



Programme of the Experts Meeting

31.10 – 02.11, Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS), Aleksanteri-institute, University of Helsinki, Finland

31.10

Venue: Aleksanteri-institute, Unioninkatu 33, Meeting room 2nd floor

11.00 – 12.00 Breakfast. Registration of Participants.

12.00 – 12.20 Opening words

Professor Peter Stadius. Director of Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS). Department of Cultures. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Professor Markku Kangaspuro. Director of Aleksanteri-institute. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

12.20 – 13.45 Panel session: The project "Nordic Russian Cooperation for social integration, prevention of marginalization and human rights protection for female prisoners"

Dr. Larisa Kangaspuro. Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS). Department of Cultures. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Nordic Russian Cooperation of experts and researchers. Ambitions and Outlook.

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. If we leave out the current freezing relations between the West and Russia, we can see that dialog and learning from the best practices would benefit in many respects Russia's development including ongoing prison and legislation reform.

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. Therefore, it is important to convey some Russian knowledge on this issue to the Nordic countries.

Maria Sagitova. NGO "Center for international and informational exchanges in sphere of human rights "Enlightenment", St-Petersburg, Russia

Re-socialization and rehabilitation: programs for former female prisoners in St-Petersburg (Russia).

Re-socialization and rehabilitation programs for former female prisoners are quite new for social governmental and non-governmental institutions on Russia.

Former female prisoners – are vulnerable women from the social risks groups. Re-socialization and rehabilitation are targeted to prevention of recidiv crimes, distribution of socially dangerous infections, and social exclusion of women. The system of help for these women includes psychological, legal, medical and other measures, which are supported their adaptation and reintegration into society.

Main problems of the women after prison are: loosing housing and social connections, difficulties in finding job, discrimination against former prisoners. Besides most of these women have drug dependence in stage of remission, HIV and/or other infections. For re-socialization and rehabilitation of former female prisoners in St-Petersburg establishing system of cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions of penitentiary system, law enforcement agencies, social and health institutions and NGOs.

As it is quite difficult to involve this target group into process of re-socialization and rehabilitation specialists start activities start in prison. They support women by psychological and legal consultations and other social services. After leaving prison former female prisoners become clients of governmental and non-governmental social services to those they already trust.

14.00 Lunch

16.00 – 17.45 Panel session: Volunteers' work at the "Legal clinic" of the Petrozavodsk State University. Small meeting room on the ground floor

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

Free legal aid as an instrument for resocialization of women sentenced to imprisonment: the experience of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Karelia.

Currently there are several centers in the Federal Penitentiary Service system in Russia, which prepare convicts, including women, for independent life after serving their sentence. Educational, social and psychological work is carried out in these centers, but a lawyer works only in few of them.

However, free legal assistance is an important tool in socialization of convicted women, who require knowledge about their legal capabilities after release and solution of legal issues related to

children, housing, property, etc. Legal assistance serves as an important adaptive function – women acquire or supplement their life management skills under new conditions, which had changed during their sentence. Additionally, such gradual legal education of women contributes to prevention of new crimes committed by them after release and their further marginalization. The system of free legal assistance to convicted women in the Russian Federation includes different levels and implementation forms, which, if used effectively, can be an additional effective tool for the re-socialization of convicted women.

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

Legal clinic and activity of students - legal volunteers as an instrument in the system of resocialization of women sentenced to imprisonment.

The presentation discusses the need for involving students in the provision of legal assistance to women in need who had been sentenced to imprisonment. Those women, who have served their sentence, experience difficulties not only in socialization, but also in self-realization as a person. Students of law faculties of higher educational institutions can provide legal assistance to women, who have served their sentence, and to those, who are preparing to be released from prison for a petty crime (according to the Criminal code of the Russian Federation). Such assistance can be provided in two main areas, namely legal education and legal volunteering.

In the legal education area, students provide assistance in preparation of individual "road maps" – which are meant to advice women how to tackle legal issues, taking into account their specific situations. In addition, women are advised on recent legislation updates related to housing, pension or family law. In the legal volunteering area, students may represent women in court sessions, because the services of a representative often are too expensive.

The result of the work should draw the mass attention to the availability of legal clinics, which are ready to provide legal assistance to persons in need. In addition, the activity of student's legal volunteers will help women to avoid the criminal path and become full members of society.

18.00 Reception

01.11

Venue: Aleksanteri-institute, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 33, Small meeting room on the ground floor

9.30 – 11.15 Panel session: Research and practice

Dr/Associate Professor Ann-Mari Sätre. IRES institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden

On Social Marginalisation of Women in Russia – some reflections.

This presentation is about social marginalization of women in Russia. Reflections are based on my book: *The Politics of Poverty in Contemporary Russia* (Routledge, planned publishing date is 7 December 2018), based on official statistics, survey data and interviews from four Russian regions.

Reflections will primarily be made based on the interviews with social work experts, social workers, social pedagogues at schools, teachers, doctor's assistants, NGO representatives, local politicians, deputies of commissions or local village councils and ordinary people, some interviewed at several points from 2002 and 2017. First, some gender aspects on poverty will be presented. Then I give a brief account of social policy, including women's efforts to help poor people in difficult situations informally. The role of socially oriented NGOs in dealing with problems of poverty will be highlighted. We look into both the efforts of the government to engage people in socially oriented voluntary work and how civic organisations adapt to the political harnesses. Reflections on the relationship between NGOs and social work are presented.

Kristin Kongelf. Stiftelsen Kvinnekollektivet ARKEN, 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 patients are women from the age 23- and upwards. The women are often struggling with additional challenges tied to sexual assault, violence and attachment issues.

Our program is intensive and mandatory, with treatment in groups and lectures every day. 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.

11.30 – 12.30 Lunch

13.00 Travel to Hämeenlinna

14.00 Finish female prison life in reality. The visit Vanaja prison's female unit. Hämeenlinna.

17.30 Travel from Hämeenlinna

19.00 Conference Dinner (complimentary for speakers and organizers)

02.11

Venue: Aleksanteri-institute, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 33, Meeting room 2nd floor

10.00 – 11.45 Panel session: Exchange experience and best practices

General discussion on project plan and expert meeting results. Activities and expected results.

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Reception