**Summaries of EPEA training seminars/research presentations**

Nina Champion

**Involve, improve, inspire: measuring and developing a learning culture in prison**

The workshop aims to inform about the concept of rehabilitation, the importance of a prison-wide learning culture and tools for elaborating a learning culture in prison (e.g. the role of prisoner/staff joint activity planning). Furthermore, the Prisoners Education Trust in the UK developed a tool for measuring the learning culture of a prison through prisoner and staff surveys. Other European initiatives on developing learning cultures will be presented as well.

*Film made by prisoners – interactive discussion – introduction to the learning culture project – audio clips from National Prison Radio – introduction to the tool developed by UK Prisoners Education Trust – Q&A / discussion*

Valborg Byholt, Tanja Aas

**Training basic skills in prison**In view of several projects with the focus on training basic skills among inmates in various prisons in Norway, a teaching model was developed and tested in an open prison in southern Norway. The model focused on a practical approach to learning by training basic skills integrated with vocational training or other tasks in the workshops (carpentry, cleaning, kitchen, gardening and farming). There were also projects focussing on female and young inmates. The model was developed in cooperation between teachers, prison staff and advisers. The method and approach used in these projects will be explained and visualized. Specific examples on how to train basic skills in a prison environment will also be given.

*Introduction – interaction through short group discussions – Q&A / discussion*

Hlen Farley, Anne Pike

**Bringing digital literacies to students in prison: challenges and opportunities**

The workshop explores the issues around facilitating the development of digital literacies for students in prison­. It outlines innovative solutions, findings from a number of funded projects in Australia and the UK and strategies for overcoming some of the challenges.

*Survey – tailor-made workshop based upon participants’ needs – interactive polling – small group discussions – sharing of good practices – outcomes on wiki page – Q&A / discussion*

Annie Buckley

**Shared learning through collaborative art: a university-prison partnership engages learners and empowers participants to move beyond traditional paradigms and envision new possibilities**

The benefits and challenges, logistics and possibilities of arts in corrections through a successful university-prison partnership will be explored. This partnership is based on the founding principles of progressive responsibility, mutual learning and collaboration. Inmates benefit from the opportunity to participate in college-level art seminars and projects, engage with people outside the institution (university students), express themselves, develop critical and creative thinking and learn technical skills.

*Images – participatory art – direct art experience – reflection – Q&A /discussion*

Lies Cuylaerts

**Skills@Work: training and coaching of guards and inmates**

A lot of inmates have a job during detention. The goal of the project ‘Skills@Work’ is to benefit from this time and value it as an opportunity to detect and develop skills. Both guards and inmates are trained on the work floor in prison. Prison guards are counselled during their work with the aim to further develop and better their ‘soft skills’, making them more of a coach to the inmates instead of only guard. Inmates who have received the certificate after completing the project and who have gone on job interviews have told that employers do see the project participation as valuable.

*Exercise on first impression – introduction of the project – Q&A / discussion*

Diederik De Beir, Lieven Nollet, Christine Wouters

**‘Paper wins over stone’: the restorative power of art in prison education**

PAROL! *Writing and art beyond walls, beyond borders* is a cultural cooperation project establishing a link between the arts, detention and society at large. Inmates from 13 prisons in different countries collaborated with writers, visual and performing artists. By illustrating best practices of the project, the training seminar will focus on questions like: How come creative activities are not integrated into the more formal school curricula in prisons? In what way do creative and social skills form a stepping stone for more formal learning? What exactly is the restorative power of art in prison education? It will also demonstrate how art education can go hand in hand with equipping learners with literacy and computer skills.

*Illustration of best practices of the PAROL work programme – use of the Art Box as a tool - photograph workshop – Q&A / discussion*

Dafne Kalafati, Niovi Stavropoulou

**Literacy through photography (LTP) behind the walls**

LTP is a teaching philosophy and methodology that encourages participants to explore their world as they photograph scenes from their own lives and use their images as catalyst for verbal and written expression. It provides students and teachers with the expressive and investigative tools of photography and writing. By using techniques of phototherapy, that instantly trigger memories, emotions, and feelings, picture making is connected with writing and critical thinking, hence enabling a more diverse way of learning that not only takes into account the cognitive procedure but also the emotional needs of each student. Illiteracy and poor language skills are improved when linking word with image. Basic training skills are embedded into a creative arts activity.

*Workshop performing an example of LTP in groups – Q&A / discussion*

Jane Carrigan, Michelle Ryan

**Sharing innovation and good practice: a practical guide to developing and producing a newsletter to support national prison education associations**

The training seminar will focus on how a newsletter may help support a national organisation, increase members and build on good practice. It will illustrate how the Irish Prison Education Association has successfully used a newsletter format to promote new initiatives and to share information on both good practice and developments in research. The training seminar will:

* detail the benefits of a newsletter in terms of sharing info and building profile
* demonstrate how it can be used to provide content for the organisation’s website and help publicise events
* provide an overview of design principles
* explain the process of sourcing articles editing them and producing the newsletter

*Illustration of how a newsletter format has successfully been used - exercise involving all participants on how to generate ideas – Q&A / discussion*

Els Gillijns, Gert Hurkmans, Ana Ferando

**‘Little stories, great hopes’: autobiography as an instrument for re-planning in consequence of an imprisonment experience**

The project focuses on writing as a way to discover new worlds and new ways of self-expression. Through narrations of their own life, inmates are stimulated to find new perspectives and opportunities for their future. The didactic material focuses on several key competences: ‘thinking and managing yourself’, ‘participating, contributing and relating to others’ and ‘linguistic competences’. Inmates are invited to come to writing class, whereas teachers guide them through several chapters of the writing course, each one centred on one specific aspect of the inmate’s life. It’s based on the idea that writing does not only keep you company when isolated from everyday contact, it also enables you to express your feelings when you cannot.

*Demonstrate and use didactical material for predisposing an autobiographical activity inside prisons – Q&A / discussion*

James King, Kirsten Sams

**How to produce an innovative award winning prison magazine**

STIR is an arts magazine designed, written and produced by inmates in Scotland. It includes interviews with famous artists and writers, poems and stories, paintings and drawings and encouragement and information for those who want to get involved in arts projects in prison and on release. A website has been developed to allow public, families and friends of the contributors to see the work produced. STIR was awarded the ‘Education Initiative of 2013’ by the Herald Society Awards. The training seminar will focus on the role of the magazine in promoting a range of innovative arts activities and demonstrate how the publication serves to motivate and inspire inmates.

*Demonstration of the visual art of the magazine – exploration of the wide range of learning and technical skills - Q&A / discussion*

Jan van Nuland, Annet Bakker

**Boosting the better side of ‘dyslexia’**

A complete awareness-course, primarily written for dyslexics, is a practical tool for students and professionals but also a methodology to introduce dyslexia as a possibility in the classroom. It is developed for adult learners in prison, but can easily be used in many other adult learning settings. The project focuses on different learning skills and each student’s passion and lets hesitant adult learners experience success which will help them into further studies. It also enhances the knowledge of the professional and makes the dyslexic himself more accurate in describing his needs. Different points of view will be shared with the participants about how to (not) use the word ‘dyslexic’. The negative impact of this label will be set against the possibility to boost the better side of the phenomenon ‘dyslexia’ and to try to ‘improve its reputation’.

*Research presentation – Q&A / discussion*

Hilde Hetland**Former child welfare clients in prison**

The research concerning former child welfare clients in prison and their situation will be discussed in light of published research findings showing that this group is particularly vulnerable. Practical solutions to the challenges these prisoners have will be discussed interactively in the seminar.   
 *Research presentation – Q&A / discussion*

Melanie Jameson

**Unlocking innovation – releasing potential of the 20%**

The seminar is modelled around five key stages that can release the potential of prisoners with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder and Dyscalculia. Together these conditions, known as Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs), affect around 20% of the offender population. The seminar will focus mainly on answering the following questions: ‘How do we set about ‘releasing potential’ and what results might we expect?’, ‘What are the elements that make up an SpLD-friendly environment?’, ‘What is the relationship between SpLDs and disability?’, ‘What services are required on release?’ An innovative approach, based on good practice for learners with SpLD’s, can also be successful with other learners who have not benefited from conventional methodologies.

*Research presentation – Q&A / discussion*

Terje Manger, Beate Buanes Roth

**The relationship between prisoners’ educational self-efficacy and their participation in prison education**

The seminar will focus on the importance of prisoners’ self-efficacy in motivation and learning. The main data of a study conducted in Norwegian prisons will be presented. That study examined the relationship between the prisoners’ educational self-efficacy and their participation in prison education as well as how participation relates to various aspects of prisoners’ sentences. The seminar will discuss how prisoners’ educational self-efficacy can be increased and how mastery experience can be introduced in a prison setting to achieve that. Participants will be challenged to suggest how vicarious experiences (role models) and verbal persuasion can be actively used to increase prisoners‘ educational self-efficacy.

*Research presentation - Q&A / discussion*

Lise Jones, Hilde Hetland

**Female prisoners in Norwegian prisons: educational level, educational wishes and learning difficulties**

The seminar will focus on female prisoners as a specific group and the lack of empirical investigations on their needs. Since international studies have shown that there are many factors related to female prisoners in corrections (such as mental illness, alcohol and substance dependency or child sexual abuse), more investigations are necessary. However, research from Norway has shown that female prisoners do not differ significantly from male prisoners regarding level of skills and educational level. The seminar will address the educational wishes and learning difficulties of this specific group of inmates.

*Research presentation – Q&A/discussion*

Cormac Benan

**Prison education and active citizenship**

The seminar will consider how prison educators can encourage and facilitate students to engage in active citizenship, to re-connect with the political process and to reach their full potential while they are in prison and ultimately, on release. It will explore ways in which students can contribute to their community both inside the institution and outside in wider society. A number of examples will be set out to consider how the work undertaken in prison schools to create a civic space and to encourage students to engage with civil society may be developed further. The seminar will focus on the importance of no longer solely examining prisoners and citizenship in the context of political rights and responsibilities but in a wider framework, including ideas around civic participation and co-operation.

*Research presentation – Q&A / discussion*

Dorien Brosens, Liesbeth De Donder**Development of a participation toolkit: involvement of prisoners in organising prison activities and policy**

The seminar will present the results of a research project in the Belgian prison of Ghent on the involvement of prisoners in volunteering and active citizenship (e.g. democratic participation in prison life, organisation of activities). Existing initiatives and both support and risk factors will be discussed. The development of a ‘participation toolkit for prisoners’ will be presented and other possibilities for representatives of the prison council to consult prisoners highlighted. During the seminar, the viewpoints of various groups involved in prison life (prisoners, prison guards, prison management, etc.) will be presented.

*Research presentation – develop ideas for participants own work settings – Q&A /discussion*

Jürgen Van Poecke

**From walls to doors: workplace learning**

After ten years of trial and error with regards to vocational training within the Bruges prison, the prison governor will present the lessons learned and good practices. During the seminar he will disseminate on how a prison can facilitate vocational training, what processes had to be changed, how to keep prisoners and staff motivated and what problems were encountered. The combination of work and vocational training and all potential forms of on-the job training in prison will be discussed as well.

*Research presentation – Q&A / discussion*