



Minutes
CEP/EuroPris FNPP Expert Group Welcome Meeting
Online
31 January 2024, 10:00 – 11:00 CET

Present: Jochem Wildeman (The Netherlands), Christopher Stacey (UK), Luisa Ravagnani (Italy), Leslie Alcock (Ireland), Osman Nazir (England & Wales, UK), Daniel Danglades (France), Bogdan Popa (Romania), Elena Fiorini (Italy), Albert Blancafort Cano (Catalonia), Patrick Franssen (Belgium), Torben Adams (Germany), Esther Montero Pèrez de Tudela (Spain), Berfu Altay (Turkey),

Jana Spero (CEP, The Netherlands), Mirka Jakesova (CEP, The Netherlands), Gustav Tallving (EuroPris, The Netherlands), Petra Pavlas (EuroPris, Austria)

Apologies: Roisin Mulgrew (Ireland & UK), David Redhouse (England & Wales) due to technical issues absent.

1. Welcome/ Opening remarks – Petra/Daniel

Petra opened the meeting and welcomed the new members. She informed that the meeting primarily would focus to get to know each other and expressed her excitement to learn more about the new members. She mentioned absences and also pointed out that the planning for 2024 and future meeting dates, as well as outstanding issues, will be announced at the end of the meeting and handed then over to Chairperson Daniel.

After welcoming all members Daniel introduced himself and explained his role as a chair. He pointed out that the meeting primarily focused on the formation of a new expert group and the importance of understanding the diverse backgrounds and rights of foreign national offenders was highlighted. He asked Jana, Mirka and Gustav to introduce themselves.

Gustav Tallving, ED of EuroPris, introduced himself and expressed his gratitude towards the formation of a new expert group and the participation of all members. He highlighted the importance of these groups in EuroPris's operations and acknowledged the disruptions caused by the pandemic. He also emphasized that the Expert Groups are one of the core features of EuroPris. They are an important component for international cooperation as well as a source to highlight and address relevant topics. He finished off by pledging his support as a director to the group and wishing the best of luck for the upcoming two years.

Daniel gave the floor to CEP, Jana Spero.

Jana Spero thanked EuroPris and Daniel, Petra and Gustav and expressed her pleasure at being at the meeting. She introduced herself as SG of CEP and mentioned her professional background as DG in Croatia, from both, prison and probation service. For CEP the Expert Groups are also core to prepare and work on important strategies, documents, advices, etc., for the members. The work of EuroPris in cooperation with CEP is essential for Europe as no agency could work as an island with that target group. She also mentioned the excellent last year's Ter Apel conference of the FNPP Expert Group together with the Dutch Prison Service. With regards to the new energy of the group and Daniel's, Petra's and Mirka's support, she gave her total confidence for the coming term of the group.

Daniel next handed over to Mirka.

Mirka Jakesova, CEP policy officer, with a professional background of the Czech Probation Service, underlined as well the importance of the work of the Expert Groups as core of CEP's work. Joint Groups bring a different stimulus to the work of the group and it's good to see the exchange and balancing between prison and probation.

Daniel pointed out that the focus of today's meeting would be to get to know each other and opened the introduction session.

2. Introduction of the members – Daniel

The meeting introduced all members to the group, including

Luisa: Italy. University of Brescia, researcher, professor of criminology, welcomes Esther as they already worked together

Esther: Spain, Jurist, researcher, works in prison with FNPs

Christopher: UK, Chief Executive-Prisoners Abroad, successor to Pauline Crowe, support British people in prisons worldwide

Jochum: The Netherlands, Reclassering, Director of the int. dept. of the Dutch Probation- The Netherlands, support Dutch people in prisons abroad, help other countries to establish probation services, mentioned 6th World Congress on Probation and Parole to be held in the Hague, Netherlands from April 16th to 18th

Leslie: Ireland, ICPO Coordinator, successor to Brian Hanley, social worker, holds a Degree in Social Science from Maynooth University and a Masters in Social Work from UCD, Leslie was the Executive Director of the Irish Diaspora Centre, and has previously served as a board member for the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres (CIIC)

Osman: England & Wales, HMPPS, operational lead for FNOs, probation officer, public protection and reducing the risk of reoffending are key in his work, coop. with immigration offices

Bogdan: Romania, psychologist in the social field, medical services and correctional service, probation officer

Elena: Italy, Director probation office, social worker, lawyer, broad experience in prison and community sanctions, member of ASGI (association of lawyers working on immigration laws)

Albert: Catalonia, jurist for alternative penal measures, supports probation officers and services regarding the management of FNs

Patrick: Belgium Prison Service, Vice Regional Director for 20 different (Dutch speaking) prisons and SPOC for all Belgium prisons concerning FNPs being incarcerated in Belgium, works closely with federal agencies, worked as a prison director, mentioned language barriers affecting prison services in their daily work

Torben: Germany, UNODC, worked for the prison service and for MoJ in Bremen concerning constitutional affairs, head of division and in charge for prison and probation officers inter alia training, working internationally and abroad, currently team leader in prison and penal reform in the Middle East and Central Asia, mentioned the ramifications of being a FN incarcerated

Berfu: Turkey, MoJ Turkey, department of foreign relations, worked in prisons and the DG, connecting the FN office and probation department

Roisin: Ireland, University of Galway, Director of Research and Lead of the Crime, Punishment and Rights Cluster, co-drafted [the 2012 COE Recommendation](#), the UNODC [handbook on prisoner transfer](#) and academic publications can be accessed using her [university profile](#)., latest research on death in prisons –publications on the [factors contributing to deaths](#) and improving data collection on prisoners.

Petra also shared her background, including her work as a social worker in Austria's largest prison, being head of the FNP Unit located in the DG of the MoJ and her role as a coordinator for the FNPP expert group.

Daniel thanked everybody for their introduction and handed then over to the coordinator to would give an outlook to the agenda and upcoming and ongoing topics of the group.

6. Preview/outlook - Petra

Petra gave an outlook on ongoing and planned topics and emphasised that there will continue to be two streams of work in the FNPP Expert Group, namely Prisons and Probation (Agenda 2024-2026). The role of academics/researchers/funders as standing members of the FNPP Expert Group will be a supportive one, as already discussed in the last meetings, advising the two groups.

She also mentioned a recent podcast featuring Daniel where he spoke about the challenges of probation and prison services, the work of CEP and EuroPris and gave a glimpse to FNPs. As Daniel gave a great overview of relevant topics and challenges, link will be forwarded in a follow-up email. Secondly the upcoming

6th World Congress on Probation and Parole to be held in The Hague, The Netherlands from April 16th to 18th [Save the Date - 6th World Congress: The future of probation and parole - CEP Probation \(cep-probation.org\)](https://www.cep-probation.org), where two of our members (Daniel and Osman) will be making an active contribution, was discussed. Both will contribute to the congress programme by providing a parallel session *to emphasize the importance of including the perspective of FNOs and the EuroPris work*. They will report on this at the next/first regular meeting in May.

Petra outlined the agenda for the upcoming FNPP expert group meetings, which will include discussions on the revision of existing recommendations CoE CM Recs (2012)12 concerning foreign national prisoners. The next physical meeting will take place meeting on October 28th, followed by the FNPP workshop from October 29th to 30th in Vienna. In a follow up email minutes, preview and mentioned links will be send out to the members to prepare for the next online meeting in May.

Finally that the new members in particular can prepare for the next group meeting, the FNPP EG ToRs will be attached to the email and send out as well.

7. Closing - Daniel

Daniel closed the meeting and concluded by thanking the group for introducing themselves to the group. He expressed how much he is looking forward to working together with the energy through the new group and once again wished the members all the best for the new start.

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