

## Calendar

29<sup>th</sup> Feb - 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2008  
Steering Committee meeting

3rd-4th April  
Youth Justice 2008

April 14-18, 2008  
INGO meeting at CoE

17- 18 April 2008  
'Families under stress ...children at risk'

May 17, 2008  
LP/CP meeting in Bulgaria.

Directors conference  
September, 2008

19 - 22 September 2008  
Perspectives on Social Capital and Social Inclusion

## Violent Radicalisation

The Chairperson of the EPEA was invited to address the kick-off meeting of a new initiative funded by the European Commission's Programme for "The Prevention of and Response to Violent Radicalization"

## New Hungarian Branch of the EPEA



The official name of the branch is: Hungarian Association of Prison Affairs - EPEA Hungarian Branch.

## Broad majority for action program on lifelong learning

Having regard to demographic change in the European Union, the importance of adult education will continue to increase.

## "The weight of institutional life is exhausting"

The words are said by Jay Samwald that is part of Canadian Prison Fellowship for artists. Read and interview with him on working in prison with art.

### VEPS Project

First round of partner meetings took place

### Internet Resources

Photo stock on pictures on prison art and videos on YouTube

### EPEA and the CoE

The Liaison Committee is about to conclude new structures.

### Renewal of membership

Is it time to renew your membership?

### Year of intercultural dialog

EU Commission declare 2008 the year of intercultural dialog

### EPEA on Facebook

Find EPEA on the most popular social utility on the Internet



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## The Virtual European Prison School

Subgroup meetings between the VEPS partners have been held through January and February 2008.

Norway has helped to introduce module systems to Bulgaria, Sweden share their e-learning experience with The Czech Republic and England and Wales while Ireland exchange alteration programs with Hellas.



Sub-group meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, Birgitta Persson, Roberto Ghisler and Martin Vana. Photo J. Polzer

The exchange between Norway and Bulgaria is presented as a free training course at the site [www.prisoneducation.eu](http://www.prisoneducation.eu)

The other transfers of good practise will be presented as well on the web as soon they are edited for publication.

## Welcome to the new EPEA Branch in Hungary "Hungarian Association of Prison Affairs - EPEA Hungarian Branch"

The EPEA Steering Committee has approved the newest branch of the EPEA from Hungary. The traditions of the EPEA in Hungary have a long history as the first Chair of the branch Dr. Peter Ruzsonyi tells:

The EPEA started his work in Hungary 15 years ago. At that time a psychologist college teacher (Dr. Laszlo CSET-NEKY) started to organize a small group around himself. His job and position basically determined the composition of this group. Mainly college teachers and psychologists were members of the Hungarian group. The biggest issue of this period was the 6th International EPEA Conference in Budapest at 1997.

The number of EPEA members was 10 for years in Hungary. In 2003 Dr. Csetneky retired from his position and Dr. Peter RUZSONYI was elected as Liaison Person. During the last 5 years the number of Hungarian members increased up to 24 and the composition of it is changed. Now we have teachers, advisers and social workers as well.

Our group has decided to become a branch. In Hungary to turn into a legal association is extremely difficult. Luckily the Hungarian Association of Prison Affairs offered his assistance. This organization is the only establishment in Hungary, who aims prison experts. The Constitution of this organization is wider than the EPEA Constitution, but the efforts and emphasis are absolutely parallel with EPEA. This year 2007, 22nd of November the Hungarian Association of Prison Affairs and the EPEA Hungarian group organized a conference. In this day the EPEA Hungarian group has become a Branch. The members accepted the Constitution of the EPEA Hungarian Branch and elected the Steering Committee:

Chairman of the Hungarian Branch: Peter RUZSONYI PhD

Secretary: Erzsébet VÖRÖS

Coordinator of teachers: Zsuzsanna BORGULYÁNÉ ANTAL

Coordinator of social organisations: Mercedes MÉSZÁROS

Treasurer: vacant



First Chairperson of the Hungarian Branch Dr. Peter Ruzsonyi signs the constitution.

The official name of our group is: Hungarian Association of Prison Affairs - EPEA Hungarian Branch.

In the near future we want to increase the number of our members and recruit many prison teachers into our Branch. We are ready for applying different projects and we would like to prepare and model a general in-service training for prison teachers.

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## Prison education on the Internet

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The Prison Art Network has several collections of prison education related internet services.

Flickr is a photo sharing website and web services suite, and an online community platform. The account with pictures of the project can be found here

[www.flickr.com/artinprison](http://www.flickr.com/artinprison)



Italian prisoners play Hamlet

YouTube is a video sharing website where users can upload, view and share video clips.

[www.youtube.com/artinprison](http://www.youtube.com/artinprison)



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## Renewal of membership

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With entering a new year it is time to consider renewal of membership of the EPEA. The membership follows the calendar year. Normally branches or the local Liaison Person organize collecting the membership fee among members, but if you prefer paying the fee yourself you can use the payment service from the website. Visit the link [www.epea.org/sider/step1.html](http://www.epea.org/sider/step1.html) where all information is found.

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## Broad majority for action programme on lifelong learning

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Having regard to demographic change in the European Union, the importance of adult education will continue to increase. This was pointed out beginning of February in Strasbourg by Doris Pack MEP, Rapporteur of the action programme on 'Lifelong Learning'.

"Economic and social change in the European Union requires the constant development of qualifications and skills in professional life. Therefore ensuring employability through lifelong learning and improving people's motivation to participate in adult education must be made a particular priority."

The plenary of the European Parliament approved the initiative report on lifelong learning by a large majority. "The European Parliament thus acknowledges the fact that education is an important factor also for personal development, social integration and cross-cultural dialogue", Doris Pack stated.

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## Violent Radicalisation – Recognition of and Responses to the Phenomenon by Professional Groups

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The Chairperson of the EPEA was invited to address the kick-off meeting of a new initiative funded by the European Commission's Programme for "The Prevention of and Response to Violent Radicalisation" which represents a trilateral initiative between Austria, Germany and France. The initiative aims to work out in several steps practical experiences and knowledge in the field of administration, science and NGOs as well as improve the capability of qualified employees to recognise violent radicalisation in the environment of prisons. Specific areas of education and training for prison staff, social workers, police officers, educators and custodians working in prisons, probation officers, NGOs and other related occupational groups are also of relevance. At the recent kick-off meeting in Vienna, representatives of the different fields, as well as experts and academics, gave presentations on how to address extremism and radicalisation in prison. In her presentation, the Chairperson explained how education in prison can bring about significant

and lasting change in a prisoner's conscientisation, ideology and direction so that ultimately, it transforms the his view of himself, his world and his position in that world. She went onto stress how those attracted to violent radicalism while in prison often feel excluded from fundamental aspects of society, and because imprisonment reinforces that perception by being the final manifestation of their total exclusion, it is important that they are not excluded even more by the process of prison education itself. Thus, prison schools must become exemplars of democracy in action and provide a form of education that promotes civic responsibility in order to cultivate the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation necessary for prison students to reject violent radicalism and welcome civic engagement.

A copy of her paper can be downloaded from the EPEA website.  
[http://www.epea.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=382&Itemid=2](http://www.epea.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=382&Itemid=2)

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## More about the calendar events

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Listed here are details of some forthcoming conferences that may interest members

Youth Justice 2008: An International Conference. 3rd-4th April 2008, University College Cork, Ireland.  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/ccjhr/events/Text,39349,en.html>

'Families under stress ...children at risk' Conference 2008. 17- 18 April 2008, Manchester, UK.

<http://www.partnersofprisoners.org.uk/events.html#34>

Perspectives on Social Capital and Social Inclusion: TSCF 2008 International Social Capital Conference.

19 - 22 September 2008, Buggiba, Malta. <http://www.socialcapital-foundation.org/conferences/2008/TSCF%20International%20Conference%202008.htm>



**Kriminalvården**

Directors conference will be held in Malmö Sweden on September 11-14, 2008. The conference is open for Directors and Coordinators of Prison Education. The conference is arranged in cooperation between Kriminalvården, Sweden, the EPEA and EU Lifelong Learning Programme. The program and other details can be downloaded from the EPEA website.

[http://www.epea.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=381&Itemid=2](http://www.epea.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=381&Itemid=2)

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## Interview with Jay Samwald on Arts Education in prison

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In an interview for the Prison Art Networks coming Journal pARTners, prison artist Jay Samwald says:

*Art is all about expression and institutions can be dehumanizing experiences. Even though the staff may be amicable and pleasant, there is still the architecture of oppression that permeates the environment. While painting the mural we could feel the oppression by the necessity to comply*

*with very strict security rules, and when we left at the end of the project, it was like a huge weight coming off of our shoulders. That experience really helps to empathize with the staff and the inmates. The weight of institutional life is exhausting.*

And:

*We feel that creating art inside, requires a lighter footprint, more sensitivity, yet keeping focused on the overall objective, which is to share in the act of creation and thereby creating a movement of spirit within and beyond the walls.*

The full interview in found on [www.panproject.org](http://www.panproject.org)

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## Blog on Arts in Prison

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Anne Peaker Centre opens the blog Arts in Criminal Justice Code of Practice. The centre write in an introduction to the blog: "A Code of Practice for those working in the Arts in Criminal Justice sector will hopefully aid our professional image and enhance the profile of the sector as a whole."

<http://www.artsincriminaljusticecodeofpractice.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.ucc.ie/law/youthjustice2008/>



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## EPEA on Facebook

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The world's most popular social utility Facebook is not without the EPEA anymore. A group for fans of the EPEA is open to join. The name of the group is European Prison Education Association.  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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## Meetings in the CoE

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Reports from the recent participation of the EPEA in the conference of the INGOS at the Council of Europe is published on the web

The EPEA is involved in the reorganization of the Conference of INGO.

The main ideas at the present are:

- more meetings for the conference (4 times a year) because it is the very place to exchange and take decisions for action
- 2 executive structures: a steering committee and a larger standing committee
- 6 thematic committees instead of grouping

The work on this draft structure will go on for decision in June and implementation in October.

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## 2008 - Year of Intercultural Dialog

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The EU Commission has adopted a treaty that declares 2008 "The year of intercultural dialog"

The Treaty establishing the European Community gives it the task of creating an ever-closer union between the peoples of Europe and of contributing to the flowering of the cultures of Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and also highlighting their common cultural heritage. The key to the success of this task is intercultural dialogue.

The overall objectives of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue are as follows:

- to promote intercultural dialogue as an instrument to assist European citizens, and all those living permanently or temporarily in the European Union, in acquiring the knowledge, qualifications and aptitudes to enable them to deal with a more open but also more complex environment and to overcome any difficulties in order to benefit from the opportunities provided by a diverse and dynamic society, not only in Europe but also in the world;

- to raise the awareness of European citizens, and all those living in the European Union, of the importance of developing active European citizenship<sup>2</sup> which is open to the world, respectful of cultural diversity and based on common values in the European Union of respect for human dignity, liberty, equality, non-discrimination, solidarity, the principles of democracy and the rule of law as well as respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.