The Accreditation of Behavioural Programmes

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?