

PRECISION PROJECT

Promote Rehabilitation, Empowerment of Children and Support for Youth Offenders



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Most young people want to keep in touch with their families while in detention and to make preparations for their release and return to their families. Even so, there are difficulties in maintaining contact with family due to limited financial resources and distance from home. For some of them, this leads to a break in family ties and an inability to return to their families upon release. Some of the young people even have no family members left when

How Tdh has start the project in educational and detention centers in Romania?



VIOLENCE

Most of the minors come from dizorganised family backgrounds that are predominantly violent. With this type of behaviour taken from the family, minors enter the gate of the centres and unfortunately the tendency is to maintain and propagate destructive behaviour. The main motivation is to survive in the prison environment



EDUCATION, RECREATION AND TRAINING

'We will build a football ground and they will play with the ball. That is what they want, when you are this young, this is what you want' (staff).

'The literacy program is insufficient; it is completed in a short time frame and there is no possibility to personalise it according to age and needs' (staff).



Once incarcerated, most young people feel the need to talk. At this point, specialists from the centres, psychologists and social workers intervene. But their numbers are small compared to the scale of the need.



DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ETHNICITY AND MONEY

'Rarely those with a good financial situation become victims of abuse... power that money brings is sacred' (staff).

'In some rooms, the 'boss' uses the 'inexperienced' to wash his shoes, sweep and wash the floor' (C&Y).*

The information represents the main findings from the research in the 4 detention & educational centers for children and youth (C&Y)



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DETENTION STAFF



TRAINING OFFER, WITH A FOCUS ON LEGISLATIVE TRAININGS.

Training courses provided cover the needs of detention.

Most of the staff find it useful to participate in training, but indicate that the existing courses mostly debate legislative matters focuses on theory and reduced on practical.



TRAININGS ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR MOST DETENTION STAFF

Most of the staff had specific training in working with C&Y.

Access to training courses is important, there is a balance created by having specialist staff participate equally in training alongside security staff.



WORK EXPERIENCE IN DETENTION CENTRES

The management of the centres indicates that there is a great need for training of staff in pedagogical and educational methods. There is collaboration between case management and psychology staff and other staff.

"They focus on safety and want the rules to be followed here and now... We have to work for tomorrow." (psychologist).

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Precision interventions:

01

INVESTMENTS IN LIVING CONDITIONS IN DETENTION:



Clothing for **120** C&Y



Hygiene products for **120** C&Y.
Children & youth who have lost contact with their family were specifically targeted

02

CAPACITY BUILDING OF DETENTION STAFF:



50 security staff trained and coached on child-friendly behavior and practices



30 staff from the reintegration and security departments trained to provide psychosocial support through sports (MGS methodology)



100 C&Y in detention strengthen their resilience by participating in psychosocial sport activities

03

REINTEGRATION SERVICES (piloted in Craiova Detention Center)



Establishing a peer mentoring programme for C&Y

Tdh hired former detainees and prepares them to provide mentoring assistance to their peers in detention and after-detention.



Providing vocational training for **40** C&Y



Professional domains that do not necessarily require formal qualifications in order to get a job.



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01: INVESTMENTS IN LIVING CONDITIONS IN DETENTION:

Covid-19 protective materials in the four Detention Centers:

- 4500 face masks
- 5500 gloves
- 20 protective suits
- 100 capelins

Equipment and other materials in the four Detention Centers:

- 204 pairs of running/sports shoes
- 10 fussball tables

100 kits of clothes in Craiova Detention Center:

- Winter jackets
- Winter shoes
- Pullovers
- Sports costumes
- Gloves, hats, T-shirts, undervests.
- 10 sets of interactive board games (Scrabble, Dixit, Activity and others)
- 450 T-shirts
- 14 computers and 5 TV sets

02: CAPACITY BUILDING OF DETENTION STAFF:

COPOSO (Contributing Positively to Society)

- **Participants:** 50 staff from the security and reintegration departments from 4 educational/detention centres were involved.
- **Facilitators:** Young in Prison (YiP) – a Dutch NGO that enables children and young people in contact with the law to contribute positively to society through creative and sports development programmes, in prison and after release.
- **Objective:** was introduced to the participants the COPOSO method that YiP developed in 2015 and is implementing since. COPOSO (Contributing Positively to Society) is based on the values of positivity, creativity, equality, inspiration, transparency and honesty. YiP believes in working on a personal level with young people and providing high energy workshops to develop different skills.



02: CAPACITY BUILDING OF DETENTION STAFF:

MGS – Movement Games and Sport

- **Participants:** was provided training for **30** staff from the security and reintegration departments from 4 educational/detention centres + 18 coaching sessions + 1 follow-up sessions.
- **Objective:** Support psychosocial activities and consolidate the quality of specialists' intervention with minors. It uses an instrument-games and sport with a specific methodology of experiential learning and participation and a strategy of transfer of competencies through basic training – coaching - training of trainers.
- **88%** of participants in the training sessions considered that they had improved their skills and knowledge as a result of attending the training sessions.



COPOSO and MGS Impact on Detention Staff

- Using some of the COPOSO principles when working with children in detention centers, especially Creativity and Cooperation, Security, Hope and Connection.
- Role-playing can allow children to understand how different decisions are made and to understand how to take responsibility.
- To reconsider some old habits they used to have by reconfiguring a specific behavior.
- To reflect more on how these minors feel and how to best accommodate their needs.



COPOSO and MGS Impact on Detained Youths

- All the young people appreciated superlatively their participation in the organized MGS activity, all offering **scores of 5 out of 5**
- **Dual Impact:** enjoyment and relief + learning
- appreciated especially the novelty element
- enjoyed the new rules and the feeling that they get something extra from these activities
- demonstrated capacity for self-reflexivity
- The activities tested their **adaptability** and **flexibility** -> **self-confidence** related to their capacity to **adapt and achieve goals**
- **New rules** -> everybody was equally unskilled and unknowledgeable -> helped them to give everybody a chance and to cooperate while playing
- the young people determined that it is important to **work in a team** and to **support their teammates, to control their anger** and eventual **disappointment**, considering that in the end **they are all winners**, having the opportunity to **have fun and learn together.**



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O3. REINTEGRATION SERVICES – Mentorship Program

- 40 C&Y from the Craiova Detention Center were prepared for their **future social reintegration through**
- **Goals:**
 - **Correction of personal trauma** that occurred after committing the criminal act and consolidation of independent living skills
 - Communication - acceptance / creation of dialogue
 - Teamwork - inclusion
 - **Reconfigure personal map**
 - Activate personal values
 - Participation in decision making - identification / creation of alternatives / options

Activities carried out:

- Eliminating social destabilization (prejudices, expectations, opportunities).
- Discovery activities, identification of values, personal mission.
- Discovery strengths, weaknesses.
- Personal orientation activities to identify potential mistakes, harmful people in our lives.
- Free discussions on topics of personal directions, individualized per person.

O3. REINTEGRATION SERVICES – Mentorship Impact

- **85%** of C&Y declare they have increased their **reintegration knowledge**
- **80%** of C&Y declare they have increased their **reintegration skills**
- eager to express the processes they went through during their years in detention
- proved to be reflective in regards to their **past mistakes**:
 - many of them expressed how they regret being part of a **specific group** of people that influenced them in a wrong way;
 - others regret that they started using **drugs** and further on committed actions they wish they never did;
 - many specify how they regret not listening to their **families** in the past or that they neglected them.
- The majority seem to have a well-established plan both **professionally** and **personally**:
 - Many express their interest in completing unfinished education, opening their personal business, or studying a specific course that could allow them to work in a specific domain;
 - Many also mention the desire to be closer to their families or to make their own families.
- Many confess that they become more present self-reflective in the way they act and empowered to be themselves and to have the courage to succeed no matter the circumstances.



03. REINTEGRATION SERVICES – Vocational training

- **Map**/network of potential employers from all over the country willing to hire former detainees and connect them with the detention facilities.
- Initial assessment of C&Y **needs** related to **vocational training and employment**
- Create **vocational training and employment plans**.
- **FabLab** - digital skills courses to **30** C&Y from Tg. Ocna Educational Centre:
 - development of basic habits and attitudes needed for young people at the center, such as practical skills and digital skills.



THANK YOU !