ITALY
Ministry of Justice
Department of Penitentiary Administration

Video surveillance in the Italian penitentiary system

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Stockholm, ICT Workshop

Overview of the Italian Penitentiary System

- About 58,000 prisoners
- 190 prisons
- 39,245 total staff, of whom:
  - 34,792 Penitentiary Police staff (order & security, etc.)
  - 4,453 administrative staff (educators, clerks, technicians, etc.)
  - 310 prison governors (executive ranks)
- 34 % foreigners, 140 nationalities
- About 700 bosses of mafia criminal organizations under special detention regime

Anti-intrusion video-motion

- Use of VCA
- to detect intrusions,
- to check the internal and external perimeter of the prisons,
- to recognize inmates' associations and attitudes, and
- for the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

Video-surveillance and automation

- need to save costs and human resources
- to integrate internal video-surveillance with services automation
- started from the gates opening…
- … and went until the definition of the paths of prisoners within the prisons

- Automation made through tags (badges),
- fingerprints
- and biometrics,
- through specific sensors
- recognize the prisoner, compare him with database and authorize to access to the various areas.
- CCTV system situated in the central control room.

Sala Regia Centrale

Video-surveillance and automation

- **95% of the "medium security" prisoners category, undergo "dynamic surveillance"**,

- by **mobile patrols** within the wings,

- prisoners are guaranteed freedom of movement and participate in treatment activities for at least **eight hours a day**

Evolution within prisons

The evolution of video surveillance within the prisons goes towards a system designed to be used as personal equipment

Evolution within prisons

- Purposes Inside Prisons:
  - Officers' Security
  - Prisoner's monitoring during yard-out time
  - Strikes and other critical events management
  - Covert investigations (audio and video)

- Uses Outside Prisons:
  - Witnesses' and prisoners' transport from Prison to Court
  - Witnesses' protection inside Court
  - Prisoners' transport from Prison to Prison
  - Prisoners' and witnesses' protection in Hospitals.

Evolution within prisons

In case of emergency using any type of network available (TETRA, GSM or Wi-Fi).
Pushing the emergency button automatically:
•starts a priority call,
•sends an alarm message to the Control room
•starts the video transmission and video recording

Similarly the Man Down feature, integrated both in the TETRA radio and monitors the safety of the officers.

Video surveillance on the move

The system of "video surveillance on the move" aims at providing the Penitentiary Police Corps with a functional tool to assist staff in carrying out tasks connected with the recording of the activities carried out while on duty


Vehicles used for transport of prisoners or witnesses are equipped with an in-vehicle PC, for Video Transmission, recording and check of number plates following the Patrol car.

Video surveillance on the move

The transport of prisoners is planned and managed by the Operations Centre.

For the maximum security detainees (Mafia offenders) the transport is planned and managed by a Confidential Operations Center that coordinates agents of the GOM (*Gruppo Operativo Mobile:* Special Intervention Team) and armored vehicles.
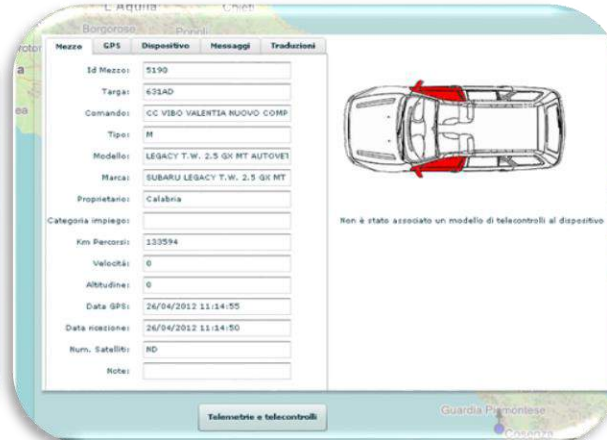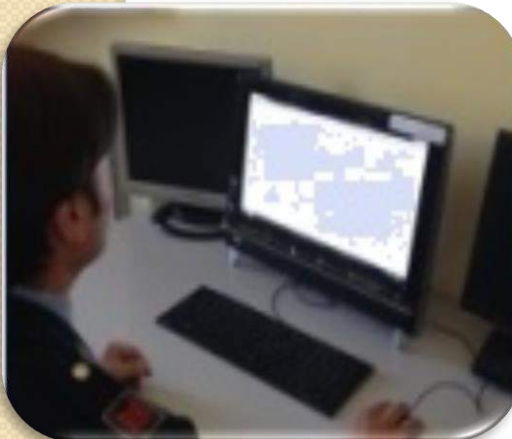
Transportation planning "in the dark"

To avoid any possible interference with organized crime, current technologies enable to plan a **transport "in the dark"**, thus ensuring that the involved officers do not know where to deliver the prisoner. The transfer is set directly by the Operations Centre by sending an SDS in TETRA encrypted network, or an SMS under GSM network coverage.
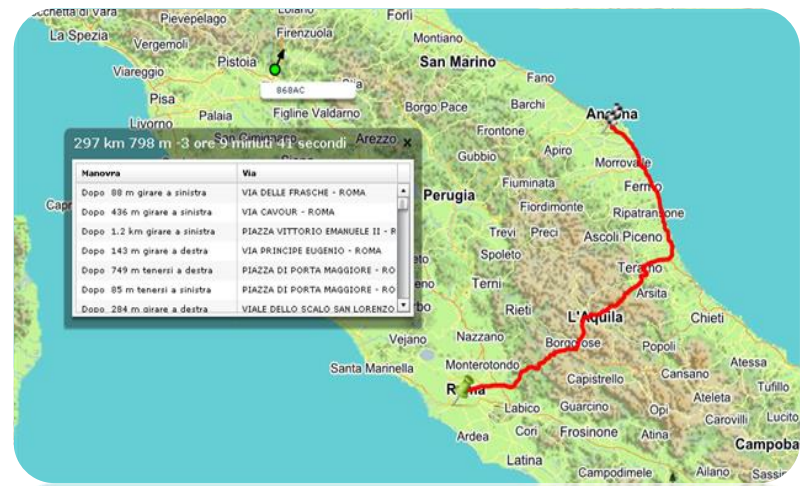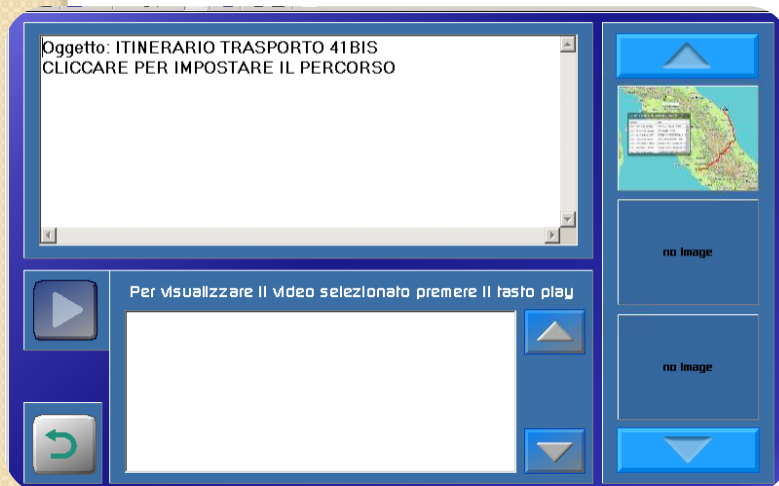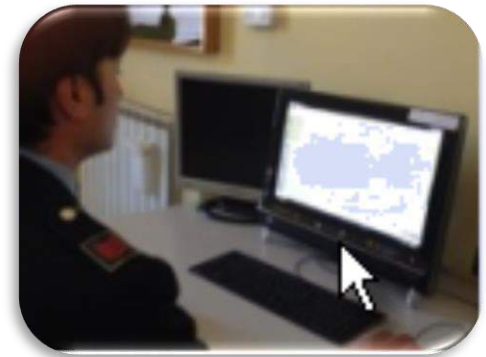
Prisoner identification

The service allows, through the use of device, to identify the transported prisoners by means of the fingerprint, to be compared with the Administration's database in order to guarantee that the right prisoner will be transported.

Live Video streaming

The transfer monitoring is done through Live Video streaming, not relying on TETRA, but through the use of the 3G network, which transmits images by using a dedicated VPN (Virtual Private Network), ensuring that images are not intercepted or replaced by different subjects.

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ANPR

The adopted system allows officers to check suspicious vehicles, through the Automatic Recognition of the Number Plate, comparing the same with the database of suspicious or stolen cars, connecting - both by TETRA or by 3G network - to the Control Room Data Base.
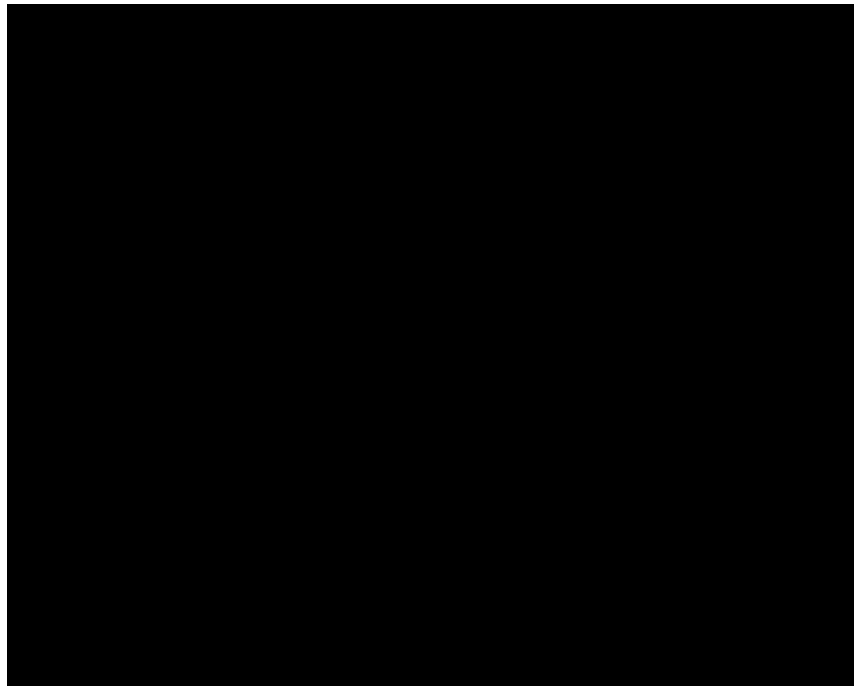
Video surveillance and privacy

Filming is an instrument for integrating the documents by which the Penitentiary Police officers can support the activities carried out

The correct preservation of audio-video footage guarantees the documentary proof of the activities carried out or of the events that occurred during the service

Filming is an official deed, which could contain personal data concerning third parties, protected by the current legislation on privacy: it is therefore forbidden for all operators to:
- Retain copy of the movies
- Disseminate and / or unduly disclose the content of video recordings

Future developments

The use of technology is a very important aspect for the management of security and of treatment activities

Device will also be used to ensure greater efficiency within the prisons through the implementation of a new project, called "Jail Manager", which ensures TETRA communications, video surveillance, indoor localization through WiFi, management of the prison(Door, TV, lights, interphone).

Future developments

- The Penitentiary Police is planning to increase security during guarding services at hospitals. The plan is to use a **device** to put the hospitalized prisoner under surveillance through the use of mobile cameras.

- The use of device also allows to verify the identity of persons admitted to visit the hospitalized prisoner, through the recognition of electronic ID and the connection to remote databases, via TETRA or 3G/LTE.
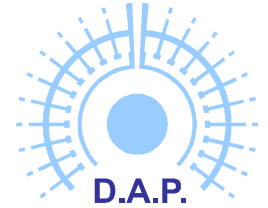
Future developments

The Penitentiary Administration is developing a new project, also based on the use of WiFi IEEE 802.11 to use tools for integration between video surveillance, automation and control and **prevention of possible improper use of mobile phones**

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D.A.P.

Thank you for your kind attention !

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