

**Life in the “City of Water”**

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# Introduction

Quality of life studies are important because they highlight the positive aspects of a city while exposing areas where improvements need to be made; they give a general understanding of the well-being of the city. Cities with good quality of life are proven to bring in more business, tourism, skilled labor force and residents (Feldmann, 2008). Quality of living studies are becoming increasingly popular, organizations such as Urban Audit and Eurostat are dedicated to collecting statistics from all 27 countries in the European Union and other surrounding countries. Quality of life is not a quantifiable value necessarily. In order to calculate it, a number of factors must be considered and compared. Mercer, a human resource consulting company has come up with a non-bias set of categories that are used to conduct world-wide quality of living studies. They use 10 categories and 39 criteria to evaluate 380 European cities (Mercer). Their criterion incorporates physiological and psychological aspects of a community that range from law enforcement to hospital services to variety of restaurants. Urban Audit, a European Union program, provides statistics for countries in the European Union. Urban Audit, however, focuses on demographics, social aspects, economic aspects, civic involvement, environment, education and training, travel, transport, culture and recreation.

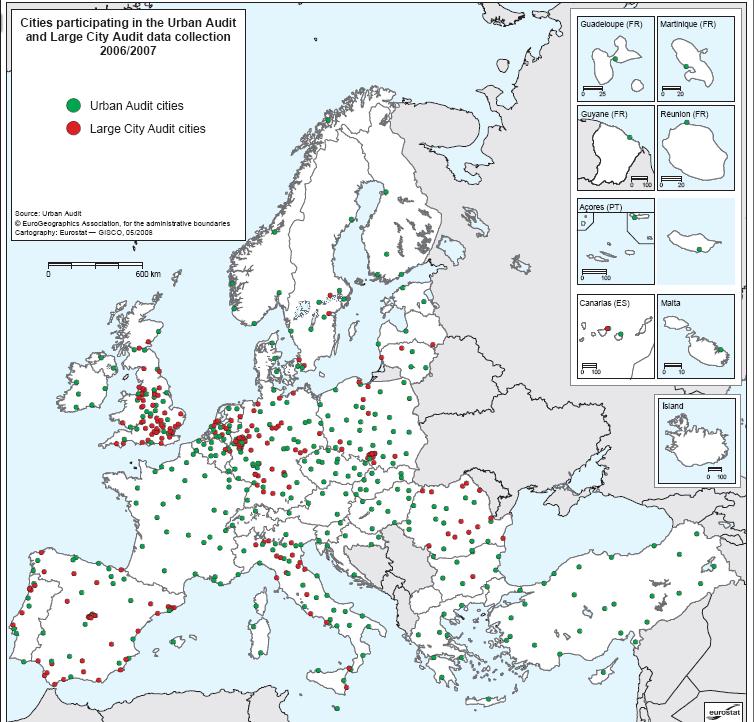


Figure Cities Participating in Urban Audit

The Urban Audit study includes many Italian cities therefore various comparisons to Italy can be made with other largely populated countries in Europe. For example, Italy holds nine of the ten top spots for cities with the largest population of people over sixty-five. Trieste has the largest share of people over sixty five with 27%. This may be a concern because Italy may have a difficulty replacing its population due to the high number of elderly people. Moreover, the population growth rate predicted in Italy for 2008 is -0.019%, meaning the net population overall is decreasing. Another study done by Urban Audit is number of car thefts per 1000 inhabitants per year. Again Italy had an overwhelming number of cities in the top ten, seven to be exact, Caserta at the top with 15.3 in 2004. These statistics can reveal future problems or areas that need improvement in Italy therefore are vital to use quality of life studies. With a number of Italian cities included in the Urban Audit study it is easy to see trends for the country on a whole.

Venice has similar trends to that of Italy, but there are also major differences due to the unique geography of the city. The most important factors that make up the unique life of Venice are tourism, cost of living, cost of housing, and transportation. Tourism plays an incredibly important role in the functioning of Venetian daily life and the Venetian economy. Each year over 12,000,000 tourists visit Venice and of those visitors 3,000,000 stay for one day or more. This shows that a great deal of Venice’s population is in constant shift as tourists constantly arrive at and depart the city. In addition, Venetians must deal with an exceedingly high cost of living. Citta’ di Venezia did a study in August of 2008 and found that some staple foods such as parmagiano cheese cost almost twice as much as on the main land. Finally, the high cost of housing plays an important role in the quality of life in Venice. According to Urban Audit, Venice ranks in the top 20% of cities in a study for the highest costs for an apartment. The average cost for an apartment in Venice in 2004 was €2,272 per square meter.

The government of Venice has initiated programs and taken measures to improve the quality of life of its citizens in an effort to keep so many of them from leaving. The increased number of tourists is driving the citizens out, but the service industry is by far the largest section in the cities income and job market. Venice however, benefits from the stable Italian economy and is able to boast one of the lowest number of cars of any modern city. Past IQP’s and other organizations have already made numerous attempts to research the unique dynamics of the city. None of them try to establish a study of the life of Venice as a whole though. Unfortunately, the information that they have unearthed is scattered across various sources and is not available in all languages. The situation lacks a comprehensive collection of information for those trying to solve Venice’s problems to consult for guidance. If a central database, or at least report, was issued with a collection of all of the relevant information gathered so far, it would be easier for those working on the situation to try and provide solutions based on the information available.

atfromOur research so far has been into different standards by which quality of life is measured around the globe. Currently we are looking into such models as the Mercer’s Quality of Living standard, the Urban Audit, and the United Nation’s Human Development Index. Hopefully, gathering such a wide amount of important information on the city of Venice into a single place will provide politicians and social engineers of Venice a valuable resource in determining ways to improve and expand the city as well as an use it as a basis to improve others.

# Background

## Quality of Life

### Different Methods for Measuring Quality of Life

Quality of life is defined by the free dictionary as “your personal satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the cultural or intellectual conditions under which you live (as distinct material comfort)” (Free Dictionary ). In other terms, quality of life is more of a person’s feelings or emotional state and their personal life. Quality of living is slightly different however. Quality of living has certain standards such as health issues, housing, consumer goods, personal safety and education that everyone would probably agree upon as being important for having a good quality of living. Mercer’s Human Resource Consulting LLC states that “One may live in the highest ranked city in terms of quality of living and still have a very bad quality of life because of unfortunate personal circumstances (illness, unemployment or loneliness, etc.).” (Mercer)

There is no particular way to measure quality of living quantitatively, however it can be measured through social implications. For the most part if you were to ask different people for their opinions on factors that affect quality of living, they would come up with very similar ideas and criteria. Although people may have different ideas on what is important to them, there are still certain factors that are going to be important no matter where they may fall on a person’s list (Mercer).

Quality of living factors differ greatly from place to place. One factor that may be important in one city may not be important in another and it is up to an individual to decide what changes their quality of life. According to Mercer’s Human Resources Consulting LLC some of the factors that affect the quality of living throughout the world are Political and Social Environment, Socio-Cultural Environment, Economic Environment, Medical and Health Considerations, Schools and Education, Public Service and Transportation, Recreation, Consumer Goods, Housing, and Natural Environment (Mercer).

Opposed to quality of living, quality of life can be measure quantitatively. Various studies have been done to determine the quality of life throughout the years. In 2005 The Economist created a Worldwide Quality of Life Index which included a total of 111 different countries. The different topics which were included on this index were their quality of life scoring, their GDP per person in $ and their respective rankings. As it turns out Italy was ranked to have a quality of life score of 7.810 and a GDP per person of $26,960. In order to relate to this the United States had a quality of life score of 7.615 and a GDP per person of $41,529. (Economist)

## Demographics

### World Demographics

Currently the world’s population is 6,706,992,932 and still rising. Between the years 1959 and 1999 the population increased from 3 billion to 6 billion people, doubling the world’s population in a matter of only 40 years. Although one may think that the population is going to reach a plateau, it does not seem if it is going to be occurring anytime soon. The US Census Bureau’s current prediction for the future population is that in 2040 the population is going to reach a staggering 9 billion people. This is almost a 50% increase from what the population is today .

Despite that fact that the population is ever increasing, it appears that the world growth rate will decrease in the future. In 2000 the growth rate was documented at being 1.28%, however in 2040 the growth rate is predicted to be 0.65%. This is a decrease of 0.63% in a period of about 40 years . Not only is the growth rate decreasing, but so is total fertility rate per woman. Theoretically if the total fertility rate is 2, there will be no growth because each set of parents simply replaces itself with its children. In actuality it will take a total fertility rate of 2.1 or 2.2 in order to replace each generation. This number is called a replacement rate, because not every child born will grow to have their own children . In 2000 the total fertility rate per woman was 2.78, however it is predicted to drop to 2.18 by 2040.

The global natural rate of increase is decreasing as well .The natural rate of increase is defined as the crude birth rate minus the crude death rate of a population. If this number turns out to be positive it means that the population is increasing, however if this number is negative the population is decreasing . It appears that in 2000 the rate of natural increase was at 1.28% and that in 2040 it is expected to decrease to 0.64%. Despite the fact that this is still a decrease, it shows that over time the world population will still be increasing. On another note, the current life expectancy at birth is an average of 66.12 years. This value is an average of 68.2 years for a woman and 64.18 years for a man.

### Italian Demographics

Italy’s is currently ranked as the 23rd largest country in the world with a population of 58,145,321 people recorded in 2008, however this population is not expected to increase. According to the US Census Bureau the population of Italy peaked in 2007 with a total population of 58,147,733 people. The population is expected to shrink to 50,389,841 by 2050, a decrease of approximately 8 million people. Over the span of 100 years, between 1950 and 2050, the population of Italy is expected to only increase by 3,284,841 people due to the peak in 2007 and the decrease there after. The population change of Italy in 2000 was an increase of 163,923 people and in 2040 the population change is expected to be -250,189 people, meaning the population will be decreasing.

Compared to the world’s growth Italy’s growth rate is extremely low. In 2000 Italy’s growth rate was documented at being 0.28%, however in 2040 the growth rate is predicted to be – 0.47%. This is a decrease of 0.75% in a period of about 40 years. Not only is the growth rate of Italy decreasing, but so is the natural rate of increase for Italy. In 2000 the natural rate of increase for Italy was recorded to be -0.03% and in 2040 it is predicted to be – 0.69%. The life expectancy of for both male and female in Italy was recorded as being 79.1 years in 2000 and in 2040 the average life expectancy is predicted to be 83.0. In 2000 the life expectancy rate for a woman was 82.1 years and for a male it was 76.4 years. In 2040 the life expectancy rate for a woman is expected to be 86.1 years and for a male it is expected to be 80.0 years.

There is one demographic value that is expected to increase in Italy compared to the rest of the world. The fertility rate per woman in Italy was 1.23 in 2000 and in 2040 it is predicted to be 1.61. This is expected to be a 0.38 increase in Italy’s fertility rate per woman, as opposed to a 0.60 decrease in the fertility rate per woman in the world.

Another major part of Italy’s demographics is the migration and immigration patterns of the country. In 2000 the net number of migrants (both in and out of Italy) was recorded as being 181,239 people and in 2040 it is predicted to be approximately 119,772 people . Throughout Italy’s history emigration has always played a large role in the country. A majority of the emigrants that moved to the Northern part of Italy were from other countries in Europe, as opposed to the emigrants that went to the Southern part of Italy were usually from the United States, Australia or Latin America. Certain characteristics were also identified with those who moved to Northern Italy, they were usually male, of working age, and were economically active.

### Venice’s Demographics

The commune of Venice’s demographic trends are similar to that of Italy, the city is experiencing a major exodus of its inhabitants. Within the commune of Venice there are three different “territories.” The first one being Terraferma or the mainland, the second being Estuario or the islands stretching further out into the lagoon and the third one being the Centro Storico or the historical city center of Venice. Our main area of focus is on the Centro Storico .

In 1980 the population of the commune of Venice was 352,453 people and in 2007 the population was documented as being 269,545 people. In order to get a better idea of the decrease in the population, between the years of 981 and 2001, the population decreased by 21.7% . Between the years 2001 and 2007, Italy’s population as a whole increased by 3.85% while Venice’s population decreased by 0.2% .

Between the years of 1951 and 2002 the population of Centro Storico decreased from approximately 120,000 people to 60,00 people, showing that the population has nearly halved in half a century . The population in 2007 of the Centro Storico was recorded as being 60,496 people, of which there were 32,641 women and 27,855 men. Compared to the 178,561 people living on Terraferma, the amount of people living in the city center is much smaller. Within the city center there were 309 births and 574 deaths that year .

Of the population in the commune of Venice, there is a large percentage that is considered to either be a minor (0-14) or a senior citizen(over 65). A total of 14.4% of Venice’s population are minors and a total of 25.7% are considered to be senior citizens. This compares to Italy’s total of 18.06% minors and 19.94% senior citizens. Of Venice’s total population approximately 59.9% of the total are middle aged .

As mentioned earlier immigration and emigration is a large part of Italian and Venetian demographics. Of the 269,545 people living in the commune of Venice in 2007, 6,921 people immigrated from the city and 5,502 people emigrated into the city (1). The largest percentage of people emigrating into the commune of Venice are from other European countries (the largest percentage being from Romania).

A large percentage of Venice’s population is made up of tourists and vacationers or people with second homes. Each year approximately 12,000,000 people visit Venice each year, and of those people 3,000,000 people stay for one or more days. Of the total housing stock only 61.7% of the houses are occupied with residents, 29.3% of the housing are associated with non-residents, and 9% of the houses are unoccupied.

## Different Stages of Life

### Youth

Being young in Italy is very similar to that of the United States. Most children between the age of 6 and 14 go to a primary school in Italy, of which 90% will attend public schools (Nation Master). After they complete the required schooling, they will then go to lower secondary school which will last for three years. Upon graduating from lower secondary school, the students will attend one of many different kinds of upper secondary schools. A majority of these schools will have a four or five year program which they can study. The main types of schools are vocational schools, science schools, classical schools, teacher training schools, and language schools (Italy Education).

For the 1997 academic year it was recorded that a total of 2,810,158 students were enrolled in primary school in Italy. In addition to that 4,602,243 students were enrolled in secondary schools. It was then documented that in the 1999 academic year, a total of 99.7% of primary school age children were enrolled in school. Of those 99.7% of children, 88% of those were then eligible to attend secondary school. In 1999 it was also said that 4.7% of the GDP was public expenditure on education.

After attending one of the various senior high schools, any graduate can choose to attend a University. In Italy there is a total of 47 public Universities and a few private universities, most of which are run by the Roman Catholic Church. Between the two different types of universities there is a total enrollment of more than a million students a year. Most university programs will usually last between four and six years. The largest university in Italy is the University of Rome, which has a total of about 17,000 students (Nation Master).

After attending a university, a student will usually get a job. The current youth employment rate in Italy is 29.7%. Between the ages of 10 and 14 the economic activity is 0.33 and between the ages of 15 and 19 the economic activity is 25.91. This value will go up drastically between the ages of 20 and 24 with an economic activity of 69.6 (Italian Education and Schooling in Italy).

### Middle Age

Italy’s job market is quite extensive, with many opportunities available. A majority of the employment fields are in service work, agriculture, and industry. A total of 56% of men and 79.2% of women are service workers in Italy, as opposed to 4.8% of men and 3.3% of women work in an agricultural field in Italy. For both male and female a majority of the economic activity will take place between 20 and 54 years old, with only 3.76 economic activity above the age of 65.

In Italy there is a total labor of 24,439,710 people, with the labor force per capita being 0.417. Of the Italian labor force, 3.6% is considered to be foreign. It has also been documented that the employment rate of highly educated women is 78.7%, while the employment rate of less educated women is 35.8%. There is a total unemployment rate of 10.3% in Italy and a long term unemployment rate of 6.5%. Of the total unemployment rate 58.2% of it is considered to be long term unemployment (Nation Master).

Once a job is secured, many Italians will start a family. Similar to many places, Italy considers family life to be very important and usually center their life on family. Parents will often either live in their children’s homes and care for their grandchildren or live in a nearby apartment to help take care of their son or daughter and their family. A lot of young mothers will also work outside of the home and in this case the grandparents will usually watch their grandchildren. In the situation where they are not grandparents around to help out the family, most urban areas will have child care centers. It is also very common for unmarried children to live with their parents until they start their own families.

More than two-thirds of Italy’s population is centered around urban areas. Because of this most families will not live in single-family homes, but rather apartment buildings. Most older parts of Italian cities will contain a large amount of low apartment buildings centered around a court yard, as opposed to the new parts of the cities having taller apartment buildings. It has also been found that most Italians would rather own their own apartment rather than renting one.

There are many different recreational activities for families to do in Italy, the most traditional being the Sunday *passeggiata* or Sunday family stroll. Some other popular activities are watching TV and going on a drive to the seashore or the mountains. Going to the movies has also been popular in the past, however due to the fact that more families own their own TV, there has been a decline in movie attendance .

Like many developed countries, the divorce rate in Italy has been ever increasing. Between 1995 and 2005 the divorce rate has increased by a total of 74%. The same study also documented that the separation rate has also increased by 57% during this same period of time. In 2005 there were a total of 47,036 divorces and 82,291 separations in Italy alone. The same study also showed that divorces and separations are more common in the more “industrialized” North, than the “poorer” South. Recorded in 2005, for 1,000 marriages there were 6.2 separations and 4 divorces in the North and 4.2 separations and 1.8 divorces in the South.

### Elderly

Italy as a whole has an aging population. It is expected that within the next 40 years the main population distribution will be over the age of 80. In 2000 the population of people over the age of 80 was 2,315,793 people and in 2050 the population of people over the age of 80 is expected to be around 6,828,253 people. This is a drastic change of 4,512,460 people in a matter of only 50 years. Having an aging population is going to change the dynamics of Italy as a whole.

As stated previously the average life expectancy was recorded as being 79.1 years in 2000 and it is predicted to be 83.0 by the year 2040. The average life expectancy for the world is currently 66.3 years of age, which is significantly lower than the average life expectancy for Italy as a whole. Despite the fact that the life expectancy rate is going to be increasing, the death rate is also going to be increasing. The death rate was recorded as being 557,000 people in 1995 and it is expected to be approximately 707,000 people in 2025. It has also been documented that the birth rate is going to be increasing in Italy, however there is currently an overwhelming amount of people that are in the middle age group which will cause an influx in the amount of people over the age of 80 in the next 20 years.

There are many services which are offered to help aid the elderly. There is an Italian Social Security System which provides very high replacement rates to retirees. This system allows almost all of a retiree’s income to come in the form of Social Security Benefits due to the many benefits of the system. In Italy there is also an early retirement provision, which has been sown to distort choices in favor of early retirement. There are many benefits to all of the programs that have been implemented to help the elderly, however there are also drawbacks.

# Methodology

Our mission is to investigate the determining factors of the quality of life and living of Venetians and to compile our findings into an accessible form for future projects. Below is a list of objects we feel need to be completed in order to achieve our goal.

1. To compile all relevant information pertaining to quality of life into a single form.
2. To explore actions taken by the Venetian government or other key organizations involved
3. To investigate Venetians' opinions on their quality of life.
4. To predict future trends of Venice based on research and collected data.

As shown, we will be conducting out research in the Historical Center of Venice. Venice is a much larger city that consists of many other smaller islands and a mainland, but for the time that we spend in Venice, we will only be interested in the one specific part of the entire city. We will not be able to travel to the many other sections of the city day to day, and since the historical center is the most well known part of Venice, we will only be studying that specific information. Some exceptions will be that we may compare Venice to other Italian or worldwide cities in order to put the facts and data we have obtained into perspective.



Figure Map of Study Area

The quality of life in Venice has been evolving since the city came into existence, but we will only be studying the last 25 years of Quality of Life data. We will also be collecting Quality of Life data while we are in Venice from October 20th to December 12th 2008. We will also be making predictions on what some of our data trends will look like in the future. The only exceptions will be that if we find some very pertinent information that is old but has to do with cost of living or governmental action against a specific life problem. We have already found population trends/predictions of Venice ranging from 1949-2050 which can be very useful to us. If the older information will benefit our work, we will then look into it further.

The data that we will be studying will mainly focus on the life of a normal Venetian. Some of the topics that we will be studying are Transportation, Job Market, Commuting, Housing, Cost of Living, Retail, Economy/Finance, Marriage, Family Life, Public Services, Hospitals, Family Healthcare, Crime, Tourism, and Communication. We will not focus on topics that have to do with the younger or older age groups because there are two other IQP groups that are focusing in on those topics. Our goal is to simply study life in Venice and what makes it unique from other cities around the world.

## Compiling all relevant information pertaining to the quality of life in Venice into a single form

The data that we need we can obtain without having to travel to Venice at all. When we are in Venice, we will spend our time in the compiling stages of our project. The information gathering stage will be done while we are still here at WPI. The reasoning behind this is that the ability to gather information off the internet is much more available here in America. We will be trying to utilize the advantages of being in America and Italy. America allows us to have access to the information via the internet while Italy will allow us to gain a real world perspective and actual opinions.

In order to compile all the relevant information pertaining to our project topic, we will have to first determine what the relevant information we are searching for is. We are aware that there are many different quality of life factors, and we need to weed out the less useful information. Previous IQP groups that have studied Venice have probably obtained a large amount of information about general life. One thing that we will have to do is look through the old projects that we decide could be relevant to our topic and select the valuable information. We have been given access to the entire database of past projects from which we can obtain the hidden data.

Using quality resources will basically determine if what kind of information we have for our project. Finding large databases of information will be essential for our project, and thankfully we have found many. One of our best and most information dense sources is the Citta Di Venezia website. The only problem is that the entire website is in Italian which limits who can read the data. Since we are currently taking Italian classes we can understand some of the site. Also the site has an “English page” option but only a small portion of the pages have been fully translated. Other translation tools like the Google “webpage translate” makes the site much easier to navigate, but doesn’t fully translate everything correctly and doesn’t translate the excel files containing the graphs and data. By translating the data into English, more people will be able to understand the data about Venice.

When we select the main topics for our project from our translated data, we will finally be able to collect it and display the data. We have decided that using our Wiki-Venice “Living in Venice” page will be the best way to display our data. Not only will the page be open to the world, but the wiki is an easily updatable encyclopedia, therefore if anyone else, may they be researchers or future IQP groups , want to add what they have uncovered about Venetian life, they can do so very easily. We plan to display the data we have collected not only in essay form, but by the use of graphics and visuals that can be easily interpreted and will display a large amount of quality information. We plan to link off of the “Living in Venice” page for now and once we can display all of the information, we will make a new page simply called “Quality of Life in Venice”.

## To explore actions taken by the Venetian government or other key organizations involved

In order to find the various actions and laws that have been implemented in Venice to deal or counter act some of the various living conditions; we will have to search the many databases on the web. Some of the things we will have to look for are local newspapers of Venice that talk about certain problems that the city is having and what the government is trying to do to fix them. While we may be able to find some old articles, we are limited because we are not actually in Venice.

When we are staying in Venice, we will be able to access more recent information. The local newspapers will have the up to date information on what problems the city is having and what the local groups are doing to fix the problems. The best part about being in Venice is that we will be able to meet and talk to the various groups that are trying to improve the living qualities of the city. Once this happens we can hopefully be able to contribute and add our own input into the situation.

As there are probably many programs that are trying to fix the city, not all of them are effective in their purpose. Once we have a good understanding of what kind of laws and programs are being implemented in the city, we will then be able to study the effectiveness. For example, we were told of one governmental program that was put in place to help Venetians buy houses in Venice. There would be a list of people that needed help buying a house, and when your name was called, the government gives you money to purchase a home with. The problem was that the money that was given out by the government was not enough and did not help a lot of people purchase housing. If one were to just view the program as a whole, it seems like it has a good cause and runs smoothly. Even though the program does help, it does not help enough, the real estate in Venice is too expensive. Therefore with good research we will be able to find out how well the programs are working and figure out ways to make them better.

The language barrier will once again probably hinder some of our progress. We want to be able to talk to the organizations and government officials about the main focuses for reform in Venice, but we do not speak much Italian. Fabio will have to help us translate unless the people speak English, in that case we won’t have to deal with that problem. However, the documents and newspapers that we will be reading and searching through will most likely be in Italian, therefore much of our time spent doing research will have to be focused toward the translating of the material. Once we have our material translated, we will be able to choose the more important laws/programs that pertain to our project.

## To investigate Venetians' opinions on their quality of life

Due to the overwhelming amount of data that can be collected we feel that the most efficient way to determine Venetians’ opinions on various topics of quality of life we will conduct an interview and videotape with a camcorder. If we collect numbers and statistics from people the general essence of their opinions will be lost, it will be bogged down with too many numbers. Furthermore, due to the length of time we will have in Venice, we do not want to spend too much time crunching numbers while a video would be more than enough to give us a general opinion of Venetians. This approach was adopted by previous IQP groups. It would be helpful for our group to view this video to determine the best way to go about this task.

Moreover, we need to determine what quality of life topics we will address and the best way ask these questions. Due to the language barrier, the questions will need to be simple or if we could find a few residents who speak English we would be able to get a more in depth response from them. It will be tricky to determine what questions we are going to ask and what will give us a general understanding of their opinion on quality of life. We also need to determine what type of people are we going to survey, old, young, middle age, men and women in various industries, where in Venice do they live and so on. It is important to have a well mixed pool of people so the opinions reflect the true opinions of all Venetians. Again, we do not have the time to conduct an in depth and complicated study, but surveying Venetians during our stay in Venice will provide ample support for our project.

## To predict future trends of Venice based on compiled data

Another objective we wish to accomplish is to predict future trends in Venice’s quality of life. By studying the large amounts of various data pertaining to quality of life that we plan to compile, we intend to try to extrapolate possible emerging trends. By studying past patterns and data sets, we hope to predict the path different aspects of Venetian life are taking so that we might understand the direction in which Venice is currently headed. Such predictions might prove useful to the various organizations intent on helping Venice. Hopefully, they may help these organizations to address dangerous trends before they become a problem or understand positive trends so that they might be replicated elsewhere.

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# Appendix A

*Allagamenti*. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 21, 2008, from <http://www.salve.it/uk/soluzioni/problemi/p-allagamentif.htm>.

A website that talks about Venice from a socio-economic point of view. Considers Venice to be a fragile city due to all of the floods. It also talks about tourism in Venice and what it is doing to the economy.

Fletcher, C., & Mosto, J. (2005). *The Science of Saving Venice*. zurich: Paul Holberton Publishing.

A book published by the British Committee for the Preservation of Venice. Has a lot of facts about Venice in particular and the various islands it encompasses. Mostly talks about the floods in Venice and how it is taking a major toll on the city.

*Human Development Reports*. (2008). Retrieved Sep. 18, 2008, from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/>.

This website it important because it gives statistics on many topics defined under the quality of living. It also compares Italy to other countries around the world. The data on the site is arranged many different ways, by country, indicator or table. It will also allow you to build your own tables.

*International Data Base (IDB) - Main*. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 12, 2008, from

*US Census Bureau.* (n.d.). Retrieved 09 15, 2008, from US Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/

Contains the US Census Bureau International Data Base system. Includes county summaries and country rankings which is important to see where Italy falls opposed to various places.

*Istat.it*. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 25, 2008, from <http://www.istat.it/>.

Contains general information about the Italian National Institute of Statistics. Contains population and census data as well as various data tables. The only drawback to this website is that it is in Italian so it is hard to understand.

*Italian Migration*. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 25, 2008, from <http://ideas.repec.org/p/iza/izadps/dp938.html>.

A good resource that describes Italian migration patterns. Breaks it down into the characteristics of an Italian migrant, their origin, and their direction of movement. Also analyzes the different reasons as to why they migrate.

*Living in Italy* . (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 12, 2008, from <http://www.shelteroffshore.com/index.php/living/cat/C54/>.

A series of articles about living and working in Italy. Different articles include, working and living in Italy, enjoying retail therapy and shopping in Italy, things to think about before moving to Italy and relationship between education, university and jobs in Italy.

Muscara, C. (1984). The Right to Adapt and the Weight of History: Venice and the Venetians. *International Political Science Review* , 7.

This article gives a good background on the political, economic, cultural obstacles Venice had to overcome during the mid 20th century. This may give us some insight on how well Venice adapts to change. The article addresses the uniqueness of Venice and how it balances revolution and historical conservation.

Musu, I. (2001). *Sustainable Venice:Suggestions for the future.* Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

This source discusses the effects of tourism and urban planning in Venice. It is a useful source because it was published within the past 10 years. One of the major topics in the book is sustainability, which would provide possible insight to topics included in quality of living.

Shackman, G., Liu, Y., & Wang, X. (n.d.). *Social Research Update* . Retrieved Sep. 15, 2008, from sru.soc.surrey.ac.uk/SRU47.pdf.

This site provides alternate metrics for measuring quality of life and also lists a number of public domain sources which we might be able to harvest data from.

*Sustainable Venice: suggestions for ... - Google Book Search*. (n.d.). Retrieved Sep. 15, 2008, from <http://books.google.com/books?id=9z8pGLgUf7cC&printsec=copyright&dq=venice+economy#PPP8,M1>.

An online book that talks about Venice being sustainable and possible suggestions for the future. Two of the topics that are mentioned that effect Venice’s sustainability are the lagoon and tourism.