

## NET-WORK YOU: two days of cooperation and dialogue between Apulia and Egypt

On 18 and 19 September 2025, Bari will host an important stage of the **NET-WORK YOU project** (*Creation of a Skills Network to Increase Employment Opportunities for Young Egyptians in the Green Job Sector*), an initiative co-financed by the European Union and implemented by **Confcooperative Puglia** and **CIHEAM Bari**, within the framework of the **Migration Partnership Facility** managed by ICMPD.

### The NET-WORK YOU Project

With a duration of 36 months, the NET-WORK YOU project aims to develop a sustainable model of qualified mobility between Italy and Egypt through training programmes and internships in Puglia for young Egyptians, particularly recent graduates in ICT and agricultural technology. The initiative focuses on three strategic areas: green agriculture, digital transition, and sustainable economy. Its goals are to strengthen professional skills, increase employability, and create a Mediterranean multi-stakeholder network capable of fostering public–private partnerships and the exchange of good practices at national and European level.

### 18 September: Field Visits and Local Engagement

The first day will begin at the **Cosimo Lacirignola Campus of CIHEAM Bari** with the visit of the international delegation, followed by site visits to three innovative realities in Puglia:

- **Planetek Italia**, a benefit corporation specialised in geomatics, Earth observation, and software for space missions;
- **Etnie Cooperativa Sociale**, active since 1998 in promoting cultural and labour integration of foreign citizens;
- **Sfrutta Zero**, a mutual project of self-production of tomato sauce, created to provide dignified work opportunities for unemployed Italians and migrants exploited in agriculture.

### 19 September: The Conference at Fiera del Levante

On the following day, the delegation will take part in the international conference “*Circular Migration and Work: Opportunities for Businesses in a Changing Mediterranean*”, organised in collaboration with the **Department for Citizen Security, Migration Policies and Social Anti-Mafia of the Puglia Region**, scheduled from 10:00 to 12:30 at **Fiera del Levante (Hall 4 – Pavilion 152)**.

After the institutional greetings by **Michele Emiliano** (President of the Puglia Region), **Giorgio Mercuri** (President of Confcooperative Puglia), and **Biagio Di Terlizzi** (Director of CIHEAM Bari), the discussion will be structured in two sessions:

- **Policies and Perspectives on Circular Migration**, with contributions from Italian, Egyptian, and European institutional representatives, including **Viviana Matrangola** (Puglia Region), **Stefania Congia** (Italian Ministry of Labour), **Karim Awad** (Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), **Giuliana Benedetto** (DG HOME, European Commission), and **Ralph Genetzke** (ICMPD);
- **The Role of Enterprises in Circular Migration**, a debate session with contributions by **Daniela Palermo** (CIHEAM Bari) and **Antonio Spera** (Confcooperative Puglia),


coordinators of the NET-WORK YOU project, as well as other economic and institutional stakeholders from both countries: **Gianna Elisa Berlingiero**, Director of the Department of Economic Development, Puglia Region; **Gianluca Budano**, President of Arpal Puglia; **Alaa Ezz**, Union of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce and Chairman of CEEBA (Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations); **Giuseppe Modugno**, training delegate for the ICT District of the Puglia Region.

## A Bridge between Puglia and Egypt

These two days represent a strategic opportunity for dialogue and cooperation between Puglia and Egypt, where institutions, businesses, and civil society meet to build common pathways for sustainable development and qualified youth mobility.

With the NET-WORK YOU project, **CIHEAM Bari** confirms its role as a Mediterranean facilitator, promoting an innovative model of cooperation that combines social inclusion, economic innovation, and the enhancement of young people's skills.

 More info about the project: <https://network-you.eu/>

 To attend the event in person: <http://bit.ly/48hjuSo>