

EPEA SC, March 2026

Hosting the next EPEA Training Conference 2027

EPEA Steering Committee is in the process of soliciting bids to host the 20th International EPEA conference in 2027.

We are inviting agencies, organisations or institutions interested in hosting this conference to submit a formal letter to the Steering Committee of the EPEA stating their interest in hosting the 19th International EPEA Conference 2027, to be received by **June 30th, 2026**.

Please send your bid to the EPEA Chairperson Thomas Wüthrich chair@epea.org.

The letter should include the following details:

- Specific information on the host agency/organisation, including a primary contact name, address, telephone number and email.
- What appropriate legislative body such as the Ministry of Justice, Dept. of Education, Education College, etc. actively supports the bid and how.
- The prospective host should provide a breakdown of major costing and indicate how these will be met. At the last conference in Skopje, we had total revenue of around €45,000 from conference fees and total expenditure of around €56,000. This means that most probably additional funds must be found to cover the costs. The EPEA itself is not in a position to cover such a deficit.
- The prospective organisers should show how they will accommodate any shortfall should it occur.
- An estimated time frame for the planning of the conference, a proposed date for the conference and also some alternative dates. (The EPEA Steering Committee accepts that proposed dates are liable to change but prefers that the conference takes place during 2027. We avoid the summer months mid-June to mid-September).
- An indication of the local conference organising committee and the responsibilities and

roles of its members. These might include a webmaster, delegate organiser, treasurer, hospitality organiser, etc.

- An outline of how administrative support will be organised (i.e., advertising, accepting workshops, publicity, finance, etc.) and details of who will be responsible for the day-to-day practicalities of administration.

Guidelines for planning the conference, see next page.

Guidelines for planning the conference

The following are guidelines which previous conference hosts found useful when planning the conference. It should be noted that the organisational details and the roles and responsibilities mentioned below may differ from country to country and organisation to organisation. The EPEA Steering Committee is happy to discuss how these differences can be applied.

- The purpose of the training conference is to provide a professional forum to explore and examine developments and issues common to prison educators throughout Europe and beyond.
- It brings together practitioners, coordinators, researchers, policy makers, providers, etc., to discuss the key questions of the day in a relaxed but formalised setting. The theme will be agreed between the host organisation and the EPEA and will reflect the aims of the EPEA.
- While there are no rigid rules as to the format of the conference, traditionally, it has been held over 3 ½ days. It is preceded by an informal reception the evening before the official opening of the conference to allow delegates to gather at the venue a day early. The conference is formally closed at lunchtime on the fourth day to enable delegates to travel home that afternoon.
- It is expected that approximately 150 people will be in attendance.
- The conference venue must be sufficiently large to accommodate 150 people. It must provide two breakout rooms to accommodate workshops, a headquarters room, a lobby for poster sessions, etc. It must provide appropriate and sufficient refreshment facilities during the conference. We prefer that all participants can be accommodated at the same hotel, at or close to the conference venue.
- Lunches and dinners should be included, and can be informal. On previous Training Conferences there was a more formal dinner on the last evening.
- Keynote speakers will be asked to address the conference theme, in addition, workshops, seminars, poster exhibitions will be focused on either the conference theme or the broader aims of the EPEA. Both the host and EPEA will propose conference speakers and will agree on an appropriate agenda, with a balance of topics and speakers.

- The opportunity for a **prison visit** as well as a cultural tour, social evenings, etc., have been organised at past conferences.
- **Financial responsibility for the conference lies with the host agency/organisation.**
- It is essential that a major international airport serves the host city/region.
- For details of the venue requirements and the programming, please refer to the document «Model of the programme+ services».
- For details regarding the task of the event management. Please refer to the document «Event Management Tasks».