



## Bridging Research, Policy and Practice

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at Free University of Brussels.

# Offender Supervision in Europe

COST Action IS1106



**This two-day international conference is the final event an international research network (COST Action 1106) on ‘Offender Supervision in Europe’:** [www.offendersupervision.eu](http://www.offendersupervision.eu)

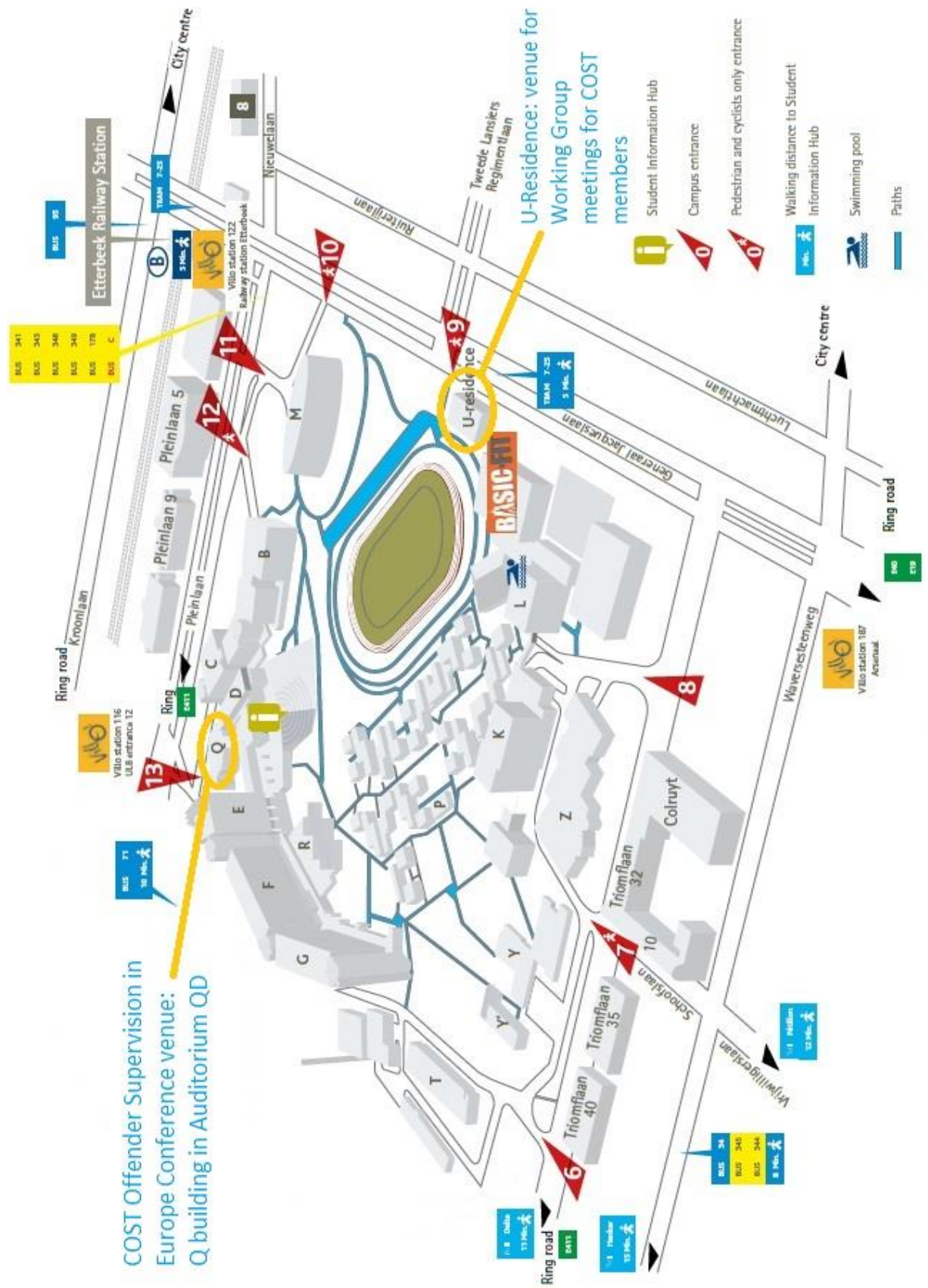
This network of researchers across 23 countries has worked for 4 years to promote cooperation between institutions and individuals in different European states (and with different disciplinary perspectives) carrying out research on offender supervision. In the first year of our work, we reviewed and synthesized existing knowledge about supervision across these jurisdictions. Since then, we have been developing new conceptual and methodological approaches to studying supervision comparatively and seeking to stimulate policy, practice and public debate about supervision.

**This conference reports on the findings of our work and explores the future of offender supervision and the crucial role of relationships between research, policy and practice in that future.**

**Conference presentations and responses** will come from leading academics, policymakers and probation leaders from European institutions and jurisdictions, as well as people with lived experience of supervision. The conference will also be accompanied by an **exhibition**, titled ‘Seen and Heard’, comprising photographs (from across several European states) representing those lived experiences as well as images taken by probation practitioners, as well as original songs inspired by these images. As a matter of COST Action policy, this conference will be in English, and there will be no language translation.

## Conference Venue and Location

Address: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel, Belgium.  
 Aula Q (building), Auditorium QD (room). See the map below.



The Etterbeek railway station and the Etterbeek Gare tram station, as well as the Vrije Universiteit Brussel tram station are all located very close to the campus. Further information on getting to the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) campus by foot, bicycle, car and public transport can be found online at: <http://www.vub.ac.be/en/campus-etterbeek>

## Conference Fees and Registration

Conference registration is available online at the Eventbrite link below, and drinks and food are included. The closing date for registration applications is **28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**; early registration is advised as delegate places are limited.

- Early bird rate, register before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016: **€150**
- Standard rate (after 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016): **€175**
- Group bookings (4 places + 1 free) are available, including or excluding dinner, at link below
- Concession rate available for the first 20 PhD students: **€50** (first come first served basis)

You can select a registration option that does or does not include a ticket for the conference dinner on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016, which is separate to the food provision within the conference.

### Register online at:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cost-conference-2016-bridging-research-policy-and-practice-tickets-18306871345>

If you have any further queries about conference registration (e.g., discounted group bookings), or if you need to offer advance notice to the conference organisers of **food allergies** and **dietary requirements** for the conference dinner, please email [Shona.Craven@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Shona.Craven@glasgow.ac.uk)

## Social Media and Website



Follow what others are saying, connect with other conference delegates and share your own comments using the conference hashtag **#offendersupervision**

COST Offender Supervision in Europe has its own Twitter account: **@COST\_OSE**

During and following the conference, a variety of information and resources will be made available at the COST Offender Supervision in Europe website: [www.offendersupervision.eu](http://www.offendersupervision.eu)



# Conference Programme

## Day 1: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

9:00am Registration, including tea and coffee.

### 9:45am **Plenary I: Two futures for offender supervision: Values and markets**

Welcome

*Kristel Beyens (Belgium), Vice Chair of COST Action IS1106 Offender Supervision in Europe.*

Common wisdom? European norms and values for offender supervision

*Christine Morgenstern (Germany)*

This presentation explores whether there is a specific “European approach” to offender supervision - do we have a set of common values that provide for ethical standards for the imposition and implementation of community sanction and measures?

Probation in the Public and Private Sectors: The case of England and Wales

*Gwen Robinson, Lol Burke and Matthew Millings (England)*

This presentation explores the processes and implications of the recent reorganisation of probation services in England and Wales which has involved the creation of a public sector National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies.

11:30am Break, including coffee and tea.

### 12noon **Plenary II: Experiencing supervision, expressing subjectivity**

*Convened by Ioan Durnescu (Romania) and Christian Grafl (Austria), with a presentation from Wendy Fitzgibbon (England) and Renata Glavak Tkalic (Croatia), and a response from a person with lived experience of supervision and a practitioner (England).*

Two innovative European comparative studies are presented which examine how people with convictions experience supervision. One study uses the custom made ‘Eurobarometer’ survey tool, and the other study, ‘Supervisible’, uses innovative visual methods.

13:30 Lunch

### 14:30 **Plenary III: Decision-making and supervision: Who’s got the power?**

*Convened by Miranda Boone (the Netherlands) and Niamh Maguire (Ireland) with multiple presenters from different countries; with a response from Pauline Schuyt (the Netherlands), a judge and penitentiary law expert.*

Compliance and breach processes are under-researched issues in the context of community sentences. This plenary session presents insights gained from comparative analysis of the process of decision-making involved in decisions to breach offenders for non-compliance across different European jurisdictions. They focus on key analytical themes through which the different systems can be compared and evaluated, including: statistical reflections on breach; the different roles and responsibilities of the decision-makers involved; the degree and nature of discretion exercised by them; and lastly the important issues of legitimacy, fairness and justice.

16:00 Break, including coffee and tea.

### 16:30 **Plenary IV: Practicing supervision: Inside the black box**

*Convened by Gwen Robinson (England) and Kerstin Svensson (Sweden), with a presentation from Johan Boxtaens (Belgium) and Nicola Carr (Northern Ireland), and a response from Annette Hennessy, former Chief Probation Officer of Merseyside (England).*

This presentation will offer some reflections on practice, drawing on the findings of research

across Europe, including our own pilot studies in 15 jurisdictions which used observation, probation practitioner diaries, and photography. Despite some significant differences, there is evidence of a high degree of similarity across jurisdictions.

18:00 **‘Seen and Heard’ photography exhibition opening and music performance**

Drinks reception in the conference venue

*Opening of ‘Seen and Heard’ an exhibition of images prepared by the artist Carolyn Kardia (England) and a music performance of original songs inspired by these images, presented by Alison Urie from Vox Liminis (Scotland), and performed by Louis Abbott, professional musician and lead singer of the band Admiral Fallow.*

The exhibition showcases photographs taken by participants in two small-scale comparative European studies which use innovative visual methods. One study is ‘Picturing Probation’, where practitioners from multiple countries – including Croatia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland and England – have taken photographs of the places and spaces where offender supervision occurs. The other study is ‘Supervisible’, where people with lived experience of supervision from different countries – including England, Germany and Scotland – have taken photographs which communicate how they see and experience supervision. Further to this, with the facilitation of an arts charity Vox Liminis, working with academics and professional singer-songwriters, a songwriting workshop was held in Glasgow enabling people with experiences of supervision, practitioners and academics to write songs in response to the photographs. Selected songs will be performed at the exhibition opening.

20:00 **Conference dinner**

*The conference dinner is ticketed – please make sure you book and pay for your ticket in advance through the conference registration Eventbrite website. COST Action members are automatically covered to attend the conference dinner.*

The dinner will be a buffet, catered for in the same building as the conference, and will include live music with a DJ and dancing.

## **Day 2: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

9:30 **Panel Discussion: Strengthening links between research, policy and practice**

Panel Chair: *Ioan Durnescu (Romania)*

Panel Members: *Willem van der Brugge (CEP) (the Netherlands), Jesca Beneder (European Commission - DG Justice) (the Netherlands), Annie Devos (Houses of Justice, French speaking part of Belgium), Hans Dominicus (Houses of Justice, Flemish part of Belgium) and Peter Palsma (Director of the Leger des Heils (Salvation Army) division of the Dutch Probation Service).*

This panel discussion will allow probation leaders from a number of jurisdictions to respond to the work presented in the conference, and to questions from delegates.

10:45 Break, including tea and coffee.

11:15 **Plenary V: Reforming supervision and reforming research: Where the Action is**

*Fergus McNeill (Scotland), Chair of COST Action IS1106 Offender Supervision in Europe.*

The Chair of the Action will close the conference by summing up the lessons learned from the work of the Action over the last four years, and by suggesting key issues for the future development of policy, practice and research.

12:30 Close and lunch.

## Places to see in Brussels

### Grand Place

Website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/857>

### Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium

Address: Place Royale 3, Brussels 1000, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.fine-arts-museum.be/en#> =

### Musical Instruments Museum (MIM)

Address: Rue Montagne de la Cour 2, Brussels 1000, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.mim.be/en> (English)  
<http://www.mim.be/nl> (Dutch)

### Atomium

Address: Atomium Square, Laeken, Brussels 1020, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.atomium.be/>

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

This conference has been produced with the financial support of COST, which is supported by the EU Framework Programme Horizon2020. COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is Europe's longest-running intergovernmental framework for cooperation in science and technology funding cooperative scientific projects called 'COST Actions'. The opinions expressed at the conference are the sole responsibility of presenters, and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission. The exhibition and the performance with Vox Liminis has received funding support from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), The Howard League for Penal Reform (UK), and the University of Glasgow.

Thanks to the guests speaking at the conference as respondents to the plenary presentations. Many thanks to the team of people who have helped to organise and host this conference, especially Kristel Beyens and the wider team of staff and volunteers from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, as well as Fergus McNeill, Tim McBride, Hannah Graham and Shona Craven from the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR), Scotland.

