

Minutes Foreign Nationals in Prison & Probation online meeting

Thursday 20th January 2022

Chair:

Willem van der Brugge

Apologies

Toni Jimenez, Catalonia

Welcome and introductions

10.00 Start, welcome, confirm Carina replacing Kilvinder from HMPPS, apologies, agenda (Willem)

10.05 - 10.35 'Returning prisoners from abroad; Dutch study, what was found & what more we need to know'; [Laura Cleofa-van Der Zwet](#) & [Matthias Van Hall](#), MSW, Reclassering Nederland. Presentation with discussion

Showed impressive video about the services BB provides. Describe that 1 in 4 returning Dutch prisoners from abroad reoffend though this is less than for those Dutch nats. serving sentences in NL. Dutch prisoners abroad less likely to be serving their first sentence and to be an older profile, mean average being 40.9 years, why - more evidence of professional/life criminals? Requires further research as does this whole subject. BB hope to develop their research in this area, it being important to evidence the value of their services. This is an approach, which could be applicable to other similar organisations as well as an important criteria to use when making a business case for the establishment of such organisations in other countries. Prisoners Abroad undertook some similar qualitative research in this area 12 years ago through a CoE Pompidou grant, interviewing British prisoners in French & Spanish prisons, report still available, a younger (direct quote Nick!) Nick Hammond was a co-author of the report. Basic message is – more research required.





10.40 - 11.10

short group round-up - 'whats been happening' (Willem)

CEP representatives

Carina Heckroodt, England & Wales, UK

Willem welcomed as a new, permanent member. Carina introduced herself and her background, head of Operation for London with a FNO lead nationally. Has a FNP Resettlement Team 'hub' newly established with Osman Nazir the Probation lead within it, has close links with the Home Office Immigration Service. Issues; developing regional expertise in specialist probation staff plus regional leads, centralised 'FN Information' hub being created. On prison side, focus on returning FNPs – 'resettlement packages' current terminology. Deportations of FNPs from the UK seem to be continuing though in continuing smaller numbers.

Karen Delespaul, Belgium

At end of 2012, new code of practice for FNPs in Flemish prisons out. FNPs no longer a priority group, needs further discussion in group, significant change in 8 of 17 prisons in Belgium. Therapeutic group pilots under way on FNPs in a number of other prisons.

Sophie Gosselin, Luxembourg

Significant new wave of omicron currently impacting on prisons, most concerning with consequent impact on service delivery.

Daniel Danglades, France

Covid infections in french prisons continue to be a worrying issue. Combined with a pending national election, both have an impact on crime and FNPs. French EU presidency also combining to make FNPs and even more sensitive issue which means Daniel is extremely busy being involved in various high profile initiatives.

EuroPris representatives

Athena Demetriou, Cyprus

Reported an actual increase in FNP numbers with a 3-10 month sentence for illegal entry into the country representing most of increase.





Tijs Bagchus, The Netherlands

New terms for early release with equal provision for FNPs coming forward, little otherwise to report

Petra Pavlas, Austria

Petra: covid seems to be pretty much under control at present, FNOP numbers a same levels. Impact of terrorist attack in Vienna in Nov. 2020, continues to have a central impact on the policy towards FNPs and FNOs currently in Austria. Serbian, Romanian and Turkish FNPs comprise largest groups in Austrian prisons.

Audre Miseikiene, Lithuania

Covid infection in prisons increasing significantly recently, on-going issue. Various FNP initiatives under-way, will report on them in detail later, though FNPs not a particular priority given low numbers and covid.

Founding members' representatives

Pauline Crowe, UK

Number of complex cases of British prisoners returning from abroad seems to be increasing. No evidence of an increase in actual numbers of returned British prisoners from abroad despite increase in international travelling. Starting actual face-to-face casework in a limited scale starting soon. 30% of PAs support from government, 70% from charitable donations which have taken a hit due to the pandemic, implications concerning.

Luisa Ravagnani, Italy

Covid problems continuing if not increasing, properly impacting greater on FNPs more than on domestic prisoners. Recent report/survey out on FD 947 on prison transfer between Romania and Italy which Luisa has been involved in.





Brian Hanley, Ireland

ICPO experiencing ongoing problems and challenges due to the pandemic which others have mentioned. Prison transfer legislation to take Ireland of the EU naughty step, progressing slowly, Brian will keep group undated on progress!

Jochem Wildeman, The Netherlands

Pleasing beginning of travel for BB country staff abroad, welcomed by all. BB budget for next 2 years seems to currently be in a healthy state. New digital 'App-like' platform has been delivered which will be launched in May 2022, will be useful to hear more details in due course. Other news; a new diagnosis tool as been developed for assessing Dutch prisoners abroad, more details to follow. A new communication's officer post has been created just for BB. Lastly, a 4 year project working in Dutch Surinam has started, with a BB staff member seconded in team, reports on progress to follow.

Roisin Mulgrew, Ireland

Busy with PRI online conference in Oxford recently. Question of the impact of Covid on all prisoners especially for FNPs for this group, being looked at in research Roisin is involved in with a focus on the particular issue of deaths in custody are FNPs disproportionately affected, question maybe for group to address? Involved in second piece of research looking at the experience of FNPs with prison transfer. To liaise with Petra on group involvement in research.

Willem van der Brugge, Ireland

Hoping to have various face to face CEP meetings in late spring/early summer which hopefully might also include a FNPP expert group, fingers crossed. CEP recently signed a memorandum of understanding with PRI which given a focus on increasing alternatives to custody/ community penalties, may link with FNOs.

11.10 - 11.15

comfort break



Chair:

Gustav Tallving

11.10 - 11.20 handover of coordinators role, 'thoughts & reflections'... (Nick)

Time limited for planned 'wise reflections'. Thanked Willem, Gustav and their respective teams and expert group members for all their work and time given to the group. Much appreciated and wish the group continuing success in this important area of CJ work. Nick hopes to meet group members in person at some stage in 2022.

11.20 - 11.30 introduction from new coordinator - 'a bit about me and why I put myself forward'... (Petra)

Petra says it is a great pleasure and honour to have the opportunity to take over the role of the group coordinator and to follow Nick's footsteps. Thanks Nick for support and how he managed all the challenges during (the persisting) pandemic. From her professional background social worker, started to work for the prison service in 2009. In 2015, took over the FNP unit, which is located in the Directorate General for the prison service. Since then involved with everything concerning FNP-affairs in the Austrian prison service and acted as an interface for all 28 prison, the DG and other units within and organisations outside the FMJ. Since 2020, member of the FNP-Expert group. Been asked to change to coordination unit for extremism prevention and deradicalisation, but chose to stick with FNP unit as it is of a very high importance to her. Very much looking forward to her new role, working with the group, and supporting it. Hopes the group will be a little lenient regarding new start and as English is not her mother tongue.

11.30 - 11.50 need for change, restructuring – 'what came from handover meeting', discussion (Gustav)

11.50 - 12.00 any other business, Spring 2022 Ter Apel Conference postponed, 'in-person' meeting? (Gustav)





12.00

meeting finish

Thanks & farewell to Nick who is leaving. Many thanks from the group to Nick for his support and valuable work to the FNPP Group during his years as FNPP Expert Group Coordinator!

Provisional dates for diaries

Next meeting: EuroPris/CEP FNPP Network Group in person meeting, The Netherlands - 9 & 10 May 2022

After group members are keen to a face to face meeting, next **EuroPris/CEP FNPP Network Group meeting** is planned as an **“in person meeting”** (subject to the circumstances) for **Tuesday 10th May 2022, The Hague - The Netherlands, the 9th can be used as the day of arrival**. Invitation & draft agenda as well as action list to follow, so please block the date in your calendar.

*Please let me know **by March 3rd** latest if you will be available on May 10th - EuroPris/CEP FNPP Network Group meeting. Many thanks!*

VIE 17/02/22



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