



News

December 2006



**European
Prison
Education
Association**

EPEA Conference 2007



There has been an unprecedented response to the call for applications to attend the [11th EPEA International Conference](#) in Dublin in June 2007. Thank you to all those who have applied before the closing date of December 8th. Because we are oversubscribed, there is a limit on the numbers of applicants we can accept for the conference. Therefore, places will be allocated first to paid-up members of the EPEA, prison teachers and early applicants.

Applicants who are to be given places will be notified in early January. To guarantee and secure this place you must then pay the conference fee; details on how to do so will be included with the letter of initial acceptance. [The closing date for receipt of the fee is the 28th February 2007.](#)

You may have missed the closing date of December 8th, 2006. If so, you can still apply on line. Your late application will be put on a waiting list. If there are cancellations, you may still get a place.

Internet in Prisons

Amnesty International in Denmark calls for the use of computers in prisons. According to Press Secretary, Ole Hoff-Lund, *"Today we have inmates in prisons serving long time in prison that have never worked with a computer before. They are citizens without any knowledge about computers and they are set back when they are released. It is important that they are familiar with computers when they are released"*.

The comments from Amnesty International are in response to the Danish Department of Probation and Prison Service in Denmark holding a new security concept in hearing. One of the subjects in the hearing deals with the use of Internet and computers in prisons. The Deputy General Director A. Esdorf maintains, *"Computers properly will come to inmates with the new concept"*. In the concept in hearing, it is said that inmates in closed prisons should not have access to the Internet.

Computer Lab in Romania



The Romanian partner in the Pipeline Project, Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor, has obtained a computer laboratory within the Pipeline Framework. The lab will be installed in the juvenile prison of Tichilesti, and will take advantage of technologies developed in the Pipeline project. It is intended that the new lab will help set new standards for prison education in the Balkan and help prepare a better future for young Romanian prisoners. The EU under its Socrates Programme funds the Pipeline Project, further details can be found at www.pipeline-project.org.

Another New Branch

Malta is the latest country in which a branch of the EPEA has been formed. Following a meeting of the local members at which a constitution was drawn up and officers elected, the new branch was officially inaugurated. We are delighted to welcome this new branch and would encourage all members to consider forming a branch in their country if appropriate. There are certain criteria which must be adhered to before a branch can be created and details on these can be found on the website www.epea.org

Nordic Homepage for Prison Ed.

The General Director of Finnish Prison Service, Esa Vesterbacka, opened the Nordic homepage for prison education in Helsingfors on Thursday the 30th November 2006. The website address is www.fengselundervisning.net. Articles in English are also available on the website. The purpose of this homepage is to inform colleagues in the field of Education in Prison about what is going on in the Nordic countries. The Nordic Network for Education in Prison was formally established in January 2006 with support from Nordic Network for Adult Learning www.nordvux.net. The contact person for Nordic Network for Education in Prison is Torfinn Langelid, e-mail: Torfinn.langelid@fmho.no





New Prison Creative Arts Website

A new website called 'ESCAPE - the European Site for Creative Arts in Prison Education' is currently under construction. It will have four main elements. These are Art, Music, Poetry and Drama. The **Art** page will have articles written by Art teachers and feature Artwork by prisoners displayed in 'Gallery' pages. Again the **Music** page will have articles written by Music teachers and feature original songs composed by prisoners. These will be in MP3 format and can be 'downloaded' as full songs or as samples of the songs (about thirty seconds) and listened to by visitors to the site. In some cases the lyrics of a song may also be available. The **Poetry** page will feature selections of poems written by prisoners in their preferred language and also translated into English (the primary working language of the site). The Poetry page may also feature articles by prison teachers on Creative Writing classes, projects and publications. The **Drama** page will contain articles by Drama teachers on drama events and productions, with accompanying images. Further details on the site and information on how to include your students' work will be outlined in the next EPEA Magazine. In the meantime, contact info@escapelink.org.

Increase in membership fees

EPEA membership fees have not increased for a number of years. However, it was agreed at a meeting for Liaison and Contact Persons in May 2005 that fees must be increased in order to facilitate the work of the organisation. Accordingly, there will be a small increase in membership fees from January 2007. The current situation where members from certain countries pay the cost of 1 years membership but remain a member for 3 years no longer pertains.

The membership fee will be weighted according to the country in which the member lives. (*Based on calculated Labour Cost for teachers per day under Socrates selection 2006*). Thus, the fee for members in countries earning less than €150 per day will be less than those living in countries earning more than €150 per day.

List A indicates the countries whose daily payment for category two (teachers) is less than 150 euros per day, and starting in January 2007 the EPEA membership fee for those living in these countries will be €10 for 1 Year, or €20 for 2 Years.

A: Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Estonia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Malta, Portugal.

For members in those countries (see list B) where the daily payment for category two (teachers) is more than 150 euros per day, the fee will be €20 for 1 year or €40 for 2 years.

B: Greece, Slovenia, Spain, Cyprus, Finland, Italy, Iceland, Belgium, Austria, Lichtenstein, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Ireland, Denmark, United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden

The fee for those living in any country not listed above (i.e., not listed in the EU Guidelines) will be at the discretion of the Treasurer.

There will be no increase in Associate or Institutional membership fees - they remain:

Associate Membership - €30.00 (1 year)
Organisational Membership - €150.00 (1 year)

Membership fees can be paid in 3 ways:

- Directly to your Liaison/Contact Person.
- Online by Credit Card via Paypal.
- Bank Transfer.

Further information on each option is available at www.epea.org.

Report from Directors' Conference

The conference organisers have compiled a report from the [6TH European Conference Of Directors and Co-ordinators of Prison Education](#) held in Prague in September 2006. The report should be of interest to anyone seeking information on emerging trends and commonalities in prison education. In addition, it contains an update on the provision of prison education in a number of European countries. Email Martin Vana, mvana@grvs.justice.cz, for a copy.

