

Renewal



of the

ICT in Prisons Expert Group

Two-year term

Call for nominations: Renewal of the ICT in Prisons Expert Group

Renewal

Every two years, EuroPris expert groups are terminated or continued. After its fourth term, the ICT in Prisons Expert Group is now to be renewed and will run for another period of two years, spring 2023 until spring 2025. The opportunity will be given to members not currently in the group to become part and benefit from the content. Therefore, EuroPris is starting a new round of this group and inviting members to nominate their experts.

Introduction

ICT in prisons was addressed first in 2012/13 starting off the first topical expert group of EuroPris. Besides organising five EuroPris workshops and TIC-Conferences, their main outputs are five reports: *Telemedicine, Cloud and Data Protection, Collaboration between Penal System and Police (2016), ICT for release preparation and Payments in prison case study (2017)*. Moreover, they developed an ICT Matrix, a tool for mapping stages of technology development and for collecting solutions in three areas: Global Technology Facilities, Digital Tools for Staff, and Digital Tools for Inmates.

The ICT topic is still trending, and the demand of ICT solutions is growing in Europe. Technologies are changing society being embedded in all areas, not stopping at prisons. Fast communication, new software applications based on a modern enterprise architecture, knowledge economy, and a networked culture, are the driving forces for a new, modern, digitally connected society. Smart solutions and applications are now influencing the lives of prisoners: E-learning, internet access, mobile devices for staff and inmates, cell-based telephony, cloud services, biometrics, video conferencing, telemedicine, and smart watches.

There are still differences in the digital maturity between prisons, and prison services, due to internal capacities, allocated resources, security regulations and legislation. There is a critical benefit of being EuroPris expert: The well-functioning EuroPris ICT network answers to each other's technical questions and examples of each other's technical experience. The role is associated with a high expertise and good reputation.

Planning for the term

Currently the experts are preparing articles on technological topics like Prison Digitalisation, describing situations, risks and benefits for this area. For the coming term, reflections on Offender Management Systems are conceivable, as well as the current highly relevant topic of Artificial Intelligence, including applications and problems. This will be addressed also to support and accompany European bodies like the Council of Europe on their way to formulate guidelines and recommendations. For the term the following activities are planned:

- Two physical meetings (1,5 days annually, hosted by one of the group members)
- Two physical events (Technology in Corrections conference in 2024 and EuroPris ICT workshop in the beginning of 2025)
- Online meetings (monthly or 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 includes:

- 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 (*Articles, Matrix 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 (excluding TIC conference), 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 take home from the group
- Nominees' specific expertise: Note on the professional background and relevant topics

-CV of the nominee

Submit your nomination to secretariat@europris.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.