

FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS EXPERT MEETING

On 20th May an expert meeting on Foreign National Prisoners (FNP) took place in Vienna. The meeting was jointly organised by EuroPris and CEP and hosted by the Austrian Ministry of Justice. At the meeting representatives from 4 European organisations participated; the organisation Prisoners Abroad, The University of Nottingham and the directors of CEP and EuroPris. The aim of the meeting was to develop a strategy (short term/long term) to put the issue of Foreign National Prisoners on the agenda of European Probation and Prison Services; to define tangible and manageable goals and results and to select a limited number of activities that can be realised by the work of the expert group in the coming year.

The steering group discussed the outcomes of the 2013 Foreign National Prisoners (FNP) meeting in Utrecht where it was identified that more than 20% of Foreign National Prisoners are held in EU prisons. All parties recognised the difficulty of getting the issue of FNP's raised within their countries and the need for more attention to be given to the issue of Foreign National Prisoners. It is clear that the issue of FNP's is not an urgent topic on the agenda of many national probation and prison services. In some countries probation officers are not allowed to have contact with Foreign National Prisoners therefore there is not much known about rehabilitation or resettlement of Foreign National Prisoners.

Good contacts exist between organisations like Prison Reform International, the Foundation for Dutch Prisoners behind Bars and the UK Prisoners Abroad Foundation, but there is no structural exchange of knowledge and information neither is there a European register of experts on Foreign National Prisoners. At present good practices in Europe are not routinely shared with other professional bodies. The steering group observed a lack of information on Foreign National Prisoners among probation and prison professionals in Europe.

Strategy and Goals

If we are to impact the current position of Foreign National Prisoners it is important to set achievable goals. The results of all actions must be recognised and used in daily practice by all who work with Foreign National Prisoners. Based on the 4 strategic goals identified the steering group expanded on these goals with specific activities for the coming year:

1. Better national regulations and practice:

Select pressing topic from Council of Europe Recommendations: Education and Training possibilities inside prisons

Involve the following partners to address this topic:

- Education for Dutch Prisoners behind Bars
- European Prison Education Association
- CEP/EuroPris expert group on staff training: Training curriculum
- EuroPris ICT expert group for possibilities on e-learning, use of internet in prison, video conferencing with families
- European Prison Training Academies (EPTA): Training curriculum

2. Create awareness on FNP issues:

Build and maintain a European Foreign National Prisoners network

Potential partners in the network and for participation at the workshop:

- Prison and Probation professionals (using the networks of EUROPRIS and CEP).
- Universities / academics involved in research on Foreign National Prisoners.
- Internal NGO's like the Salvation Army, Red Cross, IOM, ICPA and country specific groups
- Consular Services of embassies

Network will be used to:

- Gather and disseminate information (Europe & worldwide)
- Gather information about receiving countries through an online community: information about reintegration conditions in the receiving country

Address them through

- Organize Workshops / update on activities through publication of information in the newsletters of these partners and of the FN expert group participants

First step in this network building will be the organisation of the workshop in October 2014.

3. Information resource:

a) Flyer / b) Resettlement Information / c) Best practice in prisons

a) Develop flyer (to be ready at October workshop) with information about the FN expert group

b) Resettlement information

- Use the workshop to gather more information about Resettlement issues for deported FNPs and those released into host community
- Use and disseminate already existing information from:
 - STEPS 2 Resettlement project (NOMS): release structures / prison conditions
 - Resettlement information CD
 - Re-phrase IOM information sheets (International Organization for Migration) and from NOMS/PRAXIS Resettlement Abroad country sheets
 - Prisoner handbook Netherlands:
<http://shop.mensys.nl/uk/shop/Bajesboek/9789067282147>
- Gathering resettlement information that is available in European prison systems for the resettlement of FNPs

c) Explore best practices:

- Compare pros/cons, what works, what does not work in two approaches: 100% FN prisons and FN dominated prisons (remand and sentenced)
- Explore relation with immigration.

4. Increased post-release resources for FNPs:

a) Flyer / b) Good practice guide

b) revisit existing good practice guide

The experts also defined the contents of a workshop on the topic of Foreign National Prisoners which is scheduled to be held in London, 20-22 October 2014. Draft agenda below.

**Workshop Foreign National Prisoners
London
20-22 October 2014.**

DRAFT CONCEPT

FORMAT/WORKSHOP MODEL:

- Monday 20 -Tuesday 21 October workshop (start Monday afternoon)
- 1 ½ day workshop
- ½ day for a prison visit (Monday and Wednesday morning)
- Mix of plenary sessions and World Café style with 3 main problems/issues/wishes

Main outcomes:

1. Comparing Practices: 100% Foreign National Prisons and Foreign National Dominated Prisons
2. Recommendations on: Release - Resettlement - Reintegration
 - Release preparation
 - Transfer preparation
 - Impact on the individual
 - Existing and missing information
3. Development of a Network of organisations / experts on Foreign Nationals

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday morning

1st Possible visit to Maidstone Prison (9.00 – 13.00)

Monday afternoon (registration from 13.00, start 13.30 – 17.00)

Plenary session

- Welcome and introduction (13.30 – 14.00)
 - Welcome Michael Spurr (NOMS)
 - Introduction FNP expert group
- Good Practice Foreign Nationals in Prison (14.00 – 15.00)
 - Two Presentations: Norway and England on 100% FN Prisons; Spain on Foreign National dominated Prison

World Café session (15.00- 17.00)

Tuesday morning (9.00 – 12.30)

Plenary session

- Summarize outcomes World Café Monday (9.00 – 9.30)

- Release – Resettlement – Reintegration (9.30 – 10.30)
 - Context
 - Impact on individual (Prisoners Abroad)
 - Information available / Information gaps

World Café session (10.30 – 12.30)

Tuesday afternoon (13.00 – 16.30)

Plenary session

- Summarize Outcomes World Café Tuesday (13.00 – 13.30)
- Introduce Foreign National Network
- (13.30 – 14.00)
 - Future strategy
 - How to expand and maintain the network
 - Steering group
 - How can you help
 - Future FNP projects

World Café session (14.00 – 16.00)

- Summarize Action Points **16.00 – 16.30**

Wednesday morning

2nd Possible visit to Midland Prison (9.00 – 13.00)