

Training of probation officers in Latvia

17 December 2009

Imants Jurevičius
State Probation Service of Latvia
Expert, Supervision Division

Some facts about Probation Service in Latvia

- Institution under Ministry of Justice
- Number of staff:
 - year 2006 - 430
 - year 2007 – 513
 - year 2008 – 551
 - today - ...**
- Number of probation clients in all functions:
 - year 2006 – 12 081
 - year 2007 – 19 492
 - year 2008 – 25 921

Some facts about Probation Service in Latvia

Functions:

- Supervision of persons conditionally released from criminal liability, conditionally sentenced, and on conditional release from prison (parole);
- Preparation of pre-sentence reports according to request of judge or prosecutor;
- Preparation of parole reports according to request of prison administration;
- Mediation in criminal matters;
- Organization of community work service;
- Correction of social behaviour – probation programs.

Colaboration with highschools/universities

- Probation officer – there is no such profession or education
- Standard of profession:
“Probation and penitentiary officer”
- Standard include a list of:

Duties

Professional competencies

Skills

Knowledge



Collaboration with highschools/universities

- After approval of standard of profession next step would be ...

Elaboration and implementation of professional educational program (2-3 years) for probation officers in collaboration with some highschool or university

[year 2012-2013]

- Previous collaboration with trainers outside probation:
 - Lack of specificity
 - Too much theory; too less praxis
 - Lack of structure
 - Expensive

- For now Probation Service use its internal resources to train probation officers and trainers mainly are from headquarters, for example,



- Of course, there are also projects where trainings are delivered by foreign experts, but projects come and go

Influence of state

- All probation officers are civil servants – any bachelor degree needed
- However, certain preferences exist in selection of staff:
 - Lawyer
 - Pedagogue, including social pedagogue
 - Psychologist
 - Social worker
- State Administration School – general training on work in civil service
- Probation Service is public institution and completely dependent from the State's budget.

Money for training is less and less - in 2010 there will be 0 LVL/EUR/USD assigned for training

Projects are the only hope 😊

Influence of community

Does there really is such a thing?
Never felt!

Maybe, only some indirect influence – through mass media

Level of Centralization

- All professional trainings of probation officers are organized and directed by headquarters of the Probation Service
- Decision, which person will be sent to the trainings delivered by the State Administration School, is made at headquarters as well. Of course, local managers give their recommendations and they always are taken into account
- Consultations of colleagues – step towards more decentralized approach
- Probation officer should look for some readings on himself, as well

Thank you!