

OFFENDERS UNDER SUPERVISION AND THEIR PERCEPTION ABOUT LAWYERS AND PROBATION COUNSELORS

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ABSTRACT

The study brings to discussion part of the results of a research made in 2013, at the level of supervised persons being in the custody of The Probation Service from Bucharest. The main purpose of the research was to identify the way in which supervised persons see the activity of institutions from the penal system (police departments, parquets, court houses, probation) and of professionals who work in these institutions. Although the research was quite complex, the present study focuses only on the registered results of probation counselors and lawyers.

The settled objectives targeted picking up information regarding: a) the way in which probation counselors and lawyers' activity is perceived; b) the counselors and lawyers' qualities compared to other categories of professionals from the justice system; c) identifying the factors that influence the way in which the activity of the two professional categories is seen.

The results of the research emphasized the fact that both professional categories are seen, in general, in a positive way by the supervised persons. There is a series of factors that influence the perception of the counselors and lawyers' activity: the period of time for which probationers were in the custody of Probation Service, the period of time that passed by from entering the counselor's custody, the number of counselors/ lawyers who managed the probationer's case, the type of activities run by counselors of the case (evaluation papers, supervision, counseling) or by lawyers and the type of felony.

Key words: probation counselors, lawyers, probationers, Romania.

INTRODUCTION

The analysis of specialty literature emphasizes a particular interest for making some evaluation studies for the functionality of justice systems as a whole or as components (CEPEJ 2012), or some studies regarding the activity evaluation of professional categories from the judicial system (Di Federico 2005) or some

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