



Nordic-Russian co-operation for the social integration, prevention of marginalisation, and protection of human rights for female prisoners

Third and final expert group meeting

21.08.2019 – 24.08.2019, St-Petersburg, Russia

Thursday 22.08.2019

11.00-13.00

Working visit/meeting

NGO “RADOMIRA”, working with vulnerable children, women and families at risk of social marginalisation. Prevention and rehabilitation of youth.

Member of the board of “Women’s Alliance” – organization uniting more than 60 women’s organizations of St-Petersburg and Leningrad region

Place: St-Petersburg, Sotzialisticheskaya str. 15B

14.00 – 16.00

Working meeting with Rima Sharifullina, director of the Legal Center “EGIDA”, member of the Human rights Council under the Governor of St-Petersburg, leader of the St-Petersburg’s “Women’s club”

Place: St-Petersburg, Ligovsky pr.87, office 301

16.00 – 18.00

Expert's group meeting

Moderator: Maria Sagitova

Presentations:

Master's student Anastasia Alekhina. Department of Criminal Law and Procedure. Institute of Economics and Law. Petrozavodsk State University, Petrozavodsk, Russia

The project of road map of the legal clinic for women released or preparing for release.

When women release from correctional facilities, they often don't know how to adapt in society, get a job, return children or family.

The personal road map, which could be developed for every woman who came to the PetrSU Legal clinic for help, allows a convicted woman to return to social life with minimal risks for her. When it's needed, PetrSU Legal clinic's specialists assist convicted women during the period of serving the sentence and after it, with documents, housing, work and other legal issues.

A specialist of the PetrSU Legal clinic selects the best option for a woman to solve her legal issue for her social adaptation and returning to normal life. That's how the road map works. The goal of the road map is to provide convicted women with social benefits such as getting a job or finding a place to live, etc. A specialist assists and accompanies the convicted woman in the process of her re-socialization. An example of the implementation of the road map will be given in the text of the report.

Invited expert: Tatiana Bakulina, chair of the NGO "Names Plus", working in prisons on social and medical rehabilitation, HIV/AIDs prevention and treatment, social inclusion programs, member of the Public Supervisory Commission, that monitors the observation of human rights at detention centers and penal colonies.

Presentations: 15-20 minutes

Discussion on cooperation and project's progress report.

Place: St-Petersburg, Ligovsky pr.87, office 301

18.30 Dinner for project's partners.

Friday 23.08.2019

International seminar

Women`s integration and prison in Nordic countries and Russia

August 23, 2019
St-Petersburg

Organisers: Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS), Aleksanteri Institute (University of Helsinki); Finnish Institute in St-Petersburg and Nordic Council of Ministers'

Venue: Finland house, Bolshaya Konyshennaya str., 8, 3d floor
Санкт-Петербург, ул. Большая Конюшенная, д. 8.

11.00 Registration of participants

11.30 Opening of the seminar

11.30 – 13.15 Panel session I: Nordic-Russian co-operation and Women's rights

Moderator: Maria Sagitova, Director, Center for international and information exchanges in sphere of human rights "Enlightenment", St-Petersburg, Russia

Gahnström Sebastian, Consul, Consulate General of Finland in St Petersburg, Russia

Finland – society committed to gender equality

Sani Kontula-Webb, Director, Finnish Institute in St-Petersburg, Russia

Gender equality in the cultural projects of the Finnish Institute in St-Petersburg

Olga Shtannikova, Chief, Department of Ombudsman of St-Petersburg, Russia

Protection of human rights for female prisoners: activities of the Ombudsman of the city of St-Petersburg

Prof. Peter Stadius, Research director, Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS). Department of Cultures. University of Helsinki, Finland

Nordic-Russian research and research contacts: A Nordic Studies view

The current trend in studying the Nordic Region as part of Area and Cultural Studies, wishes to broaden the scope of how knowledge on the Nordic Region is being researched. This 'New Nordic Studies' approach includes a strong element of comparison with other regions, and the study of interactions and flows of cultural and policy transfers. However, we feel that this imperative of comparison and transfer-studies, as articulated from leading circles of Nordic Studies within the region, could take the Russia and Russian experiences much more into consideration. As of now there are severe asymmetries in the spatial orientation of most Nordic Studies related research, oriented rather towards the west than towards the east. When seeking best practices, benchmarking and exchange of collective historical experiences, there is much still to be done between the Nordics and Russia.

Concerning, women's rights, firstly there is the opportunity to engage in a fruitful dialogue between two cultures that both have a positive track record historically on women's rights. Secondly, new trends in gender and women studies also calls for potential co-operation between the two parties.

Dr. Larisa Kangaspuro, Project leader "Nordic-Russian Social integration, prevention of marginalization and protection for female prisoners". Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS). Aleksanteri Institute. University of Helsinki, Finland

Nordic-Russian co-operation for the social integration and protection of human rights for female prisoners

Rehabilitation is a key component in Nordic correctional treatment. Northern values of human rights are an integral part of the Scandinavian reputation. Russia also gets the first positive results, conducting a new prison reform, announced until 2020. Scandinavia has always represented for Russia both the best example of good European model of societal development and warning example of alien or even hostile civilization to the Russian civilization grounded on traditional values and norms.

It is, of course, not easy to export cultural and social values across borders, but systems and approaches that have proven functional, can at least act as an inspiration to others. Initially, it is clear that the mechanical transfer of the northern experience to Russian reality has no meaning. It is also important to convey some Russian knowledge on this issue to the Nordic countries.

13.15 – 13.45 Coffee break

13.45 -15.30 Panel session II: Social inclusion of female prisoners. Cooperation between authorities, educational research institutions and NGOs

Moderator: Marina Sereda, Chief, Department of St-Petersburg governmental Institution “Informational-methodical Center “Family”

Maria Sagitova, Director, NGO Center for international and information exchanges in sphere of human rights “Enlightenment”. St-Petersburg, Russia

Re-socialization and rehabilitation for female ex-prisoners. Social and legal protection in Russia

Nordic-Russian cooperation on re-socialization and rehabilitation for female ex-prisoners gives possibilities to exchange experience and best practices in sphere of their social and legal protection. Recommendations for the specialists, working for re-socialization and rehabilitation of female ex-prisoners in St-Petersburg are needed to be developed and special trainings should be run. Female ex-prisoners – are vulnerable women from the social risks groups. Main problems of the women after prison are: losing housing and social connections, difficulties in finding job, discrimination against former prisoners. Re-socialization and rehabilitation are targeted to prevention of social exclusion of women, recidiv crimes, distribution of socially dangerous infections, social exclusion of women. They should be legally protected to be socially included. Health, labor rights, housing and social defense are the main problems to be addressed. As most of these women have drug dependence in stage of remission, HIV and/or other infections system of cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions of penitentiary system, law enforcement agencies, social and health institutions and NGOs should be developed.

Kristin Kongelf, Group therapist, Stiftelsen Kvinnekollektivet ARKEN, NGO for treating women struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction. Oslo, Norway

Treatment of drug dependent women, our program, experiences and results

Kvinnekollektivet Arken is a non-governmental organisation treating women struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction. We are located in Oslo, Norway. We are using knowledge from the 12-step program. Our treatment lasts from 6 to 9 months. Our patients are given the opportunity to be followed up in a weekly group at Arken for one year after they have finished the main treatment. Our program is intensive and mandatory, with treatment in groups and lectures every day. Our patients are women from the age 22- and upwards. The women are often struggling with additional challenges tied to sexual assault, violence and attachment issues. We have women with all sorts of background. Some women are transferred directly from women prisons as they are now drug free and willing to get treatment for their drug dependency. Prisoners with drug dependency are often introduced to the 12-step program already in prisons and their interest for getting a new life starts with this. We have collaborations with women prisons close to Oslo and on demand we will visit and speak to the women of interest and motivate them for further treatment and arrange for a transference directly after release. The treatment’s main goal is to provide a better quality of life parallel to abstaining from all addictive substances. We are helping the individual to discover and develop their own attitudes that can lead to a lifestyle that suits them. In this, the treatment has long-term aims besides simply abstaining from drugs.

Marina Grechishkina, Director, Governmental institution “Crises center for women”.
St-Petersburg, Russia

Social assistance and re-socialization for female ex-prisoners in the city of St-Petersburg

Dr. Natalia Ermishina, Head of Department of Criminal Law and Procedure, Institute of Economics and Law. Petrozavodsk State University, Petrozavodsk, Russia

Legal training program for women released from correctional institutions or preparing for the release» as an element of resocialization for convicted women

Upon the completion of the project, the Petrozavodsk State University developed a rehabilitation course for convicted women – "The legal training program for women released from correctional institutions or preparing for the release". The Program goal is to educate women released from prisons on the current legislation. Volunteers of the Legal Clinic of Petrozavodsk State University actively participated in development and implementation of the Program. In addition, the Program can be considered as a part of the individual resocialization "road map" for convicted women.

The rehabilitation program concerning women's rights is modular and individual. It means that the Program is divided into thematic blocks, which are individually adapted to each woman and her needs. The Program implementation includes different forms of work with convicted women. The Program includes general and special parts, and additionally may include individual part, which is developed on personal request. Women can participate in the Program both - in correctional facilities or after release.

Another opportunity in terms of re-socialization is resuming the activity of the Commission on women advancement to address the issues of convicted women. The Commission will ensure the interactions between the Federal authorities, regional authorities and public organizations in the field of improving the status of women convicts, because it's impossible to solve these problems without interdepartmental mechanisms of interaction.

Dr. Ann-Mari Sätre. Research director, IRES institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies.
Uppsala University, Sweden

Social policy and rehabilitation of female prisoners in Russia

The presentation is about social policy and rehabilitation of female prisoners in Russia. Processes leading to social marginalisation of women in Russia is highlighted. Policies of rehabilitation directed towards female prisoners and women who have been released from prison will be analysed. The role of socially oriented NGOs in dealing with problems of female prisoners will be highlighted. Reflections on the relationship between NGOs and social work in rehabilitation are presented. Finally, the impact of the survival of the norm that women are responsible for the organisation of social welfare is highlighted.

Empirical data are based on qualitative interviews on social policy and policies to prevent social marginalisation of women prisoners. Most of the respondents were women.

15.00-15.30 – Discussion

Saturday 24.08.2019

14.00 – 19.00

Evaluation meeting

Discussing project's results, content report and cooperation development.

Participants: Dr. **Larisa Kangaspuro** (project leader), Prof. **Peter Stadius** (co-project leader) and **Maria Sagitova** (main Russian partner)