

WORKPRIS

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WORKPRIS - PROJECT PHASE: MAPPING (SURVEY AND WEBINARS)

KA210-VET - Small-scale partnerships in vocational
education and training (KA210-VET)

PARTNERS



RICHTUNGS-
WECHSEL



willing to help



Center za
izobraževanje in
kulturo Trebnje



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Introduction

WORKPRIS is an Erasmus+ project supporting the professionalisation of correctional staff. It aims to increase the engagement of TSOs in correctional facilities through innovative vocational education and training programmes that meet the demands of the labour market and human rights. Through flexible training models and the creation of a transnational network of professionals and trainers, we aim to build sustainable support for TSOs and promote social (re)integration, contributing to the development of safer and more inclusive communities.

A central component of this phase was the mapping activity, which focused on identifying current and promising practices in the collaboration between third sector organisations (TSOs) and prison services.

Conducted between January and March 2025, the survey reached 86 professionals across 17 European countries. It was translated into four languages (English, German, Slovenian, Czech) and shared widely through partner networks. While not statistically representative due to uneven response distribution, the survey offers valuable insights to professionals engaged in prison-related work.

Key Survey Takeaways:

- **Regular collaboration** between TSOs and prisons is common, with some services relying on TSO involvement.
- **Essential skills** for TSO staff in prisons include problem solving, effective communication, boundary setting, conflict resolution, and de-escalation.
- **Key services** offered by TSOs include legal and job counselling, vocational courses, family mediation, and debt support.
- **Collaboration frameworks** are often based on internal regulations, but lack long-term strategy and are hindered by resource constraints and bureaucracy.
- **Challenges** faced by TSO staff include security and access issues, administrative burdens, and coordination gaps.
- **Needed services** in prisons include legal aid, education and vocational training, outdoor activities, soft skills programmes, and mental health support.
- **Positive outcomes** include improved services, increased motivation, and better post-release support.
- **Suggestions** for improvement include joint training, better coordination, and a centralized client registry.



Validation and Engagement Through Webinars

Webinars in 4 languages were organised to reflect on the survey results and gather additional input on TSO–prison collaboration practices. These events featured presentations of survey findings, keynotes contextualising national and international dynamics, and discussions of challenges and inspiring examples.

Richtungswechsel held an international webinar in English and one in German. CIK Trebnje organised a Slovenian-language webinar, while Volonte led the Czech-language version.

The international webinar preceded the national events, enabling the inclusion of insights from broader European experiences. The webinars successfully engaged professionals from 12 countries, exceeding expectations. Participant feedback and discussion outcomes were integrated into planning for upcoming project activities.

Project Achievement and Impact

The mapping activity significantly exceeded planned outreach. Originally targeting 6+ countries, the project reached professionals from 17 European countries. The survey and webinars engaged a diverse group of stakeholders, including TSOs, prison and probation staff, researchers, and training institutions. However, involvement from ministries, corporate actors, and trade unions remains limited.

Meaningful professional exchanges occurred, including follow-up between participants and keynote speakers, as well as proposals for future research collaborations. These early outcomes reflect growing interest and trust among stakeholders and indicate potential for continued knowledge-sharing and project sustainability.

Communication and Dissemination

The project activities are promoted through the partner websites and professional platforms. While social media group engagement was limited, several participants reported learning about the webinars through professional social media channels, confirming their value as communication tools.



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