



Minutes of the 22nd Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Held in Milan on Wednesday, 15th November 2017,
from 1 to 3 pm CET,
in the offices of Hogan Lovells Studio Legale
(see attached agenda)

1. Attendees: 45 (see attached LoPs).

2. Introduction

G. Carotenuto opened the RT by pointing out that, in the morning, the first pro bono event ever hosted by a Bar Council in Italy took place at the Court of Milan: the Pro Bono Masterclass held, upon initiative of Pro Bono Italia, by Professor Alberto Alemanno (The Good Lobby; see attached presentation). G. Carotenuto highlighted the importance of such an event for the dissemination of a pro bono culture in Italy through the cooperation with local Bar Councils. The Masterclass was introduced, *inter alia*, by Ms Silvia Belloni, member of Milan Bar Council, who greeted the participants on behalf of President Danovi, and was attended by about 40 professionals (amongst whom, lawyers, NGO activists, clearinghouses' and legal clinics' representatives).

F. Rolla, Hogan Lovells partner in charge of pro bono activities in Italy, welcomed the RT's attendees and confirmed the willingness of her firm (which is among Pro Bono Italia's founding members) to engage in activities aimed at promoting a pro bono culture in our country.

3. On-going projects (first part)

Refugee mapping project and refugees' entrepreneurship: L. Kralik of PILnet (via phone) briefly presented this initiative, which is aimed at providing an holistic business support to refugees all around Europe (through a process of refugees' progressive empowerment). The first step is a refugees' mapping exercise, which is being carried out by several NGOs (among which, Pro Bono Connect in the Netherlands) and law firms. Lorna also mentioned a dedicated forum that was going to take place in Berlin on 18th November.

4. Reform of the Third Sector

R. Museo (Director of CSVnet) briefly explained the recently enacted Code of the Third Sector, and the relative reform, through the attached presentation. Due to lack of time, Roberto accepted our invitation and will continue his speech at the next RT, in February of next year. On the same subject, see also the attached circular note of the National Order of Accountants.

5. NGOs' presentations

- Associazione CAF Onlus: L. Pavia, director, presented this association, which offers protection and support to minors removed from their families. After the screening of a short introductory video, L. Pavia specified that CAF does not aim to increase the number of services currently offered, but rather to develop the four areas already implemented, namely:
 - welcome mothers and newborns;
 - welcome children between 0 and 12 of age;
 - welcome boys/girls aged between 13 and 18; and
 - foster care services.

CAF has 38 years' experience in Italy, and educates children with the underlying idea that their past experience will help them to grow stronger, as well as to be good people in the future.

- The Good Lobby: A. Alemanno, founder, introduced TGL as an European clearinghouse, specifying that it does not only provide for legal services, but also other kinds of pro bono services. The underlying rationale of establishing TGL has been that, nowadays, more and more professionals are active in highly specialised fields and struggle to have a real impact on the civil society. The solution for this problem is to put in direct contact people with different background and specialization, in order to help raising a new generation of conscious citizens.

- Medecins Sans Frontieres: V. Romano briefly highlighted the activities carried out by MSF in Italy, where it currently has more than 30 years of experience and 300 operators. MSF is funded for almost 95% by private individuals, and it must be thus considered as an NGO absolutely independent.

- Coordinamento Nazionale TFA: S. Piersantelli, director, said that this association aims to protect precarious teachers and collaborate with politicians and law makers in order to obtain a more favorable legislation for this disadvantaged category of public employees, whilst organising training courses for the latter.

6. Legal clinics

- University of Turin: Laura Scomparin pointed out that legal clinics must be considered as a relatively new phenomenon in Italy; therefore, the process for their implementation is not an easy one. In this respect, the collaboration between Pro Bono Italia and the clinics can have a primary role in order to obtain an official recognition by local Bar Councils. The Law Department of the University of Turin, led by Laura, structured its own legal clinic by opening a dedicated helpdesk for detainees, migrants, families and minors.

- University of Bergamo: Angelo Maestroni pointed out that professors of law at its University have begun to introduce, in their classes, alternative lessons where students have to sort out actual cases (and not already sorted ones, as it happens in other universities), selected in cooperation with local NGOs and based on teachers' reporting. He also mentioned the fact that there is not a sole definition of "legal clinic", and that the latter is to be seen as a mixture between pro bono activities and education.
- University of Perugia and University of Roma III: G. Carotenuto introduced P. Gonnella, by mentioning that two arrangements have been recently entered into between Pro Bono Italia and the University of Perugia and University of Rome III, aimed at developing a collaboration between students at such universities and PBI's professionals in order to sort out complicated cases. P. Gonnella (via phone) pointed out that University of Rome III had introduced both classes where students can work on real cases and a prison helpdesk where once a week experienced students, with the assistance of tutors, provide detainees with legal advice on a pro bono basis.

7. **On-going projects (second part)**

Open Migration: A. Napolitano briefly presented this project, recently launched by CILD, through a brief presentation of its dedicated web page. It explores issues related to the migration phenomenon by analysing media coverage and providing statistics and other data for the purposes of promoting the spread of real data, whilst dispelling the stereotypes, on migration.

8. **Next RT**

The 23rd Italian Pro Bono Roundtable will be held in Rome on Wednesday, 14th February 2018 (from 1pm to 3 pm CET), in the offices of Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners, Via delle Quattro Fontane, 20. *Save the Date!*