

Newsletter n° 05

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NEWS

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The Su.Pr.Eme. 2 Program meets Social Hubs in Palermo

Over 100 civil society organisations engaged in dialogue with institutional partners and the Ministry of Labour



The two-day meeting of the National Program to Combat Unlawful Recruitment (Su.Pr.Eme.2), coordinated by the Sicilian Region together with the other southern regions of Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, and Apulia, was held in Palermo.

In addition to the institutional partnership, **representatives of over 100 civil society organisations that support and promote the 46 Integrated Social Hubs established by the program** met in the Sicilian capital with over 350 social activist and legal protection professionals in attendance. Institutional representatives, local administrators, project partners, third sector workers, and delegates from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the intermediary body for the national AMFI and PN Inclusion programs 2021-2027, were widely represented.

During the first day, the workshop offered an in-depth overview of the activities of the Integrated Social Hubs, places designed to ensure single, coordinated, and efficient access to services for migrant citizens living in or exposed to situations of exploitation.

The second day saw the work of the Institutional Partnership between the regions and NOVA Consortium, the Program's technical and scientific partner. Present at the meeting was Patrizia Valenti, the new Chief of Staff of the Sicilian Region's Department of Family, Social Policies, and Labour, who emphasised the importance

and centrality of policies in the region to combat all forms of illegality, and in particular the sadly widespread phenomenon of labour exploitation in all its forms. The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Directorate General for Social Policies, the Third Sector, and Immigration highlighted the strategic importance of the role of the regions, and in particular the consolidated experience of the partnership among the Southern regions in the fight against unlawful recruitment. This partnership, with a participatory approach to related policies, combines social policies and active labour policies in a coherent and strongly results-oriented vision, as demonstrated in recent years of joint work on the Su.Pr.Eme. program, which just a few months ago received the important recognition of European good practice as part of the Regiostars 2025 Awards.



The initiative represented an important opportunity for discussion among national and regional institutions, project partners, and third sector organisations from all partner regions committed to developing an intervention model that can not only combat, but also prevent exploitation and unlawful recruitment in the long term, promoting social and employment inclusion of migrant citizens residing in Sicily, Apulia, Campania, Calabria, and Basilicata.

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From the host's point of view: the perspective of Sicilian Social Hubs

The Palermo workshop represented a moment of synthesis and relaunch of the work carried out in the territories



The workshop involving the Su.Pr.Eme. 2 project's Integrated Social Hubs provided the operators with a moment to summarise and revitalise the work done in the regions. The day marked an important step in the process of building an interregional network, offering for the first time a structured space for discussion among the Hubs of the five Southern regions called upon to address common challenges despite their profoundly different contexts.

The need to overcome the fragmentation of interventions and strengthen a systemic vision emerged forcefully over the course of the workshop. As **Salvatore Maio**, Coordinator of the Syracuse Integrated Social Hub, emphasised, "The national workshop of the Su.Pr.Eme. 2 Integrated Social Hubs represented the first real opportunity to bring together all the Hubs and build a common systemic vision. On this occasion, we shared experiences and services across different regions, discussing concrete strategies at tables to maximise the impact on the local communities, such as reaching less visible workers and integrating a gender based approach. The focus on the role of evaluation was also particularly interesting, allowing us to valorise not only the numbers, but above all the quality and social impact of our work."

Discussion was also recognised as an essential tool for integrating diverse experiences and assessing their effectiveness. **Fausto Melluso**, Coordinator of the Palermo Integrated Social Hub, emphasised the importance of spaces for dialogue among organisations, associations, and institutions capable of uncovering truly effective operational practices, enhancing positive ones, and identifying shared solutions to overcome fragmented approaches and build more solid and inclusive networks capable of responding to people's concrete needs.

The meeting also fostered reflection on the program's interregional dimension. **Uccio Muratore**, Coordinator of the Enna Integrated Social Hub, highlighted how “the first opportunity for discussion among the Southern Italian Hubs has allowed them to identify themselves within a project that transcends territorial boundaries and strengthens the Hubs' role as an operational link between needs and institutions within public-private networks based on shared responsibilities and geared toward a possible structuralisation of the system.”

For **Marilena Titone**, Coordinator of the Trapani Integrated Social Hub, November 13th 2025 also represented the first important meeting between all the Hubs of the five Southern regions; it was useful to take stock of local experiences and explore the possibility of building a shared vision for the Integrated Social Hubs. This perspective looks to the creation of an interregional referral ecosystem as a starting point for an increasingly coordinated and effective fight against labour exploitation.



Social hubs underway in Basilicata, between continuity and future challenges

Currently in the co-design phase, the discussion in Palermo was particularly useful



Basilicata’s social hubs are not yet operational and are still in the co-design phase. For this reason, the exchange resulting from the Palermo project was “particularly important and useful both to understand the current situation in other regional contexts and to understand their dynamics in relation to the specificities of the different provinces.” This is the conviction of **Gianni Giugliano** of the social cooperative **Filef Basilicata**, the implementing body for the soon-to-be-opened Social Hubs.

“It’s clear that each Social Hub tends to develop differently in different areas, depending on the actors involved, the network of existing services, and the ways in which beneficiaries perceive and experience the Hubs’ role,” says Giugliano. “This perception varies depending on whether the prevailing needs concern labour exploitation, mobility difficulties, or housing issues.”

“As for the Social Hubs in Basilicata,” he continues, “for us at Filef, the ability to continue the work already started in previous programs is a key element: it means being able to intervene with prior knowledge of the main critical issues we will face. In this new program, for example, the role of the Employment Centres will be central, through which the Social Hubs can become a real tool in the hands of the Region to act more effectively in emerging situations.”

Another strategic aspect will be to make the Social Hubs a cross-functional and integrated tool with existing local facilities. “This entails,” he continued, “on the one hand, building an operational network with all the reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees—from CAS to SAI—spread across the region; on the other hand, close coordination with the centres open in Palazzo San Gervasio and Tursi, which, through the Su.Pr.Eme. project, already provide shelter to numerous labourers working in the Alto Bradano and Metapontino areas.”



Another challenge of the new program concerns training. “In previous years, many beneficiaries expressed a strong desire to access professional training programs to acquire skills and certifications. Training—along with the well-known challenges related to transportation and housing—is a fundamental tool for emerging from exploitation. It’s clear that the Region’s support will be crucial on this front as well, and that the Social Hubs will be able to play a key role as local Hubs capable of identifying needs and

facilitating access to training programs,” concluded Giugliano.

In Calabria's Social Hubs: Where integration becomes autonomy

Many services are offered, from the Social Taxi to Literacy Courses through to the Postal Service in San Ferdinando



In Taurianova and San Ferdinando, two of Su.Pr.Eme. 2's Social Hubs are now among the most important Hubs in the Piana. Not a welfare centre, but a true factory of autonomy: each program—educational, healthcare, social, or employment—is designed to give people the tools to navigate the region independently- to work, study, and access services without needing to depend on anyone. The “Su.Pr.Eme. 2 - Interventions to Prevent and Combat Undeclared Work and the Phenomenon of Unlawful Recruitment” project is supported by the Calabria Region as part of the extraordinary and integrated five-year plan of interventions to combat and overcome the severe forms of labour exploitation experienced by foreigners in the five regions of Southern Italy.

The Social Taxi: two cars that bridge distances and rights

Two vehicles are constantly on the move between clinics, hospitals, public offices, tent cities, the social village, and beneficiaries' homes. The Social Taxi, bookable via WhatsApp or Google Calendar, is more than just a transportation service: it's the first step toward full inclusion. It allows people to reach everything that would otherwise be far away—medical appointments, documents, essential services—and at the same time teaches independence, because those who learn to use it independently also learn to navigate their new daily routine.

Literacy, work, traditional crafts and trades

Every week, the Hub organises literacy courses: 10 participants at the Hub, 30 in the tent city, and 24 in the social village.

Learning Italian isn't a bureaucratic obligation: it means being able to read a contract, understand a medical prescription, ace a job interview, and explain yourself to an employer or teacher. Last December, new career guidance programs began: group workshops to understand how to present yourself, how to write a CV, what

skills the market requires, and what rights every worker has. Work is also being done on traditional crafts and trades to enhance the skills and traditions of different countries and transform them into concrete opportunities. Companies aren't just "informed": they meet people, attend events, and contribute to building a shared database. The results are starting to show: three beneficiaries have already found jobs.

Postal service in San Ferdinando

The San Ferdinando Hub also offers a crucial service: certified mail for beneficiaries. Those living in the tent city or the social village can choose the Hub as their delivery point, avoiding loss and delays and thus ensuring access to documents, healthcare, school, and employment.

The social village: dignified modules, real paths

The social village is one of the project's key elements. Several beneficiaries live here in decent housing units with constant access to the Hub's services, training, and activities. It demonstrates that inclusion requires real investment, adequate spaces, and daily work based on relationships, listening, and presence.

Stories: the heart of inclusion

These are just the most recent stories that the project workers wanted to share because they capture the meaning of their daily work. There's the story of a woman who arrived as a beneficiary and who, thanks to a personal and professional growth journey, has now been hired by the project itself. A story of redemption, rediscovered skills, and regained dignity. There's the story of a young man who, during the interview for the inclusion grant, confided his dream: to work and simultaneously return to university. From that statement, a targeted support program was born, developed together with the staff.

In recent months, the Hub has also supported four young people with significant vulnerabilities, including mental health and addictions. Thanks to the collaboration between Su.Pr.Eme. 2, the Municipality, the Mental Health Centre, and Sert, visits and admissions were immediate, demonstrating the crucial importance of an integrated and timely network.

There are families living with significant disabilities who find the Hub a stable point for navigating paperwork, medical appointments, and daily needs. And there are young people who, in times of particular housing difficulty, have been supported by workers in the face of eviction and helped to communicate with the relevant services.

At the center of all these stories is always a key figure: the cultural mediator- who welcomes, listens, translates, establishes trust, and builds bridges between people and services. Without this role, many projects would never even get started.



From local territories to a regional network: Campania's 19 Integrated Social Hubs

The Palermo workshop represented a space for discussion among operators on organisational structures, operating methods and common challenges



As part of the **Su.Pr.Eme. 2** project, Campania has developed a comprehensive network of **19 Integrated Social Hubs** active throughout the region. The Hubs constitute a structured intervention model designed to provide an integrated response to the complex needs of third-country nationals most exposed to social vulnerability, job insecurity, and the risk of exploitation.

The Integrated Social Hubs operate as **low-threshold local access points**, designed to be recognisable, accessible, and immediately usable. Their operation is geared toward reducing bureaucratic, linguistic, and cultural barriers and establishing an initial contact based on listening and welcoming, facilitating the identification of needs and access to services.

The regional network is organised into **7 territorial stretches**, which comprehensively cover the main areas of Campania, including the provinces of **Salerno, Naples, Caserta, Avellino, and Benevento**. In each stretch, the Hubs are activated within **Temporary Non-Profit Associations (ATS)**, which bring together third-sector organisations with complementary skills and consolidated experience in community work and the protection of rights.

In detail:

- In the **Salerno - Piana del Sele** area, the Hubs are active in the municipalities of Bellizzi, Santa Cecilia di Eboli, and Capaccio-Paestum, and are managed under the ATS coordinated by the **La Rada Consortium**
- In the **Agro Nocerino-Sarnese** area (province of Salerno), the Hubs operate in Cava de' Tirreni, Nocera Inferiore, and Scafati, managed by the ATS led by **La Città della Luna**
- In the **Agro Giuglianeso** area (Metropolitan City of Naples), the Hubs active in Giugliano in Campania and Frattamaggiore are coordinated by the ATS led by **ARCI Mediterraneo**

- In the **Vesuvian Area** (province of Naples), the Hubs operate in the municipalities of Scisciano, Poggiomarino, and Portici under the coordination of the ATS led by **Dedalus**
- In the **Castel Volturno and Litorale Domizio** area (province of Caserta), the Hubs located in Casal di Principe, Villa Literno, and Castel Volturno are managed by the ATS coordinated by **CIDIS**
- In the **Caserta Area**, the Hubs operate in the municipalities of Capua, Aversa, and Caserta, coordinated by the ATS under the direction of the **Committee for the Social Center**
- In the **Avellino and Benevento areas and provincial territories**, the Hubs operate in the provincial capitals and their respective provincial districts within the ATS led by the **Percorsi** consortium



A key aspect of the Integrated Social Hubs is their **multidisciplinary approach** to care. Each person is guided through an assessment that comprehensively considers social, employment, legal, health, and housing aspects in order to develop personalised support and assistance programs geared toward protecting rights and strengthening independence.

Alongside the Hubs, the Temporary Non-Profit Associations (ATS) also provide **street units and mobile units**-essential tools for reaching people experiencing isolation, housing insecurity, or labour exploitation and who have difficulty

accessing services spontaneously. This integrated system allows for a combination of local interventions and structured services that expand the ability to intercept and respond in the local area.

The Integrated Social Hubs in Campania also serve as a **regional observatory**, contributing to the collection and analysis of the phenomena of exploitation and marginalisation and strengthening networking between local authorities, social and health services, and third sector organisations. The network involves **numerous specialised operators** who work in multidisciplinary teams and serve as a stable reference point for the local area.

Altogether, the **19 Integrated Social Hubs** form a **regional social infrastructure** capable of combining a territorial dimension with a systemic vision, strengthening the territorial capacity to respond in a coordinated manner to complex phenomena.

During the **workshop dedicated to the Integrated Social Hubs held in Palermo on November 13 and 14**, the ATSs engaged with their counterparts from other regions involved in the Su.Pr.Eme. 2 program, sharing operational experiences, challenges, and best practices related to the implementation of the Hubs model looking at strengthening and consolidating it. The workshop provided a space for operators to discuss organisational structures, operating methods, and common challenges related to the implementation of Integrated Social Hubs, providing useful insights for a comparative analysis of experiences and for the evolution of the model in different territorial contexts.

Integrated Social Hubs in Apulia: Reference points and Hubs to access services

Places that put the well-being of the local community front and center



The workshop presenting the **Su.Pr.Eme. 2 Integrated Social Hubs**, held this past November in Palermo, represented a significant opportunity for discussion and in-depth analysis among local operators, third sector organisations, and institutional representatives involved in efforts to combat labour exploitation and promote the social and labour inclusion of migrant citizens in the area.

The considerations of the participants who arrived in the Sicilian capital from Apulia revealed a shared definition of the Integrated Social Hub as **a local hub for access to services** capable of integrating skills and interventions in the social, healthcare, housing, and employment fields.

In this regard, the representative of the **Foggia Integrated Social Hub** emphasised that “the Social Hub can be defined as a point of reference that integrates various services and resources, placing the well-being of the community of citizens living in the area at its core. It is the central hub of a network in which third sector organisations and institutions collaborate to meet multiple social needs related to the social inclusion of the beneficiaries of the Su.Pr.Eme.2 Program.” The Integrated Social Hub takes on an even more significant value because it represents a reference point for the reception, orientation, and protection of the rights of people in vulnerable situations, particularly migrant workers.

From this perspective, the Integrated Social Hubs of the provinces of Bari-Bat, Foggia, and Lecce-Taranto-Brindisi serve as a stable reference point for orientation, information, and awareness of rights, with particular attention to citizens in vulnerable situations and/or potential victims of labour exploitation. The action implemented through the Integrated Social Hubs fully reflects the Su.Pr.Eme. 2 motto “**the right path**”, embodying it in concrete practices of proximity, support, and care.

The meeting of the representatives of the five regions involved fostered understanding and dialogue with regional coordination levels allowing for the sharing of operational approaches, intervention strategies, and initial findings from the implementation of the Integrated Social Hubs in different contexts.

On this point, the representative of the **Bari-Bat Integrated Social Hub** stated that “the workshop strengthened awareness of the importance of structured and continuous local interventions, capable of transcending emergence. The need for stable networking and strong coordination between institutions and local realities to make the Social Hubs truly effective and recognised by the community clearly emerged”.

Another element that came about from the discussion concerns the valorisation of territorial differences as an opportunity for shared growth, as highlighted by the coordinator of the **Lecce-Taranto-Brindisi Integrated Social Hub**, who stated that “the areas affected by the presence of the Social Hubs have diverse characteristics and practices; however, it would be important to systematically structure opportunities for discussion and self-training, in order to achieve the sharing of best practices or, more generally, draw on the wealth of expertise developed by operators in other areas.”

At the event's conclusion, one of the key considerations that came to the forefront was the importance of **strengthening ongoing dialogue** among Integrated Social Hubs in order to leverage existing best practices and foster self-training and mutual learning among operators. Despite the variety of local contexts and intervention methods, sharing experiences is recognised as a key element to improve the effectiveness of actions and promote forms of social innovation capable of adequately responding to the needs of third-country nationals.



Looking ahead, participants expressed the hope that Social Hubs could consolidate themselves as a **stable and structural presence** moving beyond the program dimension. In this regard, strengthening institutional networks through the definition of shared operational protocols appears important, particularly with those most involved in combating labour exploitation in order to make interventions more timely, coordinated, and effective. The shared goal is to generate a positive and lasting impact not only on direct recipients but on the entire local community, helping to steer the regions “**down the right path**” of accessibility, legality, and the protection of rights.



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