



Report on SERA Project Closing Videoconference - Almería, 29/05/19

The **number of participants** attending the event was around 90. The audience was mainly made up by teachers from Further Learning Schools, teachers from several Primary Schools (mainly with students at risk of social exclusion), teachers at high schools, staff from the Department of Education in Almeria (Coordinator of the Multilingualism Plan, Chief of Human Resources Service, Coordinator of Further School, Coordinator of Intercultural Education, Primary Education Inspectors) , consultants at the Teacher Training Centre, prison staff (Manager, Assistant Treatment Manager and Assistant of Prison Regime Manager at El Acebuche prison), a representative from the Erasmus + National Agency, two police inspectors from the Almería Police Station, journalists, professors from the University of Almeria (Faculty of Education and Psychology, Faculty of Social Work), staff from associations working in the field of prevention and socio-educational intervention with people suffering from any addiction, people at risk of social exclusion and minors with behavioral problems, priests and other religious volunteers working at the prison, current and former students at CEPER Retamar, volunteers at Albolote prison (Granada), students at the University of Almeria, etc.

The **event** was **opened** by the Head of Human Resources at the Education Department, followed by a brief introduction by Mr. Miguel Ángel de la Cruz, Manager at El Acebuche prison and speaker for the international part of the Videoconference. Then, the school headmaster at CEPER Retamar, Mr. Juan Carlos Martínez, presented SERA project to the audience until the time of connection with our European partners.

According to the schedule, we were to start the **international part**, but we had some problems listening to Mrs. Sandra Scicluna (coordinating the technical part and leading the interventions) in Malta introducing the event and, as agreed by the coordination, the schedule was changed and Belgium started at 10:05 a.m., with Mr. Marteen De Waele (*Local Governments and radicalization*).

Again, we couldn't listen to Mrs. Scicluna when she introduced the Spanish speaker, Mr. Miguel Ángel de la Cruz (*Prison policies regarding terrorism and prevention of radicalization*), who nevertheless started at 10:20 and finished at 10:33.

The French speaker, Mrs. Laurence Bindner (*The influence of media jihad in the EU*) started her speech in French at 10:35. After one minute or so, she started again in English. [The translator here in Almeria happened to manage in French, so the audience didn't realize because he started translating from French and then went on].

The problems with the sound from Malta were solved somehow, because we were able to listen to Mrs. Scicluna introducing Mrs. Bindner, and everything with the sound went smoothly from this moment on.

It was Turkey's turn with Mrs. Cigdem Eroglu (*Radicalization and education: implementation in prison*), who was followed by Malta with Mr. Andrew Willis (*British prisons and religious extremism*). Finally, Mrs. Scicluna thanked the audience and closed the event.

After a **coffee break**, we went on with a ten minute **presentation** by Mr. Francisco Luis Parra (Teaching Technical Advisor of KA2; School Education and Further Learning), representing the Erasmus + National Agency, who talked about a new proposal which is part of the European Commission initiative "**Role Models**". The purpose of this initiative is to promote European values among young Spaniards through interventions by people with an inspiring life experience. In short, it is about developing actions that promote social inclusion, promote active citizenship and reinforce the commitment to European values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and human rights (<http://sepie.es/iniciativas/figuras-inspiradoras/index.html>).

Before 12 p.m. the **first round table** started. Two of the participants didn't manage to join due to a last-minute incidence, but finally the table was made up by Mr. Alexandre Martins (Manager at Faro prison in Portugal), Mr. Enrique Brotons (Consultant of Further Learning at the Teacher Training Centre) and Mr. Antonio Moreno (Police Inspector of the Intelligence Service). We had previously posed some questions to the members of the tables with the intention of leading the discussion and focus on the topic, so some interesting thoughts and ideas arose from the audience:

- Could Christian baptism be considered as an act of radicalization, since it is imposed to new born by the parents' criteria? This led to discussion which ended up with accepting that the work on prejudices was paramount.
- Could we consider that radicalization or violent extremism exists in schools? The answer was they happen very rarely, and the important thing here should be to communicate to the police and not to wait until it is too late; there is lack of communication in this matter.

Equality matters on feminism/machismo controversy, profiles of radicalized youngsters, SERA project scope or how prevention is dealt with in the project were also subjects of the discussion.

For the **second round table**, there was also a last-minute absence, so finally the members were Mr. Julio César de Melo (Manager at Olhao prison in Portugal), Mrs. Adolfinia Montes (Coordinator of the Intercultural Service at



the Department of Education in Almeria), Mr. Modesto López (Graduate in Social Work, former student at CEPER Retamar) and Mr. Javier Pajarón (journalist, expert on justice, security and prison and terrorism). Through the different interventions of the members of the table and the questions posed by the audience, the following topics were discussed:

- Radical ideas are found in different fields of life, not only in religion; In Portugal, for instance, there's the problem of radical football supporters or motorcycle clubs (Hells Angels).
- The resources that the Education Department offers in terms of preventing radicalization: Temporary Classrooms for Linguistic Adaptation Plan, Hosting Plan, preservation of the culture of origin, school parenting, students as mediators...
- Contributions of SERA project: avoiding prejudices (still a lot to do, from a professional and social perspective), SERA as educational programme included in the prison treatment, SERA as unique model of intervention in different countries addressing different types of radicalism.

Mr. Juan García, Academic Vice Rector of Official Degree Studies and Lifelong Training (University of Almería), together with Mr. Juan Carlos Martínez, School Manager at CEPER Retamar, were in charge of **closing the whole event**.

All in all, it was a very enriching seminar with valuable feedback thanks to the participation of all the professionals and the audience.

As closing remark, we would like to highlight the positive result of using instant messaging application among partners for the international part of the videoconference, as a useful tool which helps avoiding and/or solving possible on-going technical or organizational incidences.

Hereafter are some pictures of the participants taken during the event.

