

Irish Prison Education Association (IPEA)

The IPEA is the Irish branch of the European Prison Education Association (EPEA). It is the representative body for prison education in Ireland.

What the IPEA stands for?

We promote the view that education in prison is a moral right that meets a basic human need, and within this perspective, personal development is considered to be an aim, a process and a result of prison education. We believe that education in prison has the power to transform prisoners' lives by enabling them understand, critique and question their previously unquestioned perceptions, assumptions and worldview. Prison education can facilitate the prisoners' successful re-entry into society by cultivating the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation necessary for active citizenship.



Further details and membership application forms can be downloaded at www.epea.org/ipea

European Prison Education Association (EPEA)

The EPEA was established in 1991 to promote and safeguard the ideals of Education In Prison, Recommendation No. R (89) 12, Council of Europe, 1989. It is an International Non-Government Organisation and a member of the Council of Europe's NGO Liaison Committee. It is seen as the voice for prison education across Europe.



VIRTUAL EUROPEAN PRISON SCHOOL

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Virtual European Prison School

www.prisoneducation.eu



A Grundtvig Multilateral Project



The VEPS Project

The Virtual European Prison School (VEPS) is a project funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. Its broad aim is to increase participation and widen access to education within European prisons. Its primary actions involved the transfer of best existing practices and the establishment of a web based Virtual Prison School.

The coordinating partner of the project is the EPEA (see over) and a wide range of prison educators from across Europe are involved. The IPEA (see over) is the Irish partner in the project. The other project partners are prison education services, organisations and bodies from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, England, France, Greece, Norway and Sweden.

The 'Virtual School' established as part of the project is a repository for educational programmes, teaching materials, course syllabi, etc which prison educators can access to assist international students study in their mother tongue while imprisoned abroad.

If you are interested in discovering more about VEPS please see <http://www.prisoneducation.eu/>

Aims of VEPS

Project aims

- 1. Widen access and increase participation in prison education**
- 2. Disseminate and transfer best practices.**
- 3. Develop innovative programmes that prepare prisoners for life after release.**

How the VEPS Project partners achieved these aims

- 1. Transferred innovative practices**
- 2. Established Internet based European Prison School**
- 3. Convened an International Conference for Directors and Coordinators of Prison Education**

Role of the IPEA in the VEPS Project:

The IPEA is keen to enhance contact and cooperation among its membership and our colleagues in Europe; as a consequence we were delighted to be invited to participate in this project.

We were partnered with a school in a juvenile prison in Hellas (Greece) - 2^ο ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ ΑΥΛΩΝΑ ΜΕ ΛΥΚΕΙΑΚΕΣ ΤΑΞΕΙΣ (the Gymnasium and Lyceum in the Avlona Prison for Minors and Young Offenders) and were asked to disseminate and transfer best practices in Irish prison education with our Hellenic partners. We decided that 'best practice' in terms of the needs of our project partners were the Personal Development and Pre-release Programmes devised and developed by Irish prison educators.

Following much discussion, some research and a little training, a generic 'pre-release programme' was adapted and modified to suit their aims and objectives by our Hellenic partners and is being piloted in the Avlona Prison for Minors and young Offenders.