What regime changes have you had to make and have any of these affected prisoner wellbeing and prison safety? (e.g. changes in self-harm; violence, drug use; mental health problems; relationships between staff and prisoners)?

Regime changes (a selection): No visits (applies to friends and relatives, not lawyers etc.), no leaves from prison, isolation of infected or suspected infected. Persons sentenced to prison that are not incarcerated are denied of entering any prison or remand prison to start serving time if they show symptoms of Covid-19. Basic training for staff is postponed and the staff is instead deployed to prisons and remand prisons. Precautionary measures have also been imposed within the Probation Service. Physical meetings between the Probation Officers and the clients are, to the extent possible, avoided and replaced by other means of communication, such as Skype or Facetime. The Probation Officers will no longer be able to perform home visits. The remand prisoners are isolated for reasons of precaution.

Impact on prisoners: Only a few incidents that can be directly related to the regime changes, but overall great understanding among inmates and good relations between staff and inmates. Rates of self-harm are a bit lower for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019. Rates of treats and violence towards staff, as well as rates of threats and violence among inmates, are a bit higher for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019. Rates of absconding from open regime prisons are a bit higher for the period (1st March to 12th May) 2020 compared to 2019.

Regime changes improved the safety in prison, the above-mentioned measures didn’t affect inmates’ wellbeing or mental health.
Overall, which approach/es do you think have been the most and least successful in managing Covid-19 in prisons and/or for supporting a) staff and b) prisoners and why?
**What are your plans for how you ease restrictions and move your prison into a programme of recovery?**

**Sweden**
The Swedish Prison and Probation Service is still in the very early planning phase for the situation after Covid-19. However, the cessation of special measures related to the Covid-19 virus will happen gradually, and in line with national health policies.

**Lithuania**
The Lithuanian Prison Department is planning to gradually ease the restrictions but the final decision on the schedule has not been taken yet. Top priorities shall be the renewal of contactless family visits, resocialization programs and sports activities.

**Latvia**
Depending on the situation, the restrictions are being reviewed and reduced, for example, the ban on the implementation of resocialisation programmes has now been cancelled, provided that mutual distance with up to 25 participants can be respected. The processing of identity documents has been renewed.

**Norway**
We start by making room for more prisoners, we start to ease up on family visits. In our half-way houses the prisoners have started to go back to work on the outside. Necessary escorted leaves is possible again.

**Catalonia**
The Spanish government is implementing a phased approach to ease the lockdown which includes 5 stages. Every stage allows to lift a set of the restrictions imposed since 14 march when the state of alarm was declared for the first time.

The transition throughout the stages is taking place unevenly across the country because it depends on how well a given health care administrative region (health services areas in which every autonomous community is divided into scores on different aspects of preparedness of its health establishments for a new outbreak, infection rates in that very region amongst other).

The lifting of measures in Catalan prisons and juvenile justice centres will also be done by stages in accordance with the stage reached by the health care region where each prison is located. Nevertheless, depending on how the number of positive cases among inmates and staff evolves, health authorities might decide that a given prison cannot move on to the stage of its health care region. Currently, massive PCR testing is being conducted among prison staff. By now (20/05/20), some prisons are on stage 0 and others on stage 1.

In what follows some of the measures applicable to prisons on the 3 first stages are described.

Prisons in a health care region still on stage 0 the following will be resumed:

- Prison leaves to which inmates that have been granted art.100.2 and 3rd grade are entitled
- Extraordinary prison leaves (hospital visits to relatives in a serious condition, births, funerals)
- Gyms, using towels and gloves, disinfection after every session
- Hairdressing salons, only by appointment, one inmate at the time, wearing facemasks
- Housing of inmates in minimally confined conditions

On stage 1 the following will be resumed:

- Family visits on a glass partition room complying with health safety standards: visitors’ temperature will be measured upon arrival at the prison premises, 2 meters distance, visitors must wear facemasks and gloves, disinfection of the visiting room will be done after every visit
- Intake of parcels for inmates
- Transfers of inmates among prisons within Catalonia without placing them in quarantine
- In-person support service to families of inmates

On stage 1 the following will be resumed:

- Family visits and conjugal visits on regular rooms (without glass partition)
- Activities carried out by volunteers, religious representatives and community agencies inside the prisons
- Activities in indoor sports courts and pitches
- All kinds of regular and scheduled prison leaves
- Regular activity in prison swimming pools and libraries
- New arrivals of inmates without quarantine.

**Estonia**
Estonian Prison Service plans the opening process of prisons to be gradual: in the first phases restrictions concerning movements inside prisons and individual activities will be eased, and in subsequent phases movements between prisons and the outside world. Timeline of the exit strategy will take into consideration the development of epidemic in society overall.

**Romania**
As in easing restrictions, we are trying to gradually restart the suspended activities taking in consideration the national regulations. We have already started some activities that were suspended and we have adapted to the new regulations in the epidemiological evolution. We are now allowing visits and conjugal visits, but only by respecting some additional measures for prevention and protection (in spaces designed for visit there are dispensers with disinfectant, after each visit the spaces are disinfected, epidemiological triage and Covid-19 questionnaire). Permissions for leaving the penitentiaries and transfers between penitentiaries are to be gradually started while respecting the prevention and protection measures.

**How have things in your prisons changed as wider public lockdown restrictions are lifted? What’s worked to manage or respond to that change?**

**Sweden**
Not applicable. The SPPS have stricter measures than the general society in Sweden, comparable to nursing homes etc.

**Lithuania**
The prison received more requests for family visits that are still not allowed.

**Norway**
Nothing has changed so far. The challenging issue is how to an when to ease up on restrictions. The prisoners and their families see the development in the news and want the prisons to ease down quickly. We still need to take cautions while we are easing our restrictions.

**Estonia**
Restrictions in prisons are lifted gradually and so far, this has allowed a smooth transition to the normal order in prisons.

**Romania**
As in the change from the emergency state to the alert state we would like to mention that this represents the premises for returning to the initial state in which we were before of Covid-19.

**Are there any changes you have made as a result of COVID-19 that you intend to implement permanently? Why**

**Sweden**
It is too early to answer how the prison system will change as a consequence of the pandemic.
Lithuania
The amendments to the Penal Sanctions Enforcement Code of the Republic of Lithuania were initiated as a result of COVID-19. Provided the amendments are approved the Director General of the Prison Department will be delegated the powers to restrict the inmates’ rights in case of the national emergency.

Latvia
To use more technologies for the remote organization of meetings, sessions etc. as much as possible. Thus, optimizing the work.

Norway
Not yet decided upon

Estonia
It is too early to answer how the prison system will change as a consequence of the pandemic. What we already have implemented, is that we will always have 3-month supply of personal protection equipment for every person. Also, we are ready to implement the same procedures and regulations used in the Covid-19 situation, in similar future cases.

Restoring family visits - when and under which conditions

Estonia
Estonian Prison Service does not plan to restore family visits in the next couple of weeks.

Luxembourg
From the 11th of Mai 2020 onwards, the Luxembourgish Prison Administration proceeds to a gradual opening of the visits. Visits are being limited to 30 mins/visit, 2 persons above the age of 16/visit, max. 25 visits/week. Visits take place in secured individual rooms which are not in the visiting rooms and where the visitors and detainees are separated by glass. All visitors must disinfect their hands and wear masks. Furthermore, the options: All visitors can have conversations over Skype are being maintained and still available. So detainees (condemned and defendants under the regime) still have the possibility to make use of the videocall facilities in order to get in touch with their families.

Northern Ireland
The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) have introduced a range of measures in response to the risks presented by COVID-19, this included the suspension of ‘in person’ visits to prisoners. These measures were introduced having considered the situation in detail and Government advice. To help people in our care to stay in contact with their family and friends during the suspension of visits, NIPS launched virtual online visits from 13 April. NIPS reviewed the measures in place on 24 April and decided that the suspension of visits will remain until they are able to subject the visits to a thorough review on or by 22 May. NIPS will also review its measures (including the ongoing suspension of visits) will take cognisance of the prevailing operational and community context and Government advice.

Israel
No plans to open the visits

Sweden
No steps have been taken to go back to normal regimes and all restrictions that have been put in place are still valid, for example no visits (legal visits and clergy exceptions) and no leaves. However, in addition to free calls nationally (international calls are half the normal price) there are now tests ongoing with providing inmates contact with their children by using tablets. All decisions/actions taken to limit the spread of Covid-19 are under constant evaluation, regarding visits there is no set date for when this will happen. The cessation of special measures related to the Covid-19 virus will happen gradually, and in line with national health policies.

Latvia
In Latvia it is not planned to restore family visits for prisoners before 8 June (for now, the emergency situation in Latvia has been announced). Visits take place in secured individual rooms which are not in the visiting rooms and where the visitors and detainees are separated by glass. In these rooms the visitors can have conversations over Skype. Wearing of a mask by detainees is also compulsory (provided by the administration). Each visit is limited to 30 minutes and to 5 persons (including children). The visitors are not allowed to carry anything. In addition, the visitors are also required to disinfect their hands. The maximum number of persons in a prison is limited to 25 visits per week. There are still some restrictions for visits at the moment. Therefore, all visits are suspended for some of the inmates.

Lithuania
Lithuanian Prison Department plans to restore family visits from 1 June, provided the lockdown is lifted. The conditions shall be set up in line with the national health policy.

Denmark
On the 18th May a limited reopening of visits will be introduced. Prisoners with underaged children will be granted one visit of up to two children and one accompanying adult pr. 14 days. Prisoners in the age between 15-17 years will be granted one visit of up to two close relations pr. 14 days. The visits will be held in line with health guidelines and requirements regarding physical surroundings and cleaning. The Danish Prison and Probation Service is continuously assessing when to further open up visits in prisons.

France
In France, the deconfinement started gradually from May 11. Visits are limited to one visitor (adult) per inmate. The provision of laundry is not possible so far (these precautionary measures will be reassessed on June 2, second step of the national deconfinement). Contacts between inmates and their visitor must strictly respect the barrier measures: washing hands before the visit, respect a sufficient distance, not allowance of any physical contact (kissing, hugging, etc.). Wearing of a personal mask is compulsory for all visitors from the entrance of the establishment, in order to maintain a maximum level of protection against the virus in detention. Wearing of a mask by detainees is also compulsory (provided by the administration). Each visit is limited to 30 minutes and to 5 persons (including children). The visitors are not allowed to carry anything. In addition, the visitors are also required to disinfect their hands. The maximum number of persons in a prison is limited to 25 visits per week. There are still some restrictions for visits at the moment. Therefore, all visits are suspended for some of the inmates.

Slovenia
We intend to re-establish visits in Slovenian prison system on Monday, 18th of May. Each prison facility needed to prepare its own protocol for re-establishment of visits. They have to implement standards as provided by the National Institute for Public Health. If there is an option they should provide visits on fresh air, visit through a glass barrier, visit around the table are also allowed (standards NIPH) … Implementation of these options depend on capacities of each facility.

Italy
A decree issued on 10 May 2020 establishes that since next 15 May until 30 June 2020, prisons are still allowed and encouraged to have video calls with their family members or telephone calls with them, even beyond the limits set by the Penitentiary Law and Regulations in ordinary situations. The prison Governor, in consultation with the Regional Director of the Penitentiary Administration of his territory and with the highest healthcare authority of the Region, shall establish the maximum number of visits in prison which can be received by inmates. Each inmate is entitled to receive at least one visit per week only with at least one visitor. The close cooperation at local level with the healthcare agencies is crucial, because the healthcare authorities indicate the criteria to follow in order to ensure the social distancing in the premises dedicated to the family visits. This will allow to set the number of visits per day which can be carried out in every visiting room in every prison in Italy.

Finland
All sports and exercise rooms and saunas in prisons will be opened as of 1.6.2020. If the prison unit has its own sauna, its use can be started immediately. The maximum number of persons in sports halls in the same time is 10 persons. The cleaning and ventilation of premises must be ensured after every instance of use. The use of prison libraries will normalize from 1.6, but the libraries will be visited by prison unit and maximum of 10 prisoners at a time. Remote lending will continue. Preparations are being made for the start of prison visits. At first, the visits would only concern the next of kin and the children of the prisoner. The opening of meetings requires special arrangements in prisons, as the occupational safety of staff is very important. The protection during the visits is ensured and respiratory masks are provided to the visitors. Skype meetings continue in prisons as usual. The expansion of work activities will begin as of 1.6.2020. The consequences of the easing of restrictions will be assessed and, if, for example, cases of Covid-19 occur in prisons, RISE will be prepared to decide on new restrictions. At the moment, there’s no confirmed Covid-19 cases in prisons.

Cyprus
The way forward for visits, is to gradually allow up to 2-3 visits per inmate monthly, for those relatives/friends who meet the entrance criteria set out by the Department. Special vinyl/plastic desk shields will be placed in all visiting rooms in order for the inmates and visitors not to come into physical contact. Moreover, as previously mentioned, the visitors will enter the Department, only if the entrance criteria are met and the relevant formal declaration is signed by the relative/friend. Moreover, the current physical distancing guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation, will be met, as regards the number of visitors/inmates present in each visiting room.

The amendments to the Penal Sanctions Enforcement Code of the Republic of Lithuania were initiated as a result of COVID-19. Provided the amendments are approved the Director General of the Prison Department will be delegated the powers to restrict the inmates’ rights in case of the national emergency.

To use more technologies for the remote organization of meetings, sessions etc. as much as possible. Thus, optimizing the work.

Not yet decided upon

It is too early to answer how the prison system will change as a consequence of the pandemic. What we already have implemented, is that we will always have 3-month supply of personal protection equipment for every person. Also, we are ready to implement the same procedures and regulations used in the Covid-19 situation, in similar future cases.

We have not identified measures that can be permanently applied. All the measures that we have taken were only took to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 in the penitentiary environment.
Since 27 April we have a new regulation. This means that the restricted visitation of inmates will be possible again from 11.5. Several visitors may not be allowed to visit a prisoner at the same time, except for a visitor under 14 years of age and his adult companion.

The plan is to recover the ordinary penitentiary activity (visits, inmates outgoings, transfers, therapeutic activities), depending on the location of the prison and following the general sanitary instructions. Nevertheless, there are some specific rules. For example, visits are restarting, but limited to two people and avoiding physical contact.

Yes, we intend to restore the family visits for inmates, gradually. We start at 25.09.2020. 1 visitor/inmate – once a week. In the first phase, visits will take place in visit rooms with separation device and protection equipment. We will have less tables because we have to guarantee the 1.5 m distance.

The Romanian Prison System intends to restore the family visits for inmates, gradually, in the near future, depending on the epidemiological Covid-19 evolution at national level. In the first phase, visits will take place in rooms with separation device and protection equipment.

Since today, the emergency state in the Czech Republic is no longer in force. Family visits to prisons are going to commence (in a limited manner) this weekend (on Saturday 23 May). Currently, visiting forms (including instructions and restrictions for the visits) are being distributed and collected. The visits are not going to be realized within the “normal” “pre-Covid-19” framework. There are going to be some restrictions in force: One prisoner can only receive one visitor; Visitors have to sign a statement that they do not have to be in home quarantine, they have not suffered from Covid-19 infection (or, if they have had, the last 2 test have been negative) etc.; In visiting rooms, tables are going to be equipped with plastic partitions; Visitors and prisoners (and staff in general) must wear personal protective equipment (face masks); No refreshments during visits; Thorough disinfection of the visiting rooms after each visit round.

The Spanish government is implementing a phased approach to ease the lockdown which includes 5 stages. Every stage allows to lift a set of the restrictions imposed since 14 march when the state of alarm was declared for the first time. The transition throughout the stages is taking place unevenly across the country because it depends on how well a given health care administrative region scores. On stage 1 the following will be resumed: Family visits on a glass partition room complying with health safety standards: visitors’ temperature will be measured upon arrival at the prison premises, 2 meters distance, visitors must wear facemasks and gloves, disinfection of the visiting room will be done after every visit. On stage 2 the following will be resumed: Family visits and conjugal visits on regular rooms (without glass partition).

As of 20 May, inmates will, to some extent, be allowed to receive visits. From 13 March 2020, the Norwegian Correctional Service suspended all visits to Norwegian prisons. All visits to inmates were suspended until further notice. This decision was taken after the Norwegian government introduced national measures to prevent the spread of the Corona virus on 12 March 2020. As of 20 May, visitors will have access to the prisons and visitors’ premises. Under the current circumstances, access has only been given representatives of the prosecutor’s office, police and lawyers, as well as mentors involved in the work against radicalization and violent extremism. The current Corona-situation indicates that it is still not possible to offer an ordinary regime for visits in Norwegian prisons, as prescribed by law (The Law on Execution of Sentence § 31). The correctional service aims to provide for normal visits in accordance with Norwegian legislation, regulations and guidelines, unless: the visit represents a special risk of spreading the virus or health risk; absence of staff members because of illness makes it difficult to organize the visit. Easing of the restrictions will lead to challenges for the staff organizing visits. The challenges will vary from facility to facility (prisons). Opening up for visits presupposes that each prison has enough staff members who can ensure visits take place in line with the stipulated requirements.