

# Project FEFI

## GRUNDTVIG Multilateral Project

Application° 538856-LLP-1-2013-DE-GRUNDTVIG-GMP

### Formal Education for Female Inmates



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

Kick-off meeting in Mainz (DE)  
2013.12.11/13

# **GRUNDTVIG Multilateral Project FEFI Project**

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

# Where do we come from?



Regional education authority  
Academies of Bordeaux, Limoges and Poitiers

# Different French ministries can be involved in the organisation of Education in prison

The two important ones being :

For vocational training : **Ministry of Employment**

For formal education : **Ministry of Education**

both under supervision of Prisons' Administration.

# French ministry of education

The organization of the teaching units in prison belongs to the French ministry of education and is subjugated to the organisation of the penitentiary 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 November 24, 2009 say?

**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 for their 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 not mastered the French language, the activity is a priority in their learning. The learning could be organised if the convicted person also realizes a work activity. »

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

# What does the law on the future of the school dated April 23, 2005 say?

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

# The pillars of the common core, what are they?

- Mastering the French language
- Practice a foreign language
- The main elements of mathematics 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 illiterate ones.
- ▣ Support the person (own development and self-esteem)
- ▣ Facilitate different forms of access to knowledge
- ▣ Evaluate and validate the achievements.

# Teaching in prison' Organisation

- 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 are public servants. They 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' volunteers (ex. GENEPI).

# Formal Education for Female Inmates

Schooling is offered to female inmates but, due to the few they are in our south west area of France (Academies of Bordeaux, Limoges and Poitiers), human means are not so important and we only have part-time teachers in female units.

In France, female and male inmates are not mixed to be taught in classrooms even if European penitentiary rules allow it. The only occasions male and female inmates meet are when they pass exams and for graduation ceremonies.

As rules allow it, things are moving step by step and we guess that soon we will observe the diversity in classrooms.

# 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,...)

# 01 November 2013 : Last figures

Items	Figures, rates
Total number of male inmates in all French prisons	64 867
Total number of female inmates in all French prisons	2 183 (3,37 %)
Area of Bordeaux, Limoges and Poitiers - Number of male inmates	5 159
Area of Bordeaux, Limoges and Poitiers - Number of female inmates	139 (2,7 %) *

\* *This rate is not due to a low score in female criminality but to the fact that we do not have specific prison for female inmates in our area.*

# Regional Pedagogical Unit Academies of Bordeaux, Limoges and Poitiers (01.11.2013) – Female units

	Hosting's Capacity	Number of female inmates (01.11.2013)
<b><u>Maisons d'arrêt</u></b> <i>before sentences and short sentences &lt; 2 years</i>		
- Saintes	5	8
- Angoulême	11	7
- Limoges	10	8
- Agen	17	11
- Pau	46	30
<b><u>Centres Pénitentiaires</u></b> <i>combines 2 types of prison</i>		
- Poitiers	30	31
- Bordeaux	26	42

# Distribution of educated women by level of education

*(Area of Bordeaux/Limoges/Poitiers  
2011/2012)*

Literacy	French as foreign language	Upgrading	National certificate	Professional certificates	Equivalence Bachelor	Post Bachelor	Other Activities (*)	V A E
2,8 %	12,5 %	13,9 %	27,8 %	1,4 %	13,9 %	4,2 %	22,2 %	1,4 %

*(\*) rules to prepare driving licence, writing workshop, languages,...*

*VAE = Recognition of prior experiential learnings*

The paradox is to educate almost all female inmates while their small number does not allow the deployment of important educational means.

Beyond heterogeneity in groups of female inmates, teaching resources are limited when demand is high.

# Schooling (2011/2012) some observations

- ☞ Female inmates with baby are not allowed to attend collective activities (so is school) till baby stays in prison (as baby cannot be monitored by a third party).
- ☞ Level of education is very low particularly with foreigners (not speaking French, illiterated in their mother tongue).
- ☞ Prison is a real opportunity for female inmates who ask a lot for schooling because there are not too much activities in female parts of prison but also by training effects between female inmates.
- ☞ Few rooms are dedicated to education in female parts of prisons.

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**Thank you  
for your interest**

*If complementary questions, please feel  
free to ask Annie or Dominique*



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