Our Bumping Road Towards a More Humane Justice System

The Development of RJ in Hungary

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- 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)
Culture of conflict management
(community, family, school, etc)

Crime prevention

Restorative diversion
Prosecution phase
Sanctioning + Reparation
Court phase
Incapacitation
Prison

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

FORESEE PROJECTS: Applying restorative practices in Hungary

MEREPS PROJECT
RADICALISATION PREVENTION AND RI

PEACEMAKING CIRCLE PROJECT

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

PM CIRCLES CONFERENCES

THEMATIC CIRCLES

INFORMAL TECHNIQUES
(I-statements, affective statements, need and strength-based communication, community building in everyday life)

Based on Morrison és Thorsborne, 2004
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…

*We’re going to need a bigger rug!*
THE ‘DIALOGUE-PYRAMID’

LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

RECONCILIATION

DIALOGUE

LISTENING THE OTHER

SELF-REFLECTION

STORY-TELLING

AVOIDANCE / SILENCE

LISTENING!

ACKNOWLEDGING

NON-JUDGEMENTALLY

NON-INTERRUPTING

FINDING THE BEUTY WITHIN 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!

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