



Strasbourg, 20 November 2025

PC-CP (2025) 12

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

15th Plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2025

List of Decisions

The Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) held its 15th Plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 18-20 November 2025 with Ms Laura Negredo López in the Chair.

The PC-CP:

1. Opening of the meeting

- Took note of the opening speech by Mr Hugh Chetwynd, Head of Department on Deprivation of Liberty, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, who provided information about the latest developments within the Council of Europe of interest for the PC-CP and welcomed all participants to the meeting.
- Welcomed its newly appointed Secretary, Ms Louise Riondel.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and the Order of business

- Adopted the Agenda and the Order of Business without amendments.

3. Summary meeting reports of the 2025 PC-CP Working Group meetings

- Took note of the meeting reports of the 2025 PC-CP Working Group meetings and congratulated Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) and Ms Carla Ciavarella (Italy), for their election as Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC-CP, respectively.

4. Information provided by the Secretariat

- Took note of the information provided by Ms Eva Pastrana, Head of the Criminal Law Division and Secretary to the Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), regarding the meetings and decisions related to the work of the CDPC, and its sub-committee for criminal justice cooperation (PC-OC), including those of relevance to the PC-CP work and mandate.
- Took note also of the information provided by Ms Louise Riondel regarding the elections of four new Members of the PC-CP Working Group, which will take place during the 88th CDPC Plenary Meeting (25-27 November 2025). Ms Riondel informed that five candidatures have been received. The PC-CP stressed the importance of achieving gender balance, but also a good distribution of professional expertise among the members of the Working Group.

5. Draft CM Recommendation on Education in prison and its draft Explanatory Memorandum

- Took note of a presentation by the Scientific experts working on the draft Recommendation on education in prison and its Explanatory Memorandum, Ms Anne Costelloe, Mr James King, and Mr Harvey Slade.
- Examined and finalised the draft Recommendation and its Explanatory Memorandum and thanked the scientific experts and the PC-CP Working Group members for their excellent work.
- Instructed the Secretariat to transmit both texts to the CDPC.

6. Revision of CM Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)12 concerning Foreign Prisoners and its Explanatory Memorandum

- Took note of a presentation by the Scientific experts working on the draft Recommendation concerning Foreign nationals in prison and probation, Ms Róisín Mulgrew, Mr Michael Sorger and Mr Daniel Danglades concerning the preliminary draft of the revised Recommendation.

- Examined the draft text and made comments and suggestions for amendments to be taken into consideration by the scientific experts and the PC-CP Working Group in their subsequent work on the text.

7. Council of Europe Probation Rules

- Took note of a presentation by Ms Jana Špero-Kamenjarin, Secretary General of the CEP, concerning the Survey on the use and revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules prepared by the CEP and approved by the PC-CP Working Group.
- Held an exchange of views on how to proceed with the work on the revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules, for which the deadline is 31 December 2027.

8. SPACE Statistics

- Took note of Mr Marcelo Aebi's presentation of the latest SPACE I and SPACE II statistics and thanked him and his team for the world-renowned quality of their work on penal statistics.

9. Outcome of the 30th CDPPS (24-25 September 2025, Kraków, Poland) and preparation of the 31st CDPPS (3-4 June 2026, Valletta, Malta)

- Took note of the outcomes of the 30th Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) which was held in Kraków, Poland on 24 and 25 September 2025 under the theme "Can we move away from the overuse of penal sanctions?".
- Took note of the feedback from participants gathered from the analysis of responses to an evaluation survey circulated by the Secretariat in order to identify potential areas of improvement for future editions of this important annual event.
- Took note the information provided by the representative of the Delegation of Malta, Mr Christopher Siegersma, regarding the ongoing organisation of the 31st CDPPS in Valletta, Malta on 3-4 June 2026.
- Discussed the format of the event and potential themes, for the consideration of the Working Group.

10. Discussion of the outcomes of the seminar on foreign national offenders

- Took note of a presentation by Ms Róisín Mulgrew on the outcomes of the seminar on foreign national offenders hosted at the University of Galway on 26 June 2025, in the context of the ongoing work on the revision of the Recommendation concerning Foreign National Offenders.

11. Restorative justice

- Took note of the information provided by Ms Eva Pastrana on the ongoing work of the CDPC concerning restorative justice, and of the invitation extended to the PC-CP to actively participate in upcoming activities, including the preparation of the Draft guidelines for implementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 on restorative justice in criminal matters, to be finalised by the end of 2027.
- Took note of a presentation by Ms Laura Hein from the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) on existing and potential future Council of Europe work in the field of restorative justice and their potential impact on penological work, and held an exchange of views with her, including on the possible organisation of an event on restorative justice in Strasbourg during the biennium 2026-2027.

12. Women in prison and probation

- Took note of a presentation by Ms Veronica Filippeschi from the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and discussed the possibility of addressing this theme in the future, for example in a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers.
- Decided to keep this topic on the agenda of upcoming meetings.

13. Co-operation activities in the penitentiary field

- Took note of the presentation made by Ms Raluca Ivan, Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division (CPDL), Council of Europe on the current cooperation activities in the penitentiary field in 16 Council of Europe member States, as well as on the outcomes of the multilateral conference on women in prison which took place on 12 and 13 November 2025.

14. Gender mainstreaming

- Took note of the information provided by their gender rapporteur Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič, namely that 62 participants attended the meeting and out of these 28 are men and 34 are women. Between the PC-CP Working Group, the Council of Europe Secretariat and interpreters, there were 10 women and 5 men. Among scientific experts there are 2 women and 4 men. She mentioned that the gender perspective is included in every aspect of the current work of the PC-CP, namely the updating of the CM Recommendation on education in prison, the revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules, the revision the CM Recommendation on foreign prisoners, SPACE I and SPACE II. She also warmly welcomed the consideration of the theme of women in prison and probation for a future recommendation of the Committee of Ministers, as well as the publication by the CPT of standards on women in detention in Spring 2026.

15. Feedback from participation in other meetings

- Took note of the information provided by Ms Louise Riondel concerning the participation of Mr Fernando Miró Llinarès to the Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Technology in Prisons, which took place on 10-12 November 2025 in Vienna, Austria, and was jointly organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). On this occasion, Mr Miró Llinarès represented the PC-CP as Scientific expert having worked on Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States regarding the ethical and organisational aspects of the use of artificial intelligence and related digital technologies by prison and probation services. The event focused on the development of a Handbook on the Use of Technology in Prisons currently being drafted and aiming at providing Member States with guidance for the responsible and human-rights-based implementation of digital tools in custodial environments.

16. Any other business

- Did not raise any point under this Agenda item.

17. Dates of the next PC-CP meetings

- Took note of the dates of the PC-CP Working Group meetings to be held in Strasbourg in the coming year, namely 3-5 February 2026, 14-16 April 2026 and 15-17 September 2026.
- Decided to hold its next Plenary Meeting on 3-5 November 2026 in Strasbourg.

18. Adoption of the list of decisions

- Adopted the list of decisions.