

# Transition from Prison to Community: the German Case

## International Workshop „Alternatives to Detention“

Criminal Justice Platform Event

03 November 2016

Barcelona

# Programme

- Why should we talk about „transition management“?
- What is „transition management“? The ideal procedure of care transitions and care integration
- Key factors for a successful transition management (knowledge from Germany)

## **(1) Aim:**

Social Rehabilitation of the sentenced person as a major goal of correctional system (Recommendation Rec (2006) 2 on the European Prison Rules)

- re-integration in society / in community
- reducing the re-offending by ex-prisoners

## **(2) Challenge:**

- prisoners: complex multifaceted and different needs
- no structural networks between penal system, probation service and community-based services
- Germany: 2/3 of adults and 3/4 juvenile former prisoners re-commit a crime
- time after being released from prison is very critical (recidivism)

## **“Reentering the community after a period of incarceration in jail is a complex situation.”**

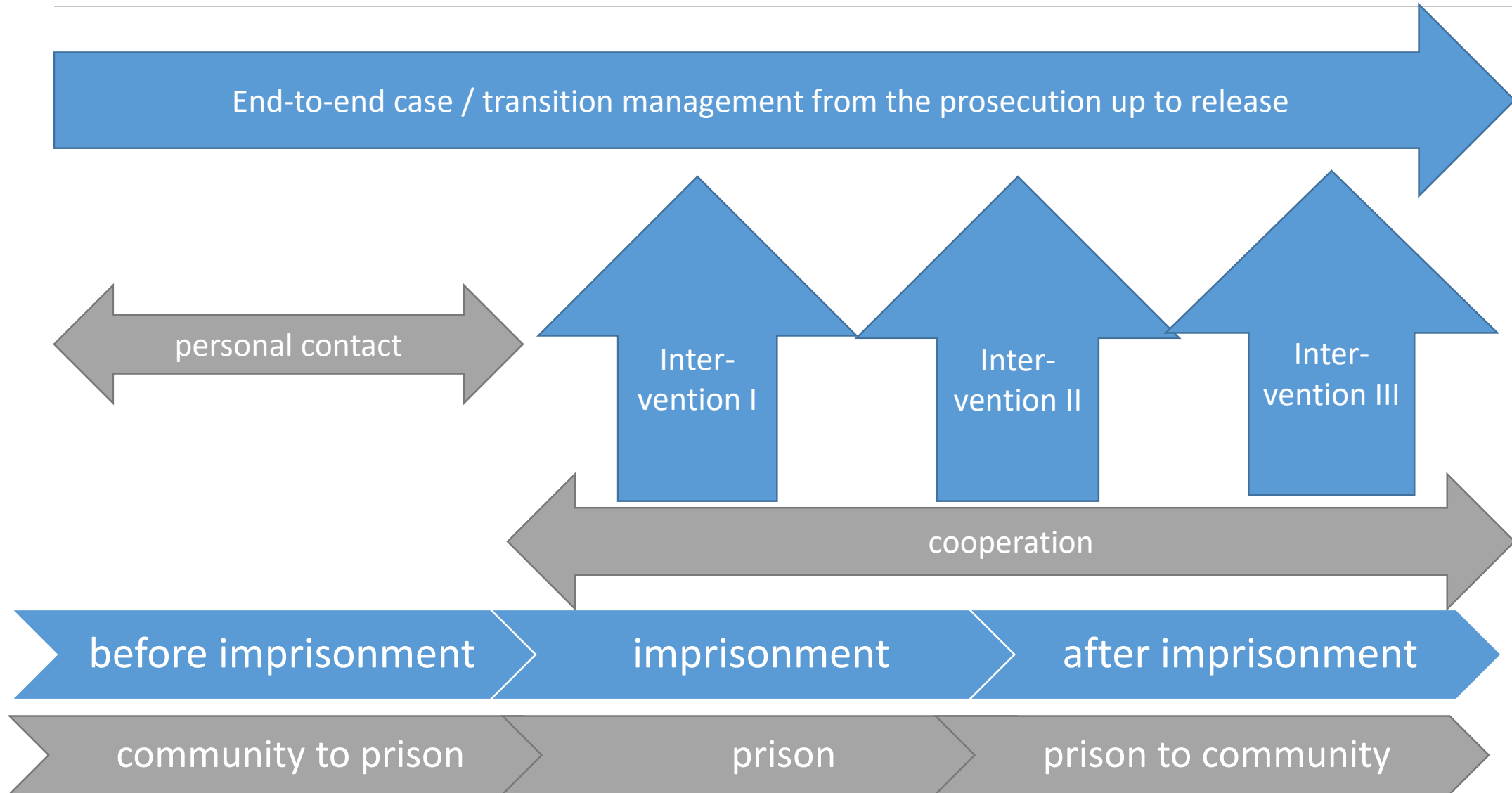
- Stage 1: entering prison
  - Stage 2: imprisonment
  - Stage 3: release from prison
- ➔ What are the problems? Which training and support are needed?
- ➔ identify needs and risks of prisoners during every stage to create treatment and release plans



## Definition of Transition Management:

„...is the term used to denote assessment, planning and implementation of work with offenders in the community or in custody to address the likelihood of them reoffending and the risk of harm they pose to the public.”

“...stakeholders (prison service, probation service, community-based services ) have joint responsibility for undertaking or co-ordinating work with prisoners to address the attitudes, behavior and lifestyle that contributed to their offending.”



## Federalism in Germany: Special Cases

- criminal justice system: state and independent institutions
    - state: prison system, probation and supervision of conduct
    - independent institutions: offender assistance, housing, health
  - 1x criminal code and procedure code
  - 16x German penal codes (federal implementation in 16 states)
  - transition management is increasingly recognised as an important task and implemented in state laws (Länder)
  - transition / case manager: part of the law enforcement, organisations (like probation service) or independent institutions
- ➔ high number of descriptions, types and models of transition management



## Key Factors:

- assessing inmates to identify needs and risks
  - enable clear goals to be set at the start of the sentence (create a individual plan for the imprisonment and release)
  - case manager / transition manager: complete support for the prisoner (contact person controls the process)
  - partnerships at regional and local level
  - establish alliances with corporate, civic and voluntary sectors
- ➔ building an active network and close local / regional agreements with community services, organisations and institutions

Thank you for your attention!  
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