

# The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development

## Response from the Municipality of Lampedusa

### **Title of policy/ action and main partners:**

Quarantine Ships for the migrants landed in Lampedusa during the pandemic / support of the national government

### **Main objective of the policy/ action:**

At the peak of the two parallel "emergencies", the pandemic and the landing of thousands migrants (the local reception center has got overcrowded, it hosted up to 1.500 migrants having a capacity of 180) a dialogue with the national government has been activated to find ways to ease the situation on the island. It brought to the commitment of the government to issue a public call to navigation companies asking to provide several ferries where to allow migrants to spend their quarantine period in a better condition. In the meantime a Covid-19 area has been equipped and activated in the reception centres.

### **Main results:**

The government managed to send 4 large ferries to pick up the migrants. The overcrowding of the Reception Centres has been solved, allowing it to be ready to host newly landed migrants. The following decrease of landings allowed for a smoother management of the situation reducing the tensions that were fostering tensions in the local community and businesses endangering social cohesion

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### **Title of policy/ action and main partners:**

Covid-19 screening (free of charge for the users), sanitization and information campaign / agreement with the competent Public Health Agency (ASP of Palermo, Sicily)

### **Main objective of the policy/ action:**

The aim was (and still is) to reduce the impact of peripheral status on the efficiency on the response to the pandemic, thus preventing the development of big infection clusters in a place where the weak local health system could have trouble in managing such an event to the point of, eventually, collapsing.

### **Main results:**

The local population has been screened, sanitation of public spaces has been done frequently and the people constantly informed personally by the Mayor Salvatore Martello by its social media. This helped in preventing the infection to spread on the island even in the summer

months when - favouring a partial recovery of the local economy - many tourists from all over Italy visited Lampedusa and Linosa,