



# 31ème Conférence des Directeurs des services pénitentiaires et de probation

Les personnes ayant des besoins spécifiques  
et des vulnérabilités

3-4 juin 2026 - La Valette, Malte  
Grand Hotel Excelsior



**GOVERNMENT OF MALTA**  
MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS,  
SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Aperçu du programme

Mardi 2 juin

19.30 Dîner maltais - Départ depuis la réception de l'hôtel

| Horaires      | Mercredi 3 juin                                                                                          |                                                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.30 - 17.30 | Enregistrement                                                                                           |                                                                              |
| 09.00 - 09.30 | Session d'ouverture<br>Discours de bienvenue<br>Discours lumineaire sur le système pénitentiaire maltais |                                                                              |
| 09.30 - 10.15 | Instruments juridiques et activités du Conseil de l'Europe                                               |                                                                              |
| 10.15 - 11.00 | Photo de groupe et pause café                                                                            |                                                                              |
| 11.00 - 12.30 | Contextualisation du thème                                                                               |                                                                              |
| 12.30 - 14.00 | Pause déjeuner                                                                                           |                                                                              |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | Atelier A :<br>Ressortissants étrangers                                                                  | Atelier B :<br>Femmes                                                        |
|               | Atelier C :<br>Personnes âgées                                                                           | Atelier D :<br>Coopération entre les services pénitentiaires et de probation |
| 15.00 - 15.30 | Pause café                                                                                               |                                                                              |
| 15.30 - 16.30 | Expériences vécues                                                                                       |                                                                              |

| Horaires      | Jeudi 4 juin                                                 |                                                                              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.00 - 14.30 | Enregistrement                                               |                                                                              |
| 09.30 - 10.30 | Atelier A :<br>Ressortissants étrangers                      | Atelier B :<br>Femmes                                                        |
|               | Atelier C :<br>Personnes âgées                               | Atelier D :<br>Coopération entre les services pénitentiaires et de probation |
| 10.30 - 11.00 | Pause-café                                                   |                                                                              |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Regard vers l'avenir                                         |                                                                              |
| 11.30 - 12.00 | Session de Clôture<br>Conclusions<br>Discours de clôture     |                                                                              |
| 12.00 - 14.00 | Pause déjeuner                                               |                                                                              |
| 13.30 - 15.30 | Visite de la prison<br>Départ depuis la réception de l'hôtel |                                                                              |
| 14.00 - 16.00 | Groupe A<br>Groupe B                                         |                                                                              |

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| 20.00 | Dîner de gala |
|-------|---------------|

|                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ballroom                                   | Salle Aragon   |
| Salle Carapecchia (8 <sup>ème</sup> étage) | Salle Castille |

# Programme

## Session d'ouverture

Modérée par Mme Louise Riondel, Secrétaire de la Conférence

### Discours de bienvenue

- Mme Joyce Dimech, Secrétaire permanente, Ministère de l'Intérieur, de la sécurité et de l'emploi, Malte
- M. Hugh Chetwynd, Chef de service Privation de liberté, Secrétaire exécutif, Comité européen pour la prévention de la torture et des peines ou traitements inhumains ou dégradants (CPT), Conseil de l'Europe

### Discours liminaire sur le système pénitentiaire maltais

M. Christopher Siegersma, Directeur général, Agence des services correctionnels, Malte

## Instruments juridiques et activités du Conseil de l'Europe

Modérée par M. Keith Demicoli

Au cours de cette session, anciens et actuels membres du Conseil de coopération pénologique (PC-CP) présenteront les plus récents instruments juridiques développés par le Comité dans le domaine de l'intelligence artificielle, l'éducation en prison, la santé mentale et les ressortissants étrangers, ainsi que la manière d'intégrer ces normes au niveau national. Les participants auront également l'opportunité de découvrir le soutien et l'assistance technique offerts aux Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe à travers les projets de coopération.

Intervenants :

- Mme Louise Riondel, Secrétaire du PC-CP
- Mme Laura Negredo López, Ancienne Présidente du PC-CP, Espagne
- M. Michael Sorger, Membre du PC-CP, Autriche
- M. Jorge Sanches Monteiro, Président du PC-CP, Portugal
- M. Donche Boshkovski, Division de la Coopération en matière de Police et de Privation de Liberté

## Contextualisation du thème

Modérée par M. Keith Demicoli

Pour contextualiser le thème de la conférence, des intervenants issus de divers horizons professionnels confronteront leurs points de vue sur le thème de cette année et mettront en lumière les principaux enjeux liés aux questions clés qui seront abordées tout au long de la conférence. Cette session vise à établir une compréhension commune parmi les participants, créant les bases d'un dialogue éclairé, d'un échange de connaissances et de l'identification de solutions concrètes lors des ateliers qui suivront.

Intervenants :

- M. Hans Wolff, Médecin-chef du service de médecine pénitentiaire, Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève, Président de la Conférence des médecins pénitentiaires suisses
- Mme Lígia Rebelo, Directrice de prison, Portugal
- Mme Olivia Rope, Directrice exécutive, Penal Reform International
- Mme Liliana Lupșica, Conseillère de probation, Roumanie
- M. Edoardo Cocco, Assistant-diplômé, École de Sciences Criminelles, Université de Lausanne, Suisse

# Ateliers

## Atelier A : Ressortissants étrangers

Modéré par M. Michael Sorger et M. Frédéric Hankus

La population carcérale se diversifie de plus en plus dans toute l'Europe. Cette diversité d'origines, de cultures, de religions, de langues, de niveaux d'éducation, d'état de santé, etc. pose des défis tant pour les personnes détenues que pour les administrations pénitentiaires. Les ressortissants étrangers incarcérés sont confrontés à des vulnérabilités, telles que les barrières linguistiques, l'éloignement géographique de leurs familles, l'isolement social, et ont des besoins spécifiques, par exemple l'accès à des services de traduction, à des moyens de communication et à la liberté de religion. Parallèlement, les administrations pénitentiaires doivent notamment faire face aux barrières linguistiques, à l'augmentation des besoins médicaux des personnes détenues et à une charge de travail accrue pour le personnel.

Cet atelier vous offre un aperçu inédit de l'évolution actuelle du nombre de ressortissants étrangers dans toute l'Europe, des défis et des pratiques de l'administration pénitentiaire autrichienne, qui gère plus de 50 % de ressortissants étrangers en prison, ainsi que des normes actuelles en matière de droits humains concernant les ressortissants étrangers en prison. N'hésitez pas à participer à une discussion animée et à partager avec vos collègues vos expériences et vos bonnes pratiques.

Intervenants :

- Mme Caroline Walser, Directrice générale adjointe de l'administration pénitentiaire, Autriche
- M. Petr Hnátik, Conseiller, Comité européen pour la prévention de la torture et des peines ou traitements inhumains ou dégradants (CPT), Conseil de l'Europe
- M. Edoardo Cocco, Assistant-diplômé, École de Sciences Criminelles, Université de Lausanne, Suisse

## Atelier B : Femmes

Modéré par Mme Carla Ciavarella et Mme Danijela Mrhar Prelić

Les données recueillies par le Conseil de l'Europe dans le cadre du rapport SPACE I 2024 montrent que les prisons européennes restent majoritairement masculines. En moyenne, 94,6 % des détenus sont des hommes, tandis que les femmes représentent 5,4 % de la population carcérale totale. Les données montrent que les inégalités entre les sexes se manifestent également dans les peines prononcées, les femmes se voyant infliger des peines plus clémentes que les hommes pour des crimes similaires. Cela peut s'expliquer par le rôle que jouent les femmes au sein de la famille par rapport aux hommes, ce qui conduit souvent à privilégier les sanctions en milieu ouvert plutôt que les peines de prison. En Europe, le nombre de femmes purgeant des mesures alternatives est deux fois plus élevé que celui des femmes purgeant des peines de prison.

Les organismes supranationaux internationaux et régionaux ont accordé une attention particulière à la protection des droits des femmes détenues (Règles de Bangkok, Résolution 16/2010 des Nations unies). Au niveau régional, les Règles pénitentiaires européennes du Conseil de l'Europe (mises à jour en 2020) servent de lignes directrices fondamentales pour tous les États membres. Bien qu'elles ne soient pas spécifiques aux femmes, elles exigent que les détenus soient traités dans le respect de la dignité humaine et que les besoins individuels, y compris la diversité de genre, soient pris en compte.

Malgré une attention croissante, du moins en théorie, portée aux femmes détenues, il semble qu'il soit encore difficile de prendre en compte la spécificité de genre des peines d'emprisonnement.

Cet atelier vise à sensibiliser à la question de la détention des femmes et à en débattre à la lumière des données recueillies à ce jour et sur la base de certaines expériences menées sur le terrain (par exemple, la prison pour femmes de Rebibbia à Rome, en Italie).

Intervenants :

- Mme Eleonora Di Benedetto, Vice-Présidente, Fondation Severino
- Mme Olivia Rope, Directrice exécutive, Penal Reform International

### Atelier C : Personnes âgées

Modéré par Mme Kim Thornden-Edwards et Mme Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova

Le vieillissement de la population mondiale, dû à de nombreux facteurs, notamment l'allongement de l'espérance de vie, a également un impact significatif sur la répartition par âge au sein de la population carcérale.

Il n'existe pas de ligne de démarcation stricte entre les cohortes de population âgées et jeunes dans les études démographiques. Les pays les plus développés fixent cette limite à 65 ans ; à l'inverse, dans certaines études, les détenus de plus de 50 ans sont déjà considérés comme des personnes âgées, mais la plupart du temps, la limite est fixée à 60 ans. Certains chercheurs soulignent que les détenus âgés « ont une avance d'âge individuelle » par rapport aux personnes qui ne sont pas privées de liberté, en raison de leurs conditions de vie en prison.

Les personnes âgées ont, par nature, des besoins particuliers. Ces besoins se manifestent encore davantage en milieu carcéral et dans le cadre de la probation, sous des formes différentes. Ces détenus sont confrontés à des problèmes de santé liés à l'âge, à des besoins d'aide à la mobilité, à un déclin général de leur état de santé (les maladies chroniques et les troubles cognitifs, comme la démence, sont fréquents chez les personnes âgées), etc. Les personnes âgées sont particulièrement vulnérables en raison des difficultés qu'elles rencontrent pour accéder à des soins de santé adaptés et à des spécialistes, à un logement adapté au sein des établissements, aux problèmes d'isolement, mais aussi au harcèlement de la part de détenus plus jeunes.

En probation, les vulnérabilités des personnes âgées devraient être moindres, mais elles persistent. Elles sont confrontées à des difficultés de mobilité pour se rendre aux réunions, suivre les programmes de probation et même recevoir des traitements médicaux. Le contact en ligne avec les services de probation et l'illettrisme numérique constituent également un problème. L'absence de soutien familial et le risque d'être victime de violence domestique sont également présents. La question du sans-abrisme est également un sujet qui mérite d'être abordé.

L'atelier a pour objectif d'aborder les défis et les bonnes pratiques dans les États membres du CdE et de susciter des discussions sur des idées significatives, voire radicales, pour traiter ces questions dans le cadre des réformes et des pratiques juridiques.

Intervenants :

- M. Aleksandar Koviloski, Conseiller dans le secteur de la réinsertion, Macédoine du Nord
- M. Rory McErlean, Responsable des politiques relatives aux cohortes de détenus, ministère de la Justice, Royaume-Uni

### Atelier D : Coopération entre les services pénitentiaires et de probation

Modéré par Mme Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru et Mme Caron McCaffrey

Cet atelier examinera comment les services pénitentiaires et de probation peuvent collaborer plus efficacement afin d'assurer la continuité de la prise en charge des personnes qui passent de la détention à la communauté. Il mettra en avant l'importance d'une planification coordonnée, du partage d'informations et d'interventions conjointes pour favoriser la réinsertion et réduire la récidive.

La structure de l'atelier comprendra le récit du parcours personnel d'une personne ayant vécu l'expérience de la prison et de la probation, ainsi que des exemples de bonnes pratiques issues de deux États en matière de

renforcement de la coopération et de la confiance entre les services tout en offrant un soutien concret au sein de la communauté après la libération.

Les participants discuteront des défis concrets et des pratiques nationales en matière de maintien du soutien aux personnes pendant et après leur libération, notamment l'accès au logement, aux soins de santé, à l'éducation et aux opportunités d'emploi. La session mettra également en évidence le rôle de la collaboration interinstitutionnelle dans la promotion de la réinsertion sociale et l'amélioration des résultats à long terme.

Intervenants :

- M. Anthony Breen, Responsable d'équipe, Tiglin Challenge centre de réinsertion pour hommes, Irlande
- M. Rait Kuuse, Secrétaire Général adjoint pour les prisons, Ministère de la justice et des affaires numériques, Estonie
- Mme Donna Creaven, Directrice des services généraux, des technologies de l'information et de la communication et de la gouvernance, Service pénitentiaire irlandais, Irlande

## Expériences vécues

Modérée par M. Keith Demicoli

Cette session offrira à des personnes en prison un espace pour partager leur témoignage personnel, consacré spécifiquement à deux expériences marquantes en dehors de la prison. Les intervenants reviendront sur leur séjour à Rome et leur rencontre avec le Pape, ainsi que sur la participation de l'Agence des services correctionnels à la Biennale de Malte à travers le Pavillon *Fragments flottants*. Cette session mettra en lumière la voix des participants, la créativité, la dignité, et les histoires humaines derrière ces expériences.

## Regard vers l'avenir

Modérée par M. Keith Demicoli

Alors que la Conférence touche à sa fin, les participants prennent part à une discussion dans laquelle ils échangent sur ce qui a émergé, résonné, et les a interpellés lors de l'évènement. Cette session les invite également à se tourner vers l'avenir : une conversation semble-t-elle inachevée ? Quelles idées méritent d'être approfondies ? Quelles voix ou quels sujets souhaitent-ils voir intégrés à la prochaine édition de la CDPPS et aux travaux du PC-CP ? En donnant la parole aux participants, « Regard vers l'avenir » offre un espace leur permettant de devenir des contributeurs actifs et de façonner ce qui découlera de cette Conférence.

Intervenants :

- M. Gurgen Afrikyan, Chef du service de la probation, Arménie
- M. Denis Perše, Directeur Général, Administration pénitentiaire, Slovénie
- Mme Beverley Wall, Directrice générale du service des prisons d'Irlande du Nord, Royaume-Uni

## Session de clôture

Modérée par Mme Louise Riondel, Secrétaire de la conférence

### Conclusions

M. Jorge Sanches Monteiro, Président du Conseil de Coopération Pénologique (PC-CP)

### Discours de clôture

- Dr Glenn Bedingfield, Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité, Malte
- M. Christopher Siegersma, Directeur général, Agence des services correctionnels, Malte
- M. Alan Mitchell, Président du Comité européen pour la prévention de la torture et des peines ou traitements inhumains ou dégradants (CPT)

# Intervenants et modérateurs

Biographies telles que soumises

Session d'ouverture

Mme Joyce Dimech



Ms Joyce Dimech is a prominent Maltese civil servant with a long and distinguished career in public administration. She has served in various high-profile roles within the Maltese government, demonstrating strong leadership and a commitment to public service. Her career is marked by her contributions to the development and implementation of policies aimed at improving governance and public sector efficiency in Malta.

Her expertise spans across various areas of public administration, and she is known for her strategic approach to management and her ability to navigate complex bureaucratic environments. Throughout her career, Joyce Dimech has played a key role in shaping Malta's administrative landscape, earning respect and recognition for her dedication to public service and her contributions to the betterment of Maltese society.

Ms Joyce Dimech was appointed Permanent Secretary in 2013 and has held this role in various portfolios. At present she is Permanent Secretary for the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment.

M. Hugh Chetwynd



Mr Hugh Chetwynd is the Head of the Council of Europe's Department on Deprivation of Liberty and the Executive Secretary to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

From 2005 to 2024, he was Head of Division at the CPT Secretariat assessing the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in 47 countries (particular responsibility for the countries of the Mediterranean, the western Balkans and UK/Ireland and Türkiye); he has worked on a number of thematic issues such as solitary confinement, life sentenced prisoners, women in prison, immigration detention, combatting police impunity and children in detention as well as persons held in psychiatric establishments. He also contributed to the revision of the European Prison Rules of 2020. From 2017-2020, he acted as an Expert on Consultative Council for the Trinity College led research project "Prisons: the Rule of Law, Accountability and Rights -PRILA"

From 2002-2005, he was Head of the Council of Europe's Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working notably in fields of criminal justice, human rights and education, and constitutional reform.

From 1993-2002, he was a Council of Europe Programme Manager working on criminal justice reform and local democracy issues, abolition of the death penalty in Europe and training of legal professionals on the European Convention on Human Rights in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe.

## M. Christopher Siegersma



Mr Christopher Siegersma is the Chief Executive Officer of the Correctional Services Agency. As the Head of the Agency, he is responsible for the running of the Maltese prison services. Part of his role includes the design and implementation of initiatives aimed at reforming and improving correctional practices and rehabilitation programs.

With over 20 years of experience in the mental health field, Mr Siegersma is dedicated to enhancing public safety and promoting successful reintegration of persons in prison into society. Mr Siegersma holds a Masters degree from the University of Malta and is currently reading for a PhD at the Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh.

## Mme Louise Riondel



Mme Louise Riondel est la Secrétaire de la Conférence des Directeurs des services pénitentiaires et de probation (CDPPS) ainsi que la Secrétaire du Conseil de coopération pénologique (PC-CP) au Conseil de l'Europe.

Depuis son arrivée au Secrétariat en 2014, elle a travaillé au sein de la Division du droit pénal et de la lutte contre le terrorisme ainsi que pour le Groupe d'États contre la corruption (GRECO). Plus récemment, elle a été Co-Secrétaire du Comité sur l'intelligence artificielle (CAI). Louise a également travaillé au sein de la Sous-Direction des Drogues et des organisations criminelles d'Interpol, ainsi qu'en tant que Vice-directrice des enquêtes et de la sécurité pour Wynn.

Elle est titulaire d'un Master en relations internationales de Sciences Po Bordeaux et d'un Master en affaires européennes et internationales de Sciences Po Rennes.

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## M. Gurgen Afrikyan



Mr Gurgen Afrikyan has served as the Head of the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia since January 2025. Prior to this appointment, he served as Deputy Head of the Probation Service from 2023 to 2025.

He has extensive professional experience in the fields of justice, probation, public administration, and legal reform. Throughout his career, he has held senior positions within the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, as well as legal and managerial positions at the Legal Education and Rehabilitation Programs Implementation Center.

He has also worked as a legal expert for UNICEF Armenia and the Council of Europe on projects related to child-friendly justice, probation services, and the protection of human rights in prisons.

In addition to his public service, he has been engaged in academic and training activities, lecturing at universities and delivering professional training courses for justice sector personnel. He is the author and co-author of more than ten scientific articles and educational manuals, and holds a Doctorate in Law.

## M. Donche Boshkovski



Mr Donche Boshkovski is the Head of Unit II in the Cooperation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty (CPDL) at the Council of Europe. His work primarily focuses on supporting member States in aligning their penitentiary, probation, and law enforcement regulatory frameworks and practices with the Council of Europe standards. He earned his bachelor's degree in law from the State University in Skopje in 2001, and his LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, United Kingdom, in 2009. Donche has been with the Council of Europe since 2013. Prior to this, he served as a torture prevention advisor in the National Preventive Mechanism of the Ombudsman Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, and as a National Rule of Law Officer with the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

## M. Anthony Breen



Mr Anthony Breen is the Team Lead at Tiglin Challenge, Men's Rehabilitation Centre in Ireland. Tiglin Men's Centre is a 16-month residential programme for men with life controlling problems in areas of drug, alcohol and social problems.

Anthony's life underwent a profound transformation during his time in prison through the Irish Red Cross CBHFA prison programme and engaging in education. He further developed himself in extensive therapeutic work through the program of Tiglin Challenge.

Anthony is the Lived Experience representative sitting on the Department of Justice Prison Education Task Force in Ireland. He uses this platform to advocate for person-centered rehabilitation. He is passionate about individuals transforming their lives and using their lived experience to support others.

Anthony is currently studying a BA in Applied Theology. Prior to this, he gained qualifications in Criminology and Applied Social Studies.

### Mme Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru



Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru is currently probation inspector in the National Probation Directorate within the Romanian Ministry of Justice ensuring the development and implementation of the international projects and promoting the probation system at the international level. Between 2017 and 2025 she was a Board member of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), including Vice president of the CEP. As an employee of the Romanian probation service for the past 25 years, Ms Cărbunaru has served as probation counsellor, probation inspector and director of probation service. Her international experience includes working with probation services from Europe and North America and she is acting as an expert for the Council of Europe in her area of expertise and as a short term expert in various projects of the European Union in the Balkans. She holds a B.A in Social Work, a M.A in Community Justice Administration and she is currently doing her PhD on penal policy transfers in Europe. From 2023 she is associate lecturer at Bucharest University, Sociology and Social Work Faculty.

Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2026.

### Mme Carla Ciavarella



Ms Carla Ciavarella is a former penitentiary executive and Director of the Coordination of Institutional Relations Office at the Prison Administration Department in Rome, Italy. During her professional career of over 30 years, she has held various professional positions such as manager for training courses of prison staff and Directors of prisons.

In coordination with universities and national and local institutions, she has coordinated several European projects, working on research and studies on restorative justice, prevention and management of sexual offenders, proselytism and violent radicalization in prison setting in a perspective on human rights protection.

For 9 years she was in service at the UNODC where she dealt with the penitentiary reform in Afghanistan, the coordination of police cooperation projects to combat illicit trafficking in the Balkan region and in South Africa where she worked on projects on domestic violence for the protection of abused women.

Carla Ciavarella has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2024 and serves as its Vice-President since January 2026.

### M. Edoardo Cocco



Mr Edoardo Cocco is a PhD candidate and research assistant in Criminology at the School of Criminal Justice of the University of Lausanne.

He is part of the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) project, responsible of compiling data on prisons for the countries that are member of the Council Europe.

His research interests include the application of novel technologies in crime and security studies, as well as comparative criminology.

## Mme Donna Creaven



Ms Donna Creaven is the Director of Corporate Services, ICT & Governance at the Irish Prison Service. In this role, she oversees key areas such as ICT, Legal, Governance, Policy and Organisational Strategy. Her professional expertise spans law, information technology, project and risk management, public administration, and corporate governance.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a Masters in Management & Corporate Governance from the University of Ulster. Additionally, she is a Chartered Company Secretary, has completed a Professional Postgraduate Certificate in Data Protection Law from the University of Dublin, and a Professional Diploma in Strategy & Innovation from the Institute of Irish Management, University College Cork. She is currently completing a Professional Academy Diploma in Artificial Intelligence for Business in the University of Dublin.

Donna Creaven was a member of the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) ICT Expert Group during its term 2023-2025, where she played a leading role in contributing to digital strategies. She is also Co-Chair of the ICT Network for the International Corrections & Prisons Association, contributing to global collaboration on technology in corrections.

Donna previously served as a Board Director for Pobal, an organisation that supports the Irish Government in managing funding and services related to social inclusion, equality, inclusive employment, and enterprise. She also serves as a Council Member for the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development. Furthermore, she has contributed to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute's Expert Working Group, participating in research focused on technologies for prisoner rehabilitation.

## Mme Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova



Ms Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova, PhD, is a Professor of Criminal Law at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Justinianus Primus Faculty of Law in Skopje, North Macedonia. She holds MSc and PhD in Criminal Law and is a lecturer of Criminal Law, Penal Policy, Comparative Penal Law, Organized Crime etc. She has been working at the university for over two decades.

She has also been involved in the legislative drafting process for more than fifteen years. She is a Chair of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) working group on drafting the new Criminal Code. At the moment, within its tasks, the group revises the provisions on criminal sanctions, especially the alternative measures and the role of the probation service in the determination and execution of the sentences.

Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova was also a Chair of the MoJ working group for the Law on Public Prosecution, Law on Council of Public Prosecutors and member of the working groups on Law on Courts, Confiscation Law etc. As a lecturer at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors of North Macedonia, she is providing legal training for judges and prosecutors as well as for the justice system and other institutions' staff.

She is a Coordinator at the National Convention on the EU, member of the European Society of Criminology, International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates and other associations, member of editorial boards of publishing journals and expert in many research projects. She is author of over 70 articles, scientific papers, monographs, books of commentaries etc. in the area of criminal law, justice system, gender equality, protection of human rights, bioethics, security etc.

Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2026.

## M. Keith Demicoli



Mr Keith Demicoli is an independent Maltese broadcaster and moderator with more than two decades of experience in television, public communication and live events. From 2008 to 2021, he was one of the main TV news anchors on Malta's national broadcaster, TVM, while also contributing as a local correspondent for international media networks including BBC, France 24 and Euronews. He holds a Master's degree in European Law, Economics and Politics from the University of Malta and has received professional training at the BBC Academy in London and at the University of North Carolina in the United States. Throughout his career, he has moderated high-level conferences, public policy discussions and national events involving political leaders, European institutions, civil society organisations and industry stakeholders. His work today focuses particularly on helping organisations and institutions communicate complex issues in ways that are clear, human and accessible.

## Mme Eleonora Di Benedetto



Ms Eleonora Di Benedetto is a criminal lawyer and holds a PhD in Comparative Public Law. She is a partner at the law firm Severino – Penalisti Associati and Vice President of Fondazione Severino ETS, where she is actively involved in rehabilitation and social reintegration programs for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, with a particular focus on women in detention and on art and culture as tools for reintegration.

Since 2023, she has also co-taught the Legal Clinic Prison and Prisoners' Rights at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome.

## M. Frédéric Hankus



M. Frédéric Hankus est le directeur du service pénitentiaire d'insertion et de probation du Haut-Rhin (SPIP) au sein de la Direction interrégionale des services pénitentiaires de la région Grand Est (DISP). La DISP est un service déconcentré de l'administration pénitentiaire française. La direction interrégionale anime, contrôle et coordonne l'activité des 23 établissements pénitentiaires et des 9 sièges des services pénitentiaires d'insertion et de probation placés sous son autorité, en milieu ouvert comme en milieu fermé. Le SPIP du Haut-Rhin se compose de 3 antennes prenant en charge plus de 3000 personnes en probation et plus d'un millier de personnes détenues réparties sur 3 structures pénitentiaires incluant un établissement pour longues peines.

Frédéric Hankus a une longue expérience pénitentiaire (plus de 37 ans) et a occupé plusieurs fonctions comme personnel de surveillance, éducateur pour des publics longues peines, courtes peines ou en probation, puis comme directeur au sein des services d'insertion et de probation (SPIP) pendant 10 ans avant de rejoindre la direction interrégionale de Strasbourg entre 2021 et 2025. Il a été nommé directeur du SPIP du Haut-Rhin le 1er juillet 2025.

Frédéric Hankus est membre du Groupe de travail du PC-CP depuis janvier 2024.

#### M. Petr Hnátík



Mr Petr Hnátík is a lawyer with 25 years of professional experience, specialising in the field of human rights. He joined the Council of Europe in 2007 to work in the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights and later in the Secretariat of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH). Since 2011, he has been working as a member of the Secretariat of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

Prior to his professional engagement with the Council of Europe, he worked for several international organisations, including the OSCE (Mission to Georgia) and IOM Headquarters in Geneva, and the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

#### M. Aleksandar Koviloski



Mr Aleksandar Koviloski has been employed as a counsellor in the rehabilitation sector of the central Macedonian prison "Idrizovo" since 2011. He is a front-line practitioner trained in working with cognitive-behavioral therapy with prisoners, and runs specific prison programs especially with life-sentenced prisoners, long term inmates and radicalized prisoners.

He is a member of the working groups that created the General Cognitive Prison Program, the Deradicalization Program for foreign terrorist fighters and other programs concerning the Macedonian prison system. He is the author of two books in the field of penology: *Recycling Behind the Prison Walls* (2017) and *A Guide to Prison Sentence Planning* (2020), and several academic papers and prison documentaries. He is a speaker at numerous events that address both prison policy and prison reality across Europe.

Aleksandar was a member of the Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN), and is currently a member of the EU Knowledge Hub at the Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. He holds a Master's degree in Sociology.

#### M. Rait Kuuse



Mr Rait Kuuse is currently the Deputy Secretary General for Prisons at the Estonian Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, responsible for the management of the Estonian Prison and Probation Service. The Estonian Prison Service includes three prisons and five regional probation departments (approx. 1,200 staff). His remit also covers coordination with the Correctional College within the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences.

In the Estonian public sector since 1999, he began as a probation officer and later led the Probation and Crime Prevention Department at the Ministry of Justice (from 2001). He played a leading role in criminal policy reforms, including modernization of parole, expansion of community service, introduction of electronic monitoring, and closer integration of prison and probation services. He served as Governor of Tallinn Prison (2012–2014).

From 2014 to December 2021 he was Deputy Secretary General for Social Policy at the Ministry of Social Welfare, coordinating national social policy and agenda-setting, and served in board roles related to care services and prison industry.

Experienced in international cooperation and criminal justice reform. He was Regional Director of Penal Reform International in the South Caucasus (2008–2009) and a key expert on probation in an EU-funded project supporting probation development in Georgia (2009–2011). He has held leadership roles in European

networks, including CEP (board member, 2004–2006), and served as Vice-Chair (2018–2019) and Chair (2019–2021) of the EU Social Protection Committee. He is currently a board member of EUROPRIS.

Education & publications - Master's level qualifications in Social Work (Tallinn University) and European Studies (University of Tartu). He contributed to the book "Probation in Europe" and has published scientific articles.

#### Mme Liliana Lupșica



Liliana is a probation counsellor at the Satu Mare Probation Service, Romania, with 16 years of experience in probation practice. Her work includes pre- and post-sentence assessment reports, supervision of juveniles and adults serving community measures and sanctions, and coordinating group counselling programmes for both inmates and individuals under probation supervision. In her practice she also works extensively with foreign nationals and ethnic minority service users.

Over the past three years she has served as a trainer for probation and prison staff on topics such as leadership in correctional services and the seamless principle of reentry. She is currently a PhD student at the Social Work Doctoral School of the University of Bucharest, researching probation staff burnout and resilience. Her interests include innovative reintegration methods for high-risk offenders, gender-sensitive approaches to social reintegration, and trauma-informed approaches for both probation staff and service users.

#### Mme Caron McCaffrey



Ms Caron McCaffrey was appointed Director General of the Irish Prison Service in December 2018, becoming the first woman to hold this position. She is responsible for the leadership, management, and strategic direction of the Irish Prison Service, which operates 13 prisons and employs over 4,000 staff and manages a significant budget of €579 million. Under her direction, the Service is committed to providing safe and secure custody, upholding the dignity of care, and promoting the rehabilitation of prisoners to contribute to safer communities across Ireland.

Caron has over two decades of experience in the justice sector. She began her career in the Department of Justice and Equality in 2000, before joining the Irish Prison Service in 2006 as Press and Programme Manager. She was promoted to Director of Corporate Services in 2008 and held responsibility for a range of portfolios including Human Resources, Finance and Estates prior to her appointment as Director General. Caron McCaffrey's leadership exemplifies innovation, dedication, and a commitment to excellence in one of the most challenging areas of public service.

In 2019, Caron joined the board of the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris), and served as President between October 2021 and September 2025. The aim of the organisation is to improve cooperation among Prisons and Correctional Services across Europe, to improve the lives of prisoners and their families, enhancing public safety and security; reducing re-offending; and advancing professionalism in the field of prisons.

Caron holds a BA from NUI Maynooth, an MA in International Relations from Dublin City University, an Advanced Diploma in Applied Employment Law from the King's Inns, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Corporate Governance from UCD Smurfit Business School.

Caron McCaffrey has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2026.

## M. Rory McErlean



Mr Rory McErlean has been policy lead for Prisoner Cohorts at the Ministry of Justice since 2020, advising ministers on how best to manage and support different groups of prisoners in the English and Welsh prison system, covering older prisoners, prisoners taken into care as children, transgender prisoners, and armed forces veterans, alongside the provision of purposeful activity in prisons.

In this work, he has led the development of an Aging Population Strategy, led cross-government work to reduce the number of people with care experience in the criminal justice system, reformed allocation policy for transgender prisoners, and led implementation of the government's manifesto commitment to improve access to purposeful activity in prisons. He joined the Ministry of Justice in 2018 following 6 years at the Department for Education, and having completed a Law degree at Queen's University Belfast.

## Mme Danijela Mrhar Prelić



Dr. Danijela Mrhar Prelić is Director General of Slovenian Probation Administration, Body of the Ministry of Justice. She holds a Master Degree in Social Pedagogy, a Master of Science in Criminology and Doctorate in Law (the field of Criminology). From the beginning of her career, she has been working within the field of enforcement of criminal sanctions. She has served as Senior Advisor – Counselor for juvenile offenders, as Director of Women's Prison and as Project Manager – Secretary at Ministry of Justice. As Project Manager she was responsible for preparation of an Action plan for Establishment of Probation Service in Slovenia with all necessary normative and legal changes. In October 2016, she became the Head of Probation Service at the Ministry of Justice, responsible for establishing the new state body. In December 2017 she became an Acting Director of Slovenian Probation Administration, followed by position of Director General in 2018, reappointed in 2023. Since 2010 she is involved in education trainings carried out by the Slovenian Prison Administration while holding a position of a University Assistant Professor (Criminology, Penology). In October 2022 she was elected as CEP Board Member, and became a Vice-President in October 2025.

Danijela Mrhar Prelić has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2024.

## Mme Laura Negredo López



Since 2018 Laura Negredo López is the Deputy Assistant Director-General for Open Regime and Alternative Measures in the Ministry of Interior, Spain. She has been working in the field of alternative measures for more than 10 years, holding several positions like Technical Advisor and Head of Service. She is currently the director of Circles of Support and Accountability in Spain.

In 2016 and 2017 she was the Resident Twinning Adviser of the Twinning Project "Support for further development and strengthening of the Probation Service in Croatia".

She holds a B.A in Psychology (UCM, Madrid), a M.A in Forensic and Criminal Psychopathology (UCJC, Madrid) and a M.A in Forensic Legal and Clinical Psychology (UCM, Madrid) and a M.A in International Crime and Justice (CUNY, New York). For the latter, she received a La Caixa national competitive fellowship for master degree work in the United States.

Laura Negredo López is the former President of the PC-CP and an international consultant for the Council of Europe in several projects.

## M. Denis Perše



Mr Denis Perše is the Director-General of the Slovenian Prison Administration (URSIKS), a body within the Ministry of Justice, having assumed the leadership of the national prison system in February 2025. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security and a Master's Degree from the Faculty of Government and European Studies. He began his professional career within the Slovenian criminal justice framework in 2000 at Dob Prison, the country's largest correctional facility, where he progressively advanced through various operational and leadership ranks. Prior to his appointment as Director-General, he served as the Director of Ljubljana Prison and as the Deputy Director-General.

Before entering the field of penology, Mr Perše was a professional soccer player who represented the Slovenian national team across all youth categories until an injury shifted his professional path in 2000. Alongside his executive duties, he remains highly engaged in civic governance within his local community, currently serving as an elected member of the Municipal Council and as the President of the local Volunteer Fire Department.

## Mme Lígia Rebelo



Ms Lígia Rebelo is the Director of Tires Prison, the largest women's correctional facility in Portugal and internal trainer at the Portuguese Directorate General for Reintegration and Prison Services (DGRSP).

With a Law degree and a postgraduate specialization in Labour Law, she began her professional journey as a lawyer. Since joining the prison services in 2009, she has held different leadership positions, directing other correctional facilities in the Lisbon region. Lígia has also represented the Portuguese Prison Services in international forums, notably at multilateral meetings of the Council of Europe focused on gender sensitive prison policies and the management of prison regimes. She has also spoken at international conferences, including the Annual Conference of the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA), and events addressing parental incarceration and the rights of children with imprisoned parents.

She has been an active member of several specialized working groups within the DGRSP, contributing to legislative proposals, ethical guidelines, and reforms related to prison labour, supporting the ongoing modernization of correctional policies in Portugal.

## Mme Olivia Rope



Ms Olivia Rope is a recognised leader in the field of criminal justice reform and a human rights expert. She has more than a decade of experience advancing international standards and accountability in criminal justice systems, working extensively with governments, oversight bodies, civil society and multilateral institutions.

Appointed Executive Director of Penal Reform International (PRI) in 2020, Olivia has played a central role in shaping global policy discussions on imprisonment, community sanctions, decriminalisation of poverty and gender responsive justice. She has led high level advocacy at the international and regional levels, shaping policy debates and reform initiatives including on detention, torture prevention, women, criminalisation and detention, and community sanctions. She has authored and overseen influential research and policy publications, as well as developed practical training curricula for a wide range of stakeholders. Olivia is regularly called upon to speak and provide expert advice on rule of law, justice, and human rights issues. A qualified lawyer, she holds an LL.M. in International and European Human Rights Law from the University of Amsterdam and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

## M. Michael Sorger



Mr Michael Sorger is a Legal Adviser in the Directorate General for the Administration of Custodial Sentences and Measures involving Deprivation of Liberty in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice.

Since January 2025 he has been additionally working as a Scientific Expert to the PC-CP. Michael Sorger joined the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice in 2017 and served inter alia as Delegate to the Working Party on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN) to the Council of the European Union and as Legal Adviser in the Constitutional Service. He studied Law and Political Sciences at the University of Vienna and Sciences

Po Paris.

Michael Sorger has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2026.

## Mme Kim Thornden-Edwards



Ms Kim Thornden-Edwards is the Chief Probation Officer for England and Wales and a senior leader at Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). The Probation Service employs around 21,000 staff working, in 11 regions and Wales, and includes the National Security Division which manages the highest risk offenders including those with terrorist offences.

Kim joined the Civil Service in June 2021 to work within the Probation Workforce Programme, taking on the role of Programme Director in November of the same year.

The programme was part of a major change initiative, aimed at improving the capacity and capability of the probation workforce.

Before this, Kim was the Managing Director of Interserve Justice, a private sector provider delivering a range of government contracts for Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) and Prison Industries. Kim was the Senior Responsible Officer for Interserve on Probation Unification – a complex and large-scale transfer of 1,600 staff from the private sector to the civil service.

Kim qualified as a Probation Officer in Kent in 1996 and has spent her career in and around probation and criminal justice. She has held senior operational positions, including Head of Operations at Greater Manchester CRC and Chief Executive of Hampshire CRC.

Kim Thornden-Edwards has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since January 2024.

## Mme Beverley Wall



Ms Beverley Wall took up the post of Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service & Deputy Permanent Secretary for Reducing Offending Policy, Department of Justice in July 2023.

Beverley joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 1990 and has worked in a number of government departments, in both policy and operational roles in areas including the Prison Service, Community Safety, Urban Regeneration, the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry and Housing policy.

She has worked as Private Secretary to Ministers under both Direct Rule and Devolved Government Administrations. She was previously Director of Governance in the Department of Education, a role that involved the establishment of a single Education Authority for Northern Ireland.

Beverley also served as Deputy Secretary of Strategic Policy and Professional Services Group in the Department for Communities. In this role she was responsible for the development of a NI Executive anti-poverty strategy and suite of social inclusion strategies and the management of central policy functions, including the development of policy, operational and leadership skills across the department.

She holds a BSc (Hons) in Business Management and an MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Service. In September 2025 Beverley was appointed to the Board of EuroPris, the European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services. The aim of this organisation is to improve collaboration and cooperation between European and Correctional Services to enhance prison practice.

#### Mme Caroline Walser



Ms Caroline Walser has been working at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, General Directorate for the Administration of Custodial Sentences and Measures involving Deprivation of Liberty, since 2017. Since 2021, she has been Deputy Director-General as well as Head of the Group Security, Care and Resources and Head of the Department Executive, Supervision, Budget, Economy, Construction and Safety in the General Directorate for the Administration of Custodial Sentences and Measures involving Deprivation of Liberty.

After completing her degrees in Political Science and Sociology as well as in Law (PhD), she gained a wide range of experience at the European Parliament and at the Austrian Embassy in Washington D.C., completed her legal training at the Vienna High Regional Court, and served as a university assistant at the Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Vienna, specialising in the field of the prison system.

#### M. Hans Wolff



Mr Hans Wolff is the Head of the Division of Prison Health and chairs the Department of Community Medicine and Primary Care at the Geneva University Hospitals. Further, he is professor of medicine at the University of Geneva and President of the Conference of Swiss Prison Doctors (CSPD). On the European level he was member of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in respect of Switzerland 2013-2025 and from 2021-2025 its First Vice-President.

Hans Wolff studied medicine at the University of Marburg, Germany and the University of Geneva, Switzerland and specialized in General Internal Medicine (MD) and Public Health (MPH). His main professional interests concern human rights of vulnerable populations in relation to social inequalities in health, access to healthcare and more generally medical ethics. In particular, his research interests are related to drug use, prevention and harm reduction policies, infectious diseases, mental health and human rights in place of deprivation of liberty.

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## Session de clôture

### M. Jorge Sanches Monteiro



Mr Jorge Sanches Monteiro is a Clinical Psychologist with a master's degree in criminology. Since 2008, Jorge Sanches Monteiro acts as Head of Unit in the Portuguese and Probation Services, and he was more recently appointed as Head of Research and Planning.

He began his professional career in 1997 working in a Psychiatric Hospital in Lisbon and since 1998 he has played different roles in the Ministry of Justice, such as clinical psychologist, case manager and Deputy Governor in different prisons in Portugal. He's also the manager of several international projects as well as trainer in different training courses related to the rehabilitation of offenders. Since 2022, he is a Consultant of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Jorge Sanches Monteiro has been a member of the PC-CP Working Group since December 2021 and serves as its President since January 2026.

### M. Alan Mitchell



Mr Alan Mitchell is the President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

His association with the CPT began in 2002 when as Head of Prison Healthcare in Scotland, he was engaged as an ad hoc expert on a periodic visit of the Committee to Latvia. He continued his involvement as an expert until 2017 when he was elected as the member of the CPT in respect of the United Kingdom. In March 2021 Alan was elected President of the Committee.

As medical doctor, Alan Mitchell's main clinical work is within the immigration removal centre in Scotland but he also continues to be called upon on occasion to work within Scotland's prisons.

A Commissioner with the Scottish Human Rights Commission from 2015 until 2021, Alan Mitchell also during that time was Chair of the Independent Prison Monitoring Advisory Group in Scotland. He is frequently instructed as an expert witness in extradition requests heard before the courts in the United Kingdom in respect of prison conditions in requesting states. In addition to having visited many prisons across the Council of Europe area with the CPT, has also undertaken visits to prisons in India, Kuwait and South Africa for the extradition court.