



# **SHORT REPORT ON SERBIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO ITALY**

**(ROMA AND PADOVA 4-5 FEBRUARY, 2014)**

# **A PLATFORM FROM THE NEW MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

Roma, 18-3-2014



## **PRESENTATION:**

The visit has been organized and all the costs have been covered by Agenfor Italia with the aim to establish a long-lasting collaboration between the penitentiary systems in Italy and Serbia and between public and private partners in the two countries.

Agenfor Italia has been working in the Balkans since 2010 with the start of the EU co-funded project named PRISNET. In December 2012, Agenfor published a report as a result of the monitoring activities carried on during the implementation of the project.

The report is the first of its kind to specifically focus the research and analysis on minority groups within a prison setting. The report addresses the difficulties in identifying minority groups in this particular context and discusses some of the particular risks and vulnerabilities faced by minority groups.

To read the report please visit:

<http://www.futureprisnet.eu/index.php?id=1>

or in:

<http://www.agenformedia.com/prisnet-report.html>

For further information on Agenfor Media:

<http://www.agenformedia.com/home.html>

**March the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Title</b>
Agenfor Italia	Sergio Bianchi	Project Manager
Agenfor Italia	Maria Giovanna	Project Coordinator
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Milan Tanaskovic	Head of the Department for Financial Affairs
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Garic Dusanka	Head of the Department for Alternative measures
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Milan Stevovic	Director of the Department for the Application of Criminal Sanctions.
Italian Ministry of Justice	Marco Capitani	Officer D.A.P. Directorat General for Personnel and Training
Police Force	Giannelli	Police Commissioner
Municipality of Rome	Claudia Di Lorenze	Head of the Management Directors Department
Municipality of Rome	Alessandro Ivan Battista	Coordinator for the Inmates and Former Inmates Office
Municipality of Rome	Caterina Loi	Director for the Social Work Activity.
Municipality of Rome	Laura Braghetti	Director of PID
Consorzio Innocenti	Giovanni Censi	Director of the Enviromental and Quality System
Consorzio Innocenti	Sara Vallati	Training Department and “Cassa Ammende” Projects

## Report



The visit to the Rebibbia Prison started at 930am with the officers giving a presentation on the prison and the activities the cooperatives do with the prisons.

### **Rebibbia New Compound.**

During the visit the delegation had the opportunity to see the work of:

### **Cooperative: Man at Work.**

Cooperative who work in the prison kitchen, providing all the meals for the prison compound. Man at Work was born from a group of business men and professionals with the common goal to help the public administration in reaching a better manage of different services provided.

Starting in 2003, Man and Work is collaborating with Rebibbia Prison and is giving the inmates the opportunity to learn how to do a specific job in order for them to be able to claim a set od skills once they are out and keep working in that industry.

Part of the cooperative is made by technical staff such as chef and directors who follow and double check the entire process. Another part is made by psicologists and trainers and professionals who help the inmates finding a job once they are out.

### **Cooperative: SOL.CO**

Starting in 2011 this Cooperative put together an agreement between Rebibbia and the

Bambin Gesù' Roman Hospital. Unfortunately during the visit the contract was in a transition phase due to the introduction of a new custode. However we had the opportunity to visit the call center facility.

Every year the Hospital Reservation Center manages more than 150.000 contacts and more than 210.000 reservations. The agreement aims to improve the management of the contacts.

For many years Sol.Co was active in Rebibbia also working for Telecom Italia with a call center service.

Many other cooperatives are present inside Rebibbia New Compound. However the majority of them work for outside assignments such as Consorzio Innocenti (Waste Disposal, Plastic recycling and new production), Cooperativa PantaCoop (data entry for Autostrade s.p.a and the Rome Court of Law); Cooperativa Metamorfosi (management of the wood laboratory).

### **Integration of initiative between Prisons and Municipalities to deliver services:**



In the afternoon the delegation was welcomed in the office of the Municipality of Rome by Claudia Di Lorenzo, Head of the Management Directors Department, Alessandro Ivan Battista, Coordinator for the Inmates and Former Inmates Office, Caterina Loi, Director for the Social Work Activity.

The Municipality of Rome collaborates with the penitentiary institutes in its territory in order to offer to former inmates the chance to be reintegrated together with its specific Secretariat Service (PID), led by Laura Bragheti who explained their work to the delegation.

Giovanni Quindi from Consorzio Innocenzi attended the meeting to explain how this cooperative works in prison. Consorzio Innocenti manages a large number of entrepreneurial initiatives within the Prisons and with prisoners outside the prisons, such as: collection of recycling material, production of high quality vines , industrial production, etc.

## February 5th

Organization	Participant	Title
Agenfor Italia	Sergio Bianchi	Project Manager
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Milan Tanaskovic	Head of the Department for Financial Affairs
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Garic Dusanka	Head of the Department for Alternative measures
Serbian Ministry of Justice	Milan Stevovic	Director of the Department for the Application of Criminal Sanctions.
Italian Ministry of Justice	Marco Capitani	Officer D.A.P. Directorat General for Personnel and Training
Cooperativa Altra Citta'		
Cooperativa Giotto	Andrea Basso	Director
Italian Ministry of Justice	Salvatore Pirruccio	Prison Director

## Report

### **Padova Due Palazzi**

The Delegation had the opportunity to meet this very advanced Italian prison where half of the prison population is engaged in works managed by external companies (cooperatives) and the other half assigned to internal works for self sustainability.

We meet two main players:

### **Altra Città’.**

Established in 2003, this cooperative supports detainees and former detainees in their reintegration process through training and integration programmes based on cultural work.

Recently this cooperative started a project called “The Other Window” where inmates work in order to promote and increment the work of other inmates (**chain effect**).

The delegation had the opportunity to visit the graphic center where the monthly magazine Ristretti Orizzonti is produced and distributed at National level, as well as the book classification and registration for the Regional bibliotecary network.

“Altra Città” works with a ‘**mirroring methodology**’, an approach designed and developed within the Italian prisons and that proved to be very successful. The ‘Mirroring methodology’ consists in the management of activities within the prisons parallel to the same social activities outside, in cooperation with civic public institutions and companies.

Therefore the prisoners, who are formally engaged and paid by the cooperative, have the opportunity to start their rehabilitation path behind the bars in the first step of their

rehabilitation program. Then they are assigned to external work as a form of privilege (under the supervision of the surveillance judge and after the evaluation of a specialized team) during their detention. Finally they are engaged by the Cooperative in the same position when they are released.

During their detention they acquire skills for the labor market, start working in the internal facilities and finally are accompanied to the external work within the framework of the same companies/cooperatives/Institutions.

It's a closed supply chain of services.

From the beginning they are paid with full salary, including social charges (approximately € 800/month).

### **Cooperativa Giotto.**

This cooperative has a similar methodology but with an industrial dimension and large-scale operations. This cooperative offers several services for the private and public sectors: green maintenance, cleaning, restoration, catering services, call center for major Italian companies, production of high quality bicycles, industrial production and more.

They started their collaboration with the prison at the beginning of the 90s winning a tender for a green maintenance.

After delays and problems, they decided to propose a new model where the people they



were supposed to deliver the service to, would become the main actors in the activity. Therefore they organized training for inmates, then started working within the prison as a company incubator and finally organized a real company outside the prison, that is so far a very successful example in Padova and in Europe at large.

After the first test they expanded their activities with numerous companies, that decided to open subsidiaries and production centers within the Italian prisons.





Now they work in different sectors being famous for the production of cakes (production made inside the prison by inmates), in cooperation with an external industrial food producer that provided to the prisons all necessary equipment and skills and sell then the products made by the inmates at International level. An appropriate marketing strategy based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) complete the picture of these operations.

The cooperative engage the inmates from the first step with a standard labor contract. When then the prisoners are allowed to work outside the prison, the cooperative engage them for their external production within the company's premises and when they finally are released they immediately enter into the company's pay roll.

All prisoners engaged by Giotto (ca. 300) have a full salary from the first day (Between 900 and 1.200 euro/month + social components, pension, etc.).

The principles they operate according to are: the importance of the network for self-sustainability, connecting different worlds, subsidiary to help the prisons acquire equipment, funds and market for their activities, qualified work build up through trainings and fighting against the recidivism.

A very important key factor for success is the existence of a developed non-profit sector in the area, that can broker between the prison and the territorial industries, to attract project ideas, business opportunities, private and public funds and equipment as essential components of the production behind bars and the marketability of the products.

## Lesson learned from the visits:

1. **Public-private partnership** is the key for the success of these productive activities within the prisons. This requires a specific innovative regulation (legal framework) that can be transferred from Italy and Europe and adapted to the Serb legislation.
2. The **‘Mirroring methodology’** is an essential component for the rehabilitation path because the activities within the prisons find their natural fulfillment in the same organizations when the prisoners are released through a very specific strategy based upon alternative measures in the intermediate step.
3. The existence of a **pro-active platform of not for profit solid NGOs** capable of brokering between the prison system, the private sector, the local authorities and the International donors is an essential component for the success of these subsidiary initiatives. The NGOs are the bodies that attract the investors within the prisons, provide funds, design the industrial plans, engage and pay the prisoners taking the entrepreneurial risks and sign the agreements with the external private stakeholders to market the products produced within the prisons or in collaboration with the prisons.
4. The investment made by the private partners are essential to pay salaries and provide technical equipments as well as initial training and market opportunities. **This alleviate the costs of the prison budget**, provide money to the prisoners and generate new fresh budget for the prison systems.
5. The **level of recidivism** decreases dramatically when these strategy are applied and released prisoners and effectively and tangibly rehabilitated within the society through work opportunities.

## Next Steps

1. Design a future Strategy to establish a long lasting collaboration between the Italian Ministry of Justice and the Serbian Ministry of Justice in order to implement a plan of action to create a successful collaboration among the two penitential systems and private actors.
2. The strategy should take into consideration the difference in legislation among the two countries, aiming to propose a legal reform in order to understand possible actors already existing and able to act as the Italian “cooperative” or the opportunity for private to associate themselves in a legal structure to better offer services to the Public Administration (EU partnership principle).
3. Establish cooperation between the Italian cooperatives and Serbian non-profit organizations to foster a culture of grassroots cooperation between the cooperative and the prison systems and transfer to them the methodology to attract investors within the prisons. Some of the Italian key stakeholders are also interested to expand their activities in Serbia.
4. Formalize the above mention strategy through a number of EU-funded projects.
5. Write a Joint action plan (in cooperation with an Italian lawyer who speaks Serb and knows the legislation) to be submitted to the EC in Beograd and sensitize the donor institutions (EU, OSCE, UN, etc.)