

## PRISON INMATE HUMAN RIGHTS, NETWORKING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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A starting point of this study is to note the impossibility of initiating any kind of policies supporting prisoners' rights starting at social and working resettlement without referring to a significant contextual basis able to organize premises, alternative actions, and project aims. For this reason, we can understand the necessity of improving levels of the reading and language comprehension skills of staff aimed at the resolution of prison inmates needs. Also, there must be an organizing model of inclusion able to enter into a tacit, not necessarily expressed pact between prisoners and society apart from each individuals personal sense of obligations. In fact, all actions implicitly "carry" an inherent "spectrum of meanings", facilitating aims such as to understand, to make explicit, to explain and eventually to effect both change and functionality in observed results. This is already represents a good beginning to assure necessary competence in the proposals that are undertaken.

### 1. Introduction

«Overcrowded prisons» criminal and recidivist Italy. The Court of Human Rights condemns the Italian State for inhuman and degrading treatment of the prisoners» (09-01-2013).

Sociological literature makes reference to the family in a social and scholastic context to better understand the meaning of deviant behaviour. That is, within these

circumstances we can observe the responsibilities deriving from the structures which have been activated and support the integration processes, avoiding recidivism and prison overcrowding.

Certainly, the idea of attaching a label criminalizing any form of diversity does not help the course of social integration, nor reduce the factors of alienation factors in social deviation and crime; on the contrary, operating in this context it is important to give value priority to a higher level of civil values and social responsibility aiding in preventing the occurrence of structural and systematic problems of prison overcrowding that we find presently in Italy. The consequences of misinterpreting deviant behaviour and impositions of different points of view - civic, judicial and social - are represented in both old and new crimes by stigmatisation and tagging in the "chaos" of non-assumed responsibility<sup>1</sup> that confronts the country in extremes: either able to direct itself towards the protection of human rights or, vice versa, towards the absolute lack of respect for these rights considered as a kind of "refuse" of the legally constituted state. This is true, since the sphere context of human rights issues become more and more important over time, and for this reason we should improve our ability for better reading aptitudes and fuller comprehension capabilities, but above all be more sensitized to a universal sensibility comprehensive of the smallest inviolable limits of human dignity.<sup>2</sup>

The fundamental elements characterizing a healthy modern and civil society are, of course, full employment, security, democracy, freedom, fair standards of justice and qualities of life. Unfortunately, our society has not always been able to assure these fundamental values of life, because it has eluded assuming acceptance of the affirmation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Strogatz, S. (1994) *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*. Cambridge: Perseus.

<sup>2</sup> Garofalo, P. (2009) *Diritti Umani e tortura*. Troina: CittaAperta.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>3</sup>, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1948; those rights which create a modern, free, pacific and noble cohabitation for the world's citizens.

Job resettlement for prisoners is important for parallel social resettlement, and hence the definitive abandonment of the criminal circuit that had co-existed previously in the inmates lives. Legislation, from the penitentiary reform bill, 1975, to the Gozzini Law, 1986, and, later, the Smuraglia law of 2000<sup>4</sup> – regarding fiscal relief for companies who employ prisoners- moved in this direction. However the real problem is not having had enough institutional funding, and it this has blocked opportunities to achieve employment either inside or outside Italian prisons, creating problems for prisoners obliged to stay in overcrowded structures, in unsafe hygienic conditions, and in stressful inactivity.<sup>5</sup> A mortifying confirmation of the incapacity of our State to assure prisoners' main rights.

## 2. The network: a proposal towards change

Emerging, in the field of psychology, the NET concept has opened, without any doubts, new prospects in the analysis of social phenomena. The NET seen as a new instrument of observation, can guarantee respect for human rights but also bring to mind a sense of one's obligations. Through a critical interpretation of NET derived reality. This instrument introduces an innovative sample of analysis in the field of research, making us more aware of some aspects that rarely can be explained, according to the model of traditional

<sup>3</sup> [www.senato.it/documenti/repository/commissioni/dirittiumani/Rapporto\\_carceri.pdf](http://www.senato.it/documenti/repository/commissioni/dirittiumani/Rapporto_carceri.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ordinamento penitenziario -legge 354/75 e succ mod. e integrazioni

<sup>5</sup> Scalia, V. (2011) "Carcere e lavoro" in Associazione Antigone (ed), *Rapporto sulle condizioni di Detenzione in Italia*. Roma: Edizioni Ediesse, pp. 166-174.

psychology, since the NET works against an "ordinary" conception of society, and suggests the representation

«of a social world also organized from the social and changing groups, depending on the circumstances, with limits not identifiable in a definitive way».<sup>6</sup>

In particular, the NET concept gives a certain importance to the role played by interpersonal relationships, giving innovative solutions to explain human behaviour, social structures, their transformation and operational strategies.

In the conditions of imprisonment, an inmates' human rights are considered as a mere "projection" of values pertaining to human dignity and all citizens. Therefore, these rights must be absolutely recognized. In these extreme conditions, prisoners' rights are inevitably compromised, including rights to personal freedoms, privacy, sexuality and family unions. The time served in penitentiary should not compromise the inmates' dignity but rather afford them respect for their fundamental rights, permitting the prisoner to be reinstated into society upon release, and avoiding imposed isolation (Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights).

However, the legislative initiatives - having recognized these rights - have not been immune to problems and discussions, but have nonetheless succeeded in being concluded recently. In fact, until only a few years ago, prisoners, as a category, were "labeled" as only criminals, totally excluding their innate human nature, conferring on them legitimate rights referring to the thesis by Kant according to whom men can be assigned

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<sup>6</sup> Huguet, J.(1994) "Reti di relazione e realizzazione dell'identità individuale" in *Quaderni di animazione e formazione*. Torino: Gruppo Abele, p.17.

natural rights only as long as they respect humanity. This idea represents a totally unrealistic condition for prisoners who are arbitrarily excluded from the legal and civil protection their human rights situation should offer them.

This negation of one's humanity has been shown not only by the excluded affirmation of prisoners' rights but, in a particular way, also by an absolute lack of legal provisions curtailing the abuse of power prisoners must succumb to.

Therefore, working towards an objective of encouraging change, territorial institutions are presently involved on "the ground floor up", in comparison with the more "politicized" actions taken to promote change in the judicial system, in general, and now involving different kinds of participants implementing these strategies: individuals, ad hoc groups and, social institutions. So this "contextual logic" obligates one to take into consideration the functions and rules of single services and services offering full representation, both sectorially and nation wide, whose most evident offerings we can call, "jobs". Obviously, an operative condition which is absolutely important in this regard is the activation of an integrated NET system for each country which is consonant with the country's political, social and economic characteristics.

The NET is not only a way to work but above all embodies a mental attitude<sup>7</sup>, a point of view and thanks to it we can understand its relevance and applications. Many citizens presently are living in discomfort, ties with others have been either compromised or rendered difficult. If connections between services and operators were to be interrupted, it is evident participants would have difficulty in re-activating their part of such connections.

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<sup>7</sup> Platania, S., Ramaci, T., Santisi, G..(2008). Valori e dimensioni lavorative: un confronto tra pubblico e privato. In S. Di Nuovo (a cura di), *Riscoprire i Valori: Ricerche nel territorio siciliano*. Enna: Edizioni Kore - Città Aperta 2008. pp.145-158.

### 3. NET working as a way of operation

In spite of the numerous steps accomplished in attempts to alleviate discrimination, we can easily understand there's much work to be done to avoid relegating the "rights of man" to the out-dated status as historic "relic" of the past.

Reading the daily chronicles we can see, in fact, that intolerance, abuses of power, racial, sexual or religious violence, are still so commonplace that the "horrors" of history evidently have not taught us anything at all, violating Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights, that forbids torture, inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners.

So many men and women in history, even at the price of having sacrificed their lives, have bequeathed a hope to the following generations in obtaining fundamental human rights, such as compulsory school education, sexual equality, freedom of speech, opinion and religion.

Of course, in reference to societal "discomfort", we are invited to reflect on aspects of "individual-society" ties and their origins. It is fundamental in being able to identify the critical dimensions and influencing factors – with due recognition where appropriate – to coordinate involvement of the NET among territory, inmates, operators and sound adopted policies that represent strategic variables.

The territorial employment possibilities, and - above all - the offerings of jobs through the NET, become an important resource; making spaces available in the process for social and work resettlement of prisoners. In this case, who are the actors involved in this activation of the NET? They are the territorial offices of the penitentiary administrations, the employment services, the social services of our towns, the social cooperatives, the voluntary services, the organization of employers and workers; this integrated territorial system can represent an ideal way to coordinate institutions on affirming beneficial regional economic and social policies.

Instead, if we think about the kinds of activities and

approaches to be taken up in the process of social inclusion, we can understand that some job responsibilities regard specific professional preparation in which there are determinate forms of planning and integration; or also through studies concerning employment and social politics in the context of judging local competencies. It is through the activation of these strategies and policies of job resettlement that we can propose the social integration of people who have had or are presently having experiences as prison inmates. These strategies are important since they are aimed at reaching a target goal for improving occupational opportunities of those living in the midst of negative social conditions.

In conclusion, we cannot forget that for these inmates real problems usually come in multiplied form - not only that regarding the prisoner's detention condition but once released from prison, their occupational situation. Former inmates need a job, housing, integrative social relationships to enable them to leave their former "deviated state," of affairs, and return to an open, "collective" social inclusion. To achieve these ends, there must be a systematic organization of actions to undertake, and research on the most appropriate answers. One approach to studying these proposals is to open our minds to other channels of communication vis-a-vis the institutions, to compare projects for supporting processes of inclusion, initiatives of collaboration with relevant social institutions and with the subjects involved; strategies for arriving at a commonly-shared approach rendering specific actions congruent with others, and with the creation of inmate working/formative studies (even if the penitentiary work, normally sporadic and downgrading, is viewed often simply as an "ambiguous" instrument with the hypocritical aim of offering occasions for "distraction" to maintain security and order in overcrowded prisons near a state of administrative collapse). Furthermore, the intensification of migratory movements, that is today a reality with proportions unknown in the past, and the extension of human rights on international levels

have rendered inevitable a legislation-produced definition for an international system of guarantees for migrant workers, without any distinction (Article 1 of The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (Formally the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)).

These strategies can find a comparison in practice when the interlocutor, as an active protagonist, can express, through the NET made available to institutions and local services, the discomfort inmates may feel, expressed through this innovative NET able to open up new and different points of view, and thanks to this to help others in better understanding a prison inmate's experience.<sup>8</sup>

#### **4. What barriers and what difficulties exist in the synergy process**

A first barrier concerns the representations that the operators must deal with as regards their own and other organisations. We are often faced with prejudices built around concrete experiences which occur and we rationalize these prejudices because, they can be justified by a choice of values initially seen as a trustworthy, normative reference, but have later become arbitrarily the only way to read and to understand other institutions realities. Normally, these institutions operate a quite life, efficiently, even if they are tinged with a strong component of tendentiousness. But this is not the only danger when stereotyped acquisition of knowledge is used "ipso facto" to represent and then justify such often hypocritical attitudes. It's easy and convenient if priority is given to the behavioural aspect as related only to other cultures, but it is dangerous when imposing superficial affinities. All people have pre-established ideas, but how much does this attitude inhibit the real acquisition of knowledge? How many people can only express stereotyped

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<sup>8</sup> Remotti F. (1996), *Contro l'identità*. Roma-Bari, Laterza.



views but there are others who have established criteria in mind and yet remain open to further elaboration of ideas. The main hypothesis of our study is that to develop firm *ties* it is important that each operator must try to free himself from too strong emotional attachment to his professional interests, to superficial modes of acquiring knowledge, and but rather, instead, initiate decisive action. In other words, an effort is to be made to understand the internet web's work possibilities as an innovative, new way of giving advantages both to operators and prison inmates, and benefits to their territories. This sign of professionalism would be transformed into "labs" of specific competences also of an emotional nature".<sup>9</sup> In this way, an attitude of professionalism will not run the risk of taking the road to institutional closure, but rather it will be ready for continuous re-elaboration and accommodation to an appropriate context. In this perspective, strategies promoting the initiation of determinate actions should be coherent with realities of the prison inmate's life, and with the cultural models operators are able to put into action.

A second "barrier" regards the influence of culture<sup>10</sup> that a determinate institution expresses in its wider significance, which regards all values, rules, directional orientations, infrastructures and the aims adopted by the institution; that is, the institution itself formulates the values and choices representing the way in which a person accomplishes his job (activity) inside its relative context, along with establishing what attitudes are considered appropriate, as long as they are shared and qualified.<sup>11</sup> Each institution has its own reference

<sup>9</sup> Buunk B. P., Gibbons F.X., (1997) *Heath, Coping, and Well-being: perspectives from Social Comparison Theory*. Mahwah (NJ): Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

<sup>10</sup> Santisi, G., Ramaci, T. (2007) "La cultura ed il clima nell'analisi organizzativa" in R. D'Amico ed., *L'analisi della pubblica amministrazione. Teorie, concetti e metodi*. Vol.3. Milano: FrancoAngeli.

<sup>11</sup> Schein, H. E. (1999) *The corporate culture Survival Guide*, San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons.

grid constructed over the years, its own operative ways that allow the identifying, analysing and dealing with problems. The orientations and the operative modes, achieved with great difficulty, create the relative conditions for participating in the workplace. Acceptance of these conditions renders the process easier and more convenient but, at the same time, it is still a challenge involving risks because there is the chance of confusing the sense of one's own working goals, creating false ties and obstacles to accessing employment through the NET. The prejudices circulating in the Institutions and that their operators have about the prisoners, can lead to a false interpretation of reality, and an attribution of meanings in comparison with what happens actually occurs that is not coherent with enterprise realities as they guide the operation. In its operational set-up, rather, it concerns the infrastructures which form the basis for organizing one's life, based on aims and written objectives, from a social stereotypical sphere and controlling the collusive dynamics symbolizing the same<sup>12</sup>. Consider that this characteristic consists of combining rationality with emotional dynamics. Transforming the terms of a particular culture initiates can stem from a greater access to knowledge, and not only through a change in terms of social relations.

A third barrier regards the social process of "one meeting with the other". The work done by the staff in a prison setting still takes place within a wider social context, in which every day the skilled professional acts to reach his committed mission; doing his daily job means realizing it in its organizational context where the worker represents the most important element. Instead, collaborating with individuals belonging to other organisations forces the operator to define, to redefine, to reinterpret his organizing goal; in particular,

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<sup>12</sup> Kaneklin C., Scaratti, G. (eds) (1998), *Formazione e narrazione. Costruzione di significato e processi di cambiamento personale e organizzativo*. Milano: Cortina.

in front of new situations. The operator must ask himself what he can or cannot in reality accomplish, has made choices already adopted in the past (scripted) but who also finds himself having to make decisions with new, alternative choices. Contexts and scripts have got pragmatic significance since they direct the answers to the circumstances of life, they control life's interactions and, as we have seen, they serve for learning.

Therefore, the concept of meeting "the other" reintroduces the problem about ourselves, what we offer and what our point of view is. There may be a high price to pay for the single person, also from an emotional point of view, since he works as an individual, and he cannot make any reference to the technical elaborations shared with the team. The professional, in this process of definition and redefinition of the work goal (and to each his own responsibility on the bases of his assigned role) can be obliged to "reconstruct" a position and a legitimization in a context that is outside of his own organizational criteria. These situations bring again to mind the necessity to conceive a sense of *what we are doing*. At the moment, it is necessary to have a greater sensibility about the cognitive premises of human interaction. It is not possible to neglect the emotional aspect. The concept of context, for example, affords us a wide margin of comprehension of skills based on intuition or approaches guided by a logic of "adequacy" rather than "consequentiality." On the other hand, the assumption of procedural rationality implies that the protagonist must justify his own behaviour, considering that it is influenced by decisions aimed at obtaining the best result<sup>13</sup> and, this is difficult enough, above all, when facing the reality of exclusionary, institutionally-oriented cultures in situations where there is not easy availability of financing, or in which the organisations in the public eye are exposed to particular public scrutiny; situations in which

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<sup>13</sup> Romano D.F. (2009) "Conoscere e organizzare", in P. Argento P. Cortese C.G Piccardo C. eds. *Psicologia delle organizzazioni*. Milano: Cortina.

we are generally more interested in assumed institutional positions rather than, say in the context of simply listening to prison inmates.<sup>14</sup>

For example, my theatrical experience that took place in the Brucoli House of detention (July 2012), above all shared with foreigners, encouraged paradoxically, the expression of a theatrical form of art as an instrument of mutual participation, as a higher form of communication, harmonious as virtual and expressive music. In my personal experience of having taken part in a theatrical group in prison, I can say that the theatre, sometimes, enters a state penal structure exclusively for entertaining and enjoyment; in fact, many shows had as a single aim of repeating jokes and doing physical animation, without expecting any real professionalism, or interest in obtaining such a level of expertise. Prison can be seen as a lab where the actors, seen as amateurs, are able to express an authenticity of expression at times rarely present in the professional, a spontaneity and immediateness visible in the lapsus, jokes and approaches - the same authenticity of "the man of the street", since the inmates are transformed into actors. In fact, even if a prisoner acts "inside", the acting role, it is emanating from the fruit stemming as an "outsider" to society " that cannot be dissolved just because the inmate is isolated and "hidden" from view. However, "the man of the street" and a man without freedom who transforms himself into a non-professional actor, are divided by an absolute condition: reclusion. This difference transforms itself into theatrical strength and magic as presented in prison, and it expresses itself in the "energy" reserved for reciting the scene, a condensed suffering and frustration, strongly compressed and imposed for this reason. It is possible to exploit theatre art since, from its inherent restrictions, it can bring a "modified" humanity to the forefront which searches and exalts diversity

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<sup>14</sup> Hatch, M.J. (2006) *Organization Theory. Modern, Symbolic, and postmodern perspectives*, New York: Oxford University Press.

while simultaneously expressing a greater dramatic strength thanks to the involving qualities of this art. Acting on a theatrical text offers reinforced support for those inmates in prison paying for their penitence with visceral pain. It allows the free stream of emotions and feelings removed and repressed by the prison detention while at the same time it encourages human cooperation, and exchange with other people.

Reciting theatre dialogue offers sufficient means to "break up" the dreary, daily "routine" of the inmate, and the progressive corrosion of their human spirit. Whenever theatrical representation improves people's lives and their living dimensions, contrary characteristics to what they are accustomed to. Here we have a collective response rather than individual, inmates involved rather than isolated, inmate-actors enriched in an effective and artistic way compared to their life in prison. Doing theatre can mean that the "man of 'imprisoned' pain" temporarily redeems his "involuntary" isolation, stopping to mimic, starting to narrate, and to even narrate himself. But perhaps we should ask ourselves about the meaning of offering theatre in prison. Can the financial, logistical difficulties of recreating theatre in a correctional institution be met through the availability and the good intentions of various staff and/or the aid of collaborating administrators?

Doing theatre in prison lets us see the difference between abstract meaning and practical function, in order that theatre is not simply interpreted in handy "pragmatic terms" as a "utilitarian" service because theatre is also therapeutic, pedagogical, recreational. These humanistic values are integrally what theatre art offers.

It is evident - like in the endless debate on the prison and the penal, correctional institute system - that it is possible to discern some lacerating contradictions between what "should be" and what is really realised by the penal system. A most intelligent world is a best of all possible worlds, and in the struggle for a less unfair world we must recognise the plurality of the questions of justice, identifying in ethics its

basic value, and at the same time pose questions and answers as in debates regarding right and wrong; there is the ancient principle present in many famous “sayings”, «*Don't do to other people what you do not want other people to do to you*» as the point of landing of an ultimately shared social habitat among people who, above all, listen to each other. Assume the ethics of personal responsibility, of taking care of others, all of which become an integral component in a relationship, a model to reintroduce a sense of dignity in society expressed through daily actions- and, at the same time- becomes a strong therapeutic factor, encouraging a process of change. Perhaps it is not necessary to love all mankind in general, but it is fundamentally important to encounter each other, to fully listen to each other. Often, the main characteristic of institutionalization, is the loss of one's sense of responsibility (that is also a loss of social and contractual power), and it is a process which deprives people of the most active parts of their own *ego*, as if people were only numbers instead of human presences. Again, in reference to inmate detention, the object of public service should be, in primis, the capability of the social institution to activate processes of responsibility assumed by the individual if the institution really wants to succeed in the aim of inmate rehabilitation.

## **5. The necessity to create true opportunities and multiplicity of actions**

*«The workers privy of their rights to freedom are treated with humanity and with the respect of dignity about their human and their cultural identity»* (Article 17, Comma 1, The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (Formally the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms).

The lack of resources cannot constitute a reason for the conditions of that prisons where the rights of the prisoners are violated (art.4 “Raccomandazioni”, 2006 (2)).

What I have till now discussed, suggests a last consideration. Remembering that the a strong reading aptitude is a key to accessing the net (of relationships) with success, we can underline how in every action it is of fundamental importance to consider the point of view offered by the different main characters, encouraging a wider collective sensibility to the minimum inviolable limit of human dignity. Therefore, it becomes necessary to support ideas, perspectives and beliefs both of prisoners and prison officials. From the concept of the "other one", as from the active subject, comes out the possibility of moving closer to the other person, seen not as a unique holder of the truth and of a certain competence, but rather as a skilled worker able to stimulate a sense of contact creating together a negotiable process within their shared contexts. It's the richness of this comparison and the possibility, thanks to negotiations, of creating original and fresh points of view that, while respecting the rights of everyone, potentialities and competences of all concerned can be reinforced in the correctional institutional context. Among possible solutions, there exist also alternative punishments and a policy of rendering non-punishable certain crimes; aspects contradicting the assessment that most prisoners in Italy are drug-addicts or foreigners.

These attitudes do not occur by mere chance, and we must take this fact into consideration when we talk about the penitentiary system.

The problem of overcrowded prisons in Italy is of an inherent structural and systematic nature (the European court of Human Rights has already received more than 550 court appeals from inmates who declare they have only three square meters at disposal of living space); for this reason it is of great urgency to identify the best solutions to deal with the overcrowding emergency; it is important to qualify the activity of the service, creating goals for programming alternative kinds of punishments, and introducing new policies seriously dealing with the problem of re-analyzing

those legal normatives which have discouraged searching for alternative measures.

Definitely, the creation of an all-encompassing project is necessary in which legislator and penitentiary administration can “work together” but, to reach this goal, it is necessary to have a decisive contribution from external society. It is also absolutely important to make clear what kinds of prisons we want and what we want the prison to accomplish.

As the Italian Constitution confirms, imprisonment must be finalized into the re-socialization of the prisoner. Furthermore, great importance is directed at initiating a course of new activities. This work forms an important connection bridge between the moment of the execution of the sentence and the inmate’s resettlement in the society. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 1955, the United Nations already declared the importance of the re-education of condemned men/women. Article 65 of the resolution established that treatments of the prisoners (...) *«must encourage the subject in the respect for himself and must develop in the subject a sense of responsibility»*. A strong factor in realizing definitive inclusion is to change the way of thinking of all protagonists involved in this process. A new possibility could be represented by the improvement in the availability of informal resources (as volunteer work). The creation of new “actors,” not only the formal “players” from public or private contexts but legitimate new participants who can make observations from new points of view. At the end, research analysis could offer another dimension but this must be insisted upon: the connecting Net in which knowledge - newly acquired - directs and supports innovative actions; actions which have an accumulating effect of forming themselves to produce knowledge supporting and processing each other.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Olivetti Manoukian, F. (2002) “Il circolo virtuoso conoscenza azione. Il perno della ricerca azione”, *Animazione sociale*, Vol.5. Torino.



## 6. Conclusion

Social networking can certainly promote, in a territorial context, support for citizens facing judicial difficulties, defending the respect for the dignity of all, also culturally more evolved thanks to experimentation of innovative processes aimed at conceiving new methodologies. Unfortunately, the presumption to close one's minds in pre-conceived ideas for both processes of capital punishment and rehabilitation, blocks new venues for policies, without activating any beneficial approaches, which could assure positive results, reducing in a real way socially-inflicted wounds caused by crime.<sup>16</sup> Here we are making reference to an abstract pretence-unfortunately widely accepted in our country - that a prison term is simplistically considered only as a limited privation of freedom and often that of dignity too, but does not either represent a virtuous course of correction, in spite of the normative previsions, nor that of deterrent and of prevention. Nor does it facilitate social resettlement of inmates, even if the third clause of the art. 27 of the Italian Constitution states:

«The pain inferred cannot consist in treatments opposed to the sense of humanity and punishment must re-educate the condemned».

Reality represents a kind of a social infrastructure accompanying an integral idea; a community can be also be constructed with ideas, today many miss the significance of this: that it is indeed possible to achieve these goals. There is the risk of appearing ingenuous, thinking of new perspectives of collaboration between those who have committed "wrong" and their relationship to the territory, but this is not an abstract concept, it is instead, taking into consideration how

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<sup>16</sup> Fleres, S., Cammarata, G. (2012) *L'affittività della pena detentiva*. Catania: Metropolis.

a prisoner , if he really wants to, can later become a main protagonist in all facets of life in civil society.<sup>17</sup>

Instead, abstract are those actions which do not clarify, nor foresee that the person who once committed a crime may no longer be an “enemy” but rather a community participant who will not necessarily become a weight to society once he’s out. Perhaps it’s too easy to reject the possibility that the prisoners who are working can become, instead, a territorial resource. It is wrong thinking that the once penally condemned represent a sort of enemy to be eliminated, and rather not entertain the idea of inviting their collaboration in the form of an educational effort with to integrate inmates and their surrounding society.

Suggesting this, what I have tried to thematically unify together in this paper is a really positive “*quantum*”, I believe there is still much intense activity to accomplish – proposals to make- and there is the need to recognize that a formulation of policy only starts after some time given to reflection; then, following, one can propose initiatives, and follow-up actions not only limited to the work place, but also in the field. At the same time, we must accept the reality that there will be endless difficulties and numerous conflicts (institutional, professional experts and operators, and the usual conflicting interests) that, all in all, regard the possibility of implementing prisoner resettlement as the first priority of the of the social NET.

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<sup>17</sup> Ramaci, T., Santisi, G. (2012) “Le attività trattamentali per un sistema di servizi territorialmente efficace”, *Psicologia di Comunità, Gruppi, ricerca-azione e modelli formativi*. Ed.FrancoAngeli. Fascicolo 1, anno 2012, pp. 103-114.