



**HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT**

Communities of Communities: International Standards and Co-operation in Probation Work

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- Introduction – incl. Irish Probation Service.
- ‘Communities,’ supranational bodies, organisations and networks.
- Role in standards.
- The PC-CP. (Current work programme).
- Ireland’s role, input and benefits.
- Future possibilities
- Questions & Answers



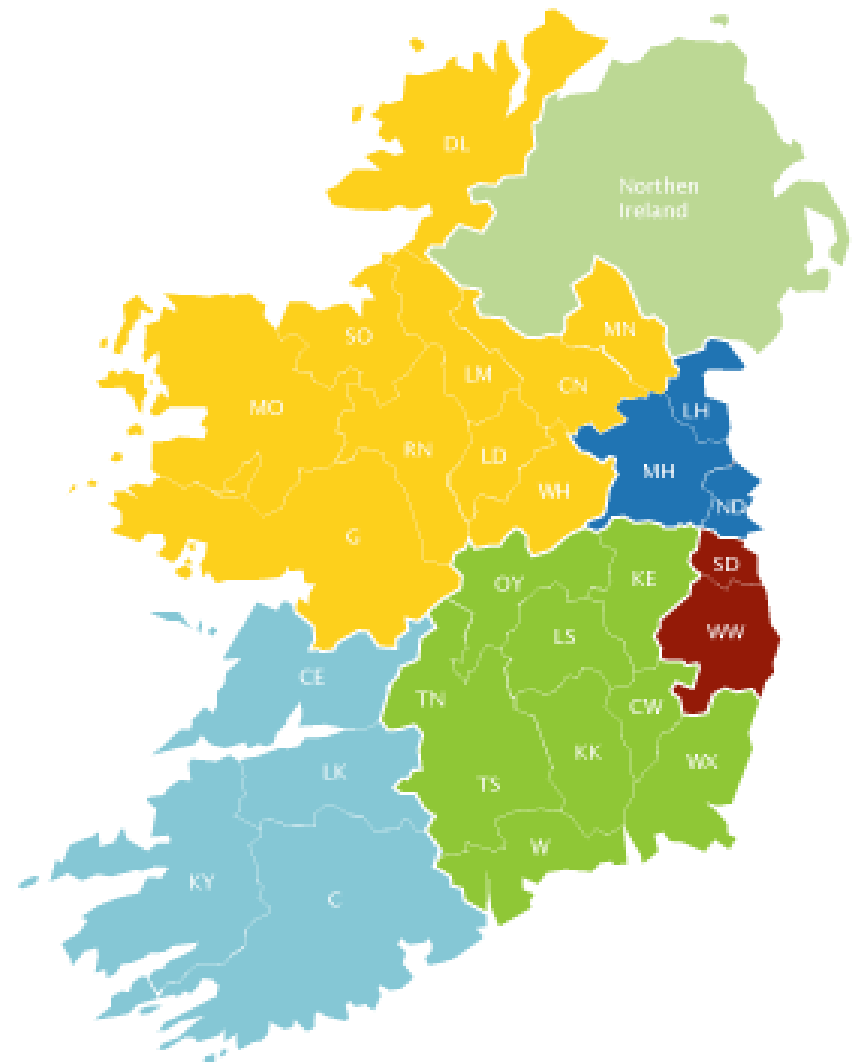
Irish Probation Service – Overview:

- ✓ **400 staff**
- ✓ **€46+ million budget**
- ✓ **40 office locations**
- ✓ **All 13 prisons**
- ✓ **8,500 offenders in the community**
- ✓ **1,500 (of 3,700) in custody at one time**

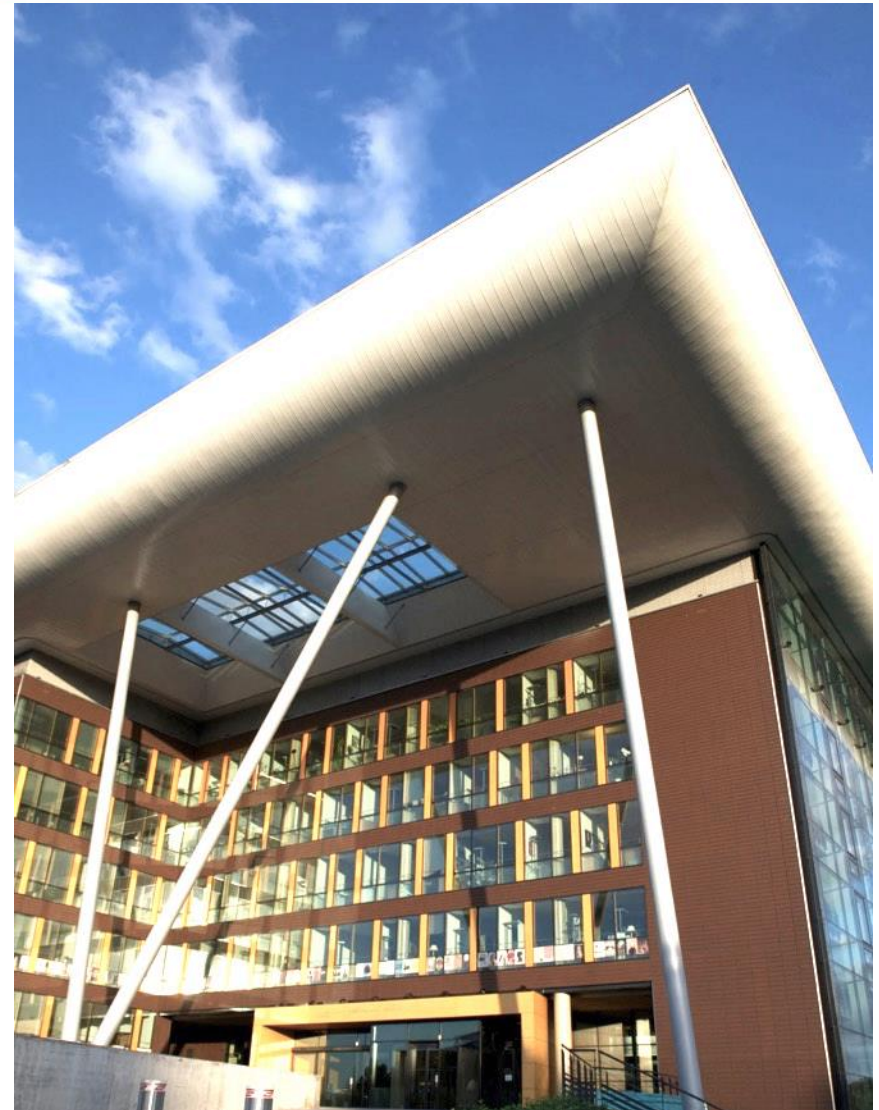


Irish Probation Service – Role:

- **Manage court orders**
- **Reduce risk of harm**
- **Reduce likelihood of reoffending**
- **Make good the harm caused by crime**



- **“Community”/ “Communities” ?**
- **Supranational Bodies**
- **Council of Europe...**



**Holy See, USA,
Canada, Japan,
Mexico; Israel (Parl.
Assembly).**

47 MEMBER STATES
47 ÉTATS MEMBRES



■ non-member state of the Council of Europe (Belarus)

- CoE: Established 1949.
- European Convention on Human Rights (1950).
- European Court of Human Rights (1959).
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT - 1989).
- Rule of Law > CDPC > PC-CP

- PC-CP: Established in 1980 as advisory body to Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC).
- Since 2011: 9 members, elected by CDPC Plenary. High-level prisons, probation, administration, legal, research experts.

- Standards in prison & probation management / work
- Recent work programme: CSMs, Radicalisation
- Current: Children of Prisoners, RJ, EPR
Commentary, Prison Overcrowding
- Prison & Probation Directors Conference: CDPPS
- SPACE I & II Statistical Reports
- Web: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/home>

- Use of additional external experts
- Expertise and representativeness of WG members
- Not overly political in foundation or approach
- Value base
- Links to the Convention and Court
- Variety/connection of bodies and WGs, incl CPT

- Like any big organisation/institution
- ‘Identity issues’
- Voluntary nature
- Vast area and different cultures etc
- Can be: high expectations and low capacity (and vice versa)
- Part-time activity and group turnover

- Strong international perspective / commitment
- Influence and be influenced
- A lot to give, and take
- Accountability vital (e.g. Court, CPT, UNCAT)
- Probation / Prison Rules
- Co-operation in policy and practice development
- Uphold values
- Better outcomes

- **Communities of interest – optimism / a guiding star**
- **Some ‘weaknesses’ also strengths**
- **Build strategic connections with practice, policy, and academe**
- **Many contribute – shared understanding**
- **Implementation: the story so far.**
- **Future. (Communities of communities of communities?.....)**

Thank you.
Questions?

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