



JUST/2011/JPEN/AG2943

Report

Common Understanding of Terms and Definitions on the topic of high risk offenders and transition management



This project has been carried out with the financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.

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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.

1. Definition of the term “high risk offender”

Definition: **“a high risk offender is someone 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.

2. Other main principles and terms relevant to the project topic

- Risk assessment (tool).
- Criminogenic risk factors and dangerousness.
- Needs (factors to be contributed to the positive outcome).
- Hierarchy of needs (prioritize them).
- Protective factors (pro-social attitudes, education, family etc).
- Pro criminal attitudes.
- Case management.
- Involvement of offender.
- Self-management, attitudes, problem solving skills.
- Focused interventions to lower the risk.
- Team work.
- Multiagency work.
- Information sharing.
- 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. JUST/2011/JPEN/AG2943 The list of keywords is not final, but allows amendments, to add explanations and remarks throughout the project lifecycle.



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