



Welcome to the July edition of the 2020 EPEA Newsletter!

With the summer well on its way, COVID regulations hopefully loosening up and offering more possibilities of having normal lives or at least to have normal moments... I would like to greet you on behalf of the EPEA Steering Committee.

These are also hectic times for us with a few important messages to deliver.

Apart from the variety of interesting articles that you will find in this summer 2020 newsletter, the Steering Committee would like to thank you for your active participation in our latest webinars, your suggestions, comments, questions. We have enjoyed meeting you online and receiving emails as a result of these activities.

More plans for thematic podcasts are being developed to offer you after the summerbreak.

Our most urgent and important theme for the last few weeks has been the member consultancy on the Constitution amendments proposed at the Vienna Conference. You have all received emails with lots of information and you have hopefully brought your votes to the postoffice to be sent to our secretary.

We are aware of the effort we ask of you, and we thank you for this.

Because of the strange situation in the world, the mailservices not functioning as they should, colleagues having already started their summer break, the SC has decided to

**prolong the deadline for voting until the 15th September,
counting the votes on 17th of September**

You will all receive a personal message with this information as well as a link to the webinar to witness the counting of the votes.

You will also receive the information you need to send in your nominations to the SC vacancies that are open. The deadline for these nominations will also be stretched until half September, to allow all to respond after the summer break.

I hope you enjoy the contributions in newsletter and that they inspire you to continue the teaching of prisoners after the holidays and maybe in new and different ways.

Annet Bakker
Chair EPEA.

In this issue

- EPEA and the Bleep Project
- In Velletri the prisoners produce redwine (Italy, South Region)
- Prison education in Switzerland back to near normal (Switzerland, Central Region)
- Operation distance learning in three Kempen prisons; a look back (Belgium, Western Region)



www.epea.org

Next webinar Thu, August 20, 2020, at 20.00 (CEST)
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518496589>

BLEEP project



(led by Innovative Prison Systems, IPS) is about digital inclusion in the broadest sense. It foresees the creation and implementation of an innovative, creative, Europe-focused blended learning platform for all (ex-)prisoners. Within this project the individual has the ownership of the learning process that can be monitored to stimulate progress in developing skills. Furthermore, BLEEP project will contribute to the prison staff (teachers, mentors, social workers, psychologists, reintegration coaches) professional development through supporting re-integration of prisoners into society just before they are released from prison.

EPEA is an active participant in regular project meetings and will be hosting a workshop at our biennial conference to provide an update on the project.

<https://projectbleep.eu/>

What we want to achieve is that adult prisoners should gain basic skills or develop the ones already possessed thanks to the use of various artistic activities, during which we will smuggle a diversified set of exercises thanks to which participants will increase (consciously or, more often, unintentionally) their literacy, numeracy and/or IT skills.

Link: [EPEA & Projects](#)

In Velletri the prisoners becomes winners, producing a good red wine in the prison



In Velletri the prisoners become winemakers. The “Rosso di Lazzaria” is a red wine produced with the grapes of the large agricultural estate with vine which is located inside the penitentiary structure and in fact takes its name from the area where the District House is located.

The wine was presented in the cellar inside the prison in the presence of the bishop of Velletri, Monsignor Vincenzo Apicella, the deputy guarantor of inmates Sandro Compagnoni, the oenologist who oversaw the production Sergio De Angelis and numerous other guests and experts in the sector.

“It was a battle won, said the director of the penitentiary Donata Iannantuono, “we put the cellar back on its feet, engaged the agronomist of the Marco De Biase facility, some prison police officers and several

inmates who volunteered”

In the end, an excellent product came out, which is added to Lariano’s bread, produced in the District House of King Bible, with which we have made an excellent collaboration in producing typical local products, as well as olive oil. olive, which is always produced here by us thanks to our olive groves and the collaboration of the prisoners ».

- [Link to story](#)

Prison education in Switzerland back to near normal (EN/DE)



SWIPEA

SWISS PRISON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

In a federally organized country like Switzerland, there are different ways and solutions how to deal with challenges. Since the penal system is a task for the cantons, the Corona Crisis in particular has shown that very different concepts have been applied to how prison education could and can be continued – or not.

In the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the majority of educational activities were completely discontinued from mid-March onwards. In prisons, where at least distance learning could take place, cooperation between prison staff and teachers worked quite well. Where the teacher was not allowed to be present in the prison itself and provide the students with teaching materials, the learning materials could be sent by e-mail to a ... [READ ON](#) (German version on website)

Operation distance learning in three Kempen prisons; a look back



Covid-19 caused us to go into lockdown en masse the last few months. Also, in our prisons measures were taken in the fight against the virus. For example, there was no longer any possibility for group activities and the educational opportunities came to a standstill. Outside the walls this was compensated by online lessons via Zoom, Skype and so on. But in our prisons this was not an option. Under the influence of the corona crisis, however, steps were taken and, for example, the video visit (Webex) was introduced. CVO EduKempen and the education coordinators of VOCVO (the Flemish Support Centre for Adult Education) who are responsible for the provision of education, decided not to remain stuck and started a system of distance education. Without digital tools but with printed material, weekly pick-up and drop-off moments at the prisons’ doors and the efforts of many people involved, both inside and outside walls. In the end, 11 official partial certificates could be granted [READ ON](#)

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



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