

Preface

In the last ten years, the developments in the sector of probation in Europe have been many. In Central and Eastern Europe, countries with no tradition in probation have been developing community sanctions and have been setting up national probation services. In many countries in Western Europe, with a long tradition in probation, the work of the probation services has extended from the traditional aftercare of prisoners to involvement at all levels of the criminal justice systems and of the carrying out of community sanctions and measures. In the academic world, there is growing academic interest in the effectiveness of probation methods and the underlying processes which lead to successful probation practice, which can be considered as the development of the science of probation. And a truly 'European probation' is being developed by the Council of Europe preparing recommendations for probation in Europe, which should lead to a quality standard for probation in Europe, and by the European Union working on a framework decision on transfer of conditional and suspended sentences, alternative sanctions and probation measures.

In the coming ten years we therefore may expect an increased desire to exchange information on probation matters at a European level. A profound knowledge and understanding of practical and legal differences, similarities in probation and sanction systems in Europe is then indispensable. This has led CEP to take the initiative of publishing a reference work in which the various national probation systems in Europe are described, what the legal framework is in which they operate, what their particularities are, an explanation of the national jargon, where one can find more about information, and more. And despite all the national differences, the book should be set up in such a way that the systems and services of the various countries could easily be compared.

After almost two years of work, I am honoured to present to you the result of this initiative: *Probation in Europe*. I would like to express my gratitude to the editors of the book, Ioan Durnescu and in particular Professor Anton van Kalmthout, who has completed with *Probation in Europe* his fourth and most comprehensive work about probation and probation systems in Europe. Words of thanks are due to Carla de Jongh for her indispensable support of the editors and to all the national specialists in probation who have contributed to the book. In addition, I would like to thank the Dutch foundation *Stichting Nationale Reclasseringsactie* and the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands for acknowledging the importance of *Probation in Europe* and making this CEP initiative possible.

Although the publication of the book is unmistakably a milestone, CEP will go further. In the future, all chapters of *Probation in Europe* can be found at the CEP website and will be regularly updated with the most recent facts and figures. In that perspective, it is my fervent hope that *Probation in Europe* will enhance to the pan-European cooperation in the field of Probation, and will contribute to improve the social inclusion of offenders through community sanctions and measures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, identifying Patrick F.Y. Madigou.

Patrick F.Y. Madigou
CEP President