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The Prisoners Ask Why?

Author Giuseppe Lupo meets with the inmates of the prison in Piacenza as part of the project launched by Mediobanca, L'Arte di Vivere con Lentezza and Kasa dei Libri

Piacenza, 13 July 2022 – “The Prisoners Ask Why?” is returning to Piacenza. A new event is being staged as part of the initiative, supported by **Mediobanca**, which was devised by **L'arte di vivere con Lentezza ONLUS** in conjunction with **La Kasa dei Libri** to promote social inclusion in prisons through reading, on Wednesday, 13 July 2022, at the “Le Novate” prison in Piacenza.

This time it will be **Giuseppe Lupo**, the well-known author of fiction and non-fiction, who will be walking through the doors of the prison in Piacenza, along with some thirteen Mediobanca Group staff members. Giuseppe Lupo will lead a group of inmates in conversation to analyse and discuss themes of an ethical and psychological nature with them. The dialogue will be based on a reading of some literary texts to stimulate reflection, critical thought, and uncover the origins of the prisoners' questions.

“We're very pleased to be resuming our in-person meetings in prisons after the hiatus due to Covid, and we're delighted to note the growing interest in this project from the prisoners themselves, and those of our own employees who are volunteering in this project”, said **Giovanna Giusti del Giardino** Head of Group Sustainability di Mediobanca. “The initiative is confirmation of the Group's commitment to promote social inclusion and to deliver growth that is socially sustainable.”

Muna Dell'Acqua Guarino, head of educational projects in India and Italy for *L'Arte del Vivere con Lentezza*, commented as follows: “In these years we've continued to work into prisons despite everything. A well-known writer taking the time to come to prison and discuss the big issues of life with the inmates, after two years in which all of us have come to know better how hard it is to be imprisoned, shows the power of culture to bring about freedom and provide inspiration for the future”.

Mediobanca is a listed banking group offering specialized banking services. It is the leading investment bank in Italy, with a significant presence throughout Europe as a whole. The Group is also now one of the leading Italian operators in consumer credit and in wealth management services to affluent clients. Founded in Italy in 1946, Mediobanca has always combined tradition and innovation, offering its clients specialized, innovative, bespoke products. An established reputation based on professionalism and discretion, combined with capital quality and solidity, make Mediobanca today the ideal business partner for companies looking to grow in Italy and Europe.

Kasa dei Libri is a private space founded by Andrea Kerbaker devoted to the written word. It is situated in Largo Aldo De Benedetti 4, Milan, where it houses the owner's collection of some 30,000 volumes, and promotes culture and the written word through exhibitions and meetings. *Kasa dei Libri* is active in putting together high-level cultural projects and initiatives which are diverse, and never dull, ranging from reading marathons to specific meetings on

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the exhibitions being held in Italian museums in conjunction with many companies ranging from Intesa Sanpaolo to Pirelli, from Telecom Italia to Skira or Altagamma.

Vivere con Lentezza is a project set up in 1999 in the area between Pavia and Milan, which in 2005 became an association with the name ***L'Arte del Vivere con Lentezza***. Since 2009 it has been registered as a charitable organization, and so qualifies as a non-profit-making entity. The association's focus is on slowing down as the first step in gaining awareness of self, others and the environment and then acting accordingly. It organizes cultural initiatives, such as *La Giornata della Lentezza* and *Leggevamo Quattro Libri al Bar*, the association's volunteers are involved in long-term projects valorizing culture, study and learning in Italy and elsewhere, in strongly disadvantaged areas such as slums and prisons. The partners' reflections have resulted in three books that have been translated into various languages. The web site www.vivereconlentezza.it is a registered review and serves as a focal point for the whole "slow" movement.

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