

“FAR FROM REALITY”

It took nearly three months following the Italian general elections for a new government to be sworn in. Politicians bear full responsibility for this unacceptable stalemate - regardless of which party or person whatsoever made the mistakes leading to such crisis - as they did not do the job that voters assigned them on March 4, 2018 until it almost seemed too late.

“Far from reality”: this was the definition of some members of the Welfare and Work Committee of the Senate, given by the founder of Atdal Over 40 Armando Rinaldi after attending a hearing before such Committee in March 2015 as a representative of our association, when we were invited to express an opinion on proposals of law concerning (i) the introduction of a basic income and (ii) the minimum hourly salary.

Since then those proposals, on which Atdal Over 40 deposited a 9-page opinion, were kept in the Senate drawers together with the proceedings of the 2005 “*Parliamentary Inquiry on Italian workers aged 40+*” and the proposal of law “*Provisions to favour the re-entry into the job market and to support those who remain jobless for a long time*”, tirelessly promoted by our association since its foundation in 2002.

Three years after that hearing, nothing has changed. Except for the number of people living in absolute poverty – which increased – and the number of people hired with a permanent work contract (i.e. the “*really permanent*” work contract, in force before the Jobs Act substituted it with regulations more favourable to employers) – which decreased.

“Far from reality”, again, our elected representatives seemed to remain for three long months of empty skirmishes, *tit-for-tat* arguments and crossed vetoes, which were meaningless to people facing unemployment or working under a precarious contract, and only delayed the solution of our financial and social problems.

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ATDAL Over 40 (short for "Associazione nazionale per la tutela dei diritti dei lavoratori over 40" - National Association for the protection of the rights of workers aged 40 +) is a non-profit entity established in Milan in 2002 by a group of unemployed citizens, forced to leave their jobs as a consequence of dismissals or individual resignations and not yet entitled to receive a pension from the State welfare system.

ATDAL Over 40 has been engaging political parties, public authorities and mass media by carrying out projects and actions aimed at helping 40+ unemployed people to re-enter the job market and lobbying to expand the current welfare protection system. ATDAL Over 40 also develops educational and information campaigns to raise awareness and effect behavioral change among employers, older learners and workers as well as the general public.

The purposes of ATDAL Over 40 are:

- To represent senior workers (aged 40 to 65) faced with hurdles that prevent them from re-entering the job market, and to address the consequences that such situations can bring about (family crises, social downsides, depression-related illnesses, etc.);
- To lobby for legislative solutions in the field of job regulation, aimed at protecting senior workers forced out of the job market while still far from retirement age;
- To lobby for legislative solutions aimed at: making it easier for senior workers to reach the right to retire, using State and local welfare instruments in their favor, and overcoming obstacles that arise from outdated laws which have become inadequate to the Italian economy and society;
- To demonstrate and enhance senior workers' professional skills and expertise;
- To support and ease the re-hiring of unemployed senior people;
- To promote networking and business/start-up cooperation among members.

For more information (in Italian) please visit ATDAL website: www.atdal.eu or press "ctrl+clic" on the following links: <https://bit.ly/2JlcroK> - <https://bit.ly/2shu7rN> .