



## Agen - summary

### European Probation Curriculum (EPC) – Opportunities

- Core task is very similar
- Generally shared values
- Similar motivation for doing job
- Some consistency in CJS organisation

### EPC – Challenges

- Some significant differences in tasks
- Organisational context unique to each jurisdiction
- Mixed record of successful transfer so far
- Decision making processes can be complex and hard to access

### EPC – Key Questions

- Is probation social work or not?
- What is the relationship with prisons?
- Should there be one central training unit in each country?
- What level should probation officers be trained at?

### Leo Tigges

- New countries do not have a burden of history, can start anew
- Large part of CEP's importance is the values it represents
- Substantial number of professionals will participate in European Training Scheme by 2015

### Francois Courtine

- State
- Community
- Knowledge
- Practice

### Genevieve Dantras (France)

- A national school trains all prison and probation staff
- Probation tasks undertaken by social workers who have been spared recruitment freeze
- Two year training course



### Helie Niskanen (Finland)

- No specific education – bachelor in applied social science
- Pre-entry and some, but not all, undertake probation placements
- Mainly young women apply with immigrant communities under-represented

### Martin Smith (England & Wales)

- Reflective practitioner
- Framework, not award, open to all practitioners
- Practice and theory leading to qualification
- Moved away from social work for political reasons

### Imants Jurevici (Latvia)

- No money for training – 0 is 0 in any language
- What is the community and what is its influence?
- Probation service HQ is setting off in a highly centralised direction

### Slavi Novak (Slovenia)

- No single service, no central training
- Social workers do not wish to supervise offenders: “not our profession”

### Open Discussion

- What is the relationship between training and the new European Framework?
- Is there anywhere where the probation service is not dominated by young, white women?
- Why is there such a variety in attrition rates? And is leaving always negative?

### Austria/ Belgium workshop

- Are there too many lawyers being employed in probation? And what is the right background and training?
- We must get the connection right between the role and the teaching of theory and practice
- Link between requirements of recruitment and training – training can fill that gap

### Sweden/ Denmark workshop

- Are prison officers and probation officers interchangeable?
- Have we got a common vocabulary: “client” “user” “offender”?
- All services are moving to CBT
- All services picking up on impact evaluation



Anneke Menger (Netherlands)

- Intensive cooperation between universities and employers
- Programme was developed from the bottom up
- Connections have been repaired, circle completed by practice based research
- Approach promotes the development of academic probation knowledge

Concluding Observations

- CEP should stand strong in promoting probation values
- CEP role is very important in promoting European Curriculum and Stockholm Programme
- Learning and sharing should be in all directions
- Partnership between universities as “critical friends” and probation services is vital