

CIMI Los Alcores - Spain

Introduction

CIMI Los Alcores, located in Carmona, Southern Spain, is a center for juvenile offenders (in Spanish: Centro Para Menores Infractores). Established in 1998, this facility is operated by the Diagrama Foundation, which manages over 35 secure educational centers across Europe. The primary objective of the Diagrama Foundation is to provide support to vulnerable individuals who are at risk of social exclusion. In their work with young people, they strongly emphasize the importance of family involvement and support as key elements for the rehabilitation of young people.



CIMI Los Alcores is recognized as a re-education center with a primary focus on fostering autonomy among its residents. The facility is divided into two zones: a therapeutic zone and a non-therapeutic zone. This division allows for targeted interventions and treatments aimed at addressing the specific needs of the individuals in their care.

Scale

The facility has space for 104 people, which is why it cannot be described as a small-scale facility. CIMI Los Alcores is divided into a therapeutic zone with 48 beds, and a non-therapeutic zone with 56 beds. Each zone is again divided into several units, each with around twelve beds. Every unit has a different level of autonomy, depending on the security level.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

CIMI Los Alcores accommodates juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18. However, in certain circumstances, this age range can be extended up to 22 years old. It is a mixed facility but mainly houses males. The facility is divided into two zones. Each zone focuses on its own target group. The first zone

houses residents with therapeutic needs. Residents will receive more support for various problems they struggle with. The second zone is specifically designed for the regional placement of young individuals who have become involved with the youth justice system. People can stay in this facility from the beginning of their sentence.

Forms of security:

At CIMI Los Alcores, the security framework primarily focuses on relational security, which is defined by trust, autonomy, and responsibility. Instead of operating from the perspective of distrust, the staff members adhere to the principle of trust and engage with the residents in a friendly and warm manner. Relational security serves as the foundation for the security measures in place and is complemented by static and procedural security measures. Despite the residence being surrounded by a big white wall, static security measures are not very visible. The specific static and procedural security measures depend on the unit and which level of autonomy the residents have.



Activities:



At CIMI Los Alcores, residents are encouraged to take charge of their own schedules and appointments, promoting a sense of responsibility and autonomy. The facility places great emphasis on providing meaningful activities for young individuals, both within the facility and in the community, depending on their level of surveillance. These activities encompass attending school, engaging in employment opportunities, and participating in the maintenance of the facility itself. Every resident is expected to participate in the daily program without exceptions. In cases where a resident does not attend school, they are required to work. The facility recognizes the importance of reintegrating residents into the job market and therefore places significant emphasis on teaching practical job skills.

Residents at CIMI Los Alcores have the opportunity to earn wages for their work, depending on whether they are employed outside the facility. Additionally, the facility offers voluntary work, sports activities, and quality time with family and friends as part of its comprehensive program. Residents cook as a group, but in certain cases, they can prepare their own meals.

CIMI Los Alcores values family involvement and acknowledges its importance in the rehabilitation process. Therefore, residents are permitted to receive visits from their network, including family and friends, whenever possible. This opportunity helps to maintain social connections and provide additional support to the residents.



Community-integration

Location and architecture:

First impression of a visitor: "The facility is located in a forest, so when you drive up there you find yourself in nature. The facility is surrounded by a big white wall so it felt more like a prison than the other facility in Cordoba). When we entered the wall it felt again like a Spanish holiday home".

The facility is located in Carmona, in the province of Seville, in southwestern Spain. It has a population of approximately 29 210 inhabitants (2021).¹ CIMI Los Alcores is situated outside the community, although the idea is that it is part of the community. The

property of the facility is located in a forest and surrounded by a white wall.

Every resident at the facility has their own private sleeping room and bathroom. The facility is equipped with several shared living rooms and kitchens. The facility looks homely by using bright colours inside the facility and having a lot of nature elements in or outside the building. Additionally, the property offers space for leisure activities, such as a large garden. Furthermore, there is a dedicated visitors room to accommodate visits from family and friends.

¹Carmona (Sevilla, Andalucía, Spain) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map, Location, Weather and Web Information. (2021). *City Population*. Retrieved June 20th, 2023, from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/spain/andalucia/sevilla/41024__carmona/

Interaction with the community:

CIMI Los Alcores encourages interaction between the residents and the community, providing opportunities for participation in external activities like education and employment. They have established partnerships with various local organizations, further enhancing the support and resources available to its residents.

CIMI Los Alcores

Founded: 1998

Capacity: 104

Security level: High – Medium
- Low

Nearest city/town: Carmona
(Spain)

Nature of interaction: Visit by
R.JN (29/08/2022)

Publicity/ read more

- About Diagrama Foundation at the official website of Fundación Diagrama:

Inicio. (n.d.). *Fundación Diagrama*. Retrieved June 20th, 2023, from <https://www.fundaciondiagrama.es/>

- Video about CIMI Los Alcores (in spanish):

Fundación Diagrama. (2015, September 21). *CIMI "Los Alcores"* [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved June 20th, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0zHsrEt8SA>