



Ministero della Giustizia

DEPARTMENT OF PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

CDPPS 2017
WORKSHOP IV: INTER-AGENCY TRAINING

THE INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND TRAINING
FOR THE STAFF OF THE PENITENTIARY POLICE IN ITALY

Pres. Santi Consolo, Head of Department of Penitentiary Administration – Italy

- § 1. As a consequence of the recent deep reform of the Italian Ministry of Justice, the new Directorate General for Training of the Penitentiary Administration became an inter-professional training Agency, with the institutional task to train:
- The staff who deal with adult offenders and who work inside the prisons;
 - The staff dealing with adult offenders in the community;
 - The staff of juvenile justice dealing with juvenile offenders inside the penal establishment specifically dedicated to minors;
 - The staff of juvenile justice dealing with juvenile offenders in the community.
- § 2. Indeed, the execution of sanctions and measures in the community and the probation are a natural continuity, under a different form, of the execution of sentences by imprisonment.
All the penal system workers are therefore requested, although playing their own different roles, to achieve the same goals, within a cultural interexchange and the joint training.
- § 3. At the light of the current prominent requirements of security, the staff of the Penitentiary Police in Italy is involved in the joint training with other Law Enforcement officers of our Country, in order to improve the inter-agency cooperation.
- § 4. Indeed, although the Corps of the Penitentiary Police is characterized by its own specificity, given that its institutional tasks are to ensure order and security in the prisons as well as to actively participate in the offenders' rehabilitation, it is also true that said specificity never precluded their full cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.



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Just consider:

- The participation of the Penitentiary Police in the inter-agency coordination unit based at the Ministry of Interiors;
- The assignment of a contingent of Penitentiary Police officers to the National Anti-mafia Directorate and to the Central Directorate of Criminal Police at the Service for the Police International Cooperation, which can thus benefit from the competences and technical skills of various law enforcement professionals;
- the possibility for the Penitentiary Police, in case of specific prisoners' escorted transfers, to use the Finance Police ("Guardia di Finanza") airplanes, which are put at our disposal within an inter-institutional plan of cooperation established by an agreement of 2015;
- the detailed **monitoring activity** carried out in our prisons **to prevent the risk of radicalization to violent extremism**; said activity allows a constant and continuous information gathering, thanks to the work carried out by our Central Investigation Team, which monitors the subjects imprisoned for crimes of international terrorism and those ones who are signaled due to activity of proselytism and criminal recruitment. The inmates under observation are subdivided into three levels of risk, that is: a) *monitoring*, for the subjects sentenced for or charged with crimes of international terrorism and the subjects with attitudes of proselytism, radicalization or recruitment; b) *supervision*, for the inmates whose attitudes show their closeness to violent extremist ideologies and could therefore carry out activities of proselytism and recruitment; c) *signaling*, for prisoners whose behavior needs to be analyzed more in depth. The information above is brought to the attention of the Committee of Anti-terrorism Strategic Analysis (CASA), a permanent table presided over by the Head of the Prevention Police **which gathers once a week** and where the information about domestic and international terrorist threats are shared and assessed. The members of that Committee are the State Police, the Carabinieri, the Finance Police, the Department of Penitentiary Administration and the Intelligence Agencies.
- The procedures for the use of the **DNA Databank Laboratory**, carried out, again, with the fruitful cooperation of other law enforcement agencies. At that Laboratory, managed by our Department, there are technician



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managers, biologists and IT specialists, all recruited through a public national competition and trained by specific courses. There are already 28 professionals working there, but we hope that it will be possible to increase their number in consideration of the delicate and complex work they carry out.

Since June 2015, our Department has started the gathering of DNA samples from offenders in all the prisons of our Country, giving priority to the inmates upon release and to the prisoners under supervision for risks of violent radicalization.

- The work of coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Interiors, for a new IT procedure, which brought to the **Certificate for the identification of the foreign inmate (CIDES)**: the CIDES allows to avoid that non-EU prisoners, once their imprisonment is over, have to stay in the Centers for Identification and Removal (CIE) for their certain identification. Indeed, the information included in the CIDES are immediately sent to the State Police staff working in the Immigration Offices at Police Stations, so that they may acquire objective data useful for the subject's identification and then activate the necessary institutional procedures at national and international level in order to quickly remove the foreign citizen.
- The cooperation with the Carabinieri, which put at our disposal their Language School to enable 13 Penitentiary Police officers to attend one course of Arabic language.

§ 5. The building of a unitary, solid system of security is also based upon training. In that sense our Administration – as I mentioned at the beginning – foresees an integrated training system for the whole staff of the prison service and of the Juvenile Justice and Community Justice services, giving priority to models of decentralized training and of training on-the-job, with the aim to include also workers from other local institutions who are involved for various reasons in the process of offenders' social reintegration.

Moreover, it is important to underline the positive experience of the participation of the Penitentiary Police staff in joint training courses with other law enforcement agencies for the use and the development of Inter-Agency Databank and Information Systems, as well as the participation of high-ranking officers of our Corps in higher training courses.



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The exchange of information and knowledge through the integrated training seems therefore to be crucial to achieve common goals and to share responsibilities.

- § 6. In connection to that, it is important to note that high-ranking officers of the Penitentiary Police have been participating, for the last ten years, in inter-agency training activities organized by the *Italian Specialization School for the Law Enforcement Agencies*. In particular the topics of the courses are:
- A. Coordination of Law Enforcement Agencies in the fight against criminal organizations
 - B. International cooperation
 - C. Sociologic communications
 - D. Public management
 - E. International politics and economics
- § 7. It is worth mentioning the *Course of Criminal Analysis*, subdivided into two levels:
- For the first level, three courses are held per year. Three high-ranking officers of the Penitentiary police are sent to each course, which is structured into two didactic phases:
 - The first phase foresees an information module on databanks and is managed by the Service for Interagency Information System of the State Police (one week)
 - The second phase includes topics such as: criminal operational analysis, criminology, intelligence support (four weeks)
 - The second level course is held once a year. Two high-ranking officers of the Penitentiary Police are sent to that course, provided they passed the first level. The training is structured into two phases:
 - The first phase is composed of one module on the “open source” analysis (one week)
 - The second phase includes topics such as: criminal analysis of the context; analysis of national and international scenarios of the threats; analytic instruments of the decision-making process; structure and function of the Committee of Anti-terrorism Strategic Analysis (CASA) and the international terrorism; study of different types of mafia criminal organizations (four weeks).



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- § 8. Moreover, in the Academic Year 2016/2017, the International High Training School was open for the fight against organized crime, based in Caserta . Hereafter some of the training courses of continuous training and of specialization organized by said school, that staff of the Penitentiary Police regularly attend:
- Specialization course “Human Being trafficking – Migrants trafficking”
 - Continuous training course “Instruments and procedures for the prevention of organized crime”
 - Specialization course “Undercover Operations”
 - Specialization course “Terrorism and subversive extremism”. The topics of that course are the study of terrorist and subversive networks in Europe and the Italian peculiarity of the CASA; the study of terrorist and subversive networks in the Middle East; the modalities of approach to anti-terrorist investigations in the Italian experience of the National Prosecutor Office; the experience of the Italian penitentiary system in the management of organized crime prisoners and of potential “justice collaborators” also with reference to the processes of violent radicalization in prisons.
- § 9. To conclude, on the basis of the Italian experience, which I briefly described, I want here to express my wish for a stronger and stronger cooperation among the national law enforcement agencies, based on wide information sharing, and among those ones and the homologue Agencies of the European Countries, to build safer societies.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Santi Consolo
Head of Department of Penitentiary Administration

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