

WORKING BETTER TOGETHER FOR OFFENDER REINTEGRATION

CARLOS FERNANDEZ GOMEZ, 21 AND 22 JUNE 2022



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WORKING TOGETHER FOR OFFENDER REINTEGRATION

What does “**working together**” really mean?

What do we mean when we say “**social reintegration**”?

KEY IDEAS OF SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

- Prison as a particular setting related and **open to society**.
- **Social reintegration** as a complex process that involves many professionals.
- **Social environment** of the individual needs to be taken into consideration.
- Imprisonment is considered a limited period of time: the **return to society** is always expected.

WORKING METHODOLOGY

- Existence of **multi-disciplinary** teams in every prison (team-work).
- Full cooperation among all prison departments.
- Collaboration of NGOs, the so-called **Third Sector**, for all prison regimes.





Permanent communication with Central Services.

Protocols and Directives made clear for all prisons.

Full availability to solve doubts and/or problems in daily situations.

COOPERATION

- Cooperation with academics and/or researchers.
- Cooperation with Law Enforcement.
- Cooperation with international working groups.
- **Openness to society.**



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Spanish Open-Regime



SPANISH OPEN-REGIME

- Sentences are served in the so-called **Social Insertion Centres**.
- It connects the individual with his/her social environment (weekend leaves).
- It promotes work, intervention and professional training.
- It is based on the **trust principle**.



A NEW APPROACH SINCE 2021

- **Direct entry into the Social Insertion Centres** if some conditions are met (recent internal directive).
- It allows serving the sentence in the **community**.
- It avoids the entrance into ordinary prison for minor crimes and/or offences that may be served in an open-regime from the very beginning.
- It is considered a really new approach, making prisons even less crowded.

WHAT IT IMPLIES

- Intervention begins in open-regime, where **Third sector** (social entities and NGOs) play a key role.
- Adaptations of Social Insertion Centres are being delivered as diversity is increased.
- New types of crimes are initially received in Social Insertion Centres.
- Elderly people and/or people with mental disease, if criteria are met, do not need to go to prison and may enter directly into open-regime.

WHAT IT IMPLIES

- Some Social Insertion Centres have undertaken measures such as “**progressive stages systems**”, aimed at monitoring evolution of individuals.
- Treatment is broadened, allowing mixed groups: sentenced to prison in open-regime and sentenced to alternative measures.
- Social resources are promoted for working insertion, profesional training and therapeutic intervention.

TELEMATIC CONTROL AND MONITORING

- Closely linked to open-regime centers and extremely efficient. Key role during pandemic, as most individuals were sent to their homes to avoid infection.
- Aimed at facilitating social integration while keeping all social and personal ties.



ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO PRISON

- **Management of Alternative Measures Service**, located in the Social Insertion Centres, is the place where community services are planned as alternative measures to prison.
- Community services may be served as intervention programmes (shorter as workshops or longer as programmes) or as social work of interest for society.
- The range of intervention programmes for the alternative measures has been increased.

SOME INTERVENTIONS

PRIA-MA
(gender-
based
violence)

ENCUENTRO
(family
violence)

CUENTA
CONTIGO
(drug-
addiction)

FUERA DE
LA RED
(child
pornography)

TASEVAL
(risk driving)

PUENTE
EXTENDIDO
(mental
disease)

DIVERSIDAD
(hace crimes)

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMMES

- **Gender perspective** included in most of these interventions as a necessary step.
- Entities are in charge of most workshops and programmes alternative to prison.
- **Municipalities** also have collaboration agreements for social works of interest.
- Open-regime and alternative measures to prison are fully involved in the **social environment of community**.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

- Entities specifically in charge of **work reintegration programmes** (specific protocols such as EPYCO), promoting also training of individuals.
- **Universities** involved: students deliver their practical period in Social Insertion Centres and ordinary prisons. Full cooperation with **different Administrations** at the regional, local and national level.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE



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