



**CRS**  
2017

---

International Correctional  
Research Symposium

# Enhancing Comparability and Understanding

/Participant Information

Ghent, Belgium  
27-29 March 2017



**#CorrectionalResearch**



**[www.icpa.ca/crs2017](http://www.icpa.ca/crs2017)**

---

Organised by:



Federal Public Service  
**Justice**

## About the Event

This conference will focus on each stage of harnessing data at local, national and international levels, to look at current research undertaken within correctional services and by external agencies, and through discussion to share our experiences and seek ways to enhance these processes. We hope this will be the first in a series of such gatherings that will seek to enhance the way we conduct research and to open routes for future collaborations, knowledge exchange and learning.

## Aims

This conference aims to focus on each stage of harnessing data at local, national and international levels, to look at current research undertaken within correctional services and by external agencies, and through discussion to share our experiences and seek ways to enhance these processes.

By organising this event we hope to:

- Strengthen the global research network
- Raise awareness of operational and applied research projects
- Consider ways to encourage greater cross-jurisdictional comparative research, especially in terms of measuring performance and/or correctional outcomes
- Begin identifying some potential solutions which can promote the development of shared data definitions and statistical comparisons cross-jurisdictionally. This will be a particular focus of this first Symposium.

The research specialists among our various jurisdictions and departments comprise a large and a largely fragmented community. Their task is a difficult one, and with often limited opportunity or scope to share their knowledge and practices with others or indeed to learn from the work going on in other areas.

## Who should attend

This event has the purpose of inviting researchers with a broad interest in criminal justice and corrections issues, especially as it pertains to the measurement of performance, quality of services and outcomes in the delivery of correctional services, as well as research managers from correctional agencies worldwide, including both prisons and community services. We also invite those working in data analysis technologies to attend and share your experiences with regards to industry recognised methods, tools and approaches for data collection and analysis.

- Criminal Justice Researchers from Academic Institutions or Research Bodies
- Research Managers/Coordinators from Public Sector Prison and Correctional Services
- NGO/Non-Profit Representatives
- Data Analysis and Software Specialists (Public and Private Sector Representatives)

## Area of Focus

By attending this conference you will be able to participate in sessions which address:

- How to extract useful information on your prisoner population
- How to plan and structure research activities
- Methods for collecting data and improving collection processes
- Dealing with conflicting definitions at local, national and international levels
- Enhancing understanding through better reporting
- Transparency vs. risk: responsible sharing of information
- How to collectively identify key indicators for international comparison and benchmarking

## Want to Present Your Work?

Participants who are interested in presenting their initiatives during this conference are welcome to submit a proposal to our Programme Committee for review. Papers are particularly welcomed from the following areas:

- Operational and Applied Research in Prison Services
- Operational and Applied Research in Probation and Community Corrections
- Interjurisdictional Research (Public Sector, Academic, NGO, etc.)
- Practices in data collection, analysis and reporting
- Local, National and International Research Initiatives (Public Sector, Academic, NGO, etc.)

## The Programme

			<b>Optional</b>	
<b>27 MARCH MONDAY</b>	<b>28 MARCH TUESDAY</b>	<b>29 MARCH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>30 MARCH THURSDAY</b>	
1900-2100	0900-1700	0900-1700	0900-1730	0930-1200
Opening Reception	Plenary and Workshop Sessions	Plenary and Workshop Sessions	EuroPris Forecasting Workshop (for selected participants only)	Tour of Ghent Prison (limited spaces available)

---

## Registration

Registration fees are set at the special rate of **195 EUR** for delegates from Public Sector, Government, NGO/Non-Profit and Academic institutions (**375 EUR** for all other participants). For more information and to register for this unique event please visit [www.icpa.ca/crs2017](http://www.icpa.ca/crs2017)

## Sponsorship and Exhibition

Opportunities exist to be a part of this exciting event. We are open to expressions of interest from vendors specialising in research and analytical technologies, machine learning, big data, statistical software, infographics, business intelligence and offender management systems. Contact us now to secure your space!

---

## EuroPris Forecasting Workshop

EuroPris will organize the 3rd Forecasting Workshop on **30 March** in Ghent, Belgium. Previous workshops took place in 2014 in Oslo and in 2012 in Stockholm. This workshop will be a one-day event that combines presentations and discussions between the participants.



This years' workshop is organized immediately after the 1st International Correctional Research Symposium that takes place on 27-29 March, also in Ghent.

### Agenda

At this moment we are drafting the agenda for the Forecasting workshop. The current version of the agenda can be found on <http://www.europris.org/forecasting-ws>  
Possible issues that are currently elaborated to include in the agenda are:

- Monitoring of outcomes of Forecasting / post-evaluation adaptation models
- How to present Forecasting to management / how to correctly use and interpret Forecasting results?
- Profiling and prognosis / capacity planning, also in context of radicalisation and influx of refugees
- Big data: open discussion: sharing ideas & approaches to work with big data
- Fluctuation of cell occupancy/flexible use of prison cells: how to approach with regard to staff & prisoners
- Trend breaks: methods to predict / sensitivity analysis / how to consider uncertainties

### Presentations

Experts that are interested to share their experiences in one of above mentioned topics can submit their proposal to [kirstenhawlitsek@europris.org](mailto:kirstenhawlitsek@europris.org).

### Participants

Participants to the workshop should be experts working in the field of statistics and forecasting for Prison Services of **European countries, Canada and New Zealand**. The total number of participants should be around 40 experts in order to allow for constructive discussions and sharing.

For more information and to register, please visit the EuroPris website at [www.europris.org](http://www.europris.org)

## Tour of Ghent Prison



- 2 The Belgian correctional facilities consist of two types: Remand Prisons and Prisons for Convicts
- 3 Regimes: Open Prisons, Half-Open Prisons and Closed Prisons
- 31 There are 31 prisons in Belgium



The construction of the prison of Ghent started in 1858. In 1862, the prison was taken into use as an additional prison of the House of Correction 'Vilain XIV', which then was the central prison of Ghent. During the past decades, the prison has been thoroughly renovated in several phases. Recently, one of the courtyards was refurbished and a smoke evacuation system was installed in the cellular section of the prison.

Pursuant to the legal stipulations, some basic rights are granted to all Belgian inmates. They are allowed to receive visitors in the visiting room, to purchase commodities in the canteen, to make phone calls, to do prison labour, and to participate in sports, recreational and educational activities. The regime facilities are aimed at preparing inmates for their final rehabilitation into society. For individual cases, the regime may be adjusted if an inmate's behaviour seriously compromises order and safety inside the prison. The prison of Ghent is used as a remand prison for accused inmates (i.e. those imprisoned pending a final judicial judgment) from the jurisdiction of Ghent as well as for female inmates from the jurisdiction of Ghent, Audenarde and Termonde. Because of the nationwide structural overcrowding, many convicts stay here until they can be transferred to a prison for convicts



The prison is built according to the famous Ducpétiaux 'starshape' model and comprises a central control centre where the four wings of the building meet. Each wing comprises three cell floors and an administrative corridor. The male section is made up of three wings, while the female section is located in the fourth wing. The prison also comprises a psychiatric unit for internees. During the renovations, the bars that once separated the wings from the prison centre, were removed, creating a feeling of openness. Theoretically, the male section has a capacity of 244 inmates. Because of overcrowding, an extra bed was added in several individual cells, as a result of which the present capacity of the male section equals 326 detention places. The section for limited detention offers room for 15 inmates. The female section can house 39 persons.

## About the City

Belgium's fourth-largest and most beautiful city is home to a quarter of a million people and a flourishing flower export trade. An important port, Ghent's city center is a pedestrian area that is like a museum to early Flemish architecture and a testament to the city's medieval might. It has Impressive Gothic sites, such as dramatic St. Bavo's Cathedral and the Castle of the Counts. The works of Flemish masters are housed in the distinguished Museum voor Schone Kunst.



## The Venue



Het Pand is one of the most prized locations the University of Ghent has to offer. The location is in the very middle of the historical center of Ghent. The building used to be a Dominican Monastery, and is now housing several museum collections, exhibition rooms kept in the original state.

## Transport to the Venue

### From the Brussels International Airport

There is a train that goes from the Brussels International Airport to Ghent St-Pieters Station. It departs every 60 min. The duration is approximately 90 minutes.

### By public transport

From station Gent St-Pieters:  
tram 1 (every 6 minutes) or tram 24 (every 20 minutes). Exit at Korenmarkt.

From Gent Zuid:  
tram 4 (every 6 minutes), tram 24 (every 20 minutes) or bus 17 (every 30 minutes). Exit at Korenmarkt.

### By car

Follow the parking signage to parking P7 Sint-Michiels. The parking is located at 50 meter from Het Pand. Take the exit Onderbergen and you come out in the Wilderoosstraat, opposite Het Pand.