Migrimage presents: Massive Open Online Courses.

Capsule number 8: **AUTONOMY, INITIATIVES OF MIGRANT COLLECTIVES**

FORMS OF RESISTANCE AND SELF-ORGANIZATION: WORD TO ABLAYE SEYE (TERANGA AIP: Senegalese Association of Lecce)

Podcast created by Luca Brindisino for the Università del Salento

Usually the migrant associations born with the aim of favoring the sociality between foreigners of the same community. The interaction of these associations with the Italian ones often concerns the cultural matter: they call us to play, dance and sing. It is not wrong because this method is useful for getting to know each other and reducing stereotypes, but it is not enough.

In my country, I worked a lot in the pedagogical field, especially in the field of childhood education and today I continue to do so, here as in Canada. We try to start awareness-raising and job placement projects. We have skills that we try to make available by joining together, such as those we develop in training, for example.

In Italy, however, it is difficult to fit in based on one's own experiences and skills: there are many young people who are penalized in their work based on their nationality and not their competence. In Italy, educational qualifications and social status come before skills. Often people are given more consideration as to whether they are a doctor, engineer or lawyer. Fortunately, in our association we have these professionals and this makes us more credible in some people's eyes.

But except for a Pakistani engineer, none of them work in the sector in which they were trained and paradoxically they guarantee income by carrying out much humbler jobs in which it is easier to enter: domestic collaboration, elderly assistance, catering services such as dishwasher, cook assistant or waiters.

Job placement is complicated even if you completed the training in Italy. For example, if you take the OSS course you can find employment in private homes but not in public health facilities.

It may not be racism, but it's narrow-mindedness and fear for sure.

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