

PRESS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY PRISONER STUDENTS CENTRE INAUGURATES THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

A ceremony was held **today, Tuesday, 20 February 2024**, at the “**Lorusso e Cutugno**” Prison in Turin, to **inaugurate the 2023-2024 Academic Year** of the **University Prisoner Students Centre**. On the same occasion, the new Agreement was signed between the **University**, the **Prison** and the **UIEPE Interdistrict Office for External Criminal Enforcement** for the three-year period 2024-2026.

In attendance were the Rector of the University of Turin **Stefano Geuna**, the Vice-Chancellor **Giulia Carluccio**, the Rector's Delegate for the Prisoner Student Centre **Franco Prina**, the Director of the Prisoners and Treatment Office of the Regional Superintendency of Prison Administration **Catia Taraschi**, the Director of the Lorusso and Cutugno prison **Elena Lombardi Vallauri**, the Director of the Interdistrict External Criminal Enforcement Office **Antonella Giordano**, the Regional Councillor for Childhood, Family and Equal Opportunities **Chiara Caucino**, the Municipal Councillor for Relations with the Prison System **Giovanna Pentenero**, the People Goal Manager of Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo **Marzia Sica**, prison staff and students of the Prison University Centre.

Carlo Alberto Romano, Vice-Chancellor for Local Social Commitment of the University of Brescia and former delegate of the Rector for the Prison University Centre, gave a lecture entitled: “*Crime and punishment viewed by the arts*”.

The **Prison University Centre** was a pioneering initiative in Italy that is now in its **40th year**. Resulting from the commitment of the then Faculty of Political Sciences, in the first half of the 1980s, to provide prisoners with an opportunity to study, the Centre was formally established through a Protocol signed on 27 July 1998 by the University of Turin, the Enforcement Court and the Regional Prison Administration Authority. Relations with the Lorusso and Cutugno Prison in Turin, and with the Rodolfo Morandi Prison in Saluzzo, are governed by a **three-year agreement**.

The University Centre aims to allow prisoners who meet the requirements to exercise their right to study at university level. The University of Turin, with the involvement of lecturers from **8 different Departments**, provides inmates with lectures, seminars and other forms of teaching, assistance with exam preparation, sitting exams, preparing dissertations and presenting them in specially organised graduation sessions or, if possible, in those held at the University's normal venues.

There are currently 121 male and female students subject to deprivation or limitation of freedom orders **enrolled** at the **University of Turin** (see attached tables), **100** of whom are currently detained, across **8 prisons** (Turin, Saluzzo, Asti, Biella, Ivrea, Fossano, Novara, Rome). Two students are in an **REMS** (Residence for enforcement of security measures). **There are only 3 female students** but it is important to point out that the number of women in Piedmontese institutions is much lower than that of men (the female section in Turin has about 130 female inmates). As for the “**detention regimes**”, **51** are medium security, **46** high security, **3** 41 bis, **21** alternative regimes or at the end of their sentences.

In the **Lorusso and Cutugno Prison** in Turin, **25** students are in the "**dedicated**" section, appropriately organised to allow lessons and study to take place, **20** are in other sections of the prison (including the 3 women in the women's section) and **14** students are in alternative measures. **22 degree courses** were attended during this academic year, **13 three-year courses** (*Law for Business and Institutions, Political and Social Sciences, Art, Music and Performing Arts, Motor Sciences, Social Innovation, Communication, New Technologies, Intercultural Communication, Cultural Heritage, Humanities, Agriculture, Global Law, Psychological Sciences and Techniques, Forestry Sciences and History*) **8 Master's courses** (*Public and Political Communication, Sociology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Communication, ICT and Media, History of Religions, Administrative and Legal Sciences for Public and Private Organisations and Strategic Sciences*) and one **Single Cycle** degree course in *Law*. The courses with the largest number of students are the three-year courses in *Law for Business and Institutions* with **28** enrolments, *Political and Social Sciences* with **26** enrolments and *Arts, Music and Performing Arts* with **23** enrolments. In the 2022-23 academic year, there were **7 three-year graduates** and **1 master's graduate**.

The Centre is able to operate thanks to an annual contribution from Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, defined within the framework of the General Agreement governing relations between the University and the Foundation itself. The contribution allows the payment of student fees, the supply of textbooks, teaching and stationery materials, IT equipment and related consumables. It also ensures the presence of three tutors in charge or organising the teaching. A Memorandum of Understanding between the **Alberto and Angelica Musy Fund**, the University of Turin, Ufficio Pio of Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, the City of Turin, SMAT, the "Lorusso and Cutugno" Prison, and the Rodolfo Morandi Prison in Saluzzo, also allows the institutions to work together to promote reintegration paths through a number of work grants to students and graduates who can benefit from the partial freedom or article 21 regime.

Since its establishment in 2018, the prison centre of the **University of Turin** has been a member of the **CNUPP** (the National Conference of University Prison Centres, whose Chairman since its foundation has been Prof. Franco Prina, the Rector's Delegate for the University of Turin's Prisoner Students Centre) at the **CRUI**, which now brings together 44 universities committed to guaranteeing the right to study for prisoners in around 100 establishments across Italy. In the last academic year (2022-23), there were 1,450 male and female students, a number that is set to increase in this academic year.

Full information is available at <https://www.crui.it/cnupp.html>