



INTRODUCTION



This is my first newsletter as the new EPEA Western regional representative. I am enjoying getting to know my colleagues on the Steering Committee and very much looking forward to meeting some of the branch members at the December meeting in Strasbourg. We will discuss our upcoming conference, and I would like to invite you to check our website regularly for the latest updates. Don't miss a chance to send in a proposal for a workshop or a lecture, as registering will commence shortly!



It has been great to connect with people across the region and to learn from some of the examples of good practice in our prisons. I am delighted to share some of these with you in this newsletter. I am always struck by the amazing commitment from people working to support education in prisons in the face of very many obstacles and am hugely encouraged by those students who are able to achieve such great outcomes.

Please enjoy this edition full of the latest news from all sorts of prison education projects across Europe.

Ruth McFarlane
 regional representative for the Western Region



REPORT ON OPEN JUSTICE PLE PRISON PROJECTS 2018 - UNITED KINGDOM

For prisoners seeking higher education, an Open University degree has often been the only realistic option. Based on this longstanding partnership between UK prisons and the OU, the OU Law School explored how law students could contribute to prison based legal education. This resulted in a variety of Public Legal Education pilot projects under the umbrella of [Open Justice](#), such as 'Learning Together' and the prison radio project in HMP Altcourse.

[Learn more...](#)



SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE COMMITMENT TO CREATIVITY - UNITED KINGDOM

Any [publication](#) that opens with '*... we have designed and enabled innovative, opportunities for learners to build on their strengths, preparing them to meet the challenge of responsible citizenship on their release..*', deserves EPEA's special attention. The SPS made good on its word by embracing STEM subjects into its curricula in a beautifully liberal and creative approach. [STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics].

[Here's how...](#)



PRISONER LEARNING ALLIANCE ANNUAL AWARDS - UNITED KINGDOM

On 13 September, the [Prisoner Learning Alliance](#) (PLA) held its fourth annual awards for staff and mentors making a real difference in prison education. Out of 1300 nominations 15 winners were selected across 5 categories, including outstanding teachers and education staff, officers, peer mentors, individuals, and staff working in young people's estate.

[The winners are...](#)

PROJECT REPORTS



UPDATES ON THE EPALE PRISON EDUCATION WEBISTE

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning [EPALE](#) focused on prison education in July. During that time, EPALE's national teams and the community published a number of inspiring case studies, articles, reports and other resources. We already published some of it, but please be inspired by the recent updates on the dedicated EPALE prison education webpage.

[Read more...](#)

REPORT

ARTS&CULTURE

Across all cultures and time, music has been an essential part of the human experience. Music has the ability to bring us back to ourselves. It can be our reflection, it can awaken a part of us that we forgot we had or weren't even aware of having. In prison, music often gets an extra dimension. It might be the calm for the anxious or the hope for the desperate. It might even become the voice of the silenced or the pride of the ashamed. [What science says...](#)

And for some, it might even grow into a future they never thought possible. Perhaps the most famous and argueably the happiest song in history about prison is [Jailhouse Rock](#). It is the soundtrack of [a 1957 film](#) about a guy who discovers his musical talents behind bars: A musical drama starring the one and only [Elvis Presley](#).

In present day real life, the record label [InHouse Records](#) does [ground breaking work](#) with prisoners in several UK prisons. With a focus on what's [strong](#) - not what's wrong - the label aims to improve prisoners' attitude and behaviour by providing work experience in the music industry and supporting them in repurposing their past experiences to benefit their future.



THE EUROPEAN PAC PROJECT - ERASMUS+

A consortium of six partners teamed up in the European Prisoners' Active Citizenship project. PAC is a two year project that has been funded by the European Commission (Erasmus+, KA2). The goal of this project is to test various active citizenship participation models in different European prisons and to develop a participation toolkit based on these experiences. But, before the participation models are being piloted the existing active citizenship practices were researched through existing literature and an online survey.

[Download the report here...](#)

RESEARCH



ART AT THE HEART OF THE IRISH PRISON EDUCATION SERVICE

The Irish approach towards art in prison is quite unique and alone in its kind. For almost thirty years Visuals Arts and Writers schemes are running in the Irish prisons. They are co-funded by the Irish Prison Service and the Arts Council of Ireland and have enjoyed great successes. The schemes offer prisoners opportunities to participate in workshops, in creative writing or a specialised area of the visual arts, working closely with experienced professional writers and artists.

[Learn more...](#)

REPORT



EUROCIDES - LIFE SPACE CRISIS INTERVENTION

The French Organisation 'Euro-Compétences et Initiatives pour le Développement de l'Entrepreneuriat Solidaire', Eurocides organised a training session using the Life Space Crisis Intervention method for professionals working in penitentiary establishments or services. It was the first time the training was in English. Colleagues from Malta and Cyprus participated and successfully finished the course.

[Read more...](#)



MUSIC IN PRISON, TOLD IN COMIC BOOK - FRANCE

In a comic book published in September 2018, Romain Dutter, in charge of cultural activities at Fresnes prison in Val-de-Mar near Paris, tells the story of prison concerts. The comic book was designed by Julien Bougé, and released by Steinkis.

[Read more...](#)

QUOTE

The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.



WORKSHOP REPORT: FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS AND PROBATION

On 9-10 October, EuroPris and CEP organized jointly the 3rd Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation workshop in The Hague, Netherlands. The workshop was co-hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. Participants discussed the challenges that prison and probation services are facing in regards with foreign nationals in their prisons and how these are addressed by different countries. Particularly interesting for the EPEA was the World Café Table discussion on education, employment and training for foreign prisoners. The results of this discussion can be found on p10 in the workshop report that can be downloaded [here](#).



CALL FOR SHARING EXPERTISE IN CRACKING CODES - BERGEN, NORWAY

The Prison Education department at Åsane Upper Secondary School in Bergen, Norway is looking for organisations who have succeeded in organising higher education for students in prison. The PE from Bergen has been granted EU funding for their project called: Cracking Codes - New Pathways to a Better Prison Education. They are especially interested in two topics: young offenders (under the age of 18) and university and college students in prison. They specifically wish to investigate how other prison education providers make use of available resources and how they deal with challenges concerning physical facilities and other structural limitations in the prison, and in the post-release period. Therefore their interest mostly goes out to organisations that would allow for job shadowing and discussing best practices.

Please contact [Anne Marit Bødal](#) for more information.

In compliance with Act 34/2002, of July 11th, on Information Society Services and Electronic Commerce and Regulation UE 679/2016 of the protection of data, the EPEA informs you that based on your consent, we possess your e-mail address information, because you have voluntarily provided it to us with the purpose of electronically providing you with electronic bulletins and/or newsletters.

We inform you of the right of access, rectification, deletion, adjustment, limitation or opposition regarding the treatment of your data, as well as the withdrawal of consent given at any time. If you do not want to continue receiving our e-mails, please notify us by contacting us via [email](#).

