



UNIVERSITAIR
FORENSISCH
CENTRUM

ORGANISATION AND QUALITY CRITERIA OF SEX OFFENDER OUTPATIENT TREATMENT IN BELGIUM

IATSO 2021
virtual presentation

Minne De Boeck & Prof. dr. Kris Goethals

Who we are

□ UFC = University Forensic Centre

- Ambulatory treatment for sexual deviant behaviour/fantasies
 - ± 100 active treatments
 - ± 1/3 'voluntary' – non-judicial
 - 55% referred by the justice system, 21% by health services, 24% own initiative
 - Most patients present
child pornography, pedophilia or ephebophilia, hypersexuality
- Support & reference centre

- Cooperation agreement (1998)
 - ‘guidance and treatment perpetrators sexual abuse’**
 - > Idea: specialized treatment for sex offenders
 - > Creation of formal framework
 - > Cooperation justice & health services

- Performance commitment
 - Formalised document about treatment – justice cooperation
 - Content:
 - Legal conditions + treatment conditions
 - Professional secrecy agreements
 - ≠ result commitment!



Partners



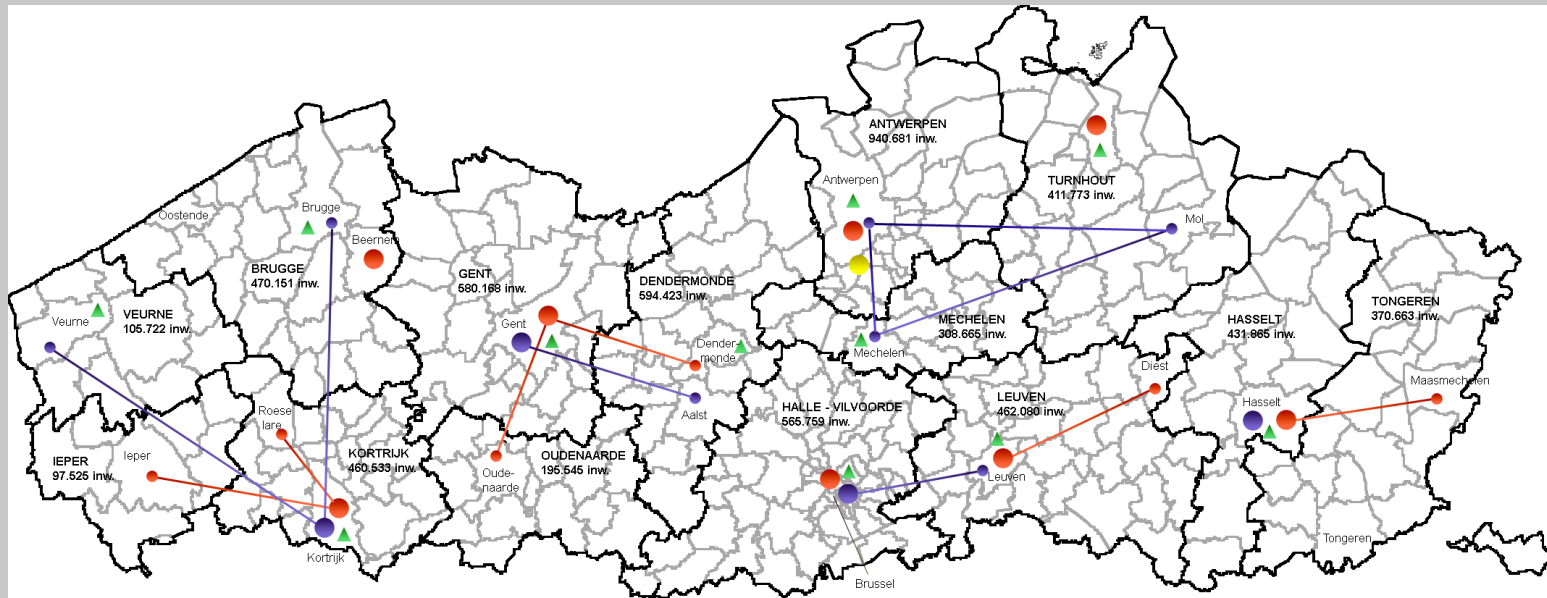
Dual Policy



Dual policy in practice? => **'Performance commitment'**

Treatment sex offenders

- Residential treatment of sex offenders in Flanders (3)
- Ambulatory treatment of sex offenders in Flanders
 - > general welfare centres (5 CAW)
 - > mental health centres (9 CGG)
 - > support centre (UFC)
- COSA & Stop it Now!



Critical insights

1. Advice <-> treatment
2. Professional secrecy
3. Forgotten partners
4. Treatment referrals - dispatch
5. Limited resources specific target audiences

Conclusion

- ❑ Cooperation agreement
= A solid ground for practice

However:

- ❑ Much has been changed in the network of sex offender treatment in Belgium
- ❑ Slowly increasing attention to prevention & restorative justice
- ❑ Still limited people and resources for evidence based practice in sex offender treatment
- ❑ No structural engagement in sex offender treatment & prevention
- ❑ Focus on community-based treatment of sex offenders
 - ⇒ Specialized treatment in prison?
 - ⇒ Preventive treatment?

THANK YOU!

Minne.deboeck@uza.be
Kris.Goethals@uza.be