As the new EPEA Southern Region Representative, this is my first newsletter and I wholeheartedly want to thank all those who supported me contributing to it. I feel proud that a variety of countries from the Southern Region is represented and this gives us a chance to see what is going on in this part of Europe in prison education.

You will see how rich this edition is: a few European projects, interesting materials ready to use, a glance at prison education systems in a few countries, some events organised around the International Day of Education in Prisons. By sharing the things we do, we strengthen the impact in the lives of our incarcerated students, increasing the quality of the learning process.

Kindly I would like to point out to you the call for proposals for workshops and/or seminars for the upcoming conference. Make sure you send in your proposals before the 31st of December. And if you require funding, don’t forget to send in your KA1 application before February 5, 2019.

I strongly encourage you to visit the EPEA website for the latest news on the conference and inspiration for your daily practices.

Patrizia G. Corasaniti
- Regional Representative for the Southern Region

**Vento da Sud - Wind from the South: a social inclusion project for young offenders, Italy**

Vento da Sud - Wind from the South is a social inclusion project involving seven young offenders who followed a mandatory probation trajectory. The main objective of the project is to offer a growth opportunity based upon values, such as respecting the law, respect for others and civil coexistence: basic competences that are necessary for finding one’s role in society. Vento da Sud uses an extraordinary approach in developing these essential competences.

Learn more about this approach here...

**Educate in Citizenship Values, engines to avoid radicalization - Spain**

In Spain two partner-projects crossed paths at the Further Learning School Retamar in Almería, Andalusia. They complement each other perfectly: Project SERA focuses on preventing secularism and radicalisation in closed spaces, while project CITI-VAL targets the learning and strengthening of civic, moral and social values.

Read how the whole school got involved in the realisation of these two projects...

**The Portuguese Prison Education Association is a fact**

What started out as a dream of six teachers in the summer of 2017, became a reality on November 17, 2018. The Portuguese Prison Education Association was established. And the best thing is that they are only a few formalities away from becoming the effective member of the EPEA: a Portuguese branch.

Learn more about the Portuguese Prison Education Association here...
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE EPEA TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 IN DUBLIN

The EPEA steering Committee is thrilled to present this call for submissions for our 2019 International Training Conference in Dublin.

This edition will be as inspiring as the last conferences and maybe even more so. Our local Irish team has full understanding of education in prisons, which is a major advantage. With the full cooperation of the Irish Prison Service nothing can go wrong. What they established so far has every potential of even surpassing the latest international events.

Please keep in mind that the deadline for applying for KA1 Erasmus+ Mobility funding is on February 5, 2019, midday.

Application form Dublin
Dublin 2019: Call for Submissions - requirements
For submissions and questions about workshop-applications please email us

Please note that the deadline for submissions is set to 31 December 2018.

We are looking forward to hearing from you,
- The EPEA Steering Committee

IDEP ACTIVITY IN IRELAND
FÉILTE honouring teachers in Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching excellence

For the first time ever the IPEA, the Irish branche of the EPEA, presented their work in prison education at FÉILTE in honor of the International Day of Education in Prison. FÉILTE is the Irish Teaching Council’s annual Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence, which celebrates the wonderful work that teachers do every day in their classrooms and gives teachers the opportunity to collaborate and share this work with each other and with the wider public.

Read about how the IPEA was chosen to meet with the Irish president and more...

IDEP ACTIVITIES IN GREECE

The International Day of Education in Prisons was awarded special attention in (at least) two school units that operate in Greek prisons.

The teachers and students of the Gymnasium and Lyceum that operates within the Avlonas Prison for Young Offenders decided to set aside the curriculum and celebrate, instead, the International Day of Prison Education. Both students and teachers participated with enthusiasm. It turned out to be a day full of intellectual freedom by sharing opinions and emotions, and bonding during the creating of art.

Read how Avlonas celebrated their International Day of Education in Prison here...

The International Day of Education in Prisons was also celebrated in the Second Chance School Unit that operates in the Larisas Prison in Greece. The students of this school are adult males, serving their penalty in the correctional facility. They spent the day with a presentation of good practices from the field of prison education in Greece and Europe, and openly discussed the principle of Human Rights in prison education, following Recommendation No. R (89) 12 of the Council of Europe.

Read more about the International Day of Education in Prison at the Larisa Prison...
The Cypriot organisation Eurosuccess, together with partner organisations from Romania, Italy and Spain, participated in the Erasmus+ project: E/L-motion. The project aims to develop tools and supportive methods for the reintegration of ex-prisoners. The project targets both the experts and entities within society, as well as the young offenders who are currently incarcerated.

To learn more about the development of this holistic approach, click here.

The students of a high school and a secondary school in Greece met with each other and had a day full of fun activities and getting to know each other. That in itself is special enough, but what makes it even more interesting, is that one of the schools was the Secondary School in Juvenile Prison in Volos, Greece. Much to the teachers’ relief, the ‘outside’ students approached the ‘inside’ students as equals, without taboos or prejudice.

Under the same cultural programme a comic book was created with the title ‘The Journey and the Route from Syria to Greece’.

The teachers narrate the beautiful experience and tell us more about the comic book here...

Two countries from the Southern region sent in valuable information about their prison education systems. It is always interesting to learn how education is organised in other prisons and compare it to what we know. For instance, did you know that there are some prisons in Italy with a wing that’s dedicated to incarcerated university students? The first and oldest one is Turin dates back to 1998 and currently accommodates 25 male prisoners. Or that in Albany, rehabilitation plans are based on the education of offenders and carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in a joint agreement?

Learn this and much more in...

An introduction to the prison education system in Albania
An introduction to the prison education system in Italy

With the project “Changing Landscapes”, the Prison Education Consortium Netherlands wants to ensure that prisoners get the best possible education, which will guide them onto the right pathways. The consortium consists of eight Dutch organisations, the EPEA-NL (European Prison Education Association-Dutch Branch) is the leading partner. The other partners are: Valk&Uil, Changes & Chances, CHAINS, EBBF (Education Behind Foreign Bars), Click F1, NHC (Netherlands Helsinki Committee) and De Nieuwe Kans.

Erasmus+ recently mentioned the project as a good example in their Dutch brochure about adult education. Read more...
Making a change, however slight, in such a closed institution is no easy feat. Nonetheless, through projects like these, along with the dedication shown by those involved, prisons can become positive learning environments.

The University of Malta runs the Prison Education and Re-Entry Programme, coordinated by Dr Joseph Giordmaina. The motto of the programme is: Transforming prisons into positive learning environments. The Programme is run by a Board, and has a Research officer, Ms Michela Scalpello, attached to it. The Programme works closely with the Corradino Correctional Services (this prison services of Malta), NGO’s such as the EPEA Malta Branch and Mid Dlam ghad Dawl, and the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, the Ministry responsible for the prisons. The programme also contributes in the training of correctional officers at the Academy for Disciplined Forces (Malta). Currently the programme is taking part in three EU funded projects:

The FAIR (Fighting Against Inmates’ Radicalisation) project addresses the issues of violent radicalisation within the prison setting. Along with 8 partner countries, Malta is looking at education as a means of reducing further violent extremist offenders.

Skillhubs is an EU project that focuses on the inclusion and equity of prisoners with educational and skill deficits, including a lack of some or all of the eight key learning competencies, including the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary by all for personal fulfilment and development, employability, social inclusion and active citizenship.

The Corradino Correctional Services is leading partner of an ESF project, Participation for Employment at CCF: Social Inclusion through Education and Training - P4E@CCF. The goal of this project is to support inmates in reintegrating by focusing on four highly related and integrated areas: education and training, good health, restorative justice practice and housing and employment.

The priority of the CALYPSOS Strategic Association has been how to fight the discrimination and the segregation of education among the group of prisoners, in consideration of the low rates of school success and qualification of people in prison. The intellectual output of the project was presented at the Calypsos multiplier event on October 30, 2018 in Brussels. It supports social inclusion, specific needs and the improvement of basic skills for prisoners in Europe.

The thought behind the MOBi initiative is that society can be a much more active and reliable partner in preventing recidivism. The project aims to create new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to respond to the (ex-)offenders’ reintegration process. Its main priority is to develop a community engagement methodology.

On the 6th of November, the city of Porto hosted the first International Seminar on “Education and eLearning in Prisons in Portugal”. The seminar acted as a platform for a variety of studies and projects within this topic to be presented. With presenters from several countries, such as the UK, Spain, Portugal and Brazil, the seminar was rich in sharing knowledge and best practices across nations.
THE LEARNER’S VOICE

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 a story of strength, determination and ultimately, health benefits and a prestigious award by a young student from the Juvenile Prison of Volos in Greece.

Read more...

THE MAKING OF THE HISTORY OF PRISON EDUCATION - COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Four of EPEA’s legends recently met in Copenhagen to strategize the writing of the history of prison education. As we all know, the first real EPEA Steering Committee was formed after the acceptance of the constitution at the conference in Sigtuna, Sweden in 1993. But how did it come about? What drove the first steering committee to organise members and define a constitution in the first place?

Founding member Kevin Warner speaks about writing the history of prison education...

TWO NEW ARTICLES IN THE JOURNAL OF PRISON EDUCATION AND RE-ENTRY

Two new articles have been published since September in JPER.

In September an article was released, titled: “Prison education in Slovakia from the teacher’s perspective.”

This qualitative study by researchers at the University of Presov examines the differences between teaching mainstream students and teaching incarcerated students. It argues for increased teacher training in Slovakia based on feedback from prison teachers.

You can download it here.

And in October a new paper about achievement goal orientations among incarcerated learners in Uganda was published. And here is where you can read it.

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