

# Prisons and Probation: Sites for Radicalization / Opportunities for Disengagement?

Presentation to Council of Europe  
Conference, Málaga

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## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

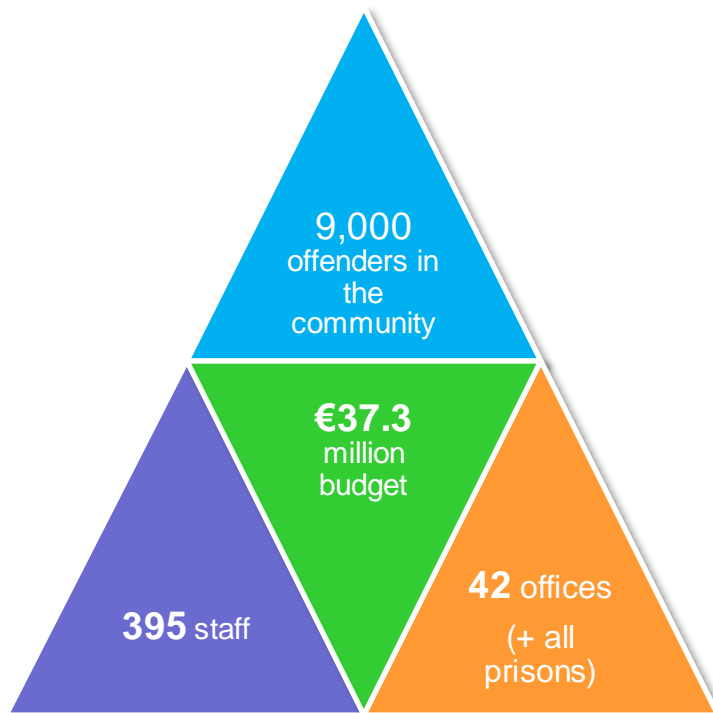
- 1. Probation (and prisons) context in Ireland.**
- 2. Gangs and organised crime.**
- 3. Work of the PC-CP <> de/radicalization.**
- 4. Lessons so far.**
- 5. Future possibilities.**





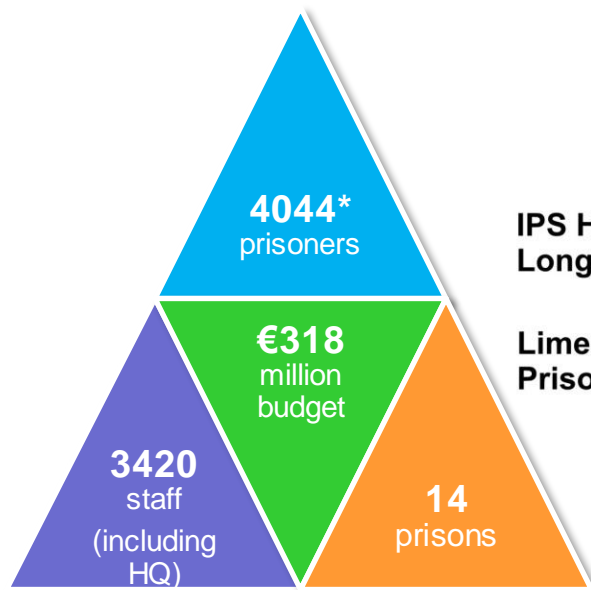
An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh  
The Probation Service

# PROBATION SERVICE OVERVIEW



# THE IRISH PRISON SERVICE OVERVIEW

\* 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014



Loughan House  
Open Centre

Castlerea  
Prison

IPS HQ  
Longford

Limerick  
Prison

Cork Prison

Portlaoise Campus

Irish Prison Service College

West Dublin Campus  
Mountjoy Campus  
IPS Phibsborough  
Arbour Hill Prison  
Psychology Service  
Building Services Division  
Operational Support Group  
Prison Service Escort Corps

Shelton Abbey  
Open Centre

89\* prisoners per 100,000 of national population.

\* International Centre for Prison Studies

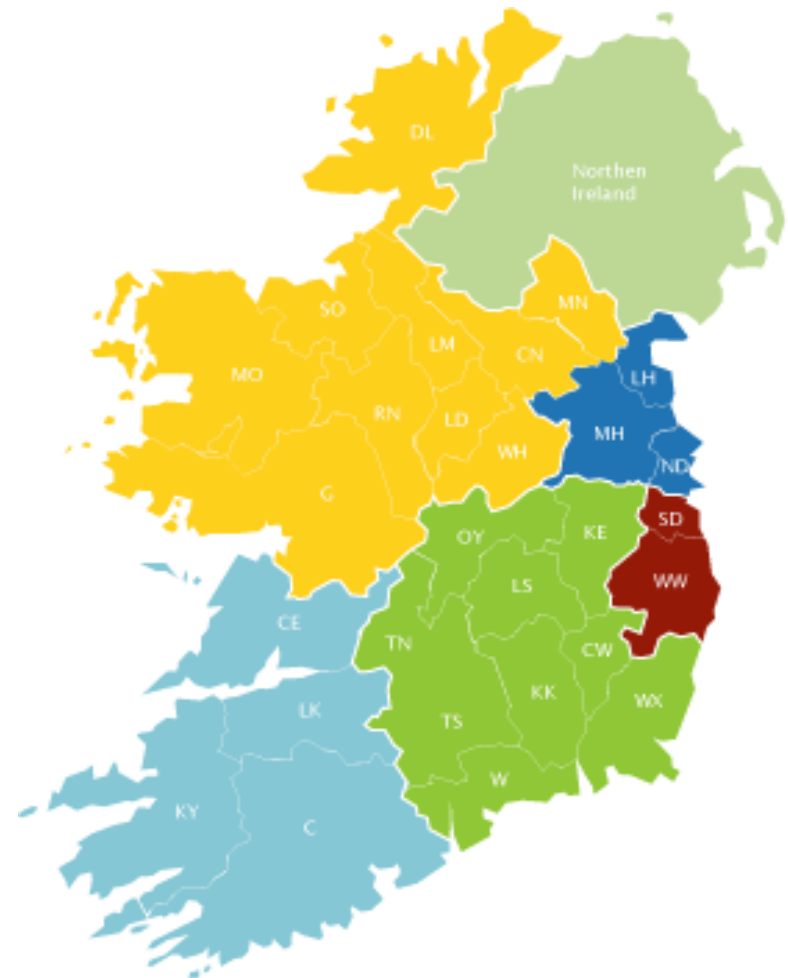
<http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/ireland-republic>





## PROBATION ROLE:

- **Manage court orders**
- **Reduce risk of harm**
- **Reduce likelihood of reoffending**
- **Make good the harm caused by crime**



## WHAT WE DO

The Probation Service deals with almost 15,000 offenders in the community annually (including c.8,000 assessments on offenders which assist judges in making decisions in criminal cases).

Two main work category areas:

### ***Assessment***

- Assessment Reports for Court
- Assessment teams in major urban areas
- Risk Assessment tools
- Parole Board Assessment Reports



### ***Supervision and Rehabilitation of offenders:***

- **Court-ordered supervision:** Probation (adults and young people), Community Service, Fully suspended sentences.
- **Post-Release Supervision :** Community Return, Part-suspended sentences, Life Sentence Prisoners (Parole), Sex Offenders







## **GANGS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN IRELAND**

- **Gangs in prison mirror community. Drugs related.**
- **Policing and Interagency Response.**
- **Paramilitary groups do not recruit in prison.**
- **Parliamentary (Oireachtas) Joint Committee on Justice.**





## THE PC-CP

1. Radicalization on the agenda.
2. Discussion so far.
3. Deradicalization or disengagement?
4. Next steps.







## SOME CURRENT PRACTICES

1. Gang 'culture' relatively new.
2. Intelligence (inside and out) is vital.
3. New assessment/triage units.
4. Isolation – moving one can change dynamic.
5. 23-hour lock up is last resort.
6. Prisoner councils, offenders as mentors.
7. Heightened expectations for 'successful' outcomes.



## FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

1. **Fear of the unknown.**
2. **Learn from existing practices and other jurisdictions.**
3. **Listen to those who have been through the process.**
4. **Punitive responses alone unlikely to work.**
5. **Not a case of one size fits all.**
6. **Interagency co-operation.**
7. **Involve all parts of the system.**





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**THANK YOU**

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