

Implementation and roll-out of the IRCs in the Balkans

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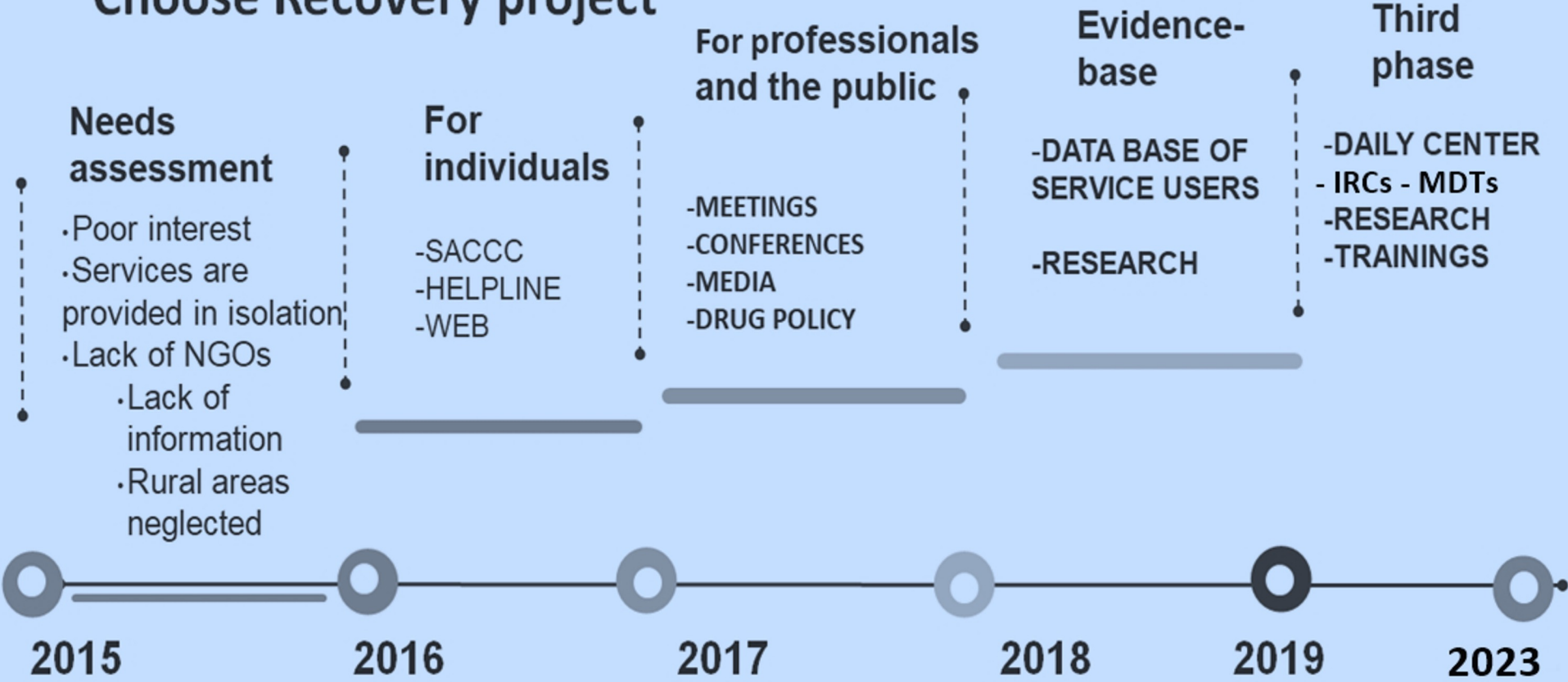
RUN- Recovered Users Network

Western Balkans – ChooseRecovery

Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Choose Recovery project





Do people fit into molds?

BANNED

REJECTED

CANCELLED

Systemic barriers to
recovery

Stigma studies:

- 2017 Public attitudes
- 2019 Attitude change
- 2020 Stigma among professionals

Attitudes towards people in Recovery

33.2%

cant get back to "NORMAL LIFE".

37.6%

do not wish to have someone in recovery AS A NEIGHBOR

47%

47% parents should not let their children play with the CHILDREN of people in recovery

45.3%

45.3 % it is foolish to enter into a RELATIONSHIP with someone in recovery

68.3%

could not be trusted as BABYSITTERS but 41% think they have the same rights for employment

Serbia

Bačka Palanka

Sremska
Mitrovica

Šabac

Loznica

Novi Pazar

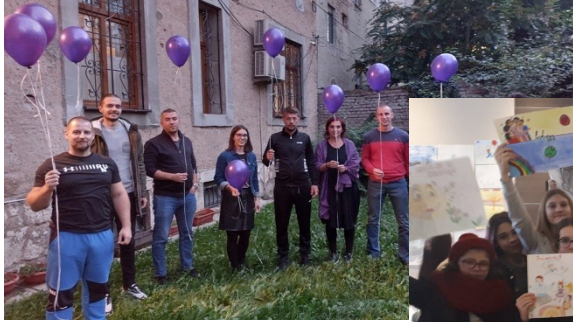
Bor

Majdanpek

Multidisciplinary team



CONFIRMED



NEW



14 Cities in total
7 Cities in Serbia
2 Regional Forums
to redefine identities,
shifting from a focus on
addiction to a narrative
of empowerment and
recovery

ACCEPTED

- Recovery Month
- Workshops in schools
- Group work targeting women, homeless individuals, and youth.
- Helplines and websites in each country.
- Outreach events
- Photovoice project to visually amplify the narratives of recovery



Connectedness

- Peer support and social groups
- Relationships
- Support from others
- Community

Hope

- Belief in recovery
- Motivation to change
- Hope-Inspiring relationships
- Positive thinking and valuing effort
- Having dreams and aspirations

Identity

- Rebuilding positive sense of identity
- Overcoming stigma

Meaning

- Meaning in mental health experience
- Meaningful life and social roles
- Meaningful life and social goals

Empowerment

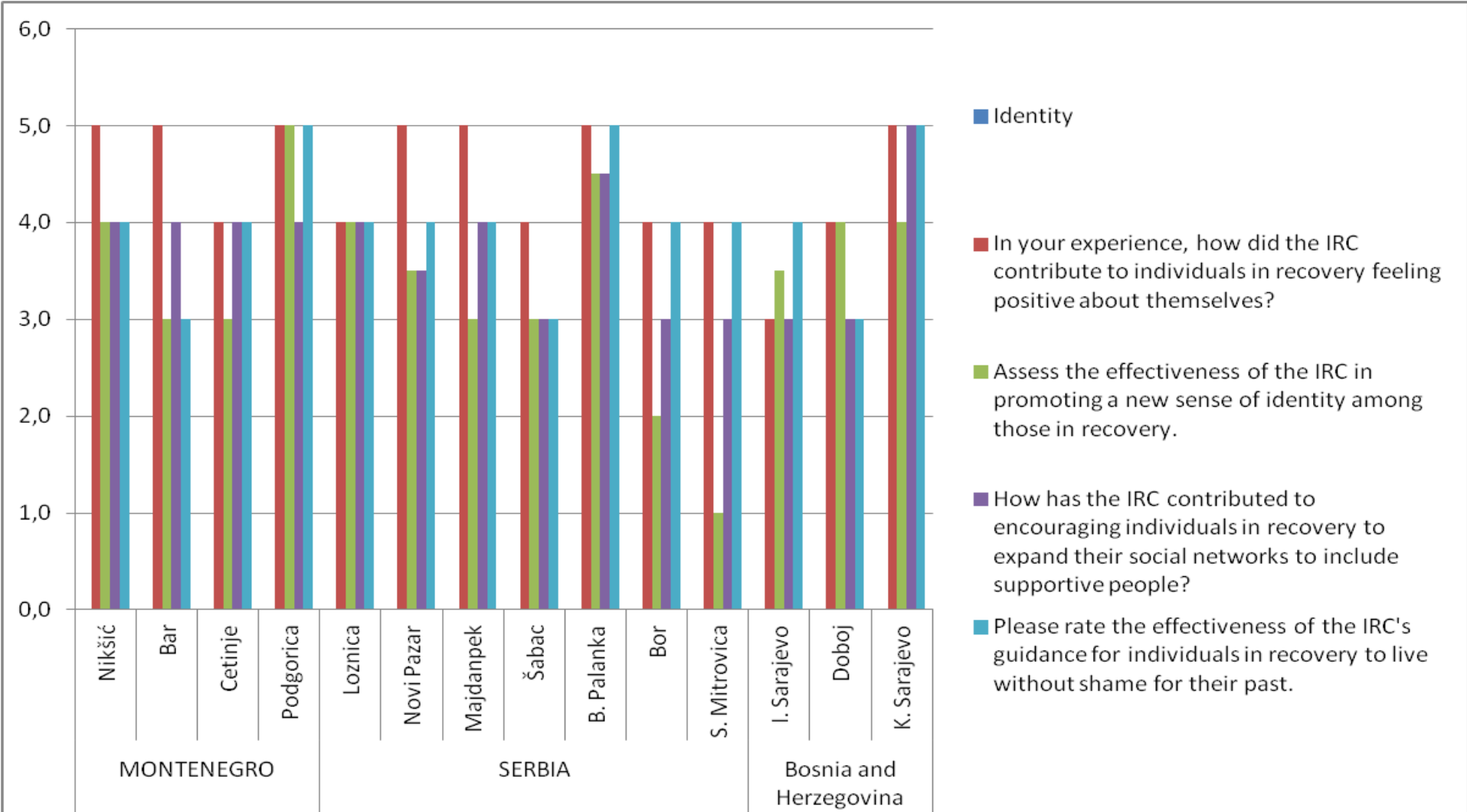
- Personal responsibility
- Control over life
- Focusing upon strengths



Niksic, Montenegro



Backa Palanka, Serbia





Conclusions And Recommendations

Without meaningful infrastructure change, the gains in recovery become significantly diminished. The transformative power of recovery initiatives hinges on tangible shifts in systems, support structures, and societal frameworks.



Thank you for your
attention!

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