



Nominees of 2026

A) Corfu Correctional Facility, Greece

Health for All – A Model of Local Social Synergy

In one of the most historic prisons in the country (a 19th century building from the British colonial era) an important Action conducted with the Title "Health for All". The program was a pioneering healthcare initiative designed and implemented exclusively at the local level by the Corfu Correctional Facility. Departing from the centralised administrative model, this project was born from the initiative of the local prison management and staff to address the immediate medical needs of the inmate population through community mobilisation specialised volunteer university doctors with a remarkable career in their field offered their specialised services to almost all the prisoners of Corfu Correctional Facility. Institutional Synergy: The action was supported by the facility's medical staff and the Regional Health Authority, bridging the gap between the national health system and the correctional environment. Equality in Health: It ensured that all inmates, regardless of their legal or financial status or the possession of a social and health insurance registration number had access to specialised medical consultation and preventative medical examination (neuro, derma, cardio, diabetic, urological) normally unavailable within the prison walls.

B) Leiria Jovens (Youth Prison of Leiria), Portugal

Freedom Crickets

Freedom Crickets is an innovative reintegration programme implemented at Leiria Youth Prison (Portugal) since 2021, combining sustainable insect farming with vocational education and training (VET), psychosocial support, and post-release mentoring for young people aged 16–25 in custody. The initiative addresses both social and environmental challenges by equipping participants with practical skills and competencies aligned with the emerging green economy. Through a work-based learning approach, participants are involved in the full production cycle of cricket farming within Portugal's first licensed insect production unit operating inside a correctional facility. Alongside technical training, the programme develops life skills such as responsibility, teamwork, financial literacy, and emotional regulation. Freedom Crickets also includes a structured mentoring scheme after release, supporting participants' transition into employment, education, or training, and strengthening their reintegration into the community. Developed in partnership between Aproximar and the Directorate-General for Reintegration and Prison Services, the project demonstrates how correctional settings can contribute to social inclusion and environmental sustainability. By linking rehabilitation with green skills and emerging labour market opportunities, Freedom Crickets offers a replicable model for reducing reoffending and promoting long-term positive outcomes for young people.



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C) Les Baumettes Prison, France

A Culinary Pathway to Rehabilitation

Les Beaux Mets, inaugurated in 2022 within the Baumettes Reintegration Support Unit in Marseille, is a groundbreaking bistronomic restaurant open to the public that places culinary excellence at the heart of rehabilitation. This unique work-integration model, led by the prison administration and the Festin association, offers people nearing the end of their sentence a four-month training programme, followed by personalised support for up to six months after release in coordination with SPIP. By transforming detention into a genuine pre-qualification stage, the project creates an inclusive environment where diverse profiles learn, collaborate, and rebuild confidence. Its innovative approach combines professional standards, seasonal cuisine, certified training, and quarterly masterclasses led by renowned chefs. Since opening, the restaurant has welcomed over 12,000 guests, demonstrating strong public support. In three years, 116 participants have benefited from the programme, with an exceptional 80% positive exit rate into employment or training. Beyond its results, Les Beaux Mets reshapes perceptions of incarceration, mobilises the catering sector around inclusion, and opens new recruitment pathways in a profession facing labour shortages. With significant national and international media coverage, it now stands as a European reference in social innovation and reintegration,

D) Correctional Centre for Women in Lipjan, Kosovo

Art from Prison: Transforming Incarceration into Opportunity

The “Art from Prison” is a rehabilitation and reintegration initiative implemented by the Correctional Centre for Women in partnership with an NGO organisation MONUMENTA. The project empowers incarcerated women through artistic expression, transforming creativity into both a therapeutic process and a source of income. Participants develop artistic skills and produce handmade works that are promoted and sold through the “Art from Prison” platform, exhibitions, and public auctions. The income generated is saved and accessed upon release, which ensures a smooth post release phase. By equipping women with practical skills and financial resources during their time in prison, the project supports a more successful reintegration after release. In this way, it aims to strengthen economic independence as a direct result, enabling women to build a sustainable and independent life, by increasing opportunities for employment and self-employment after release, which also contributes to reducing vulnerability during the reintegration phase. At the same time, the project uses art therapy to improve emotional well-being, build self-confidence, and support personal development. By combining rehabilitation with economic empowerment, the initiative reduces the risk of reoffending and helps women build a more stable future. “Art from Prison” also challenges stigma by presenting participants as artists and contributors to society, fostering understanding and inclusion through public engagement. By linking creativity, income generation, and reintegration, the project offers an innovative and sustainable model that provides incarcerated women with a meaningful second chance.



**PRISON
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**



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E) Centro Penitenciario de A Lama, Spain

Human Library

inclusion, personal development, and social reintegration through innovative learning experiences. Its core initiative, the “Human Library”, transforms learners into “living books” who share their life stories with external audiences, fostering dialogue, empathy, and the breakdown of stereotypes. Over four years, the project has become a flagship activity with strong educational and social impact. It enhances motivation, communication skills, and critical thinking while strengthening learners’ confidence in education as a pathway for lifelong learning. Its methodology, based on inclusive principles, ensures active participation and meaningful engagement. The project has evolved to address emerging needs, including youth crime prevention, by creating encounters between incarcerated learners and at-risk students. These exchanges encourage reflection and promote positive life choices. Its impact extends beyond the prison through strong partnerships with cultural institutions and schools, as well as replication in other regions and countries. The initiative builds lasting bridges between prison and society, contributing to a more empathetic and inclusive community.