

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (Adult Education) 2014-2020 – Analysis

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Bonn, December 2021

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (2014-2020) :

Overall picture 1 – General statistics

- 154 Prison Education (PrE) projects within Adult education (AdE): 2.2% of AdE projects):
 - 84 “KA104” Mobility projects (2.1% of the Adult Education total)
 - 70 “KA204” Strategic partnerships (2.4% of the Adult Education total)
- Also 7 projects under “KA3” (policy-related / forward-looking cooperation projects)
- Other actions of *Erasmus+* (esp. Youth, VET and Sport) may also be marginally relevant for PrE but are not covered in this review
- Compared with previous 7-year period under the Adult Education (“Grundtvig”) segment of the *Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)*:
 - Somewhat decreased number of total PrE cooperation projects (70 in KA204, compared with 83), despite a much higher budget
 - >50% decrease in the proportion of PrE cooperation projects (KA204) relative to overall AdE (2.4%, compared with 5% in “Grundtvig” under the *LLP*)
- Many KA104 and KA204 projects relate to other aspects of education and training in the context of prisons, rather than to improving learning for inmates in the narrower sense of the term “Prison Education”

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (2014-2020) : Overall picture 2 – Country participation

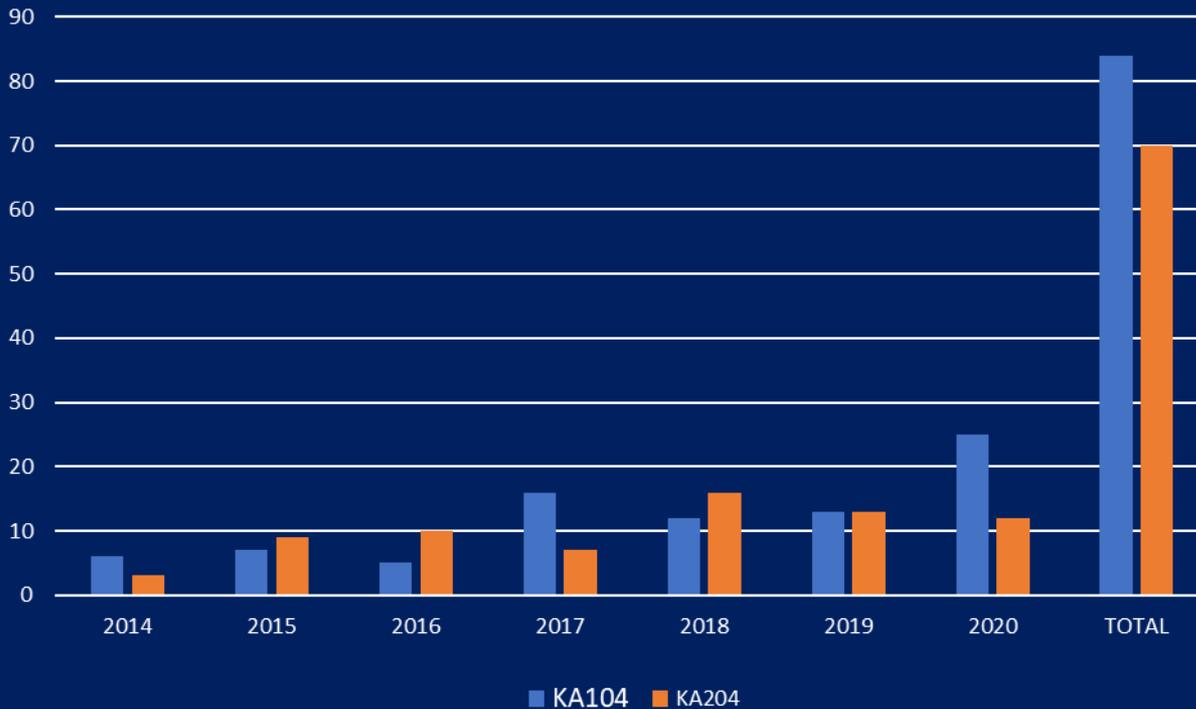
- 26 countries (out of 34) coordinated a project, 8 did not
- 31 countries (all except SE, IS, FL) involved either as project coordinator or partner
- 21 countries coordinated a KA104, 20 countries a KA204 project
- 15 countries have coordinated both KA104 and KA204
- Most active coordinating countries: IT 25; ES 18; FR 15; TR 12; RO 9; NO 8; UK 7; BE.DE 6
- Highest involvement as coordinating (KA104+KA204) or partner country (KA204): IT 47 (involved in 30.5% of all PrE projects); ES 43 (27.9%); PT 33(21.4%); RO 32(20.8%); FR 25(16.2%); TR 24(15.6%) BE.NL 20(13.0%); DE 17(11.0%); GR 16 (10.4%)
- Highest proportion of coordinated KA104 and KA204 projects in PrE among Adult Ed: MT 9.4%; NO 8.5%; RS 7.0%; IE 6.1%; IT 5.7% (all the rest under 5%, 19 countries under 2%)
- Some countries coordinate more in KA104 (ES.IE.MT,NO.TR), others more in KA204 (IT.RO), others are more evenly involved in coordinating projects under KA104 and KA204
- Surprisingly low involvement of certain countries with strong PrE systems, notably in Scandinavia (except for NO): DK.SE.FI. Sweden (SE) is the only country not involved in PrE under *Erasmus+* KA104 or KA204 projects at all, either as coordinator or partner, except for the very small countries FL (which does not have a full prison system) and IS

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (2014-2020) :

Overall picture 3 – Other general aspects

- Significant differences between KA104 and KA204 in terms of funding levels
 - KA204 partnerships cost on average 8 times more than KA104 projects
 - An average project year within KA204 costs almost 6 times more than in KA104 projects
- ...and as regards the coordinating organisations of projects: Adult education centres are the most frequent coordinator of KA104 projects (49%), whereas most KA204 projects are coordinated by NGOs (53%)
- Thematically, many key areas of PrE are addressed, but conversely many of the projects fall outside the scope of 'prison education' in the usual definition of the term, dealing instead with VET or therapy for prisoners (notably relating to drug abuse), the further training of prison or probation officers, restorative justice and victim support or experimenting with alternatives to prison etc.)

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (Adult Education): Mobility Projects KA104 and Strategic Partnerships KA204 2014-2020: Total number of projects



Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (Adult Education) (KA104 and KA204) 2014-2020: Annual quantitative trends



Prison Education in *Erasmus+* (Adult Education) (2014-2020) : Project funding

- Total funding KA104 €2,049,022 + KA204 €13,967,003 = €16,016,025
- Almost 7 times more spent on PrE under KA204 than under KA104
- KA104 Ø €24,393 per project, Ø 14,430 per year of project funding
- KA204 Ø €199,529 per project, Ø 82,645 per year of project funding
- KA204 projects thus cost on average >8 times KA104, and each year of project funding costs almost 6 times more under KA204 than KA104

Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104)

2014-2020: Key features (1)

- **Coordinating countries:**
 - 21 countries (out of 34) in all coordinated a project
 - Top countries: ES(15) TR(10) IT.NO(8); FR(7) IE(5) BE(4); DE.MT.NL.UK(3)
- **Duration:**
 - Most usual are 2-year projects: 46 projects (=55%)
 - 1-year projects: 32 (=38%), 3-year (only from 2019): 6 (=7%)
- **Funding:**
 - Wide range: €1,160 (FR) → €131,292 (IT) per project (Ø €24,393)
 - Average per project-year: €14,430
 - Predominance of relatively small-scale projects (68% under €30,000) (*see chart on "Size of grant"*)
- **Mobility 'volume'** (data for 51 projects):
 - <10 'mobilities': 20 (39%); 10-19 'mobilities': 19 (37%); 20 or more 'mobilities': 12 (24%)
- **Mobility duration:**
 - Short-duration mobility strongly predominates (up to one week)

Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104)

2014-2020: Key features (2)

- **Topics:**

- Frequent: Professional development of Prison Education teachers in Basic skills/Literacy, Host country language teaching, Arts (several forms), IT
- But also many projects on Health issues / drug therapy (not 'classical' prison ed., but outside prisons Health is considered an important focus for Adult education, so why not 'inside' also...?)
- Many projects on VET for prisoners...
- ...or even on further training of prison officers: out of focus for AdE?
- Post-release and social service strategies, inter-agency collaboration, victim support, sensitisation of society at large to issues concerning prisons and prisoner rehabilitation

- **Mobility activities:**

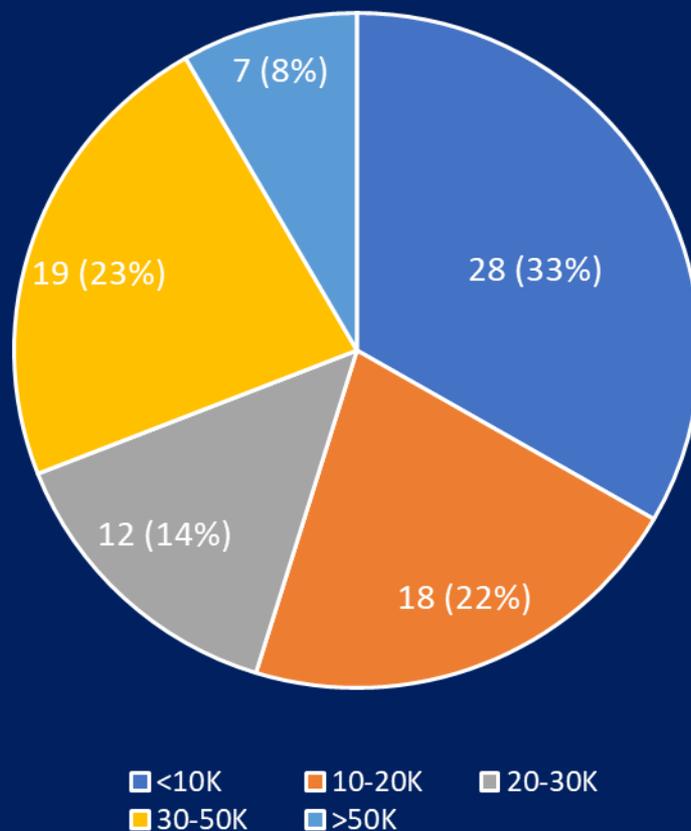
- Less formal training formats (especially Job-shadowing and Study Visits) predominate over structured (sometimes customised) courses
- A few individual training placements
- Very few teaching assignments (only one clearly identified)
- Some projects foresee mobile groups, others mobility of individuals

Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104)

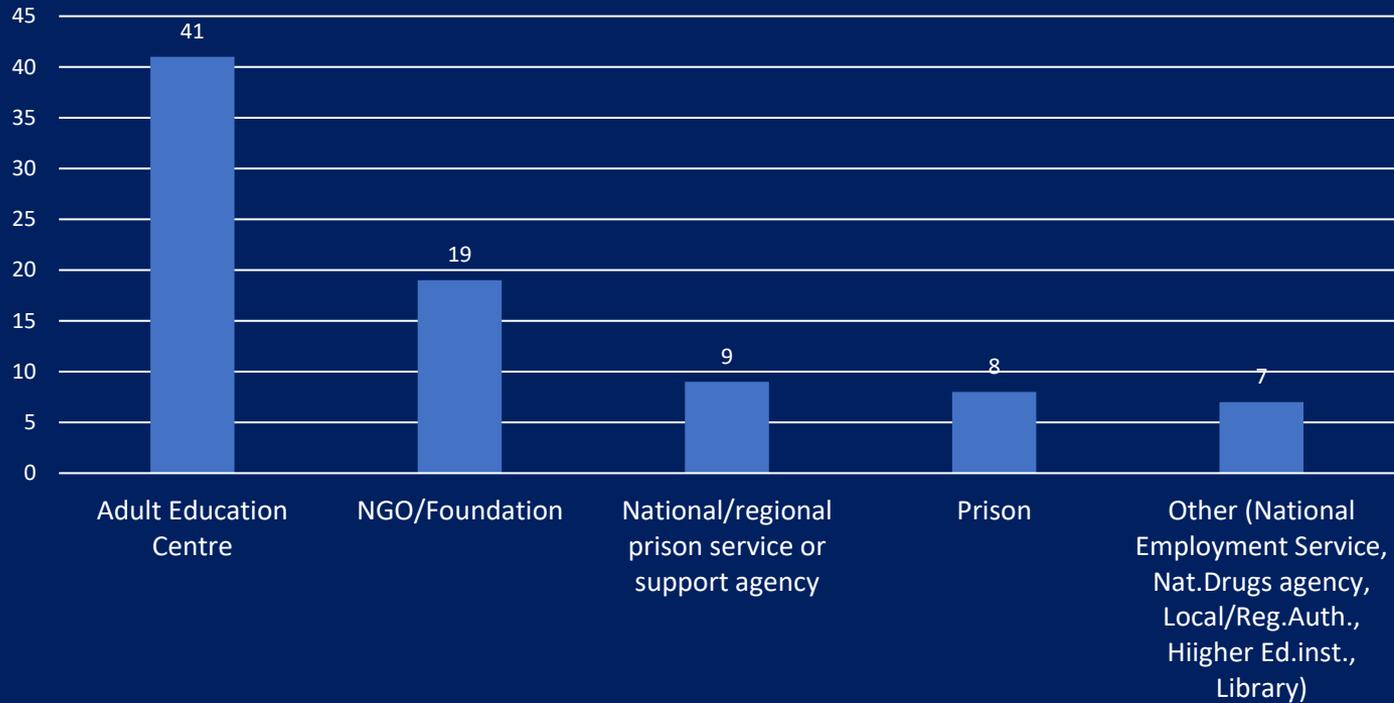
2014-2020: Key features (3)

- **Target groups:**
 - Some “general”, others focus on staff working with specific groups (foreign prisoners, juveniles, women prisoners etc.)
- **Outputs:**
 - Mostly local, but some more ambitious (e.g. new plan for prison ed. in NL; new curriculum and certification system for prison ed. in NO)
- **Importance attached to dissemination**
 - Often through meetings (even at national level), events, websites; some references to dissemination via EPAL
- **Other interesting aspects of certain projects:**
 - Reciprocity, involvement of ex-prisoners in mobility, training of serving inmates to become mentors / peer trainers, liberal interpretation of ‘staff’ categories eligible to travel, often several different categories of staff travel within the same project, town-twinning as framework for cooperation

Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104) 2014-2020: Size of grant (in €)



Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104) 2014-2020: Coordinating organisations



Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204) 2014-2020: Key features (1)

- Geographical participation:

- Coordination:

- 20 countries in total
- Top countries:
 - ❖ Total numbers: IT(17) FR(8) RO(7) UK(4) DE.GR.ES.LT.HU.PT (3)
 - ❖ PrE as proportion of AdE: RS (15.4%) IT (7.5%) RO (6.4%) LT (5.4%) HU (4.8%) PT (4.7%) GR (3.9%) BE (3.6%) NL (3.4%) FR (3.3%) HR.UK (3.2%)

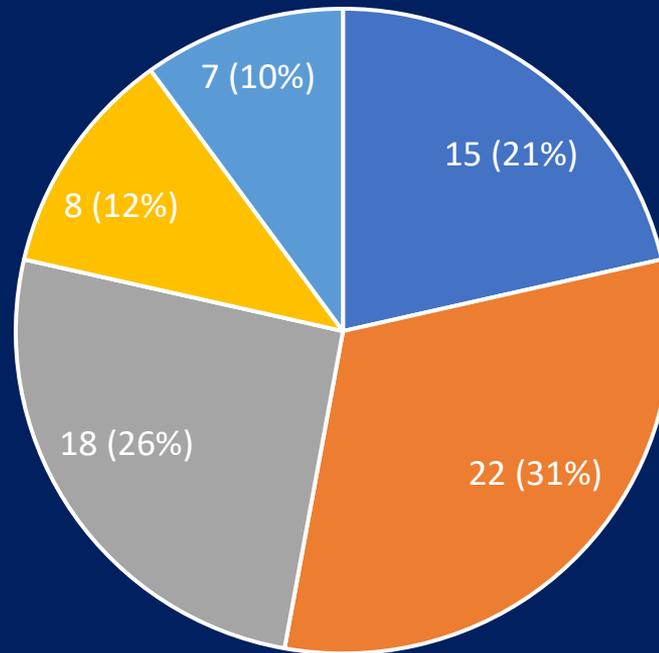
- Overall involvement including coordination and participation:

- Top countries: IT(39)(=56% of all PE projects) PT 31 (44%) RO 30 (43%) ES 28 (40%) FR 18 (26%) NL 17 (24%) BE 16 (23%) DE.GR.TR 14 (20%) PL 13 (19%) UK 12(17%) LT 9 (13%) CY 7 (10%)

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204) 2014-2020: Key features (2)

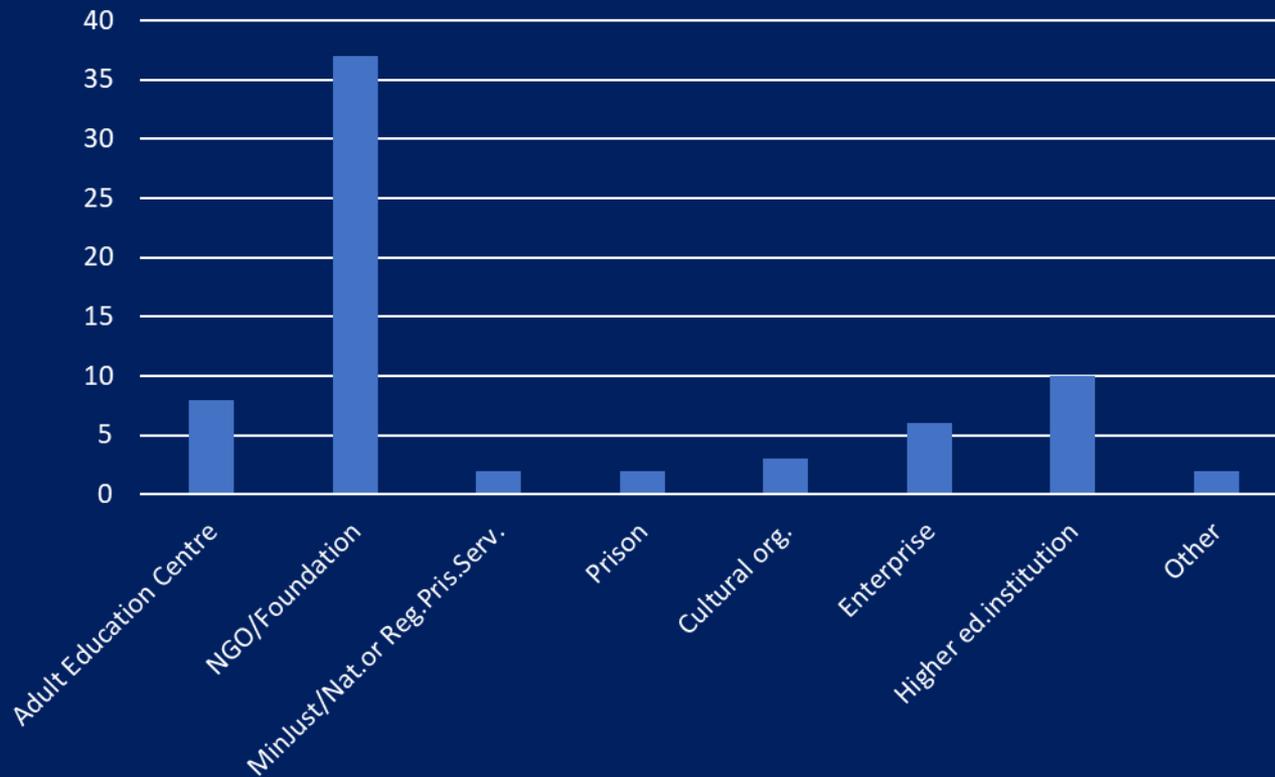
- **Size:**
 - 3-8 participating countries (Ø 4.6 per project)
 - 3 countries: 16 (23%); 4 countries: 17 (24%); 5 countries 20 (29%); 6 countries: 13 (19%); 7 countries: 3 (4%); 8 countries: 1 (1%)
- **Duration:**
 - 1-year projects: 2 (3%); 2-yr.proj.: 36 (51%); 3-yr.proj.: 32 (46%)
- **Funding:** [See also separate chart on size of grant]
 - Wide range: €33,970 (TR) → €449,845 (IT) per project (Ø €199,529), €17,603 (BE) → €149,948 (IT) per project-yr. (Ø €82,645)

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204) 2014-2020: Size of grant (in €)

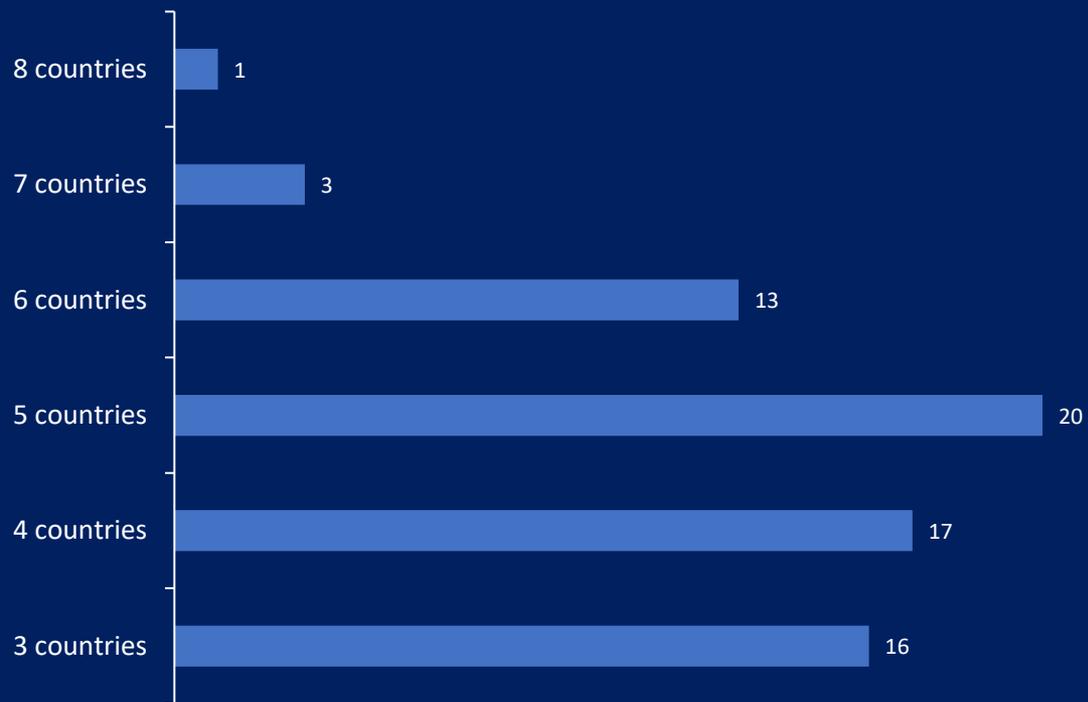


■ <100K ■ 100-199K ■ 200-299K ■ 300-399K ■ 400+K

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships KA204 2014-2020: Coordinating organisations



Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204) 2014-2020: Number of countries per project



Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Thematic focus

- In one way or another, all projects focus on successful reintegration in society
- Projects cover a wide range of themes (*see next slide*)
- Relatively few relate to 'classroom' situations, more to non-formal/informal learning
- Many address prison education in general rather than specific disciplines
- Strong emphasis on 'personal' attributes / behaviour, boosting motivation and self-esteem, developing 'soft' skills and social competence rather than cognitive aspects of learning
- Many projects span prison education and other aspects of the prison régime: making the prison a more positive learning environment
- Many projects link prison education with other aspects of social marginalisation
- Several seek to strengthen links with the outside community (probation, employers, inter-agency cooperation, awareness-raising in society about ex-prisoners, volunteer organisations)
- Several projects relate to VET (for prisoners) or even VetPro (continuing training for prison officers)
- Collectively, the projects challenge the received notion of 'Prison Education' (see comments in Slide 4)

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Main Topics (1) (prisoner-related)

- Basic skills / literacy
- Personal and social skills
- Arts and creativity (theatre, music, dance, video-production)
- IT (digital competence, e-platforms, gaming, coding...)
- VET and employment-related reintegration of prisoners
- Active citizenship
- Language (host country language - L2) and inter-cultural competence
- Sport
- Cooking
- Family and parental issues
- Anti-radicalisation
- Health-related issues (addiction, mental health, stress, aggression...)
- Environmental awareness, sustainable lifestyle after release
- Autobiography
- Ageing problems

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Main Topics (2) (system-related)

- Prison education in general
- Staff development (education and other staff)
- Human rights and anti-discrimination issues
- Role of the prison library
- Validation / accreditation of non-formal/informal learning
- Developing restorative justice methods
- Raising awareness of prison and reintegration issues in the general community

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Target groups

Staff

- Prison educators / teachers / learning facilitators
- Other prison staff: Prison officers, psychologists, social workers, probation officers and workers, volunteers, health workers...
- Staff in national prison services / training centres

Prisoners

- General (most projects)
- Female prisoners
- Juvenile prisoners
- Foreign prisoners
- Remand prisoners
- Older prisoners
- Prisoners close to time of release
- Prisoners with special needs

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Outputs (1)

- Research reports, state-of-the-art reports, best practice reports
- Catalogues of teaching materials
- Needs analyses
- Surveys
- Online tools, games, exercises, blended learning formats, open learning resources, e-books, videos (even a “Dynamic Virtual Reality System”), digital radio
- E-platforms and online services, websites
- Training activities, courses, programmes, modules, including joint curricula
- Procedures for validating and accrediting learning outcomes
- Methodological toolkits, manuals, train-the-trainer materials
- Quality assurance procedures
- Competence portfolios (including new professional profiles, e.g. social theatre operator) and frameworks

Prison Education Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Outputs (2)

- Peer-learning and mentoring guidelines (e.g. Inmate Health Contact Groups)
- Guidelines on many topics (e.g. inter-agency cooperation post-release)
- Policy recommendations
- Indicators (e.g. vulnerability to radicalisation)
- Drama productions, multi-media performances and other artistic outputs
- Definition of European standards (e.g. 3D-printing in prisons)
- Self-efficacy tests
- Motivation strategies
- Techniques for sensitisation of society regarding reintegration of ex-prisoners
- Reports on project, study visits etc.
- Project newsletters
- Analysis of European project results
- European cooperation networks

Prison Education Mobility Projects (KA104) and Strategic Partnerships (KA204): Dissemination activities

- Multiplier events (local, regional, national, European)
- European tools and networks (EPEA, Europris, EBSN, EPALE, IJJO...)
- Reports to Ministry / authorities (e.g. Policy recommendations)
- Targeted training events / training courses
- Newsletters
- Websites and webinars
- Social media (e.g. Facebook profile page for interaction with other experts)
- Press releases and press conferences
- Articles in journals and newspapers
- European Study Day

Prison Education in *Erasmus+* Forward-looking policy / cooperation projects in Education and Training (KA3)

2015

- European interaction guidelines for education professionals in juvenile justice (“EIGEP”)(PT)
- Education for foreign inmates (“FORINER”) (B-nl)

2016

- Secularism and radicalisation in prison (“SERA”)(FR)
- Rights, Duties, Solidarity: European Constitutions and Muslim Immigration (IT)

2017

- Transnational prison up-skilling guidance and training model (“SkillHUBS”) (SI)

Forward-looking policy / cooperation projects in Education and Training (KA3) - 2

2019

- Education, Training and Lifelong Learning as Dynamic Interventions to promote Inclusion and Common Values in Correctional Justice for Minors and Young Adults with Educative Challenges (“EDUPRIS”)(RO)
- European Career Counselling Guidelines for Staff working in Criminal Correctional Justice System (RO)

2020

- Socially excluded youth of Media Literacy (“SEMELI”)(CY)
- National Network of Schools for Parents in Prison, enhancing responsive father parenting (NESTOR)(GR)
- Inclusive Approach to Inmate Social Rehabilitation and Education (SI)

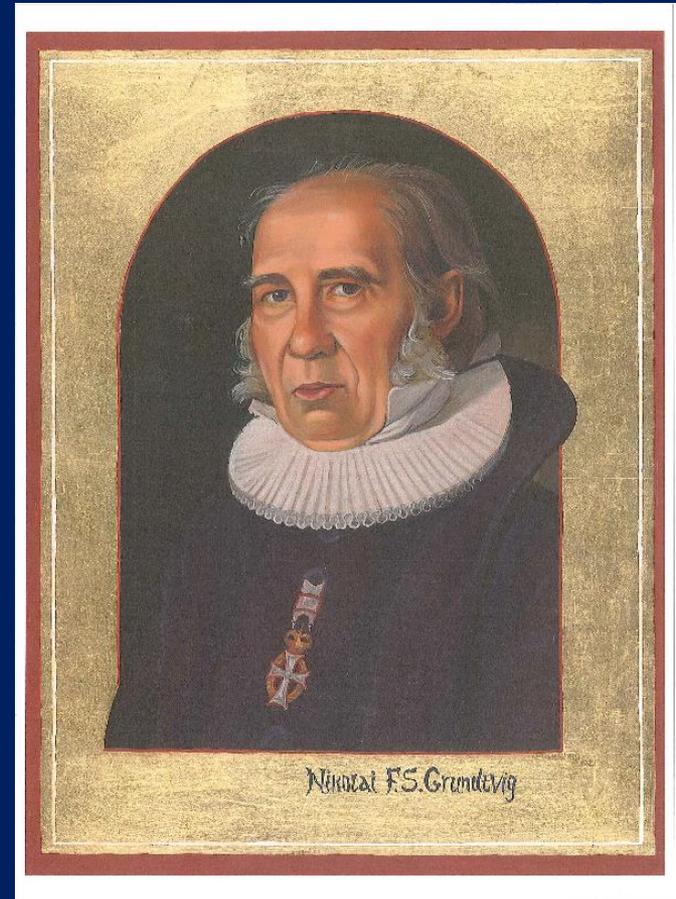
What benefits do organisations derive from European cooperation?

- New contents, methods and tools („Learning Organisation“)
- Enhanced inter-cultural sensibility of staff and learners
- Enriched knowledge and competence:
 - Specific subject areas / issues addressed by projects and mobility
 - Foreign language proficiency
 - Ancillary aspects such as project management, IT and media
- Enhanced motivation of staff, livelier organisation generally
- Sustainable professional networks as a long-term resource
- Strengthened international relations
- Enhanced status of organisation in local and regional community
- Improved public awareness of prison-related issues
- Stronger conviction of need for European unity, however defined
- Improved prospects in the acquisition of external funds
- Life-changing experiences for staff and learners
- Lasting personal friendships across borders

European cooperation in prison education: stimulating innovation, changing lives

***Icon painting of
N.F.S.Grundtvig (Denmark),
the « father of adult education »,
by Sava Kostadinov (Bulgaria),
ex-prisoner, now icon painter and restorer,
who sees his life as having been changed by
participating in a Grundtvig project***

*Presented by the artist to the European Commission
on the occasion of the Conference on
European Cooperation in Prison Education
« Pathways to Inclusion», Budapest, February 2010*



Finally...

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The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission

The presentation is available on request from the author as a Powerpoint file