



PRESS RELEASE

B-COMPETENT. Boosting Competences in Penitentiary Staff in Europe

The new EU project, co-funded by the Justice Programme, will contribute to supporting the correct and wide implementation of EU laws and standards regarding the protection of foreign prisoners' special rights and needs

February 4th, 2020 - Ensuring the respect of fundamental rights of prisoners is a prerequisite for the functioning of the rule of law. In increasingly multi-ethnic correctional settings, where the **management of cultural diversity** has become a priority issue, prison staff play a crucial role in safeguarding human rights and preventing episodes of radicalization and extremism.

The difficulties encountered by prison staff in dealing with foreign inmates and meeting their special needs, **due to inadequate knowledge** and **specific competences**, clearly shows the challenges for many prison services in widely ensuring effective and coherent application of EU and international laws and standards with regard to the protection of foreign prisoners' rights.

B-COMPETENT: mission and goals

Against this background, the EU-funded project "B-ComPetent" aims to **tackle existing training gaps** in prison services by providing a set of multidisciplinary skills for prison civilian front-line staff in six countries (Italy, France, Spain, Albania, Montenegro and Greece). This goal will be achieved through the design and development of an innovative **cross-border train-the-trainers programme**, combined with best practices sharing, awareness-raising actions and practical multilingual tools.

Within the project the following activities are foreseen: in-depth **analysis of training gaps and best practices identification**; design and development of **e-learning course, multilingual handbook** with educational games for prison civilian front-line staff and **animated video with case scenarios**; organization of **6 cross-border train-the-trainers workshops** in Italy, Albania, Spain, Montenegro, Greece and France and **3 national conferences** involving key stakeholders and **1 final international conference**.

The project, which started in September 2019 and will last 24 months, will be implemented by a **Consortium of inter-sectorial partners** from three countries (Italy, Spain and Albania): University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" (project Coordinator), Observatory of the Penal System and Human Rights (OSPDH-UB), Albanian Ombudsman, Antigone, European Centre Foundation, Prodos Consulting srl and Bosch i Gimpera Foundation.

The collaboration with public authorities such as the **Italian Ministry of Justice** and the **Association of Mediterranean Ombudsman** and with European network organizations like **EUROPRIS** and **EPTA** will contribute to effectively building a **community of practice** for the enhancement of human rights in prisons.

For more information visit www.bcompetent.eu

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