

HAMLET – REZINA
A THERAPY THROUGH ARTS PROJECT CARRIED OUT
BY THE PENITENTIARY Nr. 17 REZINA

PREZENTED BY THE
ART CENTRE COLISEUM

1. Background information about the applying organization

- Mission of the organisation

COLISEUM Centre of Arts has set the following goals and objectives:

- Applying and encouraging new forms of creative work ;
- Theatre, culture and social dialogue based education;
- Developing new artistic strategies in society;
- Providing support to young creative free-lancers;
- Diversifying sponsorship types and sources.

- Date of founding and list of founders

COLISEUM is an NGO founded in 1997 by a group of artists and cultural managers from different fields of arts of Moldova.

- Copies of documents confirming the legal status of the organization

NGO – non-profit, apolitical organisation

Address: str. Academiei, 6/2, ap. 22, Chişinău, Moldova

2. Previous experience

- The main projects and activities, and results achieved

Art Centre COLISEUM was launched as a multidisciplinary and multicultural platform:

- A first ever Theatrical Almanac launched in Moldova – *Coliseum Theatre*;
- International workshop on Theatrical Pedagogy (Moldova, France Croatia);
- Documentary Theatre Project on human traffic, *The 7th Kafana*;
- A French-Moldovan theatre project – the performance *The woman as a battle field* by Matei Vişniec,
- Documentary performance on domestic violence, *M House* by Luminița Țâcu;
- Participating in the international campaign fighting domestic violence,
- Independent Theatre Festival FINT devoted to feminist theatre;

Art Centre COLISEUM is a pioneer in documentary theatre both in Moldova and in Eastern Europe.

The 7th Kafana – 2001

The play *The 7th Kafana* directed by Mihai Fusu is focused on the issue of human traffic. The text of the play was built based on a number of interviews with victims of human traffic. The production of the play was financed by the Swiss Cooperation Office. The play was performed within various local and international tournaments.

M House - 2010

The play *M House* treats the issue of domestic violence and was carried out by the play Director, Luminița Țâcu. The play is based on the testimonies of the female victims of domestic violence. The play was financed by the OSCE Mission to Moldova. The performance had tournaments and participations at different festivals in various European countries.

Shakespeare for Ana - 2015

Shakespeare for Ana, directed by Luminița Țâcu is a documentary play that approaches life in the penitentiary system in Moldova in all its aspects. At the basis of the play are the interviews carried out in 3

different prisons. The play was financed by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, in partnership with the Minister of Justice and the Department of Penitentiary Institutions.

Partners and donors

- Swiss Office for Development and Cooperation
- International Organisation for Migration
- OSCE Mission to Moldova
- US Embassy in Moldova
- Ministry of Justice of Moldova
- National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (CNPAC)
- Chişinău City Hall
- The Norwegian Mission of Rule of Law Advisers to Moldova (NORLAM)

3. Context and problem statement

- Description of the context and problem(s), including of the root causes that lay behind these problem(s)

Penitentiary system of the Republic of Moldova has been established in Soviet times and still preserves military features, and being a convict carries the stigma of marginalisation and exclusion from society. Chances for rehabilitation and reintegration into society in case of life sentenced convicts is minimum, and possibilities provided by the Department of Penitentiary Institutions (DIP) are low. The Ministry of Justice and DIP, in cooperation with international organisations and projects make the effort to change the situation and bring the system in line with international law and standards. The Project Hamlet-Rezina will contribute to upgrading the system, to its modernisation and humanisation.

- Description of target groups and beneficiaries, including the estimated number of people who will directly or indirectly benefit from the project:

- Life-term prisoners of Penitentiary no. 17 of Rezina (district of Moldova)
- Inmates under provisional arrest
- Employees and staff from:
 - Penitentiary no. 17
 - DIP
 - Ministry of Justice
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Lawyers
- Members of Parliament
- Politicians
- International organisation representatives
- Human rights protection organisations' representatives
- Convicts of the entire penitentiary system
- Relatives of life-term prisoners
- Media representatives

Due to media coverage, discussions, and families of those involved the number of indirect beneficiaries is up to 200,000 people.

4. Project goal and objectives

- Overall purpose of the project (proposed solution to the above mentioned problem)

The Centre of Arts Coliseum aims to stage, with life-term convicts of Penitentiary no. 17 of Rezina assisted by theatre professionals of Moldova, the play *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare and to present it to the public.

Drama therapy is a great source of re-education and rehabilitation for detainees.

- Objectives/expected results
 - **Boosting reintegration chances of detainees.**

In spite of their sentence and status, each detainee is entitled to enjoy the right to rehabilitation and reintegration chances.

- **The right and access to an individual plan of treatment.**

Notwithstanding the fact that life-term detainees may be considered a group with a special status, each one of them shall enjoy the right to individual treatment. Granting individual treatment increases chances of reintegration.

- **A wider range of communication possibilities, as well as positive self-assertion and expression.**

Due to this Project, DIP is diversifying the range of possibilities granted to the inmates.

- **Raising public awareness on what is happening in penitentiaries.**

In spite of media covering more often penitentiary related issues, this information remains insufficient and unilateral.

- **Opening the penitentiary system for cooperation with civil society.**

Granting to the inmates the possibilities to communicate and cooperate with personalities from arts, the Project launches a unique and a necessary bridge of cooperation between the inmates and civil society.

3. Project activities

- Outline of activities that will be undertaken in the frame of the project

- **Establishing contacts with DIP**
- **Working with inmates**
- **Production**
- **Media and promotional campaign preparation**
- **Performing the play**
- **Debates**

- *Direct outputs ('products') of activities*

- **Establishing contacts with DIP**

There will be established contacts with DIP administration – including those directly involved in the Project from the penitentiaries, with the inmates taking part in the Project.

- **Working with inmates**

A team of specialists will provide the inmates involved in the Project with knowledge, vision and creative working methods.

➤ **Scenography production**

At this stage, are going to be involved penitentiaries equipped with workshops and production floors. The works will be carried out by the inmates under the guidance of Project's Scenographer.

➤ **Media and promotional campaign preparation**

Media campaign is going to be prepared by the PR team. Two weeks prior to the play, a photographic exhibition dedicated to the Project will be carried out in Chişinău.

➤ **Performing the play**

The play will be performed within the premises of Penitentiary no. 17 of Rezina, in a duly designed ambience with all the needed elements. The audience will have a special area.

➤ **Debates**

Following the play, a public debate will take place with representatives of the target groups, interested institutions and inmates involved in the Project.

• *How activities and outputs will contribute to achieving the goal of the project?*

➤ **Establishing contacts with DIP**

Within the meetings, all those involved in the Project will get to know each other and will establish relations of cooperation and trust.

➤ **Working with inmates**

Given literature, artistic and cultural examples the inmates will be provided with positive values and models, aimed at stimulating their strive for reintegration, knowledge and communication.

➤ **Scenography production**

DIP's production capacities will be shown in the Brochure which will cover the Project.

➤ **Media and promotional campaign preparation**

The PR team will maintain an ongoing contact with media, in order to ensure Project's transparency and visibility, as well as that of its partners. The photographic exhibition dedicated to the Project aims at raising public awareness of the people from Chişinău.

➤ **Performing the play**

The play represents the core product enabling the inmates to have a voice in front of the audience. Representatives of target groups will be invited for the play. The audience from Chişinău will be provided with means of transport.

➤ **Debates**

The debates will be focused on such important issues as: art therapy, transparency of penitentiary environment, convicts' rights, rehabilitation possibilities for the inmates, and creating working methods with detainees.

Timeframe

Plan of activities, including dates of completion

Period	Activities	Specialists - Coliseum	Participants and partners	Location
1 – 2 April	First contacts	Manager, director, executive director	Administration PU - 17, inmates	DIP, PU-17, Rezina
4 – 5 April	Establishing contacts	Coliseum Team	Administration PU - 17, inmates	PU-17, Rezina
6 April	Establishing contacts	Coliseum Team	Administration PU - 7, inmates	PU – 7, Rusca
7 April	Establishing contacts	Coliseum Team	PU Administration - 6, inmates	PU - 6, Soroca
8 April	Establishing contacts	Coliseum Team	PU Administration - 4, inmates	Penitenciarul nr. 4 – Cricova
11 – 30 April	Documentation rehearsals	Coliseum Team	Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
2 – 28 May	Reading rehearsals	Manager, director	Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
30 – 31 May	Reading rehearsals	Manager, director, professional actors		TNME, Chişinău
1– 4 June	Evaluation rehearsals	Coliseum Team	Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
6 – 18 June	Concept elaboration	Coliseum Team		TNME, Chişinău
6 – 28 June	Stage movement rehearsals	Coliseum Team	Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
29 June – 2 July	Evaluation rehearsals	Coliseum Team	Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
15 – 28 June	Elaborating the scenography	Scenografer, director, manager		TNME, Chişinău
2 – 30 July	Scenography production	Scenografer, executive director, fotografer, literary secretary,	DIP Administration, PU, Inmates	PU - 7, PU - 6, PU - 4, PU - 17
2 – 30 July	Preparing promotional campaign	Manager, executive director, literary secretary, PR, fotograf, designer		COLISEUM, Chişinău
1 – 15 August	Motion rehearsals with scenography	Director, body expression, scenografer, executive director, fotografer.	Employees, Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
15 – 20 august	Designing the place for the show	Coliseum Team	Employees, Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
15 – 30 August	Media Campaign	Manager, executive director, PR, literary secretary		Media, Chişinău
22 – 27 August	Evaluation rehearsals	Coliseum Team	DIP Administration, PU, Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
29 – 30 August	Technical rehearsals	Coliseum Team	DIP Administration, PU, Inmates	PU-17, Rezina
31 August	Performing the play			PU-17, Rezina

5. Partners

- Other organisations (government, civil society) addressing the problem

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova
Department of Penitentiary Institutions
The Institute for Penal Reforms
Amnesty International

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova
National Theatre Mihai Eminescu (NTME)

- How does your project complement their activities?

Judicial and Detention System Reform are part of the goals of the Ministry of Justice and of the Government of the Republic of Moldova within the broader commitment of European integration. The project Hamlet-Rezina is a method of implementing human rights values through arts, culture and social dialog.

Department of Penitentiary Institutions is the most interested institution and is one of the main beneficiaries. The project we come up with is directly adding to the efforts of this institution for an upgrade.

The Institute for Penal Reform is an NGO aimed at contributing to the respect of human rights in Moldova through the Penal Justice Reform and through the support of community initiatives. And project Hamlet-Rezina and IRP share a great number of communalities and goals in the field of inmate's rights.

Amnesty International deals with the following aspects of penitentiary environment: in human and degrading treatment, torture, and rights deprivation etc. Our project enhances transparency and society's level of awareness about life in penitentiary.

Hamlet-Rezina represents the acting arts, the art that gets involved and represents an important aspect of the agenda of the Ministry of Culture. Direct cooperation between professional artists and people deprived of freedom is an important step forward of theatre and cultural movement in Moldova.

The team of actors attending the projects as experts proves great experience in penitentiary environment and is a part of NTME. NTME is interested in projects on original topic with civic message in innovative and esthetical form, as well as topics triggering an involvement in interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial events. Due to this partnership NTME is portraying a positive image in society.

- Other donors supporting your project

NORLAM – The Norwegian Mission of Rule of Law Advisers to Moldova.

The EU Project Support to the Enforcement, Probation and Rehabilitation Systems in Moldova

Budget

Indicate the total budget in the proposal; attach the detailed budget in Moldovan Lei.

Total Budget of the project is 1 284 549 MDL

7. Monitoring and evaluation; dissemination of results

- How will you measure the success of your activities, quality of results /'products', and effects on beneficiaries?

The project will apply a number of assessment methods in order to provide an as much wide as possible an objective assessment.

Midterm assessments will help us monitor the inmates' evolution, relations and the impact of arts therapy on them.

Our public relations team will keep a permanent interactive contact with the media, which will allow us to get a feedback from the society.

An important assessment criterion will be the public presentation of the play to the target audience.

Following the premiere there will be carried out a debate having as participants the target audience, project organisers, partners, experts and DIP specialists, civil society and other decision makers.

The play will be filmed in full and will serve as an assessment material.

Another assessment tool will be the brochure edited at the end of the project, covering the implementation of the project in all its components.

A photos exhibition accompanying the project will serve as a visual assessment of the project.

- How will you know whether the above-mentioned situation (problem statement) has seen a positive change?

Having the project accepted by the Ministry of Justice and DIP points to a positive change. The following are a set of assessment indicators are: the play, roundtable, media coverage, photographic exhibition and Video capture. These indicators will also represent essential points of reference of awareness and visibility concerning positive changes.

- How will you disseminate your project results and successes?

Media coverage, brochure, video capture, a debate carried out in the presence of target audience.

The experience of the project will be analysed and applied by DIP in order to be implemented in other penitentiary institutions.

8. Risks and sustainability

- What are the risks related to the implementation of your project, and if any, how are you going to mitigate them?

Inmates: in order for the risk assessment and feasibility of the project to be understood the team of the centre of arts Coliseum has undertaken a visit at the Penitentiary Nr. 17 at Rezina, aiming to meet potential participants of the project and to inform and to see their availability and motivation. There have been identified about 10 people willing to participate in the project. All of them are life-term inmates, but having a stable psychological state, being sociable and interested to communicate with the world of arts and culture.

The artists: communication with the inmates for more days can cause tension and psychological discomfort. This is why within the project Hamlet-Rezina all the participants have been selected taking into consideration their experience with the inmates.

Other related risks concern the weather forecasted. Considering the show is to be played outdoors there is needed good weather. In case of unfavourable weather the play will be delayed for several days.

- What will happen with the results/'products' you have achieved after the end of your project?

The play presentation will result in practical and theoretical experience gained in the field of art therapy, working with the inmates and cooperation of the professional artists with the inmates.

The show will represent an efficient work tool and will be available to be presented in other prisons. Video capture will serve as an instrument where the show will not be possible to present.