

Introducing the JCN Project



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The JCN Project Background

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-offen-ding 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 lea-ving custody but also for communities and the criminal justice systems.

In the framework described above, the JCN Justice Cooperation Network project has the objective to develop a European network and database of best practice in the transition management of prisoners leaving custody with a focus on high risk offenders. This includes the development of reports as well as of a model for managing and supervising high risk offenders. 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. The project JCN Justice Cooperation Network, European treatment and Transition Management of High Risk Offenders, is funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Criminal Justice Programme.

Index of Contents

The JCN Project Background	P. 1
Message of the Coordinator	P. 2
Kick -off meeting in Florence	P. 2
Main Activities and Expected Results	P. 3
The Project Partnership	P. 3
How to stay in touch?	P. 3

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 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.



Main Activities and Expected Results

The JCN project is organized in the following main activities:

- Development of a common and shared understanding of definitions in the field of high risk offenders and transition management.
- Comparative analysis of national programmes and elements of transition management systems in the partner countries involved in the JCN project.
- Analysis and evaluation of the existing programmes in the partner countries to identify best practice.
- Development of a model and standards for managing high risk offenders in their transition from custody to the community.

The main result of the JCN project will be the production of four transnational reports. The four reports will be entitled respectively:

- Common Understanding of Terms and Definitions on the topic of high risk offenders and transition management.
- Transnational Comparative Analysis of Transition Management Strategies
- Best Practice Strategies and Programmes for transition management and continuity of treatment of high risk offenders leaving custody
- Best Practice Model and Standards for managing high risk offenders

The Project Partnership



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).

A number of associated partners are also involved. These are: the Ministry of the Slovak Republic, the Directorate General of Justice (Belgium), the European Organization for Probation CEP (The Netherlands), the Prison Administration of Republic Slovenia and the German Federal Ministry of Justice.

How can you get (or stay) involved?

One best way to get the last information, including the workshop activities, is to send your e-mail address to the project coordinator. Please send an e-mail to barbarah.hansen@jm.mv-regierung.de. Ms Hansen will provide you with the following newsletters and further information. We also invite you to visit our [website](#) where you'll find all the latest information about the ongoing project work.

