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MAX

Maximising Migrants' Contribution to Society

Diversity Dialogue Fora (ITALY/Legacoopsociali)

HOW TO CHANGE - Migrant work between emergency, changes and rights

On May 20th and 21st the second Italian MAX Diversity Dialogue Fora (DDF) was held to discuss about integration and job perspective for migrants, as well as to present the stories of migrants who have helped communities to grow. The event, organised by Legacoopsociali, Dedalus, Consorzio Cosm and Consorzio Comunitas saw the participation of migration experts, politicians, journalists, writers and social organisations. At the beginning, the presidents of Legacoopsociali and Dedalus, Eleonora Vanni and Elena De Filippo, greeted the speakers and participants, by opening the discussion with focusing on the role of social cooperation in reception and support to asylum seekers migrants in Italy: "We, as social cooperatives, are deeply committed to work for the economic and social inclusion of migrants - said Vanni - but we do not have the strength, nor the presumption to do it on our own. There should be better cooperation between the political side, that defines the rules, interventions and resources, civil society and the entrepreneurial world, where a special role could be played by social economy in creating the best conditions for an inclusion at all levels that enhances the best of everyone"

Laura Boldrini, president of the Committee for the Human Rights in the world of the Chamber of Deputies, pointed out the duties that Italy and Europe have in organising humanitarian missions in the Mediterranean: "With regard to people that flee from Lybia, we have essential duties such as saving lives at sea. Would it be difficult to imagine a European mission such as the Italian initiative "Mare Nostrum"? The right of asylum is tarnished. It is question of will and motivation. There are some political parties that are not interested in manage this issue but are more use it as a tool to fuel consensus

These words were echoed by the intervention of José Antonio Díaz Moreno del Cese: "We need to change the narrative, normalise the positive language. We must fight against these neo-fascist discourses against migration because the population must be intercultural, this enriches us all".

In the debate, the provided data largely disproved the current media and political narratives. Giovanni Di Dio of Anpal services and Labour migration expert pointed out that “we have over 5 million foreigners in Italy out of which, just over 4 million are non-EU citizens. The European country with the most foreigners is Austria, Italy has a lower incidence level than the rest of Europe”. Enrico Di Pasquale, researcher at the Leone Moressa Foundation, spoke of a "demographic winter" for Italy and how is going underway the Italian emigration toward EU and non-EU countries.

Following that, Valeria Piro, Researcher at the University of Padua, and Marco Cilento, Confederation of European Trade Unions ETUC, put the focus on the labour market and workers’ rights in certain sectors. "The effects of the pandemic highlighted the inequalities in the society and the results of years of cuts in the public health system. The result was that migrants as vulnerable group were more exposed to health problems and had more difficulties in handling the lockdowns and to access to adequate health services in the first place" said Piro – then the risk to lose their jobs and the poor housing conditions"

Patrizia Luongo of Forum Inequality Diversity focused her speech on the condition of Transport riders: "With the pandemic, people got aware of the importance of the transport riders on and this can be a driving force for a change in the area of worker’s rights". Filomena Costanzo (Sale della Terra consortium) and Federico Boccaletti (Cooperativa soc. Anziani e non solo) gave an overview on the situation in two sectors sensitive to the presence of migrants: agriculture and household and caregiving services personal services.

During the second session of the DDF on May 21st, Consorzio Communitas and Legacoopsociali social cooperatives shared several video testimonials of success stories of diversity and social inclusion. The day continued with a roundtable with the journalist of the Social Editor news agency and the Algerian writer, Tahar Lamri, who discussed languages and media on migration and the evolution of narratives in recent years.

The event was concluded by the proclamation of the two winners of the "success stories" in which 300 voters took part: the Sabir Association and the IPAD social cooperative.

In the first category "less than 5 years living in Italy" Sabir Association presented the young Gambian educator Malick, forced to leave his country because he was persecuted. Today, Malick is studying Political Science thanks to a scholarship supported by the “Open” project of the Caritas of Crotona.

Legacoopsociali national association of social cooperatives is project partner of the MAX project; co-financed by the AMIF-fund, which intends to fight stereotypes linked to immigrants by highlighting their contribution to society.



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