



With financial support from the criminal justice programme of the European Commission

EuroPris hosts STEPS 2 Resettlement first project board meeting

The first STEPS 2 Resettlement project board meeting was hosted by EuroPris, 14-15 May in The Hague. The project, led by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is exploring the successful transfer of offenders under the Framework Decision 909. This project follows on from the iSTEP project which concluded in May 2013 and focused on the mutual recognition of community sentences between Member States under the FD 947.

Additionally, the STEPS2 project will also take a close look at the best methods for transferring offender data and developing information for Victims, Offenders and Staff.

The meeting explored each of the project workstreams and developed the project timeline, which all partners will follow. EuroPris will be working across all workstreams and will assist all workstream leads to ensure the successful delivery of this exciting project.

The four workstreams of this project include:

- Enhanced Cooperation and Mutual Trust between Member States
- Increasing Understanding and Awareness of the FD909 for Staff, Offenders and Victims
- Development of resettlement and aftercare practices
- Improving prison management through improved information management

Representatives from Belgium, Italy, Romania, Spain, The Netherlands and the UK all attended the meeting and in addition to EuroPris the CEP also attended as a project board member.

The meeting discussed in detail the meaning of Social Rehabilitation and how this can be interpreted differently by individuals. The project board had a presentation on the e-codex project, www.e-codex.eu, which has developed a system to transfer data securely across EU borders and can be developed for the use of transferring offender data quickly and securely. All project partners presented their work packages to the board allowing the workstreams to look at overlap and how this can be combined to increase the success of the project.

At the end of the project a handbook and website will provide useful resources for all EU member states implementing FD 909.

The original idea for the project came from Institute of Social Development and Innovation and NOMS. EuroPris will be working closely with NOMS, UK and the Institute of Social Development and Innovation; Romania on the effect transferring prisoners has on victims. EuroPris was asked to be a partner to help with the project development on the transfer of offenders and the dissemination through the EuroPris network.

To support the implementation of this project, EuroPris will be hosting the third of its Expert Groups on the 'transfer of offenders' under the Framework Decision 909 on 23rd – 24th September. This will be in Brussels, Belgium and details of this meeting can be viewed on the EuroPris website.

The first project board meeting was a success and generated lots of great ideas and partnerships. If you would like to know more about the project please contact Vivette wadey on vivette.wadey@noms.gsi.gov.uk or read the regular updates on the EuroPris website www.europris.org

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