



Diversion and Mediation Program as a key component of the Juvenile Justice Reform in Georgia



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 Ministry of
Justice of
Georgia

Diversion and Mediation Program is:

- Based on principles of **Restorative Justice**
- An **alternative form** to criminal prosecution for **juveniles** and **young adults under the age of 21**
- A chance to continue live **without criminal record or punishment** and to start a **law-abiding life**
- A **direct dialogue** between the parties – seeking for a resolution together with a juvenile and a victim
- Oriented on rehabilitation and social reintegration of a juvenile



Challenges in the implementation of Diversion and Mediation Programme

Changing attitudes of prosecutors towards juveniles as a result of past experience (zero-tolerance policy)

Introducing Social Work and mediation in justice system

Awareness in a field of Restorative Justice



Adoption of Juvenile Justice Code - 2015

Successful implementation/experience of **Diversion and Mediation Program** resulted in Adoption of JJ Code

Initiative of the **EU & UNICEF** – decision of the **Ministry of Justice**

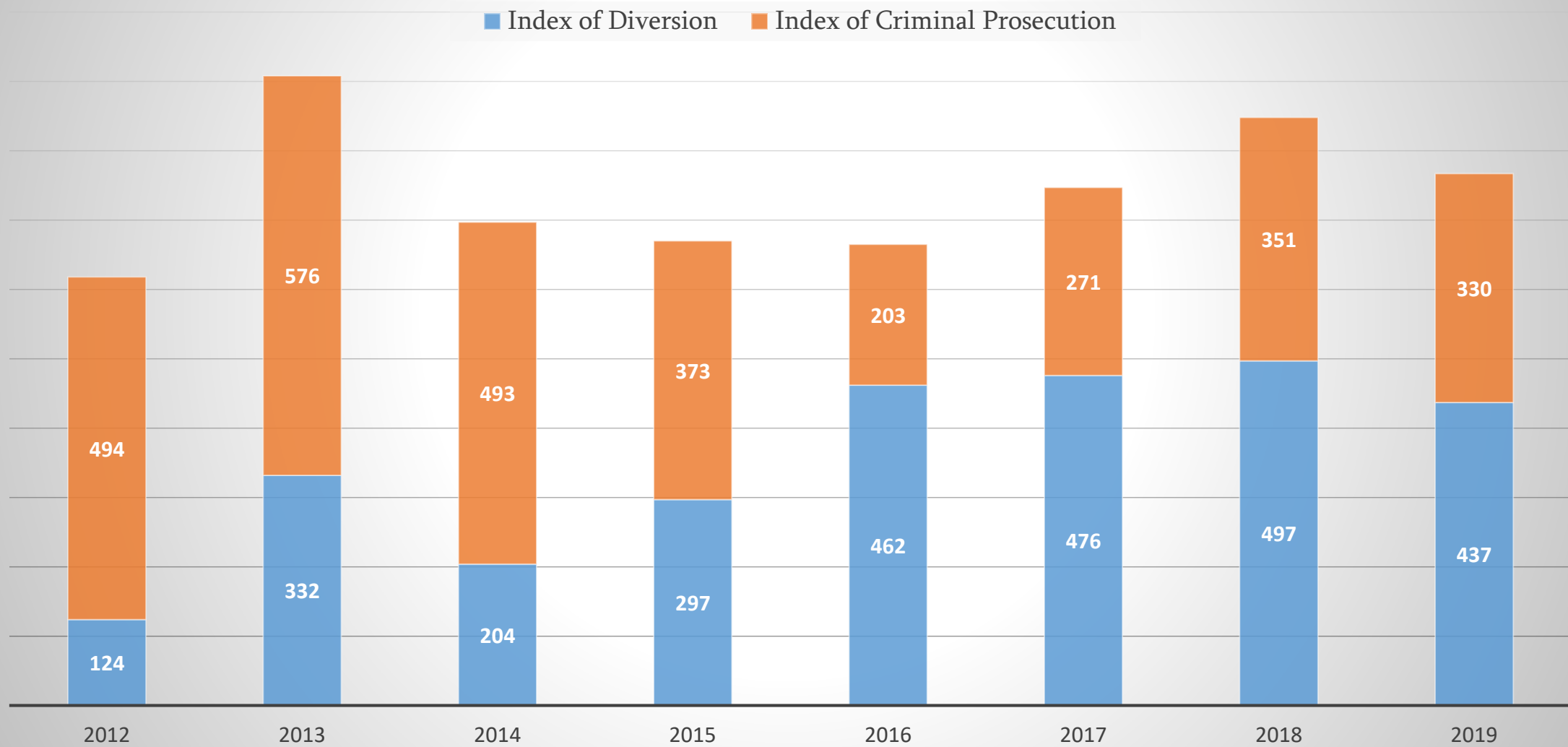
International expertise of the draft Code and consultations with relevant state institutions were carried out

Adoption of JJ Code resulted in important reforms of Diversion programs

Diversion became a **priority measure**, Judges were given authority to use Diversion mechanism



Index of diversion and criminal prosecution



Results and future plans

- Up to **4500 juveniles** and **young adults** were diverted from criminal responsibility in the period of 9 years
- Index of using RJ programs is increasing every year: in 2019, **55%** was the highest rate of successful mediations compared to **18%** in 2014
- **Rate of reoffending is 10%**
- Successful experience in RJ programs in Juvenile Justice system resulted in introduction of pilot RJ program for convicted and former prisoner juveniles and young adults
- Comprehensive electronic data collection and analysis system will be launched this year with the support of the UNICEF and the EU





Thank you for your
attention!

