



## Declaration of Directors General of Probation Conference Brussels, Belgium 2017

In Brussels on 17th November 2017, the 7th Conference of Directors General of Probation, hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Belgium, agreed the following declaration:

1. CEP acknowledges the importance of recognising, highlighting and championing public value and leadership as part of impact assessment and evaluation of the contribution of community measures and supervision in Europe. CEP members will work with relevant experts and others to champion the importance and centrality of public value in decision-making.
2. CEP and its members, as learning organisations, recognize the importance of ongoing training and skills development to achieve better working practice and results. CEP will initiate a project to map training facilities, resources and opportunities among CEP members to facilitate mutual support and sharing of knowledge.
3. Development, innovation and change are integral features in responsive and agile services addressing evolving challenges and meeting emerging needs among people subject to supervision. Supervision need to be working on the right things with the right people. CEP members will co-operate and work closely with governments, civil society, probation staff, persons subject to supervision, and research experts to develop, innovate and Implement necessary change to improve practice and outcomes.
4. Probation measures and community sanctions have a valuable and critical role in effective, humane and efficient Criminal Justice Systems in Europe. CEP members endorse and support actions to enhance that role by developing and sharing practices and experiences for better results and



outcomes for people subject to supervision and the wider community across Europe.

5. Radicalisation and violent extremism of every hue continue to pose a real threat to public safety and the security and integration of communities and people in every jurisdiction across Europe. CEP has an active expert group developing knowledge and expertise. CEP members directly participate in multi-agency co-operation and initiatives. CEP members recognize that risk management alone is not sufficient and that there must renewed commitment in working with persons and communities to prevent early stage involvement.

6. Standards and quality assurance in probation measures and community sanctions are essential in protecting human rights, promoting respect and dignity and ensuring responsible and quality practice across Europe. CEP and its members are committed to the application of and compliance with all of the Council of Europe Probation Rules by all members.

7. The contribution and impact of research and academia in effective and appropriate probation measures and community sanctions needs continued development and improvement. CEP and its members will work to develop and make available data and facilities for research bodies, 3rd level institutions and relevant experts to stimulate and promote research on probation measures and community sanctions in Europe to inform practice.

8. Partnerships, co-operation and joint working among authorities, agencies and services the Criminal Justice sector in Europe are important to develop better practice and achieve better results for everyone in Europe. CEP will seek to maximise members' co-operation and working with the European Commission, Council of Europe, European networks, judicial and legal interests, prison services, victim support and restorative justice organisations and other key players.

The 8th **Conference of Directors General of Probation**, where a review of the progress of this declaration will take place, is scheduled to be held in the second half of 2019.

