



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

'Requests and complaints in prisons in Europe'



In penological literature it has been documented at length that prison life can be quite challenging for prisoners, in particular in terms of conditions of life and the decisions by prison staff or changes in policy that directly affect them. In this international workshop we aim to explore how requests and complaints by prisoners are being dealt with by prison governors/administrations or independent bodies (such as complaint commissions), in different parts of Europe. How are complaints from prisoners being dealt with, from a legal and empirical point of view? How do procedures work and can they be considered effective? Do such systems comply with international regulation, such as the European Prison Rules, the UN Mandela Rules or the case-law of the ECtHR?

PROGRAMME

Session 1 (9.30h – 10.45h)

Requests and complaints in prisons in Europe : introduction to the workshop

Tom Daems (KU Leuven) and Elena Larrauri (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

The Dutch complaint procedure for prisoners under pressure: causes and solutions

Sonja Meijer (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

Session 2 (11.00h – 12.15h)

Who complains in prison, who doesn't and why? A view from Germany

Christine Morgenstern (Freie Universität Berlin)

Prisoner complaints: the challenges of complaining from within

Sophie Van Der Valk (University College Dublin)

Session 3 (13.30h – 14.45h)

An empirical model of analysing prisoners' complaints

Cristina Dâmboeanu (Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy)

Do Prisoners have access to justice?: Administering justice in Spanish prisons

Elena Larrauri (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

Session 4 (15.00h – 16.00h)

A new complaint system for prisoners in Belgium: how does it handle complaints about strip searches?

Tom Daems (KU Leuven)

Round-table discussion with all participants and conclusion of the workshop

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Participation is free of charge, but please register before 21 September 2023 at Jolien.steemans@kuleuven.be. The workshop will take place at the Faculty of Law & Criminology, College De Valk, Grote Vergaderzaal, Tiensestraat 41, Leuven. There will be a video connection (Teams) for online participants.

ORGANISATION

Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), research line Punishment and Control, in cooperation with the Criminology and Criminal Justice System Research Group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.