

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Irregular work in agriculture -Ghetto Out Casa Sankara (Italy)





1 Implications for policy and farming support

1.1 The Challenge & Needs – What is the situation?

Casa Sankara faces numerous daily challenges and needs that require focused attention. There are multiple problems that affect a migrant in Italy, and the importance of Casa Sankara in addressing migrant issues is tangible.

The first challenge migrants face when they arrive in Italy is to have regular documents to live in Italy and Casa Sankara. In Italy, the bureaucracy is very heavy and long, so to reach the goal, it is necessary to have someone that deals with this issue. One solution to that problem would be to have a dedicated office for volunteering associations and NGOs or someone to speak with to fill out all the documents.

Often undocumented immigrants are forced to rely on makeshift solutions, especially when it comes to housing. These solutions, in most cases, are in ghettos, informal settlements, where it is easier for them to be pre-empted by caporali (corporals) to go to work off the books in the fields.

1.2 Support framework – What is needed?

Casa Sankara aims to combat this precariousness of housing by welcoming migrants, trying to integrate them within society with a job, and teaching them the Italian language. This has costs, however, and the social innovation needs to raise funds every year for the maintenance of the facilities, to pay people who work within the association, for the production of tomato sauce, to continue activities like Italian classes for migrants, driver's license courses, advanced courses in agricultural practices, and many others.

All these services turn out to be very important for the integration of migrants into the community in which they live. For example, having a car allows them to be able to move around and the knowledge of the language allows them to communicate with people, thus reducing risks of possible discrimination.

For these reasons, it is very important that institutions call for projects that can help to raise money. It would also be good to draw attention to the problem so that people can donate money to the social innovation.

1.3 Recommendations – What needs to be done to realise the support needed?

One of the most significant aspects at Casa Sankara is being able to provide regular work to the migrants. Thanks to the constant work of its managers, many of them manage to get regular work for most of the year. Unfortunately, this is not always possible for everyone, as it happens that the timelines for documents to be regularly hired are too long. Lengthy procedures lead to a decrease in well-being for those who are unable to get a job. In this regard, it might be





helpful to reduce the timelines for hiring on a short-term basis for workers from Casa Sankara (and the other NGOs). Also, a greater collaboration between Casa Sankara and local employment centres should be fostered.

Additionally, it would be important to increase the production of Riaccolto tomato sauce. This would have two main benefits: the first is to provide more revenue to Casa Sankara; the second one would be to bring attention to the reality of an ethical supply chain, contributing to draw potential solutions to the problem. To do this, there is a need for land, which could be provided by municipalities near Casa Sankara. In addition, it would be important for the region or some private entity to provide the association with technological means to increase efficiency in production.

