### Reporting Agency: UNDP

### Country: Romania

### **STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT**

### *The return of former convicts to the labour market and their integration in society*

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### Project ID: 78185

### Reporting period: January 2013 - February 2014

### **I. PURPOSE**

The **main objective** of the project is the social reintegration of former convicts through the creation of a network of social inclusion centres, increased green jobs skills, as well as the removal of societal prejudgments and stereotypes with regard to present and former convicts. The specific objectives of the project are:

1) Studies and policy recommendations for improving the legal and administrative framework to facilitate the social inclusion of vulnerable target groups (i.e. convicts and former convicts);

2) Development of a pilot system of training of detainees, as an open or quasi-open centre, split by professions and ecologic occupations, as well as a training centre for penitentiaries officers and guards, on themes related to communication and conflict management;

3) Large awareness campaigns that promote the social inclusion of former convicts and the removal of societal prejudice and stereotypes which impede the social reintegration of these vulnerable groups.

Equal opportunities between women and men represent one of the main values promoted by the UNDP. Each of the project activities has envisaged securing equal opportunities, especially at the stage of recruiting and selecting the project beneficiaries and the project staff. The operating principle is that of non-discrimination in terms of gender, ethnicity and religion. The project promotes equal opportunities as well as non-discrimination and social inclusion. In its work the project implementation team shall consider applicable law regarding equal opportunities and non-discrimination (Romanian Constitution, Government Order #137/2000, Law #202/2002, Emergency Government Order #96/2003, Law #210/1999, Law #148/2000 on advertising).

This project is funded by the Social European Fund through the contract signed between the National Penitentiaries Administration (NAP) and the Managing Authority. The project will be implemented by the NAP - the Implementing Partner, ultimately accountable for the project efficient and effective implementation to the Managing Authority.

Other partners:

Calarasi Regional Centre for Professional Training of Adults (CRCPTA)

West University of Timisoara (WUT)

National School of Political and Administrative Sciences (NSPAS)

The Calarasi Regional Centre for Professional Training of Adults (CRCPTA) will have a direct contribution to providing the expertise needed for professional qualification. This will allow the professional training of convicts in green jobs. The CRCPTA will provide the technical expertise needed in developing the training curricula and delivering the training for the developing the skills in environmental friendly occupations- as described in this project document.

West University of Timisoara and National School of Political and Administrative Sciences will bring a rich expertise in multiple social inclusion domains given by their institutional vast experience in education projects, implementation of the curriculum and initiatives that respond to the constant changes of the current society. These partners will provide the technical expertise for the development and delivery of the training packages for penitentiary officers and penitentiary officers trainers in communication techniques and conflict-resolution methods.

### **II. RESOURCES**

UNDP will receive from NAP the amount of **1,343,523 USD** for the implementation of the activities that were assigned to UNDP and also for meeting the costs of the project management and supervision. Distinct project accounts are opened for this project’s funds.

It is estimated that contribution funds will be deposited into the UNDP project bank account in 10 installments throughout the project implementation period.

### **III. RESULTS**

During this implementation period, the project team enhanced the communication with all the project partners and continued the implementation of the project activities. Regarding the objectives of the project, the UNDP team has carried out entirely the Activity 2 of the project representing the elaboration of a study containing a comparative analysis of the measures taken for the social reintegration of former convicts at EU level followed by a series of practical recommendations on applying such measures in Romania and creating a model suitable for the Romanian social and economic realities. Going beyond the project’s assumed activities, UNPD has made substantial efforts to improve the legal and administrative framework to facilitate the social inclusion of former detainees, assuming for a new and extremely important activity, the elaboration of a Financial Impact Assessment which will enable the National Strategy for Social Reintegration of Detainee to be approved and enforced by means of Governmental Decision, thus ensuring a legislative framework in this area.

The main activities undertaken during this period were:

**Activity 2.Comparative analysis and prospects of developing an integrated inter-institutional mechanism to promote social inclusion.**

UNDP finalized the study concerning the development of an integrated inter-institutional mechanism for the social reintegration of former convicts. The recommendations formulated within the “Study regarding the development of an integrated inter-institutional mechanism for the social reintegration of former convicts” developed by the UNDP have been integrated in the National Strategy for Social Reintegration of Detainees. The National Penitentiaries Administration, the Beneficiary of the UNDP coordinated project, officially asked for UNDP’s support concerning the elaboration of a Financial Impact Analysis. Consequently, UNDP prepared the Terms of Reference for two experts that should perform the financial impact analysis and contracted the experts. The experts, after 2 rounds of consultations with the working group specifically established, have finalized the financial impact analysis, in September 2013 and 300 copies have been printed and disseminated to the stakeholders.

**Activity 4.4 – Develop and provide training package for prisoners” Education for reintegration in society.”**

The UNDP team has carried out the activity of delivering the training package ”Education for reintegration in society”.

The project team has finalized the procurement process for selecting 2 trainers to deliver the trainings “Education for reintegration in society”. The 16 training sessions have been delivered in the period July-December 2013, with the participation of over 200 detainees.

**Activity 6 – Promote social integration of former convicts.**

In 2013, UNDP Romania and the National Administration of Penitentiaries held four regional seminars gathering over 300 participants from different regions of Romania (Craiova, Iasi, Brasov and Bucuresti), to promote the project objectives and increase public awareness at regional level. The regional seminars aimed to bring to the attention of local authorities, civil society representatives, potential employers and the community in general, the main problems faced by the current system: the high level of recidivism in the country, discrimination and exclusion of ex-convicts from the labor market. These events created a forum for debate on solutions and European best practices in the field of reintegration of former convicts.

In the same time, UNDP team organized 5 small scale project promotion meetings aiming to increase public awareness and promote equal civil rights and employment opportunities for former detainees. The meetings took place in Bucharest, Braila, Constanta and Sibiu and have been attended by representatives of civil society organizations, education institutions, NGOs and public administration. The events consisted of debates and presentations, aiming to promote the social reinsertion of former detainees and identify the best practices to prevent recidivism.

In the period November 2013- January 2014, UNDP organized 3 meetings with potential employers in different cities (Ramnicu Valcea, Bacau and Targu Mures), aiming to bring to the attention of local authorities and potential employers, on the one hand, the main challenges faced by the ex-convicts, such as discrimination and exclusion from the labor market and on the other hand, the skills and trainings they developed and received during the project that could help them get a job.

The project has been the first in Romania to deploy a large scale national TV-radio-outdoor campaign in order to increase public awareness on the need for social reintegration of former detainees. In 2013, UNDP implemented the second media campaign that registered outstanding results:

According to the Campaign Evaluation report provided by the Contractor (ADD Media), during the broadcasting period (27.09.2013 – 15.11.2013), the TV spot has been broadcasted 304 times on 3 national TV stations having a reach of 38% at national level, meaning that 6,178,000 individuals in that target audience saw the commercial at least one time. The radio spot has been broadcasted 100 times on 2 national radio stations having a reach of 36.5% at national level, meaning that 5,121,500 individuals in that target audience heard the spot at least one time.

However, going beyond the project’s assumed activities, UNPD has made substantial efforts for increasing public awareness on social reintegration of former detainees through different other channels, social networks, as well as participation to local TV and radio shows focused on the theme, thus the overall impact on the target groups was higher.

**Activity 7 – Organize procurement of goods and services**

Within the framework of this activity the UNDP project team has carried out procurement procedures for all the equipment, goods and services required for the activity of the team and the implementation of the project activities.

**Activity 8 – Project management**

The UNDP project management team is responsible for the overall management of the project and the project partnership.

Within the project management activity, the UNDP team is responsible to organize and supervise the implementation of all the project activities of the other partners, maintaining the relationship with the authorities responsible with the management of the financing contract and elaborating all formal documents submitted with the financing authority.

In February 2013, UNDP organized the project closing conference, presenting the project objectives, activities and results, gathering over 100 participants.

The indicators assumed by UNDP according to the Financing Contract have been fully achieved:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Indicators** | **Value** | **Current status** | **Current status %** |
| 1 | Studies & recommendations regarding the creation of a social reintegration centers network | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 2 | Conference and regional seminars to promote the project | 9 | 9 | 100% |
| 3 | Better informed social inclusion stakeholders | 500 | 700 | 100% |
| 4 | Training curricula and delivery for detainees | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 5 | Instruments for planning and implementation of legislative framework revision, offered to the Government of Romania | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 6 | Promotional and information materials disseminated | 2500 | 2500 | 100% |
| 7 | Number of detainees trained | 200 | 240 | 100% |
| 8 | Assembling a working group in the field of social inclusion | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 9 | Organizing 2 study visits for the working group | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| 10 | Organizing stakeholder workshops for consultations and validation of the social inclusion study | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| 11 | Printing the social inclusion study on recycled paper | 3000 | 3000 | 100% |
| 12 | Promotional bilboards | 200 | 200 | 100% |
| 13 | Meetings organized with potential employers at the Chilia training center | 3 | 3 | 0% |
| 14 | Meeting with penitentiaries staff focus-groups participants, for project promotion | 5 | 5 | 100% |
| 15 | Small scale project promotion meetings | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| 16 | 1 media conference at the project end | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 17 | TV and radio spots | 4 | 40 | 100% |
| 18 | documentaries regarding the social reintegration of convicts | 2 | 2 | 100% |

### **IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

The project successfully ended in February 2014 and all indicators have been achieved.

### **V**. **FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION**

During the last period of project implementation, the total amount spent on the project activities was 425,049USD.