



Care treatment and harm reduction in Moldova`s prisons

Rehabilitation of Drug Dependent Prisoners – Why Should You Care?

*International conference organized by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe
and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia*

Tbilisi
18-19 February 2020

*“The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power”
Mary Pickford*

MOLDOVA

Moldova, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, bordered by Romania to the west and Ukraine to the north, east, and south.
Former Soviet republic.



General Overview

Capital - Chisinau

Official languages – Romanian

Government -Unitary parliamentary constitutional republic

Moldova population – 2,681,735

Area - 33,846 km² (13,068 sq mi)

GDP (PPP) 2019 estimate

- Total - \$27.271 billion
- Per capita - \$7,700



Prison System of Moldova

Prison Staff – 2900 employees

**Prison population – 6838 inmates,
6% women, 1% juveniles & 1.83% lifers**

Total Number of prisons – 17

- 5 Remand prisons
- 1 hospital prison
- 1 juvenile detention unit
- 1 female prison
- 9 general prison institutions

Incarceration rate – 228 per 100,000 population

Occupancy rate – 101.5%


HIV prevalence – 152, including 135 in ARV

HVC prevalence – 310 inmates

TB prevalence – 126 inmates including 78 MDR TB

Drug dependent - 491 inmates



A photograph of a prison cell window with a person's hands gripping a metal bar. The window is set into a heavy, blue-painted metal door. The door has various bolts, hinges, and a large metal handle. The person's hands are visible through the window, and they are holding onto the metal bar. The background is dark and indistinct.

How to treat a
convicted person
for drug addiction?

What is the role of
prison system?

What is
addiction?

How can we help
reintegrate prisoners
into society?

How do we use the
time spent by the
convict in custody?

Why is the
therapeutic
community one of
the most effective
recovery methods?

Who are
prisoners who
use drugs?

Healthcare Programs Statistics

- 1999 - Implementation of a needle exchange program and distribution of syringes and condoms
- 2001 - introduction of DOTS
- 2004 – creation of the palliative sector for the isolation of MDR tuberculosis patients.
- 2005 - introduction of DOTS Plus pharmacotherapy with methadone(Pompidou Group).
- 2007 - opening of the surveillance sector after TB treatment; launch of the continuity of treatment of tuberculosis after release
- 2008 - development of guidelines for HIV,TB co-infection for convicted
- 2012 - training of psychologists in prisons using the Motivational Interview method (Pompidou Group)
- 2013 - implementation of a rapid diagnostic for HIV
- 2014 - Overdose management – all NSP sites in prisons have been equipped with Naloxone for overdose management
- 2015 - The Therapeutic Communities project (Pompidou Group)
- 2015 - Biological waste management (UNODC) .

Development partners



Phoenix Haga



Initiativa
POZITIVĂ



*Ministerul Sănătății,
Muncii și Protecției Sociale
al Republicii Moldova*



Soros
Foundation-
Moldova



Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor



UNAIDS



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



The Council of Europe's
70th anniversary
in the Republic of Moldova



Pompidou Group
Groupe Pompidou

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**World Health
Organization**

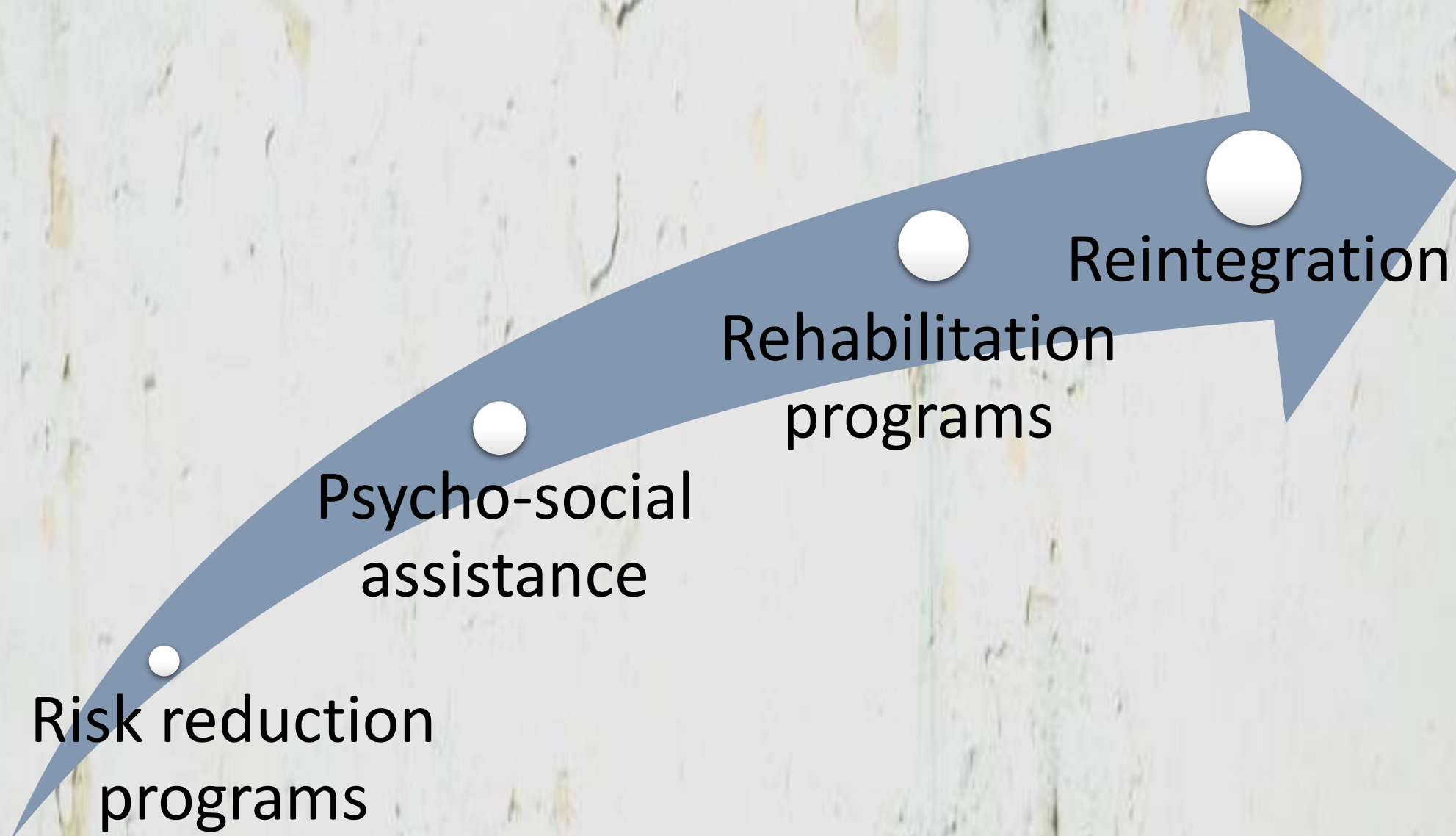


**ACT FOR
INVOLVEMENT**
SĂNĂTATE ȘI
DEZVOLTARE
COMUNITARĂ

NORLAM

The Norwegian Mission of
Rule of Law Advisers to Moldova

Treatment of drug dependent people in Moldova`s prison institutions



Harm reduction programs

Moldova: only country in the region with harm-reduction measures in prisons



12 of 15 key points of the UNODC guideline “HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings: a comprehensive package of interventions” are implemented. Needle exchange program and condom distribution in 15 prisons (out of 17 in the country) with 36 exchange points

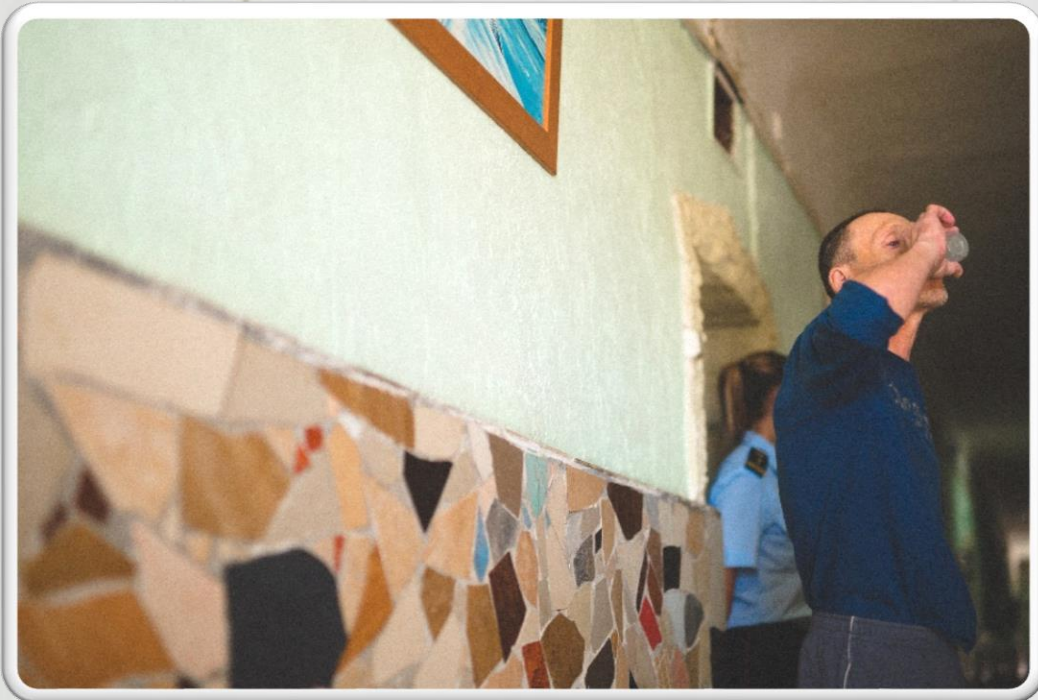
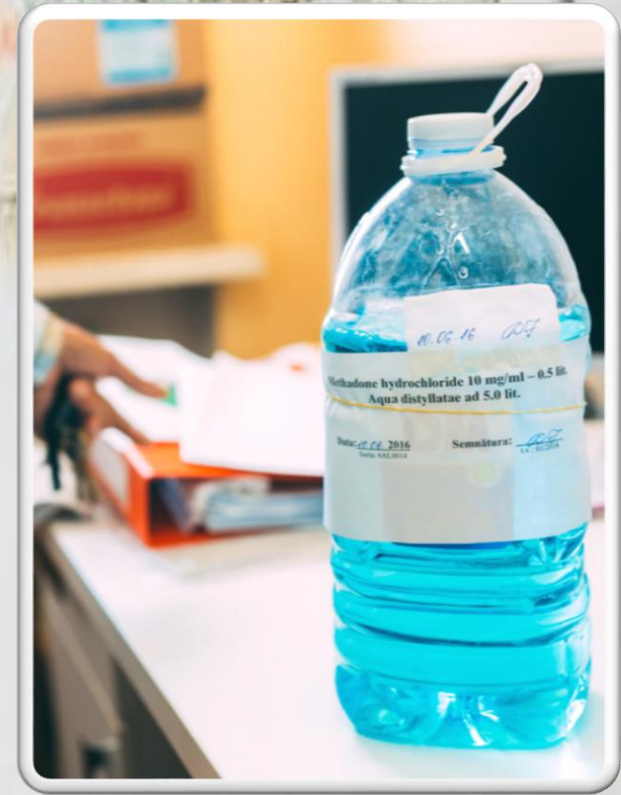
Harm reduction programs

Moldova became the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States to introduce methadone substitution treatment programme back in 2005.

In 2005 - in 7 prisons;

Since 2014 – in 11 prisons;

total beneficiaries since the beginning – 498 .



Integrated Approach and Psychosocial Support

- information and prevention programs;
- identify people who need treatment and support;
- counseling and motivation;
- rehabilitation programs;
- work of multidisciplinary teams.

SERVICIUL
MEDICAL
AL P-13
Blocul-3
Postul-16

Psycho-social assistance, partners



Group activity

**Courses, Training events,
awareness raising, information**



Team work



individual counseling

occupation



Rehabilitation programs – Therapeutic community in prison

Assessment visit by the PG of the CoE and Norwegian experts.



2015: MoU between NAP and Pompidou Group



1. Creation of two therapeutic communities in Penitentiary no. 9-Pruncul and female Penitentiary No 7-Rusca;
2. Development of the skills of the prison staff involved in providing assistance and treatment services to convicted drug users;



Training of prison staff



- Specialized support for personal development;
- Changing lifestyle behavior;
- Mutual support and aid;
- Structured program;
- Staff as facilitator

- Encouraging the responsibility and active participation in the life of the group;
- Learning through experience.



Training of prison staff:

- technical equipment for the TC.;
- elaboration of TC working methodology: daily agenda, hierarchy, basic principles, values, goals, objectives);
- criteria for selecting the personnel to work in the TC:

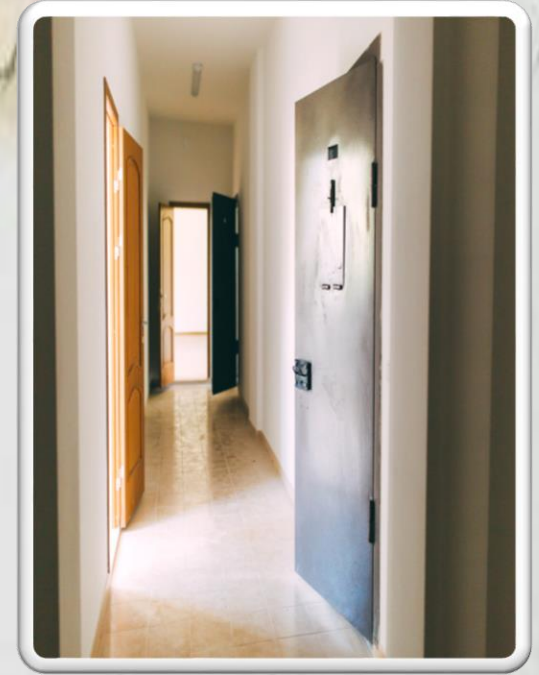
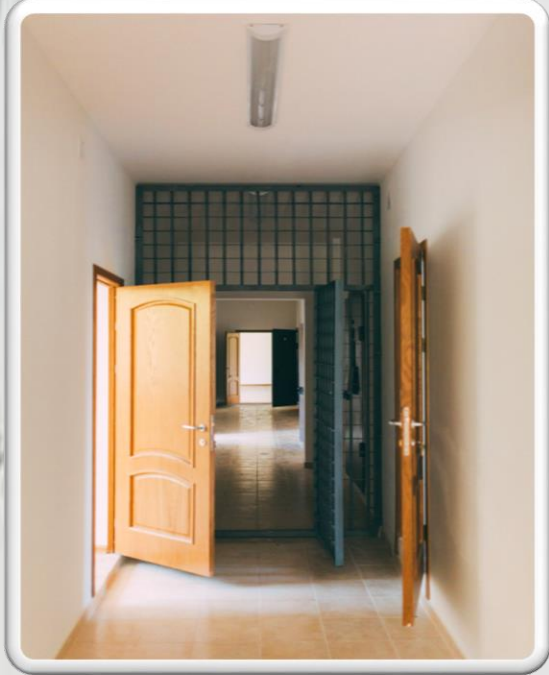


- procedures for selecting the beneficiaries
- organizing and conducting actions to promote the concept of the TC;
- identification of partners (Romania, Norway, EFTC etc.)

Construction stated in a former living sector of Prison no.9-Pruncul



2017: Refurbished sector to be used for the Therapeutic Community



Positive Results



Partnership and effort consolidation;

Providing the peer-to-peer counseling

People-oriented decisions.

Involvement of every participant of the rehabilitation process in the program implementation

Implementation of innovative tools in the rehabilitation Program (training courses, webinars)

Positive role-models for the residents (former drug dependent/former detainees in counseling positions/volunteers)



Accomplishments

A well-structured rehabilitation program, featuring efficient methods of behavioral change

23 residents involved in the rehabilitation program



6 residents released and integrated into society



14 employees and volunteers are involved in TC activity

Integration (recovery)

Cooperation with:

- Positive Initiative NGO
- Probation Service
- Anonymous Addicts
- Therapeutic community New Life



By working
together we will deliver on
our mission of Providing
safe and secure custody,
dignity of care and
rehabilitation to prisoners for
safer communities.

