



Sub-sessions abstracts

&

Poster session abstracts

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Sub-sessions Abstracts

Round 1 – 11.00-12.15 h (17th of April)

1.1.A State Probation Service of Latvia

Session hosts: Imants Mozers + Koen Goei (Netherlands Helsinki Committee)

Organization: State Probation Service of Latvia

Country: Latvia

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Probation began over 200 years ago not just as a method but as a mission—a profound commitment to rehabilitation and societal transformation. In its inception, its story was clear, its impact undeniable. Yet, as we navigate today's media landscape, characterized by sensationalism, fleeting trends, and a youthful audience's ever-evolving interests, the narrative of probation faces many challenges. It hasn't lost its essence, but in a world saturated with noise, its voice has been subdued.

This makes that the story of probation finds itself at a pivotal juncture. We invite probation leaders from around the world to embark on a transformative journey to redefine, reclaim, and rejuvenate probation's public narrative. This session challenges to step beyond the confines of traditional PR, to transcend passive and active approaches. By addressing key questions as "How do we revitalize and amplify the story of probation? How do we make an age-old mission resonate with a generation captivated by the 'new' and the 'now'?", we show the shaping narratives that confront misconceptions and craft a resonant story actively influences societal perceptions. We will inspire by drawing on real-life examples, innovative PR strategies, and progressive ethos," In this session we delve deep into the heart of probation, extracting its core principles and transformative tales. Equipped with innovative PR strategies and the forward-thinking approach of "Spin Sucks", leading to a narrative that's both authentic to probation's spirit, attuned to the rhythms of modern media and the specific (cultural) context in which probation operates, ensuring that probation's narrative doesn't just blend in but stands out, inspires, and leads the discourse. By session's end, participants are able to view probation through a new lens and have gained insight how to use innovative PR strategies and progressive ethos to champion probation's story in today's media-centric world.

1.1.B Do family and friends improve probation and parole outcomes? An evaluation of Triple-S

Session hosts: Lacey Schaefer

Organization: Griffith University

Country: Australia

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Scholars have called for the incorporation of informal social control agents into the community supervision of offenders, although systematic efforts to do so have been slow to come. This project reports on an initial trial of such a practice. In Triple-S: Social Supports in Supervision, probation and parole staff engage in opportunity-reduction tactics by, in part, recruiting and training members of their clients' social networks who may serve as offender handlers, target guardians, and place managers. A pilot test of the Triple-S model was implemented in a probation

and parole office in a large metropolitan area in Australia. This presentation discusses some of the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of evaluations of this new model of supervision. Recommendations for community supervision strategies are discussed, with an emphasis on the role of offenders' family and friends as potential crime controllers and probation and parole staff as super controllers.

1.2.A Professional values and skills: the last frontier of "what works" in probation and parole

Session hosts: Mario Paparozzi
Organization: University of North Carolina - Pembroke
Country: United States of America
Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h
Room: Mississippi

Abstract

In 1974 Criminologist Robert Martinson proclaimed that "with few and isolated exceptions, the rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far have had no appreciable effect on recidivism" numerous practitioners and scholars have spent 40+ years refuting Martinson's claim. Martinson's belief that "nothing works" has now been trumped by what we have come to know as "what works" or "principles for effective intervention" or "evidence-based practices." In fact, many policymakers and practitioners have implemented community supervision programs and strategies based on evidence-based findings from the "what works" literature. Notwithstanding the progress that has been made, progress with recidivism reduction has been limited, or unknown. This presentation what is needed to shore up the implementation of "principles for effective intervention" in order to achieve maximum reductions in recidivism.

1.2.B Probation and parole; Occupation or Profession?

Session hosts: William Burrell
Organization: Burrell Consulting LLC
Country: United States of America
Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h
Room: Mississippi

Abstract

In the United States, the field of probation and parole employs approximately 90,000 Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) in numerous agencies across the country. They provide critical services to clients, communities, courts and paroling authorities. Many PPOs refer to themselves and their colleagues as "professionals" and to the field in which they work as a "profession". While use of this terminology is common, it may not be entirely accurate.

Probation and parole are not alone in this. It is very common in contemporary society for individuals in the justice system, as well as other public and private sectors to refer to themselves as professionals.

In our society, it turns out that the term profession has a specific definition and includes criteria that will qualify an area of employment to be considered a profession. These include a body of knowledge (BoK), specialized education in the BoK, examination to document mastery of BoK, standards of practice, license to practice, code of ethics and continuing education. Drawing on examples of well-known professions such as law and medicine, this session will explore the question of what makes a field of work a profession and whether probation and parole qualifies as a profession.

While the primary focus of this discussion is the US, there have been publications about professionalism in both the UK and the Netherlands. There is international interest and certainly implications beyond the US.

Through this exploration, specific strategies will be identified to increase the professionalism of the field and of individual practitioners. Recommendations will also be provided for action by practitioners, agencies and professional associations to strengthen and professionalize the field.

1.4. Implementation Science and Translation: Disseminating Innovations across Probation Contexts

Session hosts: Tonya van Deirse & Nicholas Powell (Georgia Department of Community Supervision)

Organization: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work

Country: United States of America

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Everest 1

Abstract

Innovative and evidence-informed approaches to improve criminal justice outcomes for people on community supervision abound across our international community. However, demonstrated success of these approaches in one region or country does not guarantee effectiveness in another due to significant variation in the implementation context, including specific differences in governance and administration of community supervision within and across countries and regions, societal and cultural differences, and the sociopolitical context broadly. Implementation science and translation science is widely used in other fields (e.g., medicine) but there have been comparatively fewer applications of implementation science methods in corrections, in general, and probation specifically. The application of implementation science methods throughout the phases of intervention (design and development, implementation, and evaluation) provides a set of tools that can help accelerate the translation of innovations within and across countries. In this session we will: (a) draw on the existing research on implementation science and describes its applicability to probation practice and research; (b) review existing applications of implementation science within probation; (c) describe the use of implementation science methods from contextual inquiry to implementation strategy development and testing; and (d) generate discussion around the use of these methods to translate probation approaches across international contexts.

1.5. **CANCELLED** More than a belief in people to change: Exploring the importance of values within modern probation

Session hosts: Ella Rabaiotti

Organization: Swansea University

Country: Wales

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract

Considering the role of values within probation is particularly important given its need to gain public understanding, trust and confidence (Faulkner, 2008). However, values are not usually found within rehabilitation discourse and practice guidance (Ward & Maruna, 2007) and are suggested to be implicit, even taken-for-granted, within probation work (Mawby & Worrall, 2011; Phillips, 2013; Ward & Maruna, 2007). Despite this, the significant changes within the probation service in Wales (and England) in recent years has led to questions about the effect of privatisation on probation values (Deering et al, 2014; Deering & Feilzer, 2015). Concerns have also been

raised about the future of probation due to its alignment to the prison service and the potential threat to probation's purpose and culture (Carr, 2022; Probation Institute, 2022).

Situated within this period of uncertainty for the future of probation and building on limited understandings of probation values (Williams 1995; Mawby & Worrall 2013; Deering & Feilzer 2015), this research explores whether 'probation values' continue to endure (Ainslie 2021; Deering, 2011; Grant 2016; McNeill et al., 2009; Phillips, 2013; Robinson et al., 2013; Robinson, 2016). Whilst they are said to centre on a core belief in the ability of people to change (Ainslie, 2021; Deering & Feilzer, 2015; Phillips, 2013, Worrall & Mawby, 2014) – this research aims to deepen this understanding and relevance for rehabilitative practice. Drawing on an extensive literature review, early findings from qualitative interviews with probation officers and the researchers own experience as a probation officer, this round table considers the importance of values within probation work in Wales. It argues that whilst there have been efforts to set out 'core values and ethical principles' for probation officers (Probation Institute, 2020), there is a lack of clarity about how probation values are understood and implemented within evidenced based practice.

1.6. TIDES: Merging Trauma-Informed Care & Desistance in Probation Supervision

Session hosts: Joseph Arvidson & Nicole Staeheli

Organization: The Paragon Group

Country: United States

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

The evolution of probation and parole mirrors humanity's continual growth: understanding our past, contemplating our present challenges, and envisioning a hopeful, impactful future. Rooted in this theme, "Learn from the past, contemplate the present, plan for the future," we present TIDES—a beacon illuminating the transformative horizon of probation and parole.

Correctional systems have historically been caught in a web of complexities, often resulting in mere symptomatic relief. In the light of current reflection, the necessity for comprehensive models like TIDES is evident. It expertly weaves the wisdom of yesteryears with today's nuanced insights from Trauma-Informed Care and Desistance Theories.

Central to TIDES are its "Pillars of Change": Self-Regulation, Resilience, Social Support, and Identity. Neuroscience provides us with the understanding that a mind, calibrated by both past traumas and current endeavors, becomes the cornerstone for charting a rehabilitative trajectory. Such individuals are not only adept at navigating the turbulent waters of trauma but also in redefining their identity beyond labels, forging a constructive place within society.

Our shared vision for the future aspires to transcend traditional supervisory roles, empowering justice-impacted individuals. The robust integration of TIDES' pillars is pivotal to this transformative vision. As we journey forward, embracing a nurturing, comprehensive environment becomes paramount. It holds the promise to guide individuals away from the shadows of their past, through the intricacies of present challenges, ushering them towards a rehabilitative, brighter future.

In conclusion, TIDES is more than a model—it's a paradigm shift, encapsulating a deeper understanding of probation and parole. We invite you to journey with us, exploring this innovative synergy, as we collectively strategize, building a future anchored in understanding, compassion, and holistic transformation.

1.7. Future Track: The impact of Safe society on probation and parole

Session hosts: Ruben Maes and Faye Taxman

Organization: &Maes and George Mason University (Virginia, USA)

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

In the future track, we delve into the question 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?'. We look into the impact of macro-social developments, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. We work towards a future agenda, that will be transferred to the organisation of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

This session is about the impact of 'Safe society' on probation and parole. How do we shape probation in a society that is increasingly risk-averse? We see an increase in risk management in society, which sometimes means that the individual and human dimensions disappear from sight. This not only concerns safety risks, but also financial risks. Is risk management a guideline that we want to continue to use in our work? And how does this relate to probations core values such as compassion and forgiveness?

1.8.A Alcohol monitoring and Traffic

Session hosts: Anne Hoeksema + Laura Nijkamp

Organization: SVG (Dutch Probation Service for clients with dependencies a/o mental health issues)

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

The SVG (Probation service for clients with dependencies a/o mental health issues) focusses on risk management and reducing recidivism for clients with dependencies a/o mental health issues. We do so by focusing on both boundaries and care within life domains. Through this, we help reduce reoffending, and keep the public safe, while helping offenders to make positive change to their lives. In this contribution we elaborate on two pilots regarding alcohol, traffic and probation.

Alcohol monitoring

The Probation Services in The Netherlands conducted a pilot with the Alcoholmeter, an ankle bracelet for continuous (24/7) transdermal alcohol monitoring. In this contribution we will share our experiences, challenges, and results with the Alcoholmeter in the Netherlands. Additionally, we will emphasize the use of the Alcoholmeter not only for mandatory alcohol checks imposed in court, but also as a tool to support behavioral change regarding the (mis)use of alcohol.

Traffic

Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs and medication influences your ability to drive and is a punishable offense. People being convicted for a traffic offence might end up with probation services. A recent pilot showed that strong collaboration between probation services and the public prosecutor's office helps gaining more insight in this specific group of offenders and offering them better guidance and help. The results of the pilot and our efforts in bringing this topic to the attention in our own organization and the public will be presented.

1.8.B Intellectual disability amongst people on probation, what to do?

Session hosts: Bianca Pasman and Marjolein Maas

Organization: SVG (Dutch Probation Service for clients with dependencies a/o mental health issues) and Leger des Heils Jeugdbescherming en Reclassering (Salvation Army)**Country:** the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

Research shows that intellectual disability seems to be overrepresented in forensic populations compared to the general population. People with intellectual disabilities face more problems than those without intellectual disabilities. Early detection is often difficult, but necessary as it creates the possibility for customized care, leading to better resocialization and a decreased risk for recidivism. Recognizing intellectual disabilities enables probation officers to adapt their methodology and build a strong working alliance with mandated clients. It reduces asking more of a client than he/she/they is able to handle, thereby reducing amongst others stress, behavioural issues and even recidivism.

We will elaborate on how the three Probation Services in The Netherlands adapted their way of working for people with intellectual disabilities, from our policy framework to specific methods of screening intellectual disabilities and tools helping both probation officers and clients to better understand one another.

1.9. Exploring Virtual Reality Applications in Forensic Psychiatry

Session hosts: Cylia Hendriks

Organization: Amsterdam UMC / Inforsa

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract:

This session addresses the recently developed training called VRFreedom: a Virtual Reality-assisted training designed to potentially enhance treatment motivation and alleviate stress in the context of preparing for the first authorized leave. The session offers a concise overview of virtual reality's role in therapeutic environments, particularly emphasizing its application in readying patients for temporary leave. Participants will also witness practical demonstrations of key VRFreedom training components, conducted by a skilled therapist.

Round 2 – 13.30-14.45 (17th of April)

2.1.A Seamless and long-lasting support by probation offices as a bridge to the community

Session hosts: Yuho Furukawa+ Naoki Tanaka

Organization: UNAFEI (United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders)

Country: Japan

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Probation offices in Japan provide probation and parole supervision and support for both adult offenders and juvenile delinquents, as well as re-entry coordination for inmates in prisons and juvenile training schools. Probation offices also provide practical support including meals, clothing, housing, and travel fees to persons released from custody as well as follow-up support and resettlement support for elderly, disabled, and other persons who have left halfway houses, even though they are not under supervision.

For more than a decade, reducing reoffending has increasingly become important in Japan, as the reimprisonment rate within 5 years after release is 37.2% (for those released in 2017, 30.1% were released on parole, while 46.9% were released without parole). To reduce reoffending regardless of whether they are released on parole or without parole, the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism was enacted in 2016, and probation offices strengthened support for persons released from custody, upon their request and with their consent, to facilitate a smooth transition from custody to the community. Moreover, the Revised Offender Rehabilitation Act will come into effect in December 2023, which aims at realizing seamless and long-lasting support for offenders under probation or parole supervision and ex-offenders who are released from custody; the Act will also establish community support networks so that they can receive necessary support in the community after criminal justice involvement ends. For example, the period of providing support will be extended to a maximum of two years after release, and probation offices will provide support such as giving advice upon the request of the general public and relevant agencies such as community service organizations providing social welfare support for offender rehabilitation and crime prevention.

The presentation will introduce Japan's efforts to reduce reoffending by introducing national strategies, legislation, statistics and practices in probation offices.

2.1.B From Dealer to Leader: The Power of Lived Experience

Session hosts: Julie Truschel & Billa Nanra

Organization: The Prem Rawat Foundation

Country: United States of America

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

For those working in corrections, the frequent experience of reintegration failure makes success stories all the more elusive. In a dynamic interview, Julie Truschel will discuss with Billa Nanra how he transformed his life by regaining inner strengths while incarcerated at His Majesty's Prison (HMP) Leeds, United Kingdom.

Following a conviction for dealing drugs to fuel his heroin addiction, Billa Nanra engaged in rehabilitation programming. Standing in line to collect his methadone, he was captivated by a poster about the Peace Education Program. He was drawn to the strengths-based themes and on attending the course, was empowered to take control of his own destiny.

Upon leaving prison, Mr. Nanra found purpose in helping others who are themselves in similar circumstances and became a Peace Education Program facilitator delivering the course for youths at risk and people in prison. He has received awards for his work supporting others who are incarcerated and volunteers for the Shannon Trust, tutoring incarcerated individuals in reading and writing. Inspiring others with his story, Mr Nanra produced a six-part podcast, "Slaying the Dragon", and a mini-documentary that conveyed a multifaceted narrative illustrating his journey "from the inside out." Mr. Nanra's work both within and beyond prison walls underscores the importance of including individuals in our programs who have experienced transformation.

Ms. Truschel has over three decades of experience in the field of corrections. She now leads an international effort with the Supervision Around the World (SAW) Project to document global community-based practices and promote collaboration to improve program outcomes.

This talk represents a fusion of personal transformation and the importance of community engagement. Participants will be offered a unique insight into the role of innovative programs like the Peace Education Program in reshaping the trajectory of individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

2.2.A The Role of Probation and Parole Officers in Legal Reform in Indonesia: Addressing Overcrowding in Prisons and Detention Centers

Session hosts: Wahyu Saefudin & Nasuridin Nasuridin
Organization: Federation of Indonesian Probation Officers
Country: Indonesia
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Mississippi

Abstract

Legal reform is crucial in maintaining justice, sustainability, and progress within a nation. In Indonesia, legal reform involves various stakeholders, including probation and parole officers. Probation and parole officers play a pivotal role in shaping a law-abiding society and significantly contribute to implementing a legal system grounded in restorative justice. This research aims to delve deeper into the role of probation and parole officers in legal reform in Indonesia, particularly after the enactment of Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections and Law Number 1 of 2023 on the Criminal Code.

The research methodology includes in-depth interviews with probation and parole officers and policy document analysis. The research findings reveal that probation and parole officers strategically bring the law closer to society through educational and rehabilitative approaches. In the context of reducing overcrowding of inmates in prisons and detention centers, probation and parole officers contribute by adopting a humanistic approach. They assist in improving the attitudes and behaviors of inmates through specially designed rehabilitation programs. This approach aims to educate the inmates and prepare them for social reintegration after serving their sentences. Furthermore, the active involvement of probation and parole officers has significant positive impacts, including decreased crime rates, increased legal compliance, and the reinforcement of justice values within society. Therefore, the role of probation and parole officers must be recognized, supported, and strengthened by the government and relevant institutions to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of legal reform in Indonesia.

2.2.B Implementation of the Conditional Freedom (Probation) system in Chile

Session hosts: Ricardo Hidalgo
Organization: Gendarmeria de Chile
Country: Chile
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Mississippi

Abstract

In Chile, Conditional Freedom (Probation) as a legal norm has existed since 1925, functioning as an administrative control. But in 2021 the law was profoundly modified, which meant that Probation became a benefit, whose main characteristic is that people serving a prison sentence will be able to participate in a specialized intervention process aimed at reducing the risk of recidivism and strengthen their social integration while they are free, which extends for the rest of the duration of the sentence that began in prison. It is a system with unique characteristics in Latin America and is giving us the first results regarding the participation of people on probation in the program and levels of recidivism.

From a theoretical point of view, it works with the Risk, Need and Responsivity model, using general recidivism risk assessment tools and specific risk assessment instruments. On the other hand, the process of implementation of the new law provides an interesting experience regarding the management of financial resources, the recruitment and training of professionals who act as supervisors of the benefit, all of this within the framework of the modernization of the State, the functioning of public institutions and their relationship with society. This benefit is supervised by Gendarmeria de Chile – a state service- , which has an operating structure throughout the country. Along these lines, it is interesting to share the experience, difficulties and challenges presented by this management model of a prison benefit in freedom, in order to learn, solve critical issues and anticipate difficulties related to the reactivity of different social actors to this type of benefits aimed at social reintegration, in which more than 2,000 beneficiaries currently participate.

2.3.A Designing Culturally Sensitive Strategies to Reduce Recidivism for Roma Probationers

Session hosts: Biris Diana Laura & Claudia Feher

Organization: Romanian National Probation Directorate

Country: Romania

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

Roma population constitutes one of the largest ethnic minority groups in Romania. Regarding them, stereotype and negative prejudice are defining, transmitted through generations, sometimes with dramatic consequences. The absence of information that reveals specific cultural and historical characteristics, determined the formation of thinking clichés, mostly negative, even regarding those who carry out non-custodial sanctions, by developing the perception of their overrepresentation in the justice system criminal. Our main focus is on Roma ethnics serving non-custodial sentences, for improving the initial and ongoing evaluation made by the probation counsellors and for developing specific strategies in order to reduce reoffending.

Out of the authors professional experience, through qualitative interviews, carried on with 74 Roma people serving custodial sanctions and interviews with Roma specialists from different governmental and non-governmental institutions in Romania, during November 2022 – March 2023, there emerged the need of addressing this population segment due to the multiple challenges they are confronted with in the probation system, that particularly arise from their historical and cultural background. Namely, we noticed and felt the need for objective evaluations that considers the particular cultural aspects related to education, early marriages, migration, and, respectively, socio-economic status. We have discovered the imperative of evaluating their criminal needs more appropriately with a focus on enhancing individual, family and social protective factors.

Thus, we aimed to study the cultural and social specificities among Roma probationers, with the purpose of consolidating and strengthening probation counsellor's approaches and interventions provided for preventing infractuality and relapse by developing cultural sensitivity. We were also interested to analyse their capacity of adapting to the situation they are facing due to the criminal

record and to serving a non-custodial sentence. Their proper evaluation and specific interventions that aim at reducing reoffending represents a priority for the sustainability of the present research.

2.3.B Global Collaboration for Evidence-Based Parole: A Path to the Future

Session hosts: Ashley Koonce & Sylvie Blanchet
Organization: Association of Paroling Authorities International
Country: United States of America & Canada
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

Join us for an informative talk that explores the transformative power of global collaboration in parole. Our session will focus on the crucial partnerships between paroling authorities, experts, and leaders in the field. We will highlight the significance of and opportunities for regular communication with decision-makers worldwide and discuss how partnering with diverse agencies and groups can lead to evidence-based best practices, with the Structured Decision Making Framework (SDMF) as a compelling example.

2.4. Risk based or strength-based approach in probation?

Session hosts: Jacqueline Bosker & Annelies Sturm
Organization: University of Applied Sciences Utrecht
Country: the Netherlands
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Everest 1

Abstract

Probation and parole practices exhibit significant variations, stemming from distinct approaches that nations and even individual professionals adopt. One notable distinction lies in their orientation, either risk-based or strength-based. Furthermore, these differences are not confined to national boundaries; they manifest within countries as well. Variances arise due to the diverse styles of probation workers and the unique needs of individual clients. Consequently, the choice between a risk-oriented or strength-centered approach can depend on the specific circumstances and the expertise of the professionals involved.

In research on probation and parole, there has long been a strong focus on a risk-based approach. For example, in research on risk factors, risk management, reducing recidivism and various options for monitoring. In recent years this focus has been criticized and a more client-centered and strengths-based approach is being promoted. Probation and parole should instead connect with goals and needs of clients, the focus should be on helping and strengthening offenders. Thinking about risk and safety then seems to take a back seat. Researchers from both paradigms sometimes lead us to believe that these approaches are significantly different, but is this really the case?

In this session, we will briefly introduce what risk-based and strength-based probation and parole entails. Then, using a critical situation from an actual case, we will discuss with attendees how this takes shape in probation practices from different countries present in the session.

The purpose of this round table is to reflect together on the extent to which probation organizations should work risk-based and strength-based, how this can take shape and what the advantages and disadvantages are. By exchanging views and experiences, participants can inspire each other.

2.5. How Can (and Why Should) Probation Agencies Participate in Condition Setting?

Session hosts: Benjamin Mackey and Faye Taxman

Organization: Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence, George Mason University

Country: United States of America

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract

In a time where youth violence is on the rise across the United Kingdom, and with the poverty gap only increasing, *Power to Change* is a unique film that looks at the simplest solution: the innate goodness of a human being, who will make the right choices given the tools and encouragement to do so.

Sometimes all it takes is one person, one act, one choice, to change the trajectory of a lifetime.

Against the backdrop of inner city London and lives laced with experiences of social injustice, generational trauma, gang culture and hopelessness, the film tells the stories of five people: EJ a young man drawn into gang culture from an early age; Lorraine a grieving mother who lost her son to knife-crime as he saved another boy; Gerald, founder of Impact Brixton, who learned to navigate one of London's most dangerous areas after emigrating from Ghana as a child; Errol a repeat offender with 74 previous convictions; and Nate a former gang-member who was brutally stabbed by a childhood friend. The stories are woven together by Kaysen, a teacher, who passionately believes in supporting young people.

The film highlights the transformational impact of the individual recognizing their innate strengths of choice, appreciation, and peace, as well as the importance of the wider community for supporting young people to create a safer society.

Adding a unique perspective to this mix, we hear from author and peace educator, Prem Rawat, whose Peace Education Program is having a remarkable impact in corrections, probation, parole, re-entry and multiple other settings around the world.

The audience will be able to interact with the film producer and a cast member.

2.6. An interactive discussion on the future of probation in connection with the vulnerable group of foreign national offenders

Session hosts: Osman Nazir & Daniel Danglades

Organization: CEP/EuroPris

Country: France & United Kingdom

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

This interactive session will explore the unique challenges faced by foreign national offenders and how probation services can adapt to better support this vulnerable population. Through a lively discussion, attendees will discuss best practices for working with foreign national offenders, including effective communication strategies, cultural sensitivity, and collaboration with other agencies.

The session will also address the role of probation in reducing recidivism and promoting rehabilitation for this population. In an increasingly interconnected world, it is essential that European probation services collaborate to develop best practices for working with foreign national offenders. This interactive session provides a valuable opportunity for probation professionals to share knowledge and experiences, and to develop a shared understanding of how to best support this vulnerable population. Participants will walk away from this session with practical insights and

strategies that they can apply in their own probation work, as well as a sense of the broader impact that European probation services can have on promoting justice and fairness in our globalized world.

2.7 Future Track: The impact of Artificial Intelligence on probation and parole

Session hosts: Ruben Maes, Ioan Durnescu and Michel van Leeuwen

Organization: &Maes, University of Bucharest and the Ministry of Justice and Security in the Netherlands

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

In the future track, we delve into the question 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?'. We look into the impact of macro-social developments, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. We work towards a future agenda, that will be transferred to the organisation of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

This session is about the impact of Artificial Intelligence on probation and parole. How can we use AI in a safe and useful way? Artificial intelligence will drastically change society. It is no exaggeration to say that we are on the brink of a paradigm shift. Should we view and handle this development as a threat? We think not. The crux is how we can build AI systems in such a way that they help us and our clients instead of hindering them. An important question is what we want to leave to those systems. And for answering that question we must thoroughly delve into the ethical and moral implications of AI. The other way around we have to take a critical look at the work we want to do ourselves and we have to ask ourselves why that is.

Round 3 – 15.15 - 16.30 h (17th of April)

3.1. Second World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration.

Session hosts: Stephen Pitts, Frank Porporino, Emilie Coyle (Canada), Shoji Imafuku (Japan), Clement Okech (Kenya), Marco Brok (The Netherlands), Karen Lee (Singapore), Ruangsak Suwaree (Thailand), Andrew Watson (United Kingdom), Diane Williams (United States)

Time: 15.15 – 17.15 h

Room: Amazon

The 2nd WCCV builds on the 1st World Congress for Community Volunteers held as part of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Kyoto, Japan, 2021. Inspired by the powerful contribution of volunteer *Hogoshi* in Japan, this Second World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration (the 2nd WCCV) aims to showcase, explore, and advance the work of volunteers around the world.

Led by the Rehabilitation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice of Japan, with a welcome keynote by CEP Ambassador Steve Pitts, Dr Frank Porporino will moderate an interactive panel-audience discussion bringing together speakers from countries and regions as diverse as Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Canada, the USA, Kenya, and Europe. The panel will share examples of the many varied and important roles undertaken by volunteers who provide a bridge between statutory services and communities, help “demystify” probation and parole work, and fulfill the vital task of engaging community support in reintegration. Volunteers essentially work as good neighbours to support desistance and human potential, and ultimately help build safer societies.

The 2nd WCCV will focus sharply on the needs of volunteers and how we can more strongly support them. Those needs include training and recognition, managing challenges involved in recruiting and sustaining volunteers, in developing and disseminating their work, and in cultivating further public understanding and engagement in reintegration. The panel of distinguished speakers will include –

- Ms. Emilie Coyle – Canada
- Mr. Shoji IMAFUKU - Japan
- Mr. Clement Okech - Kenya
- Mr Marco Brok – Netherlands
- Ms. Karen LEE - Singapore
- Dr. Yossawan Boriboonthana - Thailand
- Dr. Andrew Watson - UK
- Ms. Diane Williams - USA

With the aim of encouraging and recognising volunteers all over the world, the 2nd WCCV will propose a Declaration to establish an annual volunteer day to help foster, extend, and sustain the role and contribution of community volunteers globally.

3.2.A Societal value of the Dutch probation services

Session hosts: Attila Nemeth & Anouk Visser

Organization: Saxion University of Applied Sciences

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

Since several years our research group has studied the societal benefits of probation services in the Netherlands. A multi-method study, including the framework of a social cost-benefit analysis, typology development and large data analysis, shows that the Dutch probation services have

significant societal added value. Not only do they reduce safety costs, they also contribute to progression in several areas of life, such as living situation, financial stability and societal participation. In the Netherlands, probation workers are in essence doubling societies investment and contributing to the safety of the Netherlands. Furthermore, the obtained insights in how this societal value is achieved can be used to increase the societal value of probation.

3.2.B Implementation and evaluation of Core Correctional Skills: the whole organization approach

Session hosts: Ioan Durnescu & Danijela Mrhar Prelic (Slovenian Probation Administration)

Organization: University of Bucharest

Country: Romania

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

The contemporary academic landscape is richly infused with research delineating effective strategies for reducing reoffending and supporting desistance. Recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses underscore the significance of core correctional practices—often referred to as "core correctional skills"—that are recurrently linked with promising outcomes in reducing recidivism.

The Probation Service of Slovenia (UPRO) has proactively embraced the whole organization approach to equip its personnel across various hierarchies with these pivotal skills. A distinguishing feature of this initiative is the rigorous emphasis on the practical application of these skills in real life situations. This is exemplified by the institution of training coaches and the provision of an intensive six-month supervision period. Furthermore, to ensure the long-term retention and enhancement of these skills, supplementary training sessions were organized after the initial six months.

The Institute of Criminology, affiliated with the University of Ljubljana, undertook the crucial task of conducting an independent evaluation. This assessment aimed to measure the impact of this comprehensive training regimen on the competencies, knowledge base, and confidence of the participating staff.

This comprehensive training programmes intricacies and outcomes will be elucidated during the conference by both the principal training facilitator and a representative of the beneficiaries. Valuable insights and lessons gleaned from this initiative will also be disseminated, offering constructive recommendations for refining and enhancing similar future endeavors.

3.3.A Care out of the box

Session hosts: Duygu Altin

Organization: Turkish Probation Services

Country: Turkey

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

It is in all probation practices, violations of the measures is a common problem faced in Turkish probation services. Regarding this, one of the main questions is how to decrease rates of violations during implementation of probation decisions. As a probation expert and a psychologist working since the foundation of the probation system in Turkey in 2006, one of the answers to this question is "care out of the box". As a psychologist with a humanistic perspective and as a human-being, I think that one of the main needs of us as humans is "care". But care here does not have a meaning as "usual care".

During my practice with probationers, I noticed that care which is not my main duty, but I performed as an extra care for them when I evaluated it as necessary, seems to help build confidence relationship. It is hard for probationers to feel confidence since it is a legal institution that I am working for, although I am a psychologist. Some examples of this type of care can be calling them when they did not attend a session, making an appointment for them in the hospital for their drug use or calling them to ask for a problem they mentioned in the previous session. This way, it is thought that recidivism and violation rates seem to decrease. The client gets the message that " I am giving you this care not because I am obliged to, but I am a volunteer and I really care about what happens to you".

3.3.B Why stories matter – how a sausage sandwich can save a life

Session hosts: Lacey McMillan & Grace Wong

Organization: Corrective Services NSW

Country: Australia

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

Modern criminological research often speaks of concepts such as desistance, social capital, human capital, responsivity, and redemption scripts. But what does this look like when put into practice in the field? This session will draw on the personal experiences of the presenters as frontline Community Corrections workers over the past decade to show how "success" in offender rehabilitation can be better framed in modern offender management to reflect modern concepts.

Through the form of case studies, the presenters will demonstrate the importance of care and empathy in Community Corrections work.

Buying an inmate a Bunnings sausage sandwich, talking with a new parolee about his cooking abilities, support a sex offender to secure clothes and a meal. Having a genuine, positive, connection and conversation with the individuals who come into our care. We should work alongside them to create opportunities for change. In short, responsivity done right.

By listening and understanding the background, context, experiences and motivations of the individuals in front of you with genuine compassion - real change can be achieved. What this change looks like in our most vulnerable or complex community members is generally captured with a handy recidivism statistic. But to truly appreciate the value of a community corrections officer the presenters will show how important changes are often overlooked and undervalued. A sense of achievement, belonging or pride, a new recipe learnt, license obtained, job held for 1 week longer than last time. These little changes and experiences matter- and Community Corrections Officers can be invaluable in making them happen.

3.4. 'Prisoners on the outside': Women, drugs and electronically monitored parole in Thailand

Session hosts: Chontit Chuenurah, Yodsawadi Thipphayamongkoludom (Thailand Institute of Justice) and Samantha Jeffries (UK)

Organization: Griffith University

Country: Thailand

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Everest 1

Abstract

The UN adopted the Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) in 2010. Before this, international human rights standards

had not properly reflected the specific gendered needs of women, both as prisoners and regarding alternatives to imprisonment.

The 70 Bangkok Rules complement the Tokyo Rules and the Nelson Mandela Rules providing a practical and aspirational set of human rights principles. There is recognition that criminalised women are especially vulnerable, have different needs from men, are generally non-violent, subsequently pose minimal risk to society, and that existing systems of criminal justice are patriarchal. The rules advocate for gender-specific programs, policies, and practices, that support women's well-being, rehabilitation, and reintegration and for the increased use of non-custodial measures.

Detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and women in conflict with the law should not be imprisoned unnecessarily. Since the adoption of the Bangkok Rules, there has been increased attention in Thailand to implementing affirmative action to counterbalance the discrimination faced by imprisoned women. However, there is an absence of knowledge that can inform policy/practice about non-custodial measures. Utilising the voices of criminalised women and probation staff, we will present findings from a study exploring women's pathways to and experiences of EM parole in Thailand. Then by operationalising the knowledge and expertise of both groups, we provide directions for reform that will move Thailand toward a gender-wise approach to EM-parole.

3.5. Mind your mind? Mental resilience of Probation officers

Session hosts: Vivienne de Vogel & Inger Hoek
Organization: University of Applied Sciences Utrecht
Country: the Netherlands
Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h
Room: Everest 2

Abstract

Most practitioners consciously choose this profession and see it as meaningful and important work, because it allows them to contribute to recovery of their clients and prevention of recidivism, thus making society safer. However, this work can also call on the mental resilience of practitioners; they work with a complex group, the workload is high, there is a high turnover of staff, and there are high expectations from society. Probation officers regularly encounter complicated situations in the contact with the clients they supervise. Many of these clients have problems in multiple areas, they are not always motivated, and sometimes they behave aggressively, intimidating, manipulative or hostile toward their supervisors. Not surprisingly, practitioners are relatively often confronted with aggression in their work or tension in contact with clients.

Possible consequences may include reduced enjoyment of work, reduced quality of work and absenteeism and, in some cases, even long-term symptoms, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or burnout symptoms. Research has demonstrated that next to personal factors, organizational factors play a crucial role in preventing job stress, PTSD and burnout. What do probation officers need to be able to do their jobs in an adequate and fulfilling way (also in the longer term) and how can probation services optimally support their professionals to promote resilience and prevent burnout? In an interactive round table session, we will discuss these issues with the participants with a focus on protective factors. We will also briefly present some recent research results on mental resilience. An online survey including multiple choice and open questions about mental resilience was completed by 315 practitioners working with forensic clients. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews were conducted with eleven forensic social professionals about their experiences of mental resilience to gain more profound insight.

3.6. How do we know if it works? Evidence, reason and evaluation in PVE/CVE Deradicalisation Probation Initiatives

Session hosts: Madeleine Pössel + T. Kohlemeyer
Organization: Bremen Probation Service
Country: Germany
Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h
Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

Former violent extremists in Europe are now supervised based on clear obligations and supervision conditions in national law. But with every new attack comes the question: how do we know de-radicalisation and disengagement initiatives are even working? Are probation services sure that referral services are proportionate and individually tailored? That probation and social service staff are being trained in the right skills? That former radicalised or extremised individuals make an authentic turn away from that life? The aim of this session is to empower the capabilities of first-line practitioners, support policymakers and help researchers working in the PVE/CVE Deradicalisation field, based on case studies from Bremen Germany, and working through training developed by the INDEED project evidence-based training for the evaluation of radicalisation prevention and mitigation.

Based on real examples from existing multiagency partnership between Interior Ministry, Justice Ministry and local nonprofit providers, this session will offer an interactive, practical, comprehensive and multilingual knowledge package so that any practitioner or policymaker will leave the session with a framework for designing and evaluating PVE/CVE and Deradicalisation initiatives with the use of evidence-based principles, tools, training and learning materials.

3.7. Future Track: The impact of Political changes on probation and parole

Session hosts: Ruben Maes and James Byrne
Organization: &Maes and George Mason University (USA)
Country: the Netherlands
Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h
Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

In the future track, we delve into the question 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?'. We look into the impact of macro-social developments, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. We work towards a future agenda, that will be transferred to the organisation of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

This session is about the impact of Political changes on probation and parole. How do we maintain social and political support in a time of growing science skepticism and the rise of political populism? The foundation of probation lies in scientific evidence and insights. But how does our story last in a time of growing science skepticism and the rise of political populism? There is a rise of political leaders who are not very much concerned about scientific substantiation of their visions. This might diminish the political and social support for the use of probation as an alternative for imprisonment. Instead, plain retribution will become a popular goal again, which probably means more (downright punitive) imprisonment. How do we deal with this? Do we need to change our narrative to keep social and political support?

Round 4 – 11.00-12.15 (18th of April)

4.1.A Position and basic rights of the victim - victim support within probation services

Session hosts: Hans Dominicus en Hannah Bellens

Organization: Flemish Probation Service

Country: Belgium

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Every probation service (called 'house of justice') in Flanders – Belgium has a number of probation workers (called 'justice assistants') specialized in dealing with victims. They have four different responsibilities: to inform, to assist, to refer and to raise awareness.

- To inform: to give the victim specific information about his/her individual file, about the possibilities in terms of legal assistance, about psychological assistance, about compensation or financial aid or by passing on the victim's questions to the magistrate
- To assist: to assist the victim at emotional level, during difficult times, during the various phases of the judicial procedure.
- To refer: to refer the victim to a specialized service where applicable.
- To raise awareness about the victim's rights and needs among the judiciary and the police force.

The way of combining offender management and victim support within a probation service is rather unique.

The current Flemish minister of Justice emphasizes victim support in the general policy and also enforced the probation services for this task: the number of staff for this kind of victim support has more than doubled in recent years from 33 to 77. Special attention is also put into supporting the victims during the trial of the Brussels terror attacks of 2016.

Based on 30 years of experience in supporting victims from the probation service, we presented a charter in October 2023: the "Ten commandments of the victim". These are missing links, based upon experiences of the probation work with victims, and basic conditions for truly putting victims at the center of the justice system.

4.1.B The Crofton-Jebb Controversy 1858-63: the case for preparation for release and post release supervision

Session hosts: Gerry McNally

Organization: The Irish Probation Service

Country: Ireland

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

The 'Irish System' implemented in convict prisons Ireland by Sir Walter Crofton from 1856 onwards laid the foundations of many modern parole systems. It introduced individualised assessment and treatment, training and preparation for release in Intermediate Prisons and post release supervision. The new 'Irish system' was highly successful, lauded at conferences and in publications internationally and repeated elsewhere.

Sir Joshua Jebb, Chairman of the Directors of Convict Prisons, in reporting his findings on convict prisons in 1858 was highly critical of Crofton and disparaged the reported achievements of the Irish System in training, employment after prison and reduced re-offending. With supporters, he

opposed adopting the Irish System in England, dismissing Intermediate Prisons and training as unnecessary, supervision after release by the Inspector of Discharged Convicts, James Organ, or local police as stigmatising and 'unenglish'; claiming that the Irish did not abhor crime. Sir Walter Crofton and supporters of the 'Irish System' rejected the criticisms. The public dispute, known as the Crofton-Jebb Controversy continued until Sir Joshua Jebb's death in 1863 and was sustained by others thereafter.

Many of the same issues remain live today. We are informed by psychology, criminology, desistance, strengths and social learning approaches. But practice is challenged in risk averse, fearful communities and an unforgiving 'cathch'em, nail'em and jail'em' culture.

The Crofton advocacy of a person-centred, community integration and multi-disciplinary approach has lessons for us. This talk focuses on the lessons from the hostile opposition to innovation, and the importance of a strong evidence-base and support in the Crofton Jebb Controversy.

We need to look to and learn from our past to build trust, stronger community partnerships and innovation to achieve better outcomes in resettlement of people leaving custody and the criminal justice system.

4.2.A Development of the Korean Electronic Monitoring (NEW)

Session hosts: Hyung Seob Lee

Organization: Ministry of Justice

Country: Republic of Korea

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

Since the adoption of the GPS EM system, initially targeting high-risk sex offenders primarily upon release, the Korean EM Service has steadily evolved. Its scope has expanded beyond sex offenders to include other high-risk individuals, and its reach recently extended to pretrial monitoring for stalkers as a form of protection order or a condition of bail by application of EM technology.

This talk in a parallel session presents a detailed exploration of GPS Electronic Monitoring. Commencing with brief introduction to the homegrown GPS EM service, including the history and its distinctive features. Real-world scenario will be demonstrated, vividly showcasing the system's effectiveness in preventing offender's reoffending.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the practical applications of EM and its collective impact on probation, parole, and victim-centered justice.

4.2.B Guidelines for human rights based electronic monitoring

Session hosts: Taghreed Jaber and Lorna McGregor

Organization: Penal Reform International

Country: Jordan

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

With Electronic Monitoring gaining more and more popularity, PRI and the University of Essex sense the need to develop new guidelines that include a human-rights, and gender-sensitive perspective. At the moment, only the Council of Europe has international Electronic Monitoring recommendations, which are outdated given the technological progress made, among other reasons. PRI previously produced working guidelines for Jordan. Guidelines are needed at the international level that take into account different socio-economic and cultural context and apply

both for the Global South and Western countries. Lessons from Jordan are the importance of capacity building for judges and interagency collaboration for example between the police and the MOJ.

PRI and the university of Essex recently took the initiative to develop new EM Guidelines and have started with preparing the research stage to assess the needs in various countries. In this inspirational talk, we will present the research aims and scope on the one hand, and we will present a case study in Jordan including obstacles and lesson learned.

4.4. The future role of IT and technology in the digital transformation of probation

Session hosts: Bart Hagtingius + Popko de Vlugt

Organization: Dutch Probation Services

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Everest 1

Abstract

In the roundtable session we discuss the future of IT on probation and parole. The digital transformation can be significantly enhanced through the smart use of IT and technology. The role of IT and technology in the future of probation is critical as it can help improve efficiency, accuracy and effectiveness of probation processes. We're looking forward to make a deep dive with probation professionals, policy makers, IT professionals, managers and other people whom interested in the future of IT and technology in the probation profession.

A selection of topics for this round table session:

- Using advanced data analytics and business intelligence tools can help probation agencies identify patterns and trends that may indicate risks or opportunities for improved interventions. This can help make data-driven decisions.
- Virtual Reality and simulations: How Virtual reality can improve training programs for professionals.
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning can be used to predict recidivism and identify patterns that indicate behavioral change in convicts. This can help probation officers create personalized and more effective probation plans.
- Information security and privacy: With the increase in digital data, it is critical to implement systems that ensure information security and privacy. This is especially important given the sensitive nature of the information held by probation agencies.
- Electronic monitoring and surveillance: IT can be used to monitor convicts using electronic anklets and other devices. These technologies can help ensure compliance and maintain community safety.

These are topics that will be discussed during this session. With the arrival of new technologies and a rapidly growing information provision, challenges also arise. How do we cope with this and what can, and should we expect from our probation professionals?

This round table session is a very interesting one and one you don't want to miss.

4.5. Hardened clients in probation

Session hosts: Regien van Uden + Ilse Zielman

Organization: Ministry of Justice and Security

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract

In the Netherlands, we see a hardening of crime, which is reflected in threats and intimidation of professionals working in criminal law. This requires the probation service to find a balance between performing their statutory task and protecting employees against safety risks.

A small group of offenders commit violent crimes with an 'unscrupulous' attitude. These are usually criminals who ended up in drug crime. Their criminal activities can often be classified as organized crime. Probation officers are more often confronted with violent clients and clients who pose a threat or who have made concrete threats.

Measures for working with difficult clients have already been taken in the past. For example, there is a national team of specially trained probation officers that supervises serious criminals.

Supervision is only exercised in pairs; extra checks are carried out by means of an ankle bracelet and reporting duties usually take place at secure locations. Probation officers sometimes also advise the court to detain a client for a longer period of time in detention because supervision outside the walls is too dangerous.

For a small group of hardened clients this is not enough. Probation officers have to work anonymous under a work name (alias). They are provided with facilities such as a mobile phone, lease car and email address that are untraceable to individuals.

When matching probation officer with these clients, the living and working area of both is considered. Conversations with hardened clients always take place in safe places, such as the police station.

We believe it is valuable to exchange knowledge and experience about working with these clients. What are effective measures? And what is the action perspective if this is not sufficient?

We would like to include (international) data exchange, reintegration challenges and staff resilience training in the session.

4.6. Moving Beyond Bars / Reclaiming Identity through Creative Practice

Session hosts: Suzanne Costello

Organization: Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater

Country: United States of America

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

Moving Beyond Bars is a creative program that engages participants in writing and movement to explore and express their full selves. Supported with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, U.S., this program has been implemented in prisons and release programs for men, women, adults and adolescents. The core belief of this initiative is that guiding participants to acknowledge and express their sense of identity behind their offender label emboldens them and provides a new strength to move beyond bars.

As populations move from incarceration and through the parole/ probation system, ultimately it is the INDIVIDUAL who will succeed or not. How do we validate these individuals as full members of society? Research confirms that family connections and work provide a sense of stability. However, these individuals need a way to reclaim their sense of self. The power of the arts cannot be underestimated in providing this connection. Having the opportunity to express their true selves has been proven to be therapeutic but, more importantly, it is perhaps the most holistic method to address the reparation of these broken lives.

4.7 Future Track: The impact of the Changing workforce on probation and parole

Session hosts: Ruben Maes and Ioan Durnescu

Organization: Maes and University of Bucharest (Romania)

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

In the future track, we delve into the question 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?'. We look into the impact of macro-social developments, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. We work towards a future agenda, that will be transferred to the organisation of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

This session is about the impact of the Changing workforce on probation and parole. How do we keep our workforce up to date in a (fast) changing world? Good probation work is not just about 'What Works?', but also about 'Who works'? In a rapidly changing world, how do we balance quantity and quality of our workforce? It can be hard to find enough and capable new colleagues. Also, societal and technological developments require continuous improvement of our skills. How do we adapt to these changing circumstances and how does this influence the engagement and development of our current and future workforce?

4.8 Development of community service in Suriname: a positive probation example for South America

Session hosts: Jessica Fredison + Gaynel Nyon-San A Jong

Organization: Suriname Probation Department

Country: Suriname

Time: 11.00 – 12.15 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

The purpose of this round table is to introduce the audience to the country of Suriname and delve into the history and status of the Surinamese Probation Department. The speakers will share information about the Makandra project with the Dutch Probation Services and the recently finished pilot project on community service. Community service is a new measure in the Surinamese Penal Code, together we can explore what effective strategies are necessary for its further development and how to deal with challenges during the implementation of community service.

Round 5 – 13.30-14.45 h (18th of April)

5.1.A Hoping for a better future: how can probation foster hope with people on probation?

Session hosts: Jake Phillips & Stephen Farrall (University of Nottingham)

Organization: Sheffield Hallam University

Country: United Kingdom

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Hope can be a powerful driver for positive change in peoples' lives. As such, fostering hope could – and some argue should – be a key feature of effective probation practice and probation services. However, very little research has sought to understand what people on probation hope for, nor whether probation supports people to achieve their hopes. In this talk we will present findings from a study which explored the concept of hope in probation in England. Through a combination of walking groups and interviews with people on probation, staff working in probation, policymakers and other interested parties we sought to understand ways in which probation does and does not create the conditions for more hopeful lives for people on probation. Our findings shed light on what people – both staff and supervisees – hope to get from probation and what forms of practice and policy can help and hinder the fulfilment of those hopes.

Hope is 'an active state grounded in reality' and can either be 'invested in an existing system' or 'born from a lack of identifiable bearings' (Seeds, 2022). Using this framework, we identify ways in which probationers' and practitioners' hopes span relatively short-term goals such as finishing a sentence or avoiding breach to longer-term, more aspirational hopes for a better life. We consider how these different types of hopes can be understood as the foundations for successful desistance down the line and identify the challenges for probation when it comes to focusing on hope as a tenet of good practice. Our talk therefore concludes by looking to the future with a discussion of what participants believe is needed to change – on a practice and systemic level – to enable people on probation, probation services and probation practitioners to achieve their hopes more readily.

5.1.B Georgia's Crime Prevention and Probation System: Innovative approaches in Rehabilitation and Technologies

Session hosts: Jason Nachkebia en Lado Kheladze (Georgia)

Organization: Georgian National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-Custodial Sentences and Probation

Country: Georgia

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Georgia's probation system follows European Probation Rules, emphasizing strong rehabilitation efforts and modern technologies, as a result of which, recidivism rate in 21.000+ probationers currently stand at 6.6%. The presentation introduces the best practices of Georgia's crime prevention and probation system in strengthening country's public security, in line with Georgia's 10-year development strategy.

The presentation will cover following topics:

1. Regional expansion of Juvenile Referral Center, providing increased rehabilitation and resocialization of juveniles in conflict with the law under the age of criminal responsibility

and difficult behavior and the Crime Prevention Course for Schoolteachers to strengthen their skills in identifying delinquent behavior in juveniles.

2. Enhanced access to RJ and VOM programs and strengthening human resources mediators through agency's Register of Mediators, resulting 60% of successful mediation and 96% mediation satisfaction.
3. Renewed rehabilitation programs and Probationers' Orientation Course – an innovative rehabilitation program for low-risk probationers, who after graduation assist probation officers in leading future courses.
4. PROBBOX – an innovative device, which for the first time in Europe, along with probation bureaus, provides supervision of low-risk probationers and services in the premises of other organizations, enhancing geographical area of probation capabilities with 90% of satisfaction, 96.5% of simplicity of use and 81% of provision of anonymity.
5. Risk and Needs Assessment Software – developed by the agency as an integral part of case management process.
6. Municipalities in rehabilitation – cooperation format with local governments resulting in provision of jobs, education capabilities and health services for beneficiaries.
7. Volunteering Capabilities – Volunteer Probation Officer initiative, Volunteer Teachers Program.
8. The presentation overviews Research on Beneficiaries' Needs, Mediation Satisfaction Research and PROBBOX Satisfaction Research, with the impact on their results and findings on agency's capacity development and rehabilitation process.

5.2.A Probation authority in the Kyrgyz Republic. Prospects for the development of probation in Central Asia

Session hosts: Ruslan Romanov

Organization: Kyrgyzian Probation department

Country: Kyrgyz Republic

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

The practice of foreign countries that have applied probation control has shown a decrease in recidivism in some types of crime. Thus, the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic was amended in 2017. At the same time, the Law "On Probation" was signed Kyrgyz Republic.

At that time, the UII did not show positive results in relation to registered persons, after which the question arose about the reorganization of the UII as a separate institution for the execution of non-custodial sentences. Which not only kept records, but also had to resocialize the perpetrators of crimes. Also, for the reduction of persons in penitentiary institutions. So, there was a need for a probation institute in the Kyrgyz Republic. The probation authority in the Kyrgyz Republic has been operating for more than 4 years. During this period, 53 probation bodies operate on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. An automated information system for the data of convicted persons and clients involved in public affairs was developed for supervision. A fingerprint system was introduced when accounting for the client. There are about 6000 registered clients.

5.2.B Learning from European experience - Building Probation Capacity and Impact at a Global Level

Session hosts: Stephen Pitts & Leo Tigges

Organization: Community-Based Justice

Country: United Kingdom

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

We present and discuss a major research project to identify promising practices in building probation capacity.

Case for Change and Research Question: How can probation development be accelerated on a global level? A need for more comprehensive probation service provision is rarely contested at global level, driven partly by a need for “alternatives” to incarceration. The Council of Europe, United Nations and other bodies support efforts to deliver alternatives more widely and convincingly. Benefits, including for reduced reoffending, lower financial cost, and reduction of mass imprisonment side effects, are argued with increasing power and frequency.

Yet despite national and international investment and development expertise, probation provision remains far from universal, varies in maturity and emphasis, and custodial use grows overall and in many world regions. Processes and impact of development are little researched or understood.

Against the background of remarkable expansion of European probation provision over 25 years, the research explores success factors (and risks), tests a model of probation development, and considers the relevance of European lessons for the global probation community.

Research methods: Research, supported by an Academic Panel, was greatly informed by five detailed case studies (Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Poland and Romania) involving meetings with people directly involved in probation development, consultations with international bodies, and a literature review.

Results and conclusions: The research demonstrates how probation development and exchange is influenced by, and needs to take account of, national and justice system context and international factors. Other key elements include Who (involving stakeholders / others), Why (vision and aims) and What and How (prioritised “domains” or tasks, and how enabled).

Results include a capacity building model or “language”, 10 “success factors” and steps to avoid when growing probation, and actions for the international community to support a “step-change” in global probation / community corrections provision.

5.4. Round table on restorative justice

Session hosts: Romain Emelina
Organization: French Ministry of Justice
Country: France
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Everest 1

Abstract

Restorative justice is a concept that emerged in the 1980s in North America, inspired by the tribal practices of indigenous societies.

Even though in Canada, restorative justice was initiated as part of a community-based approach by chaplaincies without the active involvement of the Canadian correctional service, in France it was supported by the prison administration, which gave it a unique place within the scope of the prison probation service's missions.

Restorative justice is now seen as a way of working with people under judicial supervision that is independent of the criminal justice system but complementary to the judicial supervision provided by the prison integration and probation services.

In France, the first experiments began in the early 2010s, following a study trip to Canada organised by the director of a service in the Paris region. The positive results convinced the public authorities of the relevance of these actions, which led to restorative justice being enshrined in the law of 15 August 2014. The contours of restorative justice were subsequently clarified by the circular of 15 March 2017, which defined it as a model of justice complementary to the criminal

trial, which consists of restoring the social link damaged by the offence, through the implementation of various measures.

Restorative justice has also become a fully-fledged mission of the public prison service.

Restorative justice practices have evolved over the last 10 years. Between 2015 and 2019, the majority of measures implemented were meetings between perpetrators and victims. Today, 71% of measures are restorative mediation measures. In addition to the measures provided for by law, other restorative justice measures have been introduced at the initiative of professionals in the prison integration and probation services, inspired by practices in other countries such as England (Sycomore programme) or Switzerland (desistance sponsorship programme).

5.5. Child friendly probation from a global perspective

Session hosts: Olivia Rope & Cedric Foussard (Terre des Hommes)

Organization: Penal Reform International

Country: Algeria & Indonesia

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract

Penal Reform International and Terre des Hommes together with their joined initiative on Justice with Children (www.justicewithchildren.org), advocate for child friendly probation systems. In this Roundtable, the partners present case studies of recent projects and based on that discuss an overall framework. The roundtable will also discuss challenges, obstacles and opportunities.

The case studies include:

Indonesia: developing general guidelines for probation officers to help divert children from prison sentences. PRI, together with ILF started implementing this UNICEF funded project in January 2023 with the help of ICJR.

Algeria: The Algerian child protection commissioner will share experience with probation measures for children.

The perspective of the probationer will be included by inviting a young person who has experiences a probation measure as a child.

5.6. How to translate a successful local initiative into a universal framework?!

Session hosts: Marieke van Zwam

Organization: Exodus Netherlands

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

Exodus Netherlands is a NGO who works with professionals and volunteers. We focus on support and shelter for people with a forensic background and their families. Our work contributes to a safer society with less crime. We are a pioneer on recovery focused work in detention and we develop innovative projects for individuals and their families including children in the criminal justice chain. One of these projects is the spring/autumn camp. It is a four-day day camp where children spend time with their fathers while spending the day in prison. Professional social workers and volunteers developed an engaging program that includes everyday activities.

Scientific research shows that these kind of recovery activities have a positive effect on the quality of family relationships during incarceration and post-incarceration relationships. In other words, if

you manage to maintain good contact during detention, it will be easier to resume the parenting role after detention. During the camps the volunteers are of great importance. They support the families and are standing next to them and treat them like human beings and that makes them feel like a part of society again. In this session we want to explore together how to translate a successful local restorative activity to an universal framework that is adaptable to a country's culture.

5.7. Future Track: The impact of Cross-boundary collaboration on probation and parole

Session hosts: Ruben Maes and Benjamin Mackey
Organization: &Maes and George Mason University (Virginia, USA)
Country: the Netherlands
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

In the future track, we delve into the question 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?'. We look into the impact of macro-social developments, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. We work towards a future agenda, that will be transferred to the organisation of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

This session is about the impact of Cross-boundary collaboration on probation and parole. How do we keep collaboration simple in an increasingly complex environment? Over the past 25 years, the work of the probation has become considerably more complicated. We need to co-operate more and more with other public agencies to realize our objectives. One of the challenges in the future is to find a way to reconcile this complexity with the probation worker's daily work. How do we orchestrate efforts with other agencies, while keeping collaboration and day to day probation work simple?

5.8. Hybrid street culture and the connection with young people

Session hosts: Joran de Jong
Organization: n/a
Country: the Netherlands
Time: 13.30 – 14.45 h
Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract:

The workshop focuses on deepening hybrid street culture, i.e. how the online and offline worlds are interwoven. Joran de Jong, criminologist specialized in youth violence, street culture and social media, takes us into the most current developments and scientific research surrounding the themes of street culture, social media and youth crime. In addition, a youth probation officer will provide an insight into the practice. What does this target group look like, how do you guide and move these young people away from crime, what is Street Power? In the workshop, science and practice come together to inspire and thus enter into a conversation with these young people with new insights.

Round 6 – 15.15 – 16.30 h (18th of April)

6.1.A Innovative Approaches for Non-Violent Drug Offenses: A Holistic Paradigm Shift

Session hosts: Jérôme Mangelinckx

Organization: Research Centre on Drugs and Human Rights (CIDDH) / Latin American Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD)

Country: Peru

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

In Latin America and the Caribbean, criminal justice systems disproportionately impact drug offenders compared to those involved in violent offenses. Harsh sentencing and inadequate access to alternatives to incarceration exacerbate this issue. Disparities not only perpetuate cycles of criminality but also hinder the prospects of rehabilitation and reintegration for individuals involved in non-violent drug offenses.

This paper presents a visionary framework for addressing non-violent drug offenses, particularly focusing on women who are mothers or caregivers, with the aim of moving beyond traditional carceral sanctions. The proposed approach advocates for a paradigm shift away from incarceration, aiming to mitigate the inherent harms associated with punitive measures.

Central to this model is the recognition of the complex interplay between drug offenses, caregiving responsibilities, and the potential for rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Rather than relying on punitive measures, the approach emphasizes multifaceted support systems that prioritize personal autonomy, health, and social reintegration.

Strategic and policy considerations revolve around three pillars:

Community-Based Rehabilitation and Support: The model emphasizes community engagement, leveraging local resources to provide tailored rehabilitation and support services. This includes access to substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, vocational training, and child care provisions. By fostering community ties, individuals can more effectively rebuild their lives while fulfilling their caregiving roles.

Legal and Regulatory Reforms: To effectively implement this approach, legal frameworks need to evolve. This includes revisiting sentencing guidelines, diversion programs, and exploring restorative justice practices. Additionally, decriminalization efforts should be pursued, focusing on treating drug use as a public health concern rather than a criminal offense.

Education and Stigma Reduction: Addressing the deeply ingrained societal stigma surrounding drug offenses is crucial. Public education campaigns should be launched to foster understanding and empathy, reshaping perceptions, and attitudes towards affected individuals. This initiative aims to create an environment conducive to successful reintegration.

6.1.B Probation Officers in the Community

Session hosts: Yuki Takahashi

Organization: Fukushima University

Country: Japan

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Amazon

Abstract

Under the Act for Prevention of Recidivism in Japan, not only probation offices or other national offices but also each local government should make an effort to prevent recidivism and support ex-

offenders and their supporters, such as VPOs. With this Act, closer communication and connection between probation officers and the local government are needed. However, while I have worked as Chairperson of the local committee on the prevention of recidivism in the Fukushima Prefectural Office in Japan, I have found that there are some difficulties for probation officers (POs) to have closer communication with local government staff or other actors in the community.

Based on such a concern, I would like to discuss two points.

First, why is it difficult for POs in Japan to have closer communication with other actors in the community? I will analyze this on a legal and institutional basis of the probation system in Japan and will point out two possible reasons: frequent transfers of POs to other probation offices and the PO recruitment system, which requires more knowledge of psychology than sociology or social work.

Second, how can POs have closer communication with other actors in the community? I will discuss it from a theoretical perspective of community social work, comparing the practices of POs and VPOs in Japan. I think that there is much for POs, not only in Japan but in other countries, to learn from the practice of VPOs in Japan, especially their practice of having closer a connection with other members of the community.

In conclusion, I argue that POs should be professional community social workers who should have a closer connection with a wider range of other local actors who can incorporate each probation case and the probation system itself.

6.2.A. Cultural Responsiveness in Parole Decision-Making

Session hosts: Jennifer Oades en Monica Irfan

Organization: Parole Board of Canada

Country: Canada

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Mississippi

Abstract

A number of previous studies and reports have addressed the issue of over-representation of Indigenous and Black people in the Canadian criminal justice system. Recommendations have been aimed at all areas of the justice continuum, including corrections and conditional release, to implement policies and programs to address this over-representation.

Legislation requires that Parole Board of Canada (PBC) policies respect gender, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic differences and be responsive to the special needs of women and Indigenous peoples, as well as to the needs of other groups with special requirements.

The presentation will provide a summary of recent external engagement conducted as part of the PBC's Working Group on Diversity and Systemic Racism, which led to recommendations to strengthen our approach in the consideration of systemic and social background factors in decision-making, including improving cultural responsiveness in the hearing processes.

PBC policies require decision-makers to consider systemic and background factors that may have contributed to an individual's involvement in the criminal justice system, in particular when reviewing the case of an Indigenous or a Black person.

The PBC also offers Culturally Responsive Hearing processes while adhering to the established criteria for decision-making. During Culturally Responsive Hearings, Elders/Cultural Advisors provide Board members with information about the cultures and traditions of specific Black or Indigenous communities, and about Black or Indigenous cultures, experiences, and traditions in general. Indigenous individuals may also request a Community-Assisted Hearing, which is a process grounded in restorative justice that involves the participation of community members in the individual's release planning.

The presentation will provide an overview of feedback, challenges and best practices related to culturally responsive hearings, as well as results from a recent research brief on consideration of systemic and background factors in decision-making.

6.2.B Supporting Criminal Justice Clients with Problem Gambling

Session hosts: Sari Castrén & Laura Nousiainen
Organization: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
Country: Finland
Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h
Room: Mississippi

Abstract

Problem gambling engenders a myriad of adverse consequences, not merely confined to financial difficulties, but extending to mental health, physical well-being, and interpersonal relationships. Problem gambling heightens the likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviors, including property crimes and intimate partner violence. Notably prevalent within criminal justice populations, untreated problem gambling impedes the process of reintegrating into post-sentence life, thereby posing a significant risk factor for recidivism. Interventions targeted for problem gambling within criminal justice setting are still scarce globally.

This presentation introduces insights gained from an 8-week Internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy, which is targeted for community sanctions clients with problem gambling. The intervention is facilitated through an online platform and supplemented by weekly telephone calls with trained program workers. Insights are gathered from clients and trained workers using semi-structured interviews using a thematic content analysis.

This study embarked on a multifaceted analysis, first inquiring narratives of the clients relating to antecedents to their gambling history and criminal background. Furthermore, we explored both clients and program workers experiences of the usability and feasibility of the Internet-based intervention in this particular context. Central to these inquiries were to find what works, what does not and how could the problem be improved to this specific clientele.

In this presentation the preliminary findings from the study will be discussed, illustrating the nuanced interplay of factors influencing recovery with the help of Internet-based intervention within the context of problematic gambling and criminal justice involvement. The implications of these findings for the provision of healthcare within the criminal justice system will be conversed.

6.3.A Position of children and parenthood in offender management

Session hosts: TBA
Organization: Flemish Probation Service
Country: Belgium
Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h
Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

The Flemish probation service recently started embedding the position of the child in its methodology of offender guidance, called 'Child Reflex'.

The probation service recently started structurally embedding the position of the child in the guidance in its methodology. The Child Reflex is a basic attitude and working tool in dealing with offenders. It has a broad scope and pursues 2 objectives. 1) the Child Reflex encourages probation workers to have a conversation with the offender about the theme of parenthood and children. This gives offenders, who are also parents, the opportunity to talk about their children and their concerns. Where necessary and possible, the probation worker supports the offenders in their role

as mother or father. 2) The Child Reflex helps probation workers to detect disturbing family situations and restore safety as quickly as possible.

The systemic application of the Child Reflex is done in 6 steps:

- Step 1: Have a positive conversation about the children and parenthood
- Step 2: Ask about the safety at home and the well-being of the children
- Step 3: Support the offender in his role as a parent
- Step 4: Check whether there is any concern and willingness
- Step 5: Restore safety
- Step 6: Involve other agencies and partners

This roadmap and how it is applied can be the topic of a workshop by probation workers and staff involved in this methodology.

6.3.B Innovations in Probation

Session hosts: Joe Winkler

Organization: FDC

Country: USA

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Yangtze 1

Abstract

Probation has evolved significantly as an alternative to incarceration, integrating innovative techniques to reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration into society. This presentation explores Florida Community Corrections' adoption of evidence-based practices (EBPs) and pioneering initiatives, such as the Bike Team and Mobile Probation Unit (MPU), to enhance community engagement and effectiveness. These initiatives offer cost-effective solutions and address transportation barriers, ultimately fostering a safer and more equitable society.

6.4. Establishing new probation and parole systems in the Global South

Session hosts: Tsira Chanturia

Organization: Penal Reform International

Country: Georgia

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Everest 1

Abstract

Penal Reform International promotes the use of non-custodial measures at pre-trial stages and alternative sentences, including probation and community service measures for those convicted. Alternatives to detention have been proven to better protect human rights and generally cost far less than prison sentences or pre-trial detention.

There is a range of alternatives to imprisonment, as set out in the UN Tokyo Rules and other standards. The key barriers to the expansion of alternatives include nonexistent or inadequate legal frameworks, lack of resources and infrastructure, and lack of trust in them from judicial authorities and the wider public. There are also certain groups that have unequal access to community-based measures, such as foreign nationals.

The Roundtable proposals aims to discuss the barriers and lessons learned from countries in the Global South that have recently started building a probation system in their countries.

The countries include:

Armenia, with a focus on supporting the ministry of Justice with formulating a realistic strategy based on International human rights standards. Represented by the Ministry of Justice.

Jordan, with a focus on society and how cultural considerations were important in building the probation system and designing community services. Represented by the Ministry of Justice

Kuwait, a country taking first steps of probation and parole. Represented by the Ministry of Justice.

Kenya, with a focus on developing a gender-sensitive- responsive service. Represented by Clement Okech, retired deputy director of the probation service.

The panel will be hosted by Tsira Chanturia, PRI's regional South Caucasus Office. Tsira has 20+ years of experience at PRI and in her role has contributed to implementing probation systems in Georgia, Armenia, among other countries.

Other panel members include: Akosua Akuffo (Zambia), Co-founder, Tithandizane Comfort Home and former probationer representing the perspective of probation users.

6.5. Biological and Psychosocial Considerations in the Supervision of Juveniles and Emerging Adults: Sharing Experiences & Developing Best Practices

Session hosts: Ashley Balavender

Organization: Rutgers School of Criminal Justice

Country: United States of America

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Everest 2

Abstract

Juvenile justice is a hot topic and one of critical importance. While an increasing number of scholars have highlighted the unique developmental stages of children and emerging adults (ages 18 to 25) as compared to older adults, criminal justice policies and practices have not kept pace with biopsychosocial science.

We will open this round table with a short introduction (15 minutes) to the current state of juvenile justice research and policy in the United States, including examples of best and worst practices in key states and cities.

We will then engage in a discussion about the consideration, or lack thereof, given to biological and psychosocial development in probation and parole practices in participants' localities. Practitioners will be especially encouraged to contribute to the conversation. During the second half of the session, the group will collaborate on creating a broad vision for the future of probation and parole supervision of young people. We will draft a working list of best practices and possible innovations for practitioners who serve justice-involved children and emerging adults. Participants will leave the round table with ideas for better incorporating contemporary empirical knowledge of juvenile development into their daily work.

6.6. Power To Change: one person, one act, one choice, to change the trajectory of a lifetime

Session hosts: Wendy Lewis & Lorraine Jones-Burrell (Dwaynatics ABC Boxing Club CIC / Dwayne Simpson Foundation CIC)

Organization: Celebrate Life Community Interest Company

Country: United Kingdom

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 1

Abstract

In a time where youth violence is on the rise across the United Kingdom, and with the poverty gap only increasing, Power to Change is a unique film that looks at the simplest solution: the innate goodness of a human being, who will make the right choices given the tools and encouragement to do so.

Sometimes all it takes is one person, one act, one choice, to change the trajectory of a lifetime.

Against the backdrop of inner city London and lives laced with experiences of social injustice, generational trauma, gang culture and hopelessness, the film tells the stories of five people: EJ a young man drawn into gang culture from an early age; Lorraine a grieving mother who lost her son to knife-crime as he saved another boy; Gerald, founder of Impact Brixton, who learned to navigate one of London's most dangerous areas after emigrating from Ghana as a child; Errol a repeat offender with 74 previous convictions; and Nate a former gang-member who was brutally stabbed by a childhood friend. The stories are woven together by Kaysen, a teacher, who passionately believes in supporting young people.

The film highlights the transformational impact of the individual recognizing their innate strengths of choice, appreciation, and peace, as well as the importance of the wider community for supporting young people to create a safer society.

Adding a unique perspective to this mix, we hear from author and peace educator, Prem Rawat, whose Peace Education Program is having a remarkable impact in corrections, probation, parole, re-entry and multiple other settings around the world.

The audience will be able to interact with the film producer and a cast member.

6.7. Future Track **CANCELED**

Session hosts: Ruben Maes

Organization: &Maes

Country: the Netherlands

Time: 15.15 – 16.30 h

Room: Kilimanjaro 2

Abstract

The future track is a special coherent series of sub-sessions, as part of the congress program. In this track, we work towards a result that will be transferred to the organization of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

The central question in this track is: 'How do we, as a global probation community, deal with developments that will fundamentally change our field of work?' We will work on this question in subsequent sessions, building on the perspectives on the future of probation and parole from the participants. The track will be moderated by Ruben Maes.

The focus of the track sessions will be as follows:

A concluding session, in which we reflect on the results and work towards the final declaration that we will hand over to the organization of the next World Congress on Probation and Parole in 2026.

Poster Abstracts

During the congress, twelve posters are exhibited in the Foyer 1st floor and the Amazon round. On Wednesday 17 April during the coffee breaks and the last half hour of the lunch, the authors of the posters will be available to tell you more about their posters.

1. Early Release: With or without Conditions

Presenter: Arshak Gasparyan
Organization: Social Justice NGO
Country: Armenia

Abstract

The early release of prisoners varies significantly across different countries and jurisdictions, with each employing distinct systems and terminology. In Europe, the United States, Canada, and other regions, this practice goes by various names such as direct release from punishment, parole, or release from punishment with conditions. This article emphasizes the pivotal role of probation services in the context of early conditional release systems.

In countries where early conditional release is established, the collaboration between prison and probation services is of paramount importance. These services work together to provide comprehensive reports to the Courts, offering insights into the prospects of prisoners being considered for release. The crux of the matter is to underscore the critical significance of providing specific conditions to prisoners before their release, and to ensure that these conditions feature prominently in the probation reports submitted to the Courts for their decision on the release.

Probation officers play an instrumental role in shaping the reentry process, working closely with prisoners to establish conditions that are both necessary and achievable for a successful release. These conditions are not mere formalities but are instrumental in the successful reintegration of the prisoner into society. Probation officers must be meticulous in their assessments and recommendations to the Courts, as these conditions are pivotal in ensuring public safety while facilitating the prisoner's transition into society as a law-abiding, productive, and responsible member.

This article seeks to underscore the importance of including these specific, well-considered conditions within probation reports. It is through the provision of such conditions that probation officers actively contribute to creating a rehabilitative environment within correctional facilities and, ultimately, guide inmates towards a productive, lawful, and self-sufficient life upon their release.

2. Does an individualized threat of a suspended prison sentence deter offenders?

Presenter: Jakub Drápal
Organization: Czech Academy of Sciences
Country: Czech Republic

Abstract

Introduction: Suspended prison sentence is one of the most commonly imposed sanction across the world. In Europe, over 1.000.000 suspended prison sentences are imposed every year. In some parts of the world – e.g. in Central and Eastern Europe – suspended prison sentences are imposed to more than half of all offenders, making them the defining feature of these criminal justice system. In these systems probationary supervision can be typically imposed only alongside

suspended prison sentences. Studying the effectiveness of suspended prison sentences thus directly relates to that of probation.

RQ: The primary rationale of suspended prison sentences is the threat of a prison sentence: Damocles' sword hangs over offender's head and thus deters him/her from re-offending. This mechanism, however, has not yet been empirically examined. I therefore study whether the threat communicated by a suspended prison sentence deters offenders.

Methodology: To causally identify the effect of the threat, I make use of natural experiment occurring at the end of an operational period as the level of threat abruptly changes: If an offender re-offends on the last day of the operational period, the suspended prison sentence may be revoked in full, while a day later re-offending cannot result in any revocation of a suspended prison sentence. Using density-discontinuity approach, I document the reaction of offenders to this sudden decrease in the level of deterrence.

Results: Using complete 2018-2022 criminal cases dataset from Slovakia, I document offenders do not react to the sudden decrease in the level of deterrence. Heterogeneity among offenders is analyzed. Additional evidence from Czech 2013 amnesty will be available in April 2024.

Conclusion/lesson: We need to re-evaluate the use of suspended prison sentences and their rationales. The imposition of probationary supervision with suspended prison sentences should not rely on deterrent effect of suspended prison sentence.

3. Music for life

Presenter: Duygu Altin

Organization: Turkish Probation Services

Country: Turkey

Abstract

Probationers usually have too much spare time, which put them at risk for unhealthy and risky behaviours such as drug use and other criminal activities. One solution for this is thought to teach them play a musical instrument. This is not only evaluated as a healthy spare time activity, but also as a good way to integrate into a new social group. The originality of "Music for life" Project is that participants of musical Instruments courses are not only probationers but also probation workers. It is aimed to avoid stigmatization of probationers within music concerts given at the end of the courses. Also, probation workers have the chance to monitor the probationers indirectly. Some pictures from concerts are attached.

4. A Tripartite Framework for Community Service in Ireland

Presenter: Louise Kennefick + Eoin Guilfoyle (University of Brunel)

Organization: University of Glasgow

Country: Ireland

Abstract

The need to future proof community sanctions is becoming ever more pressing in light of increasing reports of prison overcrowding, inhumane conditions, and high re-offending rates. In response, some jurisdictions, like Ireland, are taking steps to ensure that any development in non-custodial alternatives is legitimised by evidence-based policy analysis. This talk considers insights from a review commissioned by the Irish Probation Service as part of its strategic development of community service orders (unpaid work) within the wider justice system, and the related reform of the legal framework, operation, and practice in this area.

The review recommends the advancement of a tripartite strategy for community service underpinned by the principles of desistance, restorative justice, and social justice, with a view to guiding policy and operational developments. The talk explains how community service, which

traditionally lacks a clear guiding philosophy, can be recast as a means of facilitating the delivery of unpaid work in a way that benefits key stakeholders: the person who has offended, the victim (and victim representatives), the state, the judiciary, and the community, in addition to forming part of a greater push towards advancing social justice within the criminal justice arena. The talk will also consider key challenges facing the implementation of the tripartite strategy in Ireland, as well as the potential application of the strategy to other justice systems.

5. RESHAPE community: How to mind the gap with society after prison?

Presenter: Catarina Medeiros & Marco Henriques

Organization: RESHAPE

Country: Portugal

Abstract

Reintegration into society following a period of incarceration is marked by several challenges and it can expose the vulnerability of the formerly incarcerated person or exacerbate their social exclusion condition. Therefore, if all aspects of reintegration - such as housing, health, education and employability - are not addressed, the chances of recidivism are greater.

RESHAPE is a Portuguese NGO that promotes public policies and innovative solutions to reach a world where no one goes back to prison, focusing on a human-centred approach.

This poster aims to provide contributions to answer the question on how to reduce the gap between society and those individuals who were imprisoned, starting from the example of a set of initiatives implemented by RESHAPE NGO, namely: personal development and social skills programmes, an employability office, a social enterprise of artisanal ceramics pieces (created to employ people who are or have been imprisoned) and a Parole House (for people who have served their prison sentence and have no social support). These initiatives have been implemented in partnership with Portuguese prisons and parole teams, resulting in more than 500 beneficiaries supported since 2017. It will be provided an explanation of each of these initiatives as well as the data collected during the process and the results regarding 2023 activities.

This work emphasizes the need of a multidisciplinary and holistic intervention and the importance of creating a strong network of support to facilitate the successful reintegration of individuals into society after incarceration.

6. Acknowledging and accommodating Deaf identities in Canadian corrections

Presenter: Tracey Bone

Organization: University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work

Country: Canada

Abstract

Deaf sign language users face discrimination, exclusion and marginalization both as inmates and while on conditional release in Canada, through staff failing, or refusing to accommodate signed language communication, environmental (i.e., flashing alarms or communication devices), or programming needs. Dr. Tracey Bone was a Parole Officer for much of her 28-year career with the Correctional Service of Canada, the federal government department responsible for federally operated carceral institutions (i.e., sentences of 2 years to life) and conditional release supervision. the youngest sister of a Deaf adult, she is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). While a parole officer, she conducted assessments and provided parole supervision directly in ASL to Deaf and hard of hearing inmates and offenders, both provincial and federal, breaking down language, and communication barriers. Later, she provided culturally relevant national available education (video and text) regarding Deaf culture and language on invitation by the CSC. She also conducted research with this population.

Research question: What are the barriers for Deaf offenders in the hearing criminal justice System? Using qualitative interviews, Deaf and hard of hearing inmates and parolees in Manitoba, Canada were interviewed. All reported intersecting barriers including lack of accessible communication and Deaf cultural understanding, as well as environmental barriers which interrupted access to accessible programming. These intersected to delay suitability for conditional release. The barriers reported in that original study was replicated in a later study, and in a human rights complaint. Lessons learned include need for appropriate training in Deaf culture and values, including respect for ASL interpreters as the only appropriate conduit for effective communication. Additional lessons learned will be explored in this poster presentation.

7. What's in a name? Assessing probation officer support for the organizational coaching model

Presenter: Deborah Koetzle + Shelley Johnson (University of North Carolina)

Organization: John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Country: United States of America

Abstract

Recent efforts to improve probation officer practices and retention rates have centered on a shift from a referee model, which focuses on monitoring and compliance, to a coaching model that instead emphasizes client support and desistance (Lovins, Brusman Lovins, & Latessa, 2021). The coaching model draws from risk-need-responsivity, effective community supervision practices, organizational design, and implementation science to create cultures that support both officers and people under supervision.

The model works to restructure probation officers' roles and transform the agencies where they work. At the same time, it requires the agencies to adopt a more flexible and adaptable culture that supports officers in their changed roles. It is hypothesized that adopting the coaching model will improve employee satisfaction and client outcomes. Despite growing support for this approach, little is known about officers' support for the coaching philosophy. To address this gap in the literature, the current study explores predictors of support for the coaching model. The current project relies on data collected as part of a federally funded cooperative agreement to implement and evaluate the model across three diverse community supervision departments in the United States (U.S.).

Using a sample of officers, the study will examine attitudes towards coaching, knowledge of evidence-based practices, job satisfaction, and organizational culture. It is expected that officers who embrace a social work orientation towards community supervision are more likely to be supportive of the coaching model but that this relationship is mediated by organizational trust. The survey results will inform policy and program efforts to shift probation agency culture towards a coaching paradigm. The implications are significant for jurisdictions across the globe working to improve organizational culture.

8. Innovations in Ugandan Correctional Systems: A Case Study of Shamba Guards

Presenter: Onesmus Bitaliwo

Organization: Uganda Prisons Service

Country: Uganda

Abstract

Our proposal delves into the complexities hindering the successful implementation of parole and probation within Uganda's prison services, aligning with the subtheme of "System." Despite statutory provisions, these approaches face impediments stemming from supervisory challenges and the prevailing retributive atmosphere in the country. Although efforts have been made to establish guidelines for parole, the absence of defined accommodation spaces for offenders poses a significant hurdle, compounded by Uganda's inadequate housing system. Consequently, the lack

of a structured housing framework impedes effective tracing and supervisory efforts, severely limiting the viability of parole and probation.

RQ: The central inquiry of our study revolves around devising strategies to enhance the utilization of parole and probation in Uganda's heterogeneous and disorganized social environment, fitting under the subtheme of "System." We aim to navigate the intricate landscape of Uganda's societal diversity and organizational disorder to explore viable pathways for the successful integration of these approaches into the penal system. This involves contemplating innovative methods of supervision and accommodation that align with Uganda's unique socio-cultural fabric, seeking to bridge the gap between legal provisions and practical implementation.

RM: Our research methodology includes an in-depth analysis of Uganda's social structures, legal frameworks, and existing attempts at parole and probation implementation, under the subtheme of "Practice." Through qualitative assessments and interviews with stakeholders involved in corrections and societal reintegration, we aim to discern the specific challenges impeding the effective execution of parole and probation. Additionally, our study strives to propose adaptive solutions that accommodate the heterogeneity and societal disorganization prevalent in Uganda.

Results: Our presentation seeks to shed light on the nuanced obstacles preventing the effective utilization of parole and probation within Uganda's prison services, covering the subtheme of "Practice." By exploring innovative strategies tailored to the country's diverse social fabric, we aim to pave the way for the successful implementation of these vital rehabilitation approaches in Uganda's penal system.

Lessons Learned: Our study underscores the importance of flexibility and adaptability in correctional practices. It demonstrates that parole and probation in Uganda's prison services underscores essential lessons. Firstly, it emphasizes the paramount importance of adaptability in correctional systems, particularly in diverse and disorganized social settings like Uganda, where flexible policies can bolster rehabilitation strategies. Tailoring interventions to the country's socio-cultural context is vital for effective parole and probation implementation, necessitating solutions aligned with societal norms. Moreover, structured housing frameworks and robust supervision are pivotal, demanding concerted efforts to establish proper offender accommodations and enhance supervision methodologies.

9. Digitization of a Unified Aftercare Referral and Monitoring System for Persons Deprived of Liberty

Presenter: Janette Padua

Organization: Department of Justice-Parole and Probation Administration (DOJ-PPA)

Country: The Philippines

Abstract

Humbly, in her Policy Paper entitled "Precipitating Socio-Economic Factors in Probation Violations", the study revealed that the precipitating socio-economic factors has a great impact to reoffending and increase of revocation rate at the National Capital Region. Based on records of probation violators, economic is their foremost problem and a significant number of them belongs to a family with poor relationship with economic problems too. Non-reporting becomes a problem because the priority of each clientele is to earn a living for their family. Attending sessions in Office for 4 hours a month or more has great effect on their livelihood.

Reduction of the risk of reoffending is one of the very reasons why the researcher became more motivated in identifying the precipitating factors on probation violations committed by probationers during supervision period, for future policy direction.

In her study, Creation of a Unified Monitoring System with Aftercare Interventions thru Referrals was proposed. This is a holistic system that will provide an aftercare program for s former PDL (including inmates who has served sentence, offenders discharged from probation and parole supervision) for their successful reintegration to the society. There is a Source Agency who shall

take care of all the data information of the client aligned with the Anti-Privacy Act or any rules/laws that protects the right of the client. Referral is just the interconnecting action of the stakeholders, but each has an obligation to submit a quarterly report to the Source Agency thru the local Government Unit with its Circle of Support, upon its Pilot implementation. This is an approved system by the different stakeholders in the Philippines. Thus, she humbly would want to present and propose the Digitization of the Unified Aftercare Monitoring/ Referral System and Program for Former PDLs, for the future of Probation and Parole, globally.

10. The Future could be brighter if we are supporting each other

Presenter: Iuliana Elena Carbutaru

Organization: National Probation Directorate, Romanian Ministry of Justice

Country: Romania

Abstract

Who, how and why influences the transfer of penal policies in Europe in the area of community sanctions and measures? How much are we witnessing today another form of colonization with ideas, concepts, institutions, from one jurisdiction to another? Although multiple explanations have been offered regarding who participates, what is transferred, how it is transferred and under what conditions the transfer of penal policies is carried out, no integrative framework has been identified that provides answers for a specific geographical area of Europe. Most of the work emphasizes that transfer processes occurred to respond to an internal deficit in a jurisdiction or to solve a problem. Decreasing the prison population and respecting human rights in the execution of sentences are the most common objectives. And if we are analysing what is transferred from the elements of a policy (rhetoric, decision, action), the main conclusion from the literature is that very little is transferred in practice, and, in general, rhetoric and discourse elements are transferred.

In the poster, the processes of penal policy transfers in various jurisdictions will be analysed by identifying the main influencers and the elements of the transferred policy when significant reforms have been carried out to develop probation systems.

11. Analysis of probation systems collaborations in the social integration process: the case of Türkiye

Presenter: Deniz Özyörük

Organization: General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, Probation Department

Country: Turkey

Abstract

This study aims to determine the status of the cooperation between the probation institution and partner institutions, present it from a general perspective, and offer suggestions on issues that can be improved. In this context, the institutions with which probation directorates work together, the frequency of cooperation, the level of satisfaction with collaboration, the gains achieved, the difficulties encountered during association, and the suggestions given by experts in the field regarding cooperation are discussed within the scope of this study.

The research was designed as quantitative research using a cross-sectional survey design, and in this context, experts from 145 probation directorates were included in the study. The findings showed that the collaborating governmental institutions carried out regular and highly satisfactory studies. On the other hand, it has been revealed that there are relatively low-intensity collaborations with associations, foundations, or non-governmental organizations. Moreover, while the cooperation ensured that the work and transactions were carried out entirely following the probation mission, it was understood that the efficiency and quality of execution and rehabilitation services increased.

Additionally, there was an opportunity for implementation with broad participation in the field of public service; the perspectives of the responsibilities were enriched, and in this respect, their integration into society became easier. Moreover, according to the findings, one of the reasons why inter-institutional cooperation has yet to reach higher levels is that the provincial organizations of other ministries need to sufficiently know the protocols made by the Ministry of Justice with other ministries. Other reasons are that the obliged parties are unwilling to carry out the activities given within the measure's scope and the incompatibility between institutional legislations. In general, the inadequacy of funds in institutions and the prejudice in society against those who are liable are noticeable.

12. Risk assessment. Juvenile sex offenders

Presenter: Anamaria Negrea

Organization: Cluj Probation Service

Country: Romania

Abstract

Every year, in Romania, approximately 3000 minors are sent to trial, around a hundred of which have committed a sex related offense. They make up for 7% of all sex offenders of all ages. Due to Romanian Penal Code regulations, a pre-sentence assessment report, including a risk assessment, is conducted in every case involving a minor offender.

However, research on Romanian juvenile offenders is very limited, so risk assessment is conducted mainly by considering the general risk and protective factors for criminal behavior. This paper discusses risk and protective factors related to sexual violence committed by minors, identified by probation counselors in their risk assessment reports. This qualitative study analyses 10 pre-sentence assessment reports of juvenile sex offenders submitted to the court, by Cluj Probation Service between 2018 and 2022. The study presents illustrative in-depth case studies and discusses limitations inherent to such assessments.