

Be Creative

Cooperation between supervisor and
teacher in prison



Nordisk Netværk for
Voksnes Læring



By being creative you can:

- Create a better learning environment
- Support the inmate's motivation
- Increase teamwork between colleagues
- Improve the skills and knowledge of the inmates



Learning environment

For many inmates, having a job is the key, or at least the first step, to becoming a respected part of society after serving a sentence. Many inmates lack formal skills and have only a little work experience. This can make it challenging to get a job and start an independent, crime-free life after release. Inmates have the right to education with the same as others in society. The educational institutions offer a lot of theoretical subjects and skills but also vocational training. The Prison and Probation Service arranges various possibilities of combining work and training in the workshops. The prison work and educational activities can together enable on-the-job training and a qualification in vocational training. For many inmates, this may be their first work experience and may even arouse interest in an occupation. A chance to see what practical work and vocational training are like may be a unique opportunity for many inmates. It is very important to use these arenas, and maybe even expand them, so that what they learn is compatible with real jobs in society.



How can we do it?

Think outside the box

Work together

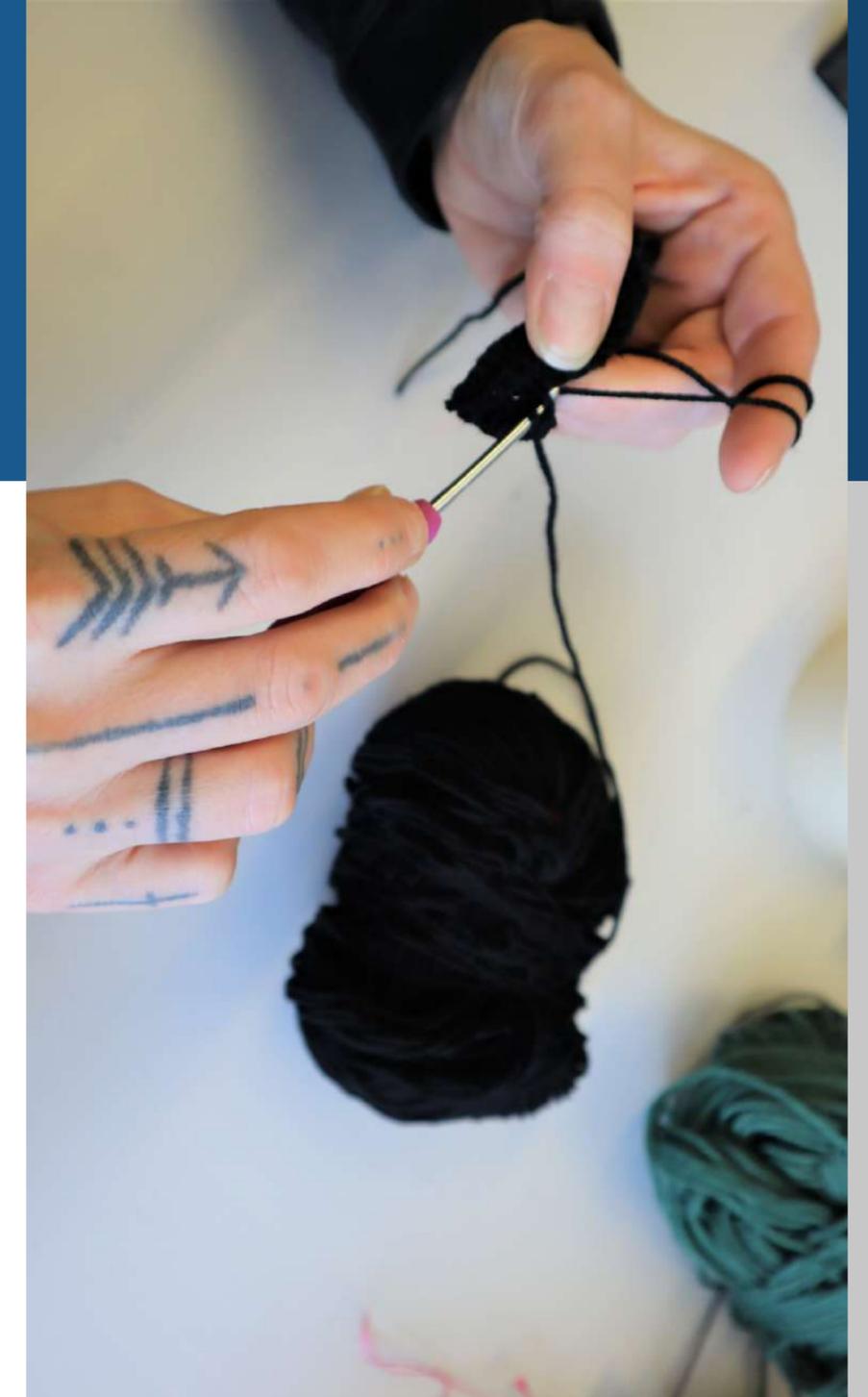
Go the extra mile

Focus on the outcome

Do you need inspiration?

There are many possibilities to organize work and combine education and work

→ [Examples on the following pages](#)



Birdhouse

This Danish project aims to stimulate the inmates' curiosity to create a better learning environment for improving their skills and create a stronger relationship between the inmates, the teachers and the supervisors.

First, we took the inmates out in a forest and found out what kind of birds actually lived there. Then we made the design for the different birdhouses for the carpenter in maths class, took the designs to the workshop, collected the wood from the forest, cut the wood into pieces and built the birdhouses in the workshop. Finally, we took the inmates back in the forest and found suitable places where to put the birdhouses.



A few weeks later, the supervisors working in the forest told us that birds had moved in the birdhouses.

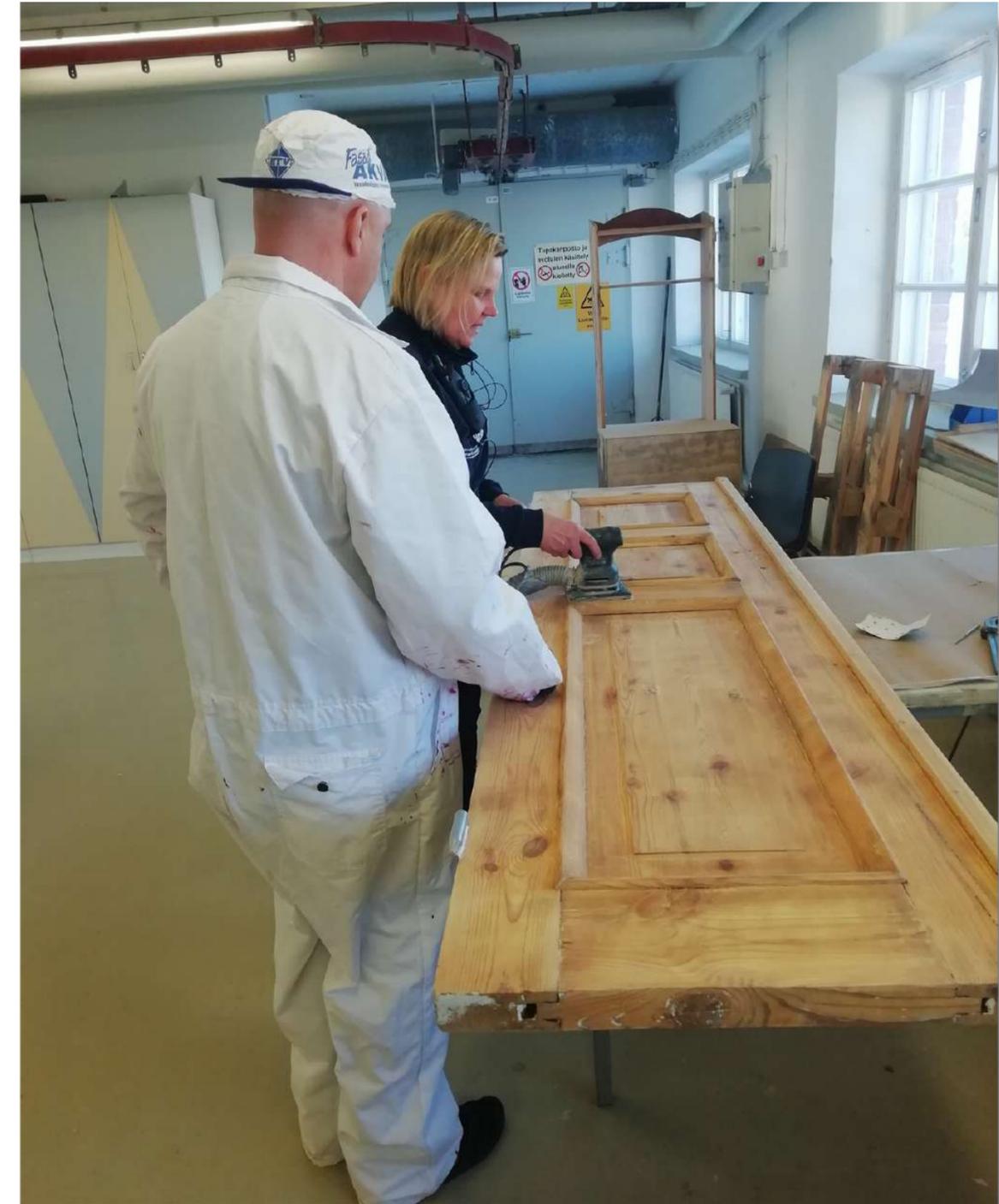
Painting workshop

Education

The Finnish curriculum enables students to demonstrate their skills in the workplace. It requires cooperation between the school and the workplace. In addition, the Finnish curriculum provides an opportunity to study parts of a degree, which can be supplemented later and, thus, the degree can be completed in any vocational school.

Progress

The starting point is the cooperation between the education provider, the prison and the workshop supervisor. The collaboration between the education provider and the prison is continuous and lasts for several years. A representative of the education provider inspects the workplace and what it can offer. The workplace must support the training and meet the requirements included in the curriculum. The representative and the teachers of the education provider and the workshop supervisors, the director and the study instructors of the prison will arrange a meeting and carefully review what resources are required, what is required of the different parties and how the study opportunity should be promoted.



Practice

The inmates work in the painting workshop or are part of the renovation group. The renovation group carries out various renovations in the prison. The teacher and the workshop supervisor plan together how to proceed with the studies.



Positive features

- The collaboration works excellently.
- The education provider is interested in teaching in the prison and wants to develop the study opportunities.
- The workplace is already in the prison, which means that there is no need to create anything new. In addition, inmates could be offered new opportunities by utilising what the prison already arranges.
- After release, inmates with partial degrees can apply for a job or apply to any vocational school to complete their degree.
- The prison already offers an opportunity to study common core subjects that are part of the education.

Future

The education provider needs a separate permission to teach in English. It would give those whose native language is not Finnish an opportunity to participate in this kind of education.

Market garden as part of education

This example shows how the Swedish Prison and Probation Service uses a professional market garden in prison education.

The main use is to teach gardening. Like in the example from Finland, the Swedish curriculum also enables inmates to train and demonstrate their skills in a workshop. In vocational courses, the collaboration between the teachers and the workshop supervisors is natural. If the education is arranged as distance education, it also changes the collaboration between the teachers and the workshop supervisors. The workshop supervisors are partly or fully responsible for the vocational education of the inmates. In distance education, the workshop supervisors carry out all tutorials of the practical parts of the education. In contact teaching, the vocational teachers and the workshop supervisors share the tutorial and practical parts of the training.



Market garden in natural sciences

The market garden is often used for laboratory work included in natural sciences. As part of the course, the inmates carry out germination experiments. First, the inmates plan the structure of the experiments and then conduct them in the market garden. The advantage of the market garden is that it provides good surroundings for this kind of experiments. The process is different based on what is investigated by each experiment. They have experimented, among other things, to germinate seeds without water, in darkness or in different temperatures. The inmates also write the laboratory report on the results of the experiment. This laboratory work involves the distance education teachers, the on-site tutors (often a teacher) and the workshop supervisors.



One of the advantages of using the workshops in the education is that it gives the inmates a comprehensive experience and a sense of doing something more meaningful in prison. It will also show how education can be used in practice. All in all, this develops their knowledge and worldview and promotes their integration into society. Education strengthens people's self-confidence. It is also rewarding for supervisors and teachers.

Sheet metal work

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service offers two types of vocational education: labour market training, which is provided by the Swedish Public Employment Service, and vocational education, which is based on the Swedish curriculum. The arrangement of vocational education in prison is steered by an expert group, which consists of the experts of adult education, the workshop supervisors, the principal and the vocational education coordinator. The offered education is chosen based on both the work available in prison and the actual employment needs in society. At the moment, vocational education includes industrial engineering (basic education, CNC, wood technology, wood construction, lacquering), agriculture, horticulture, restaurants and food preparation.



Education

All education based on the Swedish curriculum is arranged both in the prison and as distance education. In this way, the courses are available to a larger number of inmates. The inmates can also complete general theoretical studies, such as languages, mathematics, etc. Those studies will be helpful for them in the vocational education. The education is carried out by the teachers, the vocational teachers and the workshop supervisors. The inmates can complete their studies later by applying to general adult education in Sweden.

The labour market training offered by the Swedish Public Employment Service is carried out by external education providers. At the moment, the inmates can choose from about 30 courses in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. For example, construction sheet metal work is arranged as labour market training.



The sheet metal work is versatile and creative, and the work requires the use of their hands and head. The future looks brighter with good employment opportunities, as there is a severe shortage of trained construction sheet metal workers. The construction sheet metal work consists of manufacture work in the workshop and assembly work in the construction sites. The education is mainly based on the Swedish curriculum. After finishing the basic education, the inmates have to complete a 17-week practice in workplace outside the prison. The inmates are allowed to continue serving their sentence in a more open environment.





Now you have examples of the cooperation between the supervisors and the teachers

How to get started?

- What is your idea?
- With whom?
- What is your next step?

Now you have started - keep on going