

European treatment and transition management of high-risk offenders

Aftercare Monitoring Re-integration Forum Findings

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Dr. Mikko Aaltonen introduced his research about the employment before and after first prison sentence:

Potential mechanisms through whichin carceration can affect employment:

- **Stigma of conviction**
 - negative signal potential employers;
- **Loss of human capital**
 - lack of work experience, losing job skills;
 - decreasing health & mental health;
 - change in personality
- **Loss of social capital**
 - no networks through which to find jobs;
 - weakening of social ties;
 - new networks with criminal others

Outcomes what can be linked to JCN results:

- The employment rates among future convicts tend to be below the state average already before the first sentence;
- 1/3 of offenders are not working and are not officially seeking the job after the sentence
- Offenders tend not to participate in active labour programmes that are offered by labour offices after sentence

Paddy Richardson described the gap between reality and ideal model of reintegration.

Suggested solutions:

Re-integration

- Criminal Justice support of change & desistance
- On-going access to welfare and housing
- Education
- Employment
- Family
- Addiction services
- Lifestyle opportunities
- Community engagement
- Autonomy and independence

An ideal model of reintegration:

- Early intervention
- A trusting relationship
- Clear definition and assessment of risk
- A multi-d approach to identifying and addressing risk
- A multi-d approach to identifying and addressing needs
- A multi-d approach to identifying supports and strengths
- A motivated and engaged client
- Realistic resettlement and reintegration plan centred on client , ideally developed with the prisoner and accepted by him or her
- Said plan shared with and accepted by community based CJ and non CJ professionals

KRIS shared the experiences on practical field:

- Contribution that the people who have been offended in the past can make more effective results
- Only offenders can stop offending
- Walking the walk allows for honest intervention and trustful partnership for partner organisations

Forum Conclusions:

- Making the bridge from the imprisonment to reintegration is difficult
- Education and labour should be targets in prison and after release
- Multidisciplinary approach is needed
- Community guarantee can make a difference
- More personal approach to the needs can make the difference

- Economical situation influences possibilities and quality of the process

Project Team Findings

The Project team on aftercare, monitoring and re-integration identified the following standards as essential/desirable for the successful management and engagement with Service Users at high risk of committing offences that could cause serious harm.

We highlighted:

- Legislative Underpinning
- Assessment- initial and on-going
- Case Management Plans
- Offender Involvement based on professional relationship
- Contract
- Supervision and Monitoring
- Multi-Agency Working
- Community Guarantee
- Focussed Treatment/Interventions
- Recourse to Courts/Prison Authorities where supervision arrangement have broken down.