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Social reinsertion of former detainees: Between perception and attitude

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Abstract. It is known that at the level of each society there are manifestations of violation of the rules, the rules that can take the form of deviance. Individuals who violate these rules, legally commit crimes. Successful crime prevention strategies must address the factors that contribute to the large number of crimes committed by individuals who have served a term of imprisonment and have failed, after release, to integrate into the community as law-abiding citizens. I chose to carry out this research because the community, the society belongs to everyone, therefore both I and my family, friends and relatives are directly affected by the present criminal phenomenon. The aim of the paper is to raise public awareness about the situation of those who have been deprived of their liberty in their quest to be among us again, how we can help them and implicitly us, in this difficult process of social reintegration. Awareness of the perception of the population regarding the reintegration of former detainees, of the difficulties encountered by them in trying to return to a fair life is a significant element in forming / changing attitudes towards them, a reintegrated person, a gain for the community. We do not live alone, isolated, therefore thousands of people released from prisons in just a few months live among us trying to survive in an environment often hostile so that there are many cases in which they relapse involving high costs both financial and psychosocial for the belonging community. The research was conducted in a difficult time for the whole world, when tens of thousands of people lost their jobs and socialization was drastically reduced with still uncertain prospects for the future but people were open to answering questions even if they themselves need social reintegration, although they have not served a legal sentence of deprivation of liberty. However, this pandemic context has brought a global awareness of the effects of deprivation of liberty, with psychological effects being present in a significant proportion of a large part of the population.

Keywords. Reintegration, social, detainees, perception, attitude

1. Deviance and delinquency - conceptual delimitations

The stability and functioning of human societies are based on a set of social norms, which can be seen as a guide, according to which individuals orient their actions in the social field. The level of social order is given by the extent to which their behaviors fall within the limits of normativity.

Human actions give rise to different categories of norms, such as moral, religious, economic, legal, political, etc. Focusing on the legal norms, it is known that these include the criminal norms, being mandatory rules of conduct. These legal norms establish a certain space for

the actions of the members of the society.

However, the legal norms have a general character, in which case the permissiveness associated with them is not clearly delimited, which leads to the violation of certain limits and implicitly to deviance.

The Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language (2009), marks that *to deviate*, in a figurative sense, means to deviate from the right path (committing errors, reprehensible deeds). In the light of this definition, it is observed that deviance is a type of conduct that deviates from the norms accepted by society.

In the Dictionary of Sociology (1998), deviance represents any act, conduct or manifestation that violates those norms of society, written or unwritten. Deviance includes both breaking the law and any deviation from the rules of coexistence of a community. In this sense, deviance includes a wide range of behaviors, from eccentric or bizarre (adopting an unusual outfit, nonconformism), to the so-called immoral (obscenity, vulgarity), but also those that fall within the scope of crime.

Unifying the two definitions, it can be said that deviance is a type of behavior that deviates from the norms accepted by society, written or unwritten. Boncu (2000, p.7) argues that when it comes to violating unwritten norms, one can speak of a "*tolerated deviance*", which is not so dangerous as to be sanctioned by law. On the other hand, actions limited by the rules of the company for which there are punishments are considered legally deviant, thus making up *the class of crimes*. *The crime* is defined as a behavioral ensemble (act or fact, by commission or omission) punishable by law by virtue of a legal system applicable on the territory of the state whose social order was disturbed by committing the antisocial act and on the perpetrator, according to the United Nations Resolution 40/33 of 29 December 1985 cited in his paper by Durnescu in 2011. Therefore, an acute form of legal and social deviance is crime. The delinquency acts reach, in their manifestation, the most important social values, which in their turn are protected by the criminal legal norms. When delinquency is high, it is a complex phenomenon with an effect on individuals and groups. However, Durkheim, apud Marica (2007) shows that the level of delinquency can be a useful indicator for measuring social health. Thus, in the case of a low-level crime, it can be a useful indicator, in the sense that this "apparent progress is correlated with a social disorder", as there is no society in which, as Durkheim argues, there is no crime.

Delinquency belongs to the category of social problems, being one that cannot be solved, but which requires continuous control. In order to prove that delinquency has the status of a social problem, clarifications can be made by the definition given by Zamfir (1998, p.446). Thus, the social problem is a "*situation arising in the dynamics of a social system, which negatively affects its functioning and requires intervention to correct (eliminate), modify it*". Merton (1965) defines the social problem as a major discrepancy between social norms and social reality. The causes of the social problem derive from a series of social disorganizations, crisis, change or development. At the same time, it is strongly argued that social problems derive from personal deviance, being generated by the normal proportion of deviant individuals present in a society. Among the classic social problems can be listed: crime, juvenile deviance, drugs, prostitution, excessive population growth, suicide, community disorganization, interethnic tensions, family disorganization, etc. To these are added four other conditions for a social phenomenon such as delinquency to become a social problem (Rubington, Weinberg, 2003):

- the perception of the phenomenon as problematic;
- incompatibility with values;

- affecting a significant number of people;
- the need for social action.

In the case of delinquency, if these criteria are applied, it can certainly be said, in the light of those presented above, that this is a social problem. In strengthening this statement comes the definition of the Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language (2009, p.570), which states that the term delinquency, comes from the French [deliquance], and is a social phenomenon that consists in committing crimes. Crimes (still called legal offenses), are in a situation opposite to the most important values of society: life, truth, freedom, property, etc.

Once aware, for this social problem there must be an institutional system to prevent, combat and control the levels and social costs involved.

In order to form an overview of the crime phenomenon, it is necessary to identify its determining causes, as it does not appear out of nowhere. It is therefore appropriate to review the main causes, this behavior being adopted by a significant number of individuals, with heterogeneous characteristics in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, level of education, intelligence, occupation, of the financial statement. At the base of many antisocial behaviors is an interaction between environmental risk factors and genetic or biological risk factors (Marica, 2007). Therefore, the phenomenon of delinquency is favored by processes that take place both at the macrosocial and microsocal levels and last but not least at the level of the individual who adopts the behavior that transgresses social norms.

At the macrosocial level, processes such as urbanization, multiplication of economic difficulties, economic instability due to unemployment, inflation, dissolution of community control, increasing social tolerance, corruption among dignitaries, acculturation, de-Christianization, dissolution of traditions and customs, are causes that determine criminal behavior in both among adults as well as among minors. Not having as a model, a stable society, the individual is inclined to find his own trajectory, resorting to the violation of norms and any other social code.

The microsocal level is represented by the family environment, the group of friends but also the community leaves an important imprint in the criminal conduct. Family misunderstandings, poor financial situation, desire for integration and compliance with certain social groups and the degree of development of the community to which it belongs significantly influence the chances of violations of legal rules.

At the individual level, a number of genetic and neurobiological factors make their presence felt in the manifestation of antisocial behavior. Neurobiological deficiencies, especially in the regions of the brain that regulate stress reactions, may partly explain why some individuals become antisocial, with an increased frequency if the person had a difficult living environment as a child.

In delinquent behavior, individual factors are complemented by social ones. Thus, certainly an individual who manifests psychomotor disorders, possesses a strong egocentrism, and these corroborated with a disadvantaged social environment, will have an increased probability of generating conflicts, will have difficulties of social integration and undoubtedly, will absorb a negative influence in terms of media. Also, a number of such situations will lead to addiction or alcoholism.

2. Life before and after release - reinsertion vs. relapse

Statistics show that in 2013 there were registered about 33,500 people deprived of liberty in Romanian prisons, in June 2020 their number does not exceed 20,500 which sends us to the analysis of at least 13,000 people who were released and reintegrated into society. Detention facilities were and still are overcrowded, with difficult conditions to maintain the physical and mental health of detainees, there are various complaints against the Romanian state regarding them which led to a criminal reform with a direct effect on reducing the shortage of places detention rates from 14,000 - required in 2012 to 4300 - estimated in 2017 and 2,051, respectively - minimum required calculated on June 30, 2020, while cases in the supervision of the probation system have increased approximately 5 times ([https:// sgg.gov.ro](https://sgg.gov.ro)).

2.1. Social reintegration service in Romania

The social reintegration service of the penitentiary has in its attributions the development of a diversity of activities with socio-educational profile directly aiming at mitigating the major negative influences of deprivation of liberty on the personality and behavior of detainees and, at the same time, identifying and developing skills and abilities which allows them to reintegrate into a normal social life after being released from prison. Another important aspect of these activities is the reduction of the risk of recidivism as a side effect of successful social reintegration. This social reintegration service has in its composition a multidisciplinary team that has in its composition social assistants as well as psychologists, educators and sociologists.

The services provided by this team for the purpose of efficient reintegration include the following:

- identification of those particularities at individual or group level, following at the same time the educational needs of the staff in order to draw up specific programs for the different categories of detainees; planificarea și aplicarea unor programe care să conțină activități educative, de instruire școlară și profesională, de asistență socială, de adaptare dar și de menținere a tonusului psiho-fizic;
- planning and application of programs containing educational activities, school and professional training, social assistance, adaptation but also maintaining the psycho-physical tone;
- pursuing the assurance and observance of human rights;
- knowing and identifying the needs and individual problems of detainees through private discussions, emotionally secure and drawing up legal steps in solving them;
- awareness of the level of schooling and qualification of each detainee in order to guide them to school and professional rehabilitation courses;
- organizing reading sessions using the penitentiary library as well as organizing detainees regarding reading the press and watching television programs.

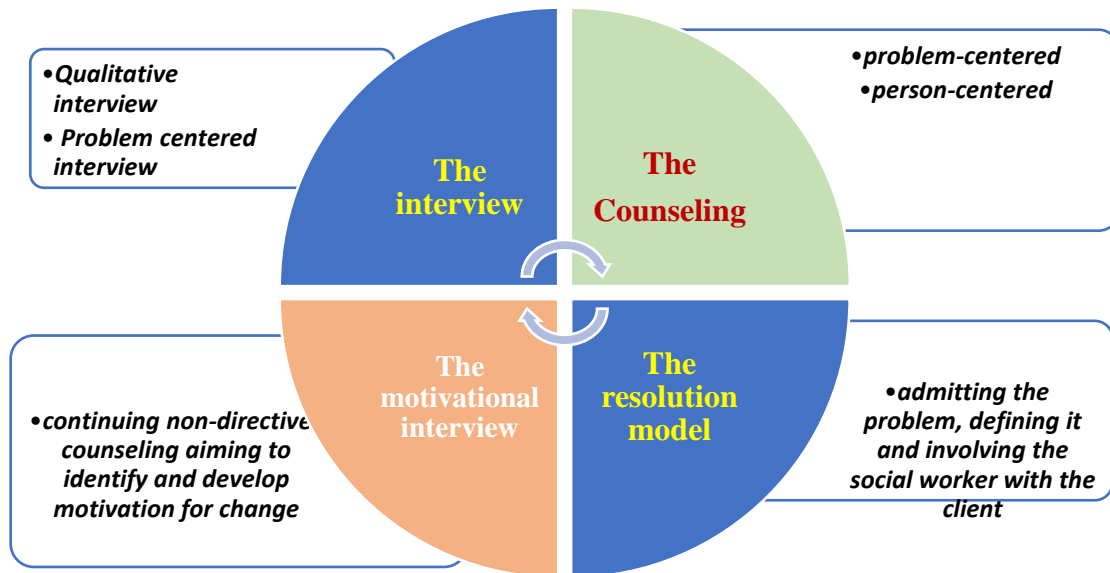


Figure 1 Methods of working with detainees

Methods of working with detainees, used individually in their preparation for social reintegration are outlined in *Figure 1*, highlighting the interview, counseling, a type of therapy that identifies need, objectives, solutions.

Paragraph 94 of the 2020-2025 Action Plan states:

„The national strategy for social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty, for the strategic cycle 2020-2024, approved by Government Decision no. 430/2020, published in the Official Gazette of Romania no. 494 of June 11, 2020, aims at the functional reintegration of persons deprived of liberty in the family environment, in the community and on the labor market, by consolidating, optimizing and developing the necessary legal and procedural mechanisms. In line with the strategy, the following objectives are considered:

- *developing the institutional and inter-institutional capacity in the field of social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty;*
- *increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the specialized intervention carried out during the execution of the custodial sanctions;*
- *facilitating systemic post-detention assistance.”*

The statistical analysis of the data on the share of recidivist detainees in the general penitentiary population indicated, in the last 10 years, a relatively downward trend, the percentage of recidivist detainees being, as follows:

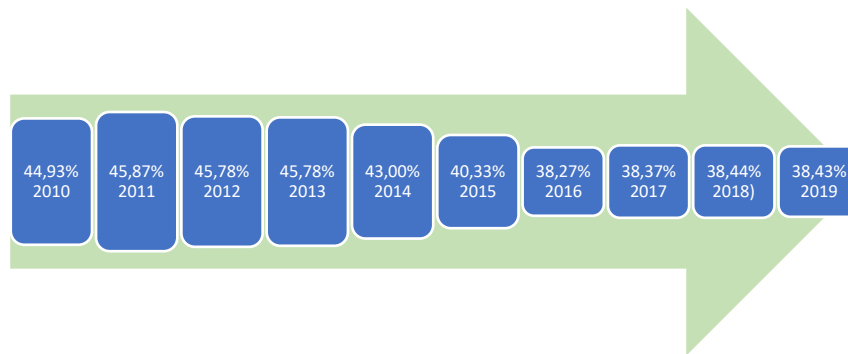


Figure 2 Situation of repeat offenders expressed in percentage between 2010 and 2019

2.2. The link between social reintegration and public safety

It is in everyone's interest for the prisoners to return to the community with the skills and attitudes that will allow them to stay out of prison in the future. Prisoners are part of society - the vast majority will eventually be released from prison and therefore it is for the benefit of the wider community and, in the interests of public safety, to be able to play a positive role in society. If they leave prison with serious problems and without the knowledge and skills needed to deal with them, there will inevitably be continuous consequences for them, their families and communities and additional costs for the state.

"Society's duty does not end with the release of a prisoner. Therefore, there should be governmental or private agencies capable of providing released prisoners with effective further care aimed at reducing their harm to them and their social rehabilitation "(SMR, rule 64).

The rate of criminal recidivism continues to be very high among certain groups of criminals. Although global statistics are not available, data from some countries confirm that the recidivism rate is high, sometimes higher than 70%. Many criminals, even after serving repeated sentences with deprivation of liberty, fail to drop their crimes and integrate into the community. Prison itself is incapable of addressing the issues of social integration of offenders.

Community safety makes it imperative that governments and communities develop effective interventions that will help detainees successfully reintegrate into the community and prevent further crime. Criminal re-entry programs can provide a cost-effective way to prevent crime.

The social and economic costs of the failed reintegration of criminals are a major concern for decision-makers around the world. Every crime has social costs. In addition to the costs of investigation and prosecution, the costs of legal proceedings and the costs of imprisonment, other "social costs" for victims and the community must be taken into account equally. For every former detainee who does not successfully reintegrate, there are direct and indirect costs to the community. If detainees reoffend after release, the safety of the community is compromised by the acts committed. There are the costs associated with legal proceedings, the trial of these new crimes, plus the costs of administering new sanctions. There are much easier to quantify or indirect costs for society, such as those incurred by victims of these crimes, those associated with the loss of these people's contribution to society and economic development, they rely more on social services rather than supporting them (Borzycki & Baldry, 2003). Moreover, overcrowding in prisons is a major

challenge in many countries. Although overcrowding in prison is a complex issue, there is no doubt that it is partly attributable to the large number of recidivists who populate prisons and for whom detention has had little or no effect on their refraining from committing other crimes. A key strategy in reducing the number of people in prison is to provide effective rehabilitation programs for detainees and to support their social reintegration after release. Unfortunately, overcrowding in prisons affects the ability of prisons to provide meaningful rehabilitation programs and tends to limit prisoners' access to existing programs. A large proportion of offenders often go through the penitentiary system for relatively minor offenses, serving successive and relatively short prison terms. Although such crimes are less serious in nature, their impact on communities, public safety and public trust in the justice system is substantial. Much of the behavior of these offenders can be linked to substance abuse and addiction, mental disorders, lack of professional skills and other problems. Because they tend to serve short sentences, their access to treatment and other programs during detention, as well as to post-release services and supervision is quite limited and they remain at high risk of recidivism. As such, they are not only a real concern for public safety, but also overpopulate prisons and have few opportunities for integration into main stream society. Therefore, it is important to give recidivists priority access to social reintegration programs, including effective community surveillance, upon release.

Homeless people, in particular, risk a failed reintegration into society, especially among young people, which involves some significant costs to society, both financially and in terms of public safety. The costs of offender reintegration support programs must be weighed against the benefits of avoiding these significant social and financial costs in the future (Anderson, 2014).

Some risk factors are dynamic - which means they can be changed - while other (static) risk factors are not. Static risk factors do not change over time, these include issues such as the type of offender, criminal history, age at the time of arrest or previous mental health issues. Dynamic risk factors, on the other hand, can be addressed through interventions within or outside the criminal justice system. The appropriate programs vary depending on the risk factors and the type of social reintegration challenges they are designed to address. Many programs focus on the specific challenges facing offenders, such as low education, unemployment or drug use.

In low- and middle-income countries, policy makers are sometimes reluctant to invest in social reintegration programs for criminals, especially when such assistance and services are not available even to ordinary citizens. However, decision-makers should keep in mind that such programs are necessary not only for the sake of criminals, but also for public safety and, ultimately, for the socio-economic development of the country.

Positive mental health includes a sense of self-confidence and self-respect. It involves being and feeling responsible for yourself and others. Some prison programs offer detainees job opportunities; others give prisoners a chance to volunteer for projects that help others. There is a growing body of research on the re-establishment of detainees as active citizens, for example, by growing vegetables and donating products to a shelter or by making children's clothes for those in need. Detainees are active citizens when exercising their responsibility, contributing positively to prison life or to the community as a whole (UNODC, 2018).

The side consequences of criminal conviction are civil disabilities imposed by local, state and sometimes administrative leaders. These are distinct from the direct consequences of criminal convictions, such as criminal records, fines, probation and imprisonment, and are often premised on the need to protect public safety after the release of a criminal. Although some are certainly justifiable, non-discriminatory side effects, with a weak relationship between the restriction

imposed and the offense committed, may make it more difficult to reintegrate a person with a criminal record into society, thus increasing the likelihood that a criminal will return to a delinquent life, relapsing.

There is no consensus on the effectiveness of support programs for reintegrating former offenders, assisting with reintegration and reducing recidivism rates. To date, there have been few evaluations of existing programs. Although there are plenty of ideas about what, in theory, should work, the findings of program evaluations are often puzzling. Moreover, most reintegration programs have not been subject to controlled evaluations and successful approaches remain to be identified.

Reducing criminal recidivism remains the final indicator of successful social reintegration programs (Griffiths, Dandurand, & Murdoch 2007). Prevention of recidivism requires effective interventions based on an understanding of the factors that endanger criminals and hinder their successful reintegration into society.

2.3. Challenges of detainees at the time of their release

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world. The resulting health, humanitarian and economic crises seriously endanger the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere, exacerbate the problems of fragility, crime and terrorism and expose inequalities.

Prison offenders face a range of social, economic and personal challenges that tend to become obstacles to a crime-free lifestyle after liberation. Some of these challenges are the result of past experiences of offenders, and others are more directly associated with the consequences of incarceration as well as the next difficult period of transition back into the community (Borzycki, 2003).

Offenders may have a history of social isolation and marginalization, physical or emotional abuse, seasonal service or unemployment, and involvement in a criminal lifestyle that may have begun at an early age. Physical and mental disabilities as well as various health problems may also be present.

Many former offenders face skills shortages that make it difficult for them to compete and succeed in the community: poor interpersonal skills, low levels of formal education, illiteracy or miscalculation, poor cognitive or emotional functioning and / or lack of planning, and financial management skills. There are also several practical challenges that criminals face when they are released, including finding suitable accommodation with very limited means, financial management with little or no savings until they start earning a legal fee, solving daily needs, accessing services and assistance for their specific needs.

The transition period from leaving the penitentiary to joining the community can be particularly difficult for offenders and can contribute to the stress associated with other psychological effects of deprivation of liberty along with the possibility of more "side effects" (Arnall, 2005). It is possible that many people during the execution of the custodial sentence have lost their livelihood, their personal belongings, their ability to maintain their home for themselves and their family; they may have lost important personal relationships and incarceration may have affected their social relationships; they may have experienced mental health difficulties or acquired self-aggressive habits and attitudes.

People affected by mental illness have special problems when returning to the community, they may experience extreme social isolation, and are also often at risk of developing a substance abuse disorder. They may also have particular difficulties in finding a suitable accommodation and

in securing a job. And, it is likely that most of these individuals will require additional medical and therapeutic services and assistance to manage their income. These factors, in combination with non-compliance with the prescribed treatment, can make these people a danger not only for themselves, but also for others. The unique challenges facing mentally ill offenders upon release require the development of a community model of continuous care to address the risks, needs and vulnerabilities of this group. This includes the multidisciplinary management of cases of those in need for psychiatric treatment and social services, e.g. housing, food, disability benefits and vocational training.

The model of "good life" is based on the assumption that people inevitably seek certain primary human goals or goods, such as knowledge, autonomy, friendship, social recognition or happiness. Secondary goods, such as relationships, employment or education, provide means of obtaining primary property. From this perspective, interventions should not only manage or reduce the risk of relapse, but also help individuals achieve their main goals without harming others. The model directs the attention of assessment methods to the legitimate goals, motivation and frustrations of criminals.

A frequent characteristic of criminals is represented by the presence of cognitive errors (self-justifying thinking, misinterpretation of social indices, wrong attribution of guilt, poor moral reasoning, distorted schemes of dominance and rights, etc.). Cognitive-behavioral therapy can address these cognitive deficits and distortions, teaching offenders to understand the thought process and choices associated with their criminal behavior. They can learn to correct their thinking and to identify and correct risky or deficient thought patterns. These interventions often involve the formation of cognitive skills, anger management (to address the patterns of automatic thoughts that lead to violent reactions) and other techniques related to the development of social skills and interpersonal maturity, moral development and relapse prevention. This type of intervention can have a significant impact on reducing recurrence. Anger management is used to help criminals, especially violent ones, control their anger responses. People who commit crimes because of uncontrollable anger are often assigned to such programs, which consist of specific interventions that are designed to teach people how to recognize their own symptoms of anger, how to understand what triggered it. And yet, in practice this is below the required level due to the shortage of staff required and the cost of therapies is high and few people have enough access to them to bring about significant change.

During detention, individuals have no control over the day-to-day aspects of their lives and are required to comply with the restricted environment of the prison. Therefore, detainees, especially those who have been deprived of their liberty for a long time, tend to experience diminished independence, low self-esteem, diminished capacity for initiative as well as a low level of self-sufficiency. Upon release, they are suddenly asked to organize their lives independently outside of a system that structures their daily lives. Some of them, including younger offenders, may never have had the right opportunity to acquire the basic skills needed to manage daily routines. Others have deficits in interpersonal maturity and interpersonal skills and may need help developing a range of socially acceptable responses, conflict management and resolution skills, and the ability to engage in positive social interactions. Some of the patterns of social interaction they learned during detention may need to be left behind.

Prison alone is not enough to motivate a criminal to change and give up crime. Like any other human being, those who have been deprived of their liberty are essentially motivated by the same things: internal factors (intrinsic, arising from within them, such as the achievement of

precious goals, avoidance of pain, escape from aversive emotions and social recognition) and interpersonal factors (encouragement, gaining social acceptance, positive reinforcement from the person's reference group, etc.) (Butoi, 2019).

Most of the former detainees will return to the same communities where they lived and socialized before the arrest. In many cases, these are neighborhoods with high rates of poverty and crime, leaving many residents to withdraw from society with reduced access to social support programs. Finding safe and affordable housing is difficult for former detainees, who often face limitations in finding a stable space. They are often forced to return to the same destructive environment that contributed to their initial incarceration, often face the same temptations, and there, relapse.

Along with getting a suitable home, finding and maintaining a job can greatly improve a former inmate's chances of living a productive life in compliance with the law. However, former detainees face the societal stigma of being convicted, which severely limits the number of sustainable job opportunities available to them. Many employers seek criminal records of potential employees and reject anyone with a criminal record. Retail and customer service companies are among the least likely to consider hiring a former convict. Employers' reluctance is greatest when the crime in question was violent.

There is no doubt that more needs to be done to help break down the barriers that prevent former detainees from living in compliance with the law and becoming productive instead of consumers. Helping them find suitable housing and providing educational opportunities that lead to paid employment are essential for successful reintegration and reducing recidivism. However, the final change must come from the person concerned. The former detainee can break the crime cycle only by changing his illegal ways, refraining from crime, substance abuse and other problem areas. They must also look for opportunities to improve their situation and make an effort and efforts to lead a productive and legal life.

3. Research objectives

The general objective is to identify the perception of the population regarding the social reintegration of former detainees in order to establish measures to improve the reintegration into the community of persons who have served sentences of deprivation of liberty.

4. Research hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: It is presumed that in order to have a successful social recovery a former detainee must follow a psychological counseling program as a first step in successfully achieving the goal.

Hypothesis 2: It is presumed that the population considers it necessary to involve the state in the social recovery of those who have served sentences of deprivation of liberty.

Hypothesis 3: It is presumed that in the perception of the population *gender* is an individual characteristic that influences the chances of social reinsertion of former prisoners.

Hypothesis 4: It is assumed that in the perception of the population *age* is an individual characteristic that influences the chances of social recovery of former detainees.

Hypothesis 5: It is presumed that in the success of the social recovery of former detainees, *the duration of the sentence executed* is a moderating feature in the perception of the population.

5. Study participants

The research was attended by 85 people aged between 20 and 60, both from urban and rural areas. Both females and males are represented in close percentages in value. In order to surprise as many opinions as possible, people with different degrees of schooling were included in the study. The group is heterogeneous in terms of professional occupation and material situation. The respondents are people who have not served sentences with deprivation of liberty but who have friends, acquaintances or have come into contact with former detainees.

The study involved 45 females totaling a percentage of 52.94% of the total respondents and 40 males, respectively 47.06% of the total respondents.

The number of females and males depending on the age range in which they fall, so that between 20 and 29 years the group consists of 11 women and 15 men. The second age range, 30-39 years, consists of 17 females and 13 males. Between 40 and 49 years old, there are 12 ladies as well as 9 men. In the last age category, represented by the range of 50-59 years, there are 5 females and 3 males.

Depending on the environment of origin, the group is structured in 81.18% people from the urban environment, predominantly, 69 people living in various cities and 18.82% of participants living in rural areas in Romania.

Gender is represented according to the environment of origin, namely: of people from urban areas, those of the female systematize 48.24% of the total participants compared to 4.71% with domicile in rural areas. The male gender is represented in proportion of 32.94% from the urban area and 14.12% from the total number of respondents from the rural area.

Considering the level of studies, the predominant category can be observed as that of undergraduate studies with 42 people out of 85 and summarizing a percentage of 49.41% of the total respondents. The next category is represented by master studies, registering 27 people who completed this education level, they totaling a percentage of 31.76% of the total respondents. There were registered 10 people with high school education, respectively 11, 76% of the total participants and the individuals who declared as doctoral, doctoral and postdoctoral studies at the opposite end were below a level of 5% each, respectively 3 percent, 54%, 2.35% and 1.18%.

Depending on the occupational status at the time of participation in the study, the subject group is heterogeneous comprising both employees and entrepreneurs, unemployed or students. The predominant percentage in defining the occupational status of the participants of 50.59% is represented by the 43 individuals who declared to be employed. Practitioners of a liberal profession were registered 14 respondents totaling a percentage of 16.47% of the total. Ten people, respectively 11.75% chose another variant, completing it with their own version of student or master student. The study was also attended by 7 entrepreneurs, totaling 8.24% of respondents. Six people checked their employment status as unemployed, in a percentage of 7.07% and 5.88% of the 85 participants declared themselves without a job.

Of the 85 participants in the study, 8 stated that they had a materially difficult situation, representing 9.4% of the total participants. A satisfactory financial situation was noted by 14 participants, respectively 16.5% of the total. Thirty people consider that they have an average material condition, accounting for 35.3% of the study participants. A good financial condition was checked by 25 people, representing 29.4% of all those who participated in the research. Eight individuals considered to have a very good material condition, these being representatives as a percentage with the value of 9.4%.

All 85 participants stated that they did not have the experience of deprivation of liberty in the penitentiary, representing 100% of the participants.

The last characteristic of the group of subjects refers to the circle of friends, close friends, acquaintances of the participants from the perspective of the existence or absence in its composition of one or more persons who have been deprived of their liberty. The data is as follows: 59 people, respectively 69.4% of the total participants said that they have in circles of friends/ acquaintances a person who had the experience of being deprived of liberty, while 30.6% did not have former detainees near them.

6. Research tools

In order to achieve the objectives, we designed a questionnaire to cover the studied aspects. **The method used is the questionnaire-based survey.**

The questionnaire consists of 24 questions, its structure being heterogeneous, comprising both questions with dual answers and multiple answers. Most of the choices to the closed-ended questions required the argumentation of the answer. The last item is of open type in order to surprise other factors involved in social reintegration that were not identified and included in the questionnaire to be analyzed in further studies. At the end are the items used in collecting factual data on age, gender, occupation, education, financial situation and checking whether these people were deprived of liberty or had friends in this situation.

7. Analysis and interpretation of results

The first item of the test aimed at citizens' perception of the priorities that should be set in a person's life after serving the sentence of deprivation of liberty for a successful social reintegration. Data collected are presented as follows in the bar chart below:

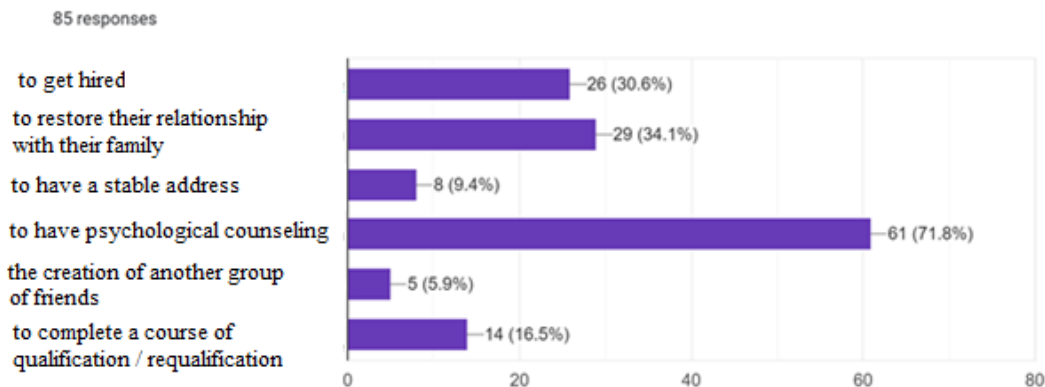


Figure 3 Bar chart on the perception of the priorities of a former inmate

From the figure above it can be seen that public opinion is that a former detainee should primarily have psychological counseling, this being considered by 61 people, representing 71.8% of respondents. The second priority is seen to be the restoration of the relationship with the family, checked by 29 people as a priority, respectively 34.1% of the 85 participants. In descending order are the employment, qualification / requalification, on the last two places: having a stable address and the creation of another group of friends.

Hypothesis 1 according to which "for a successful social reintegration a former detainee must follow a program of psychological counseling as a first step in successfully achieving the goal" **is validated**, psychological counseling being the predominant choice as a priority for those who served sentences with deprivation of liberty for a successful occupational reintegration.

The second item concerns the perception of the population regarding the employment chances of a former detainee immediately after release.

To this question, most of the answers, respectively 90.6% of the respondents considered that the chances of employment immediately after release are minimal and small. Only 8 people, respectively 9.4% of the participants gave medium to high chances.

In order to validate the second hypothesis that supports the fact that the population considers it necessary to involve the state in the social reintegration of those who served sentences with deprivation of liberty by offering a temporary employment offer until the person finds an alternative in professional employment, we analyzed the answers recorded for the third item.

Table 1 Frequency table for affirming or denying the state's involvement in providing a job

The state involvement providing temporary employment	Number	Percentage
YES	78	91,8 %
NO	7	8,2 %

As can be seen in the table, 78 people representing 91.8% of the investigated persons answered affirmatively, expressing their opinion that it is necessary for the state to get involved in helping former detainees by offering a temporary job until they find a job on their own. Those who answered negatively were 7, respectively 8.2% of the study participants.

The results are represented graphically by the following pie chart:

3. Do you consider that the state should get involved in helping former inmates by providing a temporary job until they find a solution of their own?

85 responses

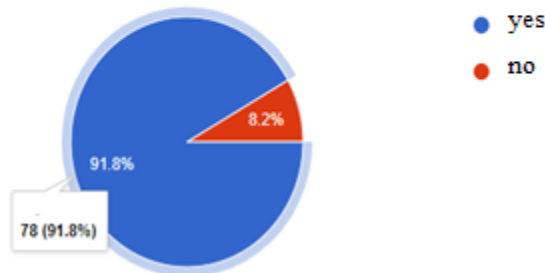


Figure 4 Pie chart representing the perception of the state's involvement in providing a temporary job

The affirmative answers were supported by arguments such as:

- ✓ It would help their social reintegration much faster
- ✓ I believe that we as a people are responsible for what happens in the society in which we live, so yes.
- ✓ The state is obliged to offer protection and support to all citizens of this country, regardless of the social category to which it belongs.
- ✓ The state must be involved even through a temporary employment so that the former detainee can have a minimum of living and not fall prey to temptations again.
- ✓ I believe that the state should get involved in helping former detainees by offering a temporary job until they find a solution of their own because it will be quite difficult for them to take this step on their own, especially after a period when they do not have had contact with the society.
- ✓ Because they are vulnerable.
- ✓ The former detainee must be encouraged in the formation of a new life, and the state is an important factor in this endeavor.
- ✓ They should be supported in finding a job, as employers are reluctant to hire former detainees.
- ✓ Maybe a new employer gains confidence if he sees that he has worked elsewhere before
- ✓ Reduces the risk of relapse by giving it a purpose even if it is short-term.

The text analysis of the argumentation of the positive answers shows that it is necessary to involve the state in providing a job even temporarily in order to reduce the risk of recidivism and increase the confidence of the future employer based on previous work experience in addition to the fact that the state it must provide support and protection to citizens and especially to those in vulnerable categories such as those who have served sentences of deprivation of liberty. Given these things, **the second hypothesis is validated.**

The next 2 items directly aimed at opening the citizens to the employment of a former detainee, as an employer or as a colleague, registering attitudes with a high degree of positivity in both cases.

4. *Would you, as an entrepreneur, hire a person who has recently left the penitentiary for social reintegration?*

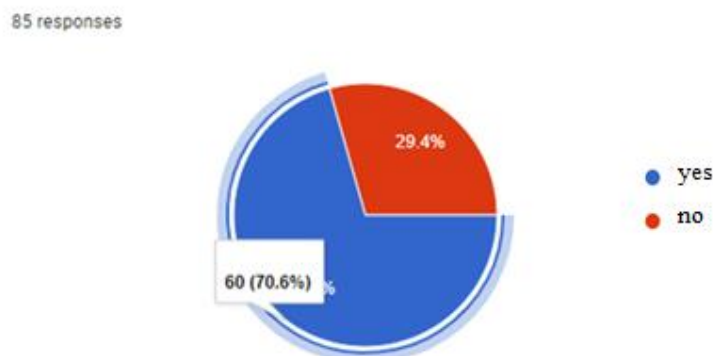


Figure 5 Pie chart showing the acceptance or refusal to hire a former detainee

It can be seen that out of the 85 participants in the study, 60 and 70.6% respectively answered positively to this question, tilting the balance towards opening the population in giving a chance to hire people who left the penitentiary if they were employers.

Among the arguments for the answers to this question are the following:

- ✓ If a person is eager to integrate into society, I consider that he deserves all the support of society.
- ✓ I would hire such a person, because by getting involved, you give him a chance to reintegrate and show that person that there is life even after deprivation of liberty. We need to show acceptance because otherwise that person will never be able to change.
- ✓ Everyone has the right to a new chance in life. If he is not supported, he cannot be reintegrated into society.
- ✓ If as an entrepreneur I am exempt from taxes, yes, I would hire such a person, anyone deserves a second chance.
- ✓ I would hire such a person because he may have some good skills in the field despite his past.
- ✓ He/ She has served his sentence and I give him a chance to change his/her life, to make better choices.
- ✓ Yes, I would hire a former detainee because I think they are entitled to a new chance.
- ✓ Depending on the deed, if that person would convince me after an interview that he has changed and that he needs a second chance, I would give it to him.
- ✓ I believe in the second chance and only by helping a man to make a difference will he do it. If all employers refused people who left recently the penitentiary, they would have to do something to earn a living and would probably resort to illegalities.
- ✓ If he knows and he is good at what I need, why not

Among the arguments of those who expressed their refusal to hire a former detainee are:

- ✓ I would not hire because I am afraid for my safety.
- ✓ Not, because I would be afraid.
- ✓ I would not have the necessary confidence in myself.
- ✓ The chance of recidivism is very high, especially if he was imprisoned for theft, rape, robbery.

5. Would you, as an employee, accept a teammate who has served a prison sentence?

85 responses

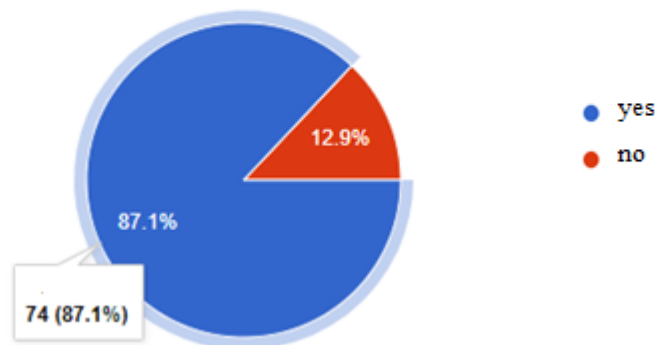


Figure 6 Pie chart of acceptance or refusal to have a former offender as teammate

A slightly higher percentage was in favor of a positive attitude towards accepting a teammate who has served a custodial sentence as can be seen in the pie chart above. A total of 74 people out of the 85, a percentage represented as 87.1%, were open to accepting a colleague who served a sentence of deprivation of liberty compared to only 11, respectively 12.9 % who do not want this.

Among the arguments for the answers to this question are the following:

- ✓ Everyone deserves a second chance, until proven otherwise.
- ✓ Does not affect me.
- ✓ I would be skeptical to some extent, but I think it is important for such a person to feel accepted, because that will help them in the process of change.
- ✓ In my opinion, not accepting it would mean discrimination, and I would never be able to allow this.
- ✓ If he fulfills his tasks, yes.
- ✓ I would lose my job if I refused.
- ✓ It is not up to me whether I hire him or not and I do not want to lose my job.
- ✓ They also have to work somewhere to be able to change their lives.
- ✓ I would accept him because maybe he is a person with many ideas and ideal for collaboration.
- ✓ People are changing. They need our support.
- ✓ To show solidarity and chances to any person.
- ✓ Of course, the reason why he was deprived of his liberty depends a lot, but in general, I consider that as long as he really wants to live a quiet and fair life, it is not my job to stop this.
- ✓ I would have no problem working with a former detainee.

The predominant ideas are aimed at giving a new chance, avoiding discrimination and awareness of the need for this category to be reintegrated both professionally and socially.

Among the arguments of those who expressed their refusal to have a colleague a former detainee are:

- ✓ I would be afraid.
- ✓ Lack of trust on the premise "who did it once".
- ✓ For reasons of fear.
- ✓ Lack of trust.

If in supporting a positive idea to work with a colleague who committed an illegality and was incarcerated, the reasons are diverse, the refusal is supported by two recurring main ideas, namely: fear and lack of trust.

To the question "If a former detainee did not mention his experience of breaking the law / deprivation of liberty, would he be more likely to get hired?" 66 persons representing 78% of the investigated population answered in the affirmative compared to 22% of the 85 and 19 persons, respectively. Therefore, the perception of the population leans decisively towards the idea that a former detainee would be more likely to engage if he did not mention his experience of breaking the law and depriving him of his liberty experience. The data is structured graphically in the pie chart below:

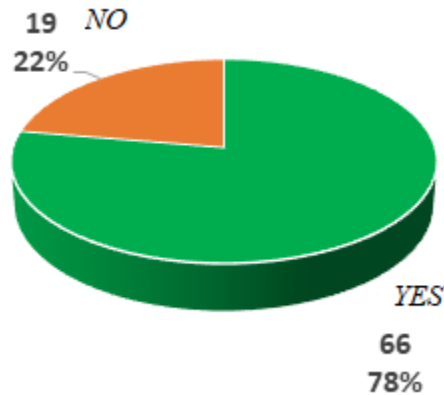


Figure 7 Pie chart of the perception regarding the chances of getting a job by omitting information on the prison time done

Table 2 Perception of chances in restoring family relationships

Encouraging chances to rebuild family relationships	Reduced chances of rebuilding family relationships
55,3%	44,7%
Total 100%	

Table 2 shows how the opportunities offered by citizens are distributed, in their perception, regarding the restoration of family relations by people who left the penitentiary in a short time after the experience mentioned. A slightly higher than 50%, i.e. 55.3% was given to confidence that people who have come out of prison can restore their family relationships shortly after their release. The percentage of those who give them low chances is 44.7%.

Analyzing the answers to the item "To what extent do you consider that family support can help a person out of prison in their successful social reintegration?" it can be stated with prediction that people consider family support as a factor of great importance in the social reintegration of a former detainee, 62 participants, respectively 73% choosing the option *very much*. At the opposite end, represented by those people who ignore the help of family support in the successful resection, there is no one.

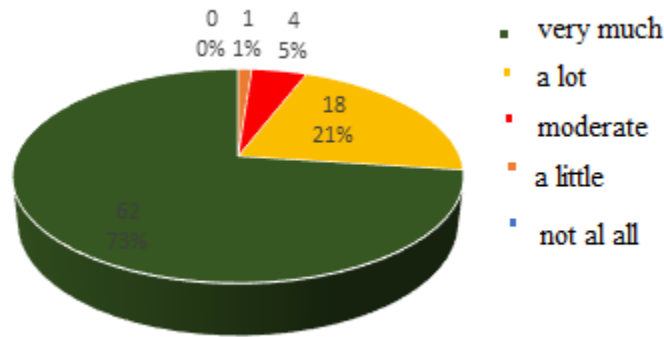


Figure 8 Pie chart representing the perception of the importance of family's support

In addition to family support, people believe that social support can help a former offender in their successful social reintegration, 86.4% of respondents supporting its importance to a large and very large extent. The remaining 14.6% opted for a moderate importance of social support in the success of the social reintegration of a former detainee. There were no people to minimize or ignore the importance of this help.

People believe that the support provided by the state should cover the following aspects: offering individual and group psychological counseling programs, providing retraining courses, providing a job, organizing cultural and sports activities, carried out in special reintegration centers created to support these people.

The following item refers to the importance of the existence of a stable home for former detainees in their social reintegration. The population's perception of this aspect can be summarized in the following doughnut diagram:

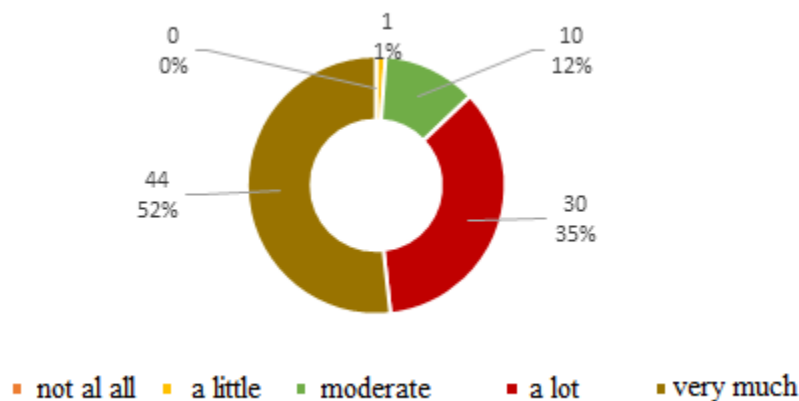


Figure 9 Doughnut chart -The importance of a stable home in social reintegration

It can be seen that the existence of a stable home is of great importance in the social reintegration of those who were deprived of liberty, a percentage of 87% summing up the categories of participants who considered this to be of great importance, 35% and very high, respectively 52% of the 85 who completed the questionnaire.

Given the importance given to the existence of a stable home, the following item concerns the perception of pollution regarding the involvement of the state in ensuring this aspect. The responses collected highlighted 74% of respondents who believe that the state should get involved in helping former detainees by offering housing for a certain period of time until they can afford one on their own, 63 people out of the 85 opting for this answer, the other 22, respectively 26% having a contradictory opinion. The data are represented in the form of a pie chart as follows in the figure below:

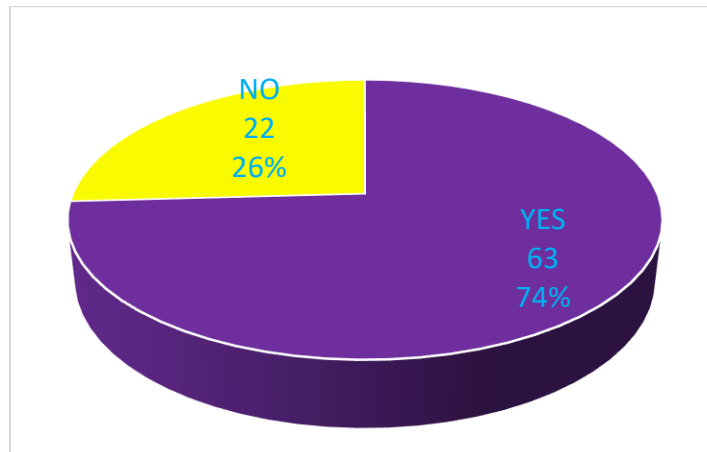


Figure 10 Pie chart - Perception of state involvement in providing temporary housing

The following three items of the questionnaire refer to the importance of psychological counseling for a successful social reintegration as well as the chances that a former detainee has to benefit on his own from psychological counseling after release. At the same time, the population was questioned about the state's involvement in providing psychological services that include psychological counseling programs, many of which have a high cost and the target group is financially vulnerable.

In Table 3 can be seen the data on the population's perception regarding the importance of benefiting from psychological counseling services for people who left the penitentiary for a successful social reintegration, rated with a high degree, 28.2% and very high, respectively, 64.7% of its importance and, in the mirror, the low possibility of obtaining these services on their own, ticked by 76.5% of respondents.

The population is aware of the importance of psychological services necessary for a person who has served a custodial sentence and at the same time the disadvantage of those concerned caused by the financial costs of counseling / personal development programs that reduce the possibility of accessing them on their own, requiring state intervention in order to facilitate access to these services. The corresponding answers to these items support the data previously collected on the priority of former detainees to follow a psychological counseling program as well as the need for state involvement in helping them benefit from these services.

Table 3 The importance of psychological counseling and the possibility to benefit on their own

Perception	Level					Total
	Very much	A lot/high	moderate	Little/small	Not at all	
Psychological counseling can help a person released from prison in his/her successful social reintegration	55 64,7%	24 28,2%	6 7,1%			85 100%
The chance of an inmate to benefit on his own from psychological counseling after release			17 20%	65 76,5%	3 3,5%	85 100%

Another aspect pursued in this research is the extent to which the creation of a new group of friends can help a person out of prison in his successful social reintegration.

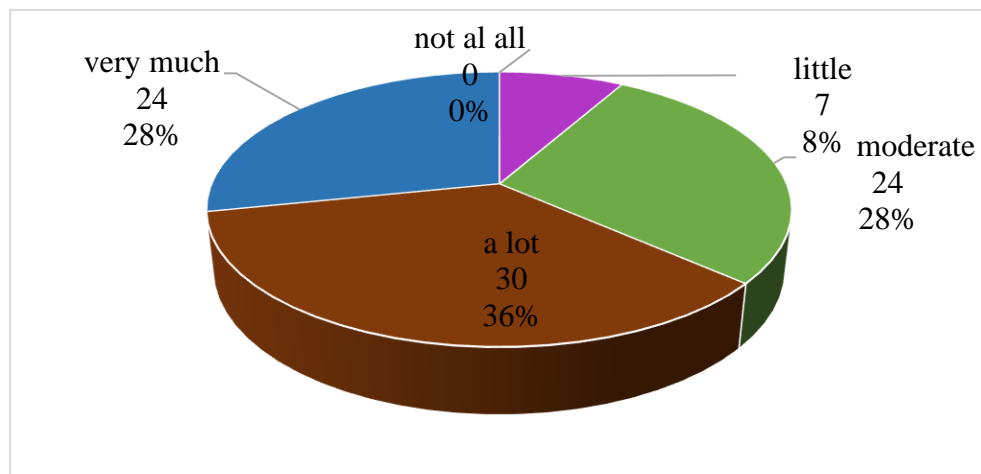


Figure 11 The importance of changing the group of friends in social reintegration

From the collected data it appears that a new group of friends would help very much and a lot in a cumulative percentage of 64% and at a moderate level it was considered 28% of the total investigated, respectively 24 people. There were also 7 people, respectively 8% of the total who considered that changing the group of friends will only help to a small extent. No one chose the "not at all" option, which means that the group of friends directly influences the chances of a successful social reintegration to a moderate or even high extent.

In addition to the importance of changing the group of friends for a positive social reintegration, most respondents expressed a positive attitude to receive in their group of friends a person released from prison, 85.9% being the percentage of this majority. The rest, in a number of 12 individuals, respectively 14.1% of the total participants were not open to receive in the group of friends a person who served a sentence of deprivation of liberty.

The data is plotted by the following pie chart:

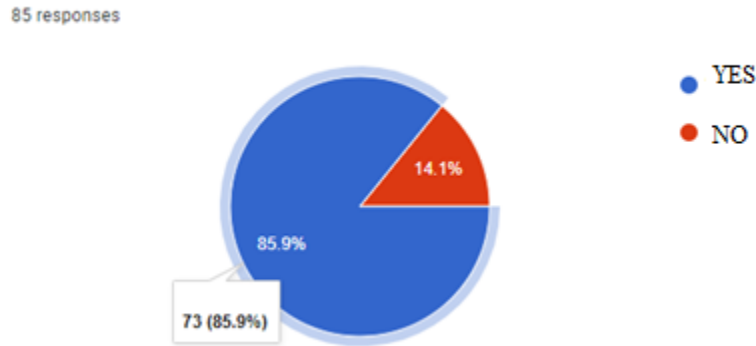


Figure 12 Pie chart - Attitude on the integration of a former inmate into the personal group of friends

We took into account and people's perception over the importance of the level of education of a former detainee in social reintegration after release. According to the data collected, 35% of the 85 investigated, respectively a number of 30 people considered that the level of completed studies is very important in the successful social reintegration of a former detainee. 40% of the respondents gave a high importance to the studies performed and 17 people, respectively 20% of the total of those who completed the questionnaire considered their importance as moderate in this aspect. Four persons were also registered, respectively 5% of the 85 who gave only a small importance to the studies of the former detainees in the process of their social reintegration. Four persons were also registered, respectively 5% of the 85 who gave only a small importance to the studies of the former detainees in the process of their social reintegration.

The data are represented in the form of a pie chart as follows in the figure below:

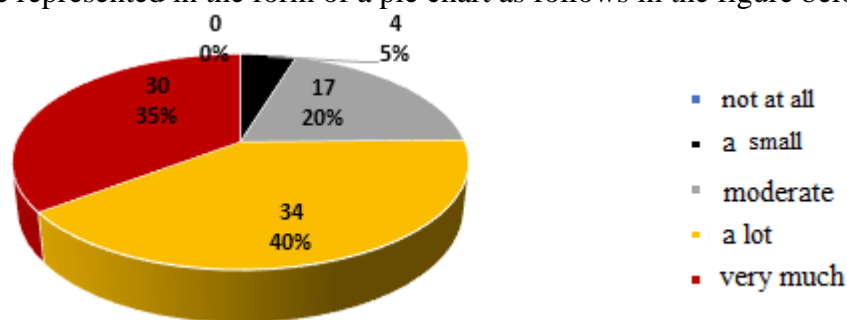


Figure 13 Pie chart The importance of the level of education in social reintegration

An essential aspect in the social reintegration of former detainees refers to qualification / requalification courses, the labor market being a dynamic one which means that during their deprivation of liberty they have undergone changes that require a reconsideration of the employment direction. The population's perception of the importance of taking qualification / requalification courses is presented by the following bar chart as follows:

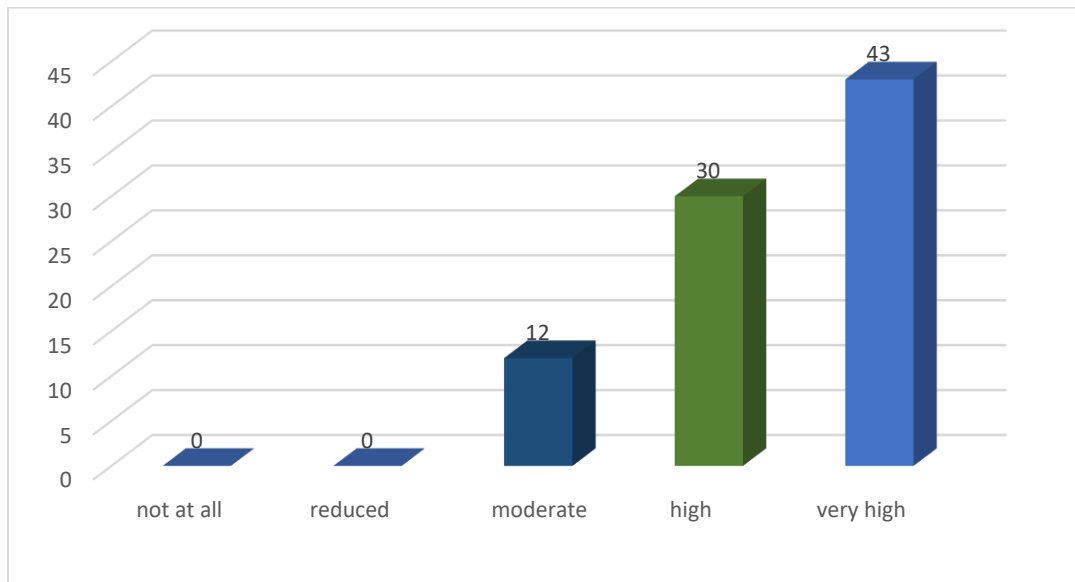


Figure 14 Bar chart The importance of qualification/retraining courses in the success of social reintegration

43 people representing 50.6% of the total respondents were of the opinion that the qualification / requalification courses help a lot in social reintegration, 30 people, respectively 35.3% considered that it helps a lot and 12, respectively 14.1 % gave a moderate importance to these courses in the social reintegration of former detainees.

In addition to the fact that the population finds it very important to follow qualification / requalification courses for former detainees for social reintegration, they consider, in a high percentage, represented by 91.8% of those surveyed that the state should be involved in helping former detainees by providing such programs, their costs being not negligible. The following diagram below graphically sustains the presented data:

85 responses

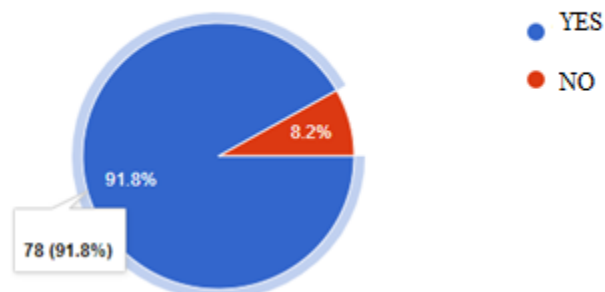


Figure 15 Pie chart – The perception of the population regarding the state involvement in providing qualification/retraining courses

Among the reasons given by respondents who support their positive choice are:

- ✓ Yes, because if you have a different qualification, you can get hired easier
- ✓ Yes, because even qualification courses are paid
- ✓ Because it would help especially those without education
- ✓ It will have a precise purpose after serving the sentence.
- ✓ In this way a record would be kept of the activities performed by them, who would give up the program would have higher chances of recidivism, maybe with a supplementary counseling program and a check by a police officer would help not to relapse.

- ✓ Yes, to give them a new chance.
- ✓ As a skilled worker it is much easier to find a job.
- ✓ Partially yes, to give these people a chance to work, to give them a chance to contribute through taxes and involvement in the development of the country
- ✓ As long as I believe that the state should get involved in providing a job, I believe that it can help former detainees to obtain a qualification.
- ✓ It is a support to restore their confidence and to be able to find their motivation.
- ✓ A real qualification considerably increases the chances to change their way of life.
- ✓ A job is always an advantage and through this they can rebuild their lives.

The 7 individuals, respectively 8.2% of the respondents, who considered that the state should not engage in the provision of qualification / requalification courses argued as follows:

- ✓ Not required.
- ✓ There are more important issues in which the state should get involved.
- ✓ To qualify in the penitentiary.

In establishing the validity of the third hypothesis, the participants' answers were analyzed regarding the situation in which the gender of the persons who served sentences with deprivation of liberty is a facilitating factor in their social reintegration. When asked if women are more likely than men, 56.6% of respondents answered in the affirmative and 43.4% answered in the negative, the difference being small which **leads us to ignore gender as an individual characteristic** that helps in this reintegration process, **the hypothesis is not verified.**

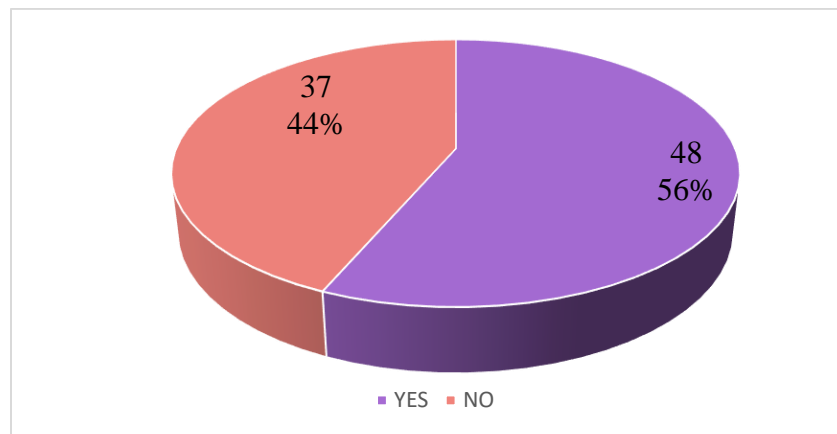


Figure 16 Pie chart – Gender as a facilitator in social reintegration

Some of the arguments for choosing the answer are the following:

- ✓ Regardless, woman or man, social reintegration requires work and trust.
- ✓ I think that any person who has served a sentence, encounters difficulties in social reintegration.
- ✓ Social reintegration depends on the character of the person, the deeds done and the desire to change the person in question, not the person's gender.
- ✓ I think the chances are equal.
- ✓ If she was imprisoned for something serious, I think a woman's chances are the same as a man's or maybe lower
- ✓ Men find it easier to work in any field, therefore they adapt faster to the new life.

- ✓ Women are easier to re-educate.
- ✓ From my point of view, the chances of social reintegration are equally for both women and men.
- ✓ I believe that most women return to the family and it is easier for them to socially reintegrate compared to men.
- ✓ Hi/She is always a recidivist, regardless of gender, so I don't think there is a successful reintegration in any of the cases.
- ✓ In my opinion, women and men have the same chances.
- ✓ I think there are equal chances where the desire for reintegration really exists.
- ✓ It does not matter the gender but the “material” from which the person is made and his / her desire for reintegration.

As Hypothesis 3 is not verified, the null hypothesis is accepted that the success of the social reintegration of former detainees depends on other factors, less the gender of the person.

Hypothesis 4: It is assumed that in the perception of the population age is an individual characteristic that influences the chances of social reintegration of former detainees.

In testing this hypothesis, were considered the answers to the question „Do you consider that the youngest are more likely to have a successful social reintegration compared to the older ones?” The results are presented in graphical form as follows:

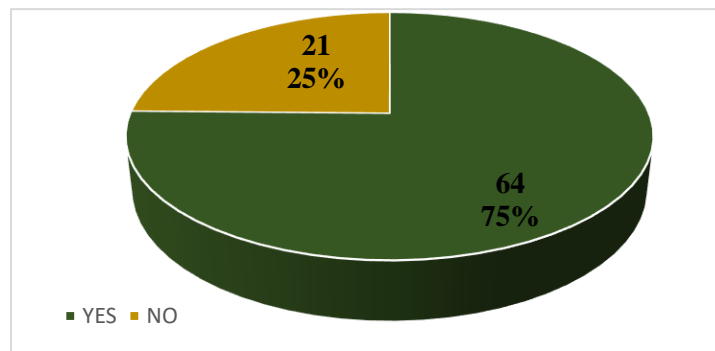


Figure 17 Pie chart - Perception about the age variable in the social reintegration of former prisoners

Out of the 85 people who filled in the questionnaire, 64 and 75% respectively claimed that younger people have a higher chance of successful social reintegration compared to older people, which shows that in the perception of the population, **age is a mediator factor** in the process of reintegration, thus **validating the fourth hypothesis**.

Among the arguments used in support of the answers are:

- ✓ Younger people have more physical strength and are more willing to learn to adapt. And mentally they are more willing to become better, because they still have life ahead of them.
- ✓ Young people have more options.
- ✓ They can be hired where there is “hard work” (construction, etc.), the reintegration being faster.
- ✓ I think they are more sociable.
- ✓ They will probably realize that they have a life ahead of them and can straighten it out.

- ✓ It is easier to change something at the beginning than when all your experience is of a certain kind.
- ✓ Young people have a longer period of life after release and thus have more time to rebuild their lives, to start over.
- ✓ An older person has a harder time changing his habits. Young people are more flexible and time is on their side.
- ✓ Yes, because being young they have the power to work and other thinking.
- ✓ Young people find work easier and gain hope faster.
- ✓ However, the Romanian labor market excludes people over the age of 45, making it difficult to reintegrate people past their youth.
- ✓ Young people can reorient themselves more easily professionally and can make friends more easily
- ✓ Unfortunately, employers prefer young workforce and without a job it is very difficult to lead a positive social life.
- ✓ The answer is yes because the person has the future ahead and therefore higher chances.
- ✓ Young people are more receptive and have more physical and mental resources to reintegrate into society.
- ✓ Young people can choose offers from several fields.

Those who had a different opinion supported it with arguments as follows:

- ✓ I do not consider that young people are more likely to reintegrate than the elderly because they have a lifetime ahead, and given that a young person has a lifetime ahead, society will keep the label and categorize a young person as a criminal for the rest of his life.
- ✓ I think the chances are equal, each age having its advantages and disadvantages.

The last hypothesis refers to the variable that expresses the period of deprivation of liberty as a moderating factor in the social reintegration of former detainees. In the perception of the population participating in the study, a high inclination towards accepting the detention period was identified as having a significant importance.

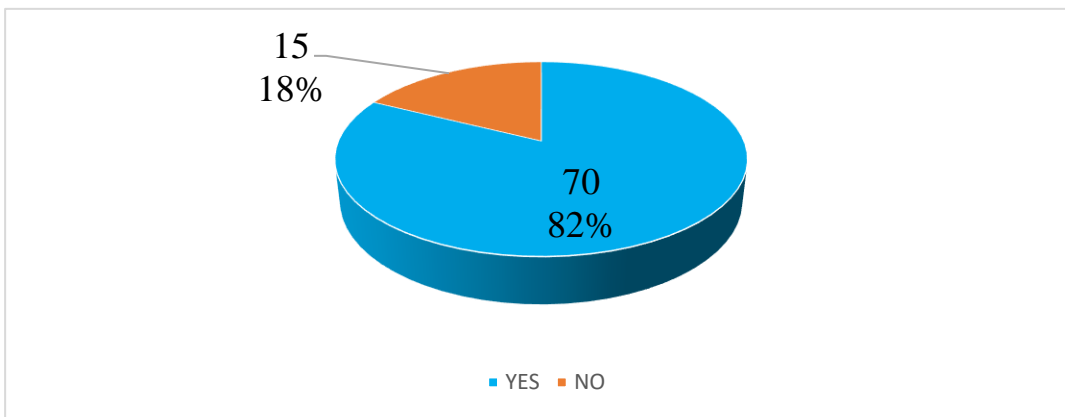


Figure 18 Pie chart - The perception of the population regarding the period of detention as a moderator in the social reintegration

From the chart it can be seen that 82% of respondents believe that those who have served lower sentences have a higher chance of social reintegration than those who have had sentences with execution for longer periods. The rest of the people, in a percentage of 18%, did not admit this

aspect of the period in which they were deprived of liberty as a moderating factor in the social reintegration process, or they were given equal opportunities, considering other reasons as determinative. In view of these results, **the last hypothesis** according to which the success of the social reintegration of former detainees relates directly to the period of deprivation of liberty in the opinion of the population considering it as a moderating factor **is validated**.

In order to cover as many significant aspects as possible, the last item was created with an open answer in order to capture other significant factors involved in the social reintegration of former detainees, perceived by the surveyed population. Many people rewrote factors already analyzed in the study such as psychological counseling, resumption of family relationships, employment, but other moderating factors were also identified, such as: a good financial situation, the desire of those who served sentences with deprivation of liberty to reintegrate. Occupational and social view and a tolerant social environment contribute to increasing the chances of a successful integration in the perception of others while belonging to an ethnic group, especially the Roma, various physical ailments and the presence of physical and mental disabilities are considered significant impediments in the reintegration process of former detainees.



Figure 19 Pros and cons factors in the social reintegration of former inmates

Corroborating all the results obtained from the analysis of the collected data, it is possible to sketch a social reintegration plan based on the perception of the general population regarding the measures necessary for the successful reintegration of former detainees in the community, namely:

- ✓ Ensuring by the state some psychological counseling programs in order to be aware of the current situation as well as personal development
- ✓ Following counseling, guidance to qualification / requalification courses offered by the state if the person in question cannot afford to attend them
- ✓ Family psychotherapy program in order to improve and resume family relationships
- ✓ Providing a temporary home
- ✓ Ensuring employment by the state for a temporary period until the person is able to reintegrate into employment based on their own resources
- ✓ Implementation of social support programs adapted to the individual needs of former detainees promoting tolerance and a second chance (a new chance)
- ✓ Providing medical services where appropriate

- ✓ Implementation of social / community programs at the local community level in order to know the proximity with the involvement of former detainees in volunteer actions.
- ✓ Periodic monitoring in order to update the progress made and to identify new needs.

Conclusions

Crime prevention programs must include effective measures to prevent recidivism and to stop the cycle of failed adaptation for repeat offenders. Delinquents released from prison face a variety of challenges that can hinder their ability to become law-abiding citizens, especially those with a long criminal history. A key feature of successful crime prevention strategies is the attention to the social reintegration of former detainees in the community through realistic and functional measures and programs, adapted to the personality of individuals, the economic situation, to meet the needs of these people on their way to a life without to break the law.

In the absence of material, psychological and social support at the time of their release and in the immediate future, those released from prison may have a very difficult period in trying to break the criminal cycle that leads to a new arrest. It is crucial that those involved in rehabilitating prisoners understand that what works in one country, or even in a prison, will not necessarily work in another location, and a program that is successful for an inmate may not have the same result for another.

In practice, rehabilitation programs should be designed in all locations according to the local context, taking into account the profile of the prison population, the resources available and the needs of the employment market. Although the number of recidivist offenders has been declining in recent years, occupational reintegration is a real and major problem in today's society. There are many vulnerable categories for which the state should provide support but people who have been deprived of their liberty following a conviction can be considered a priority, delayed intervention in their support can have the effect of their recidivism which costs the state and society much more than rehabilitation from an occupational, psychological and social point of view.

The perception of the population reflects its expectations regarding the involvement of the state in providing services that should rebalance mentally and emotionally the former detainees, most of them suffering various mental and emotional imbalances caused by deprivation of liberty and reduced / lack of contact with family, friends, society. . Psychological counseling along with therapy and personal development programs has been classified as a top priority for the successful social reintegration of a person who has served a sentence of deprivation of liberty. As these services are expensive and difficult to access, especially for those who do not have income, they need to be provided by the state. However, a successful social reintegration depends directly on what the person knows and can do, so on an occupational reintegration, so qualification / retraining courses are important in gaining skills and, and why not, creating skills. positive attitudes towards work and society.

In happy cases, former detainees have a family and a stable home to return to, but often family relationships are dysfunctional, perhaps even the cause of illegalities, and then family therapy is needed as well as providing temporary housing until they could support themselves financially.

Higher chances are given to young people in social reintegration, as they have a bigger workforce and they are more open to change as well as due to employers who avoid hiring people over a certain age with easier access to an initial social environment. The population perceives

equal opportunities for both women and men in this process, as gender is not a moderating factor, instead, people who have served shorter-term sentences are given higher chances compared to those who have been deprived of their liberty for a longer period, for them the negative effects being cumulative.

A reintegrated person becomes active and productive in society instead of being a consumer of resources so it is logical and necessary to invest in his/her reintegration. The investigated population was open in offering a real chance for integration, instead it is necessary to involve the state not only through programs that exist on paper but with concrete, operational actions.

Other aspects have been identified that facilitate social reintegration such as a good financial situation of the person, in this case being able to benefit on their own from various basic services in their rehabilitation as well as personal factors: desire and motivation to reintegrate into the market labor force as well as in the social environment which if it is a tolerant one is also a facilitating factor in this process.

Discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, physical and mental illness and disability hinders the reintegration process of former detainees and, depending on the severity of the situation, may be a failure leading to recidivism.

The study opens the door to additional investigations that will surprise as clearly, comprehensively and practically viable solutions in the social reintegration of former detainees.

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