



## **MINUTES**

### **CEP Expert Meeting Enhancing Criminal Justice Social Work by integrating EU regulations**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Brussels, Belgium**

#### **Present:**

- Charlotte Knight -De Montfort University Leicester (UK)
- Aija Zobena – University of Latvia (LV)
- Avars Zavackis – State Probation Service of Latvia (LV)
- Michel Flauder – École Nationale d'Administration Pénitentiaire (FR)
- Ioan Durnescu – University of Bucharest (RO)
- Joep Hanrath – University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (NL)
- Bas Vogelvang – Avans University of Applied Sciences (NL)
- Robin van Halderen– Avans University of Applied Sciences (NL)
- Koen Goei – CEP (notes)

#### **via Skype:**

- Nurgün Oktik – Maltepe University (TR)
- Martine Evans-Herzog – University of Rheims (FR)

#### **Topics to be discussed at the expert meeting**

- *Overview on developments of CJSW after the end of the project*
- *How can Framework Decisions and other international regulations regarding probation be integrated in the curriculum*
- *How can we further spread the use of the Curriculum ?*
- *CJSW 2.0: towards a new project?*





At the end of the project Avans has been in contact with the European Commission to have a two week extension for the closing of the project, which the Commission agreed to. The evaluation of the project by the Commission was very positive: the project scored an 8 out of 10. The Commission was very happy with the high quality delivery of the project. In such a large group of partner organisations the project partners managed to deliver a cohesive project. The dissemination plan was also evaluated very positively.

Within Avans CJSW would be a minor (both for domestic as for international students), but the minor programme has not started yet; that is planned for September 2016. Regarding the teaching material in general, some modules need to be refined and there needs to be a better alignment between the modules. Modules 1 and 4 need to be completed. The concepts of the modules have been finalized; the modules now need to be adjusted accordingly.

In the Community of Practice some modifications have taken place. The application procedure has been changed, and Google Calendar has been introduced. The layout of the Community of Practice is therefore slightly different. Most notable is that the sheets are compressed in size. In addition, a teachers manual for each module has to be written, so teachers know what options they have for their lessons.

Bas Vogelvang clarifies that with the international minor Avans also aims to encourage other universities and practice organisations to use and spread the curriculum. Online assistance can be provided Avans teachers.

ENAP plans to speed up the development of CJSW. Initially the French Ministry of Justice considered Google Drive to be not secure enough, so ENAP was not allowed to work with this application. This is one of the issues that ENAP is committed to solve. On the positive side, the department in ENAP working on probation was enlarged with two staff members. Currently a working group within ENAP is working on how to tailor each module to fit the practice of ENAP.

At the University of Bucharest some modules, e.g. module 5, are used. Ioan Durnescu still encounters problems to enter the Community of Practice – entering the Community of Practice should be made easier. The next step for the development of the modules within the University of Bucharest is to complete the modules, and then look how we can make the modules truly European and roll it out. The more we promote the project by different project delegates, the better it is.

CEP has promoted the CJSW curriculum via conferences, e.g. a presentation dedicated to CJSW was given at the meeting of the Directors General in Prison and Probation, organised by the Council of Europe in Romania in June 2015.

The Probation Service of Latvia to implement a module platform and fill it with content, which was quite a challenge. The Latvian Ministry of Justice urged the probation service to closely cooperate with the judiciary and with prisons with regard to community safety and community service, which adds another perspective to the development of the modules.





For 2016 the Probation Service plans to build more general modules to be connected to CJSW, e.g. the mission of probation, RNR, evidence based practice, social and human capital.

At the University of Latvia, parts of the modules are used, but not the full programme as was the originally planned. The learning goals have remained the same, however. Possibly the teachers module as well as the new materials, both to be uploaded to the Community of Practice, will make it easier to use the programme as a whole.

In England & Wales the development of the curriculum by De Montfort University has slowed down due to the reforms in the probation system. Until now, there is no agreement that Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs; i.e. probation organisations operating on a commercial basis) should provide training. At De Montfort University the training is still predominantly covering the 6 modules, albeit rather superficially. A two year course has been reduced to a one year course, which makes the teaching all very crammed and condensed. However, those who have been working on behalf of De Montfort University on the Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) project are still promoting the modules. Nonetheless it is an on-hold situation in England & Wales for the moment.

More positive news comes from the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. Education on criminal justice social work is really developing. On a national level the University works on a more comprehensive programme in which the already existing Dutch criminal justice programme will be updated in the next years, partially on the basis of CJSW. Avans provides use full support in this integration. Utrecht.

Summary: the Community of Practice is not used at this moment. However, there is slowly a movement toward a model in which the modules as developed in project CJSW are blended with the national courses in criminal justice social work. In England & Wales however, the situation is quite different. As a whole there is a sense of expectation to improve the programme and go more international with the programme.

Before moving over to the next topic on the agenda, Ioan Durnescu raises the question about the ownership of the modules. Bas Vogelvang explains that the CJSW Community of Practice, on which all produced materials figure, is hosted by Avans. However, these materials are all written by different project partner organisations. The copyright resides with the writers of these materials. The writers thus can ask Avans to send them these materials for their free use, but they cannot ask Avans to stop using the work that they have produced during the project (or to remove it from the Community of Practice for that matter).

As such it would, in principle, be possible for a partner organisation to dispose of all the CJSW materials and make these publicly available via the website of its organisation. Charlotte Knight comments that this would raise issues in England & Wales, as this would allow CRCs to make use of the materials and make profit. Bas Vogelvang adds that in the development of the modules there is a strong need for model integrity. In the Community of Practice changes cannot be made in the curriculum by anyone as pleased. If that would be allowed, different countries in Europe would end up completely different programmes in five years from now.





However, this discussion shows that it is worth to further discuss the use and the hosting of the modules and opening up the Community of Practice.

In the next item on the agenda, Koen Goei explains the need to incorporate the Framework Decisions related to probation in the CJSW modules. This could be done by integrating the FDs in module 1, as these are already mentioned in this module, although not very extensively. Possibly it is more appropriate to make a new module for the Framework Decision and other European regulations in probation. For all delegates at the table, the urgency to work on this is clear.

This sparks a discussion on how the CJSW could be further developed. The delegates mention specific topics that could be elaborated in the curriculum, either within the existing modules or as new modules. The topics mentioned are:

- Dangerous Offenders
- Domestic Violence
- Council of Europe's Probation Rules
- Mental Health
- Practice development
- Prison
- Pro-social Modelling
- Radicalization
- Sex Offenders
- Substance Misuse
- Victims
- Young People / Youth Probation

As conditions for the future development of the curriculum, it is stressed that for each addition, it should be clear from the beginning who the target group is and what information this target group needs. Until now the modules were practitioner oriented, but it may be worthwhile to think about developing modules for other professionals in probation, for instance team leaders or leading psychologists, too ('how do you supervise a probation officer that supervises high-risk offenders?').

There is a consensus that in this stage the CJSW project group would be overstretching when it is moving away from probation and starts working on modules in other domains, e.g. prison. On second thoughts a module on prison may be one step too far for now would, but there is great interest to work on a youth probation module.

Aija Zobena indicates that for the University of Latvia quality assurance and certification remain focal points in the development of the modules. Anvars Zavackis suggests that in a next meeting, it should be discussed to which extent each project partner can develop its curriculum on a national level, while still ensuring the integrity of the European CJSW model. It is argued however, that the management of the curriculum is already difficult enough for probation alone. Design a system for quality assurance (via a university network?) by standardisation and certification of the existing curriculum is definitely a goal in itself, but at this stage in the development of the curriculum it may be too early to address this.



Martine Evans adds via Skype that more law/legal could be added to the curriculum.

With regard to the dissemination, the project partners committed to actively promote the curriculum among the contacts that they have in other, non-project countries. In this way

- the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences will target its contacts in the Czech Republic, Denmark and Belgium
- Avans will target Turkey, Switzerland and possibly Germany
- the University of Latvia will contact Estonia (Tartu) and Lithuania (Kaunas)
- De Montfort University will target the Republic of Ireland
- the University of Bucharest will target Italy, Bulgaria and Spain (Barcelona)
- ENAP will reach out to Switzerland (SAZ)

In order to further develop the curriculum, it seems to be difficult to apply for a project that is similar in size as the CJSW project. All organisations at the table do not see their organisation taking the lead in such a big project,. Therefore it is decided that the project partners will aim to develop the curriculum via the development of new modules (which may involve an adaptation of the curriculum as has been developed under CJSW). In this way

On behalf of CEP Koen Goei will start the preparations for a bid under the justice programme to develop a module on European and international regulations in Probation. The integration of the Framework Decisions in the curriculum needs considerable research and coordination from the project partners for which funding has to be found.

Ioan Durnescu will look into the opportunities within the funding programmes of DG Justice or ERASMUS+ to develop modules on Practical Skills and Practice Care topics

Bas Vogelvang will explore the possibilities within the justice programme to develop modules on Youth Probation and Domestic Violence

Aija Zobena and Anvars Zavackis will study a way to develop Accreditation for CJSW. A certificate has to be practitioner-based. Also consultation and a comparison of competencies over the participating countries could be a part of the accreditation process.

As a close it is suggested that the project partners should circulate the curriculum along probation services in order to check whether they would be willing to employ people who have followed this course. If they are, then this would strongly underpin the importance of the curriculum, which would greatly contribute to the dissemination of the curriculum to their countries.

