

26TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICES

20-21 September 2021, Funchal, Madeira - Portugal



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1- The Conference

- **DATE AND VENUE:** The 26th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services will take place at VIDAMAR RESORTS HOTEL (<https://madeira.vidamarresorts.com/>) in Funchal-Madeira, Portugal, starting at 9.00 a.m. on Monday 20th September, and closing at 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st September 2021.
- **WORKING LANGUAGES:** The working languages of the Conference will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation during the plenary sessions and in one of the four workshops. In the remaining workshops the working language will be English only. The workshops will be repeated in order to allow for simultaneous interpretation to be provided during most of them.
- **REGISTRATION:** The Conference is open to invited participants only. Each participant in the Conference has to register using the online registration form available on the Conference website (<https://www.coe.intcdpps2021>). **The registration will be closed on 10 September 2021.**
- **WORKING DOCUMENTS:** All working documents for the Conference will be posted on the Conference website which will be regularly updated. Please note that no working documents will be printed out and distributed during the Conference.
- **The participants who are registered for following the Conference online will be sent by e-mail the link to the event.**

2- General Information

- **HOTEL OF THE CONFERENCE:** The VIDAMAR RESORTS HOTEL is a five-stars hotel situated in Funchal on the south coast of the Madeira Island.
- **OFFICIAL INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19:** In view of the global pandemic situation, originated by the novice coronavirus SARS-COV-2, it was the primary concern of the Regional Government of Madeira to ensure the protection and integral well-being of its citizens and tourists. In this sense, the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo are a pioneer destination in the fight against COVID-19, being the first region in Portugal to have a **Contingency Plan for Emerging Infections**, to develop a best practices document and create an online platform for the registration of travellers (madeirasafe.com).

- The Autonomous Region of Madeira currently presents a controlled epidemiological situation, with a low rate of infection and active cases, registered to date, as evidenced by the data published by the **Regional Health Authority**. Considered one of the safest destinations in Europe, based on recognized proven criteria, the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) was able to combine safety and leisure, providing its visitors with a peaceful and comfortable vacation or business visit, thus justifying the epithet of the **World's Leading Island Destination**.
- At present, those who land at airports in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, can enter via the "green corridor" provided they present the vaccination certificate or proof of recovery from COVID-19, or a negative PCR test.
- On the other hand, passengers who have not undergone PCR testing at their location of origin will do so upon arrival at the airport, then proceed to their destination, thus having to fully comply with the surveillance and self-reporting of symptoms, as well as the COVID-19 preventive measures, until a negative test result is obtained. Travellers should schedule the PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 infection, by registering on the website www.madeirasafe.com or at the Emergency and Public Health Unit, with a minimum of 4 days in advance (96 hours), via the following e-mail: saudepublica.drs@madeira.gov.pt.
- Taking the PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 infection does not incur any charges for the traveller.
- It should be noted that, due to the epidemiological evolution, trips between Madeira and Porto Santo Islands are currently subject to control, wherefore passengers who disembark at Porto Santo Airport, on a flight from Madeira Airport, or vice versa, must carry a TRAg test for SARS-CoV-2, with a negative result, carried out within a maximum period of 48 hours prior to boarding, or a PCR screening test for SARS-CoV-2 infection, with a negative result, carried out within a maximum period of 72 hours prior to boarding.
- The TRAg test for SARS-CoV-2 can be undertaken in pharmacies, laboratories, clinics and collection stations that adhere to the massive testing campaign by the Regional Government, without any charges for travellers, according to information laid down in Resolution No. 694/2021 (Portuguese version). Taking the TRAg test for SARS-CoV-2 infection does not incur any charges for the traveller.
- Recommend all travellers disembarking in the Archipelago of Madeira and those traveling between islands (Madeira and Porto Santo), whether by air or sea, to register on the website www.madeirasafe.com.
- In Madeira all local and tourist are obliged to **wear masks in the public areas** of the Hotel, in the Congress Centre and in the meeting rooms, restaurants (except when seated at the table eating), etc. **In the streets everybody is obliged to wear masks except if they are jogging or exercising.**
- **WEATHER:** The island has a subtropical climate - warm in the summer (22°-24°C) and mild in the winter (18°-22°C). The water temperature is also pleasant all year round due to the warming influences of the Golf Stream. This a high-quality European destination unknown by the majority of the participants. Funchal, the capital city lies between the deep blue of the ocean and the lush green of the mountains behind. Is a bustling cosmopolitan city with a multitude of good places to visit.
- **ACCESSIBILITY:** Madeira airport informally known as Funchal Airport is located 13 km from the city centre (about 30 minutes). Transportation from the airport to the hotels: There are 4 ways to get from Funchal Airport (FNC) to VidaMar Resort Hotel Madeira and the neighbouring booked hotels for Conference participants:
 - **Bus** - Take the bus from Funchal Airport - 39 min; Cost: 5 €
 - **Taxi** - Take a taxi from Funchal Airport (FNC) - 19 min; Cost: 17- 21 €
 - **Towncar** - You can rent a car from Funchal Airport - 19 min; Cost: 24- 35 €
- **CURRENCY:** As a member of the European Monetary System, since the 1st of January 2002, the local currency Escudo was replaced by the Euro.
- **DRIVING:** Vehicles drive on the right side of the road. The use of safety belts is compulsory, and children under 12 must ride in the back seats. Valid driving licenses from EU countries, the USA, Canada and other major countries are acceptable for use in Portugal up to 6 months stay.
- **ELECTRIC CURRENT:** Mains electricity in Madeira is a 230 Volts 50 Hz system. Madeira uses the Europlug (CEE 7/16).

- **EXCHANGE:** Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops and restaurants. Travellers' cheques and currency can be changed at hotels or at a bank - these are open Monday to Friday from 08h30 to 15h00. Automatic changing and cash dispensing machines linked to international networks are also widely available.
- **MEDICAL CARE:** Clinics and hospitals provide round the clock emergency service. The national emergency phone number is 112. Hotels have a doctor on call through the reception. Reciprocal E.C. cover is available at out-patient departments, otherwise private consultation fees are charged.
- **PASSPORTS AND VISAS:** A valid passport (or identity card for European Community nationals) is required. Visas are not necessary for citizens of EU countries, the U.S.A., Canada and the majority of countries. Please contact your local Portuguese Embassy, Consulate or your Travel Agency for further information.
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** There is a wide inexpensive network in all towns and cities. In Lisboa, city of the seven hills, you can choose between bus, underground metro, elevators, electric trams or railway, within the city or to the suburbs. Trains and express bus service also link the main towns of the country.
- **RECREATION:** Excellent golf courses, tennis and squash courts, water sports and horse riding tempt the energetic delegates. There are also many noteworthy museums and monuments, sunny beaches to explore.
- **RELIGIOUS SERVICES:** Portugal is predominantly Catholic, but a wide number of other religions (Protestant, Christian, Moslem, Jewish, and Hindu, among others) are also represented. Please inquire at hotel reception for times and places of services.
- **SALES / TAX:** Sales tax (VAT) is included in prices quoted. For non E.U. residents, tax free shopping schemes are available in many shops, which gives substantial savings to visitors.
- **SECURITY:** Crime rates in Portugal are among the lowest in the world. Hotels have their own security staff, which is sufficient for most events. Specialist firms are also available if necessary, and the police provide special protection for visiting dignitaries and high-risk individuals.
- **SHOPS:** Shops are open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm Monday to Friday, and 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays. In major town centres and in many shopping malls, they stay open during lunch hours, and close later at night, including weekend. Fine leather goods, lead crystal ware, porcelain, vintage wines, golden and silver filigree, pottery and specialist textiles are considered excellent buys in Portugal.
- **SMOKING:** Smoking is forbidden by law in public transportation, and in closed public areas.