This study presents an empirical analysis of intergenerational mobility and assimilation of Italian immigrants in Germany. For this purpose, a model of intergenerational human capital transmission is introduced and applied to the specific situation of immigrants and their offspring in the host country. The model is empirically tested by means of OLS and Probit estimation based on household survey data from German Socioeconomic Panel (SOEP) and validated against a Registry of Italians Resident Abroad (AIRE) database. Alternative measures are also determined by the transition-matrix approach. Consistent with suggestions of previous studies and economic theory, substantial inequality of educational achievements between immigrants and natives is found. Nevertheless, the findings of this study show that the children of Italian immigrants exhibit higher intergenerational mobility than natives. Moreover, holding parental education constant, Italian second generation immigrants have no less opportunities than natives to achieve higher schooling degrees. This findings suggest an absence of failing integration matters in case of Italian immigrants in Germany, since the assimilation process of this group is not slowed down by persistence of educational disadvantages. In further analytical steps, the impact of ethnicity is estimated through characteristics like migration time, language spoken at home and Italian region of origin.

JEL Codes: I24, J61, J62. Keywords: Education; Intergenerational Mobility; Integration and Assimilation of Immigrants