

## Stories That Sew Wings: Storytelling as a Key to Personal Growth in Detention

As part of the Erasmus+ program, we are running the project with the poetic title *Stories that sew wings* – KA220-ADU-FFEF2BA9. This collaboration between organizations from Spain, Belgium, Italy, and Turkey aims to use storytelling as a powerful tool for adult education — especially for people in detention. Learn more about it here <https://disseminationwebsite.wixsite.com/website-1>



### 💡 Why Storytelling?

Storytelling is much more than just telling a tale. It’s a form of expression that allows people to share experiences, name emotions, and give meaning to both past and future. Stories help us understand ourselves better, develop empathy, and strengthen skills like communication, critical thinking, self-reflection, and social interaction.

For adults in detention, storytelling offers a unique opportunity to reconnect with their identity, values, and potential. In an environment where autonomy and self-expression are often limited, storytelling provides a safe space for introspection and growth.

### 💡 Storytelling in Detention: Healing and Empowering

People in detention often carry a heavy burden of trauma, loss, marginalization, and failure. The Erasmus+ project *Stories4Wings* acknowledges this reality and asserts that stories can have healing power.

The project focuses on eight core values and skills that storytelling can help strengthen:

Value/Skill	Description
Resilience	Learning to cope with setbacks and rise again
Teamwork	Building trust and constructive collaboration
Social Inclusion	Understanding marginalization and seeking connection
Vocational Training	Daring to dream and planning for the future
Self-awareness	Reflecting on choices, emotions, and identity
Active Citizenship	Seeing oneself as part of society and taking responsibility

Value/Skill	Description
Critical Thinking	Breaking patterns, considering alternatives, and forming independent views
Digital Literacy	Developing basic skills for digital communication and learning

These values form the backbone of the project. Furthermore, we will develop an **E-toolkit**, an **LMS platform**, and even a **card game** to make storytelling interactive and accessible within the prison context.

The goal is not only to strengthen skills but also to restore a sense of citizenship. Being incarcerated doesn't mean you're no longer part of society. On the contrary — it's a temporary situation where education can build a bridge to recovery, responsibility, and hope.

### **Educators as Bridge Builders**

A key aspect of this project is the training of educators working in detention. They are essential to the success of storytelling as a pedagogical tool.

In Belgium, this movement is already gaining momentum. **Klasbak** has been committed for years to providing high-quality education in detention. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, they are organising a highly relevant training day in Brussels that aligns perfectly with the goals of this Erasmus+ project.

This study day is a wonderful opportunity to gain inspiration, share practical experiences, and acquire new insights. Anyone who resonates with the values of the Erasmus+ project will find a space here to put them into practice.

**Register via this link:** <https://forms.gle/RnnPk4Pn8EyYMiGZ8>

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