

# Association PROI activities

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Association PROI is a non-governmental organization based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) with a branch office in Brcko District of BiH.

The organization was registered in November 2001.

### Our Mission:

To support, develop and advocate for integrated approach in the field of drugs, HIV, public health and social exclusion by following the principles of humanism, gender equality, tolerance, partnership and respect for human rights and freedoms.

## Our target groups:

Association PROI provides services to the most vulnerable populations, such as substance addicted persons, their families and sexual partners; sex workers and female injection drug users; young people and their parents

## Our Programs:

- Health programs
- Women programs
- Drug treatment

# Health Programs

# Harm Reduction Program for Injection Drug Users (IDU)

**Association PROI provides harm reduction services since 2004 and we are the leading organization in this field in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Now we provide services for more than 2000 Injection Drug Users (IDU) on regular basis.**

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# Harm Reduction services

**Our services are delivered through outreach work and in drop-in centers. All services are 100% confidential, free of charge and easy to access in all segments.**

- Distribution of sterile injection supplies includes syringes, needles, sterile water, alcohol swabs, cookers, cottons, anti-biotic cream, various printed information addressing health and harm reduction, condoms, lubricants and sharps containers.
- Collection and safe disposal of used needles and syringes.
- On-spot, peer-to-peer education about HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other blood born and sexually transmitted infections
- Motivation for voluntary and confidential counseling and testing for HIV
- Prevention of overdose and safer injecting advice
- Dissemination of information regarding treatment options
- Information about the types of drugs and consequences of their usage
- Sexual health advice for IDU and their partners
- Advice/information and intermediation to other services and agencies

# IDU peer education program

Peer-to-peer services are delivered by peers - people who having personal experiences of addiction. Association PROI has 25 educated community representatives providing peer consultations and peer trainings to project clients.

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# Peer education activities

IDU peer educators provide peer consultations and peer trainings to project clients on the following:

- Safer injection practices and better vein care
- HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infection and Hepatitis prevention information
- Abscess and wound care information
- Better nutrition advice
- Drug treatment options
- Overdose
- Peer education

# Women Programs

# Prevention program for most vulnerable women (MVW)

Since 2007 Association PROI provides activities for the most vulnerable women such as female sex workers, female injection drug users (IDU) and female partners of IDU.

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# Our services for MVW

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- Gender sensitive outreach
  - Condom and Lubricants Distribution
  - Needle exchange
  - Advice, information and support regarding reducing the risks associated with prostitution and family planning services
  - Sexual Health advice
  - Promotion of HIV and STI counseling and testing services
  - Advice, information and referrals to a range of other support services.
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# Popular Opinion Leader (POL) program

**POL is new HIV prevention model found that well-liked and respected people (popular opinion leaders, or POL) within a community can help to change risky behavior of their friends, neighbors, and acquaintances through active conversation and endorsement of condom use and safer sex behavior.**

Association PROI has 80 peer educators and 10 peer trainers from sex workers population educated through POL methodology.

- Trainings of POL educators
- Trainings of POL trainers
- Peer consultation on HIV/AIDS, STI and other related issues
- Peer trainings on HIV/AIDS, STI and other related issues
- Development of POL training manual and other supportive activities

# Gender Based Violence program

Association PROI works for the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence against most vulnerable women such as sex workers, female injection drug users, young girls etc through the provision of direct services to women who have experienced violence and the promotion of social and attitudinal change.

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# Addiction treatment

# Therapeutic community PROI

- In May 2005 Association PROI established a first Bosnian grass-root TC.
- The TC based on Daytop's model is a self help program whose primary goals are the cessation of substance abuse behaviors and fostering personal growth.
- Community activities lead members to learn about themselves in the areas of emotional, intellectual and spiritual condition, behavior management, and survival skills, which include vocational and/or educational assessments.
- The TC believes that people can change and that learning occurs through challenge and action, understanding and sharing common human experiences.
- This is unique concept based TC which is entirely managed by recovered addicts.

## Results

- Since May 2005, 174 clients enter to the 18 months residential treatment program.
- Currently, 20 residents are in program.
- 128 residents left program before official graduation. The drop-outs occur mostly in first month of the residential program.

**26 residents graduate after 18 months of the residential program. They adopted drug free life style which understands the life without drugs and alcohol.**



# Our contacts

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