



Features and activities

- **Guided tours of the exhibition routes dedicated**

- to the prison
- to the landscape and the sea
- to the restoration project and its progress

- **Learning and Education**

Integrated activities with the island of Ventotene in the cultural, scientific, artistic and environmental fields, in collaboration with Italian and European institutional and associative partners

- **Artistic and cultural productions**
- **Workshops, events and exhibitions**
- **Marine and bird observation points**
- **Educational sites**

From 2026, when activities will begin at full speed, a stable flow of visits to Santo Stefano coming exclusively from Ventotene with authorised boats is expected.

The number of visitors is limited to a maximum of 280 per day and the visiting period is set at 8 months per year, respecting the fragile environmental balance, the protection constraints and the marine weather conditions.

Describing the project: the circular model

The four "Cs":

Prison complex

- Urgent measures for securing the complex in the Panopticon
- Safety and restoration works of the former prison
- Landing project
- International design competition of the former Prison Complex

Contents

- Historical research and networking of archives
- Production of video testimonies
- Photographic exhibition
- Production of cultural and artistic content
- Partnerships and framework agreements with Eu/Med universities, cultural and environmental research institutes
- Media partnership with RAI

Community

- Workshop with the Community of Ventotene
- Interactions with the Lazio Region and the Government
- Local entrepreneurship development support
- Relationships with associations

Context

- Bilateral agreements with the Administrations of the Permanent Institutional Table for projects on the island of Ventotene, with additional resources
- Relationships with national, European and Mediterranean institutions



Il Commissario Straordinario del Governo
per il recupero e la valorizzazione dell'ex carcere
borbonico dell'isola di Santo Stefano - Ventotene

Ventotene Project for the restoration and reuse of the former Santo Stefano Prison Complex

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Under the patronage of:



The project

The project was launched in 2016 by the then Prime Minister Renzi with Minister Franceschini, in the presence of Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande.

In 2017, the "Institutional Development Contract" was signed, which provides for the "reuse of the entire complex for primarily cultural and higher education purposes". In January 2020, with the Presidential Decree appointing the Extraordinary Commissioner, the project was set in motion once again.

Vision and purposes

- Restore to collective memory the historical events and human experiences that have marked the 170 years of the Prison's life, highlighting topics such as the dignity of the person, human rights and freedom of thought, as well as the evolution of architecture, prison culture and the concept of punishment.
- Promote a "School of Higher Thoughts" (Eugenio Perucatti, former "enlightened" Director of the Prison) inspired by the values of the Italian and European Constitutions, for the future of Europe and the Mediterranean.
- Protecting and enhancing the cultural, natural landscape and environmental heritage in line with the European Green Deal.
- Promoting cultural and artistic production.



The rebirth

- **1987**: the former prison is declared an asset of major historical interest
- **1997-99**: the Marine Protected Area and the Ventotene and Santo Stefano Islands State Nature Reserve are established
- **2008**: the island of Santo Stefano is declared a National Monument
- **2016**: the Government allocated 70 million euro for the restoration and recovery of the former prison
- **2017**: signing of the Permanent Institutional Contract (CIS) by eight Administrations (state, regional, local) represented at the Permanent Institutional Table (TIP) and with Invitalia as the implementing entity

A new beginning

- **January 2020**: Silvia Costa is appointed Government Commissioner
- **June 2020**: signing of the MIBACT/INVITALIA agreement to launch operations
- **June 2020**: approval of the 2020-2023 Operational Plan and Timetable by TIP
- **November 2020**: the project of "urgent measures for securing the complex" begins (ending in March 2021)
- **February 2021**: the Ventotene Town Council approves the project master plan drawn up with experts



- **March 2021**: publication of the call for tenders for the project of "urgent measures for securing the complex" (set to begin in October 2021)
- **April 2021**: set up and opening at the Ventotene port of the Infopoint showing the implementation stages of the project
- **May 2021**: approval of the Feasibility Study by the Permanent Institutional Table
- **June 2021**: approval of the Document Design Guidelines and the new Economic Framework of the Project by the Permanent Institutional Board. The expenditure of 70 million euros for the implementation of all the CIS interventions is confirmed
- **June 2021**: publication of the Invitalia call for tenders for the international design competition for the entire former prison complex. Deadline for submission of projects: 23rd September 2021