

A brief introduction

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First International Conference

Liverpool Hope University

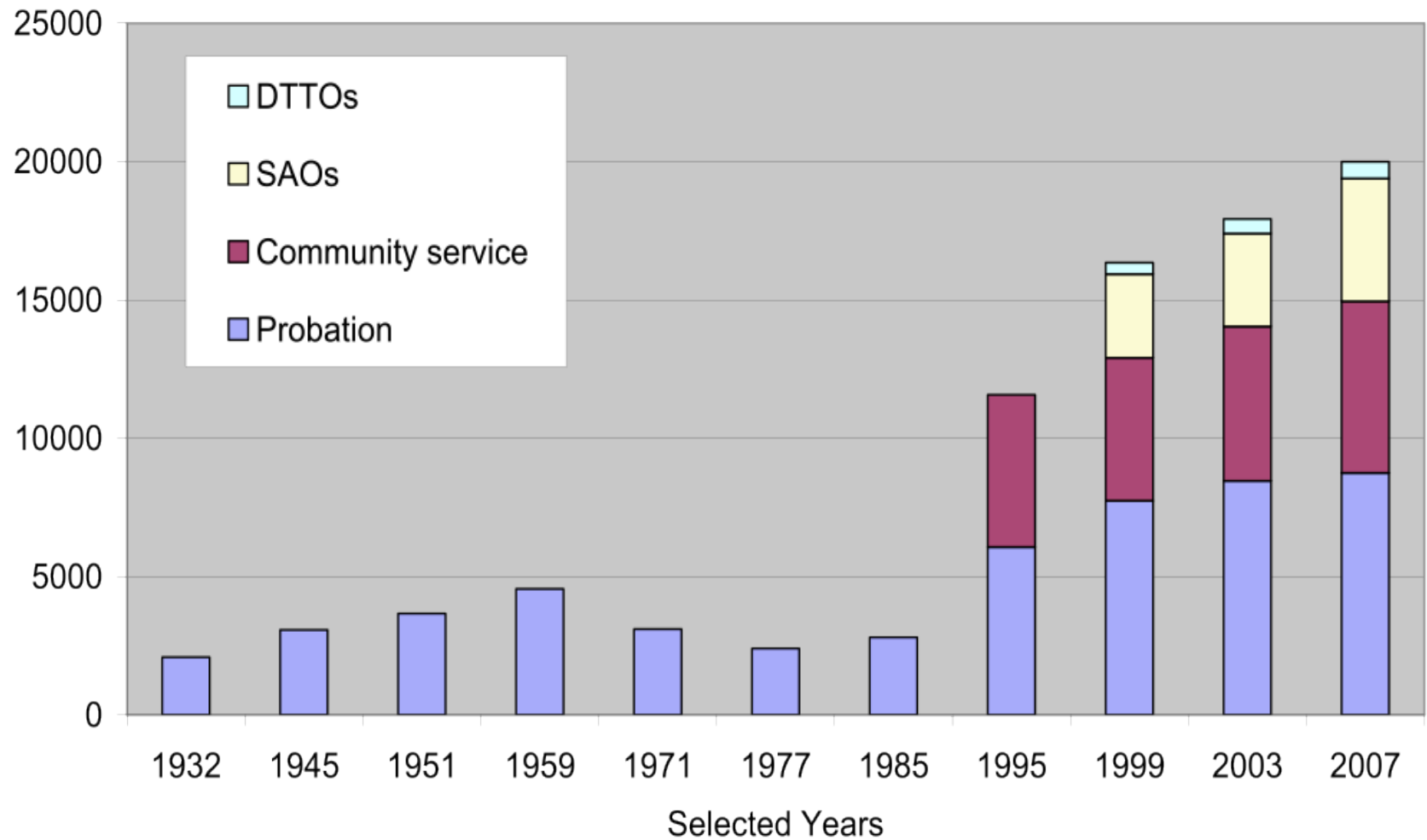
26-27 April 2013

**Offender Supervision
in Europe**

COST Action IS1106

 **cost**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Number of Orders



Offender Supervision in Europe

- Significant increases in **scale**
- Widening **distribution** (across Europe)
- Developing **intensity**
- New modes of (multi-level) **governance**
- Yet, under-studied and under-analysed
- Meaning public debate and policy and practice development are **not informed by an adequate basis in humanities and social sciences**

Costs of failure/benefits of success

- The UK Ministry of Justice (2010) estimates the costs of reoffending by ex-prisoners to amount to **7-10Bn GBP (8-11.4Bn EUR)** per annum.
- Audit Scotland (2011) estimates that helping one ex-prisoner into employment and keeping them out of trouble over five years would save **1Mn GBP (1.14Mn EUR)**.
- These figures reflect only potential economic costs and benefits; there are significant additional **social costs and benefits**

Developments in Europe

- Stockholm programme
 - Mutual trust, mutual understanding
- Framework decision on the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions
 - Analysis revealed **gaps in knowledge, questions about shared values, need for scientific critique and support**

Aims and Objectives

- **Increase and deepen knowledge about OS**, so as to better understand its evolution and development in social context, how it is experienced by those subject to it, how it is constituted and constructed by those that practice it; and what its impacts and consequences are for those affected by it
 - Advancing the state of the art
 - Advancing research utility and utilisation
 - Advancing public awareness
 - Building research capacity
 - Developing skills and networks of young researchers

Programme

	Experiencing OS	Decision-making and OS	Practising OS	European policy and practice
<i>Phase 1: Descriptive and evaluative work</i>	?	?	?	?
Phase 2: Developing comparative work				
Phase 3: Progressing comparative work				
Phase 4: Prescriptive and normative work				

Hopes for this conference

- Evidence that we are beginning to expose and develop a fruitful area for study
- Help to facilitate critical reflexivity amongst all those involved in OS
- Value and represent lived experience (both supervisees and supervisors)
- Edge towards a significant social scientific contribution to the development of legitimate and constructive OS