
Prison monitoring visit, Montenegro 2013

On the 29th May 2013, Staff from Agenfor Italy, visited Podgorica prison in Montenegro with the MoJ adviser Dragolob Bulatovic. After meeting with prison director Miljan Perovic and discussing at length the working conditions of prisoners and detainees in Podgorica Harriet was able to visit the cells, the production facilities and workshops of the prison and the female wing of the prison.

The overall quality of living is extremely high by regional standards and abides by almost all EU prison rules. Three meals a day are provided under the supervision of a nutritionist and an unlimited supply of food is delivered to prisoners by friends and families.

However, far too few prisoners are in work or training schemes. The workshops are lacking equipment, equipment is largely outdated and broken, the women have no paid work opportunities while serving their sentences. There are around 30 hectares in total belonging to the prison and therefore the possibilities to expand and improve on existing facilities such as egg production are very encouraging.

The prison administration and the General Director of the sector for execution of criminal sanctions at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights are extremely supportive of CSO and NGO involvement in the area of rehabilitation and training for prison staff and inmates and we look forward to expanding the collaboration and instigating grassroots projects in Montenegro as soon as possible.