

Foreword

Dear friends,

EPEA is very happy to send you a new newsletter.

In these strange, dangerous and also memorable months, in which many of us cannot work or not as we are used to, we have met many of you in our recent webinars. Your stories were many and most of us could recognize the other's situation. Only a few can still work inside the prisons, many can only send material and have lost contact with the students.



As crazy as this is, the most important thing is that we all come out of this crisis in good health. Whenever a relative is hit by Corona, the reality and or danger becomes your only reality. We hope that there is not too much of this in your professional or personal environment.

We, EPEA Steering Committee, have not been passively waiting for everything to go back to normal. As you may have noticed, we organised three webinars so far and more will follow! We were pleasantly surprised by your abundant participation, the direct contact with you all and we received similar feedback from you. Many said to appreciate the exchange of experience in the period of professional isolation.

In an attempt to push forward the actions of many governments that abolished all educational activity in their prisons, we sent a letter to all ministries, urging them to make at least some kind of education possible. You will read more about this in this newsletter.

EPEA SC was to have her first meeting over the coming weekend; it was to take place in Portugal. We had planned to meet many of our Portuguese members at their annual branch meeting. Unfortunately, this cannot be. We will have our meeting in an online version and the APEnP annual meeting will be for another time; just like so many other project meetings, conferences, training events etc. that had to be postponed.

I leave you to it to read this newsletter, please enjoy it and send us your own news if you like to share it with others. We will post it in the next edition.

Annet Bakker
Chair EPEA

Letter to Ministries



On the 5th of April, EPEA Steering Committee sent a letter to all European Ministries involved with Education in the Prisons. In most countries this enhances the Ministry of Justice, but in many others this could be the Ministry of Education, Interior Affairs or still a different Ministry.

The reason why we sent this were the stories of many colleagues we spoke during our webinars. They reported not being able to teach, and distance learning was often not facilitated. Our colleagues regretted not being in direct contact with the

students and therefore losing sight of the progress they were making, or not. It became apparent that the way prison education is organised is often by external (other than MoJ) staff; Colleges or even NGO's. By keeping out external staff, prisons disabled the colleges and NGO's. Education stopped in many prisons.

You can find the letter on our website: <https://www.epea.org/epea-write-ministries-of-justice>

In the past weeks we received replies from several Ministries. EPEA SC will discuss how we share these with you, in our upcoming online SC-meeting-weekend.

Keep your eyes open for our next newsletter in which we will tell you more!

Corona / Covid-19



It is possible to see all Covid-19 related news on prison education via the link below

<https://www.epea.org/category/corona>

Country Reports on prison education: <https://www.epea.org/sharing-coronavirus>

Teaching materials in different languages collection by EPEA members and branches:

<https://www.epea.org/teaching-materials>

EPEA Statement of Coronavirus pandemic by Chairperson Annet Bakker:

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The Coronavirus pandemic has created extraordinary challenges for prison schools and penitentiary institutions all over the world. In many countries prison teachers (and other staff) are sent home to minimize the risk of spreading the disease in the vulnerable prison environment. Some of the prisoners are placed in quarantine.

The EPEA appeals to all prison services to look into possibilities to continue the learning process. Ensuring all necessary protective measures hopefully does not exclude the provision of study materials for prisoners, nor finding ways for teachers to communicate with prison learners.

We are convinced that education, in whatever form, is one way of maintaining normality in this difficult situation. More than ever will this be a way to keep the mind occupied other than worry about their position.

Webinars – next one is April 30 at 8.00PM



Since March several webinars have been held for the public to share information about the Corona situation in prison education. The webinars were well attended from many countries also beyond Europe. Most countries face the same problems. The next webinar will be

Thu, April 30, 2020 at 20.00 (8.00PM) Central European Summer Time. (Brussels, Berlin & Roma)

Sharing stories on prison education: What have you learned lately?

This is an open meeting of sharing ideas and concepts about prison education. Bring a good drink (coffee, tea, wine, beer or cocktail) and a story to share. You are welcome to just listen or bring a story. The session is not recorded.

More info about how to attend:

<https://www.epea.org/new-webinar-30-4-20-00-cest-what-have-you-learned-lately>

Summary of good ideas from the recent webinars:

<https://www.epea.org/how-to-teach-during-corona-lockdown>

Interviewing Euro-CIDES on radicalization of prisoners and the role of prison education



EPEA Chairperson Annet Bakker (NL) and former EPEA Project Coordinator Daiana Huber (RO) interviewed Dominique Antony (FR), coordinator of Euro-CIDES. The full interview along with many documents and results from several projects can be found here

<https://www.epea.org/interviewing-euro-cides/>

<https://www.epea.org/portfolio/euro-cides-projects-2003-2019/>

Many good ideas from Italy

Use of Skype: Lara La Gatta (www.ristretti.org) issued a successful call to the Prison Service of Italy making use of distance education techniques in prison education. Use of systems like Skype have been useful to maintain education efforts in 3 Italian prisons.

<https://www.epea.org/call-to-use-distance-education-in-italys-prisons>

<https://www.epea.org/press-release-italian-prison-use-ict-to-teach-prisoner-during-lockdown>

Use of radio/television: The CPIA schools are provider of prison education in Italy. Since April 13, CPIA Metropolitano di Bologna used radio for prison education, but they are stepping up to use tv. They report: "An educational project through television conceived, produced and implemented by the Metropolitan CPIA of Bologna in collaboration with a regional institution for prisoners [...]"

Full story: <https://www.epea.org/bologna-italy-use-of-local-tv-in-prison-education>

APEnP newsletters (Portugal)



The newest Branch of the EPEA APEnP from Portugal issues a bi-monthly newsletter for its many members. In the 6th issue Filipe Lopez comes with a strong message:

I feel privileged, because I was always able to define my own objectives and methodology to reach them. Freed from some straightjackets and activity management allowed me a huge growth of my own abilities, especially as I have always been available to learn

<https://www.epea.org/apenp-newsletter>

It is possible with the help of <https://translate.google.com> to copy text from the Portuguese newsletters over and have a meaningful translation in your own language

All newsletters: <https://www.epea.org/portfolio/epea-apenp>

APEnP congress postponed

The EPEA Branch of Portugal (APEnP) would have held its 1st National Congress in Chaves, May 1-3 2020 but had to cancel it due to COVID-19. The APEnP President José Pinto state: "I am very sorry to postpone our National Congress, but we have to show solidarity and also protect each other from unnecessary infection by the Covid-19."

<https://www.epea.org/associacao-portuguesa-de-educacao-nas-prisoos-cancel-first-confernce>

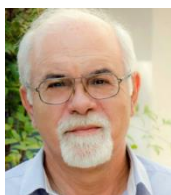
Pep talks via Skype (Netherlands)



A group of Dutch actors (Peter Faber, Jesse, Lamyn, Vincent, Hamda and Rocks of the Peter Faber Foundation) will provide "Peptalks" via Skype for prisoners who give up on education in prison.

<https://www.epea.org/netherlands-pep-talks-via-skype>

Statement from former EPEA president in Hellas is an eye-opener for the public (Hellas)



Petros Damianos was one of the founders of EPEA Hellas and the headmaster of the prison school of Avlona. Petros was a leading figure for development of prison education in Hellas and also served many years in the EPEA Steering Committee. Petros reached national level in the news with his statement on conditions in his school: "In recent days, many have been writing about quarantine and confinement, you have begun to understand a little bit about what 'deprivation of liberty' means [...]"

<https://www.epea.org/4450-2>

Switzerland: Status report on prison education (EN/DE)



For the past 5 weeks, the teaching of basic education has [...] Read on

<https://www.epea.org/switzerland-status-report-on-prison-education>

Member consultancy

In our SC meeting we will finalize the last actions before we will consult all members about some proposed changes in our constitution as was agreed in our Dublin General Council. Within 2 weeks, all members will receive an email with more explanation about the proposed changes and the procedures.

Vacancies for EPEA Steering Committee

If you feel this is your moment to step forward and help EPEA do her interesting work, please regurly check our website, for we will soon release vacancies for Representatives of the Western and Southern Regions. Both for a period of 3 years.

We will also release a vacancy for the next chair, who will first, for a period of 1 year, run alongside the current chair as vice-chair, after which he or she will be EPEA chair for an equal period of 3 years.

To be continued!!

Editorial

Stories for the newsletter can be send to the EPEA editors editors@epea.org

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