

Long abstract – Monographic section

EXPLOITATION OF WORK, RIGHTS AND HEALTH IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Edited by Marco Omizzolo

The relevance of multi-level governance on contrasting the social inequity health determinants of exploited migrant workers: a comparison between the Project P.I.U. Su.Pr.Eme. in the Region of Sicily and the Project Common Ground in the Veneto Region

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In Italy migrants are often exposed to labour exploitation by working without a contract, adequate protection equipment, or being underpaid. Precarious labour conditions of migrant workers frequently hinder their regular access to essential services, such as housing.

Consequently, there is a lack of endowment to social protection and health assistance. Italy has around 180,000 workers in a vulnerable and quasi-exploitative situation, especially within agriculture. Sicily is the second region in Italy for the number of workers in agriculture (14.1%) and for regularisations (11.7%), while Veneto is the fifth region at a national level for workers in agriculture (6.9%) and for regularisations (9%).

Labour exploitation in Italy is not a new phenomenon, but only recently policymakers have started to pay attention to it and designed policies.

The country high numbers related to labour exploitation and informal economy, together with the protests and social movements, campaigns and general attention in the public and political discourse, pushed the Italian Government to implement national policies and actions to contrast the phenomenon. While in the Northern Regions the multi-level governance was mainly implemented through the Common Ground project, the Southern regions enacted the projects Su.Pre.EmE and Più Su.Pr.EmE.

Applying the Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health Inequalities, this study, through a mixed method research based on the administration of 80 questionnaires and the conduction of 15 semi-structured interviews with street-level bureaucrats, aims to 1) analyse the role of multi-level governance in the facilitation of health endowment of migrants working within an exploitative situation; 2) understand the recognition of the institutional representation through the private sector implementing the *P.I.U. Su.Pr.Eme.* and *Common Ground* projects within multi-level governance; 3) assess the influence of gender and nationality as structural determinants that are perceived to impact the health inequity of migrant workers. This research explores the hypothesis that the social position of migrant workers majorly exposes them to differential consequences of illness.

The analysis highlighted significant findings regarding the implementation of a multi-level governance in contrasting and preventing labour exploitation in both regions.

First, there is a different degree of implementation of multi-level governance in the two regions, since in Veneto it is more consolidated, due to the long-term experience of the anti-trafficking network, while in Sicily it is at the outset; second, socio-economic and political Social Determinants of Health

Inequalities were found to weigh more than the personal and social in the endowment of the well-being of migrant workers; third, the governance led by the regional Government has

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finally enhanced the recognition of Civil Society Organizations by the local administrations and institutions; fourth, street-level bureaucrats have a different role in the two regions: in Sicily, they have a low degree of freedom of action due to the lack of recognition by the public administration, while in Veneto they have a higher recognition of their role by the public administration and, therefore, a higher level of freedom of action, which helps creating new synergies with public and private actors.

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