



Offending Behaviour Programmes  
Accreditation Panel  
*Ministry of Security and Justice*

# The Accreditation of Behavioural Programmes

Findings International Expert  
Meeting, November 2008,  
The Hague, Netherlands



## Participating panels in 2008

Finland

Sweden

Norway

Denmark

Scotland

England / Wales

Canada

The Netherlands



# Scope of assessment up to 2008

## **Behavioural programmes**

- Delivered in prison and community
- Targeting generic and or specific risk factors
- Participants: minor and or adults offenders

## **Sites**

- Delivery of programmes ("site accreditation")

## **Added value**

- Promoting evidence-based services
- Discouraging programs which are not based on sound scientific knowledge or lead to results not relevant for the justice system



# Evaluation of accredited programmes

Many accredited programmes don't come back for re-accreditation!

- Evaluating is considered expensive and time consuming
- There are ethical and methodological discussions



## Proximity to the field

Independence and impartial accreditation

How to combine impartiality with advice and giving guidance?



# Should the scope of accreditation be widened?

E.g.:

- Activities to invest in social capital offenders
- Interventions to reach intermediate goals or stepping stones
- More emphasis on other parts of systems (like: staff training, diagnostic instruments)



## Room for innovation

- How to combine the requirements of evidence with the need for renewal of services?