



Families

online resources to support
prisoners' families

UpFamilies - online resources to support prisoners' families

Despite the significant developments made in the Criminal Justice System field, namely investing in offenders' social reintegration programmes during detention or community measures, **little attention has been paid to prisoners' families and their needs** during the re-entry process.

The incarceration experience represents economic, social and psychological impacts on the families of the prisoners. These families are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in society, experiencing multidimensional and intersectional forms of inequality (Western and Pettit, 2010).

Many of these impacts on prisoners' families can be alleviated by some moderators. NGOs, enterprises and social services provide a diverse range of goods and services which are crucial for these families' support and wellbeing.

The problem is that most of the time these families **lack awareness on where and how to look for the right support.**

UpFamilies' main aims are to provide to prisoners' families a **compendium of existing services** available that can support them, as well as to promote **capacity-building for organizations** that daily work with these families, so they can be better prepared for their unique needs.

UpFamilies' main deliverables



Roadmap on existing programs/services that meet the needs of prisoners' families

- consists of a mapping exercise and report on both existing local services and type of support they provide to families that have a family member in contact with the Criminal Justice System.



Training Manual to mobilize community capacity to provide informal support and assistance to prisoners' families - will provide service providers with access to information on how to design and deliver intervention to address the multiple and varying needs of various groups within the Criminal Justice System.



"UpFamilies" mobile application -

an application that will be offered to the prisoners' families to find local, regional and national available services, filtered according to their prior selected needs. The system will also allow interaction between service providers and families.

Expected outcomes

Prisoners' Families

- Families' increased chances of obtaining practical information that can help them cope with incarceration, improving their lives and giving them the opportunity to exercise their rights and voice
- Families' life quality improvement, by increasing their access to information that is crucial for their social inclusion and creating opportunities to lifelong learning
- Families' relationships enhancement and restoration of family bonds

Community based-organisations (CBO)

- Strengthened CBOs professionals' knowledge, competencies on meeting the needs of prisoners' families
- Increased connection and influence of the community professionals on this social group, providing support in terms of health care, education, parenting skills, lifelong learning opportunities, housing, documents, and other.

Partners

Fundación Diagrama Intervención Psicosocial (Spain) **Coordinator**

Interchange Non-Profit gUG (Germany)

Athens Lifelong Learning Institute - Civil Non-Profit Organisation (Greece)

Aproximar - Cooperativa de Solidariedade Social, CRL (Portugal)

O Mundo da Carolina - Associação de Apoio a Crianças e Jovens (Portugal)

European Strategies Consulting (Romania)

Asociatia Vis Juventum (Romania)



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Agreement number: KA220-ADU-8BBAA4D3

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Co-funded by
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