



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



PROBATIONET PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of PROBATIONET project newsletter!

We hope you enjoy it.

The Probationet project aims to capacitate criminal justice professionals in the Probation system according to the Restorative Justice approach.

Materials produced

- 1.Management education and training: Building the project environment
- 2.PROBATIONET Education and training model
- 3.PROB-T platform
- 4.Restorative Justice and Recidivism e-learning
- 5.A training scheme for Practitioners in Probation case management
- 6.PROBATIONET- Sharing repository Toolbox

Why is case management education and training essential in probation?

Probation is a concept understood widely and internationally to refer to arrangements for the supervision of offenders in the community and to the organizations responsible for this work. In this context, probation agencies aim at reducing recidivism by establishing positive relationships with offenders in order to supervise, guide and assist them and to promote their successful social re-inclusion, thus contributing to community safety **[1]**.

In the framework of the Probationet project, the case management and practices in the field of probation in the countries-partners of the Project (i.e., Portugal, Greece, Italy, Turkey, and Bulgaria) was thoroughly examined.

[1] [CommantaryRec_201_1_E \(cep-probation.org\)](https://cep-probation.org)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Such a task proved to be **particularly interesting** because in the participating countries, probation agencies share common values and practices, despite their differences that exist mostly because of the different legal backgrounds and legislative frameworks. In brief, probation service in the participating countries has more or less a **central position** in their current criminal justice system, as it contributes to the effective fulfillment of the principle of social reintegration. Although it seems that no special training is offered to probation officers, there is a **common set of guiding principles** setting out the steps and methodology to be followed on how to approach and deal with individuals in probation supervision. However, it is clear that there is a need for more **intensive training** (especially in relation to the applied methodology and the necessary skills) **for probation officers**. Such a need was pointed out by all participating countries (e.g., experiential learning, continuing professional development courses, etc.), a need that can be partly fulfilled by research projects such as Probationet.

Probation officers may have a differentiated **educational background** and they have a double role. In this context, they cooperate with and provide assistance to the **judicial authorities**, and they also have the responsibility to support, supervise and protect juvenile and adult offenders in various aspects so that the latter may be successfully socially integrated. However, in practice, many **difficulties** arise, and probation officers face many **challenges**. The multifaceted support in their work is of high importance. In light of all the difficulties mentioned by the countries-participants of the project, **specific proposals were made**, some of them de lege ferenda, to address and overcome the difficulties in their work. All participating countries emphasized the need for probation officers to work in a **holistic, cooperative, and substantive** manner based on modern scientific guidelines and methods to ensure rational and effective handling of both juvenile and adult criminal behavior in order to strengthen the link between **welfare and probation**. In the end, enabling all the professionals of the probation service system to work with offenders in an effective and constructive way **reassures** that the principles of social integration, equality, egalitarianism, elimination of discrimination, and equal opportunities are served to the greatest extent.

Regarding practices implemented in the countries-partners of the Probationet project, these indicatively include: various psycho-educational programs and groups of support and mobilization and ateliers that place special focus on the development of skills, the re-evaluation of personal attitudes, the expression of thoughts and feelings, the better understanding of rules and boundaries; educational and training programs for probation staff and various relevant activities; (c) tools for risk and needs assessment and individual interviews; specific projects such as the tailored/individualized project which aims at the development of positive behavior, skills, interpersonal relationships, abilities etc. by the offenders; victim offender mediation practices etc.

PROBATIONET Events

- 2nd Dynamic Training Event in Greece (27-29.03.2023, Athens)

The Training Activities for the 2nd Dynamic Event was held in the presence of Steering Group members who were in Athens for the Project Meeting calendared during the same time. The three days program was planned, as follows: frontal training to improve the preparation of probation officers and a psychological and communicational strategy within the Probation environment; staff-based trainers' training was organized in specific sessions to train on project work and impact analysis. The simulation project work activities focused on how to act as a Case manager and facilitator on a model based of risk assessment, reconciliation techniques with the victims of the offender, and skills for access to the labour market.



Save the date!

- **National Trainings:** will take place in each country using the resources developed by the project consortium. Follow us to be informed about the dates, venue, and participants' selection process in each country!
- **National Multiplier Events** will be organized in each country in the months of August, September, and October of 2023.

How to follow PROBATIONET project

Website: www.probationet.eu

[Facebook page](#)

[LinkedIn page](#)

Are you interested in reading the full report on Project Result 1?

Check it out [here!](#)