

pipeline project

Partnerships In Prison Education: Learning In Networked Environments

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www.pipeline-project.org



BULLETIN

1st issue – March 2006

Introduction

Dear reader,

What you have in your hands or may read on the Internet is the very first issue of the European **Pipeline Project Bulletin** – a quarterly bulletin for and by teachers (and learners!) in prison education. Read on for more information on what is going on in this field and to be introduced to colleagues (teachers and learners) around Europe.



Above: The PIPELINE team's first meeting in Athens, November 2005

What is PIPELINE?

The PIPELINE project is a Grundtvig 1 project consisting of nine partners: Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, the UK and the coordinating country Norway. The project was initiated by the County Governor of Hordaland, Norway who is responsible for prison education in Norway. The rationale behind the project is:

The impact of information and communications technologies (ICT), and in particular the Internet and other networked environments, have steadily increased. This goes for working life as well as education and social life. There is a severe risk that certain groups of learners lose out on this development, and perhaps prisoners more so than any other group. The reason is so far unsolved security concerns, but also lack of knowledge as to how to pedagogically integrate technologies in prison education.



The main aim and objective is to improve prison education in Europe by making ICT available to learners and teachers in correctional education and bridge the gap between life in and outside prisons.

We aim to develop technologies, pedagogical activities and organizational arrangements so that Information and communication technologies can benefit learners and teachers in prison and prepare inmates for taking part in social and working life in the 21st century.

Visit our website, <http://www.pipeline-project.org> for more information, resources and current updates on the project.



Slovenian workshop

The PIPELINE project is planning a workshop for teachers who teach in prisons, most likely in Slovenia in November 2006. The theme is the use of ICT and how such technologies can provide new opportunities for learning and teaching. Special emphasis will be placed on the networked solutions we work with.

This involves issues of pedagogy, security, and organization.

The PIPELINE Bulletin will carry details in its next issue. In the meantime, make sure you visit our website www.pipeline-project.org



From a Danish prisoner

Re-socialization of inmates

In keeping time with technological development and its grip on the current workplace, ICT should be an integrated element in re-socializing inmates in prisons. I think work is the King's Road to re-socialization for very many prisoners. The lack of activities where ICT is integrated partly or fully should make prisons invest heavily in the field of ICT. In addition, a lot of prisoners will benefit from improving their written communication, if only for personal reasons.

For example, it is no fun needing friends or relatives to read aloud when a public office has written a letter to you and you cannot read. Of course, it does not help your self-esteem to be so helpless. Although a prison is not the best place to be in, you can still say that you rarely get so much time on your hands to concentrate on a task such as improving your reading or writing or to learn using the knife, fork and spoon of the 21st century – the computer and the Internet.

Anders M
Inmate in a Danish Prison



Greece disseminates project's activities



The Secondary Education Directorate of Attica – Athens organized a daily seminar titled "I.C.T. in teaching practice", which was held on the 4th of February 2006. Teachers specialized in I.C.T. attended the seminar. One of the main speakers was Petros Damianos, who had the opportunity to present the Pipeline project. A 20 minute power point presentation was used based on the project's p.p.t. template.

It contained information taken from the project's web site and other project material.

Representatives from each European country were mentioned, as well as, technologies and means used and the goals the project aims to achieve.

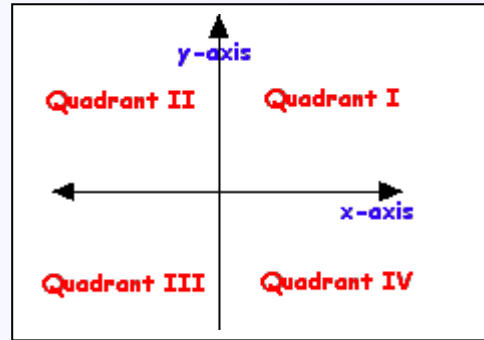
The audience was impressed since everybody found Pipeline project very interesting and innovative. Closing the presentation, Petros Damianos answered questions regarding the project. He also presented the pipeline's web site address in order to disseminate the project's activities.

It was a fruitful conversation since all of them exchanged different point of views concerning I.C.T. in teaching practice.

[We encourage all teachers in prison education to send us news, tips, advice etc!](#)

🇳🇴 Using spreadsheets for "Magic Quadrants"

Did you know that you can use a spreadsheet in every subject to create educational tasks that are fun? Teacher Niels Peter Broch in Norway has been hired to develop models and manuals. We expect to have these ready for dissemination in May. They are excellent for combining thematic bits and pieces of information, and when done correctly the result is "magic". More in the next issue.



🇸🇪 Use of LMS in distance learning

In February 2005 the Swedish Correctional service decided to transform prison education so that learners, no matter where in the country they are, have access to equal learning opportunities, also compared to education outside prisons. The aim is by 2007 to have all schools prisons participating in one national network.

Already, the models has started to effect as some teachers who specialize in certain subjects work online with a learner in a prison, and this learner can also receive face-to-face assistance from a local teacher. The teachers also have their own network, which facilitates cooperation.

A Swedish provider of a Learning management System (LMS, online learning environment) has developed a version of their software that is currently used. However, so far the system facilitates one learner to one teacher communication and is not used for collaboration among learners.

Prisoners in an educational program can use the internet when a teacher monitors the surfing and searching.

The experience so far is that teachers' expertise is distributed to several institutions, and there is a marked increase in the number of learners and exams passed.

🇸🇮 PIPELINE in the Dob prison

The Dob prison, which is the largest prison in Slovenia, is taking part in Pipeline project. There are 461 male prisoners serving prison sentence from 18 months up to 30 years. One third of them are involved in different formal educational programmes. Every inmate has a possibility to have his own computer in a cell (over 60 computers in Dob prison). But they are not allowed to have access to the Internet. Within that project one classroom is going to be equipped with PC's where prisoners could also navigate on Internet. The prisoners who are included in education are the most interested in having access to educational contents (link-up with different educational organisations and programmes, courses, technical manuals, counsellors etc.). All are interested in having information from outside world (especially those with long term sentences) – connection with institutions and information important for post-released situation (employment services, centres for social work, legislation etc.).

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