



Needs and resources assessment in Norwegian corrections The BRIK - tool

CEP-workshop 30 November 2022

Directorate of Correctional Service Norway Kristin Tandberg
Senior adviser



Two theoretical approaches



- What works -Factors increasing the risk of re-offending What characterises those who reoffend?
- Desistance theory —
 Factors reducing the risk of re-offending
 What characterises those who do not reoffend?



What Works? - RNR



Risk – intensity of the intervention

Need – contents of the intervention

Responsivity – form of the intervention

Criminogenic factors
Structured activities
Programs (cognitive behavioural)

Assessment tools based on RNR: LSI-R in Canada, OASys in England & Wales



Criticism of What works-tools



- Needs are redefined as dynamic risks
- Needs are being quantified
- Decisions during sentence are based on an addition of all scores
- Only evidence-based criminogenic needs addressed
- Aggregated statistics are prioritised over individual differences
- Little weight on the relationship between assessor and assessed
- The offender's own opinions are largely ignored
 - -- De-individualisation --



Desistance approach



To abstain from offending is:

- usually a slow and unstable individual process
- governed by the offender's own wish to stop committing crimes.
- Practical barriers include money, work, education, addiction, accomodation etc. and must be adressed
- Strong points must be inventoried and put to use



Features of BRIK



- Electronic tool
- BRIK provides a guide for the conversation
- For now, only sentenced offenders
- Criminogenic factors
- Other factors the individual deems to be relevant for his or her criminal behaviour
- Resources, compentence, skills, strenghts
- Possibilities for positive contributions



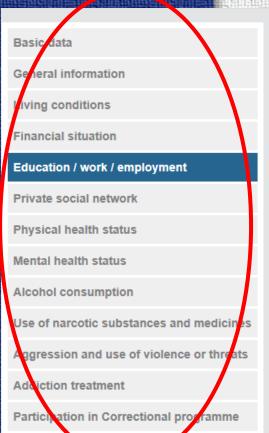
Features of BRIK



- Assessment done together with the offender, facing the same screen
- The offenders' vision of their future is included
- Stimulates feeling of procedural justice
- Stimulates personal relationships, and contributes to dynamic security
- No quantitative scoring reduces labelling effects
- Results function as a guide for further case management



Some screenshots



Education / work / employment	Reservation
What is the convicted person's highest level of completed education?*	
	~
Describe highest level of completed education	
Does he/she wish to pursue further education?*	
(in Yes)	
O No	
O Declines to respond	
Specify	

Basic data	Does the convicted person have previous work e	experience?*				
General information	O Yes					
Living conditions	○ No					
Financial situation	O Declines to respond					
Education / work / employment	Has the convicted person previously been unem	ployed for extended periods?* 🕣				
Private social network	O Yes					
Physical health status	O No O Declines to respond	 ○ No ○ Declines to respond 				
Mental health status	Is there anything that hinders the convicted person's ability to work?* ②					
Alcohol consumption	○ Yes					
Use of narcotic substances and medicines	No Declines to respond					
Aggression and use of violence or threats	Other expertise/skills* 1					
Addiction treatment						
Participation in Correctional programme						
Resorative practices	Any hobbies/interests* 3					
Victim of aggression and use of violence						
Self-assessment						
General impression of assessment	What does the convicted person consider to be h	his/her strengths (*)				
		Hjelp				
		Describe the convicted person's views				
		of his/her own strengths/skills. These				
	Does the convicted person have any reading/wri should be given attention?*	can be developed and maintained during execution of the sentence.	difficulties that			
	O Yes Needs and resources a	assessment tool - Directorate of Correction	al Service Norway			

Basic data	Self-assessment Reservation
General information	
Living conditions	What does the convicted person want his/her future to look like?* 2
Financial situation	
Education / work / employment	
Private social network	What specific goals does this include?* ②
Physical health status	
Mental health status	
Alcohol consumption	How has the convicted person thought to achieve these?* ②
Use of narcotic substances and medicines	
Aggression and use of violence or threats	
Addiction treatment	What expectations does the convicted person have about execution of the sentence?
Participation in Correctional programme	
Resorative practices	
Victim of aggression and use of violence	What activities does the convicted person want to participate in during execution of the sentence?* 3
Self-assessment	What activities does the convicted person want to participate in during execution of the sentence:
General impression of assessment	
	In what way does the convicted person believe that this period can be used to achieve his/her goals?* 3

Needs and resources assessment tool - Directorate of Correctional Service Norway



Some screenshots

Private social network

Physical health status

Mental health status

Alcohol consumption

Use of narcotic substances and medicines

Aggression and use of violence or threats

Addiction treatment

Participation in Correctional programme

Resorative practices

Victim of aggression and use of violence

Self-assessment

General impression of assessment

C = 1 = 1			
General	impres	ssion of	assessment

Own comm	nents from the con ess ment).	victed person (inc	luding other red	quirements and	requests that are	not covered
9						
Assessor's	s own comments	9				

Needs and resources assessment tool - Directorate of Correction

☑ Lagre og fullfør



Pros and cons

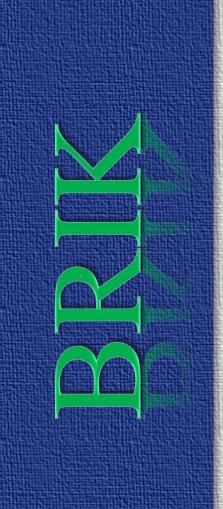




- Both assessors and assessed are very satisfied
- Useful as a tool for follow-up case-management
- Establishes a good relationship and mutual trust
- Pleased with being asked about positive factors
- Appreciate the possibilities for commenting
- May create expectations that cannot be met
- Takes time
- Participation is voluntary → refusals



Percentage of refusals



Year	Offered	Consent	Refusal	% Refusal
2018	2,660	1,892	768	29 %
2019	2,837	1,906	931	33 %
2020	2,301	1,562	739	32 %
2021	3,291	2,118	1,173	36 %



Reasons for refusals



In percentages

Did not get enough information	4
Reluctant to give more information than	
necessary	10
Afraid CSN will share information	4
Afraid information will be used against me	10
Not worth my time	6
Doubt that it is useful for me	40
Did some form of assessment before	26



Conclusions for offenders



- The need to convince of the use of participating – but without applying pressure
- Remove some misunderstandings
- Better communication on contents and use
- Better internal communication when placed in a different unit
- Avoid having to answer the same question twice



Suggestions for improvement - staff



Practicalities

- Drop the shared screen
- Use of «you» in questions instead of «the offender»
- Simplify navigation through the instrument
- Make it easier to «jump» from one subject to another



Suggestions for improvement - staff



Process

- A more structured selection of candidates
- Realistic production quota
- A clearer description of the process during training
- A clearer description of roles (assessor case manager)
- A more structured exchange of information with partners



Further developments



- A version has been developed specifically for 15 – 24 year olds which will probably be launched in 2023
 - A new sentence planning instrument will be developed to be used as an extension to BRIK
- The Directorate has requested a change in legislation making it possible to use BRIK for persons on remand. The answer is pending.





Thank you for your attention!

kristin.tandberg@kriminalomsorg.no