The Banca dati degli Autori della Grande Regione di Origine Italiana (BAGROI) is a bibliographical databank of texts by authors of Italian origin writing in the Great Region (an area encompassing Luxembourg, the French region of Lorraine, the Belgian region of Wallonia, and the German states of Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland). The project’s aim is to establish and document the literary activity of Italian authors or of authors of Italian origin living in Luxembourg and in the surrounding regions.

The impetus for the databank came about during development of the research project “Presence, History, Memoirs of Italians in Luxembourg and in the Great Region,” which I had the privilege to lead at the University of Luxembourg between 2004 and 2007. My colleagues and I realized that an increasing number of Italians or persons of Italian origin in the Great Region were writing and publishing books. We started “collecting” these writings, using as groundwork the first studies in this field written by Joseph Boggiani (2005) and Anne Morelli (1996). We also listed announcements in area newspapers requesting submissions of works written by Italians. As news of our initiative spread, getting in contact with new authors became easier. The dimensions of the project (BAGROI currently has approximately one hundred authors) convinced us immediately that it was worth analysis because of its potential as a source of new sociocultural information. Consequently, I set up the databank asking for the following information from the authors:

1. Date of birth (and, depending on the case, of death)
2. Place of birth and generation of immigration
3. Place the texts were written
4. Titles and language of the writings
5. Status of work: published or not published
6. Name and city of publisher and year of publication

BAGROI became more fully developed during a new research project titled “Textuality of Italians of the Great Region and Integration” (TIGRI), which began in 2009 and will conclude in 2014. BAGROI will be online at www.italianistica.lu immediately after the publication of my book in progress The Anthology of Italian Literature in Luxembourg.