

## Call for nominations

### CEP Expert Group on Gender-based Violence in Probation

For a new expert group starting in 2024 we are looking for 8 colleagues/experts interested to join the CEP Expert Group on Gender-based Violence in Probation. If you are interested in becoming a member of this Expert Group please submit a nomination on behalf of your jurisdiction/organization **until 26 January 2024** on [anna@cep-probation.org](mailto:anna@cep-probation.org). For any additional questions please contact Ms. Anna Esquerrà Roqueta.

Please note that the first meeting of the Expert Group is to take place in May 2024.

### Background

In the past years we have seen an alarming rise in Gender-based violence offences, including domestic violence and sex offences. CEP established the Expert group on Sex offenders in 2012 and the Expert group on Domestic violence, together with EuroPris, in 2018. These two groups worked until 2023 when it was decided to merge these two groups under the Expert Group on Gender-based violence in Probation.

According to the Council of Europe definition, Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity and that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately (mainly women and girls but it can affect also men and boys). Gender-based violence can be sexual, physical, verbal, psychological (emotional), or socio-economic and it can take many forms, from verbal violence and hate speech on the Internet, to rape or murder. It can be perpetrated by anyone: a current or former spouse/partner, a family member, a colleague from work, schoolmates, friends, an unknown person, or people who act on behalf of cultural, religious, state, or intra-state institutions. Although women and girls are the main victims of GBV, it also causes severe harm to families and communities.

Probation bodies and practitioners across Europe and worldwide together with other criminal justice professionals are among those on the frontline of preventing violence by supervising and providing specialized treatment and programmes, guidance and assistance to offenders.

To support all aspects of rehabilitation and at the same time treatment process there is a need for cooperation among various actors and different European jurisdictions dealing with similar situations.

### **General purpose**

To contribute to a better understanding and better practices when working with Gender-based violence cases. That can be done by different forms of cooperation, for example sharing research, good practices, results, methods and by raising awareness.

The Expert group provides opportunity for lead experts of CEP members to meet and discuss further development of work with this unique and challenging target group of probation clients.

The aim is also to improve management, to find and share good practices and inspiring examples around Europe as well as to advocate and act as the voice of this specific topic in the European Probation field.

### **Membership**

The Expert Group consists of 8 members and the membership takes 2 years (2024-2026) with possible extension for another 2 years. We are looking for steady members of the Expert Group that will be part of the team and bring new knowledge, expertise, experience, and will, at the same time, be committed to the work of the Expert Group. The meetings take place annually (combination of face-to-face, online or hybrid).

### **Travel and accommodation**

Travel and accommodation costs for participating in the face-to-face meeting once a year are reimbursed by CEP. Other costs related to the Expert Group shall be borne by the Expert Group member's organization.

### **Basic criteria**

- CEP membership (full, individual, associate) or in case you are not a CEP member the recommendation letter from the CEP member is required;
- a CV (preferably [Europass](#) format);

- a short letter of motivation (150 words maximum) including relevance of this topic for your country, your expertise and experience, and optionally, a recommendation letter from your organization (150 words max);
- an expertise and experience in dealing with Gender-based violence (Sex offences, Domestic Violence and other forms);
- commitment to international working groups, appropriate time allocation for the tasks.

**Responsibilities of expert group members are to:**

- attend and actively participate at the expert group meetings (face-to-face or online);
- represent their jurisdiction on the topic of the expert group and benefit from broader European knowledge and expertise;
- report back to their agency / share knowledge, expertise, and information within their own jurisdiction (dissemination and promotion of the work and results);
- stay updated on the latest trends on the topic of the expert group and actively contribute to development, implementation and optimization of the meetings, action plan during and in-between the meetings;
- work between meetings to produce a specific common outcome such as guidelines, mapping, among others – if needed;
- contribute to the professional development in the given topic;
- develop their professional skills and expertise;
- contribute to the development of specific topic-related events within the CEP work programme (webinars, workshops, conferences).

Please note that in the composition of an expert group aspects such as geography, gender, background and other relevant aspects shall be taken into consideration.