

SOCIAL INTEGRATION NETWORK



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

**MODEL FOR THE PROMOTION
OF SOCIAL REINTEGRATION
AFTER PRISON RELEASE**



www.educateproject.eu



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THE PROJECT

EDUCATE is a project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union. Started in November 2016, it will end in October 2018.

As a Strategic Partnership supporting exchange of good practices, the project has the primary goal to allow partner organisations to share experiences, approaches and work methodologies in the field of adult inmates education. The exchange process aims to improve the staff profile of involved organizations, promoting self-awareness and increasing, from a qualitative and quantitative point of view, the competences of educators working in prison and in structures for criminal measures alternative to detention.

Thanks to training sessions and relevant stakeholders engagement, EDUCATE aims to create tools which will integrate the approach and methodologies already used by partner organizations and which will be disseminated among other organizations and stakeholders in the Justice field.

PARTNERS

L'Ovile - www.ovile.net

L'Ovile is a social cooperative established in Reggio Emilia (Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy) in 1993, with the aim to promote the inclusion of disadvantaged people, who live difficult situation from a social and economic point of view.

Penitenciarul Bistrita - www.anp.gov.ro

Established in 1st May 1991, Bistrita Penitentiary is a public institution that is part of the defense system, public order and national security of the state.

You in Europe - www.youineurope.gr

You in Europe is a NGO based in Greece. "You in Europe" is a space for everyone who loves living through learning... and vice versa.

Asociación NOESSO (No Estás Sólo) - www.noesso.org

Noesso is a non-profit NGO based in Almería since 1990, working in three different areas: drug-addicts attention and treatment, child with behaviour problems intervention and social inclusion of people in risk of social exclusion.

Associação Sapana - www.sapana.org

SAPANA.org is a Portuguese NGO, founded in 2012, working with a tripartite methodology that lies on the complementarities of two lines of action: AWAKENING of consciousness and EMPOWERMENT for change.

GOALS

The project allows partners to improve their **COMPETENCES FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION** working on three specific dimensions, which are crucial to the successful development of educative paths addressed to inmates:

- How to promote transversal competences among inmates?
- How to promote integration into labour market?
- How to create a local network involving other organizations and relevant stakeholders in order to make social reintegration more effective and to reduce risk of crime?



COMPETENCES FOR EFFECTIVE
SOCIAL REINTEGRATION



COMPETENCES FOR INCLUSIVE
SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Thanks to the project, partner organisations improve their **COMPETENCES FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION** working on specific diversity management competences, which ensure an effective social reintegration in particular of:

- inmates with mental disease,
- migrants and minorities.

THE MODEL

“This model aims to develop an integrated set of measures, whose implementation will lead to results in the inmate's/ ex-inmate's approach of social reintegration, contributing thus to:

1. individual development;
2. increasing the community safety degree;
3. maintain public order and national security;
4. reduce recidivism.

The success for the social reintegration process should lie on a national strategy for social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty, a trans-disciplinary, inter-institutional approach, aimed at streamlining the criminal policies and prevention of social exclusion.

Social reintegration of inmates is a process that has its beginnings in execution phase.

An essential role of the prison service is to prepare inmates for post-detention.

To achieve this goal is necessary to correlate the needs of inmates with the educational programs, psychological support, social assistance and social inclusion approach.

Also, for the success of social reintegration is necessary the contest of local community, in its dual quality: partners of prison service and beneficiaries of the whole process of social reintegration of inmates or those who served custodial sentences.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF REINTEGRATION STRATEGY

The reintegration strategy of inmates/ former inmates has to have 3 main strategic objectives:

1. developing institutional and inter-institutional capacity in the social reintegration domain intended to prisoners and former prisoners;
2. developing educational, psychological and social assistance programs during detention/after detention and informing the local community, as well;
3. facilitating post-detention assistance to a systemic level.

1. Developing the institutional and inter-institutional capacity in the social reintegration domain for prisoners

- Developing personnel's proficiency (improving skills/competencies through constant trainings, collaborating to specialists with different domains related to social reintegration)
- Institutional infrastructure development and institutional cooperation (attracting funds for developing the infrastructure, increasing the number of collaboration agreements)

- Changing the regulatory framework in order to improve the continuum of services in the social reintegration field (law-amendments)
- Developing and implementing institutional and inter-institutional procedures
 - medical assistance for inmates with mental health issues (collaboration with mental health institutions, monitoring the treatment after release);
 - completing the educational level after release (inter-institutional collaboration with schools/high schools /universities in order to continue the educational approach);
 - collaboration with associations/institutions that can offer support for preventing drug relapses (therapeutic communities, residential centres, hospitals, anti-drug centers);
 - intensifying the relations with work agencies, from detention period in order to know the job offers, the facilities for employment, or the unemployment benefits for the period that will pass until getting a job);
 - institutional support for migrants in language issues and integration in labour market, as well as in adapting the traditional issues to the specific features of the country they are into.

2. *Developing educational, psychological and social assistance programs during detention/after detention and informing the local community, as well:*

- improving the education, psychological and social assistance insured to the inmates;
- raising public awareness and sensitivity on the issue of the social reintegration of the inmates.

During detention, the recuperative approach is focused on assessing the risks and needs and, on this base, will be organized the educational activities, psychological support and social assistance, as well as work, in order to facilitate the social reintegration of inmates.

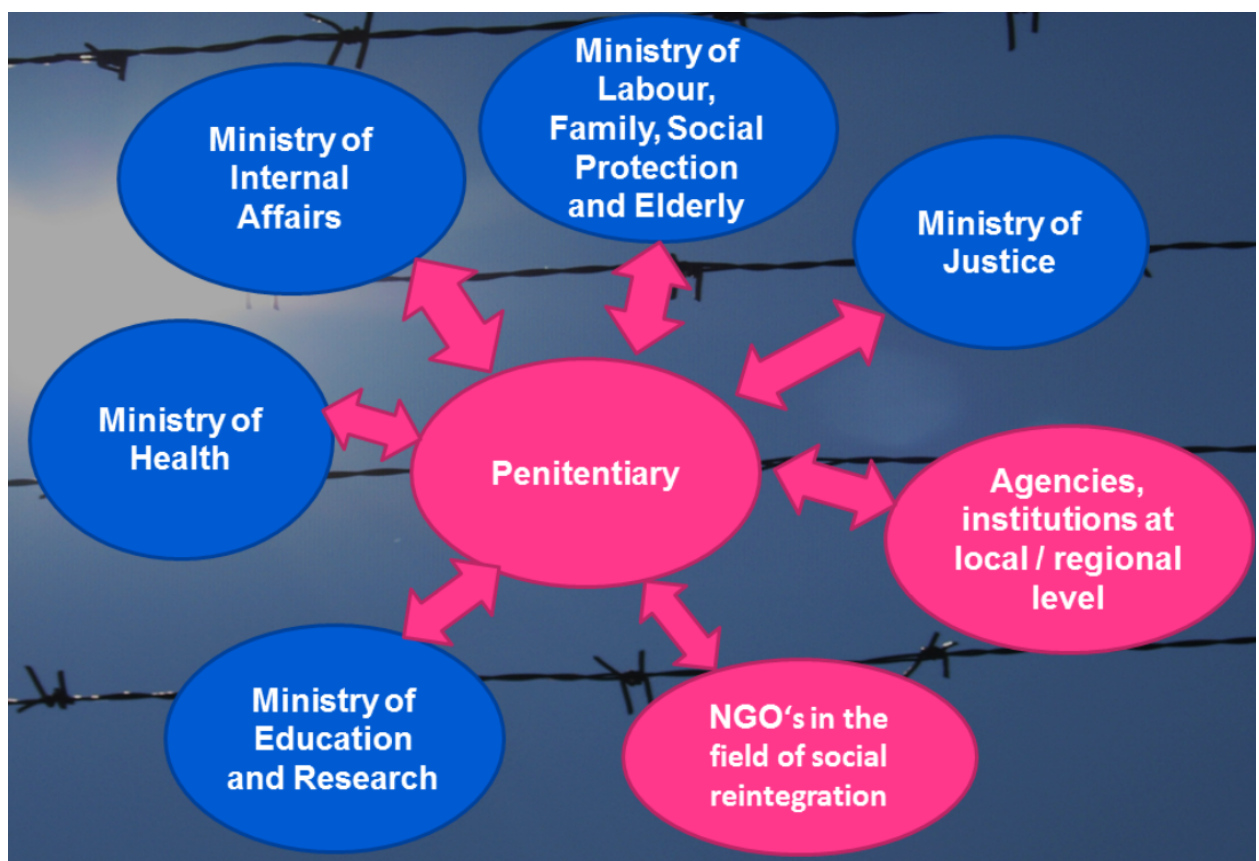
It's a kind of "filling the gaps" strategy, planning a tailor-made intervention, repairing the aspects of personality that can make the person vulnerable for committing another crime. During detention, but also after detention, different specialists involved in the prison reintegration structures permanently evaluate the educational needs, psychosocial and social support for the inmates, ensuring the individualization of criminal – executive path.

This process is the basis of the strategy for their social reintegration. Individualization and planning the execution of sentence is focused on:

- organizing activities for school training (literacy, school, high school);
- professional training and work inside/outside prison (vocational courses, working inside/outside prison, Job Fairs,

- pre-contracts signed with economical agents before release, internships from the detention period);
- educational programs to accomplish values for a healthy style of life;
- psychological support (interventional programs for risk and needs, therapeutic communities for drug consumers);
- social assistance to mediate the relationship with family;
- informing the inmates about alternatives (institutions, NGO's) that can support him after release, especially for those who are at the risk for exclusion (no family support, health problems, addictions, any options for a residence);
- transfer of inmates to a residential center or a therapeutical community or other facilities that correspond to their preparation for release/ or alternative measures to detention, according to specific penal code of each country;
- raising public awareness and sensitivity to the social reintegration issue (awareness campaigns).

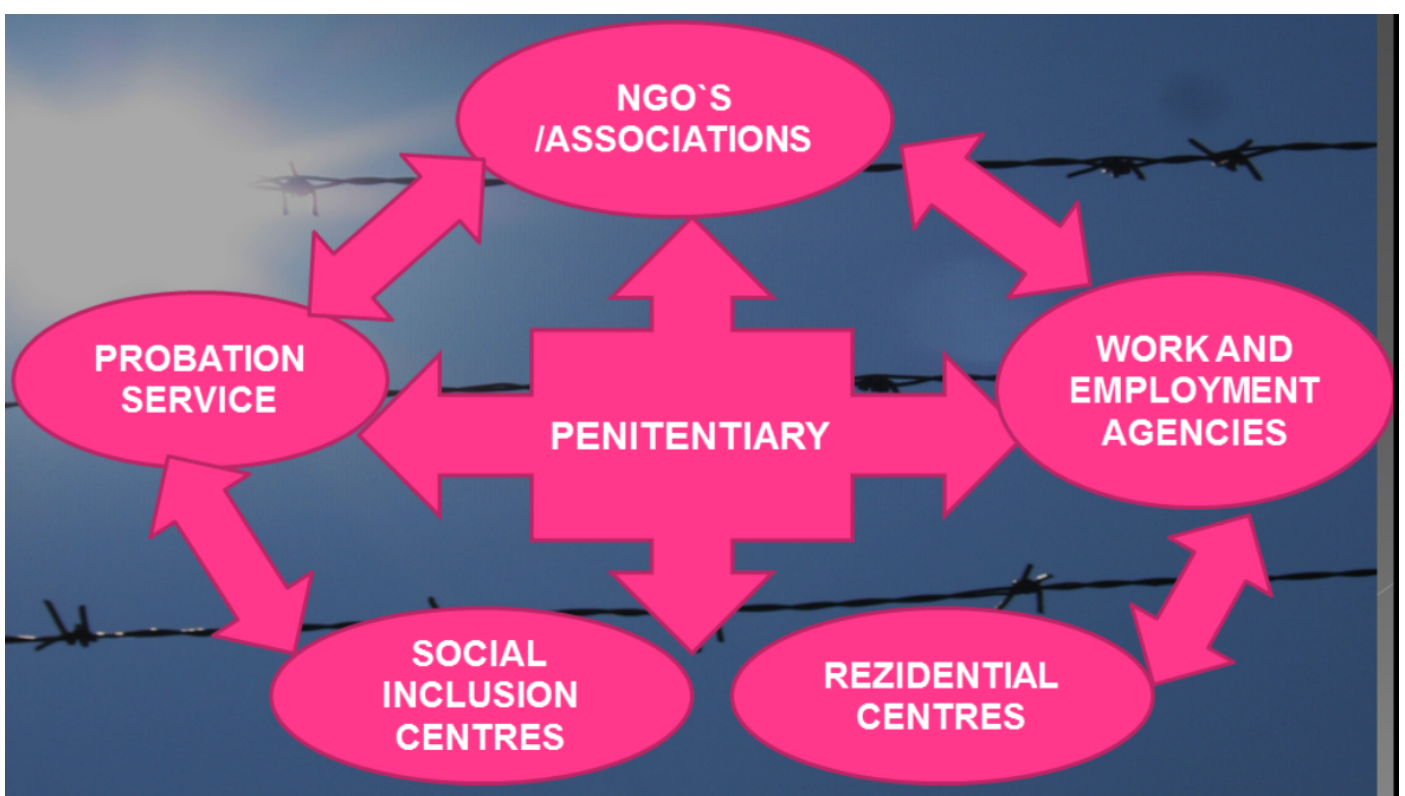
Collaborative agents involved in social reintegration process of inmates



3. Facilitating post-detention assistance to a systemic level

- Developing and strengthening partnerships between local and central public authorities and institutions, nongovernmental associations and organizations and local communities
- Ensuring the continuity of the interventions for the former-inmates by taking over the cases and providing assistance in the post-detention stage;
- Analysing, modifying or filling the regulatory framework needed in stimulating the involvement of the local public administrations, economic operators and other individuals or legal persons (legal entity), public or private, in sustaining the social-professional reintegration of the inmates;
- Analysing, modifying or filling the regulatory framework concerning the establishment, organization and administration of the social inclusion centres;
- Analysing, modifying or filling the regulatory framework concerning the establishment, organization and functioning of social enterprises intended to create jobs for vulnerable groups, inclusively for former inmates.

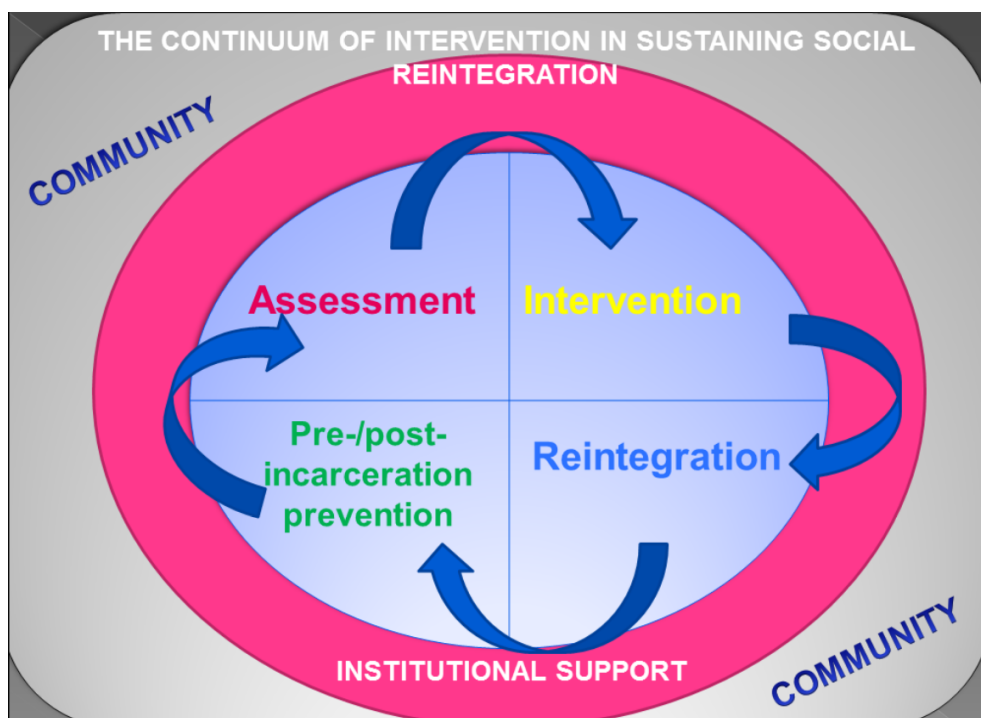
Agents facilitating systemic post-detention assistance of inmates



PREREQUISITES

The intervention areas correlated to the above mentioned concerns, suppose, in terms of creating the prerequisites for facilitating social reintegration and thus reducing the risk of relapse/recidivism, the following:

- adapting the educational, psychological and social assistance programs to the needs of the inmates;
- diversifying the educational and social assistance programs and activities offering in order to involve a larger number of prisoners, adapted to their risk and needs;
- empowerment and community awareness about the importance of the social reintegration of inmates and former inmates;
- facilitating post-detention assistance;
- regulating, providing and accessing some services or specialized centres to support inmates' or former inmates' social reintegration efforts, focusing on the support of the proximate communities.



CONCLUSION

The social reintegration process is based upon the already existing good practices that are functioning in all 5 countries that are part of EDUCATE project:

- Italian Law 381/91 about social cooperatives;
- Romanian work contracts between prison and economical agencies during detention and Job Fairs in prison, but also participation of inmates at Job fair on local community;
- social enterprises in Greece;
- alternative measures to support an educational path and support the transition phase;
- theatre activities in Romania and National Theatre Festival for Inmates;
- media products that emphasize the stigma and stereotypes that are facing the former inmates, as well as success models of reintegration (movies, books).

After a working group discussion between specialists in prison education from 5 different prison systems in EU, analysing current practices in all countries, there were made specific suggestions, in order to improve the directions on which this instrument will be implemented:

- a practical approach in working with beneficiaries, in order to assist them in implementing the theoretical information and tools that were offered;
- using creative techniques, such role-plays, in order to make the beneficiaries “feel” the situation they will have to face to;
- more intense efforts to increase vocational qualification during/after detention, in jobs required on job market;

- supporting more the transition between detention and after liberation period and the adaptations issues that can appear (finding an appropriate location, solving financial issues, identity documents, improving relationship with family members, if case);
- openness in collaboration of institutions and associations that are involved in solving the same objectives - to facilitate to social reintegration process of vulnerable persons;
- stimulating the policy in financial facilities for economical agents that hire people at risk of exclusion;
- increasing the interdisciplinary and interinstitutional meetings, in order to find new resources to be used in improving the reintegration process;
- creating a database containing all NGOs and organizations in country, involved in reintegration process of former inmates/ people at risk of social exclusion
- organizing social events with wide participations of members from ministries, institutions, associations, mass-media, to empower the good practices that are implemented and increase community awareness about the challenges in reintegration process.

Social reintegration process is a continuum of activities that requires the collaboration of the main agents involved - prison institutions with their specialists, associations that support vulnerable persons or persons with risk for social exclusion and inmates/ former inmates, within the intervention will be implemented. The institutional support is a needed basis to empower and enrich the set of measures developed in order to bring to reality the reintegration process, an approach that needs continuity, strong connection and inter-dependence between of social actor and agents involved.

