

## **PALERMO MEETING BRIEF**

The meeting in Palermo was the fifth in the framework of the European project The Routes of Solidarity. The activity was held from 17<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2018, focusing on the topic of the criminalization of solidarity. The aim of this meeting was to discuss and to analyze the current dominant narrative on migration and the counter- narrative in place at country level. The plan included meeting various experts from local associations in order to discuss and reflect upon the issues encountered on a daily basis and their responsive strategies. The expected outcome was to identify drivers in common between participant organizations across countries in order to build a common counter-narrative strategy.

This work would then lead to the definition of a common advocacy strategy for the final project message. During the Evaluation meeting held in Rome (17 of September) however, productive discussions between partners brought to re-designing the strategy efforts in order to focus on a more concrete and realistic short-term outcome. Thus, the focus shifted to the definition of a common advocacy strategy to be finalized in the next Thessaloniki meeting for the delivery of the final project message.

The following presentations and discussions were led by local associations with different expertise in the topic.

- **Legal Clinic of Palermo:** Prof. Vassallo Paleologo presented the situation in Europe with regards to the Criminalization of Solidarity, with specific references to the Italian case. The legal case ‘Diciotti’ rescue was presented, highlighting the current agreement and practice between Search and Rescue (SAR) operations of Lybian, Italian and Maltese authorities as well as legal implications for non-governmental organizations employed in SAR efforts.
- **Arci Porco Rosso** discussed the local multi-ethnic context of the Ballaro’ neighbourhood of Palermo, the local criminal economy linked with the historical market of the neighbourhood. The political public discourse on migration and the consequences on hate speech racism in Italy were presented, pointing out the mutual interaction between the politically speech on migration and the common speech on it.
- **Border line Sicilia:** the situation in the central Mediterranean route and the search and rescue operations by Ngo’s, Frontex, Eunavfor Med, Coast Guard were presented. Moreover, they showed up the Italian reception system and the nationality of arrivals in Italy. Border line Sicilia has a project funded by EACEA program, the description of it is define in the link below  
<https://www.borderlinesicilia.org/projects/eacea-bsm/>
- **Addio Pizzo Travel** intervention brought about the sensitive issues at stake on migrant labour exploitation (caporalato) and trafficking by criminal Mafia associations in Italy. The relation between local mafia and migrant mafia (especially Nigerian one, very deep-rooted in the local contest)
- **Communications Trainer: Christian Elia from Qcode Magazine** presented an analysis of Italian dominant narrative on migration and counter-narrative on it.

The meeting was attended by 18 participants, coming from Greek organizations (Praksis, Alkyone, Antigone, Mosaik), Croatian organizations (Center for peace studies, JRS Jesuit Refugee

Service, Pank), Belgrade (Info Park) and from Spain (Iridia, Centre per la defensa dels drets humans (Barcellona), Universidad de Sevilla, Proem aid. Professional emergency aid, APDHA. Asociacion Pro- Derechos humanos de Andalucia).

## **DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

In line with the meeting agenda, most of the activities planned by UPP were provided. During Palermo meeting a briefing with participants highlighting different needs from them:

- 1) To know more about the human geography of the place;
- 2) To involve migrants in the meeting;
- 3) To share experiences and skills between participants
- 4) Visit around the inland
- 5) Meeting with the local community
- 6) Everyday reflections in small groups and dynamic group
- 7) Andres speech on analysis of counter- narrative on migration
- 8) Meeting with local association in their headquarters

In accordance with the possibility to reach participants proposal, the agenda was reorganized. A visit to Arci Porco Rosso headquarters was provide and a field visit on Ballarò neighborhood was done, with the contribute of Fausto Melluso (president of Arci Porco Rosso). An important meeting among participants was organized, and participants shared their knowledge and practice about fundraising and advocacy practices. Thus, even if changed the methodology of the programme, this was an important contribute to reach the goal of the agenda.

The speech of Adres Garcia Berrio from Iridia linked the relation between the advocacy activities and the communication one, and the importance to keep attention on images and word used during our campaigns in order to achieve the target group identified.

The audience, civil society, is divided in three macro groups: in favour; ambivalent; against; and the ambivalent group is divide in two subgroups as defined in the following table:

<b>IN FAVOUR</b>	<b>AMBIVALENT</b>		<b>AGAINST</b>
	<b>AMBI-PRO</b>	<b>AMBI -AGAINST</b>	
12%	21%	48%	19%
70% WOMEN	65% WOMEN	57% MEN	60% MEN
20% STUDENTS	36% 55-70 YEARS 27% 18- 34 YEARS	37% SOCIAL CLASS MIDDLE AND HIGH CLASS	45% 55- 70 YEARS
+ LEFT	24% SOCIAL CLASS MIDDLE AND LOW CLASS	UNIVERSITY PEOPLE	MIDDLE AND HIGH CLASS
39% SOCIAL CLASS HIGH AND MIDDLE	MIDDLE-LEFT	MIDDLE AGE	

In order to achieve the campaign goal(s), specifying concrete target group is really important. It is crucial to choose the most adequate target for every campaign, and avoid words or images of dominant narrative on migration. A wrong practice in a campaign is to re-use words and images of a defensive narrative, like “stop” or use contradictory images not in accordance with the goal, which can activate a subliminal message among the audience. Instead, the use of images which generate a dialogue between migrants and local community is really important; for example to reach the ambivalent group is more useful to use image of local community and migrants who live and work together.

In order to change the oriented position in the social majority (ambivalent group), building long-term campaigns with the support of influencer is crucial. For successful campaigns use all the tools adapted to reach the goal and involving social leaders is another important suggestion to keep in mind.

## **ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR TROS MESSAGE**

Starting by the following proposal from the other meeting:

- No violence on the borders
- Respect rights of legal access for refugees
- Freedom 4 all! dignity- equality e equity for all!
- Respect rights 4 all for legal access.

The participant group was divided into four small groups and in the plenary sessions was decided to focus the common reflection on one of proposals of the four groups (The one of: Adres, Naja, Caternia, Gabriella).

The advocacy strategy chosen for the Sevilla meeting (3th-13rd of February) concerned a video and a statement (document) addressed to candidates of European election (May 2019). The advocacy campaign will be launched during the final event of Sevilla and spread to Barcelona. The video will implement the message to be delivered to decision makers and in parallel will be disseminated in the four countries, an open call to join the action will be spread to all organizations of Tros.

The video should be ready one week before the end of January, while the statement will be spread after Sevilla meeting.

## **MESSAGE PROPOSAL:**

- The idea for the content of the message is **#VoteHumanRights**. The message will be spread from different people: influencers, locals, migrants. The video campaign can include something to reinforce the message.
- **#ChooseHumanRights** is another message proposed.

## **POTENTIAL RISK OF MESSAGE #VoteHumanRights**

- This message can be supported and replayed from a party group. Thus, the organizations will be associated to this party;
- The message, if translated, cannot be understood from other countries;

### **Useful link to reach local organizations**

- Legal Clinic of Palermo: <https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/di.gi./clinica-legale-per-i-diritti-umani/>
- Arci Porco Rosso: <https://www.arcipalermo.it/index.php/i-circoli/3-arci-porco-rosso>
- Border line Sicilia: <https://www.borderlinesicilia.org/chi-siamo/>
- Addio Pizzo Travel:  
[https://www.addiopizzotravel.it/default.asp?p=ricercavacanze&filter=04\\_01,05\\_01&sort=4&viaggiaconnoi=49](https://www.addiopizzotravel.it/default.asp?p=ricercavacanze&filter=04_01,05_01&sort=4&viaggiaconnoi=49) 1
- Communications Trainer: Christian Elia from Qcode Magazine