

**Project title:**

**„Open your mind! Stay away from prison!“**

**Main theme:**

juvenile delinquency prevention

**Project purpose and outcome (in two sentences):**

Awareness of young people 15-19 years of risk factors that lead to juvenile crime and the consequences of this experience. Learning about protection measures, prevention.

**Project submitter (Member State):**

Romania

**Project leader(s):**

Mures County Police Inspectorate, Analysis and crime prevention Compartment

**Project partner(s):**

Tg Mures Penitentiary, Mures County School Inspectorate / High schools from Mures County

**Project description:**

This project (now at 8th edition) appeared from our wish to find new and more efficient ways to send our messages to youth. We found out that a discussion between them and another young man with a bad experience of has a stronger impact that a presentation from a teacher or police officer. The experts from prison choose carefully those prisoners that can provide the optimal message. The good impact and feed/back (questionnaire completed by every participant of the first edition of the project has determinate the participation of almost all the high schools from the county. This is another kind of feedback - the schools considering that the activities worth the effort of transporting students from other towns to Tg Mures. At the beginning of the school year, we make a plan of meetings that take place at the police station and the crime prevention officers are the moderator.

**Objectives project:**

- Providing information concerning the consequences of breaking the law a different levels – legal, personal, social, family and community to youth between 15 and 19 years old from people close to their age that had specific experience of life of a young person that ended with tragic consequences
- Providing to youth the real important values of a good life: respect for the law, for family – parents and their best intentions - for the people around you and for work: money isn't the most important thing in life and they can't buy freedom when you lose it. Nothing worth lose your freedom
- Providing the youth and the community he message of non-judging and give the former prisoners the chance of reintegration
- Increasing the confidence in police efforts for crime prevention and community safety

**Project outcome:**

Every year, this project involves approx. 1.000 young people and teachers. The answers provided by

the questionnaires applied at every activity have revealed that the messages sent by the prisoners had a strong impact. “Maybe today you changed my life”, “thank you for strong lesson”, “I realized how important our choices are”, “ I will look differently to my parents” , “how fragile is the line between freedom and captivity”, “nothing is more important than freedom” are only a few. This edition we are expecting again almost 1.000 youth at 19 meetings, to leave with an important lesson learned. The participant will also learn about none /judging the others, we all can make mistakes, but all of us deserve another chance, so prisoner who wants to change their life after finishing sentences. The participants will also know once more about police efforts to provide quality activities for a safer community.

Start and end project:

October 2018 - June 2019 (school- year)

Timescales and key milestone dates:

October

- selection 2-3 prisoners by the Penitentiary experts prepare them for the project
- Inviting high schools to be part of the project and establish the graphic of activities

November 2018 / June 2018

- project activities / he meetings between students and prisoners, applying feedback forms

June 2018

- project evaluation

Funding (total budget and type of funding (e.g. ISEC, EUCPN Fund,...)):

No budget. Transport costs are supported , if necessary, by school

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