

Vocational training as a vehicle for  
self-development in a prison.

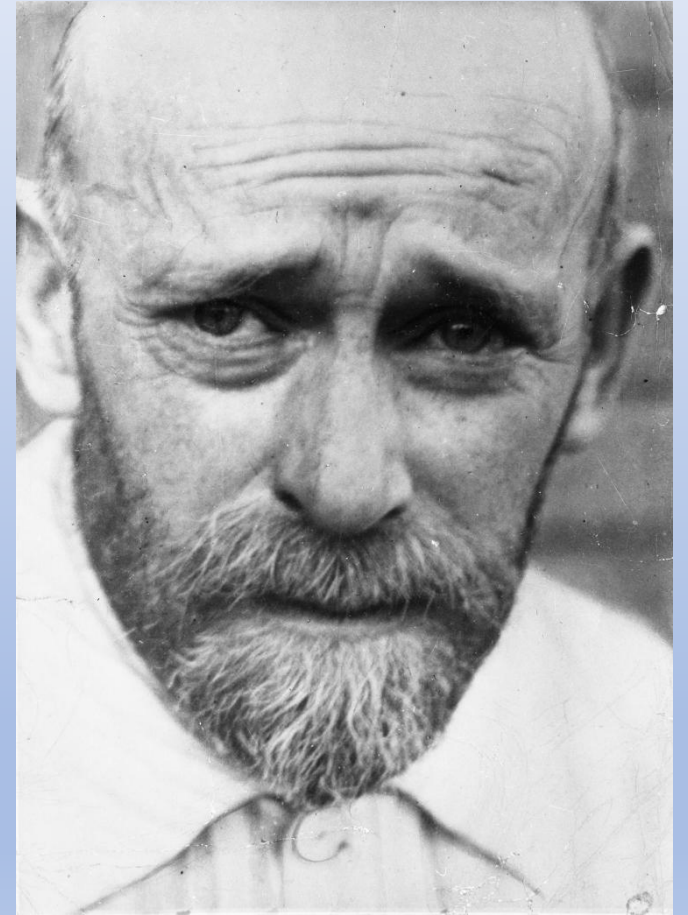
The case of polish prison vocational  
education.

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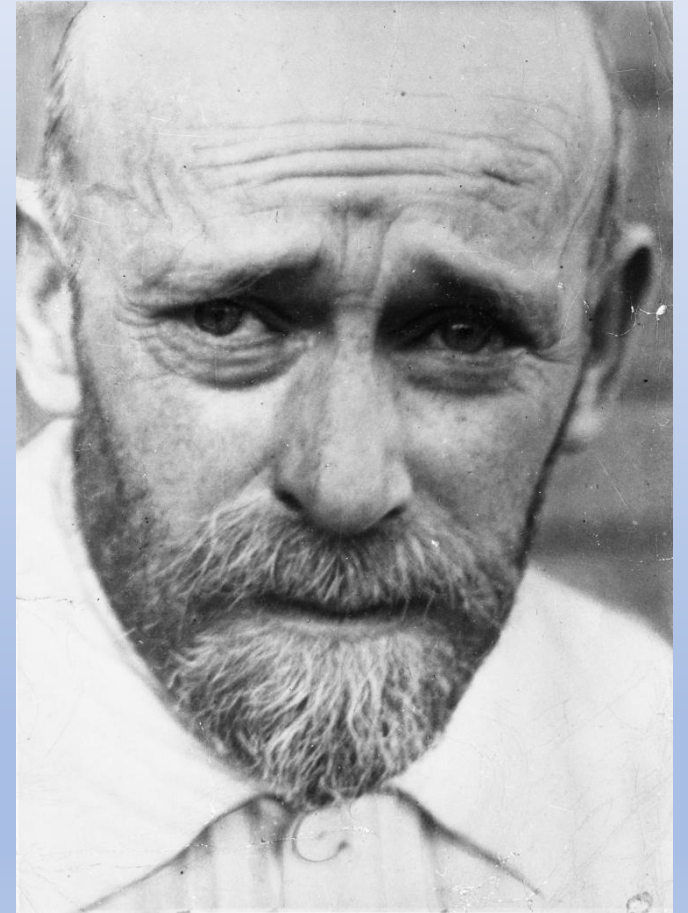
# Janusz Korczak (1878-1942)

*"A child is a parchment tightly written in tiny hieroglyphs, only some of which you can read, some of which you can erase or just circle and fill with your own content."*



# Janusz Korczak (1878-1942)

*"A child is a person, not a human being, therefore he or she has the right to be treated with dignity, respect and happiness, and to have his or her needs met and succeed to the best of his or her strength and abilities."*



„You can lead a horse to water,  
but you can't make him drink”

(native-american proverb)

You can show people  
the possibilities,  
but they have to want to  
take advantage of them.



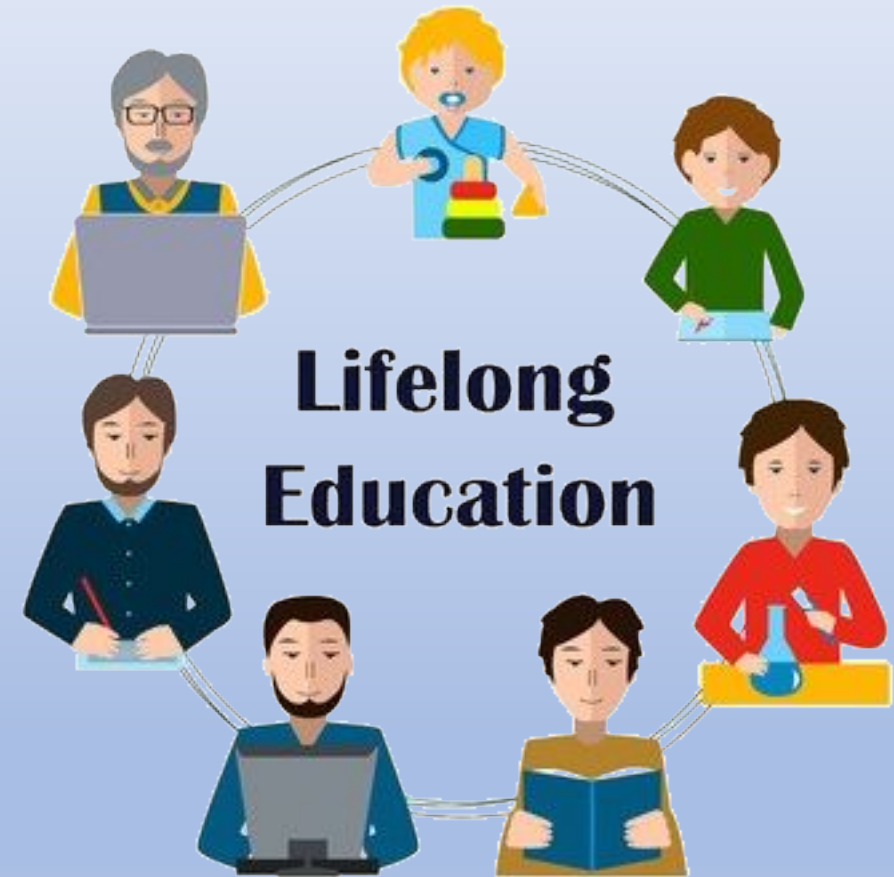
# The education system in Poland

- ✓ Primary school (8 years)
- ✓ Secondary school
  - Vocational school (3 years)
  - Technical school (5 years)
  - High school (4 years)
- ✓ Studies



# Lifelong education system in Poland

- ✓ Post-secondary schools
- ✓ Professional courses
  - Day school
  - Night school
  - Extramural school
  - E-learning



# Vocational education in Poland

**Vocational (professional) qualifying course** - is a modern, extracurricular, flexible form of education and preparation for work in a specific profession. They are intended for people over 18 years of age. After passing the professional (state) examination, the examinee receives a certificate of professional qualification.

The classification of vocational education professions will include 205 professions and 254 qualifications. The classification of vocational education professions includes:

- professions with 2 qualifications
- professions with 1 qualification

# Education of inmates in Poland

The education of inmates in Poland is an important element of the penitentiary system. People staying in prisons have the right to education, which is guaranteed by law, primarily the Executive Penal Code.

Why is the education of inmates so important?

- **Social readaptation:** The education of inmates is beneficial to themselves, their families and society. Education can be an important factor in social readaptation.
- **Preparation for work:** In prison, it is important to create conditions for convicts to obtain education and improve their professional qualifications. Preparing to take and maintain a job after release is crucial.
- **Reducing the risk of recidivism:** Whether prisoners will commit a crime again or start a life consistent with social norms will depend on whether prisoners improve their qualifications, learn discipline, and obtain a school leaving certificate.
- **Social benefits:** Education of inmates brings benefits related to their not using social assistance benefits and repaying their financial obligations. The greatest benefit is the return to family, society, work and compliance with the rules of social coexistence.



# Professional education and self-development

Vocational education and self-development are closely related, and their mutual relations are crucial for personal and professional development. Here are some aspects that show how professional education and self-development influence each other:

1. Development of professional skills
2. Increasing professional effectiveness
3. Promoting your career
4. Motivation and commitment
5. Opening to new opportunities
6. Coping with change



In conclusion, professional education and self-development are complementary, and balancing them can lead to professional and personal success. Striving for development both professionally and personally is crucial to achieving professional satisfaction and life fulfillment.

# Self-development in human life

If you're not moving  
forward, you're  
moving backwards.



# What is self-development?

Self-development is a process in which we try to get to know ourselves better, discover our weaknesses and strive to improve them. It is a pursuit of continuous self-improvement, both personally and professionally. Self-development can be implemented in various areas of life, such as intellectual, personal, professional and emotional development. It is an integral part of our lives that allows us to develop our strengths, face our weaknesses and acquire new skills. Self-development plays a key role in our lives because it allows us not only to cope with new challenges, but also to go beyond our comfort zone and achieve success in various areas of life.

# Why self-development is so important?

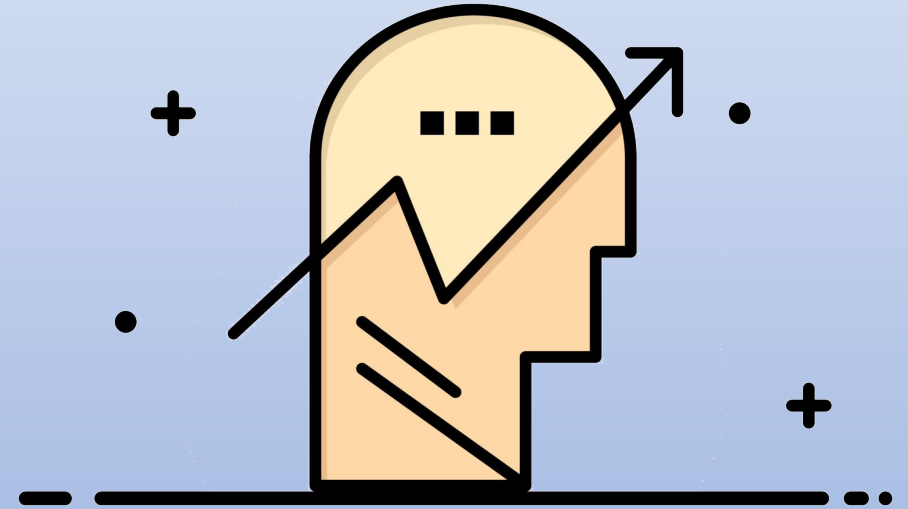
The current, increasingly rapidly changing reality forces people to develop in various spheres of life, which is a direct result of diverse, often unpredictable, everyday situations - which pose new requirements and the need to engage specific skills or use other (than known) solutions.

Man's development is his meaning of life, purpose and necessity. So far, it has been implemented by steering through a system of social interactions, the aim of which was to shape the desired model on demand. Nowadays, people must take their development into their own hands to be able to decide about their own development to the greatest extent possible.

# Why inmates need self-development?

Self-development is important for prisoners for several reasons:

- Changing attitudes and habits;
- Preparing for social reintegration;
- Recidivism Prevention;
- Improving well-being;
- Reducing problem behaviors;



All in all, self-development is important for prisoners because it can support their rehabilitation process, social integration and reduce the risk of returning to crime.

# Self-development and professional work.

Inmates are a specific group of recipients of professional activation activities. Due to the social and individual consequences, it is very important that prisoners take up employment after leaving prison or while serving their sentence. Lack of work causes life destabilization, lower standard of living, loss of self-esteem and usefulness. The consequences of unemployment may affect your life situation and lead to social exclusion.

# Self-development and professional work.

Activities carried out in the area of professional activation in Polish prisons and detention centers are becoming particularly important. They include, among others: preparation and implementation of original programs, cooperation with non-prison entities and work with psychocorrective staff. The activities of non-governmental organizations as well as the Fund for Vocational Activation of Convicts and the Development of Prison Workplaces are important.

# Self-development and professional work.

The goals of activities undertaken in the field of professional activation include: preparing convicts to actively search for a job, arousing motivation to find and keep a job, improving self-esteem, diagnosing the strengths and weaknesses of convicts in the context of labor market requirements, and equipping inmates with the necessary skills in the field of contact with a potential employer and self-presentation. Shaping development in the personal and professional sphere requires a comprehensive approach to the issue and the cooperation of all people involved in this process.