

Prison and probation in cooperation – possibilities for improvement

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Challenges

- Relatively high imprisonment rate has been characteristic for Estonia
 - 2000 – 4803 prisoners (351)
 - 2005 – 4410 prisoners (339)
- The main question over the years – how to have less people in prison without negative effects on crime?
 - 2013 – 3281 prisoners (250)

Challenges

- Solutions through development of the sanction system and better transition management:
 - **less imprisonment**
 - **more alternatives**
- Better transition management through new system of parole and cooperation between prison and probation:
 - Structure and practice improvements
 - **Semi-automatic decision-making**
 - **Combined options and earlier release, including EM**

The sanction system of Estonia

Principal punishments

- **Pecuniary punishment**
 - from 30 to 500 daily rates
- **Imprisonment**
 - from thirty days to twenty years,
 - or life imprisonment

Alternatives to imprisonment

- **Probation without supervision**
- **Community service**
 - 1 day in prison = 2hrs CS
- **Probation supervision**
 - 18-36 months, combination with EM possible
- **Parole supervision**
 - Starting from 12 months, combination with EM possible
- **Probation as a sanction for minors**

Activities of probation system

1998

- Pre-sentence reports
- Probation supervision
- Parole

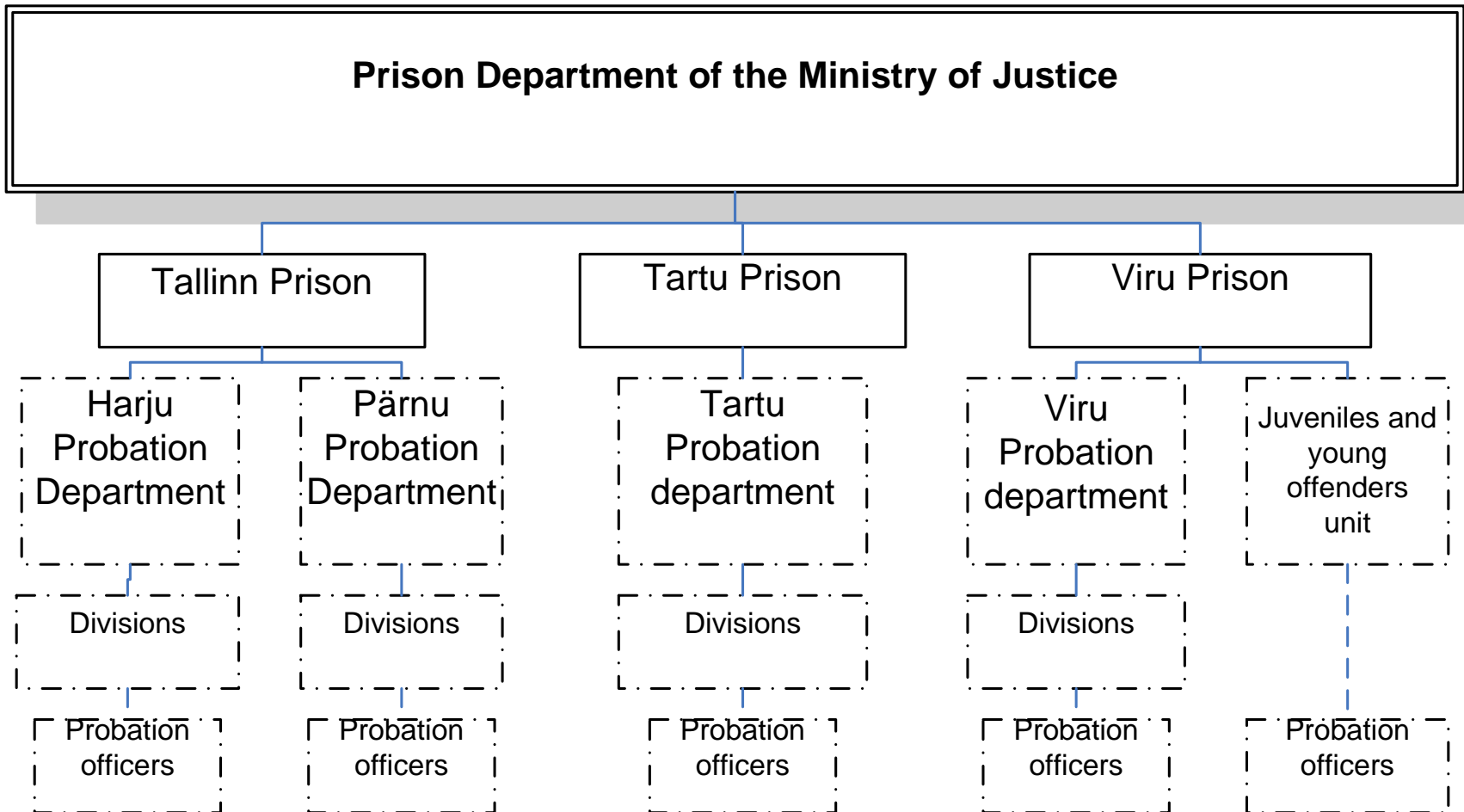
2011

- Pre-sentence reports
- Probation supervision
- Parole
- Probation as a sanction for minors (2002)
- Community Service (2002)
- Termination of criminal proceedings with:
 - community service (2004)
 - drug rehabilitation scheme (2011)
- Parole+EM (2007)
- EM replacing arrest (2011)

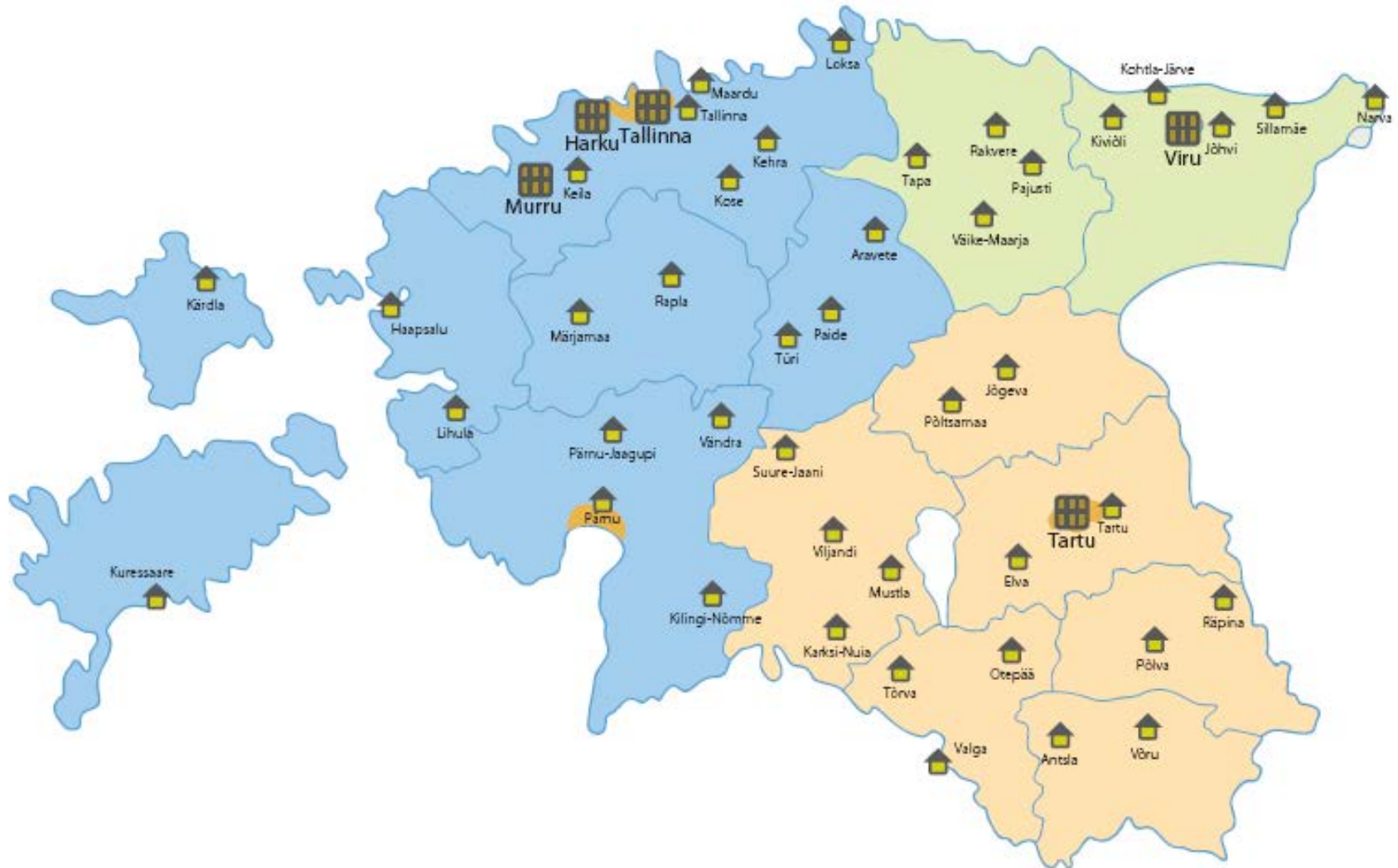
Organisational development

- The overall structure has to be supportive with focus on cooperation, information sharing and the needs of continuity of the case management
- 1998 – the start of the probation service
- 2008 – prison and probation services united

The overall structure



Locations of prisons and probation



Cooperation – preparing parole

- Since its start in 1998 probation is involved in parole process
- By the request from the prison a probation officer evaluates the suitability of living place and situation with relatives and other significant factors. Summary of evaluation is included into the case materials sent to the court for deciding
- If person is released on parole, then probation officers work is based on the last risk-assessment and sentence plan drafted during imprisonment

Cooperation - programmes

- There are several social rehabilitation group work and individual programmes available for probationers and prisoners
- As a rule those programmes are delivered by social rehabilitation staff in prison or by probation officers
- Nowadays the delivery of programmes is centrally planned and the probation officers are involved in delivering programmes for prisoners as well

Cooperation – young prisoners

- Since 2012 probation officers are specialized for working with juvenile and young probationers
- Those probation officers are working in the structure of juvenile prison while being placed throughout country
- As a result every young prisoner (14 to 21 years) has a personal probation officer whose task is to keep the link with community during imprisonment

Cooperation– pilot projects

- Probation officers involvement prior to last possibility for pre-release. 4-5 individual meetings with prisoner according risks in the area of relations, living place and employment
- Probation officer assesses risks for short term prisoners (up to 2 years) – risk assessment as a input for prisons work (beginning of 2013)

Further focus

- Information sharing
- IT solutions
- Joint activities, shared tools

Thank you for the attention!

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