



Ministarstvo pravosuđa, uprave i
digitalne transformacije

Ministry of Justice, Public Administration
and Digital Transformation



Sektor za
probaciju

State of play of the Mental Health approach in the Probation Service of Croatia

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Probation Service Croatia
26.11.2024.

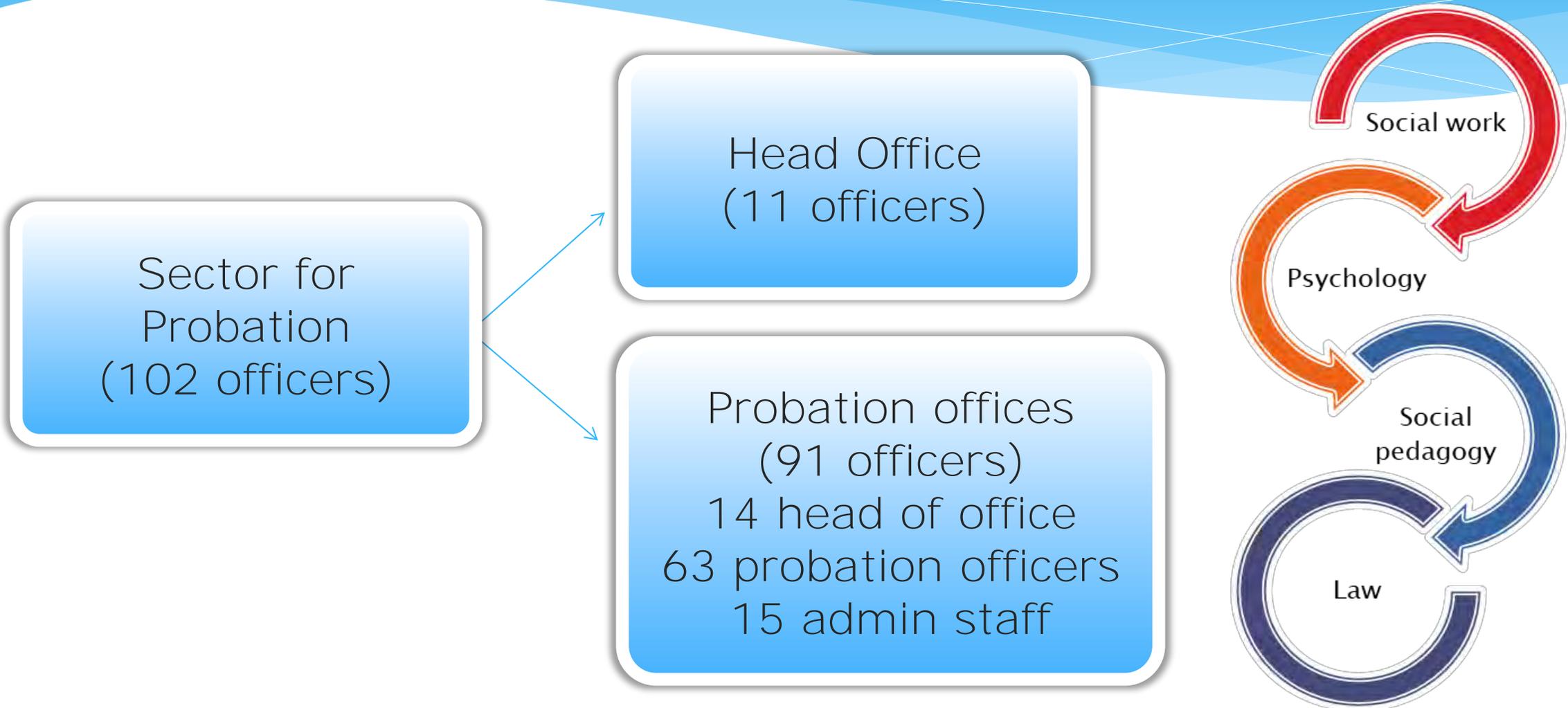
Development of probation service in Croatia

Past	Present	Future
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Service exists from the end of 2009▪ Until 2011, 8 people worked in Directorate for probation▪ 2011 – 5 local probation offices established▪ 2019. CEP Reward in Category „Development of National Probation Services”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Probation Sector consists of a Head office and 14 local offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New office & new guidelines for development 2024-2028

Internal organisation of Probation Service



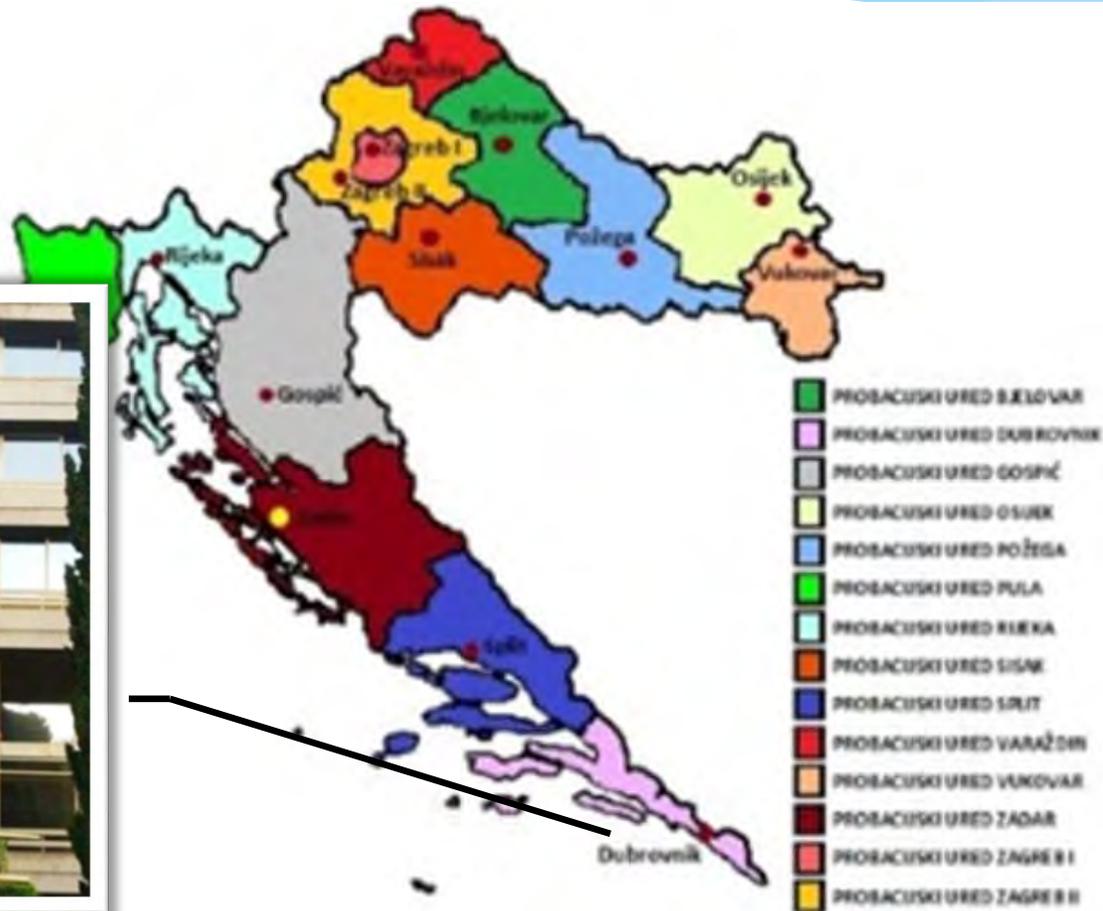
Internal organisation of Probation Service



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



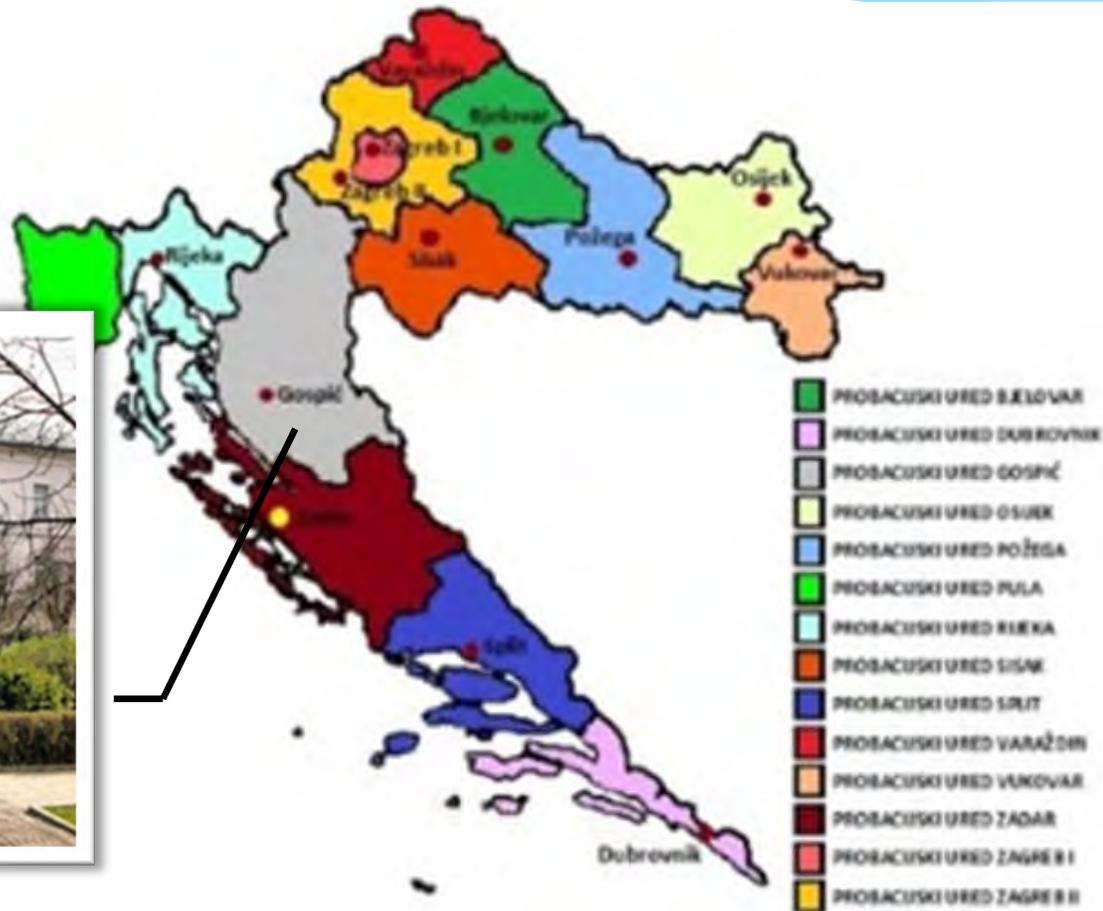
Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



DUBROVNIK



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



- PROBACIJSKI URED PULJA
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZADAR
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZAGREB I
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZAGREB II

Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



PROBACIJSKI URED ZAGREB II

Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



Probation tasks in different stages of Criminal Process

PRE-TRIAL

Pre-trial reports (public prosecutor)
Supervision of obligations (public prosecutor)

CRIMINAL TRIAL

Pre-sentence reports to the Court for decision-making

EXECUTION OF CRIMINAL SANCTIONS (ENFORCEMENT PHASE)

Community work
Suspended sentence with protective supervision, special obligations or security measures

EXECUTION OF THE PRISON SENTENCE

Reports for courts, prisons or penitentiaries
Protective supervision during conditional release/upon the end of the prison sentence
Supervision of prisoners while using temporary release

Mental Health Care in Probation

Mandatory Psychiatric Treatment (**čl. 69 KZ**)

Security
Measure

Uttered with
suspended /partial
suspended
sentence,
community work or
conditional release

Expert
opinion
needed

Mental Health Care in Probation

Treatment or continuation of treatment that is necessary for the elimination of health disorders that can stimulate the commission of a new criminal offense
(**čl. 62.st.2.t.4. KZ**)

Special
obligation

Uttered with
suspended /partial
suspended
sentence,
community work or
conditional release

Voluntary
consent

Mental Health Care in Probation

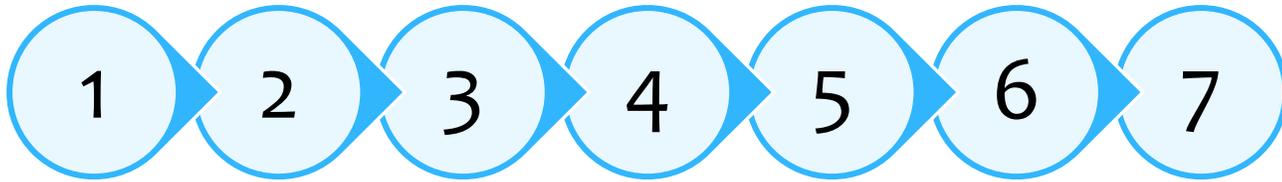
Who else:

Offenders
without
mandatory
treatment

Assessment of
the probation
officer

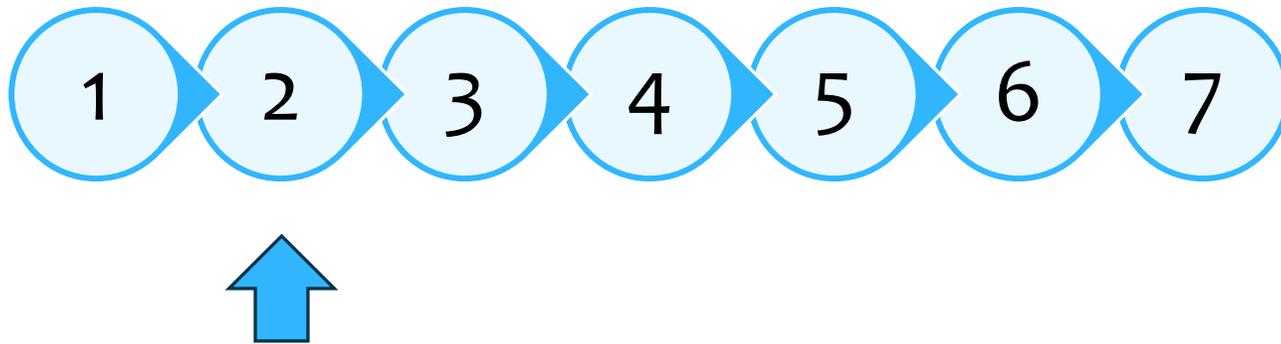
Motivation and a
relationship
based on trust
with the offender
is crucial

Procedure



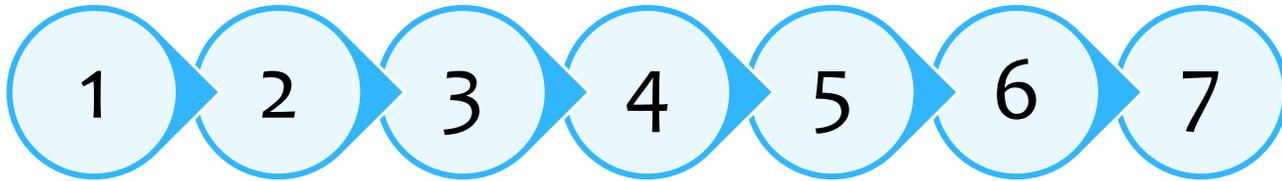
Written invitation

Procedure



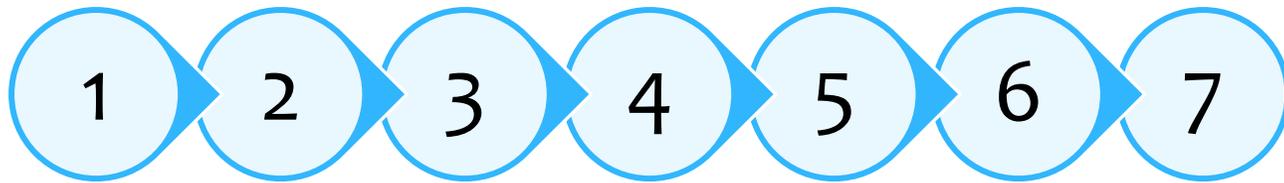
First interview with the offender
(personal data, verdict, rights and
obligations, cooperation with the
probation officer)

Procedure



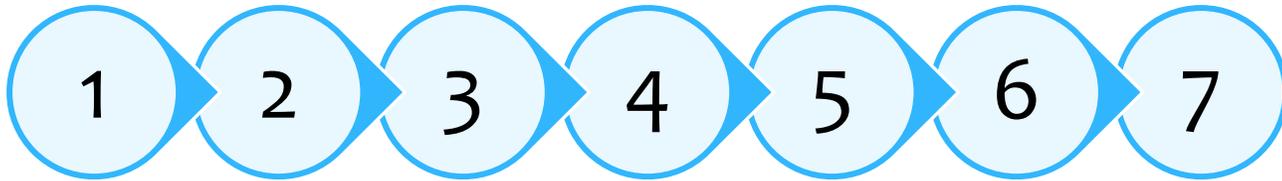
Criminal risks and treatment
needs assessment

Procedure



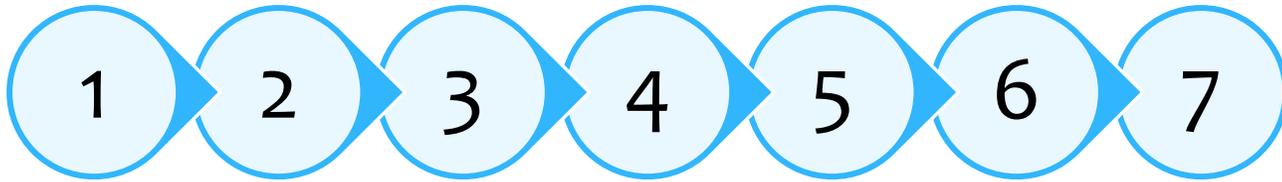
Individual program- Goals
and Treatment Facility

Procedure



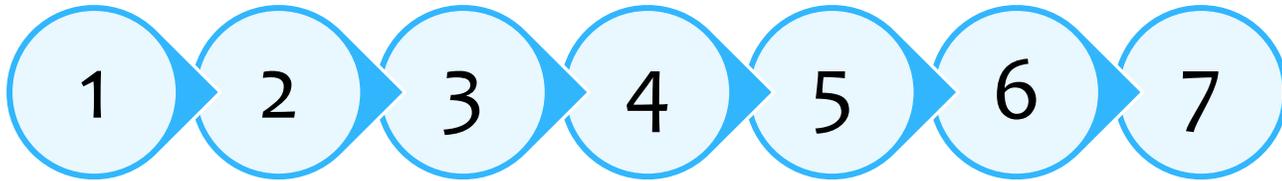
Regular meetings with the
psychiatrist

Procedure



Regular meetings with the
probation officer

Procedure



Final / Negative report for
the Court

Treatment Facilities Overview

Psychiatric
institutions



Institute for
Public Health
Services for Mental
Health and
Addiction
Prevention



NGO



Probation
office
Special program
for sexual
offenders „Mirror“



Treatment Facilities in Zagreb



**Clinic for Psychiatry
Vrapče**

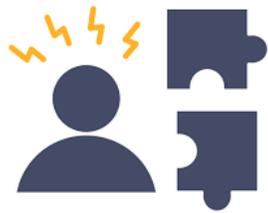


Psychiatric Hospital "St. John"



Institute for Public Health

Availability of Services in other parts of Croatia



Difficulties

- unavailability of a psychiatrist
- no network of treatment facilities
- pharmacotherapy only
- superficial treatment



Outcomes

- Offenders with severe mental problem see a specialist maybe every 3-4 months
- Offenders have high financial costs
- Motivation for treatment is low

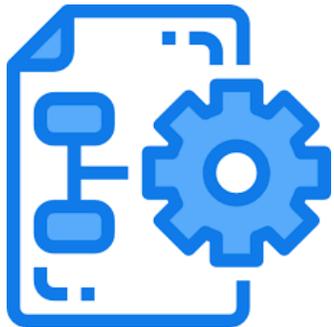
Special program for sexual offenders „Mirror“



- sexual offenders also receive SM of SO
- There is only one psychiatrist specialized in working with sex offenders in Croatia
- 2017- a few Probation Officers finished an education within the Twinnig project (Mirror)
- Idea- every Probation Office has an educated expert
- Based on basic models of working with the offenders (RNR model, Good Living Model) and specific models for sexual violence

Special program for sexual offenders „Mirror“

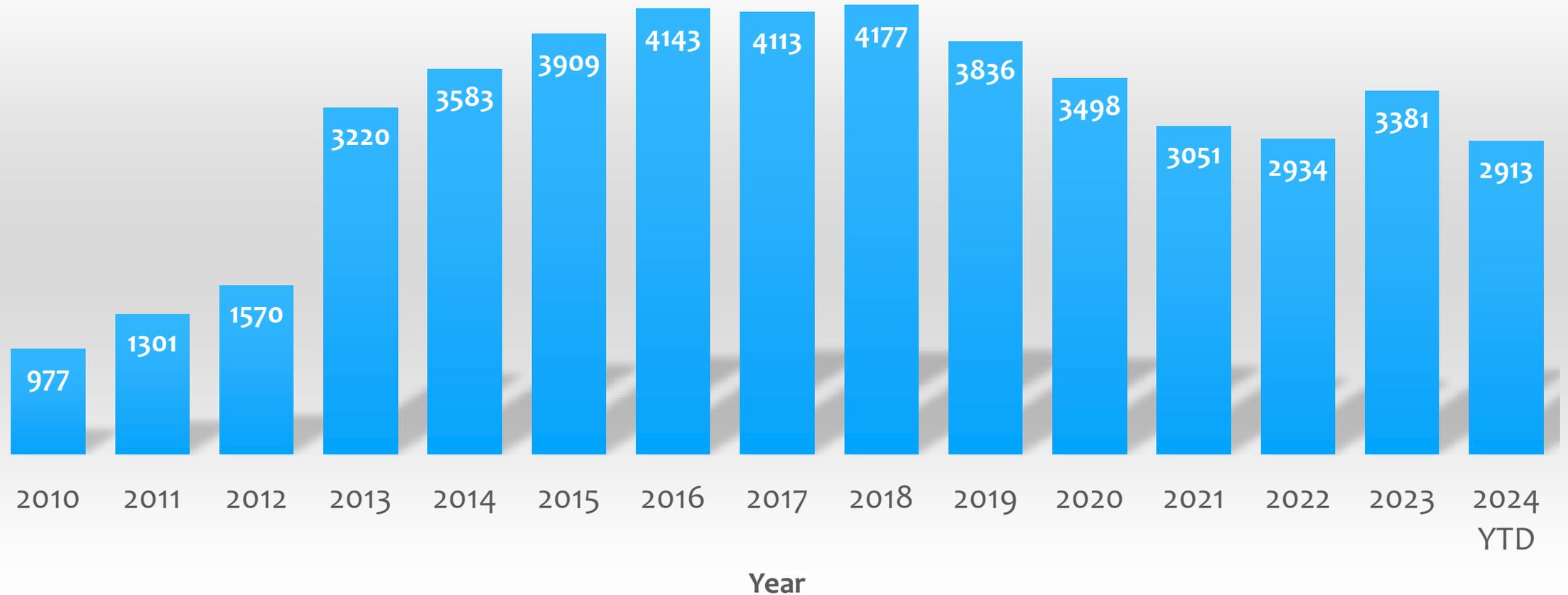
Program Content



- Intended for group work
- Interactive
- Topics: sensing and regulation of emotions, social competences, self image, communication skills, stress management, empathy, victim awareness, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasies
- Consists of 3 phases:
 - assessment and motivation (3-4 meetings)
 - intervention (24 meetings)
 - Follow up (1-2 meetings)

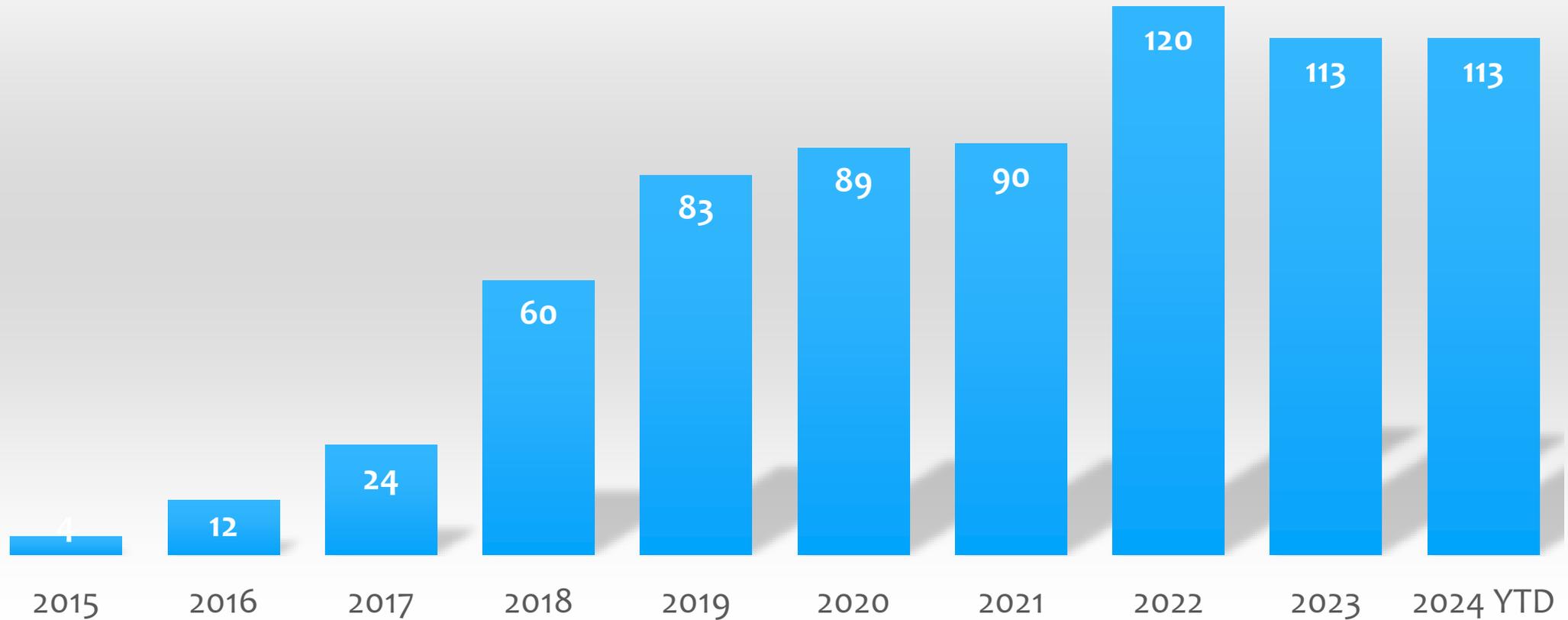
Probation Statistics

Total Number of Cases



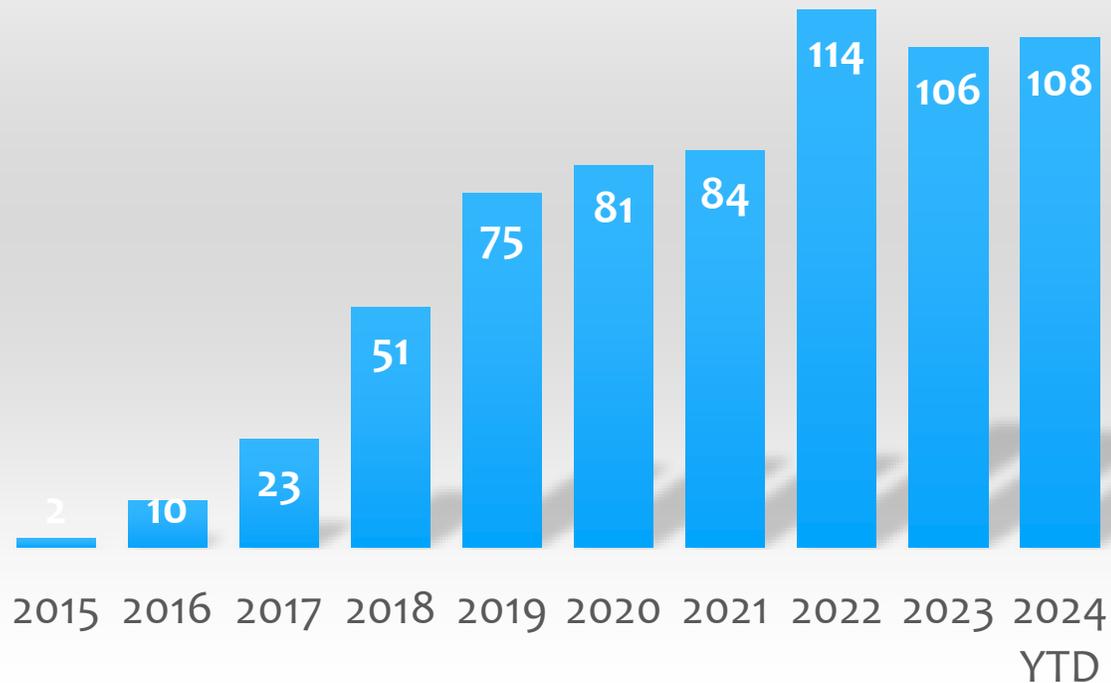
Probation Statistics

Number of Cases - Psychiatric Treatment

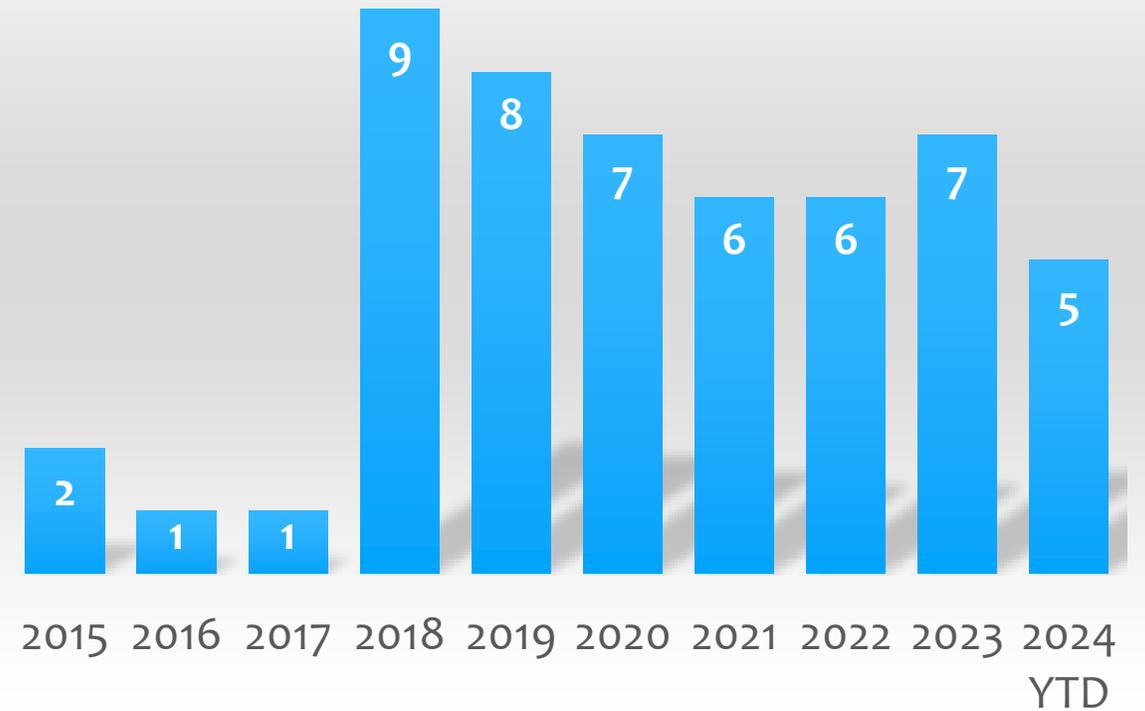


Probation Statistics

Number of Cases - Suspended/Partial
Suspended Sentence with
Psychiatric Treatment

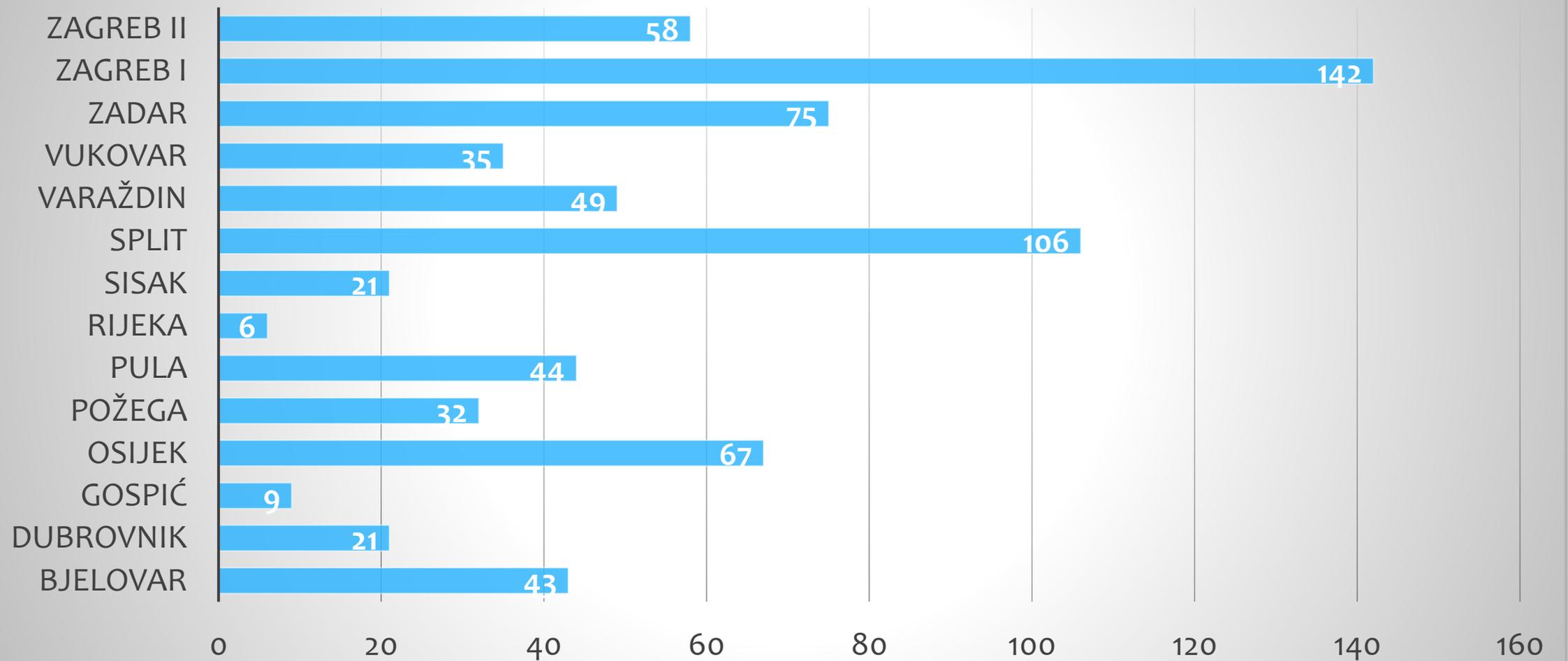


Number of Cases - Community work
with psychiatric Treatment



Probation Statistics

Total Number of SM/SO Cases per Probation Office



Challenges in working with offenders with mental health problems



- Taking therapy irregularly – unavailable for any treatments or interventions
- Distrust of the offenders due to their mental illness
- The offender represents a risk for himself and his family members
- The imposed sanctions are not in accordance with their capabilities and limitations
- The treatment system is based on voluntariness-no insight into their behaviour
- Family members represent a protective and a risk factor
- Insufficient education of probation officers for working with offenders with mental problems
- Insufficient communication between a probation officer and a specialist
- No response from the court when needed

Example of good practice

„Specifics in working with people with mental and bihevioral disorders“



- Training intended for probation officers
- Goal – educate probation officers of the right way of working, behaving and communicating with the offenders who have mental health problems
- Lecture, workshops (group work, role playing discussion and evaluation

„Specifics in working with people with mental and behavioral disorders“

Moduls:

➤ Modul 1 – Introduction

Definition of Abnormal od Pathological behaviour, Psychopathological assessment, Understanding the patients perspective, The importance of our personality in communication

➤ Modul 2 – Addictions

Addictive disorders and treatment approaches

➤ Modul 3 – Personality disorders

Types of personality disorders, clinical pictures and treatment approaches

„Specifics in working with people with mental and behavioral disorders“

➤ Modul 4- Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders

Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

➤ Modul 5- Affective disorders

Types of disorders, Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

➤ Modul 6- Aggression, Suicidality

Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

„Specifics in working with people with mental and bihevioral disorders“

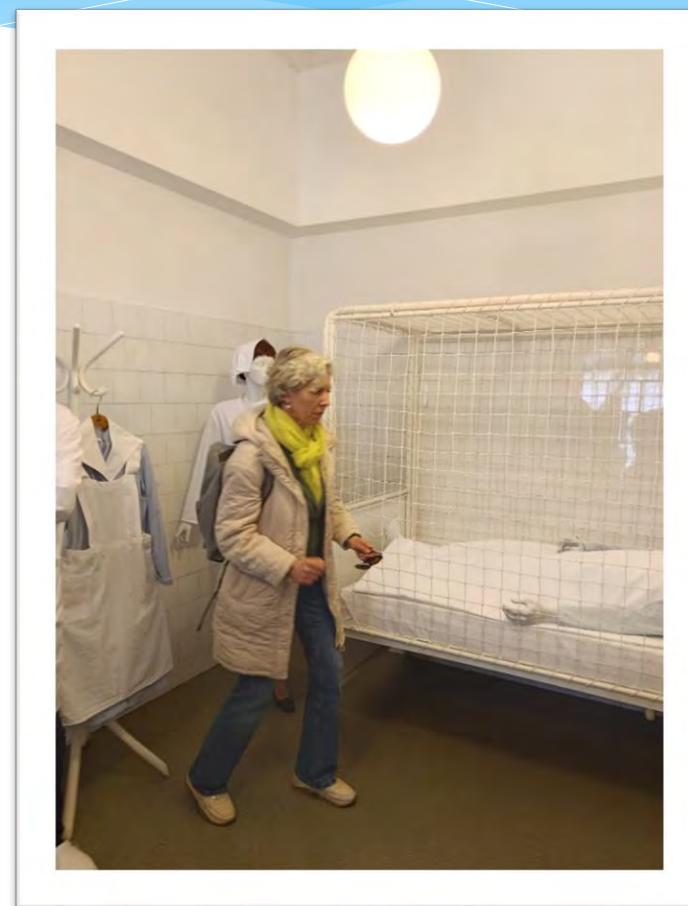
- organized due to enthusiasm and effort of a few colleagues and psychiatrists from Clinic for Psychiatry **Vrapče, Zagreb**
- without compensation for lectures
- Idea - acquire and expand knowledge in psychiatry in order to individualize our approach to offenders
- Goal – more efficient treatment, respecting the possibilities and limitations of people with mental disorders

The training was organized only for offices around Zagreb area and not all probation officers had the oportunity to pariticipate

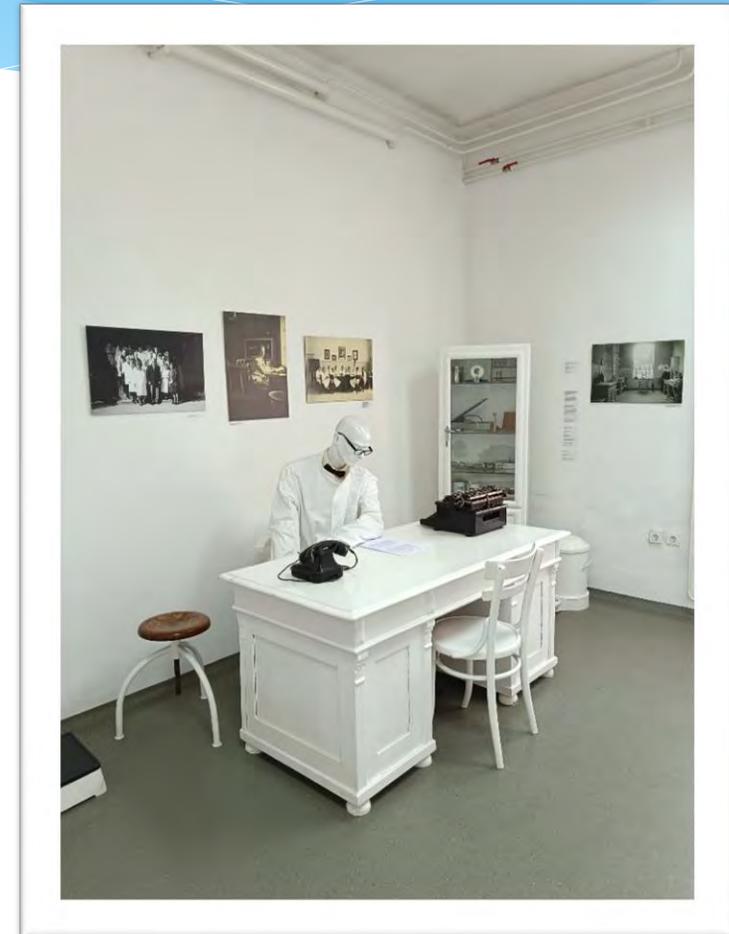
Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



Conclusion:

- Significant increase in the number of mentally ill offenders in Croatian Probation Service during the years
- Insufficient education of probation officers for working with offenders with mental problems in Croatian Probation Service
- no network of treatment facilities in some parts of Croatia
- sanctions are not in accordance with the capabilities and limitations of the offender

Q/A
???

*Thank
you*

