

Training for monitors within the project "Monitoring Respect for Human Rights in Closed Institutions in Montenegro"

Training "Monitoring Respect for Human Rights in Closed Institutions in Montenegro" was organized on 12, 13 and 14 May in Best Western Premier Hotel in Podgorica. The decision to organise the training for monitors on 12-14 May has been made because the adoption of the Law on Ombudsman and the appointment of the Ombudsman's National Torture Prevention Mechanism monitoring team members was nowhere in sight and hence should no longer be awaited.

People who have been selected to be trained monitors and attended the three-day training workshop are: 1. Tea Gorjanc Prelevic, executive director of the HRA, project coordinator; 2. Maja Raicevic, program manager, Women's Safe House, assistant project coordinator; 3. Milan Saranovic, executive director of the Centre for Anti-discrimination EQUISTA, assistant project coordinator; 4. Danilo Ajkovic, coordinator assistant, Center for Civic Education; 5. Aleksandar Sasa Zekovic, researcher of violations of human rights, Centre for Civic Education; 6. Dragana Otasevic, Social Work and Policy major, Centre for Civic Education; 7. Daliborka Knezevic, lawyer, Centre for Anti-discrimination EQUISTA; 8. Velibor Boskovic, legal officer, Centre for Anti-discrimination EQUISTA; 9. Jovana Draskovic, social worker, Women's Safe House; 10. Sandra Bulatovic, legal officer, Women's Safe House; 11. Mirjana Gajovic, legal officer, HRA; 12. Luka Stijepovic, lawyer, HRA; 13. Bojana Vujosevic, legal officer, HRA; 14. Natasa Gardasevic, legal officer HRA. Although only ten monitors have been envisioned by the project, the project coordinator (1) and assistant coordinators (3), who will be responsible for the professional conduct of monitoring, will also be trained and will participate in monitoring missions.

Expert opinion on international standards and monitoring know-how has been provided by the following lecturers:

1. Zarko Markovic, legal researcher, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

Since 2009, Suppressing and Punishing Torture in Serbia – from Adopting Legal Standards to Improving Practice project coordinator and head of the team in charge of monitoring treatment of persons deprived of liberty in the penitentiary institutions in Serbia as well as monitoring the work of the judiciary in cases with the elements of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; editor and co-author of the Centre's annual report on the situation in the penitentiary institutions in Serbia; lecturer at seminars for prison staff – guard, medical staff and personnel of the prison resettlement services; editor of the Centre's manual on preventing and combating torture for judges and prosecutors and one of the authors of the Centre's manual on torture prevention for prison staff and police officers (together with Mr. Ivan Jankovic, member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Ms. Radmila Dragicevic-Dicic, judge of the Serbian Supreme Court of Cassation and president of the Belgrade Appellate Court and Ms. Vesna Petrovic, professor at the Union University Belgrade Faculty of Law); trained by professor Manfred Nowak, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

2. Vladimir Jovic, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst

Employed at the Institute of Mental Health, Belgrade; member of the Professional Council for the Protection of Rights of Individuals Deprived of Liberty, with the Protector of Citizens (Ombudsman) of Republic of Serbia; Assistant Professor and lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of

Psychology, University of Priština (Kosovska Mitrovica); Participant in the Program for psychosocial assistance to torture victims (2000), Medical Director in the Project: “Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (2000-2008); Program Director in the Project: “Redress in Action” – comprehensive rehabilitation program for victims of forcible mobilisation in 1995 (2004-2006); participant in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programme for Torture and Trauma Survivors (2007 - 2008); participant in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program for Torture Victims in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2008-2011); participant in the Torture Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme (2011-2014); participant in three projects of reform of psychiatric institutions.

3. Ilvija Pūce, lawyer, Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Ilvija Puce has graduated Latvian University, Faculty of Law, and since 2001 has worked as lawyer for Latvian Centre for Human Rights. Her main research interests are closed institutions and anti-discrimination. From 2005 to 2006 I. Pūce was member of the E.U. Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, and after closure of the network she became senior expert from Latvia in E.U. Fundamental Rights Agency Legal Experts Network (until maternity leave in 2009). Since December 2007 I. Pūce is a member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

4. Anhelita Kamenska, Acting Director, Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Anhelita Kamenska is acting director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights since February 2011, and has been with the LCHR since 1993. She has focused on human rights in closed institutions, linguistic rights of minorities, and a broad range of human rights, including civil liberties. As Director of Prison and Police Reform Programme of the Soros Foundation-Latvia she worked on the development of community service and probation service in Latvia. She was member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (2000 –2004). She is a linguist and graduated from Latvia University, and has held fellowship at Bradford University.

5. Marijana Lakovic, Deputy Ombudsman of Montenegro

Marijana Lakovic graduated from the Faculty of Law in Podgorica in 1995, and passed the bar exam in February 2000. From January 1997 until April 2000, she worked as an intern with the State Prosecutor of Montenegro. From April 2000 until January 2004, she worked as a counselor of the Municipal Prosecutor in Podgorica. In May 2004, the Parliament of Montenegro elected her as a member of the Prosecutorial Council from among prominent lawyers in Montenegro, for a term of 4 years. Since January 2004 until December 2007, she worked as the counselor of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (Ombudsman) of Montenegro. She was appointed the Deputy Ombudsman on 18 December 2007. She took part in various seminars and conferences on various subjects relating to the protection and promotion of human rights which includes the prevention of torture, as well as establishing a model of NPM in Montenegro and the region.

6. Nikoleta Strugar, law student

In the introductory overview on day 1 Mr Zarko Markovic spoke about the prohibition of torture and CIDT (in connection to CAT, UN treaty bodies, ECtHR, national legislation etc.), while Ms Anhelita Kamenska and Ms Ilvija Pūce gave an insight on the concept of monitoring, types of monitoring visits, monitoring team, preparation, conducting monitoring visits, documenting allegations of ill-treatment, interviewing persons deprived of liberty - principles, how to select detainees, how to conduct an interview, how to verify detainee’s claims, taking notes, etc. Monitoring of closed institutions in Montenegro (ZIKS, police stations, the Special Psychiatric Hospital in Dobrota, public

institution Komanski most, public institution Ljubovic) was the subject of Ms Marijana Lakovic's presentation. On day 2 Mr. Vladimir Jovic spoke of physical and psychological evidence of torture and ill-treatment, health care principles in places of detention and other issues concerning health care, while the experts from Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and Latvian Centre for Human Rights reviewed relevant standards regarding prisons (treatment, conditions, regime, activities, staff, protection measures), CPT standards and monitoring visits to police station, and places of deprivation of liberty for juveniles. Finally, on day 3 the lecturers spoke of mental hospitals and specialised institutions for persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, and concluded their presentations with the writing of monitoring reports.

All the participants of the training expressed their satisfaction with the organization of the training and, more importantly, with the acquired knowledge.

Following the training, after the transcript of the workshop was secured, the coordinator in cooperation with the assistant coordinators started working on the transcript in order to prepare all necessary readings and check-lists for monitors of particular institutions. The transcript, as well as other material and reports in the project will become available to the general public on the web site of the Action, following the approval of all speakers, at the time when the web-site would be open for public, on the occasion of publication of the first monitoring report.