



6^{T H} C O N F E R E N C E O F E U R O P E A N P E N I T E N T I A R Y T R A I N I N G A C A D E M I E S

Portlaoise, Ireland 4th - 6th June 2013

Tuesday 4th June

17.00 Delegates welcomed to Ireland, and the Conference, by the President, John McGuckin.

17.15 John McGuckin opened the meeting and informed the delegates that there were applications from Northern Ireland and Austria to join the EPTA network. The network delegates decided unanimously to approve the applications of the new candidate countries.

17.30 John McGuckin initiated a discussion among the delegates regarding the Presidency of the Network outlining different options that the network members should consider.

The Catalanian delegation would accept the presidency but with certain provisos;

- a) No guarantee that accommodation could be provided for all delegates
- b) Delegations would have to pay for their own flights.

John McGuckin proposed Catalonia for the Presidency of EPTA. This proposal was seconded by David Mesch (Sweden).

The delegates voted unanimously in favour of Catalonia assuming the presidency after this Conference.

John McGuckin conveyed the apologies of Frank Borst for his absence this year, conveyed his best wishes to the delegates for a successful Conference and invited the delegates to the opening reception.

Wednesday 5th June

Chief Officer Raphael O'Keeffe acted as the master of ceremonies and introduced all delegates who made presentations to the Conference.

09.00 The opening address of the Conference was delivered by John McGuckin during which he welcomed all of the delegates. He welcomed Northern Ireland and Austria as the new network members. John extended his greetings to Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan and the President of EuroPris, Hans Meurisse.

John spoke about the common issues, aims and objectives of EPTA. He focussed on the need to develop communication among the EPTA partners. He outlined that the network should develop channels of communication as a priority over the coming year.

John thanked his counterparts in Norway, Belgium, Croatia and Romania for their assistance in carrying out a 'Peer Review' of the Diploma in Applied Prison Management and Leadership as part of the validation process. This is a clear example of what the EPTA network can deliver for its members.

John stressed his firmly held belief that "it's through mutual support and shared knowledge that we can continue to ensure high levels of training".

John congratulated the Catalonian delegation as the incoming president of the network. He thanked the staff of the Irish Prison Service College for all of their work in preparing for this conference.

The President invited the Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan, to address the conference.

09.15 The Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Mr. Michael Donnellan welcomed all of the delegates to Ireland and to the Irish Prison Service College. He spoke of how training and education are at the heart of professionalism and the importance of how the sharing knowledge and experience through the EPTA network will help create international best practice. He is opinion that the EPTA network will help European prisons meet the challenges of the 21st century and that it is crucial for all practitioners to be guided by the European Prison Rules. He concluded by wishing all of the delegates well for the next few days.

09.30 Mr. Hans Meurisse President of EuroPris

Hans Meurisse thanked Michael Donnellan the Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Irish Prison Service College for the invitation to address the conference.

He assured the EPTA network members of the support of EuroPris for operation and role. Inter agency cooperation is the way forward for all prison networks. EuroPris can support the inter network cooperation. He praised the EPTA network for the continued work which it is undertaking.

Hans Meurisse's presentation outlined the goals of the EuroPris agenda and the strong evolution in the Prison Service in the digital age and posed the question as to whether the prisoners and the staff ready to embrace the opportunities which the digital age can provide.

Mr. Meurisse spoke of how information and knowledge is important and about giving persons in custody access to on-line information and services and asked why prison services would not empower the prisoners?

The President concluded by issuing an invitation to visit the new 'Future Proof' Prison Wing in Belgium, from November 15th to December 15th, before it's occupied by prisoners.

10.00 Marcin Strzelec (Poland) delivered a presentation on E-Learning.

Marcin outlined that there are 4 basic training groups in the Polish Prison Service and how training is supported by e-learning. In Poland there over 5,000 active students undertaking 73 courses provided through their Moodle platform (**edu.cossw.pl**). The courses are designed to provide the student with a self directed study environment and support through discussion forums available. E-learning has generated savings of approximately €1,000,000.

Marcin concluded his thought provoking presentation with interactive video footage of Polish prisons and a Training Video.

10.30 Egil Larson and Kari Undheim (Norway) also gave a presentation on the subject of e-learning.

Egil and Kari's presentation outlined the 3 years of training delivered to staff and how the Norwegian Prison Service utilise e-learning for both Prison Officers and Works Officers. Face to face teaching and training methodologies are used but there are plans to start BA programmes in 2015 which build on their experience of e-learning.

11.00 Fergus Timmons of the Sligo Institute of Technology gave a presentation on the Higher Certificate for Custodial Care (HCCC) and how Moodle is integrated into the pedagogical approaches on the course.

Fergus outlined the findings of research which he carried out on the use of Moodle by the Recruit Prison Officers during their training. Fergus' research focussed on the growth and development of a knowledge community which e-learning platforms facilitate. A key recommendation from the research is that service providers have to carry an accessibility audit of their e-learning platform to inform policy on whether e-learning modules can support mandatory modules.

Breakout Session

The delegates were then divided into 3 groups to discuss various issues around the use of Moodle, such as the cost and benefit of using it. The groups then returned to the Conference Room and each groups' spokesperson gave an outline of the discussion that took place within each group.

12.00 Mr. Ulrich Luginbuel (Switzerland).

Ulrich gave an account of changes in the Swiss Prison System that took place from 1984 to 2011 and gave a description of the 5 special sections in Lenzbourg Prison that cater for persons in custody over the age of 60 under Article 59 (Psychiatric Treatment). Ulrich explained that there are difficulties for staff when dealing with these elderly inmates and that work is compulsory for all prisoners. He outlined the implementation process of sentences for elderly inmates and showed photographs from the section that houses these inmates.

Ulrich outlined that the number of elderly prisoners in the Swiss prison system is increasing and as a result there an increase the number of special sections from 5 to 12 is under consideration.

He outlined the regime requirements for this category of person in custody. The human relations between staff and elderly persons in custody are important for the management of this category of prisoner. Training is important to ensure that staff working with the elderly has respect, empathy and sincerity.

14.00 Dr. Mary Davoran, (Trinity College Dublin and Central Mental Hospital).

Dr. Davoran gave a presentation on the 'Management of Older Prisoners'.

Dr Davoren outlined her research on the subject of the aging population. The numbers of older prisoners in custody will increase in line with increase of older people in the world's population. Dr. Davoran predicted that terminally ill prisoners will become a big issue in our prisons and that this will be very challenging for the person in custody, for their family and for the management of the prison system. Post release requirements for older prisoners will be more onerous for the prison system. Dr Davoren outlined statutory rules and recommendations for prisoners and also the UN principles for older people.

Dr. Davoran compared the cost associated with the management of an older prisoner population in comparison to the general population. She outlined the standards for care for elderly prisoners and made further reference to the care standards applicable to managing terminally ill prisoners. Dr. Davoran also informed the delegates on various educational and occupational recommendations for elderly prisoners.

Dr. Davoran concluded her presentation outlining her own research in this field.

14.30 Zoia (Maia) Khasia (Georgia)

Zoia gave a presentation on the Penitentiary and Probation Training Centre (PPTC) of Georgia.

The presentation began with some background information on the PPTC including their aims and objectives. Zoia outlined how the PPTC is working towards the implementation of long term training programme strategy with the assistance of the international community and non-governmental organisations. Zoia described the challenges facing the PPTC and the interventions with which they are addressing them. Zoia spoke about

programmes that were developed recently such as Human Rights Monitoring and also those planned for implementation in the near future.

Zoia concluded the Georgian presentation by outlining the main challenges facing the PPTC including providing training for staff dealing with special categories of prisoners such as sex offenders, female prisoners and elderly prisoners.

15.00 Ashot Hayrapetyan (Armenia).

Ashot gave a presentation on the Armenian Training College with background information on the Armenian Training College and the training and education which they provide.

Ashot described the support and cooperation that they receive from international institutions and non governmental organisations to deliver training and education programmes.

The presentation concluded with Ashot stating that they hope to have their impressive new training facility ready this year which will house all the facilities required to deliver training and education programmes for a modern prison service.

Thursday 6th June

09.15 John McGuckin opened the meeting and informed the delegates that he had received an e-mail from the Director of Legal Studies and Specialised Training in Catalonia, who sent his best wishes to the delegates and invited them to next year's conference in Barcelona.

The President proposed to the delegates that they consider three issues for discussion at the end of the Conference;

1) The Presidency

Governor McGuckin proposed that the Presidency will be held from January to December every year, with Catalonia to hold on to the Presidency from now until December 2014.

2) Skills for Justice

A non-profit making training school, Skills for Justice, has applied for membership of the EPTA network.

3) Gary Hill (ICPA)

An application for membership of the network has been submitted by Gary Hill of the ICPA.

09.30 Andreas Stoiber (Bavaria).

Andreas opened his presentation with a clear demonstration of where his football loyalties lay.

Andreas' presentation outlined the training programme for Anti-Violence and managing violence which is delivered to staff in the Bavarian penitentiary system.

10.00 Danko Bakic (Croatia) Danko gave a presentation on Communication and Aggression Management Training in the Croatian Prison Service.

Danko began by some background information on the Croatian Prison system. He then spoke about the importance of good communication and the functions of Security Officers. He also went through the basic principles that the programme is based on, the use of 'self-control techniques' and concluded by going through the basic structures of the programme.

10.30 Gemma Torres Ferrer (Catalonia) gave a presentation on Project Assessment and Risk Management in Catalonian Prisons.

Gemma outlined the *raison d'être* for the foundation of the Interdepartmental Commission in 2008 and gave details of how Project Assessment and Risk Management operate. Gemma outlined the challenges facing the project including the importance of setting the goal to reduce recidivism.

Gemma's presentation concluded with links where delegates can look up further information on the Catalonian Prison System.

11.30 Raluca Stuparu and Ioana Manuela Frangu,(Romania) delivered a presentation titled 'Violence is not the way'.

The presentation outlined how the Romanian Prison System carried out research in 2010 on the subject of violence in the prison system. The research informed the training which staff receive when to assist them in dealing with violence and fed into specialised training for staff working with juvenile prisoners. In 2012 there was a dramatic decrease in the number of assaults on staff and the various reasons for this were outlined.

12.00 Governor Des O'Shea (Ireland) gave a presentation on the Irish Prison Service training for 'Coping with Prison Violence'.

Des outlined various reasons for violence in prisons and methods of coping with it. He gave some background information on the use of Control and Restraint (C&R) and explained the training methods and the use of it in prisons. Des showed a training DVD of C&R techniques in operation.

14.00 There was a live demonstration of C&R procedures by the staff of the Irish Prison Service College with some very willing participants from the delegates themselves!

15.00 Domenico Schiattone (Italy)

Domenico gave a presentation on 'Women in Prison'.

The presentation gave background information on the Italian prison system and the legislation covering prisons. Domenico outlined some of the problems facing the prison system: overcrowding is an issue in a system where there are 65,000 prisoners but only capacity for 45,000. Female prisoners account for 8% of the prisoner population but the prison system is generally geared towards male prisoners.

Since 2008, the Department of Health has been responsible for the provision of healthcare in Italian prisons.

In 2001, a special Mother and Child Unit opened in Milan which catered for children less than 3 years of age. Once a child reaches 3 years of age they cannot remain in the Unit.

Domenico gave an overview of the 'Pensare Insieme Al Femminile' (P.I.A.F.) Project .

15.30 Chief Officer Raphael O'Keeffe expressed his thanks to all of the delegates for making the Conference possible and to the Management and staff of the Irish Prison Service College, especially Liz!

There was also a special word of thanks to the Catering staff in the College and the interpreters.

15.35 The Closing Address of the Conference was delivered by EPTA President, John McGuckin.

The President began with the three issues that were to be discussed by the delegates;

1) The Presidency

There was unanimous agreement that the Presidency will now be held from January to December every year, with Catalonia to hold on to the Presidency from now until December 2014.

2) Skills for Justice

The delegates were unanimous in their rejection of the Skills for Justice application for membership of the EPTA network.

3) Gary Hill (ICPA)

It was agreed that ICPA would be welcome as observers at next year's Conference.

John suggested that EPTA should build closer support links with EuroPris and concluded by thanking everyone for attending this year's Conference and making it a success. He thanked the management and staff of the Irish Prison Service College.

16.00 The 6th Conference of the European Penitentiary Training Academies (2013) then closed with Erich Hubmann (Austria) and Richard Taylor (Northern Ireland) signing the EPTA Protocol in the presence of all of the delegates, thereby becoming new members of the network.

Mark Breen
Secretary to the Conference