



## Virtual reality for training inmates

Newsletter n°1 - 2021/02

**Virtual reality for training inmates**, is an initiative from [Greta du Velay](#) (FR), CIRE, [Centre d'Iniciatives per a la Reinserció](#) (ES), [Innovative Prison Systems](#) (PT) and [SQLearn](#) (GR) supported by the Erasmus+ program of the European Commission (2020-2022).

### Context

The European Parliament resolution of 5 October 2017 on prison systems and conditions “*encourages the Member States to develop tools to support prisoners’ return to working life with the aim of identifying job opportunities in relation to local needs, to organise and supervise training and work in a way as tailored as possible, and to be in constant dialogue with employers’ representatives; exhorts the Member States to establish training schemes aimed at encouraging employers and private companies to provide professional training to inmates with a view to recruiting them at the end of the detention period; [...] as well as mandatory and strictly supervised distance learning.*”

For inmates, the advantages of participating to education and training activities are multiple. Being usually low educated and without qualifications, they gain confidence, and by acquiring basic competences, and developing transversal and vocational skills, they increase their chances to be employed when they are free. Yet, access to employment is one of the conditions for a sound rehabilitation in autonomy, while reducing the risk of recidivism. But training opportunities are limited because not all prisons have the technical premises needed to provide vocational courses. And, even when there are some opportunities, prisoners may be reluctant to participate because they are not confident enough in their potentialities and may feel shame in front of their fellow detainees. The difficulty to adapt is also a cause of many drop outs.

### We want to:

- Diversify the training offer available for inmates
- Motivate inmates to engage in training and reduce the drop-out rates after engaging
- Develop basic and transversal skills of inmates thanks to the interactions allowed by virtual reality.
- Associate companies in the learning support and in the global integration process.

### We will:

- Draw up the state of the art of the use of virtual reality for educational and training purposes
- Analyse what can be done in a prison environment with existing technologies and products
- Determine the conditions for the successful inclusion of virtual reality in training paths for inmates
- Develop and test virtual reality modules based on 360° videos integrating interactive features to discover the different jobs existing in the construction sector.
- Develop guidelines for the awareness of the key actors (administration, trainers, funders) regarding the use of virtual reality in the training of prisoners.



Our experience will be shared on internet in five languages, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Catalan.

### Who we are:

The [Greta du Velay](#) is a public training organisation, under the wing of Lycée C. et A. Dupuy and gathering 21 educational institutions from the Ministry of Education (15 secondary schools, 6 high schools and colleges). Certified ISO 9001 since 1998, it exists since 1974. It employs 4 training advisers and 40 trainers, welcoming 2000-2500 learners. It is active in the Velay, in the South of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region. Among the different courses provided to prepare qualified workers for companies, the Greta du Velay prepare inmates in the local detention center to become cook and to obtain the corresponding certificate of professional competence, that is the reference national diploma in this sector. It has the project, in collaboration with the prison authorities to enlarge the training offer towards the construction sector.

[CIRE](#) is a public body that depends on the Department of Justice of the Generalitat de Catalunya. It manages the socio-labour reintegration of inmates and offers them professional training and paid productive work in prisons and support in the search for a job in the last stage of the sentence. The main goal of CIRE is to give a second chance to people serving a sentence. CIRE trains more than 3,000 inmates in the trade that currently have the highest demand in the labour market. CIRE provides work to inmates of prisons and educational centres in Catalonia in its 70 workshops (carpentry, printing, handling, and assembly workshops, clothing, or locksmithing) with 150 companies. In addition to conventional production workshops, CIRE has created a new way to occupy inmates in services highly demanded by the labour market and also other essential jobs for the proper functioning of prisons such as the kitchen, laundry, shop, and ancillary services.

[Innovative Prison Systems – IPS](#), is a specialised justice consultancy firm with a decade of expertise in policy advisory, strategic consulting, training, e-learning consultancy, and development of information technologies for probation and correctional systems. IPS develops integrated projects, supporting change management in complex organizations. Besides having a vast experience in developing EU-funded projects, IPS is specialised in prison and probation innovation and capacity building approaches in prison and probation contexts. Together with the International Prisons and Corrections Association (associated partner), IPS will also be responsible for the dissemination of the project, offering a wide range of knowledge exchange opportunities allowing to compare, acknowledge and adopt practices and innovation from a country to another.

[SQLearn](#) founded in 2006, is the most dynamically developing Greek company with exclusive expertise in the provision of e-learning services to a wide range of businesses and organizations, both in Greece and abroad, namely: Training needs assessment, Educational planning in accordance with modern pedagogical approaches, Learning Management Systems development, E-learning courses development including webinars, scenario-based courses and software simulations, 3D animations and Virtual Reality for e-learning, Serious Games development, Custom plugins development to enhance e-learning courses or LMS, Evaluation of online education programs, Training and technical support for managers and trainers.

Visit our web site: <https://virtual.reality.for.inmates.training/>

Contact: Greta du Velay / +33 471 098 030 / [cri@velay.greta.fr](mailto:cri@velay.greta.fr)



*This project is funded with support from the European Commission.  
This publication reflects the views only of the author; and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*