



Electronic Monitoring in the Baltic states

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Some history...



- 1918 - Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania established as independent states
- 23rd August 1939 – Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and occupation by the Soviet Union
- 23rd August 1989 – The Baltic Way
- 1991 – Independence regained



Some history...



Criminal justice legacy:

- Retributive penal system
- Penal system insufficiently sourced
- Outdated prison infrastructure
- No efficient alternatives to imprisonment
- Prison subculture
- Dominance of Russian language within criminal justice system
- Stigmatisation of offenders within community

Some history...



During 1990s prisons were rapidly filling in with inmates...

Year	Prison population rate (per 100 000 of national population)		
	Latvia	Lithuania	Estonia
1990	327	232	284
2000	370	410	343
2015	239	268	214

Source: www.prisonstudies.org

Some history...



Each Baltic State took separate path to deal with similar problems and to develop modern criminal justice system,

but

regarding electronic monitoring all 3 countries had common vision:

- **a mean to reduce number of people serving imprisonment sentence**
 - **an alternative to imprisonment**

When electronic monitoring introduced?



Estonia – 2007

Lithuania – 2012

Latvia - 2015

Estonia



Description of EM programme:

- a) **Responsible authority** – National Prison Service
- b) **Technological solutions used** – radio frequency (legally possible also GPS and alcohol monitoring)
- c) **Provider** – «3M» (*contract on rent of technology till 2016*)
- d) **Volume of programme:**
 - Today: ~130 offenders simultaneously
 - Max capacity: 300 simultaneously

Estonia



Description of EM programme:

e) Applications:

- EM for early released prisoners (*back-doors model*)
- during the pre-trial phase
- instead of short prison sentence (up to 6 months, 1 day=1day) (*front-doors model*)
- as extra measure due to violating probation conditions;
- for victim protection
- for offender who is sentenced for new crime during probation

Estonia



Description of EM programme:

- f) Monitoring centre:** 24/7, operated by prison
- g) Installation of EM:** ASAP and performed by probation officer
- h) EM intensity:**
 - EM term divided into 3 consecutive periods (strict, medium, flexible)
 - Visits to the probation office – once per 10-14 days
 - Probation officer performs on-site control visits at home, workplace etc.
- i) EM duration:** <12 months

Estonia



Main challenges:

1. Problems linked with staff:
 - Motivation of offender for EM while he is in prison
 - Discretion
 - Rehabilitation vs. Control
2. Technical issues
3. Procurement issues

Lithuania



Description of EM programme:

- a) **Responsible authority** – Prison Department
- b) **Technological solutions used** – radio frequency
- c) **Provider** – «5ci» and «SuperCom Limited»
(contract on rent of technology till 2016 with extension option)
- d) **Volume of programme:**
 - Today: ~50 offenders simultaneously
 - Max capacity: 70 simultaneously

Lithuania



Description of EM programme:

e) Applications:

- EM for early released prisoners – intensive supervision (*back-doors model*)
- As a control measure – to control compliance with condition to be at home at a specific daily time:
 - suspended imprisonment sentence (formally - up to 3 years)
 - restriction of liberty in community (formally - up to 2 years)

In practice EM as a control measure is used for up to ~2 months (not 2-3 years) because intensive supervision is a priority and there are also other rationale not to apply EM for so long.

Lithuania



Description of EM programme:

- f) Monitoring centre:** N/A (there is only software probation officers work with and log on several times a day to check status of their clients)
- g) Installation of EM:** ASAP and performed by probation officer
- h) EM intensity:**
 - Visits to the probation office – once per 1-2 weeks
 - Probation officer performs on-site control visits at home, workplace etc.
- i) EM duration:** <12 months

Lithuania



Main challenges:

1. Until today we rent EM system, but now procurement is ongoing to purchase our own equipment– how we will work with purchased equipment and deal with various issues (administrative, technical)?
2. Transition to 24/7 needed due to delayed reaction on violations and false-positive alerts
3. Judges don't always trust into effectiveness of EM - that information received from technology is reliable

Latvia



Description of EM programme:

- a) **Responsible authority** – National Probation Service
- b) **Technological solutions used** – radio frequency
- c) **Provider** – «SuperCom Limited» (*contract on rent of technology till 2020*)
- d) **Volume of programme:**
 - Today: ~30 offenders simultaneously
 - Max capacity: 200 simultaneously

Latvia



Description of EM programme:

- e) **Applications:** EM for early released prisoners (*back-doors model*)
- f) **Monitoring centre:** 24/7
- g) **Installation of EM:** ASAP and performed by probation officer
- h) **EM intensity:**
 - Visits to the probation office – once per 1-2 weeks
 - Probation officer performs on-site control visits at home, workplace etc.
- i) **EM duration:** <12 months

Latvia



Main challenges:

1. Very high expectations regarding reliability of EM technology
2. Technical issues
3. We are still learning and exploring capabilities of acquired technology
4. How courts will react? How much judges will rely on information received from technology?
5. How to expand our EM programme?
6. Unprecedented level of cooperation with private company in provision of public services – psychological and administrative challenge

Commonalities of EM in the Baltic States in context of CoE's recommendation No. CM/Rec(2014)4 on electronic monitoring

- EM regulated by law
- Court makes decision on EM, its duration and revocation
- Informed consent from offender and other adults living in his indicated place of residence needed
- EM is complemented/combined with interventions and support measures of 'ordinary' community supervision aimed at social reintegration of offenders

Commonalities of EM in the Baltic States in context of CoE's recommendation No. CM/Rec(2014)4 on electronic monitoring

- EM time schedule prepared in cooperation with offender and reviewed once per 1-2 weeks
- EM is implemented according to Risk-Needs-Responsivity principles
- Offenders are motivated to be socially active and to be employed
- Each offender has his own well trained probation officer responsible for case management

That's all!



If not enough, contact us for more:

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