



CirclesEurope

July 2019

WELCOME TO CIRCLESEUROPE
***The Association for European Providers of
Circles of Support and Accountability and their supporters***

As the summer is now fully with us, we trust you will all have a well-deserved holiday and manage in the very high temperatures we have seen in the last while. Wherever you are and whatever you do, stay cool and healthy!

This Newsletter gives an update on the election and appointment of the first CirclesEurope permanent Board as well as the first General Meeting (GM) of the CirclesEurope Association and mini-conference. We are pleased to report that all these went very well. The sections below will tell you more and we hope you enjoy the pictures which we have included for you.

**THE FIRST CIRCLESEUROPE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING (GM)**

We are extremely grateful to Avans University for having hosted and supplied the venue and catering for our first GM which took place on 14 June 2019 in the Netherlands. Professor Bart Claes from Avans University personally attended and we really appreciate his kind support. The GM was also attended by representatives from Catalonia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and the UK. We were also particularly happy that Circles volunteers from the Netherlands could attend. The GM provided reports of the last year's work of the Association, its finances and its policy plan. It also reported on the nomination and election process of the first permanent Board of the Association. We are pleased to announce that the following people now are on the Board: Riana Taylor from Circles UK (chair), Michelle Vreede from the Netherlands (Treasurer), Ann Castrel from Belgium (Secretary) and Kieran McCartan from the UK as the academic/research lead. Mechtild Höing and Audrey Alards from the Netherlands and Patricia Bosch from Catalonia kindly agreed to support the Board in a voluntary capacity.

The Board will establish three sub-groups which will provide a Governance, Quality Assurance and membership sub-group, a Service Development (Practice) sub-group and a Knowledge sharing, evaluation and research sub-group. We are looking for members who are interested to participate in these sub-groups. If you want to volunteer for this, please get in touch with one of the Board members. We have significant work to do in the Association and need helpers, so please come and join us.

On a sad note, we had to say good-bye to Stephen Hanvey, who has now officially retired. We said a very warm thank you to Stephen for all his work in establishing and developing Circles UK over the years, and more recently his hard work in helping to establish the CirclesEurope Association. Stephen will be greatly missed but he will remain an Associate Member, so will continue to have an interest in the work of the Association. Stephen, we wish you only the very best for your retirement – it is now time for a very well deserved rest after a highly successful career and contributions on many levels.

Here are some of the attendees of the GM:



Here is the new Board: Riana, Michelle, Ann and Kieran:



FIRST CIRCLESEUROPE ASSOCIATION MINI-CONFERENCE

We held a very successful first mini-conference to coincide with the GM which was well attended. The speakers presented [excellent papers](#):

- Rosie Kitson-Boyce gave an overview of the Prison based COSA model of the Safer Living Foundation / Nottingham Trent University in the UK
- Kieran McCartan presented on the Prison to Community COSA model which operates in the South West of England
- Patricia Bosch gave some interesting information on how COSA operates in Catalonia
- Audrey Alards gave an overview of a new COSA project provided by Avans University in cooperation with Exodus in the Netherlands that is for core members who have no contact with the criminal justice system

This led to a very informative and interesting panel discussion where thought provoking ideas and new developments in COSA were shared.

The panel consisting of Kieran McCartan, Rosie Kitson-Boyce, Patricia Bosch, Audrey Allards and Bart Claes:



A picture of some of the delegates:



JOINING THE CIRCLESEUROPE ASSOCIATION

We are pleased that the membership of the Association is steadily growing. If you are not yet a member: please visit our website to [see our types of membership](#). Please continue to share the news of the Association, and that we need donations and members to grow the Association to the benefit of COSA in Europe. The Board will of course continue to keep you updated on its work and progress. In the meantime have a lovely summer.

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