

**Meeting on Research
Utrecht/online, 15 February 2023
9:00-15:00**

Participants:

Gerry McNally (Ireland)
Nicola Carr (Ireland/UK) – *attending online*
Fergus McNeill (Scotland)
Marc Ceron (Catalonia, Spain) - *attending online*
Danijela Mrhar Prelič (Slovenia)
Ines Sucic (Croatia)
Anna Matczak (The Netherlands/Poland)
Jana Špero (CEP)
Mirka Jakesova (CEP)

Ioan Durnescu (Romania) – *apologies*
Charlie Brooker (UK) – *apologies*

Categories: researchers, assistant director, university professors and practitioners

REPORT

Jana ŠPERO welcomed everyone to the meeting that is taking place at the premises of Reclassering Nederland where the CEP office is situated. She informed that two participants – Marc CERON and Nicola CARR – will attend online.

Gerry McNALLY thanked everyone for joining the expert group on research which he finds one of the important and irreplaceable groups among the CEP expert groups as probation work, progress and developments are naturally connected to research. With this in mind, CEP as a network organization uniting probation bodies and practitioners across Europe has resources to connect research to practice and should take best use of this engagement.

Mirka JAKESOVA went through the report of the last meeting that took place online on 1 December 2022. One of the action points was to draft a proposal for a fixed-term, part-time Knowledge Exchange fellowship that would be part of a broader CEP research strategy. This proposal will be presented today. Based on the discussion, the two presentations will be delivered today.

The importance of reducing the division between academics and practitioners, and finding the best form for them to work together was one of the key topics discussed during the last meeting in 2022. One of the examples where practitioners work alongside researchers is the Centre for Legal Studies in Barcelona, Spain. Mr. Marc CERON, the Deputy Director General of Training and Research, delivered a presentation in which he introduced the types of researches, the way they are promoted and disseminated to specific audiences, the composition of teams and the way working groups consisting of researchers, practitioners and other partners works together as well as specific examples of researches carried out in the past 5 years. The main goal is to evaluate the public policies (what goes well, what needs to



be improved etc.) in terms of applied researches, to what extent practitioners access the researches and apply any findings in practice.

Prof. Fergus McNEILL from the University of Glasgow presented a comprehensive proposal which set out the rationale for a Research and Development Fellowship in order to develop a Research and Development Strategy for the period of 2024-2028, outlined the approach, as well as clarified the potential outputs and outcomes of the fellowship and of the strategy.

The expert group members as an advisory group carried out the revision of the proposal (e.g. timetable and engagement of different categories of stakeholders etc.), and individual members provided their professional expertise and opinion in order to introduce the proposal to the CEP Presidium and Board. The expert group members asked to provide the feedback on the decision taken by the CEP Board.

The last presentation delivered by Dr. Anna MATCZAK from the University of Applied Sciences in the Hague, discussed the concept of restorative probation, challenges in its development but also a problematic relationship between restorative justice, probation and community service. The overview of countries across Europe outlining the restorative services showed the difference in providing such services as well as differences in the way these services are organized and delivered to the clients as well as difference in the staff training.

Resources recommended by the members:

[Recercat](#) – official page of the Catalonian Government covering all publications of researches of universities and researchers.

Learning Resources from the Distant Voices project (post-punishment reintegration) - <https://www.voxliminis.co.uk/the-art-of-bridging-learning-resources/>

The 5th 'chapter' ('The Beams') engages with RJ, discussing a piece of gig-theatre (A Giant on the Bridge) which drew on work with RJ practitioners. These resources could be used in probation education and training more generally <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEgccTYj-HQ>

Actions:

- To update the proposal on recommendations from the members;
- To provide the Presidium (taking place on 16 February) with the revised version of the proposal;
- To inform the expert group on the decision taken by the CEP Board;
- Based on it to call on another meeting (online).

Jana ŠPERO thanked everyone for joining the meeting, for the presentations and for the discussion on the proposal. Before closing she asked the participants to fill in the EU survey.

Links: <https://www.cep-probation.org/recap-meeting-on-research/>

