

NGO JUVENTAS

**SERVICES
WE PROVIDE**



ABOUT US

NGO JUVENTAS is a non-governmental organization founded on January 29th 1996 in Podgorica.

For more than 20 years, we continuously implemented projects aiming to increase the quality of lives of young people, people at risk of social exclusion and socially excluded people and improving practice and human rights protection and promotion. NGO Juventas provides direct assistance, contributes to improvement of services' quality, produces and advocates proposals of public policies amendments, develops capacities of decision-makers and service providers, as well as target groups we work with.



ABOUT OUR DIRECT ASSISTANCE

The direct assistance program for persons at risk of social exclusion and the socially excluded was established with the aim of providing direct confidential and informed professional and peer support to the target groups with whom Juventas works. The activities implemented within this program include: assessment of target groups' needs, provision of direct support to clients, which is reflected in various types of good quality, responsible, culturally and gender-sensitive services, empowerment of clients for self-care, strengthening of different client target groups' capacities for joint action and active participation, as well as continuous monitoring and improvement of support services synchronized with target communities' needs.

We provide direct support on a daily basis to: young people, LGBTIQ+ people, people who use/inject drugs, people who provide sex or sex related services, people in prison, former prisoners, Roma community, asylum seekers and people under international protection.



As part of this program, Juventas provides outreach services, but also has three specialized offices (Drop in centers) within which services are provided, defined in accordance with the needs of the community of people who use/inject drugs, people who provide sex or sex related services, as well as the LGBTIQ community. Also, this program provides direct support to children and youth at risk of social exclusion, but also to adults, such as migrants, displaced persons, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, people under international protection and members of the RE community in Montenegro. As a part of the Direct Assistance Program the following departments are active and functioning:

1. Department for working with people who use/inject drugs, people who provide sex or sex related services, people in prison, former prisoners;

2. Department for working with the GMT community;



OUTREACH WORK

Outreach work is based on open access and communication with hard-to-reach groups in order to provide them with the necessary support and necessary information. Often the users themselves, i.e. representatives of the target groups, are recruited in this work.

Outreach work includes:

- distribution of condoms and lubricants;
- distribution and exchange of safe injection equipment (clean syringes, needles, cookers, medical alcohol, elastic tourniquets, distilled water...);
- collection of discarded equipment;
- referral to HIV (and other STIs) testing;
- referral to the services we provide within our daily centers as well as available services within the social and health care system;
- informing target groups about sexually and blood transmissible infections;
- safe and proper use of the materials we share;
- informing target groups about the ways to reduce harm, addiction treatments as well as opioid agonist treatments available in Montenegro.

The main goals that are sought to be achieved in our outreach work are: making contact with people in the communities we work with and preventing health and social consequences of risky behavior.





DROP IN CENTERS

All Juventas' drop in centers are safe and accessible places with a relaxed atmosphere or the so-called “tendentious informality”¹. They foster an environment that respects the autonomy, individuality of each person and mutual respect. Over coffee or tea, visitors can talk, exchange ideas, expand the network of social support, and get useful information about health and healthy lifestyles. In all Drop in centers, certain (defined) services are provided without an appointment, and the arrival itself is on a voluntary basis. All employees are governed by the principles of confidentiality, ethics and the obligation of lifelong learning.

All of Juventas drop-in centers are either the first (Drop in center for people who use/inject drugs) or the only of their kind in Montenegro (Drop in center for people who provide sex and sex related services and LGBTIQ drop in center).

Thanks to their diverse content, the centers are open to all people who use/inject drugs, people who provide sex and sex related services, LGBTIQ+ people, their families and friends. These Drop in Centers create an opportunity for their target communities to build an inclusive and welcoming society. In addition to working in its environment, the Centers expand their services and, through their outreach work, create initiatives related to building of an inclusive culture through cooperation with various institutions, organizations, public advocacy and the improvement of policies in order to enable practicing of all rights for our target communities.

¹ “Tendentious informality” represents a form of functioning of a certain community in which there are certain rules of functioning, but which are defined in such a way that everyone involved feels comfortable, relaxed and accepted.

Drop in centers include provision of the following free of charge stationary services:

- distribution of condoms and lubricants;
- distribution and exchange of safe injection equipment (clean syringes, needles, cookers, medical alcohol, elastic tourniquets, distilled water...);
- collection of discarded equipment;
- referral to HIV (and other STIs) testing;
- referral to available services within the social and health care system;
- informing target groups about sexually and blood transmissible infections;
- safe and proper use of the materials we share;
- informing target groups about the ways to reduce harm, addiction treatments as well as opioid agonist treatments available in Montenegro;
- peer counseling;
- psychological counseling;
- medical counseling;
- legal counseling;
- counseling with a social worker;
- clothes' washing and drying;
- donation of various types of clothing garments;
- shower;
- hair dresser services.



These services are available to foreigners with approved temporary or permanent residence in Montenegro, as well as asylum seekers and persons under international protection, especially if they belong to communities we named in the text above.



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OKTOBARSKE REVOLUCIJE 78



INFO@JUVENTAS.ME



+382 20 657 098
+382 67 346 605