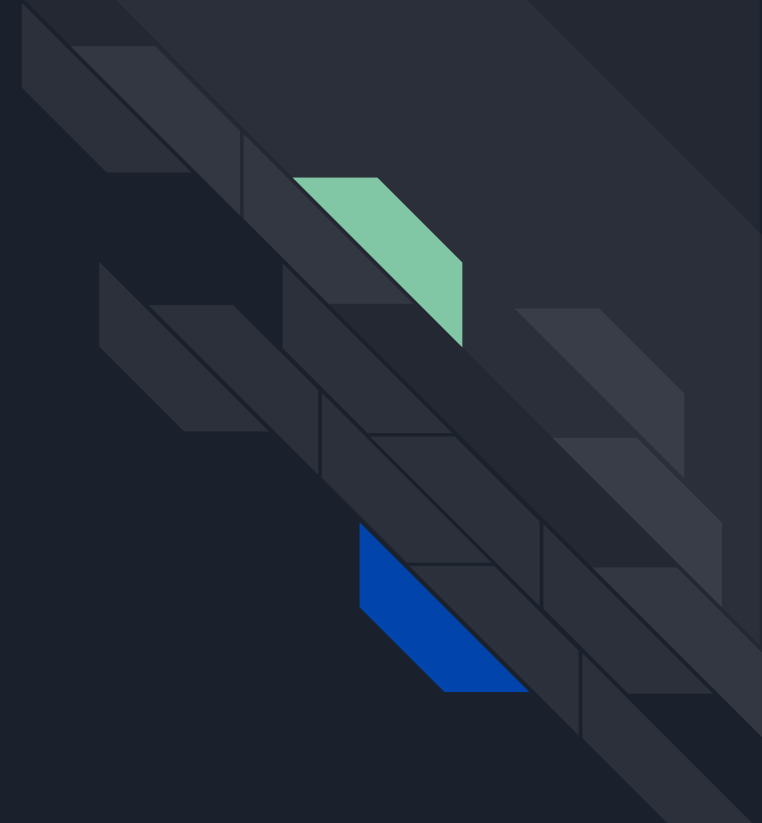




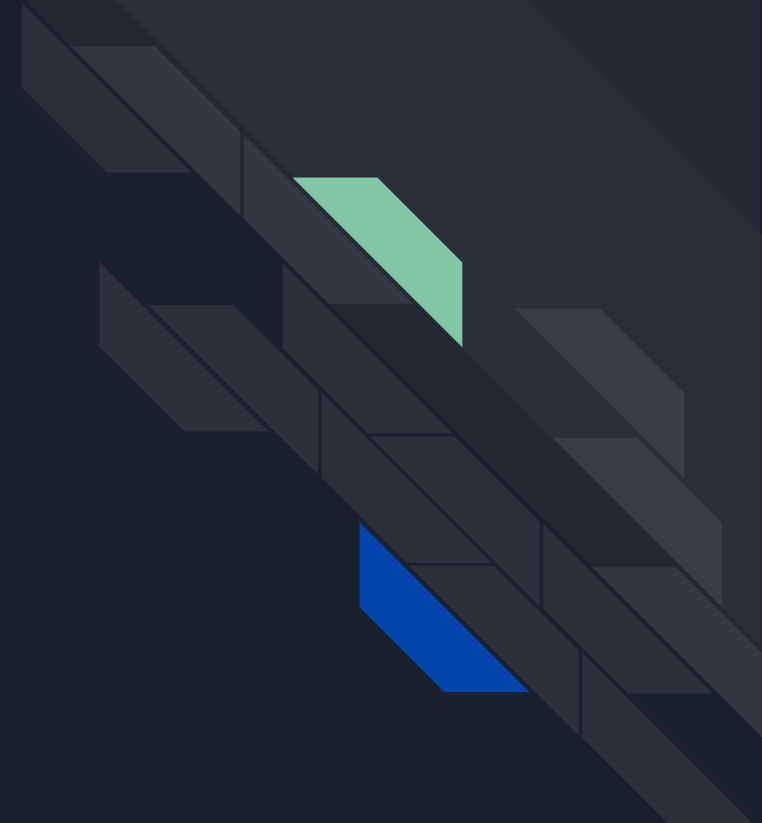
# Italy .....

By Doireann Dunne

- **Population:** 62 million
- **Capital:** Roma (Rompeople live in Italy (2019)e), which is often called 'Eternal City', with 2.9 mio inhabitants
- **Name:** Repubblica Italiana (Italian Republic) or simply: Italia, Nickname: 'Bel Paese' which means beautiful country
- **Government:** Democracy, Republic
- **Language:** Italian as well as German, French and Ladin in some regions in Northern Italy
- **Literacy:** More than 98% can read and write
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (80%, of theses most are Roman Catholics)
- **Currency:** 1 Euro = 100 cents, before 2001: Italian Lira



**History:** The country has a long history, as Rome was founded in 753 BC. After the Roman Empire broke down in 395 AD, there were many separate kingdoms and city states. Italy became one nation only in 1861 and since then the country also includes the islands of Sicily and Sardegnna. The 'Kingdom of Italy' lasted from 1861 until 1946. During the second World War, Italy's Prime Minister Benito Mussolini sided with the German Nazi regime. The Italian Republic was formed in 1946. Italy is founding member of the European Union (EU) and the NATO.



The **Italian flag** is called a tricolour because it has three colours: green, white and red. Some **Italians** think that the colour green on the **flag** is for the hills and plains of **Italy**, white is for the snow-capped Alps and red is for the bloodshed during the war to win **Italy's** independence to become a democracy.



- **Name:** Tower of Pisa, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Bell Tower of Pisa
- **Italian Name:** Torre Pendente di Pisa
- **Location:** City of Pisa, Italy.
- **Accommodation:** Find Hotels in Pisa
- **Construction Year:** started in 1173, finished in 1399
- **Original Height:** 60 m
- **Actual Height:** 56.67m =highest side; 55,86m =lowest side
- **Stairs:** 251 steps
- **Weight:** 14,500 tonnes





