

### Long Abstract – Monographic Section

#### *INVESTING IN THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION CARE FOR DETAINEES: TRENDS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES OF THE ITALIAN WELFARE SYSTEM*

*edited by Alberto Pesce e Veronica Valenti*

#### *Social farming in prison: institutions as morphogenetic agents of reconstructive society*

Angela Genova

Overcrowding and harsh delivery of punishment characterize the Italian prison system. Despite the relationship between prison and labour is considered as a controversial issue, between punishment and rehabilitation, labour in penal institutions is considered as a central re-educative tool. Social farming is a specific type of labour activities in prison with a high positive impact on prisoners. In Italy the number of prisoners involved in social farming activities has decreased in the last decade, but the Marche region presents a reverse trend with an increase of social farming activities in prisons. This study investigates the social farming practices in prison in the Marche region as a case study to evaluate their outputs and outcomes in the background of reconstructive social theory by Vandenberghe.

Applying a qualitative research design (short focused ethnography, interviews, focus groups), the results show the number and characteristics of social farming outputs, and the outcomes for prisoners, institutional stakeholders and citizens. The networking between different institutional stakeholders inside and outside the prison, the positive impacts on the wellbeing of prisoners and the points of view of citizens that consume the products of the social farming are presented. The analysis of outcome evaluation data shows the key role played by institutional stakeholders: “struggling against the difficulties” as well as the care for the networking and “we policy” show the capacity of overcoming the potential institutional barriers between roles and professionals in favour of the social farming objectives.

The results highlight the role of social farming in prison as a morphogenetic agent of reconstruction processes for the institutional and administrative personnel, for prisoners and for all citizens as consumers of prison social farming products.