

TIMES IN ITALY

ITALIAN STUDENTS 'REJECT XENOPHOBIA'

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(ANSA) - Rome, April 23 - A majority of Italian high school students are not racist or xenophobic, a Link Campus University national survey of 10,000 students showed Thursday.

Asked how they feel about their immigrant classmates, 42.2% said "nothing, because they don't perceive any differences between them" and another 25.4% said they are "interested in contributions from other cultures".

A smaller number, or 12.3%, said they feel "solidarity", while just 7% said they feel "diffidence" and 4.3% named "fear and contempt".

"These youths do not see the immigrant as different, but rather as a citizen who was born in another country or at the most, someone in need of help," said Link Campus sociologist Nicola Ferrigni.

"Our research shows this new generation has rejected xenophobic fallacies".