

# European Prison Education Association

working to promote sound principles and good practice in Europe ... and beyond.

December 2007

◇ [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org) ◇ [epea@epea.org](mailto:epea@epea.org) ◇

## News Flash

VEPS project

Commission adopts  
plan on Adult Educa-  
tion

Inmate's music on the  
Internet

Meeting for Liaison  
and Contact Persons

Books from the CoE

Training course on  
Arts in Prison in Bul-  
garia

## Calendar

December 3, 2007  
EAEA General Assem-  
bly

December 24, 2008  
Merry Christmas

January 1, 2008  
Happy New Year

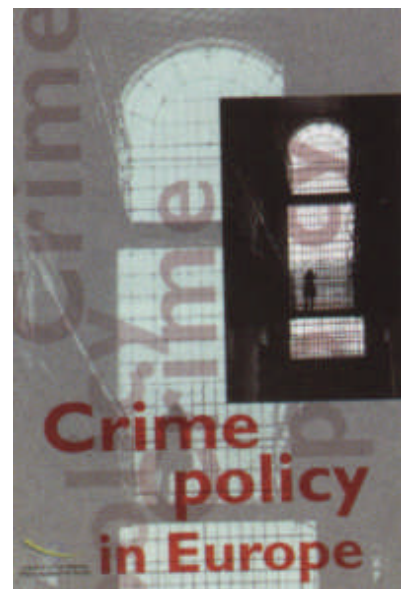
January 21-24, 2008  
INGO meeting at CoE

April 14-18, 2008  
INGO meeting at CoE

May 17, 2008  
LP/CP meeting in  
Bulgaria



EU launches many new initiatives on Life Long Learning and Adult Education. Several reports in this issue.



Important books from the Publishing House of the Council of Europe.



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*





Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## The Virtual European Prison School

The VEPS project calls for courses in all European Languages to be included on the Learning Management System provided by the project.

Questions about materials and how to include it can be answered by Josef Polcer, Czech Republic and Per Thrane, Denmark, by sending an e-mail to [vepsadmin@prisoneducation.eu](mailto:vepsadmin@prisoneducation.eu)

More information on the project home page [www.prisoneducation.eu](http://www.prisoneducation.eu)

## European Commission to encourage e-skills

In September, the European Commission published a Communication urging action to enhance digital competences in Europe. The document, entitled E-skills for the 21st century: Fostering competitiveness, growth and jobs, warns that Europe will encounter important shortages in ICT-related skills, due to both the lack of ICT specialists and inadequate user skills. It identifies a dangerous 'ICT fatigue', which resulted from the bursting of the dot.com bubble in 2001. The European Commission regards this as a serious threat to the success of the Lisbon Strategy, and

its aim to sustain competitiveness, growth and jobs in Europe. The Communication follows on earlier policy work by various Commission departments in the field of e-competences, such as the report E-skills for Europe: towards 2010 and beyond (2004), the creation of an "ICT task force" (2006), and the "Thessaloniki Declaration" of October 2006. It is seen as a step on the way to a European "e-skills agenda". Since E-skills fall into a policy area where most competences remain with member states, the Communication can simply recommend that European countries and industry go beyond ad-hoc measures and develop long-term agendas. As for the Commission's role, the Communication sees it fostering added value to the E-skills agenda, which it will implement largely through existing instruments (LLL Programme, FP 7, structural funds) and five action lines.

## The Directorate for Education and Culture of the European Commission has launched a consultation on multilingualism.

The exercise, which is to focus on the Europe's citizens at large, is to prepare a Communication that would be adopted in 2008.

The consultation is structured into six thematic blocks:

- why people should learn foreign languages;
- in which ways they should learn them;

- what the role of languages should be in our multicultural and multi-ethnic societies;
- how languages are and should be used in businesses;
- how languages can serve to integrate immigrants; and
- which role languages should play inside the European institutions.

The latter is remarkable, since the Commission bluntly questions whether the substantial sums the Union spends on translation and interpreting are well-invested. On the other hand, the consultation does not explore different languages and their weight, and does not address the question of a lingua franca for Europe. The European Commission has a long-standing commitment to language learning and linguistic diversity. It is its key belief that the European project can only work if as many citizens as possible are able to speak as many European languages as possible. With a growing number of languages in the Union, and the increasing importance of non-European languages in the 21st century, everyone does not regard this strategy as realistic anymore.

## Examining terminology in adult learning and monitoring the sector

The European Commission in monitoring and analysing the adult learning sector in Europe in the hope of improving the quality and comparability of data. The specific objective of this is twofold:

to establish a European glossary on terminologies agreed by Member States used in the adult learning sector Europe-wide;

to explore the feasibility of developing, on the basis of agreed definitions and terminology, a set of core data for monitoring the adult learning sector, which should be linked to the European Council conclusions on Indicators and Benchmarks for this field.



## EU Commission adopts Action Plan on Adult Learning

The European Commission has adopted a Communication in support of the Action Plan on Adult Learning.

The European Commission has adopted today a Communication calling on the Member States to work together and support the EU's Action Plan on Adult Learning. The Action Plan aims to help remove the barriers that prevent adults from engaging in learning activities, and to improve the quality and efficiency of the adult learning sector.

A part of the plan is to:

*Speed up the process of assessing and recognizing non-formal and informal learning for disadvantaged groups. The assessment and recognition of skills and social competences, regardless of where and how they are gained, are especially important for*

*the disadvantaged, who do not have basic qualifications, in order to facilitate their integration in society. It is important for all stakeholders (employers, governments, individuals etc.) that this is done, because there is evidence that recognizing skills acquired non-formally and informally could lead to important savings in time and money.*

## Inmate's music published online



Inmates from Cork Prison, Rep. of Ireland, and the prison in Vught, The Netherlands, have published their music on the website of the Pan Project. [www.panproject.org](http://www.panproject.org)



## Increasing investment in human capital through better education and skills

News from the Mutual Learning Program

The European Commission has chosen "increasing investment in human capital through better education and skills" as this semester's priority theme within the Mutual Learning Programme of the European Employment Strategy. The activities in this autumn semester include a Thematic Review Seminar on "Measuring, improving and promoting effects of lifelong learning" as

well as three Peer Reviews: "Matching skills supply and demand", hosted by the United Kingdom; "Validation of non-formal and informal learning", hosted by France and finally "Increasing employment of older workers through lifelong learning" which will take place in Iceland.

More information on the above mentioned activities can be found on <http://www.mutual-learning-employment.net>

Source: Mutual Learning Programme, Newsletter 4, November 2007

## Meeting for Liaison and Contact Persons

The EPEA is convening a meeting for Liaison and Contact Person to be held on

**Saturday the May 17, 2008  
Sofia, Bulgaria**

An invitation to all Liaison and Contact persons has been sent.

An agenda for the meeting is being drafted by the Regional Representatives of the EPEA, it will be forwarded at a later date and we welcome all suggestions for issues or topics to be included.

Information about the meeting can be found on

[www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org) | Liaison Person | 2008 Sofia Meeting

## A Grundtvig Training Course in Bulgaria

Arts in Prisons

Course Reference Number:  
BG-2008-006-001

Start Date: 13/05/2008  
End date: 19/05/2008

Course Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria  
[www.tsarskoselo.com](http://www.tsarskoselo.com)

We gladly welcome colleagues from juvenile, female and male prisons; practitioners and administrators engaged in creative and cultural activities from as many European countries as possible. It is possible to access funding to attend the course from the Grundtvig Program - Mobility for Training of Educational Staff.

The course program is combined with the 2nd Conference of the European Prison Arts Network and the EPEA Liaison Person Meeting. The training will present the best results of the "Will to Dream" Project. The course offers visits in two Bulgarian prisons. The participants can attend the premiere of a theatrical performance produced by prisoners and the opening of two exhibitions of prisoners' paintings.

How to find the course in the Comenius - Grundtvig Training Database?

1. Go to the database:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/>

2. Click on "Enter the search form"

3. Enter the reference number of the course BG-2008-006-001 in the related field and go directly to the course details

## EPEA member of the European Association of Education of Adults (EAEA)

On the General Assembly of the EAEA at The University of Latvia in Riga the EPEA was officially elected member of the EAEA.



EPEA Contact Person from Latvia Aina Vilcane was present and accepted the membership on behalf of the EPEA. During the EAEA conference she spoke to other EAEA members about the EPEA.



The EAEA is the largest umbrella organization in Europe advocating Life Long Learning. About 150 associations in Europe are members.

The EAEA has prison education as theme and actively co-operates with the European Commission and other European institutions in order to strengthen the role and position of Lifelong Learning at European level.

Especially the networking possibility is a benefit for the EPEA members. All benefits are described at  
<http://www.eaea.org/index.php?k=7199>

EPEA hope with the membership of EAEA to help influence decisions concerning prison education made in the European Union.

Home Page of EAEA  
[www.eaea.org](http://www.eaea.org)

## Report from the steering committee meeting of EPEA in Prague 23-25 November 2007



Steering Committee with members of the VEPS project

All members were present and we worked hard and efficiently. There were 22 points on the agenda and I will give you a brief

summary since many of the issues are well described in the latest magazine 33. We went through the previous minutes from our last meeting.

We are planning to arrange a meeting for the liaison persons (LP's) and contact persons (CP's) in Bulgaria in May 2008 as described in this issue of the News.

We also discussed if we should have an international contact person for members outside Europe.

Peter told us of a founding meeting to form a new branch of the EPEA in Hungary. We hope to welcome the new branch soon.

Janine is our representative in the Council of Europe and her substitute will be Torfinn Langelid from Norway. Links and reports can be found on the Website of EPEA

Our treasurer Gisle explained and showed us that EPEA's economy is healthy.

Our webmaster Per Thrane has done some history digging and has collected and published new reports from our conferences on the web.

Valentina updated us on the new Gruntvig project VEPS (Virtual European Prison School) project

EPEA has an invitation to participate in an UNESCO conference on prison education. We will look into this further and investigate what EPEA can do.

We have also been contacted from the American prison education organisation CEA and the

Australian organisation ACEA for closer co-operation.

There are new challenges for EPEA and we can see that co-operation with other organisations is increasing all along.

We are a well known organisation on the map of prison education and there is an increasing interest on the internet for EPEA. The EPEA now have a group on the popular social network called Facebook.

Kerstin Ekholm-Erestam  
Reg rep Northern region

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## Books from Council of Europe

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**European prison rules**  
ISBN 978-92-871-5982-3  
€15/US\$23



This book deals with the prison rules that are in effect in Europe and examines in particular all aspects of imprisonment and prisons such as the use of force, the selection of prison staff and the protection of prisoners' human rights.

**Crime policy in Europe**  
ISBN 978-92-871-5486-4  
€19/US\$29



Dealing with criminal policy in the Member States of the Council of Europe, this book concentrates on examples of promising practices in specific countries relating to crime prevention, mediation and other community sanctions, the prison system and criminal procedure.

Order it at [publishing@coe.int](mailto:publishing@coe.int) or <http://book.coe.int>

### Comment on the book

Following consultation with our members, the Steering Committee of the EPEA contributed to the initial re-drafting of the European Prison Rules (EPR).

This contribution was focused primarily on those Rules that referred directly to prison education, but the EPEA commented also on proposed changes to other Rules considered to have an indirect and negative impact on the educational opportunities available to all prisoners.

In general, the EPEA noted that the proposed re-drafting of the EPR disregarded important educational ideologies and practices that had formed an integral aspect of the original EPR's. Examples of archaic language that failed to reflect current educational discourse were highlighted.

In addition, the EPEA stressed that particular attention be drawn to the education of women prisoners, juveniles and minority groups as these groups endure particular difficulties while imprisoned and education can work towards lessening those difficulties and improve their post-release possibilities.