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Abstracts

THE SUPRANATIONAL DIMENSION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LABOUR EXPLOITATION OF “IRREGULAR” MIGRANTS

Alfredo Rizzo

The issue of labour exploitation of migrants irregularly staying in the EU – as dealt with within the specific legal framework stemming from a supranational dimension (EU) – is gaining additional weight, if we consider that it implies close interrelations between subjects covered by criminal, immigration, and labour law. Under EU law, the paper aims to prove how, on this topic, relevant case law is increasingly considering indications of international (ECHR) and EU institutions and judiciaries. This implies a positive impact of the “integrationist” approach with a view, on the one hand, to a more effective prosecution of behaviours corresponding to exploitation, and, on the other, to the protection of people subjected to exploitation, even more so in consideration of the extreme vulnerability experienced by third-country nationals irregularly staying in the territory of the EU.

Keywords: EU law, socio-labour inclusion of migrants, irregular migrants, crime victims, exploitation at work.

MAIN POLICY ORIENTATIONS THAT IMPACT ON UNDECLARED WORK OF FOREIGNERS IN ITALY

Francesco Pomponi

This contribution aims to clarify the correlation between the condition of foreign workers in Italy, characterised by widespread forms of poor work and undeclared work, with migration policies.

In particular, both the rules on migratory flows, and the reception system targeted at immigrants seeking international protection are examined. Both have proved ineffective in combatting illegal immigration, and have favoured undeclared work, especially in certain production sectors.

Keywords: immigration, undeclared work.

FOREIGN LABOUR FORCE IN THE BLACK ECONOMY: FINDINGS FROM THE INAPP SURVEY

Isidoro Bracchi, Maria Saide Liperi, Francesco Pomponi, Aldo Rosano

The issue of undeclared work performed by foreigners has been acknowledged for its relevance in the socio-economic debate. The INAPP survey “Data collection activities, through interviews, aimed at reconstructing the cognitive framework of the characteristics of undeclared and irregular work of foreigners in Italy” has delved into this issue by listening to the voices of the workers themselves, interviewed with the PAPI (pen-and-paper personal interviews) method, thus deriving a cross-cutting overview of economic activity sectors. Among the main findings of the survey, summarised in the article, is the wide prevalence of so-called “grey” work in addition to work performed without any form of contract; it also highlights that foreign women are more exposed to horizontal segregation, being employed in a very limited spectrum of occupations, and that irregularity in the work environment facilitates de-qualification of workers. Finally, it is noted that, among the ambitions of foreign workers with respect to their employment future, work regularity remains in the background, while continuity of the employment relationship, and its remuneration gain relevance.

Keywords: foreign population, undeclared work, labour segregation, grey labour, deskilling, foreign female workers.

DOMESTIC SECTOR AND CARE WORK, BETWEEN INADEQUACIES OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM, AND REGULATORY GAPS

Gilda Noviello, Maria Parente

Population ageing has made Italy the Western European country that makes the most use of domestic workers, who have become the main support for the family and home care management system. The increase in the elderly population is a huge and increasingly complex problem, with impacts in social and welfare terms; not only do families have to shoulder the financial burden linked thereto, but above all, they have to care for vulnerable people, especially the elderly.

Nevertheless, the Italian National Institute for Social Security (INPS) reports an overall decrease in the sector of more than 76,000 units (from 970,847 in 2021 to 894,299 in 2022), which, considering the growing number of elderly people and applications, raises concerns about a revival of undeclared work.

Through the analysis of the data emerging from a focus group “dedicated” to the Veneto region, where a particularly high old-age index is recorded, we intend to examine the legislative and policy actions useful to tackle the problem of undeclared work.

Keywords: domestic sector, care work, undeclared work.

DIRTY PLATES. THE EXPLOITATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE CATERING INDUSTRY IN ROME

Marta Capesciotti, Gilda Noviello

Catering was among the sectors most affected by the pandemic. The effects caused by the health emergency, and the post-pandemic recovery have brought to light unresolved problems and controversial endemic patterns specific to the sector. And the shadow of undeclared work is a reality that continues to claim victims, with the aggravating circumstance that it is a phenomenon that features difficulties in terms of detection and measurement.

The Italian National Institute of Public Policy Analysis (INAPP), together with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, as part of the survey “Data collection activity aimed at reconstructing the cognitive framework of the characteristics of undeclared and irregular work involving foreigners in Italy”, oversaw a focus group in January 2024 on undeclared work in the catering sector in Rome, which involved employers, local administrators, and trade union representatives, as well as civil-society organisations committed to protecting the rights of migrant people.

The goal of the focus group, starting from the analysis of the features of undeclared and irregular work, as well as from the evaluation of public interventions, is to outline legislative and policy interventions to stem such phenomenon.

Keywords: irregular work, irregular employment in the catering industry, labour exploitation.

REGIONAL POLICIES FOR TACKLING UNDECLARED WORK

Alessandra Cornice, Maria Parente

The widespread presence of undeclared work on the national territory requires interventions that act at both national and regional level, with a view to impacting on specific territories in an effective and multi-directional way. In this essay, we intend to give an overview of the regional patterns at the regulatory stage, as well as of the projects to combat undeclared work, highlighting the effort to systematise the interventions, in the light of the Three-Year Plan to Combat Labour Exploitation in Agriculture, and Gangmastering 2020-2022 (extended to 2025), and of the reform pertaining to Mission 5 of the NRRP related to the National Plan to Combat Undeclared Work 2022-2025.

Keywords: undeclared work, regional policies.

POVERTY AND ITS DYNAMICS IN ITALY: COMPARING RESULTS BY USING ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE POVERTY THRESHOLDS.A (METHODOLOGICAL) NOTE

Lucia Coppola, Anna Giraldo, Stefano Mazzucco

In this paper, by using both cross-sectional and longitudinal EU-SILC Italian data, we compare the effects of using absolute or relative poverty thresholds in estimating poverty incidence and in analysing poverty dynamics. We apply relative poverty thresholds (RPT) and absolute poverty thresholds (APT) to equivalised household income. The stratification of such indices by family composition, geographical area, and other socio-economic characteristics allows us to show and discuss the differences between the two approaches to poverty measurement. Our analyses show that, when using APT, the differences (in terms of poverty incidence) between regions are smaller than when using RPT. Conversely, when using RPT, the differences between living arrangements are stronger than those obtained by using APT. We also found differences in terms of poverty persistence (i.e., being poor for at least three years out of four). In addition, the APT takes into account differences in purchasing power between Italian regions, and does not depend on the average income levels, making it more sensitive to the effects of economic recessions.

Keywords: relative poverty, absolute poverty, poverty incidence, poverty dynamics.

INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSIFICATION IN THE PRODUCTION OF MUSIC CULTURE IN TRENTINO. TEACHERS' COMPLIANCE WITH SHARED RULES, AND STUDENTS' WELL-BEING

Silvia Sacchetti

This work deals with the production of music culture and education in the context of Trentino and its music schools. The article analyses the characteristics of the system and its governance, and explores its coherence with the public objective of producing a meritorious good. It uses data from interviews and from two original surveys conducted between 2021 and 2023 – one targeted at school teachers, and the other one at their students – to illustrate, with descriptive statistics, the perceived outcomes and effectiveness of the system with respect to its educational objectives. Moreover, assuming that not only the financial and structural aspects of the system but also intangible elements, such as teachers' motivation and its persistence, are relevant elements in sustaining the production of a meritorious good, we present a statistical description of teachers' motivational persistence, and then associate this variable with a number of determinants that include commitment, salary, the meaning a teacher attaches to his/her work, organisational involvement, and teachers' compliance with the system rules.

Keywords: merit goods, market structure, music education and culture, teachers, students, salaries, cooperative company, motivational persistence, Trentino Alto-Adige.