

Using risk and needs assessment tools in Probation

Dutch experiences

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Topics

- **Some figures**
- **Risk and needs assessment instrument**
- **Implementation**
- **Challenges for professional and organisation**
- **Lessons learned**



Risk and Needs Assessment instrument

2004: RISc

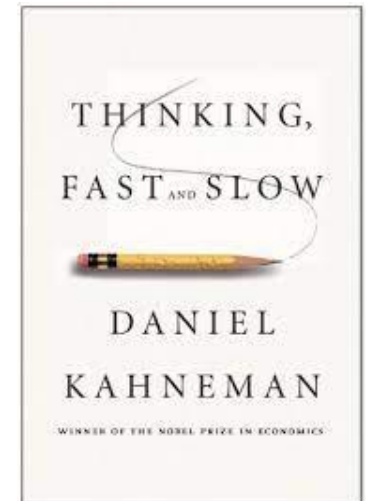
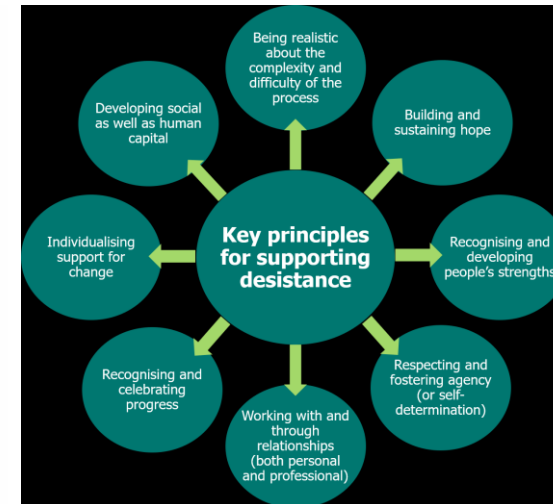
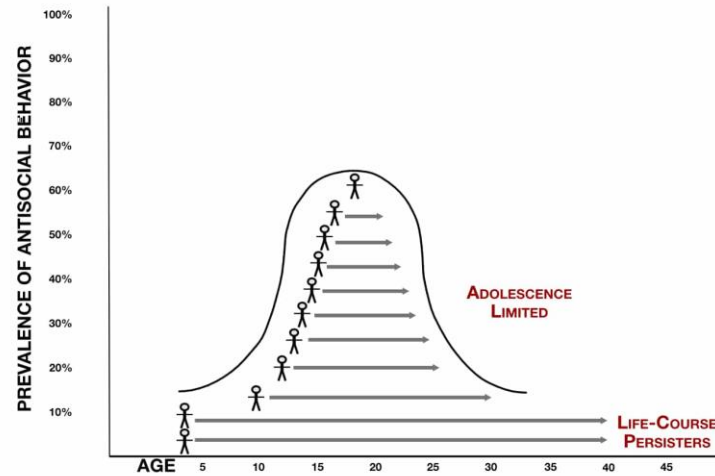
- Implementation RNR-model in the Netherlands
- Based on OASys
- Various adjustments



2018: RISC

- Structured decision support
- Combination of instruments
 - Actuarial
 - Structured professional judgement
- Risk factors and protective factors
- Integrated advisory report

Theoretical foundation



RISC	
Mandatory	OxRec
	Actual offence and criminal history
	Dynamic criminogenic needs (protective factors)
Optional	
Additional risk assessments	Static – Stable – Acute (sex offences)
	B-SAFER (domestic violence)
	VERA-2R (violent extremism)
Responsivity	SCIL (mild intellectual impairment)
	Other responsivity issues
Input for risk management	Victim awareness

- Housing
- Work / school / day care
- Finance
- Relationship partner / family
- Social network
- Addiction
- Psychosocial functioning
- attitude

1. Gather information

- case files
- other professionals
- client
- context client

2. Risk and needs assessment

- RISC (mandatory components)
- if necessary: additional components

3. Integral picture

- SPJ risk (recidivism, harm)
- correlation criminogenic and protective factors
- responsibility

Leading questions

- risk management
- support desistance

4. Support decision making about:

Advice

- Feasibility specific sanction
- Special conditions (e.g. treatment, interventions)
- Electronic monitoring

Supervision plan

- control, signalling
- Supervision goals
- Treatment, interventions, services, coaching

RISC in probation practice

Pre-trial / pre-sentence:

- Advice conditional suspension from pretrial detention
- Advice penal decision making

Post-sentence:

- Advice conditional release from prison or forensic hospital
- Case management plan supervision
- (Not for community service)



Implementation (1)

Introduction first version RISC (2004)

- Probation officers from all regions involved in development process
- 3 day training, additional training for expert users
- On-the-job support by expert users
- National project team supports expert users

Implementation (2)

Introduction RISC (2018)

- 2,5 days training voor probation officers and management
- Inform partner organisations
- Continuing support: why and how
- RISC integrated in basic training advise and supervision

Primary focus on **why** and scientific background, secondary on instrument

- Decision biases and added value of structured decision-making
- Theoretical basis for probation work: RNR, Desistance theory
- Structured professional judgement

Challenges (1)

Structured decision support

- It is not only about risks, needs are just as important
- It is not about fill-in-the-blanks or working toward a desired outcome
- Professional expertise is the foundation
- Experienced professionals think they can do without the instrument

Challenges (2)

- With the client (as far as possible)
- Underpinning, making explicit
- Quality of information (client, files, victims, professional / informal network)
- Consistency, e.g. assessment psychosocial functioning
- tension between output and quality

Lessons learned

- Goal of risk and needs assessment: risk management and support desistance
- Focus on decision support instead of instrument
- Train probation officers in knowledge underlying the instrument
- Continued focus on proper use
- Importance of usability (e.g. ICT): include users in development proces
- Balance between completeness and workability

Let's stay in touch!



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