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JCN Project

Progress in project work

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Old town Tallinn, Estonia

“Working out the common basis” 1th Workshop in Tallinn, Estonia

Barbara Hansen

From 13 to 16 March 2013 the first project workshop took place in Tallinn (Estonia). The Estonian partner Tallinn Prison organized the workshop. The aim of the first workshop was to assess the state of the art on existing national services in the field of high risk offenders and in transition management. The preparatory work for the workshop consisted in the production of an Evaluation Questionnaire and in the organization of national meetings.

During day two and day three of the Workshop, 39 practitioners with different justice background shared the state of the art on existing practice and developed understanding on the definitions and terminology in the field of high risk offenders and transition management in the partner countries.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the partners to get to know the penal system and the work in probation during a visit in Tallinn Prison, Tallinn probation headquarters and in the open prison.

Index of Contents

First Workshop in Tallinn	P. 1
Result of the Workshop	P. 2
Upcoming s	P. 3
How to stay in touch?	P. 3



Results of the 1th Workshop



The report of the first workshop was produced is available online on the JCN project web site. In result of the workshop, a report entitled “Common Understanding of Terms and Definition” on the topic of high risk offenders and transition management was produced.

Draft of common understanding

Current paper is drafted as a result of the JCN project seminar “Working out the common basis” held 13-16 of March in Tallinn. The draft is based on the presentations and discussions between seminar participants. Definitions and principles given in the draft of common understanding allows continuing with achieving project aims through following activities envisaged by project plan.

Definition of the term “high risk offender”

Definition: “A high risk offender is a violent or sexual offender who presents a high probability to commit crimes which may cause very serious personal, physical or psychological harm.”

Explanatory comment: This definition forms a basic frame for targeting project activities. Project shall keep its focus on offenders falling under mutually agreed definition. There are other different and extremely important target groups for criminal justice agencies as well, but this needs to be dealt separately. The definition as such covers under this project the concept of dangerousness and risk of reoffending. Definition is applicable for all project partners despite of the set up of existing evaluation and planning mechanisms or respective legal system.

Other main principles and terms relevant to the project topic

- a. Risk assessment (tool)
- b. Criminogenic risk factors and dangerousness
- c. Needs (factors to be contributed to the positive outcome)
- d. Hierarchy of needs (prioritize them)
- e. Protective factors (pro-social attitudes, education, family etc)
- f. Pro criminal attitudes
- g. Case management
- h. Involvement of offender
- i. Self-management, attitudes, problem solving skills
- j. Focused interventions to lower the risk
- k. Team work
- l. Multiagency work
- m. Information sharing
- n. Continuous care before and after release.

Explanatory comment: Other relevant terms and principles reflect the seminar participants and project partner’s views regarding discussed topic. This list is created in order to stress the importance and entanglement of keywords and principles in dealing with high risk offenders. The list of keywords is not final, but allows amendments, to add explanations and remarks throughout the project lifecycle.

Upcoming project meetings are:

Workshop 2 (Dublin, Ireland): will compare and report on existing systems of transition management practice in the partner countries.

Workshop 3 (Helsinki, Finland): will identify and report on best practice in existing systems of transition management in the partner countries and possibilities for development.

Workshop 4 (Schwerin, Germany): will develop and report on standards and a best practice model for managing high risk offenders.

Final conference (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany) from 3-5 September 2014

How can you get (or stay) involved?

One best way to get the last information, including the workshop activities, is to send your e-mail address to the project coordinator. Please send an e-mail to barbarah.hansen@jm.mv-regierung.de. Ms Hansen will provide you with the following newsletters and further information. We also invite you to visit our [website](#) where you'll find all the latest information about the ongoing project work.

We will publish the next JCN newsletter in August 2013.

