

## **Aksion+**

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## **Aksion Plus Report**

### **Implementation of the project “Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence”**

Presentation related to the services that the association Action Plus offers in the framework of the project “Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence”.

The project “Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence” is financed by the European Commission, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The overall objective of this project is to support the probation service for the implementation of alternative sanctions to drug offenders in Albania, such as community-based treatment programmes. The project also aims to assist the probation service in establishing, enhancing and using effectively constructive partnerships with the community, and improve public confidence in the effectiveness of community sentencing. The project is being implemented by three organisations: Aksion Plus, Refraction Association and Shelter for Abused Women.

In the framework of the project, partnership associations held a presentation meeting according to the agreement of the collaboration memorandum with the Probation Service Office.

This activity took place at Mondial Hotel, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The meeting was attended by representatives from the central and local directory of the Probation Service Office in the main cities as Tirana, Durres, Fier, Shkoder, including the General Director of the Probation Service Office, Mr. Sefgjini, as well as partnership associations of the project.

During the meeting, the Project “Network of Community Services for Alternative Sentence” was introduced to the participants, along with all the activities as foreseen from the Probation Service Office in collaboration with the Executive Director of the association Action Plus, Mr. Mucollari. In his presentation, Mr. Mucollari emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Probation Service, civic society and community services to effectively implement alternative sentences. Mr. Mucollari talked about the effective services that his association offers in the field of drug abuse, emphasizing the role of good policies and laws in this respect. He also mentioned the support, aid and facilities provided to drug offenders, referring to concrete cases.

In his presentation, Mr. Sefgjini, General Director of the Probation Service Office, spoke for the importance of his institution and underlined the benefits and advantages that it offers for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in their community. He mentioned the reduction of crime following the implementation of such activities with a diminution of drug offenders’ need to commit

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such crimes to be able to afford their drugs, and how these interventions contribute a reduction in the socio-economic costs of society. He said that the Probation Service was a relatively new institution, and that it was therefore necessary to build the capacity of the staff through training in the field of drug addiction and establish effective communication with drug offenders. This would enable them to interview these offenders and improve their specialist capacity and knowledge with regards to drug offenders

All of the concrete programmes which will be covered during the project have also been presented at the meeting, including medical and psycho-social treatment, methadone maintenance therapy etc. The participants took the opportunity to propose new issues that needed a solution, analysed the main topics of the project, shared opinions, referred to individual cases, and discussed how the quality of the services that would be offered could be improved.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that similar presentations would be held in the local offices of the Probation Services with the participation of other concerned local structures, such as municipalities, prosecution offices, courts, NGOs, etc.