“Restorative Justice and Probation”

Restorative Justice in probation practice: strategic steps, making the footprint
International conference, Prague 23rd-25th September 2015

Pavel Štern

15 years of Czech Probation and Mediation Service: Restorative Justice practices
15 years ago... empty spaces.....

No equipment
No computers—typewriters
Few people
Lot of cases and files
New law
New ideas, visions
Probation and Mediation under one roof

- Integration of Offenders, law-abiding behavior and no further offending
- Participation of Victims, support, reparation, trust and security
- Protection of the Community, prevention of any future offending behavior
Probation and Mediation under one roof

- **Victim/Offender Mediation** and activities leading to conflicts resolution, i.e. restorative activities;

- **Probation** – preparation, organization and enforcement of supervision in the frame of community sanctions and measures and other alternatives to imprisonment; (parole, community services, home detention, etc.)

- Preparation, organization and enforcement of measures based on the Youth Justice Act.
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- Key paradigm, idea, journey
- **Victims** - Reducing harm, damage,
- **Offenders** - Take responsibility
- **Communities** - Participation, strengthening the feeling of safety
- Three basic principles, simple, sustainable, timeless
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

* Restorative Justice represents concept of social responsibility of public institutions...“Public social responsibility“

* Corporate Social Responsibility is well known equivalent concept in private sector...

* Restorative Justice represent public commitment of judicial institutions/justice
Practice

* Restorative Justice concept became component part of work Probation and Mediation service

* Victim/Offender Mediation program and activities in pre trial stage

* Probation activities including Parole

* Case management was extended about the victim’s context,
Practice and examples

* Victim/Offender Mediation Program
  * Projects Restorative Justice – „Victim support and counseling“ and „Why me“? Counseling and assistance for Victims of crime in collaboration with NGOs. Extension of services for Victims. Currently runs in 40 cities.

* Projects „Fragile Chance“, development of the Parole Boards

* Project „On the right way“ implementation of Family Group Conferences for juveniles
Some figures for the 15 years

* More than **12 000** VOM sessions
* Almost **5 million** Euro negotiated as financial compensation for Victims in last 3 years
* More than **10 000 contacts** in the frame of Victim counseling almost for **6000 victims** were delivered assistance and support in the frame of counseling projects
* Almost **10 000** pre release reports
* Almost **2 million** Euro were ensured as victim compensation in the frame of probation work in last 3 years.
* More than **10 millions** hours in the frame of the Community services
Probation and Mediation Service 2015

Established and effective institution

• Developed networking in Justice, public sector and NGO

Intensive relationships with European and international partners

Professional and motivated staff

Big commitment for the future
Conclusion

Best wishes and Good Luck for Probation and Mediation Service
Thank you for your attention

Link: pavel.stern@centrum.cz;
tel.: 607 919 028