

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) Final Conference Rostock

The final conference of the JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) European project on the treatment and transition management of high risk offenders was held in Rostock-Warnemünde (Germany) between 3rd – 5th September 2014 with over 400 hundred delegates from 34 countries in attendance.

A brief report by Gerry McNally, member of the Irish JCN team.

The JCN Justice Co-operation Network project partners, Ireland, Finland, Estonia and Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania (Germany), have been working since 2012 to develop a European network and best practice in the transition management and supervision of high risk prisoners leaving custody. The JCN European project was funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Criminal Justice Programme.

The Conference provided an important and exciting opportunity for sharing knowledge and expertise developed in the work of the project, promote best practice through shared learning, host expert

Index of Contents

Final conference report	P. 1
Final conference Delegates view	4
Associate Partners	5
Keep up to date	6



speakers and workshops on key issues and provide an opportunity to develop relevant links and networks across Europe and beyond.

The Conference venue, Yachting & Spa Resort Hohe Düne, Rostock-Warnemünde provided an exceptionally fine and well appointed location as well as excellent accommodation and resources for the very large international Conference. The conference administration was managed most efficiently and courteously by Department of Prison and Probation Administration of Ministry of Justice, Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania.

Ireland was represented at the Conference by delegates from the Probation Service, Irish Prison Service, Department of Justice and Justice and Equality, Dublin Institute of Technology, PACE, IASIO, ACJRD, IPRT among others.



Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, Dr. Mary Rogan, Lecturer in in Socio-Legal Studies, DIT and Chairperson of the [Irish Penal Reform Trust](#), and Paddy Richardson, CEO of IASO at the JCN Conference.

The conference opened with addresses by the Minister for Justice in Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania and the Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Justice followed by speakers from the EU Commission, the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and Europris. Jörg Jesse, Director General of the Department of Prison and Probation Administration, in Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania provided an entertaining overview of the work of the JCN project since 2012.

Thursday morning featured stimulating presentations by Jörg Ziercke (Germany) on victim issues, Dr. Stephen Farrall (UK) on his work on Long-term Effects of Probation Supervision and Marianne Vollan (Norway) describing the innovative Norwegian approach in working



Jörg Jesse
Director General of the Department of Prison and Probation Administration, Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg - Western Pomerania Schwerin, Germany; Coordinator of the JCN project



Plenary conference session



Conference working group presentation



Report back to the plenary session on working group presentation and discussion

with high risk offenders.

Thursday afternoon provided the opportunity for presentations from the four working groups in the project followed by four related workshops with three presentations by experts in each on valuable initiatives and work practices identified in the course of the project followed by invigorating and lively discussion on the project findings and proposals.



Sally Lewis, former Chief Probation Officer, Avon and Somerset Probation Trust, presenting the Bristol Integrated Offender Management Approach with Dangerous Offenders in the Conference workshop on transition management and release.

On Friday morning there were presentations to the plenary conference of reports from each of the workshops. The Conference concluded with a series of thought-provoking reflections on the Conference, the work of the JCN and prisoner issues by Dr. Mary Rogan (Ireland), Beate Lakotta (Der Spiegel, Germany) and Elisabeth Kotthaus (EU in Germany).

Jörg Jesse, on behalf of the JCN project teams and the Conference hosts closed thanking delegates and presenters for their attendance and valuable contribution to what was a highly successful and valuable event which had brought together experts and service providers from an exceptionally large number of countries and provided tangible outputs and learning for all.

The Conference has brought to a conclusion the work of the JCN (Justice Cooperation Network) European project on the



Willem van der Brugge, General Secretary CEP addressing the conference.



treatment and transition management of high risk offenders.

The JCN project has been a significant success in developing the framework for a European network, identifying best practice models and establishing key standards in the transition management, supervision and resettlement of high risk offenders.

Through the Conference and the work of the project teams much has been achieved but much more remains to be pursued in disseminating and implementing the lessons and key actions from JCN project and in developing practice further. The JCN project has shown the significant progress that can be achieved and promoted in transnational European co-operation and shared learning. We can all work together and hope that ongoing development can be continued similarly into the future.

The full Conference programme, as well as all the papers and presentations at the JCN Conference, is available on the JCN website at: <http://jcn.pixel-online.org/index.php>



Final conference

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

Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, 3 – 5 September 2014

The delegates’ eye view

All over Europe the question of how best to manage and implement the resettlement and reintegration of released high risk prisoners in society has become increasingly important. It was the key issue for discussion at the final conference of the JCN (Justice Co-operation network) in picturesque Rostock–Warnemunde on Germany’s Baltic coast in early September 2014.

We were delighted to be given the opportunity to attend the conference along with our Director, Vivian Geiran, Assistant Directors, Brian Dack and Gerry McNally, Regional Manager Dave Kenny and David Williamson SPO. Ireland was also represented by delegates from the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, Department of Justice and Law Reform, Irish Penal Reform Trust, IASIO and the HSE.

The conference provided an important and exciting opportunity to share knowledge and expertise. It promoted best practice through shared learning, guest speakers and valuable workshops on key issues which provided an



opportunity to develop relevant links and networks across Europe.

Keynote speakers told us about the need to focus on high risk or dangerous offenders, in particular their resettlement and reintegration into society which, as we are all aware, requires engagement, planning and work with the prisoner as well as close co-operation between the prison system, probation bodies and community partners.

There was an impressive presentation by our own Gerry McNally on 'Transition Management and Release'. Brian Dack spoke eloquently about 'Re-integration after-care and monitoring', while Paddy Richardson's workshop paper 'Between offender management and reintegration: the role of the third sector in high risk offender transition' was well received by our European colleagues.

We found the workshops particularly good and found the speech from Steven Feelgood, Director of a Social Therapy Unit in a German Prison extremely helpful as we are in the planning stages of doing similar offence focused group work with under 25year old sex offenders in the Midlands Prison. Steven Feelgood spoke about *The Good Life: The Effective Treatment of High Risk Offenders*. His experience and knowledge was very relevant and offered perspectives for us to consider with regard to our groupwork with the sex offender population.

During another workshop, 'Sentence Planning and Treatment', we spoke about the Community Return Initiative. The European delegates were impressed with the scheme and we were asked to give an interview to the local radio about Community Return Scheme assisted by Governor Ethel Gavin, Portlaoise Prison.

Many of the workshops and discussions reflected themes we already consider on an on-going basis in Ireland within Probation and with our partner agencies. It was our experience that agencies from other European Countries were impressed with the work already being done in Ireland in the area of re-integration of high risk offenders. We really enjoyed the JCN Conference and look forward to the final report which will be made to the EU about European Standards for the re-integration of high risk offenders.

Helen Redmond SPO and Maire Kelly PO, Portlaoise Prison Complex.



Partners:



Justizministerium

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Tallinna Vangla



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Finland

ERNST MORITZ ARNDT
UNIVERSITÄT GREIFSWALD



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.mpu.gov.si>

The European Organization for Probation (CEP)

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



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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 or Gerry McNally at 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 or by post at the [Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7.](#)