

RESOCIALISATION

**WESTERN BALKANS
2014-2024**

Since 2014, Help has implemented the Resocialisation Programme in cooperation with the ministries of justice and 37 prison administrations across Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Albania.

The programme strengthens penal and post-penal systems by improving prison conditions, providing education and vocational opportunities, and supporting social and economic reintegration after release.



Workshop for women prisoners

■ Resocialisation is both a legal and social process that begins during the sentence and continues beyond it.

Help's long-term commitment has been to create favourable conditions for rehabilitation through combination of infrastructure, training, psychosocial support, and post-penal reintegration assistance.

Alignment with SDGs: **SDG 1** -No Poverty, **SDG 8** -Decent Work and Economic Growth, **SDG 16** - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Key Results & Impact

- ▶ **€3.2 million** invested in equipment, training, and capacity building (seven project cycles)
- ▶ **37 prisons** across the Balkans
- ▶ **Over 5,000 prisoners** and **prison staff** trained in new or upgraded skills
- ▶ **139 former prisoners** supported with in-kind grants for self-employment and/or micro-businesses
- ▶ **Community** and environmental actions promoting social contribution and sustainable reintegration
- ▶ **Regional cooperation** and good practices exchange among prison administrations



"Paw in Hand" rehabilitation program in prison

Stimulative and Rehabilitative

Help equipped **80 prison workshops** across the Balkans with **tools** and **machinery** worth **€ 1,7 million**, enabling **productive**, voluntary work in farming, metal, carpentry, tailoring, and service crafts. These facilities **improve treatment processes** by developing **work discipline**, **technical competence**, and **self-confidence** among prisoners, contributing to **stability** and improved **behaviour**. **Infrastructure** upgrades included classrooms, workshops, farms enhancing hygiene, productivity, **energy efficiency** and safety standards.

Integrating **equipping** workshops with **vocational**, **psychosocial**, and **economic** dimensions, including in-kind grants post-penal, the programme proves that **resocialisation** works when people are given **trust**, **skills**, and **opportunity**, creating a new beginning not only for individuals, but for their families, and communities across the Western Balkans.



**I was lucky to be supported by Help.
Others are on their own.**



Former prisoner in his carwash shop



Carving, baking and jewelry making vocational training for prisoners

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Training and education are central to rehabilitation. Help provided certified vocational courses from agriculture to tailoring and welding, IT, and design tailored to both male and female prisoners, responding to local needs and prison capacities.

SPECIALISED AND MOTIVATIONAL TRAINING

The programme also nurtured emotional literacy and psychosocial stability through animal-assisted therapy, theatre, bibliotherapy, and cognitive-behavioural workshops, including suicide prevention, to improve prisoners and prison staff mental health, and empathy.

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Help supported former prisoners after release with in-kind grants for self-employment in tailoring, carpentry, car wash, maintenance, and farming, fostering financial independence, dignity and social contribution.



Waste bins made for the public area

SUSTAINED IMPACT

Help's Resocialisation Programme improves prison conditions and energy efficiency while strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration pathways. Through professional training, education, and post-penal support, prisoners gain certified skills and opportunities for meaningful work. These measures foster employment and self-employment after release, reducing recidivism and contributing to safer, more humane and cooperative correctional systems across the Western Balkans.