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The project is funded by the European Union



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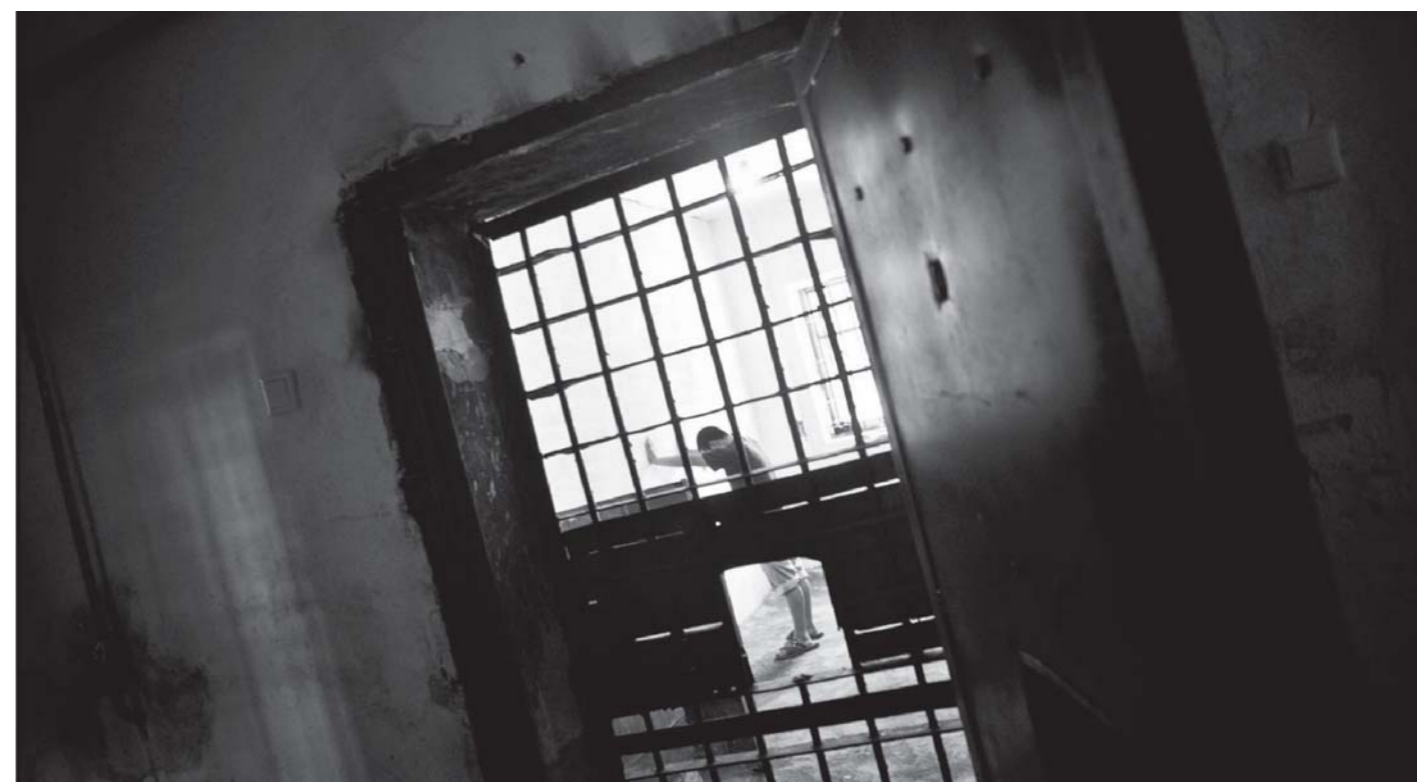
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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SUPPORT TO PRISON REFORM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 'PARALLEL'

A PHOTO EXHIBITION OF PRISONERS AND PRISON STAFF
IN THE PENITENTIARY FACILITIES OF KYRGYZSTAN



The photo exhibition, 'Parallel' is organized in the framework of the project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic', funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Based on visits to the majority of prisons in different areas of Kyrgyzstan, three photographers, including Mr. Alessandro Scotti, former UNODC Goodwill

Ambassador (Italy), Mr. Alimjan Zhorobaev (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. Maxim Shubovich (Kyrgyzstan) present unique insights into the ordinary life of prisoners as well as prison staff in the penitentiary facilities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The photo exhibition will take place in the Rotunda of the Vienna International Centre, Austria, between 23 and 27 April 2012.



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The Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic



As of January 2012, there were 9,828 prisoners in the Kyrgyz Republic, including 2,000 held in pre-trial detention facilities. The prison service of the Kyrgyz Republic faces many challenges, such as very poor facilities and buildings, difficulties in separating and controlling the prison population, a breakdown and lack of prison work and a lack of training for prison staff.

Despite some efforts to improve financing, the prison service remains severely under-funded. Poor pay and dangerous working conditions make it difficult to attract qualified staff. Violence among prisoners is a major concern. Provision of adequate healthcare in prisons is a further serious challenge, with tuberculosis amongst prisoners being 40 times higher than in the general population. Spread of infectious disease is exacerbated by very poor living conditions, in particular as regards sanitary facilities. Despite certain positive trends in developing prisoner rehabilitation and income generating activities, prisoners are in general not engaged in constructive activities. This has a negative

impact on their mental wellbeing, and it generates stress, tension and violence.

Specific activities that are undertaken in each component of the project complement each other and have a mutually reinforcing impact. The improvement of the legislative framework for the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment, for example, will impact on the size of the prison population as well as the social reintegration prospects of offenders. The institutional capacity-building of the prison service, on the other hand, will contribute to prisons that are managed in line with UN standards and norms, and with better supervision of prisoners. Finally, the prison refurbishment programme will have a direct positive impact on the mental health of both staff and prisoners, creating an environment that increases staff morale and promotes prisoner rehabilitation.

governmental degrees and Internal Prison Rules. A National Strategy for Prison Reform of the Kyrgyz Republic has equally been prepared.

2. UN standards and norms which promote the social reintegration of offenders:

The Prison Staff Training Centre has been upgraded with training resources and materials. 210 prison staff have benefited from training based upon a comprehensive training needs assessment. A Prison Staff Training Curriculum (2011-2015) was endorsed by the Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, complemented by the development of strategies to establish income generating work activities based on the recommendations of the Project's Expert Group.

3. A healthier working and living environment is established in prisons, contributing to the prevention of disease and the promotion of good mental and physical health:

Following a needs assessment to repair and improve the sanitary conditions of four prisons, including water, sewerage, heating, and sanitary facilities, plans for extensive refurbishment are currently under way.

For further information, please contact Ms. Vera Tkachenko, Project Manager, UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan (vera.tkachenko@unodc.org) or Ms. Piera Barzano, Prison Expert, UNODC Headquarters (piera.barzano@unodc.org)



Selected project results

1. Alternatives to imprisonment are included in the legislative/normative framework, while prison reform policies and strategies are established:

The Prison Reform Coordination Council has ensured real ownership of significant reform steps by the national stakeholders. The Project provided legal expertise for drafting several new laws, and led to the adoption of seven

Description of Training Courses	No. of participants	Evaluation of participants
Working with prisoners sentenced to life	40	4,47 (max. 5,00)
Working with prisoners with special needs	60	4,80
Strategic Planning in Prison Service (Module 1)	21	4,71
Strategic Planning in Prison Service (Module 2)	19	4,68
Prison Leadership (Module 1)	21	4,81
Prison Leadership (Module 2)	20	4,80
Training for Trainers (Module 1)	25	4,69
Training for Trainers (Module 2)	13	4,50
Managing prison income generating activities	66	4,80