



Foreword by EPEA Chair Cormac Behan (Rep. Ireland)

Welcome to the latest edition of the European Prison Education Association Newsletter. As we begin a new year, there have been a number of changes in the membership of the Steering Committee. I take over from Annet Bakker who leaves her role as Chair of the EPEA. On your behalf I would like to thank Annet and pay tribute to her tremendous work guiding the EPEA for the last six years, especially over the last year.

2020 has been a very difficult year in many ways. Covid 19 has disrupted all our lives, personally and professionally. What has struck me at the webinars that have been organised by the EPEA and others, is the resilience and innovation of educators and learners. In particular, both students and educators in penal settings have responded creatively, to try to overcome the range of challenges that they encounter in engaging in education.

As most prison systems prevent outright, or severely limit online access, this has

necessitated alternative ways of maintaining student engagement, such as paper-based learning packages. However, Covid 19 has challenged us to reflect on the nature of education. As one of our colleagues, Anne Costelloe, former Chair of the EPEA and currently Head Teacher in Mountjoy Prison, Ireland wrote in the recent Irish Prison Education Association Newsletter:

Perhaps the most salient lesson to emerge from all of this, is not just the prompt, professional and proactive response of the teaching staff, rather it is the recognition that the delivery of education in prison is so much more than just 'the delivery of education'. It is about engagement and connection; building positive relationships that enrich prisoners' lives and promote personal transformation.

Throughout 2020, as we could not meet in person, the EPEA supported educators with the organisation of webinars. We hope to continue to arrange opportunities for online engagement throughout 2021. While a number of excellent Erasmus projects have been put on hold throughout 2020, we look forward to once again engaging in collaborative projects and exchange visits with our counterparts across Europe in the not too distant future.

This is my first newsletter as Chair of the EPEA. I would like to thank all those who sent me their good wishes. I am grateful to all EPEA members and colleagues who took part in the recent elections. The EPEA is thirty years old and has established itself as one of the key international NGOs focused on education in prison. I would like to build on the incredible work of past Steering Committees and previous office holders, by advancing policy at national and Council of Europe level, and developing the structures on the ground to support teachers in the classroom.

I am aware of the challenges that both learners and educators encounter in pursuing education in prison. I believe that our greatest strength is our commitment to work collaboratively as an organisation. I look forward to working with the Steering Committee and all the members of the European Prison Education Association, to enhance the provision of education throughout Europe and further afield.

All the best for healthy and peaceful 2021.

Dr Cormac Behan SFHEA
Chair, European Prison Education Association



- 3D Jail, printing the future (Erasmus+project) >[Click here](#)<
- UNESCO on Prison Education >[Click here](#)<

Goodbye from Annet Bakker

Dear friends, dear colleague EPEA members,

Last night the Steering Committee held a transfer meeting in which we basically got to know each other a little better, and in which I handed the virtual 'chair-baton' over to Cormac Behan, who from now on is actively the new EPEA chair, after being elected a few months ago.



Looking back on the 5,5 years that I was the representative of our wonderful organisation, allowing me to be part of the Steering Committee and to be involved in so many interesting developments, I can only say that I was very privileged.

Working in the SC is a very time consuming hobby. I could not do this 'at work', so I spent quite some time (off) on this side-job. The teamspirit in the SC and being involved with so many initiatives that you (our members) tell us about, made it all worthwhile.

Over the years I had opportunities to meet you, to speak with you, to learn about prison education in your country, and many times to become friends.

I think this is what makes EPEA so special. So many professionals, enthusiasts about their work in prison education. This is what binds us all, regardless of what the link with or your work in prison education is.

We unfortunately do not meet the colleagues that are tired of trying, trying to make the world understand. They are not willing to spend their time off, to do even more, to finally get appreciation for their work. They do not attend the evening webinars, the conferences, they do not volunteer to be in projects or consider being a member of EPEA. Maybe they should.. it is the best way to meet inspiring people, that understand how difficult it is to teach in prison. Together we make the difference, beyond borders, beyond language issues.

COVID has of course made it impossible for us to meet for about a year now, but creative solutions and online meetings also made it possible for us to meet and exchange.

Thank you for having trusted me (and of course with the entire SC) to take care of the EPEA for so long.

I will still be involved of course, but through the Dutch EPEA branch mainly now.
I know the EPEA is in good hands, I wish the SC good luck with their job over the next years.

I hope to still meet you all, when we are allowed to travel again.
Pls, stay positively negative and then our paths will certainly cross again.

Grtz Annet

Distance Education for Dutch Citizens Detained Abroad: A Mixed-Methods Case Study of the Foundation 'Education behind Foreign Bars'

New research document on EPEA website



This study consists of individual interviews with volunteers and professionals and pre- and post-surveys among students.

The qualitative results show that following a course from Eabt happens in three steps:

- (1) Informing,
- (2) applying for the course, and
- (3) starting with the course, doing homework, and being assessed.

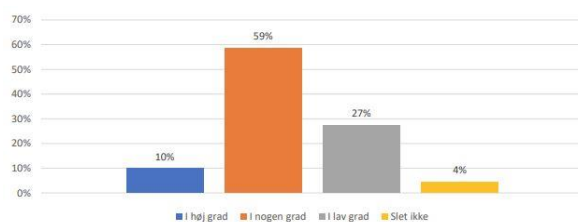
[SEE FULL DOCUMENT](#)

Arts of Freedom project seeking examples of prison art to be used in a book

We are seeking images of existing art projects in prisons which could be used within these two books, which are being produced in partnership with practising art teachers from several countries. Please send all images and details to Ruth McFarlane, EPEA Projects Officer at projects@epea.org or contact Ruth for more details about what is required.

[READ FULL TEXT](#)

Distance learning: What we can learn about learning from the Corona pandemic?



Daniella Tasic Hansen, who is a specialist consultant in e-learning pedagogy at the National Knowledge Center for e-learning (eVidenCenter) researched to what extent do teachers consider distance learning to be suitable or the subject they have taught the most? 69% is positive.

[Read more](#)

SERA Plus. Présentation des projets (FR)



SERA Plus se présente sous la forme d'une **mallette digitale « prête à l'emploi »** et « à la carte » renfermant jusqu'à 1500 heures de contenus pédagogiques libres de tous droits d'accès et d'usage. C'est un programme de réconciliations (sociale, professionnelle, familiale, avec soi-même, ...) à l'usage de professionnels et de volontaires expérimentés composé de Guides méthodologiques, de ressources éducatives, d'outils d'évaluation et de valorisation. [...]

[READ FULL TEXT \(FR | EN\)](#)

UNESCO webinars in prison education

The UNESCO Chair of Applied Research on Education in Prison, in collaboration with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Institut de Coopération pour l'Éducation aux Adultes (ICEA), are pleased to invite you to a Webinar Series about education in prison.

The first Webinar to be held on February 3 2021, from 10h to 11h30 (Eastern Standard Timezone - EST).

[READ MORE & REGISTRATION LINK](#)

EPEA on Slack



Slack is a proprietary business communication platform developed by Slack Technologies. Slack offers many IRC-style features, including persistent chat rooms (channels) organized by topic, private groups, and direct messaging.

Be a part of EPEA Slack

<https://epeaworkspace.slack.com>