Rehabilitation and probation services for drug addicted offenders reduces crime significantly and thus yields €65 million each year at least

Specific probation and rehabilitation services for drug addicted offenders contributes significantly to rehabilitation and reintegration. The significance of its efforts is proven: it decreases the number of recidives with 60%, the societal value of this crime reduction amounts up to €65 million. These are two of the most important conclusions of “This is what we are working for!” a study on the yields and effects of the efforts of rehabilitation and probationservices by the Verwey-Jonker Instituut.

**Reduction of crime saves costs**

A year after they had come into contact with institutions providing rehabilitation and probation for drug-addicted offenders, clients committed significantly fewer offences than they had during the previous year. After they had started their trajectory, they also had fewer encounters with the police during the first year. For young adult clients, the number decreased from 7.2 to 2.9 offences. For adults the number of offences decreased from 7.9 naar 3.

This reduction of crimes saves costs. A first estimate of the Verwey-Jonker Instituut shows that the reduction of property crimes alone already saves society €65 million in crime related costs. Many of the benefits are even not taken into account yet. They become manifest only in the long run and are different in kind as well, for instance in terms of productivity, physical health and quality of life.

To gain more insight into the full return on investment of rehabilitation and probation for drug-addicted offenders, the above calculation provides only a first insight of the possibilities of a cost estimate. The monitor is in development and offers good opportunities to extend and specify.

The full research paper can be downloaded [here](#). The English summary is on page 95.

**About Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ**

The contribution to society of Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ (SVG), the Foundation for the Rehabilitation and Probation of Drug-Addicted Offenders, is a reduction of the harm to individuals and society that is been done by addicted offenders. The 11 affiliated service providers provide rehabilitation and probation services to 17 750 addicted offenders (2012).

*For more information, please contact Jonathan Douma, spokesperson Stichting Verslavingsreclassering GGZ, e-mail: Douma@svg.nl*