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ТРЕТМАН

REPORT ON
**THE CONDITIONS IN
PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS
AND THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**
IN 2022

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INTRODUCTION

This report was created within the framework of the project "Fight against torture and ill-treatment", financially supported by the European Union. For the project, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions

In the period from May to August 2022, visits were made to all penal institutions and educational institution. The schedule of visits with an exact date, time, and visiting team is given in the Annex of this report. Report findings are based on visits carried out by the monitoring team, which during the visits inspected all the premises of the penitentiary and Correctional facilities, provided free legal aid and psychiatric counseling for male and female convicts, conducted a conversation with almost all institutional directors as well as employees from prison police, social workers, psychologists, lawyers, etc.

Despite many commitments by the state, international and domestic organizations, to improve conditions in penitentiaries and correctional facilities, it has been noticed that systemic deficiencies still exist. It is obvious that the competent institutions still do not have adequate intersectoral cooperation for the problems faced by persons deprived of their liberty in these institutions and therefore fail to fulfill their legal obligations to overcome the problems that have been going on for a long time and make it impossible for convicted persons to enjoy their rights and resocialize themselves wisely.

Access to health care, education, adequate material living conditions, resocialization programs, and conditions for their implementation, and post-criminal assistance are still unimaginable for people who are serving a prison sentence. Corruption and bribery are a part of a convicted person's life, on which we are regularly being informed, but in fear of losing their rights and facilities in the institution, they do not want to formally report these cases. Occasional actions on the part of the state authorities, which reveal illegal items that experts and the general public are aware of in these institutions, are insufficient. Knives, sharp objects, cell phones, drugs, and money will stay in the penitentiary until those responsible are held accountable for it. Otherwise,

not only corruption but also violence between convicts and violence by convicts against members of the prison police will continue to be a common practice.

The problem with corruption is further deepened because the state still has the practice of appointing inadequate personnel to managerial positions without experience and knowledge to manage penal institutions, which with their work can cause long-term consequences of direct damage to convicted persons.

Thus, the largest penitentiary institution PI Idrizovo was and still is managed by persons without any previous prison system experience.

In addition, what was noticed and is particularly worrying, is the small number of appeals submitted by convicted persons to the adopted decisions on the imposition of disciplinary measures. It is often a practice that the convicted persons have not received the decision on imposing a disciplinary measure, for example, if they are in solitary confinement, the decision is attached to the door of the solitary confinement, and the convicted persons manage to get in touch with a non-governmental organization, a lawyer and/or a lawyer after they finish serving the disciplinary measure. Thus, in the period from January to August 2022, only 15 complaints from convicted persons were submitted to the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, namely 6 from PI Shtip, 5 from PI Prison Skopje, 2 from PI Prison Bitola and 2 from PI Prison Kumanovo. 5 of the appeals were upheld and 9 were rejected. The most common reasons for filing complaints are a found cell phone, physical altercation, physical assault, untimely return from using amenities, and alcohol/drug intake.

Not a single complaint has been received from PI Idrizovo, the largest penitentiary institution in the country, which only speaks to the fact that convicted persons do not have adequate access to the right to appeal and are not taught how to use the right to appeal.

As a positive practice, it can be noted that the Training Center for training within the PI Idrizovo finally began to function and this year trained new personnel from the prison police ranks, which, before starting work, spent several days of training at the Center. Although it is not enough for the new personnel to get acquainted with the work in the prison system, it is still significant and positive that the implementation of these pieces of training has finally started.

Furthermore, the state continued to invest in the improvement of material conditions in penitentiary institutions, but some of the institutions, such as the closed department in PI Idrizovo, PI Prison Skopje, and PI Prison Ohrid, do not have any opportunities to improve living conditions. Not only do they have no conditions for improvement in terms of infrastructure, but some of the institutions are also once again facing the problem of overcrowding, such as the institutions PI Idrizovo, PI Prilep, PI PrisonTetovo, PI Shtip, PI Prison Strumica, and some are at risk of being overcrowded as PI Prison Bitola.

Overcrowding, especially in PI Idrizovo where most of the convicted persons with the highest security risk are located, is an alarming problem for which the state must urgently find a solution, as well as for other systemic problems that, if overcome, resocialization as one of the main goals of the prison sentence, we cannot expect a reduction in the crime rate in the country.

For this purpose, civil society organizations will closely monitor the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of the Penitentiary System in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021-2025. With the implementation of this strategy, we expect the correct application of the legal and by-laws regulation, improvement of conditions and conditions in prisons, but also strengthening of the capacity and professionalism of the employed staff, as well as strengthened supervision over the operation of penitentiary institutions. Although it seems impossible until it is done, as the text of the Strategy begins with the words of Nelson Mandela, we hope that soon the state will finally overcome the systemic problems in the penitentiary system.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION IDRIZOVO

with an Open Department in Veles

BASIC INFORMATION

According to data from August 2020, PI Idrizovo has a total capacity of 1253 beds, and at the time of the visit, the number of convicted persons serving a sentence was 1115 persons. Of them, 77 were women who were serving the imposed prison sentence in the women's department of the PI Idrizovo.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

Closed Department

The conditions for serving the prison sentence in PI Idrizovo do not meet the minimum standard conditions, which causes dissatisfaction among the prisoners. This finding is complemented by the indications of civil society organizations and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel and Inhuman Treatment (CPT). However, despite numerous remarks and continuous criticism, no positive changes have been observed in the buildings "Building" and "Ambulance" that make up the closed department of the largest penal institution PI Idrizovo.

Convicted persons continue to serve prison terms in substandard conditions, with a high level of humidity, which in some parts of the facility reached even 66% of the allowed maximum of 50%. In the "Building" facility, some of the rooms accommodate 10-12 people in rooms that do not meet the standards neither in terms of size nor in terms of material conditions, moisture, and light. Insects (bed bugs) and other insects are easily noticeable on the walls of the institution, and the convicts have numerous bites on their bodies. They sleep on triple bunk beds, so it often happens that convicts sleeping on the top bed, fall while sleeping. For comparison, in some rooms of this facility, other convicted persons are placed in a more favorable position, so that in the same size room, 2 or 3 persons are serving their sentence in significantly better conditions for them.

Some of the convicted persons, more precisely almost 10 persons in the facility "Building" in the 1st wing, 3rd wing, and 4th wing slept on the floor on mattresses or improvised beds made of blankets and pillows. The convicts who

sleep on the floor in the corridors do not have toilets, so they are forced to use the toilets of the convicts who have a room. Such a picture confirms that overcrowding is still an unsolved problem in this institution, which goes back years.

In addition to the numerous remarks regarding the material conditions, sharp criticisms are directed at the food, which, according to the statements of the convicted persons, is given to them once a day in insufficient quantities, and its quality is so bad that a large part of the convicted persons who have financial opportunities, they eat food from outside that is sent to them in packages by their relatives.

PI Idrizovo has no dining room that can be used by convicted persons, therefore knives and other eating utensils could be observed in all rooms of the institution. Such an occurrence is illegal and serious, considering that this institution, especially the closed department, is where the convicted persons with the highest security risk in the country are accommodated. Hence, it is unacceptable for knives and other utensils to be found in these rooms. They are often used in verbal and physical disputes between convicts, and members of the prison police, while performing their duties, are often injured by the convicts with these sharp objects.

Some of the rooms do not have water heaters, so the convicts in the most critical part of the institution with the lowest level of hygiene, the 4th wing, where most of the convicts of Roma ethnicity are accommodated, are forced to improvise with cables to heat the water for bathing, due to which a convicted person suffered bodily injuries because of an electric shock while taking a shower.

In the closed department in the "Building", there are also rooms for solitary confinement, which were found in substandard conditions, with a humidity level of 60%, without the possibility of ventilating the room with fresh air, without enough natural or artificial light, and the toilets in solitary confinement were found in the lowest level of hygiene. Due to the convicted persons for the "Divo Naselje" case and their special mode of movement outside and the ban on having contact with other convicted persons, persons who are placed in solitary confinement have the opportunity to walk outside for less than 1 hour during the day, which was also confirmed by a member of the prison police. Convicted persons who were placed in solitary confinement did not report that they were not regularly examined by a doctor. They did not file an appeal

against the decision to impose a disciplinary measure because the decision was not delivered to them, but was later attached to the door of the room from the outside.

The reception department at the institution at the time of the visit had 17 people. A humidity of 62.3% was observed in the room. During the visit, it was possible to notice that the electricity cables in the toilet are still hanging and pose a danger to the health and life of the convicted persons. Convicted persons placed in a reception department are detained for a very long time, from 17 days to 4 months, due to security reasons.

Both facilities „Ambulance” and „Building” should be completely demolished. There is no room for reconstruction and improvement of the existing conditions. Humidity is present in all rooms, hygiene is at the lowest level, and a large number of the convicts housed here suffer from some kind of mental disorder.

Taking into account the category of persons who are serving sentences in the closed department, the state should make special efforts to develop a good internal atmosphere in these departments. It is in the interest not only of the humane treatment of convicted persons in the department but also of maintaining efficient control, safety, and security of the staff.

Semi-open and open department

This part of the institution is new, unchanged from the previous visit, the rooms have significantly better material conditions than the rooms in the closed department. There is sufficient flow of daylight, ventilation, and artificial light, and hygiene is also at a much more satisfactory level. As of August 11, 2022, new rooms have been opened in the open department of the institution with a capacity for 30 convicted persons.

The semi-open department has 206 convicts, while the open department has 133 convicts.

Women's department

Some reconstructions in this part of the institution, have improved the material conditions for female convicts, such as a new floor and new PVC windows and doors. Female convicts complain about the presence of bedbugs and lice in the

institution, poor communication with educators, poor hygiene in the toilets, the inability to obtain the necessary medicines, and the lack of gynecological services that the Ministry of Health is obliged to provide.

The phone booth in the women's department is non-functional, and according to the testimony of some convicts, the tablet is mostly used by the same people. Apart from an open space with a bench with chairs, the prisons do not have any conditions for leisure, sports, and vocational activities.

In the women's department, there is not even a suitable room where female convicts can have contact with their children, and which room should offer a relaxing and recreational atmosphere.

Video surveillance in the women's department is still non-functional.

Girls who were undergoing an educational correlation measure in the KDP Idrizovo

The space intended for the girls serving an educational correctional measure is only one room with beds, in which the presence of humidity was noted. The girls spent two hours during the day outside and according to the prison police, they often spent time outside together with adult convicts, who had better behavior and behavior. The girls who serve an educational correctional measure are not included in the educational process, they do not have conditions for quality spending of their free time or professional training, and the educators for adult convicts are the same ones who work with the girls referred to the institutional measure. The girls often witnessed verbal alterations between adult convicts because they were only a few meters away.

At the time of publication of this report, no girl is serving an educational correctional measure.

HEALTH CARE

Health care in the facility is provided by 1 doctor and 2 nurses who are in the facility only for a few hours during the day, which is not enough for a facility with over 1000 convicts with various health problems. During the visit, members of the prison police received as many as 3 requests for a medical examination, which could not be carried out because the doctor left the prison at 12.30 pm.

Psychiatrists from the team interviewed a total of 53 male convicts and 7 female convicts. Information was obtained about drugs in prison (marijuana, heroin, and cocaine), buprenorphine on the illegal market, benzodiazepines, barriers to inclusion in buprenorphine treatment and discontinuation of buprenorphine treatment and other drugs without consent, as well as difficult doctor and psychiatrist's access. Some convicted persons have debts related to the abuse and acquisition of drugs and psychoactive substances, which results in violence, stress and trauma. A shortage of health personnel contributes to the absence of regular screenings for depression, suicidality, and substance use.

It is necessary to provide buprenorphine therapy to all convicts who need it, to continue the treatment of convicts without interruption for any reason, including untimely implementation of the tender procedure by the Ministry of Health. This way will prevent, the "black market" and reduce the violence, stress, and other psychological and somatic consequences.

When planning treatment with OAT, it is necessary to include the convicted person, and in the decision for which drug will be applied, more attention should be paid to the response to the treatment in that person than to the needs of the institutions in terms of financial savings, which in the end is much more expensive.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In addition to the standard employment of convicts in janitor ship, hygiene, laundry, kitchen, etc., the convicts in the largest penitentiary in the country still do not have any conditions and programs for professional training and quality spending of free time.

LEGAL AID

A lawyer interviewed a total of 38 convicts, 8 of whom are female convicts. The most common grounds for which the convicted persons in this institution requested legal advice are related to health care, material conditions, food, the right to parole, transfer to another penitentiary institution, and exercising the right of visit. Some of the convicted persons complained that they were victims of corruption and that in the institution you can get everything you want with money, such as a bed, telephone, hot water, medical therapy, transfer to

another institution, use of facilities, etc. A large part of the convicted persons complained about the attitude of the psychiatrist in the institution, as well as that due to the lack of medical staff, they cannot get their turn to be examined. Some stated that sometimes when they submit a request for suspension of prison sentence due to health reasons, their medical documentation remains "stuck" somewhere for weeks because the reports are not signed by the doctor in the institution due to excessive workload.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

In the period between January and August 2022, a total of 324 disciplinary proceedings were initiated against convicted persons: 95 for possessing a mobile phone, 8 for possessing methadone and buprenorphine, 79 for escaping and moving away from the institution, 5 for consuming alcohol, 21 for insolent attitude towards officials, 30 for abuse of a given facility and 86 for physical confrontation.

A total of 324 disciplinary measures were imposed, namely: 2 warnings, 22 public warnings, 196 solitary confinements from 3 to 14 days, 91 conditional disciplinary measures and 13 bans on amenities usage from 1 to 3 months.

PI Idrizovo does not keep statistics on the total number of submitted appeals to the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions. The Directorate submitted statistics that in the period from January to August 2022, not a single appeal has been filed against a decision to imposed disciplinary measure by a convicted person from PI Idrizovo.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The conditions in the buildings "Building" and "Ambulance" are extremely inhumane and degrading for the convicted persons. The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions must urgently and immediately find a solution to overcome this situation in which the convicted persons who are serving prison terms in the closed department of the institution find themselves;

2. The Ministry of Justice, the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, and PI Idrizovo to take measures for the permanent removal of knives and other sharp objects from the premises of convicted persons;
3. The Ministry of Health should ensure adequate access to health care for convicted persons, namely:
 - Provision of medicines and a sufficient number of health workers to improve the availability and accessibility of medicine, doctor, psychiatrist, gynecological and dental services.
 - It is necessary to provide buprenorphine therapy to all who need it, thus preventing the "black market", violence, stress, and other psychological and somatic consequences. It is necessary to ensure continuous treatment with buprenorphine without interruptions, including untimely implementation of a tender procedure by the Ministry of Health.
 - When planning treatment with OAT, it is necessary to include the convicted person. When making the decision about which medicine will be applied, it is necessary to take into account more about the response to the treatment in that person than about the needs of the institutions in terms of financial savings.
 - Psychoeducation of people on OAT therapy about the side effects of inadequate buprenorphine administration, the risks of overdose, blood-borne diseases, and suboptimal dosing, as well as patients' motivation for treatment with an adequate dose and drug.
 - Examination by a doctor/psychiatrist upon admission to the facility, continuous monitoring of the health condition to screen for depression, suicidality, drug use, and other mental disorders in all convicted persons as those undergoing disciplinary measures in solitary confinement.
 - In all health interventions, it is necessary to inform convicted persons in a way that is understandable for them, which would prevent stress, tension, depression, and uncertainty.

4. The Ministry of Justice, the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, and the PI Idrizovo to provide conditions for leisure, sports, educational and vocational activities for all convicted persons to spend quality free time;
5. The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions should carry out the transfer of the girls who are undergoing an educational correctional measure to another facility, which will meet the conditions for them and
6. The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions should establish functional video surveillance in the entire institution, especially in the women's department, where there is none.

OPEN DEPARTMENT VELES AT PI IDRIZOVO

BASIC INFORMATION

The Veles open department at Prison Idrizovo has 34 convicted persons in total, while the facility's capacity is around 50. 16 people are employed in the institution, of which 14 are members of the prison police and 1 teacher is the head of the resocialization department.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

In the facility, in addition to convicted persons with open treatment, there are also persons with semi-open treatment, with a prison sentence of fewer than 3 years.

The facility has two rooms for 4 convicts and six rooms for 8 convicts. The rooms were relatively clean, with enough daylight, clean mattresses, bed linen, and dining tables. Knives that could be used for (self) harm were also observed in some of the rooms.

A low level of hygiene was observed in the toilets. In addition, only 2 showers out of a total of 4 are functional, none of which has an adapted toilet bowl, convicts have only squats available, which makes it difficult for older people, people with health problems, and people with disabilities to access.

A ping pong table and a gym were installed in the basement rooms, but due to the room's location, a large amount of humidity was present, which prevented the convicts from using it. During the visit, all the convicts sat in the corridor near the rooms, and not a single person used any of the props for leisure activities.

Convicted persons use the official telephone of the institution for contact with the outside world. The facility also has a laundry room with 2 machines that are used by convicted persons.

The head of the facility informed us that they were trying to make an isolation room that functions as a prison cell.

Food is delivered to the facility according to a previously approved plan by PI Idrizovo.

There is no functional video surveillance in the open department.

HEALTH CARE

Health care in Veles is provided through the Emergency Medical Service. During the visit, it was noticed that a large part of the packets of medicines was expired, which is why it was indicated that the medicines should be removed from the cupboard and thrown away. The therapy is given by members of the prison police, and some of the convicted persons had therapy in their rooms.

There is an improvised ambulance in the facility, where the examinations of convicted persons are carried out, and we received information from the employees that communication between the two institutions is difficult, so it often happens that the health staff from Idrizovo does not have information about which convicted persons have been sent to serve their sentences in the open department in Veles.

WORK ENGAGEMENT

Three convicts are employed outside the institution, four in the kitchen, one as a driver, and several convicts for maintaining hygiene in the institution.

LEGAL AID

During the visit, a conversation was held with six convicted persons, who had complaints about exercising the right to parole and access to health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** Improvement of the material conditions in the toilets, with the aim of their uninterrupted use by all persons;
- 2.** To pay attention to the expiration dates of medicines and to promptly remove or destroy those that have expired;

- 3.** To improve the communication between the services and the health sector in PI Idrizovo to share information on which convicted persons have been sent to serve a prison sentence in the open department Veles, and
- 4.** To provide adequate conditions for free, recreational, and vocational activities in the open department of Veles.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION SHTIP

BASIC INFORMATION

The prison's visit began with a conversation with the director of the institution, who shared information that at the time of the visit, 231 convicts were serving their sentence in the prison, of which 15 convicts were on the run, 74 convicts were placed in the closed ward, and 142 in the semi-open department. PI Shtip has a capacity of 210 beds/places.

102 uniformed persons are employed in the institution. The small number of employees in the administration stands out as a serious problem, where only two out of 18 people are responsible for the resocialization of convicted persons.

The director and educators solve this serious problem with frequent meetings with the convicted persons, with direct conversations, but also by determining one day a week for direct conversations with the director of the institution, after a previously submitted request for a meeting (usually written on a sheet of paper and signed by the convicted person). One of the main problems facing the prison is precisely the resocialization of convicted persons. Namely, from the sector of resocialization, specifically, the number of educators has been reduced to two persons who work with all convicted persons. In this institution, an internal book of meetings between educators and convicts is kept, where data about the convicts, the complaint, time, and signature of the convict that a conversation was held, are recorded. In this way, they believe that the prison administration avoids previous problems when the prisoners complained that conversations were not conducted, contrary to the claims of the employees.

Hygiene and order in the administrative part and the ambulance are maintained at an appropriate level.

Overcrowding in PI Shtip continues to be a serious problem, due to the increasing number of convicted persons sent to serve their prison sentences in this institution, which does not have enough capacity for all the people sent here.

Prior to the visit by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, a search for narcotics was carried out in the facility, during which no drugs were found, but evidence that narcotics were used was

found. For those reasons, there were people in the reception department who exceeded the legally stipulated maximum for staying there. After the completion of the police action, the director announced that the persons will be appropriately placed in cells.

During the visit, a conversation was held with the doctor employed in the institution about the treatment of convicted persons, especially the treatment of drug addicts as well as persons facing mental problems. In the infirmary, new beds and mattresses have been installed in the hospital rooms. The clinic is equipped with a new ECG machine, orthoscope, ophthalmoscope, oxygen cylinder, and new instruments needed to perform the tasks.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The entire prison has been renovated with 36 new radiators, and a new oven has been purchased for the preparation of bread, which the convicts prepare themselves.

The examination room, which is located in the ambulance section, has been renovated with a new bedroom, a new chamber, and a completely renovated toilet and bathroom.

The reception department was being renovated during the visit. An accessible ramp for people with disabilities has been installed at the entrance of the building. New tiles have been installed in certain parts of the prison.

A new solar power system has been installed. During the inspection of the warehouses, good equipment was found, and during the inspection of the kitchen and warehouses, we could see progress in preparing the food and menu for the convicts. It was confirmed by the convicts that there is progress in the food they receive, unlike the previous visit.

Solitary confinement

In the solitary confinements, we encountered people who were placed there even though they were assigned to other wings. Such a situation is due to overcrowding and the lack of a place for their proper accommodation. The fact that some of the convicts voluntarily ask to be placed in this section is surprising. However, accommodation in these rooms remains humiliating and

inhumane, they do not provide any privacy even for using toilets, nor do they meet the minimum standards for room size, lighting, ventilation, etc.

Semi-open department

Overcrowding in the institution is generally visible, but it is managed according to the possibilities. All the rooms in the semi-open department have unified tables and chairs placed by the institution. The windows are PVC and newly installed. New drawers and led lights have been installed in all rooms. The doors have been changed, and some of the rooms have been painted. The library has a large selection of books and is used by convicts.

Closed department

The closed department is located in a separate building that is completely separated from the rest of the PI. The persons have a separate place for walking and we were informed by the institution that a part of the yard is being prepared which will be a garden and will be used for work engagement of the convicted persons in the closed department. Each floor has three living rooms. In the wings, a difference is visible in a positive context in maintaining hygiene, especially in the toilets. Disinfection and pest control are regularly carried out in all wings, even though certain convicts complained about the appearance of bedbugs, we were still assured that pest control is maintained regularly. It is necessary for the convicted persons maintain proper. New tiles have been installed in the toilets, but in some cells, some of the tiles were broken. The prison administration changes and rehabilitates them following the possibilities.

Regarding the part of education, we were informed by the prison that 46 people have completed their education and their certification, i.e. the awarding of diplomas for completed education, is awaited.

WORK ENGAGEMENT

In the courtyard of the institution, an open amphitheater and a garden are being built by the convicts. A positive note is that a large part of the convicted persons are engaged in work and the results are visible, especially in the prison yard, where, except for the amphitheater, work is being done in all fields. The gym has been renovated with new tiles, 5 new multi functional equipment, and a new ping pong table has been brought in. New carving machines have been brought for the convicted persons who work in carving.

LEGAL AID

During the visit, a conversation was held with four convicts, whose questions and complaints related to access to health care, progression to more liberal treatment, transfer to another penitentiary as an institution, and the right to use facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions should take measures to eliminate overcrowding in the institution. Convicted persons should not serve prison sentences in rooms intended for serving a disciplinary measure - solitary confinement, for the reason that there is not enough spatial capacity;
- 2.** The Ministry of Health should take measures for adequate access to health care for convicted persons, namely:
 - Drug screening at admission (without delay) is necessary for early detection and intervention of people who use drugs;
 - To make a timely (without delay) assessment/diagnosis based on anamnestic data, laboratory analyses, hetero data from the institution from which the convicted person is transferred, etc.;
 - Opiate addiction treatment should be started immediately upon admission without delay with methadone or buprenorphine whenever indicated;
 - When transferring a person with opiate addiction syndrome, it is necessary to ensure continuous treatment if the treatment has already started, and inter-institutional cooperation, which does not

mean that a person who has not started treatment before cannot start if there is an indication for it;

- To train the staff - psychiatrists at the Center in Shtip for the introduction and treatment of buprenorphine;
- The treatment of persons in a penitentiary institution is a concern of the state and the persons should not buy the medicines themselves;
- Tramadol is not a maintenance drug in opiate addiction according to evidence-based medicine, so buprenorphine or methadone should be used;
- It is necessary to document the violence in the prison as well as physical injuries;
- It is necessary to increase the dose of methadone, and this should not be achieved by interaction with other drugs, especially not with benzodiazepines, and
- Labeling of the packaging for methadone storage is necessary (dose, date, time for which the drug should be used, name of the drug in the packaging, etc.).

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION PRILEP

BASIC INFORMATION

PI Prilep has a total capacity of 131 people, and at the time of the visit, the number of convicts serving a sentence was 108 convicts.

A total of 68 people are employed in the institution, of which 46 are prison police, 6 are employed in the resocialization sector, 3 instructors, a lawyer, a cook, 2 veterinarians, and the rest are employed in administration.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

In PI Prilep there is a reception department, an open department, a semi-open department, and a closed department, a gym, a study room, a laundry room, a kitchen, a dining room, a room for examination and visits, an ambulance and a pharmacy, a promenade, and a farm.

The rooms for disciplinary solitary confinement were found in substandard conditions, with old and dirty mattresses and pillows, a dirty sink and toilet, and in one of the rooms, there was no functional call system.

The persons who are in closed treatment B3 and those who are in the reception department, in certain cases, due to the lack of sufficient spatial capacities, are placed in a common room, which can harm the newly admitted convicted persons and their further resocialization. These rooms are in relatively good condition, with adequate beds and toilets in the rooms. In this section, convicted persons have at their disposal an empty promenade and a telephone booth that they can use for contact with the outside world.

Closed department

In the closed department of the institution, there are two rooms with 8 and 9 beds each. The size of the rooms, which is not larger than 16 m², is not adequate for the number of convicted persons who are accommodated in them. Increased levels of humidity and unpainted walls were also observed in these rooms. The toilet in this part has a significantly low level of hygiene, with 1 shower and 2 toilets.

Reception department

The reception department in the institution has two rooms, in one room there are 5 people and in the other 7 people. The toilet was found in unhygienic conditions, with a broken mirror and with 1 functional shower and 2 toilets.

Open and semi-open department

The open and semi-open department in the facility has a total of 15 rooms that are in relatively good condition, and equipped with beds, tables, and chairs. Convicts have at their disposal a daycare room as well as a fully equipped library with books in several languages. The library has been reconstructed and restored after it was destroyed in a fire. The toilet in this part of the facility is in significantly better condition than the other toilets. The promenade that all convicts use is equipped with a soccer goal, a basketball hoop, and a bench.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided in the Prison by two nurses who are in the facility every day, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on-call if necessary. Although the nurses have been in the facility for 3 years daily, they do not have a regulated regular employment relationship. A psychiatrist comes to the institution 2-3 times a month and as needed. Convicted persons use dental services outside the institution. The medical therapy is fully procured by the institution from its funds. At the time of the visit, 14 convicts were on methadone therapy, and 3 convicts were on buprenorphine therapy.

During the visit, the psychiatrist found that convicted drug addicts are being treated with inadequate therapy for opiate addiction, so instead of proper therapy, convicted people are being treated with Tramadol, Lexilium, Sanval, etc. A large number of convicted persons are forced to procure buprenorphine independently, more precisely 15 convicted persons receive a prescription from a psychiatrist, of which only 3 persons receive it free of charge through the Ministry of Health. The convicts give money to the commanders to get the medicine from the pharmacy and then hand it over to the nurses who distribute the therapy daily to the patients supervised (under supervision) in the morning and afternoon. If a person receives buprenorphine in the evening, the evening dose is administered in a supervised manner, by the commanders.

Although a large number of these convicted persons and their families are at social risk and do not have the means to obtain the therapy, they are forced to do so. Thus, some convicted persons, due to the lack of sufficient funds, receive buprenorphine in a lower dose than necessary, others sell their clothes to obtain the drug, and some members of their families spend social assistance to obtain the drug.

Because of this situation, there is an illegal market for buprenorphine in the facility where a single 2 mg lingual costs about 200 denars, and from 8 mg. about 400 denars. Condoms are not available in places accessible to inmates, although prison police claim that there is no problem in obtaining a condom for anyone who requests it.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

According to the director, about 33 convicted persons are employed. The biggest challenge for the director, is the process of resocialization, because convicted persons do not have the conditions to acquire any work skills in the institution, nor do they have conditions for educational and other vocational activities. In addition to the promenade for convicts, in the open, and semi-open department, which is equipped with a soccer goal and basket, the promenade for convicts in the closed department is empty.

LEGAL AID

A total of 12 convicted persons requested legal advice regarding the right to parole, use of facilities and access to health care.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

From January to August 2022, a total of 68 disciplinary proceedings were conducted in Prilep Police Station, mostly for offenses committed for possession and use of a mobile phone, or rather 52 such offenses for which a disciplinary measure of solitary confinement, without the right to work, was imposed for 3-14 days. No convicted person has filed an appeal against the imposed disciplinary measure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and PI Prilep to make efforts to improve the conditions in solitary confinement to meet the necessary standards;
- 2.** PI Prilep should make efforts in the future to ensure that people from the reception department and those who have already received treatment are not accommodated in shared rooms;
- 3.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and PI Prilep to take measures to improve the conditions in the toilets in the closed and reception department;
- 4.** PI Prilep should not accommodate more convicted persons in one room than it is legally allowed;
- 5.** The Ministry of Health should take measures to improve access to health care, namely:
 - It is necessary for all persons for whom there is an indication for treatment with buprenorphine to receive buprenorphine without payment from their funds but from the addiction program of the Ministry of Health;
 - Training of health personnel on the pharmacological treatment of opiate addiction is required;
 - It is necessary to document all changes in the medical documentation so that it corresponds to the current situation;
 - Regular monitoring (screening for substance use) and assessment of the condition of persons involved in an opioid treatment program by health professionals is required not only during initiation of therapy but regularly and occasionally, especially when deciding to decrease or increase the therapy;
 - Psychoeducation is needed for people with addiction in prison;
 - It is necessary to obtain a safe for storing the methadone in the prison's infirmary;

- Education about addiction diseases, treatment, and their benefits is needed for uniformed persons and other prison staff;
- It is necessary to ensure accessibility to condoms.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION KUMANOVO

with an open department in Kriva Palanka

BASIC INFORMATION

At the time of the visit, there were a total of 124 convicted persons and 30 detained persons in PI Kumanovo.

The penitentiary has a total of 106 employees, of which 75 are employees of the prison police, 68 men and 7 women and 31 people are employed in administration.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The institution has a semi-open, closed, reception and detention department. The rooms and corridors of the penitentiary have a low level of hygiene. It was noticed that in some of the rooms the level of humidity and light was at the allowed limit. Most of the rooms were found to have dirty mattresses, bed sheets, and broken window glass that the team asked to be removed. Some of the rooms had no artificial light because the bulbs were broken. Some of the solitary cells were freshly painted during the visit, and in some of them rickety desks were observed, which the team asked to be changed so that they would not serve for (self) harm.

The institution still faces problems with water supply, and during the visit the director informed that he expects the arrival of representatives from a company that should inspect the field in order to find a solution to this problem, which dates back to the very opening of the institution.

During the visit, some of the rooms were painted, a new bathroom for convicts, and a sink in the closed department of the facility was noted as positive, which allows the convicts easier access to water, since they do not have it in the rooms. In the restrooms, the showers were functional, unlike before when barely 1 or 2 showers were functional.

The prison also has rooms that serve as: a kitchen, a dining room, a workshop, a classroom, a room for religious ceremonies, a library, a gym and two rooms for visiting convicted and detained persons and a laundry room. There was no food schedule for the current week posted in the kitchen during the visit, but

the team was being informed that the schedule is created and approved by the manager.

The promenade for people in the semi-open department is a wide space with a basketball court.

WORK ENGAGEMENT

In the institution, the convicted persons are engaged in janitorship. During the visit, not a single person was working. The institution employs 1 officer for the education of convicted persons in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry and 1 officer for the education of convicted persons in the field of locksmithing - crafts.

HEALTH CARE

Health care in PI Kumanovo is carried out by the medical technician employed in the institution. A doctor comes to the institution twice a week and due to the great distance of the institution from the cities of Kumanovo and Sveti Nikole, emergency medical assistance cannot arrive in time to provide health care to the convicted persons.

Psychiatrists from the team interviewed a total of 11 people. From the psychiatrists conversation with the convicted persons, was established that, among the convicts there are persons with a psychoactive substances disorder, who are treated with "dry therapy", as the employees of the institution call it, which is certainly not a treatment according to evidence-based medicine, and results in violence, fighting, depressive states, anxiety, auto aggression, suicide attempts, aggression, and the formation of a black market in drugs for the treatment of addiction, according to evidence-based medicine. Drugs are also present in the prison - marijuana and illegally obtained buprenorphine lingual tablets, according to the statements of employees and convicted persons.

All of the convicted persons interviewed have a disorder caused by the use of substances and suffer from comorbid conditions such as anxiety, depression, auto aggression, aggression, etc. Although some of them are people with opiate addiction, there is no possibility of treatment with opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in prison, and small number of people in prison who are addicted to opiates buy OAT therapy according to evidence-based medicine.

Inadequate treatment carries the risk of iatrogenic addiction to anxiolytics and all convicted persons were found having developed addiction to anxiolytics, which is difficult to treat, unlike opioid addiction, which, if adequately treated, reduces comorbid disorders, aggression and the black market.

LEGAL AID

Conversation was being conducted, with a total of 10 convicted persons who needed legal advice. The most common problems they face are related to health care, food in the facility, enjoyment of facilities, transfer to another penitentiary, etc.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

From January to August 2022, a total of 29 disciplinary proceedings were conducted, 26 for a more serious disciplinary offense and 3 for a lighter disciplinary offense. Among the more serious disciplinary offenses, the most common is the abuse of facilities, namely 11 offenses and 7 for escaping or attempting to escape from serving a prison sentence. The right to appeal was used by 3 people for a more serious disciplinary offense, while the records of the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions state that 2 people used the right to appeal from this institution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, jointly with the PI Kumanovo to find a solution to the problem of water supply;
- 2.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions should make efforts to refurbish the promenade for convicted persons in a closed department to provide more conditions for quality leisure time;
- 3.** PI Kumanovo to make efforts to improve hygiene in the institution and
- 4.** The Ministry of Health to provide:
 - Opioid agonist therapy, as well as to conduct training for employees, including psychiatrists who work with convicted opiate addicts.

- Convicted persons with opiate addiction should not be sent to institutions, where opioid agonist therapy is not available, regardless of whether the person is currently receiving the therapy or not, and because it is a chronic and recidivist disease.
- Testing of convicted persons who are addicted to HIV, hepatitis C, and B as well as treatment of hepatitis C, which if not treated can seriously endanger the health of convicted persons.

OPEN DEPARTMENT KRIVA PALANKA AT PI KUMANOVO

BASIC INFORMATION

KrivaPalanka open department at PI Kumanovo has a total of 20 convicted persons, while the facility's capacity is 23 persons. There are a total of 12 employees, of which 7 are employees of the prison police, 2 installers, a cook, a cashier, and a manager.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

During the visit, it was noticed that the rooms in the building have been reconstructed. There are a total of 5 rooms in the facility, one of which used to serve as solitary confinement, and is now adapted for serving a prison sentence. A higher level of humidity was observed in the room, more precisely 53%. The floor in the rest of the rooms is average, the convicts have clean mattresses and bedding and enough daylight and artificial light in the rooms. Two of the rooms that used to serve as solitary confinement, due to their non-functionality, currently serve as warehouses.

The toilet in the facility still has a very low level of hygiene with old and dilapidated sanitation.

The manager informed them that they finally got an official vehicle at their disposal, which they use most often to transport convicted persons to the Health Center.

The dining room and kitchen were found in order, with a food arrangement attached. The box for submitting complaints to the Ombudsman was locked, unlike the previous visit in 2020.

The biggest challenge remains the heating in the building, which problem has not yet been solved. On account of that, a few years ago, the head of the facility prevented convicts from being suffocated by carbon monoxide.

The bridge at the entrance to the facility has finally been reconstructed, which has improved the safety of all people visiting the open department.

WORK ENGAGEMENT

Outside the institution 6 convicted persons are employed, in an agreement with the municipality for work on the quay.

HEALTH CARE

Health care in Kriva Palanka is provided through the Emergency Medical Service. The leader emphasized that there are no convicted persons, who are being treated for opiate addiction.

LEGAL AID

A conversation was held with a convicted person, for whom the need to talk to a psychiatrist was evident. Namely, in a conversation with the employees, we were informed that the convicted person had a verbal and physical argument with another convicted person, for banal reasons. In the past, the convicted person was treated for opiate addiction, hospitalized several times in a psychiatric institution, and "on his own" stopped the therapy. He is serving a prison sentence due to a violent crime, which is why our concern about possible violence against other convicted persons, due health condition, was highlighted and was requested that the person be examined by a psychiatrist as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and PI Kumanovo to ensure adequate conditions in the toilet;
- 2.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and PI Kumanovo to make efforts for convicted persons to have more conditions for leisure, sports, vocational and educational activities;
- 3.** The Ministry of Health should provide psychiatric services to convicted persons, and the employees should pay more attention to convicted persons who need such help.
- 4.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions to find a solution to the heating problem

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION OF OPEN TYPE STRUGA

BASIC INFORMATION

PI Struga has a capacity for a total of 60 people, and at the time of the visit, 51 people were serving prison sentences.

In addition to the director and deputy director, a total of 20 people are employed in the institution, of which 12 are prison police, 3 employees in the resocialization sector, a kitchen instructor, an archivist, a technical secretary, one person in the registry office, and one lawyer.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

PI Struga has made reconstructions in terms of material conditions. New windows were installed because the old ones were drafty, the roof was changed and the doors of the convicts' rooms were changed.

On the ground floor of the facility, there are a total of 3 rooms, two with 2 beds and one with 3 beds. The daylight in this room was fine, with a humidity level in the frames that slightly exceeded the permissible limit, 51% to be exact.

The monitoring team was not allowed to see one of the rooms of convicts who were out working for a company. Although the Deputy Director was informed that the team has permission for unhindered access to all rooms by the Administration, the Deputy Director informed that the convicts are allowed to take the room key with them, and the employees of the institution do not have a spare key.

On the first floor of the facility, there are a total of 16 rooms equipped with 2 or 3 beds, TV, tables and chairs. Some of the rooms had refrigerators and food. Half of the mattresses are new and have been purchased through donations. In general, the hygiene in the rooms is at a satisfactory level, and the furniture is relatively old, but with clean mattresses and bed linen. Some of the rooms are heated on panels in the winter.

The two toilets and the bathroom in the facility are generally unclean, with dilapidated sanitation.

At the time of the visit, the carpet was removed in the room that is used as isolation for disciplinary solitary confinement, with an explanation that the floor will be changed. The room was dirty and smelled of dampness.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided by the Health Center, i.e. through a doctor and a nurse who come to the facility 3 times a week. Medical therapy, unlike most penitentiary institutions that provide it themselves, here is provided through the health center. At the time of the visit, 5 people were on methadone therapy and 2 on buprenorphine.

The facility's outpatient clinic has an examination bed and a medicine cabinet. During the inspection of the medicines, the team found that some medicines have expired. In the ambulance, there was also a metal box with methadone therapy which was opened. There were dates written on the bottles that had already passed, and the therapy was still in the packaging. After checking with the nurse, the team was informed that there was an oversight in the dates. In a conversation with convicted persons receiving methadone therapy, we were informed that the therapy is prescribed regularly and they have not had any interruptions. There was also a large kitchen knife in the ambulance, which was noted to be removed due to the risk of injury.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

About 15 people are employed by the company, and almost all of them within the institution, except those chronically ill.

In terms of leisure and vacation activities, the establishment has a courtyard with benches, a gym with improvised skills and a ping pong table. The employees of the resocialization department informed us that they have group conversations with the convicted persons in the dining room, and sometimes individual activities.

LEGAL AID

A total of four convicted persons requested legal advice on parole and extracting personal documents.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

From January to August 2022, a total of 3 disciplinary proceedings were initiated, and not a single person filed an appeal against the decision to impose a disciplinary measure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** PI Struga must not restrict entry to the premises of representatives from the civil sector who have permission from the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions to enter all premises in penal institutions and talk with convicted persons;
- 2.** PI Struga must not allow convicted persons who work outside the institution to have a key to the room, and the institution does not have a spare key;
- 3.** The Ministry of Health should record the exact date on the methadone bottles when the convicts should consume it, and
- 4.** The Ministry of Health should pay attention to the expiration date of the pills in the clinic.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION BITOLA

BASIC INFORMATION

Bitola prison has a total capacity of 88 people, and at the time of the visit, a total of 83 convicted people were serving prison terms.

The institution employs 22 members of the prison police, a lawyer who also works as an educator, a lawyer for the admission and release of convicted persons, a psychologist, and a pedagogue – a department for resocialization. The institution also employs 2 instructors, one for agriculture and one for animal husbandry. During the next period, it is expected that the employment of 5 employees in the administration and 2 members of the prison police will be terminated based on fulfilling the conditions for old-age pension.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

Bitola prison is a completely new facility, which has kept the same appearance since its opening until today.

The institution is divided into an open/semi-open and a closed department. Due to the large number of convicts and the insufficient spatial capacities, the convicts are grouped with different treatments in the same rooms. Thus, there are cases where a person with closed B3 treatment serves a prison sentence in an open/semi-open ward, while someone with polybaric treatment can be placed in the closed department of the institution.

At the time of the visit, the institution's reception department functioned as a closed department, due to the insufficient space capacity.

The rooms are generally of a satisfactory level of hygiene, with clean sheets and mattresses, sufficient daylight and artificial light, and moisture was not observed in any room. The toilets are located in the rooms and are in good condition.

About the mailboxes for the ambulance and the director, which were placed in one of the corridors of the institution, a convicted person informed us that they are not in operation, that is, that no one unlocks the mailboxes and does not look at the letters left by the convicted persons.

Convicted persons generally had no complaints about the material conditions and food in the facility, but they noted that there is no hot water for bathing in the facility, except in the morning and for a short period during the day.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided in the Prison by a doctor and a nurse who are in the facility every day, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on-call if necessary. A psychiatrist comes to the institution 2-3 times a month and as needed. Convicted persons use dental services outside the institution. The medical therapy is fully procured by the institution from its funds.

26 people are being treated with opioid agonist therapy, of which 16 are treated with buprenorphine and 10 with methadone.

A doctor of general medicine and a nurse were present in the ambulance, and later a psychiatrist came to admit a new person in the prison who has opiate addiction syndrome, and who was transferred from the prison in Prilep. All admissions are reviewed in the first 24 hours according to the doctor's statements, and if necessary, a psychiatrist is called who regularly comes to the prison every 2 weeks. There are no screening tests for drugs and psychoactive substances in the outpatient clinic, so they are not used either during admission or for monitoring and correcting therapy. Not in the prison, but in the detention center there are attempted and successful suicides. Recently, the institution received a suicide screening tool and they plan to start using it. They are currently screening for tuberculosis because there are people with tuberculosis in the prison, and once a year through IPH and CO Hera testing is done for HIV, C and hepatitis B (last time on 26.07.2022). Opioid therapy is decreased by the general practitioner at the request of the persons undergoing treatment, but does not initiate opioids, nor increases the therapy. The doctor announces that she informed the director in writing about the misuse of the buprenorphine lingual tablets (some of the people take the lingual tablets out of their mouths in front of the commanders and they do not react). It also says that the cooperation with the Health Center is very weak, nobody wants to work in the prison and that the work is extremely difficult, and they do not value the work related to the risk or have any benefits.

The psychiatrist reports that people who are coming from the prison in Prilep, receive buprenorphine and trazodone at the same time, and additionally one or two benzodiazepine preparations (a condition that has been ascertained in

the Prison in Prilep), so related to that some of the people coming from that prison think that she is not as good as the doctor from Prilep who gives them everything they need. Health workers also report that they have subtle pressure from the Ministry of Health not to use so much buprenorphine which is always verbally communicated.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The institution's director informed that about 50% of the convicted persons are employed, that is, 22 persons in the building, 14 persons in economics, 4 persons in the company and 2 persons in the nursery. Although a large number of convicted persons are engaged in work, such engagement does not contribute to the convicted persons acquiring certain skills that would be of help to them after leaving the institution for their work engagement outside the community. Although the facility has conditions for carpentry, it has not been put into operation due to high electricity costs.

In terms of leisure activities, the facility has a library and a gym that convicts can use to spend their free time.

The promenade for open and semi-open classes is open from morning to afternoon. Convicted persons have at their disposal a soccer goal and a basket, while the condemned persons from the closed department only have at their disposal an empty concrete promenade with a basket.

LEGAL AID

During the visit, a conversation was conducted with nine convicts, whose questions related to access to health care, parole, use of facilities, transfer to another penal institution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** PI Bitola should make efforts not to group convicted persons from different treatment in the same rooms;
- 2.** PI Bitola to enable the inboxes for complaints and requests for health examination from convicted persons to be functional;
- 3.** Provision of hot water for bathing at larger intervals during the day

4. The Ministry of Health should take the following measures:

- To provide screening tests for drugs and psychoactive substances.
- Documenting the therapy and the client's condition when changing doses.
- Changing the therapy should be done after monitoring and evaluation of the patient's condition, regardless of whether the therapy is decreased or increased, and when there is a need to perform psychoeducation and motivation of the patient for adequate dosage.
- Training for health workers in prisons.
- Development of treatment protocols with opioid agonists and other drugs.
- Preparation of protocols for treatment with benzodiazepines to prevent addiction to them and for the treatment of people who have already developed an addiction.
- Regular screening for suicide, C and B hepatitis, HIV and TB and treatment for all conditions after their diagnosis and established indication.
- Building trust between health professionals and people in prison and clear communication to people in prison by medical staff about medical ethics and confidentiality as long as it does not endanger the life of the person or other people in prison.
- To provide sufficient quantities of buprenorphine for all persons deprived of their liberty, who need the drug.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION OHRID

BASIC INFORMATION

Ohrid prison has a capacity for a total of 36 children, and at the time of the visit, 4 children were serving prison sentences. The detention department has a capacity of 12 people, and at the time of the visit, 8 people were in detention.

A total of 33 people are employed in the institution, of which 24 are prison police, 2 educators (psychologists), one person employed in human resources, one person employed for the reception and discharge of persons, a cook, a technical secretary, an accountant and a person in charge of public procurement.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The conditions of PI Prison Ohrid continue to remain below all possible standards. The old facility, is positioned in the central city area, and in the vicinity, there are residential buildings whose windows and terraces look directly into the yard of the institution, which is why residents often call out to the condemned children.

In addition to the rooms as accommodation facilities and the shared toilet, which are not in very bad condition, but far from satisfactory, the children have only one concrete playground, a dining room, and a kitchen at their disposal.

The rooms are equipped with a bed and a cupboard, and there is enough daylight in the rooms.

EDUCATION

The educational process at PI Ohrid has been stopped since September 2021. The children previously attended classes in Macedonian language, English language, and Mathematics, but the education in this institution ended when the project that the Ministry of Education had with the UNDP ended. With this, the children in this institution were left without an education even though they have not even completed primary education and are illiterate.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided by a doctor who comes to the facility once a week and if necessary through the Health Center. Other specialist examinations of children are carried out by referral. If any of the children need to talk to a psychiatrist, they are referred outside the institution, but it is not a child psychiatrist. Among the 4 children, none is addicted to opiates. The institution procures medical therapy from its funds.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Only one child was employed in the kitchen. Besides the concrete playground, the children do not have any conditions for leisure, sports, and vocational activities. Psychologists in the institution who are also the children's educators organize individual and group activities and workshops such as drawing, writing, and listening to music, but this is hardly enough for their needs.

Judges for children and social workers have not made a single visit, although they are obliged to do so according to the Law on Execution of Sanctions, and they are obliged to conduct a visit at least once a year. This disinterest of judges and social workers in the treatment and behavior of children sentenced to prison only contributes to additional stigmatization of this marginalized category of children who serve their sentence in miserable conditions with almost no chance for resocialization. Children do not have frequent contact with their families either, who are often not interested in them, and do not answer their phone calls or visit them.

Due to the weak contact that some of the children have with their families, they cannot even use the right of convenience to leave the institution on the weekend, because they have nowhere to go. In such a situation, the social workers are the ones who should perform their duty and take actions so that these children, have housing, possibility of employment, and resocialization in society, after leaving the institution.

By their inaction and not paying any attention, they contribute to the fact that these children, mostly from dysfunctional families with low incomes, are repeat perpetrators of other crimes and end up in one of the penal institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions should urgently and immediately take measures to relocate the children to another facility that meets the necessary standards;
- 2.** The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with other institutions, should urgently and without delay take measures to continue the educational process for children serving juvenile prison;
- 3.** The Ministry of Health should provide medical therapy for the needs of children;
- 4.** The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy should urgently take measures for the competent centers for social work so that they can be actively involved in supporting children, both during the serving of the prison sentence, and after the completion of the serving of the sentence and their exit from the institution, and
- 5.** Judges for children should start conducting visits to PI Ohrid to gain insight into the condition of the children, and how the sentence of juvenile prison affects them, as well as make efforts so that these children finally receive adequate conditions for their resocialization.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION PRISON SKOPJE

BASIC INFORMATION

Prison Skopje is an institution that has a total of 146 convicted persons, 27 persons in the closed department, 4 persons in the reception department and the rest in the open and semi-open departments. The team did not receive information about the number of detained persons because the head of the resocialization department was not familiar with that information. Also, during the visit, the team was not able to conduct a conversation with the director, although the visit was scheduled on time.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The institution has an open, semi-open, closed, reception and detention department.

The part in the open and semi-open classes has a playground with a practice handle, a goal and a basket. The rooms, toilets and corridors have a very low level of hygiene, from which an unpleasant smell and the smell of moisture spread.

The rooms in the closed department in the institution are in a slightly better condition in terms of conditions and hygiene in contrast to the rooms in the open and semi-open departments, but even there the hygiene is at a very low level. Regarding hygiene, the interviewed responsible person from the prison shifts the responsibility to the convicted persons by explaining that they maintain hygiene themselves, which is certainly not an excuse for such a situation in the institution.

Skin changes from insect bites were observed on the uncovered parts of the body - the limbs of the convicted persons, even though those responsible claims that they carry out disinfection, they are aware that there are insects (bed bugs) in the prison.

Convicted persons complain about the quality of food in the institution and inform that they mostly eat from food packages sent to them from outside.

HEALTH CARE

The institution infirmary is also located in the closed department.

A conversation was conducted with 6 convicted persons by the psychiatrist who, together with the team, also conducted a conversation with the employees from the health staff.

It emerged from the conversations that three nurses, one full-time doctor (8 hours) and one part-time doctor (4 hours) are employed in the health sector, and once a week (on Fridays) a contract psychiatrist comes to the facility per 4 hours which is equivalent to 0.1 psychiatrist, but he also comes on call when needed although it is unclear who assesses the need. In the afternoon and evening, if there is a need for a doctor, the prison services call for emergency medical assistance, but according to their statements, the emergency medical assistance service does not always respond to their calls. Most of the people in the prison report that even the doctor is not easily accessible and accessible, but the psychiatrist is even less accessible. In the prison, there are two people on buprenorphine treatment and 24 people on methadone treatment. Methadone is prescribed in the prison, but there are barriers to treatment with buprenorphine, that is, only those patients who receive it from the Clinic for Toxicology and Emergency Medicine receive that therapy, which has financial costs that are irrationally spent on bringing people to and from the Clinic or regular collection of therapy from the clinic. This organization of treatment with buprenorphine, apart from the fact that it complicates the accessibility and availability of the drug with only 2 people who are treated with it, there is no other rational explanation for this organization of treatment, with which instead of spending money on greater accessibility to the drug, money is spent on transportation to and from the Toxicology Clinic.

During the visit, the team ascertained that leather straps (handcuffs) were used on a convicted person continuously for several days in the penal-Correctional facility Prison Skopje, which could be classified as inhumane and degrading treatment. The reason for using these leather belts (handcuffs) is the aggressive behavior of the convicted person, which is certainly not a long-term solution to this situation. Namely, the state must perform screening and assessment for attention disorders and hyperactivity among convicted persons

and to ensure adequate treatment of that condition, instead of daily fixation with leather belts.

LEGAL AID

During the visit, a conversation was held with ten convicted persons, whose questions and complaints were mostly related to parole, health care, use of facilities, pardon, progression to more liberal treatment, the use of legal remedies for decisions that impose disciplinary measures.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions to improve the material conditions in the facility (beds, bedding, mattresses, painting walls, changing doors, windows, floors, etc.)
- 2.** PI Skopje to carry out disinfection in the institution more often to prevent the appearance of insects (bed bugs) and other insects that sting convicts;
- 3.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and PI Skopje should make efforts to improve the quality and quantity of food in the institution;
- 4.** The Ministry of Health should take the following measures:
 - To fully take over the health care for persons deprived of liberty, including providing necessary medicines for persons deprived of liberty;
 - Treatment with OAT-buprenorphine should be administered in prison as is done with OAT-methadone;
 - To make screening and assessment, especially for psychiatric disorders and to enter them in the health records (addiction, attention disorders, and hyperactivity, suicidality, etc.);
 - After the screening and assessment among the prison population for disorders of attention and hyperactivity, to ensure adequate treatment of that condition, that is, to provide drugs.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION STRUMICA

BASIC INFORMATION

Strumica prison has a capacity for 92 convicts, and at the time of the visit, the total number of convicts was 94, distributed in A, B, and C treatment.

In addition to the director (and deputy director), the penitentiary has 23 employees, 15 of whom are prison police, 2 educators in the resocialization department, an agronomist, an engineer, and a cook.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

In comparison with the visit made in 2020, the premises of the penitentiary have been significantly improved, which has increased the capacity for convicted persons. All the rooms have been reconstructed, with which the floor has been changed, the doors in the rooms, the beds have clean mattresses and bed linen, and each convicted person has a locker for keeping personal belongings. There is enough natural and artificial light in the rooms, and the hygiene in the rooms is at a satisfactory level. There are a total of 5 toilets in the facility, which have also been reconstructed with functional taps and showers. In one of the rooms, an increased level of humidity was registered, namely 59%, which may be due to the rainy period during the visit.

The solitary cells are also in improved conditions, with a functional call system and with sufficient daylight, and artificial light.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided in the Prison in such a way that a doctor of general medicine and a nurse comes twice a week. The Director of the Prison Strumica informed us that they do not have a problem with the supply of drugs, which is different from the last visit in 2020 when the institution was facing that problem. If convicted persons need to visit a dentist, it is done outside the institution.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The convicted persons are employed in the court, the health center, the police, the prosecutor's office, and about 7-8 convicted persons are employed outside the institution in a company. In addition to this, some of the convicted persons are engaged in the agricultural sector within the institution where they grow various vegetables.

The yard of the facility is wide, with a playground, a gym, and summerhouses where convicts can spend their free time. During the visit, the construction of a church in the courtyard was also found, in which the convicted persons were involved.

LEGAL AID

Four convicted persons requested legal advice regarding the right to parole.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

From January to August 2022, a total of 20 disciplinary proceedings were initiated and 20 disciplinary measures were imposed. Most disciplinary proceedings were conducted for the possession of a mobile phone, a total of seven. There are no appeals to the adopted decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions to make efforts to overcome overcrowding in this institution.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION TETOVO

BASIC INFORMATION

Tetovo prison has a total capacity of 48 people, and at the time of the visit, a total of 80 convicted people were serving prison terms.

A total of 34 people are employed in the institution, of which 29 are prison police, 2 lawyers, a sociologist, a psychologist, and a pedagogue in the resocialization department.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

In the institution, the infrastructure has been significantly improved, for which the state has no contribution, that is, the overall reconstruction was carried out on the initiative of the director of the institution. Although the improvement of the conditions is a positive change, the same was done through private contacts and donations and in no case reflects the real situation in the penitentiary system in the country, nor can we say that it would be sustainable in the future with a change in the management position.

The open and semi-open department in the facility has been reconstructed, the rooms have new floors, doors, new and clean mattresses, and bedding. The rooms have a capacity for 4 to 6 beds, but the institution informed us that the full capacity of the beds is rarely filled, for the convicts to have more comfort in the rooms. In front of each room, there are special lockers for the shoes of the condemned persons. In addition to the rooms, the corridors in front of the rooms have also been reconstructed. Towards the end of September 2022, the toilets in the facility will be completely reconstructed.

The reception department in the facility has 1 sleeping room with 4 beds on 2 floors with a toilet and another room that convicts use as a living room for eating and watching TV.

The closed department in the facility has also been completely reconstructed, with 2 rooms with 4 beds each. In the corridor of the closed department, there is also a small library for convicted persons.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided in the Prison in such a way that a doctor comes to the institution every day to examine the convicted persons. Due to the illness of the doctor, at the time of the visit, health care was provided by other doctors who visit the prison, but their engagement lasts for fewer hours than the previous doctor. During the visit, a total of 5 convicted persons were on methadone therapy.

The institution infirmary, in addition to a room for the examination of convicted persons, also serves as an office for the administration employees.

The psychiatrist from the team notes that in addition to methadone therapy, no anxiolytics are given to prevent other addictions and possible drug abuse in prison. At the same time, it has been noted that the institution often submits a proposal for the suspension of serving the prison sentence due to insufficient medication in the institution.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

A total of 11 convicted persons are employed within the institution, and 12 convicted persons outside the institution.

The yard in the institution has been completely reconstructed and equipped for the free activities of the convicted persons. A barbershop and a room for lecturers for the convicted persons, with a computer and projector, were built, the library, the gym, and the buffet were all equipped, and during the visit, a swimming pool was installed in the courtyard of the institution.

In the institution, there is 1 official telephone and 1 tablet that the convicted persons can use for contact with the outside world. However, the largest number of disciplinary proceedings against convicted persons are for possession of a mobile phone, which is considered a more serious disciplinary offense. Thus, in the first quarter of 2022, out of a total of 15 disciplinary proceedings, 12 are for the possession of a mobile phone, for which the convicted persons are usually sentenced to solitary confinement for 5 days.

In the institution, there are still no adapted rooms for visiting the convicted persons with their relatives, outside, in front of the institution, eaves have been made on the benches so that they could be used for visits even during unfavorable weather conditions.

LEGAL AID

During the visit, a conversation was conducted with two convicted persons, whose questions and complaints were related to the suspension of serving the prison sentence based on medical treatment and in connection with the procedure for imposing a single prison sentence.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** It is necessary to solve the problem of overcrowding in PI Tetovo;
- 2.** The Ministry of Health should regularly provide the necessary medical therapy for convicted persons and provide a doctor who will examine the convicted persons, that is, it should not be through the Emergency Medical Service;
- 3.** The Ministry of Health is required to provide regular psychiatric services for convicted persons;
- 4.** It is necessary to find a way for convicted persons to have meetings with their loved ones. A temporary solution outside is not a long-term solution to this problem, considering that space cannot be used during all weather conditions and
- 5.** It is necessary to find a solution so that the administration employees do not share the space with the doctors in the outpatient clinic, that is, they need to have their separate room that will serve as their office.

PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION GEVGELIJA

BASIC INFORMATION

Gevgelija prison has a capacity for 69 convicts, and at the time of the visit, a total of 55 people were serving prison sentences, while the detention section had a capacity for 12 people, and at the time of the visit, 8 people were serving detention.

The total number of employees in the institution is 28 people, of which 20 are prison police, 2 employees in the resocialization department, a lawyer, an archivist, a cook and the rest in administration.

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The premises in the institution are still in satisfactory condition with clean mattresses and bedding, enough daylight and artificial light, and there are an average of 8 convicts in the rooms. The reception department in the institution has 2 rooms with 4 beds each, which also meet the necessary standards, and have a satisfactory level of hygiene.

Convicted persons have at their disposal 3 toilets with 3 functional showers, one of which is used by the convicted persons employed in the kitchen.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is provided in the Prison in agreement with PHI “Zdravstven dom Gevgelija” (Health Institution Gevgelija), with a doctor coming twice a week to examine the convicted persons, and if necessary, the convicted persons are taken for examination at the “Zdravstven dom Gevgelija” or the Emergency Medical Service is called. A psychiatrist comes once a week to examine the convicts. At the time of the visit, 7 convicts were on methadone therapy, and 4 convicts were on buprenorphine. Therapy is shared by prison police.

WORK ENGAGEMENT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Two convicted persons are employed in the pig farm, 3 in the kitchen, 4 for the production of animal feed, and 3 at the gate. The biggest challenge for the institution is the resocialization of convicted persons. Namely, although the

institution employs staff for resocialization, the institution still provides conditions for convicted persons to acquire some skills that will be useful to them after leaving the institution.

The courtyard of the institution is equipped with a grass football field, a basketball hoop, and a gym.

LEGAL AID

Five convicted persons received legal advice regarding the right to parole and access to health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Ministry of Health needs to hire a doctor who will provide medical therapy to the convicted persons and provide their health examination and
- 2.** The Directorate for Execution of Sanctions provides conditions to be able to implement resocialization programs for convicted persons.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TETOVO

BASIC INFORMATION

The Tetovo correctional facility is located in the village of Volkovija and was opened in November 2020. The total capacity of the facility is 110 people, while at the time of the visit, 17 children were found there, 1 person was on the run, and 1 person was placed in the PHI Psychiatric Hospital Demir Hisar. Of the children, 10 are adults and 9 are minors. The capacity of the institution does not at all correspond to the number of children who have been sent to undergo an educational correctional measure in recent years, which raises the question of why this facility was built, for which so many financial resources were unnecessarily spent.

The total number of employees in the institution besides the director and deputy director is 51, of which prison police 26, resocialization sector 13, and 5 instructors (economy, plumber, boilermaker, and catering).

MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The facility is new and for now, quite preserved, and the conditions are constantly improving. 14 rooms and 2 rooms in the reception department have been put into operation. All rooms are equipped with bunk beds, a table, lockers, a TV, and a toilet. The rooms have enough daylight and artificial light, there is no presence of moisture and there is good ventilation.

The institution has 4 separate rooms for children's group work, classrooms, a room for composing music, and classrooms for attending classes.

The yard of the institution is equipped with a playground with a basket and a goal, a small church, gazebos, a barbecue, and a fountain that were made by the children with the help of the employees of the institution, as well as a garden in which potatoes, tomatoes, plums, etc. have been planted.

The institution also adapts rooms with a total capacity of 6 rooms for enhanced educational influence for children who are perpetrators of disciplinary offenses and who have inappropriate behavior and behavior.

The children have at their disposal a kitchen for tea and coffee, a prayer room, and laundry where a child is hired for work training to acquire certain habits.

EDUCATION

Formal education at the correctional facility was suspended from September 2021 to July 2022, with the completion of the project between UNDP and the Ministry of Education and Science. With this, the children undergoing an educational correctional measure were deprived of the right to education, which is of crucial importance for their resocialization process. The educational process then continued to be implemented again in the institution, but this time also with a project supported by UNDP. Children who have already completed a higher level of education take a dozen subjects, while other children take 3 subjects, namely Macedonian language, English language, and mathematics. Teaching is conducted within the framework of the institution through hired teachers from the Makarenko School for adults in the municipality of Chair, Skopje. Unfortunately, the educational process is only informal, that is, the children who attend the classes receive certificates at the end of the school year, and not a formal certificate, which should not differ from the one that children receive outside of school. In this way, the education that a child receives in the institution is not equal to the education that the children receive outside, and with this, they have difficulties in finding employment, passing the driver's license exam, etc.

CENTERS FOR SOCIAL WORK AND JUDGES FOR CHILDREN

In addition to the deficiencies in non-regular education that particularly affect the overall process of resocialization of children, in addition, the judges for children, except for one judge, nor the social workers, in general, do not conduct regular visits to the institution to talk with the children and employees and monitor how the educational corrective measure is implemented, that is, what effect it has on the children.

Social work centers do not provide temporary accommodation for children who have nowhere to go during school holidays, holidays, and weekend use, nor do they make any efforts to help some of the children improve their family relations with their parents.

Judges for children base their decision on whether the child should stay in the correctional home or leave the institution only on the documentation that the home will submit to the competent court. They do not visit the children in the institution and do not have individual conversations with them, which certainly is necessary for a correct judicial decision.

HEALTH CARE

The institution has a fully equipped outpatient clinic for the examination of children, which is carried out by doctors from the Emergency Medical Service who come once a week or less often and a nurse who is permanently employed in the institution. Previously, health care was provided by a doctor, who was on sick leave during the visit and before that. The dental office in the facility is also fully equipped, and dental services are performed by a dentist who comes once a week.

The doctor from the emergency medical service, as previously the doctor from general practice, does not have access to the state system “Moj termin” (My appointment), so they cannot issue an electronic referral nor can they monitor the electronic documentation of the child patients. It happened that the children were returned from a health institution with an instruction that is not electronic but a hard written form, so the director through personal interventions managed to provide a family doctor for each child who only issues the electronic instructions without examining the child, according to the findings of the emergency doctor or general practitioner who visit the home and examine the children. All children in the home are health insured. During the visit, a conversation was held with the relief team, who informed us that they do not have much time to stay at home because they are a small number of teams for the city and that they cannot respond optimally to the needs. They also announced that their training is for emergencies and interventions. At the time of the visit, the nurse is on sick leave, so the therapy is provided by the staff of the institution.

The home reports that there are screening tests for urine drug testing, but there is no antidote for opiates and benzodiazepines. There are also no screening tests for hepatitis B, C and HIV, nor condoms after the Ombudsman noted their availability in juvenile institutions such as Correctional facilities.

After the visit, we received information by phone from an employee of the institution that all the children were tested and advised for hepatitis C and B

by a civil organization in the following days of our visit, and not a single child was positive for these viruses. They agreed with the same organization when they will be able to test and counsel children about HIV. However, this was not carried out in cooperation of the health sector with NGOs, but with the employees of the home who, recognizing the insufficiency of the health sector, undertake activities to improve the situation, even though they should not be doing this. The medical records as well as the results of this last test are available to non-health sector employees because they dispense the therapy prescribed by the doctor when the nurse is absent. In the home, they received a donation of a resuscitation device and an ECG, but they do not use them, nor does the staff have training on how to use them. The health documentation (carton) is not maintained regularly and properly, that is, after the doctor went on sick leave, not a single change was made to the card although some changes were made in the doctor's diary. Not a small number of children have a diagnosis of opiate addiction, probably somewhere and incorrectly because in those cases it is about the use of cannabis, not opiates. Trazodone is used in the treatment of opiate addiction in some children, most likely because there is no availability of other drugs (buprenorphine, methadone). In one patient, tramadol was prescribed for 3 days, which is incomprehensible from a professional/medical point of view. In these children with opiate addiction syndrome, as well as in children with other psychiatric disorders, sedatives, and hypnotics (tranquilizers and sleep aids) are often used, often long-term with the risk of producing iatrogenic addiction. In addition to opiate addiction, children are diagnosed with depression, anxiety, sleep disorder, behavior disorder, and others, and antidepressants and rarely neuroleptics are used in the treatment.

Children very often refuse these drugs and look for sedatives and sleeping pills, and some of the children are already showing symptoms of addiction to them. The reports from the psychiatrist are from a psychiatrist for adults, because there is no child psychiatrist in Tetovo, but even if there is, the child psychiatrists are not or are insufficiently trained in the treatment of addictions and opiate addiction, nor do they use the drugs buprenorphine and methadone. The staff at the home explain what they go through when they have a child with an opiate withdrawal crisis. They report a case where a child with opiate addiction was not admitted to the Addiction Center in Tetovo because adults are treated there, and neither in Tetovo nor anywhere else in the country is there a program for the treatment of addictions for children, and

there is no protocol for the treatment of addiction. in children. On the other hand, child psychiatrists, who are certainly not in Tetovo, but even in the places where they are, are not or are insufficiently trained for the treatment of drug addictions. They also report that for the child in a withdrawal crisis, they were afraid that he would die because he was in a severe withdrawal crisis they even called an ambulance 2 times a day, and he suffered a lot, refused to smoke a cigarette, any sign to the staff that it is very difficult for him. The opiate crisis in the child was treated most likely symptomatically, and the child suffered until the crisis ended because opioid therapy was not applied due to the above reasons (lack of program, institution, protocol, and trained personnel for the treatment of children with addiction) which is, in fact, inhumane treatment of a child addicted to opiates who is deprived of liberty. In the institution, both the employees and the children report that there is rarely, violence between the children, there are no drugs and the medicines that the children receive are not manipulated.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

During 2022, 6 disciplinary proceedings were conducted against children, namely 3 for running away, 2 for abuse of facilities, and 1 for physical attack. The measures that were imposed were a referral to a separate room for the physical attack, which was a conditional measure, and for the other two disciplinary offenses, a referral to a room was imposed for 7 days.

According to the Guidelines for disciplinary responsibility for children serving an educational measure - referral to an educational reformatory - in the Republic of North Macedonia adopted in October 2021, children do not have the right to object to the decision to impose a disciplinary measure.

With this, children are deprived of the right to an effective legal remedy, which is also contrary to Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees that persons whose rights have been threatened, such as the prohibition of torture established following the Convention, should have available an effective legal remedy before the competent institutions, regardless of whether that violation was committed by persons in the course of performing their official actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.** The Ministry of Education urgently and immediately fully organizes and finances the educational process in the CF;
- 2.** Amendment of Article 16 paragraph 3 of the Guidelines for Disciplinary Responsibility for Children Serving an Educational Measure, which does not allow the child to file an appeal against the decision on a disciplinary measure imposed;
- 3.** The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy to take measures to fulfill the obligations of the competent centers for social work to support children who are undergoing educational correctional measures and their post-penal assistance;
- 4.** Judges for children are required to conduct regular visits to the correctional facility to examine the effect of the institutional measure on the children and their resocialization.
- 5.** The Ministry of Health must take the following measures:
 - It is necessary to enable the doctors and nurses from the CF to access and work in the National System for Electronic Health Records - “My Appointment”;
 - It is necessary to provide training to CF doctors for drug prevention and addiction prevention, including iatrogenic addiction from excessive use of sedatives and hypnotics, as well as for the assessment and treatment of drugs, including opiates, and other comorbid mental conditions.
 - It is necessary to provide a program for the treatment of minors with disorders caused by the use of drugs, including opiate drugs, and treatment protocols to ensure humane treatment and the absence of suffering from withdrawal symptoms.
 - Psychoeducation and regular monitoring and assessment of the condition during detoxification from tranquilizers/sleep aids are required. In the case of a developed addiction to these drugs, the treatment should be carried out by a child psychiatrist/psychiatrist in a hospital or outpatient conditions depending on the severity of the clinical picture with the necessary follow-up long-term psychosocial

treatment and care for the prevention of relapse, which can occur in a large percentage due to the nature of the disease.

- Regular, accurate, precise, and confidential maintenance of medical records is required.
- Psychoeducation of children about the risk of excessive use of sedatives and sleeping pills.
- Psychoeducation of children about the risk of overdose after successful abstinence from drugs (opiates).
- Providing the antidote for opiates and benzodiazepines as well as screening tests for Hepatitis B, C, and HIV.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adequate application of the legal and by-law regulations by all competent institutions in the field of the penitentiary system;

- 1.** Provision of adequate and humane material conditions in all penitentiary institutions by the Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions;
- 2.** Ensuring adequate access to primary and secondary health care by the Ministry of Health
- 3.** Full organization and financing of the educational process by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, the Ministry of Justice, and the Correctional facility;
- 4.** Ensuring conditions for the implementation of resocialization programs in all penitentiary institutions;
- 5.** Strengthening the capacities and professionalism of the staff employed in penitentiary institutions
- 6.** Determination and approval of a sufficient number of financial resources by the Ministry of Finance for the need for smooth, appropriate and better functioning of penitentiary institutions, such as hiring new staff, promoting existing staff, improving material conditions, conducting training, etc.
- 7.** A long-term solution to the problem of overcrowding in penal institutions;
- 8.** Improvement of gender representation within the staff employed in penal institutions.

Visits to penitentiary institutions and the educational Correctional facility	
5.5.2022	PI Kumanovo – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi, lawyer Eleonora Pelovska, psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova and psychiatrist Marija Kostadinovska
25.5.2022	PI Skopje – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi, Irena Zdravkova, lawyer Tatiana Doneska and psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova
31.5.2022	PI Idrizovo open department Veles – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi and lawyer Tamara Slavevska Apostolovski
1.6.2022	PI Idrizovo – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi, Irena Zdravkova and psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova
3.6.2022	PI Idrizovo – psychiatrist Marija Kostadinovska
7.6.2022	PI Kumanovo – open department Kriva Palanka Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi and lawyer Pavlina Zefic
13.6.2022	PI Strumica – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi and lawyer Netka Kovachevska

20.6.2022	PI Gevgelija – Ina Djugumanova and lawyer Aleksandra Mihailova
30.6.2022	PI Shtip – Arben Gudachi, lawyer Srdjan Amet and psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova
6.7.2022	PI Tetovo – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi and lawyer Darko Koteski
14.7.2022	PI Prilep – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi, Irena Zdravkova and lawyer Aleksandar Godzo
22.7.2022	PI Prilep - psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova
15.7.2022	PI Bitola – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi, Irena Zdravkova and lawyer Marija Kelepurovska
29.7.2022	PI Bitola – psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova
20.7.2022	PI Ohrid – Ina Djugumanova and Arben Gudachi
21.7.2022	PI Struga – Ina Djugumanova, Arben Gudachi and lawyer Marga Sotiroska
5.8.2022	CF Tetovo – Ina Djugumanova and psychiatrist Liljana Ignatova



REPORT ON
**THE CONDITIONS IN
PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS
AND THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**
IN 2022