



European Prison Education Association - March 24, 2022

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The customer is king

"I am not really satisfied with what I have achieved in my over thirty years as a teacher with the prisoners in class. Yes, we have taught according to the curriculum and achieved many of the formulated learning outcomes. But nevertheless I have the impression that we could have done more, indeed should have done more. We should have been more attentive to the individual needs of the students so that they could really have a solid perspective," said Juan, a teacher colleague from Spain, in a recent conversation. The discussion turned to how teaching in prison can or should be adapted in such a way as to achieve the best possible gain for the inmate. Certainly, first and foremost, we teachers need to be concerned that the students have a smaller and larger experiences of success, because the educational path of many of them is characterised by a lot of frustration and exclusion. In practice, we see that many of the participants are very distant from education. This makes them marginalised and the fact that they are in prison further aggravates this sense of being excluded from society.

Against this background, Baz Dreisinger , founder of the Prison-to-College Pipeline, remarked last year in a webinar of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning that these people were probably never (properly) integrated into society and therefore one cannot speak of the reintegration of ex-offenders ...

This emphasis is to remind us that education is a human right and that education in prison is a second chance for the inmates to acquire all the competences that are necessary today to participate in society.

This is not just about reading, writing and basic maths, as Alan Smith notes in this newsletter's interview. Today, more than ever, digital literacy is needed, but also financial literacy, consumer literacy and the skills to live a healthy life. And finally, the competence to participate as an active citizen in social and political life is a learning goal to be pursued with all our energy.

It is up to us teachers to offer our service "education" to the prisoners, our clients, in such a way that they can acquire these competences. "I like the perspective of seeing the students as our clients. If I had taken this point of view in my teaching from the beginning, I would probably have been more consistent in responding to the individual needs and wishes of the participants," Juan said at the end of the discussion.

Thomas Wüthrich,
co-editor

>[English translation of the original German text](#)<

Editors notes

A short intro video by the editors



[>Link to Video<](#)

The Teacher's Voice - the Newsletter Interview with Alan Smith

See the video with Alan Smith or read the essentials (EN)

[>Link to article and video<](#)

La Voz de la UTE

Every two months the prisoners in the Special Treatment Unit at El Acebuche prison in Almería, Spain, publish a journal with stories about their daily life. In this article the interview one of their teachers. (Spanish/Translation into English)

[>Link to article<](#)

Jobshadowing Switzerland-Spain

For the third time, an exchange took place between prison education teachers from Andalusia, Spain, and from Switzerland. Thomas Wüthrich, Coordinator of the job shadowing, reports about it.

[>Read more ... \(GER / ENG translation\)<](#)

Bleep meeting is Lisbon

The Erasmus funded project to create a Blended Learning Environment for European Prisons (BLEEP) held its first in person meeting in over 2 years in Lisbon in February 2022. Project Secretary of EPEA, Ruth McFarlane tells you more.

>[Continue on EPEA Website ...](#)<

Education in Prison – Paths and Challenges – Online Conference Cycle in April

The Portuguese Prison Education Association (APEnP) is pleased to announce the 1st International Cycle of Conferences (ICC), under the theme: Education in Prison – paths and challenges ([programme here](#)), an event that will be held online with simultaneous translation, and will take place in April 2022. Register here until March 31st.

>[Read more ...](#)<

Production of FFP2 masks in a Swiss Prison

Read this short article about a partnership between a private company and a prison near Zurich, Switzerland.

>[Read more \(GE/EN translation\)...](#)<



Snippets (external links)

Oud en achter tralies: ‘Te weinig aandacht voor vergrijzing in de gevangenissen’

17 februari 2022 - Diète Humblet, Stefaan De Smet, Hilde Maelstaf, Liesbeth Naessens

België telt bijna 500 gedetineerden ouder dan zestig. Hun aantal neemt elk jaar toe. Ze hebben noden die vaak niet gezien worden. Professionals die het wel zien, botsen op de limieten van de gevangeniscontext. Onderzoekers pleiten daarom voor een penitentiair ouderenbeleid.

<https://sociaal.net/achtergrond/te-weinig-aandacht-vergrijzing-gevangenis/>

DIALOOG-vliegers, vrije burgers en gedetineerden uitwisseling

DIALOOG-vliegers, die naam heeft het kind gekregen. Met borelingen over heel Vlaanderen. In de diverse regio's komen vrije burgers en gedetineerden samen om met elkaar uit te wisselen over onderwerpen als conflict en herstel. In de Kempen wordt het accent gelegd op het thema 'vrijheid', vanuit de redenering dat de tijden al conflictueus genoeg zijn, en dat er ook herstel ligt in het evenwaardig met elkaar in dialoog gaan.

<https://avansa-kempen.be/dialoog-vliegers/>

'I went from prisoner to PhD'

Watch this short movie on Youtube <https://youtu.be/2Db-ANLwTkl>

Stephen Akpabio-Klementowski left school with no qualifications, and not long after, he was sent to prison for dealing drugs. He tells the extraordinary story of how he transformed his life through education - and how he went from being a prisoner to studying for a PhD.

Foreword by Thomas Wüthrich - Original German Text

Find the original German text.

>[Link to German text](#)<

The next newsletter will be published in June 2022

Ana & Thomas

Editors

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