

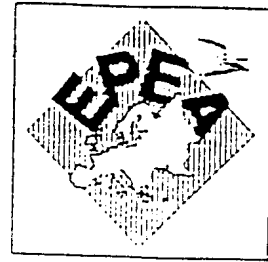
# Welcome

to



The European Prison Education Association:  
Promoting and affirming good practice in the field

European  
Prison  
Education  
Association



Dear New Member,

Welcome to the EPEA (European Prison Education Association). We are pleased that you have decided to be a part of our organisation.

Our main aims are:

- to provide professional support across Europe for those working in prison education and related professional organisations
- to promote good practice and work in prisons according to Recommendation No. R(89) 12 of the Council of Europe 1989
- to affirm those employed in the broad field of work with offenders/ex-offenders, and to support research in the field.

We hope you will feel supported in your work with the information and contacts you will receive through EPEA.

Our members are drawn from at least twenty five countries in Europe, as well as associate members from the United States and Australia. So you see you are part of a broadbased membership that is constantly growing.

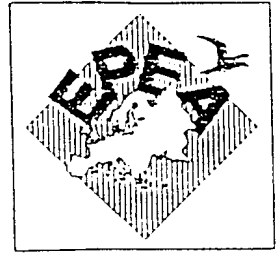
Our Newsletter comes out twice a year and is packed with news of events in Europe as well as outlining current practice and dialogue in prison education; and we also have a Bulletin sheet to exchange short pieces of information more regularly throughout the year.

Our international conferences are held every two years which you are cordially invited to attend - most recently in the Netherlands, Sweden, England, and in Hungary in 1997. These provide an opportunity for face to face contact and informal discussions, as well as the more structured workshops, where people talk about their day to day experiences, new ideas and developments in a variety of prison contexts in Europe.

We hope that EPEA will affirm the value of your work in prison education - be it as an educator, administrator, librarian - whatever your field of interest.

Once again a warm welcome to EPEA!

European  
Prison  
Education  
Association



Cher nouvel adhérent,

Bienvenue à l'E.P.E.A. Nous sommes très contents que vous ayez décidé de nous rejoindre.

Nos objectifs principaux sont :

- procurer un soutien professionnel à tous ceux qui travaillent dans le cadre de l'éducation en milieu pénitentiaire,
- promouvoir les pratiques de travail en accord avec la Recommandation 89 12 adoptée par le Conseil de l'Europe,
- affirmer l'importance de tous ceux qui travaillent avec les délinquants et ex-délinquants
- soutenir la recherche en ce domaine.

Nous espérons que vous percevrez dans votre travail l'appui que vous procurera l'E.P.E.A. grâce aux informations et soutien apportés. Nos adhérents issus de plus de 25 pays européens ont des liens avec les associations correspondantes Américaines et Australiennes. Ainsi vous comprendrez que vous participez activement à une association internationale dont l'influence est sans cesse grandissante.

Notre "Newsletter" publiée deux fois par an donne des nouvelles et rend compte d'événements survenus dans les prisons Européennes. Elle souligne les pratiques et l'état du dialogue dans le cadre de l'Education. Bien sûr il y a nos conférences (tenues tous les deux ans) auxquelles vous êtes cordialement invité.

Tout ceci offre la possibilité de contacts directs, de discussions informelles mais aussi d'ateliers structurés où chacun peut parler de son expérience quotidienne, des idées et des développements novateurs de l'action éducative en milieu pénitentiaire au niveau européen.

A nouveau soyez les bienvenus à l'E.P.E.A.

Sehr geehrtes Mitglied,

willkommen in der **EPEA** (European Prison Education Association). Wir freuen uns sehr, Sie als neues Mitglied begrüßen zu dürfen.

Unsere wichtigsten Ziele sind:

- all denjenigen berufliche Unterstützung zu bieten, die es sich zur Aufgabe gemacht haben, Bildungsarbeit im Strafvollzug zu leisten
- diese schwierige und wichtige Arbeit in der Öffentlichkeit aufzuwerten
- die Empfehlung Nr. R(89)12 des Europarats von 1989 in die Praxis umzusetzen
- die wissenschaftliche Forschung auf diesem Gebiet zu fördern.

Wir hoffen, daß Sie für Ihre tägliche Arbeit, sei es als Lehrer, Berufsschullehrer oder Bibliothekar, wertvolle Tips und Anregungen durch die **EPEA** erfahren,

Unsere Mitglieder kommen aus 25 Ländern Europas. Außerdem pflegen wir rege Kontakte mit unseren assoziierten Mitgliedern in den USA und Australien. Sie sind damit Mitglied einer wahrhaftig internationalen Organisation, deren Mitgliederzahl ständig steigt.

Zweimal im Jahr erscheint unsere Fachzeitschrift **EPEA Newsletter** mit Beiträgen über die Bildungsarbeit im Strafvollzug aus allen Ländern dieser Welt. Zwischendurch erscheint das **Bulletin** mit aktuellen Informationen über Tagungen oder anderen nützlichen Hinweisen.

Das Herzstück unseres Verbandes sind die alle zwei Jahre stattfindenden internationalen **Konferenzen** mit interessanten Workshops, Vorträgen und Diskussionen; die beste Möglichkeit des Gedankenaustauschs mit Kollegen aus ganz Europa. Zu diesen Konferenzen, die letzten fanden in den Niederlanden, Schweden, England und 1997 in Ungarn statt, sind Sie selbstverständlich herzlich eingeladen.

Wir hoffen, daß diese Mitgliedschaft Ihnen Wertvolles und Nützliche einbringt und heißen Sie noch einmal ganz herzlich willkommen in der **EPEA**!

**Chairperson:** .....

**Secretary:** .....

**Treasurer:** .....

**Membership Secretary:**.....

The liaison persons in your country are: 1.....

address: .....

2.....

address: .....

The Contact Person for outside Europe is: .....

address: .....

Example 1997.

Chairperson: ..... Sven .....

Secretary: ..... Paddy .....

Treasurer: ..... Dominic .....

Membership Secretary: ..... Saja .....

The liaison persons in your country are: 1 ..... A. N. Other .....

address: .....

2 ..... A. N. Other 2 .....

address: .....

The Contact Person for outside Europe is: ..... Pam Lorenz  
~~Robert~~ .....

address: .....

# Information about Organisations and Groups concerned with Prison Education

The EPEA - European Prison Education Association

*By Kevin Warner (Chairperson, EPEA)*

1993 - 96

## The EPEA's Origins

I would like to dwell on how the EPEA originated and on some of the ideas that have gone into its making. I would like to trace the main stages of its development so far, as I see them, and to acknowledge a number of the people involved.

The international conference on prison education, held in Oxford in September 1989, was remarkable in several ways. It was one of the first occasions in this part of the world when large numbers of prison educators working "on the ground" came together from many countries. That generated its own excitement, which was further fuelled by the involvement of two dozen or so North Americans via the Correctional Association (CEA). The CEA is a strong broadly-based organisation of what we in Europe would call prison educators and it has been in existence now for close on half a century. The CEA presented us with a real live model of professional support and development. It was certainly one of the ingredients which brought about the birth of the EPEA.

Another important ingredient was the Council of Europe report, **Education in Prison**, which, at the time of the Oxford conference, was completed and circulating, although not yet formally published. Essentially it advocated an adult orientation and a wide curriculum for our work in prisons. The report also identified a need for contact across national boundaries: "Those working in the special field of prison education have a great deal in common with each other .... they can often share more with each other than with educators from other fields from their own countries. Such sharing can apply as much to the identifying and addressing of common problems as to the sharing of more positive experiences".

So, at Oxford, the need and the model came together. In my mind, the spark that set things going was when Pam Bedford, a prison education officer from England, determined not to let the conference finish without something being put in motion. She suggested, over coffee, to Gayle Gassner, then President of the CEA, that there should be some linkage between Europe and the CEA. Under the ancient copper beech tree, this idea was explored by a group of five: Pam, Gayle, Henning Jorgensen of Denmark, Asbjorn Langas of Norway and me. It was soon realised by all, and perhaps most clearly by Gayle, that a separate European organisation was needed. The EPEA began to emerge. A larger, hurried meeting in a garden, again with coffee cups in hand, gave enthusiastic backing to the project.

Before we left Oxford, an ad hoc group was given the task of moving the idea forward. This group consisted of the five members of the Council of Europe Select Committee (who wrote Education in Prison) who were present. Ian Benson from England, Robert Suvaal from the Netherlands, the late Peter Ziebart from Austria, Henning and me; as well as Asbjorn Langas, a member of the CDPC, the Council of Europe parent body which set the Select Committee in motion. On behalf of this group, Henning Jorgensen wrote to every prison administration in the Council of Europe countries, seeking the nomination of two liaison persons from each country. One of these liaison persons had to be an educator "in daily contact with prisoners". Sixteen countries responded.

Progress was slow for two years or so, hampered by language and distance barriers - and perhaps by too much reliance on those of us in administration! Yet there was never any doubt about the strong interest in the idea. Pam Bedford established the Newsletter and kept driving us forward.

Development was more consistent after the conference in Bergen, The Netherlands, in 1991, where the liaison persons present agreed the following aims for the EPEA:

- \* To promote education in prison according to the Recommendation No. R (89) of the Committee of Ministers to member States of the Council of Europe (1989), (i.e. according to the report, Education in Prison).
- \* To support and assist the professional development of persons involved in education in prison through European co-operation.
- \* To work with related professional organisations.
- \* To support research in the field of education in prison.

At Bergen, also, the ad hoc group gave way to a Steering Committee consisting of the liaison persons from seven countries.

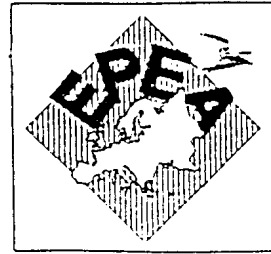
The Steering Committee was given the task of moving the EPEA forward, until the next gathering of liaison persons (what we now call the General Council) at the Swedish EPEA conference, in Sigtuna in 1993. A great deal of work was done by that Steering Committee, especially over two weekend-long meetings in England and Scotland. Leaflets were written and translated. A networking system, linking prison educators "on the ground" in different countries was begun. A constitution was drafted. Contacts were strengthened. In particular, a prison education conference in Estonia in 1992 led to involvement from several of the newly independent Baltic countries. The Newsletter continues to develop, edited by Catherine Coakley from Ireland. The number of countries involved rose to 22.



## The way forward for the EPEA

At Sigtuna the EPEA took several further steps forward. Most importantly, the constitution was adopted, providing us now with a basic framework and touchstone for development. In line with that constitution, the first elections of officers and other members of the steering committee took place. Regular election of officer posts by postal ballot of all members started in 1994. From autumn 1993, formal membership, with a small membership fee was available to all prison educators and those in related area. Local conferences are envisaged together with the development of more formal EPEA structures in each country (with elected officers for that country, etc). The whole emphasis, both of the constitution and the programme of work we have set ourselves, is on linking ordinary prison educators from different countries, so that they can give mutual support and practical help to each other.

It is hoped that the pattern of having an EPEA European prison education conference every two years will continue. Following this 1995 conference it is planned to have one in Hungary in 1997. Any host country or countries would still have to undertake most of the organisation, but it is hoped that, in time, the EPEA can give increasing help in this, especially through drawing on the experiences of past conferences. The Scandinavians offered an especially helpful model in 1993 for the future by showing how well a number of countries can co-operate together in the task.



## *Constitution Summary*

The following is a summary of the constitution of the EPEA. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to replace the full text, which is available from your EPEA Liaison person on request.

The **EPEA Aims** are

- ♦ to promote education in prison according to Council of Europe recommendations
- ♦ to support and assist the professional development of those involved in prison education through European co-operation.
- ♦ to work with related professional organisations
- ♦ to support research in the field of education in prisons

## **Membership**

- ♦ Full membership is, subject to the approval of the Steering Committee, open to individuals and groups or organisations involved in the field of prison education and in related disciplines with offenders in Europe, on receipt of an annual subscription
- ♦ Associate membership is open to others
- ♦ Only full members are entitled to vote at meetings
- ♦ Postal votes are allowed
- ♦ All elections are by secret ballot and by means of the single transferable vote.

## Organisation

- ♦ Any country with at least 10 members may form a branch
- ♦ 2 Liaison Persons may represent a branch on the General Council for 2 years
- ♦ The General Council consists of the Liaison Persons from each country together with the Officers of the Association
- ♦ A Regional Section, consisting of at least 3 countries may be formed. There may be no more than 6 Regional Sections.
- ♦ 2 members of the Steering Committee may be elected by each Regional Section, each to serve for two years (staggered to provide continuity)
- ♦ The Steering Committee consists of Officers elected by a postal ballot of members and the members elected by Regional Sections
- ♦ The Officers comprise
  1. Chairperson [ Serving for 1 year as Deputy and 2 as Chairperson
  2. Deputy Chairperson [ One year transitional position
  3. Secretary [ Serving for 1 year as Deputy and 2 as Secretary
  4. Deputy Secretary [ One year transitional position
  5. Treasurer [ Serving for 3 years
  6. Membership's Secretary [ Serving for 3 years

## Meetings

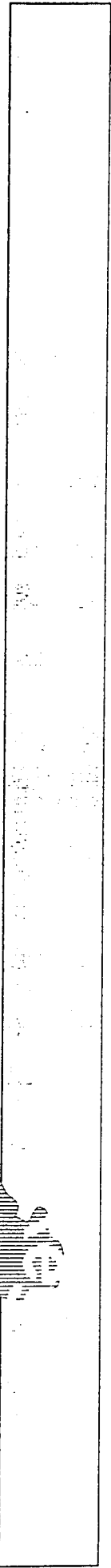
- ♦ The Steering Committee meets at least 3 times every 2 years (*Quorum of 4*)
- ♦ The General Council meets at least once every 2 years to determine policy of the association in accordance with the constitution

## Finance

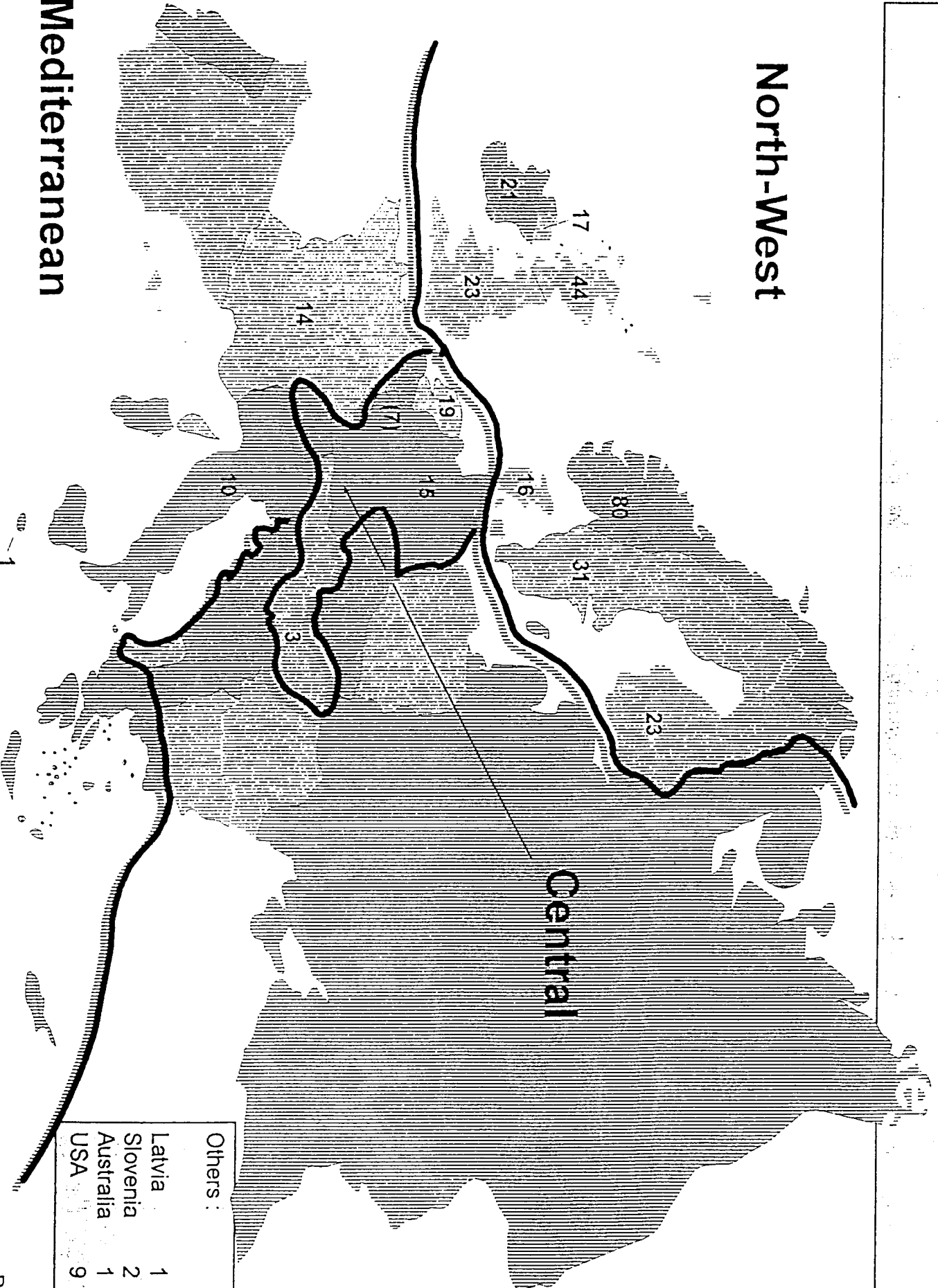
- ♦ All finance is to be properly accounted for and used to further the aims of the association

*Council of Europe Recommendation No. R (89) 12*  
*on Education in Prison*

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 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 and 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 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.



**North-West**



**Mediterranean**

**Central**

Country	Number
Latvia	1
Slovenia	2
Australia	1
USA	9

EPEA is a growing organisation and the Newsletter remains our mainstay for reaching people interested in prison education; and we hope it continues to be useful and informative. We have, however, had a number of requests from mediterranean countries about EPEA, and we are also encouraged by the interest of our eastern European colleagues.

So to broaden our readership and make access to the Newsletter easier, we are intending to include at least two articles per newsletter in german, french or spanish for those who find english difficult to read.

These articles must be short (not more than 600 words or one A4 sheet) and must be submitted by the author both in english and the other language (e.g. french).

In this way we hope the newsletter will be more attractive to a broader membership, but the main working language of the EPEA will still remain as english.

(Where possible please send contributions on PC-disc-in MS Word or Word Perfect).

L'EPEA est une organisation qui prend de l'importance et la revue reste le meilleur moyen d'atteindre les personnes intéressées par l'éducation en prison et nous espérons qu'elle continuera à fournir des informations utiles. Toutefois, de nombreuses questions sur l'EPEA nous sont parvenues de la part des pays méditerranéens et nous nous sentons encouragés par l'intérêt que nous portent nos collègues de l'Europe de l'Est.

Par conséquent, pour élargir notre audience et pour rendre la revue plus accessible nous avons l'intention d'inclure au moins deux articles par revue, en allemand, français ou espagnol, pour ceux qui ont des difficultés à lire l'anglais.

Ces articles doivent être courts (600 mots maximum ou 1 feuille de format A4) et envoyés par l'auteur en anglais et dans l'autre langue retenue. De cette façon, nous espérons que la revue attirera davantage d'adhérents mais la langue principale pour les travaux de l'EPEA restera l'anglais.

(A chaque fois que possible, envoyez S.V.P. vos articles sur disquette PC en WORD MS ou WORD PERFECT)

EPEA ist eine expandierende Organisation und die Zeitschrift "Newsletter" stellt die Verbindung mit all denjenigen her, die sich für Bildungsfragen im Strafvollzug interessieren. Bisher erschien sie nur in englischer Sprache und es ist unser Wunsch, daß sie weiterhin nützlich und informativ bleibt. EPEA erhielt schon einige Intressenbekundigungen aus den Mittelmeerländern und die Nachfrage von Kollegen aus osteuropäischen Ländern ist ebenfalls sehr ermutigend.

Um den Leserkreis zu erweitern und den Zugang zum "Newsletter" zu erleichtern, haben wir beschlossen, mindestens zwei Artikel pro Heft auf deutsch, französisch oder spanisch zu veröffentlichen für diejenigen unserer Leser, die englisch schwierig finden.

Beiträge sollten möglichst kurz sein (maximal 600 Wörter oder ein Blatt DIN A4) und sollten von den Autoren in einer englischen und in der Version der ursprünglichen Sprache (z.B. französisch) eingereicht werden .

Wir hoffen, daß dadurch unser "Newsletter" für einen erweiterten Leserkreis attraktiv wird, obwohl das hauptsächlichste Kommunikationsmittel der EPEA die englische Sprache bleiben wird.

(Soweit möglich sollten alle Beiträge auf Diskette im Format MS Word oder Word Perfect eingereicht werden)



**EPEA**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**LIST**

**1997**