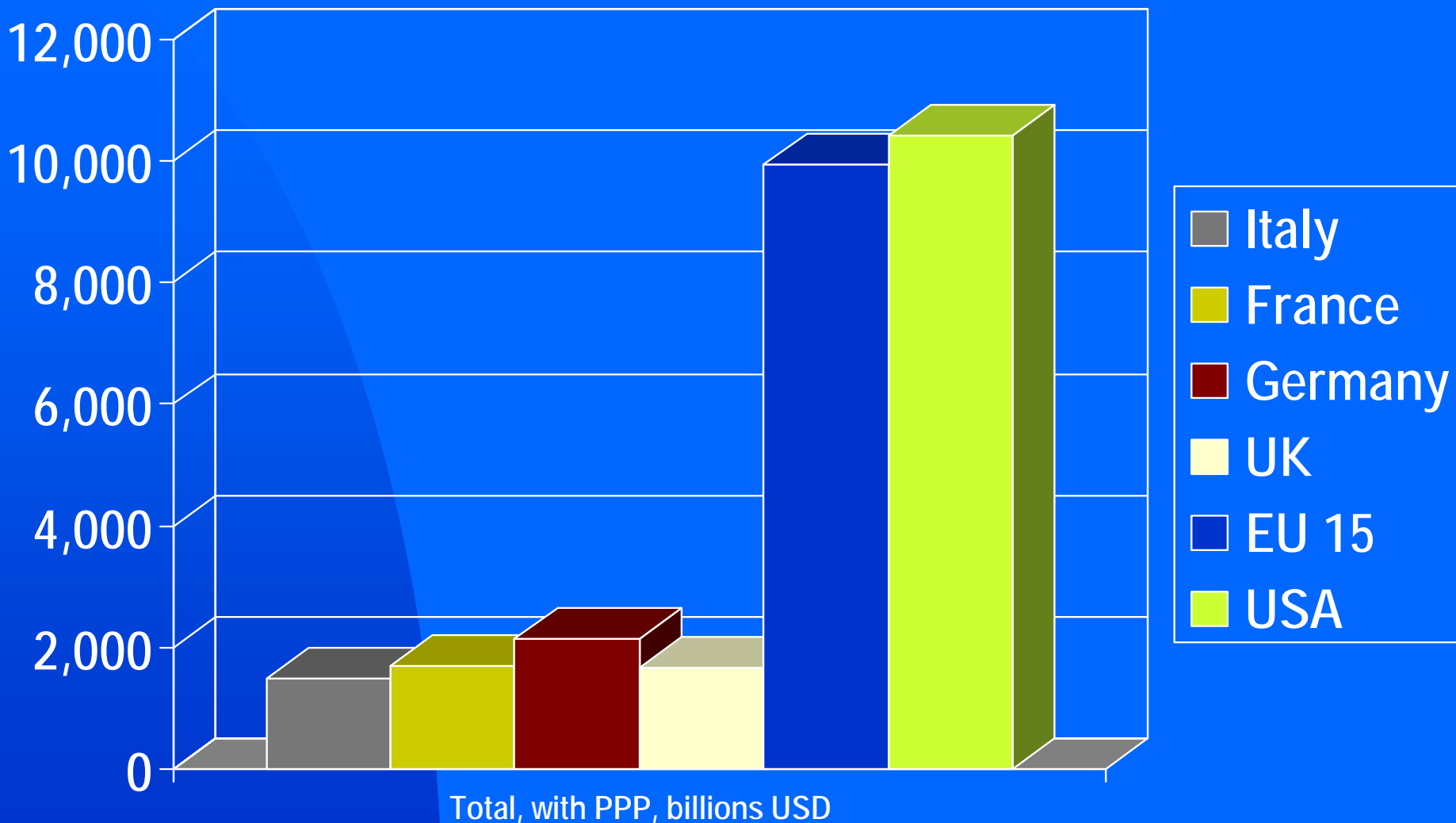
2.2 OECD: demographics, population growth rate (1993-2003)



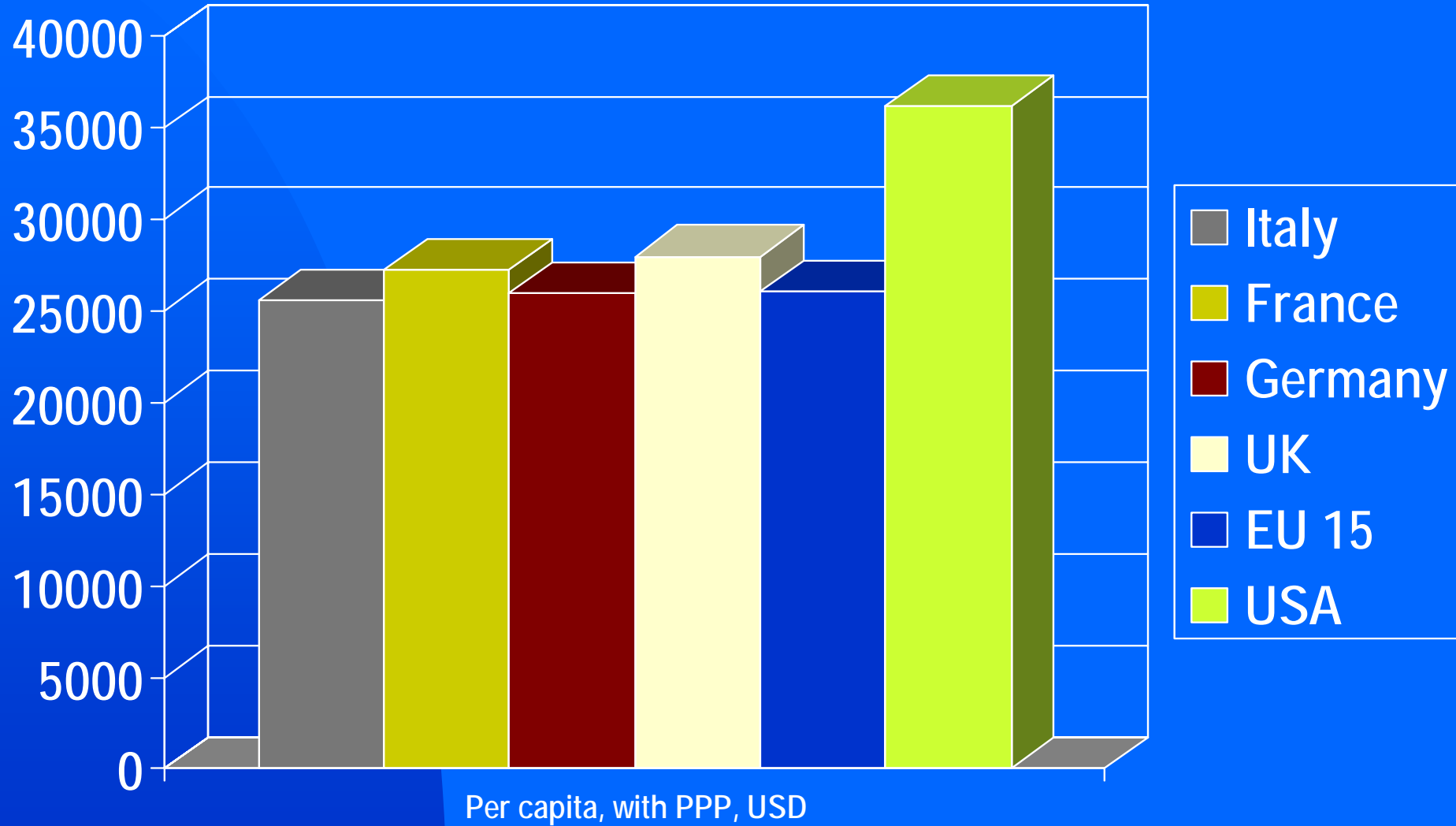
2.2 Public support per child in the EU (percentage of per capita income; services, direct funding)



2.3 OECD: Gross Domestic Product, tot., equalized with Purchasing Power Parity (2002)

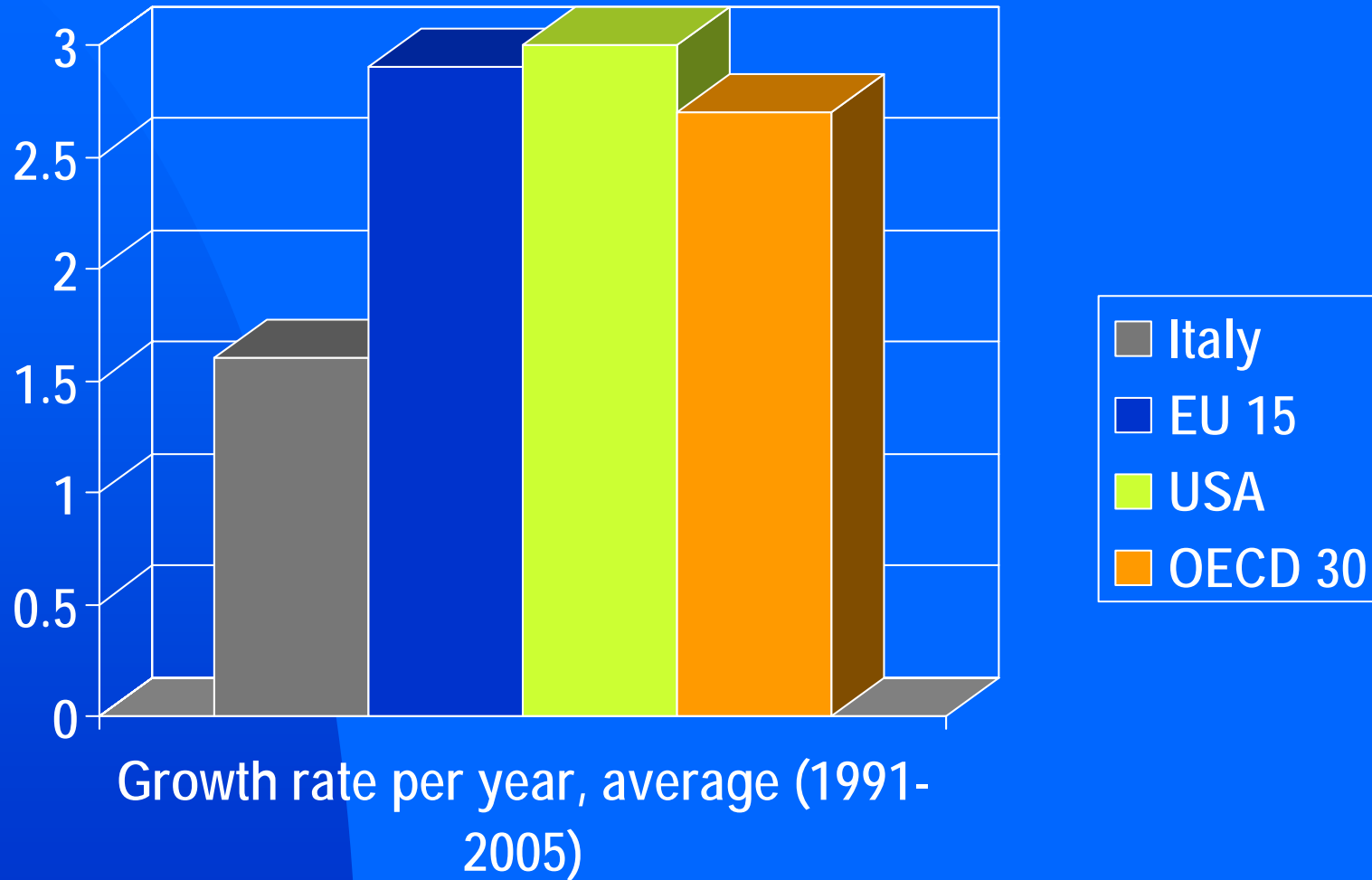


2.3 OECD: Gross Domestic Product, per capita, equalized with Purchasing Power Parity (2002)

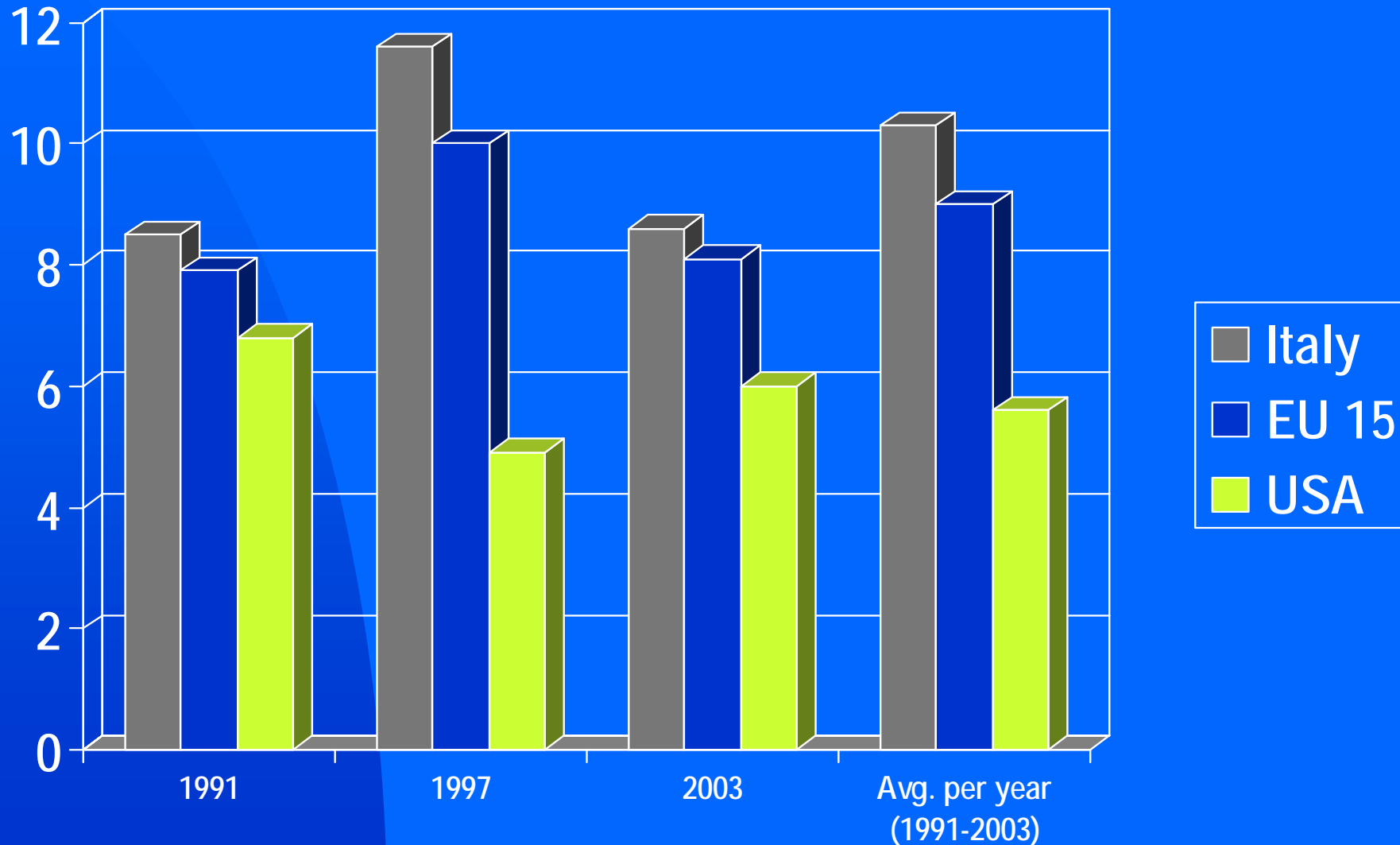


Per capita, with PPP, USD

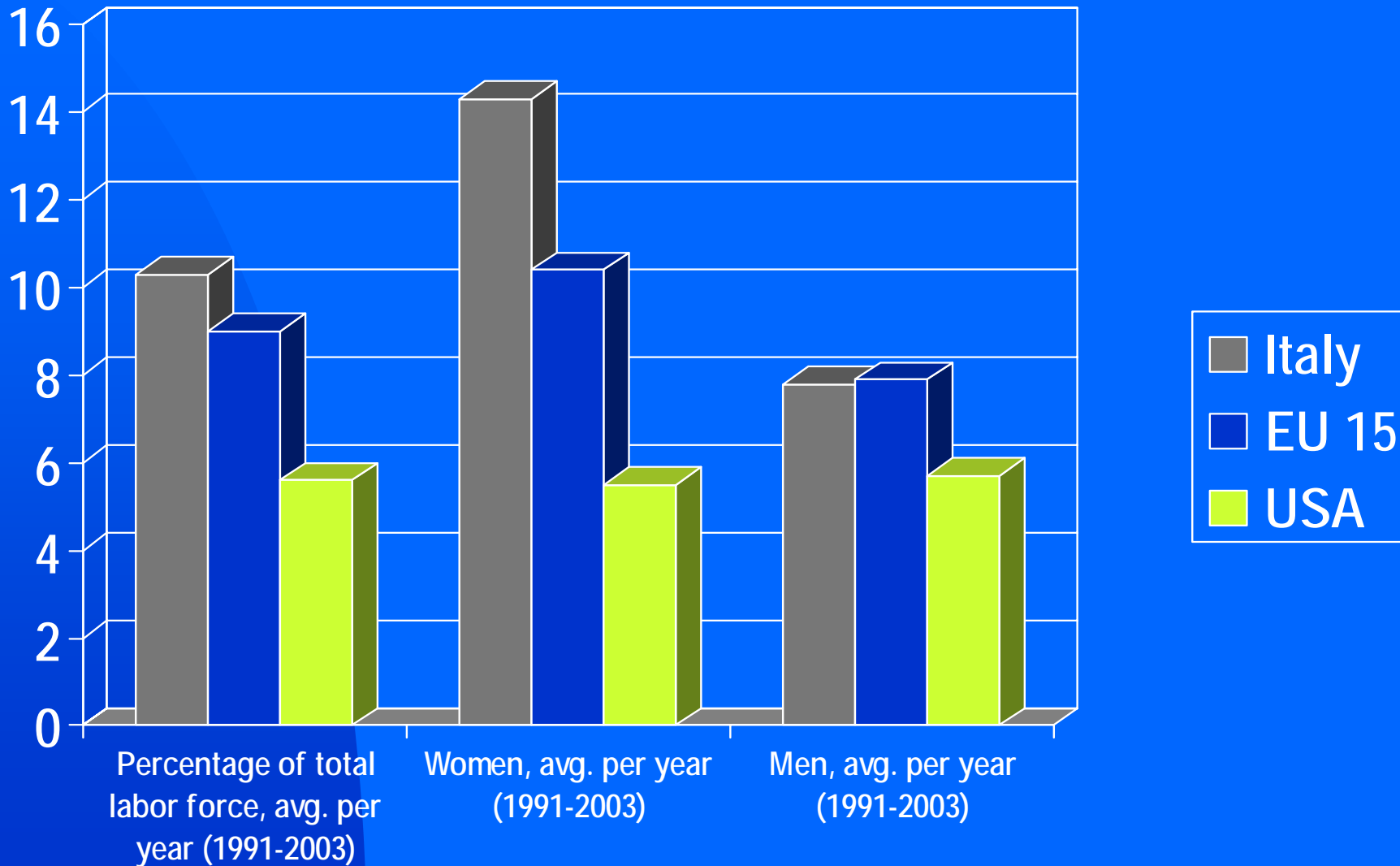
2.3 OECD: average economic growth of real GDP in percentage (1991-2005)



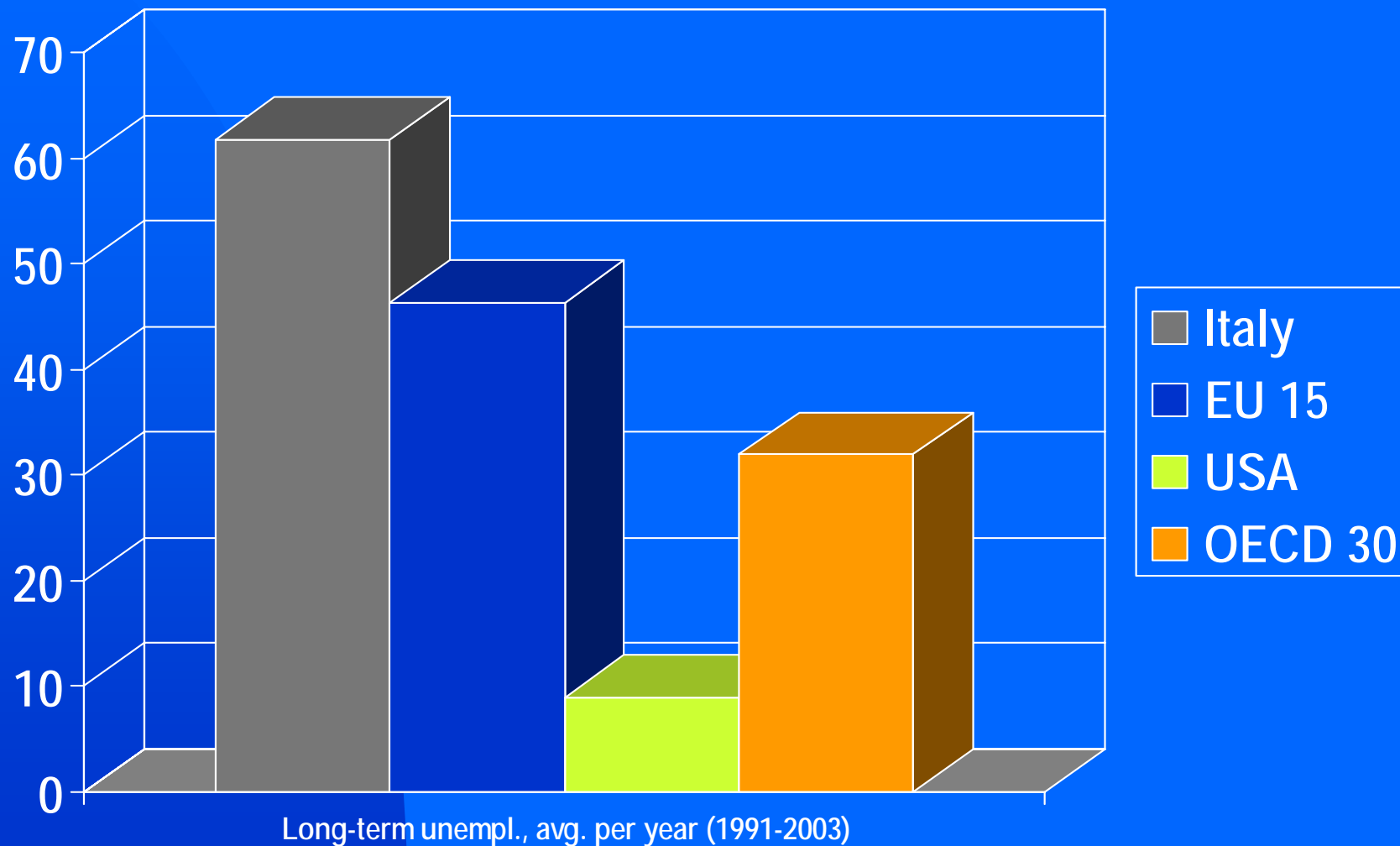
2.4 OECD: unemployment rates, percentage of labor force (1991-2003)



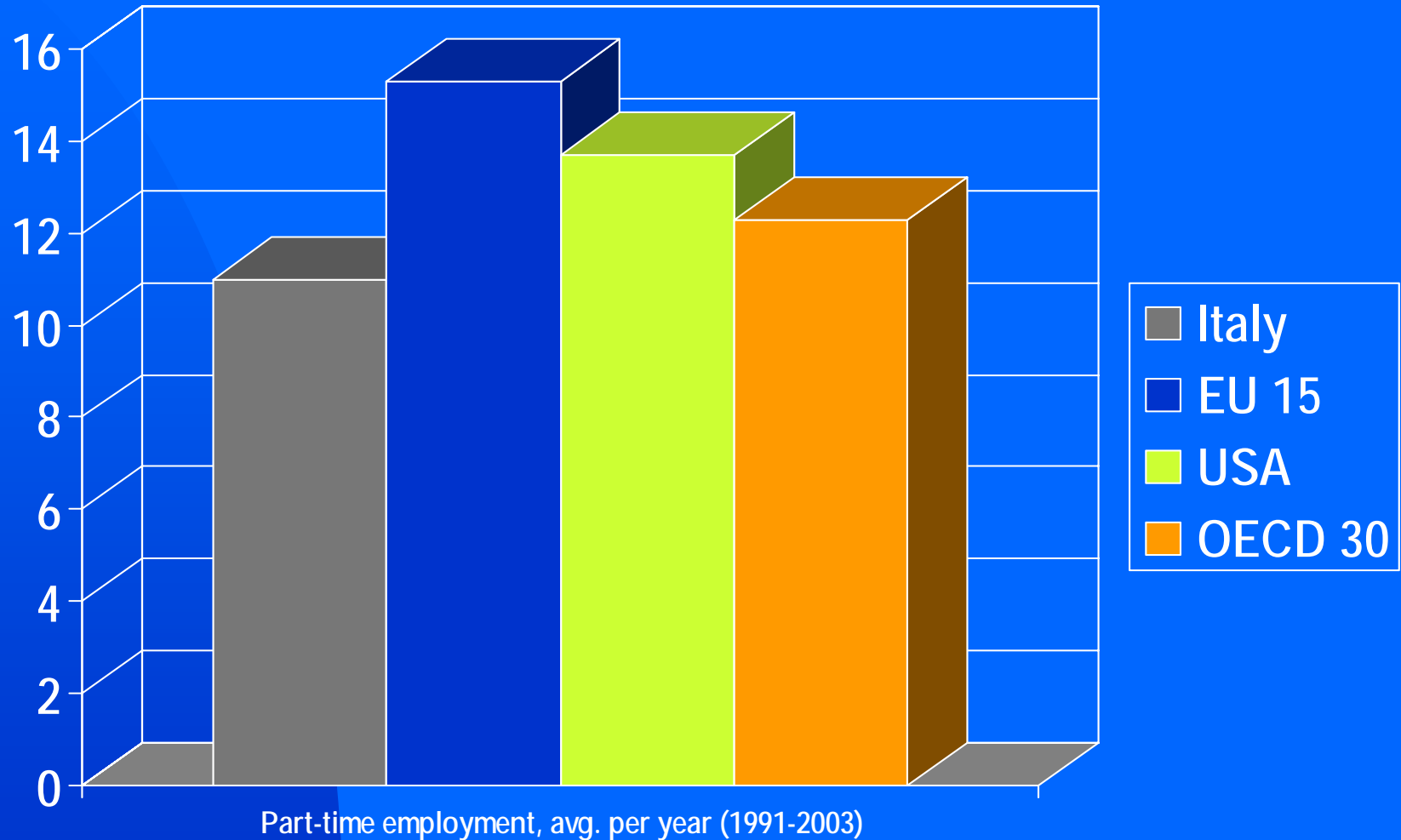
2.4 OECD: standardized unemployment rates, percentage of labor force (1991-2003)



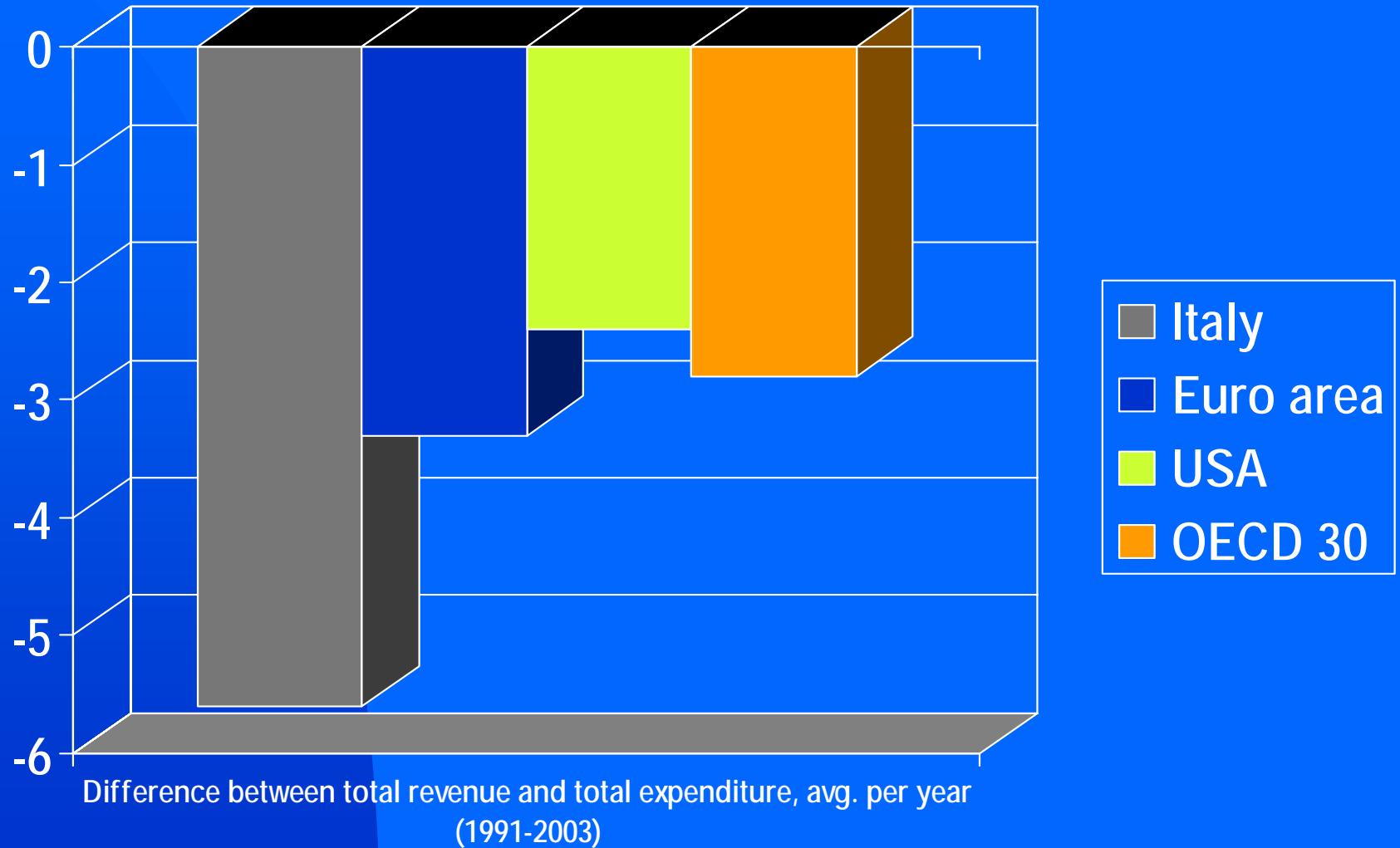
2.4 OECD: persons unemployed for 12+ months as a percentage of tot. unemployed (1991-2003)



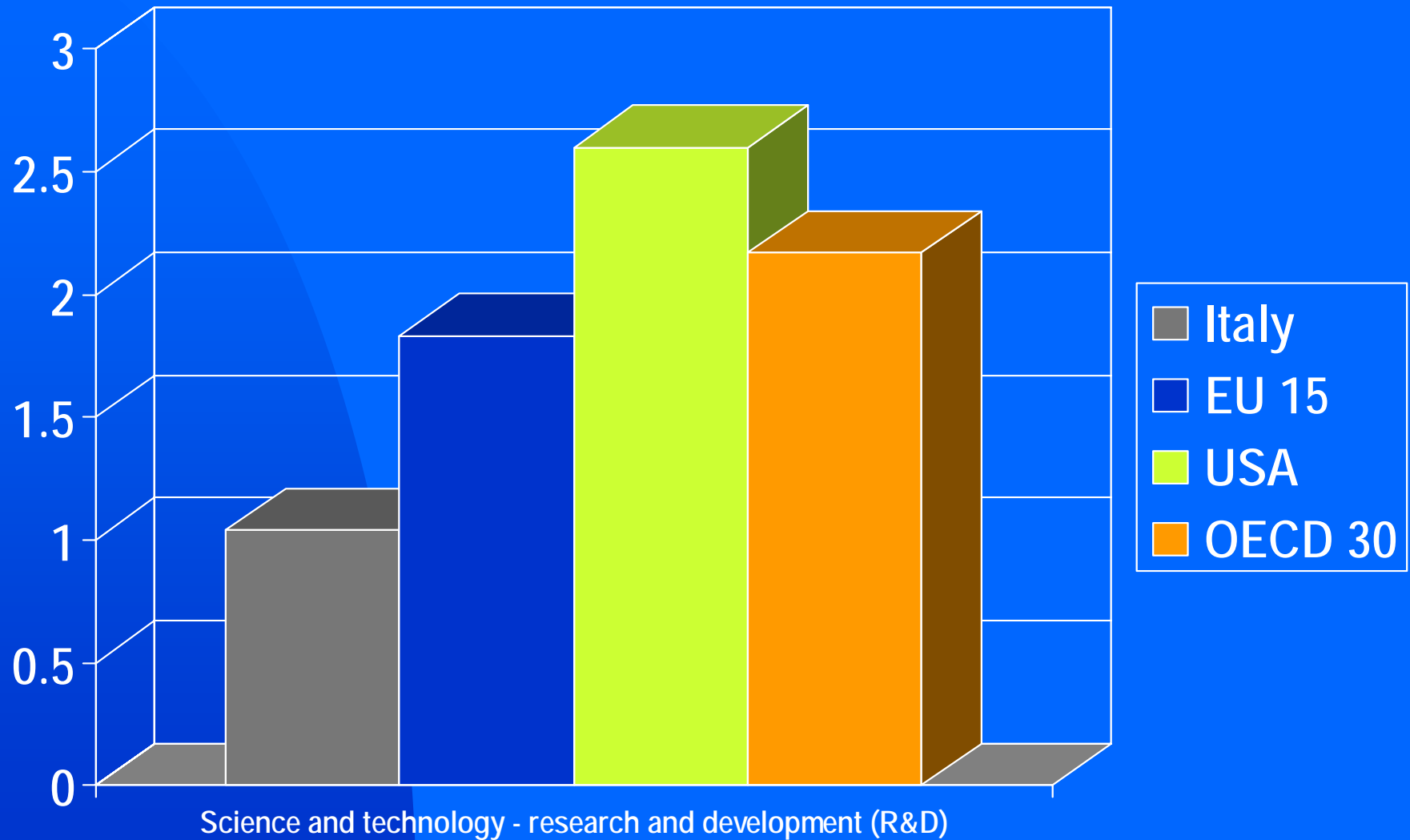
2.4 OECD: part-time employment (<30 hours/week, main job) as a percentage of labor force (1991-2003)



2.5 OECD: government deficits as a percentage of GDP, avg. rate per year (1991-2003)



2.6 OECD: expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP, avg. rate per year (1995-2000)



2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: demographics

- According to the latest Italian national census, completed in the Fall of 2001, the number of people living in Italy is 56,995,744
- It is close to the number that came out of the previous census, in 1991 (after proper verification the official number was 56,778,031)
- The number of women is approx. 29.4 million
- The number of men is approx. 27.6 million

2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: families

- The number of families has grown to 21,810,676 during the last 10 years, with an increase of roughly 1,600,000 units
- The average number of members per family has decreased, during the same time, from 2.8 to 2.6
 - families made of 1 person, % of tot. = 24.9 %
 - families made of 2 persons, % of tot. = 27.1 %
 - families made of 3 persons, % of tot. = 21.6 %
 - families made of 4 persons, % of tot. = 19 %
 - families made of 5 persons, % of tot. = 5.8 %
 - families made of 6+ persons, % of tot. = 1.7 %
 - families made of 3 persons or less, % of tot. = 73.5 %

2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: families, trends

- Data from ISTAT
 - In 1961, approx. 50 % of Italian families had 4+ members
 - In 1961, approx. 14 % had 6+ members
 - After the Second World War in the Italian northeast there were 4.2 members per family, and that number is now 2.5 in the same area
- The number of families made of just one person also increased (5.4 mill.), due in part to the fact that the average life span has increased, and a number of those mononuclear families are made of elderly people who live by themselves
 - 4.5 mill. widowed

2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: foreign-born residents

- The number of foreigners that are legal residents is 1,335,000
 - in 1991 the foreigners living in Italy were only 356,000
- There are now 23.4 foreigners per 1000 inhabitants, on average
 - 56 % of all foreigners live in the North
 - 8 % of them live in the South
 - barely 3 % live on the Italian islands
- Within the foreign population in Italy the majority of individuals is made of men between the ages of 15 and 44

2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: geographic distribution

- Of the general population living in Italy...
 - 45 % live in northern Italy
 - 19 % in central Italy
 - 25 % in the South
 - 11 % in the islands
- Rome is the largest Italian city with approx. 2.5 million inhabitants
 - The town with the highest density is Portici, near Naples: 13,000 inhabitants per square kilometer (189/Km is the national avg.)
- The margin of error for the data from the national census is estimated between 0.5 and 1 %

2.7 From the Italian census of 2001: distribution by municipality, internal migration

- 72% of Italian municipalities have less than 5,000 residents
 - 18.6% of the total population live there
- Only 42 municipalities (0.5%) have more than 100,000 residents
 - 23.2% of the total population live there
- 47.9% of the total population in Italy lives in a municipality with less than 20,000 residents!
- Internal migration, from region to region
 - 330,000 individuals changed residence in 2000-2001

2.8 Chronology

- We can simplify the more-than-2000 years of civilization that we will be studying by grouping historical, social and cultural events under three headings
 - The Latin or Roman era
 - The Middle Ages
 - Renaissance and Modernity
- Each one of these label encompasses many centuries and includes different cultures and different sociopolitical structures
 - these period definitions hide somewhat the complexity of the Italian civilization's actual developments and manifestations, but this periodization can become useful when seeking out major trends and patterns, or while trying to sort out and memorize information related to different times

2.8 The Roman/Latin Era (753 BCE-476 CE)

- 753 BCE: Rome is founded (it is a monarchy)
 - Years were often counted from this date in ancient Rome, whenever the names of leaders (kings, consuls, emperors) were not used as a reference for chronology (in this way: “during the seventh year of the Kingdom of Numa”, or “under the consulate of Cicero” etc.)
 - Archeological excavations have confirmed that the city of Rome was indeed founded during the eighth century BCE; 753 is the date that ancient Romans agreed on

2.8 The Roman/Latin Era (753 BCE-476 CE)

- Of course 753 is the corresponding year in our calendar, for which Christian scholars established the year 1 as the year of the birth of Jesus
- You may also know that when those scholars calculated how many years had passed from the birth of Jesus, they made a mistake: with all probability Jesus was born five or six years "before Christ," i.e. five or six years before the first year of our calendar
- Keep in mind that for most dates I am not using the traditional BC or AC (before Christ, after Christ), nor the Latin AD (*anno Domini* = in the year of the Lord), but rather the more politically correct BCE (before the common era) and CE (common era)

2.8 509 BCE: the Roman Republic begins

- 509 BCE is the traditional date, the one accepted and passed on by Roman historians
- 27 BCE: the Roman Empire is born
- 476 CE: the Roman Empire ends in Italy and in the West
- 1453 CE: the Byzantine (Roman) Empire ends in the East
- Even under the Romans, Italy was not unified politically and administratively until the beginning of the Empire

2.8 East and West at the Fall of the Roman Empire



2.9 The Middle Ages (476-1375)

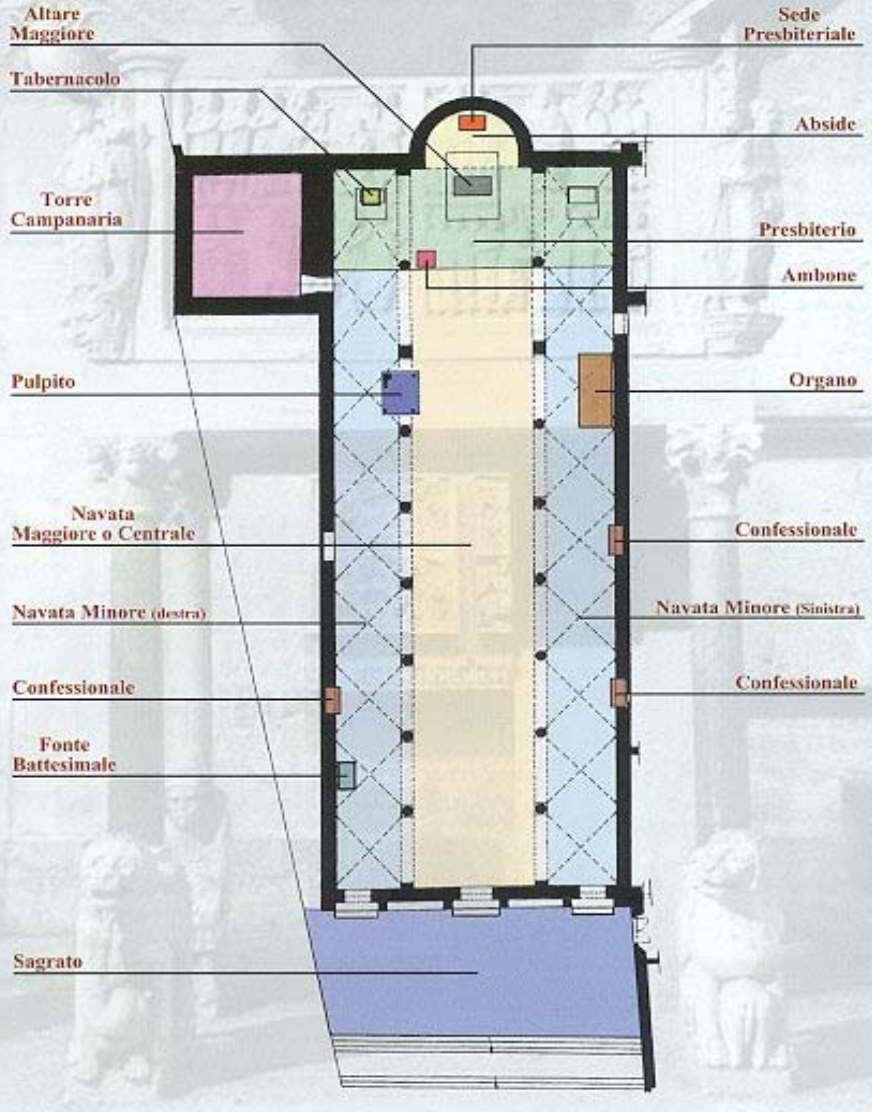
- IV-X centuries
 - The most important historic developments of this period are the collapse of the Roman Empire and the creation of Feudalism
 - It was a period of continued wars, fought frequently and often for short periods of time in different regions of Western Europe, including Italy; feudalism was the socio-political institution created to direct the limited resources available in the various local communities towards defending and protecting their members from those sudden, repeated attacks
 - One of the key characteristics of this age is the fact that local communities survive virtually isolated from one another: commerce is almost nonexistent; communications among different places in Italy and Europe are very limited (compared to modern standards); roads, seaports and shipyards that existed previously are not well maintained or adequately protected

2.9 The Middle Ages (476-1375)

- XI-XIV centuries: the communes (city-states)
 - After the XI century the regions North of Rome were often divided into dozens of small city-states, the chief example of this phenomenon being Northern Tuscany
 - In the South, which was unified under the kingdom of Naples, a similar fragmentation was in fact maintained by the survival of feudalism (which in some areas of the South lasted until the XIX century)
 - Many small districts of the South were administered by different members of the nobility, each one applying different rules of justice and politics, and implementing different strategies and policies, while the economy for the most part remained local, with little or no commerce and trading outside the community (with the partial but relevant exception of the cities along the shores of Campania, Apulia [Puglia], and Sicily)

2.9 The preservation of medieval culture and the revival of medieval traditions in Tuscany

- Architecture and the politics of restoration (XIX-XX c.)
 - The success of Romanticism in Italy prompted the multiplication of architectural projects bringing back the gothic style, or the more austere style of Romanesque, together with watch towers, palaces and castles
 - Give a look at [The house of Dante in Florence](#), built entirely during the XIX century, on the grounds where Dante's real house once was
 - This predilection for medieval architecture was carried over into the next century; the next 2 slides offer examples of that preference at the expense of other ages
 - San Bartolomeo is a church whose interior was stripped of baroque altars to restore a pure Romanesque interior
 - Pistoia's Palazzo dei Vescovi was partially destroyed and rebuilt to bring it back to the way it was originally during the Middle Ages, erasing the memory of later addition and changes that had been made through the centuries



2.9 San Bartolomeo in Pantano (St. Bartholomew in the swamp, Pistoia), XII c.



2.9 Antico Palazzo dei Vescovi (Older Bishop's Palace, Pistoia, XIII c.)



2.9 Neo-guelphism

- During the XIX century, pro-Papacy political positions received new attention in Italy, thanks to intellectuals such as Gioberti, author of *Del Primato civile e morale degli Italiani* (=The civic and moral primacy of the Italians), 1842-43
 - “In this lengthy and often turgid book, Gioberti ransacked history to espouse the myth of Italy's primacy. Having led the world twice in ancient and medieval times, Italy could do so a third time, in a civic and moral sense. He set forth a neo-Guelph program that called for reforms and a federation of existing Italian states, with the Pope as president”

2.9 Maurice Hewlett and the Anglo-American travelers from the early 1900s

- Anglo-American travel writers from the late 1800s and the early 1900s often managed to find in Tuscany not just ruins and memories of the past, but the vestiges and the living traces of that legendary period, the Middle Ages
- Their assumption was that, given the uniform history of most Tuscan towns, their medieval origins as independent city-states (*comuni*), the long-lasting fights, the numerous rebellions against the Florentine domination, the presumed lack of industrial development, the seemingly reduced social mobility, Tuscany was the perfect 'laboratory' to rediscover what life was like in a pre-modern civilization

2.9 Maurice Hewlett and the Anglo-American travelers from the early 1900s

- James Buzard, the author of a 1993 essay entitled *The Beaten Track. European Tourism, Literature, and the Ways to Culture, 1800-1918*, aptly talks about a process of "strategic omission" inside the tradition of nineteenth-century "picturesque seeing"
- "Everyday features of the visited place (populations included) either fell cleanly away from view or arranged themselves as part of the spectacle" (*PMLA* 34)
- "The gradual improvements in standard of living, the mundane political struggles, the ordinary commerce, and all the many other unpicturesque pursuits were what travelers sought to elide from the view they savored" (*PMLA* 35)

2.10 Humanism (1375-1475): culture and the arts

- The systematic, rigorous study of classicism
 - philology, archeology
 - the first museums
 - important private libraries
 - studies and reports: Raphael's "letter to Pope Leo X on the monuments of ancient Rome"
(*Palladio's Rome*)
- The development of a new education curriculum, where literature becomes a primary asset, used to teach about human nature

2.10 Humanism (1375-1475): socio-political trends

- The *Signorie* (*Signori*=Lords)
 - the patricians or the wealthiest merchants take charge in the city states
 - a slow process of unification brings various city-states under one ruler (often called the *Signore*) and one government
 - for example, the communes of Northern Tuscany under Florence and the Medici family, the communes of Veneto under the Republic of Venice, the communes of Lombardy under Milan and the Viscontis and the Sforzas, etc.

2.11 Renaissance (1476-1550): political events

- The wars of Italy (1494-1559)
 - the slow process of unification created local conflicts and diplomatic incidents on a national and international level
 - this process was hindered at first, and then eventually interrupted by the involvement of France, Spain and Germany in Italian politics
 - after a long series of costly wars the South of Italy, Lombardy and a small portion of Southern Tuscany fell under the influence of Spain (the country that came out victorious), while small portions of the NE and of the NW went to France and Germany respectively

2.11 Renaissance (1476-1550): political events

- The wars of Italy (1494-1559)
 - The political and military events of this period had repercussions that lasted for three centuries
 - Once many Italian states submitted directly or indirectly to foreign powers, all chances of seeing the birth of a modern unified nation in the Italian peninsula were lost
 - After this period, the process of national unification was slow and intermittent
 - Bringing Italy under one ruler and one government required a great deal of diplomatic maneuvering, together with military actions and popular insurrections

2.12 Modernity (1551-1861): culture and politics

- Mannerism and Baroque (1551-1700)
 - Breaking away from a systematic imitation/emulation of classical standards
 - The influence of France and Spain
 - Machiavellism, Reason of State
- The Enlightenment (1701-1815)
 - The vanishing of the Italian leadership in the European cultural scene (with the exception of music); the diminished role of the Italian economy
- Romanticism and the Risorgimento (1816-61)
 - the development of the individual linked to the development of a politically mature society

2.13 The last 150 years: unification; the monarchy

- 1861: the Kingdom of Italy is established under the Savoia family, originally Dukes of Piedmont (in the NW of Italy)
 - Click and look at a [map of Italy](#) at the time of unification
- 1871: Rome becomes Italy's third and final capital (after Turin and Florence), when the city is taken from the Pope during a quick war the previous year
 - Many Italians during the 1860s felt that the process of unification was more similar to a process of conquest
 - They likened the new local administrators (often from Piedmont) to representatives of a foreign government
 - They failed to identify with the national State and did not develop a strong sense of loyalty to their new national institutions

2.13 The last 150 years: the two World Wars; fascism

- WWI was the first real chance for millions of Italians from various regions (mostly males) to share crucial experiences, in the trenches
- Like military draft, which involved the process of relocation, the war gave many the opportunity to appreciate the nature of local cultural/linguistic differences
- This desire for the concrete realization of common national goals translated into fascist ideology
- 1919: the process of unification of the Italian peninsula is completed with WWI peace treaties
- Italy changes again following WWII: small territories at the borders are assigned to former Yugoslavia and France

2.13 The last 150 years: the Republic

- 1946: Italy becomes a Republic after an institutional referendum in which the monarchy loses by a narrow margin (approx. 2 million votes)
- Since it was clear that local identities and regional cultures had never lost their strength, the constitution of the Italian republic, passed in 1948, recommended that regions be given ample autonomy
 - Between 2001 and 2005 the Italian Parliament took important steps (including a reform of the Constitution) to introduce a better defined form of federalism in Italy
 - The 20 Italian Regions (each one with a Regional Council, a Governor, and regional laws) have more power and control over internal as well as national matters

2.14 Federalism: the Northern League (Lega Nord)

- Umberto Bossi is the founder/leader of the Lega Nord
 - If you want, you can visit the site of [the Northern League party](#): their English section is off-line
- The Northern League is a party created in the late 1980s to promote the idea of an Italian federation
 - According to the ideology of this party, the Northern regions should be largely independent from the central government (at least in areas such as local taxation and tax redistribution, education, local law enforcement)
 - They should be free to apply tougher measures against illegal immigrants, and other policies for the 'protection' and the 'advancement' of Northern Italian culture(s)

2.14 Federalism and the reform of the Constitution: the federal Senate

- Art. 57 of the proposed new constitution
 - the Senate becomes a “federal Senate,” with electoral districts based on the 20 regions of Italy
 - the election of the senators is linked to the elections of the regional and provincial councils
 - the number of senators assigned to each region is linked to the number of inhabitants (as established by the national census)
 - no region can have less than 6 senators, with the exception of Molise (2) and Valle d’Aosta (1)
 - representatives of the regions and local provinces are admitted to the Senate, without full voting rights

2.14 Federalism and the reform of the Constitution: the Assembly of the Republic

- Art. 83 of the proposed new constitution: the President of the Italian Republic is elected by an “Assembly of the Republic,” composed by
 - all members of the parliament
 - the heads of the regions and provinces
 - regional delegates
 - 2 per region (1 in the case of Valle d’Aosta)
 - each region is also assigned 1 delegate for every million inhabitants

2.14 Bilingual street signs have become popular, esp. in districts controlled by the League



2.15 Italy and Europe

- 1948: the new Constitution of the Italian Republic was completed and approved
- The process of unification and the development of national sovereignty and of its institutions in Italy had just made an important step forward, when a new political reality appeared in Europe
- The idea of a European league or federation of nations is now being finalized, with the recent and difficult drafting of a Constitution for the European Union, the final step necessary to give real power to the European Parliament
 - signed in Rome in Oct. 2004 (like the EEC treaty of 1957), but not ratified by all 25 EU members

2.15 The foundation of the European Union

- 1951: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands sign the first economic treaty; other treaties will follow during the '50s and '60s
 - These postwar treaties originated from the great desire of peace shared by European countries which fought on both sides, suffered a great deal during the war (see the Preamble of the EU constitution), and gained little or nothing from it
 - The idea behind those treaties was that increasing cooperation in areas such as the the economy, defense and foreign politics would bring those country closer, reinforce friendship and collaboration, thus preventing the recurrence of violence and war
 - The almost 60 years of peace in Western Europe can be explained, at least partially, with that strategy, especially when one considers the number of wars in Western Europe between the Middle Ages and the modern era

2.15 The European Union: Great Britain

- Notice that Great Britain is the most important European country missing from the list of founders of the European Union
 - The reason was not only the traditional isolationist attitude of the British, but also the fact that Great Britain still considered itself, at that time, a superpower, having been instrumental in bringing the war against the Axis (Germany, Italy and Japan) to an end
- Also remember that in the early '50s Great Britain was still a colonial empire, which had just began the process of turning its colonies into independent states or into independent partners of the Commonwealth

2.15 1973-1995: the European Union grows

- 1973: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the founder states in the European Economic Community
- 1981: Greece joins the EEC
- 1986: Spain and Portugal join the Union, after the demise of their fascist regimes
- 1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden are accepted into the European Union, after the end of the Cold War

2.15 2003-2006: the EU 27

- 2003: “A vote is held in the European Parliament. The majority adopts a report giving the green light to the accession of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak and Slovenia in 2004.”
- Recent additions (Jan. 1, 2007)
 - Bulgaria
 - Romania
- Current applicant countries
 - Croatia
 - Macedonia
 - Turkey

2.15 The European Union and the euro

- 1993: the single market is established
- 1999: the Euro is launched as a virtual currency
 - This is its symbol: €
- 2002: Euros began to circulate and be used, together with the original national currencies (liras, marks, francs, etc.)
 - Click on this link and look at the [Euro notes](#)
- Mar. 1, 2002: the Euro became the only legal currency in the 15 member states with the exception of the UK, Denmark and Sweden
 - The BCE, on Jan. 3, at closing, has reported the following quotation for the euro: €1=\$1.32

2.16 The main institutions of the EU

- the European Parliament
 - elected by the citizens of the member states
 - for a long time the European parliament has been just a consulting body, whose limited power and authority was used mostly to decide investments and financial support to be assigned to European farmers in impoverished regions of Ireland, Spain and Portugal, France, Italy, and Greece
 - now it is a legislative body, whose powers will become fully operational once the European constitution is ratified
- the European Council (representing the various European governments)
 - this agency works as a liaison between the single governments and the central European authority
 - Germany has the presidency during this semester (each member of the Union holds the presidency for six months); Italy had it in the second half of 2003

2.16 Other European institutions

- the European Commission
 - the executive body, with the right to initiate legislation
 - this is where the actual power and authority is, within the institutions of the European Union; this is where all the important decisions of the last decade have been taken
 - the former President of the Commission, with a 5-year mandate that expired in 2004, was Italy's Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy in the late 1990s
- the Court of Justice (dealing with community law and regulations)
- the Court of Auditors (responsible for reviewing and supervising the administration of funds used by the various agencies for their operations)
- the European Ombudsman (dealing with complaints from citizens, especially regarding the improper use of European funds/grants)

2.16 EU banks

- The European Investment Bank
 - It uses European funds to support a balanced economic development within the Union
 - The principle behind the subsidies for agriculture and other areas of European economy (subsidies that have made both Clinton and Bush complain about unfair competition) is that the various European countries cannot be equal partners in the Union and cannot share social and political goals if their economies grow at vastly different rates
 - Many of the funds that are available to support European economies and local initiatives in poorer areas (such as the South of Italy) come from the introduction of the single European currency
 - In the past all EU countries including Italy used to have large amounts of gold and dollars which they kept as reserve and used occasionally to stabilize their national currency
 - Once central European banks were created, a central European reserve was instituted to support the euro, and tens of billions of dollars could be released from the national reserves
- The European Central Bank (responsible for interest rates and the monetary policy)

2.17 What kind of federation will the European Union become?

- Given the long history of the various European countries one cannot expect Europe to become, anytime soon, a federation similar to the United States, i.e. a political entity in which local institutions and the central federal administration are tightly connected and work side-by-side in many fields, act almost in unison, in spite of occasional clashes
- It is also easy to notice how most Americans share customs and social practices (the so-called American way of life), and that those similarities are somewhat more relevant and widespread than in the EU

2.17 What kind of federation will the European Union become?

- Yet, we cannot underestimate the unifying power of a force such as the economy and of so powerful a concern such as that of security
- The real measure for the attachment of European governments and of single politicians to the future of the Union is the issue of voting, that is, more specifically, whether decisions taken inside European agencies or institutions should be supported by a majority of votes (possibly even a two-thirds majority) or by unanimity, which means that any one member would have the power to veto any decision, slowing down the process of unification considerably

2.17 Italy's positions

- Former Prime Minister Berlusconi and most members of his government have been known for their “euro-skepticism”, and have been hesitant to support European initiatives that might take some of the power away from Italy
- Former president of European commission Romano Prodi, who is the current Prime Minister, is in favor of majority decisions, so that no state inside the Union will be able to single-handedly stop or sabotage the political expansion of the EU

2.17 “A union of minorities”

- Here are excerpts from the translation of a speech given by Prodi on February 28th, 2002
 - However, we must not forget the unique nature of European integration. The European Union is unique in that it is a union of peoples and States.
 - The real aim is not to build a superstate. Why do so now, at a time when classical State models are increasingly incapable of managing globalization? The real aim, a combination of realism and vision, is to continue developing this unique structure towards an increasingly advanced supranational democracy. A European democracy based on the peoples and the States of Europe.
 - To do so, we have to adapt the major principles underlying our national democratic traditions to the unique structure of Europe. These are: the separation of powers; majority voting; public debate and a vote by the people's elected representatives on all legal texts; approval of taxes by Parliament.
 - The Union's decision-making system needs to be overhauled. We need new, simpler and more transparent procedures for taking and implementing decisions. Tasks and responsibilities currently assumed at Union level can and must be reviewed and devolved to the Member States.

2.17 “A union of minorities” (the end of Prodi’s speech)

- The Commission will not shirk its responsibilities and is ready to play its part, to change in accordance with Europe’s new needs. It is ready to redefine its own tasks to take on new responsibilities in fields where the future of Europe is at stake. It is also ready to give up part of its powers if this contributes to the greater common good. [...] The Commission is the guardian of the Treaties. This means ensuring that the European Union evolves in a way that is true to itself. It does not mean preserving at all cost what time calls on us to change. While recognizing and respecting the great cultural and spiritual traditions that are at the heart of Europe, we must work to bring about a genuine reform of the Union. A reform that is both far-reaching and faithful to the great principles that have provided the basis for our success. We must move towards “an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe” because young Europeans will be unable to identify with a limited, straitjacketed project.
- We must share sovereignty if we are able to exercise it in any real sense (as we have done in the case of the currency). We must recognize the need for institutions which are responsible for the general interest. We must ensure that all States are treated equally.
- Members of the Convention, Europe is not an alliance. It is the shared home of the citizens of Europe. It is the new protagonist of the new century. For this reason it cannot be based on the laws of the few largest, strongest or most senior members of the European club. The European Union is a “union of minorities” where no State may have the right to impose itself on others.

2.17 A federation of states, not a super-state

- It will take more than a few generations to change the various national identities, and this certainly is not a goal that European leaders have set for themselves
- Europeans will continue to have a dual identity, which for so many regions of Europe might be not Spanish and European, or Italian and European, but rather Basque and European, or Venetian and European
- Regarding the issue of language, if you have explored the sites of the European Union, you must have seen the many languages that all documents are translated into
- And just recently the press in Europe reported about the complaint by many members of the Union that the citizens of a particular country were not good enough with foreign languages. Can you guess what that country is?

2.17 "What global language?"

- Excerpts from an article published on the *Atlantic monthly* in Nov. 2000: "What global language?" by senior editor Barbara Wallraff
 - According to recent "Eurobarometer" surveys described by Graddol, "77% of Danish adults and 75% of Swedish adults for example, say they can take part in a conversation in English." And "nearly one third of the citizens of the 13 'non English-speaking' countries in the EU 'can speak English well enough to take part in a conversation.'" However, Richard Parker, in his book *Mixed Signals: The Prospects for Global Television News* (1995), reported this about a study commissioned by Lintas, a major media buyer, in the early 1990s:
 - When ad researchers recently tested 4,500 Europeans for "perceived" versus "actual" English-language skills, the results were discouraging. First, the interviewees were asked to evaluate their English-language abilities, and then to translate a series of sample English phrases or sentences. The study produced, in its own words, "sobering" results: "the number of people really fit for English-language television turned out to be less than half the expected audience." In countries such as France, Spain, and Italy, the study found, fewer than 3 percent had excellent command of English; only in small markets, such as Scandinavia and the Low Countries did the numbers even exceed 10 percent.
 - ...So the number of people in the world who speak English is unknown, and how well many of them speak and understand it is questionable. No one is arguing that English is not widely spoken and taught. But the vast numbers that are often repeated -- a billion English-speakers, a billion and a half -- have only tenuous grounding in reality.