



NEWSLETTER No. 2 | JUNE 2019

FREE to CODE

'Improving digital and coding skills for inmates'



This newsletter provides regular updates about the work of the FREE to CODE project and useful information for organisations, networks and professionals within Europe working within the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

Introduction

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Project FREE to CODE

The **project FREE to CODE improving digital and coding skills for inmates** - has the ambitious goal of using digital skills and computer programming as a means of human development that can help adult European prisoners to re-enter society with a resale expertise. This path will be validated by using the European Guidelines for non-formal and

informal learning in order to allow the overall recognition of the quality and benefit of such a training.

The European context in the management of education and social and educational rehabilitation of prisoners is quite rich. There are different experiences and educational programs tailored to allow a correct reintegration into society for incarcerated people, after having served the sentence imposed.

Adult Education in Italy



In Italy, adult education in prison strives to facilitate the professional reintegration process after the detention period, for this reason, the training courses offered during detention must fit to this aim. In general, all

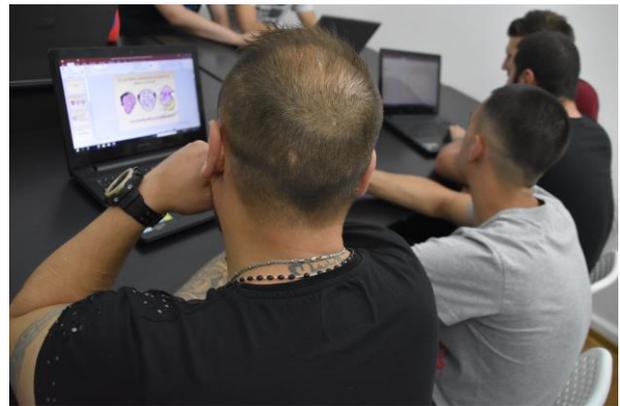
prisons offer schooling at different levels and vocational training paths as a possibility to improve education and achieve emancipation.

Education of Inmates in Lithuania



During the international conference "Education of Inmates" on the 29th of April 2019 in Šiauliai (Lithuania) Gert Hurkmans (Asturia) explained the goals of the Free to code project to an audience of more than 100 practitioners in the field of prison education. He explained the ways to remove barriers to participation in a prison, to increase the quality & efficiency of the adult education and to speed up the process of assessment of skills and their validation.

Penitenciarul Bucuresti-Jilava (Romania)



"I think the computer will play a very important role in my life. After release I will work at a car service and I will surely need a computer to find information about cars or to order parts ..."
Inmate Gabriel

Methodology on Community Engagement in Criminal Justice System



In March 2019, Aproximar tested a Methodology on Community Engagement in Criminal Justice System. This methodology provide CJS with the critical guidance to perform effective engagement paths towards society. This toolkit can increase the number of partner organizations (civil society), participating in (ex) offenders reintegration process, commit them to contribute with various resources and reach an agreement to work closely together towards common goals related to the reintegration of (ex) offenders. This training took place in Rome, under the

[Mobi - Mobilizing Society Towards \(ex\) Offenders Reintegration](#) initiative, which proposes a re-thinking on the role of civil society in the process, claiming for the corporate social responsibility (public, private & NGOs) as a strategy to train people on their role in helping to break the cycle of re-arrest.

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People in prisons are learning to code — and it might alter the course of their lives



Twenty-seven percent of formerly incarcerated people are unemployed — five times higher than the unemployment rate for the general population, according to the advocacy group Prison Policy Initiative. And without a way to earn the wages they need to survive, they're more likely to commit a crime out of desperation, which lands them back in prison. That vicious cycle contributes to the country's shocking recidivism rate of 76 percent.

Coding and similar technology-focused careers can offer secure, well-paid employment.

(Source: Nation Swell, 2019)

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