

Country situation

General population information

According to the Population Census 2011 there are 625,266 people living in Montenegro and 187,085 of them live in Podgorica- the Capital. Of the total population, women comprise 50.61% and 49.39% are men. By Montenegrin Law a child is classified as 0-18 and a young person is classified as 18-30 years old. There are 145,126 children aged up to 18 years, living in Montenegro, who account for 23,4% of total population. Also, there are 214,696 people under 25 years old, making up 34.3% of total population and 48,7% of people are aged under 35 years. (Statistical Office of Montenegro, 2011) The total of these figures places almost half the population of Montenegro at under 35 years old.

Of the total population 92% have citizenship of Montenegro, while 2% are in the process of acquiring citizenship, and only 1% of the population does not have citizenship. There are 28 258 persons who make up the population of Montenegro, and they have citizenship of a foreign country, which is 5% of the total population. Among the foreign nationals 686 or 2% are citizens of the European Union. Montenegrin residents who have citizenship of a foreign country often have citizenship of Serbia- 56%, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina- 18%, Croatia- 5% and so on. When we talk about ethnicity the most residents are Montenegrins 278,865, followed by Serbs 178,110, Bosnians 53,605, Albanians 30,439, Croats 6,021, Macedonians 900, Hungarians 337, Gorans 197, Roma 6,251, Russians 946.

The total number of persons who declared to speak Montenegrin is 229,251, Serbian 265,895, Albanian 32,671, Bosnian 33,077, English 185, Macedonian 529, Hungarian 225, Croatian 224, Romani language uses 5,169 citizens of Montenegro.

HIV/AIDS rates

It is stated in the 2013 report of the Ministry of health that since the advent of HIV / AIDS in Montenegro 1989 until December 1, 2013, a total of 153 persons have been infected with this virus. According to the same data, currently there are 81 persons with AIDS, and 72 HIV infected. The prevalence of these infections in Montenegro is 0.02 and is one of the lowest in Europe.

The most common route of transmission of this virus is sexually in 85% of cases, via blood- 5% of registered patients, while 4% are infected during intravenous drug use and the use of non-sterile equipment. The largest number of infections (90%) was detected in age belonging to the

working and reproductive age 15-49 years. HIV / AIDS cases were registered in 15 of 21 municipalities in Montenegro. The highest number was registered in the coastal region (43%) and Podgorica (37%). According to the estimates obtained using the methodology recommended by the WHO, the population between 15 and 49 has about 460 people living with HIV / AIDS, of whom 94 are women (20.4%). According to these estimates, the number of people living with HIV / AIDS is about five times higher than registered. Of the total number of registered persons 84% are male and 16% female. ¹

Legal situation around sex work?

Prostitution in Montenegro has not been legalized yet. This issue is regulated by the Law on public order and peace, and thus prostitution in Montenegro is treated as an offense against public order and peace. Specifically, the Law states that a person engaged in prostitution or actions that encourage prostitution in a public place shall be punished for an offense by a fine of 200 euros to 1,000 euros or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days. ²

Also, the legal entity that leases or provides space for prostitution or otherwise mediates in prostitution, shall be imposed a fine of 500 euros to 5,000 euros. The business person who commits the mentioned offense, shall be punished by a fine of 300 euros to 2,000 euros. The responsible person in the legal entity that makes this offense, shall be punished by a fine of 300 euros to 2,000 euros, while the individual by a fine in the amount of 300 euros to 1,500 euros or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days. ³

The big problem in countries where prostitution is prohibited (which is considered a criminal or act of misdemeanor) is the fact that sex workers do not turn to the authorities for help, especially in cases when it comes to immigrants, because they would run the risk of being deported from the country. Also, panders use the law to blackmail sex workers who want to get out of this situation. Panders threaten sex workers and their families by disclosing their status. So, since the prostitution is a sanctioned misdemeanor, panders just use the laws to blackmail sex workers, threatening that they will report them, for which they will be responsible in the Court. It's one of the reasons why we think that misdemeanor liability should be abolished for persons engaged in prostitution.

For now, the legalization is only sporadically mentioned, but there have not been taken serious steps in this regard yet. Maximum efforts stem from the non-governmental sector, which most

¹ <http://www.ijzcg.me>; <http://www.monstat.org>

² The Law on Public Peace and Order, "Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 64/2011 ", Article 27

³ The Law on Public Peace and Order, "Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 64/2011 ", Article 28

intensely deals with this social problem. In the future we can expect more intense work, and even the legalization of prostitution if Montenegro follow in the footsteps of other countries.

What services exist in your country? Who sponsors these services?

NGO Juventas is the only organization in Montenegro which is concerned with improving the social, health and existential conditions of sex workers through the project "Health on the street," which is funded by the Global Fund for Tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria, and via the state Office of UNDP in Montenegro. This project is intended to improve the quality of life of persons engaged in the sale of sexual services in Montenegro, as well as the promotion of harm reduction among women who use drugs by injection. The main activities of the project are to provide basic health care and psychosocial services, as well as making members of the target population in the existing reference state institutions dealing with health and social care, and the provision of services: basic medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, education and informing, terrain services with the distribution of free condoms and lubricants, and replacement of sterile injecting equipment.

The project includes two work methodologies - outreach work and drop in center for people who provide sexual services in exchange for money, goods, drugs or any other wellbeing. Outreach work is conducted four times a week throughout the territory of Montenegro. Some of the services that outreach workers provide are: sharing free condoms, lubricants, educational material; informing sex workers about different skills to protect their health; talk about sexually transmitted infections (STI); discussion and consultation on adequate and best protection from STI; providing the necessary information concerning the health, social and legal protection of human rights; providing psychosocial support; informing and referral to system institutions (health institutions, social security institutions); referral to voluntary, confidential counseling and testing for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C; referral to Juventas Drop in center; treatment of superficial injuries incurred as a result of injecting drug use.

On the other hand, the first Drop in center for sex workers was opened in 2011. in Podgorica (the capital) and runs three times a week over a period from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The team engaged in this center consists of three social workers, three outreach workers, a doctor, a psychiatrist, a lawyer who provides legal aid, secondary school teacher and hairdresser who provides free hairdressing services. One of the objectives of the outreach work, as well as work in the Drop in center is overcoming the gap between the institutions of the system and sex workers, establishing confidence in the institutions of the system, as well as the empowerment of sex workers.

In fact, as one of the services that are periodically organized in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health are the national bio-behavioral research among sex workers in the whole territory of Montenegro, in order to determine the rate of infected by HBV, HCV and HIV among this population, and then the implementation of policies and measures to reduce the spreading of these infections.

NGO Juventas regarding the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against sex workers, along with its partners, the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro and UNDP Podgorica, sent a message to stop the stigma, discrimination, abuse of power and all other manifestations of violence against sex workers in Montenegro. During the organized press conference the results of current research conducted among sex workers were presented. Institute of Public Health Montenegro for the third time in 2012 conducted the national bio-behavioral studies with sex workers (previous surveys were conducted 2008 and 2010), engaging Juventas, as well as on previous research, in the role of the implementation partner.

The study included 200 female sex workers from all over Montenegro, and the data presented at the conference showed that persons who sell sexual services in Montenegro are highly stigmatized and discriminated, and are placed on the social margin, and as such are subject to constant and continuous violence and direct endangering of life. Mentioned social exclusion which stems from the stigmatization of sex workers leads to disabling access to health care, providing housing, alternative forms of work, and at the same time lead to the isolation and separation of their children. It must be put an end to violence against persons who sell sexual services not only for the benefit of the population, but society as a whole!

Is Global Fund present in your country?

As I mentioned above, the Global Fund funded project Health on the street, which is devoted exclusively to improve the position of female sex workers in Montenegro.

Sex workers' movement

There is no such movement in Montenegro.

Organization information

- Juventas (formerly Youth Cultural Center - OKC Juventas) is a non-governmental organization founded on January 29 in 1996., in Podgorica. Our organization is implementing three programs: human rights, harm reduction program, and a youth program .

- The main objectives of harm reduction programs are to help to distinguish IDUs people through the sharing and swapping syringes and needles, assistance through education and communication in which a central role is field work. The " Health on the street " is intended to improve the quality of life of persons engaged in the sale of sexual services in Montenegro, as well as the promotion of harm reduction among women who use drugs by injection. Project, „The Open Doors " has began in December 2008th year, was funded by the Commission for the allocation of funds from gambling. The main objective of the project was to open Drop in center for drug users and to improve the living conditions of high risk populations of drug users who inject and their family members. Therefore, as the main activity in this project we to set aside : outreach work, prevention education and outreach, and basic medical care, exchange of sterile injecting equipment for drug use, distribution of free condoms and lubricants, psychosocial support, legal assistance, social support, promotion and referral to health care services, with an emphasis on institutions for treatment and rehabilitation, referral to vocational guidance and relevant emergency. In cooperation with the Institute for Execution of Criminal Sanctions Podgorica, 2004, started a project called "Open with prisoners," which the main goal is to reduce the risk of HIV transmission among people who are serving a sentence of PSEA - in.
- The geographical scope of our work is related and covers the whole territory of Montenegro, no matter what our organization headquarters in Podgorica. Number of employees is 23 and volunteers is 25.
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