

## **Innovatory module of learning English for Penitentiary Practice in the Czech Prison Service Academy**

To facilitate the need of English language development and the improvement of presentation skills of prison staff, the Czech Prison Service Academy prepared a new module of a specialized course of English for Penitentiary Practice. In October 2017, a four-day seminar with the participation of colleagues from Romania and Lower Saxony was held in Stráž pod Ralskem.

The participants expressed their great satisfaction with the module and they asked for a follow-up international meeting focused on professional English training so that they can instantly use what they have learnt in their daily practice.

Here is a feedback written by Peter Schulte, a psychologist at the Training Centre of Lower Saxony:

*Through the existing cooperation between the training centre in Lower Saxony and the training centre of the Czech Republic I learned from a language course „penitentiary English“. That seemed to be a perfect practice for my job, because in the future, the international contacts of our organization are going to increase.*

*The perfect size of the group with seven participants helped to get in touch quickly. Even in the breaks, the common language was English. After three days, I didn't realize any more, that I was talking English the whole day and on the last evening, we had so much fun together with no problems of understanding each other.*

*I can say that my expectations were more than fulfilled:*

*I have got new friends from the Czech Republic and from Romania,*

*I practised my penitentiary English and learned many professional words in a meaningful context,*

*I practised informal conversation and small talk,*

*I shared my presentation of the Lower-Saxon Training Centre with the others and I have improved it,*

*I have learned a lot about Czech prisons and about the system of Czech and Romanian prison staff, I*

*exchanged information with other social workers and psychologists and*

*I contributed to the development of the cooperation between the training centres in the Czech Republic and in Lower Saxony.*

*At least I'm very thankful for the opportunity of participating in this useful and pleasant event. I'm going on practising English, because the contact of the group continues per what's app and E-mail.*

The Programme English for Penitentiary Practice was developed by Iva Prudlova, a specialist on education within international cooperation and she invited her Romanian colleague Raluca Stuparu to share her expertise skills with the other participants.

Here are her words:

*The aim of each director of a school or an academy, at least in Romania, is to see the students "growing", developing and reach their potential. You are able to do that at your Academy. You are an example to follow.*