



# News

April 2005

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**European  
Prison  
Education  
Association**

## **Chairperson – Conference Preview**

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE READY FOR THE 10TH CONFERENCE IN SOFIA

Sunday, 24 April. The planning committee for our forthcoming Conference, including your Chair, arrives at the beautiful Boyana Residence for final talks with the Management. It's a great view. Blue skies, the Vitosha mountains in the background, its looking so good! Lunch- and dinner menus are carefully being discussed, including the ones for the vegetarians. Staterooms and conference rooms checked, electrical equipment ordered. Quite happy the Committee left the Beautiful Boyana. Confident that everything had been done to make our bi-annual event a success! Of course, at the Ministry of Justice, we continued our work for 2 more days. The third letter is on its way to participants, with the final programming. We feel that the train is on the rails, and ready for departure. We hope that the participants stay healthy so they don't have to cancel their participation. I, and with me the other members of the Planning Committee, are confident the Conference will be a good one.

I am looking forward to meeting all participants in Sofia!

Best wishes and have a safe trip,

Niek Willems

Chairperson EPEA

## **EPEA 10<sup>th</sup> Conference Updates**

The EPEA is delighted to announce that members who cannot attend the Conference can keep up to date with conference events as they unfold. News from the Conference will be updated daily during the event and members can access this by clicking on the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference link on [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org).

The Bulgarian NGO "Society for European Educational Cooperation", together with the Norwegian and the Irish EPEA Branches, made a successful project bid under the Accompanying Measures in the framework of the Socrates Program. The project (running throughout the conference) aims to collate a list of all EU funded projects to have dealt with prison education. It aims further to compile a list of members actively involved in project work and to disseminate project outputs and best practices.

## **Election of Officers 2005**

The position of Deputy Chairperson falls vacant in July 2005. (The Deputy Chairperson will function in this role from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 before taking up office as Chairperson for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006). Nomination forms have been circulated to all Liaison Persons/Contact Persons. Completed nomination forms must be returned by 10 May 2005 to the EPEA Membership Secretary:

Torfinn Langelid

County Governor of Hordaland

Department of Education

Box 7310, 5020 Bergen NORWAY

Fax: + 47 55 57 23 52

E-mail: [torfinn.langelid@fmho.no](mailto:torfinn.langelid@fmho.no)

If more than one nomination is received an election will be declared. The election will be decided by postal ballot of all members as sequenced here:

- Mid-May, the Membership Secretary will post a copy of the ballot paper and candidate details to LPs/CPs who will forward immediately a ballot paper to their members.
- End May, ballot papers to be returned to the Membership Secretary at the address above.
- Mid-June election results announced.
- 1<sup>st</sup> July the Deputy Chairperson will take up office.

Further details on voting procedures, and a brief outline of the PR-STV voting system operated by the EPEA, are contained in the forthcoming EPEA Magazine. Members are encouraged to exercise their voting franchise but if you are experiencing any difficulties in either receiving a nomination form or a ballot paper, please contact the Membership Secretary directly at the address listed above.

## **EPEA General Council – what is it?**

The next EPEA General Council meeting will take place at the Sofia conference on Thursday evening the 19<sup>th</sup> May at 18.00. General Council is an integral part of the organisation and it serves to dictate policy, agree rules and principles, and generally influence the direction of the association in accordance with the constitution. The following is a brief outline of how the General Council operates and what happens during its meetings.



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EPEA General Council is comprised of the two Liaison Persons from each country together with the officers of the association. It is convened at least once every two years, normally at the EPEA Conference. The purpose of General Council meetings is

- to account for the work of the Steering Committee
- to account for money received and spent
- hold election for Regional Representatives

During General Council Meeting, the officers of the EPEA submit an account of their activities since the previous meeting to assure members of the smooth running of the organisation and provide a public review of their work. They then answer questions or queries from those present.

To ensure that the EPEA is members driven, the election of Regional Representatives onto the Steering Committee takes place at General Council. Regional Representatives are elected by the Liaison Persons (if a Liaison Person is unable to attend General Council, they can authorise another member of their branch to vote in their absence if written notification of this is received by the Secretary one week in advance of the meeting).

Finally, only General Council can agree alterations or changes to the constitution of the EPEA. Motions to change or amend the constitution must be received by the Secretary 6 weeks prior to the General Council meeting and circulated to participants 21 days prior to that meeting.

Further details on the rules and procedures of the General Council are outlined in the constitution, see [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org). Members will receive a brief report from the forthcoming General Council meeting in the next EPEA News but they are advised to contact their LP/CP for a more in-depth account.

## **Council of Europe Updates**

To mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of States and Governments taking place in Warsaw, Poland 16 - 17 May 2005, the NGOs Liaison Committee will hold a special meeting in Warsaw on May 14 and participation to manifestations on May 15. The aims of this meeting are:

- recognition by the COE and the heads of state of the political part played by the NGOs
- support the COE's views for the future Europe
- reflect on the kind of work NGOs can do ( a paper will be produced)

Our COE representative, Ms Janine Duprey Kennedy, will attend this meeting and has made it possible for an EPEA member from Poland to attend also, thus promoting inclusiveness and relevance of the COE across the organisation. Meanwhile during April, Ms. Duprey Kennedy will attend three further Liaison Committee and Groupings meetings. As always a full report on each meeting will be outlined on the website and also in the forthcoming Magazine.

## **Steering Committee Meeting – 11-13 March**

While many issues were discussed and decided at the Steering Committee meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria 11 – 13 March 2005, the following are of immediate relevance and significance to members.

The EPEA Action Plan 2003 – 2006 is under review and a final re-evaluated will take place at the next Steering Committee Meeting due to be held in late October 2005 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

It has been suggested that the document, Education in Prison, Recommendation No. R (89) 12, is due for review and updating. The Steering Committee has decided to appoint a subcommittee to determine if this review should go ahead and what would be involved.

It has been suggested also that the EPEA as an organization should be reassessed and possibly overhauled, and its direction reviewed. The Steering Committee is awaiting precise details of this proposal and if it agrees with the proposal will present possible changes and restructuring for voting at General Council 2007. Any such possible changes will be drafted by a subcommittee of the Steering Committee and presented to Liaison Persons at a specially convened symposium in advance of General Council 2007. Members will be consulted and updated at every stage of the process.