

VOL Mentorink

06/06/2023_ VOLONTE CZECH, o.p.s., is already working with 152 persons serving prison sentences in Jiřice, Kynřperk, Hradec Králové, Světlá, and Všehrđy prisons as part of the VOL Mentorink project No. SP-JU1A-004, supported by the Justice Program, which is co-financed from the financial mechanism EEA/Norway 2014-2021 (from 1/11/2021) (www.fondyehp.cz/www.norskefondy.cz, www.eeagrants.org). The provider of funds is the Ministry of Finance. The project's partners are the Norwegian NGO Åpenhet AS (<https://www.apenhet.com/>) and the personnel and education agency ProEduCo, s.r.o. (www.proeducoc.cz). We assume that we will recruit about ten more people during June. According to the schedule, we will end the mentoring work with our target group in prisons around September 2023.

The high rate of recidivism is the main problem we are dealing with in the project. Related to this problem is an issue that has not yet been resolved, namely strengthening/establishing contacts of convicts with their families and supporting these families in their problems.

During the implementation of the project, we discovered that it is necessary to work not only with our clients but also with their families and deploy suitable experts in family issues, communication, family law, mediators, etc. This comprehensive individual approach to each convicted person and their families in the form of a mentor we are now verifying, and processing the materials for the evaluation. We are assuming an overall evaluation so that next year we can deploy mentors in prisons according to the created methodology.

Ing. Zuzana Bejů, project guarantor