



New expert group

on

Prison Security

Two-year term

Call for nominations: New expert group on Prison Security

New expert group

EuroPris invites members to nominate experts for the first term of the newly installed expert group on Prison security. At the AGM in Seville 2022, the members voted on the introduction of the topic of Prison Security as a new expert group in EuroPris. As every new group, it will operate for two years, spring 2023 until spring 2025. After this period, the Board decides about extending and refreshing the group to give other members the opportunity to join.

Introduction

While the common image of prisons gives the impression that they are closed worlds, the reality is that modern prisons operate in a global context. Prisons today face complex and serious security threats from organised crime gangs, violent extremists and cybercriminals who increasingly operate across borders. Understanding and responding to these threats requires international cooperation. Like other sectors of the economy, the security industry is becoming more globalised and new technologies and solutions are being developed to respond to the threats observed in different countries. In addition, the management of correctional security is becoming more interconnected through regional and global organisations such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations, which seek to harmonise and create core standards for key aspects of the correctional system, promote professional cooperation and disseminate best practices. With the increasing globalisation of security threats, the security industry and prison management, there is an opportunity to bring EuroPris members together to identify more systematically how cooperation can be used to better identify and respond to security threats.

Enhancing and improving public safety and security - EuroPris made this its vision. With reference to this, it is necessary to focus on one of the fundamental tasks of prison practice – security – a daily and omnipresent topic in the justice system.

Planning for the term

Topics to work on and areas to discuss and share experiences can be:

- Innovating countermeasures to respond to threats
 - Technological countermeasures like body scanners, drug detection, body-worn cameras, anti-drone solutions
 - Procedural measures such as effective searches, property checks, surveillance
- Improving practice - security by people (effective practices in recruitment, selection, development, monitoring and remuneration of security personnel also in specialised areas such as intelligence and counter-terrorism)
- Identifying and analysing security threats (new security threats and tactics from psychoactive substances, drones and cybercrime, assessments and observations to

identify emerging issues and future threats, approaches to identify and assess threats in order to develop technical procedures)

- Integrating security and rehabilitation (practices that promote effective integration, measures to reduce the disproportionate impact of security measures on ethnic minorities, safe access to rehabilitation, dynamic security focusing on good relationships between staff and prisoners)
- Human rights and scrutiny (national and international human rights frameworks, findings of courts, inspection and enforcement bodies, security policies, proactive measures to promote human rights compliance like training, supervision and monitoring, identifying equality and security issues, adaptation and alternative practices in relation to specific groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities)
- Research, evidence and evaluation (internal and external research evaluations in the security field, effective practices, research in the wider security field like police and other law enforcement)

The following activities are planned:

- Two physical meetings (1,5 days annually, hosted by one of the group members)
- One physical event (once in two years, e.g. EuroPris workshop)
- Online meetings (every second month, depending on the need)

Membership

The expert group is to be composed of experts from 10 European national agencies, coming from different areas of Europe nominated by EuroPris members for 2 years. An expert of a topic is also an ambassador of the sending agency.

Purpose and Role of the Expert Group

The expert group will work collaboratively to assist in the collection, sharing and dissemination of information that provides value to EuroPris Members. It can include:

- Sharing details on the experts' current work, significant projects and challenges they are facing in their jurisdiction
- Suggesting topics for the agenda of the meetings
- Outcomes of discussions and advice can be shared with the EuroPris members and the wider EuroPris network
- Creating reports, overviews or findings that serve the needs of the wider EuroPris network on best practices and lessons learnt
- Active role in dissemination on national and international level

Responsibilities/duties

- Representation the country (*speaking in the role of own jurisdiction, sharing national-specific challenges and possible solutions*)
- Sharing own expertise and knowledge
- Preparing, attending and actively participating in the meetings

- Working on outputs (*Overviews, reports, best practice collections etc.*)
- Organising events and contributing (*speaker selection, providing content, presentation*)
- Reporting back to agency: Dissemination and promotion of the work and results

Requirements/Expert profile

- Expertise, interest in, and experience with the subject
- Commitment to (international) working groups
- Appropriate time allocation for the tasks
- English language (not mandatory, translator also possible)
- Self-discipline, engagement, teamplayer

EuroPris service/Role of EuroPris

A member of the EuroPris Secretariat will act as a Coordinator. The EuroPris Secretariat will facilitate the work of the Expert Group and support the achievement of the set goals like publishing outcomes etc. For the in-person meetings and events, EuroPris covers the costs for travel and accommodation and makes all necessary logistical arrangements.

Nomination

-*Motivation letter* for joining the expert group, including:

- Relevance of this topic for your country and experiences
- Reasons for your service to nominate this expert: What your expert is expecting to bring to and to learn from the group
- Nominees' specific expertise: Note on the professional background and relevant topics

-CV of the nominee

Submit your nomination to secretariat@europis.org at the latest until **10 March 2023**

Selection procedure

EuroPris follows an established selection procedure for expert groups. Based on the number of nominations, EuroPris selects depending on the jurisdiction's participation in other EuroPris expert groups (priority for least participation), a regional balance (North-South / East-West), the country's relevance of the topic and finally the nominee's specific expertise as well as expertise with the objective. In cases of equal qualification, gender balance is also considered.