

INFOPACK CAMP SOUND OF FREEDOM

Music and art liberate confiscated assets and our stories

Welcome to this adventure!

This camp is not just a volunteer experience, but a journey of awareness in the heart of Sicily, where each participant becomes a fundamental part of a caravan that brings joy, music, and legality to the streets.

1. OUR VISION: BEYOND VOLUNTEERING

The Sound of Freedom was born from the idea that freedom is built through participation. Our approach is based on three pillars:

Social and Active Legality: We don't understand legality as an abstract or purely judicial concept, but as the daily practice of civic duty. Living in and caring for a confiscated property means transforming the memory of the past into a concrete commitment to the future.

Community Artivism: We believe that music, theater, and the visual arts can break down indifference. In the streets, art becomes a tool for cultural mediation, allowing different worlds to communicate without prejudice.

Circular Inclusion: Ours is a model of "peer-to-peer" solidarity. Here, the young people who have experienced the reception experience at SAI centers are not simply beneficiaries, but become tutors and guides for the volunteers, in a human exchange where roles blur to create space for brotherhood.

2. THE PARTNERS: A HISTORIC ALLIANCE FOR THE TERRITORY

I Girasoli ETS Association (Project Host)

The Association was founded in Mazzarino in 2004 with the aim of supporting people experiencing extreme marginalization. Since 2006, we have been actively promoting social and employment integration, and since 2007, we have been an integral part of the Reception and Integration System (SAI, formerly SPRAR). Today, we operate throughout the province of Caltanissetta with a multidisciplinary team of over 30 professionals, including psychologists, social workers, mediators, and teachers. Our mission is to ensure dignity and autonomy, collaborating with international organizations such as UNHCR and Save the Children.

ARCI (Italian Cultural Recreation Association)

Founded in Florence in 1957 and rooted in the values of the Constitution born from the Resistance, ARCI is the largest social promotion network in Italy. With over a million members, the association has always been at the forefront of anti-racism, peace, and the construction of a citizens' Europe. Actively participate in the promotion of "Social Camps" as opportunities for democratic and cultural growth.

A Hand for a Smile – For Children (Smiley Hand)

This Italian nonprofit organization, active since 2010, is dedicated to defending children's rights globally. With ongoing projects in Kenya, Syria, and Turkey, the organization combats extreme poverty and the consequences of war through education (Smiling School) and play (MilesxSmiles). The organization is also supported by influencers such as Jakidale and Pietro Morello, who help spread the association's values and projects to an ever-wider audience. In Italy, it combats social marginalization and promotes peace education in schools, under the motto: "Let's change the world one smile at a time."

3. THE PLACE: GIRASOLI HOUSE (MAFIA-FREE ZONE)

Your home will be the Girasoli House in the Arenella district of Caltanissetta, a place full of symbolic meaning.

- **A Story of Redemption:** This property was confiscated from organized crime. Since 2018, the I Girasoli ETS Association has taken over its management, transforming it from a symbol of mafia oppression to a bastion of freedom and a social hub.
- **A Crossroads of Cultures:** Our network of partners, European volunteers, and young people from the province's SAI projects live side by side in the house. It's a dynamic environment where integration is a daily occurrence.
- **Services and Community Life:** The facility offers 12 beds in shared rooms and a large camping area for those who prefer tents. To make life easier for volunteers, the house is equipped with Wi-Fi and a shared washing machine. The large outdoor spaces are ideal for relaxation, music rehearsals, and group meetings.



4. FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL CARE

We believe that conviviality is the foundation of trust. Mealtimes are designed to make everyone feel at home:

- **Tailor-Made Shopping:** We don't offer standard shopping. Purchases will be made only after reviewing volunteer registration forms to ensure that the pantry has everything needed for each participant.
- **Allergies and Intolerances:** Food safety is our priority. We guarantee safe meals for celiacs and those with specific allergies, paying careful attention to preparation methods.
- **Ethical and Religious Preferences:** The menu will be inclusive and flexible, with full options for vegetarians and vegans, respecting any ethical or religious choices communicated in advance.

5. THE SICILIAN CLIMATE IN JUNE June is one of the most beautiful months to visit Sicily, but requires caution:

- **The Mediterranean Heat:** Daytime temperatures often exceed 30°C. The sun is very strong, especially during afternoon workshops in the squares. It's essential to protect yourself and stay hydrated.
- **Evenings in the Countryside:** Girasoli House is located in a rural area. Although it's hot during the day, the temperature range can make the air breezy and cool after sunset. We recommend always having a sweatshirt or light jacket handy.

6. THE VOLUNTEER'S BACKPACK

- **Essentials:** High protection sunscreen, hat, sunglasses.
- **Hydration:** A thermal water bottle (at least 1.5L) to avoid the use of single-use plastic.
- **Clothing:** Light, breathable clothing, comfortable shoes for standing for hours in the squares, a swimsuit, and a sweater for the evening.
- **Passion:** If you play, bring your instrument! If you paint or photograph, bring your instruments. The camp thrives on your talent.

7. THE TRAVELING PROGRAM

- **June 14: Arrivals**
- **June 15-16 (Welcome):** Days dedicated to getting to know each other, training on legal issues, and planning artistic workshops.
- **June 17-20 (The Caravan):** Every day we will move to a different square (Mazzarino, Riesi, Caltanissetta, Milena) to involve citizens in creative activities, live music, and awareness-raising moments.
- **June 21st** free day
- **June 22 (Breathing):** A day off to reflect on the journey we've made, enjoying the beauty of the Sicilian coast at sunset.
- **June 23 (Final Event):** Grand finale in San Cataldo with collective artistic performances and fundraising for the Una Mano per un Sorriso solidarity project.
- **June 24: Departure**

*Anyone who, for holiday or other technical reasons, needs to arrive a day earlier or a day later, can do so, but it is necessary to communicate this in advance.

Programs are subject to change*

8. LOGISTICS AND ECONOMIC DETAILS

Travel and Arrival

- Volunteer Responsibilities: Travel expenses to and from Sicily (flight or train) are the sole responsibility of the participant. The cost of the bus ticket (SAIS Autolinee) connecting the Palermo or Catania airports to Caltanissetta Centrale is also the volunteer's responsibility.
- Reception at the Station: Once you arrive at Caltanissetta Central Station, the Girasoli staff will be there waiting for you with their own vehicles for the free transfer to Girasoli House (about 20 minutes by car).

What the Fee Includes

- To ensure everyone can participate, we've kept prices as low as possible. The participation fee (€250 standard / €200 discounted) covers full board, lodging, and all internal transportation included in the itinerary (transfers to Mazzarino, Riesi, Milena, San Cataldo, and excursions).

***free day is not included**

Caltanissetta is located in the center of the island and is easily accessible from the main airports. Once you arrive at Caltanissetta Central Station, our organized staff will pick you up using the association's transport (about a 20-minute ride).

From Palermo (PMO) or Catania (CTA) Airport:

- SAIS Autolinee Bus: This is the most convenient and frequent option. Buses depart directly from the arrivals terminals.
 - [Link: SAIS Bus Timetables and Tickets](#)
- Train: See the Trenitalia website for connections to Caltanissetta Centrale.
 - [Link: Trenitalia Official Website](#)

9. CONTACTS AND REGISTRATION

The camp is open to people of all ages who want to get involved.

Contacts and Coordination:

Cristina Palomba

Phone/WhatsApp: +39 3501003396 Email: contact.crispalomba@icloud.com

Alberto Vassallo

Phone/Whatsapp: +39 3774680810 Email: albivass@gmail.com



