

GRUNDTVIG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

3rd Project Meeting

Vienna/Austria, 18. – 20. September 2013

Minutes

DAY 3	20. September 2013	Workshop: Discussion of experiences in JVA Simmering
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DAY 3 – 20.9.2013

× Workshop: The Austrian model/Discussion of observations made during the sight visit at JVA Simmering:

- Structure:
 - Male and female officers
 - Guards are the trainers in prison (they all have to have “first” jobs/training and combine 2 elements. Possible to get further training on both)
 - different security levels of how visits are organised
 - only 1 hour walk in year/day
 - lot of courses available (German courses, debt relief training)
 - not as overcrowded as RO and PO
 - newer buildings, bright colours
 - prisoners are involved in renovating the buildings (learn to care for things that don't belong to them)
 - difficulty of job is compensated with “good” income
 - good sport/culture/religion facilities
 - good behaviour → better living standards
 - light and big cells (window size is mandatory)
- Process:
 - every prisoner is supposed to work – education voluntary, work = obligated
 - same amount of payment no matter if a prisoner works or is in training
 - possibility to work outside of prison (“Freigang” if only 1 year of sentence left)
 - same amount of income as prisoner who work inside the prison
 - half of their salary is saved for time after release
 - no cash money is allowed
 - comprehensive vocational training within a year, rather than 3 years outside.
 - Diploma is neutral (not mentioned that they got it in prison)



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- *training can be finished in prison even after the release*
- *prisoners from other prisons can apply to be educated at JVA-Simmering*
- *high quality of training – many awards*
- *Culture/attitude:*
 - *Trainers and director are very engaged in the project*
 - *Relaxed atmosphere – feel there is no pretention/natural*
 - *Inmates seem to want to learn*
 - *staff has been working there for a long period of time*
 - *trainers ware working/private clothes not uniforms*
 - *prisoners don't wear prison clothes (to work)*
 - *guards really know prisoners and are interested in them and their development*
 - *right to practice religion*
 - *being a guard is more rewarded than in FR. They seem confident and relaxed*
 - *training (young) prisoners is seen to be satisfying work*



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