



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM SUPERVISED BY THE COURT (ND)



AN ALTERNATIVE TO IMPRISONMENT FOR
CRIMINAL DRUG ADDICTS
THE NORWEGIAN DRUG COURT MODEL





- Currently a trial project in the Norwegian cities of Oslo and Bergen
 - Startet in 2006
 - Inter-agency project (correctional/health/education/social welfare – services)
 - Inspired by similar correctional initiatives in Scotland, Ireland and USA
-



THE NORWEGIAN DTC (ND)

- **Alternative to prison**
Suspended sentence with the condition to attend the drug treatment and rehabilitation program supervised by the court.
Probation period: 2-3 years
 - **For drug abusing offenders, living in Bergen and Oslo**
 - **The goal is to help the offenders resocialize, abstain from crime and become drug free**
-



BACKGROUND

- Inhabitants
 - Norway: appr. 5 mill.
 - Bergen: appr. 0,3 mill
 - Oslo : appr. 0,6 mill
- Substance abuse problem in Norway
- Mortal ODs: Bergen has been nr 1 in Europe
- 60 % of the inmates have a drug-problem
- At least 1/3 are serving sentences for drug-related crimes
- Recidivism rates are generally high



IMPLEMENTATION STEP BY STEP

- Working group with participants from different ministries in the government.
 - Mandate: to make a report on whether the Drug Court system should be implemented in the Norwegian legal system or not, and if so: how to implement it. Look to Dublin and Glasgow.
 - The report was presented in September 2004, and the conclusion was that the results from other drug-court countries were so good that this was something Norway should try. The report suggested that the court should lead the drug treatment program.
-



- The report was send out for comments to a lot of different agencies and also all the courts. A lot of agencies, and especially the Supreme Court, was very sceptic to a system where the courts would be so involved in the serving of a sentence. This would break the legal principle of the courts independence to the public administration.
 - The result of the hearing was that when the bill was presented to the Parliament (Stortinget) it suggested that Norway should implement what they called a drug treatment program supervised/controlled by the court (not led by).
 - This resulted in new statutory provisions in the Criminal Code, section 53 and 54. The new section also decided that the Ministry of Justice should give administrative regulation to the drug-treatment program.
-



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

THE NORWEGIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Public Prosecution:

- Police lawyer
- District Attorney
- Attorney General

• indictment

Court

- District court
- Appeal court
- Supreme court

• conviction



Correctional service

-responsible for carrying out remands in custody and penal sanctions

- Prison (high and low security)
- Probation
- DTC-centres

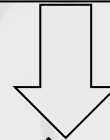


KRIMINALOMSORGEN

Ministry of Justice.

Directorate of Norwegian
Correctional service

5 different regions of the
Correctional service



43 prisons

**2 DTC-
centres**

17 probation
offices



KRIMINALOMSorgen

GOALS

- Rehabilitation
- Crime prevention



- Coordinating assistance measures



DRUGS DRUGS DRUGS DRUGS DRUGS DRUGS





KRIMINALOMSorgen

ORGANIZATION

- MINISTERIAL LEVEL
- LOCAL LEVEL – steering-group consisting of the team-members employers
(+ Police/prosecution + the District Court)
- TEAM
 - A leader/coordinator, employed by the regional level of the correctional service.
 - A social worker employed by the local council.
 - A psychologist employed by the local health service.
 - A probation officer also employed by the correctional service.
 - An educational advisor employed by the county administration.
 - A part-time secretary employed by the correctional service





KRIMINALOMSORGEN

TARGET GROUP

- Social inquiry report





SUITABLE? OR NOT?
MEASURES?





KRIMINALOMSORGEN

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- Currently 20 participants in Bergen
 - Age 21- 51
 - Both men and women
 - Different kind of drugs
 - Different quantity
 - Different duration
 - Different backgrounds
 - No major violence
 - Crime primarily motivated by drug problem
 - Regarded as motivated
-



CHARACTERISTICS

- Drug abusers
 - Poor mental health
 - Poor physical health
 - Lack of education/
lack of work experience
 - Poor network
 - Unpopular in the
housing market
 - Not satisfactory residential
 - Inability in living skills
 - Criminal minds
-



KRIMINALOMSorgen

THE JUDGES



- In Bergen there are 5 judges (Drug Court judges) in the district court who follow up the participants in the program
- - starting with an informal meeting between the judge and the participant (in the judges office)
 - court meeting every time the participant has qualified to be transferred to the next phase (court order)
 - follow-up meetings (court record)
 - court meeting - breach of conditions (new judgment)
- The judges are not part of the team and there are no pre-court meetings. (petition from the team to the court)



PROGRAM CONTENT

INTERNAL

- Physical activity and training
- Assessment and guidance regarding work and education
- Drug coping counselling
- Psychological assessment
- Drug control – urine samples
- Social training
- All kind of meetings and issues

EXTERNAL

- Work rehabilitation
- School/education
- Financial counselling
- Treatment in institutions or at external facilities
- Coordinate efforts with the Social Welfare Office
- Volunteer organizations
- Etc etc etc etc



"Didn't you get my e-mail?"



BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

- Drug abuse, not keeping appointments, no progression, new criminal offenses
 - The team
 - warnings
 - Court
 - prison (all of the prison sentence or a part of it)
 - extend the probationary
 - new conditions
 - DTC-leader/coordinator conducts in court
 - New crimes – police/public prosecution
-



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

MAKING A DIFFERENCE?!





- Control framework and jail sanctions
 - Interagency
 - Realistic training arena
 - Relationship building - close contact
 - Quasi-coerced treatment
 - Court supervision
 - Close monitoring of violations / rapid response
-



KRIMINALOMSORGEN

MONEY TALKS COST - BENEFIT

- ND-budget: approx. 530 000 euros
- Ca 20 convicted in the program= approx.20 years
= 7300 prison days
- Daily rate in prison: 200 euros => 1,46 million euros
- + Expenses for police, courts, insurance companies, etc
- Improved quality of life is impossible to measure in money.

- Appr. 260 ND-convictions = appr. 200 years in prison

-

Production of taxpayers





KRIMINALOMSORGEN

PUNISHMENT THAT WORKS?!











KRIMINALOMSorgen

• WHAT IS SUCCESS ?





ALWAYS A SECOND CHANCE



THE EVALUATION-REPORT

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF THE 115 FIRST CONVICTED PARTICIPATING IN
THE PROGRAM

BERGEN/OSLO

STURLA FALCK

The Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research (SIRUS) is an independent research institution, and at the same time an administrative government body under the Ministry of Health and Care Services

THE PARTICIPANTS

- The 115 sentenced to the ND-program from 2006-2011 were interviewed on three times over a 2 years-period: 115 people at T1, 106 at T2 and 96 at T3.
- They were convicted for drug-related crimes and they all had a severe drug problem.
- They had on average nearly 15 years of mixing drugabuse.
- All were previously convicted for drug related and property crimes, and some also for violence. On average they had 15 previous convictions.

THE BIG ISSUES

- How was the development of those who were sentenced to ND at follow-up after one and two years? Had their situation improved in terms of drug use, crime, mental and physical health, housing, work / school and social network?
- What differences can be registered for those who completed ND compared to those who dropped out along the way?

COMPLETED AND DROP-OUTS

- Over a third of the people sentenced to ND completed the program.
- The 39 who completed ND, had on average spent two years and two months in the program.
- Those who dropped out had on average spent one year and two months in the program.
- The average age was 35 years in Oslo and 33 years in Bergen. Both places 15 percent were women.

COMPARED TO ORDINARY SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

- Usually a minority (20-30 percent) of people with substance abuse problems completes a treatment program

• COMPARED TO DRUG COURTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ND-CONVICTED

- All of the areas surveyed, show a positive trend:

Time in controlled environment, drug abuse, crime, psycho-somatic health, education, work and social relationships.

- Those who completed came out better than those who dropped out along the way, but these also showed a positive development.
- Self-reported crime (as in new prosecutions and convictions), show a decrease.
- There was a positive development with reduced mental and somatic disorders, both for those who completed and those who dropped out.
- Social conditions and housing situation appears somewhat improved.
- **Of those who went to school or work - 80 percent completed**
- Relapse after completing ND is difficult to say something about - yet.

LIMITATIONS

- Number of respondents was lower than anticipated. This reduces the possibility of drawing statistically generalized conclusions.
- The research design was somewhat unfortunate and not adjusted to the changed assumptions or specifically aligned to ND-model.
- Can not say anything about what works / does not work in relation to various agencies involved in the team.

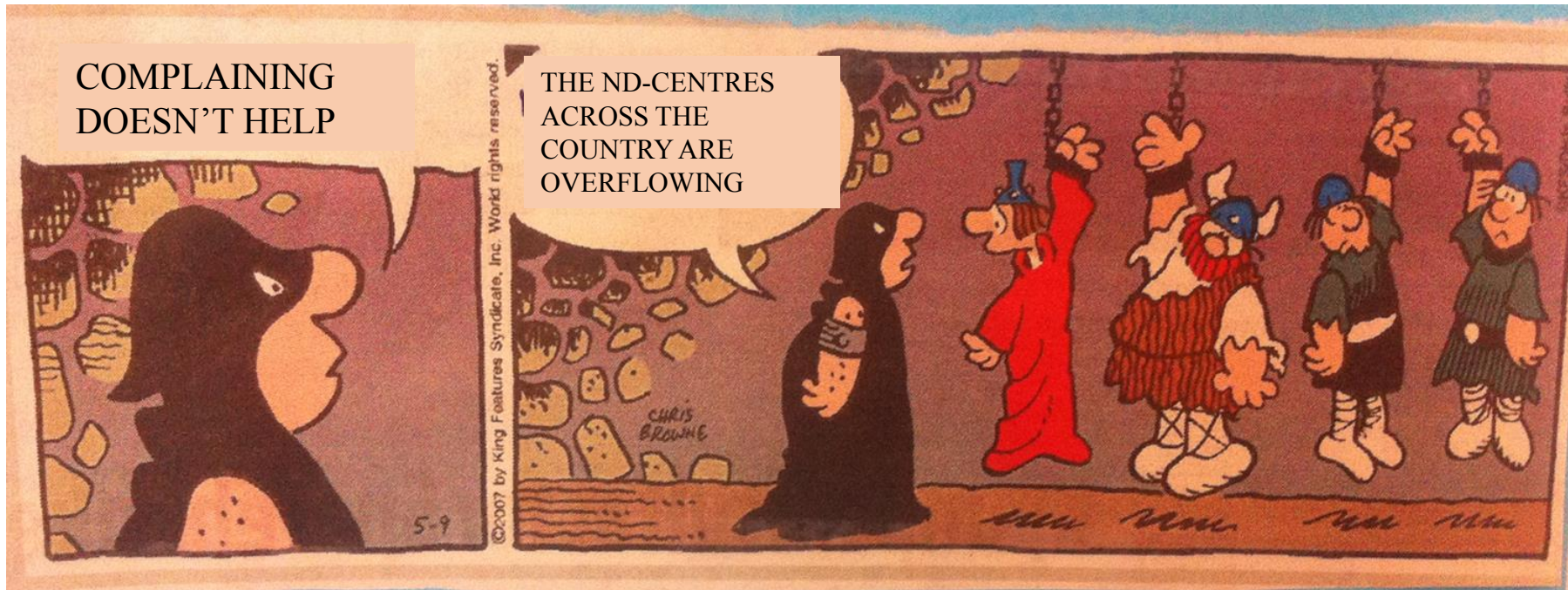
OVERALL IMPRESSION

- Both those who completed and those who dropped out showed a positive trend, albeit somewhat weaker.
- The results from the ND-program seems better than the alternative, imprisonment.
- ND has shown that alternative reactions are possible even for this group. Imprisonment for recidivists convicted for drug related crimes have 85 percent risk of relapse. This shows the importance of trying alternative sanctions.
- The percentage completed was positive compared with Drug Court in other countries and drug users in treatment.
- Those who went through the program and the measures in ND got their opportunities for further integration into society strengthened.

WHERE DOES THIS LEAD US?

COMPLAINING
DOESN'T HELP

THE ND-CENTRES
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY ARE
OVERFLOWING





KRIMINALOMSorgen

THE FUTURE?

