

# 'Let's Talk to One Another: a cross-sectoral approach for children with a parent in prison'

13th June 2024

Festsaal der Berliner Stadtmission

Berlin

Special Health Center for  
Prisoners, Korydallos  
Greece

## Working with Fathers in Prison

Christine Maerkl , Clinical Psychologist

# Situation in Greek Prisons

From the 2022 report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

“In particular, it highlighted that the two overarching problems of overcrowding and chronic shortage of staff compounded the many additional shortcomings in the prisons visited.”

“These included very poor material conditions, lack of hygiene, the absence of an appropriate regime, high levels of inter-prisoner violence and intimidation as well as insufficient and inadequate medical care in prisons.”

“..., overall, too few activities were offered (to prisoners) and most of them spent their days wandering about with nothing to do except smoke. Some remained in their beds for large parts of the day. Many of the cells and dormitories did not possess a television as the occupants could not afford one.”

# Contact with their family

Many prisons have visiting facilities for children



Virtual visitation

Seminars for Prison Staff on Family Relations and Reintegration

Parent schools NESTOR Erasmus+

# A NATIONAL NETWORK OF SCHOOLS FOR PARENTS IN PRISON, ENHANCING RESPONSIVE FATHER PARENTING - NESTOR

Κουλαουζιδης Γ., Γιαννακούλα Β., Περράκη Ε., Αποσκήτη Χ., Δήμα Ε. & Βάλβης (2020) Nestor: Εγχειρίδιο για συντονιστές Σχολών Γονέων σε Καταστήματα Κρατήσης.

30 schools in 20 prisons with over 300 participants.

The NESTOR Consortium hopes to strengthen family ties of affected families; as well as contribute to the re-integration of incarcerated fathers in Greece and beyond.

NESTOR employs a three step approach:

1. The development of a of tailor-made methodology for enhancing parenting skills of prisoners, with a focus on the father's role.
2. Building a critical mass of key professionals and providing them with the skills and tools required to develop schools of parents in prison.
3. Establish and pilot a national network of schools of parents in prisons across Greece and assess its impact.

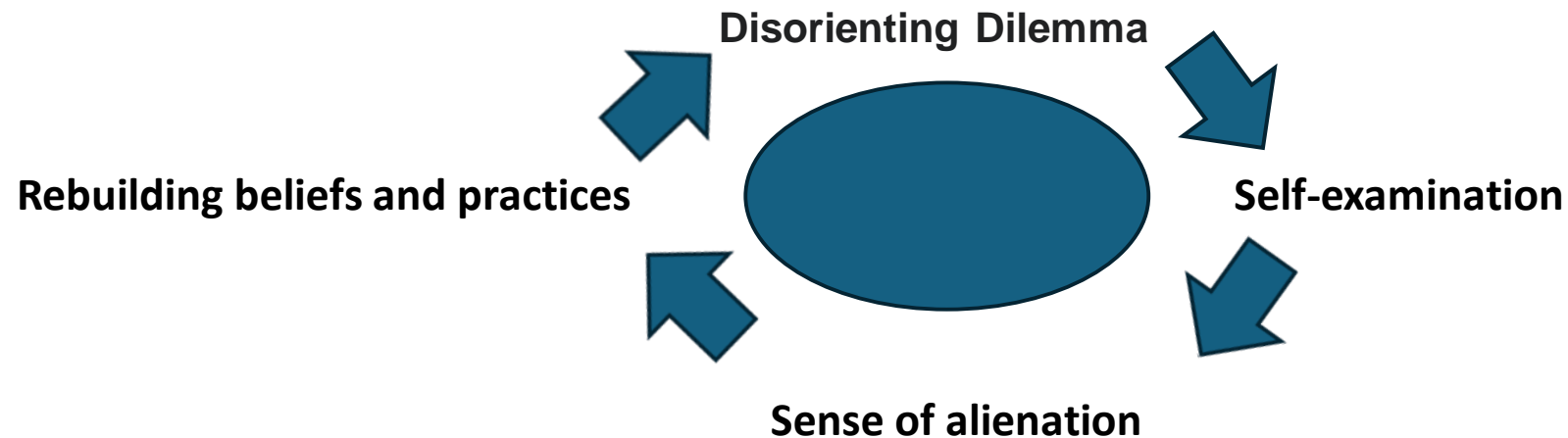
12 2-3 hour group meetings for **7 thematic cycles**

1. Identity/ Self- representation
2. Parental role and child
3. Communication and emotion
4. Non violent communication
5. Authority through relationship
6. Setting limits
7. Working through loss



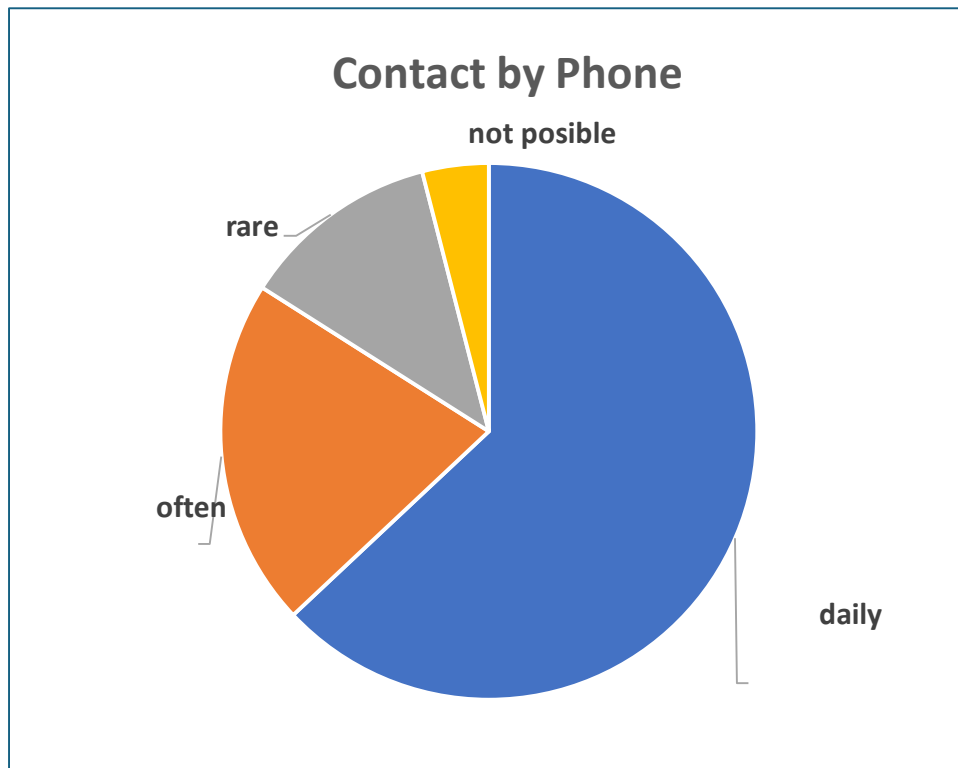
A National Network of Schools for Parents in Prison  
Enhancing Responsive Father Parenting

The Module is based on transformative learning theory (Mezirow J. 1995)



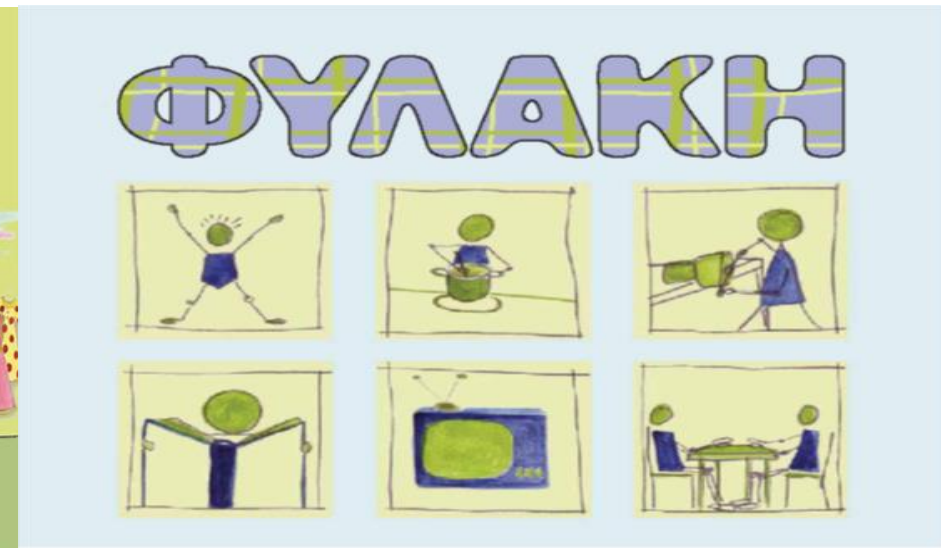
# Short Questionary for Fathers (N=62)

Maerkl C. (2012) «Πιλοτικό πρόγραμμα συμβουλευτικής γονέων σε κρατούμενους πατέρες».

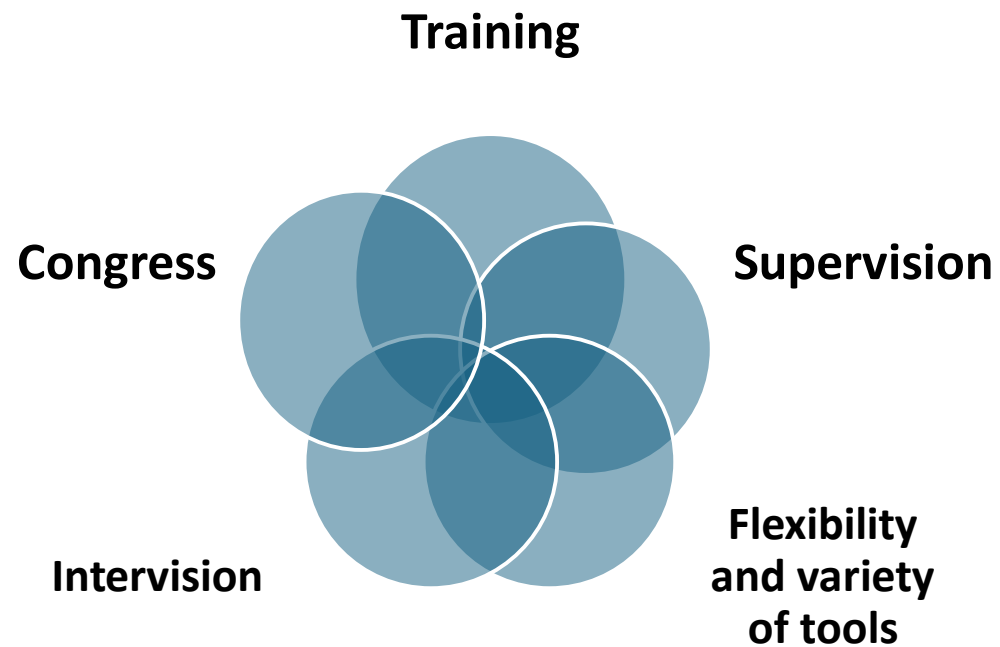




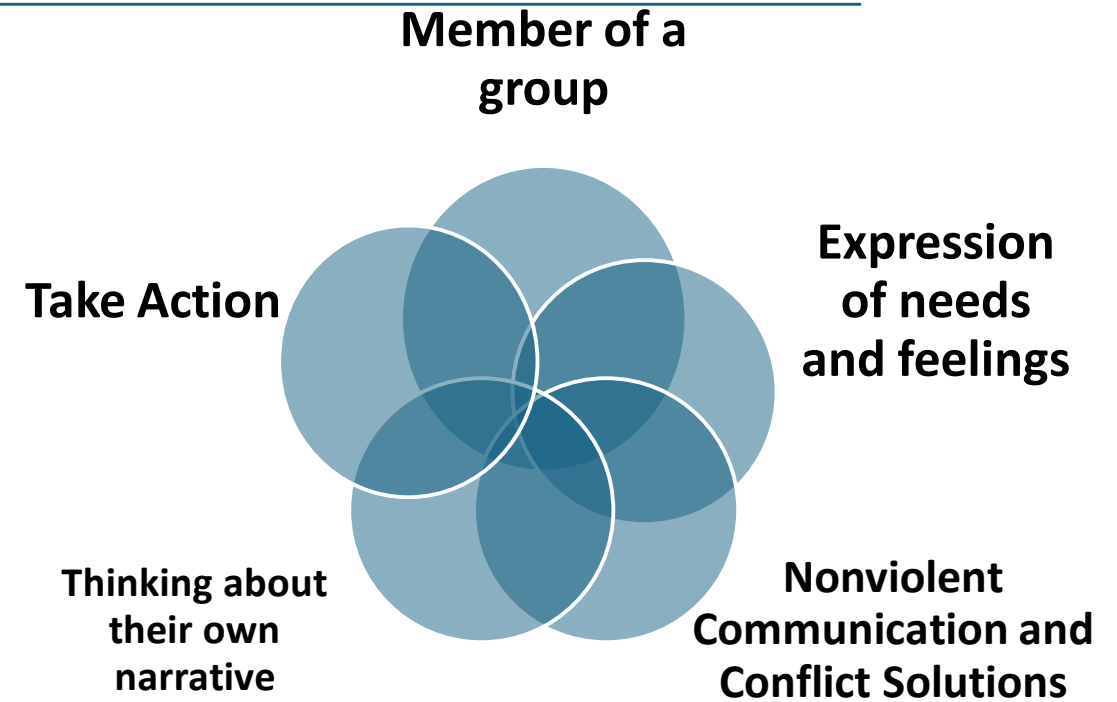
# Listening to the Child



## Scientific Staff



## Father in Prison









# 'Let's Talk to One Another: a cross-sectoral approach for children with a parent in prison'

13th June 2024

Festsaal der Berliner Stadtmission  
Berlin

# Thank you!

Christine Maerkl

Special Health Center for Prisoners, Korydallos

christine.maerkl@yahoo.com