



Welcome to the August edition of the 2020 EPEA Newsletter!

Included in this edition are several articles concerning EPEA matters and also the latest news related to Prison Education in Europe. Relevant issues, as the revision of the European Prison Rules [R(2006)2-rev] (i); invitation to host the 18th EPEA Conference 2021 (ii); Core Correctional Skills, a very useful resource for prison educators (iii); vacant Steering Committee (SC) positions (iv); Implementation of digital technologies in prisons (v); Recommendation No. R(89)12 in Portuguese (vi); are highlighted here.

Before getting into these items, allow me first to remind you that in order to anticipate members consultancy on changes to the Constitution, the EPEA SC has organized a series of webinars during which the proposed amendments were explained and members' questions answered. Dates have been sent to members. The deadline to receive your votes is September 15 and the counting will take place on the 17th (September) at 20:00 CET – it will also be broadcast live via webinar.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has adopted the Recommendation R(2006)2-rev which updates the 2006 European Prison Rules. The most recent revision of the Recommendation, in addition to other significant aspects in the area of correctional treatment, as described in the document, reaffirms the importance of Education for a much broader purpose of rehabilitation, linking individual needs with the socio-educational and vocational training context (cf. 28.).

The EPEA SC is in the process of soliciting bids to host the 18th International EPEA Conference in 2021. This process will include an invitation to agencies, organizations or institutions interested in hosting the event to submit a formal letter to the SC, declaring their interest. All potential candidates should keep in mind that the benefits of hosting a EPEA Conference are enormous, especially in terms of enhancing the international reputation of the host organization and the opportunity it offers to present new developments and innovations, contributing to wider recognition of Prison Education across Europe and beyond.

Prof. Dr. Ioan Durnescu's book (University of Bucharest), Core Correctional Skills, addresses issues pertinent not only to probation officers, prison staff, but also to educators, researchers, mentors, volunteers,...

working with the prison system, and it can also serve as a valuable training kit in promoting effective skills, prosocial modelling - theory and practice, problem solving, motivational interviewing, risk-need-responsivity model, desistance paradigm, among other aspects, in the field of offender rehabilitation and treatment programmes.

The SC is presently looking for EPEA members to be nominated for the position of Deputy Chair (to assist the current chair, Annet Bakker, in her last year of office and as from July 2021 start a 3-year term of office as Chair of the EPEA). The positions of Representative for the Southern Region and of Representative for the Western Region are also vacant for a 3-year term (further information included in this Newsletter). Needless to say, we are looking forward to your nominations to complete our team.

Authored by Dr Emma Palmer, Dr Ruth Hatcher and Dr Matt Tonkin (University of Leicester), the study, Evaluation of Digital Technology in Prisons, reports on an evaluation of introducing new digital technology into prisons in England and Wales. Overall, its findings show that the implementation of the digital technologies has achieved many of the expected outcomes, particularly the in-cell telephones. You will learn more about this research in the Newsletter.

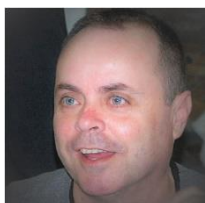
The Recommendation on Prison Education [R(89)12] has finally been translated into Portuguese. Thirty years after its adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at the 429th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the Portuguese branch of the EPEA, APEnP, have translated this important document, which, in addition to the EPEA website, is available to all Lusophony at <www.apenp.pt>.

We also invite you to visit the EPEA website <www.epea.org>, for which some interesting news and articles are suggested.

Finally, allow me to share this thought with you, as I believe it does concern us all as actors engaged in the mission of Prison Education.

In most cases, measures taken by governments to prevent Covid-19 from entering prisons or to mitigate its impact, in case of an outbreak, have kept us physically away from our students. Some may state that distance learning has helped to overcome this situation... Although this topic is worthy of much attention, its discussion, unfortunately, does not fit the economy of this Newsletter. Let's just hope that in the next school year (2020/21) it will be possible to return to a new normal, that is to say, to our learners who now, more than ever, need us.

Until then, enjoy your summer break and, please, stay healthy and safe.



José Pinto
Secretary EPEA

R(2006)2 The European Prison Rules has been revised

Prison education is mentioned in cap. 28. Young prisoners and those with special need are mentioned alongside with library service.

Education

28.1 Every prison shall seek to provide all prisoners with access to educational programmes which are as comprehensive as possible and which meet their individual needs while taking into account their aspirations.

28.2 Priority shall be given to prisoners with literacy and numeracy needs and those who lack basic or vocational education.

28.3 Particular attention shall be paid to the education of young prisoners and those with special needs.

28.4 Education shall have no less a status than work within the prison regime and prisoners shall not be disadvantaged financially or otherwise by taking part in education.

28.5 Every institution shall have a library for the use of all prisoners, adequately stocked with a wide range of both recreational and educational resources, books and other media.

28.6 Wherever possible, the prison library should be organised in co-operation with community library services.

28.7 As far as practicable, the education of prisoners shall:

- a. be integrated with the educational and vocational training system of the country so that after their release they may continue their education and vocational training without difficulty; and
- b. take place under the auspices of external educational institutions

[Read more about R\(2006\)2-Rev](#)

Invitation to host the 18th EPEA Conference 2021

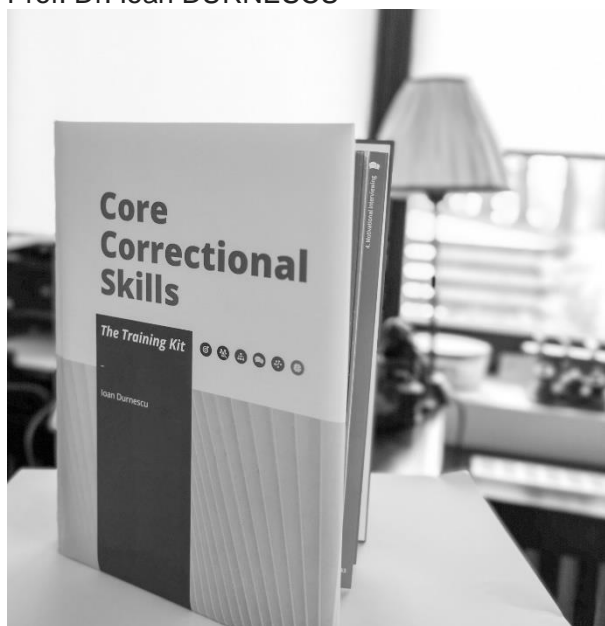
Every 2 years, the EPEA holds its International Conference in a different European country so that members and non-members can come together to explore topical issues; experience new approaches and innovations, and highlight good practice in the field of prison education.

The EPEA Steering Committee is beginning to plan for the 18th International EPEA Conference to be held in 2021, and is inviting organisations, agencies or institutions interested in hosting this conference to contact us.

[Link to formal bit guidelines](#)

Book: Core Correctional Skills

Prof. Dr. Ioan DURNESCU



It is an invaluable guide for:

probation officers and all prison staff involved in offender rehabilitation, either as an introduction into rehabilitation work or as a support for continuous training;

students and teachers aiming to develop knowledge and skills in engagement and rehabilitation;

researchers designing studies on skills or occupational cultures;

volunteers and mentors aiming to develop professional skills for working with offenders.

[Read a sample of the book, know more about the author and how to obtain](#)

Vacant Positions 2020

Would you like an active role in the Steering Committee of the EPEA?

The EPEA Steering Committee is presently looking for EPEA members to be nominated for the positions of:

1. **Deputy Chair**, to assist the current chair, Annet Bakker, in her last year of office and as from July 2021 start a 3 year term of office as Chair of EPEA.

And a person that can replace:

The current **Southern Representative**, Patrizia Corasaniti, who has asked to leave office.

The current **Western Representative**, Ruth McFarlane, who has asked to leave office.

The country layouts for the regions is here <https://www.epea.org/epea/epea-regions/>

Please find the job descriptions and candidate nomination forms below and send it to secretary@epea.org by the 15th September.

[GET DOCUMENTS](#)

Implementation of the digital technologies seems to have had a positive impact on prisoners and staff (UK)

Bringing together the key findings from the research, overall, the implementation of the digital technologies seems to have had a positive impact on prisoners and staff and met many of the expected outcomes, particularly the in-cell telephones.

The specific questions addressed whether prison technology:

Increases access to and improves the communication of knowledge within prisons for both prisoners and staff

Improves prisoner confidence in using IT

Improves prisoner relationships with staff, other prisoners and those outside of the prison, and reduces prison violence

Increases staff job satisfaction and prisoner wellbeing

Reduces prison officer time spent completing key activities/tasks

[Read more and download research](#)

R(89)12 in Portuguese



The Portuguese Branch of the EPEA, APEnP has translated R(89)12 into Portuguese

O Brancn português da EPEA, APEnP, traduziu R (89) 12 para o português.

[See translation](#)

Other news on the website

A personel reflexion

My name is Olga María Arteaga Fernández. Since 2005 I have been teaching at C.E.Per. "RETAMAR" ...

New prison in Greenland with education

[We focus on developing the skills of the prisoners so that they can get some tools that they can use when they come out on the other side ...](#)

Experiences Of Workshops In Prisons

[Challenges Of Education In Prisons In Times Of Exceptionality. A webinar in Spanish from Argentina ...](#)

Upcoming webinar August 20th at 20.00 (CEST)

The webinar will have the theme:

Sharing ideas on Prison Education

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518496589>

New webinar calendar will be published on the website