
Introduction meeting about the services delivered by a coalition of the Civil Society in the framework of the Memorandum of Collaboration with the General Directorate of the Probation Services

Venue: Hotel Fier (Fier), Albania
Date: 21/09/2010

In the framework of the project Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence, the three partner NGOs held a workshop on 21st September 2010 in the city of Fier, Albania. The aim of this seminar was in the first place to introduce the participants with the importance of the services provided from the partnership organizations.

This workshop was attended by different representatives from Probation Service Directory, Prosecutors from Fier Court and staff members of the project.

In this meeting the most important issues were the Memorandum of Collaboration that was signed with the Probation Service, the various programs of treatment as Methadone treatment, short or long term treatment for the individuals that are in the process of Alternative Sentence.

This meeting continued as indicated by the agenda, and the participants were very active and careful with the suggestions, opinions and the appropriate solutions propounded by the prosecutors regarding the rehabilitation and integration of the offenders in the community.

This meeting was facilitated from Mr. Mucollari Director of Aksion +. He talked about the great importance of the collaboration between the Probation Service and membership associations for the implementation of Alternative Sentencing. Mr. Mucollari also focused on the effective services that his association offers in the field of drug abuse and addiction and he emphasized the important role of public prosecutor's office in that regard.

Mr. Spartak Mitrush, Director of the Local Probation Service Office, introduced in concrete terms all the services provided by this new service. He referred to concrete cases that his office is supervising and monitoring. In his speech, he encouraged effective collaboration with the Probation Service.

Later on, the discussion focused on the successful practice of those countries that has applied earlier the project of Alternative Sentencing. All the participants analyzed the advantages that this service brings in the community as a result of the institutional collaboration of the public prosecutor's office and associations that work for this purpose.

This meeting benefited from the participation of experts from the most important programs, such as Methadone Treatment, Anger Management, Counseling Programs, and Professional Programs.

The discussion was focused on the following topics:

- The effectiveness coordination between Probation Service;

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- How to enable the application of the methadone therapy in prison settings and the difficulties encountered in this aspect;
- Does this therapy prevent or diminish crime related to drug use;
- Does the Methadone Therapy eliminate drug addiction;
- The offences committed from minors and their classifications;
- The increase in theft tendencies;
- The required amendments of law and policies on this context.

In the end, the participants discussed the difficulties related to the process of the implementation of Alternative Sentencing, by enabling an effective communication and enhancing the level of confidence between all parts involved.

Network of Community Services for Offenders Project

This project is financed by European Commission, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The overall objective of the Action is to support Probation Service on implementation of alternative sanctions in Albania offering treatment programmes for the offenders in the community, assists Probation Service in finding, enhancing and using effectively partnerships within the community and improves public confidence in the effectiveness of community sentences.

Project Implementing Organizations are:

Aksion Plus
Refraction Association
Shelter for Abused Women

The aim of the project will be achieved through actions such as:

- Establishing a Network of Community Services for the Offenders;
- Offering treatment, rehabilitation and counseling programs for the offenders in the community; Capacity building activities for the Network;
- Capacity building activities for Probation Service on collaboration with community services and effective use of community resources;
- Advocacy for community sentencing;
- Partnership activities aiming improvement of confidence and engagement of community in justice system.

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Seminar Informues per Sherbimet qe Mbulohen nga disa Organizata te Shoqerise Civile ne Kuader te Zbatimit te Masave Alternative te Denimit

Axhenda e Takimit

10.00 - 10.15	Hyrje. Prezantimi i aktivitetit dhe pjesmarresve, Perdorimi i drogave si fenomen, gjendja ne Shqiperi dhe bote – trajtimi, politikat, dhe nderhyrjet. Genci Mucollari, Drejtori ekzekutiv, Aksion Plus.
10.15 - 10.45	Prezantimi i sherbimeve qe ofrohen ne kuader te Memorandumit te Bashkepunimit me Sherbimin e Proves.
10.45 - 11.15	Programet e trajtimit per drogat – trajtimi me metadon, terapia afatshkurter dhe afatgjate per personat qe marrin masa alternative te burgimit, (Raste Konkrete)
11.15 - 11.40	Pushim Kafeje
11.40 - 12.30	Praktika te mira nderkombetare ne lidhje me rezultatet pozitive te implementimit te denimeve alternative dhe roli i Prokurorise ne kete bashkepunim.
12.30 - 12.50	Pyetje dhe Diskutime
12.50 -	Dreka

Aktiviteti zhvillohet ne kuader te Projektit Kombetar per Zbatimin e Denimeve Alternative

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Agenda

10.15-10.45	Introduction. Presentation of the meeting's goal and participants, Genci Mucollari, Executive director, Aksion Plus.
10.45-11.15	Opiate Maintenance therapies for drug users – methadone treatment for offenders and those enrolled at the Probation Service.
11.15- 11.40	Coffee break
11.40 – 12.30	Best international practices regarding the positive results in implementing alternative sanctions and the role of the Prosecution Office.
12.30 - 12.50	Questions and discussions on the management of the given cases
12.50	Lunch

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