

# Project ON / OFF

GRUNDTVIG Learning Partnership  
n° 2013-1-IT2-GRU06-516403

**Exchange of Methodologies  
in education of detainees**



# **GRUNDTVIG Learning Partnership ON/OFF Project**

**PRESENTATION n° 1**

## **Introduction of the French system for formal education in prison**

# France : Organization in Territories



# Different types of French prisons

- 101 prisons “**Maison d’arrêt**”: these institutions accommodate on remand and convicted inmates whose sentence (or sentence’s rest) does not exceed 2 years.
- 82 penal institutions “**Centre de détention**” and “**Maison centrale**” : detention centres (for sentences over 2 years) and central detention centre (for very long sentences).
- 6 youth institutions “**Etablissement pénitentiaire pour mineurs**” that hosted convicted and on remand juveniles under 18 years old.

# Different French ministries can be involved to manage with Education in prison

The two important ones are :

For vocational training : **Ministry of Employment,**

For formal education : **Ministry of Education,**

both supervised by the Ministry of justice

(Prisons' Administration).

# French ministry of education

The organization of the teaching units in prison belongs to the French ministry of education closely related to the organization of the penal institutions and prisons' administration.

# What does the code of criminal procedure say?

- ▣ «Primary education is provided in all prisons».  
«Convicts who can not read, write or calculate commonly should receive this education».
- ▣ «Other inmates may be allowed on request».
- ▣ «Prisoners may engage in all studies compatible with their criminal status».

# What does the penal law dated

**Article 27 - Chapter 3 - Section 2 :** « Any convicted person is required to perform at least one of the activities offered to him by the director of the prison and the manager of probation and reintegration service if it has the purpose to rehabilitate and is suitable to his age, abilities and personality. If the convicted person does not control the fundamental teachings, the priority is the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic. When French language is not mastered, this activity is a priority in their learning. Learning could also be organised when the inmate works. »

**Article 60 - Chapter 3 - Section 9 :** « Minors who are not subject to compulsory education are required to complete an activity with educative features. »



# Purposes of law dated April 23, 2005

« Compulsory education should at least guarantee the acquisition of a **common core of skills and knowledge** that is essential to master successfully complete education, continue training, build personal and professional future and have successful life in society. »

# Pillars of the common core, what are they?

- Mastering French language
- Practice a foreign language
- Main elements of arithmetic as well as scientific and technological culture
- Control of usual information and communication technologies
- Humanistic culture
- Social and civic competences
- Autonomy and initiative

# Teaching in prison : Aims

- ▣ Participate to admission of new detainees for needs' diagnosis (training pathways, identification of illiteracy,...) in all prisons.
- ▣ Develop education for all applicants with a specific focus on minors and young adults without qualifications including the illiterated ones.
- ▣ Support the person (own development and self-esteem)
- ▣ Facilitate different forms of access to knowledge
- ▣ Evaluate and validate the achievements.

# Teaching in prison' Organization

- In each penal institution, there is one local teaching unit (school);
- Teachers teaching in prison, as public servants, belong to French national ministry of education.

Since 1995, Ministries of Education and Justice have common references to underpin the work of teachers.

# 2012 French national Data

## Contributors to Education in prison

*(Formal, non formal, unformal)*

- 460 full-time teachers (FTT) among which:
  - 396 primary school teachers trained to teach in prison,
  - 64 secondary school teachers.

These 460 FTT as public servants belong to the French ministry of education.
- More than these 460 FTT, we also have to consider :
  - trainers involved in vocational training (public/private training centres),
  - NGOs' with volunteers (ex. GENEPI).

# Who are the teachers from French ministry of education?

- Graduated teachers qualified to teach in special schools. Their training is in 2 periods :
  - ☞ one year of specialization on persons with special needs (ie. Disabilities, ...)
  - ☞ 3 weeks with specific topics on prison (environment, security, rules...)
- 2nd Degree Teachers (part time)

# Teaching in prison : Characteristics

- Individualization of training pathways
- Management of differences
- Permanent get in / get out
- Prison constraints' dependencies
- No control of time
- Simultaneity of two procedures (Justice / Education)
- Disabilities (mental disorders, behavioural attitudes, addictions,...)

# Project ON / OFF

## GRUNDTVIG Learning Partnership

n° 2013-1-IT2-GRU06-516403

**Thank you  
for your attention**

**Questions ?**

