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Press release



To produce 150 confessionals

WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation signs a cooperation protocol with the General Directorate for Reintegration and Prison Services

The World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon 2023 Foundation and the Directorate General of Reintegration and Prison Services (DGRSP) have signed a collaboration protocol for the construction of 150 confessionals for WYD Lisbon 2023, with the aim of involving the inmate population in the preparation of the largest international gathering of young people with Pope Francis.

This partnership aims to promote the social reintegration, after their release, of inmates serving sentences in the prisons of Coimbra, Paços de Ferreira and Porto, through professional training, work and interaction with the community.

For D. Américo Aguiar, Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon, and President of the WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation, "with this partnership, WYD Lisbon 2023 strengthens its commitment to the inclusion and integration of people who are in a less favoured social situation, seeking to provide the learning of skills that remain for life".

For the DGRSP, the community involvement is an essential component of the work of training and reintegration of the inmate population.

WYD Lisbon 2023 has taken inclusion and environmental sustainability as its commitment, ensuring that the issues Pope Francis focuses on in the encyclicals "Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si", which reflect on integral ecology, care for the common home and concern for the most fragile such as the poor, the sick, prisoners and other groups considered on the margins of society, are treated equally throughout WYD Lisbon 2023.

Integrated in the City of Joy, the Forgiveness Park will be a space for individual and community reconciliation at WYD Lisbon 2023, where 150 confessionals will be placed.

Inspired by an open house, reminiscent of the typical houses in some regions of Portugal, white in colour with a yellow stripe and aesthetic minimalism in terms of structure and materials used, the confessionals were designed by volunteers to welcome and listen to



the pilgrim in a personal and familiar way, allowing for face-to-face dialogue. In each confessional, and in different languages, a priest will be available to welcome and listen to the young pilgrims, inviting them to make the sacrament of Reconciliation.

About DGRSP

The General Directorate for Reintegration and Prison Services has as its mission (article 2 of Decree-Law No. 215 of 2012, of September 28) the development of criminal prevention policies, the execution of sentences and measures and social reintegration and the articulated and complementary management of tutelage educational and prison systems, ensuring conditions compatible with human dignity and contributing to the defence of order and social peace.

The basic values of the organization are considered to be, aggregating a humanistic and re-socializing perspective in the execution of sentences and measures, depriving liberty or of execution in the community, in the scope of criminal justice to the educational dimension in the area of juvenile justice:

- Belief in the human being's capacity for change
- Defending and promoting human rights
- Advocacy for the safety of society
- Valuing social reintegration
- Prevention of criminal recidivism

About WYD Lisbon 2023

Lisbon is the city chosen by Pope Francis for the next international edition of World Youth Day, which will take place between August 1 and 6, 2023.

The international editions of WYD are a religious and cultural event that brings together hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world for about a week.

WYDs were born on the initiative of Pope John Paul II, after the success of the meeting held in 1985 in Rome, during the International Year of Youth.

The first edition took place in 1986 in Rome. WYD has visited the following cities: Buenos Aires (1987), Santiago de Compostela (1989), Czestochowa (1991), Denver (1993), Manila (1995), Paris (1997), Rome (2000), Toronto (2002), Cologne (2005), Sydney (2008), Madrid (2011), Rio de Janeiro (2013), Krakow (2016) and Panama (2019).

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