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Network for the implementation of alternative sentence

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MAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE PROJECT

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1- Alternative Sentence and the role of Social Worker

It is assumed that the Eastern European Countries including Albania support the imprisonment approach toward the Alternative Sentence implementation in the community. The public opinion seeks accountability toward the increasment of criminality in the community despite that the prisons are fulfilled with offenders. The necessary improvements in the Criminal Code especially of the article 10023, date 27.11.2008 brought new alternatives of punishment in the community. These new legal changes of Criminal Code give more space for the implementation in practice of Alternative Sentence. ▶



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► The Criminal Code foresees legal criteria to be accomplished and after this obligatory phase, Alternative Sentence must be implemented. The lately establishment of the institution of Probation Service in Albania, in June 2009, face difficulties in the assessment process of the offenders before and after the sentence related to his familiar, social, psychological and economical

background. Social workers play an important role in the process of the development of Criminal Justice. The social workers make possible the supervision, support, control, orientation of the offender. They also evaluate social backgrounds, familiar conditions and offer concrete programs in order to achieve their social integration and avoid the risk of recidivism.

2- Main activities in the framework of the development of Alternative Sentence Project

In 22 October, the Network Associations, held several meetings in the framework of Alternative Sentence Project. The first activity was the meeting with the Director of Probation Service Office in Shkodra Mr. Suel Hadri. The purpose of this meeting was to assign a date in which will be developed an informative seminar. Then the meeting continued with Prosecutor who is in charge of juveniles on Probation Service the Attorney at Law and Specialist.

The final aim of this meeting was the introduction of the accomplished objectives of the project, the definition of important issues



and the further collaboration between parts. As agenda indicated the meetings continued with the presentation in a Youth Center, YIH. In this meeting took part the Executive Director of IRSH, Mr. Blendi Dibra, The Director of Probation Service Office in Shkodra Mr. Suel Hadri, Dr. Përparim Cela and Network Associations and representatives. In his presentation Mr. Mucollari

cleared the psychological, physical and social-economic negative effects of drug addiction. He explained the useful treatment with Methadone, introduced the Methadone Center function and its branches in Albania. The Director Mr. Suel Hadri referred the importance of Alternative Sentence Project and its concrete cases.

Finally, it was decided to start the Methadone treatment in the city of Shkodra.



3- Presentation of Alternative Sentences in Tirana NGO-s Fair

On 03 December 2010 it was developed in Tirana a national NGO-s fair. In this event every organization participated with different representatives. The Network of Community Services for Offenders was introduced with its representative Mr. Erlind Plaku. In this national fair Mr. Plaku made possible the presentation of the Alternative Sentence Project for the NGO-s and for the open public. In the framework of main topic of this activity, voluntarism, he explain the development of the project with the purpose of involving volunteers to give their contribution in the implementation of Alternative Sentence project through the appropriate information and public awareness.

In his presentation he made clear the function and the structure of the Probation Service and its



collaboration with the Network of Community Services. Mr. Plaku underlined the concrete programs offered by the Network Associations and their effectiveness in the rehabilitation and reintegration of the exoffenders in the community. Then he mentioned the great importance of the Agreement of Cooperation with the Probation Service and the benefits provided in the implementation of Alternative Sentence in the Community. In the end of the activity he delivered leaflets, newsletters that raised the public and NGO-s representatives interest. The benefit from this National Fair is that many of the participants now are part of our project with their ideas, opinions, capacities and engagement in our activities.



4- Presentation in the municipality unit Nr.10

In the framework of the Project “ Network of Community Services for the Offenders” in the municipality no:10 was held a training. During this training participated many social workers, psychologists, employee assistance from the office of municipal units no, 10, 6,3,4, two office worker from the Tirana” Municipality.

In this training various topics and specific were related to drugs, the importance of informing citizens about treatment and rehabilitation, and as well as references to other cases in conflict

with the law were addressed.

The opening speech was given by Mr. Genci Mucollari, Director of the Association “Action plus”, which expressed gratitude and thanks and underline the importance of cooperation between municipality and Center “Action Plus”. Further, he presented the importance of all referral cases submitted in the municipality units and although the important of referral and collaboration with other institutions as Action Plus.





due to the implementation of Alternative Sentence. She referred to European and United States Probation Service, structure and function and all the economic, social, political advantages provided in implementing Alternative Sentence versus imprisonment.

Further, she explained the functions and structures of Probation Service as a new institution in our country and she highlighted the great

importance that has the Memorandum of Collaboration between the Probation Service and the responsible associations. She made clear the legal procedure, through the reference letter the Probation Service delegate the ex-offender on the main purpose for treatment at the Network Associations Programs, as Methadone Maintenance Treatment, Counseling Programs, Anger Management etc.

Finally, she referred to the concrete cases and the specific process, its duration and criterions and positive assessment reports that this subjects has to accomplish in order to make possible a complete rehabilitation and to get ready for the reintegration in the community. At the end of training participants discussed in relation to questions or issues specifically associated with the work that they performed and the importance of cooperation with other associations.

Further training followed by Mrs.Enkelejda Ngjelina, consultant for drugs abuse in Action Plus who underlined the importance of the harm reduction methods, through counseling, information, methadone therapy, which affect a change of behavior, crime reduction, and also rehabilitation for persons in social life. Participants were trained by following topics:

- Drugs, Types and Characteristics.
- The rights of citizens in relation to substance use narcotic
- Harm Reduction Methods
- Role of the community involvement in rehabilitation of persons.

The last presentation was held by Mrs. Fiona Lalaj, Political Science Lecturer and representative of Network of the Services for Offenders in the Implementation of Alternative Sentence Project. She mentioned the inclusion of three associations, Action +, Refraction and Shelter for Abused Women.

This associations are responsible for the appropriate treatment of the cases with Alternative Sentence through their effective programs. She explained the importance and all the benefits that the community provides in building this Network

