



Register now for the STARR Final Conference in Sofia, 8th-10th June



Since the start of the project *Strengthening Transnational Approaches that Reduce Reoffending (STARR)* two years ago, distinguished researchers and senior probation professionals have tried to find an answer to the question '**What Works in re-offending**'. Under this broad heading, the project aimed, among other objectives, to develop models of promising practice, to offer an EU-wide understanding of what interventions are most effective

in working with offenders, and how What Works-methods can be made transferrable. At the final conference of the STARR project, which will be held **8th-10th June in the Kempinski Hotel Zografski in Sofia, Bulgaria**, the results of the project will be presented. Current research and innovative practice in 'What Works' will be discussed, including programmes and a wider approach to desistance from crime, with an added importance on evaluation practices. Presenters include Prof. **Friedrich Lösel** (Institute of Criminology - University of Cambridge), Prof. **Alison Lieblich** (University of Cambridge), Prof. **Fergus McNeill** (Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Studies) and delegates of the project partner organisations which have implemented pilot projects in the framework of STARR. Due to the fact that STARR is largely financed by the EU, registration fee is moderate. Registration for the conference is now open.

[Read more about the conference](#)

[Click here for registration](#)

STARR: transferring best probation practices across Europe

It has proved to be so difficult to transfer good projects or programmes from one probation organisation to another. STARR (Strengthening Transnational Approaches to Reducing Re-offending) has been set up to address this issue in Europe. Last spring STARR organised a conference in Cambridge on the topic 'What works in reducing re-offending'. Professor Friedrich Lösel (Cambridge, Erlangen/Nuremberg) looks back. "At the conference we have, in fact, been stock taking: what do we know about successfully reducing re-offending in the different European countries and what must be done to achieve a better transfer of best practices?"

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1st STARR Expert Meeting More than three years of Aggression Replacement Training in Hungary



Enabling more Hungarian probation officers to deliver Aggression Replacement Training (ART) to young clients. That is the main goal of the project on youth crime that is being carried out in Hungary within the STARR (Strengthening Transnational Approaches to Reducing Re-offending) project, which is well under way. Time for a midterm review. "I think the researchers will find that the ART programmes show good results," says probation advisor Zoltán Bogschütz, a senior official in the Central Office of Justice Probation Methodological Department.

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2nd STARR Expert Meeting: Focus on Fighting Domestic Violence

From the 24th-26th of November 2010, Paris was the scene of the European seminar 'Fight against domestic violence: comparative European practices'. This event was the second expert meeting held in the framework of the European project 'Strengthening Transnational Approaches to Reduce Re-offending' (STARR). Head of the Cooperation Desk of the European & International Affairs Department of the French Ministry of Justice **Karine Gonnet** looks back.



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3rd STARR expert meeting on Drugs & Alcohol: Norway's different way of dealing



The call for tougher punishment of offenders is heard everywhere in Europe. Well not entirely! In Norway a different wind is blowing. This became clear during the expert meeting *Approaches to Drugs and Alcohol Abuse in Prisons & Probation*. At this CEP event, held in February in Sofia, Bulgaria, Deputy Director General at the Norwegian Ministry of Justice Andreas Skulberg held two remarkable presentations. "We have decided to move away from strictly punitive sentences toward alternatives that emphasize the health and economic situation of an offender".

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Visit the STARR website!

In the European probation sector there is a great demand for knowledge of best practices. However, to date there is no unified view of how best practices in community justice settings can be transferred from one jurisdiction, and be implemented in another. In order to offer an EU-wide view and to inform and develop models of best practice and good practice implementation, the National Offender Management Service for England and Wales (NOMS, UK) and London Probation Trust have developed the project **Strengthening Transnational Approaches to Reducing Re-offending**, or STARR.



[Read all about STARR at the STARR website](#)

Coming up: European Restorative Justice seminar in Brussels



At 15th June 2011 the European Forum for Restorative Justice, with the support of CEP, Victim Support Europe and EUCPN, will host the seminar "Restorative Justice promoting the interests of victim and offender", in Brussels, Belgium. The seminar will bring together representatives from victim and offender services, as well as from the restorative justice (RJ) field. Most services representing victims or offenders have different focuses with restorative justice as an additional option. Therefore the different perspectives on RJ represented at the seminar can widely contribute to a better understanding of victims' and offenders' needs and expectations. A wide range of experts, practitioners, policy makers and academics will provide an interesting and stimulating forum for reflecting together about how to work towards a better justice for all.

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