

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS ABOUT JUSTICE

CSV Bergamo

(Centre for the Service to Volunteering of Bergamo)

SUMMARY

- **WHO WE ARE**
- **WHY** we decided to face the topics of justice and incarceration – our **POINT of VIEW**
- **HOW** we are working on this topic – **Projects and Activities**
- **FOCUS ON:** the «Practical guide for reception and welcoming of persons under probation measures»

CSV BERGAMO: MISSION and TASKS

- To sustain and qualify volunteering while promoting a culture of solidarity
- Providing different services to organizations, citizens and institutions that relate to volunteers:
 - Technical support, consulting and training
 - A community relationships dedicated Area
- A non profit organization financed by a national fund established by Law
- Connected into regional (CSVnet Lombardia) and national network (CSVnet)

WHY JUSTICE – WHICH FOCUS

CSV Bergamo's strategic function = to support volunteering in active advocacy and representation on social needs, problems and topics.

- It means allowing citizens to organise in support to and in protection of fundamental rights, and about a broadened sense of community
- A vital function today, concerning the forms of coexistence inside societies that appears more and more closed and repulsive.

A priority = The construction of welcoming communities, able to include and guarantee good living conditions for everyone; persons in vulnerable conditions too i.e. persons under judicial measure

HOW: ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

TWO MAIN DIRECTIONS:

A. **CREATE and SUPPORT CONNECTIONS**

Acting on problems is only possible if it is done together.

Since 2014, CSV is a part of Nexus Laboratory: the network of Institutions and non-profit organizations in Bergamo that working on re-educational projects for offenders;

B. **DIRECT ACTION** to support citizens and volunteering to implement and develop an active change inside their communities.

B. DIRECT ACTION

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

1. In-depth **meetings** on topics that pertain to justice, with the goal of generating debate between associations
2. **Training** courses for aspiring prison volunteers (50 people) to support the Bergamo's prison in improving and organizing the volunteers' presence
3. **Awareness projects** targeting high school students, titled "Giustizia, Persona, Società", pertaining to the people's journey through criminal justice system (simulation of trials, meeting with detention or alternative judicial measures, restorative justice)
4. Participation in two FSE projects in partnership with the Municipal administration (Comune di Bergamo), aimed at **facilitating social inclusion** for persons under probation measures, mobilizing the community and associations

THE «PRACTICAL GUIDE for RECEPTION and WELCOMING of PERSONS under PROBATION MEASURES»



WHY this GUIDE

A DOUBLE OBSERVATION:

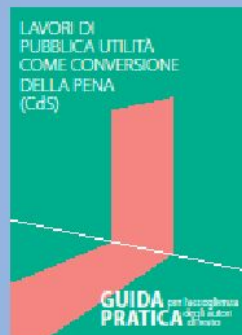
1. An **increase in the number of judicial orders** alternatives to detention, recognizing the rehabilitative value of volunteering experiences (community sanctions and measures) with a subsequent increase in requests of associations willing to welcome persons, both minors and adults who often live in vulnerable conditions and approach volunteering not by choice but by “obligation”;
2. Experience shows that volunteering **associations are not inclined** to see this specific request as an opportunity. A number of reasons:
 - Some associations are inadequately equipped to handle individuals that they deem as distant from traditional volunteering or as different from their usual target;
 - Some associations can be disoriented by the complexity of the justice system and its bureaucracy, made of norms, procedures, and specific language;
 - Some associations have a hard time connecting to services like the Court, the National probation service, lawyers and social workers, network agents.

WHY this GUIDE

Increasing the number of welcoming organizations is a matter of:

- **Sensitising actions**, calling volunteering to its vocation for social inclusion and recognition of every person's dignity
- Support volunteering associations with **practical tools** to:
 - provide tangible knowledge and competence
 - make them sufficiently confident and therefore focus on building a real welcoming relationship.

LA GUIDA



bergamo.csvlombardia.it

BUILDING AN USEFUL TOOL

ACCESSIBLE. Translation, linguistic simplification, and adaptation of regulations and official documents published by authorities. Information organized from the point of view of the welcoming entities (from the moment they enter legal procedures) and filtered through their questions and doubts;

CONTEXTUALISED. Redacted in collaboration with local Implementing Authorities. The procedures of our Court, directly from the voices of appointed Authorities; operative directions in order to explain to associations how to connect with the institutions in the best way possible;

EXPERIENCE'S PROVED. Recollection of welcoming "best practices". The different sections compiling the guide are enriched with feedbacks, giving suggestions or considerations, gathered from the interviews done with 20 associations already active in the field.

GUIDA PRATICA

Diverse schede, ciascuna dedicata ad una singola misura alternativa alla detenzione, e contenente:



Descrizione generale e riferimenti normativi



Atti e documentazione richiesta punto per punto



Un commento tratto da suggerimenti e considerazioni di altre associazioni e degli enti preposti



Risorse consultabili, per informarsi e per impostare la documentazione richiesta

AN USEFUL TOOL ...

The PRACTICAL GUIDE consists of 6 cards, each dedicated to one of the “community measures” for minors and adults. In every card, associations can find:

- ❖ A **description** of the measure in question
- ❖ Clarifications on **WHO** can request said measures. One of the biggest worries among associations is being presented with situations that are too problematic and hard to handle. The aim of the Guide is, incidentally, to explain that what lays behind local integration is thorough consideration made by authorities and Law itself.
- ❖ A point-by-point description of all **fulfilment** that lay on the association’s part
- ❖ **Accessible resources**: materials for more in-depth analysis as well as facsimiles to prepare the documents requested