



## **Project INforEX - Improving ex offenders employability**

The Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth sets targets to lift at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to increase employment of the population aged 20-64 to 75%. Among those who are on the verge of poverty are also ex-offenders / ex-prisoners who face multiple problems: stigma, negative attitude by the society also lost work skills and / or low qualification. The situation is that the employment rate of the low qualified is nearly 80% lower than the employment rate of individuals with university level qualifications. Even though there is no exact data on the qualification levels of offender / prisoners, it has been estimated that only 3-5% of them would be qualified to undertake higher education.

In order to improve the employability of ex-offenders / ex-prisoners, organisations from 6 countries (**Lithuania, Poland, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Cyprus**) have joined forces in the Erasmus+ project INforEX ([www.inforexproject.eu](http://www.inforexproject.eu)) to create an on the job training programme that would enable ex-offenders with low qualifications to gain social and work skills that are necessary for the today's work place.

Partners have put a lot of effort towards dissemination for the INforEX project. The information may be found in different portals, blogs, newsletters, ERASMUS+ portal (<http://www.erasmus-plus.lt/rezultatas/buvusiu-istatymo-pazeideju-mokymasis-darbo-vietoje-258>), EPAL platform (<https://ec.europa.eu/epale/lt/node/40452>), EPEA newsletter (<http://www.epea.org/?na=v&id=25&nk=2441-dae421fd13>), etc.

You may find the training programme here:

<http://inforexproject.eu/en/english-outputs/english-definition-of-training-and-certification-model/>

or you may contact project partners if you want to learn more:

<http://inforexproject.eu/en/english-contact-us/>



**GINSO** (partners from Spain), with the collaboration and support of the consultancy K-veloce I+D+i organized the **"Train the Trainer" workshop** at its headquarters in Madrid for project partners. Specifically, a 40-hour workshop was prepared in which **discussion groups, role-playings, case studies and video visualizations** were conducted in order to disseminate and transfer skills and expertise to the experts involved in the project, from all partner countries about the work with ex-offenders.

**Collegium Balticum** (partners from Poland) have prepared some materials to conduct initial training of ex-offenders before sending them for on the job training. The materials cover such topics as building self-confidence and self-esteem, working in a team, first day on the job, work culture and **effective communication, etc.** Partners hope that the initial training will alleviate the transition into the world of work. The resources are available here: <http://inforexproject.eu/en/english-outputs/initial-training-of-final-beneficiaries/>

**Lazzarelle** (partners from Italy) have started the preparation of guidelines for employers to successfully use the created training methodology and guide them in the process of working with low qualified persons and helping them to gain labour skills of a concrete job. The training of trainees is planned to start in January and finish in May. 144 exoffenders will be trained and certified for EQF Level 3 (<https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/content/descriptors-page>).



Partners from UK - CASCAID - suggested a useful tool for initial assessment of needs, preferences of low qualified persons in order to find out what job they would like or would be able to do. Project partners, based on the results of the assessment will be able to relate the person with the employer. The platform for needs assessment may be found here: <https://www.cascaid.co.uk/products/kudos/>



EUROSUCCESS (from Cyprus) together with partners initiated a research to give a solid ground for the development of the training programme. This consisted of organising focus groups and desk-based research. It identified the lack of national approaches and initiatives that would provide training materials and the methodology for the proper development and preparation of ex-offenders, even during their prison time, to be able to integrate effectively into the labour market. The project will hopefully contribute to solving this issue.



At the end of September Project Coordinators ŽISPB (Lithuania) had a visit from the agency responsible for managing ERASMUS+ projects in Lithuania. Project Managers Gintarė Černikienė and Asta Jaseliūnienė together with the representative from Education Exchanges Support Foundation Dr. Edita Trečiokienė discussed the possibilities to improve the impact of the project and its results, possibilities for future projects related to the education and employment of ex-offenders.

# 9-13 October, 2017, Madrid Moments from "Training of Trainers"



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