

## **Conclusion on workshop “training on restorative justice”: group 1**

In this workshop our coordinators have presented the training modules about restorative justice in France and the stakes in terms of dynamic security. We have discussed during and after the workshop. The French experience comes from an experiment initiated in 2010 in the prison of Poissy.

The results of this first field experience in which Paul Mbanzoulou was implicated, were very positive for both offenders and victims. On this occasion, discussions were held on the question of the solicitations of the measures and where the requests came from? The victims and / or the prisoners (in France the requests can emanate from one or the other). Only four years after this experience, the obligation to propose to all actors of the penal process a restorative justice measure has been enshrined in law (law of 15 August 2014).

In this context, the workshop showed other practices and other realities. While Italy raises many questions about the introduction of restorative justice in its legislative framework, their major fear is to fix the measures of restorative justice in a too restrictive framework. We were able to discuss the implementation of the programmes in Italy. We learned that restorative justice can intervene in all phases of the criminal trial and for all offenses. They are mainly used in individualized programmes for minors and for adults on probation. Our Italian counterpart concludes that conversely to us, the multiplication of the experiments will probably lead to an inscription in the law.

The inclusion in French law, besides the imperative nature of proposing restorative justice measures, also had the consequence of forcing to organize a training course because it made necessary a framed and uniform knowledge for all the speakers (animators, members of the community) on measures proposed to victims and offenders.

This French training is organized by three partners, on the one hand the French Institute of Restorative Justice (IFJR), the Federal Association of Victims (France Victims) and Enap. Four modules are proposed: the first (30h) which presents the general theoretical framework and which allows trained staffs to raise awareness, the second specialized by type of measure (30h each) ensures, after a control of knowledge, to be issued a certificate of facilitator for the measure studied, third and fourth modules (30h each) open only after active participation in a measure, in the field, to access the rank of trainer.

Our colleagues show differences: the training is for some of them not very structured but the desire to formalize the device is here. According to our counterpart from Portugal, he explained that in a short time (1 month) a protocol must be signed with the university,

associations and urban communities to organize the implementation of the programmes. They also plan to report on the effects of the measures on the actors.

This allows me to bounce back on the question of the effects of such measures, issues raised by our colleagues. In France, we are not yet able to carry out research because of the limited number of field experiments. For the moment, we can only refer to metanalysis with a focus on Canadian research. The results already collected are promising. Thus, like Portugal, which is going to find support in the academic world, we would like to combine with our own evaluations of 6 months and a year, a co-led research and by the Ministry of Justice and by the University of Strasbourg, on the question of the impact of restorative justice measures on the public. It is a question of better understanding that takes place between the associations of victims and the correctional administration, to evaluate what it generates in the practices, in the prevention of the crimes but also in the reconstruction of the social fabric. However, it will take some time (due to reasonable number of measures implemented) to be able to consider longitudinal studies. In Italy, the staffs that intervene are also trained and start with three days of initial training, followed if necessary by three modules of more or less 50 hours (theoretical and practical part).

In spite of the French legal obligation, the involvement comes from the field and our objective is to endow all the services of referents in restorative justice to raise involvement. Our Swiss counterpart explains that in the field, in Switzerland, it is difficult to raise interest and that the establishment of referents could be a solution.

To conclude, I will end on the fact that for many of us, the community / civil society, has a decisive place in the mechanisms of restorative justice. The presence of the restorative justice makes dynamic security effective by creating or re-creating the social bond broken by the offense, pacifying not only inside the prison but also outside. Thanks to this space of dialogue and listening, the inmate feels recognized as a human being and as a member of society. The inmate has a chance of living his detention in a better way and when leaving, to choose not reoffending.