

CRS 2023 Rehabilitating Reintegration: Research and Reflections on What Works

Porto, Portugal March 27th to 30th 2023

The **Correctional Research Symposium** (CRS) is a biennial event organized jointly by the International Corrections & Prisons Association (ICPA) and the European Organization of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris). The 3rd CRS was held recently in Porto, Portugal. It attracted over 200 delegates from more than 40 countries showing once again that correctional professionals wish to attend to the research and evidence-base in their field. This 3rd Symposium was organized around 4 sub-themes of the overall theme of 'Rehabilitating Reintegration'. These 4 sub-themes were:

- Reintegration Best Practice Examples
- Reintegration for Special/Vulnerable Groups
- Innovation and New Directions in Reintegration Practice
- Partnerships for Supporting Reintegration

Workshops for each of these 4 tracks were presented in parallel in the morning and afternoon on each day of the Symposium (Tuesday & Wednesday). We were fortunate to have Rapporteurs prepare a brief summary of each Workshop. The following provides these summary reflections (i.e., intended to capture insights, new ideas, or practice implications that were highlighted). Rapporteurs chose to prepare these summaries in their own style and with varying level of detail. They are presented here as submitted with only minor editing.

CRS 2023 Day 1 Track 1 Workshops: Reintegration Best Practice Examples; Paul Geurts

Workshop: An Open Access Approach to Re-entry Services; Dr. Lori Brusman, USA

- Due to the fact that pre-release and post-release services are often not related or linked, and due to the fact that there is often only limited resources (time) available for these services, many ex-offenders will relapse into old behaviour (reoffending, drug and alcohol use etc.).
- Many also end up with health problems because medical files are not shared with external health providers (resulting in a higher risk of dying after release from prison).
- Some countries already provide continuity of care / support (e.g. Ireland).
- This US program that was described focuses in a more holistic way on the support of the individual. It is an open-ended program with the focus on medium-high risk prisoners.

- Results of the program between 2018 /2019:1500 participants (75% male, 25% female, 50% black).
- Participants are assessed to address their needs in a more comprehensive way.
- Jobs (68%), housing and basic needs are the first 3 priority fields. Education, health, mental health and legal issues follow.
- Over the first 5 years the new arrest rate of ex-offenders who participated in the program was 24.5%.
- Strength of the program is that it is open ended ... services continue to be offered for as long as the offender requests.

Weak spot seems to be that clients can select where they want to be referred to / and what they want support for. Often this is only for finding a job!

How to work on other identified topics?

Workshop: Chance for Re-entry project; Martin Lulei & Jakub Lórko, Slovak Republic

- In the Slovak Republic, the Probation Service is under the Ministry of Justice, as is the Prison Service as separate entities. Re-entry units have been developed in order to prepare inmates for their release. We talk about 10 units, connected with 10 prisons (8 male, 1 female and one juvenile prison / unit).
- Until now 3600 inmates have been processed through these units.
- All re-entry units have standardised staffing, resocialization programs, assessments of risk and recidivism, leading to individual social inclusion plans, and a pathway for complete support. They also have specialised staff: social workers, pedagogues, psychologists and a "curator" (in charge of labour).
- Individual programs are developed, based on the individual risk factors.
 - 10 programs are being offered
 - 1 basic program (58-72 hrs) on the risk of recidivism. Delivered within 3-4 months by prison staff.
 - 9 specialised programs (65-300 hrs) to be delivered in 2-6 months, on e.g. addiction, employment, relations etc.
 - All these programs are delivered by outsourced staff and internal prison staff together.
- Innovations that have been implemented:

- HOLUP (pigeon) application
 - Animal assisted interventions (dog to take care of)
 - HOLUP is a program to teach prisoners how to use current information technology (using IT). HOLUP can be used to get a job after detention, find accommodation, provide for other important information to be prepared for release.
- Findings:
 - 14.9% of the high-risk participants reoffended within one year
 - 22.8% of the high-risk NON-participants reoffended in one year
 - As the project is young, these figures are the first ones available.
 - In Slovakia, employment is the main objective of the interventions. The risk tool available does not cover sufficiently possible mental health problems.

Workshop: Initial Transitional Support (ITS) Service. The impact of a 12-week reintegration support service on reoffending and implication for best practice; Mark Howard, Australia

- New South Wales has, over the past decade, a constantly rising prison population. The prison population is now stable (at around 12250). Prisoners stay for a relatively short period in prison. The turnover is around 1700 a month. 35000 persons are under supervision in the communities. NSW has 60 Community Correction Offices.
- ITS funds different NGO's to support Community Corrections. These services are complementary to the normal Community Corrections services. Participation is on a voluntary basis. ITS focuses on medium - high risk offenders. Supervision takes place in offices where ITS is available.
- ITS functions as a coach for the prisoner on parole with many needs. Out of the 60 offices, 26 now have an ITS Service Provider.
- After evaluation of the recidivism outcomes of participants, participants had a substantially lower reoffending rate than non-participants.
- The intermediate outcomes (2014-2017): 1450 referrals. Mostly support required on: housing, alcohol / drug use, mental health. Other services offered, almost always mixed with these 3 big ones.
- Support in finding accommodation was quite successful. Mental health support seemed quite successful (many enrolled in programs), but it was not clear how many participants actually finished the programs. Next to this it became clear that solutions also create new problems. Not every provider can provide the same services.

- It was difficult to motivate Community Correction staff to participate in the project. The expansion sites (expansion to 26 sites) were mostly positive. The feeder sites (no ITS, but referring) were less positive (poor contact, poor communication).

Reflections:

- ITS did not have an impact on recidivism for parolees released from prison
- Working on multiple co-occurring needs, takes time
- Accommodation was consistently the first need
- Delays in service delivery jeopardised continuity of care
- Better planning / less disengagement
- ITS and Community Orders seem to have a positive result
- ITS could be an alternative for Community Orders
- Participants benefit from continuous holistic care.

- ITS seems to have a more positive effect on some people (e.g. Aboriginal people on parole)
- It may assist in finding access to services
- More research is needed to identify priority groups

In general:

- Better communication and coordination between different officers and offices is required
- The program design can be improved (funding, transport services)
- Continuous cycles of improvement required
- Work on the mistrust between the prison service and some external organisations and NGO's.

CRS 2023 Day 1 Track 2 Workshops: Reintegration for Special Vulnerable Groups; Tanja Dejanaova

Workshop: Reentry Through Our Lens: Participatory Photovoice with Older Criminal Justice-impacted Men; Daina Stanley, Canada

- Community-based research methods
- Art-based research
- Photovoice approach in order to “Expand the possibilities of multiple, diverse realities and understandings.”
- Based on project: Building knowledge and networks to improve health and social service outcomes for older justice-involved persons (Maine, US)
- Collaborative team and approach: academia (medical anthropology, focus on health and justice), practitioner (medical/hospice in corrections), justice-involved persons / lived

experience (“returning citizen”) and co-researchers (participants identified as co-researchers, as they are more meaningfully involved in the whole research process)

- Maine was the first state in the US to abolish parole; advocacy for its return, but no movement yet
- Objectives of the project:

1) Establish a community-based participatory research framework

- a. Addressing exclusion of persons with lived experience in work that has to do with them; meaningful engagement of justice-involved persons; recognition of the unique strengths brought by representatives from each group (incl. peer research assistant) – VOICE: Voicing Our Individual Collective Experience
- b. People engaged as more than “data sources”; welcomed as coresearchers with support / training in participation across stages (e.g., participatory analysis)
- c. Photovoice: combining photography and storytelling; virtual to enable reach across Maine

2) Explore reentry experiences (how do 50+ people experience community re-acclimation and especially social and health care?) – 6 participants; convenience sampling

3) Contribute to developing applied outcomes that provide meaningful support to people experiencing reentry (e.g., improve access to needed services)

- Re-entry as a process, continuous and not only something that happens in the immediate vicinity of the actual release from prison.
- The tragedy of anticipating lack of services / homelessness upon release
- Considering the anticipation -- this highlights the crucial fact that re-entry must start on day 1, so - in essence - this also reminds us that what happens within prisons isn't actually outside the scope of this symposium and the scope of rehabilitation
- We know about this, whether as practitioners across the different stages of CJS or as actors otherwise involved in justice work / reform, but to begin addressing it we must think beyond the limitations of the systemic perspective and OUR understanding of the challenges.
- “following people on their journey” and witnessing the challenges, including the increased risks (problems/suicide) in the time following release, particularly after extended periods of stay – part of this following along also involved adjustments as the research team faced the grief of their key member (giving space to grief; adjusting process, approaches to stages)
- Justice involved people: Disadvantaged health profiles, cumulative disadvantage, legacies of social exclusion and violence, rapid / accelerated aging (both physical and cognitive) – 10-15 years older than in the general population
- Significant concern over older justice involved persons; more recently focus of significant attention in discussions and practice; this is also where the project comes in

Workshop: The expectations and realities of release from a mandatory life sentence

Ailie Rennie, United Kingdom

- Very much in the middle of field research still
- Looking at re-entry as a process
- Mandatory life sentences in England and Wales specifically for people convicted of murder
 - Those removed for the longest amount of time and after what is considered one of the most serious offences;
 - a unique and important group to consider in the context of what makes effective reintegration
 - “othering”; returning to something different than what they left behind (place, time, people, culture ...)
- Interviewed 12 participants right before and 5 months after release (short longitudinal); 6 fieldwork sites (5 open, 1 closed facility)
- Focus on release, and particularly *relational* reintegration in today’s presentation
- How life has changed? What is the experience of this change?
- Three related factors on the individuals’ mind as they prepared for and grappled with release and re-entry into the community:

Licensing and disclosure

- Wearing the tag as moral sanction; experience of freedom only began when the tag was removed several months later
- The extent of disclosure came as a surprise (number of people need to disclose to, whether legal or personal desire to disclose), even if anticipated needing to disclose

Treatment by people on the outside

- “Being seen as a person worthy of getting to know”
- Professional versus personal disclosures – a completely different dynamic for two different reasons (requirements to disclose; expected professionalism and confidentiality in the professional realm)
 - Personal rejections – “being continued to be seen as their offence” – often felt as much more of a judgement than any professional / practitioner judgement could be, and they even hindered engagement in or seeking out “unnecessary relationships” in their personal lives (cordial but not open / engaged)
 - Awareness that offence remains at the forefront of their relationships, perhaps even indefinitely
 - Repeated rejections on the (sole) basis of their offence increased experiences of shame and struggles with the “basics” of reentry (e.g., landlords, employers)
 - Rejections harder to shake off and with longer lasting consequences than the men anticipated
 - Reframing helped in some cases; reevaluating priorities, assessing what these experiences can contribute to their reentry process

- Pre-existing or established family / social networks supported the process and enabled less concern over how the public would treat them (had the people around them that they need; reminded them that they're supported, accepted, belonged)
- Support increased self-efficacy, self-worth
- Contrast with those who had no one waiting for them on the outside

Relationship with probation

- In some cases, reality even exceeded generally positive expectations for relationships with probation (officers)
 - Highlighting the importance of trust, rapport; "building genuine and caring relationships with probation"
 - "They're not just there to recall you, they want us to stay out."
 - How can practitioners make sure this is the experience of those under our supervision / care?
 - In other cases, probation felt like it hindered rather than supported reintegration
 - "It's ironic to give trust without actually feeling like you're receiving trust."
 - Being the object of suspicion; micromanaging and continued check-ins; recalls due to miscommunication (transactional and unidirectional, rather than interactional experience of probation)
- Responses to reintegration
 - (Re)socialization – playing an active role in their community, both existing and new; perseverance as key; willingness to ask for help
 - Recognizing the collective process, not an individual one
 - Reintegration through non-socialization – withdrawal, no desire to embed themselves into the community; unpredictability of community responses makes withdrawal a safer solution
 - "I'm social but not socializing." In the community without the requirements to be part of it. Watching life go by..."you can be part of it as you want."
 - Preventative measure against stigmatization
- Release from a murder conviction as relational – reentry was approached, experienced and understood in relation to others, "reconfiguring who they were in, through and within these relations."

Discussion / Q&A:

How access to these people / facilities was gained and how that may have impacted the research and its findings?

- Difference in the experiences of the two researchers
- Highlights the importance – or difference – in connecting with practitioners and systems actors that are committed to collaboration, openness and transparency...see the value in it. Dialogues and relationships across stakeholders.
- Is our legislation and our practices supporting or hindering meaningful research?
- The impact on our data and findings of who the willing participants are.

Was there a contrast between first time release versus people who were re-released?

- Yes, these varied. Some reflected that they were perhaps not ready for release in the first time?
- It is important to consider this as well.

How do we approach reintegration considering that we're often starting with low baselines when it comes to (life) skills?

- Reintegration, when spoken about more broadly, is always in relation to an individual. What does reintegration mean to the individual; it is a very personal process and the needs are very personal.
- In the American context, where many people are imprisoned for 30,40,50,60 + years...How do you reintegrate after something like that?

**Workshop: Research and Reflections on What Works for Those with Mental Health Needs
Cherie Townsend, USA; International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (IACFP)**

- Criminal Justice and Behavior Journal, IACFP bulletin, and various project involvements as work toward building a bridge between research and practice
- Project: Service provisions for the mentally ill in community corrections world- wide as a focus area
 - We know that services are struggling with addressing mental health needs, which are often higher and present significant comorbidities among imprisoned populations; this is the case almost across jurisdictions
 - Language matters: "justice involved individuals" / "community corrections" services delivered to people currently or formerly justice involved and in need of services in the community
 - International team, including senior experts and research assistants, some with lived experience of justice involvement
 - Exploratory qualitative study focusing on getting perspectives from:
 - Community corrections officers
 - Program administrators
 - Mental health practitioners
 - Through surveys, semi-structured interviews, focus groups
 - 23 jurisdictions in 18 countries
- How a system views mental illness has a lot to do with how it responds to it
 - System engaging in transformation: MH awareness and response training for all staff, with more training for those specialized in mental health support

- Systems are at different stages of transformation, and this impacts their work with mental health needs
- Where a system is matters: Thematic analysis
 - Complex nature of mental health (overlapping; interplay between mental health and offending)
 - Practices – current training models and models of care
 - Treatment in the community is quite different (than in prison): variables come into play such as access / participation in care, family and relational dynamics, employment and other concerns... → requires a shift in focus
 - Self-care of justice involved individuals and staff
 - 3 ground-breaking programs:
 - Japan (Hogoshi program);
 - Singapore (Yellow Ribbon project);
 - Georgia United States (Forensic Peers Mentors for those with mental health challenges – goes well beyond mentoring)
 - Practitioner- and client-informed practices and realities
 - Question: what do we deem to be compliant and successful? How do we define this? → more dynamic approach to compliance
 - Hurdles:
 - Interdisciplinary approaches
 - Protective factors → employment (quality) and accommodation (stable) → critical for all released individuals, but even more so for individuals with mental health challenges
- In jurisdictions that are going through transformation, they recognize the crucial value of protective factors and engage in partnerships with service providers (housing, employment)
- Recommendations
- Question for dialogue:
 - How do we balance the value – and often requirement for – an evidence-base that sometimes complicates collaboration?
 - Where are the opportunities to contribute to the existing knowledge base regarding collaboration and cooperation within a community setting?

Workshop: Assessing the probation staff's knowledge of, and attitudes to, mental illness in Europe; Charlie Brooker, United Kingdom

- Stark difference between prisons and probations when it comes to national level mental health policy (prison ~ 90%; in probations less than half) and provision of mental health training for staff (prisons 74%; probation 36%)

- Research finds relatively consistently that **40% of all people** on probation will have a mental health problem; about half with serious mental illness
- So, with this in mind: What do probation staff know about mental health and illness? What should they know? What is their role?
 - Literature / guidance points to need to recognize mental illness and refer to treatment
 - Used mental health literacy scale, MHLS
 - Probation staff didn't score much higher (129) / differently from general population studies in certain studies (128 Portugal; 134 US)
 - 467 responses from probation staff; 4 countries accounted for 50% of the respondents
 - Romania, Estonia and Turkey with lowest scores
 - Age not related; women scored significantly higher than men
 - Time in service, caseload size or weekly hours of contact not related to scores
 - Those with higher scores had more confidence in working with people with mental health problems;
 - It makes sense; it's not a straightforward or easy task
- **“Attitudes were healthy but knowledge wasn't great”** – a strong focus on providing probation staff with a functional knowledge about mental health and mental illness
- How do we go about this? Core module online with countries then taking it on and building on it considering the specific national context and issues

Workshop: Balancing Public Safety and Choice and Control for People with Cognitive Impairment Who are Forensic Patients; Dr. Phillip Snoyman; Katerina Nesporek, Corrective Services NSW, Australia

- Intersection between clinical practice and research – a dilemma
- Transition processes in interplay between justice system and disability focused services /system
- What are criminogenic needs? What are disability needs?
- Forensic patients with cognitive impairment; how they end up as forensic patients within the Australian system → individuals enter Community Safety Programme through MHRT; found to have committed an offence but not held responsible due to mental illness and/or cognitive impairment
 - Off MHRT orders and part of society again only by MHRT decision
 - Currently 15 pp in prisons and 9 pp managed in the community as forensic patients with cognitive impairment (in a state of 8+million)

- Clinical practitioners prompted to ask a research question when faced with a significant / unusual number of people being taken off a measure – i.e. “successfully reintegrated”
- What’s behind this? How can we explain this?
 - Retrospective qualitative study using a structured ‘clinical’ interview
 - Because of research application obtained specific consent from interviewees
 - Reviewed existing **MHRT – mental health review tribunal** – and court documents
 - Balancing “competing rights”: risk management (public safety) and the person/intervention (person choice and control)
 - → Greater reliance on public safety considerations than person and individual human rights
 - MHRT requires community-based case management; the team aims for early engagement (months before early release), but this is often a matter of a few weeks
- Case management by community safety program (CSP)
- Key considerations: risk manageability and ensuring public safety
- Respecting rights and autonomy of the person
- Facilitating transition planning, re-entry, (re)integration and desistance
- Implementation involved collaboration across gov’t and non-gov’t actors, capacity building (also of other stakeholders), meeting with the patient (weekly) and other stakeholders (perhaps monthly)
- Empowering positive change – beyond the individual, enhancing the whole system as an objective
- Formal regular reviews to make further recommendations to MHRT
- The voices of forensic patients with cognitive impairment
 - Interaction between the person and their environment must be considered
 - Persons studied were all returning to community after custody and supervised by the CSP; no contact with community corrections
 - The person – even with cognitive impairment – is able to tell us what can support her or his desistance and wellbeing
- Agency:
 - Experience (Culture, trauma, trust relationships)
 - Choice and Control
 - Capacity
- What works in practice for these people and for working with them may be different from the solutions offered and working in theory. Example: when offering accommodation, we approach this from the perspective of the needs of the system / public safety, without consideration of the individuals’ specific needs (e.g., location, type of accommodation an aboriginal person would thrive in)

- → need to focus on co-creation of possible futures on entry to criminal justice system; co-creation of purpose; building individual agency and respect lived experience
- The voices of other service providers
- Funding / bureaucracy; Capacity building; Resources needed
- Researchers and user voice:
- Advocates for people with disabilities and recognizing and advocating for the many intersecting spaces
- Dehumanization must be addressed: respect, avoiding tokenism (asking people to repeat their stories can be potentially more retraumatizing than helpful), away from regurgitating
- How to involve people with disabilities / with lived experience in designing projects?
- Key learning: Not an easy space. While the person is at the center of the process, a person-centered approach is missing. Limited belief in the people's ability to be "good citizens" without our intervention.
- Several pillars to consider for future research in search of a model
 - Co-creation as a process built into the system from the onset
 - Building agency and respect for lived experience: "consider the whole person, not just their experience"
 - Build service providers and community capacity
 - Accompany person on their journey
 - Allow individual time to learn and make mistakes, and these mistakes should not result in a custodial sanction
 - Address basic needs (health, welfare, accommodation, employment)
 - Co-create purpose: moving away from dependence to lead a life
 - We are the audience; the person in our care is the author of their journey

CRS 2023 Day 1 Track 3 Workshops: Innovation and New Directions in Reintegration Practice; Steven Van De Steene

Workshop: Children & Their Imprisoned Fathers; Michael van Rijckevorsel, Angela Verhagen-Braspenninx, Anouk Smeenk, Marieke van Zwam; Netherlands

- Different projects related to the same topic: strengthen the bond between children and incarcerated parents.
- There is considerable evidence: relation is a 'protective factor.'
- First project: literature research (PhD ongoing)
 - Not much done on this yet... limited research available
 - Problem: difficult to get data on who is a father, who is child of incarcerated father; different responsible data sources (social services, justice, ...), difficult to map (technical, also privacy rules, etc.)

- Second project: 'Autumn Camp'... an initiative to give children the opportunity to spend a whole week with their incarcerated fathers. We've learned about the positive experiences from both Fathers and their children.
 - Spending more time (then just a visit) increased the bond. "hey dad, I'll see you again tomorrow"
 - Making/creating real meaningful memories
 - A boy had for the first time the opportunity to say "I am so mad that you did this'.
 - After a day playing with their children they were 'so tired'
- Third project: Action Research Project
 - Parents in detention... NEEDS analysis
 - Analysis of the needs for the entire network/involved stakeholders (e.g. social services, the partners of the parents, etc.

Workshop: NESTOR _ A national Network of Schools for Parents in Prison; Anastasis Valvis & Christiana Aposkiti, Greece

- European project: National Network of Schools for Parents in Prison;
- The project involves a Consortium of 5 partners from 4 countries - Greece, Austria, Bulgaria, and Cyprus. The coordinator KEMEA (Greece) will implement NESTOR together with the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (E.E.T.A.A.) (Greece), VICESSE (Austria), Law and Internet Foundation (Bulgaria), and KENTHEA (Cyprus)
- Enhancing Responsive Father Parenting
- Enhancing prisoners parenting skills by establishing and pilot testing of a National Network of 30 Schools for Parents in a prison environment
- Ongoing: positive results:
 - NESTOR train the trainers sessions (social workers, psychologists, etc.) about the needs of prison fathers as described in the research findings and best practices
 - First training sessions for fathers. Needs mentioned from incarcerated fathers such as 'how to communicate with my partner'. Also positive experience that it created a group of individuals who understand the importance and complexity of being a father ... share experiences
- Some challenges related to selection of prisons (extra work, limited resources, selection criteria for prisons, prisoners, staff, ...)
- Challenge: what after the project, how to continue; Look at the children's perspective (needs, problems, ...)
- Future: recommendations ...and bring the research into practice

Workshop: Black Female Prisoner's Lives Matter: Redefining Black Female Prisoner's Reintegration With A Digital Twist; Grace Gladys Famoriyo, United Kingdom

- Generic importance to prepare prisoners for release in a digital society.
- Digital rehabilitation... literature research
 - Absence of ICT in prisons creates barriers (Reisdorf)
 - Digital exclusion appears to have a knock-on effect on the scope of rehabilitation opportunities (Champion)
 - ICT/digital tech was found to decrease prison disciplinary offences and reoffending rates (McDougall & Pearson)
- Specific focus: black female prisoners
 - Digital excluded black African American ex-prisoners could become more vulnerable to reoffending (Gurusami)
 - 'Women of color' transitioning from incarceration faced challenges after being released, specifically regarding access and use of digital technology (Gurusami)
- Ongoing research focused on specific target group:
 - Specific issues/needs → specific interventions/approaches
 - Tech has the capability to be tailored to specific needs, importance to use that capability (instead of one fit's it all approaches)

**Workshop: Unlocking the full potential of small-scale and community-integrated facilities
Speaker: Gonçalo Noronha Andrade, Portugal**

- Context: 'rescaled' movement
 - small-scale,
 - differentiated
 - community-integrated detention houses.
- Evidence? Norway – Nordic model(s)... Norwegian exceptionalism
 - Study on the Norwegian system and other comparative studies
 - scale
 - Normality principle
- One day, societies will be inclusive, safe and sustainable.
- Support the use of detention houses instead of large prison institutions.
- Mainly suitable for 'low-risk' situation
- Interesting (fundamental question): why lock them up at all?????

**CRS 2023 Day 1 Track 4 Workshops: Partnerships for Supporting Reintegration;
Hans Meurisse**

Key Points across 4 presentations:

- there are huge efforts being made by many stakeholders;
- it is often difficult because of the barriers & roadblocks that are encountered in every jurisdiction;
- there is a need to reduce silo thinking;

Workshop: Roma people under non-custodial sanctions; Diana Laura Biris, Marian Valentin Nastase, Romania

- Evidence suggests that non-custodial sanctions are very difficult to apply on Roma populations. The research was also very difficult to reach a more generalized conclusion due to the limited numbers of people involved (low sample size)
- Researchers tried to use some indicators that were available: residential, occupational, educational and cultural mobility.

Some of the facts are:

- Roma people live in special communities and special housing units => limits
- A big importance for ethnicity and historical events (deportation) => acceptance
- Educational level is very low; even more with women/girls => applicable
- A lot of discrimination in society => bias
- Non-custodial sanctions have limited applicability due to existing poor housing capacity, the sanction is not always accepted by the Roma themselves, and there is still much bias in the society.

Workshop: A useful cooperation between prisoners and academics for a better reintegration; Claudia Pecorella, Massimiliano Dova; Italy

- This was more a case presentation of the use of a legal helpdesk installed “inside“ the prison of Milano in Italy. With the help of an association, lawyers on a voluntary basis work for all categories of inmates to e.g., write defense documents for courts, organize moments of interaction with all staff categories.
- Due to the pandemic, a lot of progress was made to move to digital services such as meetings on line between lawyers and inmates searching for assistance
- Some cases were presented to show how this can work in practice.

Workshop: A complementary approach: The Prem Rawat Foundation’s Peace Education Program; Mitesh Desai, UK

- This was about video-based workshops for inmates to enhance self-discovery and empowerment. It is a cross-cultural worldwide mixed-method approach, with the aim to install an attitudinal and behavioral change with incarcerated people.
- During the different steps of implementation, there is the use of questionnaires, sometimes limited by the illiteracy from the participants.
- Evidence was presented on the effectiveness of this more 'systemic' approach to spark attitude change.

Workshop: Cooperation as an answer to the complexity of reintegration of detainees; Nelle De Taeye, Liesbet Claeys, Belgium

- When the policy structures are complicated, it is necessary to work together through many kinds of networks.
- Important here is the recognition of the principle of "normalization during detention" to guarantee continuity of services for a sustainable change.
- All kind of stakeholders must work together in a flexible, locally embedded way to construct bridges. The approach is "custom-made". The outcome is not $1 + 1 = 2$, but rather $1 + 1 > 3!$
- In the future more and new research will be done to allow 'network working' to be optimized.

CRS 2023 Day 2 Track 1 Workshops: Reintegration Best Practice Examples; Justina Dzienko

Workshop: Rehabilitating Reintegration – Singapore's Journey

- Singapore is one of the safest cities in the world,
- Numbers: 7660 In-care and 2920 After-care
- Yellow Ribbon SG project (raises awareness, generates acceptance, inspires action for the cause of giving ex-offenders a second chance)
- Singapore emphasizes community-based sentencing and evidence-based practices
- Cross-agency collaborations: It started with 1 psychologist focusing on building a research department in Singapore
- Assessments and Case Planning & Rehabilitative Interventions and Operations
- Recidivism Rates: 2-year-follow-up 20.4%, 5-year-follow-up 40%

- Together with Yellow Ribbon SG initiative and community partners, SG has established an evidence-informed rehabilitation and reintegration system based on the concept of throughcare (steps are in-care, pre-release, aftercare)
- Branches: Correctional Research, Evaluation, Data base

Evidence-based information transfer:

- Building up SPS research capability and competencies and getting inputs from overseas experts
- Review evidence for rehabilitation and applicability of models in Singapore
- Build up SPS assessment framework

Own tools: SPSRS, IVPRS, CVTRQ

- To expand and consolidate specialist research knowledge and competencies
- To increase organizational evidence mindset

Evaluation studies: Research studies collected in a book

- Review: Yearly basis
- Success: Community Corrections with Multi-disciplinary approach in case management including Day reporting order (low risk offender), Community Rehab Centre (moderate risk), Mandatory Aftercare Scheme and Employment assistance (high risk offenders)
- Video: "We care about each other's second chances" YouTube
- Religious groups volunteers

Workshop: CHANGES - an experimental implementation of a cognitive-behavioural strategy to reduce recidivism in France; Elliot Louan

- Not using risk assessment tools, only psychometric tools. Evidence-based treatment and measures are only slowly developing in France, it is on its way to be implemented, not there yet.
- Pilot-training initiative → national school ENAP
- Model of CHANGES "From Case Manager to Change Agent"
- Individual: Strategy to work on criminogenic needs and criminal attitude with difficult clients
- Training the trainer, clinical support
- Change training modules → reflect cognitively on own behavior in order to change their behavior
- Core Correctional Practices includes effective use of authority, prosocial modelling and reinforcement techniques, problem solving, use of community resources, quality of relationships

Changes training: based on general responsivity principle RNR, cognitive-behavior approach

- 8 modules:
 - 1) *holistic approach integrating cognitive behavioral model and RNR*
 - 2) *talking about attitudes*
 - 3) *relational skills and intervention techniques*
 - 4) *connection between thoughts and behavior*
 - 5) *Tapes and Counters*
 - 6) *General and specific prosocial modelling*
 - 7) *Cognitive behavioral problem-solving rehearsal*
 - 8) *Eight steps of supervision by a Change Agent*

Positive feedback from clients, officers, trainers has been received in preliminary evaluations of this French pilot programme

Workshop: The importance of evidence-based assessment and intervention – From Intake to Prison to Sentence Completion in the Community; Andrea Moser & Larry Motiuk, *Canada*

- Correctional Service in Canada based on RNR and Evidence-based assessment
- Milestone Activities for Parole Officers
- Two types of assessment:
 - a) security risks (10 relevant factors) for classification
 - b) needs (7 criminogenic needs areas) for classification and treatment planning
 - c) supplementary

Offender Intake Assessment Process

- Extensive appraisal of an offender conducted at the time of admission to the Service ... by institutional parole officers.
- Static risk assessment
- Dynamic factor identification and analysis
- Collection of Custody Rating Scale (CRS) and Criminal Risk Index (CRI)
- 70% mental health issues

Ongoing Assessment and Revalidation (“It’s not a one-shot thing”)

Correctional Interventions:

- Recidivism is predictable and can be influenced
- We can holistically address needs

Overall, constant and stable reduction of recidivism in the Correctional Service Canada

- Annual research plan

- No complaints about psychological power or psychological assessments in general (there is more to an assessment than just labelling or judging)
- It is about doing good to people and raising awareness
- www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research

Workshop: The work of psychologists and social workers in the probation and correctional systems for public safety in Georgia

- Multisectoral approach (psychiatrists, psychologist) for suicide assessment
- communication is of high importance
- Sports Management Strategy especially for mental health management, anti-social behavior and drug prevention strategy. Also as a violence prevention in communities as a simple measure which is very effective
- Video (YouTube)

CRS 2023 Day 2 Track 2 Workshops: Reintegration for Special Vulnerable Groups; Diane Williams

Workshop: Women's Pathways Into, Through, and Out of Prison – Thailand

- A country that once led the world in the treatment of women involved in the criminal justice system is starting over. While what needs to be done is clear based on previous work and a study conducted by the Thai Institute of Justice (TIJ) prior to Covid, there are little to no resources available to re-establish the successful programs that addressed gender specific needs as prescribed by the Bangkok rules and global best practices.
- NGOs play a positive, but insufficient role. Mentioned was the particular issue of older women who find themselves incarcerated because younger people in their households have drugs in the house. If drugs are in your house in Thailand you are legally liable.
- Key Points
 - The Workshop Provided an Overview of a study on incarcerated women in Thailand conducted pre-Covid
 - Thailand has the 12th highest percentage of women in prison – 30,000 of 264,000
 - 76% of them are incarcerated for drug related offenses
 - Other demographics for the women are comparable to other countries;
 - 75% single parents, limited education, relatively short sentences (2-3 years)
 - 50% of the women incarcerated were earning their living selling drugs (taking care of themselves, their children, and often their parents as the culture dictates that children assume responsibility for their parents)

- Pathways into prison, again much like women in other countries – economic marginalization, trauma, mental health challenges, limited education, victimization – a bit unique is what was described as mob influence and control
- Successful reintegration was based on family reunification, employment/financial security, treatment for trauma and other mental and physical health support, community acceptance, pro-social environments, connection to faith/spirituality, and accommodations. Programs to address all of these needs were in place prior to Covid
- In spite of leading the effort for the Bangkok rules the cost of and attention given to managing Covid has resulted in many of the initiatives designed and implemented in prison and in the community for women being eliminated
- Reformed laws mandate a checklist tied to the performance of the Warden based on in-prison rules as determining success rather than looking at outcomes related to the people in and released from prison
- There are no key agencies for community support, probation is now mostly focused on managing electronic monitoring

**Workshop: The Role of Understanding Harm and Restoration in Offender Reintegration
Malini Laxminarayan & Lisanne Veldt, Netherlands**

- The focus of this presentation was to establish the value of restorative justice principles in corrections. Dynamic Security was offered as a context for substantiating this point. Dynamic security principles - communication, interaction, fair and ethical treatment, and consistent and meaningful activities - are cornerstones for a Restorative Detention Facility in the Netherlands.
- Further analysis of the relationship between dynamic security and restorative theory highlights the value of mutual respect, communication techniques, responsibility of staff for pro-social behavior, promoting de-escalation and conflict resolution, humanistic views and effective training as well as policy and practices.
- Missing from dynamic security is understanding harm, community participation, and moral redemption. Some countries that are now considering these factors are Ireland & Cosovo, The Netherlands, and Albania. Consideration is being given to juveniles as well as adults.
- There was a desire by the audience to receive copies of written policies and training materials published by the Council of Europe. There was a strong desire to understand how communities were engaged and if there had been any outreach to evolving countries.

Workshop: Health Literacy for Women Released in Brazil; Patricia de Paula Queiroz, Brazil

- A doctoral student presented an overview of her work in understanding and addressing health literacy for women and its role in reintegration. Based on her research she has

developed literature to be distributed to justice involved women which will also serve to connect women with health providers and engage public agency supervision.

- Techniques are being used such as body mapping (in a small group setting laying on the floor and tracing their bodies as they discuss health issues) and storytelling are helpful in educating women. The audience acknowledged the validity of the need to learn more and do more with health education for women. The presenter noted she is considering ways to share her learnings and materials in other countries when asked about her plans to expand her work.

Key points:

- Environment description- 837,000 incarcerated of 214,000,000 people in Brazil
- 143.8% occupancy rate in prison
- Women comprise approximately 4% of the women in prisons, jails or police lockups in Brazil
- Mortality rate is high for women – overdoses, psychological problems, smoking, hepatic, cancer, hypertension, heart disease and diabetes are common
- Information is limited, but a literature review provided some information on the value of self-assessments, post release activities, small group interventions reported to reduce the number of sex partners and condom-less sex (another study showed no real effect)

Workshop: Reintegration Support for Foreign Inmates; Jean Sebastien Blanc & Michele Demierre, Switzerland

- A Special Population often neglected in reintegration discussions is immigrants. In Switzerland a very significant 70% of detainees are immigrants and 91.3% of the detained immigrants are without permits to be in Switzerland. Those without permits will be deported even though they may have lived in that country for many years.
- Services available for non-criminal justice involved foreigners are not available for criminal justice involved individuals. A determination was made to work with an NGO already involved in immigrant support work. The NGO working with the immigrant population for over 100 years. They are a 120-member social service and child protection agency.
- For detainees the NGO's focus is resettlement in their country of origin. They have built relationships with agencies in the countries of origin and in Switzerland to facilitate leaving Switzerland and being able to find employment, housing and other services needed to successfully resettle. Mental Health support is also a huge challenge with this population.

Workshop: Black and Other Racialized Populations in Canada; Christopher Greco, Canada

- Indigenous people constitute 32% of the prison population and 5% of the general population in Canada. This particular group receives considerable attention in corrections. However, other ethnocultural groups can sometimes be ignored.
- This presentation reviewed demographics and argued for a broader ethnocultural perspective for corrections. It was noted that minorities tended to be placed in broad groups based on race with no recognition that they were also (or primarily) individuals with individual needs.
- There should be plans to address these *individual* needs regardless of their ethnocultural grouping. Providing a common set of options based on generalizations is often not attending to the real individual needs of these populations. Correctional programming in Canada may be missing this point whether in considering the needs of indigenous people without considering a specific tribe or assuming all blacks have the same life paths and the same needs.
- A study was described based on semi-structured interviews with 39 Ethnocultural offenders (i.e. non-White, non-Indigenous federally sentenced persons who want to preserve their cultural identity and related practices) on conditional release. The aim was to explore perceptions of the utility and relevance of correctional programs and services. Participant experiences are interpreted against the writings of Tommie Shelby and James Baldwin. The results highlight the need for and complexity of delivering, within Canada's federal prisons, supports that are respectful and relevant for ethnocultural individuals.

Workshop: Combining Project Based Learning, Positive Criminology and Systemic Practices for rehabilitation within a Prison Context; Joseph Giordmaina, Malta

- This presentation, drawing from research in Maltese prisons, discussed how one can combine a Systemic Therapeutic Approach, embedded in a philosophy of Positive Criminology, through Informal Education Projects and Positive Modelling in a prison environment.
- The innovative element in this approach to rehabilitation is the strong involvement of significant others (such as partners, families or friends) in educational programmes inside the prison. The project involves the bringing together, in a community for rehabilitation, the person in prison, the educator, the significant other and the prison officer.

Some common themes/thoughts/reminders/takeaways:

- Person centered research and programming have value.
- Available services fall woefully short of meeting the needs of special and vulnerable populations.
- Gender centered programming continues to net good results (anecdotally).

- NGO and Public Sector Partnerships in the reintegration space work well when structured right with contiguous if not common goals.
- Effective training and policy are necessary in building the right culture and assuring the right approach to supporting reintegration.
- There is diversity within groups that should be respected (as noted in the Canadian presentation).
- Feelings of fairness, justice and inclusion matter.
- People returning to the community seek a sense of belonging as described by Fergus McNeill in his opening keynote. His 6 dimensions of integration were also supported throughout the Track 2 presentations.

CRS 2023 Day 2 Track 3 Workshops: Innovation & New Directions in Reintegration Practice; Pedro das Neves

Workshop: Promoting non-discriminatory alternatives to imprisonment across Europe; Netherlands, Hungary & Portugal

- Comparative EU Study and activities in Portugal
- Effective mental health support for people on probation – a pilot project
- Designing non-discriminatory non-custodial sanctions in Hungary

Main findings PORTUGAL	Main findings HUNGARY
<p>Legal provision does not mean that the law is being properly applied (Law in books vs. law in action)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of data 	<p>Problems with the Individualisation of sentence</p> <p>Bringing justice professionals and social services together</p> <p>Shared experience of the negative effects of long-lasting judicial processes, the effects of imprisonment and the effects of parole on the personal life of detainees (employment, financial capacity) and their families.</p>
<p>Promoting non-discriminatory alternatives to imprisonment across Europe</p> <p>Recommendation guidelines:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-judicialization and diversion - Training and dialogue between justice professionals - Human Resources - Availability of programmes in the community - Involvement of civil society organizations in the implementation of community sentences - Use of new technologies <p>Specific measures are also proposed for some situations of particular vulnerability:</p> <p>i. Persons with mental health conditions ii. Foreigners</p>	
<p>See www.prialteur.pt for further information.</p> <p>Pilot project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a model of articulation between a local mental health team and the probation team responsible for the same geographical area. - Development of referral procedures - Good practices guide <p>Increase cooperation between health and justice ministries for a better provision of services for persons on probation.</p>	

**Workshop: Using Electronic Monitoring well to promote rehabilitation and reintegration;
Anthea Hucklesby, UK**

<p>Main findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EM a collection of technologies used to monitor compliance with conditions of community sanctions and measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There's a diversity blind approach to EM (equipment design, EM Regimes, policy-transfer). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Furthermore, despite the fact that we recognize these differences, existing research does not distinguish between pain (intended
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive measure impacting every aspect of the wearer's daily life - Some prefer EM to imprisonment but prison ... But 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difference and diversity in EM cohorts - Limited research on how different groups experience EM differently (Women, young people, foreigners). 	<p>consequences of punishment) and harm (unintended consequences).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harms caused by EM... (basic daily activities, education, work or leisure time). - When pain becomes harm (it turns into shame and stigma which prevents prosocial activities and impacts negatively on mental health ...
<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a need for greater awareness of the intrusiveness of technology - We need to address how to make EM more responsive to a diversity of wearers and their circumstances 		

Workshop: A befriending project with people who left prison; Liesbetgh Naessens & Lise Lelegems, Belgium

<p>What it is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A "buddy" befriending program since 2016 involving people who left prison and volunteers that was started by a welfare oriented professional social work organisation. 	<p>Main findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research about the work developed and perceptions of service users in Belgium. <p>Results:</p>	<p>After the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clients miss the emotional connection with the volunteer buddy. This relational connection is not replaced.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a relationship of trust and connect people with society (social services, housing, work, education, social network) - The buddy acts as a friend, a companion, a listening ear... - Selection procedure and training of volunteers (needs and barriers faced by the target group and communication and coaching skills). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social worker provides tailor-made support (emotional support, information, coaching and advice, contact with client, contact with other organisations) - How professional social workers intervene in situations defined as complex and reinforce/ sometimes replace the work of the volunteer - Valuable impact: the volunteer buddy is supportive and easy to contact and establishes a relationship of trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers remain, that the individuals are not able to overcome - Sustainability and funding - Barriers in society need to be overcome to achieve more sustainable solutions.
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Workshop: Offender management in custody: a lost opportunity; Kevin Ball & Tony Kirk, UK


What it is	Main findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the UK OMiC model - 100 million investment - Aim to ensure safety and a rehabilitative culture - New professionals and new practices (among others): - Keywork with prisoners - Case management review by Prison Offender Managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-release inspection found that OMiC delivered poor outcomes for former prisoners - Mainly due to shortages of staff - But also, because OMiC processes were poorly understood by staff and prisoners - People on probation: voice, people want be heard, identity and flexibility are important 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community offender managers to manage the offender handover before release 		
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Some Conclusions:

 **What went wrong? Policy failure insights**

- *Over-optimism* and naivety about the ability of the centre to forecast needs and resources
- *Top-down policymaking* and misunderstanding local needs and local resources
- Lack of *contingency planning*
- *Operational disconnect* of the centre from the frontline was observed in many features of OMIC failure:
 - rigid and complicated Refer and Monitor systems
 - commissioning system excluded community services
 - case management system over-complicated, duplicated effort

 **What could work?**

- Probation in England and Wales is facing a loss of public and political confidence
- The problems are wider than the troubled OMIC resettlement policy
- Criminology points to three principles to help restore probation:
 - Involve those with **lived experience** in delivering the service
 - Connect with **communities** (Paul Senior) – the Violence Reduction Units could be a model for local partnerships and local commissioning
 - **Co-production** with service users and frontline workers to design a relevant service
- A Dame Carol Black review for probation services?
 - engagement, evidence, experimentation

Workshop: Application of trauma informed practice in forensic intervention services; Julia Chan, Australia

- Prevalence of mental illness (some studies report 95%)
- Mental health and well-being are impacted by traumatic events
- Link between trauma and offending is multidimensional
- Trauma informed principles impact in a vast number of clinical populations but impact in forensic populations is less well known.

Application of trauma informed practice in forensic intervention services in Victoria, Australia

Some Key Findings:

Primary themes from clinical perspectives

Prevalence of trauma amongst service users

- While participants were generally unaware of official trauma rates, all agreed that the prevalence of trauma backgrounds among service users is very high – most estimated up to 100%.

Barriers to the application of Trauma Informed Practice

- Among other barriers, most participants described not having the space or resources to “take the lid off” service users’ trauma as the provision of *ongoing* trauma-specific intervention is outside the remit of their roles.

Primary themes from clinical perspectives

Influence of trauma on treatment responsivity and recidivism

- Participants generally agreed that unresolved trauma impacts on responsivity to treatment and is likely to influence recidivism.
- For example, some participants indicated that not being able to address unresolved trauma may compromise the extent to which service users might be able to put in place risk-management strategies from cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) treatment.

Primary themes from clinical perspectives

Provision of trauma intervention

- A theme of participants sharing that they would like to be able to work more intensively on service user trauma, because they perceive the trauma background and offending as being inextricably linked.
- However, they are also aware/understanding of the limitation on time and resources that are available to facilitate this.

Application of trauma-informed practice

- Participants generally reported that trauma-informed practice is not explicitly built into the approaches and practices that they are given to work with in their current roles.
- Rather, the clinicians bring a trauma-informed approach to their work through drawing from their prior and varied training, practice and experience.

Workshop: Learning inside out; Benedict De Bock, Belgium

- Education in prisons in Belgium is not very different from other jurisdictions where we find a situation where a large number of inmates, including young inmates, have low education levels and had a difficult school experience.
- Therefore, in order to tackle this problem, and understanding that education has a significant positive impact in supporting reinsertion and reducing recidivism, Vocvo in Belgium, supported by European Funding, developed a strategy and action plan based on the mapping of inmates' interests and talents, mapping restrictions, assessing employment opportunities (during or after detention)...
- Inmates are supported through this process by an educational counselor.
- As a result, the number of inmates that started independent studies more than doubled since 2020.

Workshop: A country by country or regional approach to preventing radicalization; Sara Afonso, Vania Sampaio, Pedro Liberado, Portugal



- **Importance of Multi-agency cooperation in practice**
 - 2 examples where policy documents refer to the importance of cooperation but where there was no evidence found of protocols to allow cooperation between different agencies
 - And 2 examples where these protocols exist.
- **Interviews with practitioners – Balkans**
- Still lack of cooperation protocols, lack of trust and information sharing. The need to include other sectors and actors, such as civil society, social services, local communities, health and education.

Recommendations

- Identify best practices that are transferable
- Have both a national and regional approach
- Evaluate and follow-up to assess what works and what does not
- Increase awareness of all actors
- Overcome identified obstacles such as lack of trust, information sharing and knowledge about each other's role through bringing different actors together and complementing their roles
- Southern with barriers to implementation of existing protocols, but Eastern and Balkan region with problems at creating them and training staff
- Application of a multidisciplinary approach bringing prison, probation, community and others together is crucial for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist and terrorist offenders.
- the existing cooperation protocols lack evaluation and practical implementation

**CRS 2023 Day 2 Track 4 Workshops: Partnerships for Supporting Reintegration;
Cherie Townsend**

- The workshops in this track reinforced points made in two plenary sessions, i.e., (1) reintegration depends on having sufficient control and having relationships of trust (Fergus McNeill) and (2) social capital: people change people (Young Lee Shie).

- The three workshops focused on the following themes:
 1. For partnerships to support reintegration, they must have people, platform and program. They must also champion partnerships with universities, on behalf of new ideas, and demonstrate passion. These points were also made in the closing plenary.
 2. The content of programs should be co-created by staff and individuals with lived experience.
 3. Partnerships should focus on what is possible. These workshops identified the power (of possibility) of the arts, inner awareness, language/listening, entrepreneurship, and education.
 4. Each workshop focused on the inner transformation of the individual to successful reintegration, where risk is reduced and meeting needs is increased. Beyond #3, the workshops identified the need for developing soft skills and self-care/resilience.
 5. Partnerships that support reintegration create both space and community for justice-involved individuals and for those who work with them.
 6. The skills that are necessary for staff are motivational interviewing (so they can have better conversations about change), understanding the stages of change and the soft skills attributed to presence/trust/connection. One workshop highlighted the PACT Model; another focused on the Global South.
 7. Education of society was noted as necessary in all workshops. One, though, also highlighted the need for collectivism to support reintegration.
 8. Evaluation is necessary to support reintegration in the long-term so that we can capture our learning. The developmental evaluation approach was an approach to this.

The workshops in this track also reinforced the point made in the closing plenary, i.e., “not about us without us”.

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