



R/ISE



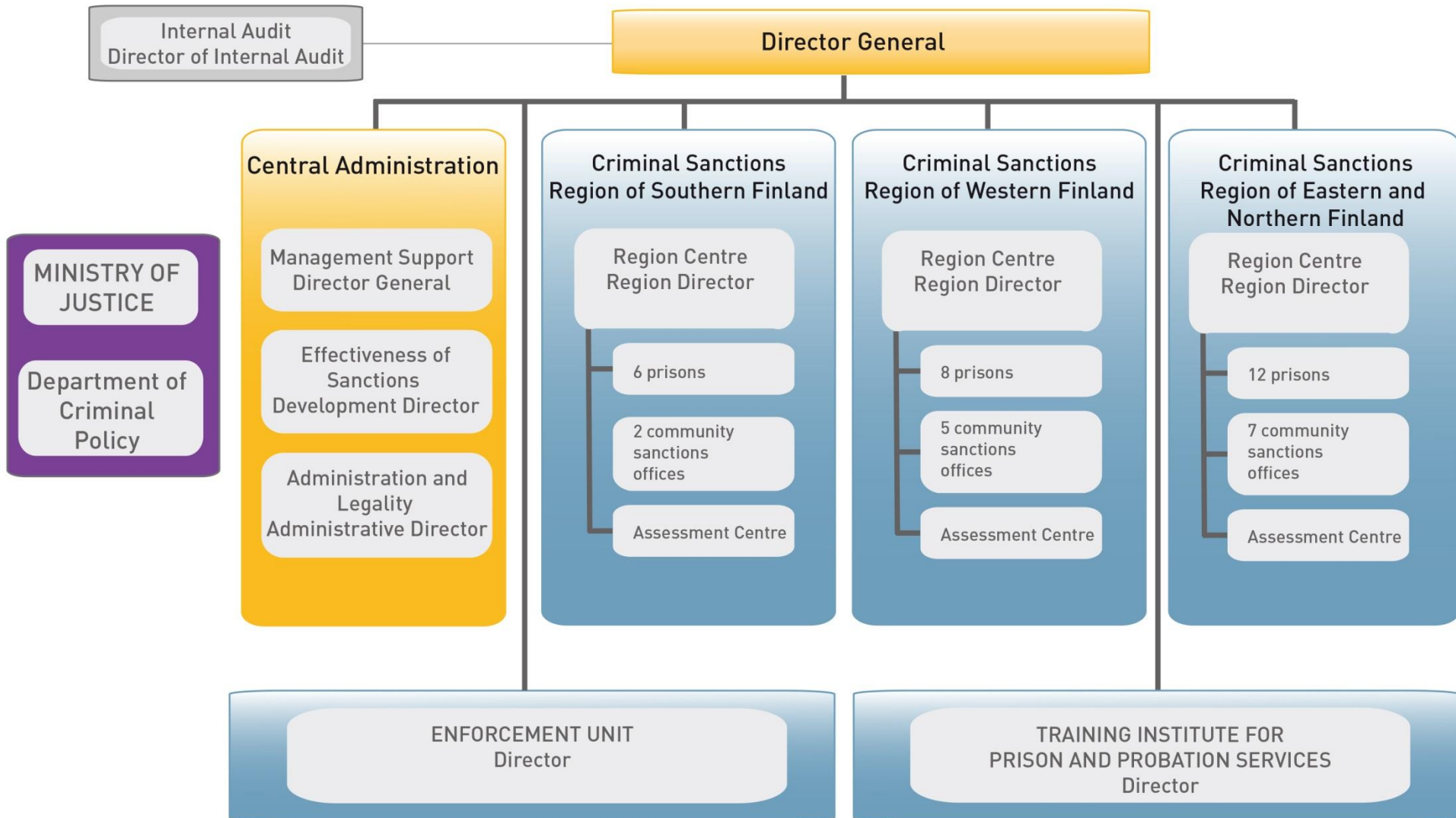
R/SE

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGENCY

The Finnish Probation Service and its development work

Ms. Pia Andersson, Senior expert, Criminal Sanctions Agency

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGENCY



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SANCTIONS IN FINLAND?

- Community Sanctions Enforcement Act (400/2015)
- Enforced by probation offices
- Amount to about half of the sentences enforced by the Criminal Sanctions Agency
- Include 5 different kinds of sanctions
 1. Supervision of conditionally sentenced young offenders
 2. Juvenile punishment (for minors)
 3. Community service
 4. Monitoring sentence
 5. Supervision of conditionally released prisoners

FRONT-DOOR OPTIONS

Community service

Monitoring sentence

Juveniles

- Supervision of conditionally sentenced young offenders (15-20 y)
- Juvenile punishment (15-17 y)

Unconditional imprisonment
In open or closed prison

BACK-DOOR OPTIONS

Supervised probationary liberty

- last part of an unconditional prison sentence, max 6 months

Supervision of conditionally released prisoners

- when the remaining sentence is more than one year

BEFORE SENTENCING TO COMMUNITY SANCTION

Pre-sentence report requested by the prosecutor

- An assessment of the conditions and ability of a suspect to serve a community sanction are assessed



The assessment includes:

- Risk of re-offending
- Substance abuse
- Need for supervision and support to live without crime
- Other personal or social circumstances of the suspect



If a community sanction is assessed to be suitable for the suspect, a sentence plan is also prepared as part of the pre-sentence report

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Unconditional prison sentence of 8 months or less
 - 14-240 hours of community service
- Consists of unpaid work performed under supervision
- Can also include measures that:
 - Aim to reduce the risk of recidivism
 - Help tackle substance abuse problems
 - Promote the person's ability to complete the community service
- Typically sentenced for aggravated drunken driving
- Can also be used as an ancillary sanction to a conditional sentence of over 8 months
 - In this case the length of the sentence is at most 90 hours

MONITORING SENTENCE (1/2)

- Can be imposed instead of unconditional imprisonment of a maximum of 6 months
 - Monitoring sentence can be from 14 days to 6 months long
- Can include work, education, rehabilitation or other activities
- Obliges the person to follow a strict daily schedule, which includes
 - Taking part in specific pre-determined activities in the daytime
 - Staying at home at night
 - Abstinence from intoxicating substances
 - If required, participating in rehabilitating activities

MONITORING SENTENCE (2/2)

- The offender is supervised by technical means (ankle tag) and unannounced check-up visits.
- Prior to the enforcement of the sentence, the accommodation of the offender is evaluated
 - The consent of the cohabitants is required
 - If there are minors permanently living together with the offender, their opinion regarding the arrangement is ascertained.
 - The minor is heard in collaboration with the child welfare authorities.

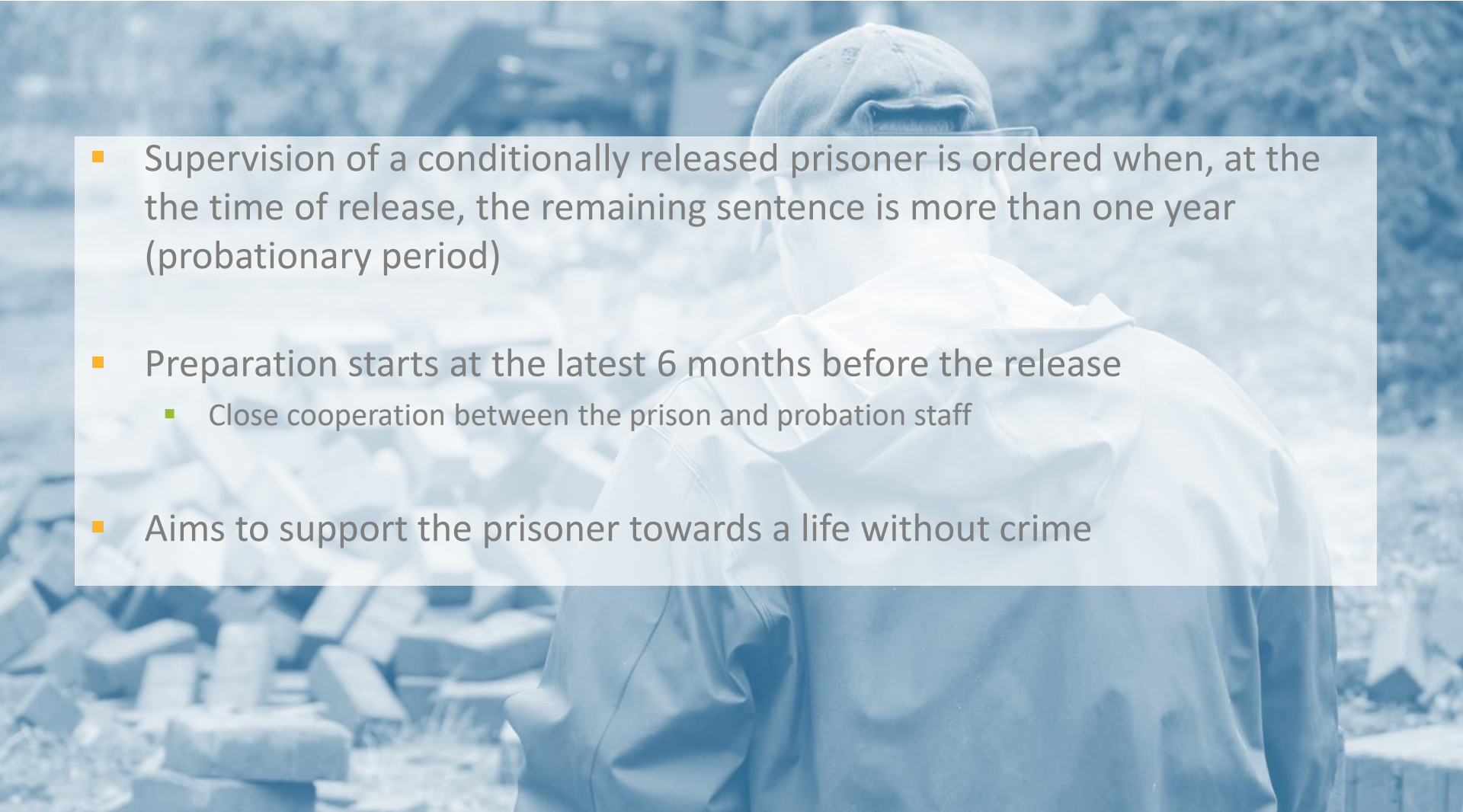
JUVENILE PUNISHMENT

- Intended for 15-17 year-old offenders
- Duration 4-12 months
 - An intensive sentence planned together with the offender, the guardian and the child welfare authorities
- Includes supervisory meetings as well as participation in programmes and activities planned for the age group
- Can also include work or orientation to work
- **Only five sentences were imposed in 2017**

SUPERVISION OF CONDITIONALLY SENTENCED YOUNG OFFENDERS

- 
- Ancillary sanction to conditional imprisonment for under 21 year olds
 - Imposed if it promotes the offender's social adaptation and prevents further offences
 - Consists of regular meetings with a probation officer
 - May include tasks or programmes that promote functioning ability
 - The aim is to follow the changes in the life of the young offender
 - Supervision can be terminated after six months

SUPERVISION OF CONDITIONALLY RELEASED PRISONERS

- 
- Supervision of a conditionally released prisoner is ordered when, at the time of release, the remaining sentence is more than one year (probationary period)
 - Preparation starts at the latest 6 months before the release
 - Close cooperation between the prison and probation staff
 - Aims to support the prisoner towards a life without crime

Development work in Probation Service 1/2

- A nationwide development work project was done 5/2013- 5/2016. Other development work is still ongoing.
- The main goal for the project was to define the effective principles that improve qualitative probation work.
- A research review was made and the latest results were shared and taking in consideration in the development work.
- The principles of RNR, desistance and Good Lives Model have influenced the development work and also the principles of case management and qualitative evaluation and planning in the client work. The European Probation Rules has been a central guideline as well for the development work.

Development work in Probation Service 2/2

- The content of qualitative evaluation and planning work were defined
- Some recommendations were made:
 - Recommendation of qualitative client work
 - Recommendation of the client work management
 - Recommendation of a qualitative working process of community service
 - Recommendation of qualitative working process of monitoring sentence
 - Recommendation of qualitative working process of juvenile punishment
 - Recommendation of qualitative working process of supervision of conditionally sentenced young offenders
 - Recommendation of qualitative working process of supervision of conditionally released prisoners
 - Recommendation of child- and family work in probation work

The Jersey Supervision Skills Checklist

- One of the outcomes of the development work was the focus on the one to one supervision skills and the implementation of the use of the Jersey Supervision Skills Checklist in all probation offices.
- Peter Raynor was invited to a seminar in 2014.
- The Jersey Supervision Skills Checklist was translated and the content was trained to the staff taking part in the pilot 2014 and 2015.
- After the pilot a nationwide training has been given 2016 and 2017. Next nationwide training will be given 3.-5.10.2018.
- The Jersey Supervision Skills Checklist has been made in a electronic form (webropol based).
- In the national probation work seminar in November 2018 Supervision Skills and the Checklist is a theme and a representant from Jersey Probation and After Care Service will be the key speaker.

The Probation App

- The app project work has started and is conducted with service design principles and method.
- The project is two phased; 1) the app is done without connection to the client system and as a separate platform 2) the intergration between the probation app and the client system is done
- Clients and probation officers have been interviewed
- The customer based features have been defined
- User profiles and user paths have been made
- Next steps: platform provider selection, features determination and making a prototype, then testing, approving and training.

Thank you

Senior Expert
Pia Andersson
pia.andersson@om.fi