

Strasbourg, 26 March 2024

PC-CP (2024) 2

COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION

(PC-CP)

**34th Working Group Meeting
Strasbourg, 20-22 March 2024**

SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

**Document prepared by the
Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND DECISIONS TAKEN

The PC-CP WG:

- Welcomed the four new PC-CP WG elected members from France, Italy, Slovenia and UK, as well as the delegates from Georgia and the Netherlands and the scientific experts;
- Welcomed the new Head of the Criminal Law Division and Secretary to the CDPC, Ms Eva PASTRANA who briefly presented herself as well as the current priority work of the CDPC;
- Held a round table of brief presentations of the professional background of all participants;
- Adopted their agenda and their order to business without amendments;
- Considered the reports of the PC-CP WG and plenary meetings in 2023 and had no comments to make;
- Took note of the information provided by Iliana Taneva, Secretary to the PC-CP, regarding the last CDPC plenary meeting and more specifically regarding the decisions taken relating to the PC-CP area of competence and work, including the approval of the draft Recommendation on AI and its explanatory report at the CDPC plenary meeting in November 2023, which will be sent to the Committee of Ministers for adoption in May, after the opening for signature of the Framework Convention on AI;
- Appointed their new gender mainstreaming rapporteur, Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič (Slovenia);
- Considered their terms of reference for the current year as well as for 2025-2027 and agreed on the workplan, namely that:
 - ✓ the text of the draft CM Recommendation on the management of mental disorders and the promotion of positive mental health by the prison and probation services and its explanatory report will be finalised as planned until the end of 2024;
 - ✓ the draft CM Recommendation updating Recommendation (89)12 on education in prison and its explanatory report shall be finalised by the end of 2025;
 - ✓ the commentary to CM Recommendation (2012)12 on foreign prisoners shall be revised by the end of 2026;
 - ✓ the Council of Europe Probation Rules shall be revised by the end of 2027;
- In response to questions from some PC-CP WG members Ms Taneva explained that the PC-CP, when considering the different tasks to fulfil in accordance with its mandate, may come to some conclusions like to suggest to the CDPC that not only the commentary but also the text of the Recommendation on foreign prisoners needs revision and vis-versa that the Probation Rules do not need revision but only their commentary need one or both and wait for further instructions in this sense. She insisted that all these issues be discussed when a specific task is carried out;
- Thanked Dirk van Zyl Smit and Ronald Gramigna, scientific experts on mental health for their work in revising the draft Recommendation on the same subject after the PC-CP plenary meeting in 2023, considered the text and made some additional comments and suggestions;
- Instructed the experts to provide a revised draft with a more developed explanatory report to it not later than 30 April in order to give sufficient time to the PC-CP WG members to consider the revised text and prepare possible comments and suggestions to be discussed at the next PC-CP WG meeting in May;
- Welcomed the two new scientific experts on education in prison, Ms Anne Costelloe (Ireland) and Mr Jim King (UK), took note of the background information provided by them regarding their professional experience, further took note of their presentations and thanked them for having accepted to assist the PC-CP in this task;

- Thanked also EuroPris for having discussed in detail the question of education in prison in a working group and for having produced a survey and a report on this;
- Considered the proposals made by the experts for revision of Recommendation (89)12, made some specific proposals for amendments and additions to the text and gave some concrete instructions to the scientific experts how to develop further the draft text in due time for the next PC-CP WG meeting at the end of May this year;
- Some hesitations were expressed by some participants whether or not to include education for those under probation in the text as the situation is not the same and the offers and obligations in this area differ in prison and for the probation services and it was decided to come back to this issue at a later stage of the drafting process;
- It was decided that juveniles will be excluded from the scope of the Recommendation as their educational needs and approach differ from adults;
- Digital literacy should be included in the rules but the need to preserve the positive human contact should be underlined;
- Instructed the experts to produce a revised text not later than 30 April in order to give sufficient time to the PC-CP WG members to consider the revised text and prepare possible comments and suggestions to be discussed at the next PC-CP WG meeting in May;
- Took note of the information provided by Ms Nadya Radkovska (Bulgaria) regarding the state of preparation of the 29th CDPPS (24-25 June 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria);
- Considered its draft programme and made some additional proposals regarding the organisation of the workshops and the speakers;
- Took note of the information provided by the participants on past or on forthcoming meetings organised elsewhere, including by EuroPris, CEP, ICPA and UNODC and on the possible occasions for participation and promotion of the Council of Europe work and standards at these events;
- Took note of the information provided by their gender rapporteur that altogether there were 27 participants according to the list of participants. Out of these 15 were women. Regarding the PC – CP WG members, 6 out of 9 elected members were women, regarding the Secretariat, 3 out of 4 members participating in the meeting were women. Considering scientific experts, 2 were women and 3 were men.
- During the meeting it was reiterated that in the current PC-CP WG work, the gender aspect will continue to be included in the following topics:
 - ✓ the Draft Recommendation on the management of mental disorders and the promotion of positive mental health by the prison and probation services the gender aspect should be involved within general principles;
 - ✓ within the updating Recommendation (89)12 on education in prison (including also offenders under probation) gender aspect should be considered when addressing the needs of prisoners.
- Regarding the organisation of the contents of the 29th CDPPS, it was observed that some presentations will include a gender perspective. In addition, it was noted that 16 moderators and speakers are women and 14 are men;
- Agreed to invite to their plenary meeting in November Roisin Mulgrew and Professor Tomczak (Ireland) to present their survey on deaths in prison as well as to welcome to the meeting Professor Marcelo Aebi who will present the latest edition of SPACE I and SPACE II;
- The dates of the next meetings were re-confirmed, namely: 35th PC-CP WG meeting (28-30 May 2024); 36th PC-CP WG meeting (17-19 September 2024) and PC-CP plenary meeting (5-7 November 2024).

AGENDA

	1. Opening of the meeting
	2. Adoption of the agenda and the order of business
	3. Presentation of the new PC-CP WG members and scientific experts
PC-CP(2023)1 PC-CP(2023)7 PC-CP(2023)11 PC-CP(2023)12	4. Summary meeting reports of the PC-CP Working Group and last Plenary meeting
CDPC(2023)09 PC-CP ToR (2024-2027)	5. Information provided by the Secretariat
PC-CP(2023)8Rev3	6. Draft CM Recommendation on the management of mental disorders and the promotion of positive mental health by the prison and probation services
Draft Programme Practical Information	7. Round table discussion regarding the 29th CDPPS (24-25 June 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria)
PC-CP(2024)1 EuroPris Prison Education Table of Recommendations and Practices	8. Updating Recommendation (89)12 on education in prison (including also offenders under probation)
	9. Reviewing and updating the commentary to Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)12 on foreign prisoners
	10. Revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules
	11. Gender mainstreaming
	12. Feedback from participation in other meetings
	13. Any other business
	14. Dates of the next PC-CP meetings (28-31 May; 17-19 September; 5-7 November 2024)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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