

Electronic monitoring in Estonia

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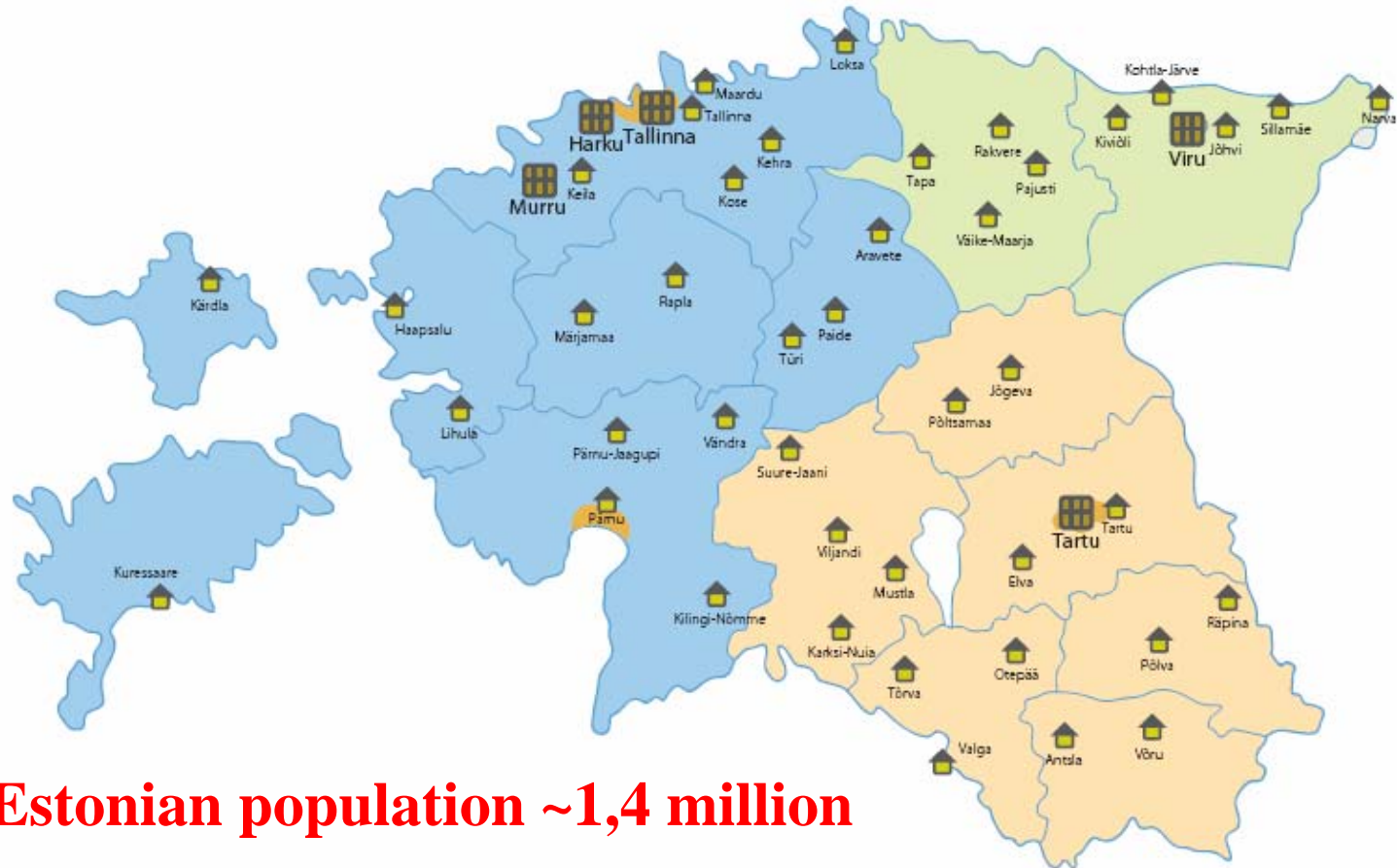
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Geographical Locations of Prisons and Probation Departments 01.06.2008



Estonian population ~1,4 million

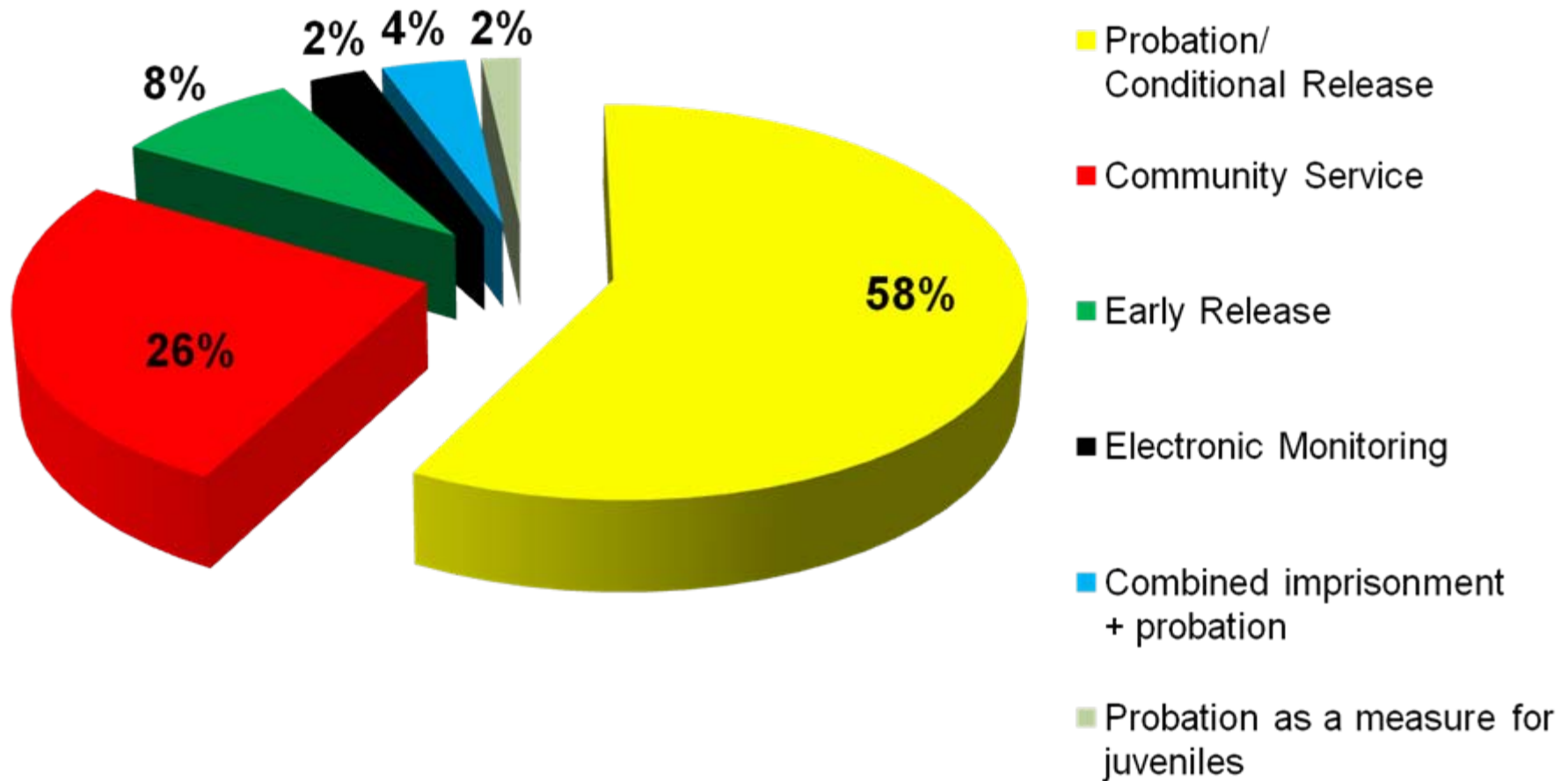
Estonian Probation Service

- **1998 – creation of the service**
 - Probation Service started - 110 officers
 - Probation departments in the structure of 1-st instance courts
 - The number of probationers ~2000
- **1999 – expansion of the service**
 - II phase + 54 officers
 - The number of probationers ~4500
- **2002 – new sanctions**
 - Community Service
 - Short term imprisonment combined with probation period
 - The number of probationers ~6700

Estonian Probation Service

- **2007 – new developments**
 - introduction of electronic monitoring (back-door scheme)
 - changed early release process and its use increased
 - started risk assessment
- **2008 – new organisation**
 - probation united with prison system, 4 regional offices
- **2009**
 - 210 probation officers
 - the number of probationers ~8000

Probationers groups as at 1.1.2009



Challenges for Estonia before EM

- Too many prisoners – imprisonment rate one of the highest in EU (2006 ~330)
 - Poor use of parole – only round 25 % released on parole
 - High number of remand prisoners
 - Relatively long prison sentences (comparing with Scandinavia) - average 4-5 years
- The need for better use of alternatives – EM as one new possibility

Overall chronology of EM

- 2004-2005 – general discussions
- **2006 January**– the actual start of the project
- March - first analysis completed, proposals for target groups, finances and further activities, visit to Sweden
- End of March – target group locked, start **with** more detailed preparations
- April – legislation sent to the Parliament
- September - legislation adopted, practical test of the equipment
- October-December – tendering

Overall chronology of EM

- **2007**
- January-February – contract negotiations (our partner is ElmoTech)
- January- March – training, explaining
- March – start of EM practice
- 22. May 2007 first prisoner released with EM
- November – Nomination of the best project of the year of the Estonian Justice system
- December – The number of EM offenders 179

Project team 2006

- Project team was formed from the workers of different departments of Ministry
- Probation division took a leading role, project leader was named
- Sufficient resources were provided:
 - Staff
 - Budget
 - Responsibility and power for decision-making were in correlation

Targeting of EM

There were altogether 4 options under evaluation at first phase:

1. EM as a separate alternative – was not considered appropriate solution
2. EM as supplementary obligation – was not considered appropriate solution
3. **EM as measure to decrease the use of remand imprisonment**
4. **EM as measure to increase the use of parole**

Target group solution = EM + parole

Release on parole:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of imprisonment must be served (minimum time 6 months), release is not automatic
- The opinion from probation and prison service is asked, court will make a decision
- Offender will be subject of probation order
- The minimum period of probation is 1 year

EM + parole:

- **$\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$** of imprisonment must be served
- The opinion from probation service and prison is asked, court will make a decision
- EM period from 1 month to 1 year
- Offender will be subject for probation order during and after the period of EM
- The minimum period of probation is 1 year

Technical solution

- International experience was explored (f.ex. Sweden)
- Several international companies were introducing their products and platforms
- Two main possibilities were considered:
 - Home arrest (the main solution for us)
 - GPS tracking (for test)
- Tendering procedure was initiated according gained knowledge and domestic needs

Practical implementation of EM

Prison and Probation will make the Risk Assessment of applying EM for the prisoner



Court decides the releasing on parole and the EM term (1-12 months)



Probation officer installs the devices, introduces the conditions and drafts the curfew schedule.
Emphasize is on the intensive Probation Period with meetings once the week; home visits; programs etc.



24 h monitoring by the Duty Officer (calling center)

Implementation- installation

- Every offender has personal Probation Officer
- The first meeting and installing of devices must be done as soon as possible, maximum within 3 days after release
- The installing team consists 3 members: 2 at offenders home, one 1 in the office
- Suitable living place is with: electricity; GSM; door locking and place owner acceptance
- The instructions at home are important!

Implementation - schedule

- Detailed curfew schedule is finalized during the first week after release of the offender
- Schedule includes:
 - Weekly meetings in the Probation Office
 - Working/studying
 - Shopping (for the persons living alone)
 - Sport/hobbies are not allowed in the beginning of curfew

Implementation - supervision

- 24 h monitoring by the Duty Officer (Calling Center), situated in Tartu Prison (South Estonia)
- Monitoring tools:
 - EM software
 - relevant databases
 - computer and Mobile phone (SMS)
- Reactions to violation information:
 - Call to the offender; asking the explanation; oral warning;
 - Documentation of situation
- It is possible for offender to call to Duty Officer (Electronic Monitoring official phone number) any time

Implementation- supervision

- The Probation Officers are monitoring only their offenders (we say- clients)
- Minimal interval of meetings is once in a week
- After violation officer can:
 - Ask for written explanation
 - Give warning (oral or written)
 - Make extraordinary report and send it to the court
- Only the court can make a decision to send the offender back to the prison

Some results

- Public acceptance to the project was granted through open discussions and targeted PR
- 22.05.2007 – first offender with EM released from the prison
- Up to now - more than 400 offenders monitored since 2007
- Every day basis ~70 offenders
- From 345 offenders who already served their EM period ~8% were sent back to the prison
- The current imprisonment rate ~260 (decreased from 330 within a year – EM played a role)

Future of probation and EM



Thank you!
The questions are awaited
during all the conference!