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## CEP Special Interest Group Prisoners Abroad adopts various strategies



What to do about the social rehabilitation of nationals in foreign prisons? How to deal with foreigners in your own prison system? These and other fundamental questions brought the attendees to the Prisoners Abroad Conference in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on March 10, 2011. The day became a platform for the presentation of a business case that states the importance of effective measures to combat recidivism among this group of prisoners.

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## Announcing the upcoming issue of EuroVista

The next issue of *EuroVista: Probation and Community Justice* will be published soon. This is the first issue to be produced by the new editorial team, Gerhard Ploeg and Rob Canton, and is introduced by an editorial reaffirming the character and purpose of the Journal.

**EuroVista**

EuroVista was formerly Vista. One of its original editors, Jenny Roberts, died in November 2010 and EuroVista pays tribute to her remarkable career and her singular contribution to probation policy and practice.

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## Conclusion: a European curriculum for forensic social work



By the end of this year any probation client from a EU member state will in principle have the right to do his community work or get his probation supervision in his country of origin. "It will be a great step forward", states Bas Vogelvang, professor of probation services and safety policy at the Avans University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands. "Detention and probation are temporarily. It is meant to prepare and assist somebody to build up a crime free life. In the vast majority of cases this can best be done in the country where the probation client will live after his sanctions have ended: his country or origin. A Spaniard that has committed a lesser crime in Germany in most cases simply does not benefit as much from a German probation sanction than from a Spanish one."

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## Georgia invites international experts to Batumi

The Georgian Probation Service was established in 2001 and became a separate department of the Ministry of Justice. Since October 2010, the Agency is a member of CEP and has taken the initiative to organize an international conference in Batumi, Georgia. The event aimed to stimulate the exchange of best practices in probation between Georgia and Europe.

Scene of the conference was the harbour city of Batumi at the coast of the Black Sea, where approximately 40 Georgian, European and American guests convened on 25 to 27 March 2011. The Conference was opened by Khatuna Kalmakhelidze, Minister of Corrections, Probation and Legal Assistance.



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## EU-project on best practices in restorative justice: recap kick-off conference in Kiel



Restorative Justice is high on the justice agenda of the EU. However, in quite some European countries the potential of restorative justice in the criminal justice system is underestimated. Jo Tein, General Manager of the Association for Social Responsibility in Criminal Justice, Victim and Offender Treatment of the German state Schleswig-Holstein, is the promoter of the EU-funded project *Improving Knowledge and Practice of Restorative Justice*. "The aim of the project is to construct an overview of best practices in restorative justice in Europe, and such to enhance the development of further restorative justice practice. With our conference in Kiel in February we gave the kick-off for the project."

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### 3rd STARR expert meeting on drugs & alcohol: Norway's different way of dealing

The call for tougher punishment of offenders is heard everywhere in Europe. Well not entirely! In Norway a different wind is blowing. This became clear during the expert meeting *Approaches to Drugs and Alcohol Abuse in Prisons & Probation*. At this CEP event, held in February in Sofia, Bulgaria, Deputy Director General at the Norwegian Ministry of Justice Andreas Skulberg held two remarkable presentations. "We have decided to move away from strictly punitive sentences toward alternatives that emphasize the health and economic situation of an offender".

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### Next CEP Newsletter: special STARR issue



The next issue of the CEP Newsletter will be entirely dedicated to STARR. This EU funded project (full name: Strengthening Transnational Approaches that Reduce Reoffending) aims to develop a Euro-wide view on how best practices in community justice settings can be transferred from one jurisdiction, and be implemented in another. From 8th till 10th June the final conference of STARR will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria. You can read more in the next CEP Newsletter which will be published anytime soon. So keep an eye on your mailbox in the next

coming days!

[Go to the STARR website](#)

### Miscellaneous news

At the offices, CEP regularly receives (e)mail on events, publications and developments in the field of probation in Europe and even beyond. As some of these items may be of interest of our member organizations, CEP brings you a selection of this news.

Find a list of interesting conferences in Europe, and an overview of publications concerning radicalized prisoners, community payback, statistics of probation in Germany and a speech about rethinking criminal Justice. Also find some information on EU funding to promote equality and counter discrimination.

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[CEP comm: Knowledge base: The Business Case for Providing Services to Prisoners Abroad - goo.gl/LiYID](#)

[CEP comm: Knowledge base: Translations of the CEP Statement on Probation Values & Principles in French and German uploaded - http://goo.gl/wlppJ](#)

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