



UNESCO Chair in Applied Research
for Education in Prison



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Context
The UNESCO Chair of Applied Research for Education in Prison was an outcome of the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments, which was adopted by representatives of 164 countries in Senegal in 2000. This document affirms that education is a universal right for human beings under all circumstances, and constitutes an essential tool for social development. In 2009, the Belém Framework for Action, the final document adopted by the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI), went further in its commitment to “providing adult education in prison at all appropriate levels.” Given the international commitment to support the Belém Framework for Action, and UNESCO’s unequivocal role and mandates to implement this framework, the UNESCO Chair of Applied Research for Education in Prison works with UNESCO to help provide adult education in prison.

Mission

In this context, where “Education For All” needs to include the most vulnerable and most marginalized members of our society – such as prison inmates – the mission of the UNESCO Chair of Applied Research for Education in Prison is to promote, stimulate and encourage applied research on various aspects of education in correctional settings and foster more in-depth consideration and concrete action in this regard at the international level.

Objectives

- I. **Applied research.** Identify and analyze the various institutional, political and pedagogical issues that have an impact on the quality of the delivery of services related to correctional education.
- II. **Documentation Centre.** Collect, organize, handle and distribute to the international community the research and information on innovative practices related to education in the prison environment.
- III. **Community of interest.** Create an international community of interest that will enable professors, researchers, students, educators, practitioners, prison administrators, NGOs and consultants to disseminate their research and innovative practices in the area of correctional education and to discuss the common issues and challenges.

- IV. **Training and awareness-raising.** Contribute to improvement in the quality of services in the correctional education sector – first, by training the community’s stakeholders and second, by raising decision-makers’ awareness with respect to the advantages of correctional education.

Partners

The Chair’s current Canadian partners are: Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Paul Bélanger, PhD, a professor in UQAM’s Faculty of Education, and Brian Grant, PhD, the Director General of the CSC’s Research Branch, sit on the Chair’s Steering Committee. They also sit on the Scientific Committee, chaired by Mr. Bélanger.

On the international front, the Chair’s Scientific Committee consists of distinguished researchers in the adult education field, including: Bob Hill, PhD, University of Georgia, USA; Sergio Haddad, General Coordinator, ACAO Educativa, Brazil; Allan Tuckett, President of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and Director of the National Institute of Adult Education (NIACE), UK; Shirley Walters, PhD, Director of the Division of Lifelong Learning, Republic of South Africa; Oumar NDongo, PhD, Cheikh Anta Diop University Senegal; Joe Graffam, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy, Dean of the Faculty and Head of the School of Psychology, Deakin University, Australia; Hugo Rangel, Applied Research Advisor, and; Marc De Maeyer, Project Development Advisor.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes in the short-term (three years) consist of disseminating the research already completed via the Chair’s website, identifying new fields of research, sharing information with decision-makers and other actors working in correctional education, and creating synergy to improve the quality of the training and professional development of practitioners in this field. In the longer term, one of the Chair’s major objectives is to raise awareness about issues of concern for education in prison.