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# Running EM in a rural versus urban environment in Norway

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# EM in Norway



- Pilot project started in 2008
- Capacity of 342
- Front door and back door, up to 4 months
- Administrative decision, execution of prison sentence
- Voluntary; the offender has to apply
- RF technology only
- 11 units, integrated in probation offices, 7am-23pm (10-17)
- One night watch-unit and one control centre monitoring the whole country, 24/7



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# The Norwegian standard



- National rules, regulations and policy for EM
- *“the level of control and supervision should reflect the fact that this is a prison sentence”*
- Well-qualified staff of both prison officers and social workers
- Close and dynamic supervision; both support and control
- Quick and consequent reaction to breach (zero tolerance to alcohol and drugs)
- The Correctional Services have the superior responsibility of all parts



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# Challenging conditions

- Geographical
  - Long distances
  - Mountains and fjords
  - Weather conditions
- Demographical
  - Widely spread settlements
  - Variable infrastructure





# Practical consequences

- Time consuming, for both offenders and officers
- Use of private supervisors to do the control visits
- Use of other agencies as police, social workers
- Less dynamic and personal supervision
- Costly



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# Both rural and urban areas







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# Possible different impacts and effects

- Legally?
  - Imposing and revoking
  - Requirements for accommodations and occupation
- Experience for the offender?
  - Intrusiveness
  - Help and support
- Organization?
  - Risk for officers
  - Economy
  - Technical





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# Measures to decrease differences



- Legal possibilities to decline application
  - Administrative possibility to postpone the implementation
  - Local adjustments and flexibility
  - Making use of local, social network, supervised by the Probation Office
  - Flexible organisation, with cooperation with other units in the Correctional Service
  - Extended use of technology
  - All measures in the frame of national legislation
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# A matter of:

- Understanding of local conditions
  - Making use of local knowledge
  - Acceptance of some local judgement
  - Willingness of paying the costs
  - Aim for equality in the end
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- Not possible to run both a just and cost-efficient national EM-program in Norway –  
but it's possible to find a good balance!

