# PRISONERS' ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: AN INSIGHT IN EUROPEAN PRISONS CHECKERS



Besides deprivation of liberty, prisoners preserve all their rights as human beings, including their rights on 'active citizenship'.



#### **SURVEY RESEARCH**

### **PARTICIPANTS**



129 professionals, working in 73 different prisons across Europe

Belgium: 37 Croatia: 36 the Netherlands: 20 Italy: 14 Hungary: 9 the UK: 6 Ireland: 3 Norway: 2

Bulgaria: 1

## TYPES OF ACTIVE

Peer interventions: Prisoners often provide emotional and practical support and mediate between other prisoners in case of conflict in an unorganized, informal manner and this every week.

If consultative types of democratic participation are organized, and if prisoners are involved in activities with people coming from the outside, this only happens very rarely.

# MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Improvement of team work skills Implementation of prisoners' suggestions and ideas

Better relations beween prison staff and prisoners

Better atmosphere in prison

# MAIN BARRIERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

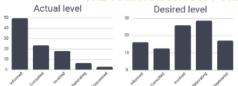
Safety/ security rules

Lack of financial resources

Lack of **knowledge** about prisoners' active citizenship

Lack of prison staff

# PRISONERS' LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT SITUATED ON THE PARTICIPATION PYRAMID



Desired level is higher than the actual level: 67.3% Desired level is actual level: 30%

Desired level is lower than the actual level: 2.7%

FULL RESEARCH REPORT: BROSENS, D., CROUX, F., & DE DONDER, L. (2018). PRISONERS'
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: AN INSIGHT IN EUROPEAN PRISONS. BRUSSEL: VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL.

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