

THE EXPERIENCE OF CASERTA

Stop undeclared work in agriculture

RAISE UP



Igor Prata

The sindacato di strada has a fundamental objective which is to break down the walls of our offices and reach the territories, stay in the midst of society, knowing it, going towards the world of work which is variegated and really divided and above all it is a world of work without rights.

When you do sindacato di strada it is fundamental to know the reality in which you move, so it is important to acquire information, to have knowledge of the area where you will implement the sindacato di strada. It is important to know which types of workers you will meet, which nationalities and therefore which communities you will find. It is essential to have the ability to be known and

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recognized by the territory and from these types of workers. Therefore it is fundamental to acquire also their trust. Over the years we learnt that it is fundamental to have someone who introduce you into that ethnic community. We interface with communities from Eastern Europe, such as Bulgarian citizens or Romanian citizens.

Particularly in a series of experiences we have had in the territory of Mondragone we worked in collaboration with the Bulgarian

trade union and we managed to be accepted by the Bulgarian community that is composed by 1.000 citizens in Mondragone, where about 20,000 inhabitants live, they are all occupied in rural work or in Mondragone or in the area of litorale Domizio. From that moment we were able to interact with that community and to approach them and also to be approached for every problem they could have.

When we organized the third Jerry Masslo award in 2016, we developed the first day in Mondragone at “Palazzi Cirio” where 400-500 Bulgarian citizens live throughout the year. The Bulgarian trade union stayed with us at the beginning of the Jerry Masslo award and they did sindacato di strada with us.

At 5:00 a.m. we went near the buildings, we remained with the Bulgarian syndicalist who, speaking the same language, knowing their habits, knew how to approach them to get in touch with them despite their distrust. wW were able to understand them, their working conditions and she introduced us as their reference for any problem they could have.

We went to the municipalities of the territory, to the institutions, we interfaced with the local associations also with Catholic associations, because often they have useful data and information.

When we did sindacato di strada we faced with the real social and working conditions of the territory and we realized that these people not only need help for their work but also for their lives.

"With the sindacato di strada we face labor disputes, we organize workers and we manage to make them our members"

When we do sindacato di strada we wake up at 4:00-4:30 a.m. and we go to the places where we meet the workers with multilingual flyers, t-shirts and caps, these gadget are very useful on the workplace but also to approach the workers. The flyers, very short and in multiple languages, give them the essential information.

When we meet them we ask where they come from, where are they going to work so in which fields of the countryside, which crops, how many hours they work,

how much they earn, who carry them to work, who acts as intermediary with the employer, and other questions to get as much information as possible to get the picture of the situation of their working conditions.

Obviously in the morning, as they are waiting to be carried to the workplace, we try to be discreet, not to steal workers too much time and often we are forced to leave so that they do not lose a day's



During the sindacato di strada with the Bulgarian trade union, the workers were approached speaking their own language and demonstrating to know their habits: in this way Flai became their reference with respect to any problem.

work. When they come back in the late afternoon, we have more chances to exchange some chat with them. We also carry technological equipment such as iPads and computers to make checks on their social security positions, and verify if they have regular contracts, if the employer pays the contributions, and unfortunately in most cases we find illegal work or “grey labor”.

During the experience of sindacato di strada we have a real communication plan.

It is important for us not only the work as we do as trade union in the specific case but also the public opinion and the feelings around the situation. We first create a press release for the start of the sindacato di strada where we urge associations or local authorities to support this process.

We create agreements also with associations, local authorities, with the CGIL and we create a database that we fill every week with the information we collect.

At the end of the campaign of sindacato di strada, we make a press release in which we make public everything we have discovered.

In the midst of sindacato di strada campaign, we are often joined by newspapers and television who want to know the situation and for us it is important since they bring to the outside the situation and therefore, we let people know what is really about.

We let journalists join us during the day of sindacato di strada so they report what happens.

It is clear that the sindacato di strada needs a report at the end of the journey, but also during the activities, it is important to map what we do and the results we are able to obtain. How many workers we are able to reach, how many workers return to our offices to ask solution for their problems. We lead proselytism campaign in the period of agricultural unemployment allowance in order to understand if the number of people that come to us is growing this is the rule we use to evaluate our proselytism commitment our capacity to lead the lawsuit and to let the workers obtain their rights our ability to organize them and to create a union conscience in them and to push them become our members.