



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

GRAM. KILOGRAM. A TON.

The 45-minutes docudrama “**Gram. Kilogram. A Ton**” directed by the renowned Serbian director Janko Baljak, intends to tell a story about mechanisms of organised recruiting of juveniles for a very lucrative “business” such as is trade in light and heavy drugs in Serbia. Film crew spoke to thirteen young people who are serving their sentences for drug distribution, and they tell a story about how they became part of the vicious circle of drugs and how difficult was to find the way out. The viewers and the target groups - TV audience and parents/families in Serbia aged between 30-55 years, and teenagers in Serbia, will learn about the protagonists’ destinies through interviews with experts from these areas and through necessary role-played reconstructions, combined with carefully selected documentary and archive papers.

Docudrama was filmed and produced with the EU support through the grant scheme Strengthening media freedom. Total eligible costs amounted to €155,475.87, out of which **€79,125.28 was the EU donation** and €15,547.59 contribution of Monte Royal Pictures International.

During the research on this project, the team followed the evolution of the topic in this region for the past four decades; it tells a painful story about the collapse of a country, collapse of middle-class population, moral values, and challenges that citizens of Serbia faced in a difficult transition.

Janko Baljak, the film director revealed that the lessons learned in the research for the film were more than shocking to him as an artist but also as father of three daughters of critical age and they strongly motivated him and the team to fully invest themselves in the project: the age of an average drug consumer went down to 14, but the youngest registered heroin user in Lazarevac, Belgrade suburb is only 12.

Beneficiaries of the project: general public in Serbia and the region.

The docudrama will try to help parents to obtain knowledge in accessibility and availability of drugs, drug trafficking and fight against drugs in Serbian schools and among teens and its linkage to organized crime; also, to obtain knowledge on the legislative framework in the field of drug trafficking and raise awareness of the necessity to join forces in the fight against drugs and organized crime in the Serbian society. For teenagers, it will demystify the so called “urban”, “transitional” and other underground “celebrities”, often perceived as “heroes”; finally, it will present new platforms and changes in the fight against drugs, and explain how the institutions and specialised bodies and agencies can assist citizens.

In Serbia, various governmental organisations and CSOs are tackling the issue of drug use among adult and teen population, in terms of prevention and awareness raising, often focusing solely on consequences that could occur to the drug user. Concerning law enforcement, the Ministry of Interior has been in particularly active in this field; in June 2013, special units were formed to fight drug dealing on street level. In addition, the introduction of the so-called school policeman reduced to certain extent the drug dealing in the surrounding of schools and school playgrounds. All this can be considered as respectable improvement, comparing to the previous period, but more effort and resources need to be invested, specifically when knowing that more and more teenagers are involved in drug dealing and drug abuse. As the statistics in Serbia shows, more than 70 per cent of juvenile population had tried or used drugs.





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Many countries are trying to mobilise counterparts in the fight for zero tolerance for teenage drug use through awareness raising that involve schools, community, authorities, families and others, sometimes successfully, sometimes with partial success. Regarding Serbia, a certain progress is demonstrated in tackling drug issues, at least in terms of prevention for specific target groups, but what is worrying is that the parents of teenagers in Serbia are never properly addressed in various actions and through time became one of the weakest links in the overall prevention against drugs.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the freedom of expression and improve investigative reporting by production of quality media content in the area of rule of law focusing on drug use, fight against drug trafficking and uncovering corruptive links in organized drug business.

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