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Report on the implementation of the "Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted" programme

01 January - 31 December 2020

I GENESIS OF THE PROGRAMME

The "Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted" programme – <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/regulamin-programu/> was approved for implementation by Resolution of the General Meeting No. 7, of 26 January 2019.

The year 2020 was the period of implementation of the second edition of the Programme.

II First EDITION - 2019

A total of **1,094 persons** took advantage of the Programme, including, above all, the loved ones of persons deprived of their liberty and convicted.

The bulk of the cases were solved in the stationary formula or by telephone within the framework of e.g. the "TeleCounselling" or "Find an Employment with the Website" services.

Beneficiaries most often used psychological support and legal aid, as well as in the matter of regulating inappropriate relations with the Prison Service and, less frequently - with the Police.

All tools used in 2019 were also used in the following year.

The report is available at:

<https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/raport-stowarzyszenia-za-2019-rok/>

III Second EDITION - 2020

III. 1. TOOLS

Within the framework of the implementation of the Programme, the Association launched many new and free tools for penitentiary and post-penitentiary activities.

III. 1.1. Online chat

The online chat is operated by consultants from the Programme Support Team. It operates daily on working days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The chat serves primarily the Beneficiaries of the Programme and makes it possible for them to leave information to the Association and update their knowledge about the activities undertaken by the organisation within the framework of the implementation of the Vice Versa system - <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/system-vice-versa/> Within the chat, the Beneficiary may also request an online conversation with a psychologist, career counsellor, lawyer or sexologist.

III.1.2. The "TeleSupport" hotline

It works under the toll-free number 0 800 201 211 and is available from Friday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The hotline is operated by consultants from the Programme Support Team.

The hotline has primarily an informative function for persons interested in obtaining support and assistance from the Association and gives an opportunity to leave information for Beneficiaries of the Programme.

III.1.3. "EduMailing"

The main objective of the implemented Vice Versa system is to improve the competencies of the families of persons deprived of their liberty in their further socialisation after carrying out the penalty. The family is to be assumedly the first and most significant bastion in preventing the phenomenon of recidivism. Education of the family environment of convicts is therefore the most important task facing the organisation.

The activities under the "EduMailing" service have taken many forms in the implementation of the Programme, e.g. broadcasts, audio-visual projections, presentations, iconography or counselling (consultations) with counsellors in a given speciality.

All materials are prepared by persons with appropriate education and experience or, under their direction, by students of such faculties as law, resocialisation or psychology.

III.1.4. The "Postpenit" magazine

Persons deprived of their liberty are the recipients of the quarterly (previously bimonthly). It is published in a circulation of 5,000 copies, free of charge, colourful and its graphic layout resembles tabloid newspapers. The content layer is characterised by elements supporting the resocialisation process. 8-12 pages.

<https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/dwumiesiecznik-pozbawionych-wolnosci/>

III.1.5. The "Ways to Go" magazine

Electronic edition, free of charge. Quarterly. 12-20 pages. Addressed to the families of persons deprived of their liberty, probation officers, the Prison Service and the local government social workers. Explains, describes phenomena and processes taking place in the prison service – <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/ways-to-go/>

III.1.6. The "TeleInfo Pro Civium" channel

Information concerning the current activities of the Association are communicated in the form of audio-visual messages available on the organisation's website and its social media.

Example: <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/najnowsze-teleinfo-pro-civium-2/>

III.1.7. Database

With a professionalisation, it was necessary to create a virtual database facilitating access to the data of the Programme Beneficiaries by Pro Civium consultants and counsellors. The Association commissioned the creation of a database, also in a mobile version, containing a compendium of knowledge about beneficiaries and easily accessible to personnel service. The database was created in the style of Noe.net - a system created for the Prison Service to serve prisoners.

The Pro Civium Database (PCDB) is the organisation's biggest technology achievement this year. The testing period ended in December 2020.

III.2. STRUCTURAL CHANGES

III.2.1.Human Rights Section

Established within the Board of Directors of the Association to handle criminal and penitentiary cases of Programme Beneficiaries indicating an excess of powers of executive bodies or in case of suspected miscarriages of justice or other cases indicating disregard of law.

III.2.2.Audio-Visual section

Established within the Public Relations Team to improve the quality of the Association's multimedia service.

III.2.3. Inspector for the Implementation of Educational Programmes

Due to the need to individualise reactions improving the competences of the families of persons deprived of their liberty after completing a jail sentence in the further socialisation of the convicted, the Association faced the challenge of categorising activities in the view of the capabilities and needs of the loved ones of prisoners. The inspector has the task of preparing an educational offer in terms of individual indications of Pro Civium counsellors, i.e. psychologists, educators, lawyers, etc.

III.2.4. Section for Monitoring Beneficiary Matters

The creation of the Pro Civium database resulted in a requirement to monitor the virtual system. Consultants, counsellors and family guardians have access to the Pro Civium database in the Association, hence the need for continuous supervision of its functioning and the correctness of records. One module in the Base can be operated by several persons at the same time, all the more the existence of the Section is justified.

The Section is subject to the competence of the Programme Support Team.

III.3. PROJECTS

III.3.1. KNOWLEDGE - EDUCATION - RESOCIALISATION

The programme is realised with the cooperation (financial support) of the PZU Foundation. Its objective is to enable the realisation of online

internships for university students as a part of the statutory activities of the Association.

The epidemiological situation made it impossible for students to receive a credit for stationary internships. The organisation, which by definition realises its task online, could, in cooperation with academic centres, meet the needs of students and universities.

As at December 30, over 100 persons have completed internships in the Association. Most often from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the University of Security in Poznan, the Jagiellonian University, the University of Silesia, the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw and about 20 other academic centres in the country.

Students of such faculties as resocialisation, psychology and law most often apply for internships, although there are also students of management, economics, journalism or foreign languages.

Pro Civium has signed framework agreements in this field, some students do their internships in the organisation with the consent of their alma mater.

More at: <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/projekt-wiedza-edukacja-resocjalizacja/>

III.3.2.Talk to Your Loved Ones

Another year of the Project edition. The Telegrosik brand and the zpozdrawieniem.pl website started the cooperation as Partners.

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In accordance with the adopted rules, prisoners and their families in the most difficult financial situation can make free phone calls thanks to the Project.

This is related to the realisation of one of the main goals of the organisation, namely the prevention of recidivism. The Association believes that the contact of a convicted with their family and the education of this family naturally and obviously prevents convicted from returning to crime. The project is a part of the Vice Versa system created to improve the competences of families of persons deprived of their liberty in their further socialisation after carrying out the penalty

In 2020, 74 convicted used free family calls.

More at: <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/porozmawiaj-z-bliskimi-projekt/>

III.3.3. "A Small Gesture - a Big Smile"

Charity collection of the Association's collaborators carried out internally to finance gifts for children of the Programme Beneficiaries meeting two basic criteria: poor financial situation of the family and active participation in improving their own socialising competences.

In 2020, thanks to the involvement of interns, volunteers and members of the organisation, as well as the Management Board of the Association, the zpozdrawieniem.pl website and the Agry company from Radom, it

was possible to collect the amount of PLN 1500 for which gifts were purchased.

More at: <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/wywolac-usmiech-dziecka/>

III.3.4. "Society in a Prison"

A legislative initiative of the Association aimed at changing the scope of participation of social organisations in the execution of the custodial sentence in the Executive Penal Code.

The proposed changes focus on Article 42 of the Executive Penal Code. The project was published in 2020 and the organisation invited leading commentators on the law to work on it.

More at: <https://pomocpostpenitencjarna.pl/projekt-42a/>

III.4. PARTNERS

As a part of the realisation of statutory tasks of the organisation, the Association concluded long-term cooperation agreements with many entities and pursued common objectives with others, i.e. the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, the zpozdrawieniem.pl website, the Telegrosik brand, the Gdansk School of Banking, the University of Security in Poznan, the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, the PZU Foundation, the PMPG Media Group, Orange Polska, the "Never Again" Association, the University of Technology and Economics in Warsaw, the Poland without Barriers Foundation, the Women's Rights

Centre, the Poznan Municipal Publishing House, the Bureau of the Commissioner for Patients' Rights and the Polish Ombudsman's Office.

III.5. HUMAN RESOURCES

The Association is made up of persons. Associates who recruit from interns, volunteers, knowledge advisors and members of the organisation.

As at December 31, 2020, the organisation was made up of almost 100 persons, mostly from Greater Poland and Mazovia. The administrative bodies of the Association are located in Poznan and Warsaw.

A specific novelty in the voluntray service is the fact that interns who serve tenable internships in the organisation become volunteers and, consequently, members of the Association.

While several dozen new people started cooperation with the organisation in 2020, only 4 resigned from a cooperation for various reasons, including family and professional reasons.

III.6. THE PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

Within the framework of the "Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted" Programme, the Association supported 940 persons in 2020[1].

III.6.1 Forms of support

- stationary - in 197 cases

- the "TeleSupport" hotline - in 284 cases
- an online chat - in 319 cases
- by correspondence - in 275 cases

III.6.2. Support users

- gender breakdown:

- men 155 times
- women 785 times

- breakdown by reason of incarceration:

- convicts 83%
- pre-trial detainees 12%
- punished 5%

- breakdown by status:

- prisoners 66%
- prisoners' families 34%

III.6.3. The scope of support

- material 5%
- legal advice 49%
- psychological counselling 31%
- vocational counselling 4%

- sex therapist advice 3%
- intervention 8%

III.7. PUBLIC ACTION

III.7.1. Participation in scientific conferences

The Association participated in two nationwide scientific conferences devoted to penitentiary system.

- the Polish National Scientific Conference, 07.05.2020. "Current Problems and Challenges of the Polish Penitentiary System", Warsaw, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, with the paper: "Relations of Non-governmental Organisations with the Prison Service and the Rights of the Convicted to Exercise the Rights under Article 42 of the Executive Penal Code"

- the First Polish National Scientific Conference, 01.12.2020, "Contemporary Challenges for the Theory and Practice of Resocialisation", Konin, State Higher Vocational School in Konin, with papers: ""Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted on the Example of an Association - Remote Equipment" and "Prison Service and Community Organisations in the Context of Convicted's Rights to Appoint a Representative under Article 42 of the Executive Penal Code".

III.7.2. Organisation of trainings and workshops

The Association organised a webinar with a lecture by a researcher from the Department of Resocialisation of the Faculty of Educational Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan on the subject of "Families of Persons Deprived of their Liberty - Theory and Practice".

III.7.3. Patronage

Apart from the Electoral Gazette and the ksiazkinaostro.pl website, the association assumed patronage over a series of reportages by Nina Olszewska "Pudło. Opowieści z polskich więzień". The item received very positive reviews from, among others, Paweł Moczydłowski - the former head of the Polish prison system and Prof. Monika Płatek - one of the greatest experts on penitentiary matters in the country.

III.7.4. The Polish nationwide "Lawyer Pro Bono" competition

The competition has been organised for many years. Its jury consists of prominent Polish lawyers and representatives of, among others, the Ministry of Justice and the Polish Ombudsman's Office, as well as legal organisations and court presidents. Organisations and institutions have nominated several hundred lawyers for the competition. In 2020, among the 14 lawyers nominated for this title, there was also the Association's lawyer.

III.8. MEDIA APPEARANCE

The activities of the organisation have been noticed in the local media and in the opinion-forming press. The Association has been written about several times, among others in "Wprost", "DoRzeczy" and "The Republic of Poland". Information about the activities of the organisation or statements made by our representatives appeared in radio programmes and news websites.

III.9. ASSOCIATION STATUS

The Association was established in 2018 as a non-profit organisation with the status of a common association, i.e. non-registered. In 2020, the General Meeting of the Association adopted a resolution to register the organisation in the National Court Register and to amend the Articles of the Association in this respect.

IV. ASSUMPTIONS FOR 2021

IV.1. WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The Programme Support Team together with knowledge advisors from the Department of Resocialisation at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan prepare a series of online open webinars on penitentiary matters, especially in the context of participation of the family environment in the process of resocialisation of perpetrators and problems of this social group.

IV.2. HANDBOOK OF FAMILIES

Pro Civium Experts under the direction of the Department of Resocialisation of the Faculty of Educational Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, are preparing the publication of the first in Poland handbook of families of persons deprived of their liberty, in particular their female partners, dealing with the issues of arrest, temporary arrest, detention and preparation for release from prison and raising children in relationships in which one of the parents is deprived of their liberty. The handbook is intended to be a compendium of knowledge for the loved ones of prisoners, supportive in its nature. To create it, the Management Board of the Association appointed a group of specialists consisting of a psychologist, a resocialisation educator, a career counsellor and a lawyer.

IV.3. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The proposed legislative changes to the design of the Executive Penal Code in the field of public participation in the execution of the custodial sentence will be submitted in 2021 to the Central Board of Prison Service, the Polish Ombudsman's Office, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the law faculties of Polish academic centres and non-governmental organizations with a request for evaluation and comment.

IV.4. INTERSHIPS AND WORK PLACEMENTS

The Association, also in 2021, will undertake to organise internships and work placements for students. We will also invite other institutions and social organisations to cooperate.

IV.5. PERSONALISING ACTIVITIES

The appointment of a School Inspector in Education was aimed at creating an individualised programme of influencing the families of prisoners due to their perceptual abilities, education, the type of problems faced by the family environment of the persons deprived of their liberty. In 2021, this goal will be undertaken and realised, which will increase the effectiveness and quality of the Associations' educational offer.

In 2020, the organisation also prepared for an information campaign promoting the advantages of participation in the "Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted" programme. A virtual database (PCDB) adapted to the needs and capabilities of the Association and the tools of influence. Finally, communication channels within the organisation's structures have been established. This is the starting point for the popularisation of the Programme in the family environment of convicted as well as in prisons.

IV.6. REGISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The year 2021 is marked by organisational changes of the Association. After any, and in this case necessary changes in the selected Supervisory Board and the Management Board of the Association the required registration documents will be submitted to the court of registration. The next step will be to become a public interest organisation. A decision in this regard will be taken at the forthcoming General Meeting, which is initially scheduled for February 2021.

IV.7. THE SECOND POLISH NATIONWIDE COMPETITION FOR FAMILIES OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

The first edition took place in 2019. At that time, the Association asked the perpetrators of prohibited acts "what would they say to the victims of their crimes today". This year, in the second edition, the recipients of the competition are to be families of prisoners, and its subject - the patterns of conduct that parents want to pass on to their children. The report was adopted by Resolution No. 03/2021 of the Management Board of the Association of January 10, 2021.

[1] The number of cases does not equal the number of persons using the services of the Association. When analysing the statistics given, it should be taken into account that very often one person approached the organisation with several topics. The data provided also include the interventions of the Association initiated on the basis of information other than that from the Programme Beneficiaries. The statistics also include cases not reported by the Beneficiaries of the "Intervention and Support for the Legitimate Social Readaptation of Convicted" programme.