**FIP2-project**

**Foreigners’ Involvement and Participation in Prison**

Interviews with 51 non-Belgian prisoners in four Flemish prisons

### Nationalities

- EU: 14
- Non-EU: 33
- Double: 4

### Participation in prison activities

**Fellow prisoners**
- A lot of support between prisoners
- Emotional support (e.g. offer comfort, give encouragement)
- Informational support (e.g. about the ins and outs of the prison or criminal record)
- Instrumental support (e.g. translating, writing report notes)

**Prison staff**
- Little diversity among prison staff
- Good contact with activity providers
- Migration background is not so important, but efforts in terms of language and respectful attitude are

**Family & friends**
- More difficult contact if family lives abroad (e.g. higher phone-cost, less/no visits)

**Wishes:**
- Use of Skype, Email, WhatsApp
- More flexible visit arrangements

"The more activities are offered, and the more time that is available for activities, the better it is."

### Social contact & Social support

- Easy access to the yard, sports and library
- Mainly passive recipients (e.g. attending classes, participating in sports, conducting prison work)
- Wish to participate more

"If we (prisoners) don't help each other, who else will do it?"

### Future perspectives

- Hope for a normal life after detention
- "I go to the Canary Islands and live like a millionaire... No, I would be happy with a stall selling beer and nothing special. Just a decent place to live. Just a normal life."

### Re-integration

- Need for assistance regarding re-integration:
  - Being able to follow/participate in courses (e.g. vocational education, integration courses)
  - Preparatory conversations
  - Information + support regarding expulsion
  - Assistance for applying for the right of residence
  - Guidance to find work
  - Assistance to acquire/maintain their home
  - Supporting communication with social network to prepare for re-integration (e.g. Skype)

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