

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002299/25
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(6 June 2025)**

Subject: Reintegrating released prisoners into society

The social reintegration of people released from prison is crucial for reducing recidivism rates and strengthening social cohesion. However, many Member States face shortcomings in support structures, vocational training and psychosocial support for former detainees, increasing the risk of their return to a life of crime.

In view of the principles of the European strategy for crime prevention and reintegration support, can the Commission say:

1. What policy is it planning or implementing in order to strengthen reintegration mechanisms for released prisoners?
2. Are there any EU programmes or funding instruments in which local authorities can participate to support former prisoners?
3. How is cooperation between prisons, social welfare services and employers ensured?

Submitted: 6.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2025)**

Detention issues are primarily responsibility of the Member States. However, on 8 December 2022, the Commission adopted a non-legally binding instrument: the recommendation on the procedural rights of suspects and accused in pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions ⁽¹⁾.

One of the guiding principles of this recommendation is that Member States are encouraged to manage detention in such a way as to facilitate the social reintegration of detainees, with a view to preventing recidivism.

Paragraphs 47 and 48 of the recommendation provide specific guidance on work and education of detainees to promote their social reintegration.

As regards funding instruments, with a budget of over EUR 140 billion, the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. EUR 45.5 billion are dedicated to investments in social inclusion.

The ESF+ can co-finance activities aimed at enhancing the employability of former prisoners, at collecting best practices regarding prisoners and former prisoners' reintegration and at improving transition from prison into the labour market and society more broadly.

The ESF+ can also facilitate access to essential support services such as mental healthcare and housing assistance.

The Erasmus+ Programme supports the cooperation between organisations across Europe in the fields of vocational education and adult education to foster exchanges of practices and innovation.

Numerous excellent projects addressing the Erasmus+ 'inclusion and diversity' transversal priority have involved organisations dealing with former prisoners' reintegration.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7570.