

Triangle newsletter October 2024



Triangle's progress

The Triangle platform is a secure digital education system for vocational skills for young people in closed institutions, developed in collaboration with Portuguese, Flemish and Dutch organisations. After three years of working on the Triangle platform, the project is nearing its end. In this final Triangle newsletter, we share our conclusions, recommendations and recent developments and announce the final webinar we are organising. We hope you enjoy reading it and welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

The Triangle platforms

- For Portugal: pt.trianglenow.eu
- For Belgium: opgroeien.trianglenow.eu and be.trianglenow.eu
- For the Netherlands: nl.trianglenow.eu

Flemish teachers fill Triangle platform with content for their lessons



At the Flemish campus Ruiselede of GI De Zande, there was a desire to give young people safe access to more online learning modules, video and audio clips, exercises, quizzes, and websites. The Triangle team coached the teachers in using Triangle. It turned out to be easy to securely offer the materials they were already using in their lessons with their students. During two sessions, Vicky, a media literacy teacher and media coach, coached the teachers in working with Triangle. In the first session, they were introduced to the possibilities of safely using online learning modules, YouTube clips, online assignments and Kahoot within Triangle. Then they were asked to collect online teaching materials for their subject. In the second session, they were given the assignment to upload this material onto the Triangle platform, where they could either help each other or ask Vicky for help. After this session, they could immediately start using Triangle for their lessons. Media coach Vicky: “All teachers were enthusiastic about using this tool in the future to provide their students with targeted support, assign customized tasks and provide more online teaching methods in a safe way within our institution.”

User reviews



In Portugal, Vlaanderen and the Netherlands, the platforms have been extensively tested by youngsters and improved based on their feedback. What do young people in Vlaanderen say?

- Lise (not her real name), who is following a sports course: *“I want to join the army, so it’s cool that I found this course through Triangle. Triangle would be good for other young people as well, especially to kill time where there’s nothing to do in the residential group. You can put your time to good use then.”*
- Hannah (not her real name) is participating in a catering course: *“It looks very appealing, with all these photos and drawings you can click on. It is clear where you can go. I like that I can watch video’s on how to cut vegetables and that I can look up healthy recipes through a web link on Triangle.”*

Policy recommendations



In this [new publication](#), we share our policy recommendations. With this we would like to inform policy makers at various levels, from local government to the European Union, about the key conclusions and findings of the Triangle project. We highlight the importance of and the right to digital literacy and outline the main recommendations to promote it, for example by developing policy for digital education, creating high-quality digital spaces, implementing policy for the development of professionals on the subject and recognising and minimising security risks. By adopting these recommendations, policy makers can support the ongoing improvement and enhancement of activities in educational centres, to ultimately prepare young people for successful reintegration into society. You can download the publication [here](#).

Article on the right to digital inclusion for children and youngster in youth custodial institutions



Eva Huls, a lawyer working for Defence for Children, has written a legal argument on the right to digital inclusion for all children and young people staying in youth custodial institutions, titled 'When internet access is not a given'. The article addresses the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and various European guidelines and recommendations. We hope this legal argument encourages everybody who works with children or youngsters, whether in practice or at policy level, to involve this article in their work, as access to the digital environment is fundamental for participating in the nowadays highly developed digital society. You can download the article in both [Dutch](#) and [English](#).

Webinar November 7 – online learning platforms for youth in detention



Education is a powerful tool for rehabilitation, offering inmates a chance to develop skills, gain knowledge, and prepare for a better future. In this webinar, we'll introduce two free online platforms, Triangle and SOCVOC, designed to provide accessible and impactful learning opportunities within detention environments.

[Triangle](#) is an innovative tailor-made digital learning environment for young people and (young) adults in closed institutions. [SOCVOC](#), short for *SOCial skills enhancement during VOCational training in prison*, is a tailor made secured digital environment and learning platform for low-skilled adults for learning social skills.

Webinar Details:

📅 Date: Thursday November 7

🕒 Time: 11 - 12:30 u CEST

📺 Platform: Google Meet

Register for the webinar via [this link](#).

Expert meeting digital inclusion for young people in the Netherlands



On September 19th, 30 participants joined an expert meeting in Lelystad and discussed digital inclusion: the goal that everyone can participate in the digital society. Policy makers, education experts and teachers within the youth custodial institutions (JJI's) in the Netherlands, engaged in conversations about creating the best possible learning environment in a highly secure online environment, enabling young people in institutions to strengthen their position in the job market. One of the conclusions of the expert meeting was that the approach to digital learning environments varies within the different JJI's. Some work with it in residential groups, others use it at school and some do not use it at all. Teachers and group supervisors sometimes don't have sufficient digital skills themselves. Therefore it is important to start small, create support and provide assistance to professionals and give them the opportunity to share experiences. Participants also shared specific requests regarding themes for lessons and materials, which will be incorporated into the Triangle Platform.

A step forward to digital inclusion in Portugal



In September, 19 experts gathered in Portugal to discuss the successful pilots with the Triangle platform in Portugal, which equips young people in detention centres with important vocational and digital skills to help them with their reintegration into society.

Titled *“Ctrl+Alt+Reform: Unlocking Digital Skills in Juvenile Offender Education”*, organiser IPS discussed a secure online environment within the Portuguese youth justice system through discussions and input of the experts. Digital skills can help young peoples to enhance their social skills and self-confidence, which contributes to their rehabilitation and social reintegration. There has been an increase in crimes committed by youngsters in Portugal, in which the digital world plays a role. This highlights the importance of initiatives like the Triangle platform, to practice digital skills. During the expert meeting, participants were also offered the opportunity to test the platform and provide feedback. Many described Triangle as a comprehensive and important instrument to provide young people within the justice system with both the digital and vocational skills they need for their future. The interactivity and user-friendliness of the platform were particularly highlighted. The Portuguese Triangle platform, developed by IPS_Innovative Prison Systems and Aproximar, consists of eight components, including financial literacy, digital skills and personal development.

More information



Triangle

We developed a publicly accessible [Triangle World Website](#) to give you an idea of the Triangle environment.



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