

Promoting Professional Prison Practice



Supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)5

**Children of Prisoners Expert Group
of EuroPris**

25 - 27 October 2022, Strasbourg – PC-CP plenary

Justina Dzienko, Deputy Director



Funded by
the European Union

The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services

Den Haag, 2011

Funding of the European Commission

Board of Director Generals

Network of 35 member jurisdictions within
Council of Europe region



Promoting Professional Prison Practice

Mission & Vision

- Recognised authority on prison practice & expertise
- Voice of prison professionals
- Promoter of rights-based imprisonment

Goals

- Improve detention standards & practice
- Reduce re-offending
- Advance professionalism of staff

→ Improve public security and safety

Sharing of Knowledge

Expert Groups

ICT in Prisons I Framework Decision 909 I Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation I Real estate & logistics I Children of Prisoners I Domestic violence in Prison and Probation

Workshops

ICT Inmate's Digital Journey I Children of Prisoners I Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation I Domestic violence I Family Relations Juveniles & young adult offenders in Prison & Probation I Forecasting I Risk Assessment I Radicalisation I Mental health

Webinars

Director General Webinar I Increasing Capacity I Victim's Rights I Management of sexual offenders I

Seminars with Criminal Justice Platform Europe

Summer course (Responses to sexual violence, Radicalisation, Desistance, Engaging offenders to change)

Conferences

Technology in Corrections I Correctional Research Symposium

Prison Data

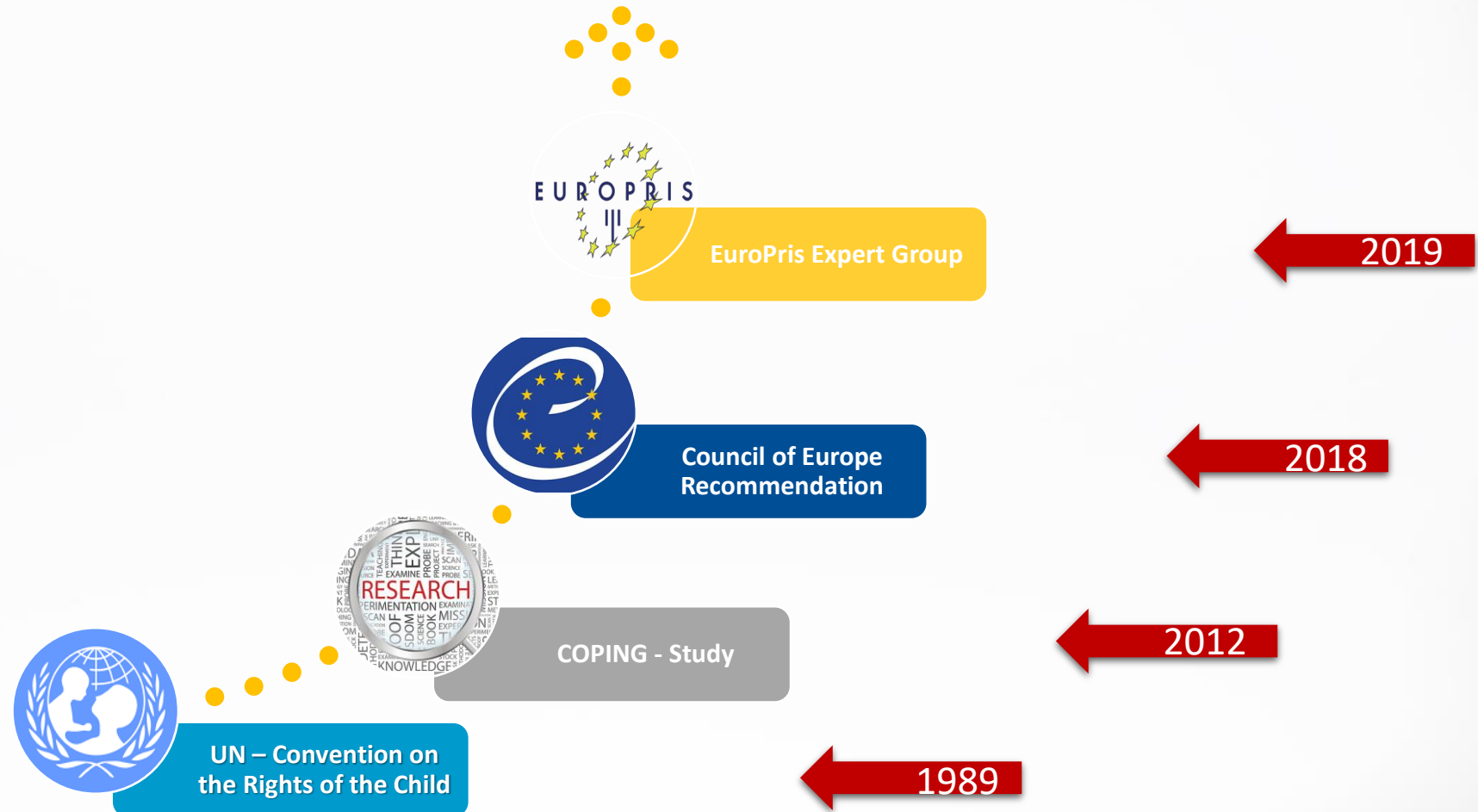
European Prison and Information System (EPIS) and Knowledge Management System (KMS)

AGM, Prison Achievement Award, European Prison Regime Forum, European Penitentiary Training Academy Network

All expert groups from the beginning on

- ICT in Prisons (2012- today)
- Research & Statistics (2013- 2015)
- Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA Transfer of Prisoners (2013- today)
- Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation (2013- today)
- Staff Training & Development (2013- 2015)
- Victims Support (2013- 2015)
- Radicalisation in Prisons (2015- 2017)
- Real Estate & Logistics (2015- today)
- Family Relations (2016- 2018)
- Education in Prisons (2017- 2019)
- Children of Prisoners (2019- 2022) 
- Domestic Violence in Prison and Probation (2019- 2022)

Children of Prisoners - how it all started



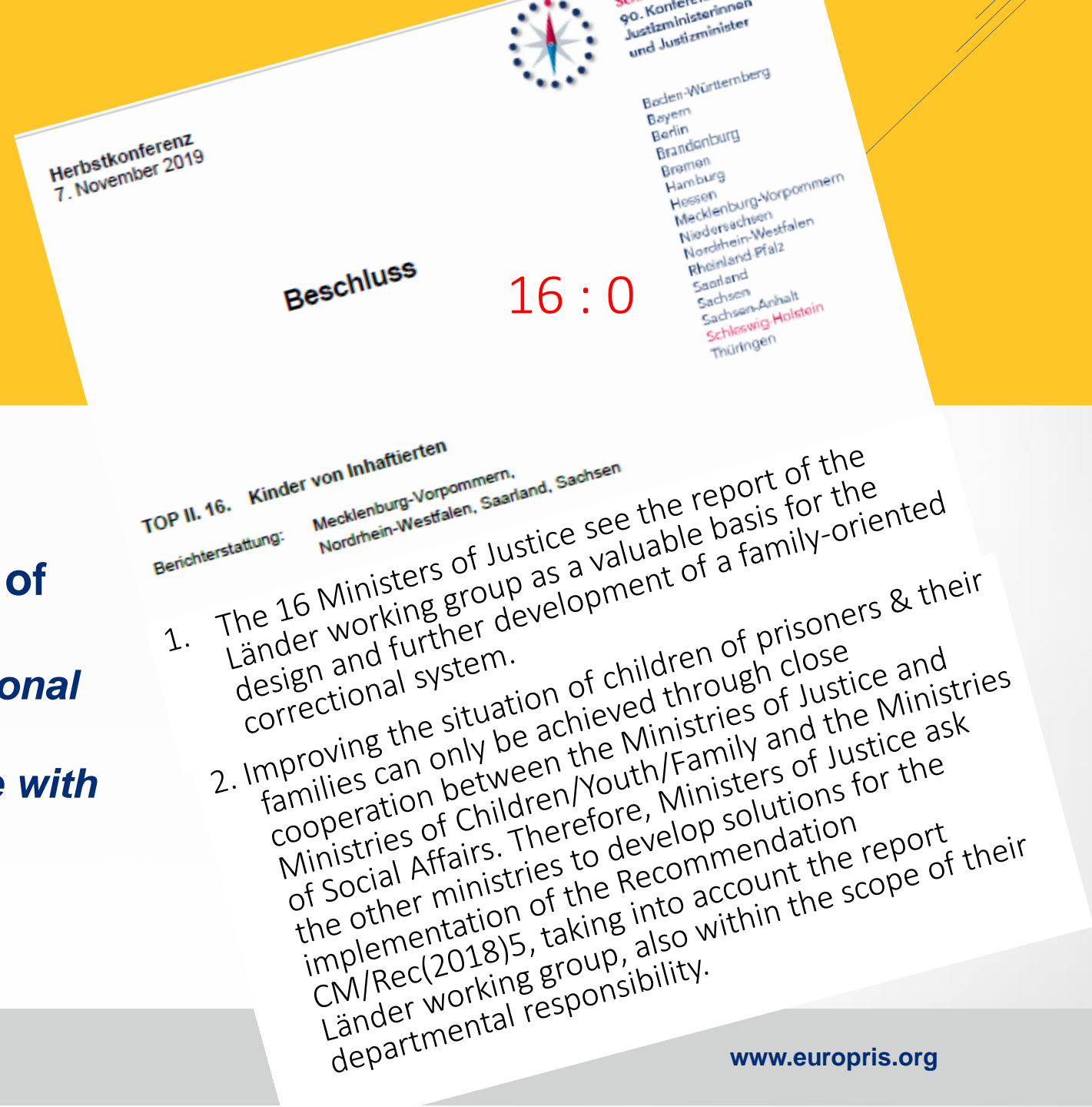
Example from Germany

- **Germany consists of 16 independent federal states (Länder)**
- **Conference of the 16 Ministers of Justice of the Länder**
- **Conference of the 16 Director Generals of the Länder**
- **Länder Working Group on the Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)5**
- **A final report:**
 - *10 summary sentences of the Rec.*
 - *Other responsible authorities*
 - *Appendix with best practice selection*

Example from Germany

Formal resolution of the 16 Ministers of Justice:

- ***Importance of family-oriented correctional system***
- ***Ministries of Justice should cooperate with Ministries of Social and Family Affairs***



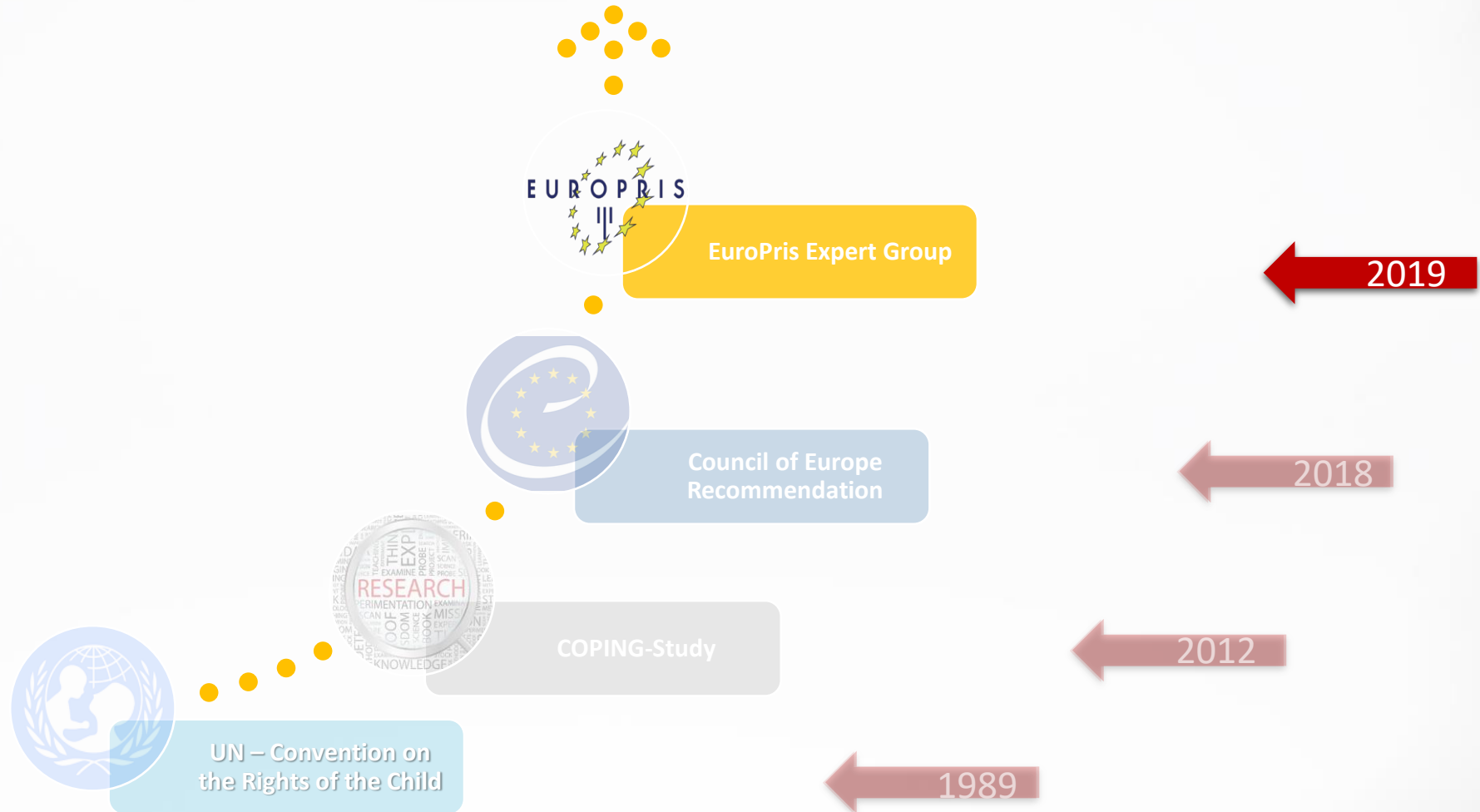
Areas of 10 summary sentences

- Principle
- Lodging / Data collection / Planning imprisonment
- Child-appropriate information
- Prison Visits
- Channels of contact
- Easing the condition of imprisonment
- Expanding the education and training of prison personnel
- Resources
- Social connection and release & Cooperation with third party entities
- Research and evaluation

Other responsible authorities

- Public prosecutors / Departments of Criminal Law (No. 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17)**
- Courts / Department for judicial administration (No. 2, 9, 10, 17)**
- Interior Ministry / Police (No. 8, 12, 49, 50)**
- Children Youth Family Ministry (No. 19, 27, 36, 38, 39, 40, 44, 49, 50, 54)**
- Social Ministry (No. 16, 19, 27, 36, 38, 39, 40, 44, 49, 50, 54)**
- Ministry of Health (No. 34, 37)**
- Ministry of Finance (No. 6, 46, 53)**
- Other civil society organizations (No. 6, 19, 27, 44, 49)**

Children of Prisoners - how it all started





EuroPris Expert Group

- **2019 - 2022**
- **10 experts from different European countries & Organisation COPE** (*Children of Prisoners Europe*)
- **Main Outputs:**
 - **Implementation Guidance Report** → Division into subgroups
 - **Data Collection Matrix**
 - **Table of Recommendation** → Comments on implementation status of the CoE-Recommendation (2018)5 on children of imprisoned parents
 - **Video** to promote Recommendation

Implementation Guidance Report

- Security and normalisation
- Relation with NGO's
- Engagement with the Justice family
- Child's voice & Data collection
- *New: Covid-Chapter*

Implementation Guidance Report

Security and normalisation

Relevant Article 33:

To ensure child protection and well-being, every effort shall be made to enhance mutual respect and tolerance and prevent potentially harmful behaviour between prisoners, their children and families, prison staff or other persons working in or visiting the prison. Good order, safety and security, in particular dynamic security, underpin all efforts to maintain a friendly and positive atmosphere in prison.

- **Security must aim to be dynamic & child centred. Normalisation of contact is key goal**
- **Main implementation suggestion: Training of staff**

Implementation Guidance Report

Relation with NGO's

- **Interdisciplinary & multi-agency approach:** Build interfaces between the authority and civil society
 - **Involvement** in planning sentences & getting ready to leave
 - **Organise support** for the child and the family on the outside, but also after the sentence to the entire family
-
- **Articles 6, 7, 19, 27, 28, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49 and 51**
 - **Cooperation with NGOs - a way to implement the Recommendations**

Implementation Guidance Report

Engagement with the Justice family

- **Cross-organisational structures & Whole-of-government approach:** Agencies & government institutions
- IT- & Communication Department (Art. 25 & 26)
- Arrest, prosecution, individual sentencing depends on Police, prosecution authorities and judges (Art. 2, 8, 10)

→ **Relevant Articles: 2, 6, 8, 20, 29, 27, 38-40, 42, 44, 49, 51, 56**

Implementation Guidance Report

Child's voice & Data collection

- Nothing About Me Without Me
- Relevant Articles: 1, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 25, 28, 30, 41, 50

→ Data collection regarding the numbers of affected children → 2.1 million children in Europe, 1 million in the EU

→ Relevant Articles 5, 13, 52, 56

Data Collection Matrix

- Overview of countries collecting information on the number of Children with an imprisoned parent
- <https://www.europris.org/data-collection/>

Table of Recommendation

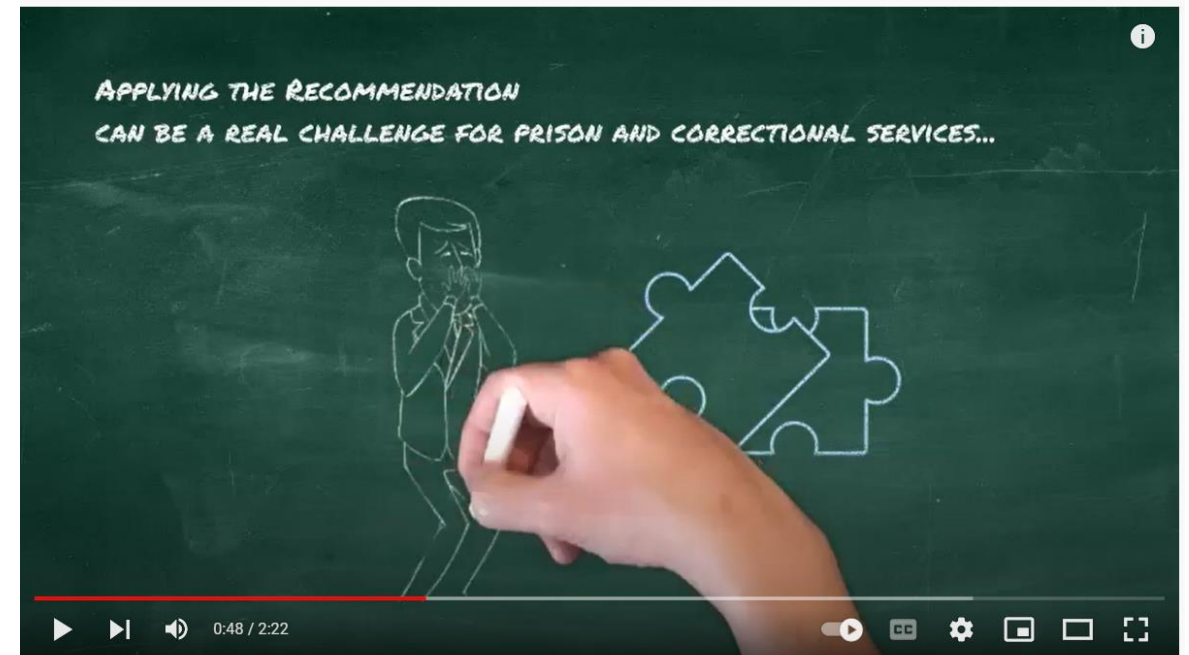
- Overview of status and progress of countries per each Article
- Filter by area and country
- <https://www.europris.org/coe-standards-implementation-guidance/>

Video: Reflections on the Recommendation

Modern channels encourage dissemination

Information visualised is quick to process
and achieves a wider audience

→ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZJ7TdCzlok>



Children of Prisoners expert group reflect on Council of Europe (CM) (2018)5 Recommendation

- Stable and functional social release situation for prisoners, family has crime preventive function
- Preventive work & support due to multiple effects on the children (psychological, physical, social, attachment, environment)
- Trained staff e.g. "family responsible officer" per prison (visiting hours & rooms, communication, information material)
- Task for society as a whole: cooperation between various ministries, municipalities, youth welfare offices, NGO's...

PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL PRISON PRACTICE

Justina Dzienko

justinadzienko@europriis.org

www.europriis.org

