

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE CONCEPT OF BORDERLESS EUROPE?

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE PERSPECTIVES
OF BORDER POLICIES AND TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION IN AN AGE OF MULTIPLE CRISES

PANEL 4: Environmental awareness and sustainability – Climate-neutral solutions for law enforcement, military and public administration in cross-border international practice



NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT
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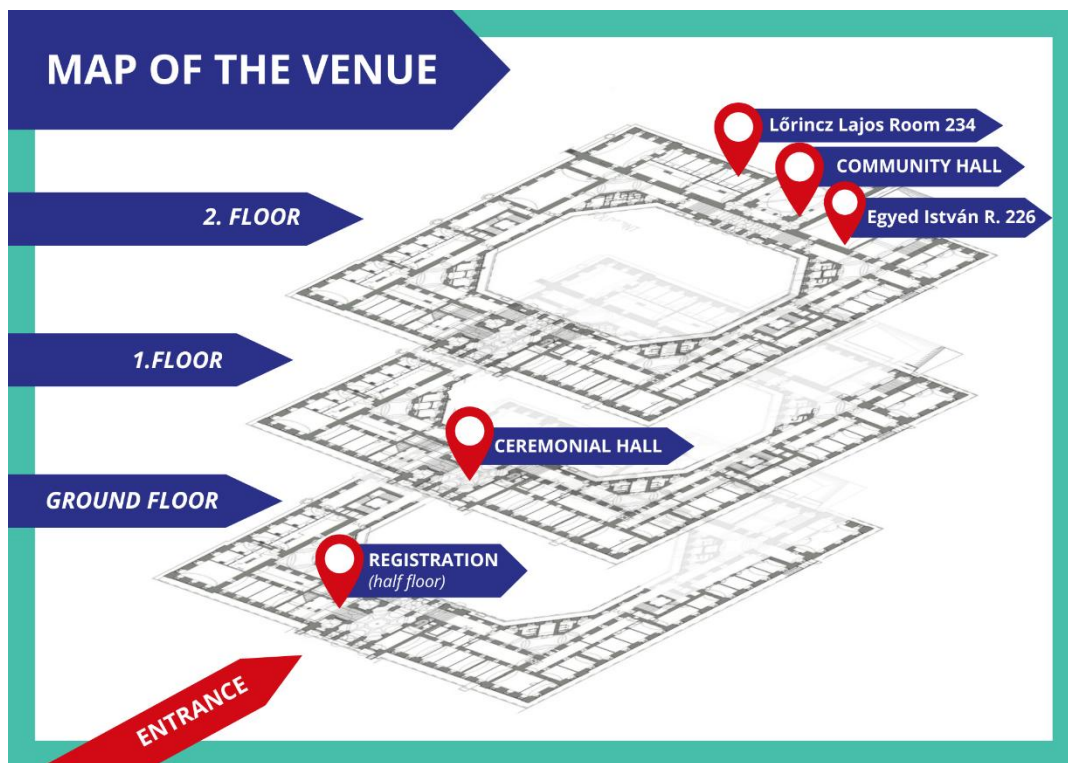


Time

13 May 2025: 14:50 to 16:20

Venue

The venue of the panel is Ludovika University of Public Service, Ludovika Main Building, 2nd floor, Egyed István Room 226



Topic

The speakers of the panel will present and analyse solutions and instruments promoting law enforcement in an environmentally friendly manner.



Speakers and presentations

Ioana Curt

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Ioana Curt is a legal scholar and practitioner with extensive expertise in criminal law, criminology, and prison law. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's in Criminal Sciences and Criminology from Babeş-Bolyai University, where she also earned her PhD in Law (2013–2020). Her academic training includes a fellowship at the Max Planck Institute (2015) and participation in the International Faculty of Comparative Law in Strasbourg (2012). Since 2012, Ioana Curt has taught at Babeş-Bolyai University's Faculty of Law and, since 2013, has practiced law as a member of the Cluj Bar Association. Ioana Curt has authored two books and contributed chapters to volumes published by Jovene Editore and Wolf Legal Publishers. She has published over 15 scholarly articles and has presented at eight academic conferences. She has also participated in seven national and international research projects.

1. Environmental awareness and sustainability in Romanian prisons

The lecture explores the implementation of environmental awareness and sustainability programs within the Romanian prison system. We present a comprehensive analysis of several key initiatives designed to foster ecological responsibility and facilitate successful reintegration of incarcerated individuals. These include the "Gardening Workshop" (2022), providing foundational horticultural skills (soil preparation, basic tools, plant propagation, maintenance, and harvesting); the significantly larger "Gardening Occupational Activity" program (2024), engaging over 1700 participants since its launch, offering diverse horticultural training (decorative plants, interior and exterior landscaping, aromatic plants); and a specialized training program focused on plant cultivation. The programs aim to equip inmates with practical skills applicable to post-release life, promoting self-sufficiency and responsible environmental stewardship. Furthermore, a substantial project established a "Danube Delta eco-reintegration laboratory," involving the construction of five eco-houses serving as workshops for traditional ecological crafts and public awareness events. This initiative reached beyond the prison walls, influencing over 40 correctional facilities and raising public awareness about human ecology principles. Supplementary programs included ecological education courses and participation in large-scale national eco-restoration campaigns. The success of these programs underscores the transformative potential of integrating environmental sustainability within the correctional system, improving not only the well-being of inmates but also contributing significantly to smoother reintegration and the cultivation of a pro-environmental ethic within society.



Bryndís Jónsdóttir

Prison and Probation Administration of Iceland, Iceland

Bryndís Jónsdóttir is a criminologist and a representative at the Prison and Probation Administration of Iceland, working in the Community Service Division. She is also a guest lecturer at the University of Akureyri's Police Academy and the Criminology Department at the University of Iceland. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Akureyri and a master's in criminology from the University of Iceland. Her research focuses on immigrants, their trust in the police, and hate crimes. She has examined hate crime in Iceland, addressing legal frameworks, police reporting practices, and gaps in registration. She has also explored immigrants' interactions with law enforcement, identifying issues such as racial profiling, over-policing, and under-policing, which contribute to low trust in police. She is currently preparing a research project on immigrants and foreign-born individuals in the Icelandic prison system, focusing on representation, systemic challenges, and policy implications.

2. Borders Behind Bars: Immigration, Incarceration, and Institutional Trust in Iceland

This lecture explores the intersection of the Icelandic prison system, immigration policies, border control practices, and the trust immigrants and foreign-born individuals have in the police and justice system. Iceland has seen an increase in its foreign-born population, and this demographic shift has brought new challenges to its criminal justice system. Foreign-born individuals represent a growing portion of those in custody, and their experiences are shaped by legal complexities, language barriers, cultural differences, and limited access to legal support. A key focus is Hólmsheiði Prison, the newest correctional facility in Iceland, which serves as the main institution for individuals in custody and for female prisoners. Hólmsheiði houses a notable number of foreign-born women, many of whom are incarcerated for drug-related offenses. These women often face particular challenges, such as being involved in international drug trafficking networks. Their position in the justice system is often shaped by systemic disadvantages and limited prospects for rehabilitation due to linguistic, cultural, and legal obstacles. The lecture also addresses the role of the Directorate of Immigration, whose policies around border control and immigration significantly impact how foreign nationals are processed within the criminal justice system. Recent years have seen stricter immigration enforcement, affecting those awaiting deportation, asylum seekers, and undocumented individuals. These policies often result in extended custody or prison sentences under uncertain legal circumstances, complicating inmates' reintegration and rehabilitation. In addition to institutional policies, the structure of the Icelandic prison system will be discussed, emphasizing its progressive model aimed at rehabilitation. Inmates typically begin their sentences in closed prisons, such as Litla-Hraun, where restrictions are higher. Depending on individual progress, they may move to open prisons like Kvíabryggja or Sogn, where autonomy is gradually increased. From there, individuals may transition to a halfway house, supporting reintegration into society, and eventually to electronic monitoring, allowing them to serve part of their sentence outside of prison while under supervision. While designed to promote



rehabilitation, these stages can be unevenly accessible to foreign-born inmates due to administrative, legal, or social challenges. The lecture also addresses immigrants' trust in the police and justice system, which remains a critical issue. A qualitative study involving interviews with Albanian immigrants in Iceland revealed low levels of trust in the police, largely influenced by personal experiences and broader societal narratives. Participants described discriminatory police practices, including racial profiling, routine stop-and-search, and over-surveillance. These encounters were often perceived as unfair and rooted in prejudice, reinforcing a sense of marginalization. Simultaneously, the same communities often experience under-policing, where their concerns or victimization may be ignored or deprioritized by law enforcement. This imbalance creates a cycle of alienation: individuals feel over-scrutinized when suspected and unsupported when in need. As a result, many immigrants hesitate to report crimes or seek police assistance, feeling unlikely to receive fair or effective treatment. These dynamics erode trust and complicate the role of law enforcement in immigrant communities. By examining both the structure of the prison system and immigrants' interactions with policing, this lecture highlights the multiple ways in which immigration status intersects with justice in Iceland. It brings attention to systemic gaps in both policy and practice and calls for reforms that promote fairness, inclusivity, and culturally informed rehabilitation. The goal is to better understand how to serve a changing population while upholding the principles of justice and human rights in Iceland's correctional and legal systems.

Adriana Oliwia Drózdź

University of Siedlce, Poland

Master of Criminology, a fourth-year doctoral student at the Doctoral School of Siedlce University in the discipline of Security Sciences. Employed at the Institute of Security Sciences at Siedlce University as a research and teaching assistant. Deputy Director for Organizational Affairs at the Information Security Research Center at the University of Siedlce, member of the Polish Society for Security Sciences, and editorial board member of the scientific journal *De Securitate et Defensione*. Security and Defense Journal of the University of Siedlce. Her scientific interests include penitentiary studies and rehabilitation, as well as interdisciplinary issues related to broadly understood security sciences, criminology, forensic science, suicidology, and victimology.

3. Green Rehabilitation Behind Bars: How Polish Prisons Are Embracing Environmental Initiatives

Polish penitentiary institutions are implementing a broad range of ecological programs that not only contribute to environmental protection but also support the rehabilitation process of inmates. These initiatives encompass various projects carried out in both custodies and prisons. Their goal is not only to educate inmates and develop their social competencies but also to improve the state of the natural environment and bring benefits to society as a whole. Among the most significant pro-ecological activities undertaken in penitentiary institutions is



the participation of inmates in nationwide campaigns such as "Cleaning Up the World," which involves cleaning forests, parks, and green spaces. Another important element is cooperation with forestry authorities, where inmates plant trees and shrubs, as well as initiatives undertaken in collaboration with animal shelters, related to animal protection - such as building nesting boxes, bird feeders, and insect hotels (e.g., for bees). Another key initiative is the collection of plastic bottle caps and waste segregation, which help to develop pro-ecological habits. Educational programs are an integral part of these activities. Lectures, presentations, and nature excursions allow inmates to gain environmental knowledge, which they can then apply in practice. Another crucial aspect of ecological projects in correctional facilities is infrastructure modernization -this includes, among other things, the thermal modernization of prison buildings and the installation of photovoltaic panels, contributing to reduced energy consumption and lower CO2 emissions. It is important to emphasize that some of these initiatives also serve as vocational activation for inmates, positively influencing their rehabilitation process. The combination of theory and practice fosters pro-ecological attitudes and the development of social and cognitive skills. Moreover, these activities instill a sense of empathy and responsibility for the environment in prisoners. As a result, inmates can spend their time in isolation constructively, which helps them better prepare for reintegration into society. One of the biggest challenges in implementing ecological programs in the prison environment is ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness. Barriers such as limited financial resources, the need to adapt infrastructure, or changing attitudes among both inmates and prison staff pose significant obstacles. Another crucial aspect is monitoring the effects of these programs and assessing their impact on inmates' attitudes and behaviors after their release. It is worth considering the introduction of new initiatives that could further support the development of pro-ecological habits among inmates. One example could be the creation of prison gardens or greenhouses, where prisoners would cultivate vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Such a solution would not only allow them to acquire knowledge about plants and their applications but also enable the use of the harvest in meal preparation within correctional facilities. Another proposal could be the implementation of an advanced waste segregation system combined with recycling workshops, where prisoners would learn how to process plastic, metal, and paper. Such initiatives could combine practical activities with educational elements, providing prisoners with valuable skills while fostering environmental awareness.

Francesca Torlone*

University of Florence, Italy

She is Associate Professor in General and Social Pedagogy at the University of Florence. She is a lawyer and has been leading and participating to international research on adult education in prison for more than 15 years. Her research interests are for the learning organisation features and the components supporting and hindering personal and professional growth of individuals, teams, organisation.



Stefania Basilisco

University of Macerata, Italy

She is a legal-educational officer at the Department of Penitentiary Administration of the Ministry of Justice and a PhD student at the University of Macerata with a research on the re-educational treatment of adults in penal execution and how it can be improved through a more scientific approach. She has participated in national and international research-intervention projects with the University of Florence on the treatment of prisoners and respect for fundamental human rights (FREE, Fundamental Rights Education in Europe, and PEBBLE, Prison Education Basic Skills Blended Learning). Currently, the aim of her research is to enrich current treatment with Adult Education theories in a transformative perspective and with methodologies and devices that modify the models of educational intervention in the context.

4. The induction process to prevent suicides and self-harm of inmates and related *learning consequences*

Entering prison, with the deprivation of personal liberty, causes an existential upheaval to which individuals react with different strategies depending on their age, psycho-physical health, personal, emotional, and social resources, as well as so-called life events. All these factors play a decisive role in adapting to the prison context. In addition, there are the learning actions embedded in the professional practices of managers, professionals, and operators, as well as the way in which every single moment of entering prison is managed, which determine learning consequences for the new inmate or for someone transferred from another institution. The induction of the prisoner represents, as is well known, the most problematic period because it is crucial in facilitating integration into prison life and reducing self-harm behaviors. Studying this transition allows for an analysis of the educational relevance of actions taken by all the organisational actors involved (healthcare, security- and treatment areas). The suicide rate is higher for incarcerated individuals (WHO, 2007), and statistics on suicides in Italian penitentiary institutions over the last three years highlight the relevance of the issue: in 2024, 88 inmates took their own lives, in 2022 there were 70 suicides, and in 2023, 84 suicides (Antigone Reports 2022, 2023, 2024). 54% of the suicides occurred within the first six months of detention, with 8 taking place within the first 15 days, 6 of which occurred within the first 5 days of entry (National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty, 2024). The phenomenon exists and is dramatic. The Prison Administration has reviewed models of professional intervention in an attempt to define a multiprofessional process that addresses the need to manage the critical moment of entering prison with an integrated approach. The degree of adaptation and resistance to the experience of entering prison also varies based on external variables related to the individual and the prison institution and context: the physical conditions of the facility, the level of overcrowding and available space, the efficiency of the prison services provided (i.e., allowed phone calls to family members, regulation of meetings with lawyers, transfers and transportation for hearings or external needs, guarantee of fundamental rights protection, efficient healthcare service, adequate staff



presence for the inmate population, food control), the presence of "treatment" activities that involve the individual from the earliest stages of entering prison, which can help the person set short, medium, and long-term goals. Procedures, protocols, and circulars exist and are precise. In our view, one element is missing: the "rehabilitative", treatment process begins in the right moment when a person enters the lobby of an institution, from the very first minute (in fact, it starts even earlier, at the moment of the deprivation of liberty through arrest). The guiding hypothesis is that the reduction of the suicide risk also passes through the ability to manage the entry phase, to act professionally in an integrated way and that this whole process influences the construction of meaning and perspectives by the detained person.

Joseph Giormaina

University of Malta, Correctional Services Agency, Malta

Professor Joseph Giordmaina is an academic at the University of Malta, where he specialises in education and rehabilitation within correctional settings. With extensive experience in both academic and policy domains, his work focuses on the transformative potential of education in prisons, the reintegration of persons in prison, and the development of inclusive educational strategies for marginalised populations. Professor Giordmaina teaches at Master's level, coordinating study units that address ethical, pedagogical, and rehabilitative frameworks in carceral environments. His research interests lie in prison education, social justice, and human rights in correctional systems, and he regularly collaborates with national and international bodies on projects related to criminal justice reform. Beyond his academic role, Professor Giordmaina serves as a consultant to correctional agencies, contributing to institutional development, training programmes, and strategic planning—particularly in the areas of staff capacity-building and persons-in-prison wellbeing. He is also actively involved in public engagement and policy dialogue around restorative justice and penal reform.

5. Goals for Change: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a Framework for Prison Reform and Persons' Well-being

This presentation explores how the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can serve as guiding principles for prison reform, management practices, and the enhancement of the well-being of persons in prison. Prisons, often overlooked in global sustainability dialogues, have significant potential as sites for achieving social, environmental, and economic sustainability outcomes. By systematically aligning correctional policies and operations with the SDGs, prison authorities can directly contribute to global sustainability targets while simultaneously promoting humane, rehabilitative environments. Through a structured analysis of each of the 17 SDGs, this presentation identifies concrete links and actionable insights specific to prison environments. It demonstrates how goals related to health, education, decent work, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption, and sustainable infrastructure, among others, can inform practical and impactful prison policies. The discussion highlights best practices and innovative examples of sustainability-oriented initiatives within correctional



contexts. Ultimately, the presentation argues that adopting the SDGs as a comprehensive framework for reform not only advances global sustainability commitments but also fundamentally enhances the dignity, rehabilitation prospects, and overall well-being of persons in prison, contributing positively to broader societal goals.

Christopher Siegersma

Correctional Services Agency, Malta

Christopher Siegersma is the Chief Executive Officer of the Correctional Services Agency. As the Head of the Agency he is responsible for the running of the Maltese prison services. Part of his role includes the design and implementation of initiatives aimed at reforming and improving correctional practices and rehabilitation programs. With over 20 years of experience in the mental health field, Mr Siegersma is dedicated to enhancing public safety and promoting successful reintegration of persons in prison into society. Mr Siegersma holds a masters degree from the University of Malta and is currently reading for a PhD at the Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. In addition to his role at the Correctional Services Agency, Mr Siegersma is actively involved in several prominent international organisations, including the International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (IACFP), the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA), Partnership for Corrections – Community and Policy (PC-CP), Europris, and the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH). Mr. Siegersma is also an active member of Council of Europe fora dealing with the wellbeing of persons in prison.

6. Persons in Prison, Rights in Practice: Ensuring Health and Well-being within Malta's Prison System through Sustainable Development Goal 3

This paper critically examines how Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being) informs policies and practices aimed at promoting health within Malta's correctional environment. Central to this discussion is the necessity of person-centred care as a cornerstone of comprehensive health interventions, addressing both physical and psychological needs among persons in prison. The analysis highlights Malta's current strategies and programmes aimed at mental health support, substance misuse rehabilitation, and overall health promotion. The paper further discusses the challenges faced by correctional facilities in delivering consistent, high-quality healthcare services, examining initiatives that promote holistic well-being and effective rehabilitation. Examples of best practices within Malta's prison system are evaluated, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for further development. Ultimately, the paper underscores the imperative for Malta's prison system to fully integrate SDG 3 into operational frameworks, enhancing the dignity, safety, and long-term well-being of all persons in prison, thereby contributing positively to broader public health and social justice objectives.

** Speaker presenting the paper*