

# WORKSHOP SESSIONS II: MENTAL HEALTH WORKING WITH OFFENDERS HAVING PTSD IN PROBATION SERVICE IN CROATIA



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# CROATIA



# PROBATON SERVICE IN CROATIA



# COMPETENCE

Croatian Probation Service is an administrative organization under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia



# SECTOR FOR PROBATION

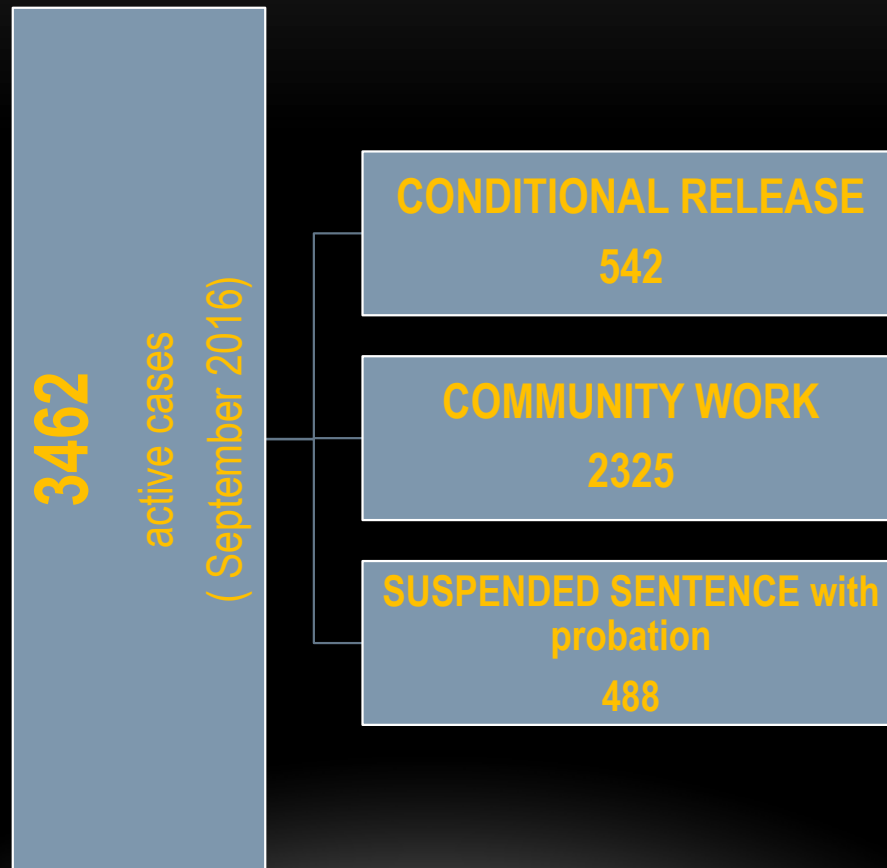


**CENTRAL PROBATION  
OFFICE:  
4 departments**

## 12 PROBATION OFFICES



# STATISTICS:



# PROBATION OFFICERS

- probation officers are civil servants with basic education in the field of social pedagogy, psychology, social work or law
- In addition to basic education, probation officers have additional training
- Mental health: probation officers do not carry out treatment, they coordinate treatment during the supervision



# MENTAL HEALTH OF OFFENDERS

## 1. ADDICTION

- a) Drug abuse
- b) Alcohol abuse
- c) Gambling

## 2. MENTAL DISORDERS

- Different diagnosis including POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER



# PROTECTION OF OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL DISTURBANCES

- In Croatia, there is a special Law on Protection of Persons with Mental Incapacities
- Protection of a persons with mental disturbances in Croatia arises from Constitution and Laws that are harmonized with the European Convention on Human Rights and other international sources

# PROBATION TASKS

## PRE –TRIAL /PROBATION/ PAROLE



# PROBATION TASKS IN REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Pre-trial	Criminal trial	Enforcement of “alternative sanctions”	Enforcement of sanction
<p><b>Supervision of fulfilling obligations arising from the Decisions issued by the State Attorney (when deciding on criminal)</b></p> <p><b>- Addiction treatment-</b></p>	Pre-sentence reports to the Court	<p><b>Protective supervision ordered with:</b></p> <p><b>-Suspended sentence</b></p> <p><b>-Community work</b></p>	<p><b>Protective supervision ordered with:</b></p> <p><b>-conditional release</b></p> <p>-upon the end of the prison sentence</p>
Reports to the Prosecutor (State Attorney)		<p>Community service:</p> <p>-acquiring consent for replacing a prison sentence with community work</p> <p>- organization of the community work</p> <p>-supervision of the community work</p> <p>(CW:1d=2h)</p>	Reports for prisons or penitentiaries
<i>Reports required for deciding on the measures of supervision and protection during pre- trial</i>		<p><b><u>Supervision of :</u></b></p> <p><b>- <u>Security measures</u></b></p> <p><b>- <u>Special obligations</u></b></p>	Reports for courts when deciding on the termination of sentence and conditional release

# THE ROLE OF PROBATION SERVICE WHEN WORKING WITH OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

- MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWS DURING THE SUPERVISION
  - MOTIVATION TO GET HELP IN SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS
  - COOPERATION WITH SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS – HEALTH SERVICES AND NGO'S
  - SUPERVISION OF TREATMENT ORDERD BY COMPETENT BODY
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# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- With the end of the war activities on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, persons suffering from PTSD began to emerge as criminal offenders
- With introduction of the probation service, these persons integrate in penalty and legal sanctions executed in the community
- we are talking about persons who were exposed directly to war combat, soldiers who experienced the first symptoms during the war or immediately after the war
- To some, symptoms worsening with time and leading them to conflicts with law and order, rejection of social code of conduct and intolerance
- **IMPORTANT: NOT ALL PERSONS WITH PTSD COMMIT CRIMES!**



# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- PTSD individuals enter the system as offenders, suspected of various criminal acts, with predominant criminal acts of:
  - violence,
  - violent behavior in the family
  - threats,
  - robbery,
  - murders,
  - as well as offences provoked by alcohol and drug abuse which manifest themselves as thefts or even burglary.

# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- PTSD is often accompanied with physical disorders such as
  - depression
  - anxiety
  - alcohol abuse
  - medication abuse
  - narcotics abuse
- In direct connection with the exposure to the combat, mutilation and imprisonment in camps are the permanent physical disability or chronic illnesses which are recognized later and are caused by traumatic experiences
- In great majority of cases such history leads to permanent disruption of family ties and relationships which often end up in violence.

# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- Probation officers strive to encourage the offenders to seek professional and competent help provided by the society.
  - We interact with:
    1. health care institutions
    2. hospitals
    3. relevant medical staff
    4. social welfare institutions
    5. Detention system authorities
  - Within the Prison Service in the Republic of Croatia special program for prisoners suffering from PTSD is developed!
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# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- On basis of gathered information probation officers elaborate an individual approach program for each sufferer with health risk and treatment, which is approved and signed by the person
- The primary goal of our program is alleviation of the symptoms of the disease and improvement of psychosocial functionality of the sufferer who come with already defined medical diagnosis
- We encourage them to continue their treatment with physicians they consulted before joining the probation program and regularly send to the Court the report on progress and adherence to the program

# PTSD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

- probation officers, being aware of the complexity and specific characteristics of the subject, interact with other participants in the system by direct exchange of experience in each case separately and individually, constantly endeavour to improve their knowledge and skills required for work with offenders suffering from PTSD



# CHALLENGES

- Offenders do not have special obligation/security measure to take treatment
- Mental health problem is not related to crime





**THANK YOU  
FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION!  
ANY QUESTIONS?**

# LOOKING FORWARD TO FUTURE COOPERATION

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