Investigation on the working and living conditions of the Italian metalworkers



## THE VOICE OF 100.000 WORKERS

Main figures

Luxemburg, 6th March 2008



We distributed 400.000 questionaires.

96.607 metalworkers answered, half of them are not members of a union



Interviewed are:

- 78% men 22% women;
- 36,7% less than 35 years old about 35% from 36 to 45 years old 28,4% over 45 years old;
- more than 3.000 are migrants.

The survey involved:

- all Italian regions;
- all the production sectors: steel, metal, mechanical engineering, mass production, data processing companies etc;

## **Companies involved...**

More than 4.000 companies have been involved:

- small 12%;
- medium 46,8%;
- big 41,3% (12,3% over 1.000 employees).

The majority of these companies are unionized and unions negotiate:

- working time (83,4%)
- productivity bonus (78,6%);
- work organisation (73,7%).







## **Professional level scale and type of contract**





BLU COLLARS*	%
up to 3th level	4,8
3th level	33,4
4th level	32,2
skilled (over 5th)	29,7
total	100,0
WHITE COLLARS*	%
WHITE COLLARS* clerk	<mark>%</mark> 60,5
clerk	60,5
clerk - up to 5th level	60,5 60,7
clerk - up to 5th level - over 6th level	60,5 60,7 39,3

*Italian professional classification	
From 1th level (lowest)	
to 7th (higest)	

### About 10% has a precarious contract (fixed-term and temporary contracts)

- among workers with less than 35 years old, the percentage of a precarious contract rises to 16%;

- the 25% of precarious workers – about one out of four – had three or more contracts with the same company.

## **Metalworkers women**



## The women are the 22% of the interviewed:

#### - the 20% of blu collars

- in the mass production the 28% are women, the 38,6% mainly in the household appliances production;

- the 44% in the data processing companies;

- the 39,2% in the electronic sector, the 60% mainly the micro-components production;

- the 41% of white collars



#### The women (both blu and white collars) are in the lowest levels of the professional scale

#### The women have frequently precarious contracts:

- men 8,4% women 13%;
- a young woman blu collar out of five has a precarious contract (the 21,2% of women blu collars with less than 35 years old).

#### The direct superior are all men

- it's very unusual that a woman is the direct superior of other workers (only 5,7% of the interviewed has a woman as direct superior, mainly among white collars and in data processing companies). It's very rare that a man has a woman as direct superior (only the 1,7% of the men blu collars)



The monthly net-income average is 1.246 €

- the 30% of metalworkers has a monthly net-income lower than 1.100 €;
- the monthly wage average of a blu collar is 1.170 €;
- the monthly wage average of a white collar is 1.370 €;
- the monthly wage of a woman out of three (32%) is less than 1.000 €;

- monthly wages of women are always lowest than the men's, also if they have the same conditions in working time, professional level scale and seniority;

- also the precarious workers start at a disadvantage, compared with permanent workers with the same age: the monthly wages of the 60% of precarious workers is less than 1.100 €.

The income average doesn't increase even with the age:

a blu collar with more than 45 years old takes only 100 euro more than another with less than 35 years old

The blu collars net- income average	euro/month
- Less than 35 years old	1.111
- From 36 to 45 years old	1.197
- More than 45 years old	1.225
TOTAL	1.170



The average of a monthly family net-income is 2.125 €

The majority of interviewed - two metalworkers out of three - bears the cost of renting a house (21,4%) or for the housing loan (42,2%)



Costs for house	%
Pay a loan	42,2
Pay a rent	21,4
Have the property of a house	36,4
Total	100%

### The working time



- the 40 hours is the weekly working time for the 64% of the interviewed;

- the 26,3% - one out of four – works more than 40 hours

#### Weekly working time in Italy

By law: 40 hours

Averaged bargained: 38 hours and 10 minutes





- about the 15% usually works longer once per month (more than 10 hours per day);
- about one blu collar male out of four works also in the night;
- the 57% of blu collars male works at least once per month in Saturday;

- the migrants work more often than the italians over the standard daily and weekly working time, in the night and in the Saturday.

THE 31% OF WOMEN BLU COLLARS – ONE OUT OF THREE – WORK EACH WEEK 40 HOURS FOR HER JOB AND 20 HOURS MORE FOR HOUSEWORK AND FAMILY CARE



- the 65% - manly among women – has a work which implies **ripetitive actions and movements** and they consider it shared out: one out of four says that repetitive actions and movements last less than 30 seconds;

- for more than half of the interviewed job involves **monotonous task** (mainly for blu collars but also for white collars – women more than men);

- the work **rate** is always fast for the 51% of the interviewed and the 48% has very strict and short time limits.



## Working organisation: the reduction of margins of freedom

#### Among blu collars...

- the 52,3% cannot change sequence and priority of his tasks;
- about one out of three (31,5%) cannot change working method;
- the 35% cannot change the work rate;
- the 83% cannot have influence on his working time;
- the 36% doesn't have enough time to finish his work;
- the 44,3% cannot decide when to take holidays or days off;
- one out of four (24,4%) cannot take a break when he needs.

#### Among white collars...

- the 66,3% of white collars (the 70% of the less skilled) cannot have influence on his working time;

- the 35% cannot decide when to take holidays or days off;
- the 35,7% doesn't have enough time to finish his work.

Independently from their professional level and jobs women have always the lowest margins of freedom



THE MAJORITY OF THE INTERVIEWED THINKS THAT THEIR JOB MEANS...

- the respect of quality procedures (87%);
- **self-evaluation of quality** (73,4%);
- self-governement solution of unexpected problems (67,2%);
- **complicated tasks** (the 51% of all the interviewed, but only the 30% of the less skilled blu collars);
- learning of new notions (64,5%);

The 65,8% says that the work required coincedes with attitudes, skills and competences. But only the 17% had vocational training payed by the company.



# Many workers – especially blu collars – say that their workplace exposes them to:

- very loud noises (the 56,5% of blu collars);
- vibrations (50,3%);
- vapours, fumes, powders, chemical substances (43,3%);
- high temperatures (35,2%) or very low (18%);
- radiations (10,2%).

# Many workers – among the blu collars and especially the women – work in very bad conditions:

- repetitive movements of hands and arms (the 68% among blu collars);
- unconfortable positions that cause pains (32%);

### White collars - especially women - complain of mainly:

- repetitive movements of hands and arms (about 50%);
- permanent use of computer (the 88,7% of white collars and the 94% of women).



## Health and safety



- one blu collar out of five (20%) is not satisfied about the informations received on H&S;
- the data processing workers and migrants are the less informed;
- one worker out of two didn't have any contact with H&S representative in the company;
- only the 58% of the blu collars thinks that his workplace doesn't have the standards and protections requested.



The risk to injure himself or other people and working hours

According with thier job, many blu collars think that they have a very high risk:

- to injure himself (about 20%) or other people (12%);
- to be affected by deseases (17,3%);

The risk to injure himself or other people is higher when people work more than 40 hours per week.

### Health and safety



My job compromised my health...



- tension and tiredness (27,8%) but also irritability (21,5%), anxiety (19%), insomnia (14,2%), stomach-ache (12%).

Women – both blu and white collars – complain more than men the effects that work produced on their health

## The perspective of future



