

## The NEW NEIGHBOURS film journey starts in Sutera

*The EBU-RAI intimate and moving documentary  
"In the Ghost Town" launches on [www.newneighbours.eu](http://www.newneighbours.eu)*

### PRESS RELEASE

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The first of nine documentary films exploring real stories of daily life in an intercultural European Union launches today on the [New Neighbours website](http://www.newneighbours.eu). Co-produced by [RAI](http://www.rai.it) Radiotelevisione Italiana and the [EBU Intercultural and Diversity Group](http://www.newneighbours.eu), "[In the Ghost Town](http://www.newneighbours.eu)" follows John and his family who arrive to Sicily from Nigeria and meet their local neighbour Franco. Their fragile relationship reveals how meeting one other is always the first step in breaking prejudices.

Situated at the foot of a mountain, Sutera in Sicily has no more than 1000 inhabitants, mostly elderly. Life in Sutera is tough: there are no jobs. And like many Sicilian towns, Sutera is a doorway and a gate to Europe for people who come from Africa. In 2013, after one of the deadliest migrant tragedies, Sutera's municipality was asked to bury almost 400 victims. But Sutera's cemetery was full, so the Major of the village decided to do something crucial for the living. Sutera became a new home of the survivors.

[New Neighbours](http://www.newneighbours.eu) is the most recent piece in a puzzle of European projects and efforts carried out by leading international and national media and civil society organisations to promote responsible journalism and respectful dialogue amongst all members of society. Led by the [European Broadcasting Union](http://www.ebu.eu), the 24-month project runs until the end of 2020 and has produced the third edition of the documentary film series [New Neighbours](http://www.newneighbours.eu), involving 9 European Public Service Broadcasters from Croatia, Germany, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Italy, Slovenia, Belgium, Spain and Portugal. The films explore real stories of new encounters between 'locals' and 'newly arrived' citizens, showing the complexities and richness of intercultural integration processes. In the development of the series, the broadcasters cooperated with local civil society and community media organisations in order to explore creative angles and ideas.

According to RAI's chief editor and scriptwriter Daniela Attilini, «*New Neighbours is an incredible experience. Not only for the meaning of the documentary but also because co-productions are the future. I think that we must work together. To be European means to be a team, with all the differences and richness that it entails.*»

**You can watch "In the Ghost Town" subtitled in English [here](http://www.newneighbours.eu). All nine films will be made available one after another via [www.newneighbours.eu](http://www.newneighbours.eu)**

"[In the Ghost Town](http://www.newneighbours.eu)" premiered on RAI3 on December 25, 2019, followed by three other episodes of the New Neighbours series. Residents of Italy can access episodes with Italian subtitles via RaiPlay at this [link](http://www.newneighbours.eu).

This action is funded by the European Union and implemented by the consortium members:

In a climate of increasing populism and disinformation, [New Neighbours](#) is collecting good practice and success stories on how to provide factual information on migration, as well as promoting direct participation of migrants and refugees in media production.

Alongside the PSM film productions, which build the heart of the New Neighbours project, a series of complementary productions, trainings and research activities are taking place, under the responsibility of the project partners [CMFE – Community Media Forum Europe](#), [COMMIT](#), [COSPE Onlus](#) and [MDI – Media Diversity Institute](#).

*New Neighbours is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and by the U.S. Agency for Global Media.*

You can follow the project via Twitter [@newneighbours1](#) and [www.newneighbours.eu](http://www.newneighbours.eu)

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#### **About the EBU**

*The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the world's foremost alliance of public service media (PSM). Our mission is to make PSM indispensable. We have 116 member organizations in 56 countries and have an additional 34 Associates in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas. Our Members operate nearly 2,000 television, radio and online channels and services, and offer a wealth of content across other platforms. Together they reach an audience of more than one billion people around the world, broadcasting in more than 160 languages. We operate Eurovision and Euroradio services.*

Discover more about the EBU on [www.ebu.ch](http://www.ebu.ch)

#### **About CMFE**

*Founded in 2004, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) represents networks, national federations and organisations active within the Third Media Sector at the European level. CMFE supports community media in maintaining a clearly distinct identity alongside the national public service and private commercial media, raising awareness of their contributions to pluralism, democratic participation and media literacy.*

See also [www.cmfe.eu](http://www.cmfe.eu)

#### **About COMMIT**

*COMMIT was founded in 2010 and works to extend and improve further training for community media practitioners in Austria and in Europe. COMMIT organises trainings and develops concepts for further education in the field of community media and adult learning. COMMIT works towards professionalisation and formal recognition of community media training and of the acquired skills.*

See also <https://www.commit.at>

#### **About COSPE**

*COSPE, established in 1983, is a registered non-profit association recognised since 1984 as Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the European Union. Cospe implements projects in about 27 extra-EU Countries, in Europe and in Italy promoting fair and sustainable development, global citizenship, intercultural dialogue and human rights.*

See also <https://www.cospe.org>

#### **About Media Diversity Institute**

*The Media Diversity Institute (MDI) is an international organisation entirely devoted to working with the media to prevent conflict through improving reporting on race, ethnicity, religion, human rights and other diversity issues which can cause disputes/conflicts at the local, national, regional or international level. Since its start in 1998 MDI has worked in Western, Eastern, and South East Europe, the former Soviet States, West Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.*

See also <http://www.media-diversity.org>

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