
5TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PROBATION AND PAROLE: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND, BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY
SEPTEMBER 2022, OTTAWA

FIRM FOUNDATIONS 4.0

HOW WELL-TRAINED, SUPERVISED COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS REINFORCE MODERN PROBATION WORK

AGENDA

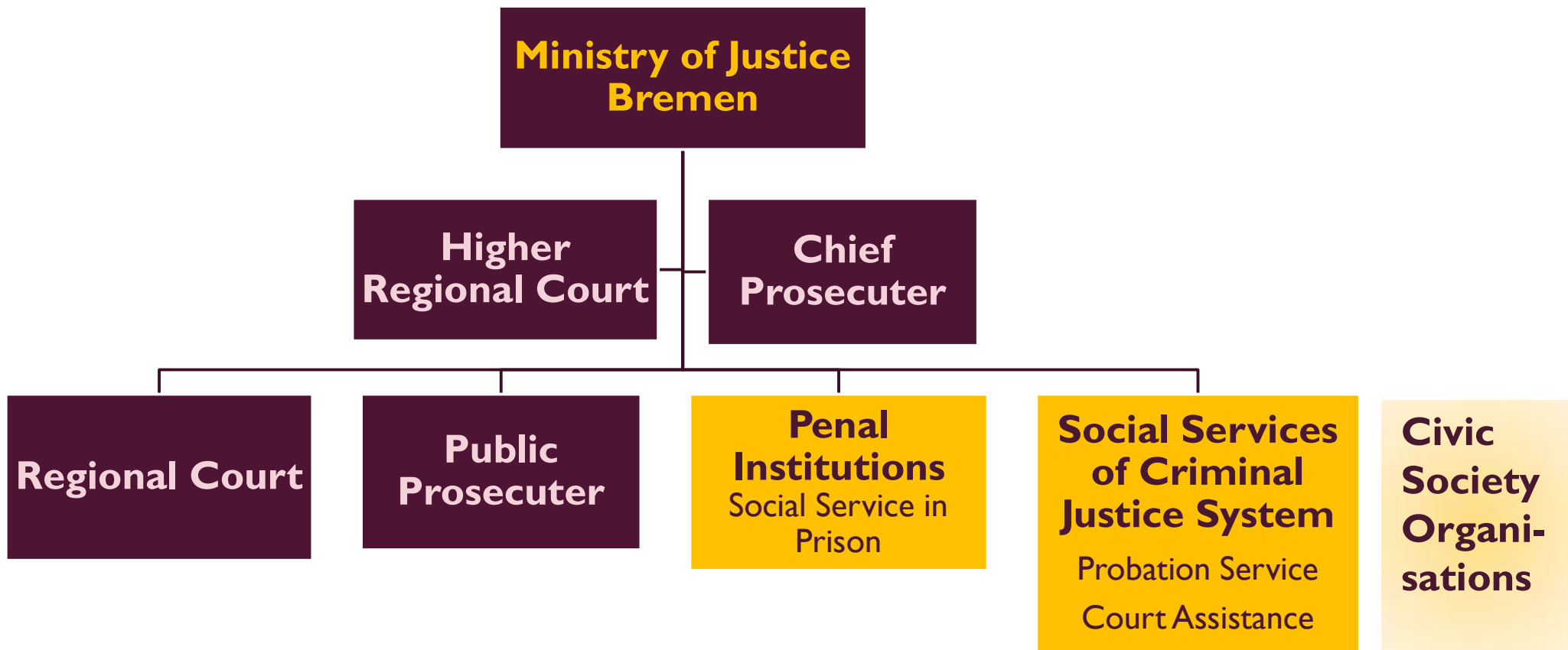
1. **LOOKING BACK:** Starting point of social reintegration programmes in the criminal justice system of Bremen, Germany
2. **EUROPEAN PROJECT:** *VOLPRIS – Volunteers in Prison*
3. **NOWADAYS:** Community Volunteers reinforce modern probation work in the Criminal Justice System of Bremen, Germany

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I. LOOKING BACK:

**STARTING POINT OF SOCIAL REINTEGRATION
PROGRAMMES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM OF BREMEN, GERMANY**

1.1 ORGANIGRAM: PROBATION SERVICES WITHIN BREMEN'S JUSTICE SYSTEM



I.1 BREMEN'S PENAL INSTITUTION INCLUDING CUSTODY



1.2 LONG TRADITION WITH CIVIC SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSO)

- **1873** - Foundation of the CSO *Verein Bremische Straffälligenbetreuung* providing supervision and mentoring for delinquents
- **1971** - Foundation the CSO *Hoppenbank e.V.* providing social services to avoid incarceration and support early release
- **Since 1990** - various European Projects cooperated with the Ministry of Justice (Horizon, Integra I + II, EQUAL, ...)
- **2002** – the CHANCE Network was established bringing everything together



I.3 MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH: PROBATION SERVICES IN BREMEN

- Prisons are required to prepare for release by involving the community
- Civic Society Organisations have responsibilities, privileges, access as our uniformed correctional officers preparing the release
- All actions are based individually on the inmates' tailored sentence plan
- Civic involvement by volunteers is embedded in the Federal State of Bremen Criminal Code



I.4 CHALLENGES OF MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

One side did not know what the other side was doing →
Community engagement needs to be coordinated

- The prison & probation establishment is reluctant to work with volunteers
- No common understanding of the volunteer's role
- Prison and probation volunteers were lacking training

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II. EUROPEAN FUNDED PROJECT

VOLPRIS – VOLUNTEERS IN PRISON

2.1 CONTENTS of VOLPRIS projects (2019-2022)

- Needs analysis: where are the mutual learning opportunities between prisons and CSOs
- Identify shared Key Performance Indicators
- Profile the volunteer coordinator role
- Build an online training course for this role
- Map existing practice and network practitioners
- Establish common minimum standards: what must be in place, for volunteering to be effective?



2.2 Prisons Managing Volunteers in Europe

Intellectual Outputs on:

www.volpris.eu

E-Learning Course for Coordinator of volunteers

www.volprison.eu



2.3 KEY FINDINGS OF PROJECT VOLPRIS

- Specific and adequate training
- Recognition of the value of volunteers and volunteer projects
- Relationship between prison staff and volunteers

→ CONSEQUENCE:
Need of a coordinator
for community
volunteers

III. NOWADAYS:

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS REINFORCE
MODERN PROBATION WORK IN THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM OF BREMEN, GERMANY**

3.1 COORDINATOR FOR VOLUNTEERS IN PRISON

Need Analysis:

- Defined Volunteer Coordinator
- Initial training for volunteers in prison and probation
- Contact point for Penal institutions, Social Services of Criminal Justice System & CSOs
- Positive narratives in media
- Continuous development



3.2 TASKS OF VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

- Recruitment & selection
- Qualification & training
- Support & accompaniment
- Recognition & appreciation
- Public relations

3.3 QUALIFICATION & TRAINING

- **ONLINE TRAINING:** 3 online video courses
- **CONTENT:** explain German Penal System, causes of delinquency, nature & challenges of crime, rehabilitation & reintegration and rules of conduct, etc.



Penal Institutions

- Volunteers engaged in prisoner discussion group
- Volunteer prison assistants deployed in individual case assistance with prisoners

Social Services of Criminal Justice System

- Volunteer probation assistants deployed in individual case assistance with probationers

Civil Society Organisations

- Volunteers engaged in group activities, e.g. afternoon game activities
- Volunteers supporting CSO

Involvement of community volunteers

REQUIREMENTS: no specific knowledge, min. 18 years, life experience, functional skills, ability to motivate & to be patient

3.4 COMPLETING THE CIRCLE: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS REINFORCE MODERN PROBATION WORK

- **1873** - Foundation of CSO *Verein Bremische Straffälligenbetreuung*
- **1971** - Foundation of CSO *Hoppenbank e.V.*
- **Since 1990** - various European Projects cooperated with the Ministry of Justice
- **2002** – CHANCE Network
- **2020** – CHANCE Coordinator for volunteers in prison

Die Senatorin für Wirtschaft,
Arbeit und Europa



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union



CHANCE
Netzwerk



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION