

Short Term Scientific Mission – Scientific Report
Criminal Justice Social Work and Spatial Design

Reference: COST Action IS1106

Applicant: Dr. Aline Bauwens, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Host: Dr. Deirdre Healy

Host institution: University College Dublin

Period: 20/05/2015 to 26/05/2015

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1. Purpose of the STSM

The purpose of the STSM was to enable Dr. Aline Bauwens to visit Dr. Deirdre Healy at the University College Dublin in order to discuss sociopetal and sociofugal places in probation practice (cf. presentation Working Group on Community Sanctions, Liverpool 2013), as we intended to replicate the small-scale Belgian study in an Irish context. In addition, given that there is very little theoretical work examining the impact of architecture and spatial design in probation, the overall objective of this scientific mission was also to theorise what a ‘good spatial design’ might be for offender supervision practice.

2. Description of the work carried out during the STSM

During the STSM I spent 5 days at the University College Dublin, School of Law. During my time in Dublin, Deirdre and I explored the possibility of conducting a comparative study between Belgium and Ireland (as both jurisdictions still talk about probation work as criminal justice social work as opposed to offender management). We discussed how relationships in criminal justice social work are currently spatially shaped and accommodated in both jurisdictions and contrasted our first findings with research findings of carceral geography (especially the works of Dr. Dominique Moran, University of Birmingham). Before outlining and undertaking empirical field work in Ireland (requiring ethical approval first which had not been granted yet), we discussed the feasibility of the proposed study and shared our theoretical and methodological knowledge. We decided to start working on a joint theoretical article about architecture and spatial design in offender supervision practice.

3. Description of the main results obtained

During the STSM we often met, discussed and re-discussed the structure of the theoretical article. The STSM also provided us with the opportunity to start writing the current policy context in the two jurisdictions with special attention whether or not the risk paradigm is generalisable to the Republic

of Ireland and Belgium. We commenced a literature review on the emerging criminological literature on architecture and spatial design and then started to use insights from other disciplines, such as psychology, and social work, to develop an integrated framework for the study of probation architecture. We also finalised a timetable for our output plans.

4. Future collaboration with host institution

I estimate that the project to complete the journal article will take approximately 2 months to complete. I anticipate that further collaboration with the University College of Dublin, School of Law will occur in the future.

5. Foreseen publications

We intend to publish our findings in an international, peer-reviewed journal (i.e. Theoretical Criminology), to post a short summary of our proposed theoretical framework on the COST Offender Supervision in Europe website and (perhaps) to give a presentation at a next COST Offender Supervision meeting.

6. Confirmation by host institution of the successful execution of the STSM

(Please see attached.)