



Minutes
EuroPris & CEP Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation in person Expert Group
Meeting
Monday 9th May to Tuesday 10th May 2023, The Hague

Present: *Roisin Mulgrew (Standing Member, Ireland & UK), Daniel Danglades (CEP member, FR), Osman Nazir (CEP member, England & Wales), Jana Spero (CEP SG, NL), Mirka Jakesova (CEP Policy Officer, NL), Audre Miseikiene (EuroPris member, LIT), Tijs Bagchus (EuroPris member, NL), Gustav Tallving (ED EuroPris, NL), Petra Pavlas (Group Coordinator EuroPris, AT)*

Apologies: *Jochum Wildeman (Standing Member, NL), Pauline Crowe (Standing Member, UK), Luisa Ravagnani (Standing Member, IT), Karen Delespaul (CEP member)*

Absences: *Athena Demetriou (EuroPris member)*

Morning session, 9:30

Chair: Gustav Tallving

1. Welcome/ Opening remarks – Petra, Gustav

Petra opened the meeting and informed about apologies and absences. She has given an overview of the agenda and announced absences. *Carina* and *Brian* have taken a new job, *Pauline* has retired and we have lost contact with *Athena*. *Osman Nazir* attended on an interim basis for *Carina*. *Jana*, replacing *Willem van der Brugge* as CEP SG, *Mirka* as CEP's new Policy Officer and *Osman* as *Carina*'s replacement are "rookies" and thus there has been a short round of introductions.

2. Introduction - Gustav, Jana, Osman

Gustav: ED of EuroPris since two years, he has told about his background and career, his tasks at EuroPris and that a human rights aspect is fundamental in the work of EuroPris. He reported about 30% FNP in NL.

Jana: SG of CEP since September 2022, based in Croatia, was previously the first female DG in Croatia and established the probation service in Croatia as well. She is the successor of Willem van der Brugge and will be available as CEP support to the FNPP Group.

Mirka: Policy Officer of CEP. Is based in the Czech Republic, her professional background started at the international department for the probation service and there worked on an international level. She has always been involved with international organisations and started to work for CEP two years ago.

Osman: HMPPS, National Lead - FNO Coordination Hub. started to work for probation in 2005, he has been working in the field of FNO for over 10 years and manages the FNO Hub for the HMPPS. He helped set it up 2 years ago and now has 188 people in charge, six active staff members working directly in the Hub. The Hub focuses on FNOs who cannot be deported for various reasons but are not legally in the country. A duality and gap that the Hub tries to close under the premise of "protecting the public".

Tijs: announced that this will be his last FNPP Expert Group Meeting and that he will leave the group. (Note: He will still be available for the next online meeting, but his position should already be advertised as well!).

(all others: see minutes from FNPP Expert Group Meeting, May 2022)

- There will be *five vacancies* in this Expert Group to be announced by June and new members presented by September this year.

3. Refocusing – Two streams of work: prison and probation – Gustav

Gustav has announced that a *chairperson* should be assigned to the group, preferably from CEP. The tasks will be to chair/lead through the meetings, to moderate, to support the coordinator and to be in exchange with her for the preparations before a meeting. In this context, Gustav also has mentioned that a training for the chairpersons is planned to clarify and learn more about being a chairperson and how to lead professionally through a meeting.

Gustav has referred to the physical meeting a year ago and how ambitious the group's goals were and how there were very good ideas on aims and objectives of each subgroup. He has noted that he was happy for the group's work to proceed, but also that hardly any progress has been made and few of the goals have developed in the last year. He noticed that it was apparently difficult to exchange and network within the subgroups, not only because of the fluctuation of members. In this context, he also stated that it is not the task of the group coordinator to chase the members and the output, as well as feedback on set deadlines. In addition, the role and definition of the founding/standing members could be rethought and defined. EuroPris also had a review on all Expert Groups with focus on what has been done, where they stand and what it needs and maybe to take new stands. Gustav has reported which expert groups currently exist and that two new groups have been initiated: Prison Security and Staff Wellbeing. In conclusion, of the

review was to support policy makers and connect with professionals and more standardization in procedures to clarify the process to nominate members. More predictability what it takes to be an expert and what is expected from an expert group member as well as from a coordinator, and the process how to be nominated should be more clarified were needs that arose. Last but not least, it became clear how important it is for the Directorate General to appoint the expert or liaison officer to be involved in the process and to know the national EuroPris contact person.

Topics: should be stimulating for the Expert Group, members define topics for the group

Training: for chairpersons will be provided

Visibility: given thru events, online trainings, workshops

Jana: will support the expert groups and sees success through research for the group, especially for practitioners with research as support. Developing ideas for more research to support the group is necessary, as practitioners really need research to become more self-efficient. She also referred to all existing expert groups and the work and core values of the CEP.

Mirka: notes that in total they have 8 expert groups and networks and are going to open a new one for the caseload and workload in probation next year. The work for the expert groups was a little bit delayed due to the Covid-19 but now started groups with new members or we are finishing the work of the groups as per set action plan and new group members are joining the expert groups. CEP has its terms of reference for the groups and the standardized procedures for becoming a member of the expert group, each group has a chair as well. They promote the work of expert groups via various events by sharing the results, developing an event on a certain topic, online etc. It is important that the members are dedicated and committed to the work of expert groups. It happens that the members change their position within the organization so they no longer can serve as members.

Daniel: It would be important to inform everyone in the group about drop outs and has mentioned that the group has failed to connect for various reasons.

Tijs: As a spokesperson for the EuroPris subgroup, he also experienced that the group was not resonating well and that a challenge in achieving and implementing the goals was certainly also because of different national policy makers and bringing them to a common sense. To achieve good results, the goals and objectives should be definitely redefined.

Audre: The commitment in the group was not what it should have been and the attitude would have to be reconsidered, whereas there were many changes within the subgroup (drop outs, etc.)

Osman: It would be good to give some basic info about the group in September, sort of an overview of what is expected of an expert group and has proposed a s-c. "*Orientation Session*".

Petra: Considering the vacancies, in order to establish a stable and constant group, it would be good to have four members from EuroPris and four CEPs. Currently, with Tijs' recent announcement to leave the group, 3 positions would have to be advertised for EuroPris (Athenas, Tonis and Tijs) and 2 positions for CEP (Sophies and Carinas officially). She has very welcomed that a chairperson is to be appointed for the FNPP Expert Group.

Gustav: Role of founding/standing members, their concrete role and position in the group should be redefined as we need to count on their tasks. A consistent term like "standing members", as Petra calls

them, would be good. The vacancies can be advertised from 1st June with a deadline of 1st July for nominations to be announced and presented at the next group meeting in September. He would like to take Osman's idea with the "*Orientation Session*" and discuss it with Justina for all groups.

CEP went through the report from the last year when the group then splitted into three subgroups and it was agreed with EuroPris that it is not the best possible option and that the group should work together on the objectives and aims of the group. Education and training is one of the objectives joint by both prison and probation. Everyone agreed with that besides the Back to basics.

Mirka then brought in to set up a date for the next online FNPP Group Meeting.

- The next online **group meeting** is scheduled for **September 11th, 11am CET**

Additionally the group coordinator will send out a letter to the Standing Members to ask them to if they still have the capacity to be part of the FNPP Expert Group and will be available to it. No feedback will be considered a NO.

- The group has voted on the **chairperson** and **Daniel** has thankfully agreed to take on this role. Petra is happy about the support and cooperation. She will add this postion to the ToRs (incl. responsibilities of a chairperson)

Afternoon session, 13:00

Chair: Jana Spero

Roisin joined the group for the afternoon session.

4. Introduction – Roisin

Roisin has introduced herself to those new to the group and talked about her background, as a researcher, lecturer at University, when she joined the group and about the development and draft of the CoE Recs 2012 on FNPs as well as past achievements of the group since the early days (workshops, Help-Course with Nick, CoE handbook, etc.). She would welcome a workshop in 2024 and it is to be considered with which target group. She again has pointed out the importance of staff training.

- The group has agreed on a ws in Nov. 2024 with practitioners as target group.

5. Where we stand – future efforts – things need to be done - elaboration of a work plan/timeline – Jana /Petra

Petra has given a brief overview of the history of the FNPP Expert Group, how it developed and came together to get a glimpse of the foundation and better understanding for the background of the group. She then has presented an overview of the current members and vacancies to get a better overview of the current situation of the group after looking back to the beginnings.

The group then has brainstormed ideas for further development within the group.

Osman has suggested that the FNPP meetings could be recorded, as it would then be easier with the notes (via e.g.: webex, teams, etc.). Furthermore, it would be important to specify where we are, what the future efforts can be, things that need to be done, a good time line, all with the supportive and advisory role of the researchers and standing members. He experienced that work can be very efficient if you think "*back to basics*". The actual FNO status, focus on crises, things in common could, etc. can be taken as a starting point and basis for this. *Audre* is in favour of promoting the HELP courses and organising a workshop in any case, as well as designing a leaflet for FNPP (best) practice. *Roisin* could imagine adapting the FNP e-learning module for probation after the current module can simply serve as a template.

Petra has showed the introductory film of the CoE HELP course on working with FNPs in prison (e-learning module) and *Roisin* has explained the individual modules that can be chosen in several languages.

Before that, in any case, aims and objectives would have to be defined as soon as all vacancies have been filled and it is clear who will remain in the group. After that, the new members can be introduced in September and a workshop with the headliner and focus "*Back to Basics*" can be initiated. Members will have homework to do that will lead to the defined goals. These can be reported until the end of May.

6. Preparation for the Conference - Petra

At the end of the meeting, individual program items and the conferences exact schedule were discussed as well as *Daniel's* role as moderator, who kindly made himself available for this. The contributions and flow of the presentations and the appearance and role of the Expert Group were also determined.

7. Date of next meeting

Next meeting on 11 September 2023, 11:00 CET

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