Help intervention within the resocialization programme which started in 2014 aims at improvement of the execution of the criminal sanctions system and post-penal treatment for the successful re-socialization and reintegration of the former convicts into the society through:

- realization of specific professional trainings and education of convicts to obtain certified knowledge and skills thus creating possibilities for the appropriate work engagement of convicts during the execution of sentence and successful reintegration into society after serving the sentence time,
- possibilities for employment and self-employment of former convicts,
- other relevant activities contributing better resocialization of convicts.

The programme focuses on the strong educational, direct economic and psychosocial support to marginalized population/convicts and former convicts, thus contributing to sustainable socio-economic development and stability.

Help’s resocialization programme aims at creating the working conditions and the increase of working engagement of prisoners by equipping the workshops. The market needs products up to date with the technological progress and Help is equipping the workshops with the adequate and modern equipment. The delivered equipment improved and increased the production in terms of range, quality and enabled more professional production and cooperation with serious buyers.

Within the treatment program, special emphasis is placed on acquiring, development and preservation of work habits, engagement of convicts as well as vocational education. By getting engaged in the production process with the donated equipment, convicts gain actual skills that respond to the needs of the current technology.

17 correctional institutions received equipment in value of approximately 700,000,00 EUR. Correctional institutions (CI’s) and which received the equipment are CI Nis, CI Sremska Mitrovica, CI Pancevo, CI for juveniles Valjevo, CI Padinska Skela, CI for woman Pozarevac, CI Sombor, CI Subotica, CH Krusevac, DP Vranje, DP Zrenjanin,
The resocialization programme was financially supported by the German government funds and Directorate for execution of criminal sanctions of the Ministry of Justice Serbia.

The work of the sentenced persons is considered an important and integral part of the treatment procedure of the convicts. By continuous work engagement convicts gain excellent practical skills. Also, the work involved prisoners have a possibility to express their creativity, and it has also been noticed that increased number of persons engaged in work, positively reflects in the pavilions.

Convicts engaged in work receive salary, which further alleviates the position and problems of the convicts whose families cannot provide monthly parcels and assistance during the sentence.

The results of work engagement contribute to the improvement of the prisoners’ position through positive grades and recommendations in case of conditional release, home and family visits etc.

The project activities attract media attention due to the specificity and innovative approach of Help resocialization programme.

The Ministry of Justice and the Directorate for execution of criminal sanctions recognized the benefits of Help’s resocialization programme and its long-term impact, not only concerning financial aspect but, more important, improved position of the prisoners through the work engagement, reduced conflict rate, improved treatment programmes, empowerment of prisoners, better resocialization prognosis and hopefully decreased return rate.

Help is cooperating with different partners in this regard, from international as OSCE Mission to Serbia, Council of Europe and relevant non-governmental organizations active in this field of operation.

Further development and wider application of alternative sanctions, increased efficiency of treatment, training and employment of convicts on the long run also speaks in the favor of prevention of return.

Implementation of a range of treatment programs (educational, vocational training programs, learning social skills, etc.) contributes to preserving the mental and physical health of the convicted persons during the execution of punishment, behavior change, training, more adequate preparation for their reintegration.

Implementation of different vocational and specialized programmes
Total of 2,695 persons (convicts and employees of Correctional Institutions) have participated in different trainings organized by Help. The aim of this activity was to gain, increase the work skills and abilities of the sentenced persons during the period of imprisonment. Convicted persons acquire professional skills and knowledge, receive certificates, and through direct engagement and continuous work gain and improve practical knowledge and skills. Also, the trainings enable convicts to access the labor market and enhance employment opportunities, or better performance of the individual businesses if they are self-employed. Convicted persons are usually trained for work in occupations required by market or in line with their personal affinities and interest. Upon served sentence, with the acquired set of skills, the quality artisan can provide for himself an adequate standard of living and does not have to return to the criminal activity. Trainings allow convicts to gain valuable theoretical/practical knowledge, experience but also very important to obtain certificates for different profession without reference to the prison.

- **Different vocational training attended 647 convicts.** The convicts attended training like tailoring and sewing, carpenter, cook, AUTOCAD 2D and 3D, welding, production of aluminium and pvc joinery, baker, plumber, printing techniques etc.

- **In order to enhance knowledge transfer, a total of 88 correctional institutions employees (trainers) attended vocational training as well.**

- **Furthermore, vocational trainings** such as CO2 welding, CNC milling cutter machine operator, automatic CAD/CAM application programming with associated post processors, basic computer training, male hairdresser, furniture restoration, growing early vegetables in greenhouses, growing and processing of medicinal herbs are ongoing in eleven correctional institutions for 372 convicts and members of prison staff.

- **A total of 191 convicts and 5 prison staff** attended specialized trainings such as horsemanship, dog training programme, bibliography and training of visual, art education through a drawing of graffiti and murals on the
walls of the Correctional home for the juvenile in Krusevac. The programs’ key goals are to provide offenders with the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities, improve behaviour and employability skills, social inclusion and cross-connection of culture, penalty system and society, enhance educational engagement.

- Also, psychotherapeutic influence on convicts is significant (emotional aspect, development of empathy, self-esteem and respect for others, development of socially acceptable behaviour, self-confidence, etc.). These trainings were implemented in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights Nis and the Centre for rehabilitation through imagination.

- In cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights Nis, various tailored motivational and labour integration workshops and psychosocial support for the convicts were implemented. Topics like empowerment of former convicts to successfully perform private businesses and thus allowing easier integration into the community, experience and personal changes arising from the committed act, techniques for control of negative emotions and behaviour, identifying the fears that are obstacles to success in business, how to be constructive in adverse situations that may negatively affect job, reducing the risk to the performance of work from the impact of unstable family relationships, characteristics of the family: past and future, methods for successful resolution of unresolved family conflicts, resolving existing conflicts and preventing new, harmonious family relations as a favourable environment for the realization of performance in the business were elaborated and attended by 110 convicts and their family members.

- In addition to the improvement of the treatment programmes, specialized training was implemented. The training like suicide, attempted suicide and self-injury prevention, anger management etc. were attended by a total of 1,213 members of prison staff while a total of 69 convicts attended specialized training such as control technique for negative emotions and behaviour, anger management etc. All the trainings were organised in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights Nis. The training showed very positive results and the procedures within the training programme were approved as the official procedures by the Administration for Enforcement of Penal Sanctions.
RESOCIALIZATION PROGRAMME SUPPORT OVERVIEW

FACT SHEET

Post release activities also include the micro grant scheme project component. This project component was designed as combination of different assistance/ job creation combined with trainings and psychosocial support. Help so far supported 67 former convicts in their efforts to generate income and thus facilitated the process of their reintegration into society. Some of the supported activities are production of furniture, car’s maintenance, production of bread and baked goods, hairdresser’s and other beauty treatment, installing electric utilities and equipment, production of leather shoes, fruits growing, vegetables growing, growing grain and other crops and planting etc.

All the activities performed are direct support to the implementation of a range of treatment programs aimed at preserving the mental and physical health of convicts during the enforcement of penal sanctions. Also, the programme has a direct impact on increasing social inclusion. Its activities aim to remove the obstacles to raising the educational level and strengthening the competences of convicts, which are improving their position in the labour market and create job opportunities. This target group is exposed to the particular risk of not getting employed due to the background as former convicts. Out of this reason this initiative aims at job creation combined with training and psychosocial support during and in the post penal period.