

## **Prison Information Sheet** **For the attention of prison officers and prison management**

{Insert name} is seeking to undertake the delivery of a learning project within the prison learning centre. This will act as a pilot activity for an Erasmus+ funded research project, VALMOPRIS, investigating the impact of informal learning activities on motivation and competence development.

In this project, professionals and teachers from seven European countries – Austria, France, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania and Scotland – are working in close partnership to **design, deliver** and **validate** a wide range of non-formal and informal learning activities or projects which will be delivered in prisons. This project is supported by the European Prison Education Association (EPEA).

The purpose of the research project is to examine the ways informal learning can help to develop motivation and confidence for learners. We want to explore the impact of validating the learning gained informally and the motivational potential of providing certificates to measure the learning achieved. This fits squarely with the education and rehabilitation agendas and, beyond its motivational potential, it is the hope of this study that learners will find

### **How will the research take place?**

The prisoner will take part in a learning activity that has been carefully designed to help them to develop key learning competences. The length of their engagement in this particular learning project will be **{insert length in weeks}**.

The research element will adopt a socio-ecological approach. This approach requires that we measure the distance-travelled and skills development of learners over the course of the study. Most importantly, the socio-ecological approach requires the completion of a before and after questionnaire by the prison learner, the teacher and a prison stakeholder.

### **What do we need?**

From an SPS point of view we would be looking for a prison officer, possibly a **personal or through care officer**, to help us record the progress in key competences by reporting any changes they have witnessed in the prisoner as a result of their engagement in the learning activity - such as communication skills, their capacity to work in a team etc.

The findings (information gathered from the questionnaires) will form part of a final research document focusing on the potential of informal and non-formal learning to provide motivation for future learning. This report will be published online and will be available for universal access. They will also feed in to the development of a range of practical learning tools.

All **participants are free to withdraw at any time**. If any problems arise during the learning activity or research project, you can raise a complaint with the teacher, or if you'd prefer, the **{Learning Centre Manager}** in the first instance, who will put you in touch with your national Research Supervisor.

### **Confidentiality**

All the information that we collect about any participants – whether prisoner, officer or prison – throughout the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. There will be no identifiable details for prisoners, staff or institutions in any reports or publications.

The research we gather from this project may also be used in further research projects. If this situation arises, all personal data will be stripped before the research findings can be passed to future researchers. Again, absolutely no personal details will be published.

## Participant Consent Form

Title of Research Project:

Name of Researcher:

**Participant Identification Number for this project:**      **Please initial box**

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet dated *[insert date]* explaining the above research project and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the project.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason and without there being any negative consequences. In addition, should I not wish to answer any particular question or questions, I am free to decline.
3. I understand that my responses will be kept strictly confidential; this means that all possible identifying data will be removed including name and date of birth.
4. I give permission for members of the research team to have access to my anonymised responses. I understand that my name will not be linked with the research materials, and I will not be identified or identifiable in the report or reports that result from the research.
5. I agree for the data collected from me to be used in future research
6. I agree to take part in the above research project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Participant                      Date                      Signature  
(or legal representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person taking consent      Date                      Signature  
(if different from lead researcher)  
*To be signed and dated in presence of the participant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Coordinator                      Date                      Signature  
*To be signed and dated in presence of the participant*

**For records:**

*The information sheet and the signed and dated copy of the consent form to be provided to the participant.*

*The researcher and project coordinator must keep signed and dated copies of all participant consent forms in a secure location.*