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2nd Steering Committee & Workshop Meeting Rome, 3rd -7th July, 2017

The aim of the **Steering Committee** Meeting was to provide a description of the Questionnaire, which had been already filled by the Partners, and follow up the first results given by the analysis of the collected answers. These would constitute a first range on information, in order to build up a common risk assessment tool – a central expected output for Rasmorad.

The Questionnaire, as explained by Riccardo Turrini Vita (General Director) and Delphine Verheyde (Researcher – Siracusa International Institute), is structured in groups of thematic questions, concerning various aspects of P&P management face to the exigence of prevention, religious freedom, programs and methods of social rehabilitation, etc.

Verheyde pointed out that the results show that in most Partner Countries there is a special treatment regime for violent radicalized prisoners, firstly aimed at preventing proselytism. These different criteria and practices would need to be further analysed, in order to detect, share and implement the most effective among them.

For further information, see the new website www.rasmorad.org

The **Workshop** was devoted to the description of good practices and experiences, already taking place in different prison and probation settings. Directors and Police operators spoke about context strategies and expected results.



Picture: Massimo De Guidi

Forthcoming events:

Workshop on “Risk Assessment”

Brussels, 10th – 13th
September, 2017

Different experiences and approaches, in using tools and methods of Risk Assessment of violent extremism, will be described and compared by the Partners' delegates during the Workshop.

In fact, one Rasmorad target is to find out a Risk Assessment methodology, that can be shared in all the partners' P&P systems

A general agreement emerged, concerning the importance of specific training programs for those operators concerned in contexts where proselytism and violent radicalization may happen.

Moreover, very special attention must be paid in maintaining and improving positive relations, respecting non-violent religious exigencies and offering a good range of social and cultural activities. In fact, it seems clear that dynamic contexts allow expert staff members, well trained to decode behaviours and “indicators”, to detect both the potentially radical leaders and the vulnerable subjects among prisoners. The goal is then trying to keep them separate, and promote possible “exit strategies” for the first, and an effective support network for the last.

With reference to the Italian context, an agreement between the Italian administration and the main association of Islamic communities (UCOII – also a Beneficiary Partner in Rasmorad) has proved to be very fruitful, allowing moderate and certified Imam figures to enter the prisons and respond to the spiritual needs of Muslim inmates, driving them far from misunderstanding and intolerant interpretation of religious practices. UCOII representatives participated to the Meeting, showing appreciation for this partnership with the Italian Authorities. On the other side, they pointed out that Islam is not among the officially recognized religions in Italy, which could be – in their opinion – an obstacle in achievement of true and solid integration of the Islamic community in the social context.

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