

THE EXPERIENCE IN BASILICATA

Stop undeclared work in agriculture

RAISE UP



Vincenzo Esposito

Our experience of sindacato di strada is linked to the territory of Vulture Alto-Bradano where, mainly, in the summer period, there is the tomato harvest and during this period 800-1000 workers are involved, almost all of them are non-EU.

They are workers who unfortunately live in abandoned farmhouses, dilapidated structures, slums so for we need to do sindacato di strada where are not the workers who come to our offices, but we reach these workers where they live.

It is a work performed by trade unionists, a cultural mediator and a lawyer. We give contractual and legal assistance and we give informations to these workers who do not know the rights and

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regulations of the territory in which they live and therefore the rules of our country.

There was a tradition of hospitality in a hospitality village that did not provide optimal services and where the caporalato lurked providing cheap labor and services such as water, electricity, meals and sandwiches.

From there comes the need for sindacato di strada, from there comes the need in collaboration with the Basilicata Region and the prefecture to organize an hospitality

village that could offer services: beds, sanitary facilities, hot meals, cooking, medical clinic, an employee of the employment center that facilitates the meeting between the offer and the job application via the booking lists.

An important project that is linked to another one which actually eliminates the possibility for the corporal to provide agricultural labor that is transport: for two years with the territorial bilateral body we finance the transport from the hospitality village to the fields and from the fields

this is a fundamental tool because the caporale mainly deals with transport and asking the workers to pay for it, instead providing this service for free it is clear that the role of the caporale has no sense.

Furthermore, we are collaborating with employers' associations who pushes their associates to go to the hospitality village to hire labor through the booking lists.

There are two types of intervention: in the reception center we have a trade unionist twice a week with the other, more incisive activity, we go to the slums and the farmhouses to meet people with the help of a cultural mediator who speaks multiple languages and we collect practices in that context that in the following days we try to carry out on the return, in the following week, we try to give the answers to these requests.

For the communications we act in this way: when the campaign starts we make a statement in the local press, during the journey we report any particular episodes and then we make a final report at the end of the project. We especially need the press to solicit the controlling bodies, the labor inspectorate, the INPS and the prefecture, and in some cases we also need to solicit the Region, to ensure that the project, especially for the part linked to the hospitality is organized in the best possible way.

"The caporale takes care of the transport and makes him pay, providing this service for free, the caporale has no sense"

The work done together with the Basilicata Region is an important job: we have equipped that area with an hospitality village offering different services (transport, sanitary, hygienic, the possibility of having a meal) was fundamental, but only part of the problem is solved because we face about 1000 people while the field can host a maximum of 400 so we need to double the available seats and maybe even implement the field with other services: a traveling medical clinic, bike rental, bike repair



In collaboration with the Basilicata Region and the prefecture, an hospitality village has been set up with the following services: beds, sanitary facilities, hot meals, cooking, medical clinic, an employee of the employment center who allows the meeting between the offer and the job application via the booking lists.

shop, and also the reflective jackets because the risk of being hit by cars is very high. There are services that still need to be done and that can be done but obviously it's necessary a greater investment of resources by the Region and also by other institution in order to increase the hospitality.