



No. 7 | Decembrie | 2021

# Newsletter

Special number in the COVID-19 context



## Workshops, various activities and study visits

Autumn came in full force within the project, with many planned activities, plans, objectives and targets.

### REGIONAL WORKSHOPS SERIES

We will make a brief review, but we are glad to start with the news that on September 2, 2021, the first regional workshop of the Plus Dialog project took place, regarding the Planning and monitoring of Occupational Safety and Health in the penitentiary police, organized in physically trained in Constanta. The session was opened by Adrian Neagoe, who gave a brief overview of the Plus Dialog project and the results obtained so far, followed by the presentation of the EaSI representative Laura Neagu, on the results of the study of occupational safety and health in context penitentiary. YS representatives presented the Norwegian system, the role of trade unions versus the role of occupational health and safety representatives / occupational health and safety committees, with an emphasis on how to establish the work schedule, how to budget working conditions, protective equipment, monitoring the health of staff, in online format through the Zoom platform, capturing the attention of participants and raising many curiosities. For example, one of the questions referred to the most common problem that arises from the employee. Tore Leirfall's answer was that at the central level, the provisions negotiated in the agreement end up being interpreted later, thus appearing debates on something that was already established, but seems to be interpretable. Next, Stefan Teoroc presented the policy proposal on Occupational Health and Safety Committees in the Penitentiary Police, which aims at safer jobs for prison police officers, by increasing the authority and relevance of the Occupational Health and Safety Committees in the Penitentiary Police; wishing at the same time the active involvement of the committees in the adoption and implementation of measures for the improvement of the health and safety of the staff, as well as the reduction of the pressure at work. This was the format kept for the other similar activities that followed, somehow remaining predefined.



The other two workshops from September to December 2021 took place on October 8 in Timisoara and on December 9 in Ploiesti, following the fifth in January 2022, planned in Bucharest.

# FOTO



## STUDY VISIT

After multiple rescheduling, between 9-12 and 15-19 November 2021, the first study visits took place within the Plus Dialog project. Although visits to prisons were also included in the visitation programs, unfortunately the current restrictions in both Romania and Norway have prevented this. However, the partners were able to exchange ideas and knowledge, in limited frameworks on occupational health and safety, working conditions and the organization of the activity of penitentiary and correctional staff and also to know aspects regarding the cultural and historical specificity of the two countries.



Thus, during the visit to Romania, the project partners benefited from a presentation of the two units in Cluj County - Gherla Penitentiary and Dej Penitentiary Hospital, the activities carried out, as well as information on previous and current collaborations between the two penitentiary systems through Norway Grants, considering



the operation of the Lotus Therapeutic Center developed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 in the Gherla Penitentiary. Aspects regarding staff training and pandemic action were revealed by the ICPA board representative and aspects related to the history and culture of Romanians as well as various community projects were developed by the representatives of Discover Nature and Eternal Dacian Earth Associations.

During the visit to Norway, the Romanian delegation consisting of members of the SNPP Executive Bureau and representatives of the National Penitentiary Administration had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Federation of Vocational Trade Unions YS, the Norwegian Correctional System Workers Union KY and also to visit the new headquarters of the Tromso Probation Service, part of the Norwegian Correctional Service. During the study visit, the working conditions, the way of assessing the staff risks, the specifics of the electronic surveillance activity, as well as the way of carrying out the social dialogue process were noted.



## UPDATES

Related to technical issues, a major novelty is that on October 18, 2021, Innovation Norway approved the budget amendment. As mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter, along with the actual changes to the budget, it was proposed to extend the implementation period of the project until the end of July 2022, as well as the implementation of new activities and objectives.



### Technical aspects

- also in the same period, it was proposed to modify the project budget, as well as to extend the implementation period at the end of July 2022, by adding new activities and objectives
- the partners presented the results of the project at the annual ICPA conference, with an audience of over 100 people from 40 countries
- a teaser of the project has been created which will be disseminated on the project site page and will be used for promotion
- the research report on occupational safety and health has been translated, printed and already sent to the penitentiary units, for dissemination

### Plans for the year 2022

According to the project implementation schedule, the following events are scheduled for January 2022:

- the fifth regional workshop on Planning and monitoring of Occupational Safety and Health in the Romanian penitentiary system in Bucharest on January 11, 2022
- study visit to Norwegian partners between 10 and 14 January 2022
- the sixth regional workshop on Planning and monitoring of Occupational Safety and Health in the Romanian penitentiary system in Craiova on 20.01.2022. The invited participants are the head of OHS and the president of the SNPP branch in the units: Craiova, CD Craiova, Pelendava, Severin, Targu Jiu, as well as the representatives of the SNPP, ANP, Easi and KY partners (online).

---

## Health and safety at work - EU strategic framework (2021-2027)

With or without the coronavirus crisis, there has been a crucial emphasis recently on the importance of health, including health and safety at work. This initiative is based on the previous strategic framework of the European Union for the period 2014-2020. Its aim is to maintain and improve the high standards in the field for EU workers, taking into account the new circumstances, and will help prepare the ground for further crises and threats. The initiative will identify key objectives and establish a strategic framework to encourage EU countries and stakeholders to work together on common priorities.

The European Union's Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work (2021-2027) takes a tripartite approach, involving Union institutions, Member States, the social partners and other stakeholders, focusing on three key priorities:

- anticipating and managing change in the context of green, digital and demographic transitions;
  - improving the prevention of accidents at work and occupational diseases and working towards an approach based on the principle of "zero deaths at work";
  - increasing the readiness to respond to current and future health crises.
-



EaSI



No. 7 | December 2021

**THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION OF PRISONS' POLICEMEN (SNPP)**

Within the **PLUS DIALOG** project – supported by Norway through the Norwegian Grants 2014 -2021 the Programme “Social Dialogue – Decent Work”

*Next number: December 2021 | number issued by Catalina Andrei*