



# Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN  
SOUTH AFRICA

**Critical Matters**

UNIONE EUROPEA  
REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



PASSAPORTO

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# Chamber's Note

## Critical Matters

Leading economist Riccardo Hausmann argues that what separates poor and rich countries is not that rich countries are home to geniuses, but instead that they house a greater specialization in more fields while in poorer countries most people tend to know more or less the same things as one another. A country can be said to have more know-how, not because everybody in a society knows more, but because everybody knows something different.

Skills drive national growth, and a single individual can only provide a small portion of the needed skills to a national economy. Therefore, it follows that it is imperative for a country to host people with a diversity of skills if it is to achieve the desired economic prosperity. The Department of Home Affairs' Critical Skills Work Visa acknowledges the importance of relieving barriers for foreigners who are equipped with the know-how to fill important skill gaps within the national economy. But some important blind spots need to be highlighted.

In a recent letter to the Department of Home Affairs, the Italian Chamber, in collaboration with the EU Chamber and alongside other bilateral European Chambers, emphasised the need for certain amendments to the Department's proposed revisions to the critical skills list. One of the issues taken up relates to the removal of Foreign Language speakers for specialist language support and technical or sales support. The removal of this criterion is an impediment for foreign companies operating in South Africa who may require ongoing liaison with their country of origin or in-depth knowledge about particular services or products.

Moreover, the scratching of upper-management from the proposed list could repel potential foreign investors who find it important to appoint people with existing in-house knowledge in key positions. In a survey sent to EU businesses, cited in the letter to the Department of Home Affairs, more than 60% of respondents emphasised the importance of in-house knowledge as a factor in the success of their business.

Of course, none of this would be at all compelling if there were not some kind of national benefit to be gained from a skills list that is optimal. South Africa is a country with high unemployment and no country should sabotage employment opportunities for its own citizens. But the issue regarding the critical skills list falls outside of this debate. Typically, it is significantly more costly for companies to employ and host expatriates than to employ someone local. The cost incentive for local employment means that companies will only turn to the expat option if domestic skills are unable to match their needs. Fluency in a foreign language and in-depth knowledge of a company, are two such instances.

Finally, hosting of expatriates has benefits in itself. It allows for skills to be transferred to locals. Foreign children are enlisted in local schools. The Chamber is in contact with several people who were originally expats but chose to settle here and start their own businesses. The Chamber's Secretary General Pamina Bohrer sums it up by saying "there are numerous benefits to be gained from opening up to skilled personnel. South Africa needs to project and deliver an image of a competitive country with a business climate that is favourable to FDI's. As a Business Chamber, we see it as our role to advocate for such a conducive environment on behalf of our members."

*Italcham!*

# Job Opportunity

## ASSISTANT TRADE ANALYST



**ICE Agency (ITA) is the Government entity that promotes the internationalization of Italian companies according to the policies of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. ITA provides support to Italian companies for the internationalization of their activities. The ITA office in Johannesburg is setting up the procedure for the selection of an employee to be hired on a permanent contract with the qualification of Assistant Trade Analyst. (cod. 3.1 Marketing**

### **General requirements for admission:**

***Candidates with the following requirements can participate in selection tests:***

- a) Have, on the date of this notice, completed the 18th year of age;
- b) Have not, at the date of this notice, exceeded the 60th year of age;
- c) Is of a healthy physical constitution;
- d) In possession of the following qualification: Degree. Possession of a Bachelor's in Economics or Finance will entitle to an increase in the score as indicated in point 10 below –"Evaluation of additional requirements";
- e) Are South African citizens or are in possession of residence in South Africa for at least two years. ICE Agency (ITA) in Johannesburg cannot issue any work visa;
- f) Absence of any criminal convictions as well as pending charges;
- g) Proficiency in Italian and English (written and spoken);
- h) Good knowledge and use of the internet and the most popular social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).

### **Additional Requirements:**

- i) Have obtained a Bachelor's in Economics or Finance studies, or equivalent subjects, attaching an authentic copy;
- j) Have obtained a Master's in Marketing, Economics or equivalent subjects, attaching an authentic copy;
- k) Have had previous work experience with duties equivalent to those referred to in this notice, attaching the letters of reference from previous employers.

### **Instructions for submitting applications to participate:**

***To participate in the selection tests, candidates should send the following documents:***

- a) application form, signed and scanned, to be drawn up in Italian and English according to the PDF model downloadable here Application-form-Italian and Application-form-English;
- b) copy of the currently valid identity document;
- c) Curriculum Vitae in Italian and English. Questions and attachments should ONLY be sent via Email to johannesburg@ice.it Att. Mrs. Antonella Marucci - No later than **11:00 am on April 6th, 2021.**

**For more information:**

**[Click here](#)**



**Due Date: 26 April 2021**

**Email: [johannesburg@ice.it](mailto:johannesburg@ice.it)**



THE ITALIAN-SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIES NPC  
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THE ITALIAN-SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMBER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIES NPC

Annual General Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> of May 2021

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Honorary Chairman: P. CUCALI (Ambassador of Italy) - President: P. CUCALI (Italy)  
Vice President: M. PETERSCHEIDT (Pharmaceuticals Engineering) - G. GIBELLI (Ship/Pack Engineering)  
Treasurer: L. MOCULICH (Contract Engineering)  
Board of Directors: A. CANTARELLI (Finance), G. CANTARELLI (Finance), L. GALLARELLI (IT/BA SA), E. GALLARELLI (IT/BA SA)  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ITALIAN TRADE & INVESTMENT AGENCY (A. NARISCO)

# VIRTUAL

# AGM

## 4 MAY 2021

**Members Only**  
**[Register Here](#)**



# Welcoming our New Member



Euromed Group Srl, present in the commercial landscape for several years, has its roots in the many years of experience of its founding partners and its management, able to support its customers in internationalisation activities, subsidised finance projects and training. It operates abroad through its own correspondents, in synergy with business organizations and other public and private entities, ensuring coordinated support for companies and national networks.

*Welcome to Italcham!!*