

Quantum Carcer erudio est
vires vireo est



The Prison Education Network

or The PEN Club...

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Following the Research Forum in the Cyprus meeting of the EPEA

- Suggestion of a research network in prison education
- Main motives
 - exchange of ideas
 - discussion of challenges in research within PE
 - Resource pool for young researchers
 - Increase visibility of research in PE

How to establish a network

- Top down –
 - Decision to bring people together
 - Politically initiated
- Bottom up
 - common interests
 - Interest in collaboration

The PEN Club

- Inauguration meeting in Bergen, Norway, May 2011
 - 22 participants from seven countries
- Mailing list now covers 35 people from nine countries
- Three main topics for the meeting
 - Research exchange
 - Joint educational program in PE
 - Online arena for dissemination of knowledge in PE
 - Also on Facebook!
 - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/PENgroup/>

Joint educational program in prison education:

**WHAT IS THE NEED,
AND WHAT CAN BE
OFFERED?**

Some basic issues

- **ECTS = European Credit Transfer System**
 - One full academic year equals 60 ECTS
 - One ECTS equals app 27.5 h of full time workload
 - One week app 1.5 ECTS
 - Many countries also applies guidelines to estimate workload
- **Bachelor's degree normally three years/180 ECTS**
- **Master's degree normally two years/120 ECTS**
- **What is the main need?**

Where is the itch?

- What educational level?
- Who are the prospective students?
- How to organize?

What level to consider?

- Under graduate/Bachelors?
- Continuing education/free modules
- Master's program
- What other alternatives?
 - Introductory courses for prison educators and PE administrators?
 - Modules of competence giving courses covering particular areas of interest?
 - Optional Master's thesis?
 - Other options?

Higher education in Europe: three clusters of competence

(Building on Bloom's taxonomy)

- A) Specific **knowledge** of the area (cognitive component)
- B) Development of necessary **skills** (psycho-motoric component)
- C) **General competence** (“the affective component”: attitudes, putting the specifics into context etc)

A possible program structure:

- *Category A Introduction to prison education (20 ECTS)*

e.g.

- History of prison education/national/international
- Laws and regulations
- Models for delivering prison education
- The learner in Prison Education
- Learning and motivation
- Education theory and teaching strategies
- Adult literacy

- *Category B: teaching and research skills (20 ECTS)*

- Teaching skills
 - Assessment skills
 - Planning skills
- Research skills
 - Reading and comprehending advanced texts
(journal articles, advanced textbooks)
 - Searching and “digesting” literature
 - Academic writing
 - Statistics

- *Category C: Advanced understanding (20 ECTS)*

- Role of PE in society
- role of research in education
- Science in prisons
- Ethics in PE
- National and international regulations
- Philosophical or meta perspectives on PE

- *Category C2: Master thesis: Integration of A, B and C (60 ECTS)*

- Course work in research design and analysis (15 ECTS)
- Course work in theory of science (15 ECTS)
- Master thesis (30 ECTS)

How to carry out such a program?

- Where should the students belong?
 - Students registered at home university, where also the degree is issued?
- How to build a decent curriculum?
 - balance specific/mandatory courses in PE with more general courses in education/special education/remedial education/administration?
 - Balance of local and joint coursework?
- Specific program courses delivered as intensive courses?
 - Weeklong gatherings/each semester?
 - Web based solutions for lectures/seminars?
 - PBL-approach with groups/network/web based gatherings between seminars?
 - Organizing group activities/pbl assignments in cyberspace
- Credits for active participation in conferences (poster/paper presentations, giving workshops etc)
- International availability for supervision resources?
- Who will pay for this?

Next step:

- Need survey across Europe
- Administered through the EPEA
- Covering several important topics
 - Completed education or training
 - Specific competence within PE
 - Requirement or desire for more education
 - Existing opportunities for specialization in PE