

Start of the Project



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Getting on course

Introduction to the project

The prison population across Europe is largely made up of people, who have been excluded rather than included, have poor formal educational qualifications and have few employment skills and have experienced long-term housing, family and addiction problems. Women and men leaving prison bring with them the effects of a custodial sentence and encounter suspicion, rejection and hostility as they make the transition from prison to society.

For higher risk prisoners leaving custody these factors increase the risk of their return to crime and custody. The risk of re-offending is high. 20 to 50 percent of those released returned to prison within two years. Research shows that effective resettlement can assist the prevention of further offending, the reduction of victimisation and is in the interests of the community in general.

Across Europe, there are examples of effective resettlement initiative and good practice but no single jurisdiction has all the key elements in place. There is a need to share learn and develop best practice for better outcomes not only for the prisoners leaving custody but also for communities and the criminal justice systems. The project will examine integrated case management, information and knowledge sharing for best practice, reduction of duplication and enhanced efficiency. An integrated resettlement process will contribute to reducing recidivism and improve the safety of society in general and the protection of potential victims in particular.

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Message of the Coordinator



Jörg Jesse, Head of Department of Prison and Probation Administration and Petitions of Clemency, Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schwerin.

The JCN Justice Cooperation Network project began in November 2012 and will be completed end of October 2014.

The project partners are represented by Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Germany), the Prison of Tallinn (Estonia), the Ministry of Justice (Finland), the Criminal Sanctions Agency (Finland) and the Department of Justice and Equality Ireland (The Probation Service and Irish Prison Service). The project evaluation partner is the University of Greifswald (Germany) while financial management and administration is provided by Pixel, based in Florence (Italy).

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. The workshops will seek to develop shared understanding and definitions of high risk and dangerousness, compare existing systems of transition management, identify and develop best practice models and standards, disseminate the learning from the project and establish an as wide as possible network of knowledge and expertise on transition and supervision management of high risk offenders. The head of project co-ordinator, Director General Jörg Jesse welcomed the project as an important and exciting opportunity for sharing knowledge and expertise. He sees great potential also in developing a valuable criminal justice network for co-operation and shared learning. The outcome of the project will be a more efficient and effective system for the transition and management of high risk prisoners from custody into the community on their release.

The project will integrate and develop already existing informal links and expertise while enhancing best practice among the partners and other services across the European Union and establish a strong and co-operative network of criminal justice professional and agencies.

Kick-off meeting in Florence

On 10, 11, 12 December 2012 the first project meeting took place in Florence (Italy). The Italian partner Pixel organized the meeting. The aim of the first meeting was to share with the project partners the information about the project objectives, activities to be carried out and expected results. The templates and guidelines proposed to carry out each of the project's activities, have been presented, discussed, revised and adopted by all partners.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the partners to get to know each other and get all information about each other's expertise and experience.



Meet the German team

Jörg Jesse

Head of Department of Prison and Probation Administration and Petitions of Clemency, Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schwerin. Jörg Jesse studied psychology at the Christian Albrechts University of Kiel. He has been working in prisons in the following areas since 1983: Open prisons, closed adult prisons, Prisons Department and Ministry of Justice. He worked in managerial positions from 1993 to 2003 as Deputy Head of the Juvenile Prison of Hameln, as Head of the Prison of Salinenmoor and Head of the Prison of Hanover. Since 2003, he has been Head of the Department of Prison and Probation Administration and Petitions of Clemency, Ministry of Justice of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schwerin and is Member of the PC-CP since 2011. Mr. Jesse is married and has two children.



Tanja Klee

Department of Prison and Probation Administration and Petitions of Clemency, Head of Unit, European Projects in the Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schwerin. Tanja Klee studied law at the University of Trier. She worked from 1995 to 1996 as Interim Governor in the open prison Ueckermünde. From 1997 to 2001, Ms. Klee worked as Deputy Governor in Stralsund prison. Since 2001, she has been working in the Ministry of Justice Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Ms. Klee has two children.



Barbara Hansen

Ms. Hansen has been working in Bützow prison as a project manager and judicial assistant since 2009. Since November 2012, she is working apart time as a project manager the JCN-project. Barbara Hansen worked from 1994 until 2008 as a project manager in a private education agency. She is married and has two children.



Grit-Christin Ladwig

Since 2007 to this date, Ms. Ladwig works as a probation officer at Regional Office for Probation and Supervision (LaStar), Rostock. Before that, Grit-Christin Ladwig worked from 2001 to 2007 as a social worker for a non-governmental organization in Rostock. Ms. Ladwig is married and has two children.



Julia Müller

Ms. Müller is a psychologist. She started work in prison in 2006. Since then she worked as a psychologist in the diagnostic center Bützow prison and in Bremen prison. Currently Julia Müller works in the diagnostic center in Waldeck prison, which is responsible for the assessment of high-risk offenders.



How can you get (or stay) involved?

One best way to get the last information, including the workshop activities, is to ensure we have your e-mail address. If not so, please send a mail to barbarah.hansen@jm.mv-regierung.de. Ms Hansen will provide you with the following newsletters and further information.

Visit our [website](#) where you'll find all the latest information about the ongoing project work.

We will publish the next JCN newsletter in April 2013.



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