

# Desistance

## Session 1.

Why people stop offending?

Expectations & Clarifications

# Who are we?

- Name
- Short bio
- Expectations from this workshop

# House rules !!!

- ☒ Respect for the views of others
- ☒ Telephones on flight mode
- ☒ Give everyone space and time to express their opinion/make a contribution – don't laugh at each other  
!!!!
- ☒ Punctuality
- ☒ All questions are valid- we don't know what we don't know!
- ☒ Active listening
- ☒ Participate
- ☒ Have Fun !!!

# What is desistance?

- Is the long term abstinence from criminal behaviour among those for whom offending had become a pattern of behaviour
- Is stopping from offending and staying stopped

# Review of the main desistance theories

- Not one but many
- In common – answer the question – why stop?
- ‘Age crime curve’ – ‘maturation reform’ – biological changes, social transitions and life experiences
- Decision – decision to give up/motivation
- Relational element – relation between the individual and society – engagement and attachment with society – bonds – school, peers, employment, marriage, parenthood
- Changes in self-identity – ‘coherent, pro-social identities ...’
- Cognitive transformations – four parts: openness to change, exposure to ‘hooks for change’, ‘replacement of self’ and changes in the way actors view offending behaviour
- Changes in the situational context or in the routine activities
- Recognition and belonging – togetherness

# The film

## 58 cents

- Watch the film – 15 minutes
- In small groups identify (6 min.):
  - Theories that explain Jean's desistance
  - The 'hooks for change'
  - What could a probation officer do to facilitate desistance?
- Presentations and debate

# Conclusions

- Desistance is a difficult and complex process
- It is also highly subjective and individualized
- Individual, social and situational factors play important roles
- Desistance should be understood in the relational context

Questions?

Thanks.