

Protocol of engagement to  
the network of the European  
Correctional  
training/educational centres

**EPTA**

**PROTOCOL OF ENGAGEMENT**  
**TO THE**  
**NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN CORRECTIONAL**  
**TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL CENTRES**

This Protocol of engagement [*from now on: Protocol*] defines roles and responsibilities of partners joining the NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN CORRECTIONAL TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL CENTRES [*from now on: NETWORK*].

The NETWORK is concentrating on Partners' Training/Educational Centres activities. It fosters the establishment and the development of exchanges and transfers of knowledge as well as of research activities.

It aims at developing at European level a cooperation to promote and enhance initial and continuous training of correctional staff, who is charged of managing remand and/or convicted people, both in prison and in the community.

It should also contribute to the enhancement of the image of correctional staff and to the knowledge of the correctional world by citizens.

**Shared Understanding, Philosophy and Objectives**

The European context stresses:

*"that the enforcement of custodial sentences and the treatment of prisoners necessitate taking account of the requirements of safety, security and discipline while also ensuring prison conditions which do not infringe human dignity and which offer meaningful*



## TECHNICAL FILE ATTACHED

### REVIEW

After a long-lived informal collaboration in the organization of meetings (among which the AGIS program), several training centres of the prison staffs in Europe decided in 2008 (seminary of AGEN) to spread their cooperation.

The basing common declaration **THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF THE TRAINING CENTERS OF THE PRISON STAFFS** is drafted in 2009 (seminary of ROME) and subjected to the approval of the directors.

**This European network is based on the positions which follow and which are reminded in the "protocol of membership".**

- The prison professional culture of public utility is a strong vector of their common identity.
- The variety of surrounding areas of this culture constitutes an enrichment for each of them.
- The field covered by the trainings which they insure concern, in a dominant way, the management of stakes in our society.
- The place which they occupy in the professional training establishes a specificity.
- The nature of their activities, the organization and the frame in which they come true, complement each other.

The choice of a structure in network was held to promote schools so on the national level as international while guaranteeing to its members a maximal autonomy.

This choice also has for objective a not centralized, variable-geometry functioning, allowing the various institutions to participate in the actions and the reflections led within the framework of the network and according to their specific objectives.

The development expected from the activities of the network, the evolution wished by the numbers of institutions participating in it, the coverage shared by a certain number of activities led to the common profit of the members of the network, drove in search of a flexible and dynamic structure.

### PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

#### Conditions of membership to the network

**To join the network, your establishment owes to:**

- assure the initial or continuous vocational training of prison staffs,
- welcome pupils or trainees.



**The membership confers the membership of the network and involves an actual commitment in its activities, commitment which shows itself by:**

- A fair contribution to the actions of the network in which it participates.
- A will to privilege a logic of mutual insurance of the means and the skills.
- An involvement in the organization and the management of the network and it, in particular, by the participation in the annual meetings of the directors.

The demand of membership for the network is formalized with the serving president by a motivated paper. It is subjected to the approval of the members of the network during the annual meeting of the directors.

#### Participation to the network

Every member makes a commitment only for the activities of the network which seems relevant towards its appropriate objectives.

#### Piloting of the network

The directors of the Training centres of the member prison staffs of the RESP meet at least once a year. The secretarial department of these meetings is assured by the permanent delegation of the network. The meeting aims at approving the balance sheet of the led actions, at defining the program of the actions of the next year and at adopting all the decisions necessary for the smooth running of the network.

During this meeting, the directors choose within them the president who will assure the functions for year  $n+1$  and confirm the name of the president of the year who begins. This president has in load the implementation of the politics defined by the meeting of the directors. Also, he insures, together with the members of the Executive Committee, the representation of the network with institutions and foreign partners.

The decisions taken in this frame establish the base of action of the executive committee of the network.

#### Executive committee

This committee includes three members: the serving president, the president going out as well as the director anticipated to assuring the load of the presidency during the following exercise.

#### Staff

To bring to a successful conclusion his mission, the serving president leans on the logistic structure of his centre to assume in particular the secretarial department. Other modalities can be defined by the executive committee.



*occupational activities and treatment programmes to inmates, thus preparing them for their reintegration into society"; [...]*

*"that it is important that Council of Europe member states continue to update and observe common principles regarding their prison policy"; [...]*

*"that the observance of such common principles will enhance international co-operation in this field".<sup>1</sup>*

In this perspective, the training and education of correctional staff has crucial importance and it is a strategic investment in the enforcement of sanctions and measures. By all, signatories have signed the following

## CLAUSES

FIRST.- The objectives of the NETWORK shall be:

- 1) to promote exchanges of knowledge, contents, programmes and good practices;
- 2) to promote cross-border mobilisation of staff on training and of trainers;
- 3) to develop communication among the different NETWORK partners.

The fields of cooperation, in their comparative dimension, might include:

- the identification of common patterns of competence and know-how stemming from correctional practices;
- ethics and deontological rules;
- the selection and training of trainers;
- the training assessment;
- the scientific models of reference.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation R(2006)2 of the Committee of Ministers of the European Council to member states on the European Prison Rules.



## **SECOND.- NETWORK organisation**

The NETWORK organisation has been set out from NETWORK partners' proposals and remarks. For its organisational structure and functions descriptions, and its scheduled main activities, a technical file is attached to the present protocol of engagement and it becomes its integral part (*see enclosure*).

## **THIRD.- Work Methodologies**

Partners propose to facilitate knowledge sharing through, for example:

- conferences/seminars/workshops;
- the publications of experiences and results;
- the exchange of correctional staff, students and trainers;
- the assessment of activities which have been carried out by the NETWORK;
- the setting up of working groups to develop and exchange knowledge on specific correctional topics;
- the setting up and the development of communications tools;
- the transfer and dissemination through other linked networks.

By signing the Protocol, partners engage themselves:

- to actively contribute to the development and management of the NETWORK;
- to actively define, develop, and support the initiatives to be undertaken;
- to provide for information on a regular basis, relevant to the NETWORK works and topics;
- to assure the means necessary to the functioning of the NETWORK.

## **FOURTH.- Dates of the Protocol**

The present Protocol comes into force.

It shall cover the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to ...




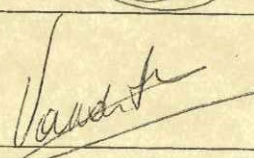
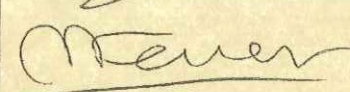

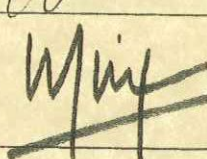
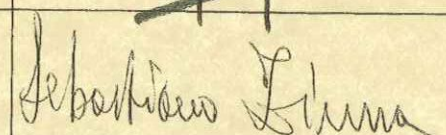
#### FIFTH.- Expiration of the Protocol

Each NETWORK partner can at any time withdraw from the Protocol, by providing written notice of the withdrawal within 60 days and under condition of offering an occasion for some previous consultation.

This Protocol has been produced in two copies, in French and English languages, each of them being equally authentic.

Signatures, in Toledo (Spain) April 12, 2010:

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|                                                                                                               |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Branko PERAN<br>General Director of Croatian Prison Administration<br>Republic of Croatia                     |   |
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| Sebastiano ZINNA<br>High Institute of Penitentiary Studies<br>Italy <i>Delegated for Sergio Morillo-Calle</i> |   |