

Learner - Participant Information Sheet

Research Project Title

VALMOPRIS (Validation and motivation for informal and non-formal learning in prisons)

Local researcher

{Insert name and details here}

Invitation to participate

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important of you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please also feel free to ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the project's purpose?

VALMOPRIS is an Erasmus+ funded project, with support from the European Prison Education Association (EPEA). Professionals and teachers from seven European countries – Austria, France, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania and Scotland – are working in close partnership to **design, deliver** and **validate** a wide range of non-formal and informal learning activities or projects which will be delivered in prisons.

The purpose of the research project is to examine the ways informal learning can help to develop motivation and confidence for learners. We want to explore the impact of validating the learning gained informally and the motivational potential of providing certificates to measure the learning achieved.

The project will last between eight to twelve weeks.

Why have I been chosen?

We want to work with prison learners, particularly those who are engaging in informal and non-formal learning on a regular basis.

This is an important research project for us. The information we gain will help us to find ways to better support your learning in the future and to make sure that achievements and progress are being properly recorded.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form). It is important that you remember that you can still withdraw at any time without it affecting your ability to continue with your learning. You do not have to give a reason.

What will happen if I take part and what will happen to the results?

You will take part in a learning activity that has been carefully designed to help you to develop key learning competences. The length of your engagement in this particular learning project will be {insert length in weeks}

The research element will be carried out by your teacher and will adopt a socio-ecological approach. This means that two questionnaires will be completed by yourself, your teacher and a prison stakeholder, (**most likely your personal officer**) as honestly as possible – one before the project begins and the other after the learning activity has ended.

The purpose of this questionnaire will be to consider the improvements to key competences as a result of your engagement with the learning activity, such as communication skills, your capacity to work in a team.

The findings (information gathered from the questionnaires) will form part of a final research document focusing on the potential of informal and non-formal learning to provide motivation for future learning. This report will be published online and will be available for universal access. The findings will also feed in to the development of a range of practical learning tools.

What are the possible disadvantages or benefits of taking part?

You would be asked to commit for the duration of a learning project; this means if you are going to be liberated during the project, it might be difficult to include you in our research. Your teacher can discuss this with you.

You will gain a certificate outlining the progress and skills you have gained as a result of your involvement in the project. Our hope is by measuring and recording this information it will help with employability and future study.

Again, may we reiterate, **participants are free to withdraw at any time**. If any problems arise during the learning activity or research project, you can raise a complaint with your teacher, or if you'd prefer, the {**Learning Centre Manager**} in the first instance, who will put you in touch with your national Research Supervisor.

Will my details be kept confidential?

All the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications. To be very clear, we will not use your name or any personal details whatsoever.

The research we gather from this project may also be used in further research projects. If this situation arises, all personal data will be stripped before the research findings can be passed to future researchers. Again, absolutely no personal details will be published.