

NEWS

Introducing Su.Pr.Eme.2

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Helpdesk against Illegal Gang Mastering, a strategic service in the fight against labour exploitation

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Su.Pr.Eme.2: news from the Regions

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An extraordinary and integrated five-year plan of interventions to combat and overcome forms of serious labour exploitation experienced by foreigners in Sicily, Calabria, Apulia, Basilicata and Campania



Su.Pr.Eme.

la strada giusta

Officially launched in January 2024, the **Su.Pr.Eme.2 Program** is an **extraordinary and integrated five-year plan of interventions to combat and overcome forms of serious labor exploitation, unlawful recruitment activities and situations of serious marginalisation and vulnerability experienced by foreigners** in the five regions of Southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Apulia, Basilicata and Campania).

It is financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027 - Specific Objective 2 Legal Migration and Integration - Scope 2 h) integration measures and by PN Inclusion and poverty alleviation ESF+ 2021-2027 - Priority 1 "Support for social inclusion and fight against poverty" - Specific objective ESO4.9) Promoting the socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants.

The partnership is led by the Sicilian Region, supported by the Regions of Basilicata, Calabria, Campania and Apulia and by the Nova National Consortium for Social Innovation.

Su.Pr.Eme.2 is part of the National Program for the Prevention and Fight against Undeclared Work and Unlawful Recruitment of the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. It intends to systematise, for the sake of continuity and innovation, the services, results and impacts achieved with the previous Su.Pr.Eme. and P.I.U.Su.Pr.Eme projects concluded respectively in 2022 and 2023.

The program is divided into the following areas of activity:

WP1 - GOVERNANCE FOR INNOVATION

- **Tables to combat illegal gang mastering activities** to define and share strategies and joint action plans
- **Institutional and community empowerment and Change Management support paths**
- **Support and empowerment** of migrant associationism to encourage their active participation
- **Mapping, sensitisation and engagement of the employment system** to promote societal-work inclusion paths and guide processes to support emergence
- **Study and awareness of capacity building**

WP2 - EMERGENCE LABORATORIES

- **Interinstitutional Helpdesk against Illegal Gang Mastering**, a specialised, multi-channel and multilingual service that promotes emergence and facilitates access to information and services
- **Support for inspection task forces in complementarity with other territorial interventions**
- **Integration budget with allocation** to individual recipients from a pool of resources designed to support them on their path to socio-economic empowerment
- **Governance of emergence actions and inter-regional referral mechanism** for the integrated action of all interventions

WP3 - CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM INTEGRATION

- **Integrated social hubs** for multidimensional undertakings
- **Proximity actions:** territorial linguistic and intercultural outreach and mediation
- **Transport bolstered by intercultural mediation activities**
- **Inclusive housing measures** aimed at dignified migrant living conditions, also through co-housing actions and independent living pathways
- **Orientation and strengthening of skills** for recipients
- **Innovative social agriculture pilot projects** to support recipient entrepreneurship
- **Strengthening of Employment Centres** and supply/demand job matching services

WP4 - MAINSTREAM AWARENESS

- **Communication and information plan**
- **Social media management, digital communications, press office**
- **Interregional training course for journalists and communicators**
- **Awareness and promotional campaigns**
- **Events**
- **Storytelling and narration** (“Beyond the ghetto”)

RECIPIENTS

The project is aimed at approximately **18 thousand seasonal migrant workers** employed mainly in the agricultural-food sector and in other production sectors at risk of labour exploitation in the **five regions involved**. To find out more, you can visit Su.Pr.Eme.2 program page at the link <https://integrazioneimmigranti.gov.it/it-it/Dettaglio-progetto/id/62/SuPrEme2>

Introducing Su.Pr.Eme.2: «The goal is to reach people»

The kick-off meeting was held on May 9th at the Sicilian Regional Assembly (ARS) headquarters in Palermo with the participation of numerous institutional representatives and representatives of the project partnership



The second edition of the **Su.Pr.Eme. Program** to combat unlawful recruitment activities and serious labor exploitation in the five regions of Southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Apulia, Basilicata, and Campania) was presented last May 9 during an event held at the headquarters of the Sicilian Regional Assembly (ARS) in Palermo, moderated by the journalist Davide Camarrone, and attended by numerous institutional representatives and representatives of the project partnership.

«In the area of integration, the EU can contribute through its funds and can promote good practices, as it did with Su.Pr.Eme., which has been a success and has become a real model», said **Patrick Doelle**, DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. Su.Pr.Eme. was in fact recognised as a good practice during the 21st edition of the **European Week of Regions and Cities**, the annual European Union event of dedicated to cohesion policies held in Brussels in October 2023.

«The financial commitment is significant», said Prefect Maria Forte of the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Central Directorate for Migration Policies of the Ministry of the Interior - «30 million euros to reach approximately 5 thousand beneficiaries. It is an ambitious goal, but it should be considered a structural one».

Stefania Congia of the DG Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour underlined that «It is important to lay the foundations for the new programming without forgetting that the goal is to reach people. People's needs are manifested in the territories and it is important that the territories feel supported by the institutions».

There are several initiatives starting for the sake of continuity and innovation with what has already been achieved in the previous Su.Pr.Eme. Italy and P.I.U.Su.Pr.Eme. Specifically, the Five-Year Plan provides for the continuation of the work of the regional tables to combat illegal gang mastering, support inspection actions in complementarity with other territorial interventions, provide measures for inclusive housing, training internships, as well as the implementation of integrated social hubs for the multidimensional care of migrant citizens, the **Interinstitutional Helpdesk against Illegal Gang Mastering**, a multi-channel and multilingual service that promotes emergence and facilitates access to information and services, and the **integration budget**, which assigns to individual recipients a ceiling of resources to support them in building an individualised project of socio-work autonomy.

Watch the *video* of the kick-off meeting.

Helpdesk against Illegal Gang Mastering, a strategic service in the fight against labour exploitation

Established in 2021 within the P.I.U.Su.Pr.Eme. project, it has continued thanks to Su.Pr.Eme.2 and today represents a fundamental safeguard for the identification and protection of victims of labour exploitation



The Interinstitutional Helpdesk against illegal gang mastering was established in 2021 within the P.I.U.Su.Pr.Eme. (Percorsi Individualizzati di Uscita dagli Sfruttamento [Individualised Paths to Exit Exploitation]) project, and today it represents a fundamental safeguard for the identification and protection of labour exploitation victims since this experimentation has laid the foundations for an integrated and coordinated approach at the national level. This approach focuses, above all, on the southern regions of Italy (the objective of the project) where the phenomenon of illegal gang mastering takes on particular relevance and requires specific and targeted interventions.

Upon the conclusion of P.I.U.Su.Pr.Eme. at the end of 2023, the Helpdesk's activities continued without stopping thanks to the second edition of the Su.Pr.Eme. Program, funded by the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027** and by the **PN Inclusion and fight against poverty FSE+ 2021-2027**. The new five-year plan represents a further evolution of the collective commitment aimed at combating the phenomenon of illegal recruitment and supporting the social and work integration of migrants. Thanks to this funding, the Helpdesk is able to strengthen its network of interventions and further its presence on the territory, operating in synergy with national and European policies on immigration and human rights.

One of the pillars of the Helpdesk is its **multichannel and multilingual nature**, which allows migrant workers to access legal assistance services and guidance on available territorial services. This accessibility is achieved through various tools, including telephone and online channels, to ensure nationwide coverage and make support accessible even to those who work in the most marginal and rural areas.

The Helpdesk, in addition to providing direct assistance, is configured as a strategic hub of connection between different actors in the territory. Thanks to a dense network of collaborations with Third Sector Entities, Integrated Social Centres, local and national associations and other organisations committed to combating labour exploitation, it has been possible to create a synergy that favours targeted and widespread interventions. This has contributed to improving access to social assistance and legal services, ensuring timely and adequate responses to the needs of a particularly vulnerable social group.



Since **April 2024**, the Helpdesk has also reactivated **outreach activities in the five regions of Southern Italy**, where the phenomenon of illegal gang mastering and exploitation is the most widespread and where the presence of migrant workers follows the seasonal dynamics of the agricultural sector. These field interventions aim to reach migrant workers directly in rural areas, informal settlements and seasonal workplaces, often characterised by conditions of vulnerability and isolation. Outreach activities are an essential element in the Helpdesk's strategy, as they allow it to intercept migrant workers who, for various reasons, may not have access to traditional assistance and support channels. This intervention method allows it to provide immediate and personalised assistance, responding effectively to the specific needs of the people involved, and representing a crucial contribution to overcoming forms of labour exploitation and social marginalisation.

With the support of the Su.Pr.Eme.2 project and the resources made available, the Helpdesk will continue to strengthen its actions, expanding its network of interventions and strengthening collaborations with institutional and local actors. The challenges posed by the phenomenon of labour exploitation, particularly in rural areas and in sectors with high seasonal labour intensity, require a constant and coordinated commitment. The Helpdesk, through its role as a facilitator and catalyst of resources, will continue to represent a point of reference to ensure dignified working conditions and promote inclusive and sustainable integration for all migrant workers.

Su.Pr.Eme.2: news from the Regions

Public Notices for co-planning have been launched; in Sicily, the first integrated social hub was inaugurated in Catania on October 16th, a territorial centre for taking charge and providing guidance for services for migrant worker



The activities of Su.Pr.Eme.2 have started in all five regions involved in the project.

In **Apulia**, three Public Notices of Expression of Interest have been announced for the activation of social centres for integration in the provinces of Foggia, Bari and Bat, and Lecce, Taranto and Brindisi respectively.

In Foggia, the Evaluation Commission has been appointed since the deadline for applications expired, while the other two calls are still ongoing.

Meanwhile, in Salento, where the Su.Pr.Eme. project supports the watermelon harvest, the Boncuri guesthouse ended its activities on September 1st and will resume them next June.

The **Calabria** Region has instead requested some Municipalities included in the territorial areas most affected by the phenomenon of labour exploitation carry out unitary project interventions that will affect the Piana di Gioia Tauro (Rosarno, San Ferdinando and Taurianova) and the Piana di Sibari (Cassano allo Ionio and Corigliano Rossano).

The Public Notices for co-planning are currently underway and concern the opening of integrated social hubs, which will have the task of promoting social inclusion, housing initiatives, proximity actions and the protection of foreign workers.

Following the selection procedures, the Region will then sign the program agreements with the Municipalities, with desired effects also in the social territorial areas to which they belong.

At the beginning of the new year, the Calabria Region will publish further co-planning Notices for the implementation of other interventions to prevent and combat undeclared work and the phenomenon of illegal gang mastering and exploitation.

The **Basilicata** Region has published a Public Notice for co-planning aimed at third sector entities in order to prepare interventions for the reception and integration of victims or potential victims of labour exploitation in agriculture

in the Metapontino area. As regards Vulture Alto Bradano, a consultative and preparatory phase is being organised with the municipalities of the territory, employer organisations and those of the third sector. At the same time, a dialogue is underway with some in-house organisations such as ALSIA and ARLAB to review the measures related to training in agriculture and to the apparatuses for social-work integration.

The **Campania** Region's only Public Notice expired on October 31st. It is aimed at identifying third sector entities, individually or in association, to implement and manage interventions aimed at third country nationals who are victims or potential victims of labour exploitation legally residing in the areas of Salerno (Piana del Sele and Agro Nocerino Sarnese), Naples (Agro Giuglianesse and Vesuvian Area), Caserta (Area of Castel Volturno and Area of Casertano), Avellino and Benevento and related provincial territories.

Once the identification phase of the co-implementing entities has been completed and the definitive project has been outlined, a specific Agreement will be signed which will establish the start date of the project activities.

In **Sicily**, the first integrated social hub was inaugurated on October 16th in Catania. It is managed by the Associazione Penelope Coordinamento Solidarietà Sociale, in ATS with the Centro Astalli Catania ODV, and is called POL.I.F.EM.O (Integrated Social Hub for the Purpose of EMersion and Orientation), it aims to create a widespread network of proximity, contact, orientation and coordination offices in the provincial territory that guarantee migrants who are victims and potential victims of labour exploitation access to the services, rights and protections provided for by current legislation.

The Social Hub, which will be divided into three city contact locations and two peripheral ones located in the Calatina (Scordia) area and in the Catania plain (Adrano), will be organised into operational task forces that will guarantee the emergence and formal identification of victims, legal support for the processes of reporting and regularisation, aid and personal skills to support the emergence phase, support for access to social, health, educational and training services, the activation of social protection programs, and support for social, housing and work autonomy.

Among the activities planned for the Su.Pr.Eme.2 project in the Sicilian region, there is also support for inspection actions by territorial teams composed of social-legal operators and linguistic-cultural mediators. Preparatory to the activities in the field will be training for all team members on the phenomenon of labour exploitation and illegal gang mastering, signs of exploitation, legislation on legal status regularisation in the territory, methods of first contact with potential victims of exploitation and implementation of information and outreach (under the responsibility of the Anti-Gang Mastering Helpdesk in all the territories of the regions of the partnership).

The primary objective of the integrated social hubs is to build, in their respective areas of competence, **recognisable places for the multidimensional care of foreign citizens in situations of labour exploitation** and to orient them towards services.



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