

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

### RECOMMENDATION No. R(89)12 ON EDUCATION IN PRISONS

1. All prisoners shall have access to education, which is envisaged as consisting of classroom subjects, vocational education, creative and cultural activities, physical education and sports, social education and library facilities;
2. Education for prisoners should be like the education provided for similar age groups in the outside world, and the range of learning opportunities for prisoners should be as wide as possible;
3. Education in prison shall aim to develop the whole person bearing in mind his or her social, economic and cultural context;
4. All those involved in the administration of the prison system and the management of prisons should facilitate and support education as much as possible
5. Education should have no less a status than work within the prison regime and prisoners should not lose out financially or otherwise by taking part in education;
6. Every effort should be made to encourage the prisoner to participate actively in all aspects of education;
7. Development programmes should be provided to ensure that prison educators adopt appropriate adult education methods;
8. Special attention should be given to those prisoners with particular difficulties and especially those with reading or writing problems;
9. Vocational education should aim at the wider development of the individual, as well as being sensitive to trends in the labour market;
10. Prisoners should have direct access to a well-stocked library at least once per week;
11. Physical education and sports for prisoners should be emphasised and encouraged;
12. Creative and cultural activities should be given a significant role because these activities have particular potential to enable prisoners to develop and express themselves;
13. Social education should include practical elements that enable the prisoner to manage daily life within the prison, with a view to facilitating the return to society;
14. Wherever possible, prisoners should be allowed to participate in education outside prison;
15. Where education has to take place within the prison, the outside community should be involved as fully as possible;
16. Measures should be taken to enable prisoners to continue their education after release;
17. The funds, equipment and teaching staff needed to enable prisoners to receive appropriate education should be made available.

## European Prison Education Association

- recognised by the Council of Europe as a Non-Governmental Organisation with participatory status
- working to promote sound principles and good practice for prison education in Europe... and beyond

## THE VIRTUAL EUROPEAN PRISON SCHOOL

[www.prisoneducation.eu](http://www.prisoneducation.eu)



Lifelong Learning Programme

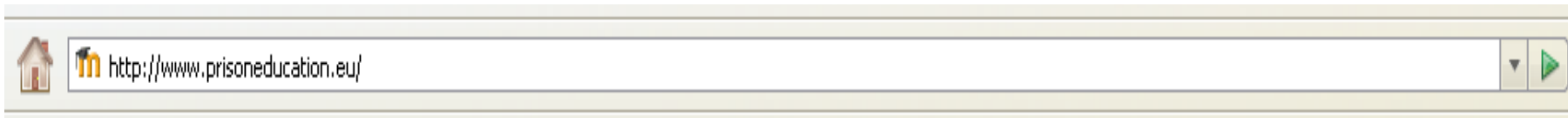
European Virtual Prison School  
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**European Prison Education  
Association**

[www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org)



## The VEPS Project:

- Transfer of good existing practices in prison education:
- Distance Learning  
Sweden  
The Czech Republic  
England and Wales
- Alteration Programs  
Ireland  
Hellas
- Module System  
Norway  
Bulgaria
- To lay the foundations of the Virtual European Prison School.

## Contact the Project

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## The main aim of the project is to

*increase the participation of prisoners in lifelong learning in order to enable their reintegration into the society after release. The project is designed to reinforce the role of educational policies in prisons taking into consideration the Recommendation No. R (89) 12, EDUCATION IN PRISON, of the Council of Europe. The project seeks to find solutions to actual identified needs of teaching and learning processes in European prisons, and to develop strategic policy statements addressed to the decision makers of penitentiary systems at European level.*

## Example of a course - Art in Prison Education

The screenshot shows a web page for a course titled "Why is Art Education Important?". The page is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation options like "Activities", "Forums", "Resources", "Administration", "Search Forums", "Courses categories", and "Help". The main content area has a heading "1 Why is Art Education Important?" and a sub-heading "Helping Students Understand Human Experience". Below this, there is a paragraph: "Teaching your students about art is a good idea—here's why:" followed by a bulleted list of reasons. The second section is titled "2 Making Connections Through Drawing" and contains a paragraph about the importance of drawing and a list of quick art ideas.

*The course is free*

## What offers the Virtual European Prison School?

Online multilingual resource store of teaching materials

Space for exchange of information and good practices

The corner-stone of the European distance learning in Prisons

## The VEPS Project partners

**EPEA** – Project Coordinating Organisation

**France** – the French EPEA Branch

**Ireland** – IPEA, the Irish EPEA Branch

**Norway** – FOKO, the Norwegian EPEA Branch

**Sweden** – Prison and Probation Service

**Bulgaria** – SEEC in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, General Direction "Execution of Sentences"

**Czech Republic** – Prison Service, Vocational Training Center

**Greece** - 2nd Gymnasium of Avlona, Juvenile Prison

**United Kingdom** - Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills: Offender Learning and Skills Unit