

SOCIAL FLIGHT ONE – THE WINGS OF FREEDOM THE FIRST AIRPLANE BUILT IN PRISON LANDED AT EXPO 2015

By Xi Fang

Social Flight One, the first airplane in the world built in prison has been unveiled and installed in the KIP Pavilion on July 12, 2015.

The plane has been presented at Expo 2015 by *Mediterraneo Sociale*, a consortium company based in Naples and member of the International Network of Social Economy (RES-INT), as part of the RES-INT week in the KIP Pavilion *If this is food... journey through social economy and the new welfare paradigms*.

Social Flight One has been inaugurated with an official presentation by its creators and promoters, including Salvatore Esposito, president of *Mediterraneo Sociale*, Lucia Castellano, regional councilor of Lombardy, Luciano Carrino, president of KIP International School, Beppe Battaglia from the department *Prison and citizenship* of *Mediterraneo Sociale*, Francesco Maisto, president of the Supervision Court of Bologna, Michele Marrazzo, president of the *Wings of Freedom* cooperative, Carlo Mele, director of Caritas Avellino, Mauro Palma, advisor to the Ministry of Justice, Angelo Righetti, president of RES-INT and Davide Santimone, the designer and the pilot of the aircraft.

Realized in the framework of the project *Wings of Freedom*, the aircraft has been produced in the carpentry of the Prison in the Municipality Lauro di Nola (Avellino, Italia). Only the last phase, the assembly of the aircraft, has been realized at an external workshop. The body is entirely made of wood, while the connecting elements of the structure and the carriage are made from steel.

Equipped with an eco-friendly engine of 1200 cc, the aircraft have a flight range of 1400 km and it is able to land on a 200-meter long airstrip. This kind of aircrafts have high demand among private customers, however, as the dream carried by its name, Social Flight One is created for social use, to monitor forests, archaeological zones and areas at risk of fire.

The project creator Beppe Battaglia underlines



that *The aircraft is a symbol rather than a product. It is the first airplane in the world built not for escaping but for rehabilitating!* Believing the re-inclusion of inmates must pass through the possibility of imaging one's life over the boundary walls of the prison, this project is an extraordinary case of generative welfare and a perfect example of *feeding the planet* with values, participation and sustainability.

The project has been sponsored by the Fund for fight against drug abuse of the Campania Region. Beppe Battaglia has been working on the project in collaboration with Mediterraneo Sociale and the cooperative *Wings of Freedom (Le ali della libertà)*. With the support of the Lombardia Region and the Bollate prison, the project has been acknowledged and may be practiced in this prison near the Expo site.

In the garden of the KIP Pavilion now the *Social Flight One* aircraft built in a prison and *Marco Cavallo* made in the mental hospital of Trieste symbolize that to feed the planet and to build *Attractive territories for a sustainable world* it is necessary, first of all, to promote freedom and rights for all people.

To know more

<http://www.cittasociale.eu>

<https://it-it.facebook.com/MediterraneoSociale?fref=nf>

<http://www.expo2015.org/en/news/all-news/sunday-july-12-at-the-kip-pavilion--the-international-school-presented-the-first-airplane-in-history-made-entirely-in-prison>

http://milano.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/15_luglio_13/milano-expo-aereo-green-costruito-detenuti-cosi-sogniamo-ali-liberta-visita-speciale-63bd2384-2936-11e5-8a16-f989e7f12ffa.shtml?refresh_rum

<http://sociale.corriere.it/ad-expo-atterra-il-social-flight-one/>

http://napoli.repubblica.it/cronaca/2015/07/13/foto/expo_2015_sulle_ali_del_social_flight_one_l_aereo_costruito_dai_detenuti_dell_icatt-118997739/1/#2

