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COMMUNITY SECURITY PUBLIC POLICIES

EUNWA Annual Meeting - Venice, 07 October 2022

We find ourselves in a national, European and international context that brings us back to an important reflection on cooperation at the European level in the field of security and defense. A reflection that started back in 2013 at the European Council, and that is based on the innovated provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and in particular on the role given to the figure of the permanent High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

I start from the Treaty of Lisbon, a document which defined the gradual adoption of a common defense policy throughout the European Union, to arrive at the identification of public policies that each State can internally adopt, in anticipation of a permanent structured cooperation in the field of border defense. But I want also to mention "internal" security. It is clear that with the level of globalization achieved today, the concepts of "internal security" and "borders defense" have changed. In fact, the discussion on strengthening cooperation in the field of defense has undergone a reevaluation by the European Commission due to the new context existing within the countries of the "European neighborhood."

Somewhat, there has been an explosion of crises and conflicts near Europe's eastern and southern external borders. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which continues to claim victims and has important repercussions on all European territories; the conflict in Syria, which has had an immediate impact on neighboring countries, especially in terms of migration flows and management of host communities; the continuing instability in Libya, and so on.

In such a context, the situational prevention tools that the States - and related public entities -, can prepare in different urban contexts, through typical planning acts, assume particular relevance.

The main public security policies today are aimed at reducing opportunities for deviance by supporting citizens' participation in the reconstitution of the truly community dimension. For about a decade now, the main objective of public and administrative action has been the overall improvement of citizens' social conditions, with an eye to their housing conditions and the services they can access, as well as social prevention interventions aimed at reducing so-called criminogenic factors. Not surprisingly, the intervention of the Legislature and public administrators is primarily concerned with ensuring social welfare. The Welfare State system remains a priority element, from which to start, for the creation of a virtuous and "safer" country. Typically, administrative and public actions, such as the definition of LEAs and OELs (Essential Levels of Care and Essential Levels of Benefits), necessarily become welfare policies that enable the raising of community welfare and the definition of the consequent policies of internal security.

The way to achieve truly lasting results lies precisely in combining the various public policies adopted by a State, making them capable of positively affecting (directly or indirectly) the quality of people's lives by readjusting environmental factors that may generate alarm or social discomfort.

Choices of this kind have already been put into practice in various local contexts, through instruments of pacts stipulated between the State and different territorial entities. With this in mind, within the various public actions aimed at increasing the internal security of our country, the Legislature has come to the enactment of a series of legislative packages, the so-called "Security Packages," which represent the point of arrival of a series of experiences materialized in the territory, inspired by the awareness that increasing security not only means intervening at the central level with actions of prevention and repression of crimes, defined by the Public Security Authorities. Increasing security levels comes, instead, primarily from increasing community welfare.

The rediscovery of the community character of society, with the meaning of "community prevention," reveals a persistent antithesis between social support and social control. In this scenario, community development actions are aimed at the overall improvement of social, housing and service conditions thereby implementing the goals of revitalizing the area.

What actions, therefore, could be developed in favor of community welfare and homeland security? By increasing social activity, we prevent degradation and the generation of critical situations. Therefore, public actions in favor of community safety range from:

- Increasing citizen participation in the life of their territories. Statement as banal as it really is. A greater citizen involvement in the life of their country inevitably results in greater attention to the condition of places and the maintenance of performing services.

- Development of social inclusion policies and reduction of barriers. The more citizens can participate in community life, the more the area will be able to prevent forms of ghettoization and division of the community into social classes.

- Interventions to monitor and control activities within communities. Risk prevention remains one of the main tools for maintaining safety. To prevent risk, it is necessary to have a deep knowledge on the topic. Any useful tool to identify and measure an activity (and its associated risk) leads to greater knowledge of the urban context and risk interception/prevention. In this sense, many Administrations have equipped themselves with activity monitoring tools, I am, for example, thinking about a platform adopted by the Municipality of Venice for mapping reports and incidents of deviance within the territory.

- Tools for cooperation between different public actors. Interoperable databases between Administrations, State and Police Forces. It is the following step that a country can no longer postpone, given the increasing globalization and need to draw on the same security information.

- Establishment of highly specialized figures, with multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary training, to support Administrations and Public Bodies.