

Best Practices of CoSA

in the Netherlands

Ms. Audrey Alards, LL.M

Circles coordinator - Dutch Probation Service
Counsellor CoSA Europe



Reclassering Nederland



From a citizens initiative to an effective method

- 1994 Canada
- 2002 United Kingdom (1st in Europe)
- 2009 the Netherlands
- 2011 Belgium
- 2012 Circles 4 EU
 - pilots: Bulgaria - Latvia – Catalonia (Spain)
 - implemented: France - Hungary - Ireland
- Circles NL 2009-2017
 - 119 circles started – 71 in circles – 11 CC

European CoSA model



What makes an effective circle? (Höing, 2015)

- Selection of the core member
- Selection of volunteers and appropriate balance in diversity
- Monitoring and supervising group development
- Exchange information
- Effective strategies:
 - inclusion
 - promoting change
 - risk reduction
 - process evaluation

Selection core member (1/3)

- Referral from a professional / Self-referral from potential CM
- Assessment of core member criteria
- Case review by national project leader
- Core member 'needs and resources profile'
- Assessment by circle coordinator
- (Individual cases assessed)

Selection core member (2/3)

A suitable core member:

- Has made a voluntary decision to join a circle
- Is willing to disclose information about his sexual offence
- Is motivated to engage with volunteers specifically around offending behavior, present risk behavior and risk signals
- Accepts responsibility for offending behavior
- Prioritizes goals according to risk and need
- Agrees information will be shared

Selection core member (3/3)

An unsuitable core member:

- Is diagnosed as a psychopath
- Is in complete denial
- Has a disorder or a significant intellectual disability that forms a barrier to benefit from the method
- Is too young / immature to benefit the method

Suitable and unsuitable profiles as starting points, but.....

Individual cases are assessed!!

Selection volunteer

- Application letter by potential volunteer
- Individual introductory interview
- A two-day training program
- Final selection interview
- Match volunteers for balanced circle

Monitoring and supervising group development

- Assessment stage
- Building stage
- Equilibrium stage
- Transfer stage

- Dysfunctional stage

Exchange information

- Volunteers
- Core member
- Social circle of the core member
- Circle coordinator
- Key professionals
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Effective strategies

Circle goals:	Social capital formation	Human capital formation	Relapse-prevention	Circle redundancy
Who?	Inner circle	Inner and outer circle	Inner and outer circle	Circle coordinator, inner and outer circle
Circle functions:	Social inclusion:	Behaviour change:	Risk reduction and risk management:	Evaluation and improvement:
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be available and offer support - Model and stimulate respect, openness and trust - Offer and stimulate social activities/pro-social relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold accountable - Develop targets and cooperation - Offer advice, guidance and encouragement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and discuss risk and problem behavior - Confront core member - Share information - Intervene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate and support group proces - Evaluate and discuss core member process - Safeguard model and program integrity
Consequences for core member:	<p>Sense of belonging</p> <p>Self-esteem, hope and motivation</p> <p>Trust in others</p>	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Improved life-skills and self-regulation</p> <p>Improved self-efficacy</p>	<p>Risk awareness</p> <p>Offence free life</p>	Effective circle
Consequences for society:	No more victims Public safety			

(Thank you so much for your attention)
ごせいちょう ありがとう ございました

For more information or questions, please contact:

Audrey Alards, LLM

A.Alards@reclassering.nl

Download our *European Handbook* at www.circles4.eu

Download Höing, M. A. (2015). *Empowering circles: Circles of Support and Accountability*. Oosterhout: OCC De Hoog B.V. at https://pure.uvt.nl/portal/files/9393515/Hoing_Empowering_26_1_0_2015.pdf (Dissertation)

Or order a hardcopy: ma.hoing@avans.nl