



RISE PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICE
FINLAND

A Multiagency Approach with Young Probation Clients

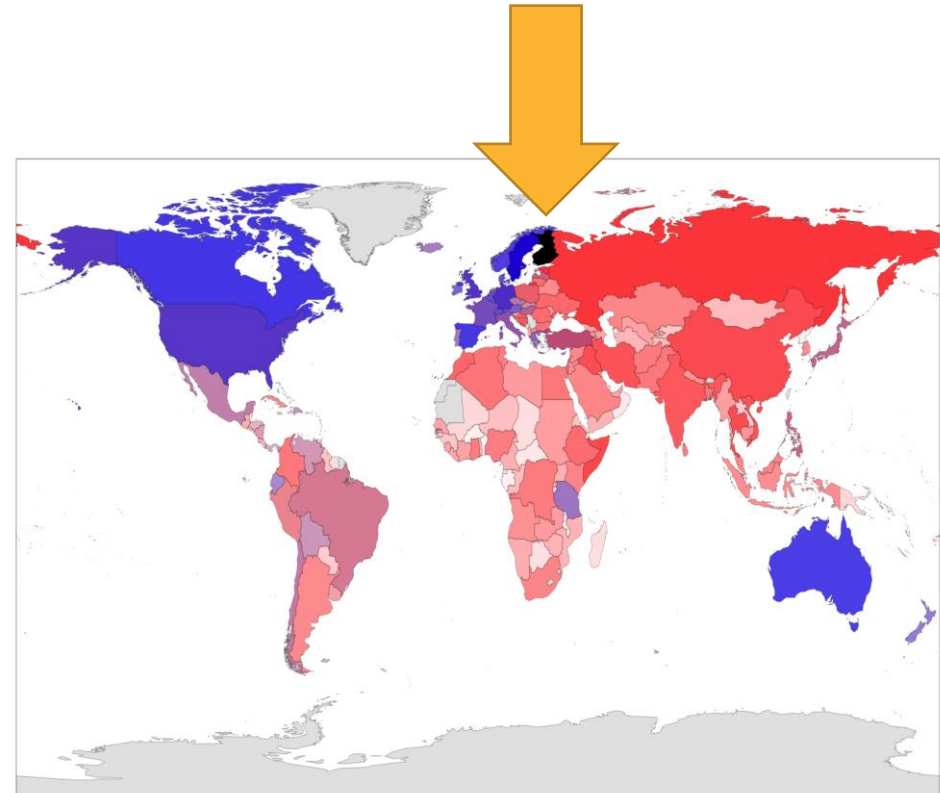
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The structure of the presentation

1. Probation work in Finland
2. Community sanctions and measures
3. Co-operation partners
4. A multiagency approach with young probation clients
5. The feed back
6. Conclusions



Probation work in Finland

- **152 years of Probation Service in Finland**
 - Year 2010 one organization; Prison and Probation Service of Finland
- **Social work-based client work**
- **Theory paradigm** of Desistance, Risk-Need- and Responsivity and Good Lives Model
- **The core values of probation** in the centre of all probation work
- **Profession**, Criminal Justice Social Work
- The work and the legislation according to the Recommendations of the Council of Europe
- **Evidence-based practices**
- **Innovative and client-oriented work culture, also digital services in use**
- The second lowest prison rate in the world, low probation population as well
- **Normality and proximity principles**
- The criminal act responsibility starts at the age of 15 years in Finland
- The aim of **the criminal policy** is with all means to avoid imposing imprisonment sentences for persons under 18 years of age

Community Sanctions and Measures in Finland

Court decision, based on a pre-sentence report

Youth punishment 4-12 months, for 15-17 years of age

Conditional imprisonment sentence with supervision 1 year 3 months,

- two types; for 15-20 years of age and for 21 years of age and over

Community Service max. 8 months -> 14-240 hours, for 15 years of age and over

Monitoring sentence (with EM, RF) max. 6 months, for 18 years of age and over

Court decision

Combination sentence with a supervision term of 1 year (with EM, GPS) 1 year

Alternatives to remand custody:

Intensified travel ban (with EM, GPS)

House arrest (with EM, GPS)

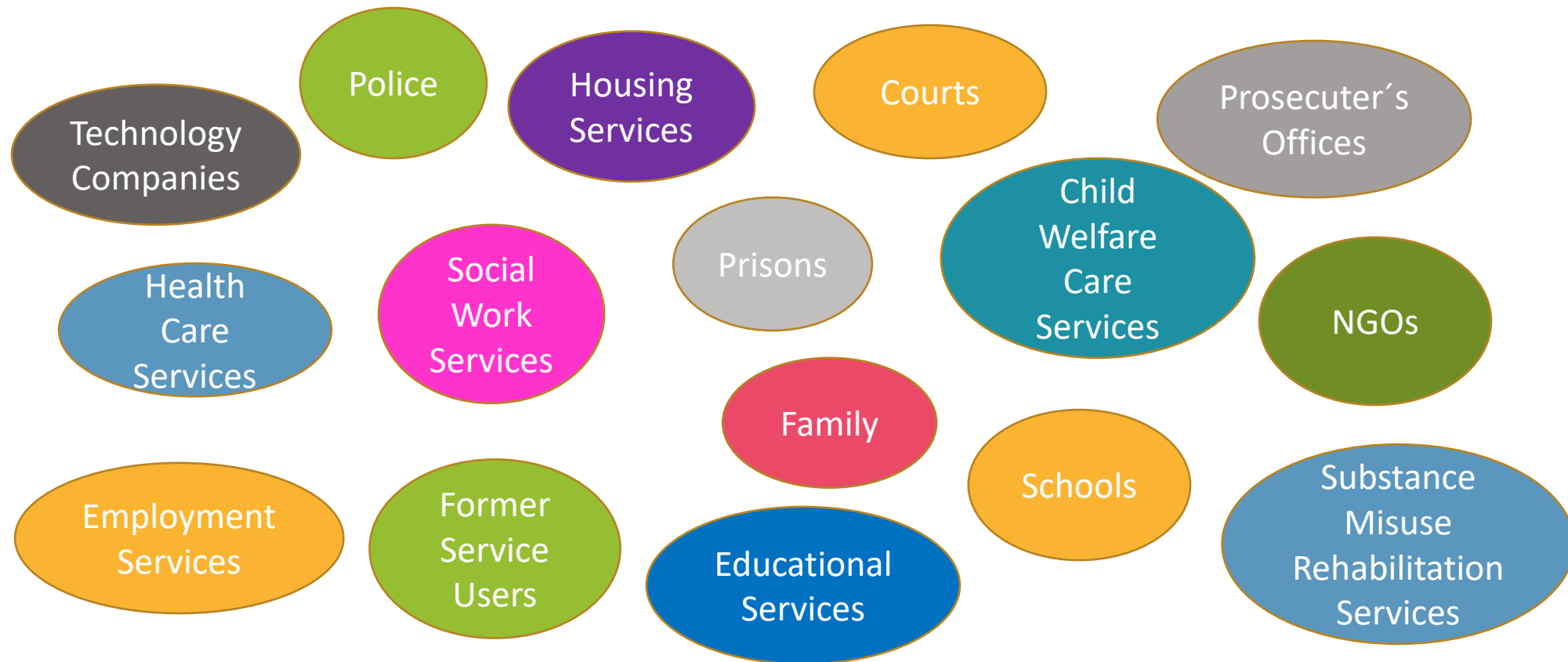
Administrative decision

Conditional release with supervision max. 3 years, for 15 years of age and over

Supervised probationary liberty (with EM, GPS) max. 6 months, for 15 years of age and over

Unconditional sentence -> **Outside placement and rehabilitation** (with EM, GPS) length varies, for 15 years of age and over

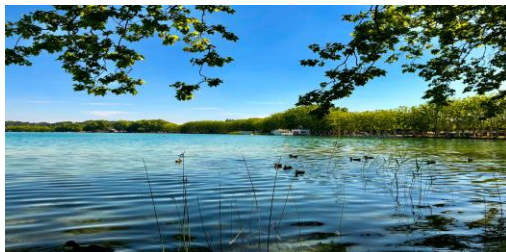
Co-operation partners



A Multiagency Approach with Young Probation Clients

Two main reasons why:

- 1) The last twelve years the work has become more office-based work and the need for in right time executed client-oriented effective interventions has become evident.
- 2) The same group of delinquent juveniles appears frequently in the criminal justice processes.



A cross-sectional working group led by the Ministry of Justice in Finland

- Cross-sectional work group report made in 2019
 - **Idea** that the delinquent juveniles don't have to visit many services, only one place
 - **It was recognised** that prosecutors, judges and police should be part of the multiagency working group with all the other partners
 - **Legislation change needed** so that information sharing would be possible between all co-operation partners
 - **The aim** is to prevent recidivism, increase social inclusion and to provide treatment and rehabilitation in an effective way to delinquent juveniles

A Multiagency Approach with Young Probation Clients

- The pilot

- Funded by the Ministry of Justice, 2 1/2-year pilot
 - **Three different kind of models** in the pilot:
 - 1) **The probation officer is working 100 % in the multiagency working group**

a probation officer, municipal social, child welfare care and health care and substance misuse workers, and a worker from the educational sector
 - 2) **The probation officer is working 50 % in the multiagency working group**

probation officer, municipal social, child welfare care and health care and substance misuse
 - 3) **The probation officers are co-operating from the probation office with the youth social workers in the municipality**

municipal youth social workers
- > The police, prosecutors and judges are not members of these multiagency working groups
- > The needs and skills of the juveniles, and the needs of the families in the focus in all models
- > Research is conducted of the models by researchers in the University of Helsinki



The feed back

The feed back from **the young clients and their families** are good from all models, since the juveniles get individualised rehabilitation services in all models. The social and child welfare care work is included in all models.

The probation officers, the municipal social and child welfare care workers, and the health care workers all see the benefits in organising the work in a different way from before.

Assessments, sentence plans, interventions, rehabilitation and programme work are done in co-operation.

- Before:
 - All co-partners have been working in their own offices and the client go from one service provider to the other.
 - The co-work between partners is conducted in a more traditional co-work meeting fashion with the client present sometimes.



Conclusions

From the probation work point of view the most effective model seems to be:

Model 1) in which workers from probation, municipal social and child welfare care work, health care, school and educational sector **are working together in the same office at the same time as a group with the juveniles, and their families and friends, and other co-operation partners.**

The criminal justice social work, the social and child welfare care work, principles and content of the implementation of different kind of community sanctions and measures, and the evidence-based practices are all included.

-> **everything in one place at the same time**

There are **no obstacles in the information sharing.**

- The probation officer can use both Prison and Probation Service's and Social and Child Welfare Cares' data systems
- In the two other models this is not possible



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

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