

## FUTURE OF PRISON EDUCATION: SKILLHUBS LEADS THE WAY!

6 OCTOBER 2020

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, the final conference of the SkillHUBS project took place online. We received more than 90 registrations to attend the conference, although some participants got confused with the time zone difference, 34 managed to attend the conference.

Luckily the recording was made available on [YouTube](#) and it has over 60 views to this day.

The conference started with some welcome words from Regina Ebner, Secretary General of the European Association for the Education of Adults.

### REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Afterwards, we could hear the inspiring story of David Breakspear.

In 1984, at 14, found himself excluded from school and soon trapped in the revolving door of the criminal justice system. The school to prison pipeline.

David received his first custodial sentence in 1985. In 2005, while a serving prisoner, David witnessed first-hand the power of education.

Since being released from prison in 2017, David has begun a different journey within the criminal justice system. One in which he utilises all that he has learnt over the years to campaign for reform to prisons, the education system and especially the education system within prison.

David Breakspear believes everyone has a right to a good education because it is through education where the impossible can become the possible.

During his intervention he mentioned how important education is to be readmitted in society after anyone has been in prison, and that providing education to adults that had to drop out the school system at some point in their life for various reasons, it's simply an act of humanity.

He also highlighted the importance of education, not only about academic qualifications but about how much you can learn about yourself and how important this is.

## A EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

Regina Ebner gave us a global vision about the current EU landscape when it comes to adult prison education. She gave a brief explanation of what is EAEA and the work of the organization, as well as the presentation of the Manifesto for adult learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Afterwards, she referred to the importance of European policies regarding prison education, how advocating for it can help to achieve a good quality education for people in prison.

She also made some references to the upskilling pathways program and the new European agenda for adult learning.

## SKILLHUBS MODEL AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

After Regina's intervention, Dr. Lesley Crane, Associate at the Learning and Work Institute, presenting the SkillHUBS model, that you can find on our website, as well as the policy recommendations, that are available as well.

## PILOT EXPERIENCES

Our partners from Slovenia, Romania and Malta presented their experiences while piloting the project in their respective countries. The three experiences were quite different, with different challenges and opportunities. We already covered some of the pilot results from Romania and Slovenia, these can be read in our previous newsletters!

## Q&A SECTION

Two questions were extensively addressed to David Breakspear. The first one was about the emphasis of relationships within prison education. For this question he highlighted how relationships can have a great impact in the attitude and motivation of the person in prison, and how they can actually make a difference of their experience in learning.

The second one was about the challenges in prison, and what he would change from that experience. One of his thoughts was how low education and poverty go together in many cases, and how there should be a priority to provide education to those who are in poverty circumstances.

The conference was closed by Sabina Tori Selan (CIK), thanking all the speakers and participants of the conference.