



Ministarstvo pravosuđa, uprave i  
digitalne transformacije

Ministry of Justice, Public Administration  
and Digital Transformation



Sektor za  
probaciju

# State of play of the Mental Health approach in the Probation Service of Croatia

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Probation Service Croatia  
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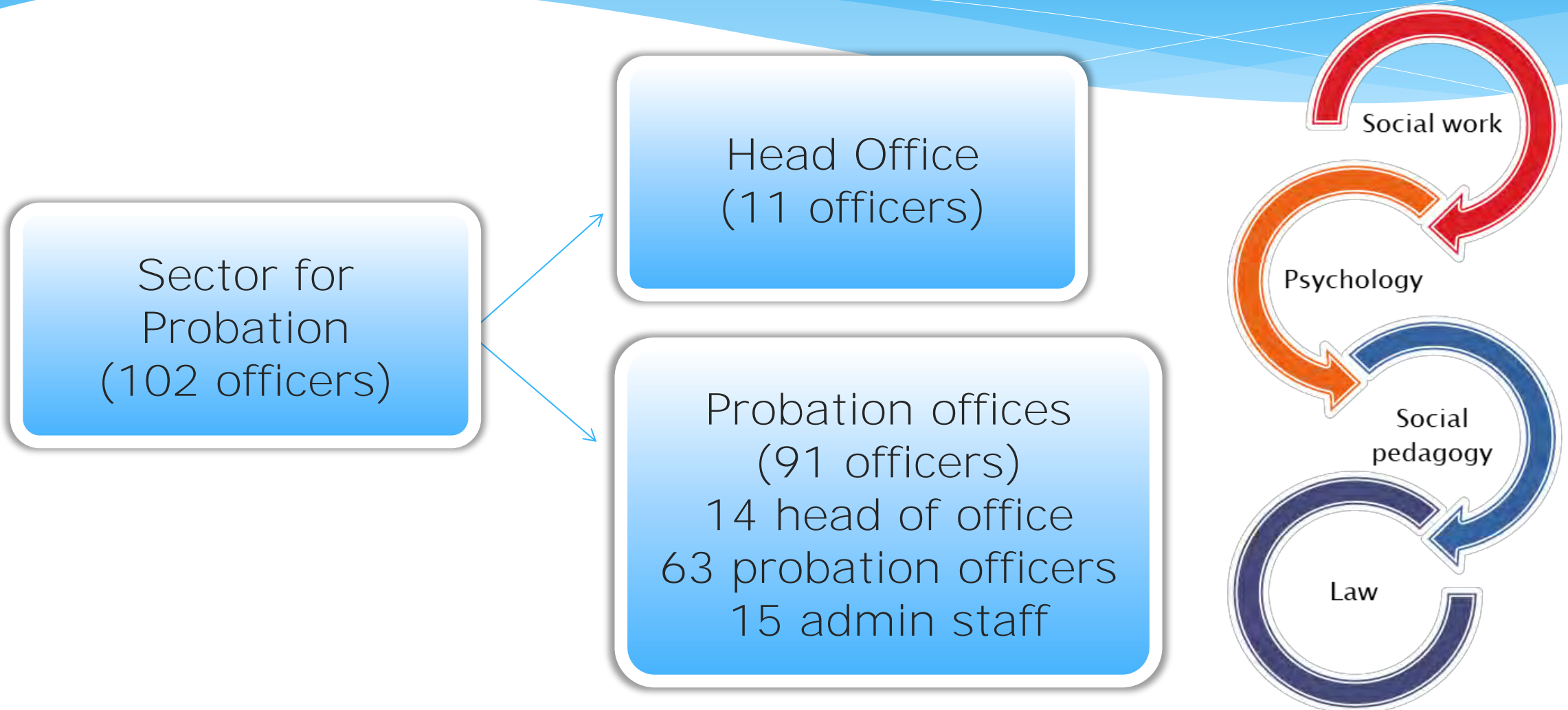
# Development of probation service in Croatia

Past	Present	Future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Service exists from the end of 2009</li><li>▪ Until 2011, 8 people worked in Directorate for probation</li><li>▪ 2011 – 5 local probation offices established</li><li>▪ 2019. CEP Reward in Category „<b>Development</b> of National Probation Services”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Probation Sector consists of a Head office and 14 local offices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ New office &amp; new guidelines for development 2024-2028</li></ul>

# Internal organisation of Probation Service



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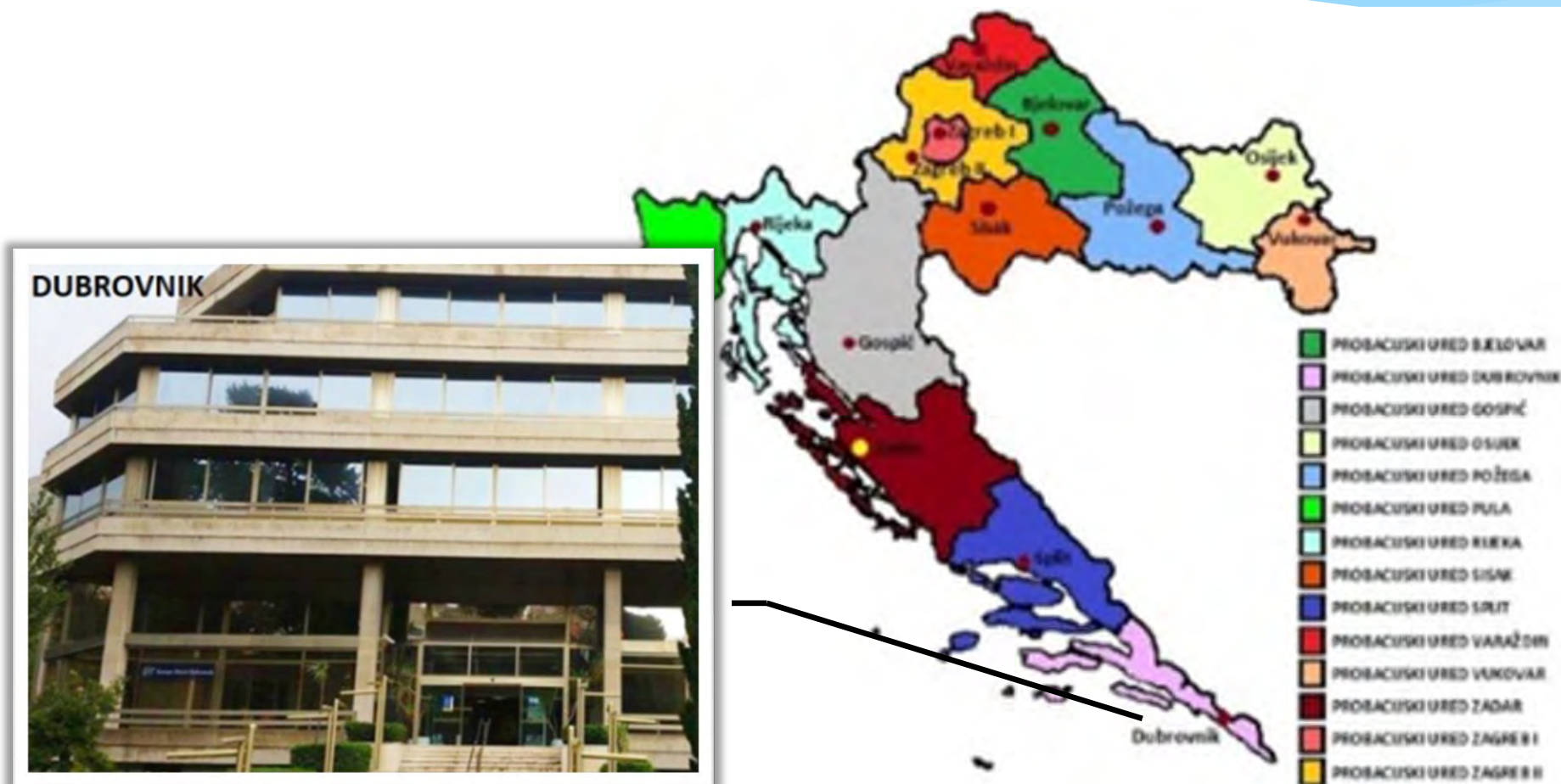


# Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices

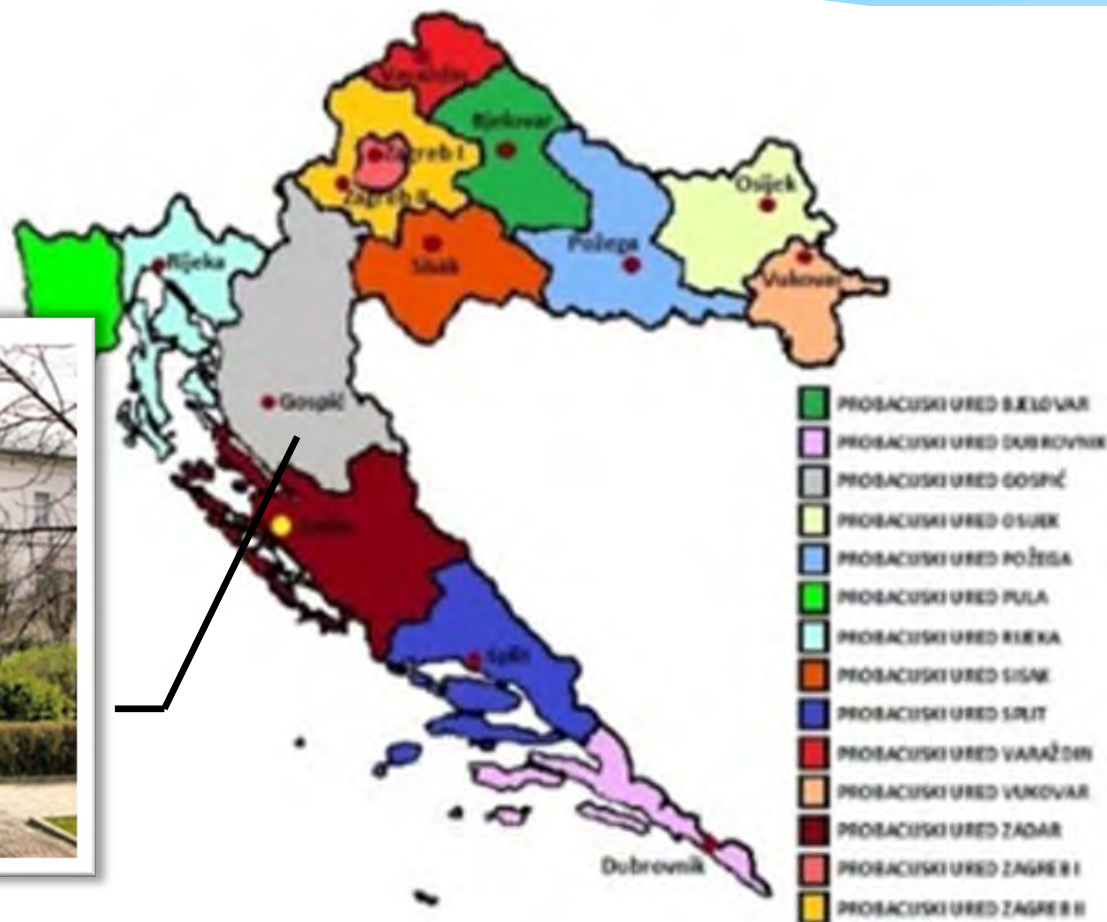




# Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



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- PROBACIJSKI URED SPOKOJNICE
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZADAR
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZAGREB I
- PROBACIJSKI URED ZAGREB II



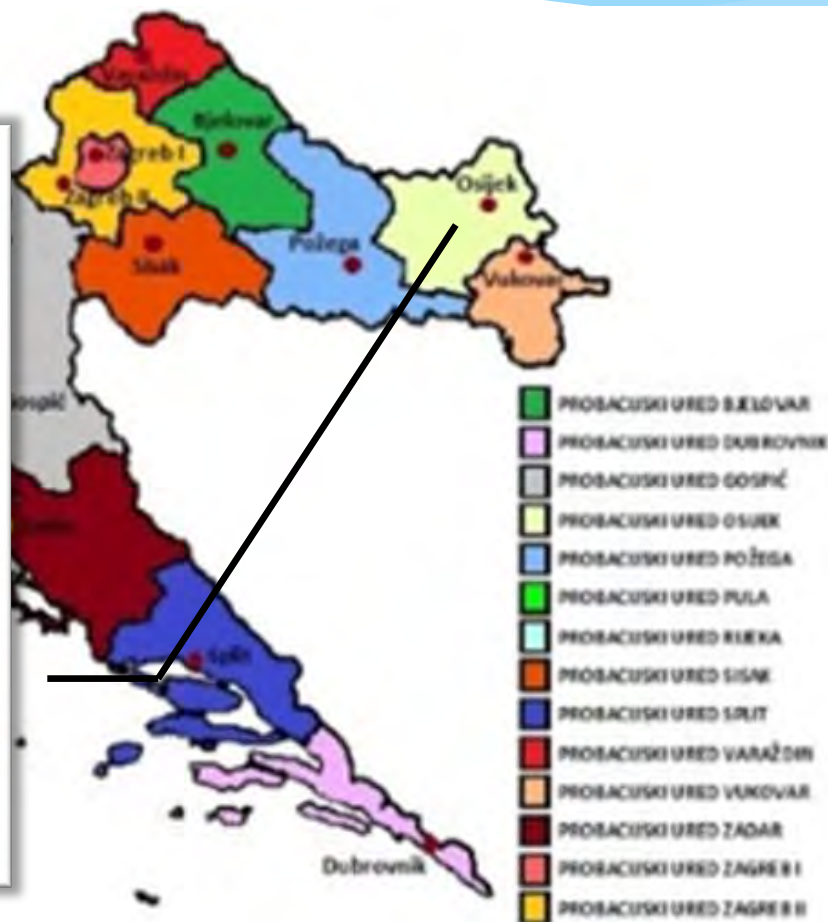
# Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



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# Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices



# Jurisdiction of the Probation Offices





# Probation tasks in different stages of Criminal Process

## PRE-TRIAL

Pre-trial reports (public prosecutor)  
Supervision of obligations (public prosecutor)

## CRIMINAL TRIAL

Pre-sentence reports to the Court for decision-making

## EXECUTION OF CRIMINAL SANCTIONS (ENFORCEMENT PHASE)

Community work  
Suspended sentence with protective supervision, special obligations or security measures

## EXECUTION OF THE PRISON SENTENCE

Reports for courts, prisons or penitentiaries  
Protective supervision during conditional release/upon the end of the prison sentence  
Supervision of prisoners while using temporary release

# Mental Health Care in Probation

## Mandatory Psychiatric Treatment ( **čl. 69 KZ** )

Security  
Measure

Uttered with  
suspended /partial  
suspended  
sentence,  
community work or  
conditional release

Expert  
opinion  
needed

# Mental Health Care in Probation

Treatment or continuation of treatment that is necessary for the elimination of health disorders that can stimulate the commission of a new criminal offense  
( **čl. 62.st.2.t.4. KZ** )

Special  
obligation

Uttered with  
suspended /partial  
suspended  
sentence,  
community work or  
conditional release

Voluntary  
consent

# Mental Health Care in Probation

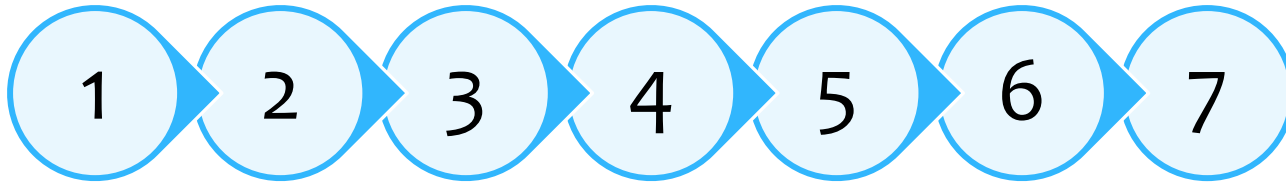
Who else:

Offenders  
without  
mandatory  
treatment

Assessment of  
the probation  
officer

Motivation and a  
relationship  
based on trust  
with the offender  
is crucial

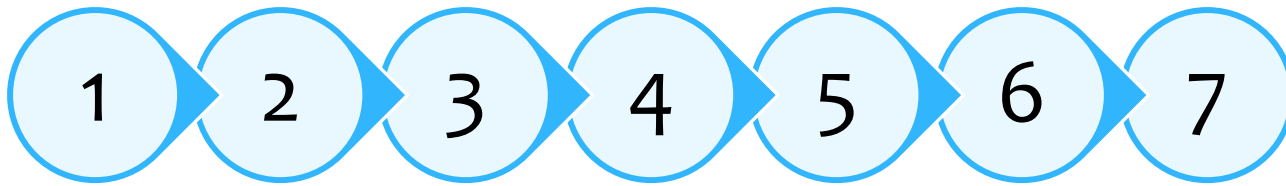
# Procedure



Written invitation

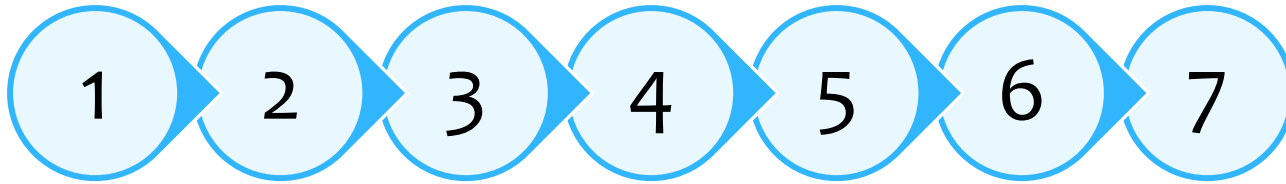


# Procedure



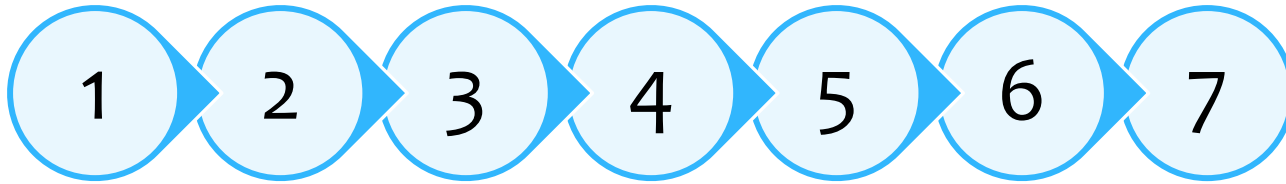
First interview with the offender  
(personal data, verdict, rights and  
obligations, cooperation with the  
probation officer)

# Procedure



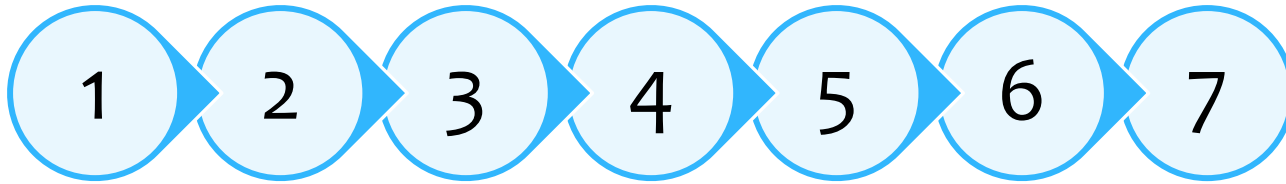
Criminal risks and treatment  
needs assessment

# Procedure



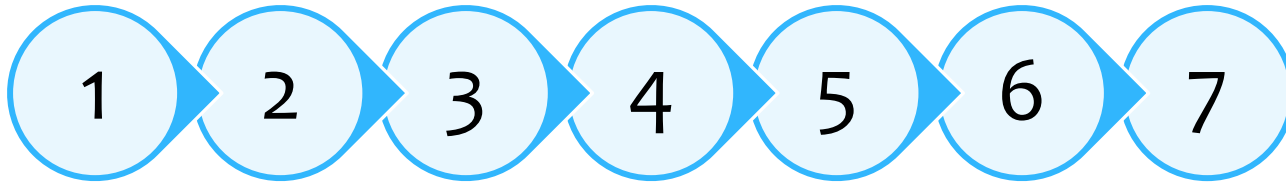
Individual program- Goals  
and Treatment Facility

# Procedure



Regular meetings with the psychiatrist

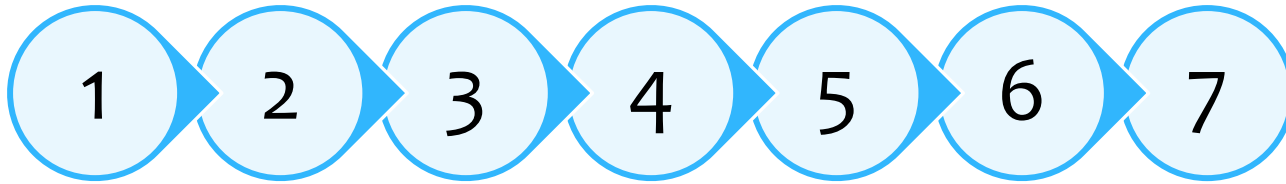
# Procedure



Regular meetings with the  
probation officer



# Procedure



Final / Negative report for  
the Court

# Treatment Facilities Overview

Psychiatric  
institutions



Institute for  
Public Health  
Services for Mental  
Health and  
Addiction  
Prevention



NGO



Probation  
office  
Special program  
for sexual  
offenders „Mirror“



# Treatment Facilities in Zagreb



**Clinic for Psychiatry  
Vrapče**



**Psychiatric Hospital "St. John"**



**Institute for Public Health**

# Availability of Services in other parts of Croatia



## Difficulties

- unavailability of a psychiatrist
- no network of treatment facilities
- pharmacotherapy only
- superficial treatment



## Outcomes

- Offenders with severe mental problem see a specialist maybe every 3-4 months
- Offenders have high financial costs
- Motivation for treatment is low

# Special program for sexual offenders „Mirror“



- sexual offenders also receive SM of SO
- There is only one psychiatrist specialized in working with sex offenders in Croatia
- 2017- a few Probation Officers finished an education within the Twinnig project ( Mirror )
- Idea- every Probation Office has an educated expert
- Based on basic models of working with the offenders (RNR model, Good Living Model ) and specific models for sexual violence

# Special program for sexual offenders „Mirror“

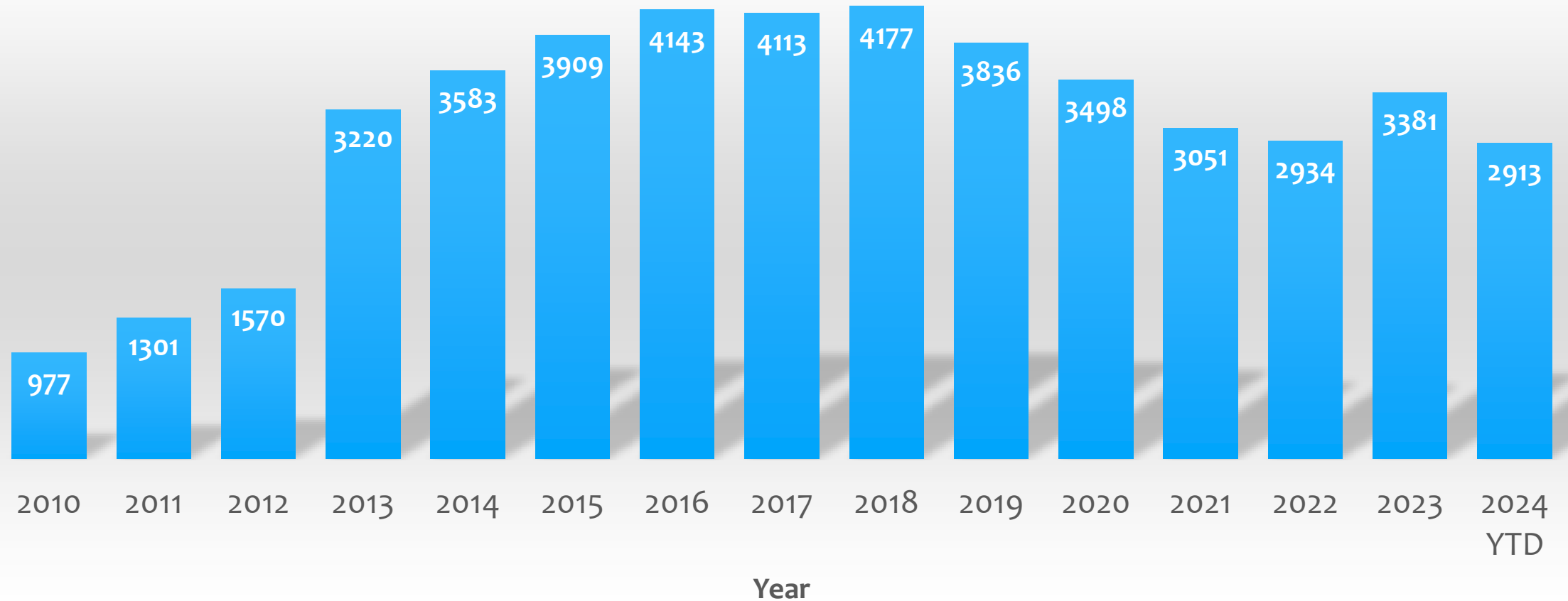
## Program Content



- Intended for group work
- Interactive
- Topics: sensing and regulation of emotions, social competences, self image, communication skills, stress management, empathy, victim awareness, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasies
- Consists of 3 phases:
  - assessment and motivation ( 3-4 meetings )
  - intervention ( 24 meetings )
  - Follow up ( 1-2 meetings )

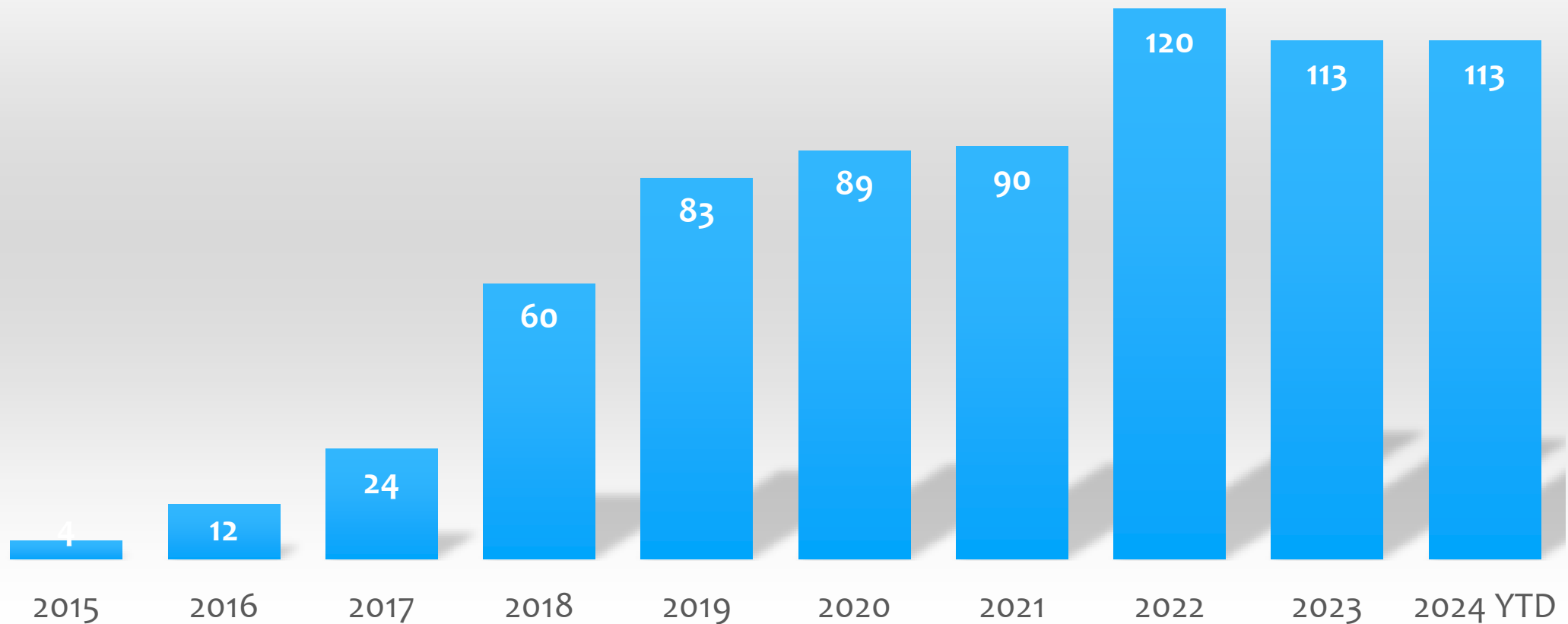
# Probation Statistics

Total Number of Cases



# Probation Statistics

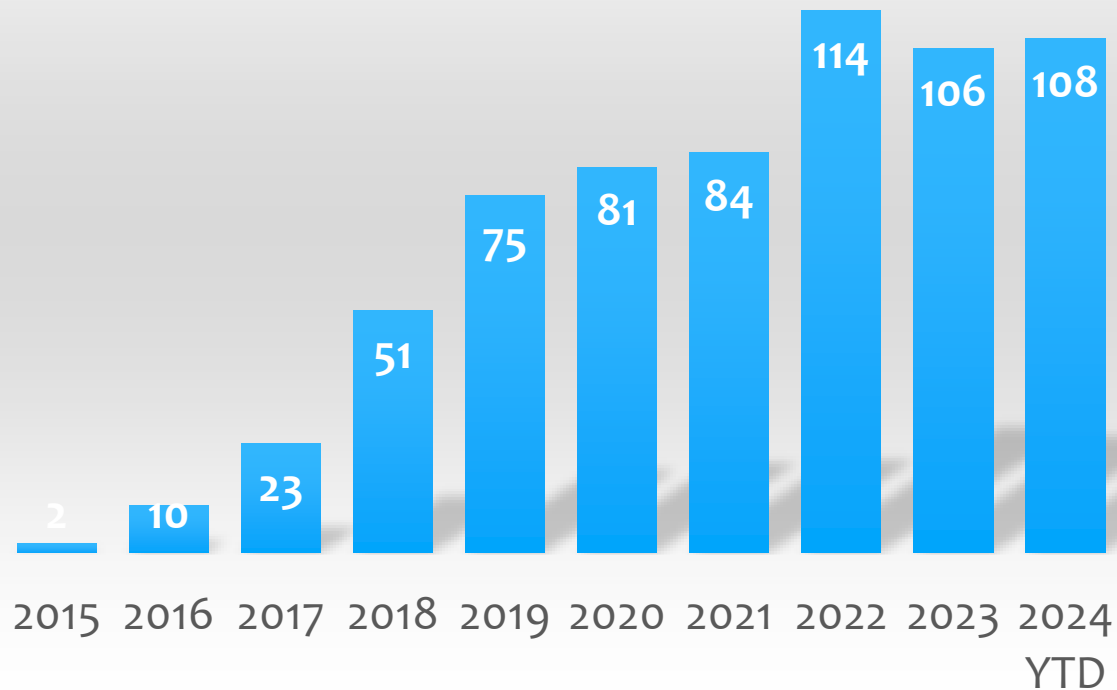
Number of Cases - Psychiatric Treatment



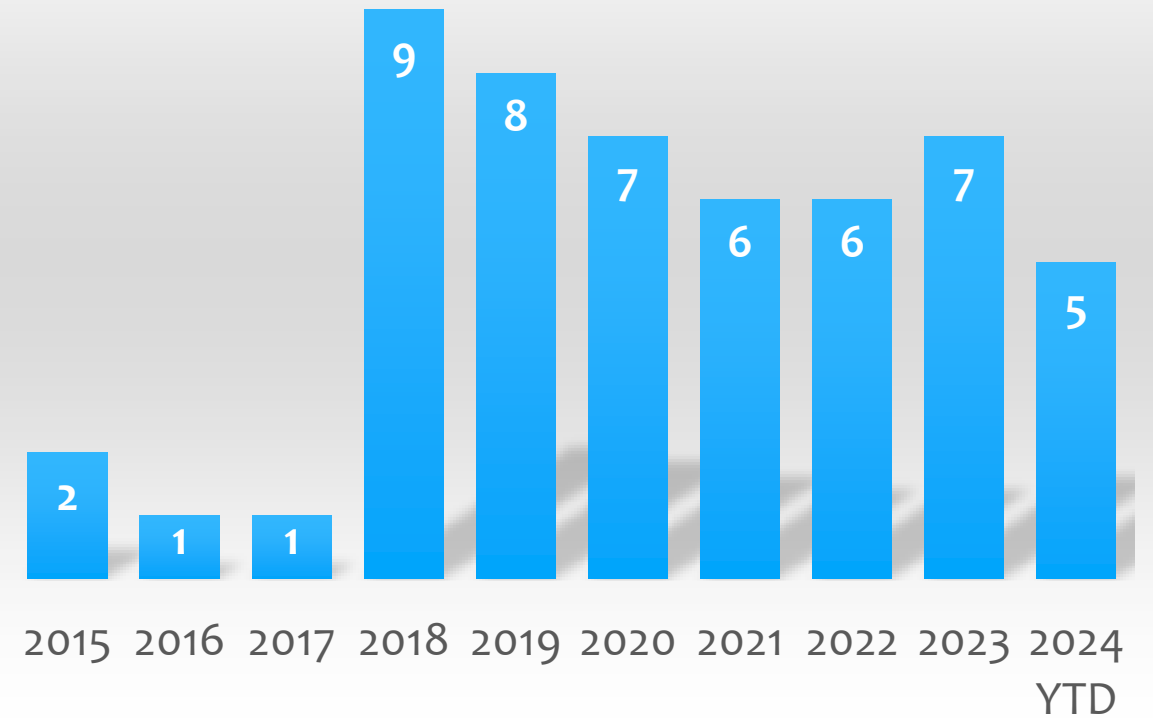


# Probation Statistics

Number of Cases - Suspended/Partial  
Suspended Sentence with  
Psychiatric Treatment

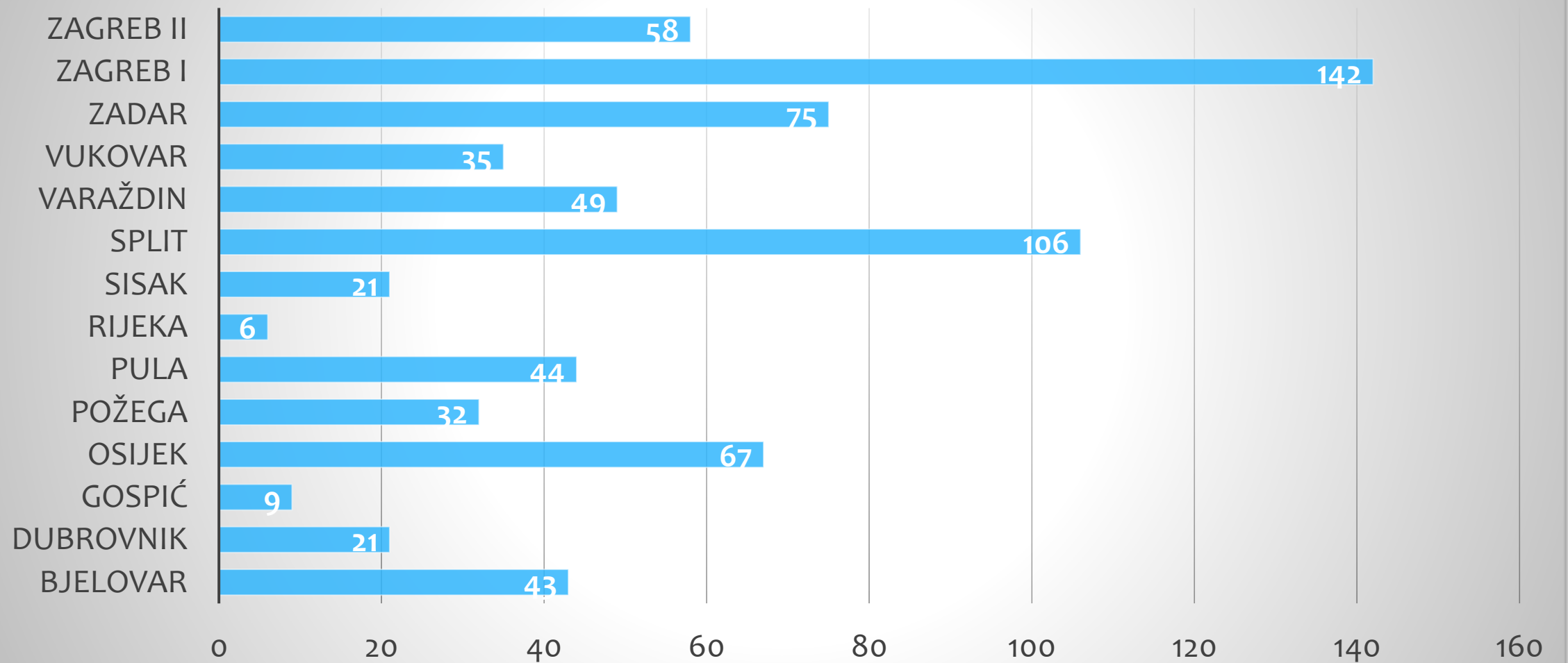


Number of Cases - Community work  
with psychiatric Treatment



# Probation Statistics

Total Number of SM/SO Cases per Probation Office



# Challenges in working with offenders with mental health problems



- Taking therapy irregularly – unavailable for any treatments or interventions
- Distrust of the offenders due to their mental illness
- The offender represents a risk for himself and his family members
- The imposed sanctions are not in accordance with their capabilities and limitations
- The treatment system is based on voluntariness-no insight into their behaviour
- Family members represent a protective and a risk factor
- Insufficient education of probation officers for working with offenders with mental problems
- Insufficient communication between a probation officer and a specialist
- No response from the court when needed

# Example of good practice

„Specifics in working with people with mental and bihevioral disorders”



- Training intended for probation officers
- Goal – educate probation officers of the right way of working, behaving and communicating with the offenders who have mental health problems
- Lecture, workshops ( group work, role playing discussion and evaluation

# „Specifics in working with people with mental and bihevioral disorders“

## Moduls:

### ➤ Modul 1 – Introduction

Definition of Abnormal od Pathological behaviour, Psychopathological assessment, Understanding the patients perspective, The importance of our personality in communication

### ➤ Modul 2 – Addictions

Addictive disorders and treatment approaches

### ➤ Modul 3 – Personality disorders

Types of personality disorders, clinical pictures and treatment approaches

# „Specifics in working with people with mental and behavioral disorders“

## ➤ Modul 4- Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders

Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

## ➤ Modul 5- Affective disorders

Types of disorders, Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

## ➤ Modul 6- Aggression, Suicidality

Clinical pictures and treatment approaches

# „Specifics in working with people with mental and bihevioral disorders“

- organized due to enthusiasm and effort of a few colleagues and psychiatrists from Clinic for Psychiatry **Vrapče, Zagreb**
- without compensation for lectures
- Idea - acquire and expand knowledge in psychiatry in order to individualize our approach to offenders
- Goal – more efficient treatment, respecting the possibilities and limitations of people with mental disorders

The training was organized only for offices around Zagreb area and not all probation officers had the oportunity to pariticipate

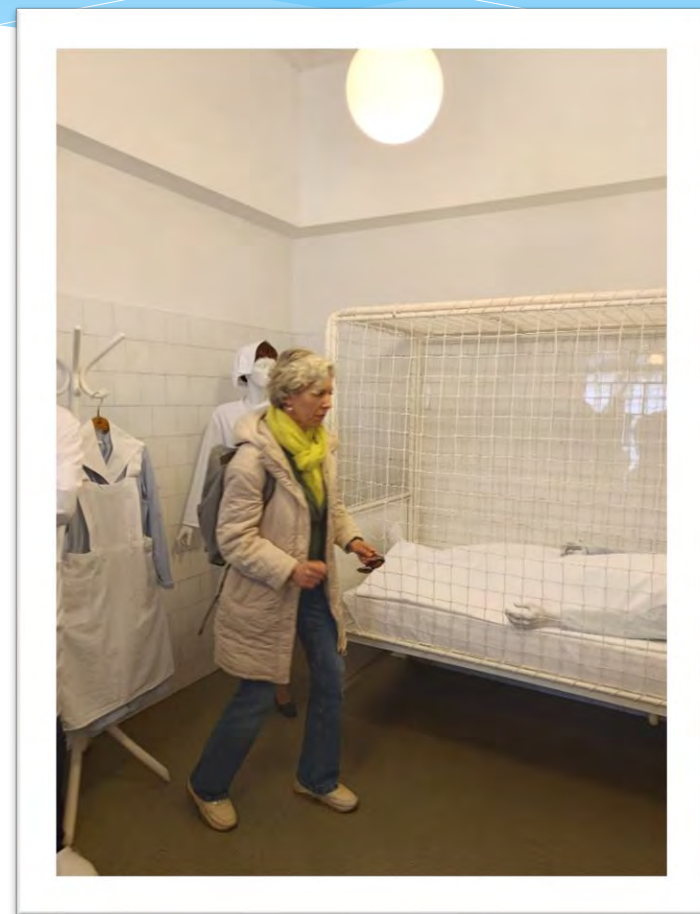


# Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče

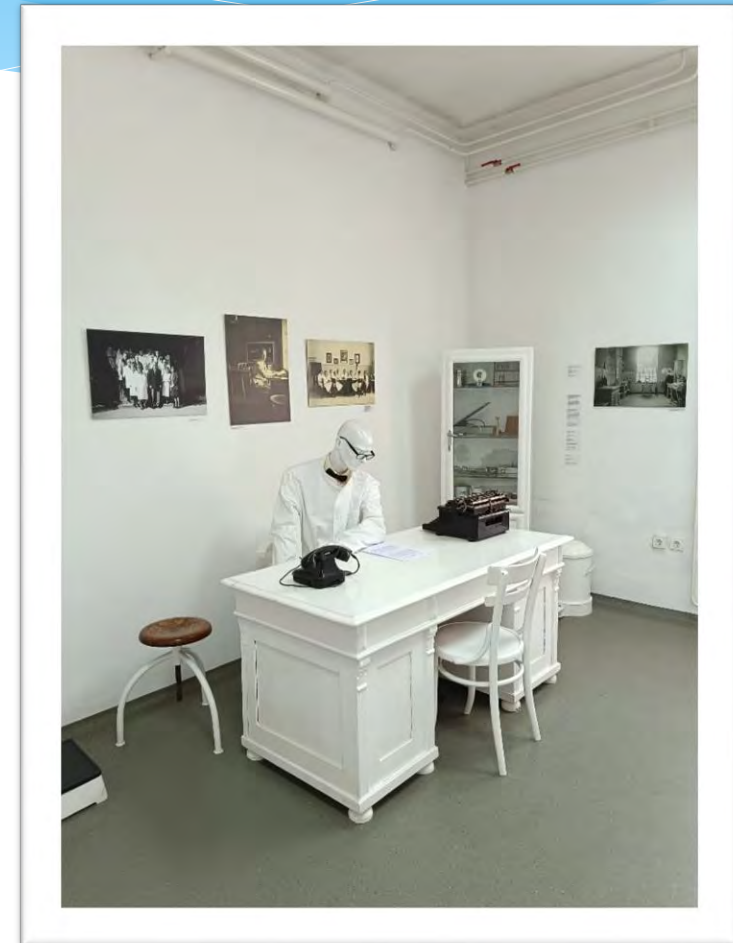




# Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



# Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče





# Visit to the Museum of Psychiatry in Clinic for Psychiatry Vrapče



# Conclusion:

- Significant increase in the number of mentally ill offenders in Croatian Probation Service during the years
- Insufficient education of probation officers for working with offenders with mental problems in Croatian Probation Service
- no network of treatment facilities in some parts of Croatia
- sanctions are not in accordance with the capabilities and limitations of the offender

**Q/A**  
**???**

*Thank  
you*

