



Welcome to the latest edition of the EPEA Newsletter!

Spring has finally come and we're all getting more active. Gloomy winter is gone and the sunnier weather will definitely give us more zeal and energy to work. We felt the spring buzz as well and decided to give your newsletter an upgrade to make it more easy accessible for a variety of devices.

But that's not all. Another great example, and also the highlight of this month, is that the EPEA has just welcomed two new EPEA branches – one in Portugal and one in Switzerland. This is great news because the PE family is growing and we're looking forward to see it branching out even more so.

Finally, we all can sign up for the EPEA conference that is happening in Ireland in June. So many parties cooperate together to make this event an unforgettable one!

Apart from all this great news, you can read some more about the Prison Education Initiatives that are taking place all across Europe. Learn about all these amazing events and projects that are currently being carried out!

I wish you all the best and enjoy reading!



Hubert Skrzynski

- Regional representative of Central Europe

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A warm welcome to Portugal and Switzerland

EPEA welcomes two new branches: **APEnP in Portugal** and **SWIPEA in Switzerland**.

Over the last few months both Portugal and Switzerland have worked hard on the formation of national EPEA branches. Last week the EPEA received the constitutions of both branches and in her online meeting the Steering Committee happily accepted them as new branches.

[Read more...](#)

Conference updates

A quick update from our chair, **Annet Bakker**, in preparation of the [17th EPEA training conference: Past, Present and Future of Education in Prison, 12-16 June 2019 in Dublin, Ireland](#). She says there is so much more to report, but here's what we have so far:

- First of all: registration is going so fast, it is good to see that we are meeting you all again!
 - We are finalizing the programme with all presenters.
 - Leargass, the Irish National Agency has received a green light for a contact seminar to be combined with our Dublin EPEA Conference.
 - Check your National Agency to see whether they have opted for (max. 2) places per country, more details to follow.
 - Even if you have already registered, we can rebook you as a contact seminar participant.
 - There will be a report from our colleagues at Europris on their expert-team that has looked into the CoE Recommendations.
 - There will be more news about EPEA's history that is written down by our 'historians'.
 - We will celebrate our 25th anniversary.
 - We will welcome representatives of our Portugese and Swiss new branches.
 - The cultural programme is very promising, looking forward to seeing you there!
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Vacant positions: treasurer and regional representative East

Would you like an active role in the Steering Committee of the EPEA? The EPEA Steering Committee is presently looking for EPEA members who can replace:

1. the current Treasurer, **Nyggi Aggernaes**, who has asked to leave office before the next elections.
2. Our Eastern Regional Representative, **Ms Ioana Morar**, who will be at the end of her second term by June 2019

This means that we are looking for a new treasurer and a new regional representative for the Eastern Region. If you are interested in either of these positions, please visit [our website](#) for more information.



In his life he robbed over sixty banks and as a result spent about twenty years in prisons. Fifteen years ago, he decided to drastically change his life and leave his past as a bank robber. **Toine Bakermans** turned out to be a criminal, artist, teacher and supervisor.

It all started with taking courses whilst in prison, often to pass the time. For example, he completed a courses in basic skills in the hospitality industry. After that, he went for the Café Business diploma. The Restaurant Company certificate was next. 'That went smooth,' says Toine.

However, the hospitality industry didn't tickle his passion and he decided to take the 'Artistic Education' course several times a week. He made such amazing progress, that it drew attention. Toine was offered a unique opportunity: a visual arts teacher from the Art Academy came to discuss the possibilities for an education. "Unfortunately, I didn't meet the academic requirements, but I had three years to prepare." And that he did. Every six months, the teacher came to check on Toine's progress. Still incarcerated, Toine took the state exams and passed the requirement tests at the Willem de Kooning Academy of Arts. 'Out of the 400 detainees, only three took the exam. I was one of them.' He got admitted and eventually graduated with a 7.4 out of 10.

A subject that often comes back in Toine's works is time. 'In prison everything is about time. I also graduated with painting prison windows. The same window on different canvases, but each with a different vibe. I painted the daily rhythm and light in an empty

cell. Many people do not realize that time is so important here.'

Toine will be presenting one of the workshops at the EPEA Conference 2019 in Dublin.

(Text excerpts derived and translated from original [webpage](#))



Summer course in European Criminal Justice - 26 to 28 June 2019, Trier, Germany

ERA is a centre of expert knowledge and debate in European law that provides opportunities to learn, discuss and network with top speakers about the ever-changing legal framework. Seminars and courses are attended by participants from all over Europe, and practitioners of law – judges, prosecutors, notaries and lawyers in private practice, business or public administration – are provided with training and a forum for debate on EU law.

Their summer course on European Criminal Justice will introduce legal practitioners to practical aspects of European criminal justice and includes the latest developments on EPPO, e-evidence, Brexit, detention and de-radicalisation.

[More information...](#)

EAEA Best practice search: democracy and digitalization

The FutureLabAE project addresses two main issues: the situation of democracy in Europe, where an increasing number of citizens, who, discontent with the political establishment, start leaning towards xenophobic and populist parties or choose not to vote at all; and the alarmingly high number of people in Europe who lack basic skills, especially digital skills, leaving parts of the population unable to benefit from the digital transformation.

The aim is a. to collect different resources (courses, materials, learning tools etc.) on change oriented adult education on democracy and digitalization, and b. to build an online resource center where these resources are available for adult educators, planners, policy makers and other actors who wish to develop change oriented adult learning activities on these themes.

EAEA, as one of the partners, is looking for best practices, focused on democracy, digitalisation (or both together) that you consider they have a *change-oriented* approach. They are aiming at creating an online resource centre where these resources are available for adult educators, planners, policy makers and other actors who wish to develop *change-oriented* adult learning activities on democracy and digitalisation.

[Read more...](#)



JPER publication: Implementing successful jail based programming for women

[The Journal of Prison Education and Reentry](#) (JPER) is an international, open access, peer-reviewed journal for researchers and practitioners.

In February, the journal published an article by Dr. Kimberly Collica-Cox and Dr. Gennifer Furst called: [Implementing Successful Jail-Based Programming for Women: A Case Study of Planning Parenting, Prison & Pups – Waiting to Let the Dogs In.](#)

Parenting, Prison & Pups (PPP) is a program which weaves together an evidence-based parenting curriculum, integrated with the use of Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT). It serves as a model for how to implement innovative programming within the jail setting at both the federal and county level for female prisoners. The paper outlines strategies to employ and discusses challenges that arise during program creation, implementation, and evaluation, which all require consideration prior to starting a new jail-based program. Despite a multitude of challenges, well-developed strategies can advance program goals and outcomes.



Art as means to develop low skilled inmates

EPEA is involved in the Erasmus+ KA2 Partnership project titled “Art as means to develop low skilled inmates”. There are five partners involved in it – Poland (co-ordinator), Italy, Spain, Ireland and the EPEA. EPEA will be responsible for evaluation and dissemination of the results of the project.

[Read more...](#)

Education behind bars

From December 2017 through January 2019 Socially Excluded Educational Association '**Busola**' was running a EU project thanks to which a few of its members could take part in job shadowing experiences and a training event. Countries involved in the project (hosts of the job shadowings and the training event) were: Spain, Ireland, the UK, Wales and Italy.

The main result of the project is the improvement of the quality of prison educators' work with an emphasis on raising the quality of education in the range of using arts as social rehabilitation factor as well as in the range of teaching foreign languages and subjects connected with IT.

[Read more...](#)

REM: Rights Duties Solidarity

REM is a European project co-funded by the program “Erasmus + and involves seven partners in four European countries: Germany, Italy, Romania and Spain. Inspired by a project realized within the walls of Dozza’s prison in Bologna (IT), REM aims to prevent violent radicalization and to promote democratic values and fundamental rights. To do so the consortium is creating training modules for migrants that can facilitate dialogue and self-reflection about rights, duties and cultural differences.

Based on the Dozza experience and adapting the trainings to their local reality, each partner has planned and realised training modules for different target group (migrants, host community, young people, adult centres students) and in different social contexts. The modules have been carried on from September 2018 till January 2019. The outcomes will be collected in an e-booklet, which will be published in June 2019.

[Read more...](#)

RENYO: re-engaging young offenders with education and learning

RENYO a new project across 4 EU countries adopts an interesting approach of 'authentic inquiry' which uses learners' own narratives to develop learning materials. 'Authentic inquiry' is an intervention designed to build personally relevant knowledge which is useful in education. The personally relevant topic is identified by the learner, enabling greater opportunity to connect with the learning process.

The RENYO Project had its Kick Off Meeting on 8th and 9th November 2018 at the University of Gloucestershire. A Train the Trainer Programme will take place on June 25-26th 2019 in Palermo, Italy.

[Read more...](#)

MOBi update

MOBi - Mobilizing society towards (ex)offenders re-integration - aims to challenge society to become a more active and reliable partner in preventing recidivism – thus (ex)offenders reintegration.

With over 400 questionnaires from the general public and over 400 questionnaires from prisoners, they have gathered information on both prisoners' and society's perspectives. This data has now been released in useful and informative infographs.

You can find them at the bottom of the [updated article on MOBi here](#).



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