

European Prison Education Association



www.epea.org



What is EPEA?

- International Non-Government Organization (INGO)
- Independent, non-profit organization
- Member of the Council of Europe
- Takes part in two groupings:
 - Commission of Education and Culture
 - Commission of Human Rights

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The role of EPEA

- Promote educationally-sound principles, practices and policies for education in European prisons
- Promote development of education in prison
- Support and assist professional development of those involved in education in prison
- Support development through European co-operation



The role of EPEA

- Support research in the field
- Biannual **EPEA Conference on Education in Prison**
- next one in Belgium 2015
- Biannual **Conference for Directors and Coordinators within Education and Training in Prison**
- next one in Tallinn, 1-4 October 2014

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Why education in prison?

No person shall be denied the right to education

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950)

Every prison is to ensure that each prisoner has the right to as comprehensive educational programs as possible, that satisfy their individual needs and preferences

Council of Europe: The European Prison Rules (2006)

All prisoners shall have access to education,...

Council of Europe: Education in Prison, Recommendations R(89)12

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The need to engage specific groups who are traditionally excluded from learning, such as those in prison

*Renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning
(first adopted 2011)*

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/.../educational programmes which **meet**
their individual needs /.../

European Prison Rules (2006)

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- Who decides on someone's needs?
- On what basis?

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What is required from the organizers?

- Career Advisors
- Qualified teachers

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What is required from the organizers?

Wide range of education offers

- General education
- Vocational training
- Basic skills – including digital skills
- Creative skills (art)



Focus on

- Individualizing
- Combinations
- Validation
- Quality
- Equivalence
- Continuity
- Co-operation

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Challenges

- Participation in education in prison remains below 25% in most countries in Europe
- High risk of social exclusion on release from prison
- No single approach to the arrangements
- Political commitment and funding is important
- Collaboration between the involved actors

*Prison Education and Training in Europe,
Report authored for the European Commission, 2013*

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Challenges

- Education should be an integral part of the mainstream education and training system
- Information and guidance is important
- Broad curriculum should be provided
- Support and training for prison educators
- Stronger evidence base through research and evaluation

*Prison Education and Training in Europe,
Report authored for the European Commission, 2013*

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Crucial

- Motivating work
- Career advisers and qualified teachers
- Study Plans - aiming for life after the release
- Individualised education and training
- Empowerment
- Bridging the digital gap
- Follow up and evaluation



Further research needed

- What works and why?
- In relation to the cost-effectiveness of education in prison, understanding the benefits of lifelong learning for inmates
- How new technologies can be used in a way that is compatible with security

*Prison Education and Training in Europe,
Report authored for the European Commission, 2013*



Further research needed

- Understanding the specific needs of sub-groups of inmates to ensure education and training meet their needs
- Understanding the benefits of facilitating arts in prison
- Evaluations to assess the quality of existing measures used to identify what constitutes "good" or "best" practice

*Prison Education and Training in Europe,
Report authored for the European Commission, 2013*



JPER

The Journal of Prison Education and Reentry

<https://jper.uib.no>

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JPER

- New
- international
- Online
- Juried
- Quarterly
- Without cost for readers

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JPER

Purpose

- Meet the needs of educators in prisons in various nations
- Recognize the interdependence of researchers and practitioners
- Encourage dialogue within and across research and practitioner streams
- Provide a democratic and dynamic forum
- Community-building
- Increase the speed with which research findings are disseminated

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Thank you for your attention!

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Inmates who participate in correctional education programs had a 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who did not participate

The odds of obtaining employment after release among inmates who participated in correctional education was 13 percent higher than the odds for those who did not participate

"Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education", Study in the US, 2013