Young in Prison

We are wired to operate with a positive approach and as a collaborative ally with the judicial system. Our role models work on creative and sportive activities with and for youth deprived of their liberty.

VISION
Youth (previously) deprived of their liberty is encouraged and intrinsically motivated in contributing positively to society.

MISSION
Support youth (previously) deprived of their liberty to set free and use their inherent talent with creativity and play.

BIG CHALLENGE
Young people are re-offending. Feeling unequipped and discouraged, they are unable to transform their lives free from crime. As a result, they harm society, their communities and themselves.

COMPETENCES
- The need to build achievements and knowledge and develop mastery over (life) skills that are important to one self

RELATEDNESS
- The fundamental need to experience belonging and connectedness with other people

AUTONOMY
- The need to feel agents of one’s own learning and destiny

IMAGINATION
- The ability to see yourself and the world around you in a different way than how it currently is or perceived to be

ENERGY
- To change a ‘numb’ or negative energy into one that allows and inspires motivation and positive energy

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Assumptions
- Better Together: Resocializing and punitive measures cannot be effectively executed by the same party.
- Alternatives: Collaborations between civil society (with alternative approaches) and the state are needed to achieve successful resocialization of young people.
- Willingness: There is no unwillingness to connect, rather a lack of ‘translation’ efforts between the professional/formal world vs. the lived world of youth.
- Creativity Liberates: Creativity and play have the power to liberate potential, skills and talents of youth.
- Youth Know Best: The voices of children and youth need to be taken seriously for effective policies and practices and guidelines for justice for children.
- Balanced Growth: (Qualifying, social-emotional, and identity growth) of young people needs to be stimulated for effective secondary desistance.
- Role Models: Role models are able to connect with youth in a positive and non-judgemental manner.

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Our Mission
Support youth (previously) deprived of their liberty to set free and use their inherent talent with creativity and play in the field of justice for children.

Punitive measures
Government about resocializing and

• No shared agenda between NGOs and

• Child-friendly agenda is not set or

• Access to value and integrate alterna-

• Decision makers lack information and

Youth are invited to add a personal

ALTERNATIVE LIFE STORIES
Youth is frustrated or traumatized

• Youth experience a sense of agency

• Professionals use increased insights and

Dr. Wisdom
Youthlab Advocacy
Youthlab Advise and
Youthlab Training

• Development of social and / or professional capacities

• Small - or big success experiences in social and / or professional capacities

• Alternative stories and goal inten-

• Positive energy: youth experience a momentum for change

• Youth express alternative stories and images of how life outside prison could be different than what it is and was like before

Youth are deprived of their liberty and

• Growth in qualification, socialization

• Mix of social and practical or tactical

• Establish safe space for interaction

• Translation between formal, professional world and lived world of youth

The leadership capacities of ex-detained youth are build for their work

OUTCOME

LONG TERM OUTCOME

Youth are deprived of their liberty and

• Youth desire to refrain from crime

• Youth desire and experience a
capacity to refrain from crime because of a changing and positive alternative of how their lives will unfold.

• Youth experience a sense of agency and purpose whilst (re-)building their lives in liberty.

• Professionals use increased insights and skills to establish better contact and working relationships with youth.

Youth is frustrated or traumatized

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Youth is in the last phase of being

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• Good intentions are hard to stick

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