



# ICARUS

Including Chess As a Re-educational Up-Skilling tool

## NEWSLETTER



## WHAT IS ICARUS?



The **ICARUS project** sees the game of chess in prison as a lever for the development of **soft skills** in inmates.

Through a Toolkit of mixed chess activities and training **ICARUS** will help participants decode the behaviours they engage in during the game and use them to acquire a greater awareness of their own emotions and those of others, stimulating self-reflection and developing more positive relationships with the Other.



# CHESS AND SOFT SKILLS

The importance of the game of chess in relation to the development of **personal and interpersonal skills**, especially in socially disadvantaged individuals, has been recognised since the 9th century and was reaffirmed in the UN established **World Chess Day**.

In recent years, several experiments have been carried out to include this game among the activities of prisoners that show clear benefits in the development of soft skills that are valuable for reintegration: **respect** for the rules and for the opponent, the advantage of **thinking before acting**, the importance of **empathy**, **patience** and **emotional flexibility** in dealing with defeat.



## The Steps of ICARUS project:

- Self-Development Toolkit

A Toolkit composed of modules on soft-skills training through chess and an Assessment Tool to monitor the progress.

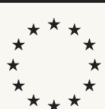
- Toolkit Pilot Training

The Toolkit will be tested first training trainers and chess players in a 3-days LTTA, and then bringing the Toolkit to prisons to train inmates.

- Self Development Handbook



A Handbook on chess playing, the ebenfits on chess, the methodology of using chess as a medium to train on soft-skills, and containing the experience and feedback of the ICARUS experience.



# THE KICK-OFF MEETING IN ROME

The partners met for the first in **Rome** on the 1st and 2nd of February, hosted by **Skill Up**, the leading partner.



They discussed the administration and management of the project, the detailed breakdown of tasks of Work Package2, and the Quality, Dissemination, Impact and Sustainability.

On the second day, the partners had a **workshop** to decide on which social areas and soft-skills the ICARUS modules will be focused.





# THE PARTNERSHIP

## SKILL UP -

The leading partner of ICARUS. A training company based in Rome, Italy, with strong experience in soft-skills training and Erasmus+ projects.



## -UNICHESS

An Italian chess school based in Perugia, UniChess has trained the three-time Italian chess champion Luca Moroni, and has experience with teaching chess in prisons.

## INDEPCIE -

A Spanish training and coaching company from Cordoba specialised in soft-skills and training courses, with great experience in the Erasmus+ sector.



## -CLUB MAGIC EXTREMADURA

A Spanish chess club from Mérida that combines competition and promotion of chess with social and therapeutical chess.

## CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND INNOVATION RESEARCH -

A Latvian education and research centre that focuses on innovative training and eco-sustainability.



## -LATVIAN CHESS FEDERATION

The national federation that gathers all chess players, trainers and enthusiasts in Latvia.





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