

# European treatment and transition management of high risk offenders project 2012 -2014

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## The JCN Newsletter

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## European treatment and transition management of high risk offenders project 2012 -2014 Justice Co-operation Network (JCN)

### Schwerin workshop April 2014 on the Development of Minimum Standards and Best Practice Models

Estonia, Finland, Ireland and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Germany), with the University of Greifswald as advisers, are partners in an EU funded project to examine and develop best practice in the transition management and supervision of high risk offenders leaving custody as well as developing a body of knowledge and creating an EU network of expertise. Ireland, through the Department of Justice and Equality, is represented in the project by the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service.

The German partners, the Ministry of Justice in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, hosted the work stream 4 workshop in picturesque Schwerin between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2014.

The aim of the fourth JCN project workshop was to identify best practice strategies and interventions working with high risk offenders,

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Workshop participants at the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Ministry of Justice Schwerin

for the desired continuity of services and for their effective transition management and resettlement.

The project began in November 2012 and will be concluded in October 2014. The work of the project will be completed in a series of workshops convened in the partner jurisdictions, published reports and a project conference in autumn 2014.

In the previous workshops in Tallinn and Dublin participants compared the existing systems in the partner countries. In Helsinki focus was on the ideal system building on best practices in each country and elsewhere.

In addition to the project partners the workshop in Schwerin hosted local experts and experts from associate partners. The attendance included Annie Devos, Director Générale des Maisons de Justice at the Ministry of Justice Belgium, Els Sneiders, Conseiller Général, at the Ministry of Justice Belgium, Willem van der Brugge, Secretary General of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), Dr. Laura von Mandach, Senior Scientific Researcher at the Swiss Training Centre for Prisons, Marita Derbach-Jüpner, Head of Division at the Ministry of Justice Brandenburg, Steven Feelgood, Director of the Social Therapy Unit, Brandenburg Prison, Dr. Gero Meinen, Director General of the Ministry of Justice Berlin, Gloria Arndt, Deputy Governor of Waldeck Prison, Dr. Ulrike Schütt, Director of the Diagnostic Centre, Waldeck Prison, Wiebke Boberg, Psychologist, Diagnostic Centre Waldeck Prison, Katja Ellenrieder, Deputy Governor, Bützow Prison, Christiane Anischewsky, Head of Unit in Bützow Prison, Dirk Manzewski, Head of Department, Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar), Rostock, Stefan Pamperin, Senior Probation Officer, Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar), Schwerin, Anne Bruns-Gercken, Senior Probation Officer, Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar), Rostock, Judge Volker Horstmann, Rostock Court, Detective Superintendent Frank Schäfer, Police Department, Rampe and Colonel Ulf Theodor Claassen CID, Police Headquarters, Rostock.

The workshop began with a visit to Waldeck prison and tour of the social therapy section and open prison there.

Waldeck Prison opened in 1996. The institution is one of the most modern prison institutions in Germany. A social-therapeutic department with a capacity of 50 custody places was developed in 2005.

Waldeck Prison is responsible for pre-trial detention of male adults over 21 years from the district court district Rostock as well as



Irish partners and colleagues participating in a Schwerin working group discussion



At Waldeck Prison

imprisonment of sentenced males serving more than six years or life term imprisonment.

In the social-therapeutic department there are prisoners from all district court districts serving sentences of more than 24 months subject to therapeutic treatment.

The Social Therapy Department and the diagnostic centre specialises in accommodation, diagnosis, and treatment of high-risk offenders. In particular, the workshop participants were interested in the concept of social therapy and the methodology of the Diagnostic Centre and were given an insight into the organization and the everyday life of a specialized high-risk offenders institution.

At the Ministry in Schwerin there were a number of presentations to the assembled partners and experts. Dr. Ineke Pruin presented findings from her “research on Transition Management. Dr. Ulrike Schütt and Wiebke Boberg spoke about their work in diagnosis and prognosis at the Diagnostic Centre of Waldeck Prison. Criminal Court Judge Volker Horstmann, made a presentation titled FoKuS – For optimal Control and Security while Colonel Ulf Theodor Claassen, spoke about FoKuS – police duties in supervised release.

Participants discussed, with much lively and informed debate, Legislation, Sentence Planning and Treatment, Transition Management and Release and Reintegration, Aftercare and Monitoring in four parallel workshops to identify and agree Best Practice Strategies and Programmes. The resulting findings and documents were proposed for assembly in a Model and Standards for presentation at the final conference and dissemination across all of Europe.

All of the presentations and papers from the workshop can be accessed at [http://jcn.pixel-online.org/workshop4\\_reports.php](http://jcn.pixel-online.org/workshop4_reports.php)

In spite of the different systems in partner countries, the workshop participants found that there are many similarities in values and in the way we look at things.

Participants found that we share many of the same principles, which will help us in this project to develop a model for handling high risk offenders that all partner countries can agree on.



Outside Waldeck Prison





## Schwerin

Schwerin is the capital and second-largest city of the northern German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Near the Baltic coast and surrounded by lakes, Schwerin is known for its romantic Schwerin Palace and largely intact old town. After World War 2 MVP was part of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). After reunification in 1990, the former state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was recreated as one of the Bundesländer.

The Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Department 2 is responsible for prison and probation services, offender management and petitions of clemency. It has five prisons and a newly established Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar). Probation offices are under its administration and technical supervision.

The Department's main goal is the enhancement of society's security and safety of society achieved through the reduction of re-offending. This is done by safe accommodation as well as targeted and precise treatment of prisoners and offenders under supervision. The probation service is engaged in prisoner assessments at the beginning and the end of detention to guarantee a continuous case management. Two socio-therapeutic facilities for adults and juveniles help reduce recidivism.

The prison service in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania has over 780 staff members comprising twelve lawyers and higher administration service, 27 psychologists, 30 social workers and 607 prison officers. Four prisons, one juvenile prison and one juvenile arrest facility are run with a total capacity of 1,578 places. 1,347 are held in closed prisons, 200 in open prisons and 31 places in juvenile arrest. A training centre for the prison and probation staff is situated at the University for Police Science and Public Administration in Güstrow.

The Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar) has responsibility, formerly performed by several institutions like courts and probation services, under one roof. In Germany, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania is the only federal state with such a central authority. The office manages the department for probation services and the central supervision of conduct. It has 114 staff members including 81 probation officers. Staff supervise 3,500 offenders under parole and probation, 770 offenders under supervision of conduct and 1,100 offenders on court assistance. The Regional Office is also responsible for electronic monitoring.

The establishment of this new public authority is a first step in the developing of combined management of juridical and legal detention and supervision institutions in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.



Schloss Schwerin



Schwerin from the air

## Final Conference of the EU-Project "Justice Cooperation Network (JCN)

Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, 3 – 5 September 2014

The final conference of the European treatment and transition management of high risk offenders project will be held in the **Yachting & Spar Resort Hohe Düne in Rostock-Warnemünde** (<http://www.hohe-duene.de>) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.



The Conference will feature presentations on the findings from the project, contributions from experts and workshop discussions. It will be a valuable opportunity for networking, to meet with experienced colleagues and experts in transition management, to exchange knowledge and develop partnerships.

Travel (flights), accommodation (from 03.09.2014 to 05.09.2014) and attendance costs (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for registered delegates from member states of the European Union and acknowledged candidate states will be funded through the project budget. Early registration will be important as places will be limited.

Please note that cancellation costs in the event of a cancellation of registration where travel and accommodation bookings have been confirmed will be the responsibility of the delegate as the project budget cannot fund such costs.

Delegates from outside the EU are welcome to attend but will have to fund their attendance from own resources.

**If you wish to register your interest in attending the conference or are seeking further information please contact the German JCN team by e-mail at: [jcn.conference@jm.mv-regierung.de](mailto:jcn.conference@jm.mv-regierung.de)**



Warnemünde is a holiday paradise close to Rostock. Picturesque, with small fisherman's cottages, the old lighthouse on the city's skyline, a long, wide sandy beach beside the modern marina and passing cruise ships on the Baltic coastline. What was once a fishing village has blossomed into a modern resort with all amenities and its lovingly preserved historic sites.

Warnemünde, on the Warnow river estuary, has developed into a true pearl on Germany's Baltic Sea beach and is a most popular destination for vacation breaks.





**Justizministerium  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

**Tallinna** Vangla



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
Finland**



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## Associated partners:

In addition to the working partners the JCN project has a number of Associated Partners supporting the objectives and work of the project.

The Associated Partners are:

**The Directorate General Houses of Justice** (Belgium) <http://just.fgov.be>,

**German Federal Ministry of Justice** (Germany) <http://www.bmj.de>

**Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic**

<http://www.justice.gov.sk/Stranky/default.aspx>

**Prison Administration of Republic of Slovenia,**

**Ministry of Justice and Public Administration,**

<http://www.mpju.gov.si>

**The European Organization for Probation (CEP)**

<http://www.cep-probation.org>

## Keep up to date with the JCN Project

If you wish to keep in touch with developments about the actions, activities and progress of the JCN project please check the project website at <http://jcn.pixel-online.org/>.

You can also send an email to [barbarah.hansen@jm.mv-regierung.de](mailto:barbarah.hansen@jm.mv-regierung.de) or Gerry McNally at [gpmcnally@probation.ie](mailto:gpmcnally@probation.ie) to receive project newsletters and other relevant information.



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If you wish to seek further information on the JCN project please check the project website at <http://jcn.pixel-online.org/> or contact Gerry McNally at [gpmcnally@probation.ie](mailto:gpmcnally@probation.ie) or by post at the [Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7.](#)