

The relevance of multi-level governance on contrasting the structural inequity health determinants of exploited (or at-risk of exploitation) 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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Informal labour is prevalent in low-qualified work positions often fulfilled by migrants in Italy. Labourers are often vulnerable to exploitation by working without adequate protection equipment, being often exposed to exploitative conditions, and being underpaid. Furthermore, employers are frequently reluctant to establish a work contract that corresponds to the realistic work cost, which frequently hinders the regular access of migrants to essential services, such as housing and, consequently, to a lack of endowment to social protection and health assistance.

The V report on Agromafie e Caporalato (Osservatorio Placido Rizzotto 2020) affirms that in Italy, there are around 180,000 workers in a vulnerable and quasi-exploitative situation, especially in the agriculture sector. Sicily is the second region in Italy for the number of workers in agriculture (14,1%) and for emersione claims (11,7%), while Veneto is the fifth region at a national level for workers in agriculture (6,9%), and for the number of "emersione claims" (9%) (Placido Rizzotto 2020, INPS 2018).

In the last decade, the country's high numbers of labour exploitation led the Central Government to implement national policies and actions to contrast the phenomenon and the informal economy (Omizzolo 2023). In the Northern Regions, the multi-level governance was mainly implemented through the project Common Ground aimed at assisting migrants at risk of exploitation or currently exploited in the regions of Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Friuli Venezia Giulia, while in the Southern regions, the projects Su.Pre.EmE and Più Su.Pr.EmE applied expansive policies to provide integrated social services to migrants living in informal agricultural settlements in nine Sicilian provinces that were generally excluded from health system services (Field 1973).

Applying the Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health (Irwin & Solar 2010), this study, through a mixed method research based on administering 80 questionnaires and conducting 15 semi-structured interviews to street-level bureaucrats (Lipsky, 1980) of Su.Pre.EmE, Più Su.Pr.EmE and Common Ground projects aims at 1) analysing the role of multi-level governance on the facilitation of health endowment of migrants working within an exploitative situation; 2) understanding the recognition of the institutional representation through the private sector implementing the Su.Pr.EmE, Più Su.Pr.EmE and Common Ground projects within multi-level governance; 3) comprehending the influence of the regional socio-economic context in the entitlement of migrants in Sicily and Veneto on binary welfare between Northern and Southern Regions of Italy; 4) assessing through an intersectional and gender-based lens the

impact of nationality and gender, in a structural determinant that impacts the health inequity of migrant workers differently.

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