



## **WORKSHOP 6: New collaboration mechanisms**

**Facilitator: David Camps**

**The experience of the creation of the *Taula de Participació Social* (TPS) in the Justice Department of Catalonia.**

**Núria Fabra and Marc Cerón**

The decision to create a *Taula de Participació Social* (social participation board) was part of the final remarks of the II Conference on Penitentiary Volunteering, held on October 3 and 4, 2003. Today, it is a project in itself. The Conference highlighted that after 20 years working together (*Generalitat de Catalunya* is responsible for the adult penal system since 1984) volunteers' organizations and public administrations had reached a point in which the creation of a permanent second level joint working space was possible. Since then, many decisions have been taken. Here are the most relevant ones:

- a) To provide this joint mechanism with the highest possible organizational status. At the same time, it is essential to guarantee its operational character, its representativity and its internal functioning for its commitment to be sustainable and to ensure its periodic renovation.
- b) To integrate volunteers' organizations and service providers working in the area of penal execution in this joint decision making mechanism. Even if there are significant differences between both types of organizations, the fact that they both aim at easing the process of rehabilitation and reinsertion of adults under penal measures makes their inclusion pertinent.
- c) To invite the *Departament de Benestar Social i Família* (Social Affairs Department) to be part of the mechanism. The Department being the top authority in volunteering matters, we believe the project could benefit immensely from its expertise and knowledge.
- d) To take the opportunity provided by the *Taula de Participació Social* to boost the sector by creating synergies, sharing experiences, developing joint decision-making mechanisms and reinforcing our internal culture from a diversity approach.
- e) To put trust, transparency and dialog at the centre of a new work and communication mechanism between public administrations and social organizations.

Practical results:

- a) Inclusion of the *Taula de Participació Social* in the drafting of the **Regulation on the organization and functioning of penal execution services in Catalonia (329/2006, September 5)**
- b) Mainstreaming of this participation tool to all penitentiary facilities in Catalonia (**RESOLUTION JUS/370/2009, July 23**).

## II Congrés Europeu del Voluntariat

Barcelona  
9, 10 i 11 de novembre de 2011



- c) Creation of working groups focused on the following topics: implementation of the internal rules on the basis of the rules' principals, volunteers' inductions on penal execution, standards setting and support to the development of boards in all penitentiary facilities in Catalonia with special emphasis on regional organizations participation.
- d) Development of a long-life training plan aimed at organizations' staff and volunteers.
- e) Communication campaigns on the need to boost rehabilitation and reinsertion policies targeting public opinion (presentation of a manifesto in favour of the Penitentiary Facilities Plan in the *Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya* in 2005, launching of a campaign under the slogan **Obrim la porta a la rehabilitació** last autumn).
- f) Celebration of various sector meetings (III Conference on Penitentiary Volunteering) and general meetings (2 plenary sessions a year).
- g) Cooperation with other Catalan social organizations participation organisms: ECAS, *Taula del Tercer Sector Social de Catalunya*.

All that glitters is not gold.

For this Project to work both parts have to strongly believe in it. Also, a high degree of complicity is required and momentum needs to be build.

You can find us at: <http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/Just>