

BLEEP- Blended Learning Environment for European Prisoners

Desk Research into existing pathways concerning the reintegration of prisoners



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AUTHORS	All partners
INTRODUCTION	The BLEEP project is about digital inclusion in the broadest sense. The purpose is to create and implement an innovative, creative, Europe-focused blended learning platform for (ex) - prisoners, in which an individual has the ownership of the learning process that can be monitored to stimulate progress in developing skills. This will be done through the cooperation between nine organizations, Click F1 as project leader with the support of CHAINS and Stichting, Exodus Zuid-Holland from the Netherlands, Kocaeli Open Correctional Institution from Turkey, STEPS from Italy, Innovative Prison Systems and Direcção Geral de Reinserção e Serviços Prisionais from Portugal, Penitenciarul Bucharest Jilava from Romania and European Prison Education Association, a European network.
Output 1A	Research BLEEP
OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	In many countries, the way of thinking in this BLEEP project is not the actual situation, namely to see education and reintegration as a continuous learning process, one that can be monitored continuously, that is dynamic and based on the needs of the prisoner AND staff. In too many countries education and reintegration is ticking boxes. Technology provides perfect innovative tools to change this way of thinking, especially when it is combined with the knowledge of machine learning, the method of data analysis that automates analytical model building within the BLEEP platform. It is based on the idea that systems (platforms) can learn from data, identify patterns and make decisions with minimal human intervention. In order to do this, research is needed in to what will be the most effective way to create an environment like this.
KEYWORDS	<i>Reintegration, blended learning in prison</i>
Goal	The main goal of the research is to answer the question, how we can create an innovative, Europe focused blended learning environment, in which the learning process of an individual can be monitored from the inside to outside prison? The result of the research will be used for further development of Intellectual output 2, 3, 4 and 5. IO2.
WORKING STEPS	<p>Intellectual Output 1: BLEEP Research</p> <p>This Output is developed in four working steps. All partners will follow the same steps and share the same working tools. The planned working steps are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A1 Research into existing pathways concerning the reintegration of prisoners. A desk research in all the project countries to find out how the learning process is organized in prisons with regards to education and reintegration. ○ A2 Research into the needs of prisoners, teachers and staff on reintegration and education, to match training and employment needs and skills. This survey will be aiming at getting information with: the judiciary authorities; the prison staffs; the prisoners; the families, lawyers, NGOs working with/for

prisoners/ex-prisoners. At least 15 interviews per country to get feedback on the way to match the prisoners' needs with the 21 Century skills.

- **A3 Research into setting up blended learning environments in closed digitally poor settings.** This desk research aims at analysing experiences in Europe concerning the creation of learning environment in prisons. EU projects, national initiative and all kind of programme will be surveyed in all the project countries and included in a report, to be completed with Guidelines on how to set up a digital learning environment in prison. The report will include an analysis of the Real-Life Project' tools, to check how much they can be re-used for the Bleep project.
 - **A4 Research into the needs of ex-prisoners with regards to education and reintegration.** A group of ex-prisoners will be interviewed in order to understand how learning tools can help ex-prisoners in their reintegration process. This action will be completed by a research on *The Career Compass* as input to the frames of the *Learning Experience Design*.
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Working Step A1

Methodology	Working Step A1 Desk Research into existing pathways concerning the reintegration of prisoners Each partner delivered a desk research on a set of shared questions using national data only.
QUESTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In 2018, what is the total numbers of prisons in your country?2. In 2018, what is the total numbers of prisoners who are in prison:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less than 1 year?• More than 1 year?• Less than 6 months?3. What is the rate of recidivism up to 2 years after release?4. What are the monitoring and supporting mechanisms, after the release of the prisoners, in order to reduce the recidivism rate?5. On a yearly basis, what is the total number of people receiving alternative sanctions, including probation service? Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison Percentage of inmates who received it after some time in prison6. In general, what kind of reintegration services (probation officers, alternative houses for reintegration or part of prison sentence are provided to prisoners)?7. In general, what is the role of staff members in the education and reintegration process? What kind of staff members are involved? E.g. prison guards, educators, social workers, psychologists, teachers, peers, etc.8. What is the (legal) framework for technology/digitalization in prisons in your country?9. What are the current national developments in the use of technology in education and reintegration? E.g. use of Internet, e-learning environments, etc.10. Can you mention national initiatives or EU projects that included a blended learning environment in prisons? Can you list the strong and weak aspects for each of them?

Responses

Question n.1

In 2018, what is the total numbers of prisons in your country?

In Turkey

389 prisons and correctional institutions.

In Portugal

There are **49 prison establishments**, in which 1 prison hospital, 1 high security prison, 3 female prisons and 1 prison for young-adult offenders.

In Italy

As of March 2019, out of 46,904 places available in the **191 penal institutions**, 60.512 prisoners were present, or 13.608 more than the regulatory capacity, with an overcrowding of 129 per cent.

In the Netherlands

50 locations across the country and about 13.000 employees, DJI is one of the biggest employers in the Netherlands. Every year, approximately 37.000 new detainees are admitted.

In Romania

In Romania are **34 prisons** units (one for women), 2 detention centers (age:16-21 years), 2 educative centres (age:14-16 years) and 6 penitentiary hospitals.

Question n.2

In 2018, what is the total numbers of prisoners who are in prison?

In Turkey

*the total number of inmates in 2018 inside the prisons was about **246.000**.*

The current population of Turkey is 83.845.953 as of Monday, December 16, 2019, based on Worldometers elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

- Less than 6 months?
- Less than 1 year?
- More than 1 year?

*In Turkish penal system, convicts who are sentenced under two years are directed to probation without being in prison for a long time. For this reason, there **are no convicts in Turkish prisons who are sentenced to less than 2 years**. Exceptions for this situation are crimes against women, sexual offenses and terror offenses. The lower limit for these three categories of criminals is 1 year. Therefore, the minimum term of the prisoners currently in prisons is 2 years. (For the culprits in the three aforementioned categories mentioned, 1 year).*

In the Netherlands

Every day the prison administration cares for 9.000 inmates in 28 locations.

Almost one in five prisoners in the Netherlands was of foreign origin. More than 43 percent of all prisoners had not yet received a final judgement.

The current population of the Netherlands is 17.097.130 as of Monday, December 16, 2019, based on Worldometers elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

- *Less than 6 months? An adult prisoner is detained on average for 110 days. 52% are free again within a month. Half of the adult detainees are in detention for a maximum of 4 weeks. Young people spend an average of 3 months, but 70 percent of young people have been detained for less than 3 months.*
- *Less than 1 year? 39% stay between 1 and 12 months.*
- *More than 1 year? 7% stay longer than 1 year.*

In Italy

60.512 prisoners were present, or 13.608 more than the regulatory capacity, with an overcrowding of 129 per cent.

The current **population of Italy is 60.550.075 as of Monday**, December 16, 2019, based on Worldometers elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

- *Less than 6 months?*
- *Less than 1 year?*
- *More than 1 year?*

There is a lengthening of the sentences served by prisoners who have been definitively convicted, despite the fact that there is no parallel increase in the seriousness of the crimes committed. While in 2008 11% of convicts served less than a year's sentence, in 2018 this was only 4.4%. While in 2008 47.1% of convicts served a sentence of between 1 and 5 years, in 2018 this was 41.4%. While in 2008 18% of convicted persons served a longer sentence of between 5 and 10 years, in 2018 this percentage rose to 26.8%. However, these percentages are not attributable to increased access today to alternative measures for those who would have to serve short prison sentences, as shown by the comparison between the numbers of external criminal execution and prison. The decrease in outflows is generally responsible for the current growth of the inmate population.

In Portugal

12.867 prisoners on Dec 31st, 2018

The current population of Portugal is 10.226.187 as of Monday, December 16, 2019, based on Worldometers elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

- *Less than 6 months? 192*
- *Less than 1 year? 6 months to 1 year – 318; Accumulated - 510*
- *More than 1 year? 12.357*

In Romania

The current population of Romania is 19.237.691 as of Monday, December 16, 2019, based on Worldometers elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

From January 2018 till December 2018 the number of prisoners was reduced from 23.050 to 20.792.

The detainees are classified in 4 regimes for the execution of the sentence, depending on the years of the conviction the detainees are included in one of the four regimes as follows:

- maximum safety regime – sentence more than 13 years – total of 1352 prisoners in 2018;
- closed regime – sentence between 3 and 13 years – total of 5262 prisoners in 2018;
- semi open regime – sentence between 1 and 3 years 7313 in 2018;
- open regime – less than 1 year of sentence – total of 3480 prisoners in 2018;
- others (placed into custody, re-education centres and detention centre for minors and young people) total of 3.385 prisoners in 2018.

Question n. 3

What is the rate of recidivism up to 2 years after release?

In Turkey

*In the probation system, it is difficult to keep objective and generally valid statistics as the convicts have completed the last 2 years of their sentences in the form of social adaptation process and public service. In other words, convicts are involved in the society before the execution processes of the penalties completed but are kept under official and administrative supervision. Besides, the aim of this practice is to handle the first 12 months of the post-release process without facing less difficulties, which is critical in the process of reintegration into society, and to prevent the convict from recidivism. On the other hand, according to the statements of the official authorities who were interviewed in the research process, **approximately 3 out of every 10 convicts** are found to have returned to prison within 2 years after their release. A great majority of those who re-commit crimes are punished for the same crime as before (drug dealing, theft, extortion, etc.). This is not surprising that the recidivist tends to commit the same offence.*

In the Netherlands

47% will recidivate within 2 years after prison. ¹

In Italy

"In the Italian system it is quite complicated, given the timing of criminal justice, to make a precise calculation on recidivism. From recent studies that have been carried out on the prison of Bollate the recidivism is eighteen points less, on average, than what happens normally and that settles roughly around 60%. We are talking about Italian prisoners because for foreign prisoners the calculation of recidivism is slightly more complex being a more mobile population."²

In Portugal

There's no official numbers/statistics on recidivism

In Romania

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¹ <https://demonitor.kro-ncrv.nl/artikelen/waarom-zoveel-gevangenen-opnieuw-in-de-fout-gaan-tien-oorzaken-van-recidive>

² Sette, Raffaella. (2016). La recidiva in italia: riflessioni per il monitoraggio del fenomeno. Rivista di Criminologia, Vittimologia e Sicurezza. X. 10.14664/rcvs/639

Question n.4

What are the monitoring and supporting mechanisms, after the release of the prisoners, in order to reduce the recidivism rate?

In Turkey

The monitoring and support system of convicts in the Turkish penal system starts in the last period before the release, not after release. The Open Prisons (correctional institutions) and probation system are the best examples of this. Detailed information on this system can be found in Chapter 7 of the report.

1. **Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR)** provides a support and grant programme on an annual basis in order for the employment of ex-prisoners. The aims of this program are to assist former convicts in starting their own businesses; to support their vocational skills/education and to contribute their rehabilitation and re-integration processes into the society. Ex-prisoners who wish to establish their own business within the scope of the program may submit their projects to the local units of ISKUR through the relevant units of the Ministry of Justice and may receive technical support regarding the process. Being able to economically get back on their own feet is a crucial feature for ex-prisoners therefore this in-direct application model (that involves the judiciary system into the application procedure) helps the judiciary authorities to monitor the re-integration phase of ex-prisoners into economical life.
2. In addition, there are **various non-governmental organizations active** in terms of the demands and needs of former and existing prisoners. One of these major NGO's is called "Civil Society in the Penal Execution System". These associations are also well-accepted by the Directorate General for Prisons (CTE) and Detention Houses. Such associations have the capacity to directly access the CTE and to obtain information from the relevant Chief Public Prosecutors' Office through the Directorate General, in particular regarding the complaints, needs and demands of convicts / detainees. In a way, such non-governmental organizations act as a bridge of communication between the administrative authority and the convicted and sentenced relatives.

Unfortunately, Turkey lacks an effective statistical methodology to keep the statistics on the current situations, employment status; an official statistical work relating to social integration level and inclination to risk of re-offense suffer from lack of monitoring and evaluation system. For this reason, BLEEP project aims to include this deficiency in the policy recommendation document (Intellectual Output 5) to emphasize the necessity and urgency of this system and share it with the relevant central authorities.

In the Netherlands

In the Netherlands 4 types of organizations are involved in the supply in monitoring and supporting mechanisms after the release of prisoners:

Central government and local municipalities

1. In the Netherlands, the responsibility for (re)integration is divided between the central **government and the municipalities**. Broadly speaking, in case of adults, the government is responsible for reintegration activities during detention, while the municipality of residence takes over after detention. This applies both to content and delivery of the reintegration. The agreements on the reintegration of adult (ex-) detainees between the Association of Dutch Municipalities (*Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten; VNG*) and the Ministry of Safety and Justice (*Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie*) are set out in a covenant. It is only recently that municipalities play such an important role in the (re)integration of (ex-) detainees after their release. This means that municipalities are still in the process of developing their role in (re)integration of (ex-) detainees. Municipalities organize their reintegration activities for adult (ex-) detainees differently. Some of the municipalities accommodate their reintegration

efforts completely or partly in the 'Safety House': a cooperative platform for involved organizations like the municipality, the police, the probation service, social work etc. The content of the reintegration efforts by municipalities also differs. Municipalities make their own choices regarding the moment they start their activities (during or after detention) and the intensity of the support they offer: an active, a less active or no support. This also depends on the distance to the Penal Institutions (*Penitentiaire Inrichtingen*; PIs) where the citizen is detained. Some municipalities hire external and specialized organizations like Exodus to execute part of their local reintegration activities.

2. **Probation services:** besides the prisons and the municipalities, also the probation services have of course a role in monitoring and support of a large part of the people being released from prison. In the Netherlands there are three distinct (and formally independent) probation organizations: the National Probation Service (Reclassering Nederland), the Addiction Probation Service (*Stichting Verslavingsreclassering* GGZ, hereafter SVG) and the Salvation Army Youth Care and Probation Service (*Leger des Heils Jeugdzorg & Reclassering*). Together they are labelled '3RO'. They employ community service orders and supervise individuals serving suspended sentences or other penal measures containing judicial restrictions. Supervision is most often ordered as a sequel to a non-suspended prison sentence or in combination with a community service order, but also in the context of a suspended sentence. Usually supervision consists of a mix of control and support activities, such as mandatory treatment (drugs, alcohol, and aggression), behavioural interventions, electronically monitored house arrest or street curfews, urine controls and contact frequency. An offender not complying with the conditions of his probation supervision (i.e. the action plan) may be reported back.
3. **Forensic mental health care organizations:** a third category of organisations also involved in monitoring and support after release from prison are the forensic care organisations. Forensic care is mental health care provided in a criminal context, including addiction care and care for the intellectually disabled. In the Netherlands it is provided to persons who have committed a criminal offence but also deal with a psychiatric disorder or other mental vulnerabilities that increase their risk of re-offending. The measure aims to treat the patient, reduce recidivism and protect society. Part of the forensic mental health care in the Netherlands is provided to people at the end of their prison sentence in the form of residential and ambulatory forms of care after imprisonment. For instance, in the transition houses or ambulatory mentoring programmes of Exodus and/or organisations that provide supported and assisted housing facilities or ambulatory support programmes. In most cases these organisations work in close alliance with the probation services and the municipalities.
4. **Volunteer-organizations:** a final category of people involved in the support of ex-prisoners are the volunteers from organizations such as *Exodus*, *Humanitas en Gevangenzorg* who provide a listening ear and practical forms of support for people after their release from prison. This is the least formal form of support and its effects on reducing recidivism are even harder to measure than the other forms of monitoring and support but case studies show that a successful linkage between an ex-prisoner and a volunteer can make a big difference in individual lives. This is also the reason that the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Safety is subsidizing this volunteer support (with an amount of more than 2 million Euro a year, of which part is used for volunteer support inside prisons and a smaller part for volunteer support after imprisonment).

In Italy

1. The **UEPE -Ufficio di esecuzione penale esterna** (ex-CSSA, Adult Social Work Centres) is responsible for the application and enforcement of alternative measures, alternative sanctions and security measures. It is addressed to citizens over 18 years of age who have been sentenced to one or more crimes. The only operators who deal with

alternative measures to detention and probation are the social workers registered in the professional register employed at the External Criminal Enforcement Offices UEPE.

2. The definition of "social private" or "**3rd sector**" identifies everything that differs from both the public sphere (state, regions, local authorities, other bodies) and the private sphere, i.e. the market (cooperatives, associations, foundations). It is a vast universe, made up of different subjects, who have in common the capacity to develop new opportunities and models to respond to the demand for needs that neither the State nor the market are able to satisfy. Within this form of "social economy", organised structures with very different legal forms converge, which support the institutions in offering services to the socially disadvantaged person due to the commission of a crime. Realities that are an integral part of the "social network" of the territory and often represent a bridge between prison and society, creating opportunities for work and social integration.
3. The (**GOL Gruppo Operativo Locale**) are established by Regional Resolution and define the aims, composition and coordination of all the institutional and associative realities present in the territory that operate in the fight against deviance and crime, stimulating the creation of an integrated network of public services and volunteering.
4. The **Services for Drug Addiction (SerT)**, or Pathological Addiction Services (SerD), are the public services of the Italian National Health System (SSN), dedicated to the treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of people who have problems resulting from the abuse and dependence of psychoactive substances.

In Portugal

Probation system supervision and support only for the ones in parole (probation teams) or if released under Monitoring Electronic supervision (ME teams).

In Romania

Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison

Percentage of inmates who received it after some time in prison.

Because Probation is not under the prison system umbrella, it is very difficult to have many data. We don't have information about 2018 but in 2017, 90.546 persons were under supervision of probation. From this 90.546, 81 persons were conditional released.

Question n.5

On a yearly basis, what is the total number of people receiving alternative sanctions, including probation service?

Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison

In Turkey

- **Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison**
The rate is %35 for the people who received a penalty but do not enter to prison due to short duration (less than 2 years) or conciliation.
- **Percentage of inmates who received it after some time in prison**
65%
Except for those sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment, all convicts serve the last 2 years of their sentences (in some cases of the last 1 year) with alternative penal measures.

In the Netherlands

- In 2015, the judge imposed around 30.000 community service sentences. Someone who receives community service must do unpaid work. For example, for the municipality, a healthcare institution or Staatsbosbeheer. It involves work such as: help in the kitchen of the retirement home, public garden service, puncturing the streets, removing graffiti.*
- **Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison**
Unconditional community service orders most often for:
Property crimes (33 percent)
Violent and sexual crimes (25 percent)
Soft drug crimes (8 percent)
 - **Percentage of inmates who received it after some time in prison**
Unknown at this point. Will look further.

In Italy

*Currently, the Italian penitentiary system is substantially aware of three alternative sentences: **probationary reliance on social service, home detention and semi-freedom**. These measures allow convicts who comply with certain requirements (on all short terms of imprisonment and good conduct during the trial and / or in prison) to spend all or part of the sentence outside the prison, in the three different ways that characterize them.*

Social service on a probationary basis is considered the alternative measure to detention "par excellence", as it takes place entirely in the territory, aiming to avoid as much as possible the damage resulting from contact with the prison environment and the condition of deprivation of liberty.

It is regulated by art. 47 of the Penitentiary Order, and consists in entrusting the social service of the convicted person outside the institution of punishment for a period equal to that of the penalty to be served. The penalty limit or residual penalty, initially of three years, was then extended to four years.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCES IN 2018

16.612 probation reliance on social service

867 semi-freedom

10.552 home detention

In Portugal

53.439 persons in 2018

88.5% (47.309) – male

11,5% (6.119) - female

- **Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison**
No data available

In Romania

Percentage of people who received alternative sanction and did not enter in prison

Percentage of inmates who received it after some time in prison.

Because Probation is not under the prison system umbrella, it is very difficult to have many data. We don't have information about 2018 but in 2017 there were 90.546 persons under supervision of probation. From this 90.546, 81 persons were conditional released.

Question n.6

In general, what kind of reintegration services (probation officers, alternative houses for reintegration or part of prison sentence are provided to prisoners

In Turkey

- a. *Open Penitentiary Institutions: It is the general name of modern Penitentiary Institutions, where external security measures are minimized and are capable of implementing work programs with existing business lines for the convicts to maintain their lives after their release. The execution of sentences by convicts in these penal institutions is subject to certain conditions. The sentences of convicts who are less than 7, 5 and 3 years before the date of conditional release according to the type of crime shall be executed in Open Penal Institutions. Open penal institutions are closest to social life. The necessity of the convict's adaptation to social life makes these institutions indispensable. In these institutions, there are reduced measures against desertion and individuals are trained to have a profession and skills to have a job when they release. Infact, these institutions adapts the imprisoners into social and ordinary life which is in the outside of the execution institution and it is aimed to maintain those people's bounds to the life outside of the execution institution.*
- b. *Probation: In other words conditional release; is an execution law institution that allows the convicted person who has spent some of his prison sentence without exhibiting any bad behaviour and obey the rules to execute his remanining parts of his penalty (the last 2 years for most types of punishments, the last 1 year for some types of crimes) outside of the prison conditionally under the supervision of the authorities.*

It is a legal obligation that the conditionally released convict not commits another crime until the release date and act in accordance with the obligations. Otherwise, the convict should execute the remaining sentence in prison with the decision to revoke the right to probation. probation is not a right for the convict, but an execution regime. Only convicts who meet all legal requirements can enjoy probation. Convicts who do not fulfill the conditions are obliged to serve the entire prison sentence in prison. However, the conditional release of the convict may be decided even if the convict does not request it when the conditions stipulated in the law are fulfilled.

Probation is an alternative system of penal execution that can only be applied to the execution of prison sentences. The provisions of probation shall not apply to the execution of judicial fines imposed for offenses committed after 01.03.2008. However, probation may be applied to the execution of judicial fines imposed for offenses committed before 01.03.2008.

According to paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 of Article 105 / A, which is added to CGTIHK by Law No. 6291, the first condition to benefit from the probation execution procedure is that the sentence of the convict is executed in the open penal institution.

- *Basic features of the Turkish Probation System:*
- *- It is a national system*
- *- Has a Centralized Structure*
- *- Serves Both Criminals and Victims*
- *- A Mixed Personnel Regime Is Available*
- *- An Official Organization*
- *The duration of the penalties and measures are certain*
- c. *House Confinement and Electronic Monitoring: Prison sentenced at home is an alternative to the serving the sentence in the penitentiary institution. It is a special method of penal execution which is accepted as imprisonment of the offender at home instead of imprisonment in the penal institution. The use of electronic monitoring is increasingly common in the practice and pursuit of imprisonment. With the use of electronic devices, it is possible to monitor the people who are under sanctions. It is an institution that is accepted and discussed in comparative law. It is accepted under the Turkish Law that*

electronic imprisonment is punishable by imprisonment. Electronic monitoring and house arrest which is to serve prison sentence are practices that protect freedom of people. Therefore, it can be applied instead of arrest. Preventing the negative consequences of the arrest is important for not turning this practice into a punishment. Electronic monitoring is beneficial in terms of not to detached from the social life and prisoner can continue their normal lives, work or education, spend times with their families.

In the Netherlands

This information has been included in the answer under chapter 4 above.

In Italy

This information has been included in the answer under chapter 4 above.

In Portugal

Probation officers, temporarily leave, open regime, referral to community organizations (mainly social security, National Health Service and NGOs)

In Romania

In prison, depending on the identified needs and risks, the specialists implement activities such as: group therapy programs, individual counselling sessions (psychological, social, vocational-educational), family meetings in the form of workshops, animal-assisted therapy, magic art therapy, schooling courses, professional qualification courses, morally religious activities according to the religion of each inmate, recreational workshops, reading courses in the penitentiary library, sports activities and competitions, activities in the civil community (ecological activities, crime prevention campaigns in schools and high schools, theater) and many more. Specialists from the reintegration field are focused in the period before release (usually 3-6 months before) on important activities in society: attending job market, reunions with the family in community, humanitarian activities.

In each county there are probation services where probation officers are evaluating the persons on parole and are implementing the following programs:

The program "Stop! Think and change" is a group activity that has 11 meetings for persons with delinquent pattern. The aim is to identify the pattern of dysfunctional thinking and to promote the principles of alternative thinking. They learn about the benefits of a prosocial life style and the disadvantages of committing crimes. Also, they become aware of their mistakes and they are helped to identify their resources (family, institutions or NGOs). Often, this program is a continuation of the practices learnt in prison.

The program "Development of social abilities for adults" is also a group activity to acquire the social skills necessary in every day life for a healthy way of living.

The program "Reducing the risk of relapse" is held by probation officers with the involvement of social workers from penitentiary. The structure of the program is composed of three main parts: 1. the basic module (it is carried out in the penitentiary and includes 6 sessions - the first two sessions of evaluation of the problems, needs and criminal behaviour, the third session - the setting of the objectives, the fourth session - the elaboration of the plans individual action, fifth and sixth - prevention of recurrence; 2. Individualized optional modules (considering the problematic issues faced by detainees after release: getting a job, financial problems, alcohol / drug abuse, homelessness, mental health problems, problems related to identity documents, problems in family life); 3. the part of the post-release assistance (will be carried out at the probation office, if the person released from the penitentiary will request the support in this regard). It is important to mention that not every prison is running this program, due to the lack of human resources in the probation service.

In Romania there are no alternative houses for reintegration or part of prison sentence, the only options being the residential centres of the non-governmental organizations or the day centres of the social services within the declared domicile of the ex-inmate. In this centre, an individualized plan of evaluation and therapeutic intervention is carried out, where each specialist sets out the following actions for the released person. The reassessment of the needs of the

person in difficulty is carried out every 3 months to determine if it is necessary to continue the intervention or he is reintegrated into society (he found a job, obtained the legal documents etc.) Unfortunately, the number of available places and canters are insufficient and also, according to the law, the detainees are not being forced to go after release. In the preparation program for release, the social worker informs the detainees about the services of these centres and the possibilities of contacting help.

Question n.7

What kind of staff members are involved? E.g. prison guards, educators, social workers, psychologists, teachers, peers, etc.

In Turkey

Guards, educators, social workers, psychologists and teachers participate in the training and integration process. All of these professional groups are actively involved in the process.

Official who are working for convicts' social reintegration and their main tasks are:

Execution and Protection Officer: *The highest number of personnel in penal institutions. The officer of the Penal Institution is the one who has one-to-one communication with the convicts and prisoners and forwards the demands and objections of the convicts and detainees. They work both during the day and in shifts. The Execution and Protection Officers who take part in the night shift have an obligation to be effective in solving the problems of convicts and detainees and to forward any problems that are difficult to solve directly to the administration of the institution.*

Teacher:

He/she monitors the educational activities of convicts and detainees hosted in penal institutions. In particular, the person has a duty to open a literacy course for convicts and prisoners who are illiterate and to organize educational activities.

Psychologist:

He/she is in charge of conducting studies for the needs of convicts and detainees who have psychological problems in Closed Prison Institutions and organizing internal social activities. In addition, along with the duties performed in the Open Prison Institutions Closed Prison Institutions, it is also responsible for conducting psychological evaluations regarding the convicts to be directed to Probation.

Social Worker:

Works in coordination with the psychologist, is responsible for conducting studies for the needs of convicts and prisoners with psychological problems in Closed Prison Institutions and organizing social activities within the Institution. In addition to the duties performed in the Open Prison Institutions Closed Prison Institutions, the social worker is also responsible for conducting psychological evaluations regarding the convicts to be directed to Probation.

Spiritual Guidance:

Personnel in charge of providing information on the spiritual needs of convicts who are executed in probation. In general, they work for convicts' religious beliefs and needs in this direction.

In the Netherlands

Education:

HQ (one staff member / policy advisor)

development national vision and policies concerning education.

National purchase of e-learning teaching materials

National contracts with certain providers of educational material

Managers

No educational background/ qualities required

Monitoring on processes and safety / staff management

Bridging the implementation to policy vs. and advise prison governor

*Teachers - hired by the prison (MoJ) qualified - they are responsible for the entire learning path. From assessment to teaching.
Purchase of additional (to national) educational material/ methods
Report progress, results and behaviour during learning process*

Case managers

*Check education pathway to overall pathway of re-integration
Stimulate/ motivate prisoner to engage in his development
Set priorities in prisoner's pathway.*

Mentor

*Motivate prisoner and support him in learning process
Monitor practical learning possibilities or obstructions when learning process touches prison regulations*

Re-integration

Trainers

*Deliver multiple training options
Report findings (presence, active participatio, result)*

Case managers

*Check education pathway to overall pathway of re-integration
Stimulate/ motivate prisoner to engage in his development
Set priorities in prisoner's pathway.*

RIC (Re-Integration Center)

*Staffed by two prison staff members (coördinators)
Assisted by a team of interns (2nd / 3rd social Studies)
Assist prisoners with any matter of administrative problem (finance/ housing/ work/ ID, Bank etc)*

Outside of prison

Outside of prison, there is no formal structure for the continuity of learning processes that might have started in prison. The activities of the municipalities described above are very practical and mainly focused in arranging things like welfare, id-card, etc. Learning and education do not seem to form conscious objectives in these forms of reintegrationpolicies and activities.

The probation officers mainly have a monitoring and supervisory role towards ex-prisoners and although learning might be a by-result of an effective working-alliance between probation officer and client, concepts of learning and education are not an explicit part of the monitoring task of the probation organizations. Apart from their supervisory task, the probation organizations do also provide behavioural training programs that people are sometimes obliged to follow as part of their supervision. Examples are trainings on aggression replacement, cognitive skills, work skills, lifestyle and budgeting).

In the context of the support provided by forensic care organizations such as Exodus, behavioural change is an important objective and therefore (informal) learning takes an important place in these forms of support. Most of these forms of learning are very much based on learning-by-doing and reflection. These forms of informal learning take place in the working-relationship between the ex-detainees and the social workers cq. therapists. Volunteers can also play a role in this. Part of the learning in these settings can be organized in forms of informal group-learning, such as for instance the thematic evenings or the experienced based outdoor learning challenges in Exodus. In these cases peers also have an important role in the learning process.

In Italy

Legal and educational officials

The legal-pedagogical officials, commonly called educators, are the professional figures who are responsible for the support interventions dedicated to individual detainees, they are called to coordinate the activities related to the observation and implementation of individualized treatment projects.

The organic plan of the DAP foresees 999 legal-pedagogical officials in Italian prisons, but the staff actually present counts 925 units (staff shortage of -7.4%). It is important to highlight the numerical ratio between prisoners and educators, which according to the DAP data is 65.5 and is increasing compared to last year. Instead, according to the data collected by the Observatory of Antigone among the institutions visited, the average ratio between prisoners and educators is 78, with variations that are also very evident from prison to prison. In some cases the data are even more alarming, for example, the District House of Taranto "Carmelo Magli" has 1 educator for every 205 prisoners, that of Rieti 1 educator for every 182 prisoners and that of Tolmezzo 1 educator for every 179 prisoners.

Volunteers

The DAP data tell us that in recent years the total number of volunteers continues to remain stable: 16,842 in 2017 and 16,838 in 2018 (ie 1 volunteer for every 3.5 prisoners). The data collected by the Observatory of Antigone during the visits to the Italian prisons give us, however, a different representation. Among the institutions visited, in fact, there is a ratio of prisoners / volunteers equal to 7, that is to say 1 volunteer for every 7 prisoners compared to 1 volunteer for every 3.5 prisoners reported by the data of the DAP.

Cultural mediators

The number of cultural mediators falls. While in 2017 there were 223 cultural mediators, a derisory number that would have led each mediator to take care of almost 90 inmates. During 2018, 165 cultural mediators operated in Italian prisons (-26% compared to 2017), i.e. 1 mediator for every 122 inmates of foreign origin. According to the Antigone Observatory, 60% of the institutions visited by the observers in 2018 were without cultural mediators.

Universities staff

Willingness of university staff to contribute, through initiatives such as meetings, conferences, debates, for prisoners, even those not enrolled in university, to their cultural growth and the possibility of understanding different aspects of society, science, culture, allowing them to keep open a "window on the world", thus avoiding that time in prison is a "suspended" time, empty, compared to what happens around it;

- the provision of training or refresher courses for those who work in prison, including those institutions that operate in various capacities (public and private service personnel, voluntary associations, territorial guarantors, etc.).

Penitentiary Police

which on a daily basis and in spite of financial and structural deficiencies, with a great sense of responsibility guarantees security. Security understood not as passive surveillance or absolute control of the prisoners, but as "dynamic knowledge", in which the operators are called to rediscover an observation aimed at acquiring all the elements useful for a more correct evaluation of the subjects participating in rehabilitation projects used for the social and professional rehabilitation of prisoners.

In Portugal

Case manager is responsible for the development of the individual plan of reintegration conjointly with the inmate and accordingly with risk assessment, but all or some of the other staff members

have responsibilities (e.g. prison guards, teachers, trainers, mental health department staff, probation officers)

In Romania

*There are **involved educators, psychologists, social workers, sport monitors/trainers, educational agents, but also volunteers and other represents of NGOs** working directly with the inmates. The purpose of the social worker is to provide qualified support, with a view to improving or resolving the social problems faced by persons in the execution of a custodial sentence in prisons, as appropriate, by involvement of the support environment, public institutions and non-governmental organisations in the recovery process and their preparation for social reintegration.*

The professional competences of the social worker working in the penitentiary system are the assessment, information and counselling on social issues of persons deprived of liberty. Also, he is providing specialised assistance to persons deprived of liberty, for the purpose of training, development, exercise of social, parental, decision-making, networking with the support environment, prevention of family conflicts, in order to preparation for reintegration into society. The social worker is part of the process in mediation, where appropriate, with the support medium of persons deprived of liberty, public institutions, associations or non-governmental organisations. The role of the psychologist in the penitentiary system is the preservation and improvement of the psychosomatic status of persons deprived of liberty during the executive route. As competences, he applies psychodiagnose tools, he interprets the data obtained and materiating the activity of interpreting the results by drawing up, where appropriate, the psychological profile of the subject. He also identifies ways of psychotherapeutic resolution of the problems revealed during the specialised intervention and he has a major role in identification and management of individual and group psychological risk factors and vulnerabilities in order to prevent the phenomena of institutional inadaptation.

The purpose of the activity of the educator is to provide qualified support to improve the educational level of persons deprived of liberty and assisting them in solving the problems they face during detention.

The priest conducts in prison settlements both pastoral and liturgical activities, according to the doctrine and practice of that cult, and activities of moral-religious education, for persons deprived of liberty, at their request and under non-discriminatory conditions.

The purposes of the training of the instructor or sports monitor shall cover an harmonious physical development, training and perfecting of skills and skills of movement, development of moral-volitive qualities of persons deprived of liberty, based on identified physical skills, through programmes and activities carried out inside or outside the prison.

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Volunteers can operate in the units subordinated to the national Administration of Penitentiaries, as persons engaged in activities on the basis of a voluntary contract concluded directly with the detention unit or as members or collaborators of non-governmental organisations, who carry out volunteering activities on the basis of a voluntary contract with a legal person, called a host organisation, which has concluded a protocol of cooperation with detention unit.

Benefits of collaboration with representatives of civil society, direct or indirect, immediate or distant, economic or spiritual constitutes, in fact, a bridge between the steps of the penitentiary system to support inmates in their effort to return to a proactive life, on the one hand, and the community's willingness to retrieve, revalorize, reintegrate those excluded because of their antisocial behaviour, on the other hand.

The main objectives of the social reintegration programmes carried out in the community and/or in

the penitentiary with the support of the community, aim to:

- protect of local communities through actions involving the reduction of the risk of relapse;*
- raise awareness of the local community to increase social reinsertion opportunities;*
- ensure the link between beneficiaries and their resources in a way that improves self-image, assertiveness, problem-solving ability.*

Question n.8

What is the (legal) framework for technology/digitalization in prisons in your country?

In Turkey

Coordination with public training centres is established and course activities are organized for the convicts who demands to do so. Computer use of convicts and detainees to Closed and Open Prison Institutions shall be controlled by the Administration of the Authority. Both the courses for learning the use of computers and the requests of the convicts and detainees who know how to use computers to prepare their defences related to the criminal files they have executed or arrested are subject to the permission of the Administration and Observation Board of the Administration.

In the Netherlands

In the Netherlands there are two current programs running in prisons now.

MediaWise: is an information and education environment for all Youth prisons in the Netherlands with Chromebook devices SSC-I: is the leading provider of IT solutions within the broad field of work of the Ministry of Justice and Security.

In Italy

In 2015 the Department of Prison Administration (DAP) issued a memorandum (GDAP-0366755-2015: "Internet access for prisoners".) that sets out guidelines on the use of personal computers and internet connection for study, training and professional development in penitentiaries. It will also be possible to use Skype to facilitate relations between prisoners and their families.

The circular gives the possibility to have a personal computer in the rooms of overnight stay and in the rooms for the common activities. Internet access, on the other hand, will only be possible from workstations activated in specific areas, such as libraries. However, there will be limitations: security policies will be centrally maintained and there will be network limitations to route each detainee to the sites of a "white list" for which he will be authorized.

In September 2019 the Ministry of Justice – Department of Prison Administration DAP – and the National University Conference of Penitentiary Poles (Cnupp) signed a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

In Portugal

According to the Decree-Law nº 51/2011 of April 11th (that approves the General Regulation of prisons in Portugal) in each cell are allowed the following electronic devices:

- *Phonograms, videogames and games;*
- *TV set, radio, music player and movies and other multimedia equipment that does not enable electronic communication, up to a maximum of three types of equipment, not being allowed (in any case) computers.*

Question n.9

What are the current national developments in the use of technology in education and reintegration? E.g. use of Internet, e-learning environments, etc.

In Turkey

Currently, it exists in Portugal a protocol between DGRSP and Universidade Aberta (UA), which aims to develop a Virtual Campus for inmates. It has been developed an innovative pilot project – the Digital Campus EDUCAONLINE@PRIS – which was created based on two Moodle platforms and a third platform named “Virtual School” that allows students to access the contents of all fields of study (see <http://eduonlinepris.uab.pt/>).

Citizen Spot pilot project: inmates may access websites of interest for the reintegration process

In the Netherlands

State of the art is the Bleep Tool kit:

1 Chromebook³ installed with the whitelist relevant to the specific country

The facilitators guide

A TP-link mi-fi device⁴.

A LAN-connector (Ethernet cable).

A USB-HDMI connector to connect the chromebook to a large screen

“PrisonCloud is a highly secured and flexible service platform for prisoners. The digital platform has been developed in collaboration with the FPS Justice and offers services that give detainees the opportunity to carry out a number of actions independently and in a responsible manner. The platform is based on eboVision, a platform that enables companies to give their employees access to confidential information at any time. Making calls, watching television, making purchases in the canteen and very limited computer use are a number of examples of PrisonCloud's services.” <https://www.ebo-enterprises.com/nl/node/20>

Strong point: seems very complete

Weak point: it is a very expensive service and content is limited

³ Chromebooks in combination with the BLEEP platform and a BLEEP whitelist creates a manageable environment and access to a rich learning and information environment that can be adjusted per country (and even per institution). Chromebooks can be secured on whitelist in combination with devices, (IP address) and account. This makes them flexible but safe to use in places where contact with the internet can be achieved through cabling or Wi-Fi.

⁴ What is a TP-link mifi device?

Mi-fi is short for mobile wifi and TP-link is one of the bigger brands that provide such routers. A TP-link device can be used if there is no other way to get access to Wifi or a Ethernet-cable (LAN = Local Area Network).

With a mifi router from TP-link you can create your own wifi hotspot with a 3g or 4g connection throughout Europe. It is a small device. (10,6cm x 6,6 cm x 1,6 cm). On the clear screen you see all important information, such as battery life, connection status and data consumption. You can share your connection with up to 10 users.



In Italy

As of June 30, 2019, 60,522 people were restricted to 190 Italian prisons. In 81.3% of prisons it is never possible to connect to the Internet.

University

In this period and for the future, the extension to all the Poles of the Internet connections (present today to a limited extent and with particular conditions only in some experiences) that make it possible to access the sites of the Universities assumes decisive importance. The importance of this aspect is evident: finding all the information about the courses of study and the programs of the teachings, possibility to manage one's own career as a student, fruition of the teachings at a distance and of the various forms of on-line didactics, access to computer resources useful for the study and the theses, contacts through audio-video links with teachers, easier way of carrying out tests and exams, etc..

In Portugal

According to the Decree-Law nº 51/2011 of April 11th (that approves the General Regulation of prisons in Portugal) in each cell are allowed the following electronic devices:

- Phonograms, videogames and games;
- TV set, radio, music player and movies and other multimedia equipment that does not enable electronic communication, up to a maximum of three types of equipment, not being allowed (in any case) computers.

In Romania

In the detention space, no access to the internet is allowed, but Bucharest-Jilava Penitentiary has IT equipment and tries to integrate it in the reintegration activities, so the detainees can use the computer under the coordination of the staff.

For example, our prison was part of a national program named ICT training at European standards in Romanian penitentiaries. It's main objectives were:

- ICT training (ECDL START/Equal Skills) for 2000 inmates aged 16-45 years, at a national level, in order to improve access to the labour market after their release.
- ICT training for 1,600 prison staff aged 25-54 years, to improve the activities, competences and approach used in the work with or for inmates.
- Developing a flexible system of 16 mobile halls, active at national level over a period of 30 months, for vocational training tailored to the needs of the target group.
- Creation of a national network of 100 vocational training multipliers in the field of ICT, necessary to improve the training system in penitentiary units.
- In our prison we trained more than 300 inmates and, although this program ended, in our unit we continue the initiation of inmates in using a computer, through an educational program named 'The universe of knowledge – the Initiation IT module

which includes 12 meetings of 60 minutes, once or twice a week. During this program inmates learn to use the windows features, the email (Microsoft office – outlook), the Microsoft office – word and the internet.

On the other hand, in our unit the reintegration staff (educators, psychologists and social workers) use within the group/therapeutical activities interactive methods that include video projections. We noticed that this kind of approach is considered attractive by inmates because it's easier for them to stay focused and to assimilate the information. So, at a national level, we are encouraged to use such interactive working methods and the electronic materials (videos, movies, audio therapeutic stories) that are provided by the National Administration of Penitentiaries.

Another field that includes the use of technology in our penitentiary is writing our monthly newsletter. The inmates write articles on different topics using a laptop, under the supervision and coordination of an educator. We consider this a beneficial activity for the reintegration of inmates, because they learn how to express their opinions in an adequate maneer, and during this they also improve their IT skills.

Question n.10

Can you mention national initiatives or EU projects that included a blended learning environment in prisons? Can you list the strong and weak aspects for each of them?

In Turkey

Particularly, **Real Life** (Serious Gaming and Virtual Reality) Project can be considered as one of the most remarkable EU projects in this context. The whole process, except the game formation process in the first phase of the project, was particularly beneficial for the convicts' post-release processes. In the feedback received from some convicts who were included in the project as target groups and whose penalties are still continuing, the positive effects of the gains in Real Life trainings were observed.

The strengths of such projects are that they are innovative and contribute to the individual and professional development of people who are undergoing isolated processes from the outside world. The weakness is the issue of sustainability (as in many EU projects). Therefore, BLEEP projects aims to make professionals who are working with the convicts more involved and active in the process and improve a technology based blended training model.

In the Netherlands

the Media Wise project.

- **Strong points:** A dynamic environment that is the only contact into the digital world right now. If there was no MediaWise the detainees would only had access to a few sites.
- **Weakness:** There are very much different factors in different institutions that all want to have a voice in the usage and development. In different institutions the platform works on different systems (sometimes their own computers, sometimes chromebooks) This gives a lot of extra work.

Any project or initiative is local and temporary. That is a strong point and also a weak point. Strong for if you need to have approval for ll prisons it never happens, weak because after the project period, it seems to disappear.

In Italy

See Turkey

In Portugal

Virtual Campus is a national funding project (DGRSP/Universidade Aberta)

Strong Aspects:

Easy access/use by inmates

Possibility of development of learning environments tailored for each individual profile

Digital education and training

In Romania

- blended learning is a relative new concept that can still be developed in the Romanian penitentiary system, in Bucharest Jilava Penitentiary for example we can state that this learning style has been used in a campaign to raise awareness and prevent tuberculosis risk.

The strength of this approach is that it is an efficient method of combining several learning styles by integrating technology into this process, and from the feedback received from the inmates, they are even better received and they are much more receptive to the activities.

The weak part of this approach in the penitentiary environment is given by the poor equipment of the units with modern technology, which is within the reach of the reintegration specialists (ex: not all the spaces have a computer, video projector, network connection or internet to facilitate access to information) and it makes their work more difficult and so much more time is consumed with the preparation of the lessons and the selection of information outside the course spaces and this time could have been much more useful used in the direct activity with the detainees if we had the necessary IT infrastructure

- Our institution is open to collaborations and partnerships in EU projects for the development of the reintegration process of the detainees, and in terms of bringing technology into the reintegration process of the detainees we can mention that we are partners in the EU project „Free to code“. The project intends to develop an innovative training programme on Coding for detained people that can be re-introduced in the society. The project addresses these individuals thus to improve their job opportunities and for successful re-entry through business and technology training.

- Openness for external collaboration through which we can learn from our partners can be considered a strong point of our approach, and also learning strategies such as the one promoted by „Free to code“ can be another strong point of the system in the context in which this gives a secure perspective of social reintegration to the detainees.