



Declaration of CEP Directors General of Probation Conference in Dublin, Ireland 2019

In Dublin on 24th October 2019, the 8th CEP Conference of Directors General of Probation, hosted by the Irish Probation Service, agreed the following declaration:

- I. Probation measures and community sanctions have an important and valuable role to play within Criminal Justice Systems across Europe. CEP members provide professional and productive interventions, services and supervision to protect the public, reduce re-offending and support integration in the community of ex-offenders.
- II. Partnerships, co-operation and joint working among authorities, agencies and services the Criminal Justice sector in Europe are important elements in effective practice. These include the European Commission, Council of Europe, national authorities, judicial interests, prison services, victim support and restorative justice organisations and other key players. CEP members will seek to maximise their co-operation and working with partners to develop better practice and achieve better results for everyone in Europe.
- III. The Conference acknowledged the importance and value of an active and positive engagement with communities, community based organisations, volunteers and social enterprise in enabling and supporting desistance, resettlement and social integration. Leadership, accountability, transparency were identified as key elements in that engagement and in building community confidence. CEP members agreed that the engagement of communities and their active participation are areas for improvement and CEP action.
- IV. Mobility and ease of movement in Europe has contributed to an increase in foreign offenders in prison and on supervision in many CEP member states. Framework Decisions 947/2008, 829/2009 and 909/2009 are essential steps in strengthening probation measures and community sanctions in Europe and supporting rehabilitation and community safety. CEP members recognise the challenges in working effectively across jurisdictions and are committed to working together, with other criminal justice authorities and with European institutions to achieve best outcomes in making communities safer and maximising social inclusion and positive futures.

- V. CEP members are committed to ethical and productive practice as core priorities. CEP will work, with its members and partners, to keep human rights, respect and self-determination to the forefront of probation work and to lead by example in how CEP and its members engage with people, communities and all partners.
- VI. Recruitment, training and in-career development of probation staff are important in the work of all CEP members. The contribution of pre-employment education, induction and in-career training and development are key in delivering effective and productive interventions, services and supervision. CEP will work with members, experts, authorities and institutions to promote and share knowledge and developments in competencies, skills, evaluation and training. CEP will encourage and support multi-disciplinary developments, cross-agency working as well as shared training and education.
- VII. The benefits of the research and evidence based practice were highlighted in discussions at the Conference. CEP participation was a benefit in strengthening knowledge and providing a bridge to practitioners. The contribution of research and academia in probation measures and community sanctions was identified as an area for continued development. CEP and its members will work to develop relationships with research bodies, third level institutions and relevant experts to stimulate and promote and disseminate research and its findings in Europe and internationally.
- VIII. Radicalisation and violent extremism poses a real threat for communities and people across Europe. CEP members will co-operate and work closely with governments, civil society, multilateral agencies and other expert groups, fora and research interests to share experiences and lessons learned, to improve practice, training, monitoring and evaluation approaches and international cooperation.
- IX. CEP contributes to the work of the Council of Europe, European Union, United Nations agencies, the World Congress on Probation and other international partners to raise the profile of probation nationally and internationally and to inform decision-making and policy worldwide. CEP members will actively endorse and support this activity through participation as experts and partners, by contributing to meetings and through consultation and other events.

The **9th Conference of Directors General of Probation**, where a review of the progress of this declaration will take place, will be held in the second half of 2021.

On behalf of the participants at the 8th CEP Conference of Directors General of Probation
24th October 2019