



# CEP's Partnerships with European Organisations: Building Bridges

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## Building bridges

- Why is partnership building important for CEP?
- What are the options for improving joint work internationally? Recommendations
- What is the significance for CEP of the development of a European prisons association?
- What are the opportunities and risks for CEP?
- Next steps
- CEP's vision for European collaboration



## Why is partnership building important for CEP?



Partnerships can be great – waste of time, distraction, costly, benefit others, slow moving, full of compromises

International partnerships can be...

If you want:

- Influence
- Money
- To represent national members
- To shape the future

...then there is no alternative in a modern Europe.



## Does partnership make a difference internationally? CEP's experience...

- Probation and Youth Justice = No 1 priority for Council of Europe
- Integrated Prison and Probation Rules
- Exchange of Prisoners and Sentences
- What works Knowledge Centre
- Joint research on 'what works'
- Dissemination of best practice from prisons and probation
- Exchange of ideas, research and staff



## Benefits



1. Greater understanding of the key issues and the impact of the recession on crime
2. A stronger voice for probation in the wider criminal justice sector
3. More opportunities to ensure probation influences institutional agendas, project topics and spending priorities
4. More integration of probation policy and strategy with other organisation's international work
5. An effective network for sharing research, knowledge and best practice
6. CEP will be positioned as a leading organisation in linking the criminal justice system
7. The EU and Council of Europe will have a simpler route to access the criminal justice sector
8. Probation will have a better international presence which will impact on prestige and negotiations at national levels.



## What are the options for improving joint work internationally?

The review looked at three levels of European collaboration:

1. Cross-Professional collaboration across the criminal justice system
2. Bilateral collaboration with specific partners – in particular with the prison service
3. Institutional collaboration with the European Union and Council of Europe



# 1. Cross-Professional level

The review considered different options but proposes that CEP takes the lead in creating a new criminal justice network - the European Criminal Justice Professional Network to:

- establish a correctional services partnership of bodies already recognised by the EU and the Council of Europe
- focus on correctional services and post-conviction because including the voluntary sector, crime prevention and the police, anti-terrorism and Home Affairs brief would be too wide
- meet the EU's priorities from the start
- begin informally and then expand as support and funding is put in place.



## 2. Bilateral – a new prison organisation ‘EuroPris’



The review recommends:

- Welcoming EuroPris and actively supporting it through CEP’s membership
- Defining EuroPris’s responsibility as ‘what happens inside prison walls’ and CEP’s as ‘what happens outside’ with clearly delineated agreement on overlapping topics such as resettlement
- Developing a joint collaboration agenda based on information exchange and operational co-operation
- CEP retains its lead on interventions and ‘what works’
- CEP includes EuroPris in the formation of the cross-professional network
- CEP seeks to extend the Council of Europe conference remit to include Director Generals of Probation alongside Prison Administrators.



### 3. Institutional level proposals

The review proposes that:

- **CEP produces a guide for members about the EU departments with which CEP has contacts, their functions and the lead officials with whom we have worked or hope to work.**
- **As part of CEP's Annual Plan, the Secretary General and Liaison Officer should have a set of job objectives which relate to agreed strategic aims and then develop action plans for 2011 and 2012 to deliver the objectives.**
- **The Vice-President's working group on relationships with the EU and Council of Europe should contribute ideas to this work and provide the wider links and support necessary to deliver influence by using their national connections into the EU.**
- **CEP seeks a partnership with the Council of Europe 1) to sponsor probation director generals into equal membership of the Directors of Prison Administration conferences 2) to develop a joint correctional agenda through the Council of Europe and 3) to widen relationships with other groupings – judges, financial planning and capacity programmes.**



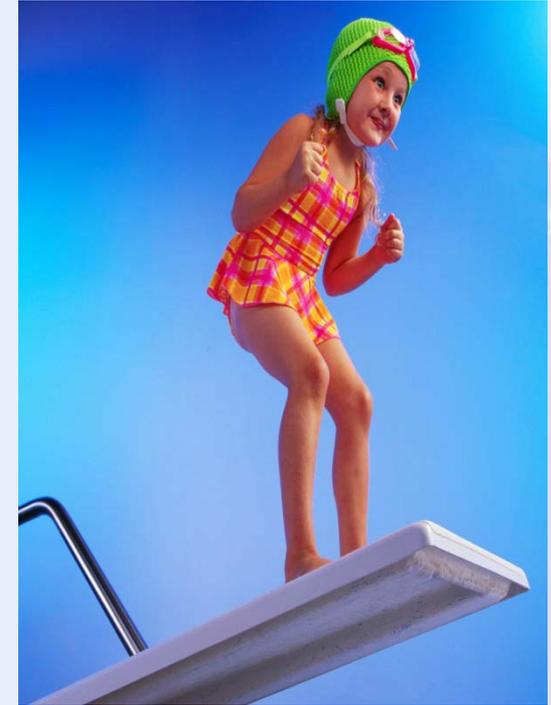
**What is the significance for CEP of the development of a European prisoners association?**



- A sibling rival
- A threat to CEP's standing, income and influence
- A merger or takeover ahead

**OR**

- A natural ally
- A partner to strengthen the cause
- A challenger to raise CEP's game



# What are the opportunities and risks for CEP?

## **Opportunities**

- Expand influence with other Criminal Justice bodies.
- Ability to shape spending priorities of EU
- Represent the probation interest better to EU and C of E
- Work in partnership with a Prisons focused European body to emphasise correctional issues
- CEP better enabled to set up and lead projects to attract funding

## **Threats (Risks)**

- Additional work for CEP's staff may lead to overload.
- Collaboration work may be a distraction from the key role of providing services to CEP members
- CEP could become a junior partner to a prisons organisation with greater spending power
- More 'criminal justice talking shops' do not necessarily lead to action and added value
- Shrinking resources because of the recession could be spread too thinly



## What can CEP and EuroPris achieve together?



- An alliance will help promote resettlement, change programmes and public protection
- Development of a joint curriculum for corrections staff across Europe
- CEP and the EuroPris make joint bids for projects and can influence EU financial priorities and programmes
- Lobby EU and Council of Europe together on a joint agenda for reform
- Reach out to the wider Council of Europe membership to spread shared values and standards.



## Next steps



- Discussion with DGs on opportunities and risks – February 2011
- Collaboration Review report presented to CEP Board for approval as part of the 2011 Annual Plan - April 2011 at Luxembourg
- Bilateral approaches to potential partners in Cross-Professional Network - March and April 2011
- Meeting with EuroPris steering group to determine affiliation agreement and to define roles and joint approach – to be arranged to fit into EuroPris’s development plan
- Exploratory workshop to establish Network – June 2011
- Informal Network launched in Autumn 2011
- Approach to EU Commissioner about Network funding – during 2012



## CEP's Vision for European collaboration



- Better co-ordination across the criminal justice system
- Better representation of probation's interests in shaping political direction and spending priorities
- Better links for CEP's members into European institutions
- Better ways of meeting the needs of European institutions.



## CEP's Vision for European collaboration

- Together we can protect the public and reduce re-offending
- The sum of the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.