



# **REPORT**

**ICT Expert Group  
Meetings 2020 Online**

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**PROMOTING  
PROFESSIONAL  
PRISON  
PRACTICE**

# ICT Expert Meetings Report 2020 Online

## Members of the Group

Iren Irbe, Chairperson (Estonia), Håkan Klarin (Sweden), Hubert Unger (Austria), Marjan Luckavecki (Croatia), Riku Pammo (Finland) later replaced by Pia Puolakka (Finland), Jacques Hensen (Luxemburg), Berker Küçükçetin (Turkey), Antonio Pastor Peral (Catalonia), Puerto Solar (Spain), Alexandre Huyghues- Beaufond (France), Roman Safranek (Czech Republic) resigned from the group due to pressure of work commitments. Kirsten Hawlitschek, Executive Director EuroPris (The Netherlands), George Jackson, Coordinator EuroPris ICT Expert Group (Ireland).

## Summary

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all of the EuroPris ICT Expert Group meetings in 2020 were held online.

Meetings took place online the following dates:

- 19<sup>th</sup> March
- 26<sup>th</sup> March
- 11<sup>th</sup> May
- 5<sup>th</sup> June
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July
- 19<sup>th</sup> August
- 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Key Topics covered in 2020 included the following:**

## ICT Expert Group composition

- One of the first items covered was the election of a new chairperson. After nominations and discussion – Ms. Iren Irbe, the Estonian Prison Service was elected to the position. Iren will act as Chairperson for the next two years.
- The Covid-19 pandemic was discussed by the group in terms of the impact it was having on the various prison services represented in the group, both from a staff and prisoner perspective. The use of technology to help deal with the pandemic was discussed in detail.
- During the early part of the year, Roman Safranek indicated that he would be resigning from the group due to work pressures. The group, therefore, decided to look for a replacement for him. It was agreed that the French nomination would be accepted and Mr. Alexandre Huyghues-Beaufond joined the group.
- In the later part of the year, Mr. Riku Pammo left the Criminal Sanctions Agency and was replaced by Ms. Pia Puolakka from the same agency.

## Review on White paper on Artificial Intelligence

- The EU prepared a White paper on Artificial Intelligence and the ethics around this technology. The expert group was asked to review the paper and revert to the Executive Director. After detailed discussions, the group gave a list of their comments and recommendations to the Executive Director for onward transmission to the EU.

## ICT Matrix

- The ICT Matrix was first prepared and presented by the Swedish Prison Service at the ICT Workshop in Stockholm in 2018. It was discussed and agreed by the group that it was time to refresh and re-issue the ICT Matrix. It was decided that the new ICT Matrix would be presented at the ICT Workshop and then the CIOs/General Directors would be invited to complete it online. Mr. George Jackson was asked by the group to redesign the Matrix with their input. This redesign was completed by George with input from the group over several meetings.

## ICT Workshop 2020

- The ICT Workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. There was much discussion at the meetings about the workshop. The group discussed a physical, hybrid and online Workshop. On balance and given the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel, it was agreed that the Workshop would be fully online in 2020. It was decided by the group to form a sub-committee specifically to deal with the workshop themes, the call for papers and the selection of speakers.
- This sub-group comprised of the following: Iren Irbe, Håkan Klarin, Marjan Luckavecki, Kirsten Hawlitschek and George Jackson.
- The group was ably supported by the EuroPris Secretariat and an outside technical company.
- The sub-group met on several occasions over the summer and into September to agree the themes of the conference and select the conference papers. There was significant interest from member countries given the number of papers received, unfortunately, due to the time constraints it was not possible to use all of the papers and only those deemed most relevant to the Workshop themes could be selected.
- The Workshop took place online on the mornings of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The conference was held via Zoom.
- The Workshop was broken down into plenary presentations and breakout sessions. There were many varied and interesting topics discussed including: intelligent prisons, artificial intelligence, the impact of Covid-19 and the use of technology to assist prisons during the pandemic, video linking, data driven decision making, digital services for inmates, augmented reality, technological developments in the Education of prisoners, integration of smart technologies in prisons and many more.
- The attendance at the workshop was high with 97 attendees on the first morning and 85 attendees on the second morning.
- The presentations and video recording from the Workshop can be found on the EuroPris website at: <https://www.europris.org/events/ict-workshop-online-29-09-30-09-2020/>

Supported by the Justice Programme  
of the European Union



European Organisation  
of Prison and Correctional  
Services (EuroPris)



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