

BEE MY JOB

AN URBAN AND SOCIAL BEEKEEPING AND AGRICULTURE PROJECT



? What

Bee My Job is working to help refugees gain skills and access to dignified and meaningful employment by offering professional training and internship opportunities in selected ethical companies.

👁 Why

- To monitor the **respect for labour rights**, refugees' cultural diversity and social needs within companies that are hosting internships.
- To **raise awareness** about risks of labour exploitation in the agricultural market seeking out the commitment of companies and their representative bodies.
- To **showcase** the positive role that the inclusion of refugees may have (through e.g. beekeeping) in light of environmental problems and climate change in Italy (i.c. dwindling bee populations).
- To counter widespread prejudices about asylum seekers by **sensitizing the local population about environmental sustainability**.

🌍 Where

Alessandria, Piedmont, Italy.

📅 When

Started in 2015 and it is still on going.

👥 For Whom

Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

💡 By Whom

APS Cambalache with the support of:
UNHCR; Ashoka Italy; Beekeeping and agricultural representative bodies and consortiums. A wide range of public and private partners, such as local schools, universities, municipalities, companies, NGOs.



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Methodology

The Bee My Job Academy is a beekeeping school which is based in Alessandria, Italy. It offers a theoretical (online) and practical intensive training course that is completed with a series of complementary modules to better promote the social and professional inclusion of participants. It offers access to scholarships and forms of temporary hospitality in Alessandria. At the end of the training, the Academy promotes internships in beekeeping farms across Italy.



What makes it work

Bee My Job is located at the intersection of decent labor and sustainable consumption. It showcases that sustainable foods can be produced through decent work - work that is at the same time beneficial to managing climate change. When such argument was brought up in an advocacy campaign, it focused not on 'migration' or 'refugees' as such, but rather on overarching themes of concerns, such as environmental sustainability, in order to sensitize people (e.g. students) about the contributions being made on the ground through refugee inclusion in the labor market, not least in the particular sector of beekeeping.



Innovative aspects

- Dignified labour is promoted through the implementation of **ethics charts** and a code of conduct for participant **companies**, and the access to safe living places when needed.
- **Advocacy** for refugee labor market inclusion **through the lens of environmental sustainability**: showcasing the practical labour of refugees and migrants in the beekeeping sector as a way of addressing larger concerns about environmental change in Italy.



Sustainability/Replicability

The project is ongoing and is currently active in Piedmont, Calabria, and Emilia-Romagna, and will soon be running in Toscana and Lazio. APS Cambalache is reaching out to European partners who have a similar desire to set up beekeeping training in order to pool together EU resources and apply for structural EU funding.



Social Impacts

- Since 2015, Bee My Job has trained over 200 refugees and promoted over 120 internships, all over Italy. It has been awarded important prizes at the national and European level, been the object of University research and media coverage.
- 2 beneficiaries have started their own beehive cooperatives.
- An urban apiary and garden have been established in a public park in Alessandria, involving refugees in the production, marketing of products and organization of awareness raising events and educational activities for school students.
- Training modules were enriched with Italian classes, a course on safety at work and course on citizenship, labour legislation and job search.
- Activation and monitoring of internships in selected and assessed "ethical" companies, in combination with housing solutions in mobility on a national scale and against any logic of exploitation.
- Organisation of professional training courses in beekeeping and agriculture, in different training centres across Italy (i.e. Alessandria, Rosarno, Catanzaro, Firenze, Bologna, Roma).
- Capacity building of social workers through the organization of workshops and publication of educational materials.
- Educational and urban agriculture activities, to raise awareness among young people and citizens on environmental sustainability and the inclusion of refugees. Various activities with pupils neared the total of 1.500 students.
- A photo exhibition has been created and toured, and a documentary made and presented at international Film Festivals.

To find out more:

<http://www.beemyjob.it/>

Mara Alacqua, mara.alacqua@cambalache.it

