



ICARUS

Including Chess As a Re-educational Up-Skilling tool

NEWSLETTER - 4



WHAT IS GOING ON IN ICARUS?

Our board is set, the pieces are in motion!

As the **ICARUS project** enters its endgame, partners continue advancing across multiple work packages. We are working actively on:

Rolling out **pilot workshops** (WP3) in Spain, Italy, and Latvia ✓

Developing the **Self-Development Manual** (WP4)—a key output ✓

Delivering **dissemination** (WP5) across Europe. ✓

The project remains committed to promoting **chess** as a tool for **social inclusion, personal development, and lifelong learning**.



THE PROJECT CONTINUES

On the **18th of March**, all the partners gathered for an **online coordination meeting** to share progress and organise next steps for **Icarus project**.

At this meeting, we discussed:

- Preparations for the **final Transnational Project Meeting** to be held in Riga.
- Updates on the ongoing development of the **Self-Development Manual** (WP4) and **dissemination activities** (WP5).
- Partners also announced the **future publication of a scientific article** highlighting the project's social impact through chess.



MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Our **Self-Development Manual** including results of WP3, Good Practices from WP2, a guide on the Self-Assessment Toolkit, and experiences of ICARUS is nearly completed and will be available soon.
- We are currently **updating our website** which will provide access to the Handbook, the Toolkit, and other multimedia resources.
- We've just published an article on the EPAL platform (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe). The article by José Carlos León (Indepcie) explores his experience collaborating with Club Magic and how chess can help prevent crime and foster social rehabilitation





FROM PAWNS TO PURPOSE: PILOT WORKSHOPS UNDERWAY

The heart of ICARUS lies in its real-world application. Since the launch of **WP3, pilot activities** have been taking place across all three participating countries.

In **Cēsis Prison, Latvia**, five training sessions have been successfully completed. The programme culminated in March with a **chess tournament** among inmates, marking a significant milestone in participant involvement and motivation. Feedback from both trainers and inmates has been overwhelmingly positive.

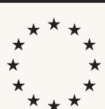


In **Italy**, sessions at the prison facility remain active, with **steady participation and excellent engagement** from inmates. Trainers are working to build group cohesion and deepen the **integration of chess-based soft-skills training**.

In **Spain**, between 19th and 20th March Icarus finally started its sessions, with Club Magic and Indepcie delivering the first 2 workshops across Extremadura. At **Badajoz and Cáceres penitentiary centres**, inaugural sessions of Icarus combined project presentation, chess-based cognitive training, and emotional intelligence exercises.



These proved to be **highly participatory sessions** exploring practical applications of ICARUS. Since then, **a weekly session has been held in both prisons**, inmates enrolled in these workshops ranges from 15 to 20 in each of the two correctional facilities (around 40 in total) and it's expected to last until June.



RAISING OUR VOICE: DISSEMINATION



Latvia's National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Our project was presented **back in February** at this prestigious cultural venue, highlighting value in public and institutional dialogue around education and inclusion. Our partners from **Latvian Chess Federation** shared the intermediate **results of the project and meaningful experience** in implementing the project's goals. They also secured us a visit to this fantastic location during our final project meeting.

Online Dissemination Event – CEIR (Latvia)

On **22nd February**, **CEIR** presented ICARUS in an **online event** focused on chess, adult education, and personal development.

III National Chess Seminar and visit to the prison – Melilla, Spain

Held on 26 and 27 February and organised by the UNED (National Distance Education University), the event was attended by Juan Antonio Montero, GM Manuel Pérez Candelario (Club Magic) and distinguished guests such as IM Sabrina Vega. ICARUS was presented as a model of innovation in chess education.



As part of the seminar, **ICARUS was presented to 20 inmates**, accompanied by practical demonstrations and a talk on chess for rehabilitation. The visit built on Club Magic's long-standing work in prison contexts and their own methodology (ECAM method)



ICARUS has been busy promoting its mission across Europe through high-impact dissemination actions:



3rd International Congress on Therapeutic Social Chess – Minorca, Spain

ICARUS was introduced by **Mirko Trasciatti** (Italy), with **Juan Antonio Montero** (Spain) **delivering two talks** on ICARUS, cognitive training through chess and other social chess projects by Club Magic. The event gathered **experts from FIDE, ECU**, and various national delegations.



La Garrovilla Therapeutic Community – Mérida, Spain

A **hands-on introduction to the work of Club Magic**, using cognitive training through chess (ECAM method), addressing addiction recovery through chess, soft skills, and personal empowerment. **ICARUS was introduced during a session** with residents of this public addiction recovery centre, where they showed their interest. This was **complemented by a talk on soft skills** and European cooperation delivered **by our partners from Indepcie**.





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ICARUS at the IX Chess International Open Semana Santa – San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain

This event brought together over 700 participants from more than 50 countries, making it one of the leading chess events in Europe.

GM Manuel Pérez Candelario, from our Spanish partner Club Magic, highlighted the goals and achievements of ICARUS. The project gained visibility among a wide international audience of professionals, educators and chess enthusiasts. One of the most significant moments was the photo taken with IM Sabrina Vega, nine-time Spanish national champion, which demonstrated the alignment between high-level chess and social and educational innovation.



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