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

25 February, 2020
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

Index of Diversion | Index of Criminal Prosecution

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<th>Year</th>
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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!