



Zbor väzenskej a justičnej stráže

Training of Prison Staff during COVID-19

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September 2020

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TRAINING CENTRE OF THE PRISON SERVICE - BASIC INFORMATION

- a special-purpose facility situated in the Nitra Prison
- established in 1979
- ensures training of prison staff, gaining of theoretical knowledge and practical skills mainly in the areas of law and organization of the Prison Service, penology and service training, service and work discipline, professional ethics, communication skills, creative and responsible solution of issues, information technologies and in other specific areas



TRAINING ACTIVITIES – OVERVIEW

Professional training

Basic:

- for all new recruited prison staff
- it lasts 12 weeks

Specialised:

- for new recruited prison officers with commissioned officer's rank or the prison officers with warrant officer's rank prepared for the function with commissioned officer's rank
- it lasts 2 weeks

TRAINING ACTIVITIES – OVERVIEW

Further training activities

- social psychological training I
- social psychological training II
- professional course for judicial guard
- professional course for regime officers
- professional course for shift commanders
- professional course for dog handlers
- professional course for preventive security officers
- professional course for shooting and professional preparation instructors

Training of civil employees

- administrative, financial, maintenance staff etc.
- training lasts 1 week
- basic knowledge concerning legal, organisational and security information

TRAINING CENTRE STAFF

- Director
- Deputy Director
- 3 Lectors
- 3 Lectors - instructors
- 1 administrative worker



TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – until 1 June 2020

- training activities were suspended by the decision of Director General since 9 March 2020
- alternative solution of basic professional training was searched - a combined form was chosen: individual preparation in prisons in combination with video consultation + practical preparation in prisons
- later on, an activating element was introduced – training meetings of lecturers-instructors with students in regional prisons focused on practical subjects (twice a course)

Curriculum of the Basic professional training consists of 8 subjects:

theoretical subjects (3)

- law
- penology
- service preparation

practical subjects (5)

- self-defence
- shooting preparation
- marching preparation
- physical preparation
- health preparation



TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – until 1 June 2020

Theoretical preparation

- individual preparation of students in prisons
- topics from theoretical subjects were sent to students
- lecturers of the Training Centre elaborated the source materials for these topics
- video consultation with lecturers of the Training Centre - weekly in duration of 2 hours

Practical preparation

- instructors of the Training Centre provided methodological materials and video for practical training
- practical training in prisons under supervision of senior prison officers from the relevant prison
- practical training under supervision of instructors of the Training Centre in the shooting range of the Leopoldov Prison
- training meetings of instructors of the Training Centre with students in regional prisons

Practical training



Practical training



TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – until 1 June 2020

EXAMS

practical subjects

- self-defence - carried out at Leopoldov shooting range
- shooting preparation - carried out at Leopoldov shooting range
- marching preparation - carried out at Leopoldov shooting range
- physical preparation – results of the admission procedure were used as exam results
- health preparation – tests in prisons

theoretical subjects

- final exams were carried out regionally in prisons
- a lector of the Training Centre was a member of each examination commission

TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – after 1 June 2020

- on 1 June 2020 the anti-epidemiological measures were unlocked
- short-term educational activities (specialized professional training and professional courses for shift commanders) continued as before the pandemics, i.e. in full-time form of teaching in the Training Centre
- anti-epidemiological measures are observed
- other courses of the basic professional training are expected to take place in October and November

TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – conclusion

Positive element of alternative teaching:

- students met the statutory qualification requirement of the comprehensive education for newly recruited uniformed prison staff

Negative elements of distance form of education:

- no direct contact between the lecturers and students
- no group dynamics as an activating factor in teaching

ADVANTAGES

- on-line form of training was the only form to continue in prison staff training at the time of social restrictions
- Webex consultations enabled the students to ask questions or consult problem topics

DISADVANTAGES

- on-line training does not substitute the standard training
- sometimes technical problems with connecting
- low level of students' preparation for consultations
- small number of hours for consultations

TRAINING DURING COVID-19 – conclusion

- **new situation = new challenges**
- Prison Service tried to address these challenges as effectively as possible in order **to keep the education of prison staff running**
- **distance form** of teaching **cannot fully replace the daily form** because the effectiveness of the transfer of new knowledge and skills requires a direct contact with the teacher
- **students** are required to apply a **more intensive individual approach** to achieve the best results

Training Centre – education spaces

Classroom



Training Centre – education spaces

Classroom with a training cell

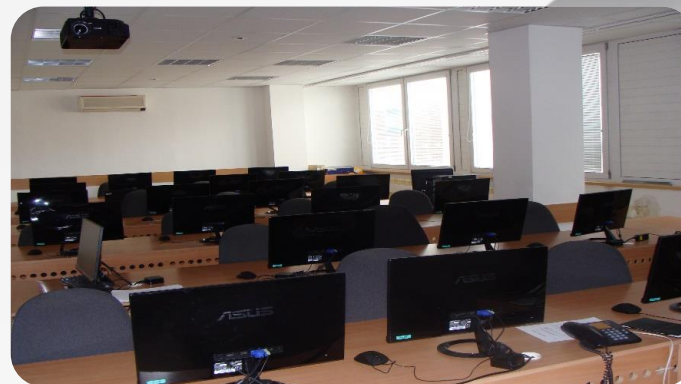


Training cell



Training Centre – education spaces

PC classroom



Training Centre – education spaces

Shooting classroom



Training Centre – education spaces

Gym



Training Centre – education spaces

Meeting room



Training Centre – accommodation spaces

Standard room




Dining-room



Training Centre

Shooting range Leopoldov





Thank you for your attention



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