

Informative workshop about the services delivered by the National Network Association for the Implementation of the Alternative Sentences in Albania.

In the framework of the project “Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence”, an informative workshop was held by the partner NGOs responsible for the implementation of Alternative Sentence Project in the city of Durres, on 12th November 2010, in Hotel Aragosta,

This workshop was attended by Judges of Criminal Court, Prosecutors from Durresi Prosecution office, The Directors of the Probation Service of Tirana and Durres, Executive Director of Aksion +, Refraction Association and other representatives from Probation Service and Network Members.

The seminar started with the presentation the Executive Director of Aksion +, Mr. Genci Mucollari. In his presentation, he referred to the latest statistics of drug users in Albania published from the recent studies on this purpose. He underlined that drug addiction is in the same time a family, a social and an economic problem.

His presentation also focused on drug-related and he emphasized the great importance of the collaboration between the Probation Service and the partnership associations in the rehabilitation and reintegration of the ex-offenders in the community. He highlighted the advantages of Methadone Maintenance Treatment, especially in reducing harms related to drug use and he showed the positive feedback in preventing and treating drug addiction since the Methadone Centers was opened in the main cities of Albania.

The seminar continued with a presentation from the Probation Service Director in Tirana, Mr. Abdyl Spahiu. He explained in concrete terms the structure and the function of Probation Service Institution, its competences due to the Ministry of Justice, the importance of the Memorandum Collaboration with the responsible Associations and the procedure indicated by the law. Then he spoke for the Alternative Sentence effectiveness referring to 59 article of Criminal Code where he mentioned concrete cases that suffers from drug abuse and he highlighted the positive impact of the Network Association Programs in the rehabilitation and reintegration of this subjects.

The presentation of the Social Worker of the project, Ms. Enkelejda Ngjelina was crucial to analyze all the types of drugs and their negative effects, she provided information on the average age of drug users, according to the statistics collected in the Methadone Centers. She spoke about the positive impact of the Methadone Treatment in reducing both criminal tendencies and other drug-related harms. In relation to this, she emphasized the important part of the collaboration with the Probation Service and the training that was conducted with social-medical structures, psychologists and anti-drug police.

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During all the phases of the presentations the participants were very active in discussions, sharing opinions, suggesting improvements in the process of Alternative Sentence Implementation. The main issues discussed in the seminar were the legal problems that can arise due to the use or sell drugs and its allowed quantity, 200 concrete cases were successful from 600, the capacity of associations and their specific programs, and finally how to find the best solution/consensus between Courts, Probation Service and Network Associations.

The last presentation was conducted by Ms. Marinela Sota, Executive Director of Refraction Association. She made clear the correlation that exists between the behave management and the reduction of criminal tendencies. She propounded some of the contemporary programs and interventions: Counseling Programs tailored to individual or in groups, Anger Management, Professional Programs, Art Therapy Programs and their respective capacities. The presentation finished with the introduction of a case-study on Alternative Sentence Project. All the participants gave their feedback and discussed freely about the case-study best handling alternatives.

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