# Cooperation between Police and Penal System

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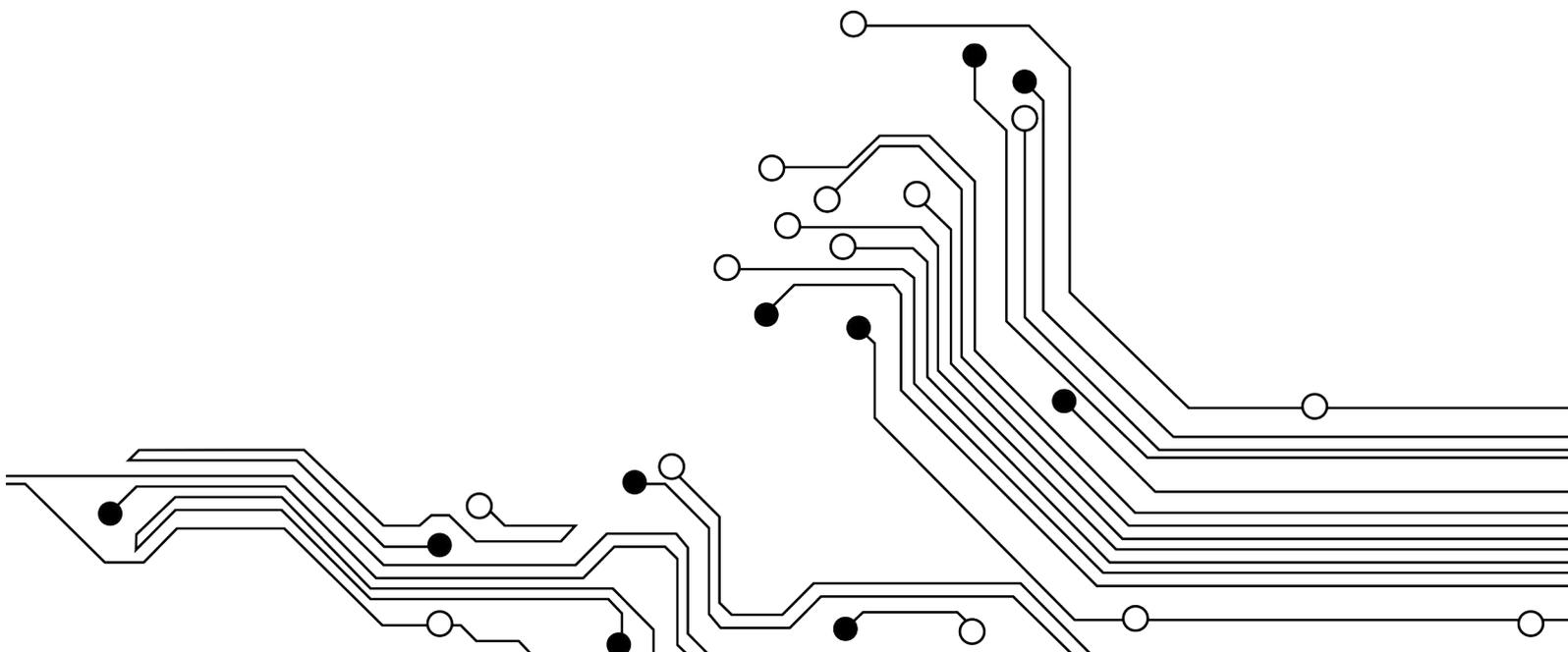
About EuroPris

The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) is a non- political, non-governmental organisation that was founded at the end of 2011 and officially registered in the Netherlands.

EuroPris speaks for the views of prison practitioners in Europe. Membership is open to public institutions or organisations in the Council of Europe region, which provide prison or correctional services on a legal or statutory basis.

EuroPris brings together practitioners in the prisoners´ arena with the specific intention of promoting ethical and rights-based imprisonment, exchanging information and providing expert assistance to support this agenda. The organisation exists to improve co-operation among European Prison and Correctional Services, with the aim of improving the lives of prisoners and their families, enhancing public safety and security; reducing re-offending; and advancing professionalism in the corrections' field.

IRISH PRISON SERVICE

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Justice and Equality. The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. It is headed by a Director General supported by 4 Directors.

The Irish Prison Service is administered centrally with its headquarters located in Longford, Ireland. There are 14 institutions in the Irish Prison System consisting of eleven traditional "closed" institutions, two open centres, which operate with minimal internal and perimeter security, and one "semi-open" facility with traditional perimeter security but minimal internal security (the Training Unit).

There are 4,000 prisoners and 3,500 staff in the IPS

Business problem to be addressed:

• Information which is available in the Irish Police force (An Garda Siocháná) and information which is available in the Irish Prison Service was held in silos and not shared or only shared on a manual basis.

• There is scope to expand the sharing of information across the Irish Justice sector and beyond.

• A number of years ago the Folan Report which investigated an incident involving the murder of a man by another while at large recommended much better sharing of information between the Justice agencies.

TASK

To allow the electronic sharing of information between the Irish Police Force and the Irish Prison Service to ensure real-time information is available.

Benefits / Pros

• Allows real-time information sharing by the Irish Prison Service to the Irish Police force

• Serves to significantly reduce the risks posed by out of date information or limited or no information sharing

• Increases collaboration between the different agencies

Negatives / Cons

• Investment in software, hardware and licensing

• Costs to set-up and develop

ACTION

The Irish Prison Service has put in place a secure web version of its primary application (Prisoner Information Management System) – called PIMS Web. PIMS Web is available to the Irish Police force from police locations all over Ireland using a secure login and password. The service is only available on the Irish Government Network and is therefore highly secure.

In addition the IPS cooperates technically in a number of ways with the Police Service of Ireland. Daily we export through a secure encrypted connection a list of all prisoners in custody, in addition to prisoners unlawfully at large. Committals, releases and transfer lists are exported on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Since the introduction of PIMS Web in 2014 this provides a backup service in the unlikely event of PIMS Web failing.

We are in the process of developing a shared hub (eJARC) in conjunction with our Department of Justice colleagues, the Probation Service and the Police force which will allow all three agencies to see information on prolific offenders as they pass through the system.

It is planned that over the next three years, this will be expanded into a shared Justice hub model similar to the Causeway Project in Northern Ireland.

RESULT

PIMS web has been successfully deployed since 2014 and is widely used by the Irish police force.

The IPS will later this year roll out eJARC (Joint Agencies Response to Crime) in conjunction with our justice colleagues. Phase 1 is already complete and in operation.

The Irish Department of Justice will co-ordinate the setting up of an Irish Justice Hub over the next three years. This project is only at the planning stage at this time.

FUTURE

IPS will work in conjunction with the Irish Department of Justice and the other justice groups on a centralised Justice Hub similar to the Causeway Project in Northern Ireland.

This project has commenced and is expected to take two to three years to complete. It will be hosted on servers in the Department of Justice but will take feeds from the IPS and the other justice agencies.

Purposes and functions of the Hub will include:

– delivery of data exchanges

– development of management information

– common counting and reporting across the Irish Justice sector

– delivery of online forms and point of interaction with central Government and equivalent hubs being developed in sectors such as Education and Health and with other trusted external partners

– authoritative host for all data and statistics relevant to the work of the Justice sector.

Once implemented it will allow all of the Justice Agencies to receive in real time information of common interest such as warrants etc
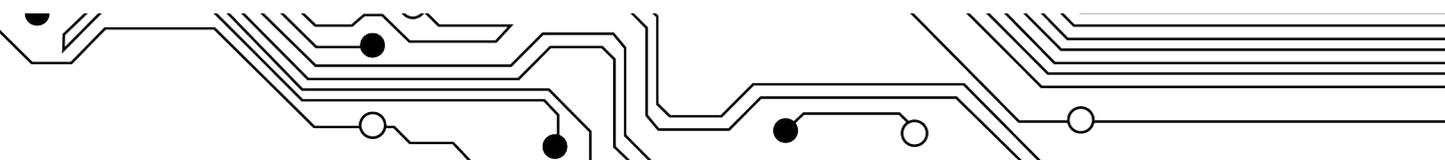
Austrian Prison Service

REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
STRAFVOLLZUG

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Austria is vested in the Minister for Justice. The General Directorate Service operates as a Division within the Ministry of Justice. It is headed by a Director General supported by a Deputy and 5 departments.

The Austrian Justice System with the Prison Service is administered centrally within the Ministry of Justice located in the centre of Vienna, Austria. There are 27 institutions in the Austrian Prison System consisting of fifteen for pre-trial detainees, eight for convicted detainees and four for mentally disturbed offenders and offenders of weaning treatment. Three are "high security" and the others are "medium security" institutions. There are 9,000 prisoners and 3,900 staff in the APS.

TASK

The ministry of the Interior covers all the police competences in Austria. They have a centralized IT System but still several units which act independently. The Police officers have rooms within the prisons to make their system inquires. In this case they have direct access to the prison administration software (IVV). In some prisons they also have online access to their software via a VPN tunnel. On the other side the Austrian prison service has some accounts to access the Police database for criminal records.

When an offender is starting to serve time, we send the record to the court and the population register and after release also to the court and police authorities especially in the case of detention and repatriations.

To make the two bodies work more efficient and professional in sharing information there is still a lot to do.

ACTION

Their a four topics we are working at the moment to enhance the cooperation between the two bodies:
• Evaluation of Information which is transferred non electronically between the authorities
• Direct access to the respective database in case of need
• Offices in every prison for the police authorities with fully connectivity to the police infrastructure via the CNA (Corporate Network Austria)
• ERV (e-Filing & e-Delivery) between Police, Court and Prison Service databases.

RESULT

Direct access to the respective database is working well and may be extended. Also to have the police infrastructure for inquires in each prison is almost on the way and should be implemented by the early 2017. The ERV (e-Filing & e-Delivery) is already set up for the juridical workflow between parties, lawyers, courts and public prosecution offices. In the future it should be used also between Police and Prison Service for import and export data. This project should have its first results by the end of 2016.

Swedish Prison and Probation Service

Kriminalvården

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Austria is vested in the Minister for Justice. The General Directorate Service operates as an independent agency to the Ministry of Justice. It is headed by a Director General supported by a Deputy and 9 departments. Three departments are for core business, Prison and Custody, Probation and Security the other six are for service and support.

The Swedish Justice System with the Prison Service is administered centrally and located 150 km south of Stockholm, Sweden. There are 81 institutions in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service consisting of 31 for pre-trial detainees, 47 for convicted detainees. SPPS has 7 high security (Three of them very high security which actually is an independent prison within a high security prison), 23 are security prisons and the rest open prisons. Four of the open prisons have electronic monitoring.

There are 4,000 prisoners, 2,000 in pre-trial detainees and 12,000 in probation. There are 10,000 staff in the SPPS.

TASK

SPPS has been one agency since 2006. The Police force went from 23 agencies to one agency in January 2015. They have some common IT systems but there are still a lot to do to make the Police force as one working unit when it comes to sharing information etc.

SPPS are getting the conclusion of the sentences via the central police system, we have had them since 1972, and it is working well.

The Police force has a direct access to SPPS OMS system, we use the same system for prison, custody and probation, via three different lines. One direct access to our OMS KVR (Kriminalvårdsregistret), two an own developed application with our information/ data but a little bit easier to read and understand for the common police men. Three a multi-question which is scanning almost every system within the chain of justice for crucial information for the officer on the street. SPPS has direct access to the central police system for certain tasks.

The SPPS OMS system KVR sends information automatically to the central police system every day. We send the status of the sentence, has the offender started to serve time or not and when s/he is released we send the result.

ACTION

We have a project run by the justice department to connect the whole chain of justice and to share information. There are 11 government authorities involved in this project such as Custom service, Coast Guards, Tax authority etc. The plan is to share information on a daily basis but also to get good statistics out of it. For SPPS the main question is to get the sentences directly from the courts and in full text right in to our OMS KVR.

NOTES

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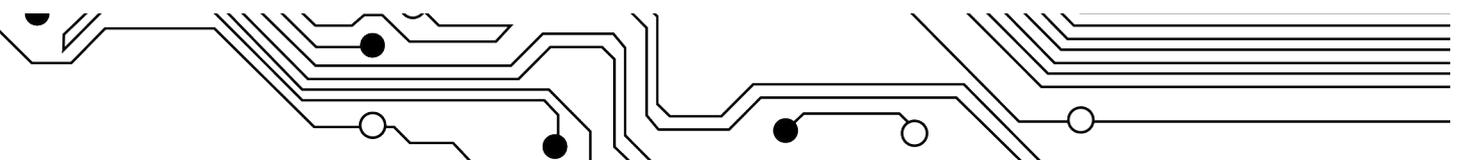
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