

Lithuania



ECPA/BPC 2006

Please answer the following questions in English.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

2. What is the title of the project?

The project “**Treshold**” is designed for individuals’ released from imprisonment institutions social rehabilitation and integration into society.

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

The project aims to prevent repeated criminality and to improve the quality of prevention.

People released from imprisonment institutions form a large specific group of individuals who need a complex help with their successful integration into society. They do not frequently have an adequate social orientation, basic social skills, and their motivation and preparation for life in freedom are rather weak.

Dependence illnesses are one of the reasons compounding social rehabilitation and integration into society for people released from imprisonment institutions. Missing opportunities to evaluate their own personality and having difficulties in being recognized by society as well as feeling nonchalance of other people they often throw themselves into alcohol.

Foreign researches (Houston, 1998, 2001) confirmed the link between alcohol and criminality – more than third of convicts are totally dependent on alcohol. People released from imprisonment institutions are more often addicted in comparison with the rate of the population of Lithuania. According to the dates of Correctional Inspectorate of the Municipality involved in this project 25 percent of individuals registered have big problems with alcohol and 15 percent with drugs. That causes a lot of problems. Only a small number (10 percent) of them acknowledge their alcohol dependence as a worrying problem.

As dependence is a family disease its consequences touch all family members.

Therefore all family must be provided with help.

In pursuance of social rehabilitation and integration into society for former prisoners it is very important to enhance their motivation to change themselves as well as to nurture the consciousness of the society in order to involve volunteers into the process of social help for former prisoners who have independence problems.

The Project “Threshold” involved 50 people released from imprisonment institutions.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

The objectives of the project:

- Expand help provided for individuals released from imprisonment institutions focusing on those means enhancing their responsibility for their future;
- Pursue the changes in former prisoners’ thinking, behaviour and life style;
- Develop their social skills and abilities;
- Enhance their motivation to be treated for independence diseases as well as employed and their integration into social life;
- Involve the society into the process of problem solving reducing a stereotype attitude and stimulating cooperation;
- Involve volunteers and arrange their training for work with individuals released from imprisonment institutions.

5. How was the project implemented?

The work was performed in following directions:

- Social service;
- Implementing of social rehabilitation programmes;
- Control of individuals and supervision of their behaviour;
- Implementing of programmes of the juristic education and nurturing consciousness of the society;
- The spread of beneficent social work.

Individuals released from the imprisonment institutions were provided with following **social services:**

Basic services:

- Information;
- Consulting;
- Intermediation and representation (when looking for permanent accommodation, temporary or permanent employment, training or qualifying, re-establishing links with the family, treatment for dependence illnesses etc.);
- Providing with clothes and shoes;
- Social – cultural services (leisure activities)...

Special services:

- Developing and maintaining social skills (behaviour, communication, perception of feeling, self-control, stress resistance etc.);
- Temporary accommodation;
- Intensive help with crisis negotiation;
- Short social care.

Following **social rehabilitation programmes** are implemented in cooperation with the Correctional Inspectorate:

- For individuals accused of criminal acts intoxicated with alcohol;
- For individuals accused of criminal acts of violence;
- For individuals accused of criminal acts against property and interests;
- For individuals accused of criminal acts against traffic safety;
- Programme for social integration of individuals with probationary sentence.

During the courses different exercises and art therapy are applied.

In cooperation with the officers of the Correctional Inspectorate individuals with social problems are visited in their residences. Those means secure their control and supervision as well as help to evaluate their needs for social services and involve family members in the problem solving process.

In order to spread and propagate effective methods of working with individuals released from imprisonment institutions our Methodical Centre of Social Work arranges training courses for social workers for the work with former prisoners.

We pass on our knowledge and experience to the students practicing in our institution.

We also compile and distribute information publications.

In order to form an objective attitude towards individuals released from imprisonment institutions we publish articles in the press.

In cooperation with the Correctional Inspectorate we arrange meetings with local inhabitants where we discuss the problems of former prisoners and the ways of solving them.

We look for volunteers for work with individuals released from imprisonment institutions.

Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the Project? If do, who were they, and what were their roles?

Main partners:

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, Prisons Department, The Correctional Inspectorate of Vilnius Region, **the Correctional Inspectorate of Švenčionys District.**

Collaborative means of repeated crime prevention: educative activities, control and supervision of individuals, social service, leisure arrangement, search for volunteers for work with individuals released from imprisonment institutions.

Public organization “Parents against drugs”, Švenčionys department.

Budgeting for treatment of individuals released from imprisonment institutions suffering from dependence illnesses (detoxification and follow-up treatment under

the Minnesota programme).

Other partners and sponsors: correctional institutions, police station, village communities, health care institutions, culture institutions, job centre, Association of Prisoners' Care, AA and AL-ANON self-help groups, businessmen.

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7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

We intended to evaluate the efficiency of the project according to:

The rate of repeated crime actions of individuals involved in the project;

The number of individuals involved in the programmes of social rehabilitation and development of social skills; results of the survey of those individuals as well as their community members;

The rates of employment and entrenchment in the labor market of those individuals;

The number of dependent people seeking for temperance: their treatment in the center for dependence illnesses, rehabilitation centres, involvement in AA self – help groups;

The ratio of involvement of convicts in public life;

Efficiency of social problem solving;

The number of volunteers involved in the help providing process and the ratio of their involvement in training courses.

8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

The Project can be evaluated according all provided rates of efficiency. Evaluation is carried out by the customers, implementors and partners. The evaluation of the project was carried out at the end of the year.

The Project was positively evaluated by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour that designated subsidiary funds for this project.

In the contest of Prevention of crime acts and other delicts carried out by the Ministry of the Interior in 2006 the project “Theshold” was voted the best project in Lithuania in 2005 (out of 118 applicants). The evaluation was carried out by a competent jury.

9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

Results achieved:

1. The main rate indicating results achieved is repeated criminality in the district. In 2005 no one individual involved in the project committed the crime. That helps the state to save up money as there is no need to pay for the maintenance of individuals in correctional institutions. Furthermore, the maiming impact of isolation is avoided. Every third person uninvolved in the Project committed a repeated crime.
2. 26 people were involved in the rehabilitation and integration into the society programmes. They were provided with social and juristic knowledge stimulating people to deliberate upon their problematic behaviour, to take up responsibility for their actions, for the harm to the victim, the community and to themselves as well as to make a decision of changing themselves.
3. Social skills obtained under the social skills programmes helped a lot of people to withstand social pressure, to recognize and overcome the own psychical problems leading to alcohol and drugs. Furthermore they helped to adapt to the social life and to get involved in the labour market. Entrenchment in the labour market increased 50 percent.
4. Help provided for the individuals suffering from dependence illnesses and their family members: treatment in the Centre for Dependence Illnesses under the Minessota Programme (5 people), consulting and involvement in the AL-ANON self-help groups, children involvement in the programmes “Linas (Flax)”, “Art Therapy”, “Developing Social Skills” and others.
5. Joint events with family members (cultural and educational events, excursions) strengthened interlink and helped the individuals to feel being wanted, acknowledged and important.
6. In cooperation with nongovernmental institutions and village communities the first volunteers (7 people) were teamed up and trained for the work with former prisoners. Volunteers help to visit, communicate and solve social and mental problems as well as to spend spare time. Systematic training of qualified volunteers as well as recruitment of new volunteers are continued. Public initiative is stimulated. Volunteer work will contribute to the social services to former prisoners enhancing the improvement of the system of their

re-socialization and integration into the society in the district.

7. The attitude of the society towards individuals released from the imprisonment institutions is changing, though very slowly. Society evaluates the present situation more objectively and gets involved into the helping process.
8. The customers take positively the quality of complex services provided.
9. Close cooperation with present partners and a constant search for new partners enable to provide better services.

All objectives of the project were achieved.

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

Information on the Project.

The Project is implemented by the municipal budgetary institution Centre of Social Services of Švenčionys district, one of its departments – Department of Social Services for Individuals Released from Imprisonment Institutions. The department was established in 1998 under the Project of Development of Community Social Services. It is the first institution of that nature in Lithuania.

Participants of the Project:

Grown-up individuals of Švenčionys district released from imprisonment institutions:

By 2004:

- Individuals served their sentence in imprisonment institutions;
- Individuals released from imprisonment institution on probation;

Since 2004:

- Also individuals with alternative penalty.

By January 1, 2005, 60 people were registered by the Correctional Inspectorate of Švenčionys District, 51 of them were under the non-custodial sentence and 9 people were released from imprisonment institutions.

The Project “Treshold” is continuous and has been implemented since 2004. Although it is being implemented within one municipality it can be easily transferred to any other municipality.

The Project “Development of the activities of the department of social services for individuals released from imprisonment institutions by the Social Service Centre of Švenčionys District” has received a financial support from the EU. The aim of the project is to develop the infrastructure of social services.

Please, write here a one page description of the project