



EuroPris  
PO Box 13635  
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THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF  
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

## **ICT EXPERT GROUP MEETING 12 – 13 December 2013**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

EuroPris held its second ICT expert group meeting. The group was formed from nominated ICT experts, providing representation from a wide geographical area. The group met for a two-day workshop on 12 – 13 December 2013 in Brussels, Belgium.

#### **Role and Purpose of the ICT Expert Group**

Through this expert group EuroPris establishes a platform of experts that are provided with the opportunity to discuss inter-agency cooperation and the exchange of best practice about the use of digital and information technology in prisons.

#### **Composition of the Group**

The ICT Expert Group comprised eight members from National Prison Agencies and was facilitated by Steven van de Steene (Belgium), Kirsten Hawlitschek and Rodica Popa.

Group members were:

- |                                |                                     |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Karin Menses, Netherlands   | 4. Sorin Adrian Grecu Romania       | 7. Karen Crilly, Northern Ireland |
| 2. Fredrik Wilhelmsson, Sweden | 5. Bernardica Franjić-Nadž, Croatia | 8. Martin Bellamy, United Kingdom |
| 3. George Jackson, Ireland     | 6. Johannes Bjørnar Gjetøy, Norway  |                                   |

#### **Summary**

Experts were given an overview of EuroPris work in 2013 – the European Prison Information System, EuroPris projects data base, the Knowledge Management System, e-Codex project.

Experts were asked to evaluate the EuroPris ICT in Prisons workshop in 2013 and also to inform on the outcomes in inter-agency collaboration owing to the workshop. The format of the workshop was considered ideal, the topics relevant for the ICT field, it gave an overview of what the National Prison Agencies are doing and the practical part (visit to a correctional facility) should be kept on the agenda of the next workshop. Regarding the next ICT workshop, the suggestion was to seek to get more countries involved and present. After the workshop, bilateral collaborations between Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden have resulted.

Each expert described the current ICT developments and projects of their National Prison Administrations, sharing also the difficulties encountered in implementing them:



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### Ireland

- Project for video links for courts, to lower costs on transportation of inmates to the court;
- Break down of ICT kit by inmates – quite successful project, prisoners are lining up;
- Security within the prisons – grant access to certain areas to certain people;
- Collaborations with the Probation Service - looking into opening a case management system including Probation and private NGOs;
- Skype for prisoners – for visits for the family.

### Northern Ireland

- Building a new prison – iPad for the officers, new door technology - as soon as the officer goes near the cell the camera and microphone goes on. Difficulty – finding contractors to get responsibility for the whole package.

### Croatia

- Improving the offender management system.

### Netherlands

- Replace staff with IT;
- Closing down 20 prisons – crime rate going down;
- Implementing electronic monitoring from 1<sup>st</sup> of July;
- Starting a pilot on ICT on cell;
- Electronic health system;
- Implementing a new transportation system;
- Video conferencing with courts with increasing demand in the supporting process of the inmate, such as the religious department.

### Norway

- Infrastructure development;
- New offender management system;
- Using internet as carrier – a cloud management of the system;

### Sweden

- Reorganization of the prison and probation services;
- Case management system – rebuilding it and connecting the whole chain from custody to prison to probation in 2 years;
- Electronic monitoring – the wish is to increase it but Sweden has a decrease in the prison population, currently below 3000 inmates. EM will be used on short time leaves from prison;
- Platform for education – a prisoner can study with a teacher no matter the location. They want to have the platform for other things, similar to prison cloud;
- Biggest problem – the connection, no one will provide any more wire to the system, but they will probably buy a new communication system

### Belgium

- Much investment in infrastructure;
- 2 new prisons – same difficulty as Northern Ireland in finding private contractors to offer the whole package;



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- Renewal of the offender management system;
- Launching of the prison cloud system – will go live at the end of February 2014;

#### Romania

- Implementation of a resource management system in all 5 pillars of the judicial system. Have completed 2 data centers, currently waiting for the software to be implemented – financial, human resources, registry;
- Prison management system – transportation of the luggage is designed as a ticketing service, covering every route in the country;
- Develop a dashboard to bring together the different systems;
- Concern of mobile phones – create a system which has the technology to detect the phones, not blocking because is both expensive and jamming also affects civil citizens around the prison.

This discussion was considered very useful by the participants, in terms of finding out different solutions to the same problem as well as learning about challenges that are likely to appear and about what mistakes to avoid.

Next topic on the agenda was the organisation in 2014 of the second EuroPris “ICT in prisons” workshop. The Irish Prison Service offered to host the workshop in Portlaoise, Ireland. During the meeting the topics of interest that should be dealt with at the workshop were proposed and discussed by the experts:

1. Use of biometrics and RFID tagging – Ireland and Northern Ireland;
2. New technologies in prison, Intelligent camera & CCTV systems;
3. Communication for inmates – Netherlands and Belgium;
4. Use of mobile devices in prison.

The date of the event was established for 3- 4 April 2014.

In day two of the meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> December, the expert group visited Beveren prison, where an on the spot presentation was delivered on Prison Cloud, a secure service delivery platform for prisoner self- services. After that the experts were able to see and experience the prison cloud system in the prison cells of Beveren.

The meeting concluded with the following next steps:

- 1) To identify speakers and to finalise the EuroPris workshop agenda;
- 2) To launch the invitations to the workshop by the end of February;
- 3) Hold the ICT in prisons workshop on 3-4 April 2014, Portlaoise, Ireland;
- 4) To continue communication between experts on ICT Yammer group



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