|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Name | Crossroads |
| Country | Serbia |
| Project region | Balkan |
| Initial Situation | Young offenders from Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac, as marginalized and stigmatized group, are facing the unemployment difficulties more severely than regular youth population once they are back on the streets. Great majority of these young girls and boys have difficult social background, they were victims of abuse and neglect, and have experienced economic hardship. Being marked as “ex convicts” serves them to be excluded by the general society, but also to be undesirable on the labor market.  Importance and role of re-socialization for young offenders is that it enables them to re-include in social community through correcting their attitudes and behavior. This process is a precondition for independent life and work after they leave the institution. In all of that, vocational guidance about labor market and work with young offenders has significant importance because it contributes to development of new and healthier relationships among them and facilitates later process of employment and adaptation in the society.  Once they serve their sentence, young offenders are in no concern of social care system, the community is not very welcoming and they are not getting any systematic support. This is why the percentage of ex young offenders who commit crimes again is very high – up to 70%. At this moment in Serbia, there is no post penal support for ex offenders, and in particular, for young ex offenders from Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac. |
| Objectives | Contribution to higher level of social inclusion of young offenders and ex offenders from Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac, through sustainable system of education in this institution and implementation of post penal support on national level. |
| Expected Results | - Higher employment rate of ex offenders in Serbia  - High level of awareness about labor market and decent work built into every new generation leaving the Correctional Home for Juveniles  - Institutionally accepted and regulated system of post penal support in Serbia |
| Beneficiaries | Our target group are young offenders and ex offenders from Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac, age between 16 to 23 years old, both female and male. |
| Implementing Partners | Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac (Vaspitno-popravni dom Krusevac) |
| Description of partner | Youth Council Krusevac (YCK) is a nongovernmental, nonpolitical and nonprofit organization founded with the aim to promote youth activism, support the development of local community, and promote alternative ways of young people’s education. Our primary target group is vulnerable youth, especially young offenders from penitentiary institution, Correctional Home for Juveniles in Krusevac. We were founded in September 2008, and we are actively implementing projects since 2009. |
| Project Duration | 2013 - 2016 |
| Responsible person and contacts and website | For Youth Council Krusevac:  Marina Virijevic,  Executive director  Mail: [officeosk@gmail.com](mailto:officeosk@gmail.com)  Web: [www.youthcouncilks.wix.com/osks](http://www.youthcouncilks.wix.com/osks) |

