

STEPS 2 Resettlement Project



The STEPS2 project board had a meeting on 5 and 6 March at the office of the Italian project partner – the University of Brescia. In the past month interviews were conducted with Romanian prisoners before and after their transfer from Italy and Spain to Romania. Also, a meeting with representatives of Competent Authorities of the three countries took place to evaluate actual transfer cases and learn from their experiences. In order to support the lack of information, one of the main obstacles for prisoners, a template for a handbook is developed by the project. The report of this exercise, the template and other project documents will be published later on the EuroPris website

Another project team started their work on developing a training program for the persons involved in the transfer at the level of the Competent Authorities. The training needs comprise issues such as: how to complete the transfer certificate, connection to the European Arrest Warrant, what is social rehabilitation, time limits for the transfer, release dates, translation of judgments, definition of permanent living place and the like. The training package is planned to contain generic information, case studies and guidelines for including country specific information.

Further, the project will study the impact of the transfer on victims. It will also research the actual achievement of the transfer of prisoners in terms of rehabilitation and the rehabilitation measures that have been taken by the issuing and later by the executing state.

Ghent University analyzed the responses from 16 countries and 62 questionnaires about the relevant information for prison services in relation to the transfer. As part of this exercise a focus group took place in Croatia that discussed the type of manageable and understandable information that is needed from a social rehabilitation perspective.