

# The Norwegian education system in prisons

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# Prison education in Norway – education act

- The Norwegian **Education Act** guarantees prisoners the same access to education as other citizens and residents (since 2014).
- This applies to all ages, also adults.



# Who is responsible for education in prison?

## «The import model»

- Prisoners have the same access to social services as other citizens.
- All non-penal functions are placed with bodies outside the prison.
- Aim: normalization and openness in an otherwise closed system.
- This ensures that other authorities, than the correctional services, are being held accountable and take responsibility for the re-integration of prisoners into society.



# Who is responsible for education in prison?

## «The import model» - organization

- Organization:
  - The school authorities are responsible for prison education.
  - The teaching is organized and carried out by an ordinary upper secondary school (also vocational training).
  - The prison school department operates as a “branch” of the main school.
  - Schools in all Norwegian prisons currently have established educational programs at the mandatory and upper secondary levels.



# Who is responsible for education in prison?

## «The import model» - finances

- Prison education is an earmarked state measure.
- In 2022 the subsidy seized down is aprox. 6000 GBP for every place of imprisonment. Seized down to number of teachers, there will be aprox. 7 – 8 teachers per 100 inmates.



# Some facts about the prison population in Norway

- Prison capacity: aprox. 3600
- 58 prisons (physical different buildings)
- 2 institutions for juveniles (up to 18 years of age)
- Students: 1400 (average per day)
- Aprox. 440 teachers



# Who are the students at the prison schools?

- We are monitoring the prison population every 3rd year (research done at the University of Bergen, Norway). Main focus on earlier work/schooling, motivation for education and learning difficulties

Some findings:

- Prisoners have less education than the general population (similar to the population 30 years back in time)
- Reading and writing difficulties (30 %).
- High motivation for learning, inspite of reading and writing difficulties