



CIRCLES4EU

Expanding Circles of Support
and Accountability in Europe

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Avans University | Den Bosch | The Netherlands

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Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)

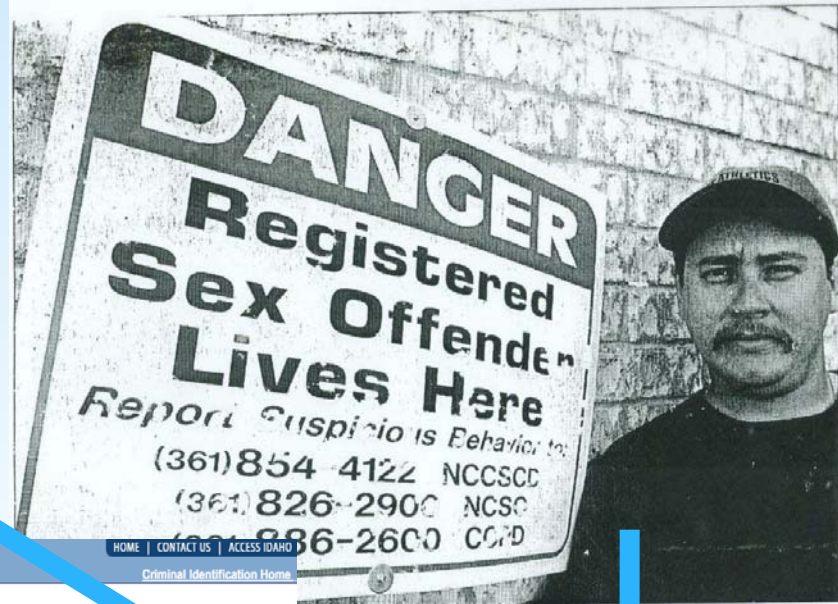
II Circles4EU



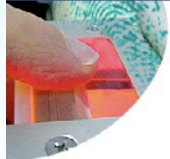
Reintegration of sex-offenders:

- Community costs of recidivism are high
- Climate of fear / lack of unbiased information
- Community reactions to release of sex offenders
- Stigmatisation and exclusion
- Social isolation and marginalization
- Lack of monitoring
- Long term risk of recidivism


How we are treating them



Idaho State Police Criminal Identification



IDAHO SOR - OFFENDER PROFILE

Offender Identification		Photograph									
Reg ID:	SX20516	 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Photo Date:</td> <td>JANUARY 15, 2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last Registered:</td> <td>15 JAN 09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reg Status:</td> <td>COMPLIANT</td> </tr> </table>		Photo Date:	JANUARY 15, 2009	Last Registered:	15 JAN 09	Reg Status:	COMPLIANT		
Photo Date:	JANUARY 15, 2009										
Last Registered:	15 JAN 09										
Reg Status:	COMPLIANT										
Name:	GIBBS, JOHN LEE										
Alias:	GIBBS, JOHNNY LEE										
Birth Date:	SEP 02, 1970			Birth Place:	ID						
Race:	WHITE			Sex:	MALE						
Height:	5 FEET 07 INCHES			Weight:	180 LBS						
Eye Color:	BLUE			Hair Color:	BLONDE OR STRAWBERRY						
Home Address 393 RANDOLPH AVE APT B POCATELLO, BANNOCK COUNTY ID 83201-3968		A map of this registrant's address may be available, click here to view it.									
Offenses Requiring Registration <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Offense</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Place of Conviction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-6101(1)</td> <td>RAPE</td> <td>OCTOBER 10, 1995</td> <td>BANNOCK CO ID</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Offense	Description	Date	Place of Conviction	18-6101(1)	RAPE	OCTOBER 10, 1995	BANNOCK CO ID
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- Registry Home
- Search Registry
- County Sheriffs Guide
- Right-To-Know Act
 - Sexual Offender Registration Notification And Community Right-To-Know Act
 - Juvenile Sex Offender Registration Notification And Community Right-To-Know Act

Contact the Central Sex Offender Registry
 PO Box 700
 Meridian, ID 83680-0700
 Ph: 208.884.7305
 Fx: 208.884.7193
 Email Us idsor@isp.idaho.gov

New Victims

Best of both worlds

Support → Control ↓	Low	High
High	AGAINST <i>Punishment</i>	WITH <i>Restoration</i>
Low	WITHOUT <i>Neglect</i>	FOR <i>Permission</i>

Mission of COSA

Circles of Support and Accountability

“No more victims”

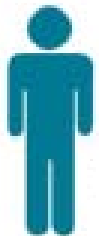
“No more secrets”



professional



co-ordinator



volunteer



core member



COSA: what happens?

- Weekly circlemeetings (phase 1)
 - Establishing a relationship
 - Discussing risk & needs
 - Relapse prevention
 - Social support
 - 24/7 support by telephone
- Individual support (phase 2, after app. 1 - 1,5 years)
- Evaluation of progress (quarterly)
- Safety rules

Circle goals:	Social capital formation	Human capital formation	Relapse-prevention	Circle redundancy
Who?	Inner circle	Inner and outer circle	Inner and outer circle	Circle coordinator, inner and outer circle
Circle functions: Activities:	Social inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be available and offer support - Model and stimulate respect, openness and trust - Offer and stimulate social activities/pro-social relationships 	Behaviour change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold accountable - Develop targets and cooperation - Offer advice, guidance and encouragement 	Risk reduction and risk management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and discuss risk and problem behavior - Confront core member - Share information - Intervene 	Evaluation and improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate and support group proces - Evaluate and discuss core member process - Safeguard model and program integrity
Consequences for core member:	Sense of belonging Self-esteem, hope and motivation Trust in others	Engagement Improved life-skills and self-regulation Improved self-efficacy	Risk awareness Offence free life	Effective circle
Consequences for society:	No more victims Public safety			

- Circles UK DVD

Not without conditions

- **Core member**
 - Mid to high risk
 - No more victims
 - Accepts responsibility and accountability
 - Motivation to not reoffend
 - Willing to share information about offence and risk factors with volunteers
 - Treatment & relapse prevention plan
 - Mandated supervision (e.g. supervision order)
- **Volunteers**
 - Selection, training, coaching,
 - Material support
 - Prevent citizens turning into pro's
- **Professionals**
 - Present and supportive
 - Use power if necessary

Circles are values based

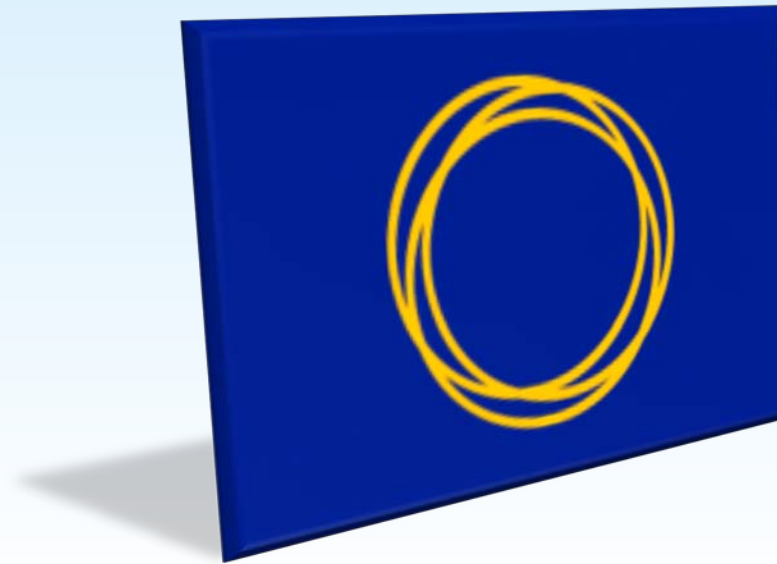
- “The first Canadian Circle was rooted in deeply felt beliefs about humanity and compassion of a religious community: because we want no more victims and because no one is disposable.”
 - Circles European Handbook
- “Circles are *'deliveries systems of resilience'* for offenders and communities who are both trying to put the pieces together again. As circles of unconditional, tough love we can make an incredible impact in restoring wholeness right where we live.”
 - Harry Nigh, circles founder

Circles are science-based

- Four outcome studies report comparisons in the sexual re-offense rate of COSA Core Members versus control subjects :
 - Wilson, McWhinnie, Picheca, Prinzo, & Cortoni, 2007;
 - < 70%
 - Wilson, Cortoni, & McWhinnie, 2009;
 - < 83% (p.=055)
 - Bates, Williams, Wilson, and Wilson, 2013;
 - < 75%
 - Duwe, 2013;
 - < 40%

II

Circles4EU



Circles are spreading

- Started:
 - Canada
 - USA
 - United Kingdom
 - Netherlands
 - Belgium
 - New Zealand
- Preparing:
 - Latvia
 - Spain (Catalonia)
 - Bulgaria
- Orienting:
 - France
 - Ireland
 - Hungary

The European partners



The European partners

Netherlands:

- Avans University / Circles NL (lead partner)
- Dutch Probation / Circles NL
- Tilburg University
- CEP

England & Wales:

- Circles UK
- Nottingham University

Belgium:

- Justice House

Catalonia:

- PGDC
- University of Barcelona / GEAV
- Caixa Foundation

Bulgaria:

- IGA

Latvia:

- Latvian Probation Service
- Latvian Prison Service
- University of Latvia (Riga)

Hungary:

- Ministry of Justice (Probation Services)

Ireland:

- Ireland Probation

France:

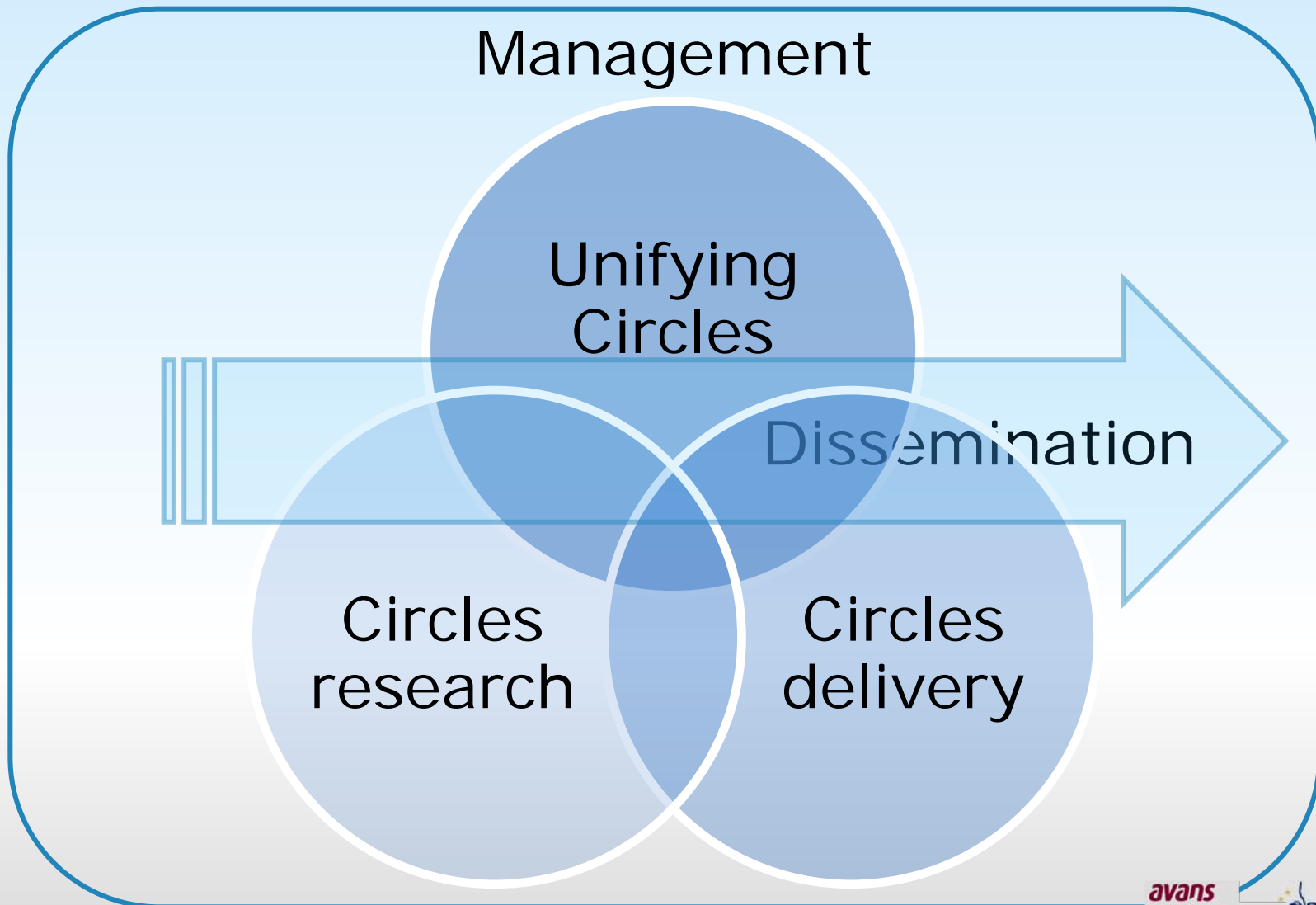
- ERIOS

Project rationale

- Both values and science support our intentions to spread the use of the circles model in Europe as a humane and effective approach.
- Circles4EU makes our intentions concrete through management, support and mutual learning
- Circles are vulnerable: Circles4EU chooses a careful approach
- Circles4EU is based on our experiences in the Circles Together for Safety project
 - UK, Netherlands, Belgium (2009-2011)
 - COSA European Handbook

5 workstreams

January 2013 – December 2014



Workstream 1: Unifying Circles

- ***Who are we, what binds us, what are our common goals and standards?***
- Focus on the most essential elements of COSA, its principles, values, standards and processes.
- Cohesion: CEP as natural workstream leader.
- Objectives:
 - 1. Establishment of a network for training, guidance, support and accountability ✓
 - 2. Defining, unifying and sharing the Circles model: principles, values, standards and processes ✓
 - 3. Strengthening the national context for the Circles model >>

Major **outcomes** and deliverables workstream 1

- Circles EU Network
- Circles EU International volunteer group
- First and Second European Circles Conference
- Preparing national Circles context in orienting countries
- Register of Experts
- Circles EU Website
- *Circles EU Definitions and Standards*
 - *Model integrity → research based*
- Updated Circles EU Handbook 2014
 - *Best practices EU-wide → research based*

Workstream 2: Circles implementation & deliverance

- ***Circles4EU Network supports Circles Projects in Bulgaria, Latvia and Catalonia:***
 - Local recruiting, selection, qualification of circles coordinators ✓
 - Training of circles managers and volunteers ✓
 - Implementation plans and national circles handbooks ✓
 - Sustaining program integrity >>
 - Getting longer term funding >>
 - Orienting countries, ***France, Hungary and Ireland*** will 'look over the shoulder' of the starting countries during study visits / seminars >>
 - Go – No Go criteria
- Leader: Circles UK, working together with Circles NL

Major **outcomes** and deliverables workstream 2

- Circles EU Network support for national Circles projects
- National Circles projects:
 - Kick-Off seminars
 - Qualified National Circles-managers, Circle coordinators , volunteers and core-members
 - Start and 1 year operation of 3 Circles in Latvia, Catalonia and Bulgaria
- National Implementation Plans, Circle Handbooks, Training Manuals
- Circles4EU Auditing Standards & Materials
- Audit Reports (6)
- Study visit reports of orienting countries (18)

Workstream 3:

Circles research

- ***Deepening and sharing our knowledge of COSA.***
- ***Structural implementation/funding needs more factual arguments on top of values.***
- Double focus:
 - Workstream 3 'serves and protects' the two other workstreams >>
 - Workstream 3 combines current research and opens new possibilities:
 - effectiveness
 - model of change
 - new target groups
 - costs and benefits
 - impact on volunteers and society
 - Leaders: Universities Avans / Nottingham / Tilburg
 - Circles4EU research group ✓

Major **outcomes** and deliverables workstream 3

- **Circles research group**
- **Action research for Governance Code and for Definitions and Standards**
- **Qualitative research for Circles best practices**
- Process studies starting and partner countries
- National Circles Adoption Plans orienting partners
- Shared future research agenda
- 4 EU research applications
- Web-based Circles database and research section
- Circle volunteers and co-ordinators best practices
- Circles EU Future Strategies Report
- *European Circles Handbook 2.0*

Circles stretching the probation paradigm

Honoring the knowledge base:

- Circles focus on risks, needs and responsivity
- Circles promote desistance
 - Human & social capital, motivation, narrative identity

Opening new territories:

- Circles / citizen initiatives blur the borderline between rehabilitation and natural recovery:
 - Circles show similar results as treatment
 - Results are not a natural process because of a methodical approach
- Circles / citizen initiatives also blur the borderline between evidence-informed and morally-inspired 'practice'

- **THANK YOU !**
- **b.o.vogelvang@avans.nl**
- **European COSA Handbook:**
 - free download: www.cosa-nederland.nl
 - or sign in on the list at the entrance
- **Come to the First European Circles Conference:
October 28, Den Bosch, The Netherlands**



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