



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI  
MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI  
ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE  
AMPOSDRU



Fondul Social European  
POS DRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale  
2007-2013



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ADMINISTRAȚIA NAȚIONALĂ A  
PENITENCIARELOR

## Investește în oameni!

### **„Revenirea foștilor deținuți pe piața muncii și integrarea lor în societate”**

Proiect co-finanțat din Fondul Social European prin Programul Operațional Sectorial pentru Dezvoltarea Resurselor Umane 2007 – 2013

Axa prioritară 6 “Promovarea incluziunii sociale”

Domeniul major de intervenție 6.2 “Îmbunătățirea accesului și a participării grupurilor vulnerabile pe piața muncii”

Proiect POSDRU/70/6.2/S/33488

## Newsletter – Stakeholder Workshop 07 March 2012

Within the framework of the project „*The return of convicts to the labour market and their integration in society*”, the UNDP team of experts performed a comparative analysis of the measures taken in 8 EU countries for the social reintegration of former convicts. The purpose of the study was to analyse the national and European context for the reintegration of ex-convicts, with the perspective to develop a national integrated mechanism for enhancing the social inclusion of former convicts.

Starting with the recommendations of the social inclusion experts and after two rounds of consultations with the working group, out of the 8 models of social inclusion of ex-convicts at the European level analysed, Denmark and England & Wales were identified and selected on the basis which measures most successful practices. Following the selection of these two models of best practices, UNDP organised two study-visits in the selected countries. Following the study visits, UNDP experts continued with the research activity, consisting of a study with practical recommendations and an Action Plan for developing an integrated inter-institutional mechanism that will operate a network of social inclusion centres for former convicts.

With the occasion of presenting the study, UNDP organised two workshops for the key stakeholders, in order to discuss and validate the results. The main theme of the first meeting, held on 15 December 2011, was to discuss how the best practices of reintegration used in other countries can be applied in Romania.





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*The second workshop took place at Ramada Majestic Hotel, on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.*



The purpose of the workshop was to present the updated version of the study with a new chapter of specific gender analysis concerning the particularities and recommendations for the re-integration of female ex-convicts, which has been considered one of the most important and sensitive issue of analysis to be developed.

Among the participants, the United Nations Development Programme and The National Administration of Penitentiaries had the honour to receive guests on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the National Agency for Workforce, representatives of international organizations for human rights and public authorities that are active in the area of social inclusion of convicts and ex-convicts.

*- Summary of discussions and outcomes*

Mihai Moia, Project Manager UNDP, opened the meeting with a short description of the methodology of elaborating the study, established in order to guarantee the delivery of an accurate product to the highest standards. Mr. Dorin Muresan, Deputy General Director of ANP, held a speech on behalf of ANP, quoting that the „*Return of former convicts on the labour market and their integration in society*” project is the most important initiative that implies the involvement of ANP at this moment and expressing the appreciation for the work of the team implementing the project.





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Dorin Muresan announced a significant growth of prison population with a number of 3500 inmates compared to the same period of last year. The same problem concerns the youngster from penitentiaries. Therefore, it has been highlighted the immediate necessity of measures and strategies for the social inclusion of ex-convicts, in order to reduce recidivism.

The meeting continued with the presentation of the updated study and the recommendations of best practices models that can be implemented in Romania, held by the UNDP experts.



- Key points of discussions focused on discrimination issues concerning the social and financial aid that former convicts should receive after release, with the recommendation for this issue of an easier and more efficient possibility for this vulnerable group to receive social aid.
- Another recommendation presented by UNDP experts and approved by the participants was the possibility for a prisoner to receive training during the entire period of detention, not only for the limited period of time of the last 9 - 12 months of imprisonment, as the legislation will be amended, in order to increase the chances of employment after their release.
- Considered of great importance was also the recommendation concerning the start of the process of integrating convicts on the labour market while they are still in prison, and the proposal of experts to conduct studies in the matter of the availability of employers to work with the detainees.





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Overall, the study and recommendations of good practices were welcomed by the participants and were considered to cover all key aspects concerning the reintegration of former convicts, especially the discrimination subject and gender issue. Moreover, the participants recognized the added value of the study, concerning the importance of the institutional and legislative changes proposed within the recommendations, changes that conduct to a significant improvement of the penitentiary system for supporting the reintegration of ex-convicts.

The key stakeholders stated that the good practice models and recommendations presented by the UNDP experts come as a direct response and guidance for the Romanian public institutions and Government to identify the steps which need to be taken further.

The recommendations were also considered as a starting point for other pilot projects concerning the reintegration of former convicts, having the role to encourage the public and private sector to be involved in a mutual effort, in order to solve the problem of social exclusion of former convicts.

Following the two workshops, the study containing recommendations on establishing a network of social inclusion centres for ex-detainees will be published, whilst the result of the study will



be presented to the Government of Romania, with the intention of modifying the actual legal framework concerning the reintegration of former detainees.

