



PROJECT BULLETIN

SUPPORT FOR PRISON REFORM IN UKRAINE

Issue №6 (September 2013)

The “Support for Prison Reform in Ukraine” project is funded by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by the Council of Europe

FINAL CONFERENCE

The final conference of the Project “Support for Prison Reform in Ukraine” took place on September 10, 2013 at the “President Hotel” in Kyiv.

The “Support for Prison Reform in Ukraine” Project was funded by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The aim of the event was to mark the end of the Project and present the work done in co-operation with the main beneficiary organisation, the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine and other beneficiaries, and results achieved during the 2 years of project implementation in this period.



Around sixty participants, including senior managers of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Presidential Administration,

Prosecutor General’s Office, Supreme Court, National School of Judges, Ombudsman Office, international organizations, donors and NGOs attended the closing conference.

On behalf of the Council of Europe, Mr **Vladimir Ristovski**, Representative of the Secretary General in charge of the co-ordination of the co-operation programmes in Ukraine, Head of Kyiv Office and Ms **Tanja Rakusic-Hadzic**, Head of Criminal Law Co-operation Unit addressed the participants.

The Project’s major achievements and results were presented in details by the members of the project team, leading project consultants and national experts.

The project team and key national and international experts presented the Project’s achievements and results during morning session



The afternoon panel discussion on prison management in practice was devoted to various topics, such as the role of central administration and prison directors in penitentiary reform; prison directors’ responsibilities and opportunities; training and preparation of prison staff, leadership and management in prisons, policy areas to be improved in light of the reform agendas and institutional strategic plans.



THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

The “**Support for Prison Reform in Ukraine**” project was implemented by the Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine.

The Project lasted **31 months** and directly involved more than **1.000 people** who are linked to the penitentiary system and to prison reform.



It has promoted the wider and properly focused use of alternative sanctions and assisted the Ukrainian authorities in improving their capacities in rehabilitation of offenders and supervising them in the community.

The project activities ranged from providing expert opinion, policy advice, exchange of international experiences, awareness-raising, to testing of probation methods in three various regions.

The project has contributed to the enrichment of the leadership and professional skills of a high percentage of senior prison officers and to the improvement of prison management in general through providing training opportunities and information on international best practices.



The Council of Europe has established excellent co-operation with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, its main partner in implementing the Project and a

Stakeholders' Platform was regularly convoked for discussing penitentiary reform issues

MAIN FACTS: PROJECT IN NUMBERS

- ✚ **6 seminars and workshops** were organised for the Criminal-Executive Inspections' managers (on principles and role of probation in the execution of criminal sanctions, the European Probation Rules and modern probation methods, European best practices) – **200 participants covering almost all Ukrainian regions and 10% of staff of the criminal-executive inspections;**
- ✚ **5 awareness raising seminars** were organised for judges and prosecutors on the social advantages of alternative sanctions and probation, co-operation between the judiciary and the probation services, best Ukrainian and international practices – **250 participants;**
- ✚ **4 seminars** were organised on the European Prison Rules and its practical application in prison management (admission procedures, organisation of prison regimes and security, individualized sentence planning, provision of treatment programs, provision of health-care and prisoners' rehabilitation) – **200 participants** (prison directors, regional commanders, medical and treatment staff and representatives of NGOs from various Ukrainian regions);
- ✚ **10 training sessions** were organised for prison directors – **160 participants** from various regions, covering large part of top management staff from almost all Ukrainian penitentiary establishments (including around **30 newly appointed prison directors**);
- ✚ **2 train-the-trainers sessions** were organised for professional trainers from the training institutes of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine – **14 participants;**
- ✚ **3 study visits** on prison management and probation took place to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Romania – **18 participants;**
- ✚ Probation methods were piloted in **3 regions (Kharkiv, Poltava, Bila Tserkva)** and connecting workshops, training courses and meetings were organised – around **100 participants;**

- 1 **international conference** was organised in cooperation with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine – **120 participants**, senior management of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine;
- 4 **Stakeholders' Platform meeting** was organised with the involvement of all national institutions and authorities, NGOs and international organisations that has an interest in the field of prison reform;
- and **numerous bilateral meetings** with the national authorities were organised with the aim to advocate prison reform.



The Project's Geography
Prison Management Component



THE PROJECT OUTPUTS

- **Training Manual on effective Leadership and Prison Management for senior prison officials** (500 Ukrainian and 100 English copies) and training programme;
- **Risk and needs assessment survey** was conducted among a group of 100 prisoners who are serving prison sentences for minor or mid-range crimes and a group of 30 offenders who are registered by the Criminal Executive Inspection Service and supervised in the community in Kharkiv region and a study was prepared;
- **Questionnaire for offenders' risk and needs assessment** –distributed in pilot regions;
- **Comparative analysis of the law and organisation of community sanctions and measures in selected European countries**, with recommendations for development of Probation in Ukraine - provided to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine;
- **Council of Europe's expert opinion on the draft law on Probation** - provided to Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;
- **1-day training programmes for inspectors** with templates and hand-outs on risk and needs



Geographic distribution of project activities:



Probation Component

assessment, pre-sentence reports and basic social and life skills learning courses (group counselling) –handed over to the central office of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine and distributed to the participants from pilot regions;

- Briefing notes on various probation methods – provided to the management of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine and Ministry of Justice;
- Explanatory to the Council of Europe Probation Rules in Ukrainian (300 copies);
- Instructions and guide to the use of the Questionnaire on offenders’ risk and needs assessment;
- Ukrainian translation of the Council of Europe’s Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)5 on the European Code of Ethics for Prison Staff adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 April 2012.



PILOT INITIATIVES

In the framework of the Project and on the basis of the internal order of the Director of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, basic probation methods (offenders’ risk and needs assessment, pre-sentence reports and basic social and life skill learning courses for offenders) have been piloted in practice in the activities of criminal-executive inspection services of **Poltava**, **Bila Tserkva** and **Kharkiv** from the beginning of January 2013.



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