

Dynamic security :

positive relationships between the prison staff and the inmates



INTRODUCTION :

What's at stake : the pacification of the social relations in detention

- Prison violence is a major challenge in French prisons
 - Security and rehabilitation
 - Understanding the rules of life & Acquiring social skills
 - Increasing the value of the prison officers' profession
- ⇒ How can we foster better social relations ; ensure the security of all individuals in the prison ?

Does prison violence defeat the administration's missions?

- It impedes all efforts against reoffending
 - It disrupts the work of the staff
 - It creates tensions between the administration & the trade unions
- ⇒ Need for the security model to evolve in order to adapt



INTRODUCTION :

What's at stake : the pacification of the social relations in detention



From a traditional model of security

- Passive defence and coercive measures
- Reassessing the model to conciliate reoffending prevention and security
- Specific training to communicate with the inmate
- Correctional intelligence, violence prevention and social consideration

To a the dynamic security model

Appeared in the 80s

- recommendation from the European Council of Ministers (2003)
- Note from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- The European Prison Rules of 2006
- The International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (Budapest, February 2006)

- Maintaining security while developing positive relationships inmates/staff



I – Reoffending prevention : Core function of the penitentiary public service ?

A - Primacy of the security mission

- Security missions in detriment of rehabilitation and reoffending prevention missions
- Reassessment to regulate power struggles and prevent confrontations



I – Reoffending prevention : Core function of the penitentiary public service ?

B - Does restoring the social link reinforce self-confidence et the prison staff's authority?



Do the security measures ensure the safety of the people?

- The number of aggressions proves the security measures aren't effective
- Revaluing the re-socialisation mission (social skills, capacity to be responsible, assessing risks and advantages of given behaviours)
- Training the prison officers to adapt for this role of restoration of the inmates' social skills

I – Reoffending prevention : Core function of the penitentiary public service ?

B - Does restoring the social link reinforce self-confidence et the prison staff's authority?

The criteria for the risk of reoffending aren't defined well enough

- Violent and non-compliant behaviours are too often managed through coercive measures (transfers, disciplinary cell assignment, convictions,)
- Social dialogue is broken and reoffending occurs
- The risk of reoffending within the prison should be analysed WITH the prison officers



I – Reoffending prevention : Core function of the penitentiary public service ?



C. The major challenges for the inmates

- Promiscuity is a factor of aggressiveness
- Lack of activities raise tensions
- Living with inmates with mental disorders also deteriorates the social life conditions

D. Suicides

For inmates to confide on their suffering and to prevent suicides :

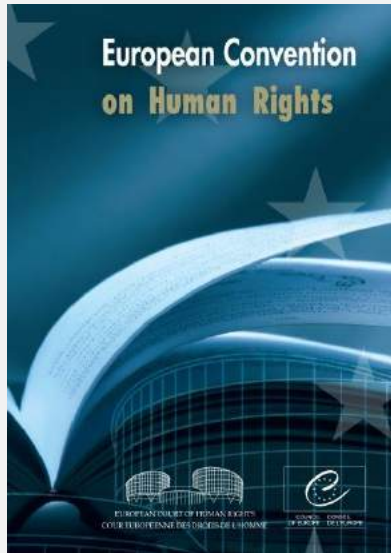
- Improving detention conditions and good relations with the prison staff
- Climate of confidence with facilitator inmates

E. Violence

Numerous acts of violence between inmates and towards the staff

- Paranoia, inmates always on the look-out
- Impossible to dialogue, no social bonds
- Necessity for physical and psychological protection

II – How to protect the physical and psychological integrity of the people in detention ?



- Art. 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights calls for preventive measures to protect the individual
- An inmate is a public service user and has a statutory right for a normal functioning public service

A. An example of procedure decreasing violence : relational mediation

- The victim and the offender actively participate in the resolution of the resulting relational difficulties
- Repairing the damage (self-esteem, loss of objects, ...)
- With trained staff



II – How to protect the physical and psychological integrity of the people in detention ?

A negotiated relationship - Two different forms

- animal mediation (self-awareness and relational problems)
- facilitator inmates trained to become relational mediators



II – How to protect the physical and psychological integrity of the people in detention ?

Goals for the inmates

- Recognition and status within detention for the inmates
- Easing of tensions (limit the risk of aggressions, no more power struggle, saving face)
- Avoiding disciplinary/penal sanctions

Goals for the surveillance staff

- Avoiding conflicts and preventing psycho-social risks

Goals for the probation staff

- Inmates engage in an educational approach and can be assessed

Goals for the prison governors

- Alternative to disciplinary measures
- Avoiding transfer costs
- Pacification of relations with the staff



II – How to protect the physical and psychological integrity of the people in detention ?

Asserting the primacy of the non-violent relation

- The attacker inmate and the victim inmate continue cohabiting
- Relational mediation restores balance in the social networks and values nonviolent relations
- It ensures accountability for the attacker inmate while recognizing the victim inmate as a victim
- It allows the attacker inmate to save face without reoffending within detention
- Prison officers keep their authority while having a social model figure and gaining professional satisfaction



B. Restorative justice : a method for social regulation

Restorative justice gives a representation of prison as a social regulation authority (more information to follow during the restorative justice workshop and its resulting report)

II – How to protect the physical and psychological integrity of the people in detention ?

The resistances coming from the staff

- What is changing and what is bothering : the will to formalize the relationship between the prison staff and the inmates
- The training and codification of the positioning reduces their autonomy but reinforces the effectiveness of their action.



Conclusion



- New challenges can be tackled through dynamic security
- New strategies to implement to prevent radicalisation within detention
- Preventing violence and regulation of conflicts
- The security of a prison relies on the quality of human relations
- Ensuring the evolution of the inmates
- Three specific training programmes at the ENAP taught by the Director and the deputy director of the Academy for all surveillance staff (prison governors, officers and senior officers) :

The Respect modules : 2 hours

Relational mediation : 2 hours

Restaurative justice : 2 hours