

**Onderwerp:** E-PODS Project Kick-Off

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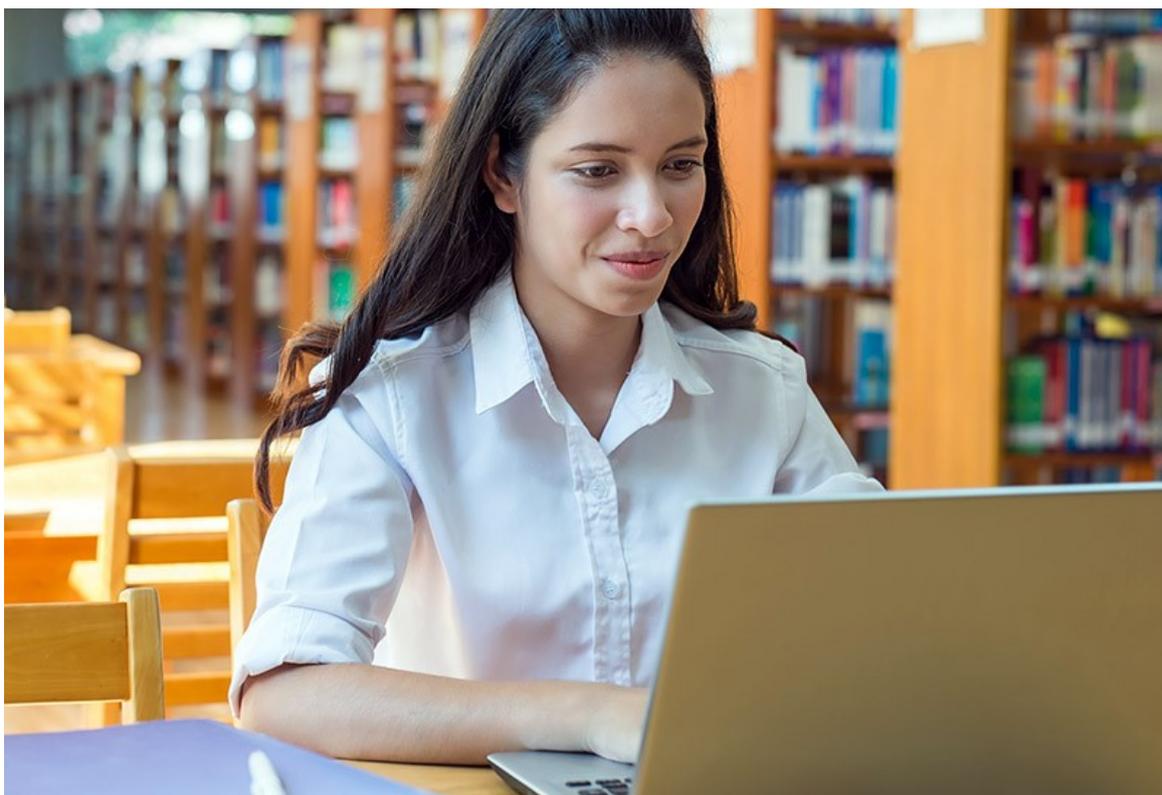
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## Newsletter #1: What is EPODS?

### ...and why is it relevant to YOU?



The benefits of Second Chance Education (SCE) are clear to practitioners: to reach difficult learners and enable them to accomplish personal and professional goals. But who helps the teachers/trainers to reach their personal and professional goals? Who supports you in your Continuous Professional Development (CPD)?

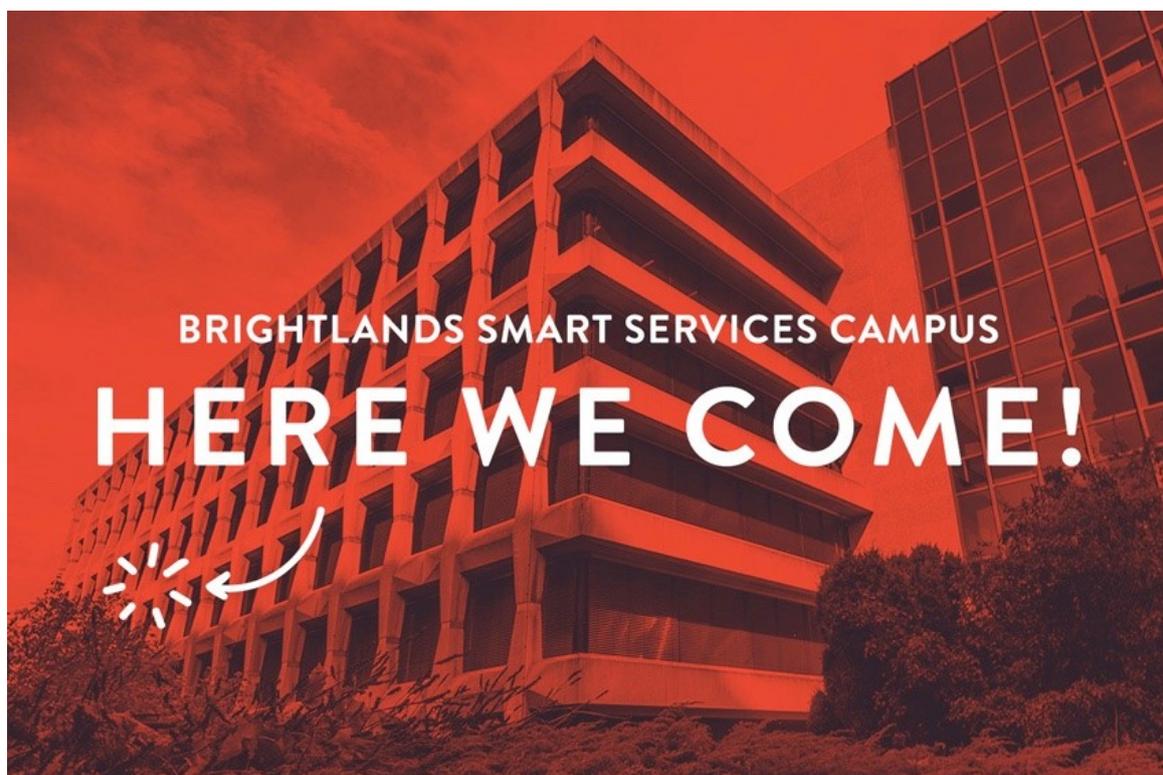
**EPODS is the answer: online Professional Development in Second chance education.** The portal will provide materials dedicated to supporting SCE teachers/trainers, with topics and trainings specifically tailored to your (challenging) working conditions and specificities of your learners. EPODS will:

- promote European integration of professional development of teachers/trainers in second chance education; and
- set up an organic / growing database connecting tools, schools, teachers/trainers and beneficiaries.

## What will EPODS offer?

EPODS supports teachers/trainers in Second Chance Education in their professional development. Set your own development goals, take courses and monitor your progress. In that way, the EPODS online professional development services enable teachers/trainers to maintain their high level of support to learners. E-learning courses and an e-learning creation tool support the accessible and continuous learning of teachers/trainers.

## Kick-Off Meeting in November 2016



*Brightlands Smart Services Campus, Heerlen, NL*

A successful Kick-Off Meeting was held in Heerlen, the Netherlands, hosted by applicant Betawerk at the Brightlands Smart Services Campus. Frans van Hoek, representative of the Dutch National Agency CINOP, joined the meeting for a number of hours and provided feedback and suggestions.

All partners were represented and a good working relationship was commenced in a collegial atmosphere. Many partners had met before and collaborated on previous projects, such as DISCO and MOBILE. On the first evening most partners met up for a welcome dinner at the Abbey Rolduc - an impressive building dating back to the early 12th Century. This set the tone for a tasty and friendly, while still productive, KOM!

## What now?

The EPODS consortium is already hard at work, and will be venturing into Second Chance Schools in our partner countries to interview teachers/trainers in the coming month(s). We will be gathering baseline data in order to understand the status quo as well as the desired situation regarding Continuous Professional Development of SCE teachers/trainers.

If you are a teacher/trainer and would like to take part in our survey, or simply want to know more about EPODS, then please don't hesitate to get in touch! You can contact Ms. Katrine Bengtsson ([katrine@betawerk.nl](mailto:katrine@betawerk.nl)) or Mr. Chris Janssen ([chris.janssen@euricon.eu](mailto:chris.janssen@euricon.eu)), or [access our questionnaire directly here](#). Please save the file, fill in the questionnaire, save again, and send to one or both of the email addresses listed above by Tuesday Feb 28th.

Thank you and stay tuned: more EPODS developments to come!

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