

SPARK: SUPPORTING PENITENTIARY ADVANCEMENT THROUGH REFLECTION AND KNOWLEDGE

SISEKAITSEAKADEEMIA
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ERASMUS+ PROJECT:
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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in prisons contributes to communication and security risks and hampers effective reintegration.

Prison officers' knowledge and skills in multicultural prison environments require further development to reduce tensions and the risk of burnout.

There is a lack of systematic research on the impact of linguistic and cultural barriers in Estonian prisons.

RESEARCH PURPOSE

To map linguistic and cultural barriers that hinder reintegration.

To collect and analyse participatory action research data on ways to overcome these barriers.

To develop and pilot open educational resources (including digital learning and communication tools).

To establish and sustain a functioning international network (including Ukrainian partners).

METHODOLOGY

Action-participatory research with circular learning reflection. Activities involve:

- 11 Interprofessional seminars and workshops (4 Photovoice)
- 1 International School
- 6 World Cafés
- 1 Train-the-Trainers
- 4 Multiplier Events

TARGET GROUP

Prison officers and students.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Linguistic and cultural barriers in communication with inmates and in reintegration processes are mapped and better understood. Research findings on overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers are used to inform decision-making.
- Modern open educational resources and digital tools support officers' linguistic and intercultural competence.
- An international network (including Ukrainian partners) systematically supports the exchange of good practices.

SPARK PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To establish a sustainable network dedicated to fostering training around the main axes of linguistic and cultural barriers and DoL.
- To develop an interprofessional Open Education Resource to be adapted to specific DoL contexts.
- To foster a collaborative transnational learning environment, involving Ukraine.

CONSORTIUM

Coordinator: Università degli Studi di Genova (UniGe)

Partners: Universidad de Alcalá, Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (Prison Service College), Mariupol State University



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