Managing Foreign National Prisoners Module

1. Module 5

1.1 Course Cover
1.2 Welcome Video

Welcome Video

Nils Öberg
EuroPris’s President, Head of the Swedish Prison & Probation Service

Show transcript

Click on the hyperlink to find more information about promoting professional prison practice.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 2 / 5

Subtitles (Slide Layer)

Welcome Video

Nils Öberg
EuroPris’s President, Head of the Swedish Prison & Probation Service

Hide transcript

My name is Nils Öberg and I am the director general of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. I am currently also the President of EuroPris. EuroPris is a European network organisation gathering professionals from a large number of European prison services. Our aim is to promote effective and humane prison practices in order to provide a safe European society and to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Foreign nationals are a group of prisoners that are growing in many of our countries. Often we treat them like national prisoners although many of them have different needs. This is particularly true for women prisoners.

The need for a better understanding of how foreign nationals will execute their prison sentences is necessary if we are to...
1.3 Welcome to the Module on Managing Foreign Nationals in Prison

The course is intended to be used by a wide group of people working with and responsible for foreign prisoners. This includes operational prison staff, prison managers, prison trainers and those responsible for policy development regarding foreign prisoners.

This Module uses the Council of Europe’s Recommendation on Foreign Prisoners 2012(12) as a main guide along with practical examples of good and promising practice from prisons in Europe to illustrate how the recommendations are being implemented.

Where indicated, the module also refers to the European Prison Rules and to reports from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereafter abbreviated as CPT).

Layer 1 (Slide Layer)
1.4 Panel of experts

Panel of experts

This free online course has been developed by the University of Nottingham and EuroPris, the organization for Prison Services in Europe, in conjunction with the Council of Europe’s HELP Programme on Radicalisation Prevention in which it is embedded.

This module has been created by:

• Dr. Roisin Mulgrew (University of Nottingham),
• Isabelle Storme (Belgian Prison Services),
• Nick Hammond (EuroPris)

All are members of the EuroPris & CEP Foreign Nationals in Prison & Probation Expert Group.

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1.5 Module Chapters

Module Chapters

Click on the chapters from the menu to explore the module. Start with the Introduction.

1. Introduction
2. Effective communication for foreign prisoners
3. Prison regime improvement
4. Contact with the outside world
5. Resettlement and rehabilitation issues
6. Staff matters
7. Final test

How to use this E-Learning course?

This Module is a self learning course. There is no time limit for completing each chapter and your answers will not be seen by anybody.

You may choose to go through the module individually or as a group. Undertaking it along with others provides the opportunity for discussion, debate and the sharing of knowledge and experience which is useful.

You may undertake the chapters in any order though working through them from 1 to 7 is advised. Click in at the beginning of each chapter and work through the screens.

There are quizzes and questions included in the module with additional ones collected together in chapter VII, to embed learning.

The link “Resources for Working with Foreign National Prisoners in Europe” will take you to updated information in the EuroPris website to complement this E-Learning module. It includes a printable version of this E-Learning.
Module Chapters
Click on the chapters from the menu to explore the module. Start with the introduction.

1. Introduction
2. Effective communication for foreign prisoners
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7. Final test

1. Introduction

Overall Objectives:
1. Increase knowledge and awareness of the differences and difficulties experienced by foreign prisoners.
2. Understand the Council of Europe recommendations on foreign prisoners and how they are linked to specific issues affecting foreign prisoners.
3. Improve the treatment and management of foreign prisoners in your prison.

Start Chapter

Module Chapters
Click on the chapters from the menu to explore the module. Start with the introduction.

1. Introduction
2. Effective communication for foreign prisoners
3. Prison regime improvement
4. Contact with the outside world
5. Resettlement and rehabilitation issues
6. Staff matters
7. Final test

2. Effective Communication for foreign prisoners

Learning Objectives:
1. Understand the impact of language barriers on foreign prisoners and the prison system.
2. Identify the most important provisions of international and European law concerning communication.
3. Apply key measures to overcome language barriers.

Start Chapter
Module Chapters
Click on the chapters from the menu to explore the module. Start with the introduction.

1. Introduction
2. Effective communication for foreign prisoners
3. Prison regime improvement
4. Contact with the outside world
5. Resettlement and rehabilitation issues
6. Staff matters
7. Final test

3. Prison Regime Improvement

Learning Objectives:
1. Differentiate various ways to allocate & accommodate foreign prisoners.
2. Identify and understand key areas of specific needs that foreign national prisoners have.
3. Identify the most important provisions of International and European law concerning foreign prisoners.
4. Understand the different ways in which you can alleviate isolation of foreign prisoners.
5. Apply cultural and religiously appropriate improvements to your prison regime through the use of promising practice.

Start Chapter

info_menu_4 (Slide Layer)

Module Chapters
Click on the chapters from the menu to explore the module. Start with the introduction.

1. Introduction
2. Effective communication for foreign prisoners
3. Prison regime improvement
4. Contact with the outside world
5. Resettlement and rehabilitation issues
6. Staff matters
7. Final test

4. Contact with the outside world

Learning Objectives:
1. Understand why difficulties in maintaining contact with the outside world can create isolation and discrimination for foreign prisoners.
2. Understand the most important legal, framework provisions concerning contact of foreign prisoners with the outside world.
3. Apply social support mechanisms and administer prison rules in relation to contact with the outside world in a flexible way in order to alleviate isolation of foreign prisoners.

Start Chapter
2. T1 Introduction

2.1 T1 Cover

Introduction

A positive climate for foreign prisoners in prisons can help reduce the influences which encourage radicalisation.
2.2 Introduction

Introduction

In this Introduction chapter you will find:
1. Foreign Prisoners Awareness Test (FPAT)
2. Background information

2.3 Question 1

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 1

How many foreign prisoners do you think there are in Europe?

- Under 75,000
- 75-125,000
- 125-200,000
- Above 200,000

Submit
Correct

Question 1
How many foreign prisoners do you think there are in Europe?

- Under 75,000
- 75-125,000
- 125-200,000
- Above 200,000

Correct!

Figures for 2016 have the number of foreign prisoners in Council of Europe member countries as approximately 135,000.

There are 47 member countries of the Council of Europe, all EU members plus 19 others.

Statistics are complex and change, check the Council of Europe’s SPACE reports for up to date statistics: https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space

2.4 Question 2

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 2
What percentage of foreign prisoners do you think there are in Europe?

- Under 25%
- 25%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76%-100%

https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space
Correct

Question 2
What percentage of foreign prisoners do you think there are in Europe?

- Under 25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76%-100%

11.6% is the median* average percentage of foreign prisoners in European prisons according to the CoE SPACE Statistics for 2016.

For current statistics, click on CoE Annual Penal Statistics SPACE I - Prison Populations Survey:
https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space

2.5 Question 3

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 3
All European countries have a similar percentage of foreign prisoners.

- True
- False
Correct

Question 3
All European countries have a similar percentage of foreign prisoners.

- True
- False

Correct!
The proportion of foreign prisoners in European countries varies significantly, from over 70% in some countries to less than 1% in others. The median average in 2018 across Europe was 11.6%.

Click on the SPACE Penal Statistics to see the current proportion and answer.

Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics SPACE I – Prison Populations Survey
https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space

2.6 Question 4
(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 4
In European prisons what percentage of foreign prisoners are from other European countries?

- Under 25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76%-100%

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Correct

**Question 4**
In European prisons what percentage of foreign prisoners are from other European countries?

- Under 25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76%-100%

**Correct!**

38% of all foreign prisoners in European prisons in 2016 were other EU nationals, the remaining 62% had other nationalities.

Note: Statistics are complex and change.

For current statistics, click on CoE Annual Penal Statistics SPACE I - Prison Populations Survey:
https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space

2.7 Question 5

*(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)*

**Question 5**
Most foreign national prisoners in European prisons are from other European countries.

- True
- False
Correct

Question 5
Most foreign national prisoners in European prisons are from other European countries.

- True
- False

2.8 Statistical sources

Statistics - Statistical sources
The total numbers and the proportion of foreign prisoners change of course. For current statistics on foreign prisoners, click on the following links:

CoE Annual Penal Statistics SPACE I - Prison Populations Survey:
https://www.coe.int/en/web/prison/space

CoE Annual Penal Statistics SPACE II Survey 2016. Persons Serving Non-Custodial Sanctions and Measures in 2016:
https://sspune.int/spacespace

Foreign prisoner statistics are also available from The World Prison Brief which is hosted by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR) at Birkbeck University, London. ICPR updates the World Prison Brief monthly using data largely from governmental or other official sources. The World Prison Brief publishes data more quickly than SPACE though its individual data sources are not referenced.

https://www.prisonbrief.org
2.9 Background

Foreign prisoners are persons who do not have the nationality of the state where they are imprisoned. They comprise an increasing and significant proportion of prison populations in many European countries.

They are not nationals of the country in which they are being held. Their effective and equitable management poses on-going and new challenges to Prison Services across Europe. Prison Service members, managers, trainers, operational staff and specialist post holders all have something to learn from each other about managing this changing prisoner group fairly, safely and securely giving due regard to their individual situation and circumstances.

This E-Learning course is an innovative way that prisons can better prepare themselves for their important task in working with foreign prisoners.
2.10 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation concerning foreign prisoners has made a significant contribution to regional penal policy by advocating reductivist policies, regime improvements, enhanced reintegration programmes and specialist staff.

Its provisions seek to prevent and reduce the discrimination and isolation faced by many foreign offenders.

Adopting a human rights approach, the Recommendation aims to ensure the equalisation and individualisation of the treatment of foreign offenders throughout the criminal justice and penal process.

It attempts to translate these broad socio-humanitarian goals into practical guidance for practitioners that must implement its rules. In so doing, this form of soft law has the potential to have a significant positive impact on the detention regime experienced by a sizeable and vulnerable proportion of the European prison population.
The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Recommendation concerning foreign prisoners has made a significant contribution to regional penal policy by advocating reductive policies, regime improvements, enhanced reintegration programmes and specialist staff. Its provisions seek to prevent and reduce the discrimination and isolation faced by many foreign offenders.

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Relevant European and International Legislations

- The Committee of Ministers Recommendation 2001/26 concerning foreign prisoners
- Mandating to the Recom;endation concerning foreign prisoners
- Council of Europe Recommendation Recomson the treatment of foreign prisoners
- Council of Europe Recommendation concerning conditional release (para 1000/2002)
- Council of Europe Recommendation (2012) concerning prison overcrowding and prison population inflation
- Council of Europe Recommendation (2010/3/2012) on the use of remand in custody
- Case law of the European Court of Human Rights
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Detention (CPT): relevant CPT standards
- Council of Europe publication “Combating IS Treatment in Prison”, a handbook for prison staff with focus on the prevention of ill-treatment in prison.
3. T2 Effective Communication

3.1 T2 cover

Effective Communication for foreign prisoners

The facilitation of communication is a fundamental underlying principle that should inform all interaction!

3.2 Effective Communication

Research, CPT reports and the Council of Europe have pointed out the importance of language and communication within the prison system. Indeed, communication affects a range of areas which can cause many problems for foreign prisoners in daily prison life.

One of the Basic Principles of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation focuses on ways to overcome the challenges presented by language barriers.

Click on the buttons to discover in which ways language barriers have an impact on foreign prisoners and on the prison system itself.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
Effective Communication

Research, CPT reports and the Council of Europe have pointed out the importance of language and communication within the prison system.

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**Managing Foreign National Prisoners**

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Impact on foreign prisoners

The inability to communicate in the language most commonly spoken in a prison reduces a foreign prisoner’s ability to cope with their situation. Language difficulties aggravate almost all other problems faced by foreign prisoners.

An inability to communicate can reduce or prevent participation in many aspects of prison life and lead to isolation.

CPT country reports have demonstrated that language barriers can reduce or prevent access to:

- regime activities
- education and training
- rehabilitation programmes
- medical care

They have also noted that the inability to communicate with staff and other prisoners can increase a prisoner’s vulnerability, and that the resulting isolation can lead to deep mental distress and even self-harm.

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Impact on the prison system

The CPT has noted that language barriers can have a harmful impact on the atmosphere and security within a prison due to misunderstandings and disputes between prisoners and staff. Good communication is essential for dynamic security (Rule 512 European Prison Rules).

Rule 511 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation states that:

- Prison staff shall ensure that good order, safety and security are maintained through a process of dynamic security and interaction with foreign prisoners.

The creation and maintenance of everyday communication and interaction with prisoners allows for the early detection of potential or actual tensions or problems.
3.3 Effective Communication

Key measures to improve communication

Research, CPT reports and the Council of Europe have pointed out the importance of language and communication within the prison system.

Indeed, communication affects a range of areas which can cause many problems for foreign prisoners in daily prison life.

One of the Basic Principles of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation focuses on ways to overcome the challenges presented by language barriers.

The facilitation of communication is a fundamental underlying principle that should inform all interaction. This is because of the main role such measures can play in alleviating isolation (Commentary on Rule 8 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendations).

The following section outlines practical examples of the key measures that you can take to improve communication with foreign prisoners from different linguistic backgrounds.
Layer 1 (Slide Layer)

Effective Communication

States often produce information packs in the major languages spoken by foreign prisoners. In some countries, however, such translated information is not available.

Therefore, to ensure that foreign prisoners like Alejandro can understand life in the prison where they are housed in, it is recommended that prison authorities translate the most important documents, like for example prison rules, complaints and disciplinary procedures, information on the rights and responsibilities of prisoners and staff, the institutional regime and daily routine, and the terms used in regular written communication between staff and detained persons, in a language commonly understood by them. It should be noted that the requirement is not to provide the information in the prisoner’s first language, but in a language which they understand.

Layer 1 pop (Slide Layer)

Effective Communication

Rule 15.1 of the 2012 CoE Recommendations states that prisoners should receive, where possible, information on a range of aspects of prison life in a language they understand. This information should include details on:

- The prisoners’ rights and duties
- The main features of the prison regime (including the rules governing discipline, prison work and release as well as information on how to access services such as medical treatment, education and visits).
- The prison’s internal regulations
- The rules and procedures for making requests
- The complaints procedure
- Legal advice and assistance
- How to contact consular representatives

Click on the KEY MEASURES below for more information
Effective Communication

It is not always possible to have pre-prepared materials in the languages understood by all prisoners. It is therefore important that prisoners who do not understand printed materials have the required information and procedures explained to them in a language which they understand orally.

This may involve being greeted by staff with a range of linguistic abilities.

Alternatively, and for more formal procedures, this may require access to competent interpretation services.

Layer 2 pop1 (Slide Layer)

A. Disciplinary scene

The situation of these two foreign prisoners is in line with the CPT report that has noted that prison authorities must ensure that prisoners have an effective right to the assistance of an interpreter when required to participate in proceedings which concern them (including internal disciplinary proceedings). Also the European Prison Rules and the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation insist that prisoners charged with disciplinary offences shall have the free assistance of an interpreter if they cannot understand or speak the language used at the hearing or where necessary.
Layer 2 pop2 (Slide Layer)

Effective Communication

B. At the doctor

The situation of this female prisoner is in line with the CPT report that has noted that communication through an interpreter may also be required to facilitate proper health care.

The 2021 Council of Europe Recommendation highlights the need to ensure access to competent interpreters who understand medical terminology and cultural approaches to illness and respect confidentiality (irrespective of the formality of the arrangement).

Layer 2 pop3 (Slide Layer)

Effective Communication

C. Legal advice scene

As we can understand from this situation, interpretation may also play an important role in helping foreign prisoners understand their rights to legal advice on matters relevant to their detention and immigration status, as well as to communicate with their legal adviser.

Interpretation should be provided if the prisoner does not have a full understanding of the language used and it is important that such interpretation is accurate, impartial and respects the requirements of legal confidentiality.
Layer 3 (Slide Layer)

**Effective Communication**

This situation is in line with the CPT report that has made a number of recommendations urging prison authorities to provide foreign prisoners and staff who work with them with opportunities to learn a language that facilitates communication.

In addition to the formal translation and interpretation of legal and technical information, therefore, the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation also advocates that both prisoners and staff should be given the opportunity to learn a language which enables them to communicate more effectively.

The use of a common language or common languages can overcome some of the difficulties presented by the operational realities of communicating with populations from a vast range of countries and linguistic backgrounds.

In addition to learning a language that enables them to communicate with other prisoners and staff, the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation also advocates that foreign prisoners should be allowed to study local culture and traditions.

Layer 4 (Slide Layer)

**Effective Communication**

In addition to the translation of official documents and policies, the CPT also recommends that prison authorities translate words and expressions used in everyday activities and interaction.

CPT reports, however, have demonstrated that significant communication difficulties often persist despite efforts to translate rules, procedures and/or daily expressions into several languages.

The translation of written materials does not help for foreign national prisoners that cannot access printed information in a language they understand or for illiterate prisoners.

To help such prisoners, both national and NGO initiatives have created pocket-size booklets containing pictures and icons that can facilitate direct communication between prisoners and staff.
3.4 Overcoming language barriers - promising practice

Overcoming language barriers - promising practice

Promising practice: Flanders and Brussels, Belgium
Promising practice: Sweden
NGO Initiative: Picture it in Prison

Here you can find 3 promising practices which can inspire you in overcoming language barriers.

Two come from prison services and another one is an example of how NGO initiatives can contribute in overcoming language issues.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

content_1 (Slide Layer)

Overcoming language barriers - promising practice

Promising practice: Flanders and Brussels, Belgium
Promising practice: Sweden
NGO Initiative: Picture it in Prison

Flanders and Brussels, Belgium

Foreign prisoners are encouraged to learn a language that allows them to communicate.

Foreign prisoners can learn to read, write or speak the Dutch language in adult education classes organised by the open school providers:
- Centrum voor Adulte Onderwijs
- Centrum voor Volwassenenopleiding
The offer differs in every prison.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
Overcoming language barriers - promising practice

Sweden

All foreign prisoners in Sweden can apply to attend the Swedish Tuition for Immigrants course.

This course helps prisoners with a basic knowledge of the Swedish language. In addition to learning how to read, write and speak in Swedish, the course provides prisoners with the language skills required to participate in daily, social and working life. In addition to its language focus, the course also enables prisoners to develop their intercultural competence by reflecting on their own cultural experiences and comparing these with life in Sweden.

Prisoners that are in prison for shorter periods of time can choose to study English.

Picture it in Prison

This pocket-size booklet provides foreign prisoners with a Picture Dictionary that contains 450 pictures classified by theme, as for example health, hygiene, events, food, maps, translations.

It also contains the translation of 60 basic words and sentences in twenty languages.

Foreign prisoners who already have used it, found the Picture it in Prison booklet to be very helpful, as they most often do not speak the language of the country they have been arrested in.
3.5 Knowledge check

3.6 Question 1

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

**Question 1**
Identify the ways in which language barriers can impact upon a prisoner's experience in prison by ticking the relevant boxes below.

- Reduce access to activities
- Lead to misunderstandings and tension in communication with staff
- Create difficulties in communicating with medical care professionals
- Result in isolation

**3.7 Question 2**

**Question 2**
Translated information should include details on:

- Discipline rules
- The main features of the prison regime
- The prison's internal regulations
- All the documents which circulate in the prison
- Rules and procedures for making requests
- All the dinners that prisoners receive
- Complaint procedure
- Legal advice and assistance
- The prisoners' rights and duties
- How to contact consular representatives
- Information on how to access services
Correct

3.8 Summary

Overcoming Language Barriers

1. Translation of Regulations, Procedures and Basic Phrases.
2. Interpretation if required to explain orally if writing not available and for important discussions such as disciplinary procedures and medical care.
3. Learning a common language (prisoners and staff).
4. Use of pictures/icons to communicate in cases of illiteracy and lack of formal interpretation.
3.9 Key points

In this section you have learned how you can influence in a positive way both foreign prisoners’ daily life as well as the process of dynamic security and interaction within your prison, by overcoming language barriers through:

1. Providing translations of your regulations, procedures and basic phrases in a language that foreign prisoners can commonly understand.
2. Providing interpreters to explain orally when there are no written materials at your disposal or when necessary for important situations.
3. Enabling foreign prisoners and the staff that work with them to learn a language that facilitates more effective communication between them.
4. Using pictures and icons to communicate in cases of illiteracy and lack of formal interpretation.

4. T3 Prison Regime Improvement

4.1 T3 cover
4.2 Introduction

In this chapter we'll take a closer look at the following topics:

- Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs
- Allocation & Accomodation
- Culture & Religion
- Diet
- Health Care
- Women & Infant Children

Let's start with the first one and end with the knowledge check.

4.3 Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

Equality in law proves insufficient to ensure equality in practice!

Click for more information

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Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

Equality in law proves insufficient to ensure equality in practice!

National Penal Law

European Prison Rules

Regional Study

Click on the buttons

Click for more information

European Prison Rules

- State that imprisonment is by the deprivation of liberty a punishment in itself and therefore the regime for sentenced prisons shall not aggravate the suffering inherent in imprisonment.
- Emphasise that prison conditions that infringe a prisoner’s human rights are not justified by lack of resources.

‘No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails’

Nelson Mandela
4.4 Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation identifies key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners where there is possibility for positive discrimination to ensure equality of treatment. It also prioritises individualisation and does not promote preferential treatment. Its provisions are focused at ensuring equal treatment.
Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation identifies key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners where there is possibility for positive discrimination to ensure equality of treatment. It also prioritises individualisation and does not promote preferential treatment. Its provisions are focused at ensuring equal treatment.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

With regard to the prison regime the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation requires that you:

- Take positive steps to avoid discrimination and to address the specific problems that foreign persons may face in prison (Rule 7)
- Accommodate the special welfare needs of foreign prisoners (Rule 9)
- Allocate sufficient resources in order to deal effectively with the particular situation and specific needs of foreign prisoners (Rule 11)
- Take, where necessary, specific measures to counter the difficulties foreign prisoners may face in order to ensure equal access to a balanced programme of activities (Rule 26).

Key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners

1. Foreign prisoners face various difficulties during their time in detention as a result of:
   - Linguistic differences
   - Cultural differences
   - Religious differences
   - Lack of social support

2. A range of aspects of prison life require special attention.

   For example, many provisions encourage the culturally-sensitive application of prison rules that relate to:
   - Hygiene
   - Clothing
   - Nutrition
   - Recreation
   - Freedom of belief
   - Healthcare
Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation identifies key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners where there is possibility for positive discrimination to ensure equality of treatment. It also prioritises individualisation and does not promote preferential treatment. Its provisions are focused at ensuring equal treatment.

Positive discrimination

You have already learned that imprisonment is a punishment by itself and therefore the prison regime should not aggravate suffering inherent in imprisonment.

The assertion is not that national prison systems are deliberately treating detained foreigners in a lesser manner but that equality in law often proves insufficient to ensure equality in practice.

Positive discrimination is therefore often necessary to ensure that foreign prisoners have the same quality of treatment as national prisoners.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation
Key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners
Positive discrimination
Individualisation

Positive Discrimination & Specific Needs

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation identifies key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners where there is possibility for positive discrimination to ensure equality of treatment. It also prioritises individualisation and does not promote preferential treatment. Its provisions are focused at ensuring equal treatment.

Individualisation

Be aware that it's not enough to treat your foreign prisoners in an equal way! Therefore, ascertain that you pay attention to the specific needs that each foreign detainee has.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation
Key areas of specific needs for foreign prisoners
Positive discrimination
Individualisation
4.5 Allocation & Accommodation

**Allocation & Accommodation**

What does allocation policy mean in terms of foreign prisoners?

It means that:

1. You determine where you will house your foreign prisoners.
2. Either you choose to separate them from your national prisoners or you decide to place your foreign prisoners together with national prisoners.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation notes that decisions regarding the allocation of foreign prisoners shall take into account the need to alleviate their potential isolation and to facilitate their contact with the outside world (Rule 16.5).

Verify that your allocation policy is not based solely on nationality grounds but also on the social and reintegration needs of individuals.
4.6 Culture and Religion

Culture and Religion

Foreign prisoners have different rights concerning their culture and religion. These rights are stated in different provisions of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation.

Prison Authorities have a duty to facilitate the exercise of those rights by foreign prisoners. They may do so in various ways.

While some aspects of religious observance may raise security concerns, these should not disadvantage this fundamental right unless where it is essential to impose limitations.

Such limitations should be the minimum necessary to guarantee safety and security.
**Culture and Religion**

Foreign prisoners have different rights concerning their culture and religion. Those rights are stated in different provisions of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation.

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Such limitations should be the minimum necessary to guarantee safety and security.

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**Sanitation & Hygiene facilities**

The 2012 Recommendation advocates the provision of sanitation and hygiene facilities that accommodate the cultural and religious preferences of foreign prisoners and the interpretation of prison rules on appearance in a manner that respects these preferences while ensuring the maintenance of appropriate medical standards.

For example:

The facilities provided should enable prisoners to shower in a way which is sensitive to their understandings of public decency.

And if a prisoner’s religious beliefs require him to grow a beard, he should not be prohibited from doing so and facilities should be provided to enable him to keep his beard clean and trimmed.

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Such limitations should be the minimum necessary to guarantee safety and security.

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**Uniforms**

The 2012 Council of Recommendation states that prison uniforms must not offend the cultural or religious sensibilities of prisoners. If uniforms are not provided, prisoners should, subject to safety and security, be allowed to wear clothes required by their religion or culture.

For example:

Prisoners should be allowed to wear headscarves or turbans if required to by their religion.
Culture and Religion
Foreign prisoners have different rights concerning their culture and religion. Those rights are stated in different provisions of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation.

Prison Authorities have a duty to facilitate the exercise of those rights by foreign prisoners. They may do so in various ways.

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Such limitations should be the minimum necessary to guarantee safety and security.

Exercise & Recreation
Cultural respect should also extend to the provision of exercise and recreation within prisons. The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation advocates the flexible arrangement of such activities to enable and promote the participation of foreign prisoners.

For example:
Foreign prisoners should not be forced to wear sports gear that conflicts with values related to modesty.

Exercise and recreation can be used to promote positive relations between prisoners from different backgrounds.

Rule 30 of the 2012 Recommendation states the following:
Prisoners shall have the right to exercise or change their religion or belief and shall be protected from any compulsion in this respect.

Religion
Rule 30 gives practical effect to the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion protected by Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Rule 29 of the European Prison Rules.
Culture and Religion

Foreign prisoners have different rights concerning their culture and religion. These rights are stated in different provisions of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation.

Prison Authorities have a duty to facilitate the exercise of those rights by foreign prisoners. They may do so in various ways.

While some aspects of religious observance may raise security concerns, these should not disadvantage the fundamental right unless where it is essential to impose limitations.

Such limitations should be the minimum necessary to guarantee safety and security.

Legal case-study

Mozer v The Republic of Moldova and Russia (GC), No. 11136/10, 23/02/2016

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights concluded that the Russian Federation had violated Article 9 of the Convention following the denial of access to a religious representative. The prisoner had requested a visit from the Pastor in order to confess and receive sacraments.

While it remained unclear if there had been a legal basis for the refusal to allow the meetings, as no reasons had been forwarded to justify the refusal, the Court held that the interference with the applicant’s right to freedom of religion had not pursued a legitimate aim or was not proportionate to an aim as required under Article 9(2).

Example of a promising practice:

A multi-faith room: where prisoners can go to according to a schedule of faith activities and worship for individual spiritual meditation

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 0/10
4.7 Diet

Diet

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation directs prison authorities to accommodate the cultural and religious dietary requirements of prisoners where possible (Rule 20).

Implementing this rule allows prisoners to observe their religious beliefs.

What can I do to implement this rule?

- Offer foreign prisoners religiously appropriate diets (Kosher food, Halal).
- Allow prisoners to purchase and cook food that makes their diet more culturally or religiously appropriate.
- Allow foreign detainees to take their meals at appropriate times during religious festivals (meals after sunset for Muslims during Ramadan).
- Consider relevant operational factors to the provision of cooking facilities, such as:
  - Space
  - Security
  - Hygiene

Promising practice

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 7/10
4.8 Legal case-study

Religious Dietary Requirements

Jakóbski v Poland(GC), No. 18429/06, 7/12/2010

In 2010, a prisoner complained when his requests to have a meat-free diet were denied by the Polish prison authorities. His faith dictated that he should avoid eating meat to cultivate compassion for all living things. The European Court of Human Rights found that the prisoner’s decision to adhere to a vegetarian diet could be regarded as motivated or inspired by a religion and was not unreasonable.

State denials were based on the grounds that the preparation of meat-free meals for one person would be too expensive and place an excessive burden on kitchen staff. While the Court accepted that special arrangements for one prisoner can have financial implications, it argued that the State must strike a fair balance between the interests of the institution, other prisoners, and the particular interest of the requesting prisoner. The prisoner’s request (for meat-free food) did not require special preparation of products, cooking or service methods. The Court was not convinced that the provision of a vegetarian diet would entail any disruption to the management of the prison or decline in the standard of meals for other prisoners.

The Court cited the European Prison Rules which recommend that prison authorities take the cultural and religious preferences of prisoners in relation to diet into account ([Rule 22.1]). The Chamber unanimously concluded that the authorities had failed to strike a fair balance between the interests of the prison authorities and the applicant (to manifest his religion through observance of the rules of the Buddhist religion) and accordingly that there had been a breach of Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
4.9 Exercise

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Exercise
A group of Christian prisoners housed in a medium security Turkish prison have asked the Governor if they can organise a special celebration for Christmas Day.
The prisoners hope to celebrate a mass by asking a priest (who has taken services in prison before and is security cleared) and to also have a traditional meal. The priest has accepted the invitation. The prison wing has communal cooking facilities. The meal requested would require some food to be ordered from outside the prison in advance which the prisoners have offered to pay for.
The Governor declined the request stating that it would cause disruption to the operation of the wing.

Is the decision in this scenario in line with Rule 20 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation?

- Yes
- No

Correct
4.10 Health Care

Health Care

Duty of care
Access to health care
Other important provisions
Specific issues

The CPT has highlighted that the 'act of depriving someone of their liberty always entails a duty of care which includes the adequate provision of health care.'

It expanded this duty by recommending that 'sufficient funds should be allocated to prisons to ensure the provision of free-of-charge services to indigent prisoners'.

Importantly, the CPT has stated that 'foreign inmates should be provided with health care on an equal footing with other inmates'.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation emphasises this duty in relation to foreign prisoners. Rule 31.1 states that:

"Foreign prisoners shall have access to the same health care and treatment programmes that are available to other prisoners."

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation highlights the need for sufficient resources and funds to be allocated to deal with the specific health problems that may be faced by foreign prisoners (Rule 31.2) and for health care staff to be aware of such problems and how to deal with them (Rule 31.3)

Prison authorities are obliged to ensure health care and the implementation of the principle of equivalence of care for foreign prisoners.
Health Care

What can be done to ensure equal and fair access to health care for foreign prisoners?

- Recognise that foreign prisoners in your prison may have special or different needs from national prisoners.
- They may have specific health problems or suffer from diseases that are not common in the state in which they are detained (e.g. malaria or dengue).
- The health care provided within your prison should be of the same standard as the health care provided in the community and that all prisoners, thus also foreign detainees, can access this health care.
- Sufficient resources and funds should be allocated to deal with specific health problems of foreign prisoners.
- Health care staff should be trained to be aware of specific health problems of foreign prisoners and how to deal with it.

Duty of care

Access to health care

Other important provisions

Specific issues

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 10/10

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4.11 Women and Infant Children

First look at Yasmina’s situation.
The case of Yasmina is not in line with interesting research findings!
Learn more about recent research findings and regional policy by clicking on the buttons below.
Women and Infant Children

They took my child away from me without asking me any questions.

My little boy was placed with a European couple. They don’t speak my language and don’t have any affinity nor positive feelings for my culture. I’m very frightened by that and have many sorrows.

How will I be able to communicate with my child later on? And what about the aspects of my culture that are so important to us?

Also I feel very lonely without him. It feels as if I’ve lost a part of myself. I’m afraid I will become crazy if I have to live on without him!

Prison authorities told me that I will have my baby back when I return home. Why can’t I keep it with me? We have such a beautiful bond. Why don’t they want to listen to me? I need help!

Yasmina’s Story

Research Finding 1

Research Finding 2

CoE Recommendation

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 11 /10

Layer 2 (Slide Layer)

Women and Infant Children

Research Finding 1

Women are often vulnerable within national prison systems due to a lack of accommodation and the adverse impact of separation.

The vulnerability caused by separation can be increased for females detained in a foreign country, particularly if their family and children remain in their country of origin.

Important considerations for prison authorities:

- Pay attention to meeting foreign female prisoners’ psychological, healthcare, pre-natal and post-natal needs (The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation Rule 33: 33.3):

- Take special measures to combat the isolation of foreign prisoners (The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation Rule 33: 1)
Layer 3 (Slide Layer)

Women and Infant Children

Research Finding 2
Research has shown that the benefits of an infant remaining with his or her mother can outweigh the development impairment that may result from being housed in a prison.

Important considerations for prison authorities:
• Consider placing babies and young infants together with their mothers in prison.
• Take any of your decisions about whether to admit or remove a child from prison only after special consideration of all the circumstances and the best interests of the child (Rule 36.1 of the European Prison Rules, and Articles 3, 9 (6) and 20 (6) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).
• Follow some further guidance for decision-making given by the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation (Rule 34) in relation to placing an infant with their detained parent in prison in the case of foreign prisoners.

Layer 4 (Slide Layer)

Women and Infant Children

The Council of Europe Recommendation:

• Consider the conditions in which the child would be housed within the prison.
  • If a decision is made to place an infant with his or her parent in detention, then the arrangements and facilities for caring for the child should respect cultural and religious diversity (Rule 34.2).
  • Determine as soon as possible the legal status of any child in prison, particularly in the situation where the child born in prison has a different nationality from the parent (Rule 34.3).
• Consider the conditions the child would live in if placed outside the prison.
• Consider the views of the legal guardians of the child.
4.12 Knowledge check

Knowledge Check

Answer the following questions regarding this chapter.

4.13 Question 1

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 1

Select two groups of prisoners that are more likely to experience isolation in detention.

- [ ] Foreign prisoners who may stay in the country of detention
- [x] Women who may stay in the country of detention
- [x] Foreign prisoners who lost their right to remain in the country of detention
- [ ] Women who are separated from their baby or infant
- [ ] Nationals who stay in the country of their country

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Correct

**Question 1**
Select two groups of prisoners that are more likely to experience isolation in detention.

- [ ] Foreign prisoners who may stay in the country of detention
- [ ] Women who may stay in the country of detention
- [ ] Foreign prisoners who lost their right to remain in the country of detention
- [ ] Women who are separated from their baby or infant
- [ ] Nationals who stay in the prison of their country

**Correct!**
These are the groups of prisoners that are more likely to experience isolation in detention:
- Foreign prisoners who lost their right to remain in the country of detention.
- Women who are separated from their baby or infant.

4.14 Question 2

*(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)*

**Question 2**
Positive discrimination is often necessary to ensure that foreign prisoners have the same quality of life as national prisoners.

- [ ] True
- [ ] False
Correct

Question 2
Positive discrimination is often necessary to ensure that foreign prisoners have the same quality of life as national prisoners.

- True
- False

Correct!
Positive discrimination is necessary to meet the specific needs that foreign prisoners have.

4.15 Question 3
(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

In your opinion which aspects below should be taken into account when deciding whether to have a special wing or prison for foreign prisoners?

- Ascertain that it is appropriate and subject to the requirements of safety and security.
- It will be easier to establish a regime that reduces access to work, education and rehabilitation programmes.
- Base it primarily on their individual needs and the facilitation of their social reintegration.
- Those prison staff who do not want to work with foreign prisoners will not need to be allocated there.
- The need to alleviate isolation and facilitate contact with the outside world.

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Correct

4.16 Key points

In this section we have learned how we can improve the regime for foreign prisoners through:

1. Specific ways of allocating and accommodating foreign prisoners.
2. Identifying the special needs that foreign prisoners have on a range of aspects.
3. Understanding the importance of positive discrimination to obtain equal treatment.
4. Implementing the international and European legal framework.
5. T5 RESettlement

5.1 T5 cover

Resettlement and Rehabilitation issues

Investment in resettlement and rehabilitation is to everyone’s benefit in a global world.

5.2 Introduction

Introduction
slider_1 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

The European prison rules make rehabilitation the sole aim governing the implementation of sentences of imprisonment. This should be for all prisoners, thus also for foreign prisoners. All prisoners should benefit from arrangements designed to assist them in returning to society after release.

slider_2 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

The prison regime should focus on preparing foreign prisoners for release and social integration.

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Introduction

The effectiveness of sentence plans depends on measures being put in place in good time. So it is crucial that prison authorities know where the prisoner will go.

Foreign prisoners may have been in the country illegally or may lose their right to remain during their time in prison or as a result of their criminal conviction.

Introduction

The decision on the legal status and the prisoner's situation after release should be determined as early as possible during their sentence.

In particular, detention should not be unduly prolonged by delays caused by the finalisation of the immigration status of foreign prisoners.
5.3 Access to programmes

Access to programmes

Prison authorities should, where necessary, take specific measures to ensure that foreign prisoners have equal access to a balanced programme of activities.

Difficulties:
Foreign prisoners face difficulties in accessing education and training. While they aren't formally excluded, they often cannot access places due to language barriers or the prioritisation of places for nationals who will be reintegrated into the detaining state.

The lack of access to training and education for foreign nationals is widespread. Even where national legislation requires the work and education needs of prisoners with different mother tongues to be taken into account.

Positive measures:
To overcome this discrimination prison authorities should take positive measures to ensure that foreign prisoners have equal access to a balanced programme of activities. Positive measures can include help with language requirements, or the provision of alternative programmes which focus on reintegration in other states.

Prison authorities should facilitate the achievement of qualifications that are recognised in the country the individuals will live in following release. This may include access to programmes available outside the prison. We should also take the individual's needs and aspiration of foreign prisoners into account.

This may involve providing courses which enable them to work towards qualifications that are recognised in the country that they are likely to reside in after release.
Access to programmes

Promising practices

Kongsvinger prison:
Kongsvinger Prison in Norway houses foreign prisoners that are likely to be deported. Accordingly, adjustments were made to the focus of the vocational training courses provided.

The focus changed from providing theory-based courses linked to Norwegian requirements to the provision of shorter-term, practical courses that would be recognised in other countries.

The education programme was also changed to provide courses taught in English and to offer lessons in the English language.

Distance learning:
The Forner Project (2015 – 2018) was funded by the European Union’s Erasmus+ programme. This project focused on the provision of prison education for European foreign national prisoners through the use of information technology.

It did so by enabling foreign prisoners to access education programmes in their home countries through distance learning.

Report on Project available at: [Website Link]

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

Access to programmes

Foreign prisoners have difficulties in accessing work. Often the only jobs available for them are basic unpaid jobs.

Foreign prisoners should have equal opportunities when it comes to access to and consideration for suitable income-producing work, even where this is only available outside the prison. While there may be legitimate security concerns about the provision of work outside prison, it is important that states ensure equality of opportunities for foreign prisoners.

The lack of work and associated income has an impact upon their ability to stay in contact with family and friends.

Where income is earned, foreign prisoners should be able to transfer at least part of their earnings to family members living abroad.

More specifically, if foreign prisoners are contributing to the social security system of the detaining state, they should be able to transfer any accrued benefits of such contributions to the country they will reside in after release.

By improving access to unemployment benefits, pensions or health care, the chances of successful social reintegration will be enhanced.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
Access to programmes

Promising practice:
Creating micro-economic projects in the prisoner’s country of origin (Switzerland)

Foreign prisoners in Switzerland can apply for assistance to launch a micro-economic project in their country of origin during their time in detention. The prisoner submits a request for assistance with a business plan to the prison social worker.

This is evaluated by the Swiss branch of International Social Services, which contacts a local partner in the prisoner’s country of origin to obtain a feasibility study. If approved, the ISS finances and monitors the project through the local partner (not the prisoner directly).

For further information see:
https://www.nicabase.org/en/node/49

Provision of Rehabilitation Programmes in Different Languages in Norway

Male and female foreign prisoners in Norway can access a number of rehabilitation and reintegration focused programmes organised in English and other languages. These include:

- TENT UT (Think Outside the box) uses pictorial reflection cards to prompt and encourage self-reflection and group discussions on choices and outcomes in English.
- National Substance Abuse Programme.
- Penga og livet (Money and Life): an everyday financial management course.

Further information in the Norway country page in:
Resources for Working with Foreign National Prisoners in Europe

An interesting pilot project called Planning for Resettlement Project was launched in Kongsvinger Prison in 2016 to provide foreign prisoners with knowledge, insight and tools that could contribute to their reintegration independent of the destination after release. Inspired by a psycho-educative approach, its goal is to provide participants with the tools and skills required to take control over and improve their lives.

This project also uses the English language as this is often the common language spoken by participants. Understanding was also improved by using teaching techniques that focused on the use of pictures, drawings and narratives and ensuring sessions focused in a limited number of issues.

The course covers a range of issues (and follow-up sessions prompted by participant requests) which include goal setting, life plans, the connection between emotions and behaviour, risky thinking, planning, cultural differences, controlling emotions, relationships, drug dependency/addiction, parenting and anger management.
5.4 Preparation for release

Preparation for release

Prison leave

Prison leave should be an integral part of any prison regime. To prepare foreign prisoners for release, foreign prisoners should be granted prison leave where appropriate.

In practice, foreign prisoners are often denied such possibilities due to a lack of a permanent address in the country and the right risk they are considered to pose.

To avoid this, leave requests should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and decisions should be based on objective facts about the individual in question and should not be based on generalised perceptions of risk. The flexible application of requirements in relation to a permanent address and the assistance of NGOs can help to improve the likelihood of temporary leave being granted.
**5.5 Different release scenarios**
**Different release scenarios**

**Release into detaining state**

Preparation for release should include assistance with social needs such as housing and employment.

Foreign prisoners should receive the same care and support as nationals from prison, probation and social welfare agencies.

**Transfer to serve remainder of sentence**

The humane treatment and social rehabilitation of non-nationals may be best served by transferring them back to their own country to serve their sentence.

Prisoners should only be transferred to a country with which they have links, if the move would be in line with their fundamental human rights and facilitate their social reintegration.

Transfer to a country with which a person has legal and social links should enhance the chances of successful reintegration, at the very least by making preparation for release less complicated.

Transfers can also be made in the interests of public protection as the prisoner will be subject to control following release from prison, which he or she may not be following deportation.

There are a number of treaties at the Council of Europe, European Union and the United Nations that facilitate the process of transferring foreign prisoners back to their own country to serve their sentence.

Some countries also enter into bilateral agreements with other countries to enable such transfers to take place.

There should be no transfer if the move will involve violating a prisoner’s rights!

The assessment of potential risks should be made by persons who have received appropriate training and have access to objective and independent information about the human rights situation in other countries.
Different release scenarios

**Transfer of foreign prisoners:**

1. To increase the likelihood of transfer mechanisms being used, foreign prisoners should be provided with information about them in a language they understand. National judiciaries should also be provided with reports about the possibilities and desirability of transferring individuals before sentencing.

2. Authorities should provide prisoners with information on conditions of imprisonment, prison regimes and possibilities for release in the country they wish to be transferred to and assist them to seek independent advice about the consequences of transfers.

3. If a prisoner is transferred to another country to serve their sentence, the authorities should send information about activities and programmes participated in.

4. When prison authorities give consideration to the transfer of terminally ill foreign prisoners to a country which they have social links, the prison authorities should facilitate the continuation of medical treatment in such cases. They should provide the medicine for transfer and transfer also the medical records where consent is given.

EuroPris, the organisation for European Prisons has information on the EU Framework Agreement 905 on Prison Transfer as well as other related information.

https://www.europris.org/topics/framework-95052

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**Movimiento por la Paz** is a charity that works with Spanish consulates and other institutions to provide advice and information to Spanish prisoners detained abroad.

Under their Program of Attention to Spanish People Detained Abroad (PADE), the charity aims to provide prisoners and their families, with support and advice regarding their social and legal situation.

This can involve providing information and guidance to request a transfer to serve their sentence back in Spain.

For further information see:
http://www.mpel.es/es/espacios-mod/atencion-detenidos-españoles
Different release scenarios

Deportation

Foreign prisoners who will return to their home countries after release may require different forms of preparation than foreign offenders who will remain in the same state after release. To assist their social reintegration in foreign countries the preparation for release should therefore be tailored as far as possible to enable the foreign prisoners to re-integrate into society in the particular state they will return to upon release.

Efforts should be made to contact and liaise with the relevant authorities in the receiving state to ensure both immediate support upon their return and the facilitation of their reintegration into society.
Different release scenarios

Reintegration support:
- Access to a wide range of bodies (e.g., Probation agencies, approved support associations, communities agencies, volunteers, …).
- Opportunities to learn the language of the country.
- Contacts should be established with relevant authorities and support services in the receiving state, if the foreign prisoner consents.
  - Transfer of information

Promising practices

- Tracks (UK)
- Huntercombe Prison
- Hibiscus Initiatives
- Prisoners Abroad

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
**Different release scenarios**

- Release into detaining state
- Deportation
- Preparation for deportation
- Transfer to serve remainder of sentence

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**Managing Foreign National Prisoners**
hibiscus (Slide Layer)

Abroad (Slide Layer)
5.6 Knowledge check

5.7 Question 1

(Drag and Drop, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

5.8 Question 2

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 2

The lack of a permanent address in the detaining State makes a foreign prisoner a flight risk and therefore prison leave should be denied.

- True
- False
Correct

Question 2
The lack of a permanent address in the detaining State makes a foreign prisoner a flight risk and therefore prison leave should be denied.

- True
- False

Correct!
Leave requests should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and decisions should be based on objective facts about the individual in question and should not be based on generalized perceptions of risks.

Good practice would entail taking into consideration the address of family members resident in the State or associations that provide accommodation for such prisoners in order to facilitate leave requests.

5.9 Question 3
(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 3
Prison leave is important to facilitate the maintenance and re-establishment of contacts with family.

- True
- False

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Correct

Question 3
Prison leave is important to facilitate the maintenance and re-establishment of contacts with family.

- True
- False

5.10 Question 4
(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 4
Early release should be refused due to lack of property or familial links in the detaining state.

- True
- False
5.11 Question 5

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

5.12 Question 6

(Drag and Drop, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

Yes, you did it. you chose the correct answer.

**Difficulties that they face**
- Language barrier
- Only basic unpaid jobs available
- Prioritisation of places for nationals
- Legitimate security concerns about the provision of work outside

**Positive measures that can be taken**
- Help with language requirements
- Access to programmes available outside the prison
- Provision of alternative programmes
- Transfer of (at least) part of their earnings to family living abroad

Click NEXT to advance.
6. T4 - Contact With the Outside

6.1 T4 Cover

6.2 Introduction

Introduction

Contact with the outside world is an important topic concerning foreign nationals in prisons.

First click on the buttons to learn why such contact is so important and then proceed to find out how you can deal with it.
Layer 1 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

Isolation and discrimination

This is Ahmet. He is a foreign prisoner in a UK prison. He misses his wife and three children. He also cannot join in with the weekly discussion group in the prison because he doesn’t understand or speak the language. He doesn’t have access to TV channels from his own country or in his language. He feels totally isolated.

Difficulties in maintaining contact with the outside world can create an impression of isolation and discrimination.

Layer 2 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

Risk of suicide

Foreign prisoners are more likely to become isolated and thereby face increased risks of mental health problems, self-harm and suicide.

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Layer 3 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

Alleviate isolation
To alleviate isolation, it is important to utilise social support mechanisms that are both internal and external to the prison estate.

Layer 4 (Slide Layer)

Introduction

Perceptions of discrimination
Perceptions of discrimination can be overcome with a flexible approach to the application of prison rules in relation to contact with the outside world.
6.3 Contact with the outside world

Contact with the outside world

Three factors play an important role in alleviating the isolation of foreign prisoners:
1. Allocation and Accommodation Decisions
2. Legal and Social Contact/Support Mechanisms
3. Access to literature and media

In this chapter we’ll take a closer look at them and end up with a quiz. Let’s start with the first one.

6.4 1. Allocation & Accommodation

1. Allocation & Accommodation

The European Prison Rules and the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation provide provisions concerning the allocation and accommodation of foreign prisoners (see also chapter III).

The European Prison Rules state that prison authorities should aim to place prisoners in facilities close to their homes or places of social rehabilitation. This is difficult to achieve for non-national and non-resident prisoners who will, more likely than not, be expelled following the completion of their sentence.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation, therefore, directs prison authorities to make allocation decisions on the basis of the need to alleviate the potential isolation of non-nationals and to facilitate their contact with the outside world.

One way in which this may be achieved is by facilitating visits from family members living abroad by housing foreign prisoners in prisons close to transport facilities. Such allocation decisions are of course subject to the requirements of safety and security and consideration of the individual needs of such prisoners.

Help foreign prisoners to inform persons that can assist them.
1. Allocation & Accommodation

The European Prison Rules and the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation provide provisions concerning the allocation and accommodation of foreign prisoners (see also chapter III). The European Prison Rules state that prison authorities should aim to place prisoners in facilities close to their homes or places of social rehabilitation. This is difficult to achieve for non-national and non-resident prisoners who will, more likely than not, be expelled following the completion of their sentence.

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation, therefore, directs prison authorities to make allocation decisions on the basis of the need to alleviate the potential isolation of non-nationals and to facilitate their contact with the outside world.

One way in which this may be achieved is by facilitating visits from family members living abroad by housing foreign prisoners in prisons close to transport facilities. Such allocation decisions are of course subject to the requirements of safety and security and consideration of the individual needs of such prisoners.

Help foreign prisoners to inform persons that can assist them.

6.5 2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation stresses the importance of social contact for foreign prisoners. Rule 22.1 urges prison authorities to alleviate the potential isolation faced by foreign prisoners by paying special attention to the maintenance and development of social relationships with family and friends, consular representatives, probation and community agencies and volunteers.

The aim is to optimise and normalise contact through the adoption of a flexible and accommodating approach and ultimately, to reduce isolation and facilitate reintegration.
6.6 Family and Friends

2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

Family and Friends.

In addition to alleviating isolation within the prison system, through allocation and accommodation decisions, it is also vitally important to ensure the maintenance of contacts with the outside world. Research has shown that non-national, non-resident prisoners often lose contact with their families during imprisonment, causing isolation and hindering the likelihood of successful reintegration.

CPT reports have highlighted various difficulties foreign prisoners can face in trying to maintain relationships with their family and friends abroad.

It recommends the adoption of a flexible approach to the implementation of rules governing such contacts that bears in mind the special needs of this group of prisoners.

flexible approach (Slide Layer)

Flexible Approach

The CPT has warned that the imposition of any restrictions on phone calls should be proportionate to the threat posed and not be used as an indirect way of restricting communications.

Given its increased use throughout the region and the fact that communication can be secured with appropriate staff supervision, the CPT has suggested that prison services explore the use of modern internet technology to facilitate communication between foreign prisoners and their families.
traditional approach (Slide Layer)

The CPT has noted that some foreign prisoners rarely receive visits from family members living abroad and they are often unable to accumulate visiting hours. Communication by phone seems challenging due to:
- difficulties in obtaining security clearance for contact details
- the high cost of international calls
- a requirement to speak a foreign language during calls.

Also, the use of modern Internet technology seems challenging for security reasons.

6.7 Family and Friends

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation explores the maintenance of relationships and contacts in a number of ways. In recognition of the importance of minimising the damage that imprisonment can cause to family ties, Rule 22 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation suggests a number of steps that prison authorities can take to facilitate the maintenance of relations between foreign prisoners and their families.
Family and Friends

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation explores the maintenance of relationships and contacts in a number of ways. In recognition of the importance of minimising the damage that imprisonment can cause to family ties, Rule 22 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation suggests a number of steps that prison authorities can take to facilitate the maintenance of relations between foreign prisoners and their families.

Calls and Communication

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation stresses that the rules for making and receiving calls should be applied flexibly to ensure equivalence of access (Rule 22.3) and that indigent foreign prisoners should be assisted with the costs of communicating with the outside world to the extent reasonable under the circumstances (Rule 22.4).

As foreign prisoners often do not have work, and therefore may not have money to buy stamps or phone cards, states should ensure access to communications, and if they are externally provided, that they are reasonably priced.

Promising practice:

Prison Voice Project, Huntercombe Prison, UK

Prisoners’ families can call from abroad and leave voicemail messages for their loved ones.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

7/19
calls - pop2 (Slide Layer)

Promising practice:
Email, The Netherlands
Foreign prisoners in Dutch prisons can avail of an innovative approach to the use of modern technology that reduces the burden of paying for communications from such prisoners. Using the email service, the relatives and friends can pay €0.40 to send an email to a prisoner, covering the cost of printing the message. Information about the service is provided in a range of languages to encourage use.

visits (Slide Layer)

In situations where high travel costs prevent regular or any visits, it may be possible to facilitate or improve contact using technology, such as videoconferences. However, the use of video link technology should not constitute the answer to all practical difficulties. Ordinary visits, in particular contact visits, should always be preferred.
Family and Friends

Children

Special measures should be put in place to encourage and enable the maintenance of regular and meaningful contact between foreign prisoners and their children (Rule 22.7).

In particular, attention should be paid to facilitating visits from and correspondence and communication with children living abroad (Rule 22.8).

Visits should be planned to take account of the child's availability and be implemented in a child-friendly manner that permits open contact. Costs and school commitments may make it necessary to consider the use of video-links.

Family and Friends

Language

The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation stresses that 'unless there is a specific concern in individual cases related to safety and security, foreign prisoners shall be allowed to use a language of their choice during contact with family and friends' (Rule 22.2).

This rule highlights the need for flexibility in relation to the use of language during contacts. The right of foreign prisoners to speak in their own language during communications with family and friends should only be restricted when absolutely necessary due to a specific, substantiated concern in relation to a particular individual.

Whilst security concerns may arise when prisoners speak a language which the authorities do not understand, practical measures relating to interpretation can minimise this concern. If the translation required for active surveillance is not available, the right of foreign prisoners to speak in their language should only be postponed for a reasonable period necessary to rectify the problem.
6.8 Family and Friends

What can you do?

1. Apply the rules for making and receiving calls in a flexible way.
2. Assist indigent foreign prisoners with the costs of communicating with the outside world.
3. Allow visits from family members to be arranged through combining visit entitlements.
4. Provide family members living abroad with support and information to arrange visits.
5. Ensure that prisoners can inform family members about their current location.
6. Facilitate contact through the use of videoconferencing.
7. Give preference to contact visits if possible.
8. Facilitate visits from and correspondence and communication with children living abroad.
9. Allow foreign prisoners to use a language of their choice during contact with family and friends.

Legal case-study

Layer 1 (Slide Layer)

Family Visits and Restrictions on the use of Language during Visits

Mavrović v The Republic of Moldova and Russia (GC), No. 11358/10,
25/02/2016

In 2016, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights held that the denial of family visits and a requirement to speak in a foreign language in front of prison guards violated the prisoner’s Article 8 rights (private and family life).

The case involved a Moldovan national who belonged to a German ethnic minority. In addition to being denied family visits with his parents for six months, he was required to speak to them in front of a prison guard in Russian (rather than his mother tongue German) during permitted visits. A failure to do so would result in the visit being cancelled.

The Court acknowledged that the deprivation of liberty entails inherent limitations on private and family life. Some measure of control over a prisoners’ contacts with the outside world is not of itself incompatible with the Convention.

However, it stressed that an essential part of a prisoner’s right to respect for family life is that authorities enable him to maintain contact with his close family. No explanation was provided for the denial of visits. Further the Court found it unacceptable in principle that a prison guard was present during family visits in order to monitor what they discussed (the only reason for the language requirements).
6.9 NGO Promising practice:

Re-establishing links with family through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The worldwide ‘Family Links’ network of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can help to restore family links between foreign prisoners and family members with whom they have lost contact.

This service is particularly helpful for foreign prisoners who cannot contact his or her family using normal means of communication. For example, if phone lines or the postal system is not working properly in the country of origin.

Prison authorities can ask the ICRC’s National Society to send a volunteer to the prison. The volunteer will take a Red Cross message which will be sent to the prisoner’s family in the country of origin through the National Society or ICRC Delegation there.

It may also be the case that the foreign prisoner does not know where family members are by reason of conflict, national disasters, migration etc. In such instances, a tracing request can be used to search for the relative.

Further details available at [https://familylinks.icrc.org](https://familylinks.icrc.org)
6.10 Consular Representatives

2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

Consular Representatives

CPT reports have highlighted that prisoners may not be aware of their rights in relation to consular representation or may not be provided with information on how to contact their consular representatives.

This may be due to a lack of information in a language which they understand. Rule 1510 states that such information should be provided in a language the prisoner understands at admission and also during the prisoner's detention.

Visits from consular representatives can reduce social isolation (see Rule 221). The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation focuses on the foreign prisoner's right of access to consular representatives (Rule 241) and the duty of prison authorities to facilitate such communication (Rule 25).

- Foreign prisoners have the right to have regular contact with their consular representatives (Rule 241) and to have access to reasonable facilities to communicate with such representatives (Rule 242).
- If a foreign prisoner has more than one foreign nationality, they can contact consular representatives of both countries.
- A foreign prisoner is also entitled to refuse to make contact with or accept communication from consular representatives.
- It may be the case that a prisoner is detained in a country that does not have a consulate from their country of origin, if so, prisoners should be able to communicate with consular representatives from another state who are charged with looking after their interests (Rule 243).
- Refugees and asylum seekers may not wish to contact their consular representatives but rather to ask for assistance from national or international bodies that can help them, such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Rule 244).
6.11 Volunteers

Is there a role for volunteers concerning foreign prisoners?
Who are those volunteers?
Can you give some examples?
What kind of support can those volunteers give to foreign prisoners?

Click on each question to see the answers.
2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

Volunteers

Is there a role for volunteers concerning foreign prisoners?
The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation recognises the role that is and can be played by volunteers in supporting foreign prisoners. They may play an important part in preserving foreign prisoners’ links with their home countries. The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation highlights their importance by advocating that prison authorities enable prisoners to contact such groups and facilitate their visits (Rule 233).

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

Volunteers

Is there a role for volunteers concerning foreign prisoners?

Who are those volunteers?

Can you give some examples?

For example, volunteers working with the Dutch Probation Service’s Foreign Liaison Office and NGOs such as British Prisoners Abroad, the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas and the Swedish Bridges to Abroad. If you want information on the key Services they provide to prisoners abroad, you can click on the link below:

Looking for inspiration on how to support nationals detained abroad, click on the link below and find some reflections on 40 years of Prisoners Abroad:

Hibiscus Initiative is a voluntary sector organisation that coordinates volunteers. Click on the link if you want to know more about it:

Often these volunteers provide the social support, legal advice and financial assistance to nationals detained abroad that prison authorities cannot.

Prisoners Abroad, for example, states out of experience that for foreign prisoners, it is very important to retain contact with family friends and to feel connected to home.

Free post envelopes and English reading materials help people to feel less isolated. The Newsletter, sent to all clients around the world is valued as it helps people feel part of a community.
6.12 Religious Officials

The image shows a text that reads:

2. Legal & Social Contact/Support

Religious Officials

Rule 30 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation states the following:

“Prisoners shall have the right to exercise or change their religion or belief and shall be protected from any compulsion in this respect. Prison authorities shall, as far as practicable, grant foreign prisoners access to approved representatives of their religion or belief.”

Rule 30 gives practical effect to the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion protected by Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Rule 29 of the European Prison Rules.

6.13 3. Literature & Media

The text states:

3. Literature & Media

Isolation can be prevented and alleviated by allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin. Therefore they should be allowed (to the extent possible):

- to keep themselves informed by subscribing to publications (papers, periodicals, etc.) written in a language which they understand;
- to access radio, television or internet broadcasts in a language they understand;
- to access reading materials and resources that reflect their linguistic needs and cultural preferences through the prison library.
3. Literature & Media

Isolation can be prevented and alleviated by allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin. Therefore they should be allowed (to the extent possible):

• to keep themselves informed by subscribing to publications (papers, periodicals etc) written in a language which they understand.
• to access radio, television or Internet broadcasts in a language they understand.
• to access reading materials and resources that reflect their linguistic needs and cultural preferences through the prison library.

Promising practice: Ypres Prison, Belgium

The prison library contains both fictional and non-fictional books in a range of languages. Prisoners can also access a wider range of foreign language books from the city library.
The city library sends staff on secondment to look after the prison library.

6.14 Knowledge check

Knowledge Check

Answer the following questions regarding this chapter.
6.15 Question 1

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 1
Isolation can be prevented and alleviated by allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin.

- True
- False

Correct

Question 1
Isolation can be prevented and alleviated by allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin.

- True
- False

Correct!

Isolation can be prevented and alleviated by allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin.

Therefore foreign prisoners should be allowed (to the extent possible):
- to keep themselves informed by subscribing to publications (papers, periodicals etc) written in a language which they understand.
- to access radio, television or internet broadcasts in a language they understand.
- to access reading materials and resources that reflect their linguistic needs and cultural preferences through the prison library.
6.16 Question 2

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

What measures can alleviate the potential isolation of non-nationals and facilitate their contact with the outside world?

- House prisoners close to transport facilities
- Inform consular representatives even when it’s the prisoners’ wish not to do so
- Inform all kind of persons that can assist the foreign prisoners if they wish so
- Considerate individual needs of foreign prisoners

Correct

Correct!

Congratulations, good job!

- House prisoners close to transport facilities
- Inform consular representatives even when it’s the prisoners’ wish not to do so
- Inform all kind of persons that can assist foreign prisoners if they wish so
- Considerate individual needs of foreign prisoners

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6.17 Question 3

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

In a flexible approach to implementing prison rules concerning foreign prisoners’ contact with the outside world, prison authorities:

- Will not grant the use of modern internet technology even when security is checked
- Will grant a longer prison call to his family
- Will consider allowing prisoners to accumulate visits when family members are coming from abroad

Correct
6.18 Question 4

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 4

The use of modern internet technology to facilitate contact between a foreign prisoner and his family abroad is forbidden under all circumstances?

☐ True

☐ False

Correct

Question 4

The use of modern internet technology to facilitate contact between a foreign prisoner and his family abroad is forbidden under all circumstances?

☐ True

☐ False

Correct!

Given its increased use throughout the region and the fact that communication can be secured with appropriate staff supervision, the CPT has suggested that prison services explore the use of modern internet technology to facilitate such communication between foreign prisoners and their families.
6.19 Key points

In this section you have learned how you can prevent mental health problems, self-harm and suicide among foreign prisoners by alleviating their isolation and overcoming discrimination through:

1. Housing prisoners in ways which facilitate visits from family members living abroad.
2. Facilitating their contact with family and friends, consular representatives, volunteers and religious officials by the means of for example modern technology.
3. Flexible application of prison rules in relation to foreign prisoners’ contact with the outside world.
4. Allowing foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin by means of appropriate media in a language which they can understand.

7. T6 - Staff

7.1 T6 cover

Staff matters

Selection, training and specialisation of prison staff
7.2 Introduction

Introduction

In this chapter we want you to think about staffing issues which relate to working better with foreign prisoners. We want to look at the selection of staff, staff training and specialization of staff working with foreign prisoners.

The importance of staff selection, training and specialization in working with foreign prisoners is highlighted in the 2012 (12) Recommendations, Basic Principle 12.

“Appropriate training in dealing with foreign offenders must be provided for the relevant authorities, agencies, professionals and associations which have regular contact with such persons.”

7.3 Staff matters

Staff matters - selection, training and specialisation of prison staff

In this chapter we’ll take a closer look at how well selected and trained staff can deliver good services for foreign prisoners. We will see following topics:

1. Selection
2. Training
3. Specialisation

Let’s start with the first one: Selection.
7.4 Staff Selection

1. Staff selection
CULTURAL SENSITIVITY, INTERACTION SKILLS AND LINGUISTIC ABILITIES

Foreign prisoners may face specific problems and be prone to feelings of isolation.
To alleviate these difficulties, prison staff selected to work with foreign prisoners should possess:
- well-developed interpersonal communication skills
- be familiar with different cultures
- ideally have some language skills

Where possible, prison staff should be selected to represent the various cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the prisoners with whom they work.
In addition, staff should have the qualities necessary to form good human relationships and a willingness to learn.

Layer 1 (Slide Layer)

1. Staff selection
CULTURAL SENSITIVITY, INTERACTION SKILLS AND LINGUISTIC ABILITIES

Foreign prisoners may face specific problems and be prone to feelings of isolation.
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Where possible, prison staff should be selected to represent the various cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the prisoners with whom they work.
In addition, staff should have the qualities necessary to form good human relationships and a willingness to learn.

Promising practice from The Netherlands

When the role of Ter Apel prison changed to a foreign national only prison, the question arose whether staff should be retained or if new staff should be directly recruited.
The decision was made to both retain retained existing staff and to recruit new staff directly from the public.
Direct recruitment enabled the prison to hire staff from a diverse range of ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which was important given the facility's new role and population.

For further information and contact details:

Resources for Working with Foreign National Prisoners in Europe

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7.5 Staff Selection Quiz 1

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 1

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Well-developed interpersonal communications skills.

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 1

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Well-developed interpersonal communications skills.

Correct!

Good inter-personal skills are necessary for all prison staff to work effectively and are particularly important for engaging with foreign prisoners who can be isolated, withdrawn, and anxious in a foreign prison.
7.6 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 2

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 2

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Be over 40 years old.

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 2

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Be over 40 years old.

Correct!
The age of prison staff in itself is not indicative of whether prison staff can work effectively with foreign prisoners. An openness and willingness to learn about foreign prisoners, their backgrounds and circumstances is important and not dependent on the age of prison staff.
Staff Selection Quiz – Question 3

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners? Answer Yes or No.

Be familiar with different cultures.

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 3

Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners? Answer Yes or No.

Be familiar with different cultures.

Foreign prisoners (like all prisoners) come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds which prison staff may not be familiar with.

Prison staff should therefore strive to be culturally aware and sensitive to all prisoners backgrounds.

Correct!
7.8 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 4

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 4
Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Speak other languages.

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 4
Are these personal skills or qualities useful for prison staff to have to work effectively with foreign prisoners?
Answer Yes or No.

Speak other languages.

Correct!

Though it is unrealistic to make it a requirement for all staff working with foreign prisoners, it certainly helps if some prison staff can speak other languages. A prison officer’s willingness to learn a new language should be supported by authorities, particularly in a setting where he or she is working with foreign prisoners.
7.9 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 5

**Staff Selection Quiz – Question 5**

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.

If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?

Select 'yes' or 'no' depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you can meet the needs of your foreign prisoner population.

Change all the staff to better reflect your changing prison population?

- [ ] No
- [x] Yes

Correct

**Staff Selection Quiz – Question 5**

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.

If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?

Select 'yes' or 'no' depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you can meet the needs of your foreign prisoner population.

Change all the staff to better reflect your changing prison population?

- [ ] No
- [x] Yes

Prison staff should be professionals who can be given training, knowledge & skills to work effectively with diverse groups of prisoners.
7.10 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 6

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year. If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population? Select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Retain and retrain your current staff?

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 6

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year. If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population? Select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Retain and retrain your current staff?

Correct!

Changes to the profile of prisoners usually happens gradually providing time for in-house training on issues specific to managing foreign prisoners to be part of regular staff training updates.
7.11 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 7

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 7

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.
If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?
Select 'yes' or 'no' depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Recruit additional staff with particular ethnic and cultural background?

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 7

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.
If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?
Select 'yes' or 'no' depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Recruit additional staff with particular ethnic and cultural background?

Correct!

There are obvious advantages in a prison having a diverse staff group reflecting as far as possible the prisoners it manages.

Staff from particular ethnic, faith and cultural backgrounds may have advantages in working with foreign prisoners.
7.12 Staff Selection Quiz – Question 8

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 8

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.
If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?
Select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Make no changes in staff or provide additional training?

Correct

Staff Selection Quiz – Question 8

The number of foreign national prisoners in your prison has greatly increased during the past year.
If you are the prison governor, what do you think you should do to meet the challenges of this change in your prison population?
Select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ depending on what you think is the sensible way to ensure you meet the challenge posed by foreign national prisoners.

Make no changes in staff or provide additional training?

Correct!

For significant improvements to be made in managing foreign prisoners, changes do need to be made to both the selection, training and support of staff.
7.13 Staff matters - Training

2. Staff Training

In this section of 'Staff matters' relating to working with foreign prisoners, we are looking at Staff Training issues.

A question to ask is what is different in the training for staff for working with foreign prisoners?

Prison staff in many European prisons will have to work with prisoners from a range of cultures.

Prison staff need to be culturally sensitive and aware of the differences between themselves and the foreign prisoners with whom they work. This involves training staff on the necessity of respect for different languages, cultures and faiths as well as awareness training with respect to prejudice and the use of negative stereotypes.

Dedicated staff training should ensure the opportunity to learn from each other and seek input from sources from within the community, migrant groups and from the foreign prisoner population itself.

7.14 2. Staff Training

2. Staff Training

Staff who work with foreign prisoners should be provided with specialized training which should include:

- the vulnerability of foreign prisoners during the admissions process
- respect for cultural diversity - how to deal with the particular issues affecting foreign prisoners
- to recognise symptoms of stress and the appropriate action to take
- how to develop better communication skills which may include language training
- the relevant legal and human rights standards and how to apply them in practice

Staff training programs shall be evaluated and revised regularly to ensure they reflect changing populations and social circumstances.

Lessons learned need to be captured and shared through revised training.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
2. Staff Training

Staff who work with foreign prisoners should be provided with specialized training which should include:

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- to recognise symptoms of stress and the appropriate action to take
- how to develop better communication skills which may include language training
- the relevant legal and human rights standards and how to apply them in practice

Staff training programs shall be evaluated and revised regularly to ensure they reflect changing populations and social circumstances. Lessons learned need to be captured and shared through revised training.

Promising practice from Norway

Norway provides an example of promising practice in training prison staff to work more effectively with foreign prisoners. They have a comprehensive 4 day programme for the professional development of staff working with foreign prisoners. The 1st day information on Afghanistan from where a high proportion of their prisoners come. The 2nd day covers cross-cultural understanding. The 3rd day on motivational interviewing and the 4th on human trafficking, modern day slavery and the identification of victims.

Also, to raise staff competency in observing, identifying & sharing self-generated knowledge from their specialist role in a foreign-only prison, the programme acknowledges that professional development in new practice areas needs to build on staff groups’ skills & knowledge combined with external support & contribution.

7.15 2. Staff Training

Designing tailored in-house training for prison staff to work with foreign prisoners
2. Staff Training

Designing tailored in-house training for prison staff to work with foreign prisoners

To work more effectively with foreign prisoners:

The staff need to be more knowledgeable and confident in working with the range of foreign prisoners we hold. Individual officers hold a variety of knowledge and information based on their experience from inside and outside prison and their own diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We need to do better at raising staff competency in observing, identifying & sharing self-generated knowledge they possess as well as adding to their knowledge with other inputs.

To achieve this I shall build in a variety of short presentations from staff members combined with structured large and small group discussions.

Please click on all the different goals to discover how I'll achieve these goals and why I think it's necessary.

Effective work  Cultural understanding  Key workers  Issues for foreign prisoners

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

2. Staff Training

Designing tailored in-house training for prison staff to work with foreign prisoners

To better understand the cultures of the foreign prisoners

There are several representatives from community based migrant and newly established community groups who have much to inform us about. They can say what type of services they do or might be able to provide to us, maybe running a small support group or providing prison volunteers to visit isolated foreign prisoners.

Please click on all the different goals to discover how I'll achieve these goals and why I think it's necessary.

Effective work  Cultural understanding  Key workers  Issues for foreign prisoners

Managing Foreign National Prisoners
2. Staff Training

Designing tailored in-house training for prison staff to work with foreign prisoners

Know the roles of others who we need to work with

There are people within the prison who can present on what they provide for foreign prisoners, i.e. health, education, training & employment as well as outside groups such as the immigration service and embassies and their citizen services.

Please click on all the different goals to discover how I’ll achieve these goals and why I think it’s necessary.

Effective work  Cultural understanding  Key workers  Issues for foreign prisoners

Managing Foreign National Prisoners  15 / 21

Understand issues which can affect foreign prisoners:

There are particular aspects which mainly affect foreign prisoners which staff need to know about such as, human trafficking, modern day slavery and the identification of victims, changes in national and local provision and laws affecting foreigners which will impact on the resettlement work which we do.
2. Staff Training

Four people were invited to speak during the two day-training. Place your mouse over each person to discover their thoughts about the training and how they want to achieve their goals.

Community migrants organisation:
I was pleased to be asked to speak at this training. Our community group is aware of the issues facing members from our country who have settled here, some of whom like those in prison, are not doing well and have problems. We can talk about what it is like to be a migrant here, what types of journeys, literally and figuratively our people have made when coming here which I think they will find useful in their work.

We already have some of our group members who are prison visitors and more who want to become one. They tell me of the difficulties some foreign prisoners experience here due to misunderstanding and ignorance and I think that I have something to contribute in this training. There is also information I have about human trafficking and modern day slavery from our perspective.

Me and my group look forward to becoming more involved with this prison, thanks for asking us.
person 2 (Slide Layer)

2. Staff Training

Four people were invited to speak during the two day-training.
Place your mouse over each person to discover their thoughts about the training and how they want to achieve their goals.

Prison teacher:
Pleased to be able to contribute to this training as I don’t think that staff are aware of what we can provide to foreign prisoners.

We get few foreign prisoners attending education classes which is a shame as those who do come benefit from attending. The education and training department has built up a good range of educational materials in different languages to use with foreign prisoners who speak little or none of our language or who are illiterate.

Our staff, some of whom come from minority ethnic backgrounds themselves, have good relationships with the foreign prisoners who come here and are able to get them to think about their long term educational training needs and we hope to get people up with future plans for education and training after they leave prison even if they are sent outside our country.

person 3 (Slide Layer)

2. Staff Training

Four people were invited to speak during the two day-training.
Place your mouse over each person to discover their thoughts about the training and how they want to achieve their goals.

Immigration Service representative:

Very pleased to be here, don’t get to speak to prison officers face to face much.

It is important that prison staff understand our role and how we become involved with some of their foreign prisoners assessing their immigration status and whether they will be expelled on completing their sentence.

It is also important that prison staff know about the nationality of a prisoner and our intentions whether to expel them or not as it can affect on their resettlement work. It may be the foreign prisoner can be transferred as a serving prisoner and prison staff can play an important role in preparing the foreign prisoner for this eventuality.

While some prison staff may know how we work and what liaison we should have with them and why not all do and it is important that we work together effectively.
2. Staff Training

Four people were invited to speak during the two-day training.
Place your mouse over each person to discover their thoughts about the training and how they want to achieve their goals.

Foreign prisoner:
I was surprised to be asked to speak at a prison officer training course about foreign prisoners.

But when I thought about it, I was pleased and quite impressed that the prison wanted to hear about my experiences here. I have got on well with the prison staff here and speaking several languages have often been asked to assist staff in communicating with my fellow foreign prisoners who are unable to understand what is happening to them.

So I wasn’t surprised they choose me - in fact, a senior officer said that they are thinking of developing a scheme of specially trained (and paid) supervised foreign prisoners to be ‘foreign prisoner orderlies’ with a job to assist prison staff with newly admitted foreign prisoners particularly those who do not speak the language.

This is my first time prison and I can remember all the confusion, anxiety and isolation I felt coming into a foreign prison where other prisoners and some staff aren’t all welcoming - that’s putting it politely! If the staff are prepared to really listen to what I have to say, without prejudice or pre-conceived views about foreign prisoners, then I think that the atmosphere on the wing will be better for the prisoners and the staff. Let’s see how it goes!

7.17 Staff Training Exercise

(Drag and Drop, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Feedback! (Slide Layer)

Staff Training Exercise

Any of these people would have something to contribute to staff training on working with foreign prisoners, none of them is 'wrong' as such.

Some people/roles might be felt more relevant depending on the focus of the training session and the time available.

Please remember to make time to share the knowledge and experiences of both new and more established staff who may have useful personal life experiences and backgrounds to share.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

7.18 3. Staff Specialisation

3. Staff Specialisation

Some prisons give a staff member, or in some instances, a foreign national prisoner, a particular role & responsibility for working with foreign prisoners so that their enhanced knowledge and responsibilities can be beneficial to others.
7.19 Creation of specific posts for prison staff

3. Staff Specialisation

The proportion of foreign prisoners in some European countries and particular prisons means that it is mainstream, everyday work for which all prison staff require adequate specialist training. However, a case can be made for specialist prison staff to fulfil a role as specialist foreign prisoner officers and there are examples of such roles across Europe.

The Council of Europe Recommendation says that appropriately trained specialists shall be appointed to engage in work with foreign prisoners and to liaise with the relevant agencies, professionals and associations on matters related to such prisoners.

popup_1 (Slide Layer)

Creation of specific posts for prison staff

Consideration should therefore be given to creating specific posts or roles for prison staff who would be responsible for overseeing and evaluating the implementation of policies and practices relating to foreign prisoners at a local level.

Some Prison Services also have such a post at a national or regional level. The creation of local specialist Foreign Prisoner Officers’ posts could facilitate direct contact between the prison and probation services and other bodies, including national and international agencies, professionals and associations, consular representatives, the prisoners’ families and volunteers who assist foreign suspects and offenders. This form of liaison is crucial for dealing effectively with foreign prisoners and their specific needs.

There are also examples of foreign prisoners being recruited, trained and supported to complement the work of prison staff with foreign prisoners, sometimes called “foreign prisoner orderlies”.

Promising practice
3. Staff Specialisation

The proportion of foreign prisoners in some European countries and particular prisons means that it is mainstream, everyday work for which all prison staff require adequate specialist training. However, a case can be made for specialist prison staff to fulfil a role as specialist foreign prisoner officers and there are examples of such roles across Europe.

The Council of Europe Recommendation says that appropriately trained specialists shall be appointed to engage in work with foreign prisoners and to liaise with the relevant agencies, professionals and associations on matters related to such prisoners.

Promising practice:
HMPPS England & Wales

Foreign prisoners are identified as a particularly vulnerable group who require support and care. The delegation of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture observed the positive practice of appointing a dedicated foreign prisoners officer, who could meet and provide advice to each new foreign national and serve as a point of reference.

Further, concerted efforts being made to provide foreign nationals with clear information on immigration procedures, through surgeries and information packs, are to be encouraged. It is not a mandatory requirement to have a dedicated foreign prisoners officer, though with a foreign prisoner population in England & Wales of 12%, many do.

For further information:
Resources for Working with Foreign National Prisoners in Europe

7.20 A role for foreign prisoners

A role of foreign prisoners assisting other foreign prisoners?

There are examples in European prisons of well trained, supported and supervised foreign prisoners assisting their fellow foreign prisoners, in the role of Foreign Prisoner Orderlies.

Such foreign prisoner orderlies with specific language skills and cultural knowledge can gain the confidence of some otherwise hard to reach foreign prisoners and usefully complement the work of prison staff. Such roles should not be a replacement for prison staff.

Some examples have foreign prisoner orderlies obtaining a recognised external qualification through undertaking such a role.

Promising practice
A role of foreign prisoners assisting other foreign prisoners?

There are examples in European prisons of well-trained, supported and supervised foreign prisoners assisting their fellow foreign prisoners, in the role of Foreign Prisoner Orderlies.

Such foreign prisoner orderlies, with specific language skills and cultural knowledge, can gain the confidence of some otherwise hard to reach foreign prisoners and usefully complement the work of prison staff. Such roles should not be a replacement for prison staff.

Some examples have foreign prisoner orderlies obtaining a recognised external qualification through undertaking such a role.

Promising practice:

Foreign prisoner orderlies

There are examples across Europe of prisons training, supporting and supervising foreign prisoners as ‘Orderlies’ so they can to assist fellow foreign prisoners. Such roles, for which the prisoner is usually paid, have focused on:

(i) obtaining the confidence of foreign prisoners,

(ii) identifying problems and needs which the Orderly can then provide information about,

(iii) referral onto prison staff for certain issues.

Such foreign prisoner orderlies, with specific language skills and cultural knowledge, can gain the confidence of some otherwise hard to reach foreign prisoners and usefully complement the work of prison staff. Such roles should not be a replacement for suitably trained prison staff. Some examples have foreign prisoner orderlies obtaining a recognised external qualification through undertaking such a role.

For further information:

Resources for Working with Foreign National Prisoners in Europe
7.21 Key points

What you have learnt in this section is how work with foreign prisoners can be more effective and equitable through paying attention to staff selection, training and specialisation through:

1. Retaining & retraining current staff for working with foreign prisoners
2. Selecting new staff with language skills and cultural knowledge reflecting diverse backgrounds
3. Enhancing existing and transferable skills through the provision of additional specialist training
4. Considering the advantages of specialist staff roles with specific expertise

8. Quiz

8.1 Quiz cover

Final Test

The final test for this module consists of 11 questions.
You will need a score above 60% for approval.
You may repeat the test, if needed. Good luck!
8.2 Question 1

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 1
There is a role for volunteers to alleviate isolation to foreign prisoners.

- True
- False

Submit
8.3 Question 2

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

8.4 Question 3

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

Question 3
Prison authorities should make every effort to provide written materials explaining important prison policies, procedures and prisoners' rights in a range of languages spoken by the prisoners they hold.

- True
- False

8.5 Question 4
(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 4
Prison authorities must provide written materials explaining prison policies, procedures and prisoners' rights in all the languages spoken by the prisoners they hold.

- True
- False
Correct

Question 4
Prison authorities must provide written materials explaining prison policies, procedures and prisoners' rights in all the languages spoken by the prisoners they hold.

- True
- False

Where possible, translated written materials of the most important documents should be provided to all prisoners. If a prison holds prisoners from a large number of different countries, this may not always be possible. In such instances, materials should be provided in the most common spoken languages, while oral translations of important policies and procedures should be provided for the other prisoners.

8.6 Question 5
(Drag and Drop, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 5
Identify the top 3 subjects you think should be included in specialised training for prison staff working with foreign prisoners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural diversity</th>
<th>Recognition of symptoms of stress</th>
<th>Different types of music</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Legal and human rights standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Important

Less important

Submit
Correct

8.7 Question 6

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

Question 6
The 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation advocates that foreign prisoners receive preferential treatment.

O True

O False

Correct!
The Recommendation does not advocate preferential treatment. Its provisions are aimed at ensuring equal treatment.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 7 / 14

8.8 Question 7
(Drag and Drop, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 7
Which aspects of prison life may require special attention to ensure equal and individual treatment?

Hygiene  Clothing  Nutrition  Recreation  Freedom of belief  Healthcare
Language  Social support  Receiving extra showers  Receiving tobacco  Number of times a foreign prisoner can leave his cell

Requires Special Attention

Requires no Special Attention

Managing Foreign National Prisoners 8 / 14
8.9 Question 8

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Rule 151 of the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation states that prisoners should receive information on a range of aspects of prison life in a language which they understand.

Is the procedure in the following scenario in line with this recommendation?

Scenario:
Hassan is a Libyan national currently being held in a German prison. He speaks Arabic. He cannot read or write. The German prison authorities provided Hassan with a written copy of the prison rules in German, English and French when he was admitted to the prison.

- Yes
- No
Correct

8.10 Question 9

(Pick Many, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)
Correct

Question 9

What are the benefits of having trained specialists to engage in work with foreign prisoners and liaise with the relevant agencies, professionals and associations on matters related to such prisoners?

Choose the right reason(s).

- To execute the recommendations of the Council of Europe in order to have a good public image.
- It facilitates direct contact between the prison and probation services and other bodies. This form of liaison is crucial for dealing effectively with foreign prisoners and their specific needs.
- They can gain the confidence of some otherwise hard to reach foreign prisoners. They complement the work of prison staff with foreign prisoners.

Submit

8.11 Question 10

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 10

Irish prisoners imprisoned in the UK should be placed together with Somali prisoners (because they are also foreign prisoners) rather then British prisoners?

- True
- False
Question 10

Irish prisoners imprisoned in the UK should be placed together with Somali prisoners (because they are also foreign prisoners) rather than British prisoners?

- True
- False

Correct!

Congratulations, good job!

Despite the fact that they are foreign prisoners they may have more in common with British rather than Somali prisoners. Placing them with foreigners more different than them (Somali prisoners) can lead to further isolation.

Managing Foreign National Prisoners

8.12 Question 11

(Pick One, 10 points, 1 attempt permitted)

Question 11

Should prison authorities allow foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin?

- Yes
- No
Correct

Question 11
Should prison authorities allow foreign prisoners to remain informed about public affairs in their countries of origin?

- Yes
- No

Correct!
Congratulations, good job!
Foreign prisoners should be allowed (to the extent possible):
- to keep themselves informed about public affairs by subscribing to publications (papers, periodicals etc) written in a language which they understand.
- to access radio, television or internet broadcasts in a language they understand.
- to access reading materials and resources that reflect their linguistic needs and cultural preferences through the prison library.

8.14 Last page

Congratulations!
You completed the Module on Managing Foreign National Prisoners
Click the Exit button to leave and advance to the next module or Repeat to revisit this module.

You have finished the whole module and you have learned how:
1. To identify issues in the management of foreign prisoners and how to improve your work in prison with this group.
2. To use the Council of Europe Recommendations on foreign prisoners as a guide to making improvements in your prison.
3. To place your role in working with foreign prisoners into a wider context and improve cooperation and coordination with other relevant and useful partners.