



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM SUPERVISED BY THE COURT (ND)



AN ALTERNATIVE TO INPRISONMENT FOR
CRIMINAL DRUG ADDICTS
THE NORWEGIAN DRUG COURT MODEL



THE NORWEGIAN DTC (ND) IN A NUTSHELL

- A trial project in the Norwegian cities of Oslo and Bergen from 2006-2016
 - Inter-agency project (correctional/health/education/social welfare – services)
 - Inspired by similar correctional initiatives in Scotland, Ireland and USA
 - Nationwide and permanent from 2016
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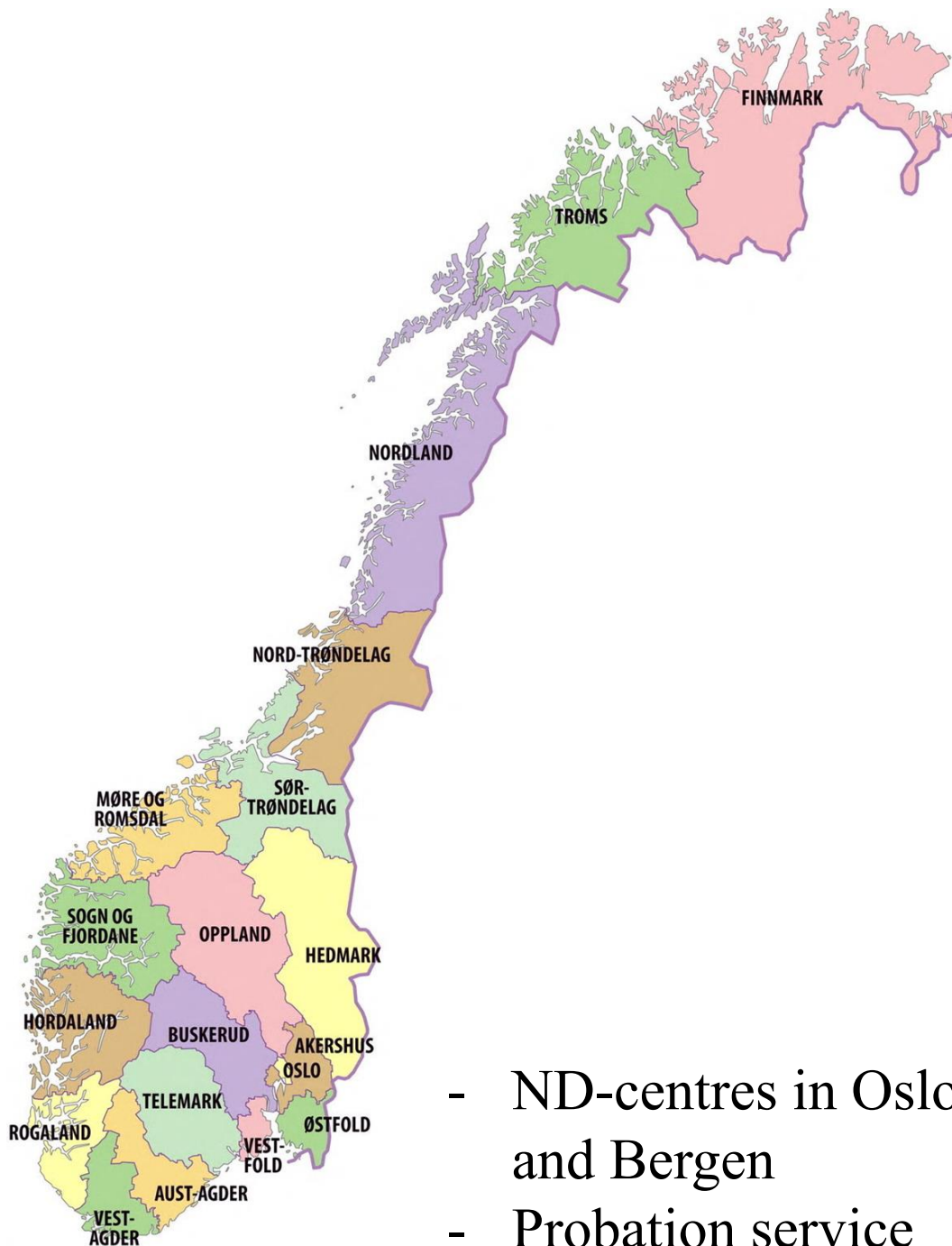
THE NORWEGIAN DTC (ND) IN A NUTSHELL

- **Alternative to prison**
Suspended sentence with the condition to attend the drug treatment and rehabilitation program supervised by the court.
Probation period: 2-5 years
 - **For drug abusing offenders**
 - **The goal is to help the offenders resocialize, abstain from crime and become drug free**
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NATIONWIDE

LOCAL
ADJUSTMENTS

MANY
POSSIBILITIES



- ND-centres in Oslo and Bergen
- Probation service



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BACKGROUND

Politician Odd
Einar Dørum



- Inhabitants
 - Norway: appr. 5 mill.
 - Bergen: appr. 0,3 mill
 - Oslo : appr. 0,6 mill
- Substance abuse problem in Norway
- Mortal ODs: Bergen has been nr 1 in Europe
- 60 % of the inmates have a drug-problem
- At least 1/3 are serving sentences for drug-related crimes
- Recidivism rates are generally high



IMPLEMENTATION

- – from trial project in Bergen and Oslo to a nationwide possibility
- Multi-ministry/agency project
- National steering- and working-group
- Members from:
 - the correctional service
 - the court administration
 - the attorney general
 - the county administration in Hordaland-
responsible for education in the correctional service
 - the health directorate
- Unique administrative cooperation
 - obligations
 - ownership
 - responsibility



THE NORWEGIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Public Prosecution:

- Police lawyer
- District Attorney
- Attorney General

• indictment

Court

- District court
- Appeal court
- Supreme court

• conviction



Correctional service

-responsible for carrying out remands in custody and penal sanctions

- Prison (high and low security)
- Probation
- DTC-centres

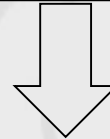


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Ministry of Justice.

Directorate of Norwegian
Correctional service

5 different regions of the
Correctional service



43 prisons

2 DTC-centres
(Bergen and Oslo)

17 probation
offices

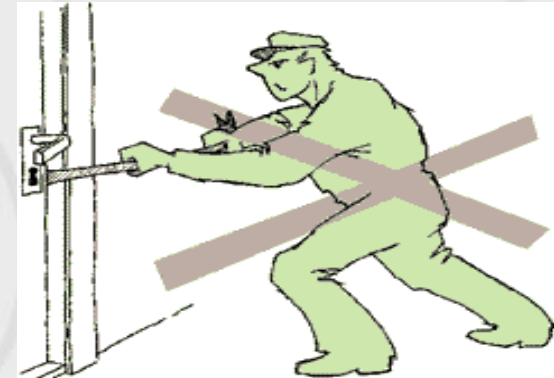
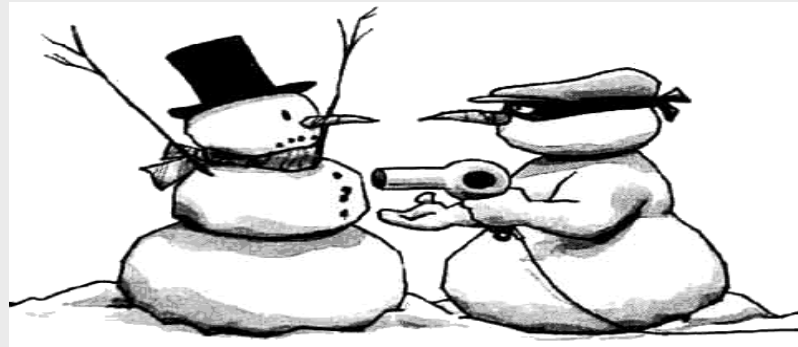


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PROGRAM GOALS



- Rehabilitation
- Crime prevention



- Coordinating assistance measures





PROGRAM CONTENT

Coordinating measures

- filling the days with meaningful content to rehabilitate and prevent new crime

- Work rehabilitation
- School/education
- Financial counselling
- Housing issues
- Treatment in institutions or at external facilities
- Coordinating efforts with the Social Welfare Office
- Networking/Volunteer organizations
- Control





CONTROL

- Substance abuse control
- Attendance control
 - measures followed up?
 - keeping appointments?
 - doing what is expected?
 - progression?





MULTI AGENCY COOPERATION

- Correctional service
- Health service
- Social service
- Labour and welfare administration
- Education
- Voluntary organizations

- (Police/prosecutors/Defence lawyers)



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TARGET GROUP

- Social inquiry report made by the probation service





PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- 262 convicted in Oslo and Bergen 2006-2016
 - Age 21- 56 (average ca 34 years)
 - Both men and women
 - Different kind of drugs
 - Different quantity
 - Different duration
 - Different backgrounds
 - No major violence
 - Crime primarily motivated by drug problem
 - Regarded as motivated
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CHARACTERISTICS

- Drug abusers
- Poor mental health
- Poor physical health
- Lack of education/
lack of work experience
- Poor network
- Unpopular in the
housing market
- Not satisfactory residential
- Inability in living skills
- Criminal minds





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THE JUDGES – COURT SUPERVISION



- Dedicated judges (Drug Court judges) in the district court follow up the participants in the program
 - The same judge throughout the program (minimum 2 years)
 - starting with an informal meeting between the judge and the participant
 - court meeting every time the participant has qualified to be transferred to the next phase (court order)
 - follow-up meetings (court record)
 - court meeting - breach of conditions
 - The judges are not part of the team and there are no pre-court meetings. (petition from the team to the court)
 - 3-4 court meetings per year.
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BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

- Drug abuse, not keeping appointments, no progression, new criminal offenses
 - Repeated and severe breaches:
The judge can sentence to prison (all of the prison sentence or a part of it), extend the probationary or set new conditions
 - Jurist from the correctional service conducts in court
 - New crimes – police/public prosecution
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THE COST OF CRIME



- Daily rate in prison: 280 euros
- + Expenses for police, courts, insurance companies, victims, etc etc etc
- Improved quality of life is impossible to measure in money.
- Production of taxpayers
- The value of aftercare



- **WHAT IS
SUCCESS
?**



THE EVALUATION-REPORT

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF THE 115 FIRST CONVICTED PARTICIPATING IN
THE PROGRAM
BERGEN/OSLO

STURLA FALCK

The Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research (SIRUS) is an independent research institution, and at the same time an administrative government body under the Ministry of Health and Care Services

THE PARTICIPANTS

- The 115 sentenced to the ND-program from 2006-2011 were interviewed three times over a 2 years-period: 115 people at T1, 106 at T2 and 96 at T3.
- They were convicted for drug-related crimes and they all had a severe drug problem.
- They had on average nearly 15 years of mixing drugabuse.
- All were previously convicted for drug related and property crimes, and some also for violence. On average they had 15 previous convictions.

COMPLETED AND DROP-OUTS

- Over a third of the people sentenced to ND completed the program.
- Those who completed ND, had on average spent two years and two months in the program.
- Those who dropped out had on average spent one year and two months in the program.
- The average age was 35 years in Oslo and 33 years in Bergen. Both places 15 percent were women.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

- Both those who completed and those who dropped out showed a positive trend, albeit somewhat weaker.
- The results from the ND-program seems better than the alternative, imprisonment.
- ND has shown that alternative reactions are possible even for this group. Imprisonment for recidivists convicted for drug related crimes have 85 percent risk of relapse. This shows the importance of trying alternative sanctions.
- The percentage completed was positive compared with Drug Court in other countries and drug users in treatment.
- Those who went through the program and the measures in ND got their opportunities for further integration into society strengthened.
- The importance of work and education.



CHALLENGES – from project to permanent

- New administrative regulations are not finished
 - Norwegian geography
 - Multi agency teams in Bergen and Oslo - Probation service in the rest of the country
 - equal possibilities?
 - different practices?
 - Prosecutors
 - Judges
 - Interagency - cooperation
 - Will ND work nationwide?
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PUNISHMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY

- EARLY INTERVENTION

Early
Intervention



HOPE

- FIRE EXTINGUISHING



- NEVER TOO LATE

