

<i>- 'SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT' -</i>	
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	City of Dublin, Ireland
<u>Website:</u>	<a href="#">Here</a>
<u>Contact this email for further information:</u>	<a href="mailto:policy@esn-eu.org">policy@esn-eu.org</a>
<u>Summary:</u> <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management</b> Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM) is a multi-agency approach to the management of the risk posed by convicted sexual offenders in the community.</p> <p><b>A multi-agency approach</b> SORAM comprises representatives from the Irish Police (An Garda Síochána), the Probation Service, the Child and Family Agency, the Health Service Executive, the local authority, and the Irish Prison Service. The National Office provides day-to-day management and oversight for the programme. The structure operates nationally in all 28 Police Divisions.</p> <p><b>Target group</b> For offenders who are eligible for consideration, a filtering system is in place that is designed to ensure that the greatest resources are applied to those posing the highest risk. At its simplest, a static risk assessment instrument is first applied, and if the offender is assessed as medium or above and is subject to court-ordered probation supervision, the person may be included in the multi-agency arrangements.</p> <p><b>Legislative background to SORAM</b> There are a number of legislative provisions underpinning the SORAM arrangements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex Offenders Act 2001;</li> <li>• Child Care Act 1991;</li> <li>• various court-ordered probation supervision orders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cooperation at national and local level</b> A model was adopted that involved a national</p>

<sup>1</sup> Most of the text has been inspired by publicly available information on SORAM coming from either governmental or academic sources.

	<p>(lead/oversight) committee and a national co-located</p>
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	<p>office, coupled with local area teams, where the case management is undertaken. The National SORAM Steering Group oversees the National SORAM office to provide guidance, training and support on best practice to the local SORAM teams. Local SORAM teams convene on a regular basis to review risk and protective factors and develop case management plans for individuals convicted of sexual offences who reside in the community.</p> <p><b>Risk assessment plans</b></p> <p>In each local SORAM team area, a list of qualifying sex offenders is drawn up and, using the risk assessment instruments and additional information known to each agency, a joint risk management plan is prepared. This plan is then reviewed on a regular basis based on the reported information from each agency relating to the offender concerned. For those higher-risk cases deemed eligible for inclusion in SORAM, the dynamic assessment instrument is applied by the local SORAM team to guide a jointly agreed risk management plan. For cases where a child protection issue is identified, the Principal Social Worker from Tusla (Child and Family Agency) is actively involved. The risk factors are then reviewed on a regular basis, and appropriate adaptations are made to the risk management plan when necessary.</p>
<p><u>Issues:</u></p>	<p>Some critical issues may require a legislative response, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitating the sharing of information between statutory partners;</li> <li>• clarity on complex human rights issues such as disclosure or equal rights in access to training or education;</li> <li>• long-term integration of sex offenders into local communities, be that in social networks or in the labour market, remains problematic.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Resources:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegated staff from the Police, The Probation Service, the Children and Family Agency and local authorities (housing departments)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Objectives:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve post-release supervision</li> <li>• Increase community protection against sex offending</li> <li>• Aims to enhance communication, improve working relationships and make effective use of resources</li> </ul>

Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced working relationships between staff of different agencies</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a structured approach to risk management</li> <li>• Coordination of different agencies for interventions with the offender</li> <li>• Achieving higher levels of monitoring and higher levels of appropriate information exchange</li> <li>• Realising a more accurate risk assessment</li> <li>• Enhancing public safety and child protection</li> </ul>
<u>Evaluation:</u>	Internal evaluation systems are in place.
<u>Resources:</u>	<p><a href="#"><u>S.O.R.A.M. - Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SORAM: Towards a Multi-agency Model of Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Joint Strategy on the Management of Offenders 2016 - 2018</u></a></p>