

Emergency Exit

The partners



Casa di Carità Arti & Mestieri/ Fondazione Casa Di Carita (CHF) is based in Piedmont, Italy, and is a national vocational training agency, with over 25 year's experience. Its head office is in Turin and they employ 300 staff and 500 freelancers.



Epanodos provides services on release to offenders. The organisation was founded in 2007 to facilitate the reintegration of offenders through vocational training, support finding employment and access to accommodation. Epanodos also offers individual socio-psychological and legal support.



St Giles Trust is a London-based UK charity with nearly 50 year's experience of working with socially excluded people. They provide practical support around housing, training and employment. Over the last decade, they have evolved to become a key British organisation working with offenders.

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The report

The full report contains:

- Exploration of current European resettlement models
- Elaboration of guidelines
- Recommendations and best practice guidelines
- Description of prisons visited during the project

The full report is available to download on the partners' websites:

www.stgilestrust.org.uk

www.casadicarita.org

www.epanodos.org.gr

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August 2010-July 2012

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Identifying European resettlement models for best practice in supporting prisoners around release.



The Grundtvig programme funds training opportunities for adult education organisations, staff and learners.

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Rationale

The period surrounding release from

prison is a critical and often anxious time for offenders. Offenders face many barriers, not least of which are poor access to housing and employment, that can easily lead the individual to a return to criminality.

It is therefore necessary to build coherent, tailored support around the individual before, during and after release to sustain positive resettlement into the community.

Investigation of best practice around these issues at a European level, through analysis and comparison of resettlement models from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece, Hungary and the UK forms the basis of this report.

The core aims of the project are to:

- ➔ **Compare experiences**, practices and methodologies
- ➔ **Analyze effective interventions** at a European level
- ➔ **Formulate recommendations** and develop guidelines for successful resettlement of prisoners
- ➔ **Disseminate at a local level** report findings by joint working between the European partners



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Research

What is Emergency Exit?

Emergency Exit is a two-year European research initiative exploring successful prisoner resettlement, and is funded through the Grundtvig program. The partners represent not for-profit organizations from across the EU, all working with offenders and ex-offenders to deliver guidance, vocational training, resettlement and other support.

Through sharing experiences and joint research, **Emergency Exit** aims to develop best practice recommendations useful to agencies and organizations carrying out similar work.

The research focus

 was on the following points:

- ➔ To **identify the most successful methods for re-integration of prisoners** into the community
- ➔ To **define best practice and establish recommendations** applicable to a European level

The research approach was based on examination of qualitative and quantitative data taken from resettlement activities of the partner organizations.

Statistical analysis was integrated with and enriched by visits to prisons and projects both inside prison and in the community, and by talking to offenders themselves.

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Recommendations

The recommendations focus on specific, innovative practices found within the partner organizations and within the analysis of how models of resettlement work best.

In particular, the findings highlight key elements and activities:

- ➔ **Involvement of ex-prisoners** and prisoners to deliver services for other prisoners;
- ➔ The importance of intensive **support on release** for prisoners, bridging the gap between prison and community;
- ➔ **To increase employability** (and consequently resettlement) through social enterprises working inside prisons;
- ➔ **The value of restorative justice** in the rehabilitation process;
- ➔ The importance of **multi-agency joint working** and case management to deliver multi-disciplinary advice;
- ➔ **Support of the staff** involved in resettlement through proper supervision processes.

We recommend these key findings should be embedded in a process of continuous and regular dialogue and comparison at EU and regional levels.