

In this edition of *Probation works*: Strategic Review of Penal Policy Report, Inaugural Irish Criminal Justice Conference, Parole Board Annual Report launched, Innovative Community Service recycling project, Europris Newsletter, RTE Documentary on Probation, Meet a Probation Officer, JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) Conference, a Master class in Probation

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Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland)

September 2014

Message from Director

The launch last week, by Minister Frances Fitzgerald TD, of the Penal Policy Review Report, marks a landmark in Irish penal policy development and a new and exciting opportunity for the Probation Service and our Justice partners. Speaking at the launch of the Report, Minister Fitzgerald stated that "... the time is right in Ireland, for the development of a new approach to penal policy..." and that while "the societal need for punishment must be met... the proven potential to reduce crime through reducing reoffending must also be grasped." The Minister went on to outline the key role played by probation supervision, Community Service, Community Return, and related programmes, in rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending, and spoke of her aim to progress the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill, to "strengthen the legislative framework for supervised community sanctions."



(August/September 2014) edition of the *Village* magazine. In the article, Senator Bacik singles out the joint Probation-Prisons strategy, on women who offend, for praise, concluding that: “the commitments made in the strategy, once implemented, will contribute to a more progressive penal policy, and should greatly enhance the prospects of rehabilitation and reintegration for women offenders within the criminal justice system.”



Sally Lewis, former Chief Probation Officer, Avon and Somerset Probation Trust, presenting the Bristol Integrated Offender Management Approach with Dangerous Offenders in the Conference workshop on transition management and release.

JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) Conference

The final conference of the JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) European project on the treatment and transition management of high risk offenders was held in Rostock-Warnemünde (Germany) between 3rd – 5th September 2014 with over 400 hundred delegates from

staff and clients.

Broadcast dates, yet to be confirmed, are ‘pencilled in’ for Mondays the 6th and 13th of October 2014.

Check RTE TV scheduling in the coming weeks for further details.



Europris (European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services) Newsletter

The eighth edition of the Europris newsletter was also published this month. It contains an interview with the head of the Scottish Prison Service, and articles on a range of Europe-wide developments and projects in the prisons field, and is available [here](#)

34 countries in attendance.

The JCN Justice Co-operation Network project partners have been working since 2012 to develop a European network and best practice in the transition management and supervision of high risk prisoners leaving custody. The JCN European project was funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Criminal Justice Programme.



The Conference provided an important and exciting opportunity for sharing knowledge and expertise developed in the work of the project, promote best practice through shared learning, host expert speakers and workshops on key issues and provide an opportunity to develop relevant links and networks across Europe and beyond.



Meet a Probation Officer

*Amanda Egan from the
Dublin Assessment Team*

Why did you choose to Study Social Work?

I studied Social Work because I enjoyed listening to people and helping them to find solutions to difficulties they were having. I felt I could be objective and had good listening and communication skills.

Where were you before you joined the Probation Service?

Before I joined the Probation Service I worked as a Child Protection Social Worker. This included working with families to support them to meet the needs of their children at home, taking children into foster care when necessary and facilitation ongoing family contact, sitting on the Fostering Placement Committee and being in a Team Leader Role.

Tell us about your current role?

Pictured Above: *Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, Dr. Mary Rogan, Lecturer in in Socio-Legal Studies, DIT and Chairperson of the [Irish Penal Reform Trust](#), and Paddy Richardson, CEO of IASO at the JCN Conference.*

Ireland was represented at the Conference by delegates from the Probation Service, Irish Prison Service, Department of Justice and Justice and Equality, Dublin Institute of Technology, PACE, IASIO, ACJRD, IPRT among others.

The conference opened with addresses by the Minister for Justice in Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania and the Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Justice followed by speakers from the EU Commission, the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and Europris. The conference included contributions from:

- Dr. Benoit Majerus (Luxembourg) and Dr. Christoph Krehl (Germany) on risk and judgment challenges,
- Jörg Ziercke (Germany) on victim issues,
- Dr. Stephen Farrall (UK) on Long-term Effects of Probation Supervision,
- Marianne Vollan (Norway) on the innovative Norwegian approach in working with high risk offenders and
- Dr. Mary Rogan (Ireland), Beate Lakotta (Der Spiegel, Germany) and Elisabeth Kotthaus (EU in Germany).

The Conference has brought to a conclusion the work of the JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) European project on the treatment and transition management of high risk offenders. The JCN project has been a significant success in developing the framework for a European network, identifying best practice models and establishing key standards in the transition management, supervision and resettlement of high risk offenders.

My role in the Probation Service is on the Dublin Assessment Team completing Pre-sanction and Community Service Reports for the Court in relation to the client's level of risk of re-offence and suitability for Probation supervision.

Describe your typical day?

My typical day involves meeting clients to complete assessments for Pre-sanction Reports, gathering information in relation to their circumstances, offending behaviour and any areas of concern such as addiction issues or lack of training and employment. This helps to inform the use of the LSI-R Risk Assessment Tool to highlight areas of concern that engaging in Probation Supervision may help to address and reduce their risk of re-offence. The assessment may also include suitability for Community Service or Restorative Justice. Liaising with other relevant agencies to explore current and potential supports is also a key element of the assessment process in order to begin to engage