



## Foreword by Ana Ferrando and Thomas Wüthrich

During the last few years, the EPEA newsletter has been in the hands of Per Thrane, our Northern Region representative and webmaster. From now on he's going to concentrate on the webmaster job which has become a huge amount of work. We'd like to thank him for his great job on keeping us updated about everything going on in Europe's prisons.

From May on, Ana Ferrando (RR Western Union) and Thomas Wüthrich (RR Central region) are going to take on this task.

We are very much aware that **our members are the ones keeping the EPEA alive**. You are the ones who enter the prison day in day out, whether you are teachers, coordinators, psychologists, etc. We want to hear from you! We **need** to hear from you! In short, we want to give you the word in our newsletter in order for the rest of Europe to hear what's going on in your prison.

Please tell the members of the EPEA about your school, your project, your class, anything of interest. Send us some activity your students loved (or hated ;). Tell us about the last successful story in your prison. If you are involved in an international project, let us know about it. **Nothing is too little for the EPEA. Everyone counts!** Every anecdote is worth being told to your colleagues all over Europe.

The biggest news of this new period is that you can send us your contribution in your own **native language**. A simultaneous translation will be available into the main European languages. So please feel free to write to us in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Flemish, Romanian, French, German, whatever, if you feel more comfortable about it.

You can send us your story at [editors@epea.org](mailto:editors@epea.org). We are willing and eager to hear your story.

Gracias, Grazie, Obrigado, Dank je, Multumesc, Merci, Danke!



Partner

Call

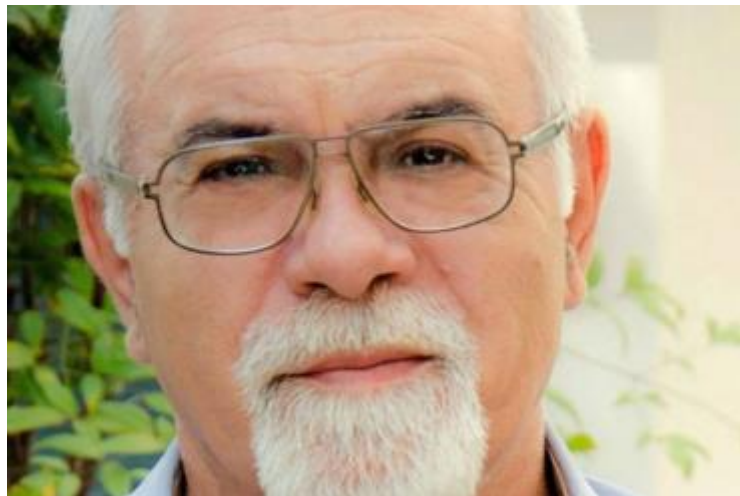


- UNESCO on Prison Education >[Click here](#)<

# **Petros Damianos: “Children in prisons are our children, of society”**

Google Translate and Andro newspaper

I an interview with Andro Petros Damianos said:



He could be the “holy” guardian of the juvenile prisoners in Avlona Prison, but he is neither a saint nor a guardian. He is the director of the prison school, a man who carries a vision inside him and wants to see it come true. Petros Damianos is a rare case of a teacher.

From the beginning, the school was established in the specific prisons, it maintains the position of the director and continues unabated. Despite the difficulties or special circumstances he has to face. His example is great even though he maintains a consistently humble attitude.

He spoke to Andro about his many years of experience teaching juvenile detainees, his vision and the relationship he has developed with children.

“In September this year, 95% -96% of the detainees in Avlona were registered at all levels. When nationwide the percentage is 8% -10% “. –

**– How many years have you been the principal of the Avlona juvenile prison school?**

Ever since it was founded. I was probably here before it was founded. My adventure begins in the school year '94 -'95. I was the owner of a tuition center at the time and together with other owners I had organized a group as a volunteer in order to help children in institutions, which were supervised by the Ministry of Justice. Then, a need arose for the prisons of Korydallos, the next year we went to Avlona and from year to year we reached 2000, when the High School in the juvenile prisons took place. I have been running this school since 2000 until today.

**– We are not talking about a simple profession that is practiced. I think you understand that.**

I chose to do it. It was my choice!

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## **Webinar series on Education in Prison of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning UIL**

Since February 2021, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning has organised 6 webinars on topics related to education in the prison. The last two panels will take place on April 28th on “Le collectif Art Entr’elles et l’employabilité des femmes judiciarisées” (in French, with simultaneous interpretation in English) and on 26 May on “Les impacts de l’éducation en prison et les expériences d’un ancien détenu” (in French, with simultaneous interpretation in English), both panels are held from 16.00 – 17.30 CEST.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

Link to registration: <https://www.cmv-educare.com/en/activities/webinars-2/>

On this website you can also find the presentations and videos of the webinars that have already been held.

The first webinar dealt with «How Prison Libraries Support Rehabilitation Efforts». This webinar [...]

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## **BLEEP Project update (Blended Learning Environment in European Prisons)**

Updated news from February 2021

According to the “desistance” theory, each individual forms a social bond with society. This social bond consists of the degree to which a person feels involved in social goals, makes an effort to achieve these goals, believes in the value of these goals, and is able to use legal means to achieve these goals. The weaker this social bond, the more likely people are to lead a criminal lifestyle. Many people who come out of prison have great difficulty reintegrating into society. On average, more than 60% of ex-prisoners come into contact with criminal activities again within 2 years. The main factor for the failure of reintegration appears to be the lack of meaningful daily activities. This is preferably paid work, but it can also be another day activity, such as education.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

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## **FOKO scholarships 2021**



Departments and individual members of FOKO have for a number of years had the opportunity to apply to FOKO for the award of scholarships, and the deadline for applying for scholarships 2021 is approaching, namely 10 May. The board has set aside NOK 20,000 (app. € 2.000) for the distribution of scholarships.

This sum can be allocated to a measure in its entirety, possibly divided between several applicants. The applications are processed by the FOKO board at the first board meeting after the application deadline (last May), and the decision is announced on our website.

[READ FULL SDTORY](#)

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# Studieren im Gefängnis – Kleine Freiheit im Knast (GE|EN)

Source: Der Spiegel

Studierende in Haft sind eine kleine Minderheit. Im Gefängnis lernen sie allein, ohne Austausch mit Kommilitonen, ohne Internet. Ein Projekt in Berlin will das ändern, doch die Hindernisse sind groß.

Während die Welt im Ausnahmestadium läuft, ist die Situation am Arbeitsplatz von Ralph Gretzbach fast normal. Ein heruntergekommenes Plattenbau zwischen alten roten Backsteingebäuden in der Justizvollzugsanstalt (JVA) Tegel. Bis zu 900 Männer sind dort inhaftiert, manche sitzen ein paar Jahre ab, manche lebenslang. Neun von ihnen studieren. Ralph Gretzbach ist ihr Koordinator, er leitet die Schule der JVA. "Unter den Bedingungen der Pandemie-Bekämpfung ist ein Fernstudium nahezu ideal", sagt Gretzbach.

Die meisten Häftlinge in Tegel studieren an der FernUni Hagen. Also am Computer und auf Papier. An Präsenzveranstaltungen, die es in normalen Zeiten auch an der FernUni gibt, dürfen sie ohnehin nicht teilnehmen. Die Prüfungen seien zwar von März auf Mitte Juni verschoben worden, sagt Gretzbach, aber ansonsten seien die Corona-Auswirkungen auf seine Studierenden nicht so gravierend gewesen.

Google translate

While the world is in exceptional mode, the situation at Ralph Gretzbach's workplace is almost normal. A dilapidated prefabricated building between old red brick buildings in the Tegel correctional facility (JVA). Up to 900 men are imprisoned there, some serve a few years, some for life. Nine of them are studying. Ralph Gretzbach is their coordinator, he

runs the prison school. “Under the conditions of the pandemic fight, distance learning is almost ideal,” says Gretzbach.

Most of the prisoners in Tegel study at the FernUni Hagen. So on the computer and on paper. In any case, they are not allowed to participate in face-to-face events, which are also held at the FernUni in normal times. The exams were postponed from March to mid-June, says Gretzbach, but otherwise the corona effects on his students were not so serious.

[FIND MORE LINKS TO ARTICLE](#)

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## EPEA on Slack



**Slack** is a proprietary business communication platform developed by Slack Technologies. Slack offers many IRC-style features, including persistent chat rooms (channels) organized by topic, private groups, and direct messaging.

Be a part of EPEA Slack

<https://epeaworkspace.slack.com>