



ICARUS

Including Chess As a Re-educational Up-Skilling tool

NEWSLETTER - 3



WHAT IS GOING ON IN ICARUS?

We are moving full speed ahead!

We have achieved the **Completion of WP2: Self-improvement Toolkit.**

Following feedback from the trainers and after months of teamwork, we have created an innovative self-improvement toolkit, designed to help people in prisons develop social and emotional skills. This toolkit combines the magic of chess with modern methodologies to offer **practical and transformative training.**





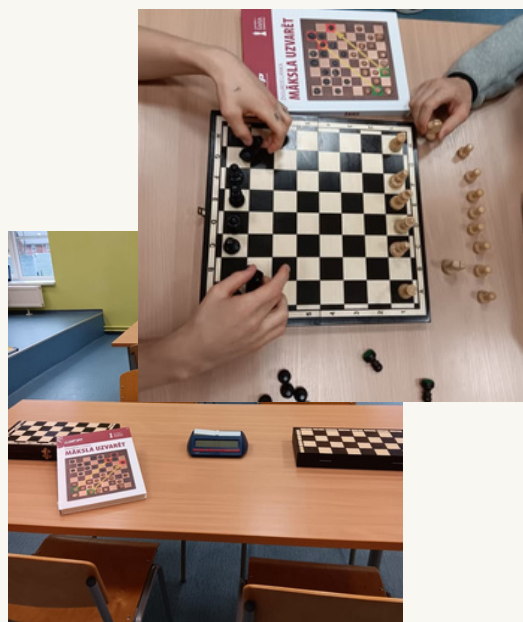
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PRISONS

The Toolkit is already in action!

After summer, the partnership started implementing the toolkit with prison inmates.

In **Latvia**, partners have already conducted 2 trainings with prison inmates in **Cēsis prison**. Participants have shown great interest, they are actively participating in these innovative trainings and they are willing to continue with them.

These lessons included: Interesting facts from the history of chess; Chessboard and pieces; Rules; About and around chess - FIDE Gens Una Sumus; Italian opening; Skoresheets; Fight for the world title, Gukesh D-Din Liren, Magnus Carlsen and jeans.



In **Italy**, the course started on 17 December 2024, with 10-12 participants and a prison educator. The participants showed great interest, and some, coming from regions such as the former Yugoslavia and the former USSR, already had an advanced **knowledge of chess**. After Christmas holidays, the course resumed on 7 January 2025, with the instructor completing evaluation questionnaires and working to unify the group.



In **Spain**, ICARUS project sessions with prison inmates have not yet started, but preparations are underway and there will be exciting developments soon. The activities will take place in the region of Extremadura, where logistical details are already being finalised to implement the trainings in prisons.

Although the workshops have not started yet, Club Magic has already engaged in activities to present the project as part of the regular initiatives, as well as running their social program "Our Chess Reintegrates" for over 15 years, which will help the smooth development of the ICARUS workshops.



WP4 SELF-DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

The aim of WP4 is to create a **Self-Development Manual for Adult Education (AE)** teachers in Europe, which **facilitates the teaching of social skills in prisons through informal practices**, such as chess, and innovative methodologies. This manual will be key to the sustainability of the project and will be available in English, Italian, Spanish and Latvian.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Creation of the Self-Development Manual

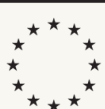
- It will include the results of WP3, Good Practices from WP2, a guide on the Self-Assessment Toolkit, and experiences of ICARUS in Italy, Spain and Latvia.
- It will incorporate chapters with guidelines for chess trainers and coaches, as well as a sustainability analysis of the project.

2. Digital Materials Sharing Platform

- The project website will provide access to the Handbook, the Toolkit, and other multimedia resources.

It is expected to achieve a comprehensive handbook in four languages, including practical methodologies and tools for implementation, a digital platform to enable the dissemination of results at European and global level and the replicability of methodologies in other contexts and countries.

This WP **reinforces the sustainability of the ICARUS project** and **lays the foundation for future educational initiatives in prisons.**



THIRD TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

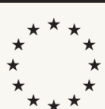
Last Thursday **9th of January**, the partners of the Icarus project met in the city of **Cordoba**, Spain, in a meeting coordinated by Indepcie.



During this productive meeting, we addressed key topics such as:

- **Workshops in prisons** in the different participating countries, a fundamental aspect of our project.
- The **start of Work Package 4**, which will mark the next step in our work plan.
- Updates on the **project website**, which you can visit at **www.projecticarus.eu**
- Progress on **dissemination, quality** and **project management**.





ICARUS DISSEMINATION!



ICARUS presentation at the FIDE Cadet World Chess Championship

On 16 November, the ICARUS project was presented to an audience of more than 1,500 people during the **FIDE World Cadet Chess Championship 2024**. This event brought together **700 participants from 82 chess federations**, accompanied by their families and club representatives.

The ICARUS team had a stand for the duration of the championship, where they interacted with people of all ages, distributed promotional materials and shared the vision of the project. It was a unique opportunity to **make connections, gather support and highlight the impact of ICARUS in the educational and social sphere**.

Presentation of the ICARUS to Riga City Council

On 29 November, the ICARUS project was **presented** to the highest level of management at the **Riga City Hall**, in an event attended by the **President of the City Council Vilnis Ķirsis and Councillor Olafs Pulks**. Members of the **Latvian Olympic chess teams** (women's and open categories) and participants of the **Cadet World Championship** also took part.

The general secretary of the Latvian Chess Federation and ICARUS project manager Daiga Falkane shared the aims and progress of the project with the audience. During the presentation, Mayor Vilnis Ķirsis, a passionate chess player, also participated in a symbolic game, reinforcing the **connection between chess and the educational and social impact promoted by ICARUS**.





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TUNED
AND
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