

**A MEETING TO CONCLUDE THE PROJECT... ENSURING THAT EVERYTHING IS ON TRACK**

**THE PROJECT FINAL MEETING**

The project final event, held in Venice at the end of June 2015, was both an opportunity to disseminate information about the FREE-IT project activities and results and to further reinforce the co-operation among partners.

The FREE-IT project final event was held in Venice between the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015, when partners reached the city, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, when partners went back home. It was hosted by "Il Cerchio" Social Cooperative and co-organised by Consulmarc Sviluppo srl.

"I was involved in several EU projects before, but **this is the first time that I am sad because a project has come to an end**": this comment, made by one of the project participants at the end of the FREE-IT project final meeting, very well expresses the satisfaction of the partners for the project activities, as well as for the development of good relationships among the participants, from both a professional and a personal point of view.

During the event, partners had time to focus on activities related to project management, including the joint revision of the structure and contents of the project final guidelines **"Improving education in prison - Skills, principles and practices from ten European Countries"**.

Under the guidance of the project coordinator, partners focused on the **preparation of the Final Report** to be submitted to the National Agencies. The coordinator gave a quite detailed presentation about applicable rules and procedures, followed by an open discussion to clarify some aspects of the final report preparation.



[www.freeitproject.eu](http://www.freeitproject.eu)



## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Several dissemination activities were organized, including a press conference....

## HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE PROJECT RESULTS: A PRESS CONFERENCE... AND A VERY SPECIAL FASHION SHOW!

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, in the morning, a press conference was organized, during which "Il Cerchio" Social Cooperative as the hosting partner, Consulmarc Sviluppo srl in its role as the Project Co-ordinator and the "Venice" foundation, supporting working laboratories in Venice female prison, presented the programme of the meeting, the FREE-IT project activities and results, the most recent initiatives developed to promote prisoner employment in Venice Female Prison.

The conference was attended by the project partners and by different representatives of local press and media: this eventually led to the publication of articles on local newspapers (see: <http://www.freeitproject.eu/news.html>)



[www.freeitproject.eu](http://www.freeitproject.eu)



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the Education and Culture Directorate General. This newsletter reflects only the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

... and a very special fashion show!

But **the most special and important event** was organized on the same day, in the afternoon, at Venice Female Prison, to further disseminate information about the FREE IT project and showcase the activities the prison tailoring laboratory, as an outstanding practice promoting the social and professional reintegration of inmates.

Participants were welcomed by the speeches of by Mr. Gianni Trevisan, President of "Il Cerchio" Social Cooperative; Ms. Gabriella Straffi, director of Venice Female Prison, Ms. Angela Venezia, Director of Regional Treatment Office for Inmates. After a brief presentation of the results of the project FREE-IT, "Il Cerchio" Social Co-operative organized a **"defilée" to show high fashion dresses** designed and made in the prison tailoring laboratory, in co-operation with renowned Italian fashion companies like Rubelli, Bevilacqua and Fortuny: the fashion models were both prison officers and prison inmates, working together for the show.

Therefore the defilée directly involved the prisoners, who, under the guidance of professionals and trainers, prepared it with the commitment, attention and emotion reserved to a special event, also interacting directly with the public: this had a significant impact for the girls and women involved, **contributing to their reintegration process and helping them to reach a higher level of self-esteem.**



[www.freeitproject.eu](http://www.freeitproject.eu)

## A NEW PROJECT IDEA

During the meeting, the Greek partner introduced an idea for a new project

## PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE CO-OPERATION: A POSSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PROJECT

During the second working day of the meeting KNOWL presented and shortly discussed with the partners **a project idea** for a new application to be submitted within the **ERASMUS + EU funding programme**: the idea focuses on the development of a common methodology (and related supporting educational tools) targeting former inmates or adult inmates who are about to be released, with the aim to provide them counseling to support their employability, also in the form of self-entrepreneurship. The project idea builds on the results of a past project led by KNOWL, the **"Fresh Start" project**, which also led to the creation of an e-learning platform supporting counseling and training activities.

## VISITING VENICE TO KNOW THE HOSTING PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Visits and activities in the city centre were also organised, to show some of the activities that the hosting partner develops outside the prison to the foreign partners attending the meeting. Partners visited the **control unit of the MOSE System**, the innovative engineering system protecting Venice from periodical floods, where "Il Cerchio" provides cleaning and small maintenance services. After that, they moved to the "Banco Lotto" shop in Venice city centre, where "Il Cerchio" Social Cooperative sells the products of the prison tailoring laboratory.



[www.freeitproject.eu](http://www.freeitproject.eu)