

According to Art. 47, par. 1 and Art. 154, par. 1 et seq. of the Law on Execution of Penalties and Detention in Custody (PECPD) on the territory of a reception ward persons are placed for a period of 14 days to 1 month, during which period they are included in an adaptation programme that provides information about their rights and obligations, the resources of the institution and the possibilities for their rehabilitation and re-socialisation.

On the basis of Article 155, para. 155, paragraph 1, of the law, diagnostic and assessment activities are carried out and an assessment of the risk of recidivism and harm of all prisoners, including those convicted of child sexual abuse, is prepared by a team of an inspector of social and educational work, a psychologist, a supervisory and security staff member, a medical officer and a regime inspector. The main reason for risk assessment of sex offenders is to enhance public safety. Additional risk screening for sexual offenders has been developed for this category of offender.

Based on the obtained information, an initial report and recommendations for future individual and group work with the person are prepared in accordance with the "Rules for the implementation of the system for assessing the risk of recidivism and harm in persons serving a prison sentence in penitentiary institutions/prisons and correctional institutions/ of the General Directorate "Execution of Punishments" at the Ministry of Justice, approved by Order No. LS-04-103/26.02.2020 of the Minister of Justice.

In the main stage of serving the sentence, pursuant to Art. (1) of the Penal Correction Act, an individual plan for the execution of the sentence shall be prepared for the persons. On this basis, specialised, educational, literacy and vocational training courses, cultural, informational, sports and labour activities are organised and implemented with the prisoners.

In the system of the General Directorate of Execution of Punishments, since the beginning of 2017, a "Programme for correctional work with sexual offenders" has been developed, approved and implemented. It has been developed by a team including representatives of the General Directorate of Execution of Punishments and external experts, based on the best practices in counselling and therapeutic programmes implemented both in penitentiary institutions and in the community.

The programme is in its essence an individual and group process, which is basically based on psychological, social, correctional and therapeutic approaches and programmes that have proven their effectiveness over time. Its goal is to assess the individual resources and coping strategies of male individuals serving time for a sexual offense and, through the individual's personal resources and supportive environment, to help minimize the risk of recidivism to commit another sexual offense.

The programme is implemented by trained specialists in the territorial offices. The overall consideration of the degree of correction and re-education of the convicted person, including those convicted of child sexual abuse, is based on the principle of the progressive system. If, after a certain period, the prisoner proves that he is reforming, his original regime may be changed to a lighter one, he may be transferred to a lighter type of prison or he may be released early on parole. Decisions are made on the basis of the reoffending and harm risk assessment values, the change in the needs profile over the course of the prison treatment and the overall behaviour of the sentenced person.

Changes have also been made to the Child Protection Act on 01.08.2023 to create a "register of child sexual abusers". The same should come into force after 1 year