



# Specifics of working with young offenders

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# Welcome

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- Head of Treatment Sector

# EPTA presentation

- **Kadri Pendin**, Representative EPTA President,
  - Estonian Academy for Security Studies



# INTRODUCTION

# AGENDA

## Day 1

- ✓ Introducing participants
  
- ✓ Specifics of young offenders in the prison system
  - Young in general and young offenders in the prison system
  
- ✓ Developmental processes and behavioral disorders
  
- ✓ Foundations of quality work with young people in the prison system
  - Communication skills in the rehabilitation process (Examples of good practice)
  - Establishing a healthy and quality relationship with young offenders

# AGENDA

## Day 2

- ✓ Self-awareness, well-being and mental health of staff as part of your responsibility
- ✓ Teamwork and cooperation, approach in working with young offenders
- ✓ Conclusions

Visit to the Juvenile Prison and Correctional Institution in Turopolje



How do I express myself? How about talking about feelings?

EXPECTATIONS



WE WERE ALSO YOUNG



Young offenders



Legislative framework

- Young people- Detention (special prison units for minors), Diagnostics, Prison hospital, Prisons, Penitentiaries
- Minors- Correctional institutions, Juvenile prison
- Criminal liability 14 years, application of legislation for minors 21 (23) years
- The criminal justice of minors in the Republic of Croatia is defined by international documents:
- UN Standard Minimum Rules for juvenile justice ("Beijing Rules", 1985)
- UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Liberty ("Havana Rules", 1990)
- UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency ("Riyadh Guidelines", 1990)
- "Beijing Rules" - basic framework for the treatment of juvenile justice, "Riyadh Guidelines" - prevention of juvenile delinquency
  
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Constitution of the Republic of Croatia

- Purpose of educational measures (educational measure of referral to the correctional institution):
- "that by providing protection, care, assistance and supervision and ensuring the general and professional education of a juvenile offender of a criminal offence, it affects his upbringing, the development of his entire personality and the strengthening of his personal responsibility in order to refrain from committing criminal offences again".
- Purpose of juvenile detention (punishment of juvenile imprisonment):
- "that the taking of measures to educate and train a juvenile offender affects the further development of his personality and the strengthening of his personal responsibility in order to refrain from committing criminal offences again, as well as to influence others not to commit criminal offences".

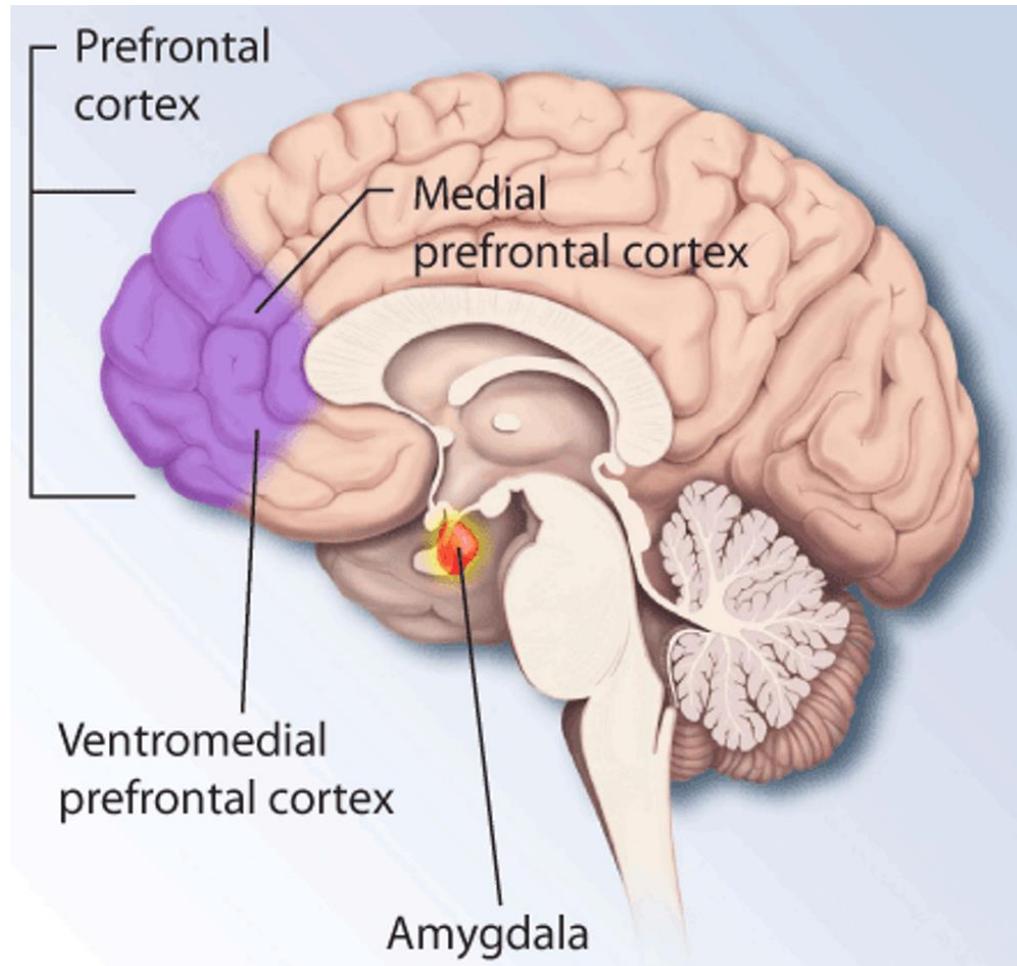
Development process



# The Workings of the Adolescent Brain

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=steinberg%20adolescent%20development&mid=471727AED7F82C27B82E471727AED7F82C27B82E&ajaxhist=0>

# Young people (biological theories)



Steinberg

# Socioemotional skills that are still being developed by the age of 25:

Abstract thinking

Impulse control

Problem solving

Decision-making

Judgment

Emotion regulation

Tolerance to frustration

Empathy

# Young people (sociological theories)

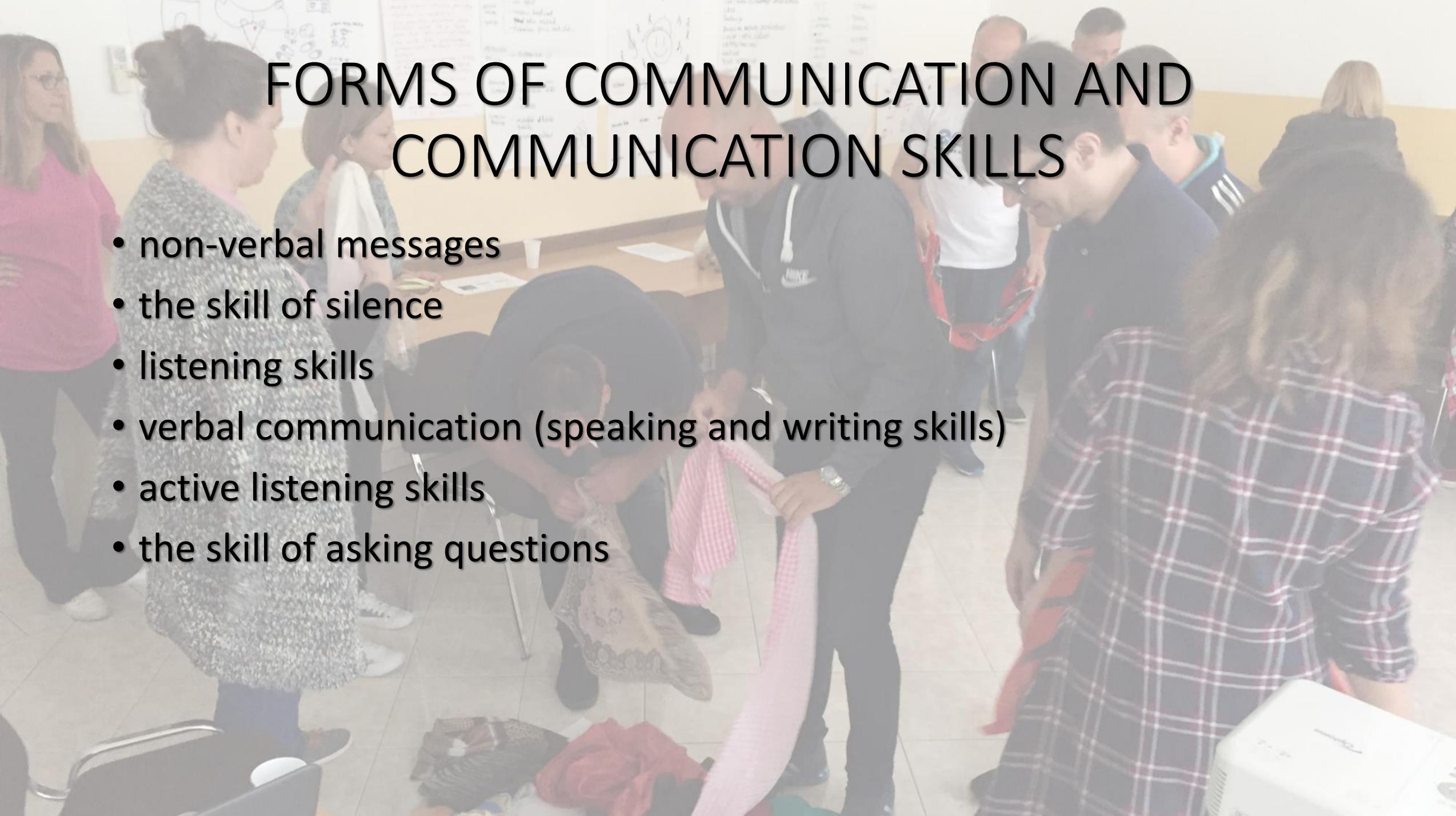
- What is the condition of prolonged youth?
  - Extending the average life span of the population
  - Staying longer in the education system
  - By extending the period of preparation for entering the world of work
  - Uncertain employment opportunities
  - Difficult socioeconomic independence
  - Later starting your own family
  - Difficulty engaging in social (political) decision-making processes

It is generally considered that one man or woman has crossed the threshold of maturity when he completes the formation period, takes a certain place in the social distribution of labor, leaves the parent's house, starts a family and assumes parental responsibility!

# Foundations of quality work with young people in the prison system



# FORMS OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS



- non-verbal messages
- the skill of silence
- listening skills
- verbal communication (speaking and writing skills)
- active listening skills
- the skill of asking questions

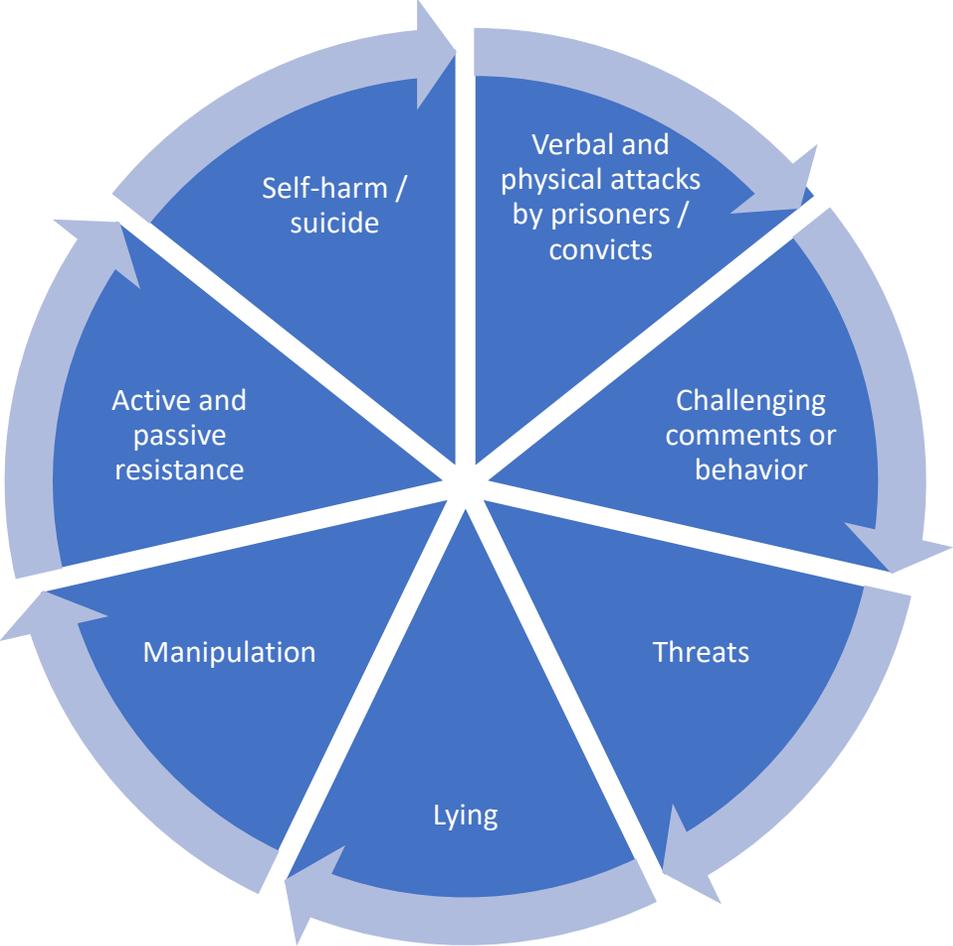
And after all the skills, a little reminder





Self-awareness, well-being and mental health of staff as part of your responsibility

# PRESERVING ONE'S OWN PSYCHOSOCIAL BOUNDARIES - RESPECTING OTHER PEOPLE'S BOUNDARIES



How does it affect you?



## REACTIONS:

- Physical (sweating, trembling, nausea, exhaustion, chest pain, dizziness...)
- Mental (difficulties in speech, calculation, decision-making, problem solving, concentration, limited recognition, amnesia)
- Emotional (fear, helplessness, depression, hopelessness, aggression, anger, guilt...)
- Behavior (withdrawal, calmness<>excessive talkativeness, loss of appetite<>increased appetite, restlessness, insomnia, change in consumption of alcohol, caffeine, drugs...)
- Religious/spiritual (shaking of the meaning structure, why can God?, the world is unjust)
- PTSD - AS A RESULT OF NOT DEALING WITH TRAUMA

Teamwork and cooperation, approach in working with young offenders



# Young offenders in numbers

## *Correctional Institutions:*

During the year 2021 = 59 male and 16 female juveniles

The number of juveniles decreased by 9.63% compared to 2020, when 84 juveniles and 13 juveniles were sent to the Correctional institution.

## *Juvenile Prison:*

During 2021 = 35 prisoners serving their juvenile prison sentences.

APPROXIMATELY 200 prisoners under the age of 25 during the year (about 5 percent of all prisoners)

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION