The Anorw Police and Emergency Services is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2019 here submitting to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime a summary of good practices on reducing reoffending as required
Reference: CU 2022/265(B)/DTA/CPCJS
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“A Nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but it’s lowest ones”
Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom

Reducing reoffending was one of the main themes at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including through deliberations among Member States on the topic. The commitment to reduce reoffending is firmly reflected in the outcome document of the Congress, the Kyoto Declaration.

In this sense we can congratulate Austria Correctional System for its successful re-socialization programmes prioritizing offenders rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Highlighting the best practices we found two projects to share with significant rates in reducing reoffending:

Beside the effective Psychiatric programmes implemented during the incarceration time to reduce recidivism under offenders (a) there is NEUSTART (b) an after-care organization launched online in 2001 but with Dora Flor / Luigi Coretti
roots back in 1957 when the probation services started to be implemented in Austria.

(a) **ASTEN Therapeutic Center**

The outstation Therapeutic Center Asten located in Upper Austria accommodate 170 prisoners including male and female mentally disturbed lawbreakers who committed a crime under the influence of a state of mind excluding sanity, forensic prisoners pursuant to Section 21 (1) and (2) from the Austrian Criminal Code.

Placement requires advanced reduction of the danger they pose and which was relevant for such placement. The emphasis of the patient-centred treatment and supporting programme is placed upon reaching a stable condition so that prisoners must not be feared to again commit any crimes. Treatment is administered according to the principles and recognised methods of psychiatry, psychology and pedagogics.

Apart from reducing danger - the treatment is aimed at (re-) gaining socially stabilising competences for practical life, in order to achieve release on probation, because a “crime-less life management” is considered possible. To achieve this objective, the multi-professional teams at the Therapeutic Centre Asten (doctors, caregivers, psychologists, social workers and special therapeutic pedagogues promoting understanding of disease and interpersonal skills, promoting active cooperation concerning (medication) treatment, utilising personal resources and on progressing work.

**THERAPEUTIC CENTRE ASTEN (TZA), OUTPOST OF THE PRISON LINZ**
4481 Asten, Technologiestrasse 5, Tel. 07224 / 661607900

>> For a more accurate estimation of the risk of reoffending and better treatment for the prisoners, with a view to preventing relapse please check the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice.
One (of the essential pillars of aftercare of released prisoners is constituted by the organisation NEUSTART supported by the Austrian Ministry of Justice. an organisation that offers our society help and solutions in coping with the problems of criminality and its consequences.

In principle, they focus on dealing with the causes for criminality instead of deterrence. Regarding concrete offers, this means: De-escalation and constructive regulation of conflicts instead of convictions and punishments; prevention for juveniles and children; quick help for victims; attendance to and re-integration of offenders into society.

Essential element for social re-integration after release from prison is constituted by a well-planned and supervised transition from detention into life in freedom.

In the most favourable case a prisoners correctional implementation plan during release procedures culminates in a plan of re-integration plan during release procedures culminates in a plan of re-integration, the release is well prepared by suitable relaxed regime detention and any necessary or expedient aftercare is planned to follow the custodial sanctions or measures of involuntary forensic placement.

Probationary services, assistance to released prisoners, electronically monitored home detention, offence resolution and community work.

Moreover, NEUSTART is also involved in trial support for victims and in crime prevention. During assistance for released prisoners, it is mainly support that is being offered.

Dora Flor/Luigi Coretti
All prisoners are informed by Social Services that for the preparation of their release they may avail themselves of the support provided by staff members of the organization. Upon request by prisoners, personal contacts are already established during detention.

In addition to support in social matters, such as job search and search for accommodation, supporting prisoners in resolving issues pertaining to social insurance laws and of debt settlement, preparing solution strategies to reduce the risk of personal recidivism constitutes an important part of counselling.

Prisoners, who have not been ordered by the court to receive probationary service, can either use the offer of prison releasee support or seek probationary service on a voluntary basis. Over and above the activities of the organisation NEUSTART, contacts are mostly arranged by professional services in prisons to various organisations, such as addiction help centres, male counselling facilities or other institutions of socially supportive networks are facilitated. Quite a large number of such institutions have their own consulting hours inside prisons and are visiting prisoners. For the purpose of aftercare of psychically conspicuous prisoners in forensic placement, the Ministry of Justice has stricken partnerships with forensic outpatient stations of some psychiatric hospitals. Here, court orders during release on probation of forensic prisoners can be implemented, such as continuation of psychotherapeutic outpatient treatment and monitoring of medication treatments.

One part of their mission statement is the self-conception as service provider aiming to give inmates support and help in developing personal goals and finding solutions for a constructive crisis management in conflict situations.

This is achieved in a respectful and professional manner through the services we offer. Helping clients to handle their – often
traumatically experienced – past, so that they can cope with the present, find a way out of their isolation and develop a positive perspective on the future.

The principal goal has to be the successful integration of both victim and offender. At the same time, setting in with prevention measures at the social origin of criminality by sensitising juveniles. If is possible to be able to achieve both, then will not only help our clients but also our customers (the executive, the justice and the custodial treatment) as well as the whole society.

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- treat – the Past
- manage – the Present
- secure – the Future