



## SkillHUBS NEWSLETTER, Issue no. 7, 04/09/2020

Dear Readers,

As the SkillHUBS project is coming to a close, we are preparing for the final steps towards more inclusive and learner-centred prison education in Europe. This newsletter contains information about the pilot project and local conference during covid times in one of the partner countries Romania, but also on the online final conference that will be organised by the consortium in October 6th.

The SkillHUBS Project aims to develop a transnational counselling and training model for inmates and elaborate recommendations for the introduction of the model into national prison education systems across Europe. Below you will find insightful articles and information on our forthcoming inputs. Do not forget to check out our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages and spread the news!

### **Transnational prison up-skilling guidance and training model abroad**

The pilot program targets illiterate and low basic skills detainees, and intervenes with support methods for developing writing, reading, numeracy, collaboration and problem solving skills, creativity, critical thinking, communication, negotiation. The program consists out of carrying out specific activities, such as individual or group exercises, theoretical exposures / debates and analyzes. The purpose being that the intervention is directed to practicing basic skills and increasing the chances of employment for the target group. The

worksheets).

### **The pilot program in Romania**

The program included 12 thematic contents, carried out during 12 working sessions, with a frequency of 3 sessions per week, each meeting lasting approximately 60 minutes. Additional to the main structure of the program, there are some indicative activities, so that the trainer can choose those that are the most suitable for the level of participants and can lead to achieving the goals that are set for the group.

In the elaboration of the program we focused on identifying interactive techniques: those techniques that are relevant to everyday life, transferable in the context of the labor market and covering a larger target group. To cover a group as large as possible for the beneficiary, we targeted low and medium skills.

### **Some challenges**

- Initially, some participants tended not to take the topics seriously because of the game orientated approach. Things started to change when they understood the purpose of first session.
- One of session's 10 activities is an interview with an employer. It might be difficult to find one that is interested in maintaining a long term relationship with the penitentiary, or some that would agree in receiving us/ or come and meet with inmates.

### **Impact and outcomes**

- Improved skills in: writing, reading, numeracy, collaboration and problem solving skills, creativity, critical thinking, communication, negotiation, time management, being responsible, presenting to a job interview.
- Better understanding of their interests regarding work and creating some realistic expectations, based on their skills.
- Increased motivation in applying for a job
- Increased self-confidence

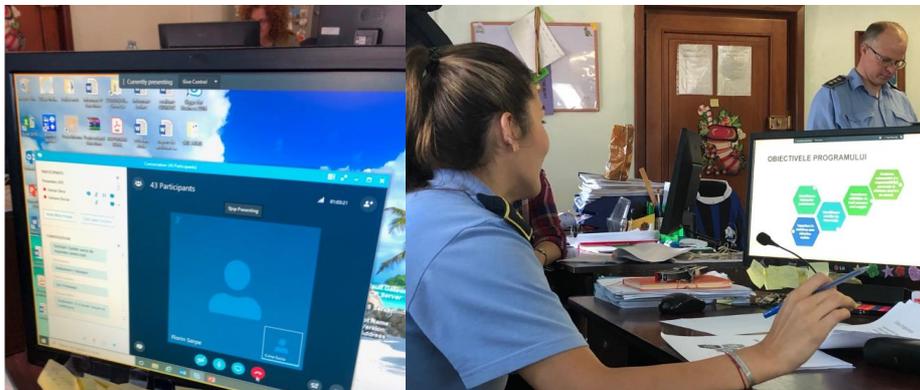
### **Romanian National Conference - Event report**

The Baia Mare Penitentiary organised an online event as important piloting country within the SkillHUBS project. The event was opened by the chief commissioner of police penitentiary Pompilia Manoiu, director of the Social Reintegration Directorate of the National Administration of Penitentiaries.

There were 43 workstations connected to the conference, with a minimum of 43 participants during the event. We believe that the number of participants was much higher, with more people participating from each IT station.

During the event, several presentations were explored about the role of the Baia Mare Penitentiary in the SkillHUBS project and its successful implementation of the model. Also

At the end, the participants had the opportunity to provide feedback, both verbally and in writing. The participants expressed their interest in the project and in the standardised educational program developed for Romania, declaring that they are interested in implementing it in their prisons.



### Virtual conference on the Future of Prison Education

Remember that you can still register for the SkillHubs final conference, on the 6th of October.

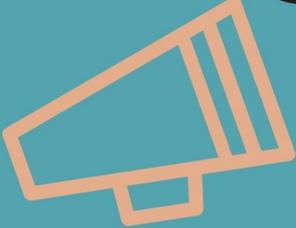
The final agenda is available on the Facebook event (above) and [EAEA website](#).

Link for registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ycq3xgxZ>

Link to the Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/214769559701518>

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**REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN**



**Future of Prison Education,  
SkillHUBS leads the way**

6th October 2020  
10-11.45 CEST AM

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***Let's continue working together for more inclusive and learner-centred prison education across Europe!***

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