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Community Service and COVID-19

Sharing experiences from the Flemish
Probation Service

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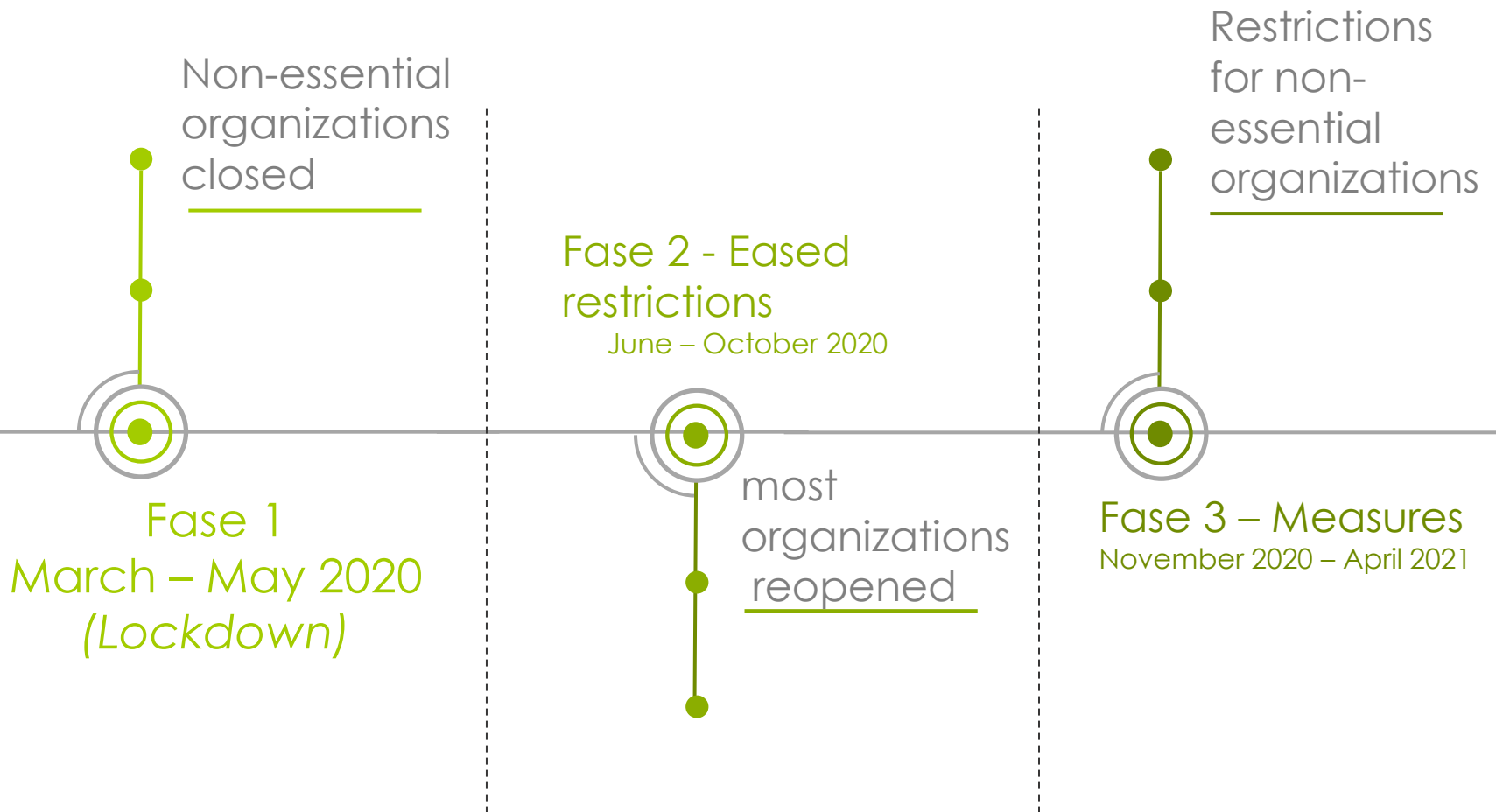
Agenda

- ▶ Community service in the Flemish probation Service
- ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Initiatives
- ▶ Conclusion

Community Service

- ▶ Flemish Probation Service (FPS) : 1 of 3 probation services in Belgium (since state reform 2015)
- ▶ Staff : 750 staff members (+200 expected increase)
- ▶ Total caseload FPS : about 31,000 new cases / year
Caseload community service : about 4,500 new cases /year

Timeline



Initiatives

▶ **Creating new partnerships**

Local level – Flemish level - Opportunities connected to COVID-19 - Active role of the Minister of Justice's office – Financing temporary projects or existing partnerships

▶ **Staff increase**

Probation officers - Policy officer – Local network specialists

▶ **Consult with judicial authorities**

Request to make maximum use of the possibility to extend the execution time – frequent concertation

▶ **Dynamic organization of the community service**

Creating mobile teams consisting of offenders and a supervisor

CONCLUSION : continuous efforts

- ▶ Searching new partnerships: thinking out of the box
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation



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Questions?