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)
• Approx. 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.