

# Outline of the model of importing civil services - Education for inmates in Norwegian prisons

Paal Breivik,

National coordinator of prison education on behalf of the Ministry of Education



**Statsforvaltaren i Vestland**

*County Governor of Vestland*



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# What if the education department resist the thought of being responsible for prison education ?



- Mid 1950's, education for inmates primarily for better «treatment» of inmates
- Late 1960's - a **slow movement towards** a situation where the teachers and the school dept was under the responsibility of ordinary School authorities (locally)
- In 1969, the Ministry of Church and Education took **over professional and financial responsibility** for the education of convicted criminals in prisons.
- In 1969 Niels Christie launched **“the import model”**. He believed that this model **“opens up the system”** by placing all service functions outside prisons.



# A definition of “the import model”

“Various agencies outside society provide services to the inmates in the prisons, in the same way that they also provide these services to people in society outside the prisons. Examples of such services are health services, school/education, NAV (national work and social support) services, library services, etc.”



# The import model in short

- Prisoners have the **same access** to social services as other citizens.
- **All non-penal functions** are placed with bodies outside the prison.
- Aim: **normalization and openness** in an otherwise closed system.
- This ensures that other authorities, than the correctional services, also are being partly held **accountable and take responsibility** for the re-integration of prisoners into society.



# What happens with education for inmates when we have «the import model»?

The Norwegian **Education Act** guarantees prisoners the same access to education as other citizens and residents (since 2014).

- This applies to all ages, also adults.



The school authorities are responsible for prison education and the principle of normalisation is underlined in the Norwegian Education Act:

*(Section 13-2 a): The duty of the county authority to provide primary, lower and upper secondary education in prisons. The county authority is responsible for complying with the right to primary, lower and upper secondary education pursuant to this Act for prisoners in that county's prisons. When education takes place in a prison, the Norwegian Correctional Services must provide the necessary premises .*



# How ?

- Organization:
  - The **school authorities are responsible** for prison education.
  - The teaching is organized and carried out by an **ordinary upper secondary school** (also vocational training).
  - The prison school department operates **as a “branch”** of the main school.
  - Schools in all Norwegian prisons currently have established educational programs at the mandatory and upper secondary levels.



# What about finances ?

- Prison education is an earmarked state funding.
- In 2023 the grant seized down is aprox. 6500 EURO for every place of imprisonment. Seized down to number of teachers, there will be aprox. 7 – 8 teachers per 100 inmates.