



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



WORKING IN SMALL SCALE DETENTION HOUSES IN EUROPE

WISH-EU:

www.wish-eu.eu

IT'S ALL ABOUT KNOWLEDGE & IMPACT

WISH EU stands for Working in Small Scale Detention Houses in Europe. This European project aims at supporting the implementation of small-scale and community-integrated 'detention houses' or facilities in Europe.

Such detention facilities enable the implementation of fundamental rights and facilitate the creation of a constructive climate for incarcerated people and staff. The increased use of detention houses in several European countries shows that policymakers recognize the value of small-scale facilities. At the same time, however, it also shows some challenges. For instance, staff members will need to apply particular working methods and skills when working in a small-scale and community-integrated setting and security will result from the quality of the relationships between incarcerated people and staff, rather than from static security measures.

The WISH EU project will meet these challenges by combining three streams of activities. First, it will **centralize and disseminate** the **knowledge** that already exists about small-scale and community-integrated detention facilities and about relational security. Second, it will **create new knowledge** through exchanges between practitioners, policymakers, researchers and people with lived experience in different European countries. Third, based on this newly gained knowledge, it will contribute to the **development of European Rules on the Ecosystem of Small-Scale Detention Facilities and European Guidelines on Relational Security**.





Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



WORKING IN SMALL SCALE DETENTION HOUSES IN EUROPE

Knowledge Workspaces Detention Houses

Crime and its approach have a major impact on those involved and society. Deprivation of liberty should make an optimal contribution to recovery and the acquisition of a valuable position in our society. Small-scale forms of detention contribute to a safe, inclusive and sustainable society for all citizens.

The complexity of social issues requires a new way of working from all those involved. A change agenda is necessary to bring about sustainable change.

That is why there are knowledge workspaces detention houses on national levels, which focuses on;

- a change in the way of thinking
- changes in culture within organizations
- support from politicians and society
- a change in the perception of public opinion



The knowledge workspace detention houses is a platform of co-creation, a learning network for practice, policy, education, science and people in neighborhoods.

Within the KWDH, a change agenda is drawn up for the long term to which activities are linked. Partners within the KWDH are represented by; policy, practice, science and experience experts, both at local and national level. In addition to scientific insights, the projects that are carried out always focus on substantial changes in practice and are (further) developed in other regions and countries by means of;

- ⇒ Durable connection
- ⇒ Research
- ⇒ Dissemination of knowledge
- ⇒ Policy development
- ⇒ Advice/support to stakeholders
- ⇒ Changing the perception of sanctions

The knowledge workspace detention houses and its partners ensure structural change in the field of deprivation of liberty.





Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



GOALS

SOCIAL DESIGN MATTERS.

01. KNOWLEDGE WORKSPACES

Two main goals of the WISH EU project are, first, to centralize and disseminate the knowledge that already exists and, second, to create new knowledge through exchanges between practitioners, policymakers, researchers and people with lived experience in different European countries. These exchanges will be stimulated by the creation of Knowledge Workspaces. A Knowledge Workspace is a sustainable and locally embedded network that brings together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders with the aim to co-create, disseminate and evaluate knowledge and to exchange best practices and expertise that is already available in the participating countries and beyond. Such Knowledge Workspace is based on the following principles: future focused, inclusive multidisciplinary, collaboration, added value, connecting the dots and an eye for the public. The Knowledge Workspaces that are established in the context of this project will focus on (1) the Ecosystem of Small-scale Detention Facilities and on (2) Relational Security. There are three national Knowledge Workspaces (in Belgium, France and the Netherlands) and one European think-tank with key stakeholders.

02. EUROPEAN RULES ON THE ECOSYSTEM OF SMALL-SCALE DETENTION FACILITIES

It starts with a healthy ecosystem. Different elements of an ecosystem reinforce each other when they interact to form an effective system. The reverse can also happen: a disruptive factor can throw the ecosystem out of balance. A detention context can be viewed in the same way. The different elements of that context can reinforce each other into a safe and constructive context. When considering the ecosystem of detention houses, we look at detention from a holistic perspective, including the architecture, the social climate, security, community-integration, sustainability, work, individual needs, staff well-being and the use of technology. Indeed, the design of small-scale detention facilities is not just about architecture. It also includes the social design, which means building a positive climate for all people who work, live in or close to the building. The knowledge about the ecosystem of small-scale detention facilities will be collected by visiting such facilities in Europe, through learning sessions with experts at national and European level and through the exchanges in the Knowledge Workspaces. The more perspectives involved in developing these guidelines and rules, the more relevant they will be for all stakeholders. Special attention is therefore given to the balanced composition of these networks in terms of social and cultural backgrounds, genders, disciplines, and age, and to an equal voice for each participant. The goal is to anchor this knowledge in policy frameworks, and more specifically in European Rules on the Ecosystem of Small-Scale Detention Facilities.





Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



03. EUROPEAN GUIDELINES ON RELATIONAL SECURITY

In order to perform optimally, staff members need to apply particular working methods and skills when working in a small-scale and community- integrated setting. For instance, security will result from the quality of the relationships rather than from static security measures. In this context, we will explore what relational security looks like in practice; in which conditions it works best; and which set of competencies professionals must have. Based on this knowledge, we will create guidelines on relational security so that (new) staff members can be trained on working in small scale detention facilities. We use the concept 'relational security' instead of the more commonly used concept 'dynamic security' to stress that this is about the quality of interpersonal relationships. Whereas dynamic security tends to be intertwined with the philosophy and design of prisons and to go hand-in-hand with traditional forms of (static) security, the goal of relational security is to create relationships that are so solid that other forms of security become redundant. Many lessons and knowledge about relational security come from the field of forensic care.

04. A HOUSE IS A HOUSE: AN INTERACTIVE MAP

In order to have impact on policy and in practice, it is key that all this knowledge reaches the key stakeholders, including professionals working in small-scale facilities and policymakers implementing such facilities. Therefore, Prison Insider, one of the partners in the WISH-EU consortium has developed a [website with an interactive map](#) that provides an overview of all small-scale detention facilities in Europe.

