

## **Preparation for release and social integration of female inmates**

The project, titled Preparation for release and social integration of convicts, started on April 2012th and lasted until December of 2012th. The project aimed at the inclusion of preparing inmates for release from prison as a permanent part of the treatment carried out by treatment service in the penitentiary for women in Požarevac, and according to programs that exist in the world. Another goal of the project was that through the introduction of a new approach to preparing inmates for release, to overcome the current lack of a solution in the system in the preparation of convicts coming out of jail, and their social reintegration and inclusion. The project is implemented through two principal groups of activities:

- Workshops to prepare female prisoners for release. This activity included the development, preparation and implementation of two series of workshops for prisoners in order to empower them and preparations for release. Workshops were organized in two groups of female prisoners (October-November and November-December 2012). Each series of workshops were attended by between 10 and 12 inmates, and each workshop is dedicated to a specific topic.
- Continuous support during the preparation of prisoners for release and after release from the Correctional Institution for Women. This activity is carried out in two levels: during prisoners stay in the Correctional Institution for Women as part of the preparation for release and after the release of prisoners from custody. Support includes the provision of psycho-social support (emotional support and empowerment of female prisoners and providing relevant information) and legal assistance (legal information and advice, and if necessary, writing briefs). Support is provided in the premises of the Correctional Institution for Women in Požarevac or in VDS office, through individual conversations or by writing letters and telephone conversations.

The implementation of these activities are directly involved: prof. Vesna Nikolić-Ristanović, Dr. Sanja Čopić, Jasmina Nikolić, Mirjana Tripković, adv. Momčilo Jovanović, Jelena Srnić, Ljiljana Stevković and Zorica Milosavljević.

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