

The prostitution context in Romania

Veronica Broasca

Project Manager

ARAS-Romanian Association Against AIDS

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Prostitution is criminalized in Romania
- Romania → the online country in the E.U. where prostitution is punished through the penal code.
- *“the behaviour of a person who procures existence through having sexual intercourses with different persons is punished with jail from 3 months to 3 years” (Penal Code, art.328)*
- The legislation is the main vulnerability of SWs in Romania
- SWs are easily abused by the police, clients, pimps

FORMS OF APPEARANCE

- **Most of the SWs are female (98%)**
- **Just 1% of the SWs are migrant (Moldova, Ukraine)**
- **Almost 2% are MSW**
- **64% outdoor prostitution (streets, highways, parks, forests outside the city)**
- **36% indoor prostitution (illegal brothels, apartments)**

MOBILITY/MIGRATION

- Because of the legislation many SWs left the country to work in E.U.
- Migrant SWs working in E.U. countries – among migrants SWs romanians are the biggest number
- Mobility inside the country is also encouraged by human trafficking as a consequence of legislation

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- **ARAS – Romanian Association Against AIDS is the only health/social service available for SWs**
- **Huge barriers to social exclusion because of the punitive legislation**
- **No health insurance →no access to any medical or social service**
- **Most SWs don't have an ID (identification papers)→no access to “legitimate” work**
- **Many SWs face double or triple discrimination→Roma, IDUs, homeless or minors**

ARAS' services for SWs

- Since 1999 – outreach interventions



Mobile services:

- **Primary medical assistance**
- **Social assistance**
- **Psychological support**
- **Sterile injecting equipment**
- **Condoms and lubricant distribution**
- **VCT for HIV, HCV, HBV**
- **Hepatitis A&B vaccination**
- **Refferals to other specialized services**
- **Accompanying and transport**

Mobile services:



A NATIONAL INTERVENTION

ARAS' BRANCHES



Drop-in services:

- There are 2 drop-in centers situated in Bucharest offering the same services as the mobile units and a OST center.



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