
Social reintegration of offenders in prison and under probation: Council of Europe Berlin conference to explore innovative responses

Strasbourg, 01.06.2023 – The Council of Europe annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services, to be held in Berlin on 6 and 7 June, will explore innovative responses to challenges such as prison overcrowding, the need to improve conditions in prisons and how to better help offenders reintegrate into society.

Co-organised with the German Federal Ministry of Justice, the conference will bring together directors of prison and probation services from the 46 Council of Europe member states and its observer states as well as prominent international experts and organisations.

The conference will examine how to reform the sanctioning policies by making better use of restorative justice and of alternative sanctions to imprisonment, also known as community sanctions and measures, such as electronic monitoring or community service. It will also be an occasion for the participants to learn more about best practices of the different German Landers in this area and to visit German prisons.

Participants will also discuss and exchange best practices on addressing the increasing number of people with mental health problems in prison or under the supervision of probation agencies, an issue on which the Council of Europe is preparing European principles and recommendations.

The conference will be an opportunity for prison and probation directors to share experience and best practices on critical issues such as the provision of medical care - including remote medical care -, dealing with offenders who have committed sex crimes or gender-based violence and tackling drug addiction.

The [Deputy Secretary General](#) of the Council of Europe, Bjørn Berge, and the State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice of Germany, Angelika Schlunck, will deliver opening speeches. Alan Mitchell, President of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CPT](#)), will deliver the closing address.

Practical information:

- The conference is open to the media. Requests for accreditation should be submitted to the press contacts below.
- The conference will take place at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jägerstrasse 22/23, Berlin
- The opening session will start at 9.30 a.m. CEST on 6 June

[Programme](#) - [Conference website](#)