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Presentation title: Policy conditions for Scandinavian offender rehabilitative practices: A growing dissonance between principles and strategy?

The presentation is based on the first set of findings in a document analysis that constitutes the first phase of my PhD project. The project is financed by Ulla V. Bondesons Stiftelse for Rets sociologisk og Kriminologisk Forskning. On the basis of a critical reading of the Scandinavian Prison and Probation services' white papers on resettlement, strategy briefs, financial plans, codes of principles etc., their over-all means and desired ends are analyzed and discussed. Furthermore, national programs for the comportment of offender rehabilitative efforts in the resettlement process are analyzed in order to identify how policy-makers envisage such practices within the overall project of crime prevention. The presentation will add to the debate on whether we witness a punitive turn in Scandinavia which has recently (re-)emerged in Scandinavian criminology circles. The "red thread" of the presentation is thus constituted by recurring assessments of the discursive balance between the Scandinavian Prison and Probation Services' double-sided axiom: Support and control. Through the presentation I wish to draw attention to certain disconcerting developments in the policy discourse on practice: While policy-makers maintain that the overall purpose of punishment is crime reduction through rehabilitation or resocialization, control- and consequence-discourses have intensified. By drawing attention to such developments, I argue that regardless of whether we witness a punitive turn or not, a dissonance between basic principles (the fundamental rehabilitative ideology) and the strategic indicators that control funding and the actual practices is growing.