

Teaching in the Norwegian prison system

Elin Wekre Dingsør – Grønland voksenopplæring GVO

Grønland voksenopplæring – GVO school of possibilities

- GVO is a bit different from the other schools in the «import model» since it has no «mother»-school. It is instead an independent school funded by the authorities and providing education in the three prisons in Oslo and its own “follow-up school”.
- GVO is also responsible for some weekly courses held in a drug rehabilitation center in Oslo.



My timetable – regular week – 195 workdays a year

Seniors 57 years / 60 years old: 6 % / 12 % off teaching

Union reps get some time off teaching, depending on the number of union members in their school

Times:	MONDAY G26 Follow-up class	TUESDAY Tyrili drug rehab.	WEDNESDAY G26	THURSDAY G26	FRIDAY G26
08:30 – 09:15		Meeting	Union rep time		English
09:15 - 10:00		O S L O walk			English
10.15 – 11:00	English	O S L O walk	English		English
11:00 – 11:45	English	O S L O walk	English		English
11:45 – 12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30 – 13:15	Norwegian		Weekly meeting	Norwegian	
13:15 – 14:00	Norwegian	(Monthly meeting)	Weekly meeting	Norwegian	
14:15 - 15:00	Norwegian	(Monthly meeting)	Weekly meeting	Norwegian	

Where we teach I: Oslo Prison

- High security: 243 places
- All male, detained in custody, awaiting trial
- Average 100 days detention
- 300 students per year
- 30-40 every week



Where we teach II: Bredtvedt prison for women – high and low security

- High security: 45 places
- (behind bars)
- Low security – (19 places) in a «regular» house.
- 70 students a year
- Average time in custody: 6 years, 3 months



Where we teach III: Follow-up school

- 90 participants last school year
- Strong encouragement to complete secondary education (up to 18)
- Released prisoners with or without an electronic tag, more or less free.
- All Norwegian citizens
- 140 passed exams last year



Who are we and what do we teach?

- A principal, an assistant principal, a secretary, three school counsellors and 25 teachers.
- Mathematics, Science, Norwegian, English, Social Sciences.
- Various food classes, hairdressing, art, gardening, yoga, music, customer service skills.
- Shorter courses for those



Some blessings as a teacher

- Prison bonus - £ 125,-
- Small groups, teachers discretion
- Getting to know the students well
- No security on site
- Safe workplace
- Appreciative students
- Valued position in society
- Support and belief in rehabilitation
- Creating change
(20 % reoffending rate)



Some challenges teaching in prisons

- Education vs justice
- Learning vs security
- Lack of coordination between different services
- Needs of the students vs needs of the institution
- Absenteeism
- Criminal minds
- Mental health
- Learning disabilities
- Dyslexia, ADHD etc
- Buildings not fit for purpose
- No security on site



Royal support



Thanks for listening!

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Oslo guide 😊

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