*Comitato Per I Dritti Civili Delle Prostitute APS*

**How can regularization processes facilitate the enjoyment of human rights by migrants?**

Regularisation gives people easier access to the right to health as well as to a registry office residence and thus to social services. However, the precariousness of residence permits, which are often time-limited, reiterates the discrimination suffered by migrants, even regular ones: the time it takes to issue plastic residence permits is very long and people often only have the paper receipt of the renewal or application for issuance. Although the receipt constitutes by law to all intents and purposes a residence permit, certifying the person's legality on Italian territory, in many cases employers, landlords and public offices of various kinds (including health or administrative services such as the Agenzia delle Entrate, Tax Assistance Centres), do not accept the receipt alone for the purpose of carrying out the paperwork requested by the person (e.g. signing a rental or employment contract, applying for benefits, etc.).

**What examples of national and regional solutions to legalize the stay for migrants in irregular situations does your country have?**

In Italy there are two regularization systems for irregular migrants: international protection and Article 18 for victims of trafficking and serious exploitation, i.e. an 18-month permit that can then be converted to work.

On the one hand, we have the system of international protection, which is saturated because asylum applications have increased exponentially, making it one of the few legal channels for regularization, against which only a very small percentage of people benefit from protection with respect to the total number of applications forwarded to the Territorial Commissions; on the other hand, we have the system of Article 18, dedicated to victims of trafficking and serious exploitation, which entitles them to a residence permit for social protection lasting 18 months that can be converted into work. This instrument is now fragile as the labor market is increasingly precarious and poor work is a growing trend, leaving the migrant population exposed to vulnerability and poverty. The lack of structured legislation allowing legal entry into Italy actually produces huge pockets of irregular people who can be exploited in the most diverse sectors. Occasionally, the Italian state opens emersion and regularization procedures for domestic workers irregularly present on the territory, but even these measures turn out to be residual because they are targeted only at certain categories of workers and because they are implemented ad hoc on the basis of decisions from above.

**Do you have examples of promising practices that your country or region has adopted to promote a human rights-based approach to migration?**

The Italian anti-trafficking system, articulated with small sensitive projects dedicated in numbers and modalities to the beneficiaries, represents a good practice in the national system. However, this system is challenged by the lack of resources dedicated to anti-trafficking projects by the Equal Opportunities Department at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

**What specific challenges has your country encountered in regularization processes and how have these challenges affected migrant workers, women and girls, and children?**

Currently, the political situation in Italy has worsened the lives of migrants especially at the borders. While these regulations have made already fragile people even more vulnerable, they can also be seen as a jungle in which migrant people's lives are entangled. We believe that ad hoc responses and innovative strategies are needed to provide adequate support to migrants who have survived the multiple factors of vulnerability described above.

In fact, according to a report by Annunziato Vardè, prefect of Trieste, the numbers of migrants who entered Italy through the Friulian border from October to December 2022 have increased fivefold since 2021. So we are talking precisely about the period when the new Meloni government took office. The data were listed during a press conference. The increase is exponential: it went from 1,194 in October-December 2021 to 5,690 in the same period relative to 2022. The numbers include traces of immigrants who entered Italy illegally and those who spontaneously presented themselves to law enforcement once they entered the country. Going even more specific, 2,104 are the arrivals in October 2022 (525 in 2021), 2,451 those in November 2022 (470 in 2021), and 1,135 in December 2022 (199 in 2021).

Since the Meloni government took office, uncertainty and confusion have been the constants in the approach to migration policies:

* Restoration of chain rejections between Italy and Slovenia, complete with a circular by newly appointed Interior Minister Piantedosi, despite the fact that this practice, introduced by Salvini in 2020, was declared illegitimate by the Court of Rome in a 2021 ruling in which it said readmissions thus violate domestic and European law on access to asylum procedures. But not only that. These procedures also violate all the guarantees and procedures provided for in the Dublin Regulation "on the assignment to a member state of responsibility over the examination of a given asylum application and thus the transfer of a given person to that state"
* rejections at sea resumed with the issuance on November 4 of an inter-ministerial decree: with this act, the Viminale, in agreement with the Ministries of Defense and Infrastructure, prohibited the NGO ship, with 179 shipwrecked people on board, from "stopping in national territorial waters beyond the time necessary for rescue and assistance operations with regard to persons in emergency conditions and in precarious health conditions reported by the competent national authorities." The people who remained on board (or were to remain there, in the government's intentions) would still be guaranteed, the decree assured, "the assistance necessary for the exit from territorial waters."
* the management of the Ukrainian emergency, has been an announced failure: e.g., issuance of temporary protection permits, they expire on 4.3.23 and as of today it is not known what will happen; contracts of cultural mediators hired by police headquarters and prefectures expired on 31.1 and it is not known what will happen; government aid to Ukrainian families discontinued in September; blue dot dismantled in November; various NGOs are reorganizing their support activities in the city but there is no real institutional support.

**What contribution do migrants make to the economy and society of the host communities?**

Care work is particularly one of the sectors in which migrants, especially women, are employed in Italy. However, this commitment is not matched by adequate recognition by the Italian state in terms of citizenship, social and political rights.

**What specific challenges arose in this area in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

The Covid-19 Pandemic resulted in an increase in vulnerabilities and therefore in requests for help through both formal and informal channels. The needs of migrants have become more complex and with diversified reception needs. Requests for low-threshold care have increased, with the provision of services dedicated to health protection, legal protection, access to training and job placement services, while maintaining housing autonomy.

Victims of severe labor exploitation in particular have been clamoring for agile, customized and quick access to the world of work. However, even women victims of sexual exploitation did not seek a mere welfare situation, but more and more often an accompaniment to job placement for themselves and their families. Many women and families arrived at the Italian anti-trafficking services after having been removed from northern European countries because they were Dublinants, often with dependent young children, in some cases with their partners in tow.

As for those beneficiaries of the reception and social integration programme for victims of trafficking, following the pandemic, a general difficulty persists in exiting the programme, in consolidating economic and housing autonomy, due to the general worsening of the labor market. In fact, job opportunities are even more precarious and sectorialised in the area of housekeeping and care work, where demand is more consistent but where gray areas of exploitation and precariousness are more evident.

As for housing autonomy, here too, the search for an outgoing dwelling is made more difficult by high rental prices, but often also by landlords' prejudices against the beneficiaries.

Although they resorted to looking for work on the open market or private employment agencies and distributing CVs in specific areas, due to the COIVD-19 pandemic, job placement slowed down, proving more difficult than in the past. During the months of the first and second pandemic waves, due to the need to observe precautionary measures against the spread of the virus, direct access to public services such as social services, the job center, and the revenue agency was severely restricted, and the intermediation of associations that assist migrants was required to complete various types of paperwork.