

>>LBB: Languages Behind Bars

Increased numbers of foreign national inmates presents a huge challenge to prison staff and inmates. Language barriers can make it extremely difficult for prison staff and inmates to communicate with each other.



For prison staff, this makes their job much harder, as many foreign national inmates cannot understand their basic instructions. For inmates, this can have a negative effect on their knowledge of legal rights or court cases, access to medical care, participation in work, education and training, contact with family and the outside world, and resettlement opportunities. (Femke Hofstee-van der Meulen, 2008).

The project **LBB** combines the education and vocational training of these two important target groups to promote communication in a prison setting, helping prison staff overcome communication barriers, and providing foreign national prisoners better access to services in prison

>>LBB Project launched

LBB is a transnational project funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.



The project **LBB** is developing a multi-lingual, cross-cultural learning programme that incorporates not only the education of prisoners, but also offers vocational training opportunities to prison staff.

We hope that our work will help prison staff to promote more effective interactions, reduce unnecessary pressure and emotional stress and facilitate more effective rehabilitation of foreign national offenders

The **LBB** consortium is led by *die Berater*[®], (AT) and is a mixed partnership which includes partners from 6 European countries (AT, DE, UK, FR, NL and BG). It unites the complementary expertise of

organisations and networks in the prison sector with that of adult education providers and community out-reach organisations.

LBB started in October 2012 and will run until September 2014

>>LBB at the 14th EPEA Conference in Iceland

The **EPEA** (European Prison Education Association) held its 14th conference in Iceland this month on the theme 'Better Out! *How to prepare inmates for taking place in the labour market?*'



We were very proud to present the project **LBB** during the conference workshop sessions. Language competences are a significant pre-requisite to successful labour market integration for ex-prisoners. However, conducting a series of workshops at the conference, our LBB project coordinator, Paul Talbot went beyond looking at the role of education for prisoners, highlighting the role of enhanced training and education opportunities for prison staff.

The LBB project is working with both target groups, to enhance communication between foreign-national prison inmates and the staff who work with them. Paul's workshops engaged conference

delegates in a detailed analysis of the problems that prison staff face in supporting ex-prisoners into the labour market, and helped delegates to identify a number of creative, innovative solutions to help them address the pressing training and educational needs of prison staff. This led to an interesting project generation session, where delegates tried to match their ideas to current and previous European funding priorities.

For more information on the EPEA, or to become a member, visit www.epea.org

>> LBB Website

Information on the on-going project activities will be distributed in due course through following project newsletters and on the project website:

www.LBB-project.eu



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