



European Prison Education Association

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August Newsletter



Summer is almost over, a new school year has almost begun. We seem to be still thinking about holidays, but hey! We have to get back to work!!!

Fortunately, our work in the field of prison education is very often really rewarding. Maybe not so much within prison systems... but I bet we all like it, anyway.

The EPEA conference is closer and closer. vwno has not registered yet, so asap, please!!! Be sure that we will remind you about it next month, too

Many of you are probably still lying in the sun somewhere hot, bracing yourselves before the new school year starts and before new ideas will be employed. Even though it actually still is holiday time, we managed to gather some information about various activities in our educational area. Please, take your time to read through it. I hope everyone will find something interesting for them. Enjoy and stay in touch!



Hubert Skrzynski

EPEA Central Regional Representative
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Conference 2017



Vienna Conference Update

While the conference planning is still ongoing, we are pleased to share with you the latest version of the conference [programme](#). The final programme will be confirmed soon.

Registration is progressing well but if you haven't yet registered, please make sure to do so. It promises to be an interesting event. Please keep an eye on our conference website for more details!

For the moment, please note the following:

- Earlybird price runs until 30 September
- We have arranged a Hotel deal at Flemings for conference delegates
- Alternative accommodation is also provided [here](#) and on our conference website (see below)
- Spouses are welcome. There is no specific programme provided, but list of events and recommendations
- If delegates wish to present their activities in the form of a poster presentation in the conference lobby, please let us know!
- We have options to visit 1 of 4 different prisons or visit a workshop for ex-prisoners - but there are limited numbers (25 per prison, 20 for the workshop) - so please do register your interest soon.
- A recurring theme throughout this conference is the role of universities and their partnership with prisons: at the end of the conference, we will be forming an EPEA Special Interest Group on University-Prison Partnerships, to establish a work programme to explore, promote and develop this aspect of prison education. Please keep an eye on our conference website and future newsletters for updates on this SIG.

[Conference Website →](#)

EPEA Active in Council of Europe



Thanks to one of our Steering Committee members (Per Thrane – EPEA Northern Region Representative), who is very active in lobbying PE ideas, Council of Europe have received some recommendations on how to make it possible for inmates across Europe to have a better access to digital information via the Internet. What is even better CoE have accepted the comments to a draft of a new recommendation. We do not know whether they are going to be taken into consideration but since constant dropping wears away a stone, we have to keep our fingers crossed for the success in this matter. Please, read more at:

<http://www.epea.org/prisoners-have-digital-rights/>

Also, click below to find a link to a very interesting article from “The Guardian” which discusses the possibility of using Skype as communication means for inmates to stay in touch with their families.

[Go to Article →](#)

Prisoners Studying at Third Level



Western RR Nina Champion recently wrote an article for The Guardian Newspaper.

"To be truly inclusive, universities must help prisoners feel they belong.

Universities offer a crucial lifeline to people with convictions, but they could go further in encouraging and supporting their applications and studies.

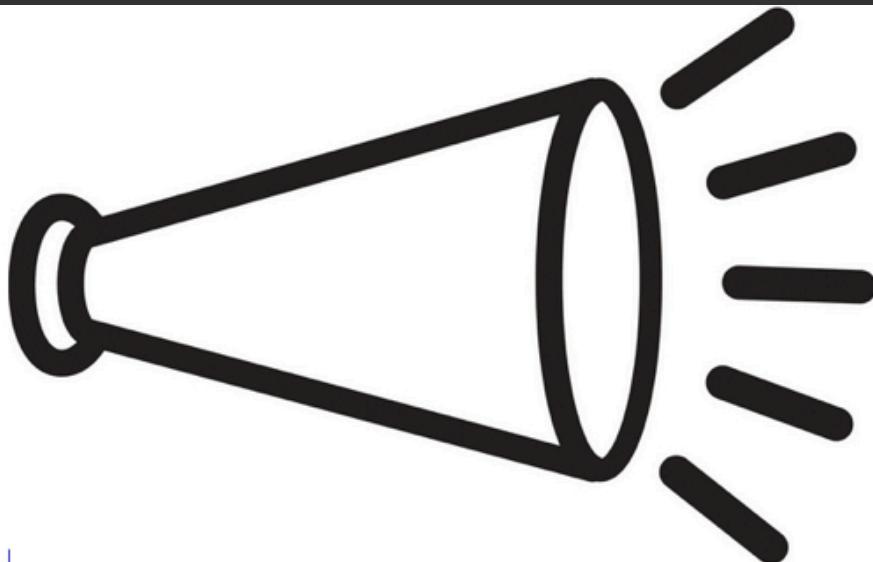
In the next few days, the news will be full of images of teenagers nervously opening envelopes and jumping for joy at their exam results. It doesn't feel too long ago I was in their place. Twenty years later, I'm waiting for results again, but this time from students who have had a

different educational path to mine – through the prison system.

Prisoners' Education Trust, whose policy team I head, funds prisoners to take courses in subjects and levels otherwise unavailable to them. Amid the despair in the prison system today, with the staffing crisis and increases in violence, drugs, self-harm and suicides, there are some incredibly determined men and women working against the odds to gain GCSE, A-level and university-level qualifications..."

Click below to access the full article.

[Full Article →](#)

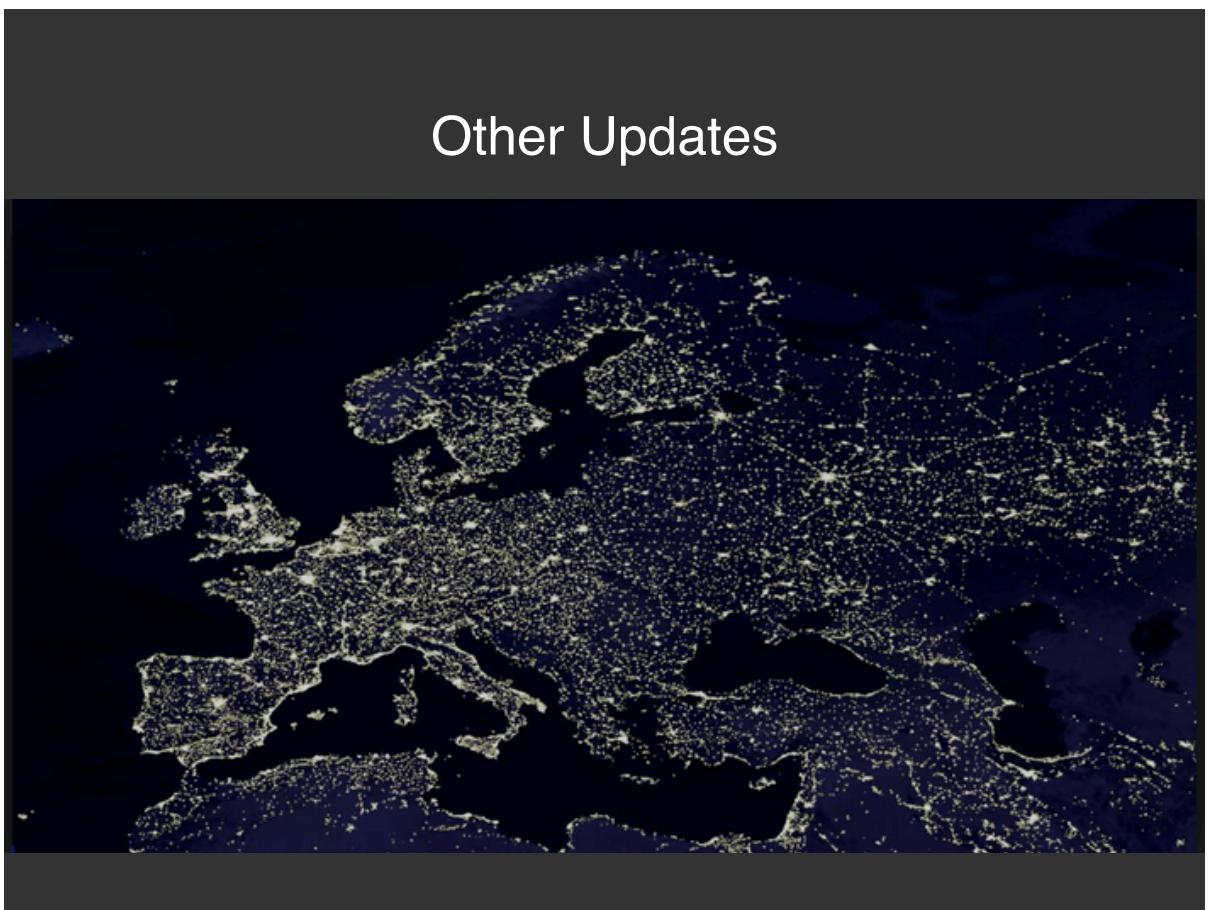


"Voice from behind the bars" - an educational project in a Polish prison

In EPEA March newsletter we were writing about the educational project from Poland. It has been finished now and organizers claim that it has been a huge success. All of the interested parties (the prison in Plock, the school in the Plock prison, an NGO that was the leading partner, the schools that hosted inmates and inmates themselves) took a big

advantage of it – prison and the prison school can boast that prison education goes way beyond the bars; school students received a great lesson from the inmates that normally they would not be able to receive; inmates who had a chance to share their experiences with the young. What is even more important some of the inmates who took part in the project managed to receive a parole thanks to their active involvement. Wait for the next EPEA magazine in which you will find a full article about the project.

Other Updates

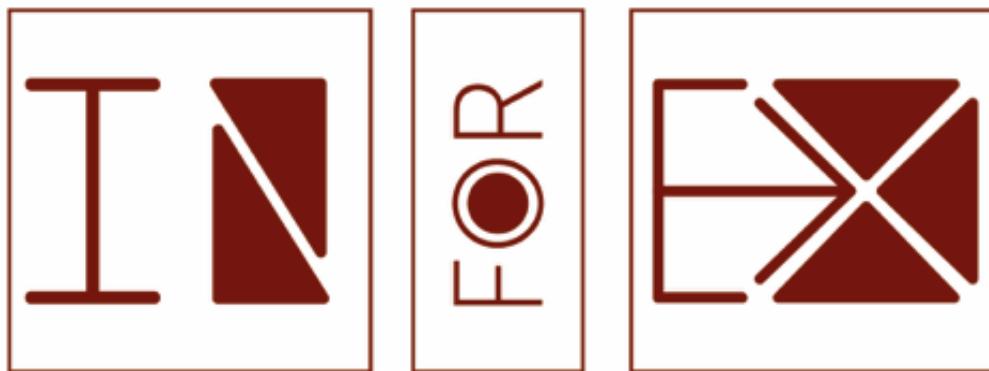




Teaching Women English in a German Prison

I recommend reading an interesting article about challenges of prison education in Germany:

[Full Article →](#)



“Innovative ways of including low qualified ex offenders and ex prisoners to labour market”

INforEX is a European project funded by the Erasmus+ programme that aims in training disadvantaged groups, such as marginalized low qualified ex-offenders, enhancing their basic skills and key competences and providing certification of both formal and informal skills. The project involves six partner organizations from six European countries: VšĮ Žmogiškųjų išteklių stebėsenos ir plėtros biuras

(Lithuania), EurosucceS Consulting in cooperation with the Cyprus Prisons Department (Cyprus), CASCAID (UK), Lazzarelle Cooperativa Sociale a r.l. (Italy), Collegium Balticum (Poland) and Gestión para la Integración Social - GINSO (Spain).

INforEX will develop an integrated working methodology that combines theoretical analysis with qualitative research and hands-on activities, based on a participative and bottom-up approach, which means active involvement at any stage of all the relevant actors, either project partners or external stakeholders.

The project's objectives are:

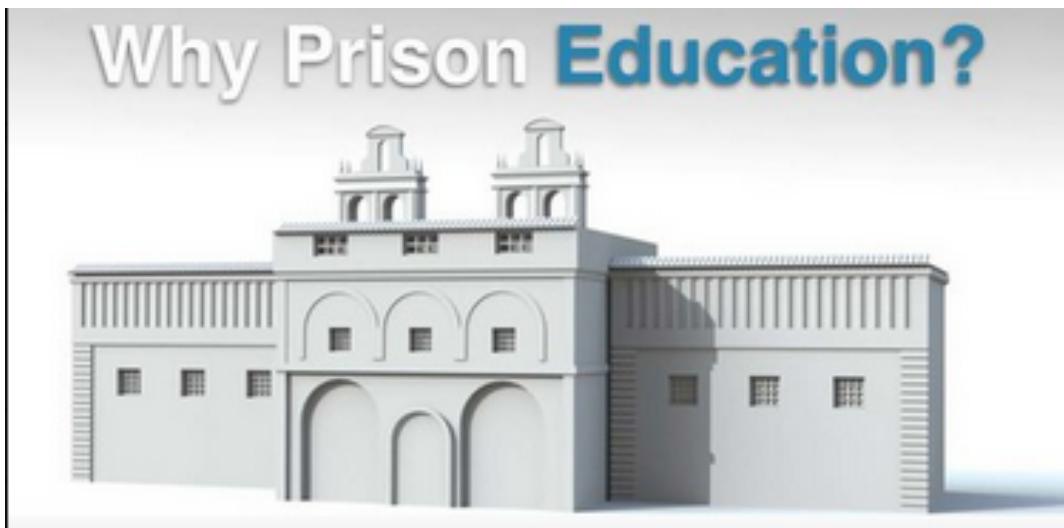
- Develop a training model which could be performed on the job and not in classrooms
- Training entrepreneurs to work with the target group - (ex) offenders
- Issue a certificate to the participants- validating the skills obtained
- Involve 12 entrepreneurs as adult trainers in each participating country
- Each entrepreneur involved will train 2 participants (in total - 144 beneficiaries)

In October 2017, the consortium will organize the “Train the Trainer” workshop in Madrid, Spain, in order to disseminate and transfer skills and expertise the experts involved in the project, from all partner countries. Afterwards, each partner will undertake to deliver and pilot the project results in each country to the project end users and stakeholders (ex-offenders, employers, VET organizations etc).

The duration of the project is two years; it started in October 2016 and will be finalised in September 2018.

If you need more information about the project, please visit EurosucceS Consulting website by clicking below or call us at **+35722420110**.

[Learn More →](#)



Why prison education?

Finally, last piece of information. We, as PE practitioners, know how important prison education is. Not everyone, though, realizes its importance. Sometimes we get questions – “why?”. Why should we teach prisoners? Why should we spend money on their education? Why do it, at all? Have a look at a very intriguing infographics... If anyone ever asks you one of these questions regarding prison education, show it to them. Maybe this will dispel their doubts. Even though this relates to the US reality, I do think it can be used in our, European, reality, too:

Infographics →

Some news from America



If anyone would like to take part in a conference on higher education in prisons organized by the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison. The mission of AHED is to support the expansion of quality higher education in prison, empower students in prison and after release, and shape public discussion about education and incarceration. The programme of the conference is very interesting and I think it is worth considering to find some time to be there. Check out more information at:

Conference Website →

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