

# PSSARP

Psychological Strategies  
for the Sexual and Affective  
Re-education of Prisoners



## „PSSARP begins - A European project on affectivity in the penal system“

Issue: Fall 2023

Dear readers,

It is with great excitement that we announce the official launch of the Erasmus+ project PSSARP - **Psychological Strategies for the Sexual and Affective Re-education of Prisoners!** Together with partners from Italy, Romania and Germany, we will be devoting the next two years to a topic that has long been overshadowed - **affectivity in the prison system.**

Whether love, closeness, partnership or family ties: People in prison remain emotionally sentient beings. However, European prison conditions leave little room for what is essential for social rehabilitation - functioning relationships. This is precisely where our project comes in.

### Who we are - and why we do it

Behind PSSARP are:

- **Europe Unlimited e.V. (Germany)** - with many years of experience in educational projects in the prison system,
- **Igor Vitale International (Italy)** - an institute with psychological expertise in forensic resocialization,
- **Penitenciarul București Jilava (Romania)** - a correctional facility with its own specialized department for social reintegration.

Our goals:

- Exploring the affective needs of prisoners and their families
- Develop training materials for professionals
- Developing Europe-wide recommendations for an affectivity-friendly prison policy

## First visits - three countries, three impressions

### Bremen Prison (Germany):

In discussions with prison staff and educators, it quickly became clear that resocialization works best when bonds with partners and children are maintained. However, there is still a lack of structural options, such as retreats for families. *„We do our best - but without political support, we reach our limits,” says one social worker.*

### Jilava (Romania):

There is already an established system for „intimate visits” in the Romanian prison system. Daniel Zaharia, deputy prison warden, emphasizes:  
*„Affectivity is not a bonus - it is a right. Our experience shows: Those who can allow closeness are more willing to take responsibility for their behavior.”*

### Sardinia (Italy):

In open prison in Sardinia, we experience a completely different atmosphere: day release, regular contact with the family and personal development are the main focus here. *„Seeing the person - not just the offender,” says Igor Vitale.*  
*„In a system that allows empathy, there are no relapses, but second chances.”*

## Next steps

In the coming months:

- start qualitative interviews with over 100 inmates and relatives in all three countries
- we are developing an online course for prison professionals
- we are preparing the first transnational workshop in Bucharest (Romania)

## Quote of the month

*„Affectivity begins where the system gives people room to feel.”*

- Peter Dohmen, Project Coordinator at Europe Unlimited

Stay tuned - our next newsletter will be published in summer 2024 with initial research results and insights from everyday pedagogical life!

Best regards  
The PSSARP Team

## **Europe Unlimited e.V.**

Mr Dirk Leisten (CEO)

Am Dorfweg 2

52525 Heinsberg

Deutschland

[www.europe-unlimited.org](http://www.europe-unlimited.org)

E: [erasmus@europe-unlimited.org](mailto:erasmus@europe-unlimited.org)

T: +49 177 5276108

## **The following partners have contributed to this project result**

I. Vitale International  
(address tba)

## **Bucharest Jilava Penitentiary**

Sabarului no. 1 street

Jilava, Ilfov county



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