

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

Project Name:	Torture Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme/ Prevention activities
Donors:	European Commission through EIDHR United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
Contact person and email:	Tijana Eror tijana.eror@ian.org.rs
<p>Short project description: At the end of 2010 IAN started a three year project for torture prevention and rehabilitation of victims, in partnership with Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP), Netherlands. The project contributes to eradicating torture and impunity in Serbia and the Balkan region through provision of comprehensive rehabilitation for victims and building capacities of stakeholders to prevent and report on torture (Ombudsman office, associations of people from marginalized groups) as well as campaigning against torture and culture of violence.</p>	
<p>Results in 2013:</p> <p>Promotion of the project has been carried out in different ways - through the media, through the contacts with other NGOs, professional public and associations of vulnerable people, through commemoration of 26th of June, UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims, through public events – press conferences, round tables, public discussions etc. The most valuable event was public hearing at the National Assembly House on the occasion of presentation of NPM annual report, where we had the opportunity to promote IAN's work and the project. Project evaluation took place, led by consultative evaluator Mr Jerome Piercy. Elements of classic evaluation were followed but incorporating OPAD¹ concepts providing additional quality bonuses to the evaluation process. The pioneering work in applying OPAD and Agent Based Modeling on torture and impunity work has exceeded the limits of the evaluation and hopefully will continue after the project. Study visit to Netherlands was organised for 5 members of project staff. It included visit to Psychotrauma Centrum Zuid, specialised centre for support to trauma survivors. Our host was Dr. Boris Drozdek, psychiatrist and the founder of the Centrum. The Centrum is specialised in providing support to victims of trauma, especially refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, survivors of political and war violence. Cooperation with Ombudsperson office and providing psychiatric and forensic expertise during monitoring visits continued in 2013. Representatives of IAN project staff were also members of NPM team during monitoring visits to psychiatric hospitals. Expert seminar named Institution and freedom - Overcoming the policies and practices of violence in psychiatry was organised for Ombudsperson office staff. The seminar was structured in an innovative way, consisting of three parts - showing the two parts of the film C'era una volta la citta dei matti (showing a history of transformation of the classical violent institutions of psychiatry in the process of deinstitutionalization of psychiatric power), round table discussions following each part of the film (talks with representatives of the Democratic Psychiatry in Trieste, as well as the experts, professionals, activists from Serbia) and working meeting of mental health stakeholders (including Ombudsperson office staff, Ministry of Health</p>	

¹ For more on the OPAD method see opad.org.uk

representative, civil society representatives, users representatives, EU representative, psychiatrists) and guests from Trieste. **Regional research on dehumanisation** was continued and finalised resulting in six research reports.

Photos



Project Name:	Cooperation in Torture Prevention
Donors:	European Commission through EIDHR
Contact person and email:	Tijana Eror tijana.eror@ian.org.rs

Short project description: Overall project objective is to contribute to eradication of torture and impunity in Serbian society by preventing torture in places of detention. Specific objective is to improve the efficiency of monitoring, documentation and reporting of torture in places of detention by the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

Expected results:

- Capacity building and stronger involvement of Serbian civil society organizations (CSO) in the work of NPM
- Building capacities of Ombudsperson’s office through seminars, and sharing expertise with regional and international National Preventive Mechanism
- Raising awareness on human rights and importance of NPM in torture prevention among wider public

Results in 2013: 19 organisations signed The Platform on the Role and Cooperation of Civil Society in the Work of National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM). The Platform was presented to public on Press conference and via live TV programme. International seminar for capacity building of Ombudsperson office staff was

organised in two time points. First part of the seminar was organised by OSCE Mission to Serbia and supported by IAN. It was dedicated to creation of South East European (SEE) NPM Network. Representatives of six NPM from the region were present as well as international experts. Declaration on Cooperation SEE NPM Network was created. Second part of the seminar was dedicated to participation of civil society and experts in the work of NPM. International, regional and domestic players in the field of torture prevention participated, shared information and experiences and discussed ways of improvement their own and mutual practice. Six public discussions for general public were held for students at faculties of law and philosophy in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Kragujevac and for Roma community in Belgrade. 123 participants of public discussions were informed about issues related to torture prevention and role of NPM. Leaflets about CSO Platform were disseminated among participants of all public discussions and seminar. Consultative evaluation of the project was carried out, providing analysis of project implementation and results achieved and giving recommendations for future actions in the area of concern. During the whole period of project implementation IAN and associates were engaged in the work of NPM. Monitoring visits were held regularly and reports on all visits written with significant contribution of CSO representatives.

Photos



Project Name:	Education of medical professionals about HIV and AIDS
Donors:	Youth of JAZAS through the Global fund project
Contact person and email:	Biljana Petrovic bpetrovic@ian.org.rs
Short project description: The project represents a continuation of wider concept on continuous education for health care workers on the territory of Serbia that we have implemented since 2010. The aim of education is to increase knowledge and reduce	

stigma of health care workers required for improving care and treatment of people living with HIV. Training program, methodology and subjects were based on the results of research about knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of health care workers that IAN carried out in 2010. The plan is to educate 144 health care workers through three day trainings and 731 health care workers through the series of lectures conducted by their colleagues who had previously gone through our three day training.

Results in 2013: We have implemented 13 educative events (12 lectures and 1 two day training). Total number of trained health care workers is 369.

Evaluation results - Results of tests of knowledge to the training and lectures indicate an increase in the level of knowledge and awareness about HIV in post test compared to the pre test. Evaluation results also show that the participants of the training and lectures very pleased that there is systematic training of health workers on HIV.

Photos



Project Name:	Prevention of HIV infection and other STIs and improving the overall health of the population at particular risk in the territory of Sandzak
Donors:	United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA
Contact person and email:	Biljana Petrovic bpetrovic@ian.org.rs
Short project description: The goal of education is to increase the availability and quality of services in health care, by improving general and specific knowledge of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among health care workers, primarily on the territory of the Sandžak region.	
Results in 2013: During the period we have conducted five one-day trainings. The work plan has been fully met. Although, in the earlier period, we have conducted similar trainings around Serbia, this region was not included before. By the project, it was planned that 100 health workers attend training on HIV and other STIs, to improve their knowledge and change attitudes towards people belonging vulnerable groups. 119 health workers passed through education and all of them expressed satisfaction about participation in the training. Pre and posttests of knowledge showed that participation in the training resulted in significant increase of knowledge. Healthcare professionals of all profiles were invited to participate in trainings. Doctors of different specializations, dentists and general practitioners were the most present. The training has been accredited by Medical Council of Serbia and brought 6 points to participants. Therefore	

the recruitment of participants was not an obstacle to the organizers.

Photos



Project Name:	Civil Society Campaign for Efficient Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders
Donors:	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade
Contact person and email:	Tijana Eror tijana.eror@ian.org.rs
<p>Short project description: The project is implemented in partnership with Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, which is the project lead. The project combines professional training in models of good practice, independent expertise and advocacy that synergically lead towards a radical reform of Serbia's mental healthcare system and strengthen CSO capacity to gain public support. In cooperation with the State Ombudsman in charge of implementing NPM (since July 2011 and upon amendment of the law on ratification of OPCAT) and the Provincial Ombudsman /Vojvodina/, and with support obtained from the Ministry of Healthcare, partner organizations will conduct independent expertise leading towards efficient protection of persons with mental disorders on the one hand, and strengthening of CSO capacity for gaining public support on the other. Partners will sensitize the general public and expert circles to contemporary approaches in this domain and increase leverage on policymakers and the so-called psychiatric lobby that stands in the way of systemic deinstitutionalization.</p>	
<p>Results in 2013: At the beginning of the project a working group assembling representatives of a number of organizations and institutions (Citizens' Ombudsman, Provincial Ombudsperson, OSCE, EU Delegation to Serbia, UNDP, Caritas, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, MDRI, Belgrade Center for Human Rights, YUCOM, associations of psychiatric patients, etc) was established. Working</p>	

group discusses the issues that, directly or indirectly, relate to mental healthcare reform and deinstitutionalization. During 2013, project team with support of psychiatric expert performed monitoring visits to five psychiatric hospitals in Serbia: “Kovin” in Kovin, “Dr Slavoljub Bakalović” in Vršac, “Sveti Vrač” in Novi Kneževac, “Gornja Toponica” nearby Niš and “Dr. Laza Lazarević” in Belgrade. Reports on the visits with main findings and recommendations were written. A group of five psychiatrists from each of the monitored hospitals, together with representatives of partner organizations, paid a study tour to the “Franco Basaglia” Trieste Mental Health Services, Italy. The aim of the visit was to give opportunity to psychiatrists working in large psychiatric institutions to experience psychiatric approaches and treatments of persons with mental disorders differing from those in Serbia. The entire tour was a great experience for domestic professionals and civil sector representatives. Discussions with Italian colleagues provided them a deep insight into the entire process of deinstitutionalization and the opportunity to identify similarities between the two healthcare systems, and, above all to witness the outcomes they have been advocating for in Serbia. Participants will be disseminating this new body of knowledge and experience among their colleagues and other experts, and in institutions in charge of mental health reform.

Photos

