Once out: a guide

PATHS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN BOLOGNA AFTER PRISON AND CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT



Supported by:



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INTRODUCTION

As the moment of release from prison represents a particularly delicate phase in a detainee's life, this work was created with the aim of providing a supporting tool for all of those close to leaving the prison system.

The time of releaseor, similarly, the end of an alternative measure program may generate a feeling of deep disorientation, especially for those who lack social and economic resources in the area.

The project wants to therefore provide a detailed *vademecum* starting from thestrongest needs and requirementsfelt by the so called *dimittendi*, a term used to identify those people crossing the last phase of their correctional path.

The tool is deliberately thought for those detained in the men's ward of the Bologna prison, as needs, desires and expectations are often also linked to gender specificity. In fact, the Antigone Emilia Romagna Association has foreseen to draft a similar tool specifically for women leaving the regional penitentiary system.

In consideration of the wide range of services available in the Bologna area, the guide is meant also in support to the work of the various correctional and social workers running reintegration programs.

The present project represents a novelty compared to the ordinary activities of the Antigone Emilia Romagna Association, which has been operating since 2001, and is a local branch of the Antigone Onlus Association. s The Association usually conducts the so-called "Observatory" through which it monitors detention conditions of the correctional facilities located in the Emilia Romagna region.

The members of the Observatory, the "observers", are annualy authorised by the Ministry of Justice to access the regional prisons and accordingly draft reports which are published on the Antigone Onlus Association website (https://www.antigone.it).

Antigone Emilia Romagna is also part of the Regional Volunteering and Justice Conference: as such, it periodically promotes public initiatives for raising awareness among citizens on safeguards and and rights within the criminal justice system.

Conducting the present research was a specific choice arising from the acknowledgment of the cruciality of studying criminal punishments more and more from a point of view which is external to prison walls,. As a result, we had the chance to to deepen into what Bologna offers in terms of social reintegration, while developing a tool meant to be a commented guide on the available paths once out of the prison system, starting from the personal stories of those who live or have experienced restrictions to personal liberty.

Research methodology

The drafting of the guide, based on funds granted by the Del Monte Foundation of Bologna and Ravenna, began in September 2019 and came to conclusion in December 2020.

The first phase of the research involved developing a detailed mapping of the available services and supplies in the Bologna area and specifically thought for both former detainees, persons undergoing correctional programs and, to a greater extent, to marginalised individuals.

We then met the various institutional representatives (the Director of the "Rocco d'Amato" Correctional Facility and the Director of the Educational Area, the Regional and Local Authorities for people deprived of personal liberty, the Municipality of Bologna in the person of the Councillor for social policies, the Emilia Romagna Regional Manager for Health in Prisons and the Emilia Romagna Regional Manager for the Correctional Programs Area, the ASP Contact Person of the Municipality of Bologna, Uiepe Managers) and the various social workers divided by area of intervention: health, work, accommodation, volunteering.

We subsequently contacted former detainees or individuals subjected to alternative measures in order to understand directly from them what were the most felt desires, expectations and needs in the passage between inside and outside, in particular when beginning an alternative measure program or close to their conclusion.

From a methodological point of view, we considered particularly useful for the purpose of the research to opt for semi-structured interviews, in order to leave the interlocutor free to speak about himself.

However, it seems worth pointing out that, initially, the project envisaged also meetings with those currently restricted at the local prison, in order to value their experience and expectations on the post-prison phase.

Nevertheless, this became impossible due to the sanitary emergency that hit our country likewise many other.

The last phase of the research focused on collective meetings with various actors and stakeholders involved in social work, so as to draw attention to the most functional tools available in the Bologna area, strengthen the network between them - already partially well-structured in the city area, while reflecting on the more neglecgted issues.

The research allowed us to get to delve into a particularly rich and active metropolitan environment in terms of intake services for for what those exiting detention journeys or involved in reintegration programs.

The city of Bologna has indeed the advantage of presenting itself as an avant-garde reality, both on a regional and national level, considering the wide number of projects implemented in favour of people deprived of their liberty (e.g., the Dimittendi project carried out within the local Prison, which will be discussed more in detail later or the city's network of cooperatives and reception facilities, as well as the various NGOs specifically dedicated to such typee of beneficiaries).

However, the analysis work also allowed us to realize that a lot still needs to be done in addressing the needs of the *dimittendi*, in particular in terms of guaranteeing the continuation once outside of programs activated inside the correctional facilities as well as investing in alternative measures.

Prisons continue to represent the main method of serving sentences: although in recent years the numbers of individuals under alternative measures has grown constantly, at the same time the population in our prisons has been growing, leading thereby to a general increase in individuals subjected to penitentiary control¹.

¹ This is the so-called *net-widening effect*, a concept introduced by the sociologist S. Cohen, used to indicate the risk associated with the introduction of new forms of punishment and the expansion of social control. See S. Cohen, *Visons of Social Control*, Oxford, Polity Press, 1985.

The crucial moment of release from prison

When approaching the moment of release from the penitentiary system restricted people face a particularly delicate phase in their lives, with various factors playing a fundamental role.

As we know, the Italian penal and penitentiary systems were deeply innovated by the 1975 Prison Law (law n. 354 of 1975 and subsequent Regulation), which was inspired to rehabilitation principles in accordance with the Constitution.

The treatment of detainees, as stated by art. 1 of law 354/75,

"is marked by absolute impartiality without any discrimination as to nationality, race and economic or social conditions, political opinions and religious beliefs, and it conforms to models favouring personal autonomy, responsibility, socialization and integration". Always according to art. 1: "treatment pursues social reintegration, also through contacts with the external world, and it follows the principle of individualization as it adheres to individuals' specific needs".

Therefore, the intake of a detainee starts from the very first moment he accesses the facility and continues, thanks to the work of various correctional operators (correctional officers, social workers, psychologists, legal and pedagogical officers, teachers, volunteers), throughout the entire rehabilitation journey. In such regards, according to art. 13 of the Prison Law

"the penitentiary treatment must respond to the specific needs of each person, encourage personal attitudes and value useful skills in view of a future resocialization. Detainees and dangerous inmates are subjected to scientific examination of their personality in order to identify psyco- physical deficiencies or other causes which have led to crime and in order to propose an adequate reintegration program. The beneficiary is offered the opportunity to reflect on the committed crime, its motivations and its consequences, specifically for the victim, as well as on the possible reparations. Constant assessments are carried

out from the moment of sentence enforcement throughout the whole time. Based on the results, rehabilitation treatments and programs are designed for each detainee and dangerous inmate, further integrated or modified according to the arising needs [...]";

Moreover, art. 15 establishes that:

"the treatment of the convicted and of the dangerous inmate takes place mostly through education, vocational training, work, involvement in community service projects, religion, cultural, recreational and sport activities, by facilitating adequate contact with the external world and family relationships".

As a result, being given the chance to access opportunities and services within the institution, in particular schooling and training, plays a fundamental role, not only in general for a future reintegration, but also in order to access alternative ways of serving a sentence.

Research in matter of recidivism seems to point out that, in a pool of people sentenced to imprisonment, those who take advantage of resocialisation services during detention are less likely to return to crime. Chances further decrease among those who, being subjected to alternative measure, do not cross the prison doors².

Several factors may influence the possibility to participate to resocialisation paths and its successful conclusion. First of all, it should be clarified that a lot can depend on the length of the sentence. While on one hand in the last 10 years the number of persons convicted to imprisonment for more than 10 years has been increasing, with a subsequent increase of the average age of prison population, on the other hand convictions for less than 5 years of imprisonment remain the most common.³ As a result, it can be particularly complicated, especially in situations of chronic overcrowding and shortage of legal and pedagogical staff, to promptly launch adequate resocialisation projects for those facing a short-term sentence. In this regard, it should be noted that, during the research and with reference to the Bologna prison, various officers underlined the

² On this point, see the data reported in the XIII Report by Antigone "Torna il carcere" ("*Prison in back*"), Rome, Antigone Edizioni, 2017.

³ For a deeper analysis see the 16th Antigone Report "Il carcere al tempo del coronavirus" (Prison in coronavirus times), Rome, Antigone Edizioni, 2020

struggles connected not only to the number of inmates present but most of all to the high staff turnover characterizing the local prison, which seems therefore affecting the effectiveness of rehabilitation projects. Former detainees mention the risk of not being taken care of precisely because of the sentence length, a condition that makes recidivism more likely, especially for those facing their first detention.

Such situation generates even more complex consequences for those who face their first conviction:

What I am most sorry for is that I have seen young people coming in prison, 21, 22, 23 years old, entering for the first time and maybe just for an year, an year and a half, they would complete their sentence without never being supported by the right plan [...] I think that if you really need to make a choice then you should [...] take charge of those who are younger who come for the first time. I have seen many of these people who come and go, and when they were out they would commit even worser crimes. They were not supported.

(Int. n. 3 – Italian, former detainee, currently subject to alternative measure)

A further aspect that may influence the outcome of criminal rehabilitation projects is the subjective situation of each detainee. Prison in Italy is often populated by deeply marginalized individuals, for whom conditions of unemployment, inadequate schooling, addiction problems or illegal status are closely related to criminalization processes and detention experiences.

Such conditions, which appear to preexist to a state of deprivation of liberty, may affect not only the way detainees approach their sentence (an inmates' adaptability and his reliability are often some of the criteria chosen to evaluate the type of rehabilitation plan to propose and the possibility to access alternative measures⁴), but also the possibility of

of activating projects inside the prison, which are also likely to continue once out. In this sense, the social resources owned before detention play a crucial role in light of a risk management approach and appear to be more important than the rehabilitation path undertaken within the facility. As a result, by failing the so called principle of "individualization", which sets the basis of our prison treatment, correctional facilities find themselves realising a selection mechanism. As a result, detention institutes prefer investing, also due to a chronic lack of resources, in those who prove to be more willing to join the projects, as they own personal and social resources which reduce the possibility of unstable development or unsuccessful outcomes of the projects themselves.

This clearly emerged in some of the interviews with former detainees, now subjected to measures alternative to detention:

[...] Not everyone has the chance to be part of a program [...] PHowever, when a person proves to be available to change, he is surely given such opportunity. To those who have started the right path

and have shown to be willing to do so, the chance has been given. For sure, not everyone is lucky. Let's take a foreigner, for example: how can he be as lucky as me that I am Italian? I know the language, go to a job interview and speak. Foreigners cannot do that so they are more disadvantaged and most detainees are foreigners.

(Int. N. 2 – Italian, 37 years old, former detainee, presently subjected to an alternative measure)

The personal characteristics of each detainee (length of the sentence, age, geographical origin, type of crime, legal status, criminal past, social dangerousness, behaviour towards companions and officers) are in any case valued on a prognostic basis by a specific *equipe* of experts in order to identify the most suiting correctional facility and, consequently, the most appropriate type of rehabilitation plan.

Accessing rehabilitation projects does not only depend on an individual's

⁴ See G. Mosconi, *La crisi postmoderna del diritto penale e i suoi effetti sull'istituzione penitenziaria*, in *Rassegna penitenziaria e criminologica*, 1-3, founded by G. Altavista, Rome, Istituto poligrafico e zecca dello Stato, 2001, pp. 3-35 in reference to one of the aspects that most characterise prison and punishment today: "The concept of normality as social reliability, in terms of possession of material, cultural and status

resources which make the individual appear as self-sufficient and incapable of unexpected and antisocial acts".

On the same issue, see E. Kalica, S. Santoros, *Farsi la galera: spazi e culture del penitenziario*, Verona, OmbreCorte, 2018.

personal resources, adaptability, or willingness to participate, but may also respond to exclusively institutional needs, as testified by an awareness of the users themselves of such a selection mechanism:

[...] Within the correctional facility you need to be self-critical in order to see if you have really understood the wrongdoing that you have committed [...] At the same time, I have an opinion: I have seen tons of people which were given benefits because they would talk to the rehabilitation officers, the social assistants, people who had parents, houses, but after 3, 4, 5 months they would come back to prison and maybe get out after an year. They were used to go in and out [...] They were people who entered knowing that they would be able to go out, because they had the possibility to do so. They would come back to prison, careless of everything. Eventually they never made an effective change. ⁵

(Int. N. 3)

At the same time, access to internal opportunities appears also as a way to resist to exclusion mechanisms typically recurring in prison management:

To me the only useful thing is to make people work because it is of no use having people stay in their cells 20 hours a day. There is no need for cells to be open when, for example, a person cannot even buy a piece of soap. What is the use? If one has no one outside (editor's note: who gives economic help) he is discarded also by the others, because he cannot buy a packet of tobacco [...] You are set aside if you have no money. So the only needed thing in there is work.

(Int. N. 1 - Italian, 57 years old, former detainee)

From this point of view, regardless personal choices on how to approach detention experiences, the present research has confirmed how, in some cases, accessing rehabilitation plans, even if limited to some activities, or having tied meaningful relationships within the facility, may represent a first step in a path oriented towards future resocialisation. For example, those who, on the basis of positive observations from the *equipe*, are granted access to alternative measures, those who manage to beemployed by subjects other than the prison administration (which hires former detainees⁶) or, again, those who, through detention, come into contact with associations or volunteers providing support also after release.

In addition, for many detainees (for example people suffering from addiction problems and never supported by the Ser.D.P. service or foreigners without a regular residence permit) prison provides them, for the first time, the opportunity to start a rehabilitation plan, or even just benefit from medical and therapeutical assistance. However, regardless the fruition of prison programs, as the moment of release from the penitentiary system approaches, a new and different phase begins, in view of which the detainee needs to be guaranteed a social network and specific ties with a geographical area; in other words, resources to be effectively supported. In this sense the relationship between a prison and its specific geographical area is crucial to consolidate projects started within the facilities and to prepare those who come from and risk returning

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⁵ On how different models of rehabilitative punishments affect personal trajectories of detained people see G. Mosconi, *La crisi postmoderna del diritto penale e i suoi effetti sull'istituzione penitenziaria*, in *Rassegna penitenziaria e criminologica*,1–3, founded by G. Altavista, Rome, Istituto poligrafico e zecca dello Stato, 2001, pp. 3–35: "...Unexpert individuals, for which illegal behaviour is basically occasional; who therefore do not require proper rehabilitative interventions; while, on the contrary, detention experience may cause a traumatic fracture of one's relational network and hos existential balance, together with a resocailisation towards socially negative values,

dominant within the prison culture. As a result, prison, instead of rehabilitating, tends to radicalize criminogenic tendencies. Or, individuals committed since a long time to delinquent activities as a life system. For these, one detention experience more or less makes no difference in respect to an existential model which sees prison as a routine element."

⁶ Nevertheless, the percentage of persons employed by external subjects is rather derisory. From the XVI Antigone Report it emerges that by the end of 2019, 29.74% of the total number of detainees were engaged in work activities, the majority of which employed by the prison administration (86.82%). See 16th Antigone Report "II carcere al tempo del coronavirus" (*Prison in coronavirus times*), Rome, Antigone Edizioni, 2020, pp. 33-35.

to particularly fragile situations7.

From the present analysis it emerged that, despite difficulties and the aforementioned variables, correctional interventions within the facilities involve a wide number of people. On the contrary, the percentage of individuals reached by external local social services is lower, therefore amplifying the selection mechanism recalled before.

One of the aspects that most affect the possibility to participate to projects providing support during the phase of exit from prison is residency, which, at present, is a necessary premise to access minimum rights and services.

In such regard, Legislative Decree n. 12372018 states that:

"...the detainee or inmate without a registered residence is recorded, upon notification of the [prison's] director, in the registers of the resident population of the municipality where the facility is located. The convicted person is asked to choose between maintaining his previous registered residence or changing it in the facility where he/she is detained or sectioned. Such choice may be changed at any time"⁸.

The mentioned provision seems to give a say to the detainee himself. However, opting for the maintenance of the previous residence is possible only in presence of ties with the chosen place, or of certain requirements such as a family network, a regular contract or adequate housing availability. As a result, many inmates end up being excluded: for example illegal aliens or individuals who come from deeply underprivileged backgrounds are forced to establish their residence at the facility where they are located. Such people, however, are obliged to unsubscribe from the registration, so called *convivenza anagrafica*9, at the end of the detention period; otherwise, after a certain period of time from release, they

detention period; otherwise, after a certain period of time from release, they are automatically deleted from the registry lists, with the risk of finding themselves without the residence requirement and being unable to establish any link with the geographical area¹⁰.

Another critical point in the transition between the inside and the outside and which is often connected to the residence status relates to health care. In the interviews, prison rehabilitation officers referred to the importance of continuing the therapeutic plans started within the facilities also after release. Indeed, interrupting therapeutic projects contributes to creating a strong disorientation in the person, which may eventually lead to failing any other support program implemented later. While within correctional facilities the need for the sanitary department to liaise with the social services is felt as less urgent (the prison sanitary department is self-sufficient yet constantly collaborating with the rehabilitative department), external social interventions cannot disregard the sanitary aspects (for example, it is crucial to have a general practitioner ever since the moment of release).

To avoid situations where the most vulnerable detainees may not be spotted, prison institution and local services are called to collaborate in carrying out targeted interventions. It is therefore crucial to verify how deeply the recipient of a reintegration project is rooted in a specific geographical area, while having correctional departments support local services, often poor in resources, responsible for taking charge of the recipient and eventually favouring his return to his area of belonging. Concerning the relationship between prison and the city area, some representatives of the local services have highlighted the importance of identifying the most disadvantaged individuals ever since their detention time so to avoid the risk for them to remain unknown to the social services.

Indeed, certain categories of people remain "invisible": most of the times it concerns people with addiction issues forgot by the local Ser.D.P., illegal

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⁷ On this point, see A. De Giorgi, *Reentry to Nothing – Get a Job, Any Job, in Social Justice. A Journal of crime, conflict and world order,* 2014 and D. Ronco, G. Torrente, *Pena e ritorno: una ricerca su interventi di sostegno e recidiva,* Torino, Ledizioni, 2017.

⁸ The "registry change" in the place where the institute is located is not possible for prisoners awaiting trial who retain their original residence.

⁹ The expression "convivenza anagrafica", meaning "registered cohabitation", refers to a "group of people normally and habitually cohabiting in the same Municipality for

reasons relating to religion, care, assistance, military, punishment and similar". See art. 5 D.P.R. 223/1989.

¹⁰ The data collected by Fiopsd (Italian Federation of organizations for homeless people) points out that there are still very few municipalities in Italy (only 2.5% of the total) which allow to request the assignment of the so-called "fictitious residence".

aliens, people suffering from uncertified health or psychiatric problems, who cannot rely on a reception facility after their release and need much more time to readapt. On the contrary, those who exit prison after a solid program started during detention show the ability to grow independent in less time.

Such categories of individuals seem to be potential victims of that selection system discussed previously, as they lack the necessary resources to rehabilitate themselves and are unable to show themselves as determined, hardworking and reliable.

The services available in Bologna for these persons, although richer than those of other cities, appear concentrated primarily on welfaristic actions. If on the one hand it is true that the geographical area offers a wide number of services concerning basic needs (food, clothing, personal hygiene) or chances of socialization, learning and training, on the other hand the greatest difficulties remain in regards to housing, healthcare, employment¹¹, which are essential for an effective reintegration path.

This is strongly reported by one of our interviewees, when asked about the opportunities locally available:

[...] If one is hungry in Bologna he won't die of hunger. Bu apart from clothes, food, sleeping [...] what else is there? I mean in summer if you want to go and take a shower you will find it, but then? This is surviving. In other cities you might not find things like these, in Bologna you do. But having a place to fix your residence, where you can bring your partner, you don't find this. Setting up a household is more complicated. A job and a home. These are the two things missing in Bologna.

(Int. N. 1)

In addition, finding accommodation after release seems to be more difficult for those lacking a local network: [...] The only thing is where to go to sleep because if you a place to sleep you provide to at least to 50% of what is needed for people to not commit crimes.

(Int. N. 1)

In the eyes of the convicted people, the city of Bologna appears particularly supportive and active; however, this seems to not be enough for those who, despite an empowerment journey, still need a support to overcome sole welfarism:

[...] When you are released from prison the city is very active, in the social work context Bologna is a forerunner compared to other cities. Social programs for detainees, dorms, food, all those things [...] but I don't need these things. [...] Then, you know, you have the support of the social assistants. I see tons of these people who are so used to be supported that they are not even able to leave this situation, for them even looking for a job [...] is very hard.

(Int. N. 3)

Another interviewee considers that, regardless one's starting conditions, support programs immediately after release are an absolute priority especially in order to facilitate job hunting activities, which is decisive to avoid possible recidivism and a continuous stigmatisation for a criminal past:

[...] You need moral and employment support also because a person who gets out and finds himself in the middle of a city, confused, with nothing to do, finds it also psychologically hard to carry on, I mean he has no incentive to look for something, instead if there is a project, the person is encouraged to do something better. This is what is needed: support! Knowing real places, not only "ah, there is a cooperative over there, go!" and then you are alone as you know no one. You go there, you can even speak for 3 hours but they won't listen to you because, let's be honest, there is a prejudice against former detainees..

(Int. N. 2)

The second interviewee, just like the social operators, believes that support activities should start from inside the prison:

¹¹ See A. De Giorgi, *Back to Nothing: Prisoner Reentry and Neoliberal Neglect*, in *Social Justice*, 44, Social Justice-Global Options, 2017, pp 83-120: "...former prisoners can access plenty of résumé preparation courses, job interview coaching workshops, anger management classes, group *counseling* sessions, NA or AA meetings—but no affordable housing, free health care, accessible education, or a basic income."

[...] Moral support is the first thing for those who have been inside for many years, but if a detainee goes out and finds a place where to sleep and work then it is already a good start. Like building a project when in prison and then carry it on in a cooperative. More could be done. Cooperatives are available. But then? Projects are what is missing, proper supportive activities. When a person gets out and has an interview with a cooperative, he needs a solid foundation and anyway he requires experience. If the project starts inside, it has good chances to positively continue outside, but I think that if it doesn't start inside people outside won't listen.

(Int. N. 2)

Among the interviewees there are also those who, despite a lack of social resources and a long criminal past, believe that the only thing needed in the moment of release is a will to change, regardless the opportunities which may come from outside:

[...] Not everyone is able to take a final step once they go out because everyone wants to go out, but how does one go out of a correctional facility? With which mindset? Very few change, I can guarantee you. Let's say the 5 or the 10%, the rest doesn't, the rest keeps falling in the same vortex.

(Int. N. 3)

Very often the actions put in place after the conclusion of a detention time represent mere parenthesis in the beneficiaries' lives. The same social service defines such time as a "transition", at the end of which the person should have reached a certain level of autonomy. If on the one side is clear that a support after detention must cover a determined period of time, on the other side sometimes rehabilitative plans get interrupted before the individual has reached a sufficient level of independence. All the above-mentioned reasons show the need for external project management and intervention to not disregard what happens within an institute and the characteristics of its population.

Furthermore, despite the heterogeneity of experiences and regardless the specific needs of each detainee, what seems to be in common among many at the time of release is the need to know the external reality. Those interviewed agree to assign this task to the prison institution, particularly in terms of providing support in establishing and maintaining effective relationships with the outside world.

NEEDS, EXPECTATIONS AND WISHES

What people who have been released from prison or subjected to alternative measures tell us

The following paragraph is dedicated exclusively to people who have decided to freely talk about themselves after their release from prison or while subjected to alternative measures.

• INTERVIEW N. 1 •

Q: What were your expectations for your future, when the time of your release was approaching?

A: You know, until my last incarceration I knew I was sick and I thought that I would be able to go out and calm down. I hoped to settle down with my partner. I was not able to do so, because the house market is a mess.

Q: Which were your expectations, your wishes?

A: I only wanted to have a house and a job. That was it.

Q: Is there something else you would like to do? Any job expectation?

A: I have a disability because I am still on radiotherapy. If I found a job, I would go, but at the same time I still suffer from this disability, so I am not sure yet.

D: Your biggest dream is to be able to live with your partner

R: Yes that's my dream. Also because I don't want to mess up things anymore because I have spent enough time in prison. [...]

INTERVIEW N. 2

Q: Would you like to tell us something about yourself?

A: [...] I've been released from prison one month ago, after 15 years, so I have no experience of the world outside, of this new reality. I've been more lucky than others to find a good institute, I'm starting a training course, I've found the right job for me and all these things are helping me integrate and feel better.

There have been a lot of difficulties: from walking among people, to go to a bar, to a supermarket, or take a bus. After 15 years of prison, I've really had some challenges, especially the first weeks.

Then slowly I have been able to feel better fortunately, to be around people, understand, to focus on my goals because a person who comes out from prison after so long has no goals and his curriculum vitae is useless. I have gained some experience when I was younger, but I went to prison when I was 21 years old, and now I am 37, so some time has passed and finding a job is not easy at all. Luckily now there is this new job opportunity, which has encouraged and reassured me a lot, because as I said, I still have many difficulties because I still hear the noises of that place (editor's note: the prison). I have sort of grown up in there: I undertook a rehabilitation journey, I studied, did activities, I did everything. The initial difficulties are the scums of the prison. Now I see availability, a chance to help me overcome these difficult moments, I am finally managing to reorganize my days, to set up my life. It looks ordinary, but even the doctor and its whole routine for me is becoming an incitement and it is helping me go on, overcome the challenges that I have had. I know that now there will be even more, because it is the most difficult part. [...]

Q: You really took advantage of the opportunities offered by this institute and it was important for you, maybe not for everybody is the same. Maybe some people take part and others don't and choose a different way to live this experience. During your stay, how did you imagine your future after?

A: I was dreaming it, not only imagining it, also because I had many years ahead and in that moment freedom seemed impossible to achieve.

Unfortunately, resignation would slip in, I wanted the days to go on in the

best way possible, in a productive way for myself and so I couldn't imagine all that is happening now, to be honest. They (editor's note: the staff) are giving me a lot ofresponsibilities, I am receiving a lot ofaffection. I also have a family who has been backing me for years. I know I need help because all this is impossible alone, but for now I want to do this job experience, I'm slowly getting out there and today that person that made a mistake doesn't exist anymore. [...]

Q: You were saying that it has not been easy to imagine your future, but my question is: what were you expecting from your life once outside?

A: To find the people who helped me, surely. I've never had many expectations because I said "now I have to prove, especially to myself, that I am a better person, that I must change my life".

Q: Did you have any specific wishes or maybe fears worrying you?

A: I've always thought ofrebuilding a family, because I have an 18-year-old girl who lives with her mother. The rest of the time I worked on myself. I hope I'll be given opportunities because it is not easy, there is a prejudice towards ex detainees, that they have no experience. Today, I still have all these fears, they are fears that don't go away. [...]

Q: I am aware this question may be more complicated because you have just started this path, but before you said that during your time inside the prison you could not imagine your future and what you really wanted. However, what is your main need right now?

A: I must be honest, work. Studying was a main goal in my life, it was not just an hobby for me because, as a singer, I studied music at Dams university. But, let's be honest, what can I achieve with it in a couple of years? I mean, I need to earn money to live. Work is my first contact with society because now I can go out, go to the supermarket, do some errands, but I don't really have a direct contact with an employer. [...]

Q: Now you have this opportunity of a training course, so maybe you haven't seen the other opportunities yet. Have you shown interest or has someone informed you about the job opportunities here in Bologna?

A: I talk quite often with the staff about it, but not about the services, not yet. [...]

Q: You said before that you want to stay here, in Emilia Romagna, right?

A: I want to see what job opportunities I get first. I want to challenge myself, if I have the opportunity to work here or wherever I'll find a job and where I'll find stability. I think I'll be able to find a good job and a step-by-step project here.

• INTERVIEW N. 3 •

Q: The moment you got released from prison, did it correspond to what you had imagined?

A: No no, I wanted to get my hands dirty. I knew only my previous life. To-day I live with 400 euros, a work grant. [...] But I know that when I'll finish serving my sentence, I'll get a different job, a proper salary so to pay my taxes and social security contributions. But for the time being I feel satisfied. [...]

Q: [...] Which was your main need once released?

A: A job. I needed to find a job because otherwise you go nowhere. Because the rehabilitation staffsays to the people leaving prison "Yes, I'll let you go" But where do you go? I mean, people don't leave a prison especially because they have nowhere to go, they don't know where to go: there are many people who are inside and can go out. But how can a person find a job when nobody has helped him inside the prison. If a person has been behind bars for 7 or 8 years and has one or one and a half years left and the staff doesn't help him with a project for his future, how can he leave? [...]

Q: Is Bologna the city where you would imagine resting?

A: No, Bologna has been a beautiful city, it has given me a lot, but I have also done above and beyond and it has brought me lot of troubles. I don't think I'll stay in Bologna, I think I'll go away, go abroad and find a job. I want to change my life because I have a lot of trouble finding a job here. Unfortunately finding a job as an ex detainee is very difficult, doors are shut, even in a pizzeria or in a restaurant, if they don't know you they don't want you. I tried all the ways, but I can't find a job here.

OPPORTUNITIES
AND SERVICES
INSIDE THE
BOLOGNA PRISON

The Dimittendi Project and the Intermediation office

The Municipality of Bologna is responsible for promoting and supporting activities relating to criminal execution through the **ASP City of Bologna** (Public Company of Personal Services).

This non-economic public body carries out activities in favour of detained persons especially through the Service for the fight against Adult Serious Marginalization.

The services within the local prison are the **Dimittendi Project** and the **Prison Office for linguistic-cultural mediation for listening, guidance and information**.

Together they carry out all the useful initiatives to monitor the paths of restricted people and to activate targeted actions for accompaniment on leaving and for post-discharge.

THE DIMITTENDI PROJECT

The *Dimittendi* Project was established in 2014 and ccollaborates both with the so called Bassa Soglia Social Service (service dedicated to marginalized individuals not registered within the Bologna municipality) and the Intermediation Office.

The *equipe* consist of a social worker from the **Bassa Soglia Social Service** and an educator from the Office. By working with people facing a final sentence of less than two years of imprisonment or living a particularly vulnerable condition, the *equipe* provides support starting from 12 months prior to release until the following 6 months. Among the various objectives of the service, there is the one of strengthening the network between prison and local services. The work within the detention facility mainly consists of targeted interviews; in the 6 months following the release it pursues the activation of reintegration paths, internships and

and consultancies in order to facilitate reentry in places of interest.

The project, liaising with the local referral services, covers three main areas of intervention. In particular, it assists recipients when settling within a specific community to which they may be connected, local services in charge and individuals pursuing reentry in chosen communities.

The objective is to design tailored rehabilitation plans implemented according to the needs, both expressed or non-expressed, of each recipient. Access to the available local services in the 6 months following release from prison is guaranteed by the *Dimittendi* Project itself and on the basis of reasoned assessments.

Moreover, twice a year specific training and orientation meetings take place within the facility, with the specific aim of deepening into relevant issues such as health, employment, regularization of the legal status and in the presence of experts and representatives from various bodies.

THE PRISON OFFICE FOR CULTURAL - LINGUISTIC INTERMEDIATION, LISTENING, GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

The Prison Office for cultural and linguistic intermediation, listening, guidance and information, working in support of the activities of the educational area, is meant in particular for foreign people with a proceeding pending and in conditions of vulnerability, in order to provide useful information regarding the prison dynamics.

OPEN: MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 5:00pm SATURDAYS h 9:00am - 1:00pm

Work

Working in prison plays a critical role, not only during detention, but also in view of future reintegration.

The available work opportunities within penitentiary institutions are: being employed by the prison administration, contracted work and employment by external companies, external work and community service.

Inside the Bologna men's prison, in addition to the work with prison administration, the promoted work-related activities are:

- THE RAEE WORKSHOP
- THE TAILOR'S SHOP
- LAUNDRY
- "FARE IMPRESA" DOZZA (MECHANICAL LABORATORY)
- GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY
- DAIRY*

CEFAL EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Work within the facility is promoted also through relevant training courses carried out by the operators of **Cefal Emilia Romagna**, who deal in various ways with detainees' career guidance. In addition to specific training for prison work, there are courses for work release programs, i.e.:

 TRAINING COURSES OF 300 HOURS IN ORDER TO PREPARE RE-STRICTED PERSONS FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE PRISON AD- MINISTRATION AVAILABLE BY ACCESSING PUBLIC BIDS:

- SHORTER TRAINING AND GUIDANCE COURSES (80 HOURS) RE-LATING TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE FACILITY;
- TRAINING AND INTERNSHIPS AREFERRING TO WORK RELEASE PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE SCOPE OF ARTICLE 21 OF THE PENITENTIARY LAW AND TO *DIMITTENDI*.

INFORMATION DESK AND GUIDANCE JOB

The **Information and Job Orientation Desk** iactive within the Bologna prison, performs an important assistance and consultancy function for both companies hiring people from the penitentiary context and for detainees themselves.

In this regard, it is worth remembering that law 193/2000 so- called "Smuraglia" (updated with Decree 148/2014), established the obligation for companies or cooperatives wishing to start activities within correctional facilities to stipulate special agreements with prison managements.

Agreements also grant a number of benefits, such as tax breaks or tax rebates, whenever the employment relationship continues following the detention period.

st At the time of drafting the present guide, the dairy and the greenhouse appears to be inactive.

LOCAL TRADE UNION OFFICES (PATRONATI)

Among the services active within the Bologna prison, it is worth mentioning the presence of **voluntary workers from the Local Trade Union offices**, who carry out a crucial role of guidance in matter of workers' rights and duties. In this regard, article 20 of the Penitentiary Law states that:

"in prisons and structures where deprivation of liberty measures are implemented, work and professional training courses for detainees and inmates should be fostered. [...] Prison work does not pursue a punitive objective and it is remunerated. The organization and methods of penitentiary work must reflect those of work within the free society in order to make individuals acquire a professional preparation appropriate to normal working conditions and to facilitate their social reintegration [...]".

The operators of the Local Trade Union offices (Sias - Institute for work and social assistance promoted by the Movimento Cristiano Lavoratori and Inca Cgil - National Confederal Assistance Institute) provide assistance in terms of social security, entitlement to disability, unemployment, applications and practices to be started with Inail.

Health

For some years now, the health of restricted persons has been under the care of the National Health Service, in compliance with the principles of our legal system which impose equal treatment between detainees and free individuals.

Health departments within correctional facilities are therefore independent from the Directorates, depending *de facto* from the Local Health Authorities.

THE HEALTH PROMOTION PROJECT

Over the years the Emilia Romagna Region has heavily invested in interventions to improve the health conditions of persons restricted within the regional prisons, also in order to develop common guidelines on the type of assistance detainees should receive. A virtuous example is the **Health Promotion Project**, born as an experiment in 2013 and further implemented.

Its activity is among those financed by the regional law 19/2018, relating to "Promotion of health, well-being of the person and the community and primary prevention", which provides, in particular, the possibility for qualified operators to enter prisons in order to carry out educational activities on health and prevention issues through counselling and individual interviews with detainees, as well as organizing meetings for other professionals of the prison health sector.



More specifically, the activities are structured as follows:

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS:

- · Individual interviews with newcomers:
- Health information desk and listening desk;
- Rehabilitationofthosewhorefusedscreeningsandvaccinations;
- Individual interviews for the dimittendi in order to guarantee specific support and guidance with respect to the health services in the area (prevention, vaccinations and screening);
- specific interventions to support both the individual care plan and mediation.

HEALTH PROMOTION GROUPS WITH DETAINEES (PARTICIPATION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS).

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION MATERIAL.

SPECIFIC TRAINING COURSES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.

Concerning subjects with addiction problems, it is noteworthy the presence of the **Ser.D.P.** (The Service for addiction problems) office within the facility, made up of three psychologists, three social workers and a doctor.

The *equipe* operates with newcomers as well as during detention. In the first case, following the first visit made by the doctor, the person who declares that he/she is using substances, is sent to the Service in order to undergo an appropriate clinical evaluation.

During detention, instead, access to the service within prison and to interviews with the professionals of the Ser.D.P. takes place through a special so called *domandina* (little question).

Rehabilitation plans are customized to the needs of each user in order to evaluate the most appropriate and functional one.

The internal Ser.D.P. works in close collaboration with the *Dimittendi* Roundtable and participates in the institute's rehabilitation team. One of the objectives pursued is to activate plans that may continue also once outside in close collaboration with the local Ser.D.P. In this regard, it is important to underline that the people who enter the correctional facility are taken care of by the internal Ser.D.P.; however, if the recipient is already undergoing an active program outside, the prison Ser.D.P. is called to liase with the external Service in charge.

School courses

Schooling projects, together with those for job training, are crucial in the personal journey of many detainees.

Courses available within the Bologna prison relate to the following levels:

- LITERACY
- MIDDLE SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL
 (IN PARTICULAR, THE ACCOUNTING COURSE)
- UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Other opportunities inside the prison

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS

The Bologna prison has a rich offer in terms of activities.

A wide number of voluntary associations and charities operate within the prison, among which:

A.VO.C ASSOCIATION (Association of Prison Volunteers)

It deals with spiritual and material assistance for detainees, former detainees and their families.

Inside the prison it carries out various activities such as: Gospel reading groups, individual interviews, warehouse management and distribution of clothing, videoforum, writing courses. Outside, instead, it takes care of raising public awareness, managing accommodation for detainees' family members, finding accommodation for former inmates, accompanying detainees on temporary absence permits.

OFFICE ADDRESS

Parish of SS. Annunziata a Porta Procula

> via S. Mamolo 2 40136 - Bologna

> > CONTACT DETAILS

info@avoc-bologna.it 🖂

ALBERO DI CIRENE ASSOCIATION

It carries out entertainment activities during the Sunday Mass, workshops in liaison with other associations, assistance for detainees and their families. On the outside, it deals with organizing public meetings.

OFFICE ADDRESS

c/o Parish of S. Antonio di Savena via Massarenti 59 40128 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

051.305108

info@alberodicirene.org [2

ASSOCIATION IL POGGESCHI PER IL CARCERE

It has been operating within the Bologna prison since the mid-90s, specifically by managing cultural workshops. Its external activities concern raising public awareness and organising school events on issues relating to prison and punishment. The association is currently carrying on a journalism workshop, two Gospel reading workshops and an art workshop. Throughout the entire year, volunteers hold each workshop once a week. During summer, due to the lack of activities inside the prison, the Association promotes the Estate Dozza project which consists of a week of activities involv-

ing different sections of the insti-

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Guerrazzi 14 40125 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

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infocarcere@centropoggeschi.org

L'ALTRO DIRITTO BOLOGNA ASSOCIATION

It deepens and carries out research activity in matter of marginalisation, deviance, total institutions. Active within the Bologna prison since 2008, it carries out legal aid and support on the rights of detainees, both those who are serving a final sentence and those in pre-trial detention.

The association's volunteers visit the prison once a week, on either Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturday from 09:00 am to 5:00 pm. Interviews take place with anyone filing a request.

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Porrettana n. 48/2 40135 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

Silvia.furfaro3@gmail.com

LIBERA BOLOGNA ASSOCIATION

It promotes training and reflection workshops within the prison.
With specific regard to the men's section, the Association carries out tutoring and support to study activities at the University Penitentiary Center.

OFFICE ADDRESS

via S. Maria Maggiore 1 40121 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

bologna@libera.it 🖂

PROJECTS

CINEVASIONI ASSOCIATION

Started in 2018, it organizes workshops, screenings and film reviews, along with the annual Film Festival, all held within the Bologna prison.

AUSILIO CULTURA IN CARCERE

Thanks to an agreement between Auser Bologna, the Bologna Prison, Coop Adriatica and the Municipality of Bologna, inmates are given the opportunity to access all the material stored in the libraries of the Municipality of Bologna through the interlibrary loan service.

GIALLO DOZZA BOLOGNA RUGBY

The prisons' rugby team created in 2014.

CORO PAPAGENO PROJECT

Choral singing workshop born in 2011 through the activities of the Association Mozart14. Lessons are held weekly.

OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES IN THE BOLOGNA AREA

This section of the guide is devoted to the offers and services present in the Municipality of Bologna and referring to the different needs that may arise after serving a sentence.

Accommodation

The research conducted found that one of the strongest needs of those who are about to end their sentence is housing.

It is a condition common to both those who come from deeply fragile and poor backgrounds, but also to people who risk becoming homeless due to a loss of social or family networks deriving from imprisonment. In addition, inmates, even if coming from elsewhere, may decide to stay in the area where their prison is located after their release (according to the operators met, as many as 50% of the *dimittendi* ask to remain within the municipality).

ASP CITY OF BOLOGNA

Through the services of **ASP City of Bologna** (Public Company of Personal Services), active in the fight against serious adult marginalization, the Municipality of responds to the specific needs of those living in situations of deep marginalization and ensures their reception. As shown above with regard to the interventions within the local prison, ASP identifies, through the *Dimittendi* Project, the individuals who need specific support and follow them in the 6 months after their release, with the specific aim of keeping them connected and providing assistance to their the various needs.

Access to the ASP services is granted through the *Dimittendi* Project available inside the prison and prior to relevant interviews with the social workers.

Concerning the reception service, ASP has 5 beds specifically available for the *dimittendi* and located in the city's facilities.

The objective is to provide former inmates with assistance in line with his/her needs, both if he/she aims to settle in the area, although lacking the necessary resources, as well as if he/she wishes to return to the area of origin. In this case, the service gives material support to users while reaching out to the local services in charge.

Information and support are provided also outside the prison.

ASP offers an important proximity service and low-threshold service by connecting recipients with the social service. In this regard, see as follows:

Città prossima Help Center

Open to all, it provides information and carries out activities on the services present in the area, especially with the Lower Threshold Social Service.

It is specifically thought for people living in emergency situations or who end up homeless.

During the closing hours, the service operates on the street and can be accessed directly.

ADDRESS

via Albani 2/2 40129 - Bologna

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY h 2:30pm - 6:00pm SATURDAYS and HOLIDAYS h 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Servizio docce

(shower service)

By acting also as a low-threshold social secretariat, the shower service plays a fundamental role in identifying individuals living in difficult conditions.

ADDRESS

via del Lazzaretto 15 40131 - Bologna

OPENING HOURS

OPEN
4 AFTERNOONS A WEEK
h 4:00pm - 6:00pm
1 MORNING h 10:00am -12:00am

Unità di strada (street unit)

assistance and information service mostly for people with addiction problems, but also for individuals in particularly fragile housing, employment and health conditions. The street unit is freely accessible from their desk or directly from the street.

ADDRESS

via Polese 15/A 40122 - Bologna

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY h 10:00am - 1:30pm

A.VO.C. ASSOCIATION

In addition to the various activities carried out inside the Bologna prison **A.Vo.C. Association** (Association Volunteers of the Prison) identifies facilities to host people after release, while serving alternative measures or during temporary absence permits.

The Association Iso owns a number of flats assigned by the Institution for social and community inclusion "Achille Ardigò and don Paolo Serra Zanetti", hosting such categories of people for a short period of time and depending on availability. Moreover, the Association assists relatives visiting detainees by providing their flats for free.

The hospitality project generally covers 4 to 6 months, but it works on flexible terms in case of specific needs.

The stay in the Association's flats is temporary, meant for those who who have the chance of growing independent shortly after their release from prison.

IL VILLAGGIO DEL FANCIULLO

Villaggio del Fanciullo is part of the **Ceis Group – Social-Cooperative Community**.

Since 2017, he facility includes a small flat available, whenever possible, exclusively to allow access to measures alternative to detention.

ACER BOLOGNA

In addition to the various possibilities so far reported, former detainees may apply for low-income housing, whenever they fulfil the requirements. People who can file a request for low-income housing are:

- ITALIAN OR FOREIGN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN BOLOGNA OR WORKING IN BOLOGNA, AND IN POSSESSION OF ISEE (EQUIVALENT ECONOMIC STATUS INDICATOR) CERTIFICATE;
- CITIZENSOFEXTRA-EUCOUNTRIESINPOSSESSIONOFRESIDENCYPERMIT AND EMPLOYED:

Applications for low-income housing can be made only to Acer Bologna.

OFFICE ADDRESS

Piazza della Resistenza n. 4 40122 - Bologna

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm TUESDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm CONTACT DETAILS

051.292111

051.554335 fax

info@acerbologna.it 🖂

Work

Once a person is released from prison and in absence of employment or training opportunities already started inside the facility, he/she may need to find a job.

In such regards, a first step is enrolling at the Employment Centres.

EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

Employment Centres are situated in various areas of our country and are essential to help out people eople access the labour market, assist them with the compilation of their curriculum vitae, and identify the suitable plans for job reintegration, training or professional growth.

The main Employment Centres in the Metropolitan City of Bologna are the following:

BOLOGNA

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Todaro 8/A

OPENING HOURS

Open MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

051.6598044

fax 051.6598989

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cimp.bologna@provincia.bologna.it

Free phone number: 800.286040 (MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 5:00pm)

MINERBIO

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Europa 16 e 20

CONTACT DETAILS

051.878298

(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm MONDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm)

SAN GIOVANNI IN PERSICETO

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Modena 66/B

CONTACT DETAILS

051.822341

(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm; MONDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm)

PORRETTA TERME

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Marconi 2

CONTACT DETAILS



053.422095

(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm TUESDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm)

SAN LAZZARO DI SAVENA

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Emilia 107

CONTACT DETAILS



051.6272040

(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm MONDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm)

51

ZOLA PREDOSA

OFFICE ADDRESS

Piazza della Repubblica 1



(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm TUESDAY and THURSDAY h 2:30pm - 4:30pm)

CONTACT DETAILS

051.6598080

THE TOWN EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

The City of Bologna, through its *Sportello Comunale per il Lavoro* (Town Employment Centre) offers an additional service to people in need of support during their job search. In fact, the service does not operate as an employment centre, but carries out exclusively job orientation activities. It can be accessed only through telephone contact and prior to appointment. It is available only to people residing or domiciled in the City of Bologna. After carrying out individual interviews, the office's team guide and help with drafting CVs, acquiring useful skills for the job search, defining professional objectives based on personal inclinations, skills and opportunities available in the area.

In addition to the above, the Office organizes workshops aimed at people with poor informatic skills, view of online job searches. Access to these workshops is based on a preliminary evaluation made by the office's operators.

More information is available on the website "Sportello comunale per il lavoro – Comune di Bologna" or on their Facebook page "Comune di Bologna – Sportello lavoro"

OPENING HOURS and CONTACT DETAILS

Only prior to phone appointment:

OFFICE ADDRESS

Vicolo Bolognetti 2 40125 - Bologna

051.2197114 - 051.2197034 (MONDAY and WEDNESDAY h 10:00am - 12:30pm)

INSIEME PER IL LAVORO

Insieme per il lavoro (United for employment) is a project born from a collaboration between the City hall of Bologna, the Metropolitan City of Bologna and the Archdiocese of Bologna, meant to support people in search of employment.

OFFICE ADDRESS

53

Piazza Rossini 3 40125 - Bologna

OPENING HOURS

Only prior to phone appointment, except for the **Help Desk Iscrizio- ni** (Enrolment help desk), which is open on:

WEDNESDAY h 10:00am - 12:30pm and THURSDAY h 3:00pm - 5:00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

URP Città Metropolitana di Bologna

(MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:00am - 1:00pm)

JOB GUIDANCE SERVICE

Job guidance activities are offered also by CGIL, through the so called **Servizio Orienta Lavoro** (Job Orientation Service) which provides support with employment and vocational training opportunities, also by sharing useful information on how to access local services.

Offices are located throughout the metropolitan City of Bologna area. For example:

BOLOGNA

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Marconi 67/2

OPENING HOURS

Open on MONDAY AFTERNOON and WEDNESDAY MORNING subject to phone appointment

CONTACT DETAILS



051.6087342

CASALECCHIO DI RENO

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Ronzani 3/2

OPENING HOURS

Open on TUESDAY AFTERNOON subject to phone appointment

CONTACT DETAILS



051.6116211

BUDRIO

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Martiri Antifascisti 52/54

OPENING HOURS

Open on WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON subject to phone appointment

CONTACT DETAILS



051.6923011

SAN LAZZARO DI SAVENA

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Emilia 249/B

OPENING HOURS

Open on THURSDAY AFTERNOON subject to phone appointment

CONTACT DETAILS



051.6205511

LOCAL TRADE UNION OFFICES AND CAF

Specific support for self-employed workers, employees, retired people and general citizens in work-related issues is provided by the tax assistance centres (CAF) or at the local trade union offices (Patronati).

The **local trade union offices** safeguard and assist in matter of taxes, social security and health protection. The offices give free aid specifically relating to unemployment claims, family reunification social security taxes, leave, legal disability and occupational illness.

CAFs offer assistance in filling out tax return forms, including the so-called Modello 730, the INPS (National social security institute) forms, the equivalent economic status indicator (ISEE) statement.

Offices located in the city of Bologna are:

ACLI (Italian christian workers association)

Local Trade Union office

via Ercolani 7/P

051.522105

bologna@patronato.acli.it

 bologna@patronato.acli.it

 control

 control

Caf

via Lame 116

€ 051.522066

informazioni@ acliservicedellaviaemilia.it

CISL

Inas local trade union office

via Amendola 4/d

₹ 051.256711

☑ bologna@inas.it

Caf Cisl

via Amendola 4/d

051.256711

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responsabile.fiscale.bologna@cisl.it

CGIL

Inca local trade union office

via Marconi 67/2

Caf Teorema

via Torreggiani 3/2

051.4199333

info@teorema.bo.it

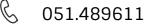
CEFAL

In the Bologna area, **CEFAL** plays a crucial role not only for detainees, but also for former detainees specifically by offering professional training courses, internships and vocational opportunities. In addition to the various activities organized inside the Bologna prison, Cefal, in collaboration with **Asp**, **Uepe**, **Servizio Sociale Bassa Soglia** and **Ser.D.P**. implements job placement projects within the local community.

CEFAL liaises also with *Insieme per il lavoro* (United for employment) and **Caritas**.

CONTACT DETAILS

OFFICE ADDRESS



via Nazionale Toscana 1 40068 – San Lazzaro di Savena

USEFUL FORMS AND SERVICES

Unemployment status

The formal acknowledgment of one's unemployment status is subject to a prior declaration of immediate availability to work, submitted to the Employment Centre of the town where one is domiciled.

Disponibilità al lavoro (DID)

It is a declaration that certifies one's unemployment status. This is necessary in order to access job placement projects and the various services offered by the Employment Centres.

Cassa integrazione guadagni (CIG)

It consists of a financial benefit provided by INPS, the national social security institute, to complement or replace workers' wage during periods of suspension or reduction of working activity.

Nuova assicurazione sociale per l'impiego (NASpl)

It is a monthly allowance for unemployment concerning exclusively involuntary situations of unemployment.

Assegno di ricollocazione in accordance with Article 46 O.P.

It is a job placement voucher. According to article 46 of Italian Penitentiary System law:

"Those who have finished serving their sentence or who are no longer subject to a detention security measure, and who are unemployed in accordance with Art. 19 of Legislative Decree 150/2015, have access, within the limits of the resources available under the legislation in force, to the placement allowance referred to in Art. 23 of the aforementioned decree, if they apply for it within six months from the date of their release".

Reddito di cittadinanza (Citizenship income)

As a measure against poverty and social inequality, it consists of an economic support to supplement family incomes together with work and social reintegration plans. If one of the persons included in the household is older than 67 years, the measure is called *Pensione di Cittadinanza* (Citizenships Pension).

Health

Medical assistance is essential after prison release..

Italian citizens can choose a general practitioner: if they are registered in the National Health Service and own a national health insurance card, they are allowed to choose their own general practitioner at the local CUP (Reservation Centre), of the place where they are residents.

Non-residents may apply for the temporary assignment of a general practitioner. This is possible only when the stay in the municipality where they are temporarily domiciled is longer than three months

and due to work, study, health, family reasons or, also, because of compulsory residence, bail or unemployment.

EU or **non-EU Foreign citizens**, may benefit from health care depending on their situation.

Foreigners without a residence permit have the right to access certain services without having to present documents proving their legal status. Italian legislation prevents health workers from reporting any illegal status to the authorities.

REGISTRATION TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Registration to **National Health Service** is **free**.

In order to apply, it is necessary to be in possession of an identity document, a residence permit (or a document proving that the permit has been issued or renewed), a national health insurance card and a self-declaration of residence.

The health insurance card is released to people registered to the National Health Service.

Foreigners present in Italy with an illegal status have issued a registration badge to the Health Service (STP: Foreigner Temporarily Present), which has a temporary duration of 6 months, renewable and valid until the issuance of a residence permit.

EASY-ACCESS CLINICS

There are various easy-access clinics located in the Bologna area and specifically meant for foreigners, both legal and illegal, and homeless Italians.

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Clinics providing health services are:

Poliambulatorio Biavati

The Poliambulatorio Biavati clinic offers free medical assistance to people from marginalised backgrounds. The beneficiaries are usually individuals not registered in the National Health System, particularly destitute or without an assigned general practitioner. The offered services include general medical assistance, along with some specialist consultations. For some other types of specialist visits, beneficiaries may need an STP card. The service is free of charge and no documents are required.

The clinic's staff cover various languages, such as English, Arabic and French. It is formed by 35 doctors, 10 volunteers, 2 pharmacists and 1 nurse, all volunteers.

The first access to the clinic involves an initial reception service, prior to the filling out of a form with personal information, religion and residency. Inside the clinic there are four general medical offices and one office for specialist gynaecological examinations.

A second access is usually reserved to specialist doctors (cardiologist, physiatrist, gynaecologist, angiologist, ENT) which are available every 10/15 days. No dental examinations are possible).

Among the various projects and collaborations carried out, is noteworthy the Tolto il dolore al dente (Remove tooth pain) dental service.

There is also a psychiatrist on request, although the clinic does not provide psychiatric drugs.

OFFICE ADDRESS

Strada Maggiore 13 (access from Vicolo Alemagna 3) 40125 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

051.229773

OPENING HOURS

OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. including non-working days h 5:30pm - 7:00pm

SOKOS Clinic

The clinic offers free medical assistance, both general and specialistic, for migrants without a residence permit and for homeless people.

via Massimo Gorki 12 40128 - Bologna

ORARI

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SEDE

Specialist medicine services:

WEDNESDAY h 4:00pm - 7:30pm

General medicine services:

MONDAY - FRIDAY

h 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Prior to reservation (Cardiology, vascular surgery, ultrasound, echocardiography, physiotherapy, neurology, orthopaedics, psychiatry, psychology, pain therapy, urology).

To book a visit or for medicine prescriptions call: 348.6353294 (MONDAY - THURSDAY h 10:00am - 12:00pm / 4:00pm - 6:00pm)

THE SER.D.P. SERVICE

People with addiction issues may seek help at the local **Ser.D.P. – Servizi per le Dipendenze Patologiche (Pathological Addiction Services)**.

It is a free public service offered by the National Health Service to cure, prevent and rehabilitate people with problems relating to the use or abuse of substances. All citizens, Italians and legal foreigners may benefit from the service. Illegal foreigners who own a STP card may request emergency interventions.

Services are completely free of charge.

With specific regard to the treatment of formerly detainees, the service operates favouring, whenever possible, the geographical connection. Therefore, after verifying if the person had been already taken care of by any other local Ser.D.P. prior to detention, therapeutic programmes are implemented in the area of origin of the subject and upon evaluation of one's clinical conditions and of the possibility to grant the continuation of the plan with external service.

Liaising with previously responsible Ser.D.P. is needed whenever the former detainee appears to be already involved in projects with services located in other regions.

Basic needs

Bologna is a particularly supportive and active city.

It is possible to benefit from a wide number of services in case of specific vulnerability or in presence of primary needs, such as a warm meal, clothes and sanitary facilities.

Here is a list of the available services:

MEAL

COMUNITÀ SANT'EGIDIO

via Rizzoli 34 c/o Galleria Acquaderni n. 3

- DISTRIBUTION TWICE A WEEK

PARROCCHIA SS ANGELI CUSTODI

via Lombardi 37 MONDAY and FRIDAY h 12:00pm

PARROCCHIA CUORE IMMACOLATO DI MARIA

via Mameli 5 EVERY SUNDAY h 08:30am

CUCINE POPOLARI

via del Battiferro 2 MONDAY - FRIDAY h 12:00pm - 1:30pm

MENSA DELL'ANTONIANO

via Guinizelli 3 EVERY DAY h 12:30pm - 1:20pm

CARITAS MENSA FRATERNITÀ

via Santa Caterina 8 EVERY DAY h 5:45pm - 6:45pm

CLOTHES

ANTONIANO ONLUS

CARITAS PARROCCHIA

SANTA RITA

via Guinizelli 3

via Massarenti 418

ASSOCIAZIONE L'ARCA

PARROCCHIA SAN GIUSEPPE

PARROCCHIA SACRO CUORE

COTTOLENGO

via Don Orione 1

via Gandusio 33/a

PARROCCHIA SS. NICOLÒ **E AGATA**

via Matteotti 27

Zola Predosa (BO)

SANITARY FACILITIES

CENTRO S. PETRONIO CARITAS DIOCESANA

via S. Caterina 8/A

SHOWER SERVICE:

- Italian men: MONDAY from h 1:30pm
- Foreign men: TUESDAY from h 1.30pm

Free access, requested prior booking on FRIDAYS from h 9:00am - & 051.644796

SHOWER SERVICE

via del Lazzaretto 15

OPEN: 4 AFTERNOONS PER WEEK h 4:00pm - 6:00pm

and 1 MORNING h 10:00am - 12:00pm

Documents

Correctional authorities are required to return one's documents in the moment of release.

Nevertheless, if documents need to be renewed or requested, here are some useful information:

IDENTITY CARD

IDs are issued by the Municipality in which a person is resident. The Bologna Municipality issues the document also to non-resident citizens, provided that they are domiciled in the city and with previous authorisation from the Municipality of residency.

ID cards may be obtained through appointment with the local **URP** (Public Relations Office) and, for non-residents, at the central URP office located in Piazza Maggiore 6, through the online service: https://prenotazioneurp. comune.bologna.it/qmsui-prebooking-client).

Documents needed for a new ID card are:

- 1 PASSPORT PHOTO,
- HEALTH INSURANCE CARD/TAX CODE,
- OLD EXPIRING ID OR ANY OTHER IDENTIFICATION DOC-UMENT, AND, FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS, THE RESIDENCE PERMIT.

PASSPORT

Passports are issued only to Italian citizens. It can be requested tt the nearest **Police Station** of one's place of residence. To find the closest Police Stations, visit the website of the Bologna Police.

https://www.questura.bologna.it/

RESIDENCE PERMIT

Request or renewal of residence permits may be asked at the following offices:

Immigration Office of the Bologna Central Police Station

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY h 8:30am - 1:30pm

Available services:

- CONCLUDING RESIDENCE PERMITS APPLICATIONS BEGUN WITH POSTE ITALIANE:
- RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENCE PERMITS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF POSTE ITALIANE;
- SUBMITTING STATEMENTS OF PRESENCE IN ITALY FOR SHORT-TERM TOURISM, BUSINESS, STUDY REASONS (MAXIMUM 90 DAYS);
- ISSUING RESIDENCE PERMITS.

On TUESDAY h 3:00pm - 5:00pm

 The help desk is open exclusively for THE COLLECTION OF RESIDENCE PERMITS.

Applications for residence permit under the scope of the Immigration Office need to be first registered and booked on the website:

http://cupa-project.it/

Poste Italiane

The Italian postmail offices (Poste Italiane), and more specifically its desk called Sportello Amico, provides postal kits for the issuance or renewal of residence permits in case of:

 Family , work, study or religious reasons. For a complete list of the cases covered, visit the online page of Poste Italiane or of the Questura (Central Police Station).

More **INFORMATION** may be provided also by:

CGIL foreign workers centre

via del Porto 16/c 40122 - Bologna

051.6087190 - 051.6087191

Ya Basta! Association

via Casarini 17/4 40131 - Bologna

yabasta.bologna@gmail.com

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Immigrants helpdesk Patronato ACLI

via Lame 118/B 40122 - Bologna

© 051.523368

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Information on how to apply for political asylum, subsidiary protection and humanitarian protection may be found at:

ASP - Sportello Protezioni Internazionali

via del Pratello 53 40122 - Bologna

051.220069

protezioni.internazionali@aspbologna.it

Information about your legal situation

If you need to know about your own legal situation, including pending proceedings, you may request the following documents:

CERTIFICATION OF ENTRIES IN THE GENERAL CRIMINAL RECORD REGISTER (ARTICLE 335 OF THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)

It provides information on one's criminal offences. The certification may be requested by the accused person who is under investigation, by the offended party, their attorneys or through delegated persons. It can also be requested by post.

CERTIFICATION OF PENDING CHARGES

It attests one's pending proceedings. It can be requested exclusively by the person involved in the proceeding or by a delegated person, also through postmail. It can only be requested from the Public Prosecutor's Office located in the municipality of residence of the concerned person.

CERTIFICATE OF JUDICIAL RECORDS

It provides information on final convictions and on certain measures restricting civil capacity. It may be requested by the person concerned or by a person delegated by him, also through postmail. Judicial record certificates may be requested from any public prosecutor's office, regardless of the person's place of birth or residence.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF A PRISON SENTENCE

Those who have been convicted may request at the Esecuzioni Penali office (Office for criminal enforcement) at the Public Prosecutor's Office a certificate of completion of a prison sentence, which may be eventually used to apply, for example, for rehabilitation. It can be requested by the person concerned or by a delegated person; non-EU citizens must show their residence permit. A person in prison or in a therapeutic community can also send the request with a certified signature by post.

COPY OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

It has no certification value and therefore cannot be used for administrative or work purposes. It allows the person concerned to simply view the entries made against him in the Criminal Records Register. It can be requested by the person concerned or by a delegated person.

WHERE TO ASK THE DOCUMENTS

In Bologna Criminal Records Office and the Criminal Enforcement Office are located on the ground floor of the Public Prosecutor's Office – via Garibaldi 6 and are open, respectively:

Criminal Records Office: MONDAY - FRIDAY h 8:30am - 12:30pm

TUESDAY and THURSDAY h 3:30pm - 4:30pm

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Criminal Enforcement Office: MONDAY - FRIDAY h 9:30am - 11:30am

For further information, please visit the website of the Public Prosecutor's Office: http://www.procura.bologna.giustizia.it/

Useful legal institutes

REHABILITATION

Established by Article 178 of the Penal Code, rehabilition is an institute allowing those convicted by a final judgment or by a non-opposed criminal order to initiate a procedure to request the removal of the criminal record from the relevant register, provided the presence of the necessary requirements and of signs of repentance. Rehabilitation may not be granted when the convicted person has been subjected to a security measure, except for cases of valid expulsion of the foreigner from the state or confiscation. Nor may it be granted to a person who has not fulfilled the civil obligations arising from the offence, unless proven that it is impossible for him to fulfil them.

DEBT RELIEF

It is an institution provided by the Penal Code whereby the State waives its right to collect debts owed by convicted persons and arising from court costs and maintenance in prison. In accordance with the constitutional principles, such mechanism aims at valuing those who have distinguished themselves for their good conduct while serving their sentence, as well as at supporting their social reintegration.

Amounts due to penalties of a criminal nature (fine or penalty) and sums addressed to the fines fund cannot be included in the expenses subject to debt relief, as stated by the following provisions:

- Article. 6 D.P.R. (Decree of the President of the Republic) 30th May 2002, n. 115, "Consolidated law on legal costs", which replaced Article. 56 law 26th July 1975, n. 354, "Prison regulations"
- Art. 106 D.P.R. (Decree of the President of the Republic) 30 th June 2000, n. 230, "Regulation containing rules on the penitentiary system"

INSTALMENT PLAN FOR CRIMINAL FINES

A convicted person who lives in a temporarily difficult financial situation may apply to pay his criminal penalty in instalments. The application must be addressed to the competent Supervisory Magistrate of the place where the person concerned has his domicile or residence.

CONVERSION OF A CRIMINAL FINE INTO CONDITIONAL RELEASE OR COMMUNITY SERVICE

If a person is in a permanent condition of insolvency, he or she may be granted the possibility to convert the criminal fine into conditional release or community service.

Relevant legislation is:

- Article 660 Code of Criminal Procedure
- Article 133 Penal Code
- D.P.R. 115/2002 Decree of the President of the Republic
- Law n. 689/1981

Other services and opportunities

SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE CITY OF BOLOGNA

Other than the already mentioned **Bassa Soglia Social Service**, Italian citizens and legal foreigners, who do not fall under the scope of other territorial services, may ask for help at the offices located in the area where they are residents.

Some of the local offices are:

Borgo Panigale

via Marco Emilio Lepido 25/3

Navile-Bolognina

via Saliceto 5

Navile-Lame

via Marco Polo 53

Reno

via Battindarno 123

San Donato-San Vitale

via Rimesse 1/13

Santo Stefano

via Santo Stefano 119

Saragozza-Porto

via della Grada 2/2

Savena

via Faenza 4

COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS

In addition, there are also various cooperatives and associations that deal with detainees, former inmates or people enforcing a final sentence.

AVVOCATO DI STRADA ONLUS ASSOCIATION

Legal aid for homeless people.

ARCI BRECHT ASSOCIATION

It helps people followed by UEPE to access cultural and social activities available to the general public. The Italian language course is currently available only through a collaboration with the Corticella library.

via Bentini 20
40128 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

051.705314 €

brecht@arcibologna.it ⋈

OFFICE ADDRESS

CHIUSI FUORI ASSOCIATION

The Association pursues social integration and access to work for people who have been released from prison or are subjected to an alternative measures.

Thanks to two conventions stipulated with the Bologna Supervisory Court, the association welcomes subjects called upon to carry out community service or probation activities.

OFFICE ADDRESS

via San Leonardo 10 40125 - Bologna

CONTACT DETAILS

info@chiusifuori.it 🖂

IT2 COOPERATIVE

It deals with people from emarginated backgrounds. Through collaborations with public and private institutes in the area, it offers in particular job guidance and support activities (work grants, internships, orientation workshops). Inside the prison it carries out activities related to the recovery of WEEE waste. It is part of Cefal.

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Nazionale Toscana 1 40068 - San Lazzaro di Savena (BO)

CONTACT DETAILS

051.6257959 & settoreb@it2.it \(\bigsigma\)

SOCIALE AGRIVERDE COOPERATIVE

It mainly grants work placement for subjects suffering from psychiatric conditions, but also for those recommended by the prison institution. At present, internships are activated in collaboration with the ASL (Local Health Authority) on the recommendation of the Ser.D.P. and of local services.

OFFICE ADDRESS

via Salarolo 2/B 40068 - San Lazzaro di Savena (BO)

CONTACT DETAILS

051.6251314 📞

info@coopagriverde.it 🖂

SOCIALE QUINTO ANGOLO COOPERATIVE

It carries out activities aimed at social integration and placement within the job market, such as gardening, maintenance, porterage and cleaning activities, free Italian language classes for foreigners, traineeships, all upon referral of the social services.

via Solferino 38 40124- Bologna

OFFICE ADDRESS

CONTACT DETAILS

051.0093891 &

 \bowtie

cooperativaquintoangolo@ gmail.com

SCHOOLS AND ITALIAN CLASSES FOR FOREIGNERS

Cpia metropolitano

(certificate provided)

viale Vicini 19 40122 - Bologna

Patronato Acli

(certificate provided)

via Lame 116 40122 - Bologna

€ 051.522066

Intorno al cerchio Association

via Mascarella 35/A 40126 - Bologna

© 051.254308

Aprimondo Centro Poggeschi Association

via Guerrazzi 14 40125 - Bologna

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aprimondo@centropoggeschi.org

YaBasta! Association

via Casarini 17/4 40131 - Bologna

€ 051.6493234

□ yabasta.bologna@gmail.com

Universo Intercultural Association

Porta Galliera -Piazza XX Settembre 7 40126 - Bologna

€ 051.8556042

info@universoculturale.it

CD>>LEI

(certificate provided)

By piedi Marina Gherardi – Methodist church of Bologna

via Buttieri 13B 40124 - Bologna & 051.6233429

bypiedi@gmail.com

Biblioteca Casa di Khaoula

via Corticella 104 40128 - Bologna & 051.6312721

bibliotecacasakhaoula@comune.bologna.it

Biblioteca Corticella -Luigi Fabbri

(residence permit needed)

Via Gorki 14 40128 - Bologna

& 051.2195530

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bibliotecacorticella@comune. bologna.it

Biblioteca Lame -Cesare Malservisi

Marco Polo 21/13 40131 - Bologna

Scuola di italiano Newen

Labas, Vicolo Bolognetti 2 40125 - Bologna

⊠ scuola.newen@gmail.com

Glossary

Income tax return: a document on which you report your income each year to calculate your taxes;

Inail (National insurance for work injuries): it is in chrge of the compulsory insurance against work injuries and professional illnesses;

Inps (National social security institute): social security institution of the Italian public pension system to which employees and most self-employed workers must be registered;

Isee (equivalent economic status indicator): tool to assess the economic condition of households in Italy;

Modello 730: form used for income tax returns reserved for those who, in the year preceding the benefit, received income as an employed worker, a retired and similar, income from land and prefabricated property, capital income, income from self-employment without VAT number.

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Finally, last but not least for relevance, we are keen to thank all those who, after serving time in Bologna's prison, accepted to be interviewed and generously shared the stories of their needs, expectations, dificculties and success. This project has been thought and is dedicated to them, above all and in the first place.

Antigone Emilia Romagna Association

Email: antigone.emiliaromagna@gmail.com

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/AntigoneEmiliaRomagna

Web page Antigone Association: https://www.antigone.it/





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