Prison Service in Poland

Working with convicted domestic violence perpetrators

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Prison service in Poland

• 155 penitentiary units
• Approximately 75 000 inmates are in prisons in Poland
• We offer learning system (primary, junior high, high school, technical school) and opportunity to study at the university
• We offer addiction therapy (alcohol, drug) in therapeutic system for all inmates who need it
• We offer therapy for sexual abuser
• We offer opportunity to participate in many re-adaptation programs including corrective and educational programs for violence perpetrators
Art. 207 penal code

• § 1. Whoever abusing physically or psychologically to the closest person or another person being in a permanent or temporary state of dependence on the perpetrator either to a child or a person who is due to her/his mental or physical condition, shall be punished by imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years.

• § 2. If the act specified in § 1 is connect with a particular cruelty, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment from 1 to 10 years.

• § 3. If the result of act specified in § 1 or 2 is a suicide attempt of the abused person, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment from 2 to 12 years.
Some data facts...

- In all prisons and detention centers are total 7,715 persons sentenced of art. 207.
  (6,616 convicted and 1,099 remanded in custody) (Dec 31st, 2014).
- This value indicates about 10% of the all convicts population in Poland.
- The average sentence of art. 207 convicts staying in prisons is approximately 16 months.
- 90% of convicted violence perpetrators are addicted.
- Many of them have a lot of problems as a result of addiction, violence and committed crimes.
The initial diagnosis of the basic problems of convicts

Other problems (family, legal issues..)

Violence

Addiction

Where should we start first?
THE DIRECTIONS TO WORK WITH VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS IN POLISH PRISON

NOT ADDICTED

ADDICTED

THERAPY IN THE THERAPEUTIC PRISON WARD
THE DIRECTIONS TO WORK WITH VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS IN POLISH PRISON

NOT ADDICTED

ADDICTED

THERAPY IN THE THERAPEUTIC PRISON WARD

THE TIME OF THE SENTENCE IS **SUFFICIENT** FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS

CONSENT OF THE INMATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM

FINAL ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM FOR PERPETRATORS IN INMATES’ FILES
THE DIRECTIONS TO WORK WITH VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS IN POLISH PRISON

- **NOT ADDICTED**
  - THE TIME OF THE SENTENCE IS **TOO SHORT** FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS

- **ADDICTED**
  - THERAPY IN THE THERAPEUTIC PRISON WARD
    - THE TIME OF THE SENTENCE IS **SUFFICIENT** FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS
      - LACK OF CONSENT OF THE INMATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM
      - CONSENT OF THE INMATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM
        - FINAL ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM FOR PERPETRATORS IN INMATES’ FILES
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NOT ADDICTED

THE TIME OF THE SENTENCE IS TOO SHORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS

OPINION FOR THE COURT, THAT IF THE INMATE GET THE PAROLE HE /SHE SHOULD ALSO GET AN OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR PERPETRATORS RUNNING OUTSIDE THE PRISON. THE OPINION INCLUDES THE ADDRESSES OF THE NEAREST PLACES WHERE SUCH PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED

ADDICTED

THERAPY IN THE THERAPEUTIC PRISON WARD

THE TIME OF THE SENTENCE IS SUFFICIENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS

LACK OF CONSENT OF THE INMATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM

CONSENT OF THE INMATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM

FINAL ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM FOR PERPETRATORS IN INMATES’ FILES
Program offer for the sentenced violence perpetrators

• Duluth program (time: 3-6 months).
• ART. (Aggression Replacement Training) (up to 1 month).
• Various individual programs about preventing violence, created by the prison officers (av. 1-3 months).
• Addiction therapy as part of comprehensive treatment of violence perpetrators (therapy lasts 3 or 6 months).
• Programs within the addiction therapy.
• Program „Stop violence - second chance” (3 months).
“Stop Violence - Second Chance”

- Created under the Norway Grants by the specialists working in the area of preventing violence.
- New way of helping violence perpetrators.
- Modern, based on non-violent communication.
- No need to call problem or people - domestic violence perpetrators.
- Based on working on resources of the inmates.
- Based on motivational interviewing.
- Based on working on a targets given by the inmates.
- Short-term (3 months) focused on the problem of violence.
- Adapted to the prison system (low threshold).
- Adjusted to inmates with low education, mental disabled, low skills.
Some numbers...

- Over 4,600 inmates participate in correctional education program annually (300 females and 4,300 males).
- Over 5,400 inmates participate in addiction therapy which also includes intervention for violence perpetrators.

- This gives a total of about 10,000 people who have completed at least one intervention regarding the prevention of violence.
Statistics:
The number of prisoners participating in interventions about the prevention of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Special programs for the perpetrators</th>
<th>Addiction therapy with the elements of violence prevention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3,609</td>
<td>4,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td>4,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,067</td>
<td>5,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>5,467</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4,681</td>
<td>5,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 (15 Nov)</td>
<td>5,250</td>
<td>5,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooperation...

• Prison Service programs’ are addressed to all inmates and include various forms of short- and long-term interventions, focusing on modification of behaviour, reactions, and changes in thinking.

• The effects of such programs are addressed to one element of the family structure – perpetrator.

• An effective system of prevention of domestic violence should include work with the families of isolated people and that is a challenge for the all services involved in the implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Poland.

• The essence of this is the assumption that the some of violence perpetrators who finally leave the prison, don’t want to change their thinking and behaviour and thus may still show violent behaviour towards theirs families after release.
Cooperation...

• Some people have been designated (from the personnel trained in the programs for violence perpetrators), whose job is to work and cooperate with local multi-disciplinary teams to prevent domestic violence outside the prison.

• The duty of such persons is providing information's about the perpetrators, located currently in the penitentiary unit, to organize better intervention to the rest of the family. Thus interventions for the victim and for the perpetrator may be based on more complete data.

• The following figure shows schematically the penitentiary units designated to work with multi-disciplinary teams (currently 139 units).
Penitentiary unit cooperating with the local interdisciplinary teams in Poland
Summary

• Prison shouldn’t be the place only for staying and waiting for the parole or end of the sentence.
• Time frame of all sentences can be designed for working with the inmates, to induce their changes.
• Program offer must be adjusted to the prison system and different skills of the inmates.
• Working with the violence perpetrators should have the correct order (addiction – violence – other problems).
• Offered help should be similar to the external system of helping violence perpetrators.
• Prison staff should work with the local system of prevention of violence – located outside the prison.
• People leaving the prison must know that they should continue working on modifying their violent behavior.
Thank you for your attention

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