

Operation Papyrus

- Starting point:
 - An undocumented population of 8'000-12'000, 75% women in the domestic sector
 - Humanitarian permits, art. 30, let. b LEI: a long and arbitrary process, and very few permits granted
 - Almost no other possibilities for obtaining legal status
 - Being undocumented = major vulnerability factor

Domestic workers and regularization

- Crucial to raising awareness about undocumented workers
- Were central to state recognition of the issue => 1st step towards “collective” regularization
- Specific vulnerabilities of undocumented (women) migrant domestic workers => need to address these
- Gradual realization that regulating the sector could only occur hand in hand with regularization

What we tried to achieve:

- Open new pathways to legalization: making the criteria less restrictive and the procedure more adapted to realities of those applying
- Design a more fluid process
- Eliminate the arbitrary nature of the process

What we ended up with:

- Five criteria: duration of stay (5 or 10 years); employment; financial independence; integration; no criminal record.
- A standardized procedure with foreseeable outcomes
- Accompanying measures

What this experience shows

- Implementing a more generous and humane regularization policy is possible (technically **and** politically)
- Neither of the feared negative consequences of a large-scale regularization program materialized
- The effects on the lives of legalized persons are overwhelmingly positive
- Bonus points: awareness raising about issues related to domestic work and care sector