

***Fourth Transnational Meeting (M4) : Timisoara Romania
26-28 May 2022 (working days)***

Hosting organization CPIP

The purpose of the meeting in Timișoara was to fulfill the objective, as initially established, of drafting the writings provided in our project and preparing the retrocession that will conclude on July 5 and 6 in Paris.

For the Timisoara meeting, three days were available. It was dedicated half a day to visiting a prison and a meeting with the staff accompanying the detainees.

26 of May 2022 morning session



09:00- 13:00 *Visiting the Timisoara Prison*

The first day of the meeting began with a visit to the Timisoara penitentiary. After going through all the security procedures, the project team was greeted by Valentin-Dorin ZAHARIA, officer of the Cooperation and Programs Department.

Timișoara Penitentiary is a unit profiled on the detention of convicts with sentences of up to 3 years, classified in open, semi-open, and pre-trial detention. It is located in the center of Timișoara, on 7 Popa Șapcă Street.

The current headquarters of the penitentiary was built after the demolition of the walls of the Timișoara Fortress, and the first documentary evidence of the existence of a place where detainees were held is recorded in the "Annals of the Kingdom of Hungary" from 1514. In 1728, Count Mercy Claudius, commander of Timișoara and governor of Banat, built the building destined for the Provincial Court, the detainees being moved to the basements of the building. In 1807, Emperor Francis ordered their imprisonment in the casemate number 10 of the Bastion number 1, and from the completion of the new construction, in 1810, all the detainees were here until 1907, when it was demolished. At the same time, the construction of the Martial Court Palace (the current Military Tribunal and Prosecutor's Office) and the military prison (the current headquarters of the Timișoara Penitentiary) are completed where all detainees are moved.

The Decision of the Ministry of Justice, on February 1, 1937, was decided to profile the penitentiaries. Thus, in the Timișoara Penitentiary, he executed his sentence of deprivation of liberty for ordinary common law detainees and those sentenced to contravention up to 2 years inclusive. In 1995, the construction of new holding pavilions and auxiliary spaces began. Currently, the administration of the Timișoara Penitentiary is concerned with improving the conditions for both the employed staff and the detainees in custody. Thus, investments were considered in the administrative pavilion, the thermal power plant, the new reception point for detainees, and the Visits pavilion still under construction, all of which were in line with modern standards in penitentiary matters.

The detention of detainees is carried out in ten detention facilities equipped with eight walking yards, equipped with six fitness rooms, and two sports fields. The unit's library also has over 16,000 volumes. The use of detainees in productive activities is a primary concern of the Timișoara Penitentiary administration, which has been the leader in the revenues obtained from these activities in the last decade, in volunteer activities and humanitarian campaigns carried out with persons deprived of liberty.

A significant evolution of the system of social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty took place both in terms of human resources and in terms of activities carried out. The excellent relationship with the community has materialized over time in an impressive number of unique activities carried out inside or outside the Penitentiary, with external partners' support and media visibility. In this context, the Timișoara Penitentiary hosted theatrical premieres and performances under the exceptional guidance of some local directors, openings and art exhibitions, concerts of the Banat Philharmonic, book launches, and other artistic events, sports championships, etc.

In 2000, the chapel of the Penitentiary was consecrated, and the Museum Room was inaugurated, arranged in memory of the former political detainees who fought against the oppression of the communist regime, the commemorations taking place annually. In 2002, the closed-circuit T.V. channel Canal 7 Popa Șapcă was inaugurated, and in 2013 the radio station, both dedicated to informing and constructive recreation of persons deprived of their liberty.

Starting in 2006, the Timișoara Penitentiary became a partner in the organization of the "Plai" International Festival, which takes place annually inside the Banat Village Museum, an event in which groups of detainees participate in the unique cultural-artistic activities and creative workshops. An important component of the evolution of the Timișoara Penitentiary is the involvement since 2007 as an applicant in externally funded projects and the consolidation of a team for accessing and implementing programs focused on developing the professional skills and competencies of both detainees and staff, as well as infrastructure development.

We visited the detention facilities, the medical area, the reception areas, and the visiting areas. An important point was the visit to the educational spaces and the radio and TV station of the prison. We had discussions with the educators and the detainees about their activities.

26 of May 2022 afternoon session held at the hotel IBIS Timisoara confence room.

The first working session started with a few words of welcome made by Rodica and the activities presentation made by Julien. Gave each the opportunity to briefly describe their background and current work linked to the project objectives.

Julien launched the working groups and presented the working method. The working activities were in small country groups, and each group filled the missing information into astonishment grids.

We close the first day with discussion and debates about each country's specificity.





27 of May 2022 session held at the hotel IBIS Timisoara confence room.

The working session start with each group summarising the observetions of its memeber for each site already visited (*St-ETIENNE / A LAMA / GHERLA*) pointid out the similarity and the diferece between countries.

Julien mentioned that the partnership dimension of this project is fundamental and essential. It is important that it is reflected in our writings. Thus, the 4 working groups that will be determined for the drafting of our documents should each be led by a member of a different team. Also it is very important that the compilation, as well as the other deliverables (Synthesis of astonishment grids & concrete recommendations), will have to be finalised by 31 August 2022 and accessible to the Agency of each partner via our website.

The next steps in our working session was the presentation of the finalised grids by each country , which will be synthesised into a single grid in the afternoon (prepared and presented by Denis)

We start the afternoon session with the Denis and Julien presentation regardin the results of the synthesised grid and the presetnation about the common points and differences between our various practices.

The last step was the collective choice of the 4 areas of work that will be developed in the final presentation and will give rise to written work.

On the 28 of May session held at the hotel IBIS Timisoara confence room.

The group starts with reflections on the previous day and reflection and writing work on each of the previously chosen thematic areas.

Julien presents a proposal to draft the sheets for combating the discontinuity of pathways.

The crossed discussions were about a joint determination of the form that the final report should also take concrete and best methods for compiling the sequences and already existing lesson plans on the discontinuity, to be shared between the teams. Also, the precise modalities for compiling and disseminating our shared educational materials and the concrete form of the final output.

We close the meeting with a final decision taken at the partnership level that each partner needs to prepare a presentation (on the model Julien will provide) for the restitution for M5 that will take place in Paris on the 5 and 6 of July

Final decisions :

1. next meeting Paris 5 and 6 July
2. Each project partner will prepare a presentation following Julien proposal to be formalized in the following way:
 - first, by writing a sentence about one thing that you and your team would like to be expressly mentioned in the global introduction of the restitution ;
 - then, by answering two questions in two successive chapters :
 - o 1st chapter : *How do we, in our organisation concretely manage to fight against bad consequences of discontinuity in the inmates learning programmes ?*
 - o 2nd chapter : *What did the most surprise and/or inspire our team, across all our transnational meetings ?*

We will all have to respect the common model (will be send by Julien via e-mail):

- 1 page per chapter ;
- in landscape format ;
- with less text as possible (list, schema, mental card... are welcome