



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

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Our Ref: 17.04.2020 No 7-2/2278

Response Letter

Dear Mrs Chairperson of EPEA,

Thank you for your letter of 05 April 2020 concerning prison education during Covid-19 pandemic.

In response to your appeal to ensure the continuity of prison education programs in prisons during the health crisis of Covid-19, I can inform you that the crises has not caused interruptions to educational programs in Estonian prisons.

In Estonian prisons education is offered by the outside schools operated by the Ministry of Education and Research, not by the Ministry of Justice. In this way the educational courses can lead to official certifications with no reference to the fact that the program was delivered in prison. From 16 March 2020 Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia closed almost all educational institutions and switched to distance learning (<https://www.hm.ee/en/news/government-estonia-due-risk-infection-schools-will-be-moved-distance-learning>). The same regulation applies to the educational programs taking place in prisons. Though prisoners have no access to online learning, teachers put together, and send prisons by e-mail, printable packages of educational resources and activities pursuant to the curriculum. Also, prisoners' independent work will be forwarded to teachers for feedback. The process of distance learning in prisons is monitored jointly by Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education and Research.

Yours sincerely,

Priit Kama

Deputy Secretary-General for prisons
Department of Prisons of the Ministry of Justice