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Employment, Labour and Welfare in the Sustainable Transition
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**UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS IN ITALY. A STUDY OF
THE REGULARIZATION IN TIME OF COVID-19**

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Track 3 Employment transitions of vulnerable workers

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INTRODUCTION: The Research Design

- The paper discuss phenomenon of undocumented migration from a normative and sociological point of view. This study covers the regularization of migrants promoted by the decree-law of May 19, 2020.
- The research design is based on the comparison among Italian regularizations from 2000 (Law 30 July 2002, n. 189 and Law 17 July 2020, n. 77) focusing on an analysis of both norms and academic literature on the topic.

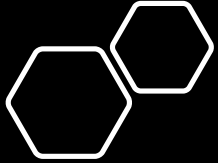




Literature background

- In Italy, as of January 1, 2020, there were 5,171,894 foreign residents, equal to 8.7% of the total population (ISTAT, 2021).
- The ISMU (2021) estimates about 517,000 undocumented migrants in the country.
- The COVID-19 emergency has brought into the spotlight a key issue: more than 30% of working-age immigrants, some regular and others undocumented, are employed in sectors key to counteract negative consequences of the pandemic (IDOS, 2020). These areas include the health sector, personal care services, agriculture, transport and shipping (Ambrosini, 2018; Corrado & Palumbo, 2022).





RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research aims to:

- The RQ1 aims to disentangle differences and similarities compared to previous regularizations -- especially taking into account how the COVID-19 outbreak influenced the last regularization.
- The RQ2 aims to understand the migrant's effect on the public opinion in the period of COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis will focus on the daily interaction between native and migrant groups in the pre-and post-regularization phase.



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Expected results

The expected results are based on two hypothesis:

1. public opinion has considered government action to be an indispensable and positive process for the security of the entire nation.
2. Alternatively, the public may have understood this legislation as a waste of resources and energy that could be used on other more relevant issues during an emergency for the whole country.





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Preliminary results

- Many organizations and associations had criticized the potentially distorting effects of the rule. The procedural and sector restrictions have plausibly excluded a large number of illegally present.
- According to sociologist Ambrosini, this data is to be considered an apparent failure, however, with public opinion divided and a parliament largely hostile to immigrants, it is a considerable result.

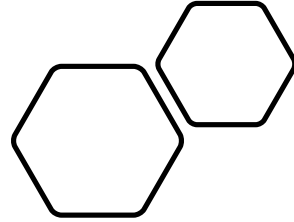


METHODOLOGY

- The investigation used content analysis, which proved to be useful in the targeted study of the categories present in regularization challenges.
- This part of this activity is also carried out through the analysis of Eurobarometer survey data, in order to better understand the sentiment of the public opinion related to regularizations.
- The latent objectives of the content analysis focus on the role of public opinion respect to the perception of migrants, the meaning that respondents attribute to human relations with immigrants, to their participation in everyday life.



CONTRIBUTION VALUE AND ORIGINALITY



The research provides to:

- an increasing body of literature on undocumented migrations in Italy, with regard to employment and family dimensions
- study the behavior of public opinion and their relationship with migration policies in depth.
- be a starting point for verifying, through future research, the existence of new incentives for the regulatory framework and for policies to build an integrated society.



**THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

**Question comment
and discussion**

