

Kriminaalihuollon tukisäätiö
KRITS
Probation Foundation

History

The roots of the Probation Foundation and Probation Service are in the work of the Prisoner's Association, which focused exclusively on a helping mission. After the reorganization in August 2001, after-work originally included in the Probation Association's duties, will be continued by the Probation Foundation.

1870 The Finnish Prisoner's Association

1966 The Probation, registered association

1975 The public Probation Association

2001 The Probation Service

Probation and Aftercare Association 1975-2001

- a public corporation funded by the government
- the enforcement of community sanctions
- housing support
- employment guidance
- general guidance and financial support

Probation and Aftercare

Association 1975-2001

- during 1980's the social and legislative development lead to the view that inmates' aftercare is an obligation of municipalities
- the aftercare system of Probation Association was gradually dissolved
- increased emphasis on enforcement of community sanctions

Probation Service and Probation Foundation KRITS 2001-

- the Probation and Aftercare Association was nationalized
 - almost whole emphasis on community sanctions
 - the municipalities are not capable of responding to the needs of released inmates
 - need for NGO aftercare organisation
- Probation Foundation

The Probation Foundation KRITS (Finland)

The purpose of the Probation Foundation KRITS is to reduce recidivism. The foundation aims to help people who have been convicted of a crime, are in a crisis situation because of a crime or are facing social ostracism. The Probation Foundation develops and furthers probation and after-care services and supports voluntary work. Also, the foundation brings its influence to bear in the field of criminal policy and promote the interests of its target group. The goal of the Probation Foundation is to create a nationally significant and influential network of organizations in the field of probation and after-care.



The developer and promoter of probation and after-care

The Probation Foundation actively carries out development projects. The purpose of projects is to create necessary support services in the field of probation and after-care for the municipalities and sanctions system. The foundation furthers probation and after-care by education and working in different co-operative organs. Furthermore the foundation grants financial assistance for research, development and education of probation and after-care and for voluntary work.

The influential actor

The Probation Foundation acts as an active influential actor in the development of the legislation of the field, various projects and researches as well as by supervising the interests of its target groups. The foundation has representatives in ministerial working groups and consultative committee of the Criminal Sanctions Agency (treatment programmes). The foundation has also an ombudsman institution to promote probation and aftercare.

The producer of support services

The Probation Foundation provides supported housing services and peer support services in capital area. It has a peer support contact point Redis in Helsinki. The services of Redis and supported housing services are for released prisoners on capital area, engaged to rehabilitation. The services of the foundation's ombudsman for probation and after-care are national. The ombudsman is the supervisor of the interests of ex-prisoners and he practices law in a matter of rehabilitation and after-care.

Members of the Council

- A-Clinic Foundation
- The Finnish Blue Ribbon
- Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health
- The Finnish Association for Mental Health
- The Guarantee Foundation
- Y Foundation (housing)
- The Church Council
- The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
- The Ministry of Justice
 - Criminal Sanctions Agency
 - Prison Service
 - Probation Service

Probation Foundation KRITS

The operation of the Probation Foundation is financed by the income from real estate and stocks owned by the foundation as well as financial aid from the Finland's Slot Machines Association (RAY).

PROJECT AND INVESTMENT FUNDING FROM RAY

The operation of the Probation Foundation is financed by the income from real estate and stocks owned by the foundation as well as financial aid from the Finland's Slot Machines Association (RAY).

- **RAY** was established in 1938 to raise funds through gaming operations (slot machines and casinos) to support Finnish health and welfare or youth organizations (non-profit organizations).
- The funding assistance year 2007 was 312 million € and 109 million € for welfare services for war veterans.
- Yearly about 1 100 organizations receive funding.
- **RAY funding for KRITS 2008**
 - **350 000 € for permanent activities**
 - **766 000 € for projects**
 - **Total 1.116.000 €**
- **RAY funding assistance is about 60 % of KRITS budget**

Ombudsman

- Promotes the possibilities of rehabilitation for those with criminal background.
- Offers knowledge about support systems, helps in taking care of one's matters with officials and gives legal advices.

Peer support Redis

- Support groups for inmates inside and outside prison.
- Voluntary support persons, their training and guidance.
- Contact place Redis
 - Open Mon-Sat 12-18
 - “low threshold”
 - Discussion and guidance from peer point of view.

Supported housing

- 23 flats in Helsinki and Vantaa
- Three half-way houses (4+4+4 places)
- 5 workers
- A continuum from prison to independent living
- Year 2006, 81 applications, 34 occupants
- Comprehensive support: staying sober, meaningful activities during the day, discussion help, taking care of one's matters in different agencies
- Difficulties: quick relapses after release, keeping up the criminal lifestyle

Family support

- Building a continuum from prison to community so that emphasis is on the whole family's welfare. Co-operation with municipalities, church and NGOs.
- Developing a peer support training model for both men in prison and (usually) women in the community and their children.
- Training this model to prison and community workers and NGOs.

Gate to Freedom Portal

- Internet site
- Extranet site



Content of sites

- Databases
- E-forms for different purposes
- Forums
- News

Internet site

For people with criminal background
and their families

- to help criminals to change and leave criminal lifestyle behind them
- support families of criminals

Content of Internet site

- Objective information and self help tool ('survival kit' when released from prison)
- Peer support (discussion forum)
- Consultation of the ombudsman
- News: "what's going on and where?"
- Links to other sites

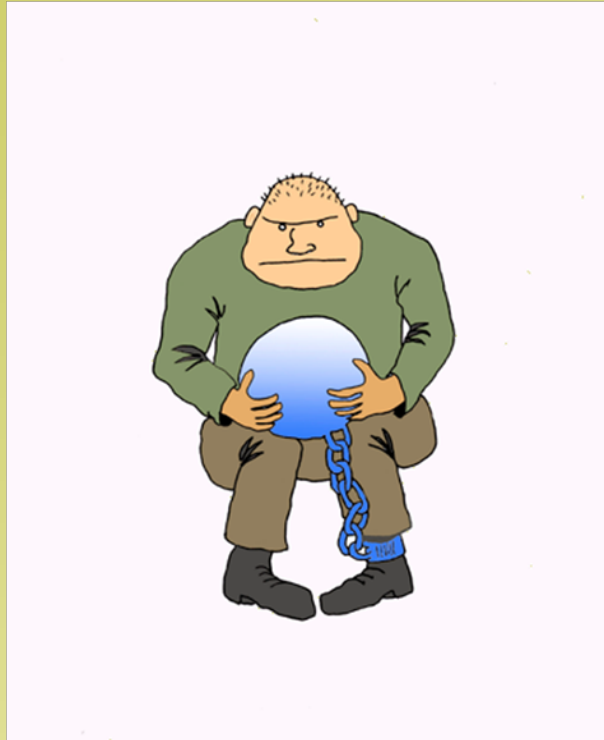
Extranet site

Network for NGOs working with prisoners or ex-prisoners

- to help them in their everyday work
- to create a forum for professionals
- to offer tools for communication

Future plans 2008-2009

- Services for families of offenders
 - Information
 - News
 - Consultation of family therapist
 - Discussions of peer support
- Self help tests
- Human interest type of stories
- Info bank, short articles written by professionals



Thank you!