



Belgium Prison Service

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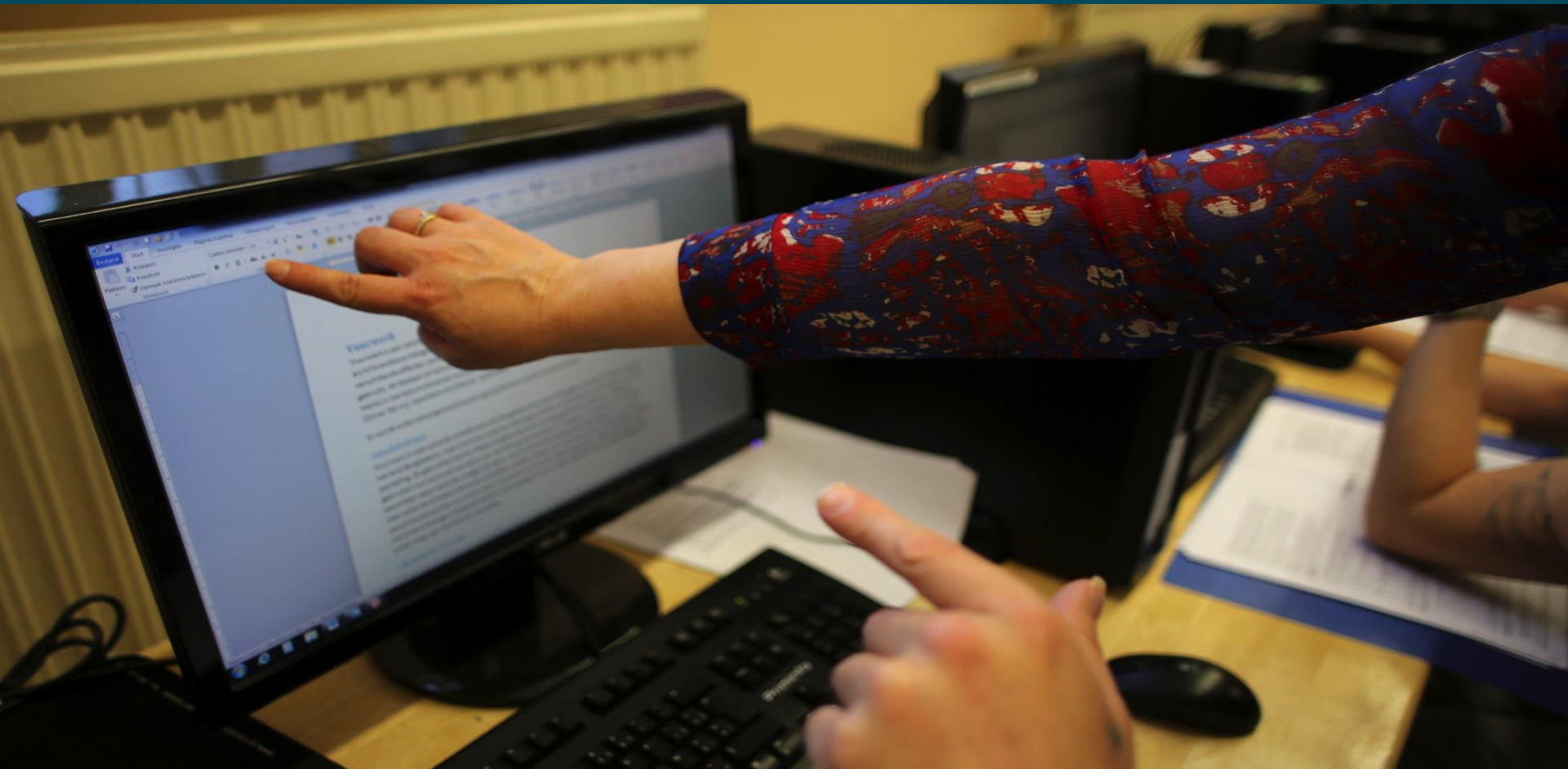


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Is prisoner education provided according to European standards?

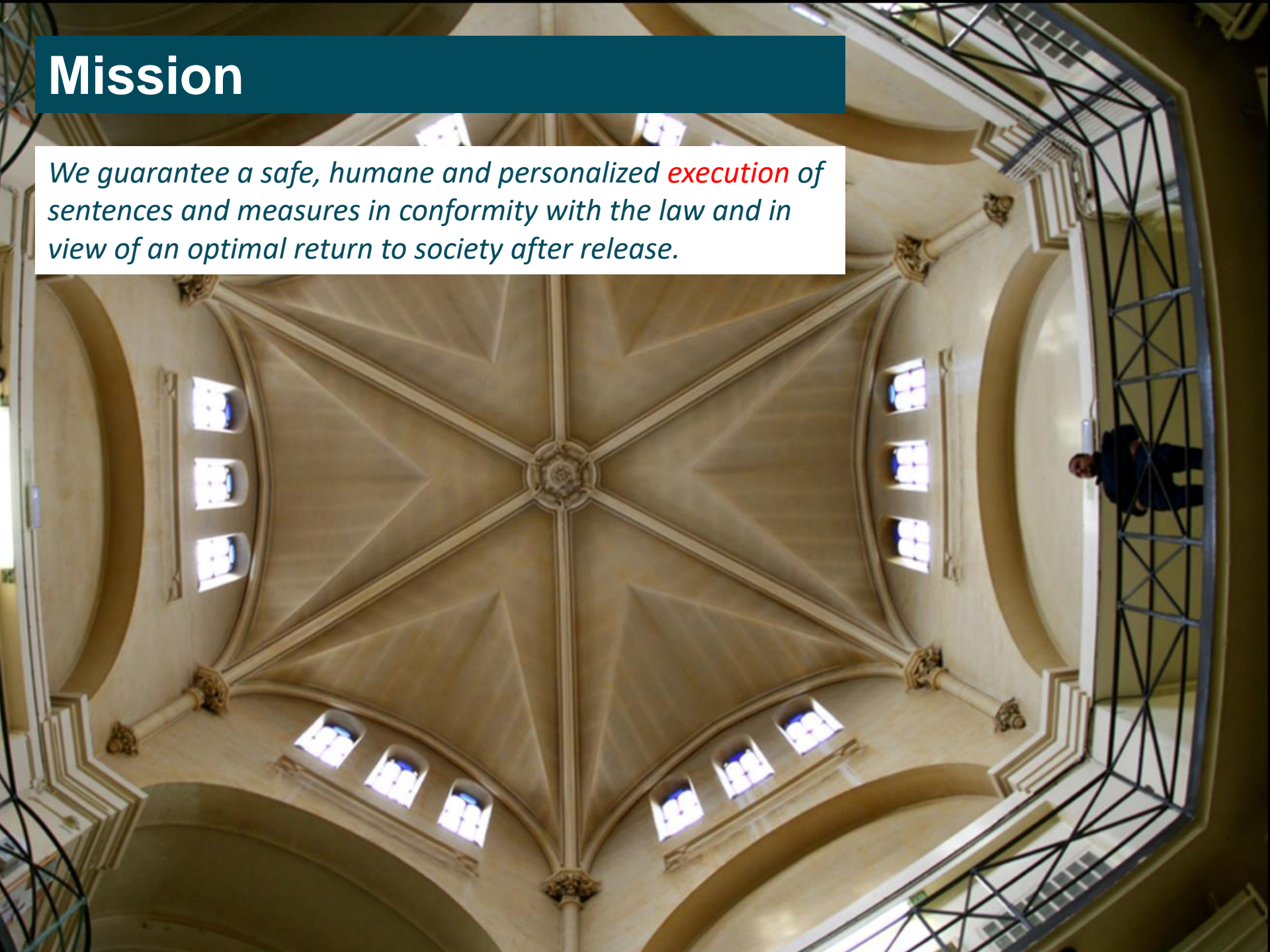
We strive for all imprisoned persons to be offered the opportunity to engage in educational activities and that these activities should serve to develop the whole person, be conducive to effective reintegration and encourage a reduction in recidivism.





Mission

*We guarantee a safe, humane and personalized **execution** of sentences and measures in conformity with the law and in view of an optimal return to society after release.*



Does your Service have a vision on education for prisoners?





Our vision

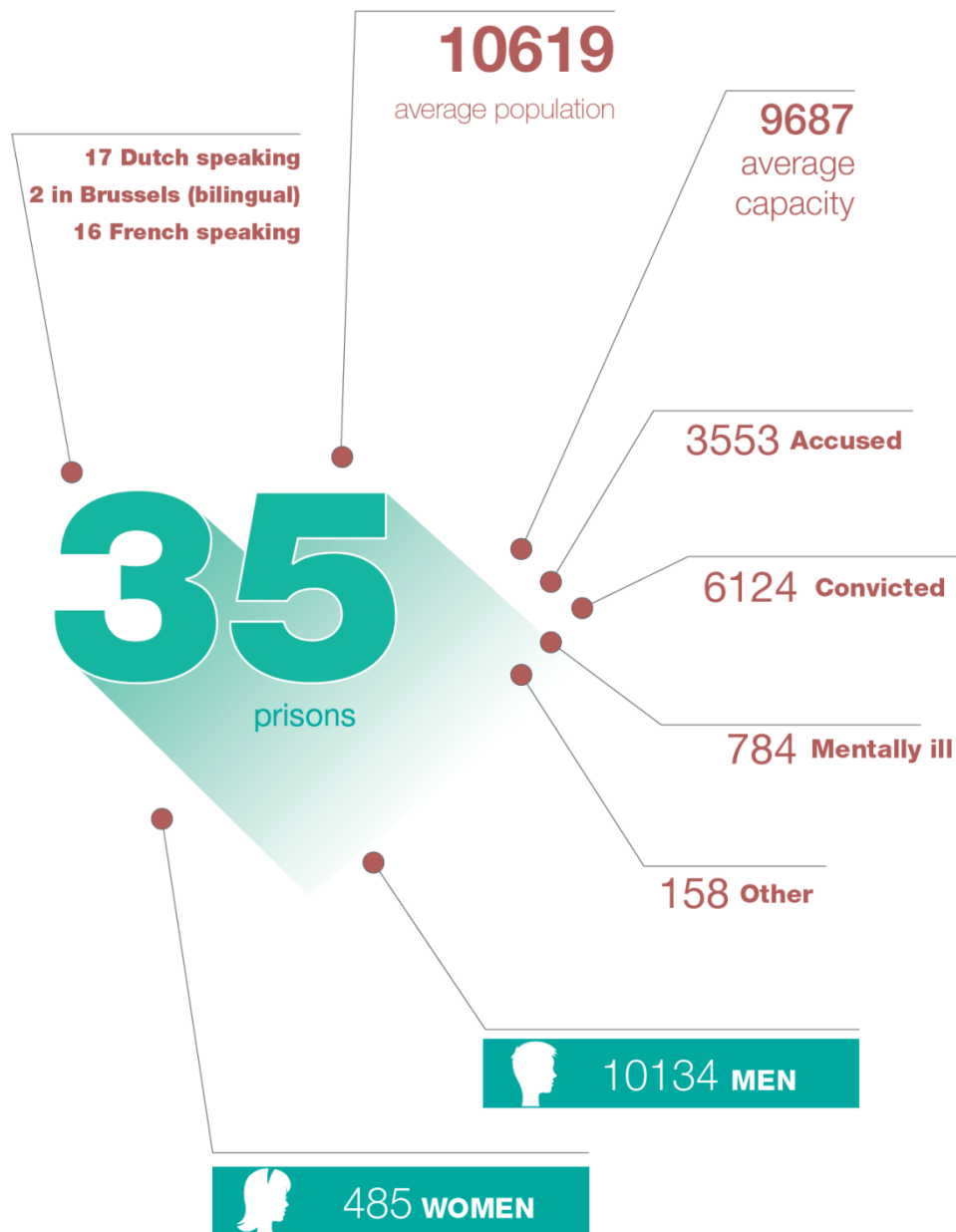
We uphold an innovative penitentiary policy, taking the interests of the inmate at heart, based on from best practices in the field and from our professionalism, experience and expertise.

Our detention model is focused on a good balance between dynamic and passive security in which the rights and duties of the inmates and the prison staff as well as the integrity of all are key factors.

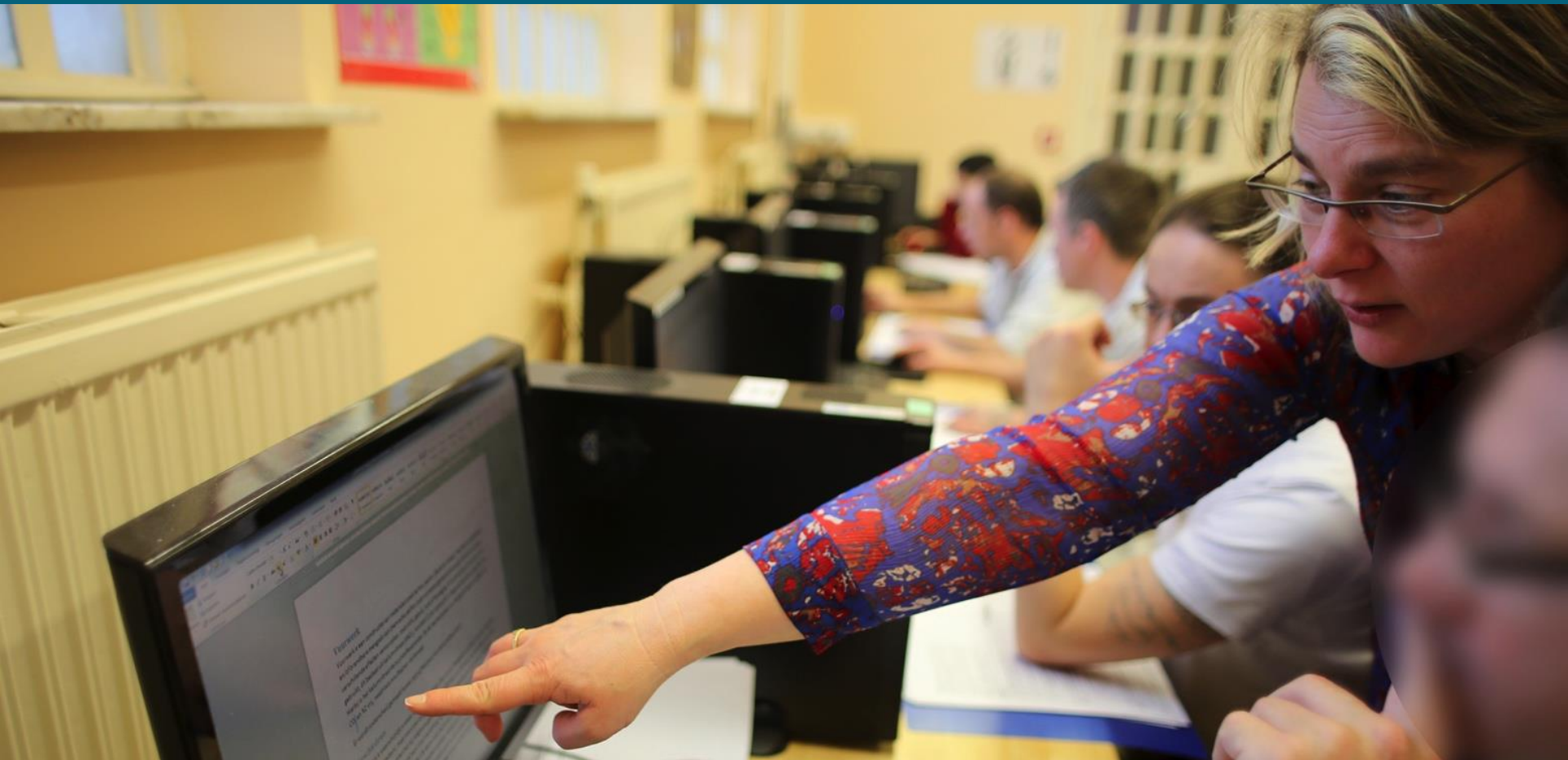
We carry out a result-oriented management on every level within our organisation in which partnerships are an important lever.

The philosophy of the communities

- Inmates are still entitled to their human rights, the only right they have lost is freedom
- Inmates are still part of society and will continue to be so after their release
- Inmates are entitled to the same public assistance and services that the communities provide for its free citizens
- Inmates can't reach the services and assistance providers outside, so the communities have the responsibility to bring the outside world into the prison



Is special attention given to needs of juveniles, females and foreign nationals?



- **Juveniles:**
Responsibility of the communities
- **Female inmates:** different projects
‘Penitentiary school’ for education and formation
- **EU foreign national inmates:** the FORINER project
Education providers can reach out to their national prisoners in other EU countries, at the same quality standard as the home offer.

Who provides education to prisoners?



Education is provided by the communities

Complex structure: 6 governments in one country

- Federal state Belgium
 - Competences:
 - Matters of public interest
 - Justice, health, social security, defence, foreign affairs, finance , ...
- 3 language communities: Flemish-speaking, French-speaking, German-speaking
 - Competences:
 - Matters of personal interest
 - Education, culture, health, welfare, sports, ...
- 3 regions: Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels
 - Competences:
 - Matters of regional interest
 - Economy, environment, agriculture, energy, transport, ...

Flemish speaking community + region of Flanders: one government

Who decides about contracting?

How are contracts established with outside partners?

How to make their performance/quality measurable



Who decides about contracting?

Flemish community: subsidises, depends on schools

French community: depends on the resources of non-profit organisations

How are contracts established with outside partners?

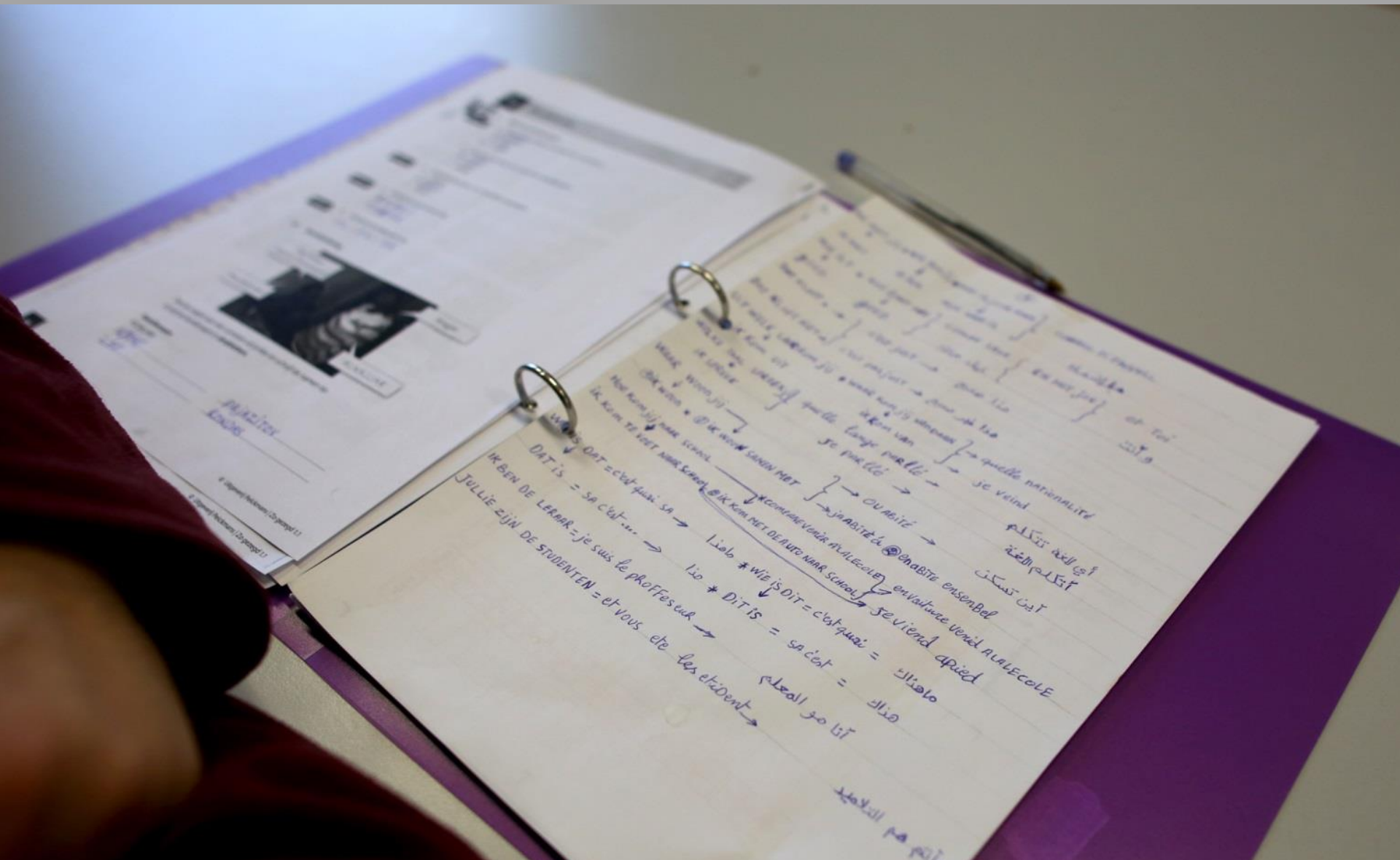
Education coordinators

How to make their performance/quality measurable?

A certain number of educational programs are certified, when the inmates pass their exams. They will receive a certificate.

Role of the Ministry of Education

Role of ngo's



Role of the Ministry of Education

- Subsidising the education coordinator
 - 1 coordinator in each prison
 - coordinating the education and training offer with the different partners
 - Practical organisation of the educational offer in prison
 - Supporting the teachers coming in from outside organisations
 - Being a single point of contact for all local partners involved
 - ...

Role of ngo's

For the Flemish communities

VOCVO (Flemish support centre for adult education)

- Strategic plan for assistance and services for prisoners

For the French communities

- Ministry of education doesn't subsidise
- No learning plan
- No certificates → value of diploma depreciates

Who determines the quality of education?



Who determines the quality of education?

- Quality is not determined but we try to provide an equal level of education as there is extra-muros
- No specific follow-up

Use of internet / digital tools / ICT for education



Use of internet / digital tools / ICT for education

- Limited use of internet
 - ICT class in each prison
 - Basic skills
 - E-learning; communication with the teacher is not allowed → E-reading
(Prison Cloud)
- ICT for education → no
 - No smartboards → for security reasons

Use of distant education



Use of distant education

- Open university
 - It is not possible to communicate with professors
 - Full self-education