

# Press Release

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## Polish project wins 2009 "Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice" Prize

Strasbourg, 05.06.2009 - The Central Board Prison Service of Poland is the winner of the 2009 Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice Prize, with the project "Voluntary work of convicts in Poland".

During the plenary session of the Justice Forum in Brussels, three special distinctions were awarded to:

- General Public Prosecutor's Office of the Land Brandenburg (Germany), with the project SAS-E-Justice used in the Public Prosecutor's office of the land Brandenburg
- Association for probation and mediation in Justice (Czech Republic), with the project Mentor Scheme
- Amsterdam District Court, Criminal Law Department (The Netherlands) with the project European Criminal Law and Humanitarian Rights Chamber.

Prior to the prize-giving ceremony, the Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio gave a speech on shared values by the Council of Europe and the European Union for improving the functioning of judicial systems.

In 2005 the Council of Europe and the European Commission created the biennial European "Crystal Scales of Justice" prize for innovative practices in civil justice organisation and procedures in the courts of Europe. In 2009, for the first time, a prize has been organised for projects designed to improve justice organisation and procedures, mutual knowledge and exchange of best practice in the area of criminal justice. The Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice prize is aimed at discovering and promoting innovative and effective practices in respect of the conduct of criminal proceedings and court organisation, in order to improve the operation of the public system of criminal justice in the Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

**More information:** [www.coe.int/CEPEJ](http://www.coe.int/CEPEJ)

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