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Tallinn 2024



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An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Ireland

What is going on...

- RJ team in national probation service
- Typically victim led referrals
- RJ not embedded in legislation, so prison governors are often the gatekeepers of who can access processes
- Victim/Offender mediation processes are carefully managed and closely risk assessed.

What is going well...

- RJ is being successfully delivered in Prisons/probation settings
- The Government is behind it as an approach – and as well as the RJ probation team are also funding community level organisations.
- There are no time pressure on the delivery of cases (if they take 1 day or 1 months, its ok!)

What is challenging....

- The physical environut of the prison is often challenging – its sterile and can be complex to enter
- It remains up to individual prisons to decide how much RJ goes on

England and Wales

What is going on ...

- There is a statutory requirement to inform victims of RJ, but it is not embedded in legislation otherwise.
- There are 88 prisons across the countries, some have a lot of RJ others do not.
- There are two 'restorative prisons' that seek to embed RJ across all their areas of work (eg in relationships

What is going well...

- There is lots of RJ going on!
- There are a lot of highly trained and certified restorative practitioners.
- The 'restorative prisons' are modelling great practice for the sector.
- The APPG for RJ is making the issues visible.

What is challenging...

- The lack of legislation means that provision is still patchy - there is no 'whole system' approach yet
- Prisons have to 'opt-in' to doing RJ as opposed to 'opti-out'.



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Estonia

What is going on ...

- 3 prisons in the country
- Lots of youth RJ, the plans to extend this to the adult prison population are being developed.
- Looking to build a systemic approach, embedding RJ across whole systems and within many aspects of prison

What is going well...

- Estonia is a smaller country, so it is easier to plan and implement a whole-system approach
- The systemic approach that is being taken means that when the services are rolled out they will hopefully provide comprehensive coverage.
- There is a good level of government support

What is challenging...

- There are still resource challenges for delivering the services that are designed



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