

## **COST Action IS1106 – Offender Supervision in Europe**

### **Short Term Scientific Mission Report**

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Research topic: Electronic monitoring of offenders in Scotland and Hungary

#### **I. Purpose of the Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)**

I was conducting my research between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> October in Scotland (at the University of Strathclyde) and in Hungary on the topic of electronic monitoring of offenders. My aim was to examine and compare how electronic monitoring of offenders is implemented in Hungary and in Scotland and also to study the perception of electronic tagging among the various actors of the criminal justice system and to compare the two frequently used methods of electronic monitoring (radio frequency technology and GPS technology).

#### **II. Description of the work carried out during the STSM**

During the weeks of my Short Term Scientific Mission I

- a) Reviewed the available literature on the topics of my research questions,
- b) Studied the legal regulation and available data, reports and guidances both in Hungary and in Scotland,
- c) Conducted interviews with various actors of the criminal justice system and experts on electronic monitoring (such as Sheriff Andrew Cubie, Ms. Cheryl Paris, Ms. Susan Bulloch and Mr. Norman Brown),
- d) As a guest, I observed a meeting of the subgroup of the ‘Electronic Monitoring in Scotland Working Group’,
- e) On 26<sup>th</sup> August I participated the conference titled ‘ENCOURAGING TAG-TICAL REHABILITATION - (The Role of Electronic Monitoring)’ in Perth where experts from all areas of the criminal justice system were discussing the future of electronic monitoring (I also participated in the conference

workshops),

f) I visited the electronic monitoring centre in Scotland.

### **III. Description of main findings**

The work carried out in my STSM is a part of my research regarding my PhD thesis, it will form a chapter with electronic monitoring in Scotland and in Hungary being two of the case studies. I also wrote a paper based on my findings during my STSM in which I am discussing both the theoretical framework of electronic monitoring of offenders and the possibly problematic key questions of electronic monitoring concentrating on the form where electronic monitoring is used as a punishment (opposed to for example the form where electronic monitoring is used as pre-trial custody). I am also working on a report that is solely about electronic monitoring in Hungary, in a form of a country report.

My main findings concentrate on the question whether electronic monitoring can be used as a stand alone punishment or not. According to my findings electronic monitoring has more potential to achieve the goals of its use when it is used in a combination with social work. Social work can provide the essential support for offenders for integration or reintegration. It is questionable whether electronic monitoring used by itself can achieve this. Of course, the fact that the offender is not separated from his/her usual environment, family, etc... can also contribute to this effect providing huge support but I believe that the role of social work in this matter is an absolute necessity.

The other group of questions I am discussing in my article focus on questions and issues that were either raised during the interviews I conducted with experts or are based on my observation regarding electronic monitoring. I am debating whether electronic monitoring should be handled by the public or the private sector, how might the difference between the characteristics of the two sectors affect the implementation and practice of electronic monitoring; what is the possible role of the family in electronic monitoring – if there are family members living in the same household as the offender -; the questions of breach criteria in Scotland; the possible uses and advantages of both radio frequency

and GPS based technologies; and one of the most essential questions: the communication between the various actors who are involved in electronic monitoring.

#### **IV. Future collaboration with host institution**

Not foreseen at the moment.

#### **V. Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM**

I will use my research findings in my PhD thesis, which I am currently working on. My aim is also to publish my results in the form of an article (both in English and in Hungarian if possible).

#### **VI. Confirmation by host institution of the successful execution of the STSM**

(See attached document)

#### **VII. Other comments**

I would like to express my gratitude and thank to all people who helped me during my research. First and foremost to Professor Mike Nellis, who was my host at the University of Strathclyde and who provided essential help to my research, and Dr. Klára Kerezsi, my thesis supervisor. I also have to mention all the experts who I met and interviewed, and of course, the COST Action IS1106 – Offender Supervision in Europe which made my research possible.