Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

SHREWSBURY COLLEGES GROUP

# The Development of Augmented Reality in Offender Learning to reduce reoffending

6 April 2022

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# Overview

This presentation details the work of a European Erasmus funded project, over three years duration (2018-2021).

The project; ‘Developing Augmented Reality in Youth Offender Learning’, is led by Shrewsbury Colleges Group (SCG)

Project partners organisations from Romania, Belgium and UK:

- Biblioteca Judeteana Antim Ivireanu Valcea (BIB)
- Centrul Pentru Promovarea Invatarii Permanente Timisoara Asociatia (CPIP)
- Belgium European Humanity Center Brussels (EHCB)
- Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS)

# Project Summary

**Augmented Reality** (AR) can provide learners in offender learning with a more interactive way to develop and increase skills to help reduce reoffending and enable them to lead law abiding lives when released.

# Project Aims

- Evaluate the effectiveness of using Augmented Reality resources for giving access to information, resource and instruction about a range of topics to custodial establishments.
- Investigate security and access requirements needed to ensure that the resources are 'locked' from the outside world and access is monitored and within the security confines required for custodial institutions.
- Extend and enhance the learner information experience using an engaging tool that enables students to use their own smart devices to access the content
- Develop high-quality resources using Augmented Reality as a tool to link to engaging information for learners that can be accessed in a range of situations (AR posters, leaflets, literature disseminated to institutions, etc.)
- Reach a wider audience as a result of the production of the AR resources
- Share good practice
- Undertake a review/evaluation of the project with an outcomes report
- Raise attainment in youth offender learning trans-nationally

# Project Outputs

**Output 1:** Introduction of AR Resources (A Guide for Teachers and Trainers)
**Output 2:** Introduction of AR Resources (A guide for Learners)
**Output 3:** Training package Teachers and Trainers
**Output 4:** Training package for delivery to Offender Learners
**Output 5:** Prison Induction Information Package
**Output 6:** Work Package for Security
**Output 7:** Guide to Education in prison in Belgium

**(Completed, but agreement needed with Prison security teams:**
**Intellectual Output 6: Work Package for Security)**

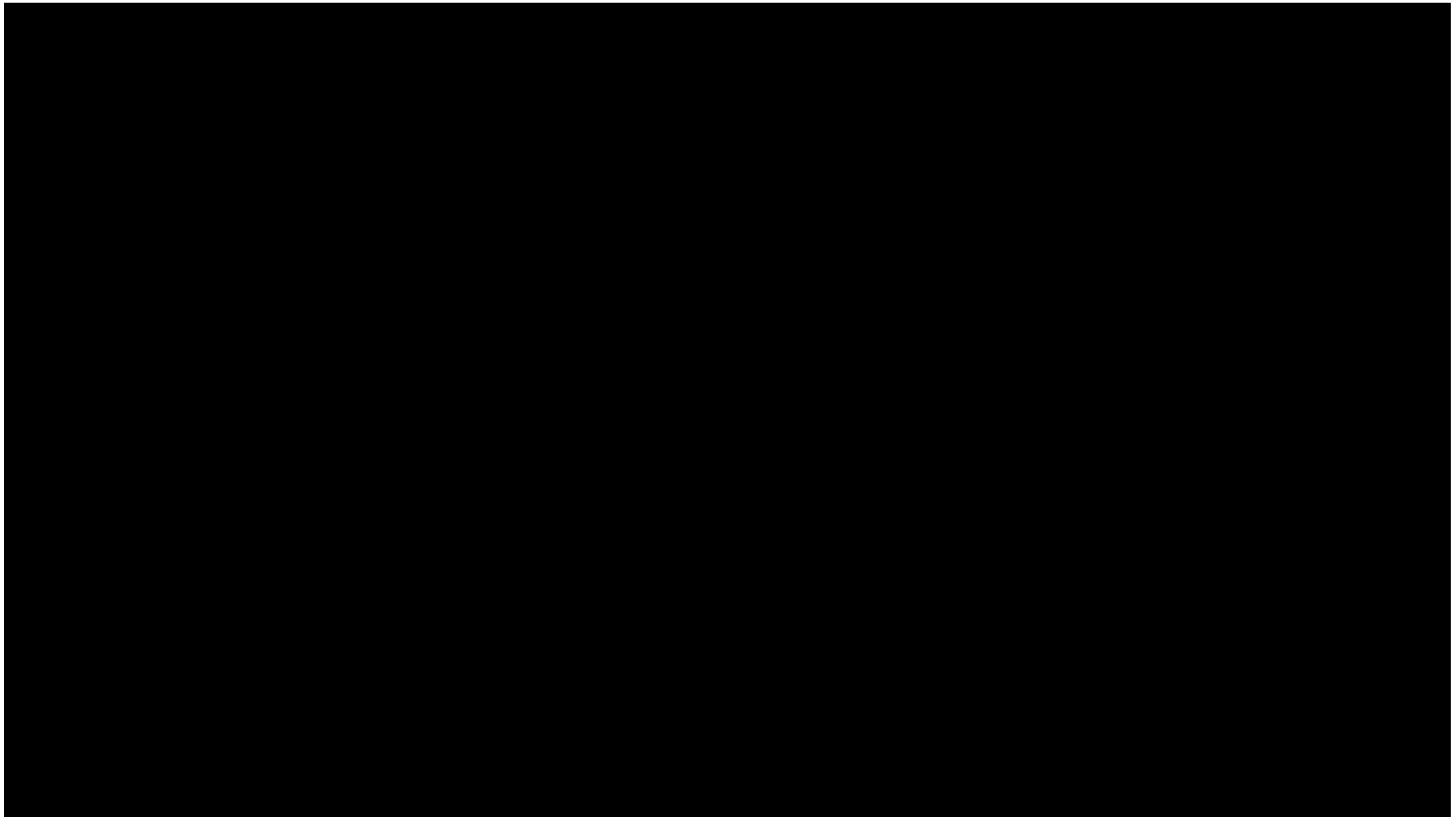
**E1:** Education resources for Learning in Belgium
**E2:** Developing and use of Augmented Reality in Youth Offender Learning

# AR use within a Prison Establishment

Within a Prison institution, technology has been difficult to introduce over the years, due to:

- nature of the setting > types of learner > restrictions to **security** and **safeguarding** of both offender learners & the outside world.
- A range of interactive resources have been developed
- The AR resources available within the Learning Centres/Classroom/Workshops and within learners own cell (long-term vision)
- They have immediate access to key information, resources and support.
- The resources will be in a number of formats, AR posters and learning cards.

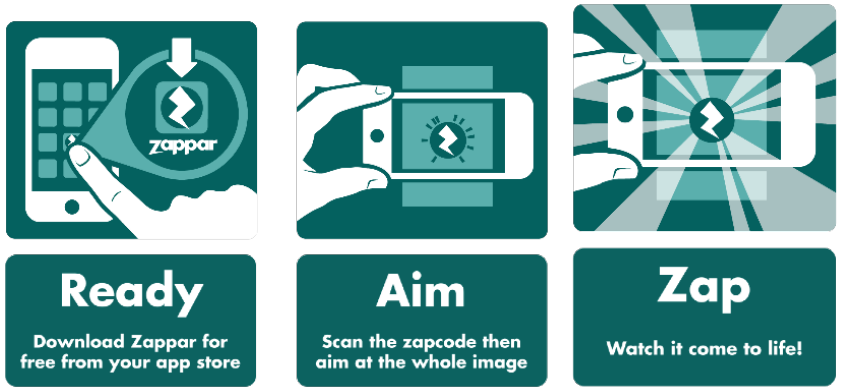
# Project Context (Darryl Jones)



# Augmented Reality

Supporting Offender Learners

# What is Augmented Reality?




## Augmented Reality (AR)

'process of super-imposing computer generated content over a live view of the world'

- **Learners use digital devices**

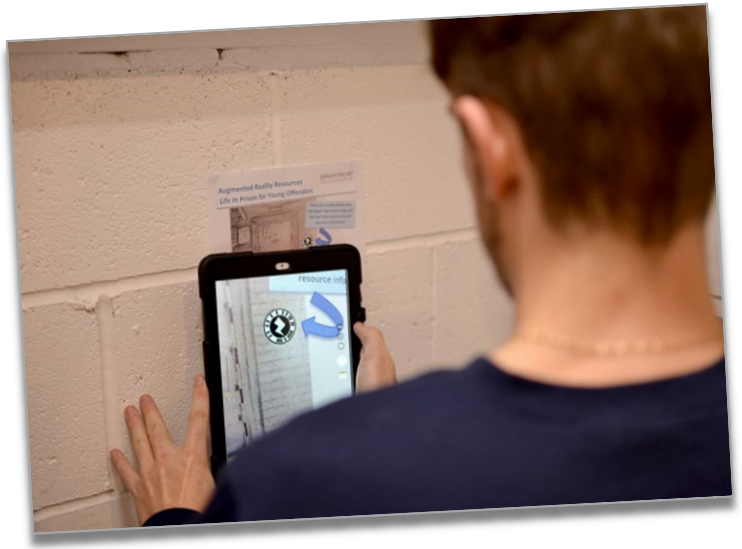
→ scan an image → enable viewing of videos & resources

- For information, instruction and/or reinforcement.
- Learners encouraged to learn independently at their own pace inside and outside of the classroom & workshops.

# Security for mobile devices

**Max Cases (**MAX Shield Xtreme)

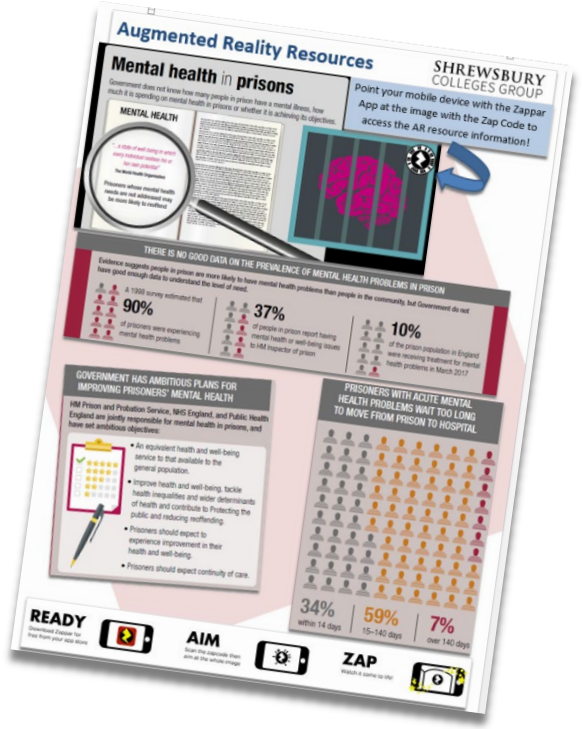
- Extreme Shock & Impact Protection
- Air-military grade triple protection case provides shock and impact protection
- Tri-moulded polycarbonate/TPU/silicone sleeve
- Built-in kickstand offers ergonomic typing and viewing angles.



# Zappar AR System

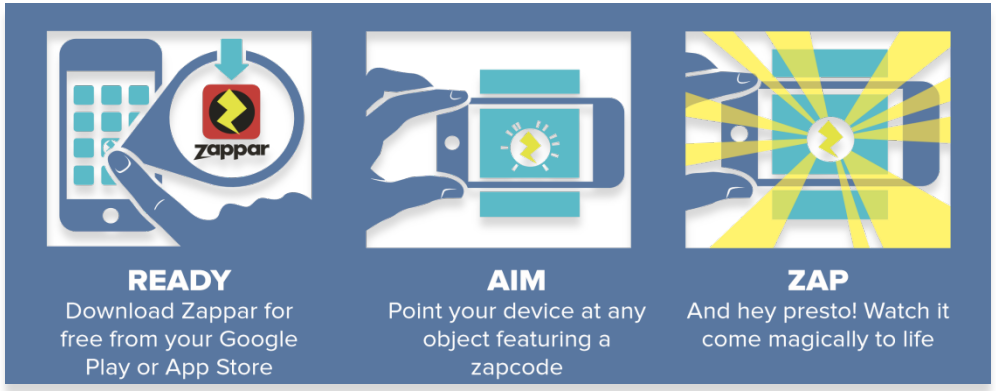
The Augmented Reality system used to create and access the learning resources is called **Zappar**.

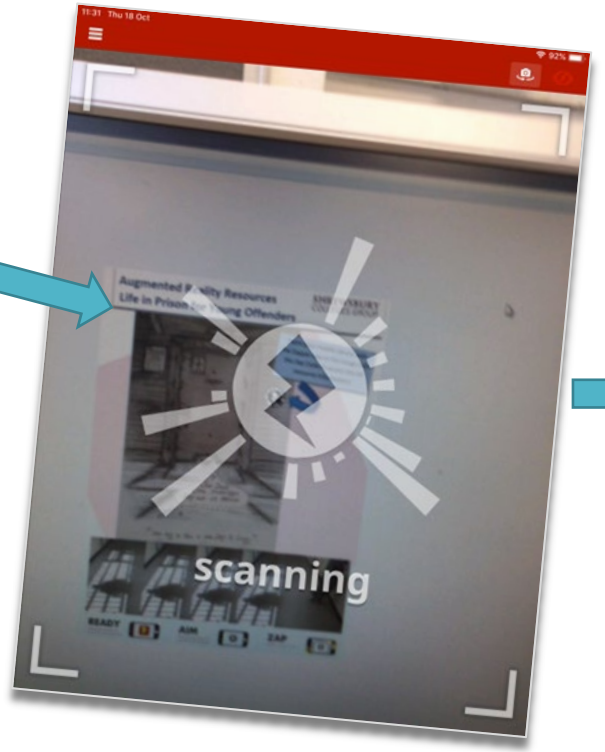
Learners will use the Zappar app on a mobile devices to trigger resources by zapping a Zapcode. This will display a menu that learners can choose which specific resource content or ‘chunk of learning’ they require.



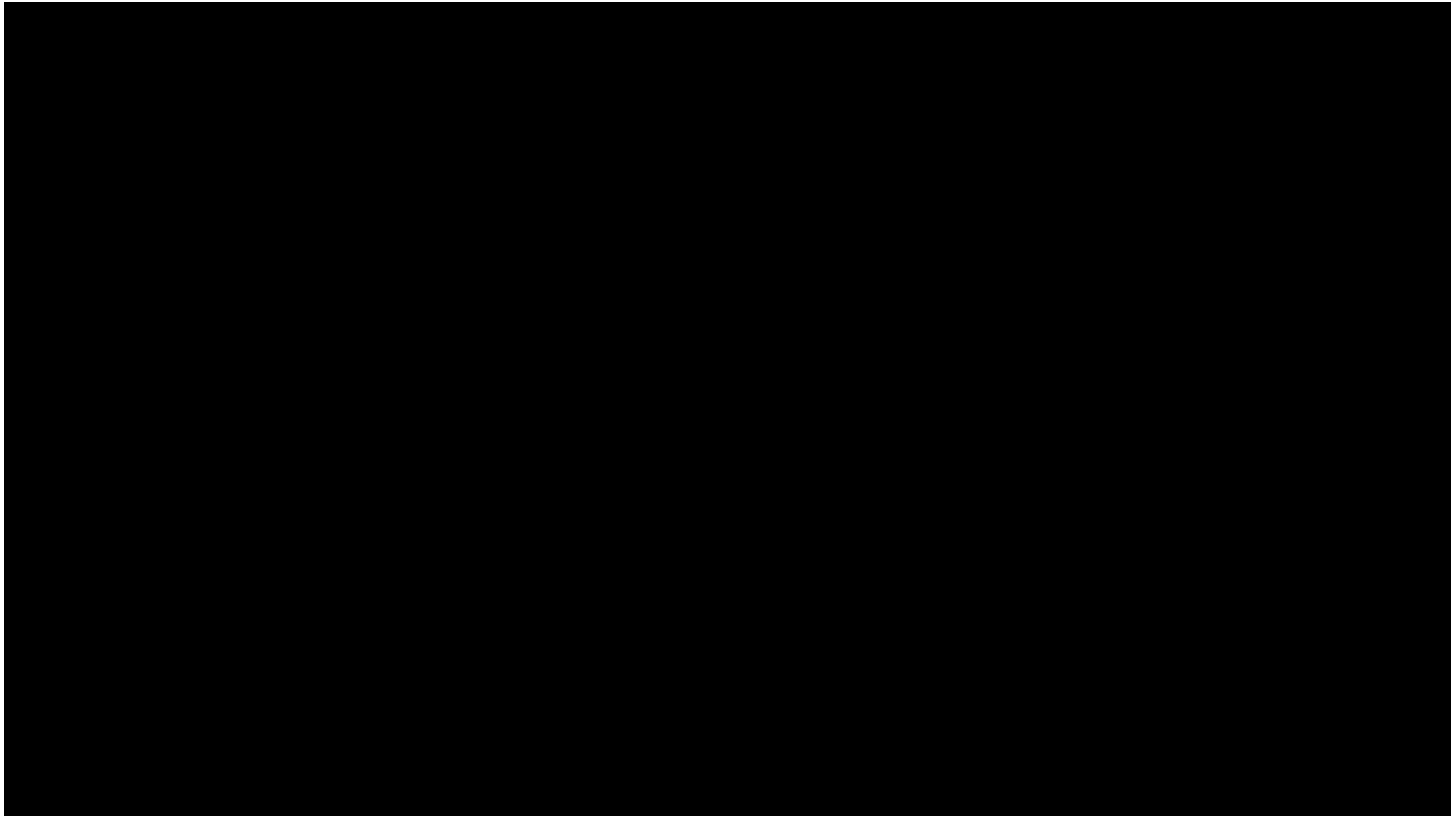
# AR in 3 easy steps!

Using the Zappar AR app, staff and learners trigger the resources by scanning the Zapcode





# The Learner Experience



# Resource Examples

# Claiming Benefits Information for Prisoners

insidetime
the National Newspaper for Prisoners & Detainees

An article (11th January 2021) published in the 'Insidetime',

Prison leavers will be able to claim benefits by telephone on the day of their release, in a bid by the Government to speed up payments.

The new system, introduced earlier this month across the UK, will see everyone leaving prison given a dedicated phone line number which they can call to start a claim for Universal Credit.

At the same time, they can apply for an advance, meaning that some will be able to access money on the day of their release.

# AR specific LGV/HGV Resources

❖An AR Resource to help new LGV/HGV drivers. Including:

- ➢ Safety first
- ➢ Proper planning of your journey
- ➢ Daily checks of your vehicle
- ➢ Take care of yourself

❖An AR Resource to help new LGV/HGV drivers understand the importance of Health & Safety.

❖An AR Resource to help encourage people to become LGV/HGV drivers.

# Prisoners recycle hundreds of bikes for hospital staff (11th October 2021)

An innovative prison programme that encourages inmates to repair and recycle bikes will aim to refurbish over 900 bikes for hospital staff and children from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping prisoners gain new skills and turn their lives around.

The project, which is run in HMP Hewell and HMP Aylesbury, not only helps recycle bikes, but also provides specialist training to prisoners helping them gain valuable skills and providing more job opportunities after they are released. Once they have completed their training, they achieve the City & Guilds Level 1 and 2 qualification in bike maintenance.

The repurposed bikes will be distributed to hospital staff and children from disadvantaged backgrounds across England.

# What Next?

# ERASMUS project (phase 2):

In September 2020 - Successful in obtaining additional Erasmus funding (€211.280 )'Supporting Prison Learners to Prepare for Life on the Outside'

The project would build on the work we have completed in the current project but focus on:

**Output 1: Prison Employability AR resources**

A series of AR resources, including resource posters and guidance/learning cards, covering all aspects of employability skills to support offender learners to prepare for life on release.

**Output 2: Implementation of the security process**

Implementing the security process and access within the specific partner prison establishments/institutions.

**Output 3: A guide to supporting offender learners using Augmented Reality to prepare for life on the outside.**

# ERASMUS project (phase 2):

We feel Augmented Reality can assist with preparing for life at the end of their sentence and to become employable and potentially continue any learning started in custody.

Several resource topics already identified include:

- Maths. English, ICT & ESOL
- Creating and writing a CV
- Employability skills
- Awareness and good advice from ex-offenders in current employment
- Coaching and Mentoring skills
- Job applications
- Links with employers and links with other agencies such as accommodation etc.

This project runs until August 2023.

# We want to support the implementation of the HMPPS Digital, Data & Technology Strategy: What to expect in 2021/22:

Dr Jo Farrar, Second Permanent Secretary, MoJ and Chief Executive, HMPPS wrote:

- HMPPS estates and technology is more pressing than ever.
- We want services that are fit for the internet era, that meet the expectations of people that use them and work on them.
- The people we care for have had limited access to digital tools and technology to maintain relationships and support their rehabilitation.
- This year we will continue putting phones in cells in closed prisons and start our journey towards prisoners in closed prisons having access to digital devices such as laptops and tablets.
- Our 2024 vision:

Roll out in-cell technology in the whole Youth Custody Estate to improve conditions for young people.

# We can support the Prison Leavers Project :

The Prison Leavers Project, is intended to inject some innovation and dynamism into the way HMPPS approach policy challenges.

9 Tech organisations with innovative ideas have been invited to develop new tools and solutions that can help deter prison leavers from reoffending.

# We can support New Futures Network :

By promoting jobs and organisations who actively employ ex-offenders.

Identifying skills and abilities needed for various sectors. For example: Construction worker will require CSCS Card. Health & safety and manual handling training.

To help prisoners to prepare whilst in custody to ensure they are job ready when they are released.

# Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Secretary Dominic Raab – Daily Telegraph (15th November 2021)

He said prisoners could use the computers for education, job applications, mental health support, and keeping in touch with family and friends.

“I would want a presumption that rather than just sitting back in their bunk … waiting for release to hit them, offenders in their cell can take advantage of technology to take a bit of control and responsibility for their life”.

“If you think of the four or five strands of rehabilitation and reform for offenders, skills can be done online. Applying for jobs can be done online. Staying in contact with loved ones in a more regular way can be done on line.

# New prison strategy White Paper (published 7 December 2021)

The Prisons Strategy White Paper sets out a new plan to deliver the biggest prison-building programme in more than 100 years – creating the right conditions to reform and rehabilitate offenders and ultimately cut crime, keeping streets safe.

Making sure prisoners gain basic standards of numeracy and literacy while inside – ensuring every single prisoner has a basic level of English and maths

A new Prisoner Education Service to train up offenders with vocational skills including construction

The 6 new prisons to be built over the next 5 years will have the latest in technology – meaning more in-cell learning so offenders leave prison with the skills they need to move away from crime and into employment. This will include basic education like maths and English, vocational skills such as IT and engineering, and even driving theory tests so they can get a licence on release – helping them get to and from work.

# Contacts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# Thank you & Questions