

123rd edition of the event scheduled at Veronafiery 4-12 and 12-14 November 2021

"PEOPLE AND HORSES": THE NEW FIERACAVALLI and FISE VENETO PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE RETURN TO SOCIETY OF INMATES AT MONTORIO PRISON

Veronafiery, FISE Veneto and Montorio Prison have teamed up to promote - through horses - a path towards rehabilitation after a prison sentence

Verona, 15 June 2021- Social commitment and inclusion: these are the cornerstones of **equestrian culture** that **Fieracavalli** - the reference event for the international equestrian scene - has always been committed to sharing, by demonstrating how horses can play a crucial role in levelling inequalities while also offering **opportunities for rehabilitation** for the most disadvantaged people in society.

It is precisely with the aim of creating a healthier and more inclusive society that a new project promoted by the "**Persone & Cavalli**" Association takes shape, thanks to the memorandum of intent signed by **Veronafiery, FISE Veneto** and **Montorio District Prison**.

"This synergy aims to support and devise projects to help and train prison inmates, as well as promote **rehabilitation and reintegration functions after a prison sentence** through knowledge, care and custody of horses. We are delighted to make our resources, special features and know-how available, backed up by the skills of a partner such as FISE Veneto, to promote a new equestrian culture capable to providing effective support to individuals in difficulty," said **Giovanni Mantovani**, CEO of Veronafiery.

The objectives of this agreement include not only the personal and social recovery of prison inmates but also to **promote job placement** through a training path **directed towards the acquisition of technical-professional skills** that can ensure appropriate access to the employment market.

"Thanks to the stable set up inside the prison," said **Mariagrazia Bregoli**, Director of the Montorio Prison, "we have seen a significant **improvement in the psychological conditions** of the inmates who take care of our horses on a daily basis. The expanding commitment between Montorio Prison, Fieracavalli and FISE Veneto helps us **expand job opportunities** for prisoners by giving greater significance to the re-educational purpose of the prison sentence."

To ensure that such an opportunity for rehabilitation can become a reality, Fieracavalli and FISE Veneto **have launched an appeal** to industrialists, entrepreneurs and operators in the sector to become **project partners** and thereby help start the first course already scheduled in September for **farrier assistants** which 10/15 inmates at Montorio Prison will be able to attend.

The course aims to train highly sought-after niche professional figures in the sector and is divided into two modules for a **total duration of 350 hours**: a theoretical-practical section with teaching staff supported by a Veterinarian and UNOM qualified farriers focusing on horses, equine ethology and the specific topic of farriery; the other purely theoretical section focuses on aspects of business economics, group psychology and safety in the workplace, providing participants with the basic notions needed to reassert themselves in society and all the sporting and tourism realities of the local area gravitating around horses by setting up a **social cooperative**.

"This initial training initiative is only the beginning of a broader project that will include other courses to train professionals in the equestrian sector, such as grooms. The ambition is to become the starting point for creating a **replicable model** throughout Italy supported by local committees," concluded **Clara Campese**, President of FISE Veneto.

During the 123rd edition of Fieracavalli - scheduled in **Verona 4-7 and 12-14 November** - the first results of this project will be presented, involving inmates who have earned the certificate in farriery activities during the demo days.