HIV prevention services among inmates
Romania

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Ministry of Justice
National Administration of Penitentiaries
Profile of the Romanian Penitentiary System

Total number of detention units: 44

Types of detention units:
- Hospital prisons – 6
- Female prisons – 1
- Re-education centers – 3
- Minors and young people prisons – 2
- Prisons – 32

Total number of ANP staff: [Map Image]

Total number of inmates: 27,698 / May 18, 2010

Source: Official statistics, National Administration of Penitentiaries; www.anp-inst.ro

Ministry of Justice
National Administration of Penitentiaries
WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS recommendations on HIV prevention in prisons (NSP, OST, VCT, condom distribution, HIV treatment) - reinforced in Romania through specific legislation:

- Law no 143/2000 and law no 522/2004 regarding the fight against drug traffic and drug use and law

- Law 487/2002 on Mental Health - recognizing addiction as a mental disease

- Ministerial Order no. 1216/C/2006 (endorsed by Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Administration and Interior) - regulates the services for drug users in community and prison settings


2007 - UNODC & ANP - assessment of needs & barriers for developing services for IDU’s inmates

**General Conclusions:**
- No major legislative barriers
- Presence of drug use history and self declared drug use among inmates
- Risks for blood borne virus transmission: tattooing, unprotected sexual activities, injecting drug use etc.

**Recommendations:**
- Continuation of IEC activities
- Introduction of evidence based HIV services for drug users (including OST and NSPs)
- Improve linkages with community services addressing drug users needs
- Pilot services that address tattooing risks within the prison settings
Implementation of 2007 BSS (joint project of Romanian Administration of Penitentiary and Spanish Administration)

- Data collected from 1003 inmates.
- It aimed to assess HIV/HBV/HCV risk behaviors and prevalence

The results provided arguments for initiation & development of NSP & OST in prison settings
**Key behavioral results:**

- 5.7% of inmates self-declared drug use & 3.7% shared injecting equipments
- 13.4% knew inmates who used drugs while in prison
- 3.6% reported sexual intercourse with same gender partners
- 12.3% reported sex work
- The prevalence of Hepatitis B and C is higher among IDUs than the general prison population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No of respondents</th>
<th>Positive Results (%)</th>
<th>Negative Results (%)</th>
<th>Indeterminate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background situation

Drug use history among inmates

Prevalence of drug use (at 1000 detainees)
December 2007- National Administration & UNODC concluded an Agreement for technical and financial support.

The agreement focused on:

- Initiation of NSPs and OST
- Development and endorsement of technical working protocols
- Capacity building for service delivery (both for prison staff and inmates)
2008

- Work procedures developed, formally agreed & disseminated

- More than 150 people trained on HIV/AIDS & injecting drug use (prison staff & inmates) in 6 prison units

- Peer-educators directly involved in service delivery

- IEC leaflets on HIV injecting risk behaviors developed and distributed
2009

- NSPs available in 2 prison units

- No negative impact on safety and security of staff and inmates (needles/syringes have not been used as weapons)

- Plans for further expansion in 4 more units in 2009-2010

- From technical and administrative point of view, easy to integrate the service within the prison units health services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of inmates attending NSPs</th>
<th>No of exchanged syringes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>10,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 (by April 30th)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2008 - 2009</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>19,934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OST in Romanian Prison System (2008 - 2010)

- OST guidelines and working procedures for induction & maintenance developed, endorsed and employed into practice
- Legal formalities for detaining methadone solved
- Methadone OST available in 5 prison units
- Average dosage/day - 80 mg/day
• OST services planned for expansion in other 5 units in 2010

• At least 50 medical prison staff trained on OST and more than 150 persons (prison staff other than medical personnel and inmates) received information regarding OST

• Violent behaviors and diversion of prescribed drugs emerged less often than before the implementation of OST
Since November 2009 till now it is an “out of stock situation” on the methadone market in Romania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of OST clients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 (by April 30th)</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total methadone consumption 2008 - 2010</td>
<td>288,750 cp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## OST associated costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget categories</th>
<th>Source of founding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>ANP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone and urine tests</td>
<td>UNODC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>ANP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cost per patient ~ 50 USD / month (600 USD / year)**

**Cost 100 patient/year = 7,800 USD**

*(average methadone doses / day (80mg) + average of 3 urinary tests / month)*

*Training costs are not included*
Future plans

- To strengthen the current programs and expand them at national level

- To ensure programs sustainability through capacity building of prison staff and allocation of specific funds

- To exchange experience with existing initiatives/networks working in HIV and harm reduction within the prison systems
OST
Implementation steps
Challenges
&
Overall strategy

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Steps 2007 - 2010

- Initial training on service delivery & management - experts from neighboring countries. Participants: medical & security staff, inmates

- Follow-up – representatives from targeted penitentiaries developed implementation plans & sent to NAP & UNODC

- Project proposal developed based on the penitentiaries' proposals (NAP & UNODC)
Steps 2007 - 2010

- Formal agreement / project signed

- Central & local level project implementation team designated from National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP)

- UNODC experts started training & information sessions on OST in selected sites

- Public recognition in mass media of the existing drug use problem in penitentiaries
Steps 2007 - 2010

- Wide distribution during information/training sessions of Romanian legislation
- Initiated and finalized working protocols for OST formally endorsed by NAP and widely distributed
- Training sessions organized with medical staff involving prison staff already providing OST services
- Once pilot services started – site visits for prison staff from penitentiaries planned to open the services
Steps 2007 – 2010

- Support participation of prison staff to regional meetings for experience sharing

- Constant involvement of other key actors - establishment of institutional and technical links between the prisons & community

- Constant & direct support in the advocacy efforts to include the OST costs under the National Program for Addiction of the Ministry of Health
Challenges

- Mistrust in the initiative among both general prison population and prison staff
- Strong feelings against drug users
- Limited willingness of the prison staff to include the new services into their daily routine
- Perceived as additional responsibility to the daily job tasks
Challenges

- Lack of experience / fright of the medical staff in working with methadone (perceived as a dangerous drug and fear of legal consequences)
- The use of methadone at recommended WHO dosage
- While training was much focused on medical & security staff as a first line intervention, less was performed for the psycho-social support
- Limited coordination and collaboration with Ministry of Health on budgeting issues
• Strong leadership and graduate transfer of ownership to the prison central/local staff

• Build on existing legal framework and develop internal regulations

• Building on the existing network of professionals and using already existing circuits
Major keys for success

- The existence of a permanent team of experts to provide the ongoing support for implementation
- Work at central and local management team level
- Involvement of the security staff in the information sessions and joint establishment of the delivery system for NSP & OST services
Results

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National Administration of Penitentiaries
The current status of the implementation of Opioid Substitution

Opioid dependent prisoners of HIPP's member states receiving OST (based on estimated numbers; referenced between 2009 and 2010)

*) 21 of 39 states provided information

The current status of the implementation of Opioid Substitution

Therapy in European prisons - an overview of selected Member States = Health in Prisons Project (HIPP)

Ministry of Justice
National Administration of Penitentiaries
Current status of implementation of OST in remand prisons*

*) 23 of 39 member states provided information

The current status of the implementation of Opioid Substitution

Therapy in European prisons - an overview of selected Member States = Health in Prisons Project (HIPP)

Ministry of Justice
National Administration of Penitentiaries
Established individual plans for prisoners to guarantee the continuity of OST after release from prison?

**Where we are**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member States</th>
<th>Eur-A</th>
<th>Eur-B</th>
<th>Eur-C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*) 24 of 39 member states provided information
Thank you for your attention!

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