

Enhancing access to rights in vulnerable contexts: the experience of Bocconi University's Legal Clinics at San Vittore



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💡 the aim of the project is to provide legal support to detainees in San Vittore prison and to develop young students' skills

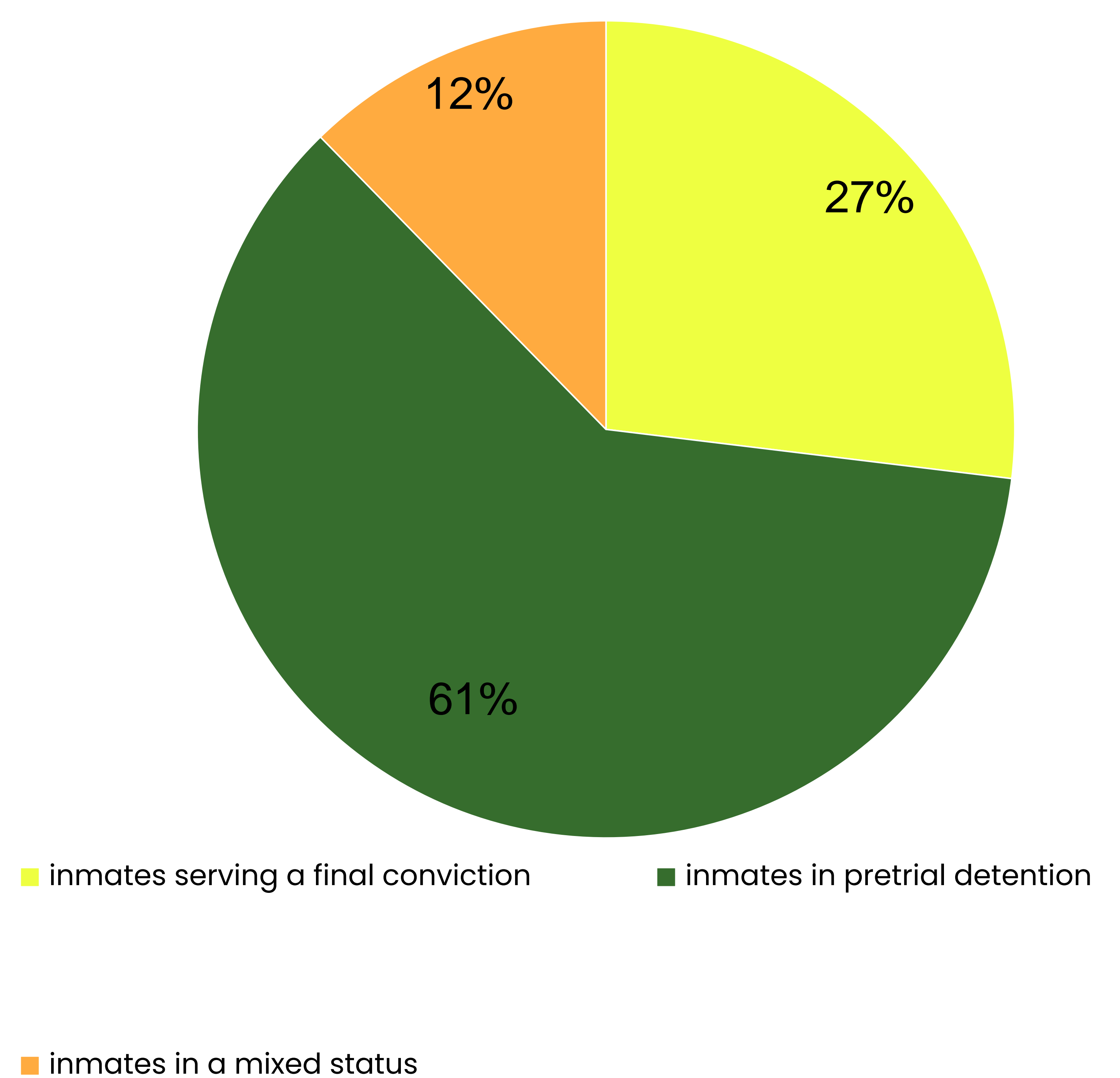
MOTIVATION AND BACKGROUND

- Once arrested, especially if it's the first time in jail, inmates often **suffers** from isolation and abandonment and experience a **sense of disorientation** in the face of the pending criminal proceeding
- Many of them are **foreigners**, who do not understand nor speak Italian
- Lawyers provide legal assistance, but **do not have time** to explain in detail what the detainee is going to face
- Law students do not have many chances to **put into practice** what they have studied during their university courses

METHOD

- **Legal desk** at San Vittore prison 2 days a week, currently involving 5 students
- In person meeting with inmates and provision of legal support to them free of charge
- **Law in action approach**: students explain in simple words the complexities related to the pending criminal case, conduct research, draft professional emails, and, with the inmate lawyer's consent, prepare formal requests to judges
- **Collaboration** with other universities (Politecnico, Bicocca, Unimi), volunteers, law firms and institutional operators (Questura di Milano, Garante dei detenuti)

People assisted September 23-April 24: 125



FORESEEN IMPACT

1. Standardizing **best practices** for legal clinics' beneficiaries and academic researchers through the publication of a vademecum
2. Cultivating **professional skills** in students
3. **Empowering** detainees in understanding their own rights
4. Teaching inmates **basics on criminal procedure**

Key words: rights, awarness, rehabilitation