Summer is almost over. I hope you all have enjoyed a great season. It is now time to enjoy the last days of warm weather and start getting ready for the change of season and for the new challenges waiting somewhere around the corner.

In this edition you will find some information about events that will take place soon both in Europe and outside our continent. First and foremost, I’m happy to announce the dates and location of the 17th EPEA International Training Conference! Then, there is also a link to a very interesting short movie from America in the RAND article, which describes how important and valuable prison education is in the fight against the recidivism rate. We would also like to draw your attention to an article about an educational project called ‘Voice from behind the bars’. The project takes place in a prison in Poland where inmates got involved in educational activities. Get acquainted with it, please!

And last but not least, the IDEP Award is open for entries. Be encouraged to enter! As for the rest, feel free to browse the sections of our newsletter. Enjoy reading and we wish you huge successes in your new undertakings.

Hubert Skrzynski
- EPEA regional representative for the Central Region

**POLISH PRISONER WINS INTERNATIONAL ART AND PRISON CONTEST**

The Zakład Karny prison in Rawicz, Poland is hosting great talent. One of the residing prisoners participated in the Art and Prison contest and came out first of 371 entries from all over the world. The Art and Prison Association believes that art can build a bridge of understanding and that art makes a valuable contribution to humanity and a greater respect for human dignity. The works of art are of a high standard and will be exhibited in France and Sweden.

Read more...

**ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE IN IRISH PRISON IN FINALS FOR THE EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE PROMOTION AWARDS**

The pilot enterprise education courses that ran late 2017 in Midlands & Portlaoise Prisons, Portlaoise, Ireland made it to the finalists in the Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship category of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards. The European judges will meet in September and the winners and runners up in each of the 6 categories will be announced at a ceremony as part of European SME week to be held in Graz, Austria in November.

Read more...

**VOICE FROM BEHIND THE BARS IN PLOCK PRISON, POLAND**

Prisoners from the Plock prison in Poland, made a significant contribution to the education of teenagers in Plock. During the project ‘Voice from behind the bars’, prisoners met with youngsters and discussed the choices they had made in life. The objective of the project was to make the teenagers think about their own lives and the choices they make.

Read more...
EPEA 2019 CONFERENCE

The EPEA Steering Committee proudly announces the 17th International Training Conference.

It will be hosted in Dublin, the capital and largest city of Ireland. The Irish branch IPEA is our local host and conference partner. We can assure you that it promises to be a fantastic event.

Some of you may have attended the 2007 Dublin Conference, a conference that has left a big impression on many of us. Ireland has a huge reputation for its broad prison education offer, especially in the arts, but also in higher education and of course its famous hospitality is a good reason to make these events so successful.

More news to follow soon, but please keep some days free of appointments on: Wednesday 12th June to Sunday 16th June 2019

We will soon inform you about draft programme and request to send us your applications for workshops. We hope to see you all in Dublin!

- The EPEA SC in collaboration with IPEA and Irish partners

CALL FOR PAPERS: STEM Education in US Prisons

A call is made to contribute to a first book-length attempt to elaborate theories and models of science education in prisons. The focus will mainly be on US prisons, but international essays may be considered for comparison. The co-editors will be particularly interested in papers that incorporate and respond to voices of imprisoned students. Incarcerated or formerly incarcerated contributors are especially welcome with an emphasis on field expertise rather than witness.

Read more...

PRISONER LEARNING ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER SEPT 13, 2018

Prison teachers, officers, former learners, governors and other professionals from the sector will share ideas, network and collaborate at the 5th annual PLA conference in Manchester, UK on 13 September 2019.

Read more...

EPALE THEMATIC COORDINATOR ANDREW MCCOSHAN REFLECTS ON ARTICLES ABOUT PRISON EDUCATION

EPALE Thematic Coordinator Andrew McCoshan observantly reflects on three articles that were published in July at the EPALE platform, that focused on prison education: 1. Setting the scene and and tackling the obstacles to progress, 2. Why assessing prisoners’ skills is critical and 3. Revolutionising prison education. Within the article, you’ll find the links to the original articles.

Read more...

QUOTE

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

― Nelson Mandela
For those who had taken up the playful art challenge in our previous newsletter, we certainly hope you had a little lighthearted fun in that. But just in case you found five or six differences and felt a little frustrated for missing those last ones, we'll just uncover the Gauguin with all seven differences in full for you.

If you enjoy these little challenges and want to make a contribution, please send ideas, suggestions or comments to webeditor@epea.org. We love your input!

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Educating and training prisoners helps them better transition into communities upon release, as testified by professionals in the prison education sector. International research and analysis organisation RAND pleads for more research on what does and doesn’t work in correctional education programs.

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The 2018 edition of the Prison Lives Almanac: Prisoner Education Guide has been released on 20 August, 2018. Prison Lives is a nonprofit organisation that educates and enables prisoners to be productive individuals while incarcerated and to prepare them and their families for a positive existence both inside and outside prison life. The book discusses the challenges one might come to face and introduces the prisoner to the language of education. The book is aiming to inform what one needs to do, to be better prepared for a productive life on the outside.

The Almanac is available on Amazon.com

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The Alliance for Higher Education in Prison in the US will be hosting their 2018 National Conference on Higher Education in Prison from 7 til 11 November 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Even if you can’t attend, the organisers are open to suggestions for topics, issues or ideas to present during the conference.

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EPEA would like to remind you of the upcoming International Day of Education in Prison (IDEP) which is held on the 13th October each year. Unfortunately prison education is not always an obvious activity offered to prisoners. When it is offered, it isn’t always a priority. Therefore we continuously draw the attention to the Recommendations about prison education done by the Council of Europe in 1989.

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We invite you to share news and reports about your IDEP activities with a larger audience and be part of our IDEP 2018 Contest. Winner gets free attendance to our 2019 Conference. Please send in your 2018 IDEP Award forms before 1st November 2018 to secretary@epea.org.

We are looking forward to receiving your entries.

- The EPEA Steering Committee
The Ministry of Justice in the UK published a report that investigated the employment and benefit outcomes of prisoners who received grants for distant learning through the Prisoner’s Education Trust, compared with a group of similar prisoners who did not receive these grants.

Read more...

The image above is the work of a formerly incarcerated artist in a Dutch prison, PI Krimpenerwaard. The artist comes from a line of artists, his grandfather was a renowned painter in Amsterdam. During his sentence, he painted many artworks of a high standard without any formal training.

How art can help us reduce stress and anxiety, is explained in a study called: Reduction of cortisol levels and participants’ responses following art making by Kamal, Ray and Muniz.

The Learner’s Voice is a new segment of the EPEA Newsletter. Prison teachers, trainers and educators are encouraged to invite one of their learners to tell their story.

In this edition you will read about the journey of ‘Wolverine’, whose road has been paved with bad luck and disasters, one after another. Through his struggles he kept a positive and learning mindset, determined to come out better and stronger.

Read more...

OEB (formerly ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN) allows you to discover new opportunities for cross border and cross sectoral collaboration and make new connections with those at the forefront of shaping the future of digital learning. Join them at their exciting Conference and Exhibition in Berlin, Germany on December 5 - 7, 2018.

Read more...