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ICT in PRISONS

EuroPris Expert Group

Telemedicine Irish, Austrian and Romanian Prison Service

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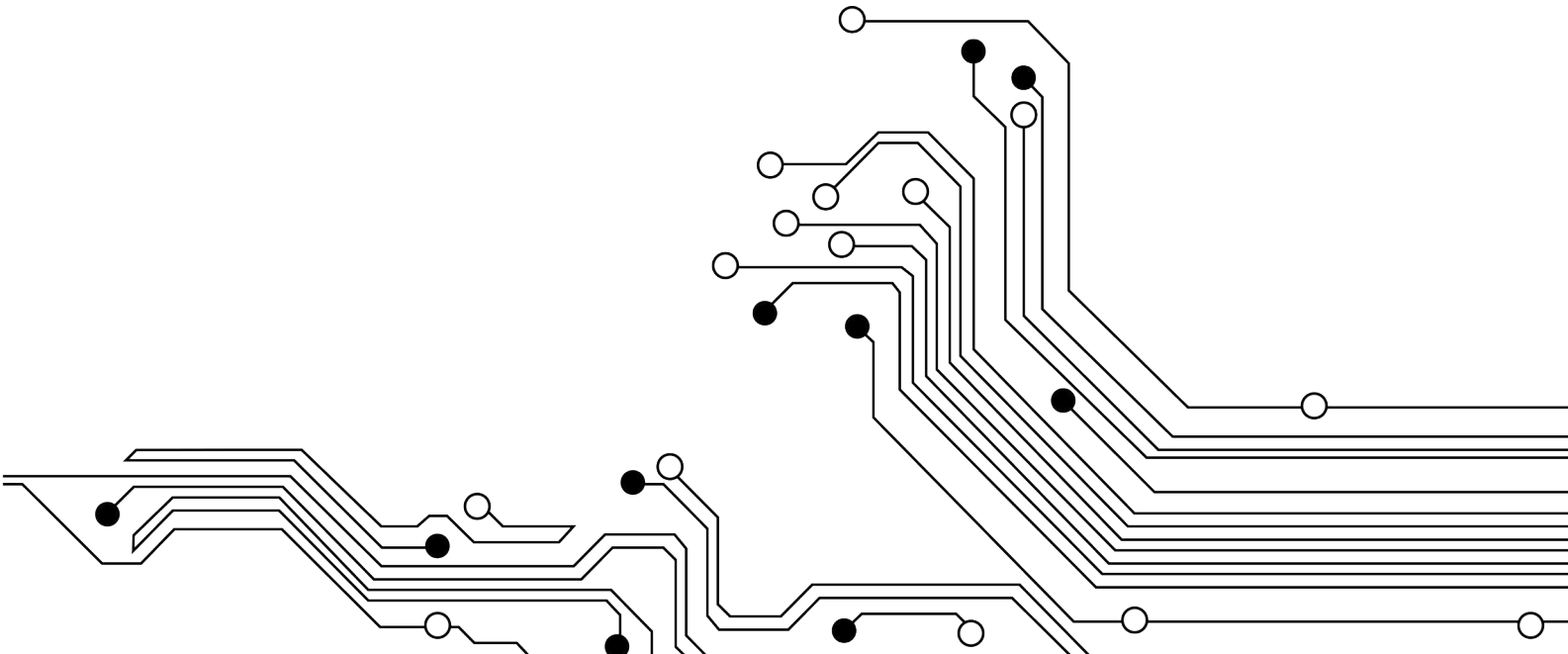

About EuroPris

The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) is a non- political, non-governmental organisation that was founded at the end of 2011 and officially registered in the Netherlands.

EuroPris speaks for the views of prison practitioners in Europe. Membership is open to public institutions or organisations in the Council of Europe region, which provide prison or correctional services on a legal or statutory basis.

EuroPris brings together practitioners in the prisoners´ arena with the specific intention of promoting ethical and rights-based imprisonment, exchanging information and providing expert assistance to support this agenda. The organisation exists to improve co-operation among European Prison and Correctional Services, with the aim of improving the lives of prisoners and their families, enhancing public safety and security; reducing re-offending; and advancing professionalism in the corrections' field.

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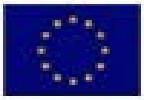

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Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann
IRISH PRISON SERVICE

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Justice and Equality. The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. It is headed by a Director General supported by 4 Directors.
The Irish Prison Service is administered centrally with its headquarters located in Longford, Ireland. There are 14 institutions in the Irish Prison System consisting of eleven traditional "closed" institutions, two open centres, which operate with minimal internal and perimeter security, and one "semi-open" facility with traditional perimeter security but minimal internal security (the Training Unit).
There are 4,000 prisoners and 3,500 staff in the IPS

Business problem to be addressed:

• Currently a significant amount of money is spent each year on escorting prisoners to and from hospitals, approximately €1,778,000 in 2015.

• There are often significant security risks associated with transporting prisoners both in terms of contraband smuggling, in terms of escape risk and the risk of violence towards staff.

TASK

To eliminate the risks identified the Irish Prison Service has decided to begin a pilot between Wheatfield Prison in West Dublin and St James Hospital in central Dublin.
Benefits / Pros
• This pilot will eliminate many of the out-patient escorts required of Wheatfield prison and will greatly ease the pressure on St James Hospital resources
• Reduce the risks of contraband smuggling, escape and of violence towards staff
• Reduces the costs of staff and transport for the prisoners
• Much of the infrastructure already exists between the two bodies

Negatives / Cons
• Investment in Video Conferencing equipment
• Costs to set-up the required infrastructure (Note these will be minimal)

ACTION

The Irish Prison Service has decided to begin a pilot between Wheatfield Prison in West Dublin and St James Hospital in central Dublin.

Assuming the pilot is successful after a period of time the IPS will look to extend the pilot to cover other hospitals and prisons.
The IPS has put in place the necessary software (Cisco Jabber) and hardware PC's with web cams in Wheatfield Prison which will link over Irish Government Networks with St James Hospital. IPS have also extended our software to cover St James Hospital. St James Hospital have installed their own PC's and web cams.

RESULT

The pilot is now underway and is being assessed by senior prisons staff, St James Hospital senior staff and ICT. If successful it will be looked at with a view to rolling it out to other prisons and hospitals.

REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
STRAFVOLLZUG

Austrian Prison Service

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Austria is vested in the Minister for Justice. The General Directorate Service operates as a Division within the Ministry of Justice. It is headed by a Director General supported by a Deputy and 5 departments.
The Austrian Justice System with the Prison Service is administered centrally within the Ministry of Justice located in the centre of Vienna, Austria. There are 27 institutions in the Austrian Prison System consisting of fifteen for pre-trial detainees, eight for convicted detainees and four for mentally disturbed offenders and offenders of weaning treatment. Three are "high security" and the others are "medium security" institutions. There are 9,000 prisoners and 3,900 staff in the APS.

TASK

The Austrian Prison Service has decided to begin a pilot between Vienna-Josefstadt Prison and the SAVD Videodolmetschen GmbH (company providing the video interpreting service).

The company has put in place the necessary hardware and software (Cisco DX80) which will link over the Austrian Government Network (CNA).

ACTION

The project rollout to another fifteen pre-trial prisons and started in regular service by May 2016.

Romanian Prison Service

SITUATION

Political responsibility for the Prison System in Romania is vested in the Minister for Justice. The Minister coordinates directly these services through the National Administration of Penitentiaries. This institution is headed by a Director General supported by three Deputy Director Generals.
The Romanian Prison Service is administered centrally by the National Administration of Penitentiaries located in Bucharest, Romania. There are 44 institutions in the Romanian Prison System consisting of nineteen half open and open prisons, fourteen closed and maximum security prisons, one prison for female offenders and seven wards for female offenders in other prisons, two detention centres, two educative centres and six prison hospitals .
There are 28,380 prisoners and 12,300 staff in the RPS.

TASK

The Romanian Prison Service decided to initiate in March 2012 a pilot program, supported by a professional company, for a period of 6 months, with the Prisons of Gherla, Oradea, Dej Penitentiary Hospital and the Headquarters included.
Benefits / Pros
• In most cases the pilot eliminated the prisoner transportation between the two prisons involved in project (Oradea and Gherla) and Penitentiary Hospital Dej. In few cases, patients were consulted by doctors from the National Administration of Penitentiaries headquarters.
• Reduce the risks of misinterpreting the medical status by non-professional interpreters and of violence towards staff.
• Reduces the costs of staff and transport for the prisoners.
• The infrastructure already exists between the four bodies.

Negatives / Cons
• Investment in Video Conferencing equipment. Costs for the new Romanian pilot system (equipment for Oradea Prison and Dej Penitentiary Hospital) is not that low, but all the service for hardware, software and security is included!
• As we use the existing communication components, the only additional cost is to increase the bandwidth.

ACTION

The Romanian Prison Service has decided to begin a new pilot, with our own equipment, between Oradea Prison and Dej Prison Hospital.

RESULT

In 2015 an acquisition procedure started and bought part of equipment for Dej Prison Hospital.
In 2016 we are to resume procedures with a view to buying the remaining components of the system (medical and hardware components for Oradea Prison and software).
After the pilot system will be fully functionally we will start a period of testing.
In the future, the National Administration of Penitentiaries is interested in acquiring Telemedicine terminals and medical equipment that can be implemented at the level of each prison unit.

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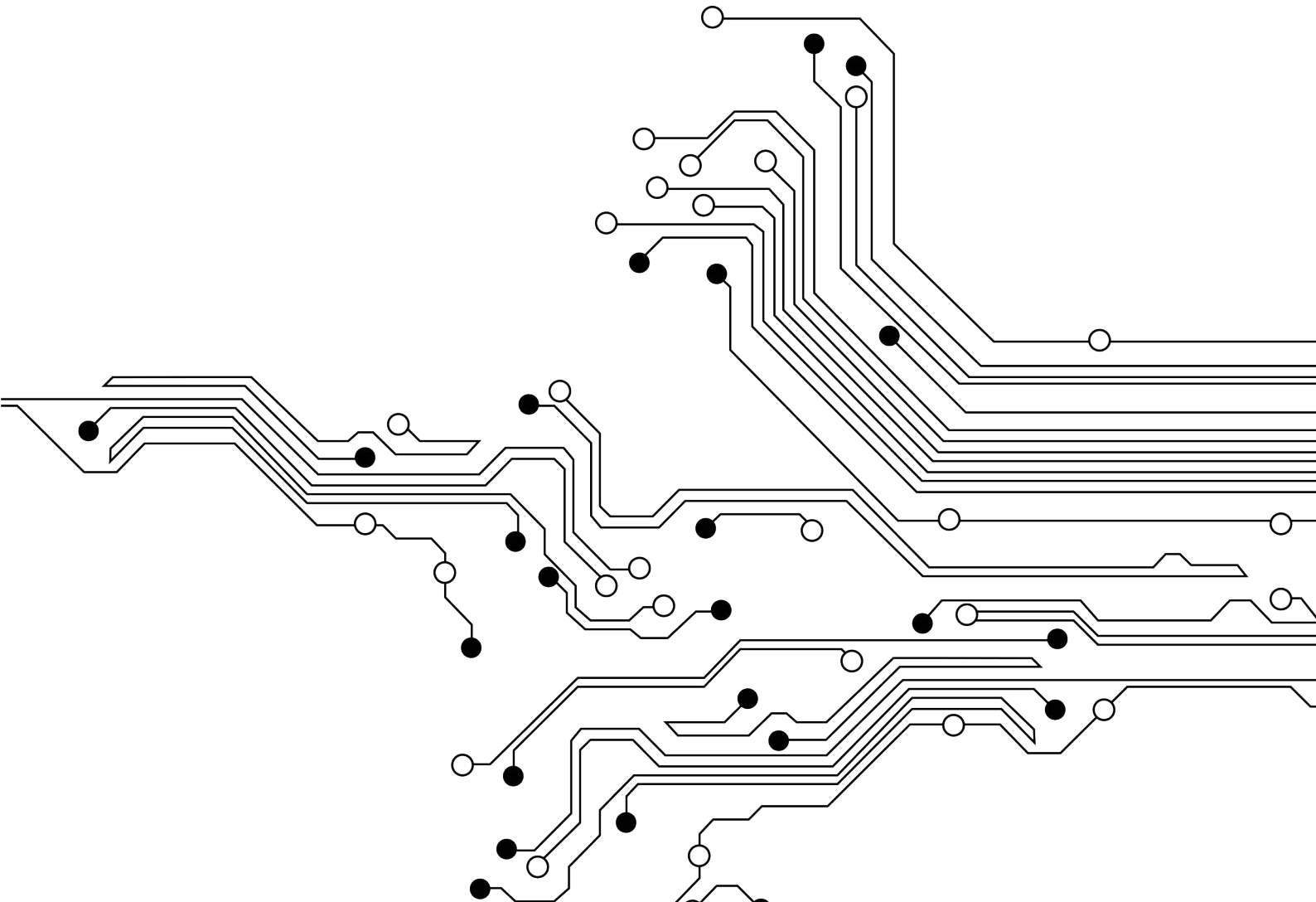
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