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JCN Project

Progress in project work

The JCN Newsletter

Number four



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Helsinki, Finland

Project News

“Best practice in transition management”

3rd Workshop in Helsinki, Finland

The workshop of workstream 3 took place in Helsinki on 30th October to 2nd November 2013 to identify and analyse best practices that are available for dealing with high risk offenders. From this point of view the aim of this workshop was to address the desired continuity of treatment and the transition management of high risk offenders.

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First Finish experts presented their viewpoint on the topic “Transition management of high risk offenders”.

Ms Kaijalainen (Senior Planning Officer, Criminal Sanctions Agency) presented the results of her study on the recidivism of life sentenced prisoners in Finland. She also told about the principles of assessing the dangerousness of life prisoners in Finland.

Ms Tammi-Moilanen (Director of Vanaja Prison) told about her experiences regarding supervised probationary freedom in Vanaja prison, which is one of the most active prisons in Finland that use this way of release. She referred about what is needed in the preparation of the supervised probationary freedom, what obligations there are and whether the supervised probationary freedom actually works.



The presentation of Prof. Dünkel and Mr. von der Wense (University of Greifswald, Germany) was a comparison of Prison Acts of the sixteen federal states of Germany. They compared for example the following issues of the Prison Acts and Preventive Detention Acts: aftercare, voluntary return to or stay in prison, discretion of the Prison Service concerning the temporary release of imprisonment (day and long-term leaves for the preparation for release), special long term prison leave (up to 6 months), transfer to open prisons/special release institutions outside prison.

After the input the national experts and project members worked in parallel workshops. The aim of these parallel workshops was to find

best practices in dealing with high risk offenders in the different stages of imprisonment term and release. The discussions in the workshops were based on the questionnaire that was sent to all project members before the workshop. The Finnish team had put together the answers of all members and divided them into three areas that were discussed in the workshops. The first sub-workshop looked at legislation and court practices, the second at assessment processes and custody and the third at work prior to release and in the community. The power point reports of the workshops are enclosed. The purpose of the teamwork was to create a list of best practices that all project members can agree on. You can find the list of best practices on our homepage <http://jcn.pixel-online.org/index.php>.



Afterwards Ms Suomela (Development Manager, Probation Foundation KRITS) presented the organisation of KRITS and the aims of their work. By presenting three real cases of high-risk offender clients, they demonstrated the work of KRITS.

Mr. Valkama, CRIS Central Union of Finland (CRIS= Criminals' Return Into Society) presented the aims, principles, services, mission, vision and activities of CRIS. He also spoke about the importance of peer support to the released prisoners.

Upcoming project meetings are:

Workshop 4 (Schwerin, Germany, 2nd - 5th April 2014): will develop and report on standards and a best practice model for managing high risk offenders

Final conference (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany) from 3rd - 5th September 2014

How can you get (or stay) involved?

One best way to get the latest 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.



We will publish the next JCN newsletter in June 2014.