

# Cross pollinating ideas and approaches to prison education: EPEA's contribution

Annet Bakker - EPEA Chair - [chair@epea.org](mailto:chair@epea.org)

**‘Education and Training: The Bridge to Personal Transformation’**

ACEA – Canberra, 3 – 5 th October 2017

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# What is Education ?



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# What is Education ?

**Compulsory**



**Life Long Learning**





# What is Education ?

Non-formal & informal

**Formal**



**Distance learning**



**Blended Learning**

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# How?

## Curriculum



## Volunteers



## Qualified Teachers

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# Prison Education

Why?

**Detention =  
Repercussion**

**Detention = need  
for rehabilitation**

**Expenses**



**investment**

**Public Opinion**

**Normalisation principle/  
equality principle**

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# Education in a Prison Setting

non supportive environment  
limited access to internet  
(Mental) health issues  
no practical training  
lack of (study) skills  
exams not always possible  
Lockdowns  
multiple person cells  
Security issues first  
Drug abuse  
agression issues (self or others)  
language barrier  
unannounced transfers  
no motivation for (compulsory) offer  
uncertainty length of detention  
courtsessions  
family problems  
choice work/study  
lack of focus

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# Prison Education

## Council of Europe Recommendation, No. R (89) 12

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 agegroups 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;

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# EPEA

***Working to promote sound principles and good practice for prison education in Europe... and beyond!***

- > 650 members, 25 countries
- NGO participatory status INGO at CoE
- Bi-Annual Training Conference

## **Collaboration:**

- EPALE
- EUROPRIS
- JEPR
- EAEA
- CoE

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# EPEA - Structure

Central	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
				
<b>Regional Rep</b> Hubert Skrzynski (Poland)	<b>Regional Rep</b> Ioana Morar (Romania)	<b>Regional Rep</b> Per Thrane (Denmark)	<b>Regional Rep</b> Ioannis Papadimitriou (Greece)	<b>Regional Rep</b> Nina Champion (UK)
Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Hungary	Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Montenegro, Belarus, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Croatia, Russia	Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Iceland	Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, FYROM	Nth. Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Netherlands, Belgium

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# EPEA – Branch Structure

Ireland  
France  
Belgium  
Greece



Denmark  
Malta  
Norway  
Netherlands



Soon expected to join: (Italy & Portugal)



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# Objectives

1. To **promote education** in prison according to the Recommendation, R (89)12
2. To **support and assist the professional development** of persons involved in education in prison through European co-operation.
3. To (net)work **with related professional organisations**.
4. To **support research** in the field of education in prison

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# Strategic Vision

Technological developments  
Changing concept and role in environment  
World is becoming smaller – easy access

Need for change:

**EPEA Strategic Vision 2015 – 2025**

[http://www.epea.org/wp-content/uploads/Vision-2025\\_November-2015\\_Approved.pdf](http://www.epea.org/wp-content/uploads/Vision-2025_November-2015_Approved.pdf)

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# Strategic Vision 2015 – 2025

## Strategic Objectives

### 1. Promoting Education in Prison (PEP)

Advocacy – Active Contact (mail/ conferences) - CoE

### 2. Providing value for members (PVM)

Webinars – EPEA Conference – Project advice, evaluation etc.

### 3. Developing and growing as organisation

Sustainability – Transferability – Communication- SOP's

### 4. Structure of the organisation

Re-Positioning Regional Representatives

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# International Policy Developments

## What about PE management?




**MoJ – MoE??**

**Vision - Finance**



**Old school - Out of the box?**



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# International Policy developments

- Prison Policy Reform: UK, Scotland, Finland, Malta ..

*National Agencies (Erasmus+)*

- **Contact Seminar on Prison Education**
  - Finland: October 2016
  - Ireland: plans for 2018

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# International Policy developments

- European Commission's New Skills agenda :  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=626&type=2&furtherPubs=yes>

- EC recently revised EQF May 2017

- 8 levels of reference
- Defined in learning outcomes
- Countries to develop NQF
- '[Find and Compare Qualifications Frameworks](#)'



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# International Policy Developments

- Manifesto Adult Education in 21st Century  
<http://www.eaea.org/en/policy-advocacy/manifesto-for-adult-learning-in-the-21st-century.html>

## Preparing recommendations:

- EC Erasmus+ as from 2018 <http://erasmusx10.eu/>
- EC INGO Education taskforce  
(ICT related recommendations)
- Europe 2020 update (vision 2030)

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# European Prison Developments

## Current challenges in European Prisons:

- **Foreign Nationals**  
up to 44% of prison population



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# European Prison Developments

## Current challenges in European Prisons:



- Radicalization  
new address to education

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# European Prison Developments

## Current challenges in European Prisons:



Overcrowding

4m<sup>2</sup> – 6m<sup>3</sup>

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# EPEA Recent Developments

- **Formation of Special Interest Groups**
  - University Involvement in PE
  - Juvenile prisoners
  - Women in prison
  - Foreign Nationals in prison
  - Long term prisoners



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# EPEA Recent Developments

- **Europis Expert Group on PE**
  - 2017-2019
  - Europe wide
  - On National Prison Service level
  - Study European Recommendations on PE and comment
  - Produce practical outcomes



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# EPEA Recent Developments

## Active participation Task Force Education - Council of Europe

Develop recommendation on use of ICT in General (1)

- Include specific reference to PE
- Prison Services seen as internet intermediates
- Big differences per country – no equal rights
- Restrictions in line with security level (phone vs. Skype?)



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# EPEA Recent Developments

## Active participation Task Force Education - Council of Europe

Develop recommendation on use of ICT in Education (2)

- Offer should be similar to educational offer outside
- Juveniles: more socially restricted nowadays
- Adults: Social inclusion calls for digital skills
- Long term prisoners:
  - key to understanding society
  - Access to higher education (also in general)
- Pre-release: active part in re-habilitation



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# What is it all for?





# See the Potential



# IDEP

## International Day of Education in Prison

### 13th October

Send your contributions to: [epea@epea.org](mailto:epea@epea.org)

To sign the petition go to: <http://chn.ge/1md8n62>

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# Biennial Training Conferences



**BEYOND  
FRONTIERS**  
VIENNA 2017

16th EPEA Biennial Training Conference

<http://www.epea.org/2017/>

*16th EPEA Training Conference*

16-19th November 2017

**Vienna – Austria**

*Supported by the Austrian Prison Service*

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# Thank you for your attention!

## Questions?

Annet Bakker - EPEA Chair

[Mail: chair@epea.org](mailto:chair@epea.org)

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