

The Italian Case

Social cooperatives and the re-inclusion of prisoners
and ex-prisoners

#CoProducingJustice

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Why do we talk about them?

- Extremely vital actors of the economy
- understand changes and challenges of the society
- Increasing number of SocCoop and SocEnt at global level
- Growth of attention policy makers and institution
- Italian phenomenon model at international level

SocCoop proved good at

- ❑ **New forms of direct participation of the citizens**
- ❑ **Social inclusion of potentially excluded part of the population (membership, work inclusion)**
- ❑ **Innovation to address social needs not covered by traditional welfare system**

The Italian Law 381/1991

Art. 1 - Definition of SocCoop

- Private and non-profit entity, pursuing the general interest of the population
- Aim at the social integration of citizens and human promotion
- SocCoop invest their own profits in their statutory activity and structure
- Democratic and participatory identity

The Italian Law 381/1991

Social Cooperatives ⇒ 2 types

□ TYPE A

Management of social services, health, assistance to the disadvantaged, education and training,

Health, cultural heritage, services for the employment of disadv. people

2017 innovation of third sector reform!

□ TYPE B

Work inclusion of disadvantaged people through the development of production of goods and services (all sectors/industry)

The Italian Law 381/1991

Disadvantaged workers

Type B SocCoop must employ at least 30% disadvantaged workers



- Physical, mental, sensorial invalids
- Persons with disabilities
- Former patients of psychiatric institutes
- Persons under psychiatric treatment
- Drugs and alcohol addicts
- Minors of working age in difficult family situations
- Prisoners and ex-prisoners

The Italian Law 381/1991

Multistakeholder membership

- Workers
- Disadvantaged persons
- Volunteers
- Users
- Non-profit organisations,
public and private institutions
- Investing members

Social Cooperatives in Italy

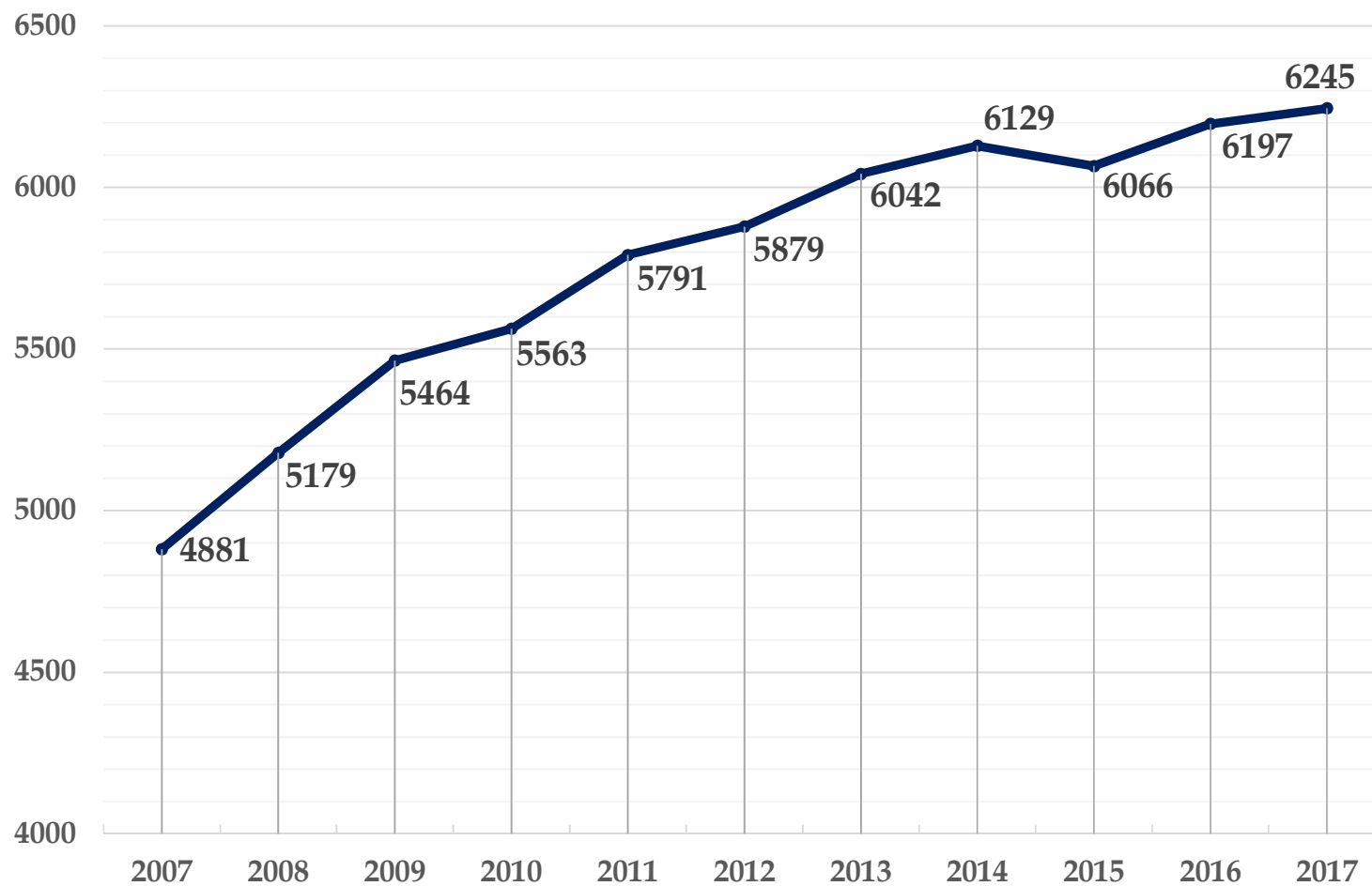
National Statistic Office ISTAT
Survey 2016

- ❑ 16.415 social cooperatives in Italy in 2015
- ❑ increase +43% in the period 2011-2015

Federsolidarietà (2017)

- ❑ 6.245 social cooperatives and consortia
- ❑ 225.900 individual members (of which 26k volunteers)
- ❑ 229.000 workers (55.8% employment of Social Cooperatives in Italy)
- ❑ about 19.000 disadvantaged workers
- ❑ average turnover 7,2 billions of € (more than 50% total turnover of SocCoop in IT)

Federsolidarietà - Members



A black and white photograph of a prison cell. The cell features a window with a metal frame on the right side. In the foreground, a metal bed frame is visible, extending from the bottom left towards the center. The background shows the walls of the cell, which are also made of metal bars. The overall atmosphere is stark and institutional.

Focus on activities with prisoners

Smuraglia Law (n.193/2000)

- ✓ **New category in art. 4**
- ✓ **Incentives for Soc Coop and Ent**
- ✓ **Prisoners can be fully employed**
- ✓ **“Conventions” SocCoop-Detention Centers**
- ✓ **Prisoner can be member of a SocCoop**

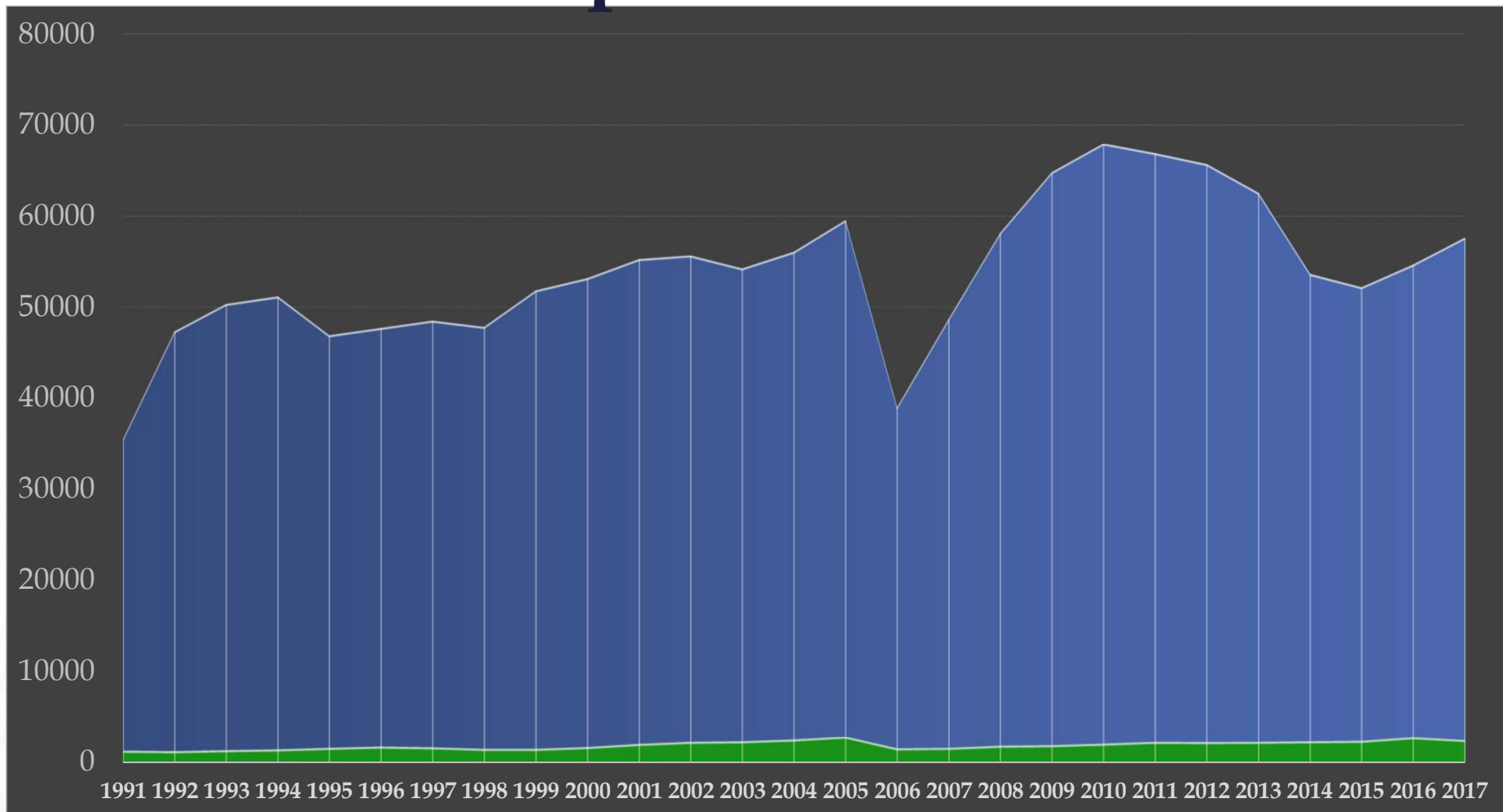
Smuraglia Law (n.193/2000)

Reformed in 2013-2014

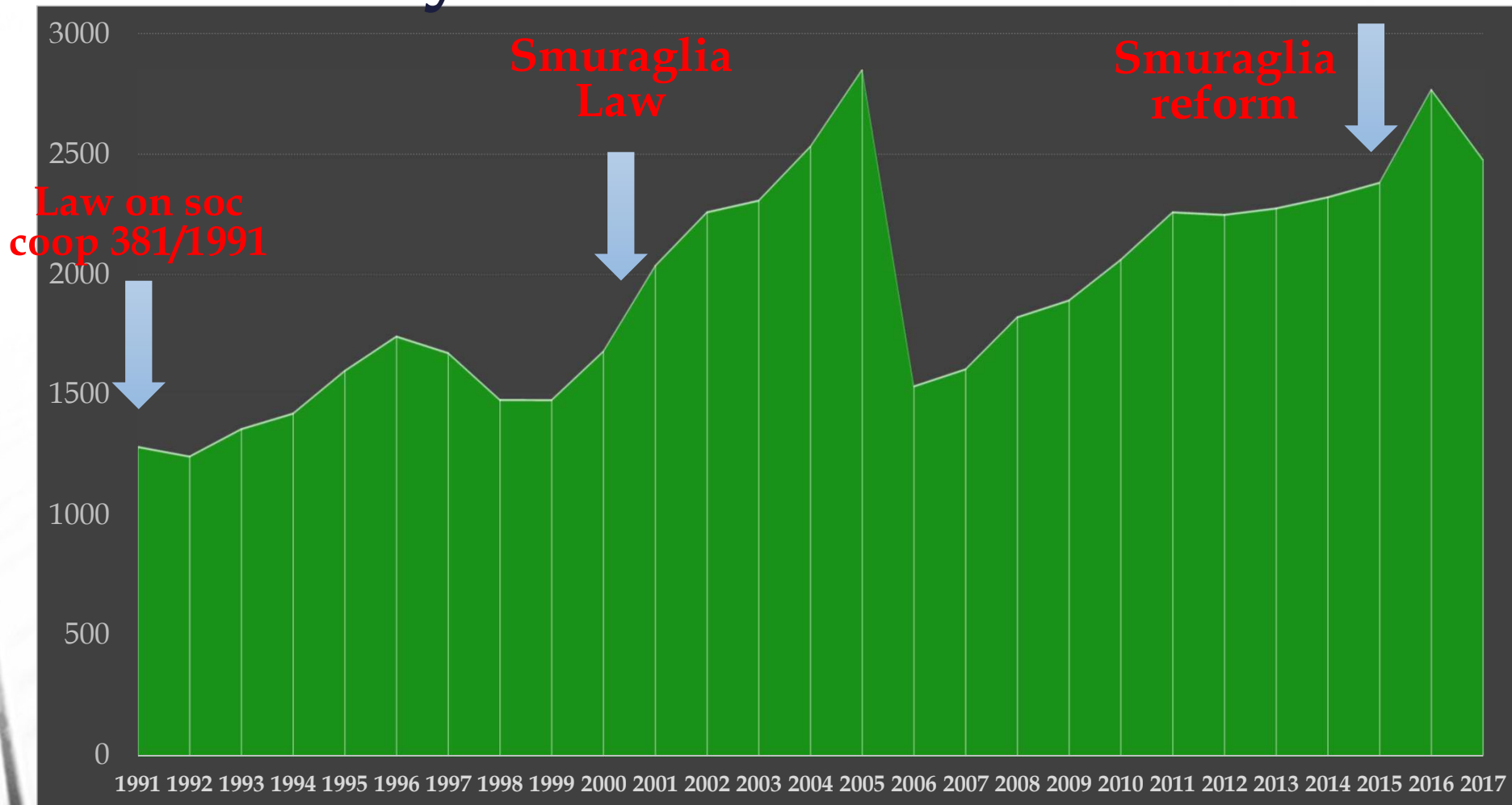
NEW

- More funds and allocation
- Tax credit 520€/month per prisoner employed full time
- reduction on social security and national insurance contribution 95%
- Tax credit 300€/month for alternative measures/probation - full time employed
- Tax credit for vocational training → strictly connected with employment
- Tax credit extended for some cases 18/24 months after the prisoners release

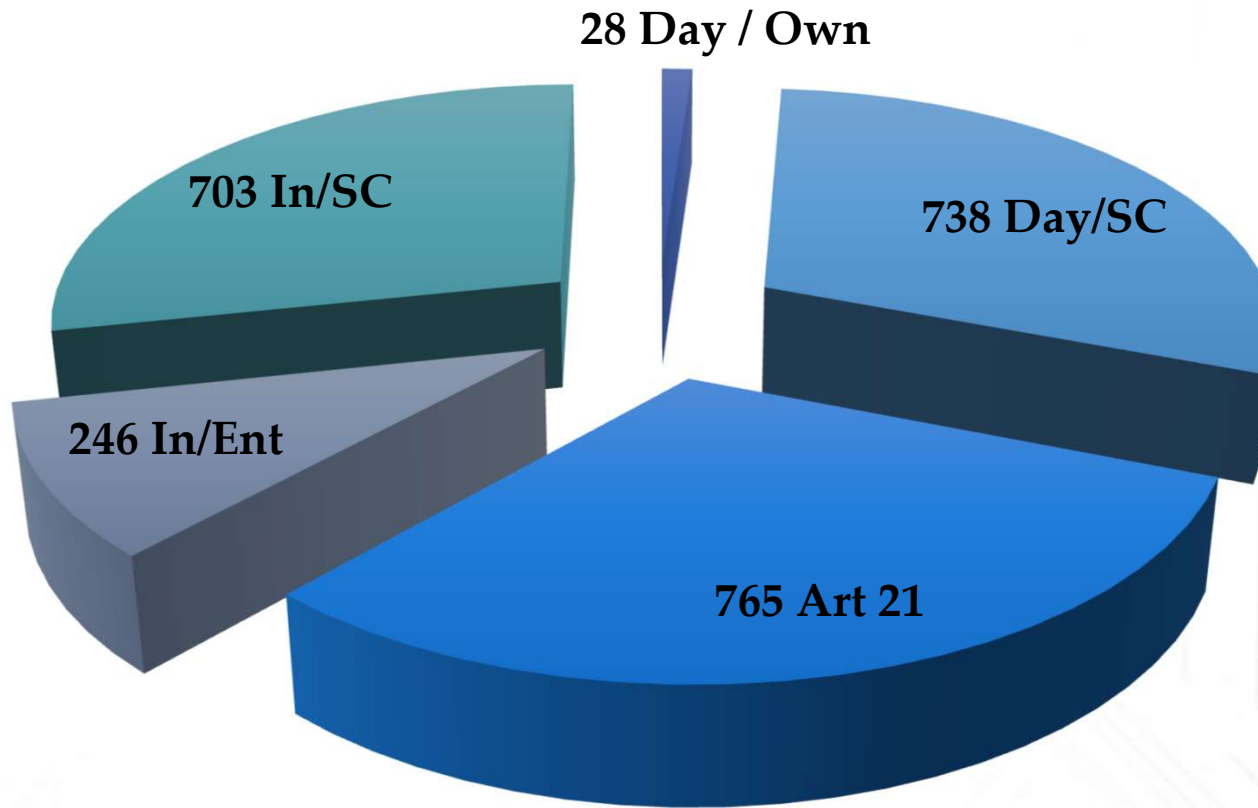
Presence in IT prisons



How many?



Distribution of work (2017)

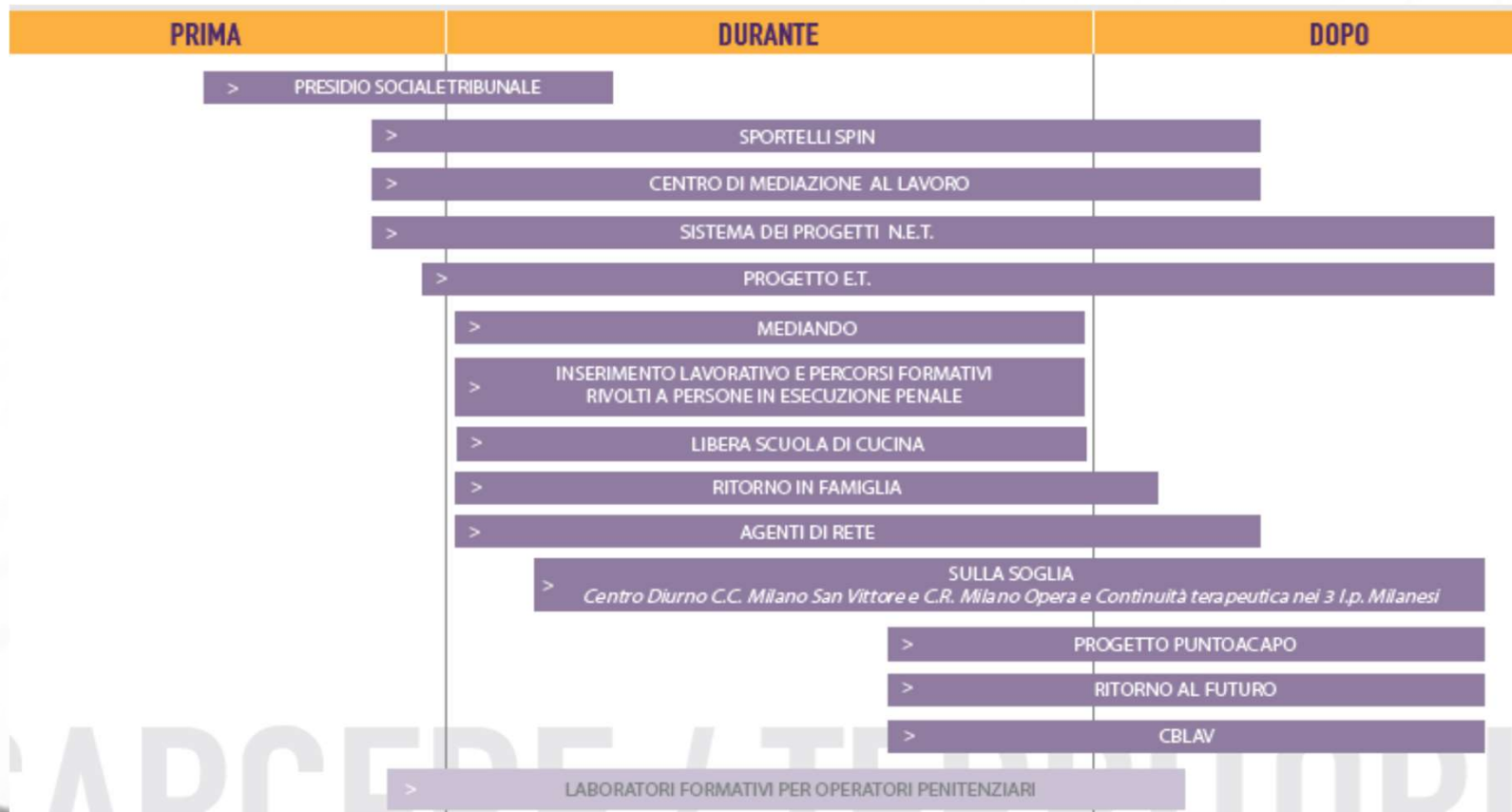


Case Analysis





- **A&I Social Cooperative (A)**
- **Lumbardy Region**
- **2003-2018 16 projects delivered**





Before and during imprisonment

Presidio sociale tribunale di Milano (2012-2017)

- Social services supporting arrested persons in the validation hearing
- In case of imprisonment, liason with the social services inside the prison
- OBJECTIVE: reduction of imprisonment, empowerment of effectiveness of alternative measures
- NUMBERS: about 800 contacts per year
- Financed By Local administration of Milan



After release

Agenti di rete (2014-2018)

- Focused on the link between life inside and outside the prison
- Psicologic support to the prisoners
- Social mediation supporting relations within family members
- Legal advice (in particular with migrants)

- NUMBERS: in 2016 about 1100 persons assisted
- Financed By Lumbardy Region



**ALTERNATIVA
AMBIENTE**

COOPERATIVA
SOCIALE



Cooperativa Alternativa (1978)

- It begins with the work in prison, it becomes an hub for social services in the area
- Today two social cooperatives merged A+B
- About 500 workers

Colonia
Agricola



Servizi di
Global Service



Servizi
cimiteriali



Servizi
ambientali

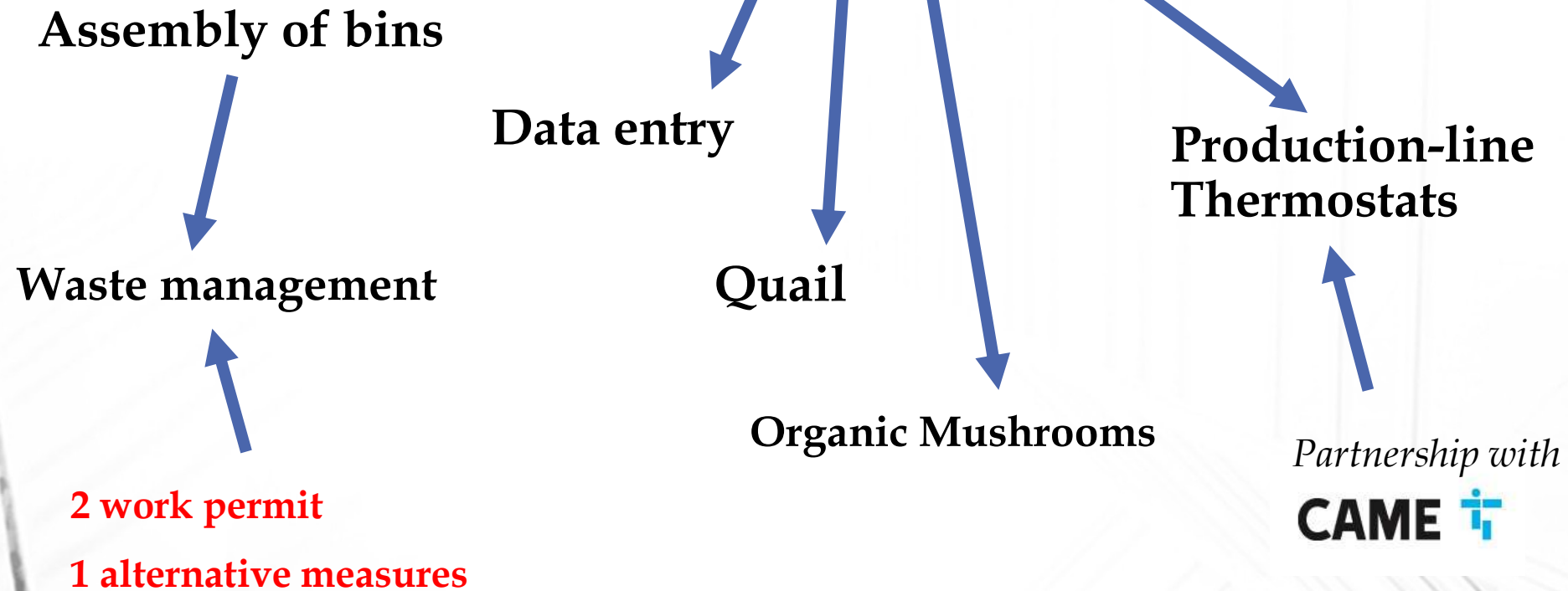


Agricoltura
Biologica





Today it involves **22 inmates** in Treviso Prison



MEN AT WORK

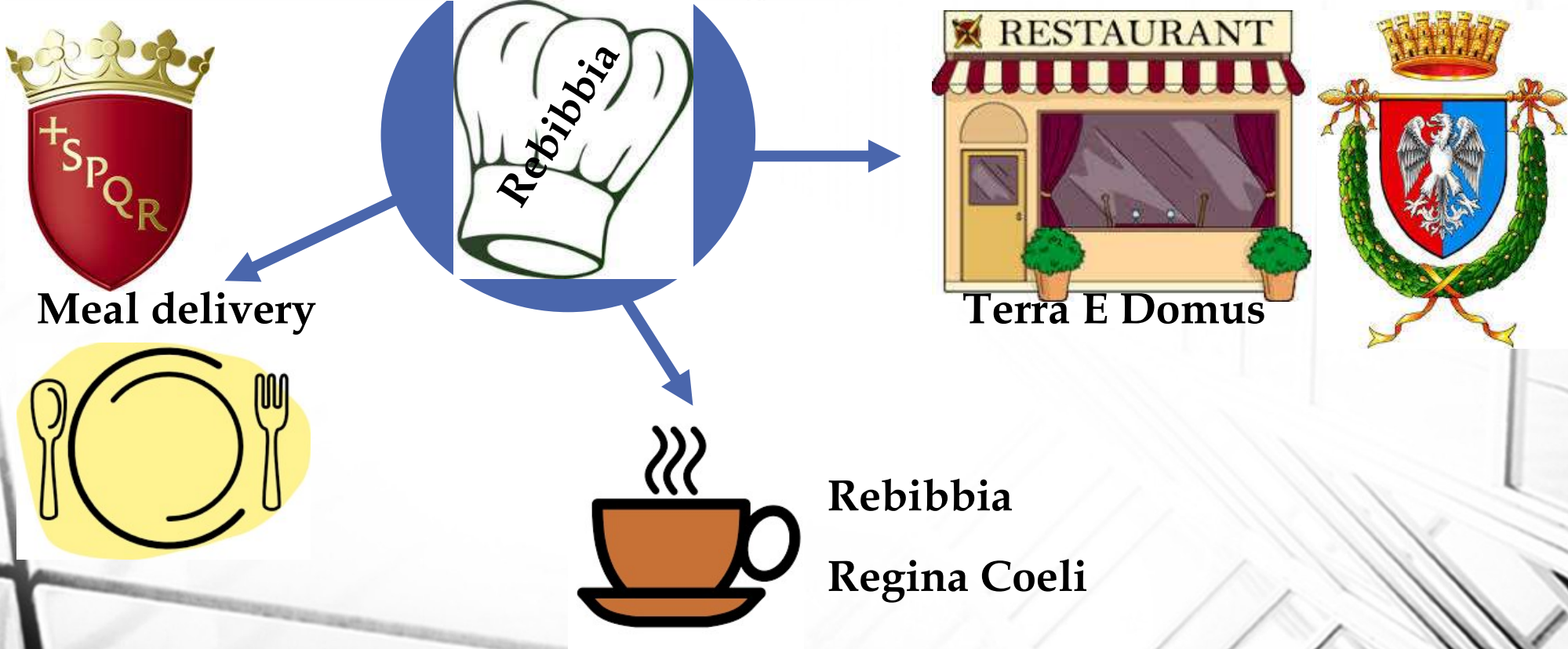


Work Inclusion Soc Coop in Rome

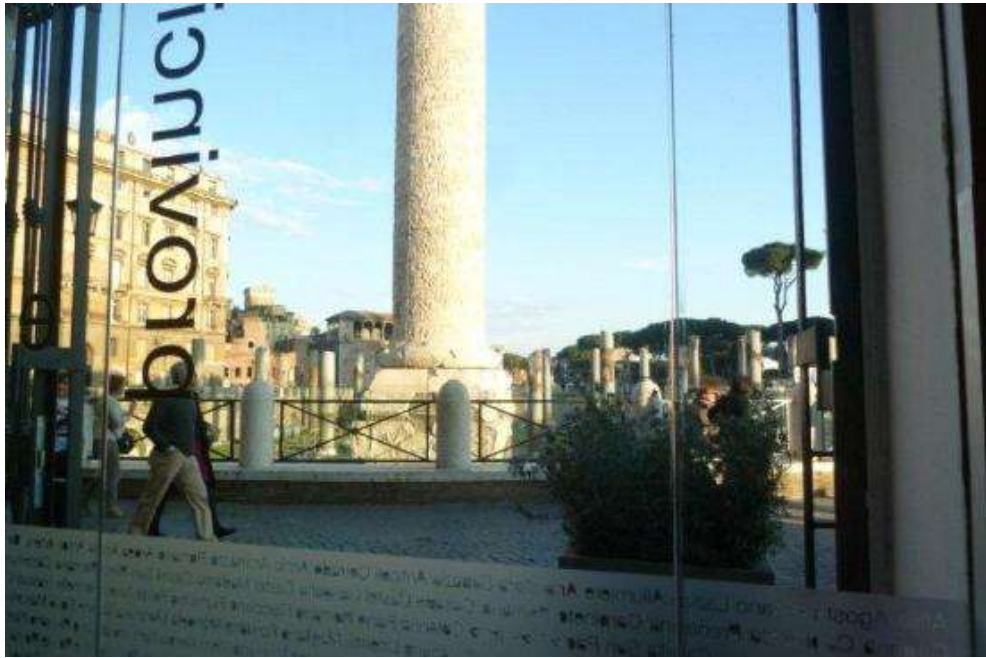
60 Workers/Members

34 Disadvantaged

→ About 15 prisoners employed







Final Consideration

- Presence to be enhanced (1 out of 3 prison)
- Good Practices → scale up and spread
- Learn from the pioneers (turnover...)
- Directors of the prison
- Non Entrepreneurial approaches (rules that apply)
- Prison can be a productive cluster (see Alternativa)
- Hard to reach satisfactory level of production
- Embrace an “investment approach” in policies

THANK YOU!