



Confederation of European  
Probation




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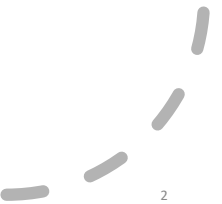
**"Strategies to Reduce Reoffending: The Outcome  
of Workshop 2 of the 14th Congress on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice".**

**Discussion and Questions**



**My Aims**

- 
- To highlight compelling messages from the three presentations
- To help identify supports, challenges and further areas for consideration in moving forward successfully as a global community in reducing reoffending



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## The Three Presentations – key messages

- **Reducing Reoffending: Kyoto Congress Workshop and Future Developments - Kayo Ishihara**
  - Practice, drawn from around the world, to meet complex needs
  - Individualised, community-orientated, multi-partner – the “Rehabilitative Environment”
  - Model strategies, communication, stakeholder and public awareness
- **The Kyoto Crime Congress and a Decade of Action – Tom Schmid**
  - Compelling case for change – including increased use of “SMART” community-based orders
  - A convincing narrative based on the universal platform of the SDGs
- **Promoting the Implementation of Rehabilitative Environments in the ASEAN Region – Professor Ayaka Takai**
  - Importance of Technical Assistance, a step-by-step approach
  - Jurisdictions differ in need, so do practices (RNR, strength based...)
  - Significance of Responsivity

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## Brief Agenda

- Introductory remarks - aspects of global context
- The CEP
- The Three Presentations
- Observations on the Presentations
- Moving forward globally – Gaps, Challenges, Conclusions
- Questions



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## Introductory Remarks



- 30 years ago: UNAFEI led formulation of the Tokyo Rules
  - hugely important landmark in the development of community based (alternative – or main – or SMART) sentences –
- In 2021 UNAFEI led, at the Kyoto Congress – Workshop 2
  - brought together and highlighted leading examples, from around the world, of the most forward-thinking and evidence-based practice to reduce reoffending in our field –
- Challenge: How do we mainstream (continually evolving): Principles, Policy and Practice?
- ✓ ... Narrative and the SDGs, Model Strategies, a Decade of Action



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...in the intervening 30 years there have been– Many Positive Developments we can continue to draw on in future, including (to name just a few) ...

Huge increase in our evidence base – and understanding of how to continue to expand the evidence base

- Outcome and process research, stakeholder reaction, service user views (and co-production)
- Practice development – focus individuals and the environment
- Rehabilitation influenced especially by relationships ... and importance of rehabilitative environments

Role of International Organisations

- United Nations, Council of Europe – Guidance
- UN: Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, Beijing Rules (commitment to diversity)
- CoE: Electronic Monitoring, Prison & Probation Staff Recruitment and Training
- SDGs – a unifying framework and force for good and for action

Expansion of international collaboration – regional and global

- World Congress on Probation - hosted in London (2013), LA, Tokyo, Sydney, and forthcoming Ottawa (2022)
- Collaboration continued through the pandemic (although without the richness of face-to-face contact)
- Growing policy and practice exchange, mutual development, technical assistance

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## Whilst some developments (clearly) not so good

Rising prison populations

Especially, and perhaps even more surprisingly, for women.

(Positive) expansion in use of community sentences

• ... but also net-widening and “mass supervision”.

Worrying trends in crime

...Some gaps and questions...

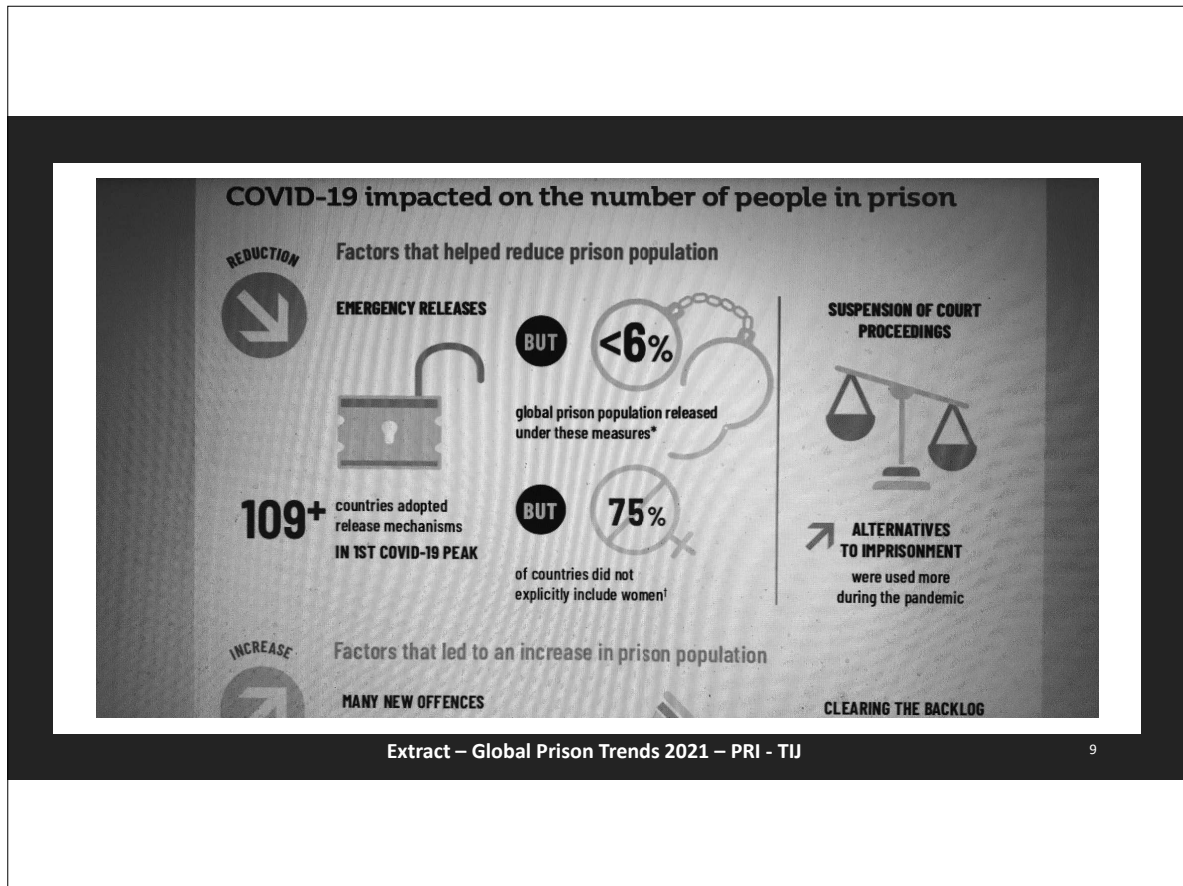
• ... including data (what is provided, and impact), compelling narratives

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## The global prison population continues to rise



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**Confederation of European Probation**  
 Founded 1981  
 60 Member organisations across 40 countries  
 Probation agencies, Universities, NGOs, individuals, and more -  
 Affiliate organisations around the world

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### *Vision for Europe*

*“To contribute to safer communities by rehabilitating and reintegrating offenders and providing the best possible interventions to reduce offending and the impact of crime.”*

CEP ... promotes pan-European cooperation including by conferences, ...reports ...partnering research, jurisdiction reports, digital newsletter, website; CEP stimulates exchange of ideas on probation in Europe – and contributes enthusiastically to the World Congress on Probation!

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Presentation 1  
Reducing  
Reoffending:  
Kyoto Congress  
Workshop and  
Future  
Developments –  
Kayo Ishihara

- **Keynote Speech: Professor Fergus McNeill**
- **Panel I:** Creating Rehabilitative Prison Environments
- **Panel II:** Community-Based Approaches that Support Desistance
- **Panel III:** Taking a Multifaceted Approach to Ensure Continuous Support and Services for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders

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Presentation 1  
Reducing  
Reoffending:  
Kyoto Congress  
Workshop and  
Future  
Developments –  
Kayo Ishihara

**Conclusions**

- Reducing reoffending is critical for inclusive societies - SDGs
- Recommendations for Future – including
  - Rehabilitative environments (Prisons – and community)
  - Resources and realism!
  - Public Awareness and Volunteers
  - Diversity, gender-focused, restorative
  - Statistics, causes, solutions, evidence

**Model strategies to reduce reoffending**

- The Key: Overarching approach, rehabilitative environments throughout, continuity of interventions and support, multi-stakeholder and community-based approach

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Presentation  
1  
Observations

- The practices and conclusions regarding ways forward (and developing rehabilitative environments and supporting desistance in particular), require professionals and communities, in all its facets, to work together in a variety of complex, evolving and mutually understood ways:

• *“Desistance – a natural process which is bigger than professional practice ... But can be supported by policy and practice”\**

- What is or are the role(s) of prison and probation services in facilitating this complex interaction?

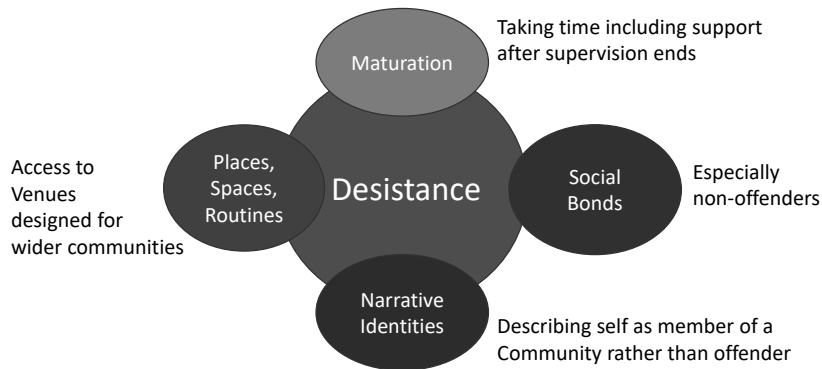
✓ A case for convincing narrative backed by data

✓ Policy influence and practice collaboration

✓ *“Supervision as Mediation”\**      \* (McNeill 2020)

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## The Desistance Paradigm – Understanding desistance (and implications for policy and practice)



***“Desistance – A natural process which is bigger than professional practice  
... but can be supported by policy and practice”***

Quotation and illustration adapted from Fergus McNeill - “Supervision as Mediation” - On-line ICPA Learning Academy, Nov. 2020.

Presentation 2 –  
The Kyoto Crime  
Congress and a  
Decade of Action  
to 2030 – Tom  
Schmid

*The Sustainable Development Goals are an  
unprecedented platform to advocate for change in  
the way we – as a global community – view,  
interact with and support offenders on their paths  
towards desistance from crime*

*It’s up to us to frame the narrative and drive change.*

### *Sustainable development*

-a three-dimensional operational framework of the  
United Nations that pursues:

- i. Economic development
- ii. Social development
- iii. Environmental development



Presentation 2  
– The Kyoto  
Crime Congress  
and a Decade of  
Action to 2030

**Decade of Action –**  
Model Strategies ,  
Development Agenda ,  
Adoption of 2030 Agenda

*Imprisonment as a less desirable alternative to community sentences*

- **POINT 4:** Non-custodial measures are the “smarter option” and enhance public safety
- **POINT 6:** “Whole of society” approach to reducing reoffending (development led)
- **POINT 7:** Government led but community/volunteer driven (“*partnership by design*”)

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Presentation  
2  
Observations

- **The SDGs undoubtedly provide a platform for how we view, interact with and support offenders – and for changing all three.**
- **Reducing Reoffending is critical for inclusive societies - SDGs**
- **The SDGs provide a critical framework for reducing reoffending**
- **Communicating the principles is critical to success...**
- **...as is turning them into action – in the political, public and practice domains**
- **Are there models that demonstrate “interdependency” in practice?**

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## Presentation 2 Observations

**Connecting desistance support and the SDGs in practice: Some examples, but most are mainly prison-based!**

- **CLINK Charity (UK)** - The Clink Restaurant approach includes realistic prison work experience (hospitality, horticulture, sustainability), community mentor support, links with industry employers. Circa 100,000 members of the public have dined in prison-located restaurants (all of which have been voted No. 1 on TripAdvisor), helping to change public perceptions and attitudes towards prisoners and reintegration – 65.6% Reduced Reoffending
- **ICRC - Panama** - Turning a problem into an opportunity in prisons -“EcoSolidos” **The 4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Re-socialise)** 90% waste reused by prisoners, bricks sold, gardens – food grown, and forestation – “Sowing Peace” programme
- A community-based example: **Kenya – Probation and After Care Service:** Community Service. Environmentally and sustainably friendly, SDG supporting, gender-sensitive female-specific, Empowerment projects.
- Is Community Service work a (largely) undeveloped area of potential?

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## Presentation 3

Promoting the  
Implementation of  
Rehabilitative  
Environments in the  
ASEAN Region

Professor TAKAI  
Ayaka

(A) Progressive Development in the ASEAN Region  
... a “step by step” approach... with international support  
... differing jurisdiction needs and priorities  
... and different practice approaches (RNR, GLM)

(B) Four aspects of Rehabilitative Environments

1. Active use of Non-custodial Measures
2. Evidence-based interventions responding to individuals’ specific needs (RNA) (Also Good Lives Model)
3. Continuity of care and support (CARE)  
Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (CARE) Network
4. Multi-stakeholder approach

All aspects make their essential contribution to  
Rehabilitative Environments...

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## Presentation 3 - Observations

- Approaches to developing rehabilitative environments - addressed in the context of Technical Assistance.
- Importance of Responding to need and to difference
- Technical Assistance is a still-developing field - especially in the area of probation work
  - Solving local problems seems to work better than importing “ready-made solutions” (unless there is adequate groundwork to help ensure suitability to context and resources)
  - Policy transfer, policy exchange, or a “partnership”? We all bring something to the table
  - Transfer of principles (of effective practice) and know-how; “*What was transferred ... was knowledge\**”.
  - (Sometimes) a discrepancy between international standards and national priorities
  - To what extent are there global justice “solutions”? When should we think and work regionally (is there a “regional criminology”?) or nationally? What does an appreciation of Decolonialisation offer?
- Inter-regional learning and transfer
  - Mult-directional, e.g., to the West including from Asia. Examples: emphasis on importance of communities, role and value of a strong volunteer movement (VPOs in Japan), the value of Restorative Practices and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution

\*Durnescu, I., Haines, K. (2012). Probation in Romania: Archaeology of a Partnership.  
*British Journal of Criminology* 52(5):889-907

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Moving Forward  
- Gaps and  
Challenges  
Leaving no-one behind  
*“We need to stop just  
pulling people out of  
the river... We need to  
go upstream and find  
out why they’re falling  
in (Desmond Tutu)”*

- Redress balance of custodial and community sentences
- Address use of pre-trial detention, sentence length, parole
- Continue to improve reintegration and desistance support
- Also, attention to vulnerability including mental health, and diversity (individuals and communities) - Responsivity
- Working effectively with challenging offences and offenders
- Attending to staff (number, training) and infrastructure
- Utilize technology as a complement to support desistance
- Improve global and regional statistics, data, knowledge of what is happening on the ground, and evidence
- Continue to improve opportunities to learn from and support each other – globally – and through regional networking
- Embracing principles informed by the the SDGs and approaches including restorative, support desistance, victims and communities
- Do so while responding to (and helping to address) global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and migrations

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## Moving Forward - Conclusions

“We need a  
Declaration of Inter-  
dependance”  
(John Kennedy  
1962)

*The three presentations, and the workshop they report on, distil much of the essence of what needs to be done in the present decade - a roadmap to reduce reoffending:*

Defining principles with universal recognition (which the SDGs inform)

Framing convincing narratives based on data/evidence

Engaging stakeholders and the public in delivering interconnected policy and practice that benefit us all and leave no one behind

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## Questions - 1

Rehabilitative environments and communities require multi-stakeholder understanding and “buy-in”, as does acceptance of least restrictive penalty and proportionality – including use of “SMART” community sentences. Communication matters: What are some of the key messages about our work and the importance of community engagement that we can offer to increase public awareness and stakeholder buy-in? Do the messages differ according to the audience (including prosecutors and judges)?

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## Questions - 2

**Building on the platform of the SDGs, and taking into account economic, social and environmental development, how can we most effectively frame the narrative and drive change for custodial and community-sentenced offenders in ways that empower, support desistance, and involve whole societies (including offenders) in building sustainable and safer communities? Can (the still relatively few) prison-based sustainability or empowerment initiatives be extended to community sentences? Will approaches differ according to factors such as region, jurisdiction stage of development, or wealth?**

**The SDGs provide a platform for how we view, interact with, and support offenders – and for changing all three. Do we have grounds for optimism?**

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## Questions - 3

**a) Does Covid-19 provide an upside - a possibility of “Building Back Better”? If so, how?**

**b) Can evolving technology - used more during the pandemic - be used positively, including to assist rehabilitation?**

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## Questions - 4

**What does a step-by-step approach to technical assistance mean in practice? How are the most useful steps (acceptable to all parties including the recipient jurisdiction) identified and prioritized in a specific country or jurisdiction? How can a regional network assist?**

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