



Report of the 9th CEP Expert Group Meeting on Sex Offender Management 19 September 2022, online

Participants present:

- Prof. Kieran McCartan, University of the West of England, UK (group chair)
- Ms. Jana Spero, new CEP Secretary General, Croatia
- Mr. Willem van der Brugge, leaving CEP Secretary General, Netherlands
- Mrs. Laura Negredo, Ministry of Interior, Spain
- Mrs. Yvonne Morick, Bewährungs- und Gerichtshilfe Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Mr. Anvars Zavackis, State Probation Service, Latvia
- Ms. Mary Anne Zammit, Department of Probation and Parole, Malta
- Mr. Teet Kajala, Ministry of Justice, Estonia

Apologies:

- Mr. Mike Cutland, Jersey Probation and Aftercare Service, Jersey
- Mr. Jo Inge Svendsen, Norwegian Correctional Services, Norway
- Ms. Anna Kristín Newton, Iceland

Willem van der Brugge opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and by introducing his successor, the next CEP Secretary General Ms. Jana Spero from Croatia.

Then he proposed a short introductory round in the group as there were two new group members present – Ms. Mary Anne Zammit from Malta and Mr. Teet Kajala from Estonia. Also Ms. Anna Kristín Newton from Iceland, who recently joined CEP as an individual member, will be part of the group but was unfortunately not able to attend due to other obligations.

After the introductions group chair Kieran McCartan took the floor and thanked Willem for getting him into the group around 5 years ago. He said that in his country a lot was going on in the field of sexual and child abuse, and that in around half a year an important report was expected from an independent inquiry that had taken place during the last years.

Survey results

Related to that he stepped over to the international survey that had been sent out to all CEP members, indicating that many interesting developments were seen there. For example Spain and Norway had introduced Circles, and there were a lot of activities in Iceland and Malta. The list of answers gave a fair representation of the developments in Europe, and his questions was if CEP would want to base a summary/conclusion report on this, or that more answers should try to be obtained?

After a short discussion it was decided to go with what is there, so Kieran will start making a draft of a 2-3 page summary document that will then be shared with the group.



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Events and future plans

Jana mentioned that in the CEP budget a next CEP face-to-face event was scheduled for April 2023, and that it would be good to talk through the survey findings there. Depending on the available budget this could be a group meeting about strategical planning, or an open event for a wider audience. In case of the latter more aspects could be addressed, like for example current important developments in the field in Australia and New Zealand.

Jana also suggested that the topic of sexual abuse could be included in other events, like for example the upcoming (2023) meeting for Directors General. She said that it was CEP's role to show its members that there is not one single answer to the way of working with sexual offenders – there are differences that sometimes also have to do with the possibilities and regulations in the various EU Member States. More options might work and might have good results, but people can definitely learn from each other even though the situations are not always the same.

Willem added the importance of keeping the topic on the agenda of both CEP and the European bodies, and invited the group to share relevant information or articles that could be uploaded to the CEP [research page](#) or [articles/publications page](#).

Related to this Kieran brought up that there might in fact be many interesting articles or literature in other languages, but that due to the language these could not be shared with the rest of the world which was really a shame indeed. He asked if somehow CEP could be in the position to help out there?

Willem reacted by saying that CEP is considering to add a (google) translation tool to its website, but these translations are never perfect and especially for such a sensitive topic it would be absolutely necessary for someone to proof-read the final text. It would be up to the next CEP Board to decide on a possible expenditure (reservation of money) on translations.

Yvonne Morick from Germany brought up the HELP project and the fact that for this the information was available in many different languages – perhaps the Council of Europe could support?

Laura Negredo from Spain answered that indeed all these documents were available, but that it had been the countries themselves to take care of the translations. Unfortunately the CoE had a surprisingly low budget for translations.

Next steps

As agreed Kieran will produce an analysis of the survey results, based on the data that there is now. He will share this with the group and following that it needs to be decided how to show/share/promote this information. Could it be an idea to organize short video interviews or podcasts with relevant experts?

The group is invited to think about other options besides the “traditional” thing of sharing articles and promoting events.

Then Jana asked if anyone had something to add.



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Anvars Zavackis from Latvia came with the suggestion that for the future it would be a real added value to make links with other expert groups that are in some extent related to the topic. For example trauma is not only a thing for victims of sexual abuse – this is a much broader issue. He said that especially for the organization of events it could be very important to “widen up” as core probation work is the same for many types of offenders.

Kieran was completely in agreement and suggested having a meeting with the chairs of the various expert groups. Jana indicated to be very much in favour, and promised to do her best to organize this.

Conscious of the time she then proceeded to summing up and closing. She indicated that the meeting had been very good and that there were many plans for the future. She said to look forward to the first draft of the analysis document, and perhaps after finalizing this it would be good to organize a short interview with Kieran – something that could also be used for future promotional purposes.

Action points:

- Kieran to make a first draft analysis of the survey outcomes and share it with Mirjam (who will then share it with the group)
- Group members to think about the promotion of information/results/literature that is available on the topic (new ways, new content, other)
- CEP to check on budget options for (possible) events in 2023
- Jana to bring in for the next Board if a financial reservation for translation of research articles in other languages could be made available
- CEP to organize a meeting for the chairs of the several (related) expert groups to discuss overlap and (future) cooperation

