



“From the jail to the city: the social restaurant, a business model” A project by the co-operative 'ABC LA SAPIENZA IN TAVOLA'

In 2004 ABC, a co-operative of prisoners with a background in food and beverage and of professional caterers with an well-established staff of restaurateurs, started a new project in the jail of Milano Bollate. The coop provided high-end services to local businesses, public administration, universities, associations and private citizens.

To this day ABC has organised over 450 events, including receptions and gala dinners for an upscale clientele. Additionally, it produces its own pastries and pizza to go. Since 2014 it also manages the prison guards' outlet/bar which employs both detainees and external personnel.

The project “From the jail to the city: the social restaurant, a business model” has its origin in 2012, when ABC participated to the fundraiser “Adopt a Hotel School Student”. The fundraiser promoted the opening of a section of the Paolo Frisi hotel school within the prison of Bollate. The school, in fact, had a long history of experimenting with initiatives aimed at creating advantageous synergies between the jail system and the school's programmes. ABC's idea was to equip its prisoners with skills through a formative process which would lead to the attainment of a diploma, in order to consolidate and extend the possibility of social rehabilitation when prisoners were released from jail. This year the prison's hotel school will have its first graduating class.

ABC's other plan was to open a 'social restaurant' inside the jail with the involvement of prisoners in order to offer them a strong curriculum to help eliminate the stigma imposed by society.

In 2013 the company Good Point, whose mission is to sponsor profit and no-profit organisations and to collaborate with companies who work or intend to work in the realm of Social Responsibility, on the mandate of PwC a network distributed in 158 countries with over 195.000 professionals which offers professional services like auditing, advisory, legal and fiscal consultancies, appointed ABC to open and operate as their partner a community restaurant.

ABC, with the Frisi Hospitality School and the Bollate jail management shared and perfected the project to create a restaurant in the Bollate jail with their new partner PwC (who contributed also financially). In 2015 ABC's dream finally came true: the management of the jail, authorised by the Regional Penitentiary Administration Agency, loaned the space for the restaurant.

The following companies joined to make this project possible:

- **Cariplo Foundation** participated in the context of competitive bidding for job creation, by contributing money and sustaining the cooperative throughout the project.
- **Peppino Vismara Foundation** approved the project , participated with a financial contribution and sustained the cooperative throughout the the project.
- **Welfare Ambrosiano** in the area of Company Accelerator of the District of Milano supported the overall project of ABC with a financial contribution.

For the first time in Italy, “InGalera, the restaurant in the most starred prison in Italy”, has opened its door to outside guests who are served by prisoner cooks and waiters.

This project, dedicated the encounter between city and prison life, has become a reality.