Desistance

Session 2
Policy implications for desistance
Short recap

• What is desistance and what are the main theories?
Desistance

Individual process
- Developing human capital

Structural factors
- Developing social capital

Situational factors
- routines, places
Structural factors – beyond individual desistance

• Samson and Laub (1993) – bonds with the society (emotional attachment, commitment, believes and able to involve)
  – Different formal and informal institutions help to cement the bond
  – Adolescents: school, family, peer groups
  – Adults: employment, marriage, parenthood
Probation service
- a formal institution that can cement or destroy the bonds -

1. The way supervision is constructed

2. The role of probation service in facilitating access to pro-social opportunities
Probation service
- a formal institution that can cement or destroy the bonds

1. The way supervision is constructed:

   b. Rex (1999) – **getting help, solving problems, showing respect and care, displaying professionalism, willing to engage, good relationship skills etc.**
   c. Burnett (2004) – desistance a difficult and lengthy process, not an event – relapses are common – the ‘**zigzag’ process** – excessive reliance on enforcement undermines the recognition of small progress – practices of breach and supporting compliance
   d. Tyler (1997) – people are more willing to comply with the law when they think law and its agents **are legitimate and act as ‘fair’ and ‘just’** – the legitimacy-based approach
   e. Parent (1994) - From ‘trail ‘em, nail ‘em, and jail ‘em’ to **supporting desistance**
Probation service
- a formal institution that can cement or destroy the bonds

2. The role of probation service in facilitating access to pro-social opportunities

   a. access to employment
      - meaningful employment,
      - involve cooperation and co-production
   
   b. access to support services – for accommodation, identity papers, finances, debts management etc.
Interview with a high official of the Catalonian Probation Service

15 min.
Open discussions

To what extent the probation service in your country supports desistance:

- in house treatment
- referral system

- 10 min.
Small group discussion – 2 groups

What needs to be changed in our organizations to make them more desistance-focused?

Write down these ideas! They might be helpful in the last session 😊

15 min.
Presentation of the suggestions 
&
Conclusions

Reflection point:
How can we celebrate the progress of our clients???

Thanks !!