

## The EPEA Newsletter – June 2025

By the editors Sharon Davidson (UK) and Thomas Wüthrich (CH)

Dear members of the EPEA, dear subscribers of the EPEA newsletter

In this newsletter you will find:

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### 1. EPEA Conference in Skopje – Registration now open!

After hundreds of hours of preparation, we proudly announce that the registration for our conference is now open!

More than 30 contributors from 14 countries will participate in the conference. Join it!

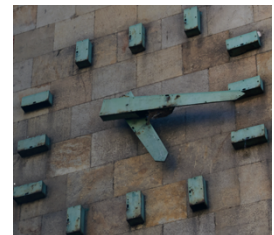
**Register now at [www.epeaconference2025.org](http://www.epeaconference2025.org)**

On the website you will find all the actual information about the event.

Please note:

- Your registration will be valid after having paid the conference fee. The fee includes all meals except one lunch.
- There are several discounts on the fee when one fulfils one of the listed requirements. Read the form carefully. Being a member of EPEA you get a 12% discount.
- The fee can be paid only by bank transfer.
- Please mention all the persons you pay the fee for!
- The booking for hotel must be done separately. You find the reservation form for the Hotel Aleksandar Palace, the site of the event, at the website. We strongly recommend to book there as we negotiated special conference rates, but you are free to book anywhere else.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, don't hesitate to contact us at [secretary@epea.org](mailto:secretary@epea.org).



Looking forward to meet you in Skopje!

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## 2. The EPEA – an organisation of its members



In recent weeks, the EPEA Steering Committee has been very active and has met with members in various formats.

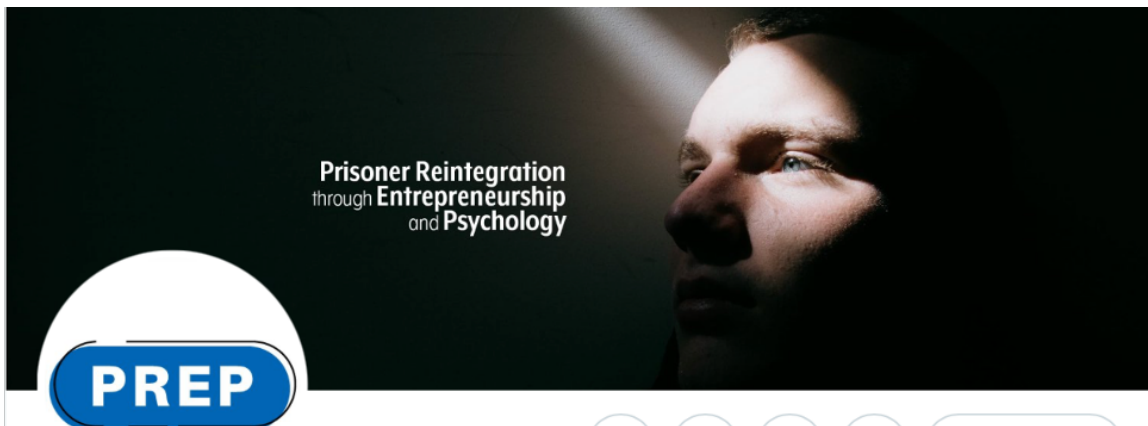
In every meeting was expressed a strong interest in creating a share point for ongoing resource sharing and collaboration among the members.

See the overview of some of EPEA's activities.

[Read the full article here](#)

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## 3. PREP – Prisoners Reintegration through Entrepreneurship and Psychology



The PREP Coaching Toolkit is a structured resource designed to support reintegration professionals, social workers, and community organisations in guiding ex-prisoners through the process of entrepreneurship. This toolkit provides practical coaching techniques, step-by-step guidance, and structured activities to help former inmates navigate the challenges of self-employment and build sustainable businesses. Originally planned as a simple guideline, the toolkit was expanded into a **comprehensive digital resource**, ensuring accessibility and ease of use for professionals working in reintegration services.

The toolkit covers key areas including **entrepreneurial mindset development, business planning, financial management, and overcoming barriers to self-employment**. It offers structured coaching exercises, real-world case studies, and interactive tools to assist reintegration professionals in delivering effective support. Designed for **flexible, offline use**, the toolkit is available as a digital application, making it accessible even in environments with limited internet access. By providing clear coaching strategies and practical tools, the PREP Coaching Toolkit empowers professionals to help ex-prisoners transition into self-employment successfully.

[Read the full article here](#)

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#### 4. JAILBIRD - Products from the workshop at Givenich prison - Luxembourg



Work is a key element of social cohesion. The time spent in prison must be organised in such a way as to make this deprivation of liberty useful. The care provided to prisoners during their stay in prison must enable them to acquire skills that are essential for sharing the values of society and for successful reintegration. Successful reintegration is one of the best ways of preventing repeat offending. It must be invested in as early as possible in the execution of the sentence

The non-profit association Défi-Job asbl was set up in 2002 to promote the socio-professional reintegration of prisoners at the Givenich penitentiary centre (CPG), in the hope that stable, regular employment would reduce the risk of re-offending.

[Read the full article here in French or English](#)

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#### 5. Stories 4 Wings – an Erasmus+ project on Storytelling

The project responds to the need to find effective methods for educating adults in prison, a group that is often marginalised and has limited access to educational opportunities. The story-based methodology was chosen because stories have a transformative power: they can motivate, teach and change attitudes and behaviours. This approach allows inmates to reflect on their own experiences and emotions, fostering empathy and understanding, and helping them develop key skills for social reintegration.



[See the full article here.](#)

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#### 6. Overcrowding in Belgian prisons. Towards a proper detention regime?

When we choose schools for our children, we pay attention to the pedagogical project, infrastructure and class size. Why do we accept that prisons - which are supposed to reduce recidivism - lack all basic facilities?

Ana Ferrando Benedicto comments on the problematic conditions in Belgian prisons from the perspective of a lecturer



**Overbevolking in de  
Belgische gevangenis  
- Naar een behoorlijk  
detentiebeleid**

OPLOCATIE

[Read the whole comment en ESPAÑOL, in het VLAAMS or in ENGLISH](#)

## 7. EPEA takes part in the Erasmus+ project DIGIFUSE on Digital Transition



EPEA is proud to be a partner in DIGIFUSE – Digital Transition in Prison Education, a European project aimed at enhancing the use of digital tools and methods in correctional education settings. Coordinated by CLICK F1 and supported by Erasmus+, DIGIFUSE brings together partners from the Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, France, Italy, and Turkey to co-design strategies that support the digital transition of prison education systems. The project addresses the growing need for digital inclusion in prisons, tackling barriers such as infrastructure, staff training, and pedagogical adaptation.

EPEA contributes to this effort by providing a platform for knowledge sharing and promoting the voice of educators across Europe. Learn more at [www.digifuse.eu](http://www.digifuse.eu).

[See the full article here.](#)

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## 8. Potpourri

You will find different short articles here:

- ◇ Learn about the first higher education programme in prison in Argentina
- ◇ Read how a product designer finds new approaches to learn French in prison
- ◇ See the latest edition of the newsletter of the Portuguese branch of the EPEA

[See the potpourri here.](#)

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**The next newsletter will be published in September 2025**

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