



Co-funded by  
the European Union



Erasmus+

## SOCVOC newsletter 3

---

### What is SOCVOC?

SOCial VOCational, SOCVOC, is a start-up European project in which educators from five different countries make their best practices and creative training available to prisoners in an open, digital learning environment and by giving training and presentations at various events.

The core of the project is to develop an easy-to-use guidebook consisting of good practices of methodologies of learning social skills to low-skilled adult learners while they are learning a profession and train the teachers how to use this information available on the project website. And at the same time offering exercise opportunities, digital and non-digital, on the matter to the learners in prison. In this way they can get started with the processing of the social skills, combined with getting to know a digital environment and starting to use it. If you'd like to learn more about what this project entails you can go to [www.socvoc.eu](http://www.socvoc.eu)

### Second multiplier event in Tallinn

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2023, the partnership had the second multiplier event, organized by Tallinn Construction school (Estonia), to promote the project results of the ERASMUS+ SOCVOC project. The event aimed to showcase the outcomes of working package 2 (WP2) and highlighted the importance of social skills in prison vocational education.



The event attracted a diverse audience, including teachers, counsellors, prison guards & directors, social workers and other stakeholders from Tallinn and nearby cities. The event was designed as a conference that brought together all stakeholders related to prison education in Estonia. The success of the event was demonstrated by the enthusiastic involvement of the presenters and attendees.

The audience was really interested in the results of the project with practical materials for teachers on vocational education in prison. The keynote speaker Siivi Hansen conducted the seminar “Possibilities for the development of social competence in the education of prisoners”, emphasizing the important aspects of lifelong learning and the need to improve social competences of inmates and combating stereotypes in prison. During the workshops held in small groups, the participants gave feedback on the already collected good experiences and created materials and discusses ways to improve the educational environment in

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

prison. In summary, the relevant information from the last EPEA conference ([www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org)) as also shared, including Angela Allik of the Tallinn prison who gave the audience more insights in the effects of education as a factor in reducing recidivism and the teacher Mare Lilleorg shared good practices of developing social skills of prisoners in Agder prison (in Norway).

At the end of the multiplier event, the engaged audience's reflected on this meeting and shared commitment to promote the improvement of social skills of prisoners in vocational training. Through the collaborative efforts of the stakeholders of the partnership SOCVOC, the researchers and teachers collected the feedback of this conference for the next steps in working packages 3 & 4.



### Task sheets for teachers related to the 21<sup>st</sup> century life skills

The opportunities and needs to communicate with others around the world are changing rapidly. Therefore the social skills of prisoners will need to be improved accordingly by learning to use new tools, how to build relationships and to be successful in work and in life in the 21st century. The ERASMUS+ partnership SOCVOC has elaborated 15 task sheets for teachers related to these 21st century skills. These task sheets can be used in a common methodology during vocational training where students have also exercises on one of the topics in the table underneath.

Learning and Innovation "The 4 C's"	Digital Literacy	Career and Life
Critical thinking & problem solving	Information literacy	Flexibility & adaptability
Creativity and innovation	Media Literacy	Initiative & self-direction
Communication	ICT Literacy	Social & cross-cultural interaction
Collaboration		Productivity & Accountability
		Leadership & responsibility

With these task sheets for teachers the 21st century skills are more than a fancy buzzword, but are a guideline for prisoners to prepare themselves for a successful reintegration in an increasingly interconnected and complex world.

Would you like to learn more about SOCVOC? If you'd like to get in contact with us about this project you can send an email to [gert.hurkmans@gmail.com](mailto:gert.hurkmans@gmail.com).