

To: Educators working in prisons in Europe.

Dear Colleague,

Formation of the European Prison Education Association (EPEA).

At the International Conference on Prison Education held in Oxford, England, in September 1989 (jointly hosted by the Open University, the Home Office and the Correctional Education Association) there was a good deal of enthusiastic discussion about the desirability of forming a European Prison Education Association (EPEA) which would bring together educators involved in prison education at all levels, possibly along the lines of the CEA which operates in North America. The need for some such body in Europe was pointed out in the recently adopted Council of Europe Select Committee Report on Prison Education. Delegates at Oxford saw the possible EPEA as having as its main aim the promotion of prison education in accordance with the Council of Europe's Recommendation and Report on Prison Education (1989) on the European Prison Rules (1987).

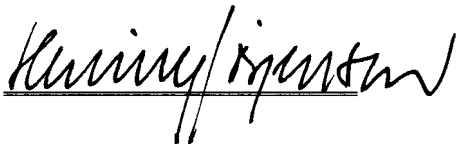
Accordingly, an "ad hoc" organising group consisting of those members of the Select Committee and CDPC present at Oxford (listed below), was entrusted with the task of liaising with Prison Education Services in different European countries to seek their involvement. In a letter we circulated earlier this year it was suggested that two liaison people, a prison education administrator and an educator in daily contact with prisoners, should be nominated from each country. We were delighted with the response: 16 countries nominated liaison people. They are listed in the attached appendix.

We are now moving on to the next stage of development, seeking to build through these links a list of prison educators throughout Europe who wish to be included in the EPEA `network`. We hope this network will grow in time into a full-fledged and dynamic organization. But, just now, our task is to compile a list of as many interested prison educators as possible who can be kept informed of (and, as soon as possible, involved in) developments. Plans are already being made for the EPEA's first NEWSLETTER, which will be sent to all those who respond to this letter.

So, do respond by filling in the attached form and return it to the EPEA via one of your country's liaison people. But you can do more: you can ensure that colleagues are aware of this letter and 'invitation' (which you may copy!) and you can encourage them to respond. Much is starting to happen in prison education at international level. Don't miss out on it. Keep in touch through being part of the EPEA from the beginning. Response should reach your national liaison person no later than 15 October and these should be sent by the liaison people to Henning Jørgensen in Denmark by 12 November. It is hoped the NEWSLETTER will be circulated just after Christmas.

At present, there is no charge for involvement in the EPEA network. Later, when a proper structure is established for the association, with formal membership, etc., it is envisaged that a small membership fee will be charged. But, for now you can be part of it all for FREE!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henning Jørgensen', written over a horizontal line.

Henning Jørgensen,
Director of Prison Education, Denmark.

also on behalf of

Ian Benson, Chief Education Officer, Home Office, England and Wales

Asbjørn Langås, Deputy Director of Prisons, Norway

Robert Suvaal, Educational Adviser, Department of Justice, Netherlands

Kevin Warner, Co-Ordinator of Prison Education, Ireland

Peter Ziebart, Department of Justice, Austria