

The background and the first results of an empirical research in two Hungarian prisons

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Bilbao



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Background

- We had two different prisons as partners
- In the end of 2009: about **16.000** inmates in the Hungarian prisons
 - Legally binding: **10.578** inmates
 - 9.922 men
 - 656 women
 - Types of crimes:
 - Robbery
 - Steal
 - Homicide
 - Assault



Quantitative research 1.

- select from the inmates: random, every 20th prisoner, the sample is representative
- The commandant chose ‘the right and eligible prisoners’
- + complete with a *short questionnaires* – separate, about the background of the chosen inmates: penalty, the date of get out; official data (rewards, penalties)
- every responsive has a ‘number’ to save their anonymities



Quantitative research 2.

- **Questionnaires – 200 inmates**
 - **121 questions**
 - **6 main topics:**
 - **Crime - background, what happened?**
 - **Guilty**
 - **RJ**
 - **Life in the Prison**
 - **Were they victims before?**
 - **Life before Prison**



Quantitative research 3.

- The inmates prepared to the survey – ‘something happens’
- Regret
- Emphasise their innocents





Qualitative research 1.

- **In depth interviews – 2 different groups**
- *jailers, psychologists, teachers* (40 staff members) who work in the researched prisons: about their feelings in connection with the RJ, how they solve the problems in the jails (problems among the inmates, conflicts with them etc.).
- 60 depth interview with *inmates* (how they solve their conflicts, the attitudes towards the RJ)



Qualitative research 2.

■ Staff members:

- I. Walk of Life
 - i. Family, studies, purposes
- II. Prison
 - i. Work
 - ii. Inmates
 - iii. Life in prison
- III. Therapy
 - i. Trainings, treating stress courses; preventing burnout
 - ii. Mediation

■ Inmates

- I. Walk of Life
- II. Crime - circumstances
- III. Prison
 - i. Life in prison
- IV. Therapy
 - i. Trainings, treating stress courses
 - ii. Mediation

The Focus Groups



- 8-10 leaders in every prison
- To recognise the attitudes of decision makers towards *mediation, problem solving.*
- Feedback



Tököl – Prison for Juveniles

- Since 1963
- Juveniles until 21 years old
- DRUG problems
- Elementary school for juveniles
- About 180-200 inmates under 21
- Changing the director of the prison very often











Balassagyarmat – Prison for Adults

- It was built in 1840s
(between 1842-45)
- In the centre of the city
- 326 inmates
- The director leads this prison
from 15 years
- The director is very open,
innovative,







Pre-results

- Big differences between the Adults' and Juveniles' behaviours: less responsibility
- Juveniles: angry with the victims
- The effect and the role of **family**
- Juveniles are more **aggressive** in Prison – bad effects
- The role of the leader of the prison
- Leisure time, watch TV



Thanks for your attention!