



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF PRISON
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

EUROPEAN PRISON REGIME FORUM WEBINAR 13 APRIL 2021

Speaker Introduction
Presentation Synopsis

INTRODUCTION TO THE TWINNING PROJECT

This presentation will introduce participants to the Twinning Project and how it is making positive changes to the lives of prisoners through the power of football.

The Twinning Project was co-founded by Mr David Dein MBE and Jason Swettenham from HMPPS. The purpose of the project is to partner or 'twin' prisons with professional football clubs in England and Wales to allow them to deliver coaching qualifications to offenders – at no cost to the MoJ.

The project was launched on 31st October 2018 at Wembley Stadium. All 20 Premier League and 72 English Football League Clubs (EFL), the FA, League Managers Association, Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and the Referees Association have endorsed the Twinning Project. Since its inception the Twinning Project has twinned 62 prisons with their nearest Premier League and English Football League (EFL) clubs. The aim of the project is to engage prisoners in football-based programmes to improve their mental and physical health, well-being and to obtain a qualification which will help improve their life chances and opportunities to gain employment on release. Professional football clubs and the Football Association (FA) use the experience of their coaches and referees, and the power of their brands, to engage the disengaged. Many prisoners have had a poor educational experience and develop a resistance to learning and exercise. The Twinning Project uses football to break down barriers and uses sport as a catalyst for change.

The University of Oxford Department of Anthropology and the Loughborough University Department of Criminology are engaged as academic partners to The Twinning Project.

The research is longitudinal and will continue through 2021 and beyond, which will offer a scientific view on what works and why.



Jason Swettenham, HMPPS, United Kingdom
David Dein MBE, United Kingdom

Jason Swettenham

Jason Swettenham is the Head of Prison Industries, Catering and Physical Education in HM Prison and Probation Service (All England and Wales). He joined as a Prison Officer in 1992 and has “come up through the ranks”.

Jason’s manages a large team with an Annual budget of £145 Million. His remit is varied and covers all the work and occupational training for prisoners in each of the 105 public sector prisons across England and Wales. His team makes sure that the Prison Service is largely self-sufficient as they make all the clothing, furniture and infrastructure used in all prisons. Training includes all the major manufacturing trades including woodwork, engineering, printing, textiles manufacturing, laundries, plastic injection moulding and land-based activities (horticulture and farming).

Jason is also in charge of all the prison kitchens and all the food served to the 80,000 prisoners in England and Wales. His team produces over 92 Million meals per year.

He is responsible for all Physical Education in England and Wales and is overhauling the delivery of Physical Education Nationally. He is on a personal mission to improve the mental and physical health of those in custody via exercise and a nutritious diet.

David Dein - MBE

David joined the Arsenal Board in 1983 and was made Vice-Chairman in the same year. He also rose to Vice-Chairman of the Football Association and has served on numerous UEFA and FIFA Committees. David was an early proponent of women’s football having been President of the hugely successful Arsenal Ladies Team

He was the man who had the foresight to bring Arsene Wenger to Arsenal in 1996. During David’s reign, the Club won:

- The League x5
- The FA Cup x5
- The UEFA Cup Winners Cup x1
- The League Cup x2
- The Community Shield x5

SPORT WITH THE 11 CORE VALUES OF A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB

FC Emmen is the first professional football club in the Netherlands who started a project in a prison. The aim is to make them play football with the eleven core values of FC Emmen and that after detention the inmates get a paid job by the network of the businessclub of FC Emmen.

"FC Emmen Inside' is a project in the prison of Veenhuizen that takes place during 8 to 10 weeks.



Twice a week there is a football training given by a coach of FC Emmen and a staff member of the prison with 8 to 15 detainees. The aim of the training is to achieve the 11 core values of FC Emmen: Pleasure, creative, taking initiative, ambitious, discipline, confidence, collaborating, professional, proactive, be an example, respect.

During and after each workout, there are group discussions and/or individual interviews about the core values on which it is trained.

All participants will receive the football outfit of FC Emmen (shirt, pants, socks, sweater and tracksuit). They must wear it during the training, but they may carry it also in their 'spare time'. In addition to the training and the meetings there will be preparations for the paid work after 8 or more weeks. Participants create a CV, completed a worksheet about their skills and social network and there are intakes (using spreadsheets) held in prison with potential employers.

In the last week there will be a football match against the business club and everyone who has successfully completed the course of FC Emmen will get a certificate and can keep the clothing package.

In addition, the first contracts will be signed between employers and detainees who are allowed to work in the short term.

The first pilot of the 'FC Emmen Inside' took place in the end of 2019 and the 2nd pilot ended successfully on March 4 2020. A total of 20 inmates obtained the certificate and 8 detainees have signed a "contract" with an employer from the network of FC Emmen. Once the corona crisis is over will be launched with the 3rd course.

As a result FC Dordrecht and Heracles Almelo follows this example and started in March a similar project in a prison too. 'FC Emmen Inside' is also part of the Erasmus+ 'Sports in Prison, a plan for the Future'.

One of the participants (former inmate) of the project will be co-speaker in this presentation

Gerko Brink, Custodial Institutions Agency, Netherlands
Roland van Schijndel, Netherlands

Gerko Brink

Gerko Brink is the National staff officer for 'Work through Sport' (Ex-Made) a project managed by the Dutch Ministry of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

He was 20 years old when he started to work in the prison system and worked for more than 15 years with inmates in prisons. He wanted to do more for the prison community so he went back to school and in 2011 he got his bachelor's degree in Cultural and Social Education (CMV). A CMV graduate, motivates and enables citizens to activate and take responsibility to participate in the societal life.

In 2013 he was appointed as a counselor in the prison of Ter Apel, his role was to focus on employment. Every month he organized 'speed dates' between prisoners and employers. In addition, he was (and is) very active in the football world. He was chairman of a fan club of FC Twente, editor of a football magazine and initiator of the FC Twente funeral service.



Because of this he developed a great network with other football clubs in the Netherlands and in England. In England he saw that several football clubs were active in prisons. This experience gave me the idea to create the partnership between the prison of Ter Apel and FC Twente. His idea was that detainees could find employment through the network of football clubs. The results were very promising.

In 2014 their head of prison gave him the opportunity to start a project nationwide to make more connections between prisons, prisoners and sports clubs (mainly football) and he became the national project leader for 'Work through Sport' (Ex-Made).

Roland van Schnijndel

Co-speaker Roland van Schijndel is born on 22 march 1981 and finished his Bachelor Degree in 2007. After that he worked in a call-centre, a hospital and a few years for banks. Through circumstances he got in jail and did the 'FC Emmen project' in the end of 2019. Now he is working for a recruiting company in the business-club of FC Emmen and gives other inmates a new start to study and/or work.

TBC

TBC

INMATES RUNNING POPULAR RACES AS AN INSPIRING PRACTICE IN CATALAN PRISONS

We aim to present how sports contribute to accomplish the rehabilitation mission in the Catalan prison system. To this end, we will first outline the prison sports programme and the main objectives of sports instructors in Catalan prisons: safeguarding the inmates' right to practice sports and physical activities tailored to their needs; establishing links between the inmates and the community, and promoting a safer environment in prison. Secondly, we will briefly sketch the types of sports practiced, as well as the average number of prison leaves scheduled for inmates to engage in sports activities in the community. We will then focus on two specific inspiring practices that have proven to be very successful for inmates to learn skills that will better prepare them for their return into the community. On the one hand, the coaching of groups of inmates to participate in popular races. They started by running 10km races and later some of them engaged in running popular half marathons in Barcelona. On the other hand, the organisation of a solidarity race. Every year, a group of inmates choose a specific social cause, they organise the event and prepare for running the race outside their prison. The funds they gather are allocated to the specific cause. The experience shows the inmates high involvement and commitment with the preparation of the event and the positive atmosphere amongst all the people participating.

David Ballester, Secretariat of Criminal Sanctions, Rehabilitation and Victim Support, Ministry of Justice, Catalonia



David Ballester holds a university degree on Physical Activity and Sports at the University of Barcelona. He started to work as a sports instructor in the prison of Quatre Camins in 2006. After 2 years of training inmates on different sports in 2 different prisons, in 2008 he became the coordinator of the sports program in the Catalan prisons which is being implemented by 34 sports instructors distributed among the 9 prisons. He is also responsible for numerous different sports related projects that are taking place in prisons. Before this, David used to work as a tennis coach in the Catalan Tennis Federation.

YELLOW RIBBON RUN – GIVING SECOND CHANCES TO PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL HISTORY

Yellow Ribbon Run is a charity-sports event that has drawn attention to the importance of re-integrating people with the criminal past. The idea started in Singapore prison service. The Czech Republic has organized the run and other activities focused on giving the second chances to people with criminal past since 2016. The main organisers are the prison service, probation service and NGO Rubikon (aftercare service focused on employment and support of ex-offenders).

The run connects people across society. Members of the general public, prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, prison staff, probation officers, officials, NGO's, business leaders and others run side by side. In 2019, 600 runners took part in a huge relay race in Prague. The 5th anniversary run was organized virtually due to the epidemic conditions. It was again a huge success with a great support followed by an outdoor exhibition of photographs by a famous Czech photographer Jan Jirkovský. All of the activities are supported by the prison band Wsedě and the prison staff as a crime prevention initiative.

Gabriela Slováková, Ph.D., Prison Service of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic

Gabriela Slováková, Ph.D. has worked for the Czech Prison Service at several positions – education, research, public and international relations and since 2010 as the director/governor of women's and men prisons.

During those years she has been involved in several international projects focused on education, female offenders and family relations of prisoners (chair of Europris Expert Group). She was a Board member of Board of Directors in International Corrections and Prisons Association. Gabriela acts as an international expert mainly focused on and women offenders, their families and the reintegration of prisoners into society. She is an initiator of the project Yellow Ribbon Run focused on the social integration of people with criminal history.

GOING THE DISTANCE: THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN PRISON SPORTS PROGRAMMES

Sports play a recognised role in prison, promoting motivation and wellbeing to ease the burden of prison life, and to involve community members in the prison environment, working towards a sustainable return to society. In practice however, sports can be a logistical challenge, requiring specialist trainers and additional staff for sports events which put a strain on both the system and its workers. Introducing volunteers within sports programmes builds capacity and can support the



implementation of public health requirements for physical activity: volunteers offer prisons a resource to recruit prisoners to group initiatives and to organise programmes/ tournaments/ events in the prison community, or recently to promote solo cell activity when sports are impossible. Support from an outside organisation can lead prisoners to a sustainable interest, like joining a sports team after release to support re-inclusion. Three case studies will be presented tried and tested sports programmes and events, for different target groups, and how volunteers were trained and prepared. We will address the challenges of bringing volunteers into the prison environment, of finding a community sports club, then building a sustainable partnership with them. We will show how some prisons have developed a sports volunteering framework to address these challenges and most effectively engage volunteers to supplement existing staff. We will consider the diversity of volunteers' contributions to sports programmes in womens prisons, juvenile offender institutions, by offering parent-and-child sporting opportunities and right across the estate of male prisons with older, long-stay and sex offender inmates. We will finally present volpris.eu, a new European network of volunteering in prison which provides free training and resources.

Rita Lourenço, Aproximar, Cooperative de Solidariedade Social, Portugal
Rhianon Williams, Bremen Ministry of Justice and Constitution, Germany

Rita Lourenço

Rita Lourenço holds a bachelor degree in Criminology, and a Master's degree in Human Potential Management. At Aproximar she is the Head of Criminal Justice System Department where she manages and supervises criminal justice sector projects and programs.

Rhianon Williams

Rhianon Williams works for the Bremen Ministry of Justice and Constitution in Germany, on international initiatives which support capacity building in prison. She coordinates the Erasmus+ project volpris.eu, working towards qualification of volunteering management in prison in order to have a positive impact upon volunteers' daily work effectiveness.

