

Assessment Centres In Finland

Oslo

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Three regions

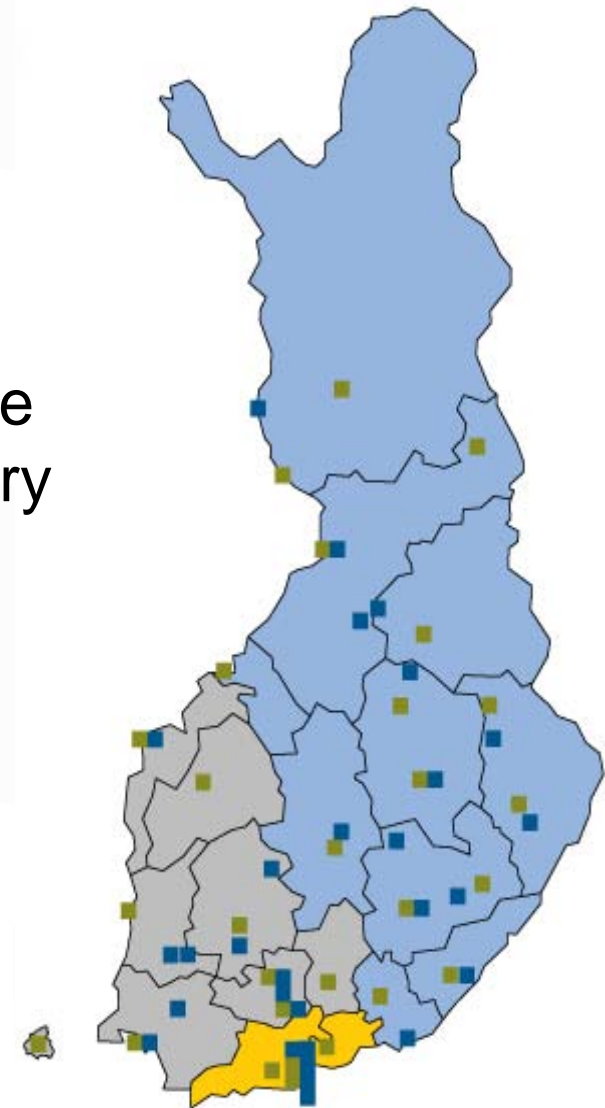
Three assessment centres

Community sancions offices

Open Prisons

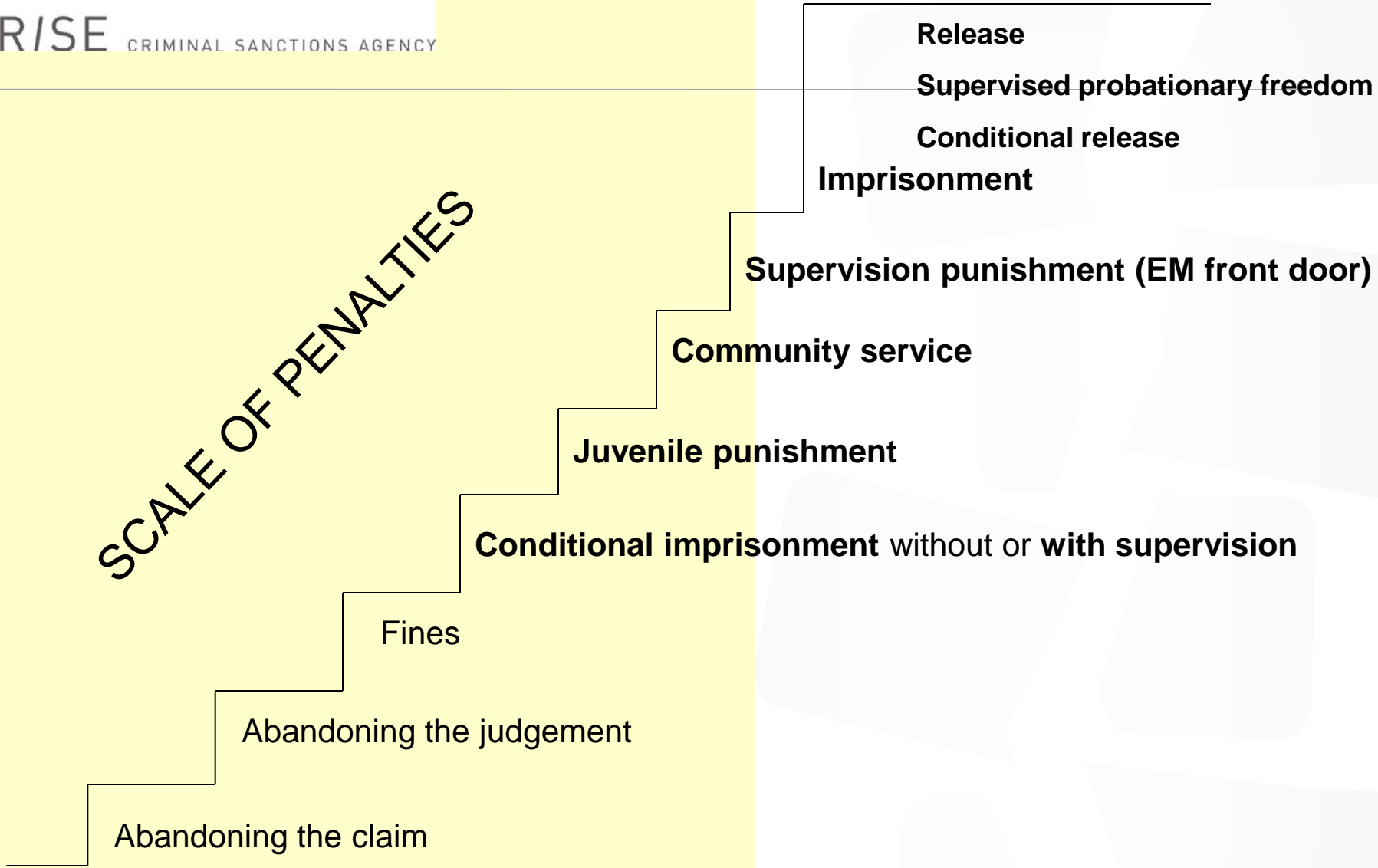
Closed Prisons

	South	Whole country
Community sancions offices	2	15
Open Prisons	3	18
Closed Prisons	5	15





SCALE OF PENALTIES





- The aim of criminal policy in Finland is that offenders serve their **sentences in as open conditions as possible** and are part of the normal life of society
- The intention is to **increase the use of community sanctions and open prisons** as well as to develop the activities of the release phase
- The focus of criminal sanctions will be gradually changed from enforcement in closed prisons towards a more open direction

Assessment centres in key role

- pre-sentence reports > community sanctions
- assessment, sentence planning, placement
> prisons



Assessment centres - background

- New organization and strategy
- Prison and probation services are combined with each other in 2010
- Joint central administration
- Client processes are viewed from end to end – perspective
 - Process is construed by beginning - enforcement - end of the sentence/release
 - assessment is seen as an separate phase from actual enforcing the sentence
- there *should* be an fluent and functional chain in the process.



Strong expertise

- The phases of sentence enforcement:
 - assessment at the beginning of the enforcement
 - sentence plan on the basis of the assessment
 - enforcement of the sentence
 - controlled release
- The continuity of the enforcement process should be improved
- the benefits of synergy arise when community sanctions and prison sentences are examined as a whole and the continuums from one sanction to another are taken into account



Community sanctions are enforced within the normal environment of the sentenced offender

The sentenced offender is restricted by the conditions and constraints of the sanction

The most common community sanction is community service (2 900 offenders in 2010)

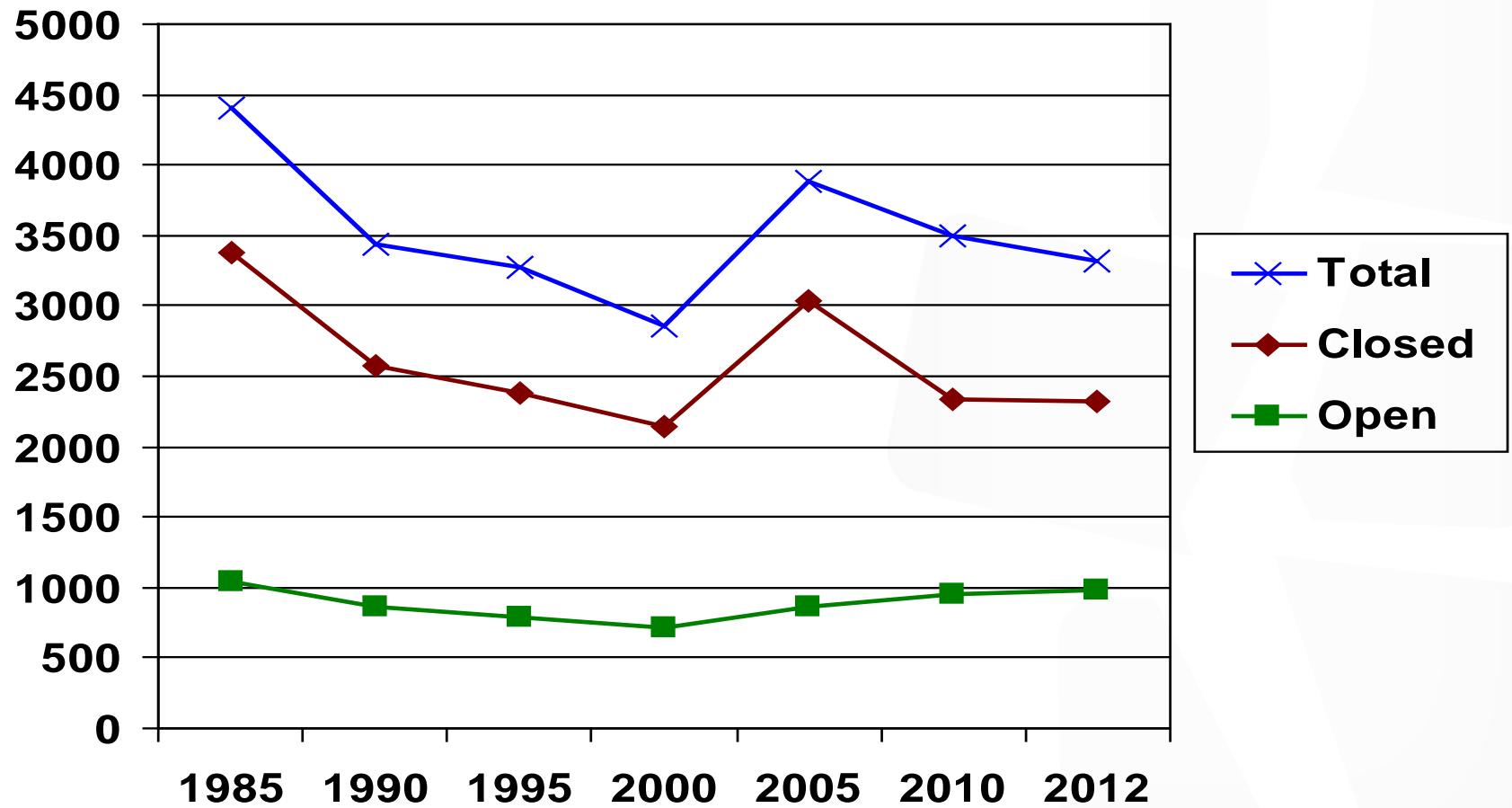
Juvenile punishment

Supervision of conditionally sentenced young offenders and parolees

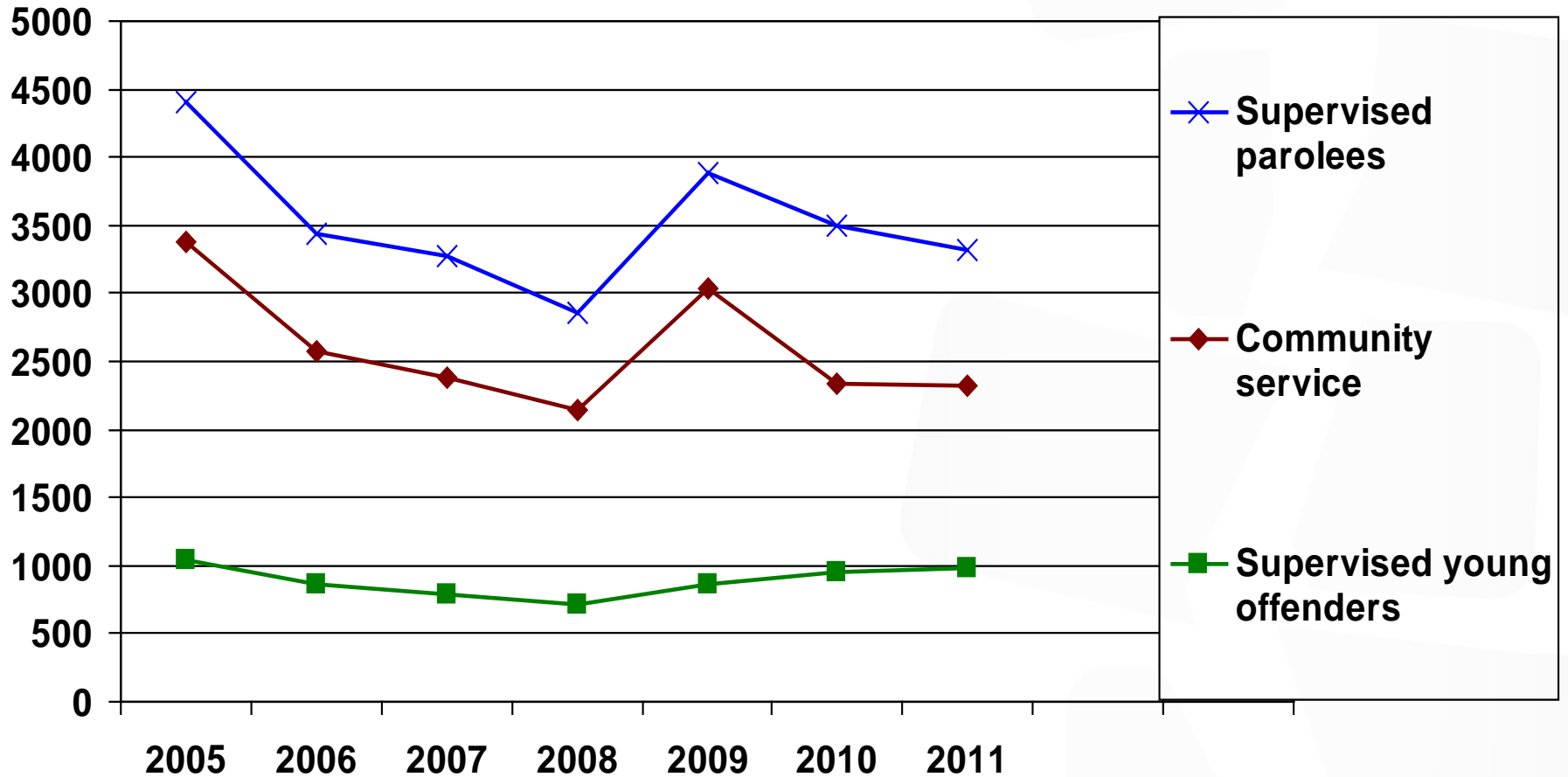
- The future aim is that 35% of prisoners will be placed in open institutions and 65% in closed institutions
 - EM:
 - Use of supervised probationary freedom (back door) will be increased
 - Supervision sentence (front door) is introduced in 2011.
 - today about 20 front-door and 120 back door offenders
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Prison population in 1985-2012

Closed and open institutions



Clients in Probation service in 2005-2011



Assessment centres has twofold mission

As an regional actor to

- unite probation and prison services in the general level and
- harmonize performance in the region and

In the individual level to

- perform assessments both in the probation and prison services
 - and sentence planning and placement in the prison service
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Assessment centres as an regional operators

- Sound collaboration with the region and central administration (i.e. development projects)
 - Deliver unequivocal information and standards to probation and prison units
 - Close cooperation with the operators in the region:
 - Clarification of the effects of punishments - criminological facts, (municipality, media ...)
 - Exchange of information and cooperation between different agencies and actors
 - prosecutors, courts, legislators
 - Southern Finland do welcome visitors from different stakeholders, also in the national level
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Assessment centres – main responsibilities

- individual assessments, sentence planning and delivery of pre-sentence reports
 - enforced by the request of prosecutor or court before court proceedings or in the beginning of serving the prison sentence
- placement of the prisoners
- statements, e.g. release from life sentences or long term sentences
- placement to and withdrawal of supervised probationary freedom (EM)

In 2011 Assessment Centre in Southern Finland delivered

- Pre-sentence reports 2675/11646
 - R-N-R assessments 340
 - Sentence plans 1250
 - Placement decisions 3200
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Assessments in pre-sentence reports

To whom?

- interviewee > intervention
- prosecutor > consideration of charges
- court > prerequisites to sentencing
- probation/prison service > sound transition to enforcement

What they contain?

- individual strengths and risks in relation to performing sanction at issue
- assessment of motivation, thinking, action, attitudes, life circumstances, **ability to cope with possible probation sentence**
- **recommendations or preconditions for the enforcement of the possible community sanction**
- assessment of recidivism restricted on young offenders and EM

Methods

- interview
- assessment and professional discretion
- presentation and argumentation

supported by
the IT-system

At the beginning of the sentence – assessment methodology

- ARAT – actuarial risk assessment tool (static risks). Used as a screening tool: to whom comprehensive r-n-r assessment?
 - developed from SIR-S to Finnish settings
 - R-N-R–assessment
 - In prison service OASyS – based
 - In probation structural, but without scoring
 - new methods (worthcoming, under development)
 - principle module
 - specified modules
 - Assessing responsivity?
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Groupwork. 4-5 person groups (15 min.)

- discuss over the way assessment is organized in your country
 - pick up the 4-5 most important principles that should be followed when organizing assessment in probation and/or prison services
 - on viewpoint of the offender: how should the assessment process be realized?
 - Write down your arguments
 - Present your ideas (15 min)
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