Advocacy against evictions from public space

The experience of Rete ONU in Italy

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Until the 60’s the Waste Pickers activity in Italy was the same of contemporary Waste Pickers in other continents
In the following decades the transformation of the system (controlled landfill, higher structuration of waste collection municipal services, scaling up of the market, etc..) pushed out our population from the recovery of the big majority of recyclable materials.

....but the waste stream was rich of reusable items!

Currently, in Italy there are at least 60,000 waste pickers collecting and selling yearly no less than 180,000 tons of reusable items.
2 WAYS OF PICKING

ONE DESTINATION
CASE 1: ROME. THE ROMA PEOPLE FLEA MARKETS
CASE 2: TURIN. VIVIBALON & BAZAR PROJECT
CASE 3: PALERMO. SBARATTO & THE HISTORIC MARKET OF BALLARO’
Local organizations of waste pickers create a national coordination

In April the national coordination promote a big national initiative, “General State of Reuse”, inviting all the microenterprises and cooperatives dedicated to reuse. In november Rete ONU is formally constituted.

The Environment Ministry recognize in its National Plan of Prevention that reuse is a priority and the way to develop it is to accept the Rete ONU requests

3 national law proposal to regularize waste pickers, promoted by Rete ONU, are presented to the parliament by M5S and PD parties. The iter didn’t start.

4 national law proposal to regularize waste pickers, promoted by Rete ONU, are presented to the parliament by M5S, Lega, PD and SEL parties. The iter was blocked at the half. Rete ONU is regularly consulted by Parliament and Environment Ministry.

Environment Ministry publish a strategy of reuse based on new “reuse center” that excludes WP and Second Hand Sector in General.

Consequently to the public protest of Rete ONU, Environment Ministry restart a dialogue with us, including in its mapping of the sector the real second hand economy, but not yet WP.
GRACIAS