

From high school to second level degree: a multi-state model to analyse the Southern University mobility in Italy

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Abstract. Students' enrolment at the first level has decreased significantly especially after the economic crisis of 2008. In the last years, there has been a slight increase, while the students' mobility from the South to the Central and Northern regions of the country has increased steadily. The mobility may occur essentially at two main discrete time points: the enrolment at the first (bachelor) and the second (master) level. In this paper we analyse this type of mobility using Italian students cohort data. Two cohorts are analysed and compared longitudinally, the 2008/09 and the 2011/12 followed up for six academic years 2013/14 and the 2016/2017, respectively. Data were provided by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. They are national level longitudinal micro-data on educational careers of the freshmen enrolled at the first level of an Italian university degree course. This work provides enrolment and degree rates, highlighting macro-regional differences and focusing on students' mobility. Finally, we provide profiles of Southern students who are "movers" or "stayers", along with their career. The profiles are obtained through a longitudinal analysis of Southern Italian students' careers by using a discrete-time event history multistate model.