



Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen
Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie

Slachtofferminded maken DJI

16 mei 2014

What is EuroPris ?



- European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services
- Non-political organisation of practitioners
- Active since 1 January 2012
- 18 Members – National Prison Services
- Focus on improved public safety and security
- Network organisation:
 - Link up with other actors in the prisons and corrections field
 - Facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practice between European prison services
 - Practice based resource center on prison matters in Europe
- Partner in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe



Making the Dutch Custodial Institutions Agency Victim-oriented

*More attention devoted
to victims*



History

- 2010 Research revealed that all victims firstly mention adequate information as highly important.
- 2011 Victim information policy set up together with the Public Prosecution. It refers to types of crimes for which the victim has the right to address the court.
- 2012 Plan of action formulated to develop the vision of the Dutch Custodial Institutions Agency.
- 2013 Vision formulated for the whole chain of justice organisations.



Milestones for 2014

Outline of the basic principles for the entire criminal justice and victim care processes. Three principles:

- Victim-oriented approach
- Expectation management
- The 'single service desk' principle



Task

1. The developed vision for the position of victims is in line with the vision by the EU directive.
2. During the efforts to become more victim-oriented, the Custodial Institutions Agency will continue implementing victim-oriented elements in the relevant sectors or parts of them.
3. Keep enduring contact with the victim support organisations and the organisations of victims and relatives themselves. Make future plans and activities in line with the goals of these organisations.



Policy Frames

- Research of the Strategy Directorate of the Ministry of Security and Justice on the issue of victims revealed:
 - That victims have diverse needs as regards the services which the government ought to be offering them.
 - All victims are enthusiastic about three of the measures offered by government:
 1. Firstly, adequate information;
 2. Secondly, a single service desk and easy transfer and processing within the assistance and criminal law chain;
 3. Thirdly, a victim-oriented treatment.



Concrete opportunities for change

- 1. Placement of** detainees, juveniles and patients. To what extent should we take into account the interests of the victim in this situation?
- 2. Programme** in the institutions. To what extent are we applying elements of the victim-oriented approach here?
- 3. Leave and assessment frameworks.** To what extent do we allow the interests of the victim to have an influence on the leave of the detainees, patients and juveniles?
- 4. Information policy.** To what extent should information be given to victims, and what should the nature of that information be?



Already implemented

Placement

1. Victim investigation with forensic patients
2. Pilot victim investigation with adult prisoners; results 1-10-2014

Programme

- Already part of the programme within the institutions for juvenile offenders. Within the standard programme YOUTURN, permanent parts focused on the awareness of the consequences of crimes.
- Within the Prison System Modernisation Programme, accents implemented from the intake within the penitentiary institution to the repatriation back into society.
- The spiritual counsellors in the institutions are very active in leading discussions between the offender and the victim, and in facilitating training to support repatriation back into society.



Already implemented (2)

Leave from the institution

- Introduction of 7 day period; waiting time before detainees can go on leave, so that victims can be informed in good time.
- Linking leave with any payment of damage to the victim, if this has been imposed by the judge.
- Investigation among the relatives of the victims about special circumstances or special events on the day the detainee is relieved.

Information policy

- Since 1 January 2012, victims of the crimes for which the victims have the right to address the court, of **all** the custodial institutions have been informed about leave, end release out of prison and other relevant movements, so that they are up to date with regard to the offender leaving the institution. This information is passed on to the Public Prosecution Service, The Information Point for Prison Leave, which in turn informs the victims



Commitment

The project offers support:

Through the custodial clinics, through the Prisons consultative group with managers from the locations, and through support in the youth offenders' institutions.

Using the vision group, make the organisations more victim-oriented with the help of representatives from all sectors and Staff departments.

Within the victim care process as a whole:

1. Through the coordination group Strengthening the Position of Victims, which coordinates and promotes the total policy in the victim process.
2. Through the co-workers group of all the justice organisations in the whole chain. To coordinate implementation of the EU directive.



Results December 2014

1. The vision of how the justice organisations can adopt a victim-oriented approach is implemented in concrete activities.
2. For concrete points: decisions have been made for placement, programme, leave and information to victims.
3. The justice organisations are measurably changed compared to the start of the programme in 2012. The vision of the process as a whole fit together with the on going implementation.
4. An implementation plan is available for the years 2015 – 2018: attention is given to training, education and raising awareness of the formulated vision.