

Development and advancement of European standards in probation, community sanctions and measures.

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- Two perspectives: 1. Co. of Europe, 2. Ireland
- Ireland - background
- Council of Europe
- Developing and implementing standards
- The wide and narrow picture – challenges
- The future

- How do standards get developed?
- National law and regulation. Oversight/Inspection.
- ‘Supranational Bodies.’
- UN, Council of Europe (CoE).
- Research / academics.
- Networks, lobby/interest groups, others.
- Service users.



Standards ‘Drivers’ – Ireland

- Constitution. Legislation.
- ECHR, ‘Soft law,’ standards, European Rules.
- Organisational standards / customer service.
- ‘Other’ Standards: Human Rights: Public Sector Duty.
- Probation effectiveness: including desistance.
- Leadership.



PROBATION SERVICE

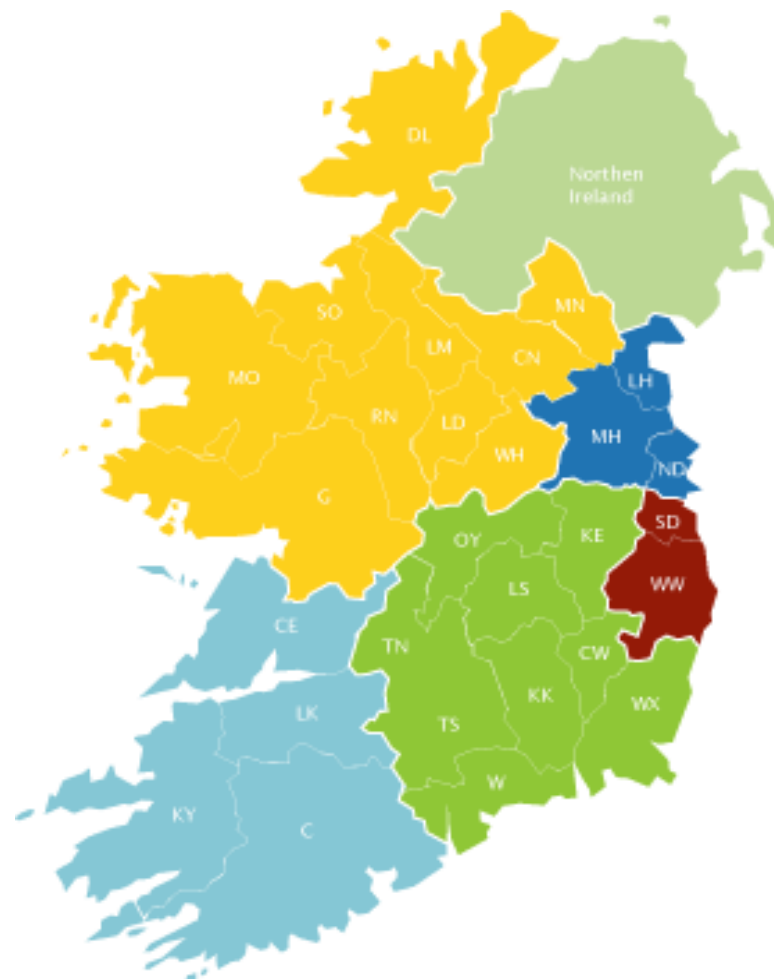
- 400 staff
- 8,000+ offenders under supervision in the community each day
- Services in all prisons





PROBATION ROLE:

- Manage court orders
- Reduce risk of harm
- Reduce likelihood of reoffending
- Make good the harm caused by crime



**Holy See, USA,
Canada, Japan,
Mexico; Israel (Parl.
Assembly).**

**45+ non-members
are parties to
Conventions etc.**

47 MEMBER STATES
47 ÉTATS MEMBRES



- CoE: Established 1949.
- European Convention on Human Rights (1950).
- European Court of Human Rights (1959).
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT - 1989).
- Rule of Law > CDPC > PC-CP

- Established in 1980 as advisory body to Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC).
- Since 2011: 9 members, elected by CDPC Plenary. High-level prisons, probation, administration, legal, research experts.
 - *Work done to now, and how.*
 - *Current/future work programme.*
 - *Pros and cons, benefits and challenges.*

- Standards in prison & probation Management / Work
- Recent work programme: CSMs, Radicalisation
- Current: Children of Prisoners, RJ, EPR
Commentary, Prison Overcrowding
- Prison & Probation Directors Conference: CDPPTS
- SPACE I & II Statistical Reports
- Web: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/home>

- Use of additional external experts
- Expertise and representativeness of WG members
- Not overly political in foundation or approach
- Value base
- Links to the Convention and Court
- Variety/connection of bodies and WGs, incl CPT

- Like any big organisation/institution
- Insufficient 'profile,' + 'Identity issues'
- Voluntary nature
- Vast area and different cultures etc
- Can be: high expectations and low capacity (and vice versa)
- Part-time activity and group turnover

- CM(2016)121-add3. CM: September 2016.
- Joint Drafting / Working Group.
- Recommendation No.(99)22 on prison overcrowding & population inflation.
 - Intro., + Overcrowding,
 - Actual situation,
 - CoE Position.
 - Root Causes of Overcrowding,
 - How to Address,
 - National Strategies,
 - Media, Public Opinion,
 - Conclusions.

- Self-assessed
- Reference to CoE standards
- Court judgements (e.g. ref to PC-CP)
- CPT Reports
- SPACE I Statistics / Reports
- Political
- Not just about space (square metres)

- Voluntary v Court Pilot Judgements
- Political will to address
- Law, Policy, Co-operation
- Getting to the root 'causes'
- Data-tracked outcomes
- Need to be constantly 'on it'

- CoE Working Group
- Action plan / steps
- Conference / Campaign?
- One bite at a time
- Challenge of “So what?”, follow-through, targeting and implementation

- Some 'weaknesses' also strengths
- Need for an overall vision and strategy
- Build on connections with practice, policy, and academe
- Information sharing & co-operation
- Not only a Criminal Justice issue – build other connections too



Summary / Conclusions

- Goals of Probation, and standards, completely compatible.
- Professionalism / professionalization.
- There are challenges.
- Help is available.
- Not an 'either – or.'
- Not a 'zero sum game.'
- Benefits all in the long run.
- This conference.

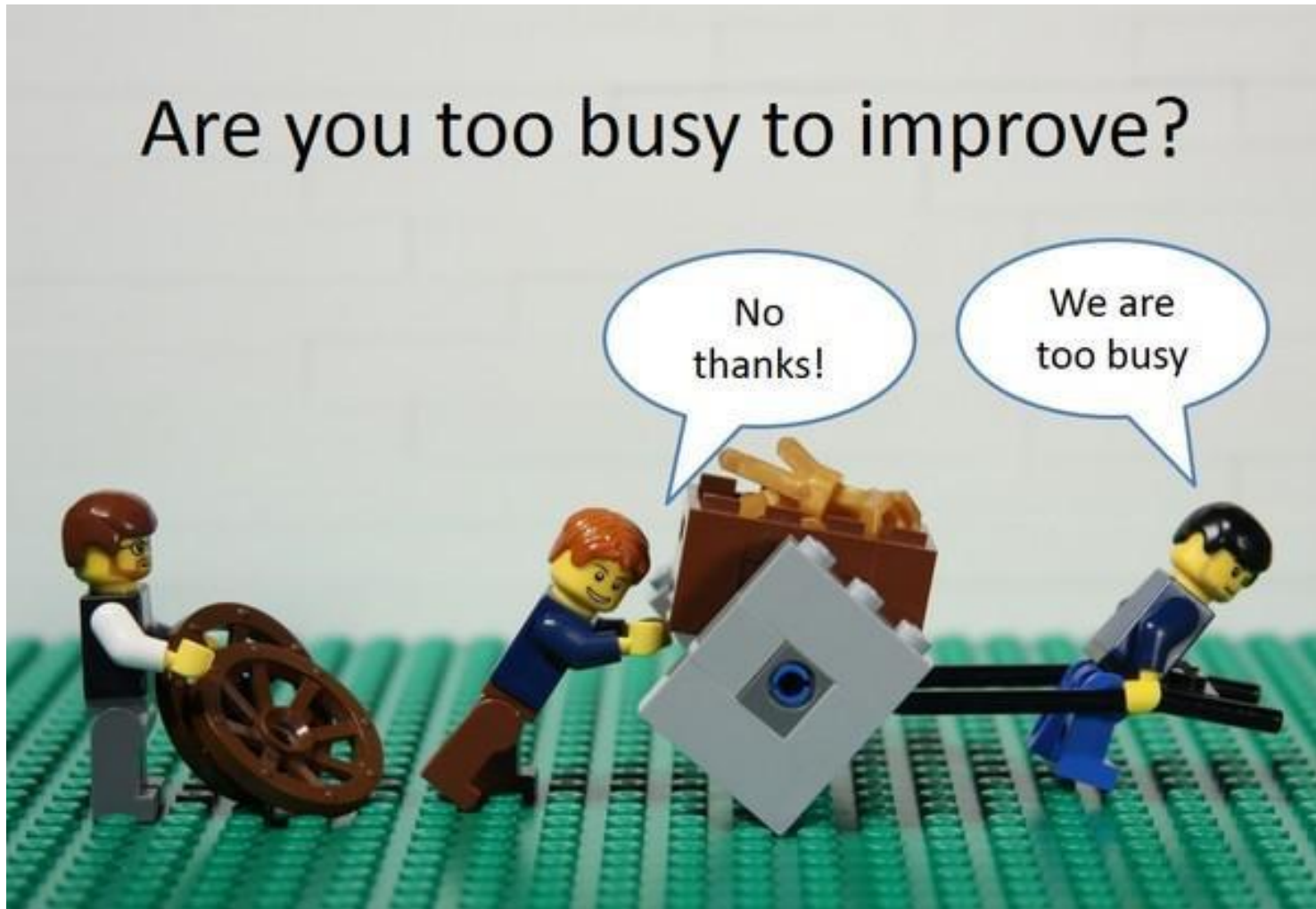


Ireland – Challenges

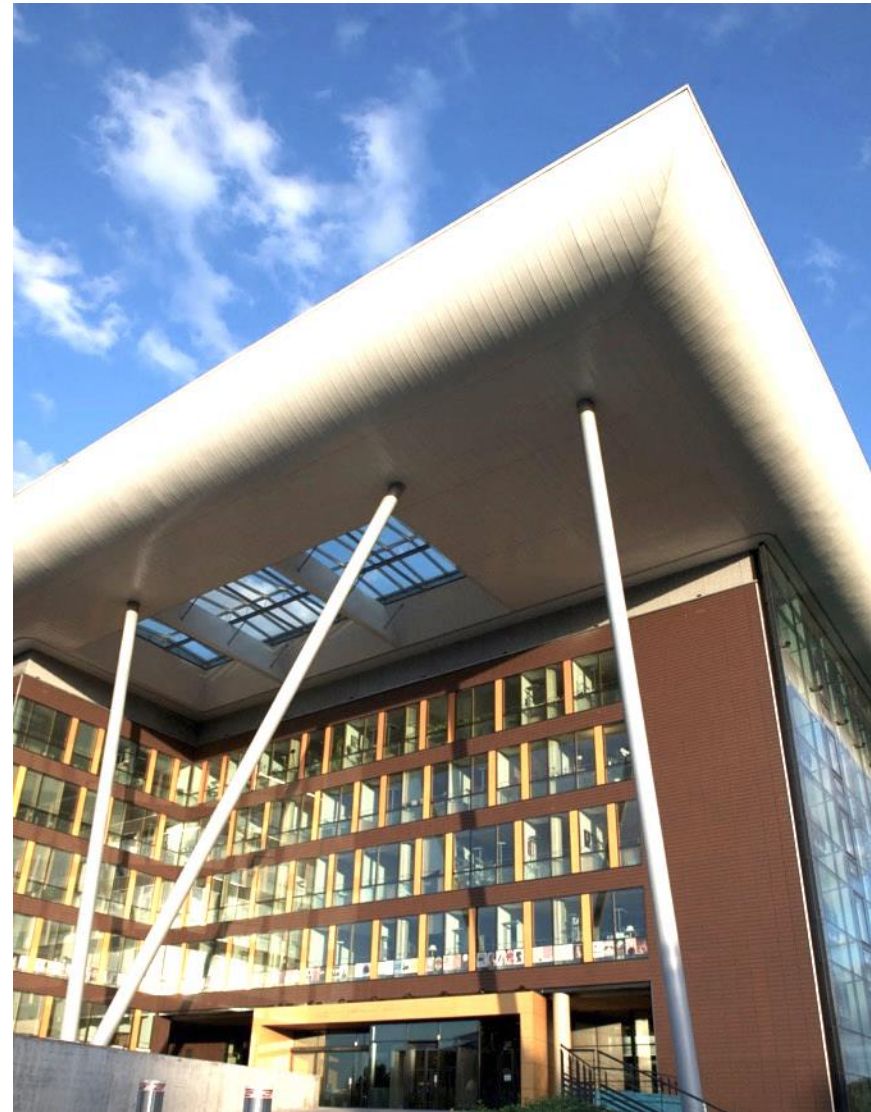
- The adaptive challenge of changing organisational culture and individual mindsets.
- Harnessing the energy of, and supporting staff, to implement changes.
- Standards in everyone's interests.
- Lack of inspection.
- Vision of where we need to get to.
- Lack of a 'crisis.'
- Economic recovery.



Safer Communities and Fewer Victims Through Offender Rehabilitation



- Grounds for optimism
- Challenge of implementation
- Progress will be slow, and may zig-zag
- Practice, policy and academic connection
- International perspectives and co-operation





The Future - Ireland

- Developing and setting out standards.
- Implementation. 'Whole package' issue to be addressed.
- New ways of working.
- Monitoring and inspection.
- Measuring success and responding to challenges.

Thank you.
Questions.

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<http://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/home>





Thank you.

- Website: **www.probation.ie**
- Twitter: **[@probation_irl](https://twitter.com/probation_irl)**
- To receive our 'Probation works' newsletter (bi-monthly), email: **psinfo@probation.ie**