

6th International Training School on Core Correctional Skills

*“Clicks and Empathy: Core Correctional
Skills in Digital Probation.”*

From 28th September to 2nd October 2026

Programme

Venue: [Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training](#)

Carrer de Pau Claris, 158, 08009

Barcelona, Catalonia – Spain

Monday 28th September

Room 4.03 – Chair of the day: Prof. Ioan Durnescu

09.30 – 10.00 Official opening

Mr Marc Cerón i Riera - Director of the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training, Catalan Government and former CEP President.

Ms Marta Ferrer, Deputy Director of Probation and Restorative Justice, Catalan Department of Justice and Democratic Quality and former CEP Vice-President.

Professor Ioan Durnescu – University of Bucharest, Romania and ITSCCS Course Coordinator.

10.00 – 12.00 Keynote Round Table: “Clicks and Empathy: Core Correctional Skills in Digital Probation.”

***Ms Pia Andersson**, Senior specialist at the Prison and Probation Service of Finland and former CEP Board member.*

***Ms Vesna Zelić Ferenčić**, Head of the Development Service, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, Croatia.*

***Mr Michael Arnold**, Head of AI and Innovation, Transforming Delivery Directorate, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, United Kingdom.*

Round Table Chairs:

Ms Iuliana Carbutaru, Probation Inspector for the National Probation Directorate, Ministry of Justice of Romania and former CEP Vice-President

Prof Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucharest, Romania and ITSCCS Course Coordinator.

This session will be live streamed.

12.00-12.30 Coffee break/snack and networking (room 4.14)

12.30-13.30 How to build up the working alliance with an involuntary client?

Prof Ioan Durnescu

13.30 – 14.30 Practice Lab – participants will practice the first interview

End of the programme

18.00-20.00 Welcome Reception aboard a Catamaran at Barcelona's Olympic Port.

Address: Marina Vela, Passeig de Joan de Borbó, Rda. del Port, 103, local 6, 08039 Barcelona

Tuesday 29th September

Room 4.03 - Chair of the day: Prof. Ioan Durnescu

9.30 – 10.30 *Pro-social modelling*

Mr Joe Arvidson (online) Executive Director of The Paragon Group, USA

Ms Anna Esquerra Roqueta, CEP Policy and Liaison officer and associate teacher at University of Barcelona, Catalonia – Spain

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break and Networking (room 4.14)*

11.00-12.00 *Practice micro-skills and feedback in the plenary (room 4.03 and 4.14)*

12.00 – 13.00 *Lunch (free choice)*

13.00 *Meeting point: door CEJFE to go for the Study visit*

14.00 – 16.30 *Study visit to the City of Justice and Intervention programme using virtual reality from SUARA cooperativa and KiNN Technologies.*

Wednesday 30th September

Room 4.03 - Chair of the day: Prof. Ioan Durnescu

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| 09.30 – 10.30 | Motivational interviewing
<i>Prof Ioan Durnescu</i> |
| 10.30 – 11.30 | <i>Practice Lab – practicing in small groups – the use of change talk and amplifying discrepancies</i> |
| 11.30 – 12.00 | <i>Coffee break and Networking (Room 4.14)</i> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | <i>Feedback in plenary on problem-solving</i> |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | <i>Problem solving change with motivational interviewing</i>
Ms Iuliana Carburaru, Probation Inspector for the National Probation Directorate, Ministry of Justice of Romania and former CEP Vice-President.
Mr Michael Baker, Deputy Chief Executive and lead for Research and Communications at Interventions Alliance, UK. |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | <i>Practice Lab – practicing in small groups – problem orientation and problem-solving</i> |
| 14.30 – 15.30 | <i>Lunch (free choice)</i> |
| 15.30 - 17.30 | <i>Walking tour Barcelona - Eixample and Gothic Quarter</i>
<i>Meeting point: front door of the Centre for Legal Studies and go together to the starting point of the walking tour.</i>
<i>The tour will last about 2.00h approx., wear comfortable shoes.</i> |



Thursday 1st October

Room 4.03 - Chair of the day: Prof. Ioan Durnescu

- 09.30 – 10.30 ***Summary of the previous days and feedback from the participants***
Ask anything session
Prof. Ioan Durnescu
- 10.30 – 11.30 ***Feedback to the plenary and discussions on Problem Solving***
- 11.30 – 12.00 ***Coffee break and Networking (room 4.09)***
- 12.00 – 13.00 ***Cognitive behavioural interventions***
Ms Jessica Warner, Senior research associate at University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, USA
- 13.00 – 14.00 ***Practice Lab – practicing in small groups based on scenarios (room 4.03 and 4.09)***
- 14.00 – 14.30 ***Feedback on the plenary and discussions***
- 14.30 – 15.30 ***End of day programme***

Friday 2nd October

Room 4.03 - Chair of the day: Prof. Ioan Durnescu

9.30 – 10.00 ***Summary of the previous days and feedback from participants. Ask anything session***

10.00 – 10.45 ***Open discussion: How to use technology to implement the skills into practice.***

10.45 – 11.15 ***Coffee break and Networking (Room 4.09)***

11.15 – 12.15 ***Integrating all skills into everyday practice. Discussions on how to transfer the new learning into normal working routines***

12.15 – 13.30 ***Final evaluation of the course and closing ceremony***

Ms Penelope Torres Moreno, Head of the Research and Training Area for Penal Enforcement- Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training, Barcelona.

Professor Ioan Durnescu, University of Bucharest, Romania and ITSCCS Course coordinator.



Partners

The Sixth edition of the International Training School on Core Correctional Skills is organised by the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialised Training.

The Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training is an autonomous administrative body attached to the Ministry of Justice of the Government of Catalonia. It was created in 1990 and its fundamental mission is to organise initial training and continuous education for the staff working at different units of the Ministry with the aim of ensuring and improving the quality of the services provided. With a view to contributing to this end, another pivotal activity of the centre is to conduct research in the fields of criminology, enforcement of sentences, administration of justice and the Catalonia's own body of laws. Moreover, the centre leads university practicum programmes, is home to a specialised public library, organises exchanges with teaching and research centres at national and international level, and regularly takes an active part in international exchange and innovation projects.

More information can be found at <http://ceife.gencat.cat/ca/inici/>

The Confederation of European Probation (CEP) is an umbrella organisation for Probation institutions in Europe. Founded in 1981, CEP brings together practitioners, managers, academics, stakeholders and others working in the field of probation and criminal justice from all over Europe. The goals of CEP are to enhance the profile of probation and to improve professionalism in this field, on a national and a European level. It promotes pan-European cooperation and exchange of ideas by organising conferences, by making reports available, by publishing its digital newsletter and through its website. In addition, CEP participates in academic projects which compile and study effective policy and practice in probation. It thus endorses the start of a 'science' of probation. To European bodies such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, CEP is the spokesperson for the sector of probation, providing expertise and comparative data. CEP is a member-based organisation with 90 members representing 39 EU countries and 42 EU jurisdictions.

More info can be found at www.cep-probation.org

Additional information

For urgent issues, please contact Professor Ioan Durnescu: +40729181081, or email: iodurnescu@gmail.com