

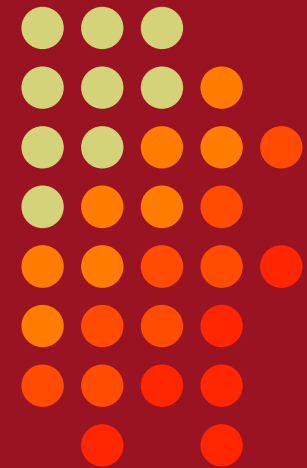
Our Bumping Road Towards a More Humane Justice System

The Development of RJ in Hungary

Borbala Fellegi, PhD.
Foresee Research Group
International Institute for Restorative Practices

www.foresee.hu

www.iirp.edu



Rethinking Crime and Punishment, Sofia, 21 April 2018

OUR PENAL MEDIATION SYSTEM (2007-2017)



- Almost 50 000 penal mediation cases over the last 10 years in Hungary (10 million people), in 2015: over 7200 cases, mediated by the Probation Service's specifically trained Mediators
- For Young and Adult offenders, whose crime is not punishable with more than 5 years of prison sentence
- Referrals mainly by the Prosecutors, but also by Police and Judges
- For young offenders: successful mediation leads to closing their case
- For adults: if the crime is less serious, their case is closed, if it is more serious (3-5 years of imprisonment) – then the judge can mitigate the sanction based on the mediation outcome
- 85% agreement rate
- 90% fulfilling the agreement
- 2014: over 1.5 million EUR compensation paid back by offenders to victims (in HU), symbolic reparations are as important than material!
- Main questions: capacities and ongoing training of the mediators, widening the scope of the cases, mediation in prisons and after prison release, how to make it more victim-friendly (less formal, more humane and flexible)

FORESEE PROJECTS: Applying restorative practices in Hungary



FORMAL



**MEREPS PROJECT
RADICALISATION
PREVENTION AND RJ**

Inca-
paci-
tation

Prison

**PEACEMAKING
CIRCLE PROJECT**

Sanctioning
+
Reparation
Court phase

**PEACEMAKING
CIRCLE PROJECT**

**Restorative
diversion**

Prosecution phase

ALTERNATIVE PROJECT:
Restorative practices in
COMMUNITY conflicts
- Restorative practices in schools
(CLIMATE+ project)
- Restorative practices in
organisations
- FGC in family and child
protection issues

**Culture of conflict management
(communities, family, school, etc)**

INFORMAL

Crime prevention

*Adapted from
Braithwaite (2002) and
Walgrave (2008)*



RJ IS MORE THAN DEALING
WITH CRIMES.

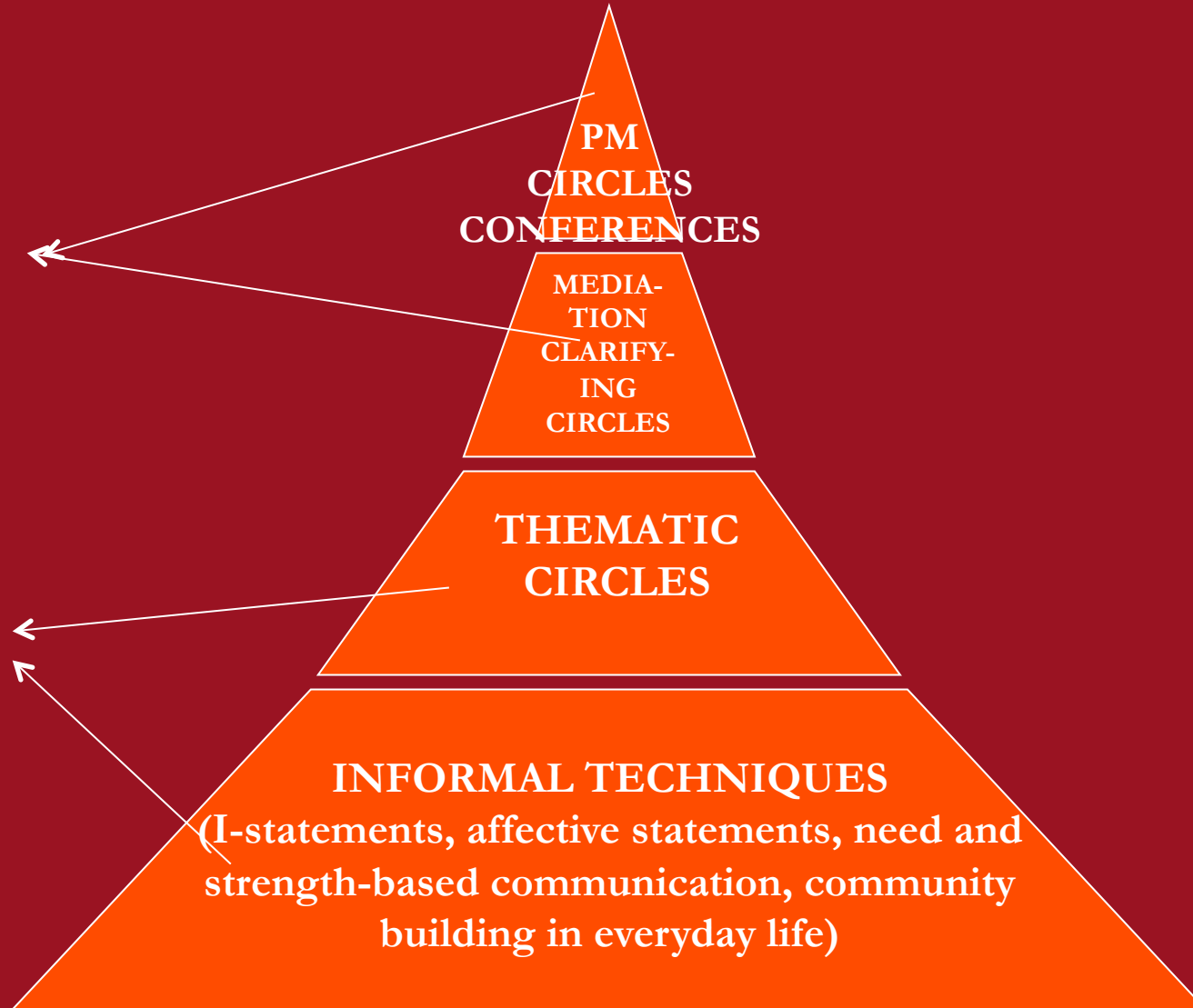
IT IS HOW WE DEAL WITH
EACH OTHER IN THE
SOCIETY.

INFORMAL, PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT THAN FORMAL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES



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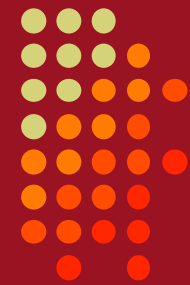
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STILL, IN THE SOCIETY, THE GENERAL APPROACH: SILENCE



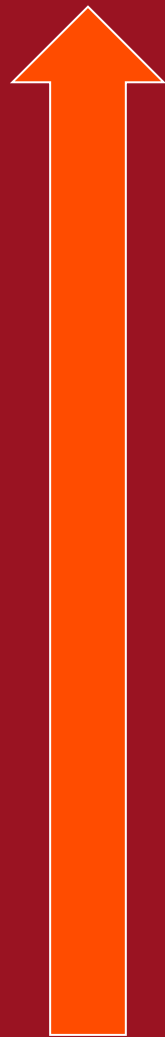
We also know that if we are constantly sweeping our frustrations under the rug without talking it through, sooner or later we will fall over that pile.



Or...



THE 'DIALOGUE-PYRAMID'



**LEVEL
OF
COMMITMENT**

**RECON-
CILIATION**

DIALOGUE

LISTENING THE OTHER

SELF-REFLECTIVE

STORY-TELLING

AVOIDANCE / SILENCE

LISTENING!

ACKNOWLEDGING

**NON-
JUDGEMENTALLY**

NON-INTERRUPTING

**FINDING THE BEUTY
WITHIIN HIS STORY!**



A CASE:



**WHEN 2 YOUNG ADULTS
DREW SWASTIKAA ON
POSTERS OF A STREET
PHOTO EXHIBITION OF
DOWN SYNDROME
CHILDREN....**

Gergő, 17 éves

„Én mindenkit elfogadok olyannak,
amilyen. Te is elfogadsz engem, ugye?”



DIALOGUE CAN HEAL, CAN PREVENT



COMMON POINTS OF OUR CASES SHOW THAT...



- Behind any harm there is an unmet **NEED**.
- Behind any need there is a **HUMAN** being.
- **STORYTELLING** and **LISTENING** are keys to the humans.
- Even if sometimes these are the **only realistic steps** towards dialogue, we cannot underestimate their importance in **preventing further hatred and polarisation**.

**RJ is always to be considered
to help people to RECOVER from previous
traumas and find ways for RECONCILIATION
in order to be able to MOVE ON in their lives.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**



Dr. Borbala Fellegi, director

Foresee Research Group, www.foresee.hu/en

Borbala.fellegi@foresee.hu

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