

***Press release regarding the signing of the financing contract for the project "Improving the correctional services in Romania by implementing the principle of normality", financed through the "Justice" program, within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021***

The Ministry of Justice is a Program Operator for the "Justice" program, funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, and in the period 2018-2024, it will manage a financial allocation of 52,941,176 euros, out of which 85% represents the Norwegian grant and 15% the national co-financing to be provided from the budget of the Ministry of Justice.

The areas of intervention financed through the "Justice" program concern:

- ✓ the correctional services - the penitentiary and probation system (3 predefined projects with a total allocation of 37,494,117 euro);
- ✓ the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system and the consolidation of the rule of law (3 predefined projects with a total allocation of 10,350,000 euros);
- ✓ domestic violence and gender-based violence (1 predefined project with a total allocation of 2,500,000 euros).

Through this press release, the Ministry of Justice announces the signing of the financing contract for the project "Improving correctional services in Romania by implementing the principle of normality", in amount of 5,000,000 euro. It will last for 48 months and will be implemented by the National Administration of Penitentiaries, as a project leader, in partnership with institutions from Romania (National Probation Directorate, Ploiești Penitentiary, Poarta Albă Penitentiary, Craiova Penitentiary, National School for Training of the Prison Agents Târgu Ocna, Babeș - Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca) and from Norway (Norwegian Correctional Services, Norwegian Correctional Services Academy, Hedmark Penitentiary).

The objective of the project is to facilitate the social reintegration of the convicted persons by applying the principle of normality of the activities carried out together with the detainees in three penitentiaries in Romania (Ploiești, Craiova and Poarta Albă), by actively involving them in different activities, similar to those in the external environment.

Thus, benefiting from the support and expertise of the Norwegian project partners, the Romanian institutions involved will act in a coordinated manner in order to implement the activities of the project consisting of developing a program of empowerment of convicted persons and professional training of the personnel in the criminal enforcement field, improving the conditions of detention and work for the convicted persons executing their sentence in the aforementioned penitentiaries, the construction of three new detention units and of some greenhouses, setting up a secondary headquarters for the Constanta Probation Service within the Poarta Albă Penitentiary, and supporting the scientific research activity, studies and reviews in the criminal-enforcement field, by setting up specialized structures within the National Administration of Penitentiaries and the National Probation Directorate.