



**PNI**

**2019 Spring Co-ordination Meeting  
of the United Nations Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice Programme Network**

I

**Vienna, Austria  
21 May 2019**

**REPORT**

**2019 Spring Co-ordination Meeting  
of the United Nations Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice Programme Network**

**Vienna, Austria  
21 May 2019**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Mr Mikael Johansson (RWI) on behalf of Mr John Brandolino (UNODC) who had excused himself for the first 10 minutes of the meeting due to a conflicting engagement. Mr Johansson, who also chaired the meeting welcomed the participants and then handed over to Mr Matti Joutsen (TIJ) and Mr Gary Hill (ISPAC) in order for them to hold a eulogy over Mr Dimitri Vlassis (UNODC), an old friend of the PNI, who tragically passed away in April after a long period of illness.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda (annex 2) was approved as presented.

**3. Review of the decisions taken at the 2018 Autumn Coordination Meeting:**

It was noted that the decisions taken at the 2018 autumn coordination meeting had been followed up on and that the current meeting would come back to issues relating to the forthcoming UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and actions related to the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ

Mr Johansson asked all the institutes to ensure that their contact details for the PNI mailing list are regularly updated.

**4. Update from network members**

Written updates were provided in advance. These updates are attached in Annex 3.

**5. Preparations for the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Japan**

Mr Brandolino provided a brief update on the UNODC Congress preparations and informed the meeting that Japan will initiate discussion on the Congress Declaration towards the end of the year.

The PNI focal points for the workshops gave brief update on the preparations for the workshops. It was noted that the preparations are proceeding according to plan.

As to Workshop 1, ICPC, following the input provided during the 2018 Autumn PNIs coordination meeting, has revised the proposed workshop structure, simplifying it from 5 to 3 panels (1. Evaluation, 2. Indicators and 3. Statistics). Each panel aims at providing: 1) a state of knowledge in the field, 2) a state of practice, as well as 3) tools and recommendations for member countries to develop evidence-based crime prevention policies under the larger framework of international standards and norms and the 2030 Agenda (see attached PPT). In terms of representation, ICPC's team will closely work with UNODC, fellow PNIs and international partners to ensure geographical representation. Also, for each theme, panelists will include representatives from international organizations and institutions, governments and research. The organising team seeks the participation of high-level representatives, and therefore would be grateful for the support our fellow PNIs can offer to help identify and contact relevant panelists (see attached PPT in annex 4).

As to workshop 2 coordinated by UNAFEI, composition of the panels and most of panelists have already been decided (see attached PPT in annex 5). UNAFEI has held some preparatory meetings and consulted with UNODC experts, TIJ experts, criminal justice practitioners and experts from various regions, and plan to hold a preparatory workshop in July. UNAFEI is now preparing for inputs to the background paper based on the discussion guide, the outcome of regional preparatory meetings and preparatory meetings, etc.

UNICRI presented a draft agenda for workshop 3. The first session will be focused on youth engagement and education as key factors in building resilience to crime (with panels on formal and informal education), the second one on integrating education for a more effective and just approach to juvenile justice, while the last session will be devoted to sport as educational tool to build peaceful and inclusive societies. All sessions will provide concrete experiences and good practices from Member States, civil society, practitioners as well as regional and international organizations.

As to Workshop 4 on “Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.” KIC informed the meeting that the preparations for the Workshop, which is organised in cooperation with NIJ are proceeding well. The three panels will focus on 1) *Technology as tools for crimes*, looking at cryptocurrency and trafficking in firearms on the dark web 2) *Technology as tools for and against crimes*, looking at the role of technology in creating relatively low-risk drug markets and the role of technology in smuggling of migrant cases, and 3) *Technology as tools for and against crimes*, looking at the role of technology in human trafficking and the effects of new information technologies on child abuse and exploitation.

Ms Jo Dedeyne (UNODC) informed the meeting that it was encouraging to see that the preparations for the workshops are proceeding well. Ms. Dedeyne also underlined the importance of working in close cooperation with focal points appointed by the secretariat for the respective workshops, who also had joined the meeting and introduced themselves;

Ms Angela Me - Workshop 1 (ICPC), “Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices.”

Ms Valerie Lebeaux - Workshop 2 (UNAFEI and TIJ) “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions”

Mr Gilberto Duarte - Workshop 3, (UNICRI) “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime”

Demos Chryssikos - Workshop 4 (KIC and NIJ), “Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.”

Mr Chryssikos informed the meeting that the secretariat will shortly communicate a draft time line as regards the background papers that have to be developed for each workshop.

Mr Johansson emphasised the importance of wide geographic representation and the value in drawing on the support from other PNI, as well as from participating government delegations, NGO’s independent experts, etc. in that respect. Drawing upon expertise who will anyway attend in different capacities, will contribute to reduce to reduce costs for bringing in panellists.

Mr Joutsen urged the organisers not to overload the list of speakers and to allow for plenty of time for discussion, bearing in mind that the purpose of the workshops is to help the practitioners. Thus, the focus should be on sharing promising practices from different parts of the world.

Mr Hill informed the meeting that there will, as usual, also be ancillary meetings at the Congress and that PNI interested in organising such meetings can contact Mr Hill for further information.

## 6. The PNI at the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ

The annual PNI workshop, is aligned with the topic for thematic discussion at the respective session of the CCPCJ and precedes the thematic discussion. This year's theme was *The responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind*. The workshop, successfully organised by ICPC, focused on hate crimes. The objective was to provide the most current information on preventing and countering hate crimes and to discuss on good practices and innovative approaches for digital-age criminal justice systems. The workshop also focused on the specific prevention of hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The panelists highlighted these following:

- a significant body of research is Anglo-Saxon, which makes difficult to produce an international criminological profile when it comes to hate crimes
- there is a lack of international consensus on the definition of hate crimes, which leads to a wide disparity in the protection afforded to vulnerable groups. Intersectionality must be considered for understanding and examining hate crimes
- there is a lack of data on hate crimes, both on the nature of the violence suffered and on its prevalence. This lack of statistics does not effectively permit to prevent crime. This lack is sometimes explained by the absence of complaints from victims, by fear of being re-victimized by police services. This distrust of institutions seems to be more or less present depending on the type of hate crime. This was particularly raised with respect to hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- the consequences of this type of crime affect both direct and indirect victims, and more broadly society as a whole.

Due to these findings, detection and prevention is difficult to address both online and off-line

It was also argued that it is necessary to focus on prevention in schools, at work places and for professionals in state institutions, such as the police and health service in order to encourage real societal change. Primary prevention and tertiary prevention for victims, through a community-based approach (mainly NGOs), should be prioritized.

Following up on the summary from the PNI workshop, Mr Brandolino informed the meeting that the topic for thematic discussion at the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ will be on Smuggling of Migrants and that this topic subsequently form the basis for the PNI workshop in 2020.

Mr Johansson Informed the meeting that it was encouraging to see that so may PNI were involved in organising side events and exhibitions at the CCPCJ this year. He also thanked UNODC for having contributed to market the PNI through its social media campaign.

## 7. The Knowledge Centre

Mr Hill thanked the Institutes who had already submitted info regarding focal points to the Justice Knowledge Centre ([www.justiceknowledgecenter.org](http://www.justiceknowledgecenter.org)).

He also requested those who had not done so yet, to provide him with contact details. PNIs who have already submitted contact details will shortly be contacted by Mr Hill's interns who will request information about ongoing and forthcoming activities, publications, etc.

#### **8. Organisation, coordination and other Issues of the PNI**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item had to be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Johansson undertook to send out a questionnaire to the PNI, with the view to collect ideas on how the role of the PNI could be strengthened in the Crime Programme.

#### **9. Time and place of the 2019 spring coordination meeting**

Mr Johansson extended the PNI's gratitude to UNAFEI for the excellent organisation of the 2018 autumn coordination meeting and their hospitality in connection with the meeting, which took place in Tokyo 12-13 December 2018.

As to the next autumn coordination meetings, the Siracusa Institute and ISPAC both indicated a tentative interest in organising the meeting, although ISPAC underlined that they could only do it in early 2020. Mr Johansson asked PNIs interested in organising the meeting to write to RWI and HEUNI as PNI coordinators. The proposals will then, in line with standard procedure, be reviewed by the PNI Council (currently RWI, HEUNI, UNAFEI, KIC and NIJ), who will make a recommendation to the PNI as to the venue for the meeting.

#### **11. Decisions and recommendations from the meeting**

##### *Congress preparations*

- PNI interested in contributing to specific Workshops at the Kyoto Congress were invited to contact the responsible PNI.
- Workshop organisers were urged not to overload the workshops with speakers and to be practitioner oriented
- PNI interested in organising ancillary meetings can contact Mr Hill for further information
- PNI were asked to spread information about the Congress in their respective networks.

##### *Knowledge centre*

- PNIs were invited to provide Mr Hill with names of focal points as regards contacts updates ([www.justiceknowledgecenter.org](http://www.justiceknowledgecenter.org))

##### *The role of the PNI in the UN Crime prevention and Criminal Justice Programme*

- Following up on discussions at the PNI meeting in Tokyo, Mr Johansson will send out a questionnaire to the PNI, with the view to collect ideas on how the role of the PNI could be strengthened in the Crime Programme.

#### **9. Time and place of the next coordination meeting**

The time and venue for the next PNI coordination meeting will be decided once the different offers have been reviewed and communicated to the PNI for their consideration.