

The idea of establishing an Observatory on Academic Criminology Programs began to concretize in early 2009.

In April 2009 a first meeting of what would then become the [Expert Group](#) of the Observatory took place. It was decided that the Observatory would operate under the auspices of the [International Society for Criminology](#) (ISC) and that the [Leuven Institute of Criminology](#) (LINC - K.U.Leuven) would finance the launch of the Observatory from September 2009 to August 2011 by providing staff and functioning as a secretariat.

Since September 2009 the Observatory secretariat at LINC contacted several institutions and societies asking them to join the Observatory Advisory Committee. The [European Society of Criminology](#), the [International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation](#) and the [American Society of Criminology](#) agreed to do so.

In November 2009 the [expert group](#) finalised the [memorandum of the Observatory](#) .

In January 2010, the Observatory website became fully operative.

In the fall of 2010 the Observatory-project was presented in a panel-session at the 10th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology.

On September 1, 2011, the School of Criminology of the [University of Liege](#) takes over the function of Observatory secretariat.