



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF
PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Presenting EPIS to PC-OC

On 23rd May, EuroPris was invited to the 72nd plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC) to present its *European Prison Information System (EPIS)*. With a rise in cross-jurisdictional criminality across European states it has become a challenge for administrations as they undertake their procedures in seeking to repatriate a foreign inmate to his/her country of origin. In making such decisions an administration must take into consideration recommendations made under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons [R (84) 11] and Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA and as such require necessary information in order to assess an application for transfer.

Representing EuroPris, Systems Manager, Mr. Fraser Bryans provided an overview of the centralised information resource '*EPIS*', which currently holds data on a number of European Prison Agencies and is made accessible to prison officials and related authorities. This system, which provides a base platform for the collection and dissemination of prison related information, continues to develop so that it can be utilised as source of data for a variety of purposes. In the context of conducting prisoner transfers there is no doubt a great deal of information is required by an authority, and further exploration will be needed to ascertain whether the data currently held can be useful, or if the system needs to be further developed to collaboratively assist in the collection of such details.

This initiative to provide a central information source has seen some success in facilitating knowledge transfer between prison agencies, with some 400+ questions covering 90 topics having been relayed between jurisdictions since it began in 2014 and a significant number of agencies voluntarily providing their organisational data. More recently, as part of its Multiannual European e-Justice Action Plan, it has also been proposed to create linkages between the e-Justice platform and EPIS to increase the accessibility of prison information and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

These are positive steps for the future of the EPIS system and EuroPris remains committed to working in partnership with all European Prison Agencies and competent authorities to further develop this crucial knowledgebase of information.

Contact a member of our team to find out more about the EPIS tool and how you can contribute to this exciting initiative.

Access the [European Prison Information System](#) here (login required for restricted information).