











# **Proposal**

# Summary of the strategic plan to follow in prison teaching and education, according to the conclusions drawn from the Project debates - February 2015

(Agreements to be brought to the attention of both Prison and Education Administrations)

#### 1. Presentation of the national education system in prisons

In general, it doesn't change much from one country to another; we all put an emphasis in mandatory basic levels; we understand that teaching in prison implies preparing people to re-enter into society by using the same teaching tools.

# 2. Presentation of the work planning for a week

The time a student dedicates to school during a week depends on their needs and the teachers' availability, that's why teachers should always be available to answer students' needs properly.

#### 3. Presentation of the methodology to follow in the teaching of the target language

- We all work on the basis of meaningful learning and on track towards speaking skills first.
- We all make use of images and graphic material.
- Oral expression is mostly encouraged, moving to writing and a correct use of the
- grammar.

#### 4. Diagnosing models for detecting new inmates' needs

- Placement tests.
- Interviews, agreements on individual educational pathways made with students

#### 5. Access to internet

- We already know the French experience and we all agree it is necessary because:
  - o Students need to get familiar with this resource to be able to access to the labour
  - It is also a teaching tool for teachers.









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- o If you don't know how to use the Internet, are you an illiterate nowadays?
- o Problems:
  - How to restrict access to web pages?
  - Which web pages can students open? Under which criteria?
  - Could it be a risk in terms of communication and continuity with criminal practices?

### 6. Special locations used as classrooms:

- All places can be used as learning spaces:
  - o Classrooms
  - o Events hall
  - Corridors
  - o Canteens.....

### 7. Methodology to teach intensively in short periods

- It should be creative and focused on the students' participation and their needs;
- Individual work, pair work or small group work should be promoted;
- Global and/or interdisciplinary approach;
- Focus on tasks and meaningful learning (functional, practical, really useful = transfer principle);
- New technologies must be necessarily used due to the current society requirements; respect student's learning pace;
- Focused on the acquisition of Basic Competences.

#### 8. Basic training for teachers in prison

- We understand that a specific training is necessary to work in an efficient (result /economy) and effective (result /condition) way; to this end it is very appropriate to work on these courses:
  - o Education Regulations
  - o Prison Regulations
  - o Expertise in teaching students in exclusion, with specific situations...
  - o Team work
  - o Expertise in Further and Adult Education



















#### 9. Individual contract for students

#### 10. Search for means of financing

#### 11. Lack of staff

- The teaching staff must be enough in number to answer the educational tasks( lately they are running low).
- Teachers must belong to the Ministry of Education but in coordination with the prison Administration.

### 12. Coordination between education and vocational training

Students need an access to Vocational Training Studies so that they can later get professional qualifications that enable them to enter the labour market.

#### 13. Monitoring and coordination among the different services

- A coordinated work is required if we want the prison sentence really to serve for social reintegration.
- We all work with a common goal: reintegration.
- All the socio-educational and cultural activities should be built around the inmate-student.
- Students must take part in the school governing bodies.
- Coordination implies a more optimum use of the resources, and there is no activities overlapping.

#### 14. Students' motivation

- Acknowledgment in serving the sentences as well as obtaining certificates help motivating the students.
- The way teachers work and their attitude-ability improve the students' motivation.

#### 15. Relationship between education inside and outside prison:

It is essential that students have the chance to continue with their studies once they are out of prison (release or day release).









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### 16. Flexibility of the educational plans

It would be appropriate to ensure maximum flexibility for the conditions and timing of the educational plans/modules.

#### 17. Constant inmates' entries and/or exits

This is still one of the big difficulties we face with our students in prison; we should keep searching for solutions as flexibility....

## 18. Vocational training validation

• Everything that can be studied in prison must have an external validation; that's why professionals who validate this learning.

### 19. Target language validation for foreigners

We found very interesting the fact that in other countries foreign students have the chance to get a degree/certificate and this is needed to enjoy legal stability.

#### 20. Basic Competences a prison teacher must fulfil

Competencies related to varied aspects such as:

- Honesty and ethics values.
- Communication and team work
- Knowledge of the prison context
- Knowledge of abilities and methodological strategies to work with personal and/or social disabled people.
- Ability to motivate, facilitate and encourage.
- Self-confidence
- Ability to value and assess social as well as personal procedures/ attitudes/achievements related to learning.
- Ability to change, to adjust resources according to the students' needs.
- Ability to cooperate with external and internal representatives in order to improve rehabilitation.
- Ability to face daily conflicts likely to happen in the classroom.
- Knowledge and use of new technologies, which students must be trained in.







