



BULLETIN ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF PRISON REFORM PROGRAMME IN BiH

January – December 2014

Dear Colleagues,

The Council of Europe Prison Reform Programme Team is happy to present you with the latest developments in the two complementary projects it runs in parallel: the Joint Programme (JP) with the European Union “Harmonisation of BiH sanctions policies and practices with European standards” and the Voluntary Contribution (VC) from the US authorities “Support to prison staff training in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

The JP strives to improve the capacity of prison staff and management, promote the use of non-custodial sanctions, and strengthen the ability to provide suitable support for vulnerable categories of prisoners. The VC project is the re-designed continuation of previous prison reform activities (which were focused on the future state prison): It aims to strengthen professional capacities of existing entity prisons and to improve prison management in accordance with European and other relevant international standards.

Synergy between the two projects results in the cost efficiency, visibility and enhanced institutional knowledge on a larger scale. Both projects benefit from local expertise made available through appointment of experienced prison professionals and senior policy makers in the Working Group established for each component of each project. Under the guidance of CoE experts and facilitated by programme team, local capacities are expected to benefit from further enhancement.

We hope that these regular bulletins will continue to give you a useful insight into the prison reform programme activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Enjoy the read!

Prison Reform Programme Team

Title:	Harmonisation of BiH laws and by-laws with CoE recommendations on the use of community sanctions and measures
Place:	Banja Luka and Sarajevo
Date:	February-November 2014

The Working Group I (WG I), in charge of this component, comprising local policy makers and prison professionals completed a draft comparative table of the proposed amendments to legislation regulating community service, conditional release and suspended sentence with protective supervision. Under the guidance of an international consultant, the document was annotated with references to the European Prison Rules (EPR) and standards of the CoE's European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CPT), with the aim to harmonise existing provisions with these European standards and best practices. Following the approval of the JP's oversight mechanism, the Steering Committee (SC), the scope of the WG I was extended to include draft analysis of the procedures regarding electronic monitoring, granting external privileges with supervision and transfer of prisoners. Drafting work on these additional legal instruments was completed in November 2014.

Title:	Development of an options assessment paper for the introduction of probation service(s) in BiH in compliance with international standards
Place:	Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka
Date:	April-September 2014

The Working Group II comprising local policy makers and prison professionals finalised a so-called options assessment paper for the introduction of probation service(s) in BiH, which provides an overview of the existing gaps in the legislation and formulates recommendations for the most cost-effective and sustainable model/structure for the establishment of probation service(s) in BiH, in the light of the current distribution of competences across all BiH prison jurisdictions. Two round tables on the options assessment paper were held in July and October 2014 with participation of all three Assistant Ministers of Justice responsible for the execution of criminal sanctions. The aim of the round tables was to present, under the guidance of an international consultant, the document and discuss in detail on the proposed probation models.

Title:	Development of a sustainable professional training and education programme for prison staff in compliance with European standards and 1 st cycle of prison staff training
Place:	Zenica, Mostar and Banja Luka
Date:	March-November 2014

Prison professionals from all three BiH jurisdictions, acting in their capacity as prison staff core trainers, completed drafting [training manual](#) for prison staff on advanced competences with operational procedures focusing, among others, on the following topics: efficient communication in prison environment, securing the scene of an incident that might have elements of a criminal offence, working with vulnerable categories of prisoners, and prevention of infectious or transmissible diseases in prison. The SC endorsed the training manual in June 2014 and three training sessions in the framework of the 1st cycle of trainings on advanced competences for security supervisors and treatment officers using this manual were held between September and November 2014.

Title:	Development of treatment programmes for vulnerable categories of prisoners (juveniles; elderly and physically impaired prisoners; persons imposed with mandatory security measures)
Place:	Sarajevo, Trebinje, Mostar and Zenica
Date:	February-October 2014

Working Group IV members completed drafting a framework treatment programme for imprisoned juveniles, which closely follows the structure of the Rec (2008)11 of the CoE's Committee of Ministers on the European rules for juvenile offenders subject to sanctions and measures. The framework treatment programme foresees development of an individualised treatment programme for each imprisoned juvenile on the basis of the agreed standards set out in the document. The group also finalised a treatment programme for elderly and physically impaired prisoners. This document *inter alia* outlines the applicable legal framework, admission of this group of prisoners, available treatment options, specificities of with these vulnerable groups of prisoners and release and post-penal support. A draft treatment programme for persons imposed with mandatory security measures was also finalised in October 2014. As with other treatment programmes developed under the JP, this treatment programme represents the first written set of instructions on dealing with this specific vulnerable group of prisoners. An international CoE consultant is expected to cross-reference this draft against EPR and CPT standards in early 2015.

Title:	Development of a training programme for prison staff in accordance with the best practices as set out in the training manual on core competences with operational procedures
Place:	Sarajevo, Zenica and Foča
Date:	August-December 2014

The prison staff training team finalised [training manual](#) for prison staff on core competences with operational procedures under the guidance of the project's international consultants. The manual is designed as a reference tool and provides guidance to security and treatment staff on approaches, procedures and best practices in their core daily duties, while ensuring full compliance with European standards. A comprehensive training programme is developed based on the manual, comprising four main competence areas: introduction to the prison environment, communication in the prison environment, safety and security in prison and human rights and public safety in prison. All training materials were endorsed by Stakeholders' Committee in September and November 2014 and will be used for the first time in the 1st cycle of training sessions organised in early 2015 for staff from the so-called "core" prisons: Zenica and Foča, to be followed up in the so-called "follow up" prisons: Banja Luka, Mostar, Bijeljina and Tuzla. In order to monitor the impact of the training in improving staff performance and operational competences, a standard assessment tool is used to measure the changes in security operations before and after the training sessions in the selected prisons.

Title:	Development of a training programme to improve prison management skills and practice in line with the European standards and best practices
Place:	Sarajevo, Zenica, Foča, Banja Luka, Mostar, Bijeljina and Tuzla
Date:	November-December 2014

Initial activities in this component include the identification of specific prison management competences and related development needs to be incorporated into a training programme and put into practice through tailor-made training for senior management of prisons. A reference framework, based on the findings and recommendations of an expert assessment of management practices in selected prisons, has been developed in the form of a management competences matrix to serve as a guiding tool for drafting process. This matrix is multifunctional as it will also serve as a tool to measure the impact of the training on management operations in the selected prisons. The Working Group, comprising representatives of three MoJs and the State Pre-trial Detention Unit, assisted by an international expert, is responsible for developing training programmes, tools and supporting manual for prison managers.

Activities foreseen for immediate future

In the next period, from January to March 2015, the programme team will mainly focus on implementing the following activities:

- ✚ 1st training session on core competences to be held on 12-16 January in Zenica;
- ✚ 1st training session on treatment programmes to be held on 15-16 January in Mostar;
- ✚ Train-the-trainers session to be held on 20-22 January in Sarajevo;
- ✚ 8th WG session on community sanctions to be held on 26-27 January in Zenica;
- ✚ 2nd training session on core competences to be held on 26-30 January in Zenica;
- ✚ 2nd drafting session to develop a Prison Management Manual to be held on 2-6 February in Sarajevo;
- ✚ 5th WG session on treatment programmes for persons imposed with mandatory security measures to be held on 5-6 February in Zenica;
- ✚ 1st training session on core competences to be held on 9-13 February in Foča;
- ✚ 4th training session on advanced competences to be held on 11-13 February in Mostar;
- ✚ 2nd training session on core competences to be held on 23-27 February in Foča;
- ✚ 5th training session on advanced competences to be held on 25-27 February in Zenica;
- ✚ Study visit to Italy on treatment programmes for WG IV tasked with drafting treatment programmes for vulnerable categories of prisoners to be held in February (tbc);
- ✚ 3rd training session on core competences to be held on 2-6 March in Zenica;
- ✚ 3rd training session on core competences to be held on 9-13 March in Foča;
- ✚ 6th training session on advanced competences to be held on 11-13 March in Sarajevo;
- ✚ 4th training session on core competences to be held on 16-20 March in Zenica;
- ✚ 2nd training session on treatment programmes to be held on 19-20 March in Sarajevo;
- ✚ 4th training session on core competences to be held on 23-27 March in Foča;
- ✚ 7th training session on advanced competences to be held on 25-27 March in Banja Luka;
- ✚ Study visit to Sweden on community sanctions for WG I tasked with improving the implementation of community sanctions to be held in March (tbc).

Programme visibility

Brief information on the projects is currently available on the following CoE web site:

- ✚ http://www.coe.int/t/dgi/criminallawcoop/Presentation/Projects%20descriptions/BH_harmonisation_leaflet.pdf and
- ✚ http://www.coe.int/t/dgi/criminallawcoop/Presentation/Projects%20descriptions/US_VC_Leaflet_ENG_update.pdf.

Further information on the BiH Prison Reform Programme is also available on the following web site: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/bih-prison-reform-programme/home> as well as on social media at: <http://www.facebook.com/coe.sarajevo>.

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