

STSM SCIENTIFIC REPORT

Researching decision making in community service supervision in Greece

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COST Action: IS1106 Offender Supervision in Europe

Host: Professor Anthea Hucklesby, University of Leeds, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, School of Law, Leeds (UK).

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1. Purpose of the STSM

The purpose of the STSM was twofold. First, to enable Maria Anagnostaki to develop better understanding and elaborate on methodological issues related to research already under way in Greece on the implementation of community service order and relevant offender supervision. Second, to provide the opportunity for deeper understanding of different jurisdictions and of the way different countries have implemented and adapted the community service order as a community penalty.

2. Description of the work carried out during the STSM

During my stay at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds, I had the opportunity to make use of the facilities at the Centre and gained access to a great volume of bibliographical sources and material related to my research. Moreover, I had invaluable discussions with Professor Anthea Hucklesby whose expertise and guidance provided me with new insight in relation to methodological issues and contributed considerably in my gaining better understanding of ethical and practical aspects that are part of my research project.

As regards the comparative element of my research, I made extensive review of legal, criminological and practical aspects of the implementation of the community service order in nearly all the countries (except Malta) that participate in the “Decision making and supervision group” of the COST Action Offender Supervision in Europe, namely: England & Wales, Scotland, Spain, France, Greece, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland. Comparison has focused on four elements of provision and implementation as follows: a) Introduction – historical and general remarks concerning reforms and the gradual adaptation of the measure, b) legal provisions with brief reference to the legal background of each jurisdiction, c) administration and organizational arrangements regarding implementation of the measure today and d) enforcement and breach procedures.

Finally, a half day shadowing of community payback was arranged for me by Professor Anthea Hucklesby. Shadowing took place at the 17th of July from 8:30 till noon at the West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited. This experience has been most rewarding and informative for me and I have been more than welcomed by the community

payback officers who shared with me their daily practices and some reflections on their work.

3. Description of the main results obtained

Work carried out during the STSM has been part of an ongoing research project on the implementation of community service order in Greece and relevant offender supervision. As regards the methodological insight and aspects discussed they will form part of the chapter on methodology which will be included in the research report (Phd thesis).

The comparative research review that has been carried out is planned to be reported in the form of brief country sheets (country reports) that will be sent to the members of the "Decision making and supervision working group" for their comments and remarks. The final reports that will be produced will be disseminated within the working group and provide working material for the purposes of the group. A translated in Greek version of this final report will be included in my research project and constitute invaluable background material for informing my research questions regarding Greek practices in relation to the community service order and offender supervision.

4. Future collaboration with host institution

Not foreseen at the moment.

5. Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM (if applicable).

Both methodological and comparative issues that formed the purpose of this STSM will be incorporated in the research report (PhD thesis) on the implementation of the community service order and offender supervision in Greece.

Moreover, during my STSM I had the opportunity to revise and complete my article titled: "Consent and cooperation in the Greek context: Rhetoric and praxis", which will be published in the next issue of the European Journal of Probation.

6. Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM.

To be sent by the host institution.

7. Other comments.

I would like to thank the members of the Center for Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds for their warm welcome and support during my stay at Leeds. I would also like to thank the MC chair Fergus McNeill and the management committee of the COST Action for giving me this opportunity. Finally, I am especially grateful to Professor Anthea Hucklesby for her full support of my application and for offering me an inspiring month of reflective interaction and an ideal research environment.