



CPT/Inf (2023) 17

Response

**of the Latvian Government
to the report of the European Committee
for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)
on its periodic visit to Latvia**

from 10 to 20 May 2022

The CPT's report on the periodic visit to Latvia is set out in document
CPT/Inf (2023) 16.

Strasbourg, 11 July 2023

COMMENTS OF THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT FOR LATVIA

Having assessed the Report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter – Committee) on the visit to Latvia carried out from 10 to 20 May 2022 (hereinafter – Report), the Latvian Government provides comments, additional information and clarifications, as well as information on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. The Latvian Government expresses its appreciation to the experts of the Committee for their recommendations, as they contribute to improving the situation in the areas related to the restriction of liberty of persons.

Paragraphs 9 and 10

In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Report, in March 2018, the Prevention Division was established in the Ombudsman's Office. Its task is to fulfil the tasks of the ombudsman stipulated in the Ombudsman Law, in compliance with the goals and priorities set in the strategy of the Ombudsman's Office, in all areas of ensuring, protecting and promoting rights within the competence and authority of the Office, with the aim of preventing the risk of torture and other risks of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, by conducting regular visits of a preventive nature to institutions where persons are or may be deprived of their liberty. The task of the Prevention Division is to prevent the risks of ill-treatment. This is being performed not only by conducting visits, but also by taking educational measures in pursuance of the objective and essence of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. All activities in the Prevention Division are primarily aimed at preventing the risks of ill-treatment; it is taken into account when planning, organising and implementing all activities.

Visiting teams may include not only invited experts, but also other employees of the Ombudsman's Office, reviewing submissions on a daily basis, participating in various working groups, as well as specialising in specific topics. In such teams, within the scope of their competence, the employees of the Prevention Division will also pay attention to issues that may lead to a violation of the prohibition of ill-treatment.

Paragraph 12, Part 1

On 1 July 2020, the Law on Administrative Liability came into force, invalidating the Latvian Administrative Violations Code. **What is mentioned in the Report does not correspond to the wording of the applicable Law.** The grounds for administrative detention, the duration of administrative detention – not more than four hours – and the time of calculation of administrative detention from the moment a person becomes sober are prescribed by Section 71 (1) and (5) of the Law on Administrative Liability.

Paragraph 13, Part 3

The Law on the Procedures for Holding Detained Persons (hereinafter – LPHDP) stipulates that wanted arrested persons, after the detention thereof, may be placed at a temporary detention place (hereinafter – TDP) of the State Police (hereinafter – SP) for

no more than seven working days until the relocation thereof to a remand prison or a deprivation of liberty institution. The Law also allows placing of arrested and convicted persons at the TDP for the period of performance of procedural actions under the procedures laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code.

The duration of holding arrested and convicted persons in the TDP can be affected by the distribution of court proceedings and the work organisation of prisons, which are beyond the competence of the State Police. In addition to the referred to circumstances, the period of holding the arrested and convicted persons can be affected by the dependence of the escort upon the intercity escort routes itinerary, which is planned considering the work organisation of facilities of deprivation of liberty, logistical support and human resources of the SP. For the provision of the operation of the SP state budget funds are being allocated; therefore, it is important to use these resources rationally. In the referred to context, it is not feasible to deliver each arrested or convicted person individually to the respective place of deprivation of liberty immediately after the detention, completion of the procedural activities or the application of the security measure.

According to statistical data, the average duration of holding arrested and convicted persons in the TDP of the SP is 2-3 days; however, there are separate cases when persons of said category are held in the TDP for a longer period of time; this primarily applies to women and minors, because they can only be held in specialised prisons, – in Ilģuciems Prison in Riga and in the Correctional Facility for Juveniles (CFJ) in Cēsis, respectively. Therefore, taking into account the work organisation of prisons and their geographical layout, as well as the procedures set out in the legal framework, which must be followed when organising the transportation of a person to a place of deprivation of liberty, there may be cases when persons of said categories stay in the TDP for more than 2-3 days.

In 2021, as compared to 2019 (before Covid), the number of persons placed in the TDP of the SP had decreased by 50%, while the escort of persons reduced by about 60%. Key reasons for reduction of the load in the specific processes include the coming into force of the Law on Administrative Liability, which significantly changed the system of administrative penalties, excluding administrative arrest, as well as the prescribed precautionary measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 infection and the emergency situations repeatedly declared in the country in connection with it.

In turn, in 2022, as compared to 2019, the reduction of the number of persons placed in the TDP of the SP comprises 43%, while the decrease in escort of persons amounts to about 56%. This shows that, despite the lifting of restrictions connected to the declaration of emergency situation, the established precautionary measures had been preserved in the work organisation of the SP, courts, prisons, prosecution office and other authorities, introducing significant changes therein, for example, assigning fulfilment of a number of functions remotely.

Special conditions for the fulfilment of the functions of certain authorities in connection with the measures for containing the spread of the Covid-19 infection were initially corroborated in the orders of the Cabinet of Ministers on the declaration of emergency situation, later gradually including them in the Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection.

Regarding the escort and relocation of prisoners (arrested, convicted persons), the currently applicable legal framework (Section 10.1(2), Section 10.2 and

Section 10.3(2) of the Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection) provides that:

- participation of prisoners in court proceedings shall be primarily ensured by a videoconference, except for in cases which include an official secret object;
- participation of prisoners in the investigative actions of pre-trial criminal proceedings shall primarily be ensured by video conferencing, except for the cases which include an official secret object;
- upon a request of the person directing the proceedings, the escort of prisoners shall only be ensured in cases when an agreement thereon has been received from the head of the institution or his or her authorised official;
- for the escort of prisoners, including upon a request of the person directing the proceedings or to court hearings, the shortest possible escort route and the return or getting of the prisoner to the prison on the same day shall be ensured, if possible;
- if quarantine has been declared in the prison system, the relocation of prisoners between prisons may be temporarily discontinued (except for the transfer of prisoners due to security reasons, their relocation to the Latvian Prison Hospital at Olaine Prison and back, relocation of convicted persons to begin their sentence execution and in cases when the security measure – arrest – is imposed on a convicted person in another criminal case while he or she is serving their sentence) by a decision of the director of the Prison Administration.

According to Clause 10 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law on the Management of the Spread of Covid-19 Infection, currently the Law is in force for as long as there are threats to epidemiological safety in relation to the spread of COVID-19 infection. At least once every three months, the Cabinet of Ministers submits the Saeima (Parliament) a report on the threats to epidemiological safety in relation to the spread of COVID-19 infection.

The SP pointed out the necessity to continue to maintain the restrictive measures for the physical escort of prisoners currently stipulated in the Law on the Management of the Spread of the Covid-19 Infection and to corroborate them in other laws and regulations for permanent application. In the context of the referred to issue, on 24 February 2022, the SP sent a letter to the working group for the improvement of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Ministry of Justice, initiating considering for discussion the issue regarding the escort and relocation of prisoners (arrested, convicted persons), also supporting the continuation of the procedures laid down in Section 10.1(2), Section 10.2 and Section 10.3(2) of the Law on the Management of the Spread of Covid-19 Infection after the invalidation of the Law on the Management of the Spread of Covid-19 Infection.

Paragraph 14, Parts 3, 4 and 5

The Internal Security Bureau (hereinafter – ISB) needs identifying information about prisoners and detained persons.

Paragraph 14, Part 6

Internal Regulation No. 3 of the SP, dated 5 February 2020, “Code of Ethics of the State Police” (hereinafter – Code of Ethics) prescribe the general norms of conduct of police officers, for example, to solve a conflict situation with a respectful attitude,

understanding, in an honest, open, kind and polite manner. A police officer tries to prevent unlawful or unethical conduct and not to allow hiding, concealment or support of such conduct. The immediate supervisor (head) of the police officer and a higher-ranking official immediately reacts to the detected violation and takes measures to clarify the circumstances, assess responsibility and prevent the damage caused.

If the SP receives a submission, complaint or report about a violation of the Code of Ethics, containing details about a potential disciplinary violation – it is reviewed accordingly in accordance with the Law on the Disciplinary Liability of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter – MoI) and the Latvian Prison Administration (hereinafter – PA) (hereinafter – the Law on Disciplinary Liability). Holding an official disciplinarily liable does not exclude their civil liability, administrative liability or criminal liability. According to Section 31 of the Criminal Code (hereinafter – CC), a person who, in carrying out detention, has violated the conditions regarding detention, namely, has allowed for apparent non-conformity of the harm caused to the person to be detained with the nature of the offence, non-compliance or resistance, shall be liable for violating such conditions. If the acts by which harm has been caused to the person to be detained have not been necessary for his or her detention, liability on a general basis applies for the harm caused.

Compliance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics is ensured by the director (head) of the relevant structural unit, who, through their own behaviour and conduct, promotes the understanding of police officers of ethical values, key principles and ethical conduct, and is a role model in observing ethical values, key principles and norms of behaviour. In order to promote the implementation and observance of the norms of the Code of Ethics, the SP has established an Ethics Commission.

Section 266 of the Criminal Procedure Law (hereinafter – CPL) prescribes the procedural drawing-up of detention: the official who has performed the detention shall immediately write a detention protocol at the site of detention or after transfer to the detention premises. A detained person shall be familiarised with a protocol, the rights of a detained person shall be explained to him or her, and he or she shall sign regarding such explanation in the protocol. An investigating institution shall immediately transfer a detention protocol to the person directing the proceedings, and a copy of the detention protocol shall be sent to a prosecutor within 24 hours. According to Section 63 of the CPL, a detained person has the right to submit a complaint regarding the actions of the official.

According to Section 2.1 of the Law on Disciplinary Liability, the official to whom other officials are subordinated (the higher official) shall, according to his or her competence, ensure control over the compliance with the service discipline within the institution (structural unit), and also implementation of the relevant measures for the prevention of such deficiencies in the service which have led or may lead to violations of the service discipline by the subordinated officials. The higher official shall be held to disciplinary liability, if he or she has not ensured control over the compliance with the service discipline within the institution (structural unit) subordinated to him or her, and also the implementation of the measures within his or her competence for the prevention of such deficiencies in the service which have led or may lead to violations of the service discipline by the subordinated officials within the institution (structural unit).

The topics of inadmissibility of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment and use of force are included in the programmes of the State Police College (hereinafter – SPC). In addition to the study programmes and based on Internal Regulation No. 3 of the SP, dated 11 March 2019, “Procedures for organising completion of professional education of officials with special service ranks at the State Police College, raising the qualification of officials with special service ranks and training of service dogs”, the SPC implements professional training of officials at service locations in accordance with the study schedule.

The SP implements regular preventive discussions/briefings for the employees of the SP on the inadmissibility of violent treatment of prisoners, the commensurability of using physical force, as well as disciplinary liability for violating the norms of the Code of Ethics, in cases where the applied physical force would be recognised as incommensurate.

The ISB prepares a plan of preventive measures on an annual basis, which includes:

- 1) informative and educational events aimed at the public and/or at the employees of the institutions referred to in Section 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law;
- 2) control measures of the activities of the employees of the institutions;
- 3) measures for evaluation of the internal control system of institutions and prevention of identified risks;
- 4) informing and involving the public in the performance of the preventive function;
- 5) enhancement of the internal control system of the ISB and assessment of internal security risks.

The ISB has been organising the conferences on an annual basis since its establishment [2015] to raise the issue of the inadmissible conduct of officials related to the use of physical force. On 19 April 2023, the conference “Conduct of officials related to the use of physical force – risks, causes and triggers” was organised. The ISB not only publishes the public reports of its activities, but also the performance indicators, thus informing the public and the involved institutions about inadmissible conduct subject to criminal penalty and the inevitability of punishment.

The ISB implemented the task included in the work plan of 2021 of the MoI “To carry out an assessment of the identification and management system of the significant risks of illegal conduct emerged in the activities of institutions subordinate to the MoI”, aimed at evaluating the mechanism of identification and management of risks of illegal conduct of the employees of institutions subordinate to the MoI, in order to identify the weaknesses of the internal control system interfering with mitigating the risks of illegal conduct, and at the same time evaluating the implemented mechanisms for preventing illegal conduct, and their effectiveness, by analysing the information at the disposal of the ISB on cases of illegal conduct. The implementation of the referred to task was completed on 28 February 2022, when the ISB presented the obtained results and weaknesses to the MoI and institutions subordinate to the MoI.

In 2022, various measures have been taken to prevent potential risks – the ISB has informed the SP and the State Border Guard (hereinafter – SBG) about the identified risks in the area of border crossing and migration. At the same time, issues related to a possible lack of evidence in the future (examination of complaints at the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter – ECHR)) were brought up, calling for

the recording of actual circumstances by technical means (video surveillance, body cameras, audio recordings). The ISB has also informed the SBG about the management of the risks of violent behaviour, fixation of the circumstances by technical means and closer cooperation with non-governmental organisations. In 2022, the ISB also received a request from the SPC to provide support in the production of an educational film. The ISB has invited enhancement of the script of the film, emphasising the following aspects in the work of the police officer:

- 1) the right to use physical force and the necessity, admissibility and proportionality of special means;
- 2) aspects of distinguishing between disciplinary liability and criminal liability.

The ISB pointed to the identified risks that were aggregated during the pre-trial investigation in the cases of the use of physical force and special means by the officials and the assessment of psychological aspects of the police officer:

- non-professionalism of the police officer, for example, during detention, the person is laid on the ground and, when the handcuffs are put on inappropriately, the detained person is additionally pressed with the knee to the ground, as a result of which bodily injuries are caused (rib fractures);
- police officer's intemperance (provocative behaviour), for example, the person to be detained provokes (says indecent, offensive or insulting words, spits), and the police officer loses his temper, does not hold back and hits them;
- unnecessary, excessive use of physical force during the detention, for example, the person to be detained is laid on the ground and, when the handcuffs are put on, without the risk of resistance, the police officer hits the detained person unnecessarily;
- the use of physical force already after detention, for example, retaliation by a police officer, manifesting itself in beatings (opting for immediate punishment).

Paragraph 14, Part 7

Each complaint is registered (statistics provided) and an internal investigation is carried out, resulting in the imposition of disciplinary penalty (if it is found that a violation of discipline has taken place) on the official(s) who allowed for the ill-treatment, as well as assessing the accountability of their immediate management.

Regarding the case of Daugavpils, the complaint was received and examined by the Internal Control Office of the SP (in May 2022), and as a result of the investigation, it was established that the physical force on the part of police officers was used appropriately and was proportionate in light of the existing situation, therefore there was no reason to hold the SP officers disciplinarily liable.

In this year's work plan, the ISB has included the objective to develop a technical task, and the costs have been determined for the development of an application template to be filled out digitally, which would facilitate the provision of structured and fully-fledged information to the ISB and raise the efficiency of evaluation of the information contained in the application. The solution for the provision of information (application) has been introduced on the website of the ISB – electronic reporting (2 options – for the submitter to remain anonymous or to identify themselves) – ensuring that the submitter can save and print out the information (at the option of the submitter – sign it) as an official application to the ISB.

Paragraph 14, Part 8

The SP agrees that the use of body-worn cameras is essential as an additional means of protection, being an especially important means of protection at the time of detention. Cameras must be used by everyone involved in ensuring public order and security, including emergency response forces.

The procedure for the systematic (in all cases) use of individual compact video cameras (also in recording mode) is determined by Internal Regulation of the SP No. 18, dated 29 December 2020, “Organisation and control of the performance of service duties in the field of ensuring public order and security, traffic monitoring and road transport monitoring”; additionally, on 18 January 2023, the Head of the SP issued an instruction (circular letter), emphasising and additionally explaining the provisions of the Regulations, namely, strict compliance with the requirements of the Regulations was pointed out, and the mandatory use of individual compact video cameras was also emphasised.

Paragraph 15

Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 1025, dated 27 December 2011, “Regulations Regarding Actions with Material Evidence and Seized Property” prescribes the place and procedures for the storage of material evidence which may not be returned to the owner or lawful possessor and which may not be stored with other materials of a criminal case. According to Sub-clause 7.7 of the Regulation, the material evidence of a small amount, the storage of which does not require specially equipped premises, shall be kept in the storage facility for material evidence of the investigating institution, the office of the prosecutor, or the court institution.

Regulation of the SP No. 8 of 18 February 2015 “Procedures for receipt, storage, issuance, registration, inspection and destruction of material evidence, arrested property and property seized in an administrative violation case in the State Police storage facilities, storage facility safes and accounts of deposited funds” prescribe that the Head of the Main Public Order Police Department of the Main Criminal Police Department of the Territorial Department of the SP organises the arrangement of a storage facility in structural units, determines the responsible person who accepts, registers, stores, issues, inspects and destroys material evidence and arrested property in criminal proceedings and seized property and the property and documents seized within the scope of administrative violation.

The responsible police officer accepts into storage material evidence or arrested property, based on the decision of a person directing the proceedings on the transfer of material evidence or arrested property to storage, accompanied with the copy of the statement of inspection. Material evidence, arrested or seized property accepted in the storage facility shall be packed, indicating the registration number, the number of the criminal procedure or administrative procedure, the contents of the package, as well as the position, name, surname and contact information of the person directing the proceedings or the official of the administrative procedure. The official shall sign the sealed package.

Paragraph 18, Part 2

We agree that police interrogation through audio-visual technical assistance is also an important additional means of protection against unfounded allegations of ill-

treatment, however, initially, it is necessary to equip the premises with adequate technical means. Currently, interrogation premises in the SP have been surveyed, preparing survey reports to this effect and a report on the need for equipment.

Interrogation premises for specially protected victims have been created in twenty SP stations, incl. for persons who suffered from criminal offences against morals and sexual interference, the premises have been equipped with computer equipment and audio-video recording systems. Equipping the interrogation premises with technical means is also planned within the scope of the Internal Security Fund planning period 2021-2027, in the activity “Promotion of support to victims of criminal offences – specially protected victims (especially children) within the framework of criminal proceedings”.

The investigation offices are located in each TDP and the meetings of the placed persons with the defence counsel are also taking place in the interrogation/investigation offices, therefore the SP must also ensure compliance with the requirement laid down in Section 86(3) of the CPL: A defence counsel has the right to meet with a defendant detained or arrested in conditions ensuring confidentiality, without restrictions on the number or duration of meeting times, and without the special permission of the person directing the proceedings, and, if necessary, inviting an interpreter. Such meetings may take place in the visual control conditions of an authorised official, *but outside of hearing distance*.

The formal education programme of the SPC includes topics on human rights, ethics and interrogation. In turn, in informal education programmes, police officials are trained on the legal and psychological aspects of interrogation.

Paragraph 21, Parts 2 and 3

Section 60.² of the CPL defines the fundamental rights of a person who has the right to defence, inter alia, the right to immediately retain a defence counsel and enter into an agreement with him or her or to use the legal assistance ensured by the state if the person is incapable of entering into an agreement with the defence counsel at the person's own expense; to meet a defence counsel in circumstances that ensure confidentiality of the conversation without a special permit from the person directing the proceedings and without limitation of time; to request participation of an advocate for ensuring defence in a separate procedural action in the cases provided for by the law, if an agreement on defence has not been entered into yet with a particular advocate or this defence counsel has been unable to appear; to receive a list of advocates who practice in the relevant court district from the person directing the proceedings, as well as to use the telephone free of charge for retaining a defence counsel; to request that a defence counsel be replaced, if the obstacles to his or her participation determined in the Code exist; to stay silent, testify or refuse to testify. Failure to testify shall not be judged as interference with divulging the truth in the case and evasion of the pre-trial proceedings and the trial.

Section 83(1) of the CPL prescribes that the participation of a defence counsel is mandatory in criminal proceedings:

- 1) if the right to defence is held by a minor or person with diminished mental capacity;
- 2) regarding the determination of compulsory measures of a medical nature;
- 3) if such proceedings are continued in connection with an application regarding

- the exoneration of a deceased person;
- 4) if the right to defence is held by a person who is not able to completely use his or her procedural rights due to a mental or other health impairment;
 - 5) if the right to defence is held by an illiterate person or a person with a level of education so low that such person may not completely use his or her procedural rights.

Section 88 of the CPL stipulates that a person who has the right to defence is entitled to refuse a defence counsel, but the persons referred to in Section 83(1) of the CPL may not refuse the defence counsel. The Ministry of Justice (hereinafter – MoJ) has developed a draft law “Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code”, providing for supplementing Section 83 of the CPL with part 2.¹, prescribing one more instance when the participation of a defence counsel is mandatory, namely, during the first interrogation of a detained person in criminal proceedings for a serious or especially serious crime.

As indicated in the initial impact assessment report (annotation) of the draft law, participation of a defence counsel in the first interrogation reduces the doubts regarding forcing a person to give the most convenient testimony for the investigation, and also ensures a fully-fledged right to defence.

Taking into account the fact that ensuring mandatory defence during the first interrogation would also have a significant impact on the state budget funds, the CPL elaboration working group, in developing the draft law, came to the conclusion that the mandatory ensuring of defence during the first interrogation is to be introduced gradually, namely, by determining the necessity to ensure it on a case to case basis. When determining the circle of persons to whom mandatory defence should be provided during interrogation, the classification of criminal offences was taken into account, providing that mandatory defence is provided only in criminal proceedings regarding a serious or especially serious crime. Such categories of cases were selected considering the nature of such crimes as well as the severity of the applicable penal sanctions.

Paragraph 22

Clause 4 of the first part of Section 266 of the CPL prescribes that a detention protocol shall indicate the condition of the detained person, his or her external appearance, and his or her complaints regarding health.

When a person is placed in the TDP, in accordance with the work organisation of the TDP of the SP (internal regulations of the SP), when a person expresses complaints about his or her health, a medical practitioner is invited or the State Emergency Medical Service (hereinafter – SEMS) is called, and the TDP employee records the recommendations thereof, resulting from the examination of the person, in the Medical Inspection Log. According to the LPHDP, the police officer has the right to request a statement about the health care and health condition of the person placed in the TDP, which additionally indicates whether the person may stay in the TDP and participate in procedural actions or his or her treatment needs to be continued in a medical treatment institution.

According to the LPHDP, the statement on the provision of health care and health condition of the detained person shall be appended to the materials of the criminal case. The statement shall be stored and it may be acquainted with in accordance with the

procedures specified in the Criminal Procedure Code.

The State Police plans to supplement the internal regulations governing the work organisation of the TDP, by introducing “body diagram” forms, to be filled out when a person is placed in the TDP.

In addition, it should be noted that medical practitioners are available in only one TDP in Riga, namely, one physician and four physician’s assistants (paramedics). This medical personnel operates in accordance with the Medical Treatment Law and the Cabinet of Ministers regulations issued on the basis of this Law, and their activities are monitored by the institutions of the Ministry of Health (hereinafter – MoH), which means that the SP has no right to impose additional duties on medical practitioners. Professional activities of these medical practitioners are registered in the Register of Medical Practitioners and Medical Treatment Support Persons. They have a certificate of a medical practitioner that certifies that a medical practitioner has proven his or her theoretical and practical skills and is entitled to practice as a medical physician's assistant or a physician. The existence of a certificate indicates a high professional level, regular training, updating and renewing knowledge and gives the legal right to practice. According to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 943 of 18 December 2012 “Procedures for Certification of Medical Practitioners” recertification takes place once every 5 (five) years and requires mandatory training of at least 150 hours in various fields: emergency assistance, internal diseases, surgery, etc.

It should be noted that in the rest of the TDPs, if necessary, the SEMS is being called, the supervision of the operation of which is also under the institutional competence of the MoH.

Section 56.1 of the Medical Treatment Law prescribes the duty of the medical institution to notify the SP at its own initiative, i.e., if a medical treatment institution assists a patient and there are grounds for considering that the patient has suffered from violence, the medical treatment institution shall notify the SP thereof without delay but no later than within 12 hours.

Paragraph 23

LPHDP states – the detainee receives health care at the time and place when and where it is needed and when and where it is possible to provide it, whether it is at the premises of the TDP, or at a medical treatment institution. The law also states that the police officials shall provide guarding of the detained person and safety of the health care practitioners. Therefore, the right of a police official to be present during a medical examination of a person is established by law. In the event that the detained person expresses the wish to subject themselves to a medical examination in the presence of a medical practitioner only, then this is correspondingly fulfilled, unless the medical practitioner does not agree to it.

Paragraph 24, Part 2

Section 60.²(4) stipulates that as soon as the person has acquired the right to defence, the information related to his or her rights shall be immediately issued in writing and, where necessary, explained to him or her. The person shall confirm with his or her signature that the information has been issued and, where necessary, the rights have been explained. As soon as a person is detained or involved in criminal proceedings as a person who has the right to defence, the person is always given an

extract from the CPL with his or her rights and obligations in a language he or she understands, and they are additionally explained verbally.

Paragraph 25

According to the LPHDP, which governs the living conditions of detained persons while staying in the TDP, a detention cell is equipped with a call bell for calling a police official if the cell is located out of sight of the police official. Therefore, the equipping of the cell with a call bell is not a mandatory condition, but the arrangement thereof should be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Paragraph 26

The cleaning of the TDP of the SP is carried out by a merchant in accordance with the concluded contract and taking into account the daily agenda and work organisation of the relevant TDP. The terms of the contract are prepared in compliance with the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation “Hygiene Requirements at the Temporary Detention Place”. According to the contract “On the services of maintenance and repair of engineering communications”, the merchant, upon assignment of the Provision State Agency of the MoI which manages the real estate objects of the MoI and its subordinate institutions (including the SP), performs air flow velocity measurements and ensures their compliance with the requirements of the Cabinet Regulations.

According to the plan for renovation, reconstruction, restoration and dismantling of structures for 2023, in 2023, improvement works were planned in Jēkabpils TDP.

Paragraph 30, Part 2

In order to ensure the transposing of the provisions of Directive 2013/33/EU and other European Union (EU) legal acts in the field of international protection, a new Asylum Law entered into force on 19 January 2016. In accordance with the definitions of Directive 2013/32/EU and Directive 2013/33/EU it incorporates the term “asylum seeker with special procedural or reception needs” – a minor, a disabled person, a person at the age, upon the attainment of which an old-age pension is granted in the Republic of Latvia, a pregnant woman, a parent with a minor child, a victim of human trafficking, a person who needs special care due to a health condition, a person with mental disorders, a person who has suffered from torture, rape or other serious psychological, physical or sexual violence, or other person to be especially protected whose ability to benefit from the rights and to comply with the obligations during the asylum procedure is limited. Upon receipt of an application from the asylum seeker for granting refugee or alternative status in Latvia, the SBG assesses whether the asylum seeker has special reception or procedural needs.

During the detention, the asylum seeker is accommodated in the premises specially designated for this purpose in the SBG structural unit (hereinafter – SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers), based on the detention protocol drawn up in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 17 of the Asylum Law. The detained asylum seeker is accommodated respecting the fundamental rights and safety of an individual, personal characteristics and psychological compatibility, as well as in compliance with the conditions of Section 22(3) of the Asylum Law, namely, an

unaccompanied minor shall be ensured accommodation in the SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers, in which there is equipment, and also personnel corresponding to his or her age.

Detained asylum seekers are accommodated in Daugavpils Immigration Detention Centre of the SBG Daugavpils Department or in Mucenieki Immigration Detention Centre of the SBG Riga Department in separate accommodation premises for asylum seekers (hereinafter – IDC), separately from detained foreign nationals. Families of detained asylum seekers, including minors accompanied by their parents, are accommodated together, separately from other detained persons in a specially equipped family block. Minors accompanied by their parents are accommodated in the IDC, based on the parents' application for accommodating children together with parents, and after evaluating the best interests of a child. Thus, children are not detained, but accommodated together with their parents, who are detained. In turn, detained unaccompanied minors are accommodated in the premises of the IDC premises, in which there is personnel and equipment to take the needs of their age into account. Minors accommodated in the premises of the IDC are provided with opportunities for acquiring education, engaging in leisure time activities, including games and recreational events corresponding to their age.

It is to be concluded that the conditions contained in the Asylum Law for the detention of asylum seekers, including minors, comply with the norms of the EU law for the detention of vulnerable persons and applicants with special reception needs.

According to Cabinet of Ministers regulation No. 454 of 21 June 2011 an unaccompanied minor foreigner is considered to be a vulnerable person; therefore, in resolving upon detention, preference will be given to means alternative to detention.

There is no open (or semi-open) specialised establishment in Latvia intended specifically for a minor foreigner to be extradited or unaccompanied asylum seeker and it is not planned to create such an establishment, because the number of unaccompanied minors is small and it would not be feasible to open such an establishment. An unaccompanied minor, who is not detained, is accommodated in a child care institution based on the decision of the Orphan's and Custody Court. A child care institution is an institution which provides social care and social rehabilitation to orphans or children left without parental care, as well as to children who need social rehabilitation or special care due to their health condition.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

As regards ensuring education to asylum seekers – according to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 488 of 26 July 2016 “Procedures by which a Minor Asylum Seeker shall be Provided with Opportunities for Acquiring Education” the asylum seeker shall be provided with preparation from the age of 5 (five) for the acquisition of basic education and an opportunity to acquire basic education and general education in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures by which the students are enrolled in general educational institutions and expelled from them, and also moved up into the next grade.

Paragraph 33

In border control and immigration control, the SBG complies with the procedures

laid down in Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 55 of 18 January 2011¹, Internal Regulation of the SBG No. 11 of 14 April 2014² and Order of the SBG No. 1928 of 20 December 2017³. During the emergency situation, in addition to the already mentioned legal framework, the procedure laid down in Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 518 of 10 August 2020⁴ was observed. Additional measures for control over the performance of the official duties of the SBG are regularly carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in Internal Regulation of the SBG No. 18 of 3 December 2020⁵.

It has not been necessary to use physical force and special means against persons, because there have been no cases when they did not obey the lawful orders of the border guards. In order to prevent crossing or attempted crossing of the state border outside the border crossing points and procedures established for legal entry, persons are informed that crossing the state border is illegal and there is criminal liability prescribed for crossing it, and are invited not to cross the state border or correspondingly invited to return to Belarus. Furthermore, at that moment persons also visually see armed border guards and national guards, and their preparedness for active response in preventing the possibilities of illegal crossing of the state border. Following such actions and the provision of information, persons, as a rule, do not risk approaching Latvia or, if they have already crossed the border, they return to Belarus.

The enumeration of special means of the SBG contains electric shock devices, which the officials, based on Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 55 of 18 January 2011, are entitled to use for fulfilment of the functions assigned to them. There are no electric shock devices of any kind (including TASER) currently used for border surveillance due to the numerical shortage thereof, expiry of their useful life and the necessity to use them for the needs of other SBG services (immigration control, border inspections). **Therefore, the SBG informs that it was not possible to use the special means (electric shock), as stated in the Report.**

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 34, Part 3

According to Clause 12 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 231 of 3 May 2017 the minimum area per person may not be less than 4 m² (excluding lavatory).

The situation described in the Report regarding possible cramped living conditions if all the beds located in the IDC room were to be occupied, namely, four beds in a room of about 11 m², five beds in a room of 17 to 18 m², and seven beds in a room of about 22 m² (excluding the sanitary unit), was in the situation, when, based on Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 518 of 10 August 2021, in light of a rapid increase in

¹ Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 55 of 18 January 2011 “Regulations Regarding the Types of Special Means and the Procedures for the Use Thereof”

² Internal Regulation of the SBG No. 11 of 14 April 2014 “Procedure for Organising Official Service in the Structural Units of the Territorial Department of the State Border Guard Carrying Out Border Control and Immigration Control”

³ Order of the SBG No. 1928 of 20 December 2017 “On Organisation of Border Control and Immigration Control”

⁴ Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 518 of 10 August 2020 “Regarding the Declaration of Emergency Situation”

⁵ Internal Regulation of the SBG No. 18 of 3 December 2020 “Procedure under which the State Border Guard and the State Border Guard College Organises and Carries Out Planned Inspections and Dawn Raids”

the number of cases of illegal crossing of the state border of Latvia-Belarus, as well as considering the large number of cases of illegal crossing of the state border of Lithuania-Belarus recorded in Lithuania, the emergency situation has been declared in certain administrative territories from 11 August 2021. During the referred to period, the accommodation capacity of the IDC was increased as a preventive measure for the case if the need were to arise to ensure accommodation for a large number of detained persons. **In practice, such a need did not arise, and the accommodation of detained persons took place in compliance with all the requirements stipulated in the laws and regulations.**

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 35, Part 3

The IDC is equipped according to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 231 of 3 May 2017, where Clause 5 states that the teaching room, the children's playroom, the meeting room, the fitness room, the room for religious rituals, the recreation room, the dining room with kitchen, the laundry room and smoking room shall be common premises of the IDC. When arranging the Centre, the children's playroom (in the block of premises intended for the accommodation of women or families), the recreation room, the dining room with kitchen, the laundry room and smoking room shall be arranged in the accommodation block of the persons of the relevant category.

The SBG ensures the security guarding of persons accommodated in the IDC, but does not get involved in planning their free time activities. Nevertheless, the SBG actively cooperates with Latvian NGOs, such as the association “I want to help refugees”, which, as far as possible, ensures the organisation of various leisure activities in the IDC of the SBG for both children and adults.

In accordance with Section 9(7) of the Asylum Law a minor asylum seeker is provided with opportunities for acquiring education in the official language in a state or local government educational institution. Procedures by which minor asylum seekers are provided with opportunities for acquiring education are laid down in Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 488 of 26 July 2016.

Latvia has also developed an Action Plan for the relocation and reception of persons in need of international protection, and it provides for the creation of a system suitable for the conditions of Latvia for the reception of asylum seekers, as well as measures for the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and persons who have been granted an alternative status. Clause 3.14 of Course of Action No. 3 “Socio-economic Inclusion” of the Action Plan states – the acquiring of general education is to be ensured in those educational institutions that implement the educational programme in the official language, providing for the remuneration of teachers in accordance with the requirements of laws and regulations. The Action Plan states that learning of the Latvian language, before starting to acquire education in an educational institution, is ensured by the Latvian Language Agency in the accommodation centres.

Since there are no rules set for ensuring education for the category of foreigners, the SBG is guided by analogy with asylum seekers – it obtains an application from the parents about the wish to provide education for their children and forwards it to the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter – the MoES). In order to make it easier for parents to apply for the provision of education for their children, the form “Right to

Education of a Foreigner – Child” has been developed, by which parents are briefly informed about the child’s right to receive basic education and can mark the wish for basic education to be ensured. The form has been translated into foreign languages. Form of a similar content has also been developed for asylum seekers.

In 2013, the SBG and the association “Latvian Red Cross” (hereinafter – LRC) signed an agreement on cooperation, based on which the LRC, among other things, undertook to organise, as far as possible, for persons accommodated in the IDC, psychological support and educational measures or other measures that would improve living conditions, as well as to provide the services of social work experts and other measures promoting socialisation and integration, including, if necessary, to organise Latvian language classes.

Recommendations regarding the provision of purposeful activities (including the Latvian language classes) for foreigners in accommodation centres for asylum seekers, as well as regarding measures to reduce the language barrier between health care personnel and admitted foreign nationals, by providing translation/interpreting services, are to be supported.

Within the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund planning period 2014-2020, during the period from 2016 until 2022, Latvian language classes have been ensured for third country nationals. Opportunities to continue the referred to support measures in the activities of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund within the scope of the planning period 2021-2027 are to be assessed (implemented by the MoI and the Ministry of Culture).

Paragraph 36

According to Clause 21 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017, the daily schedule of the accommodation premises shall include daily walk time in fresh air (outdoor exercise) – for at least two hours. In turn, Clause 18 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017 provides that if a detained person refuses to exercise any rights (for example, outdoor exercise), an official of the accommodation premises may request to confirm it with a written submission. Given the structure of Daugavpils IDC and Mucenieki IDC, it is not possible to ensure free access of the detained persons to the outdoor area throughout the day.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation with respect to outdoor exercise.

Regarding the courtyard arrangement, the SBG would like to point out that the IDC of the SBG was built and equipped in accordance with the requirements of the Latvian Building Standards, but in addition the SBG has commenced negotiations with NGOs about the possibility in the near future, involving the persons accommodated in the IDC, to make the walls of the walking areas more colourful, by painting various drawings on them.

Paragraph 38

First aid is assistance provided to victims (persons who have been taken ill) in a critical state of danger to life or health by persons with or without medical qualifications, irrespective of their proficiency and equipment. Each border guard is trained in providing first aid to a person. In addition, almost all border guards have a

driving licence, for the obtaining whereof it is necessary to pass the test in the provision of first aid.

At the moment, a third position of doctor's assistant has been created in Daugavpils IDC of the SBG, which will enable more efficient provision of health care in the IDC. In the opinion of the SBG, it is not feasible to organise the presence of medical staff in the IDC in 24/7 mode, but with the introduction of the position of the third doctor's assistant, it is planned to ensure the presence of medical staff in the IDC from 8.00 a.m. to bedtime. Out of these hours, first aid will be ensured by border guards and, if necessary, the SEMS team will be called.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 40

As the number of persons crossing or attempting to cross the state border illegally and the number of asylum seekers increases, the diversity of countries of origin increases as well. Considering the fact that modern technical solutions allow translation to be carried out not only in the personal presence of the interpreter, but also using various technical aids (telephone, video conferences, special translation devices), the SBG informs that, using the funds to be raised via the project from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, it is planned to purchase portable translation devices to be used not only for communication between the SBG officials and the persons detained and accommodated in the IDC of the SBG, but also for communication between the referred to detained persons and the medical staff of the IDC of the SBG.

Paragraph 41

According to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 231 of 3 May 2017 there is an internist's room in the IDC of the SBG equipped with an Ambu bag (resuscitation bag), information about the presence whereof was not provided to the Committee by the doctor's assistant of the IDC of the SBG, probably, due to mistake. Moreover, the medical stations of the IDC are certified in the Register of Medical Treatment Institutions of Latvia. The doctor's assistant of the IDC of the SBG provides emergency medical assistance to the victim in a life-threatening, critical condition, by carrying out diagnostics and treatment, as well as primary health care. **It is to be concluded that no additional measures are necessary to introduce the recommendation.**

Paragraph 43, first recommendation

The SBG informs that, using the funds to be raised via project from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, it is planned to continue covering expenses to provide foreigners with medical services (including those not included in State-paid services, but necessary in acute cases) and covering expenses, incl. medical services such as outpatient and inpatient treatment, tests for COVID-19, HIV, hepatitis B and C. With the help of the above-mentioned project, it is also planned to purchase portable translation devices to be used not only for communication between the SBG officials and the persons detained and accommodated in the IDC of the SBG, but also for communication between the referred to detained persons and the medical staff of the IDC of the SBG.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional measures are necessary to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 43, second recommendation

The Asylum Law stipulates that one of the duties of an asylum seeker is to undergo a health examination in the interests of public health.

Sub-clause 3.2 of Cabinet Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017 stipulates that before being accommodated in the IDC, each person undergoes an inspection of the person and his or her belongings by drawing up an inspection and seizure protocol (record), the original whereof is appended to the file of the detained person and should there be bodily injuries detected during the inspection of the person, they are recorded.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 686 of 21 November 2017 prescribes that a medical practitioner conducts a health examination of the asylum seeker, including the survey, general examination, anthropometrics of a person. The results are documented in the form of a health examination of the asylum seeker, which is placed in the outpatient card of the patient. If necessary, investigations are administered, considering the infection risks existing in the country, from which the asylum seeker has arrived or through which he or she has travelled. The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (hereinafter – the CDPC) posts information on its website on polio-affected countries, as well as the latest information from the World Health Organization and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control about outbreaks of infectious diseases in other countries.

In compliance with the requirements of Clause 2 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 255 of 16 May 2017, before accommodating the person in the accommodation centre, a medical practitioner performs a health examination and makes an entry thereon in the person's outpatient medical card. Based on Clause 7 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 255 of 16 May 2017, entries in the outpatient card are also made regarding the medicinal products issued to the persons accommodated in the IDC, which the person only takes in the presence of an official or medical practitioner of the accommodation centre, unless a special written instruction from the medical practitioner of the accommodation centre has been received.

In the case of deterioration of the health condition or acute illnesses, the SEMS teams are called to the IDC, which carry out an examination of the health condition of persons and provide emergency medical assistance. In the case of bodily injuries or health issues, the SEMS performs the registration of such data.

According to Internal Regulation of the SBG No. 21 of 25 November 2019 “Procedure by which the State Border Guard Organises Return Measures of Foreigners”, before the implementation of the forced return of a foreigner in order to clarify whether the health condition of the relevant person allows the person to travel for the purpose of return, the medical practitioner of the IDC of the SBG includes the relevant information in the notice of readiness to perform the return of the foreigner “Notice of Readiness to Perform Return of a Foreigner” (hereinafter – Notice), by filling out Chapter II of the Notice “Medical information about the health condition of a foreigner to be returned and the assessment on the possibility to perform his or her return”. Information on whether the foreigner has any diseases, disabilities (blindness, deafness, paralysis, etc.), other health disorders is indicated, as well as the medical

practitioner has the opportunity to include observations, comments and conclusions regarding the health condition of the foreigner to be returned.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 43, third recommendation

Section 56 of the Medical Treatment Law prescribes the duty of the medical institution to notify the SP at its own initiative, i.e., if a medical treatment institution provides assistance to a patient and there are grounds for considering that the patient has suffered from violence, the medical treatment institution shall notify the SP thereof without delay but no later than within 12 hours.

The premises of Daugavpils IDC and Mucenieki IDC of the SBG, except for the living rooms, are equipped with a video surveillance system conducting recording in 24/7 mode. Besides, in 2022, the ISB carried out an inspection and there were no violations of human rights detected that would be indicative of torture or violence in the IDC of the SBG.

Detained persons accommodated in the IDC of the SBG have the right to use their mobile phones, which is being done, and there have already been several cases when the detained person calls the SP while using the phone. Calling the SP is being justified by criminal acts committed against a person. Currently, there is no information received from the SP that a case would have been commenced/initiated in order to determine the circumstances of the case.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional measures are necessary to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 43, fourth recommendation

The SBG, as far as possible, always ensures privacy during the examination by a medical practitioner. Exceptions are cases when the foreigner behaves aggressively and the presence of security guards during the examination in such cases has been requested by a medical practitioner.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 44

Based on the proposal made by the international non-governmental organisation “Doctors without Borders”, during the period from July to 31 December 2022, the representatives of the international non-governmental organisation “Doctors without Borders” have been regularly visiting Daugavpils IDC and Mucenieki IDC and providing psychological support to the detained foreigners and asylum seekers accommodated in the IDC of the SBG.

By means of the funds raised via the project from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, in order to reduce the everyday psychological sufferings or struggles of the target group, it is planned to attract psychologists and cover expenses for psychologist services for the foreigners accommodated in the centres.

Additionally, as already mentioned herein above, in 2013, the SBG and the LRC signed an agreement on cooperation, based on which the LRC, among other things,

undertook to organise, as far as possible, for persons accommodated in the IDC of the SBG, psychological support and educational measures or other measures that would improve living conditions of the referred to persons, as well as to provide the services of social work experts and other measures promoting socialisation and integration, including, if necessary, to organise Latvian language classes.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional measures are necessary to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 48, Part 2

State authorities (ISB, IeM, SBG, OCMA (Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs), Ombudsman's Office) cooperate with the Latvian Centre for Human Rights (hereinafter – LCHC), as well as the UN Refugee Agency on immigration, hybrid threats, the principle of *non-refoulement*, the right to protection in the Republic of Latvia, the topicalities of the legal framework, accommodation of asylum seekers, compliance of its conditions with international and national norms, best practice standards and court practice during the emergency situation in separate administrative territories.

The ISB has held a meeting with the association “I Want to Help Refugees” to discuss the issues related to the possible illegal actions of representatives of the institutions of the MoI against immigrants on the Latvia-Belarus border. The representatives of the association “I Want to Help Refugees” informed about the refugee situation at the border, while the ISB explained its competence and reporting possibilities.

Currently, the emergency situation in the administrative territories at the Latvia-Belarus border does not allow the uncontrolled flow of people across the state border in places not intended for this, and at the same time does not limit the right of persons to access the asylum procedure, because the right to lodge an application at the border crossing point provided for by the Asylum Law is not restricted. The referred to regulation was based on the internationally recognised right of countries to control the border of their country and to prevent the illegal crossing thereof (see the judgment of the ECHR of 13 February 2020 in the case of *ND and NT v. Spain* and the judgment of the ECHR of 5 April 2022 in the case *A.A. and others v. North Macedonia*).

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 50, Part 5

Under the Immigration Law and the State Ensured Legal Aid Law a foreigner has the right to state-ensured legal aid (free of charge) during the stage of appeal of the return decision, when it is necessary to draw up a motivated application to the court. In addition, a foreigner has the right to receive legal aid at his or her own expense, and associations and foundations provide legal assistance to foreigners that are to be deported.

A foreigner is not entitled to the state-ensured legal aid at the stage of contesting a decision on forced deportation, but he or she can receive it at his or her own expense, or use legal assistance provided free of charge by associations and foundations. The ISB has addressed the MoI, emphasising the strengthening and enhancement of the cooperation of the institutions of the MoI system with non-governmental organisations,

creating high-quality and result-orientated mutual communication, promoting public involvement in reducing criminal conduct.

Currently, a new draft law “Immigration Law” has been submitted to the Saeima, providing for expansion of the right of a foreigner to receive state-ensured legal aid (free of charge) and defining the right of a foreigner to receive state-ensured legal aid (free of charge), also when appealing his or her detention.

Paragraph 51

Both detained foreign nationals and detained asylum seekers, upon detention, are provided with information about their rights and duties, and their legal status is explained to them. The person directing the case informs the person about the progress of the case once every two weeks. As soon as there are new circumstances in the case, they are also communicated to the person prior to the term referred to herein above. The SBG is currently working on the development of the visual material of the return and asylum procedure, which will include basic information about the return and asylum procedures, their stages, decisions, appeals, etc., useful information. It is planned to arrange the referred to information as a booklet with translations in several foreign languages.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 53

Latvia, when incorporating the Return Directive into national laws and regulations, assessed the range of alternatives to detention in order to select the ones most suitable for Latvia. As a result, only two alternatives to detention (registration and transfer of travel document) are included in the national laws and regulations. Evaluating such alternative as bail, it was concluded that, first of all, foreigners to be deported are not a category of persons having a lot of financial resources to pay bail, and it is also necessary to create a procedure for repayment abroad (especially in cases where the foreigner does not have a bank account, document, etc.). It was concluded that it is not feasible to establish a procedure for payment and repayment of the bail for only a few foreigners to be deported.

The possibility was assessed to determine such alternative to detention as staying in a specified address, but it was resolved not to apply it, because it is related to the necessity to obtain the permit of the owner of residential premises for a foreigner to be deported to stay in his or her property (especially in the case if the person cannot pay the rent). Electronic monitoring is not applied, because foreigners mainly do not have a permanent residence. According to statistical data, in 2020, alternatives to detention were applied in 19 cases, in 2021 – 13, in 2022 – 21, which is still a small number of persons in order to create an electronic monitoring system for foreigners.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 55, Part 2

According to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254, in order to ensure safety measures in accommodation premises, specific restrictions are set for a detainee,

including the prohibition to keep in his or her possession any communication and information exchange, recording and storage devices (for example, mobile phone, computer, camera). According to Clause 20 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254, the head of the particular territorial department of the SBG determines the daily schedule of the accommodation premises, which includes the period of time when the detainees have the right to use their mobile phones, also prescribing the duration of the use of the phone.

Regarding the use of the phone, the judgment of the ECHR of 29 January 2002 in the case *AB v. the Netherlands* should be mentioned, where it was concluded that the right to private life cannot be interpreted in such a way that the right of prisoners to telephone conversations should be guaranteed. If the prison administration has provided telephone facilities, these may – having regard to the ordinary and reasonable conditions of prison life – be subjected to legitimate restrictions, for example, due to the need to ensure the availability of the relevant equipment for all prisoners and the need to prevent disorder or crime. Paragraph 24.1 and Paragraph 24.2 of the European Prison Rules also provide that prisoners shall be allowed to meet their family members and other persons, as well as to communicate with these persons as often as possible – by letter, telephone and other forms of communication. At the same time, the Rules provide for restriction and control possibilities.

When determining the procedure for the use of the telephone in the IDC, the possibilities of the SBG to ensure telephone conversations were taken into account. One of the main considerations is that the IDC needs to ensure that the detained person is escorted to a room where it is possible to use a telephone and is guarded there. If a larger number of phone conversations is determined, it should be expected that the additional resources required for the implementation of the referred to guarding function would also increase proportionately. In addition, it is necessary to respect and balance the right of all detainees to use telephone conversations.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 57, Part 1

Pursuant to Section 22(3)(8) of the Asylum Law, the detained asylum seeker who has violated the internal rules of procedures of the SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers or endangers the safety of the persons present in the SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers, may be placed, by a decision of an official authorised by the Head of the SBG, separately in premises specially equipped for this purpose for a time period of up to 10 days. In turn, Clause 51 of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017 stipulates that an official authorised by the Head of the SBG shall draw up a decision to place the detained person in a specially equipped room (in the cases laid down in the Asylum Law or Immigration Law) in writing. The decision, among other things, specifies the grounds for placing the detainee in a specially equipped room and the procedure for contesting the decision. The detainee certifies with his or her signature that he or she has become familiar with the decision, the nature of the decision has been explained to him or her, his or her rights have been presented to him or her and he or she has received a copy of the decision. In the event that the detained person refuses to sign and receive a copy of the decision, an entry is made to this effect in the decision in the presence of two witnesses, which is confirmed by witnesses by their signatures. The decision also contains a column where

the person who provided interpreting specifies his or her name, surname and signs.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 57, Part 2

According to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017 “Internal Rules of Procedure of Accommodation Premises for Detained Foreigners and Asylum Seekers” the daily schedule of the IDC of the SBG includes daily walk time in fresh air (outdoor exercise) – at least two hours. This Clause also applies to persons, who have violated the internal rules of procedures of the SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers or endanger the safety of the persons present in the SBG accommodation premises for asylum seekers, and are placed, by a decision of an official authorised by the Head of the SBG, separately in premises specially equipped for this purpose.

In turn, healthcare staff (medical practitioners) monitor all persons placed in the IDC, including in the above-mentioned premises, on a daily basis.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional steps need to be taken to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 58, Part 3

According to Clause 44 of Section VII “Safety Measures” of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 254 of 16 May 2017 a partial inspection of the detained person and his or her belongings may be carried out without undressing of the detained person, or a full inspection (strip-search) may be carried out with complete or partial undressing of the detained person. According to Clause 46 of the Regulation, if, when carrying out the partial inspection of the detained person and his or her belongings, the behaviour of the detained person causes suspicions that there are prohibited objects or prohibited substances in his or her possession, and also suspicions that such objects or substances could be in the possession of the detained person which could be used for committing a criminal offence or attempting an escape, a full inspection of the detained person and his or her belongings shall be carried out. Clause 47 of the Regulation stipulates that full inspection of the detained person and his or her belongings shall be carried out in a room specially intended for such purpose by ensuring the right of the detained person to privacy.

Considering the above mentioned, it is to be concluded that no additional measures are necessary to introduce the recommendation.

Paragraph 63

On 22 November 2022, SIA “Tiesu namu aģentūra” (Court House Agency) and the winner of the procurement SIA “Citrus Solutions” signed a contract on designing, author’s supervision and construction works of a new prison complex in Liepāja. Based on the decision of the procurement commission, a contract was concluded for the total amount of EUR 125,874,569.87, excluding VAT. It is planned to complete the construction of the new prison within a period of 34 months.

The new prison has a capacity of 1,200 prisoners (adult males) and will have all incarceration regimes, incl. a remand prison unit and open prison unit. After the commencement of the operation of the new prison, several prisons in the most critical

condition will be closed. Work has been commenced in the MoJ on the development of a relevant plan, and it is expected to be developed during 2023 and passed to the government for approval.

Paragraph 66

This recommendation requires a wider discussion, and therefore it is planned to be discussed in the Criminal punishment enforcement policy permanent working group of the MoJ in 2023, after the publication of the Committee's Report. It is already clear that broader individual decision-making regarding convict requires a different type of personnel organisation in prisons, so it is planned to gradually introduce a system of contact persons.

By Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 413 of 13 June 2022, the Resocialisation Policy Guidelines for 2022-2027 (hereinafter – Guidelines) were approved. Objective No. 3 of Course of Action No. 2 of the Guidelines provides for the commencement of introduction of the system of contact persons in separate institutions of deprivation of liberty (prisons), including in the new Liepāja Prison (in 2023-2026). Objective No. 4 of this Course of Action, in its turn, prescribes the commencement of introduction of individual evaluation (2023-2027).

Paragraph 68

According to the information provided to the Latvian Prison Administration (LPA), an internal inquiry has been conducted, which was completed on 12 August 2022 (Reg. No. P-1-2022-02110). As part of the internal inquiry, violence against the prisoner on the part of the employees of Daugavgrīva Prison was detected, as a result whereof a written reproof was expressed to one of the employees of Daugavgrīva Prison on 16 August 2022 (LPA Order No. P-1-2022-02126 of 16 August 2022), in turn, on 7 December 2022, a disciplinary penalty was imposed on an official of Daugavgrīva Prison – a reprimand (LPA Decision No. N-1-2022-19514 of 7 December 2022). On 31 August 2022, the LPA transmitted the materials of internal inquiry to the ISB (Reg. No. N-1-2022-14238). In line with its competence, the ISB investigates physical violence against prisoners by prison staff.

The ISB received the prisoner's complaint of 16 May 2022, registered in the ISB on 23 May 2022 under No. 2391, regarding possible abuse of official authorities by Daugavgrīva Prison officials, related to the use of physical force against the prisoner on 2 May 2022 at Daugavgrīva Prison. Having assessed the materials obtained during the inquiry, based on Section 373(1) and (5) and Section 377(2) of the CPL, on 15 November 2022, decision No. 223/2022 was adopted on refusal to initiate criminal proceedings.

Paragraph 69

The Investigation Unit of the LPA has no information about the case mentioned in the Report, therefore no investigation has taken place regarding the particular case. Furthermore, having checked the incident log of the prison and Inmate Information System (hereinafter – IIS2), the LPA did not detect any information that would be indicative of the case described in paragraph 69 of the Report. If force is used against a prisoner on the part of the prison officials in a prison, this fact is recorded in the incident log. In addition, all inmate applications are recorded in IIS2 and it is not possible to

delete these applications from the system.

The ISB, at its own initiative, also conducted an inquiry into possible abuse of official authorities by officials of Riga Central Prison related to the use of physical force against the prisoner A.K. on 19 April 2022 at Riga Central Prison. The ISB has not detected any facts and circumstances that would confirm the information specified in paragraph 69 of the Report of the Committee, because during the period from April 2022 to June 2023 the person concerned has not been placed in the prisons of the LPA, and the incidents mentioned in paragraph 69 of the Report of the Committee were not detected during the inquiry, either.

The ISB receives information on a regular basis from the LPA on all incidents where prisoners have suffered injuries or bodily harm, incl. information being detected at the moment the particular prisoner arrives at prison. The information received is always objectively and comprehensively checked. In 2021 and 2022, the ISB received 73 complaints about alleged incidents of violence against prisoners at prison. As a result of inspections, in only 2 cases sufficient grounds have been found to initiate criminal proceedings for possible illegal actions of officials related to violence.

Paragraph 70

The ISB has met with the LPA in order to gather information about the prisoner complaints addressed to the LPA regarding possible violence, to clarify risk identification and mitigation measures and to promote cooperation between the ISB and the LPA. The ISB has invited the LPA to assess the risks of violent conduct and provide information on risk management processes, taking the ISB risk matrix as a model (material on risk identification, assessment and development of an action plan to mitigate risks). The ISB has visited Latvian Prison Hospital (LPH) and the Addiction Centre of Olaine Prison, in order to review on site the procedures by which information about the detected bodily harm and injuries of prisoners and the causes of their occurrence is being recorded at prison.

The LPA does not support ill-treatment of prisoners by officials; each case is evaluated during the internal inquiry. During the period from 1 May 2021 until 31 December 2022, three internal inquiries have been conducted in connection with the use of physical force and special means against prisoners. Performance of internal inquiries is one of the ways of ensuring that prison officials receive the clear message that excessive use of force, unjustified resort to special means for punitive reasons, verbal abuse and threats, as well as other forms of disrespectful or provocative behaviour vis-à-vis prisoners, are not acceptable and will be assessed accordingly:

- Internal Inquiry Opinion No. P-1-2022-01051 of 13 April 2022 – it was established that the prison officials had justified reasons to use physical force and special means against the prisoner;
- Internal Inquiry Opinion No. IP-1.9-89D of 13 September 2021 – a reprimand was expressed to one of the prison officials involved due to the fact that after the second instance of using special means a medical examination was not ensured for the prisoner; no indications of disciplinary violation have been detected in the conduct of the other official involved. The head of the prison has been assigned to take appropriate measures to prevent similar cases in the future. Information was also provided to the ISB;
- Internal Inquiry Opinion No. IP-1.9-65D of 4 August 2021 – disciplinary cases

have been initiated against two prison officials. The head of the prison has been assigned to take measures to prevent similar situations from happening again. In one case, a disciplinary penalty was imposed on the official – a reproof for unjustified use of the baton; in the other case, the disciplinary case was terminated, expressing a reprimand to the official due to the incorrect drawing up of the documents.

The LPA Training Centre implements the professional further education programme “Prison Guards” in the amount of 966 contact hours, with the target audience thereof being the officials of the prison instructor’s staff with special service ranks. The education programme includes study subjects such as “Professional Physical Fitness”, “Procedures for the Use of Special Means in Prisons”, “Professional Ethics”, “Basics of Penitentiary Psychology”, “Personnel Legal Relations”, etc. In study subjects, when training officials to work in a prison, special attention is paid, among other things, to effective communication skills (verbal and non-verbal), ethical issues, developing analytical thinking, tactical planning, application of dynamic safety principles, drawing up of appropriate documentation. To enable officials to be able to defend themselves and other persons in situations of extreme necessity, they are also trained on how to evaluate situations, take decisions and correctly and professionally use force, special fighting techniques and special means.

The Training Centre also implements the adult informal education programme “Instructor of the Use of Special Means and Special Fighting Techniques of the Prison Administration and the Prison” (40 contact hours), preparing instructors who organise and lead theoretical and practical classes for prison officials with special service ranks regarding the use of special means and special fighting techniques in prisons. There are also regular qualification improvement events held for instructors of special means and special fighting techniques.

Having assessed the recommendation of the Committee to ensure that body-worn cameras are issued to all the LPA officials, to be worn and turned on by all prison staff who may have to use force in their interactions with prisoners, the LPA points out that **it has considered and generally supports the recommendation to ensure all prison officials with individual body-worn cameras with image and sound recording.** Individual video-surveillance cameras would provide an undoubted benefit in order to obtain a transparent, objective and independent overview of:

1. dispute situations arising in the course of disciplinary or legal proceedings;
2. the compliance of the official's actions with the requirements of laws and regulations, for example, to verify the lawfulness of the official’s actions, accurate, good faith and responsible fulfilment of the official or job duties and the use of video cameras at the scene of the incident;
3. for conflict situations of varying nature involving officials and persons deprived of their liberty at prison, for recording the actual conduct that would allow protection of the officials from false and unjustified accusations in dispute situations;
4. service discipline of the officials in prisons;
5. necessary improvements after evaluating the conduct of the officials involved in a specific incident;
6. the areas to be included or additionally included/improved in the training of new

officials, using video recordings as an analytical training material of methodological nature.

In order to ensure the performance of supervision of prisoners and provision of internal order, video surveillance is already being carried out in prisons, and personal data processing for such purpose has also been registered with the State Data Inspectorate and a permit for data processing has been issued.

If the existing video surveillance systems guarantee a sufficiently high level of compliance with the internal procedure regulations at the level of prevention, then such a measure is justifiable, because by introducing one restriction to the private life of an individual, other existing restrictions are eased, but if, in addition to the existing stationary video surveillance systems, individual video surveillance cameras are introduced in prisons, creating additional restrictions to private life, the successful implementation of the recommendation of the Committee requires developing and/or elaborating external legal norms that not only allow such interference with the private life of an individual, but should also set certain quality criteria – the legal norm justifying this restriction must incorporate clear and precise provisions on the need, purpose and commensurability of restriction of rights.

Acquisition of individual video surveillance cameras is connected with a fiscal impact on the state budget, therefore the LPA will assess the possibility to acquire them.

Paragraph 71, Part 1

Prisons take all possible preventive measures for reducing inter-prisoner violence, but implementation of these measures also depends on the number of prison staff and the quality of the infrastructure. In addition, reducing inter-prisoner violence is undeniably important for the prison itself to guarantee order and safety at prison.

Inter-prisoner violence can be partially reduced by resocialisation programmes developing social, communication and interaction skills, discovering and correcting thinking errors. To this end, within the scope of the European Social Fund project “Raising the efficiency of resocialisation system” (hereinafter – Project), the resocialisation programme “Me and Others” is being developed, aimed at promoting the development and improvement of social competence of convicts and the psychosocial skills comprising it, promoting self-understanding, awareness of own values, development of moral competence and learning new socially acceptable behaviour patterns, incl. solving conflict situations without using violence. “Violence Reduction Programme” has been adopted with the purpose of reducing the frequency and intensity of aggressive behaviour, reducing or eliminating antisocial beliefs and attitudes that support aggression and violence, and promoting the application of appropriate interpersonal skills that can reduce the risk of future violence.

Work is also underway on the adoption and implementation of three specialised programmes:

1. “R&R2” – Reasoning and Rehabilitation 2 Short version for Adults. The aim of the programme is to enhance the thinking and values of the participants in order to be able to choose a more prosocial way of life.
2. “R&R2 ADHD” – Reasoning & Rehabilitation 2 for Youths and Adults with ADHD. Objectives: to improve symptoms of control dysfunction, i.e., attention control, planning and organisational skills; reduce impulsive reaction; improve

the ability to control emotions; promote prosocial attitudes; reduce aggressive behaviour.

3. “R&R2 MHP” – Reasoning and Rehabilitation 2 for Youth and Adults with Mental Health Problems. Programme objectives: to improve symptoms of control dysfunction, i.e., attention control, planning and organisational skills; reduce impulsive reaction; improve the ability to control emotions; promote prosocial attitudes; reduce aggressive behaviour.

All the aforementioned resocialisation programmes are planned to be implemented in 2023.

Paragraph 72

On 14 March 2022, the official of the Investigation Unit of the central headquarters of the LPA initiated criminal proceedings regarding the incident referred to in paragraph 72 of the Report. In turn, on 20 October 2022, the official of the Investigation Unit of the central headquarters of the LPA took a decision, based on Section 377(2) of the CPL, to terminate criminal proceedings No. 13800009322, because the committed offence did not constitute a criminal offence.

Paragraph 73

A departmental inspection was carried out, as a result whereof no evidence was obtained to prove violence on the part of other cellmates. The medical card of the prisoner does not contain any records of inflicted bodily harm, including a possible rib fracture. In the situation specified in paragraph 73 of the Report, the prisoner was taken to the hospital for examination and, upon returning, the prisoner did not want to be moved to another cell. The fact that the medical card of the prisoner contains no record of the prisoner's complaints of being bullied by other cellmates, and the fact that no documents were received from the hospital about possible rib fractures completely refutes the allegations of the prisoner. If information is received about inflicting bodily harm, then an investigation is initiated and the ISB is also informed.

Paragraph 80

The LPA undertakes to take steps to address the shortcomings outlined in the Report and previous reports, in line with the remarks in paragraphs 71 to 79.

The LPA regularly informs the State Employment Agency (SEA) and includes lists of vacant positions in the database for publication (on a monthly basis), and has also used the announcement of vacancies in the job advertisement portal “CV-Online” and the announcement of vacant doctor positions on the website of the Latvian Medical Association. Lists of vacant positions are (constantly) posted on the website of the LPA. The LPA took part in the campaign of the MoJ “To Err is Human. So is to Help” and as part of the SEA event “Career Week 2023” in online discussions with the aim of attracting the employees of the LPA, as well as increasing the understanding of the public and those employed in the authorities about the operational objectives of the authorities, their daily work and specifics and benefits thereof.

Paragraph 81

From January 2019 to December 2022, the addiction reduction programme at the Addiction Centre have been completed by 270 convicted persons. The legal

framework does not prescribe the provision that this programme would have to be completed at a certain stage of fulfilment of the determined sentence, for example, when approaching the expiry of the term of the sentence or a conditional early release.

During the referred period, sentencing regime has been alleviated in 1551 cases:

- at Valmiera Prison: 12;
- at Daugavgrīva Prison: 84;
- at Jēkabpils Prison: 158;
- at Ilūciems Prison: 399;
- at Jelgava Prison: 178;
- at Olaine Prison: 25;
- at Riga Central Prison: 612;
- at Liepāja Prison: 83.

The number of convicted persons, for whom the sentencing regime has been alleviated, is not directly related to participation in the addiction reduction programme. In resolving upon alleviation of the regime, several criteria are being considered and, in assessing the results of resocialisation of a convicted person, the participation of the convicted person in employment, education, psychological aid, social problem-solving, leisure time spending and other resocialisation measures is taken into account, *inter alia*, measures aimed at reducing addictions. Besides, it should be noted that the convicted persons, up to 1 July 2022, in a closed prison served their sentence at three sentencing regime levels – at the lowest, medium and the highest level (thereafter – at the lowest and the highest level).

When relocated from the lowest sentencing regime level to the medium level, if the resocialisation plan of a convicted person provided for participation in the addiction reduction programme, but this criterion had not been met on the day of the meeting of the assessment commission, it did not form an obstacle for relocating a convicted person, because while being at the medium level, considering the remaining term, a convicted person still has a possibility to apply for and participate in the addiction reduction programme. Failure to participate in the programme is assessed more strictly, when relocating a person from the medium sentencing regime level to the highest sentencing regime level. Participation in the addiction reduction program specified in the resocialisation plan is an important criterion, when reviewing the conditional early release of a convicted person, as it provides information on whether the convicted person has been addressing the identified risks resulting from the fact of addiction.

Regarding recommendation to create departments in the rest of prisons, to place the convicted persons after completion of addiction reduction programme – such departments or separate premises have already been created in several prisons (Ilūciems, Liepāja, Daugavgrīva and Jēkabpils Prisons). Establishment of a separate department is also theoretically possible in Valmiera Prison and in the Addiction Centre of Olaine Prison. In Jelgava Prison and Riga Central Prison, the creation of such a department might be difficult due to infrastructure. Cēsis CFJ does not consider the possibility of creating a separate department for convicted person who have completed the addiction reduction programme, as minors are not involved in this programme.

Paragraph 82, Part 1

Sentence Execution Code of Latvia and Law on the Procedures for Holding

under Arrest stipulate that the standard of living space for 1 convict inmate cannot be less than 4 m², and 9 m² in solitary confinement cells, and the standard of living space for 1 detainee cannot be less than 4 m². However, even before these laws took effect, the cells of Riga Central Prison were mostly equipped with double-bunk metal beds. Therefore, in cells where an odd number of inmates is allowed, the second level of one bunk bed is always free, and used by the inmates as an additional shelf. Even though the inmates are arranged in the cells in accordance with the laws and regulations — they are not placed in the ‘extra’ beds — representatives of the Committee got a false impression of the living arrangements not complying with the requirements.

In order to prevent such misunderstandings from occurring in the future, LPA decided to instruct the persons in charge of the prison to ensure that the number of beds corresponds to the permitted number of inmates in each cell, by removing the second level of bunk beds or by replacing bunk beds with single beds.

Section 82, Paragraph 2

In order for sanitary and epidemiological regulations to be observed in prisons in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 618 “Disinfection, disinsection, and deratisation regulations” of 6 July 2010 and to prevent the spread of rodents and insects, prisons undergo regular disinfection performed by contractors, which includes taking into account the recommendations provided by the contractors, in order to achieve the desired results and eliminate insects in the buildings and the territory of the prisons as successfully as possible.

The activities for the disinsection (elimination of bedbugs, lice, fleas, cockroaches) and disinfection (thermal treatment) of soft equipment are regularly arranged by the administrations of prisons in conjunction with the contractors, based on written and verbal requests of inmates, as well as information provided by employees. Disinsecting larger areas of prisons is obstructed by the objectively limited possibilities of moving a larger number of inmates to other (free) rooms or cells.

In addition, it was decided to gradually provide mattresses with linen fibre filling and moisture-proof covers in all prisons. In 2022, LPA announced a tender for the “Procurement of soft equipment with its delivery to Latvian prisons”. Part 1 of the procurement included the purchase of linen-fibre mattresses and moisture-proof mattress covers. Mattresses were purchased for Iļģuciems Prison (40), LPH (30), Jelgava Prison (62), Jēkabpils Prison (60), Daugavgrīva Prison (150), Liepāja Prison (30), Riga Central Prison (150), while mattress covers were bought for Riga Central Prison (80), and LPH (20). Complaints about the presence of insects in the beds were no longer received from the inmates who were accommodated in the rooms equipped with these mattresses. By providing inmate beds with moisture-proof mattress covers, it is possible to eliminate one of the vectors of the spread of insects. In 2022, 522 mattresses were purchased. LPA will assess the possibility of finding funds and providing this option to all inmates.

At the same time, one should take into account the fact that the effectiveness of the measures to combat the spread of insects is very low if the clothes and personal belongings of new inmates are not subject to such measures. For example, several hundred inmates were allocated to Riga Central Prison during 2021 (around 1300 new inmates were admitted).

The inmates (including new ones) have the right to wear personal underwear, clothing, and shoes. The inmates have the right to keep their belongings whose individual use is allowed. No law or regulation entitles the prison administration to confiscate clothing or personal belongings for disinfection, either at the time of admission or later. The prison is entitled to carry out the heat treatment of inmate clothes and belongings, if written consent is received from the inmate, which does take place. Inmates mostly refuse to submit their belongings for heat treatment, as these personal belongings may come back to them damaged afterwards, as not all fabrics are resistant to high temperatures.

It means that there are also objective obstacles to limiting the presence of insects in prisons and their spread through inmate clothes and other personal belongings.

Section 83

The possibility of renovating the reception rooms of building 3 and building 1 of the Grīva branch of Daugavgrīva Prison will be assessed soon. LPA can only carry out repairs within its budget, provided there are enough funds. The closure of building 3 of the Grīva branch of Daugavgrīva Prison would reduce the capacity for accommodating lower-grade closed-prison inmates by 269. Currently, Daugavgrīva Prison's capacity for this grade is 651 inmates (the number of inmates on 27 February 2023 was 637). Given the ongoing renovations in Valmiera Prison and Riga Central Prison, it will not be possible to move the lower-grade closed-prison inmates from building 3 of Daugavgrīva Prison to any other prison.

The Committee's recommendation will also be significant when deciding on the prisons to be closed after the new Liepāja Prison begins its operation.

Section 84

LPA agrees with the recommendation and will look for ways to continue work on reducing the number of large-capacity rooms. However, this requires time and funding from the state budget. LPA also plans to identify the rooms that can be divided, reducing their individual capacity. After the implementation of these measures, the number of beds will fall through the reduction in the rooms that cannot be rebuilt, or through the division of rooms (and, for example, installation of an additional toilet). The possibility of performing the rebuilds should also be assessed from the security considerations of each prison.

Section 85

LPA will try to correct the problems mentioned in Section 85 of the Report.

Regarding sports events, there were six inmates with a life sentence and two detainees in Jelgava Prison as of 1 March 2023. The number of inmates in Jelgava Prison as of 1 March 2023 was 301, of which 162 are lower sentence grade inmates. Out of the six inmates with a life sentence, only one, due to his personality, is able to coexist and integrate into the community of inmates, and participate in the events together with others, without causing conflicts. The other five sentenced to life have serious communication problems and are aggressive by nature; their actions and behaviour are unpredictable, they regularly have conflicts with each other, they write complaints about each other, and they have to serve their sentences in separate single cells and cannot be placed with other people.

Whenever one of these persons is involved in resocialisation activities together with other inmates, there is high risk of violent conflicts, which means that Jelgava Prison has to organise resocialisation activities for these persons on individual basis or involve additional personnel, for increased supervision. Currently, personnel of Jelgava Prison are not sufficient to provide the increased supervision of the resocialisation activities at all times, and whenever possible, these persons sentenced to life imprisonment are involved in resocialisation activities separately from other inmates.

Of the six inmates with life sentence and two detainees, three life-sentence inmates and one detainee usually participate in sports activities organised by Jelgava Prison. For the rest, engaging in active sports is prevented by state of health, physical fitness, or lack of interest in such activities, as they do not want to participate in them.

The open-air areas in Jelgava Prison are equipped with the necessary equipment — a pull-up bar, parallel bars and push-up supports, enabling a wide range of exercises to be performed. For those sentenced to life and for detainees, the daily open-air session lasts 1.5 hours. This category of inmates can spend this time outside their cell doing sports. In addition, this category of inmates can spend 1-2 hours a day at the recreation room. The room is equipped with an exercise bench, where one can do various exercises and other physical activities, as well as information materials with examples of various exercises and their descriptions.

One inmate with life sentence is included in group resocialisation activities together with other inmates, and he is not included in recreation room visit schedule. Recreation room is regularly visited by one detainee and three inmates with life sentence. Other two inmates with life sentence and one detainee visit it occasionally.

So, for this category of inmates, the total time spent outside the cell, with the actual opportunity to engage in physical activities and sports, is approximately three hours a day. In order to expand and diversify the range of available sports activities, Jelgava Prison is currently assessing the possibility of providing all lower sentence grade inmates and detainees with access to a gym.

Currently, once a month (evenings, after 17:00) out-of-cell sports activities are organised for lower sentence grade inmates, with table tennis, novuss, chess, draughts, and table football tournaments. About thirty to forty inmates participate in these activities, which is 18.5-24.7% of all the lower sentence grade inmates. With good weather in summer, the Jelgava Prison administration also regularly organises volleyball tournaments (with the number of participants similar to the above activities) for the lower sentence grade inmates (except for those sentenced to life imprisonment and detainees). Inmates have shown no interest in other sports activities possible at the prison (gymnastics, aerobics, yoga, badminton).

Section 87-90

According to Cabinet Order No. 413 “On the guidelines of the resocialisation policy for 2022-2027” of 13 June 2022, the education of an inmate of a prison facility is an essential part of resocialisation, where one of the tasks is to provide education or the learning of a trade as the inmate serves their sentence.

The Vocational Education Law states that the vocational content of the modular vocational education programme consists of a set of modules, depending on the goal set for the education programme. A person that completes it can obtain a vocational education degree of a certain level of education, professional qualifications,

professional qualifications of a lower vocational level or part of professional qualifications, that is, the scope of the modular vocational education programme is designed such that the learner can learn the content of vocational education, thus making it possible to complete a vocational education programme and obtain official professional qualifications according to the learner's abilities: it is possible to assess all of the learning outcomes achieved by the learner, in all of the areas where the learner has sufficient learning achievements. This enables a flexible vocational education system orientated towards the needs and abilities of the individual, reducing the number of early drop-outs who due to limitations in knowledge, missing skills or other reasons, could not learn the entire content of the vocational education programme. The reform of the content of vocational education envisages gaining professional qualifications in modules, thus successively assessing all the learning results achieved by the learner in the process of their learning.

Vocational education and a chance to obtain professional qualifications are offered in a few prisons by several education institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture. Considering the specific circumstances of prisons and the proposals submitted by LPA for finding ways to enable the obtaining of professional qualifications in the shortest possible time, vocational education programmes with a duration of up to one year are taught in prisons.

The government funding for the implementation of the vocational education programmes in prisons is planned in accordance with the procedure for the use of government funding to cover expenses for the vocational education and professional qualifications of convicts, if they are inmates in a prison facility, and proposals submitted by LPA. In accordance with the laws and regulations determining the minimum cost of implementing vocational education programmes per student, the funding covers the salaries of the teachers, their mandatory state social insurance contributions, the cost of student insurance covering training accidents, as well as the purchase of equipment, materials, teaching aids, and stationery.

More information about the section 89 is provided in the Annex.

Section 90

The opportunities to receive general education opportunities are provided by municipal education institutions (mostly through extramural programmes). The Naukšēni social correction education institution was the only education institution of this kind in Latvia. The primary purpose of the institution was the enforcement of a court-issued compulsory measure of correctional nature — namely, placement in a social correction education institution. This function was abolished on 1 July 2022 by Section 6 of the Transitional Provisions for the Law on Application of Compulsory Measures of a Correctional Nature to Children, and would not apply from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2024. In view of this, and subject to Cabinet Order No. 528 of 14 July 2022, the Naukšēni social correction education institution was shut down.

On 23 June 2022, amendments to the Law on Application of Compulsory Measures of a Correctional Nature to Children took effect, which included a new compulsory measure of correctional nature — probationary observation — effective on 1 January 2023. Meanwhile, Section 8 of the transitional provisions stipulates that until 31 December 2023 the Cabinet of Ministers prepares and submits the national Parliament the necessary amendments to this law regarding the use and enforcement of placing in a social correction education institution as a compulsory measure of a

correctional nature.

In accordance with Section 6(4) of the Sports Law, the MoJ in conjunction with the MoES develops sports programmes and carries out their implementation in prisons, which includes handling the variety and availability of sports activities. MoES can provide support if such requests arise.

More information about resocialisation measures is provided in the Annex.

Section 92

See the information provided in Sections 85 and 90.

Jelgava Prison: since the beginning of 2023, Jelgava Prison plans to offer lower sentence grade inmates the opportunity to participate in out-of-cell sports activities with the goal of spending time productively about once a month. Jelgava Prison supports the initiatives and proposals of staff and inmates regarding the diversification of sports activities, but faces a number of limitations, which includes limited infrastructure and personnel, as well as the security considerations set in laws and regulations. The six persons sentenced to life imprisonment are isolated, so sports activities are only possible on an individual basis. The prison administration provides various individual sports. There are no suitable rooms for basketball or football in the prison, and there are no financial resources to set up such facilities.

Since five out of the six life-sentence inmates have a very high risk of conflict, this prevents them from participating in group resocialisation activities, such as vocational training or work. Individual work is carried out with them, and as much as it is possible, they are regularly involved in out-of-cell resocialisation activities, organised separately from other inmates.

Also, the possibility is assessed of offering more types of sports to lower sentence grade inmates (including those sentenced to life) in the future, by organising daily open air time on the prison grounds between residential buildings 1 and 4. Another solution to expand sports options for lower sentence grade inmates (including those sentenced to life), taking into account the limitations of the prison's infrastructure, is funding the construction of sports pitches on the grounds of the prison.

Iļģuciems Prison: the inmates (including those sentenced to life) can go to gym every day, which has exercise machines, step benches, dumbbells and gymnastics rings. The times for attending the gym are scheduled to be thrice a day and are set up to make this available to inmates, especially those involved in work or education. During the summer, in addition to these activities, lower sentence grade inmates, including inmates with a life sentence, can play volleyball and novuss. These activities are scheduled and take place every day.

Riga Central Prison: there are no near-future plans to expand the range of sports activities available to lower sentence grade inmates (including those sentenced to life). In the prison, there are no restrictions on lower sentence grade inmates (including those sentenced to life) participating in sports events. The level of security assigned to the inmate is not considered as a criterion when assessing the participation of the convicted person in sports events. The basic criterion for involvement is the inmate's desire to meaningfully spend time doing physical activities.

Daugavgrīva Prison: in order to maintain the physical and emotional well-being of the inmates, the prison administration equips its open-air areas with athletics gear

(weightlifting equipment, exercise machines, and other equipment) as much as possible. In every residential building (including the unit of those with a life sentence), the recreation rooms have game tables (novuss, table tennis), and exercise equipment can also be set up.

The exercise equipment available in the prison is used for the participation of inmates in sports activities and to make it possible to meaningfully spend their time. In order to expand the range of sports activities, appropriate funding is needed for the purchase of exercise equipment and the equipment for setting up a sports pitch or a gym. In 2022, among other things, the renovation of building 2 of the Grīva Branch of the prison was completed, and currently, cell 44 functions as a gym, which needs to be supplemented with modern and functional exercise machines for general physical activity, improving health, and counteracting the effects of a sedentary lifestyle.

In the prison, all inmates, regardless of the level of security assigned to their prison sentence, are offered all the resocialisation activities prescribed by laws and regulations, including their involvement in work with and without compensation, in vocational training, in informal education, in general education, in sports activities, in family days, in spending free time in recreation rooms, in chapel attendance, in resocialisation programmes and addiction recovery activities. In order to determine inmate needs, an assessment of their risks and needs is carried out, which leads to the preparation of a set of resocialisation measures. It is planned to implement family day events for closed prison lower sentence degree inmates (including those sentenced to life).

Section 93

The Ministry of Justice has prepared the draft law “Amendments to the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia”, which, among other things, proposes the elimination of separate blocks for those with life sentences, in which, in accordance with Section 50.8 of the Code currently, persons sentenced to life have begun to serve their sentences. Thus, those sentenced to life will be more able to serve their sentence together with other inmates.

The draft is expected to possibly take effect on 1 January 2024.

Section 95

A psychiatrist has been working in Daugavgrīva Prison (0.5 standard workloads) since 1 November 2022. Additionally, here is the up-to-date information about the available personnel of the Medical Unit of Daugavgrīva Prison as of 27 February 2023:

1. full-time — head of the Medical Unit (certified healthcare management physician);
2. 0.5 standard workloads — psychiatrist (since 1 November 2022);
3. 0.5 standard workloads — family physician;
4. 1.5 standard workload — internal medicine physician;
5. 0.75 standard workloads — surgeon;
6. 1.5 standard workload — addiction therapist;
7. 4 standard workloads — medical assistants;
8. 1 standard workload — senior nurse;

9. 6 standard workloads — nurses.

The Medical Unit of Daugavgrīva Prison has a vacancy for an internal medicine physician, for 0.75 standard workloads.

Section 96

Here is the up-to-date information about the available personnel of the Medical Unit of Jelgava Prison as of 27 February 2023:

1. 0.5 standard workloads — psychiatrist;
2. 1 standard workload — medical assistant;
3. 1 standard workload — senior nurse;
4. 2 standard workloads — nurses.

Vacancies in the Medical Unit of Jelgava Prison as of 27 February 2023:

1. full-time workload — head of the Medical Unit (vacant since 1 February 2023);
2. 0.75 standard workloads — family physician;
3. 0.5 standard workloads — addiction therapist;
4. 0.25 standard workloads — dermatologist/STD specialist;
5. 0.25 standard workloads — radiology assistant.

Section 98

According to the list of supported priority measures for 2022-2024, funding has been allocated for the increase of the medical staff's salary every year. Thus, the medical staff's remuneration has been rising every year. Also, the LPA would like to report that the salary of prison medical staff was already increased in the autumn of 2022 — for doctors by 18% on average and for nurses by 10% — and it should also be taken into account that prison medical staff are paid bonuses for working at the prison and special bonuses based on seniority in the medical field.

In terms of the positions held by doctors in prisons, Daugavgrīva Prison has a 0.5 standard workloads family physician and a 0.5 standard workloads psychiatrist, Riga Central Prison has a 0.5 standard workloads family physician, 2 full-time psychiatrists, a 0.75 standard workloads dentist, as well as a full-time chief physician, an internal medicine physician, a surgeon, a 0.75 standard workloads dermatologist/STI specialist, and 5 full-time physician assistants.

In terms of the nursing positions in prisons: Daugavgrīva Prison has 1 full-time senior nurse and 6 full-time nurses, Jelgava prison has 1 full-time senior nurse and 2 full-time nurses, and Riga Central Prison has 1 full-time senior nurse and 6 full-time nurses.

LPA regularly informs the State Employment Agency about job openings, and has also advertised vacant doctor positions on the website of the Latvian Medical Association. LPA continuously publishes a list of job openings on its website. Unfortunately, the measures taken so far have not produced a positive and lasting result. LPA and prison medical units have approached physicians working in medical institutions with job offers many times, but so far, there have been no positive results. In 2023, it is planned to announce a procurement for the “Outsourced provision of medical specialist services in Latvian prisons”, in order to contract medical personnel

for working with inmates, especially those specialists whose positions have been vacant for a long time.

Section 99

LPH held discussions with the heads and physicians of the prison's medical unit regarding the guidelines for the use and prescribing of new psychiatric drugs.

Section 100

On 13 February 2023, based on Chapter 4 of Cabinet Regulation No. 421 "Procedure for changing the appropriations specified in the annual state budget law" of 17 July 2018, and Chapter 7 of MoJ Internal Regulation No. 1-2/9 "Ministry of Justice procedure for appropriation change requests and the supervision of the use of the budget" of 3 June 2014, LPA submitted proposals for the use of the appropriation reserve in 2023 (reg. No N-1-2023-02401), which included the purchase of medical equipment.

Section 101

On 13.10.2022 During the Internal Security Bureau visit, the chief physician of the Latvian Prison Hospital presented the patient (inmate) admissions procedure, incl. the procedures for recording and registering personal injuries, demonstrating the logs recording personal injuries and photographic records of personal injuries. All bodily injuries are recorded in the log, regardless of the circumstances of their occurrence and the inmate's verbal statement. ISB inspected the premises, incl. the control room, the supervisor office, the shower room, the examination room, the wound bandage room, the cells (wards), and the punishment/disciplinary isolation room, as well as the video surveillance system (there were no cameras in the hallways and on the stairs). All information related to the detection of bodily injuries and use of special measures goes to the control room. A comparative examination of the LPA electronic system, including the digital log of events, revealed that the data were compliant (the checks were performed randomly). ISB identified issues and potential risks.

When a person is admitted to the prison, all their injuries are recorded (including those that occurred several days before, so that the doctors can be aware of the periods when the injury occurred, if necessary). A medical history is prepared, including the type of injury, its circumstances, and other information. However, the patient does not always answer all questions and provide information about the circumstances of how the injury was gained, so there are cases when the injury sheet does not record the circumstances or the patient's opinion of how the injury was gained. The injury sheet also records the objective state of health and local status. The physician specifies the location, type, signs, size, and other details of the injury, takes photographs and marks the injuries on the body map, which is part of the injury sheet. All injuries are also recorded in the injury log, and a report on the bodily injury records is submitted to the head of the prison. All this documentation is available to the patient, who is entitled to consult their medical documents and request their copies. Meanwhile, advocates may only receive medical information about their client with the written permission of the patient, based on Section 10 of the Law on the Rights of Patients.

Section 102

ISB cannot agree with the statement "[...] such injuries were not systematically

reported by prison management to the competent investigative authority (namely, the ISB)', because ISB regularly receives information about such events from LPA and from prisons. Prisons report every case where physical injury is detected, incl. physical injuries that are detected at the time of the inmate's arrival at the prison. Prisons (based on jurisdiction) send the ISB materials about the discovery of physical injuries, adding the official's report of the event, a statement by the medical unit, a description of the injuries and the inmate's explanation.

Every physical injury caused to an inmate is reported to the on-duty assistant head of the prison, with the submission of a report addressed to the head of the prison. If the inmate sustains physical injuries before arriving at the prison, the physical injuries are recorded by the medical unit of the prison upon the inmate's arrival at the prison. Having received information about the inmate's physical injuries detected at the time of the inmate's arrival, the Investigation Unit of the LPA central administration forwards this information to the State Police or (if the physical injuries were caused by an official) ISB according to their territorial jurisdiction. Therefore, if the inmate sustains physical injuries outside the prison, the investigation of this event is not within the competence of LPA.

Section 103

In 2021, LPH set up a Quality and Development Control Management Division whose basic functions include the examination of inmate requests related to healthcare. The majority of inmate requests related to healthcare while they were in prison have examined by the Quality and Development Control Management Division of LPH. In addition, if the inmate's request is forwarded to the medical unit of the prison for review, the physician of the medical unit of the prison prepares a reply to this type of request. In addition, a practice has been introduced in the institution that the documents containing medical information, diagnoses, or other details about the inmate's healthcare are classified as restricted-access information.

Section 104

According to Section 6(1) of the Law on the Rights of Patients, medical treatment is allowed if the patient has given informed consent, while Section 6(4) stipulates that the patient is entitled to refuse medical treatment before it begins, to refuse a method used in medical treatment, without refusing the medical treatment in general, or to refuse treatment as it takes place. It follows from the above that the patient is entitled to accept or refuse treatment, but a person refusing their treatment, must not expose another person to the risk of illness. Note that inmates in prisons are in a closed environment where bacteria and infections spread faster, so if a person with an infectious disease refuses treatment, this puts other people at risk of getting that disease. Therefore, if there is a suspicion that an inmate has contracted an infectious disease (such as tuberculosis) it is necessary to examine them as soon as possible to prevent the infected inmate from endangering other inmates, the prison staff, and, possibly, the visitors of the prison.

Section 105

The inmate healthcare model has been determined after several years of discussions with the MoH. It is optimal in its current form, as it ensures that the inmates receive healthcare services both within the prison system and in medical institutions

outside prisons, and the conditions for paying for such services are identical to those used with the general public. In addition, inmates receive a higher amount of government-paid healthcare services than is allocated to members of the general public. Physicians working in prisons are subject to the same quality and training requirements as any other medical professional in Latvia.

Sections 107 and 108

In order to reduce the long-term turnover of staff, LPA management constantly makes improvements as part of its human resources management strategy, introducing modern solutions in HR functions such as recruitment, training, personal growth, performance management, and motivation. In 2022, a new remuneration system was introduced for all employees, which will improve the capacity and job-market competitiveness of LPA staff in the future; the system includes an assessment of individual qualifications, competences, performance, and amount of work regularly performed. LPA also notes that, according to the order of the head of LPA, starting from 1 October 2022, remuneration was increased for employees who implement the measures to strengthen the internal security of the state, based on Cabinet of Ministers Protocol No. 22, Section 38(4), using the funding allocated for 2023 and subsequent years.

In order to make objective decisions on the recruitment or promotion of officials, LPA ensures transparency of its staff selection by monitoring and verifying staff selection procedures. LPA's process for the selection of officials is also constantly updated and improved, taking into account job market trends.

Section 109

The types of special measures and the procedure for using it are determined in Cabinet Regulation No. 283 "Procedure for prison administration officials using special measures" of 9 June 2015 (Regulation No. 283). According to Section 2.4 of Regulation No. 283, an LPA official is allowed to use a baton, with an additional handle or not, as a special measure. The type of special measure and the intensity of its use in accordance with Section 8 of Regulation No. 283 is determined by the official, assessing the nature of the specific situation, the level of danger, consequences, individual characteristics of the inmate or other person, making sure to limit the possible damage caused by the special measure.

According to Section 21 of Regulation No. 283, LPA officials may use their baton if it is necessary to repel an attack by an animal, an inmate or other person, or to prevent an inmate or other person from disobeying the official's legal demands. It is prohibited for LPA officials to use their baton if the inmate's or other person's disobedience to the officer's legal demands manifests itself as inaction.

Prisons must operate according to a certain set of rules and standards, providing a safe environment for the inmates and the people who work in the prison. It is equally important to use all the capabilities of dynamic security, fostering positive interactions between the inmates and the employees of the prison. As part of this, a gradual replacement of rubber batons issued to officials with telescopic batons began in 2019. Telescopic batons can be carried concealed from the inmates. The replacement of rubber batons with telescopic ones in LPA is gradual, taking into account the financial capabilities of LPA as a state institution, i.e., the amount of state budget funding allocated for their year, and the use and allocation of this funding.

In 2019, LPA bought 80 telescopic batons. On 5 December 2019, 13 telescopic batons were issued to Riga Central Prison, 13 to Daugavgrīva Prison, 8 to Jēkabpils Prison, 8 to Valmiera Prison, 8 to Jelgava Prison, 8 to Liepāja Prison, 8 to Olaine Prison (LPH), 3 to Ilūciems Prison, 2 to Cēsis Juvenile facility and 9 to officials of the LPA central administration. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Security Unit of the LPA central administration included in the budget a request for funding to buy telescopic batons, but the financial resources allocated to LPA were directed towards other priorities.

Section 110

The issue mentioned requires a wider discussion, and it is planned to be discussed as part of the Criminal punishment enforcement policy permanent working group of the MoJ in 2023, after the publication of the Committee's report.

Section 111

Section 13.3(1) of the Law on the Procedures for Holding under Arrest stipulates that a detainee can communicate with persons outside the remand prison in the form of phone conversations at least once a week, and the permitted duration of the conversation is at least five minutes. Phone call expenses are covered by the detainee or the person with whom they communicate. However, it should be pointed out that the detainee's communication with persons outside the remand prison in the form of phone conversations may be limited by communication restrictions set by the official in charge of the case in accordance with Section 13(1)(5) of the Law. Detention is the basis for restricting a person's rights (Section 271 of the Criminal Law) and both the number and duration of phone conversations are strictly regulated. In view of the above, the interests of criminal proceedings in the case are put above the possible consequences of the restriction of rights.

The Committee's recommendation to ensure that detained persons have the right to an unlimited number of phone calls must be assessed in relation to the laws and regulations currently in effect, as well as the capacity of prisons (the number of meeting rooms, the workload of guards in prisons; also considering other items of prison scheduling, such as the provision of phone conversations, showering, recreation, etc.).

On 28 November 2019, LPA concluded contract 1/16/2019/339 "Provision phone conversations in Latvian prisons" with Ltd "CSC TELECOM". According to the contract, the company must install at least 124 payphones and portable phone sets. Currently, 85 payphones have been installed in prisons. The required number and type of phones is determined by the management of each prison, based on inmate demand for phone calls and the workload of the officials who must ensure the supervision and evaluation of the inmates during phone calls and, if necessary, the management orders the installation of additional payphones or portable phone sets.

Section 112

The issue mentioned requires wider discussion, and it is planned to be discussed as part of the Criminal punishment enforcement policy permanent working group of the MoJ in 2023, after the publication of the Committee's report.

Section 113

Between 4 July 2022 and 30 December 2022, a new phone call service (with a

video call function) was introduced as a pilot project, in addition to the rights of inmates to phone calls stipulated in the Code. At the end of the pilot project, LPA reviewed its progress in Daugavgrīva and Iļģuciems prisons and supported the expansion of these rights for the inmates of Latvian prisons. It is planned to draft relevant amendments to the laws and regulations and assess the implementation of this expansion.

Section 114

The issue mentioned requires wider discussion, and it is planned to be discussed as part of the Criminal punishment enforcement policy permanent working group of the MoJ in 2023, after the publication of the Committee's report.

Cēsis Juvenile Facility uses the punishment of placing an inmate in a disciplinary/punitive isolation cell if a gross violation of the punishment regime is committed, such as physical harassment or other form of humiliation of other inmates, or blatant and repeated disregard of the internal rules. While the inmate is in a disciplinary/punitive isolation cell, the best interests of the inmate are considered, as the person is still allowed, during this punishment, and if they express their wish to do so in the form of an application, to participate in group lessons, in education activities, to receive counselling from a psychologist and a social worker, and to meet with a chaplain, as meaningful human contact.

Cēsis Juvenile Facility provided information that of the 13 cases in which this punishment (disciplinary/punitive isolation cell) was used in 2022, seven of them were for physical violence against another inmate, and six for committing gross, systemic violations, such as not complying with lawful demands expressed to ensure general order or to stop a violation, the use of swear words against the officials of the institution, and resisting them.

Juveniles at Cēsis Juvenile Facility live in an isolated environment, meaning that the victim and the perpetrator continue to be in the same area even after the violence takes place. The interests of the victim must always come first. If the offender is not separated from the victim, the interests of the offender are put above the interests of the victim and the victim's rights are thereby restricted, preventing them from attending the classes and activities offered, because the victim is afraid of being in the same room with the offender. The possibility that the victim meets their abuser creates a feeling of insecurity and anxiety for the victim and increases the feeling of vulnerability, mistrust of others, including the management of the prison. If there is repeated violence against the victim, whether physical or emotional, or if threats are made, this can lead to the re-traumatisation of the victim. During the time when the victim is protected from contact with the offender and feels safe, more effective therapeutic work can be done with the victim.

Cēsis Juvenile Facility has separated the offender in resolving some difficult cases, based on Section 18(1)(2) of the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia, which stipulates the separation of inmates whose personal characteristics and criminal experience have a negative impact on other inmates or who harass and exploit others, and based on the provisions of the Law on the Protection of the Children's Rights and the explanations of the State Children Rights Protection Inspectorate pertaining to the rights and duties of the child, which state that the rights of a child may be limited if it is necessary to ensure public order, or to protect the rights and freedoms of other persons.

In these cases, the offending person is separated juveniles, but the offender's needs must be taken care of, i.e., with the continuity of the resocialisation process and with work being done to determine and ameliorate specific behavioural difficulties. It is made possible for them to participate in education, to participate in individual consultations with psychologists and social workers, with the senior inspector and other specialists of the institution. At the same time, it is also possible to work with the victim in a full-fledged way, looking for other solutions to solve the difficulties that have arisen.

Section 115

The issue mentioned requires wider discussion, and it is planned to be discussed as part of the Criminal punishment enforcement policy permanent working group of the MoJ in 2023, after the publication of the Committee's report.

The draft "Amendments to the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia" includes provisions that reduce the period during which the consequences resulting from the use of punishments for violating the provisions of the prison regulations are in effect.

Section 116

There are often situations where self-harm by inmates is not a symptom or manifestation of mental illness, but rather self-aggression is used by inmates as a manipulation tactic to exert pressure in conflicts. Also, when recording episodes of self-aggression, the patients themselves emphasise that these episodes are not related to their health or doctors and that there are no suicidal thoughts. What is mentioned in the recommendation will be discussed and assessed in depth in 2023.

Section 117

In examining the inmates before placing them in a punitive isolation cell, a physician assesses the general state of health of the inmate at the time, and gives an opinion about whether the inmate's health is satisfactory, whether there are any disorders, whether it is necessary to allow the inmate to take any medications with them to the punitive isolation cell, whether the inmate's health allows the inmate to be alone in the cell (for example, for inmates with frequent epileptic seizures). LPA notes that doctors do not take part in deciding on the punishment of an inmate, nor do they make any 'fit for punishment' acknowledgements. Likewise, the inmate, while in the solitary confinement cell, is provided with examination by medical personnel, with any necessary treatment and examinations.

Section 118

Please note that on 13 December 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a "Plan for improving the organisation of mental healthcare in the 2023-2025" (hereinafter – Plan). The measures included in the Plan are intended to ensure the availability of community-based services for adolescents with mental health and behavioural disorders, children with autistic spectrum disorders and patients with chronic mental health illnesses, and to improve access to medication therapy for patients with schizophrenia, treatment-resistant depression, dementia, and other mental health disorders. The implementation of the measures included in the Plan requires government funding, which unfortunately was not allocated for the implementation of

the Plan. However, in order to ensure access to the mood disorder programme for teenagers with mental health and behavioural disorders, funds have also been redistributed within the department for 2023. In addition, in 2023, it is planned to begin implementing one of the Plan's measures, which provides for improving the transition of patients with long-term mental health disorders from a paediatric medical facility to an adult medical facility. The implementation of the measure will take place as part of a two-year agreement, in conjunction with the World Health Organization.

Sections 119 and 121

The hospital in Aknīste has a unit treating long-term patients from all over Latvia with chronic, treatment-resistant mental illnesses. Usually, the patients are transferred for further treatment from other neuropsychiatric hospitals (NPH). The hospital continuously monitors the health of its patients, and if a patient's health improves, they are discharged, which includes being moved to a social care centre. However, it should be noted that admission to a long-term social care and social rehabilitation institution is related to the number of vacant places available in these institutions.

Regarding the Committee's recommendation for the hospital management to make additional efforts to better prepare their patients to return to family and society, **the working hours of rehabilitation services were increased**, now being 9:00 to 18:00. At the unit of Aknīste Hospital, new activities and rehabilitation technologies have been introduced (individual rehabilitation methods: work with timber, clay therapy; physical activity techniques (Nordic walking, outdoor physical activities; increased number of functional specialists) and programmes (self-care skills and personal hygiene improvement programme; social and household skills development programme).

A module for planning and recording the rehabilitation and everyday activities of inpatients has been created in the *SmartMedical* healthcare services system. The measures taken by the hospital have brought about significant improvements in the availability of rehabilitation services. The coverage of the rehabilitation services and daily activities for inpatients is at least 95%. No less than 60% of inpatients receive the rehabilitation services of the team of multiple specialists.

Section 121

As part of the activity "Transition of persons with mental disorders from long-term social care institutions to living in the community" included in the 2014-2020 EU structural fund planning period, funding was allocated for the implementation of deinstitutionalisation (DI) measures and the support of community-based social services. In principle, the mechanism for raising funds is designed to facilitate the creation and provision of community-based social services to certain groups of recipients of social services, including persons with mental disorders. Currently, the implementation of the DI plans within the planning regions is gradually coming to an end, and as a result, the availability of modern, community-based, and family-orientated social services is increasing significantly. By the end of 2nd quarter of 2023, with the support of the European Social Fund, community-based social services had been provided to 1428 people with mental disorders, 2505 children with functional disorders, and to 1276 of their legal representatives, incl. 154 people with mental disorders who were able to end their stay in a state-funded long-term social care institution during the implementation of DI. In addition to that, 70 projects for the creation of community-based social service infrastructure are being implemented in 39 municipalities,

providing investments for the creation of 146 social services outlets for people with mental disorders, of which 89 had been created by the end of March 2023 (31 group apartments, 34 day-care centres, 20 specialised workshops, and 4 respite services), covering 1224 customers within the infrastructure created.

Involvement in DI events was voluntary, regardless of whether the person receives long-term social care services from a state institution or a contract organisation, which included customers living in the Long-Term Social Care and Social Rehabilitation Unit of Daugavpils NPH, who could also participate in DI activities. At the same time, it should be recognised that due to the condition of their health, not all long-term social care service recipients wanted to engage in DI activities. The progress of DI is affected not only by the willingness of long-term social care recipients to engage in DI activities, but also by the willingness of local governments to participate in the creation of community-based social services and to provide the support necessary for independent living, incl. availability of outpatient psychiatric services.

The principle of ‘money follows the client’ was introduced in 2019, in order to improve the availability of community-based social services at the place of residence, as well as to encourage the discharge of customers from long-term social care institutions. According to this principle, municipal governments can receive state funding (up to 7085.20 euros per year or an average of 590 euro per month) to cover their expenses for the provision of community-based services to those persons who leave a long-term social care institution and receive community-based social services provided by the municipality. In 2023, it is planned to review and increase this state assistance for providing social services at the person’s place of residence granted to municipal governments.

With the introduction of DI activities, the demand for state-funded long-term social care services has gradually decreased, resulting in a gradually decreasing number of long-term social care institutions and government-funded client places in existing institutions, which positively affects the lives of the clients who continue to live in the institutions, as living space per client increases. Since the Committee’s previous visit to long-term social care institutions in 2016, the total number of state-funded client places in state long-term social care institutions and contractor organisations has fallen by 984 or 18.2% (from 5400 to 4416, of which 4098 places are intended for adults with severe and very severe mental disorders).

In Latvia, mainly social services, including long-term social care services are separated from healthcare services. Social services may only be provided by a social service provider included in the Register of Social Service Providers (the Register of Social Service Providers records the state and municipal institutions, natural individuals and legal entities that provide the social services defined in the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance); meanwhile, healthcare services may only be provided by a medical institution registered in the Register of Medical Institutions. As part of DI, it is planned that only clients of the long-term social care institutions registered in the Register of Social Service Providers can participate in these activities. Thus, the clients of the long-term social care and social rehabilitation unit of Daugavpils NPH could also participate in these activities.

In order to improve the availability of community-based social care and social rehabilitation services, the Ministry of Welfare (MoW) has prepared amendments to the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance. The amendments are to require the municipal government to provide various social services to different population groups

according to their needs, which includes:

- 1) shared home (apartment) services for persons with mental disorders;
- 2) day-care centre services for persons with severe functional disabilities;
- 3) respite services for persons with mental disorders and with disabilities of the first or second category;
- 4) specialised workshop services for persons with mental disorders.

These amendments are planned to take effect in 2026. Until 2025, municipal governments will be able to provide day-care centre services, respite and specialised workshop services at their own expense. Thus, with these amendments, it is planned to set up a requirement for all municipal governments, regardless of their size and population, to provide social services that prevent or reduce threats to life and health and significant restrictions on the social functioning of individuals. The municipal government can also provide other social services according to the needs of the local residents and the resources of the financial and social service providers within the municipality.

In order to introduce a service with decision-making done by the care person for people with mental disorders, the conceptual report “On the creation of a care person decision-making service” was approved at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on 10 January 2023. The creation of the care person decision-making service is planned for compliance with Section 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which stipulates that persons with disabilities have the right to the recognition of their legal capacity, while requiring states to provide decision-making support to people with mental disorders. Amendments to the law have been drafted to provide budget funding for these services. The provision of the care person decision-making service is planned to be launched at the end of this year. Also, Latvia has begun working on the introduction of the individual budget approach to the provision of social services for people with disabilities.

MoW has started the development of a financing model for social services. Given that the development of a new social service financing model involves changes in the principles of how social services are funded, encompassing the entire social service system, and not only the sustainability of community-based services created in the DI process, its development will take a longer time. The new social service financing model is to be based on the results of an assessment of long-term social care financing models, and the results will be available in mid-2024. Meanwhile, work continues on the preparation of a conceptual report on the individual budget approach in the provision of social services to persons with functional disabilities, but it should be considered that the implementation of a new individual budget approach will require significant additional state budget funding and its implementation depends on budgeting discussions in the following years. In the upcoming period, the biggest challenge will be the development of a national long-term care plan that among other things, ensures a balanced selection of long-term care services in different care formats (institution, community, and home), eliminating territorial gaps in access, introducing digital solutions in the provision of the services and ensuring their accessibility.

Section 122

The management of Daugavpils NPH regularly conducts training for its current employees and trains new employees, teaching them that the psychiatric care is based

on the principles of personal autonomy, equality, free will, data protection, and confidentiality, and on the respectful and fair treatment of patients, eradicating humiliating practices. Every day, heads of units hold meetings with staff members and conferences for physicians and nurses of both the hospitals, to discuss topics of an ethical nature. Patient surveys are conducted every quarter, and the hospital's management board examines topics related to providing the patients with a safe and beneficial environment at quality management commission meetings.

Section 123

The hospital trains its staff in patient safety. Identified cases of conflicts among patients are reviewed at the hospital's quality management meetings, and at specialised conferences covering the topics of treatment. The presence of the nursing staff in all the departments of the Aknīste hospital unit has been increased in order to reduce the risk of conflicts. The hospital has implemented an internal safety reporting/learning system that does not identify the reporting patients, and enables the collection and analysis of information on cases that have caused or could have caused healthcare-related harm to a patient (patient safety cases). The hospital uses an IT reporting system (*Hai-Pro*, Finland).

Six additional full-time nursing assistant positions have been created in the unit of the hospital in Aknīste, following the recommendations of the Committee. The procedure for hospitalisation in the unit of the hospital in Aknīste has also been amended, ensuring that patients with similar mental health disorders are in the same wards.

At the national level, it is planned to conclude a methodological management agreement with state Ltd "Rīga Psychiatry and Narcology Centre" this year, for the development of quality criteria in the field of mental healthcare, and for the development and implementation of an early intervention programme after acute psychotic disorders, as part of the pilot project.

Section 124, Paragraph 3

On 12 January 2017, after the Committee's 2016 visit to Latvia, amendments were introduced to Section 31 of the law, defining the cases in which partial restriction of the rights of long-term recipients of social care services is allowed. According to the report of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia No. 1-12/2 "Report of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia on state social care centres for adults with mental disorders" of 15 February 2013, the set duration of client isolation, as per recommendations, is proportional: no longer than 3 hours (long-term social care institutions are recommended to isolate clients for no more than 3 hours) or until the time the person is admitted as an inpatient in a medical institution.

According to the recommendations, whenever clients of the long-term social care and social rehabilitation unit of Daugavpils NPH threaten their own or other people's health or life, the clients are temporarily isolated (for no more than 3 hours), with a record of the incident and the time of isolation, ensuring that the client is monitored. An incident log is available in the hospital admissions unit. All incidents associated with destructive and self-destructive behaviour are registered in the log. Since 2011, no cases of suicide have been recorded in the hospital, with the incident log records only including incidents taking place as part of the everyday life of the patients, such as a patient falling during their everyday activities. Such patients were taken to the Ltd

“Daugavpils Regional Hospital” for specialist consultations and diagnostic examinations, for example, by an injury specialist.

Section 125, Paragraph 3

The hospital reduces the number of open inpatient beds every year. During the committee’s visit, there were 370 open beds in the unit in Daugavpils. Currently 352 beds are open, and the number of patients per ward is also being reduced. Also, with the opening of the new building (at Siguldas Street 24, Daugavpils), the number of patients per ward will decrease considerably.

Section 126, Paragraph 2

Amendments to requirements for social service providers set by the Cabinet were adopted on 31 January 2023. In addition to the special requirements for child and adult institutions, mandating them to provide a service that is close to a family environment (with a focus on this as part of a service close to a family environment, a child or adult are involved in normal daily life activities according to their abilities (cooking and shopping for food, purchase of and care for clothes and shoes (washing, ironing, and cleaning), cleaning of the living space (bedroom)), the amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 338 “Requirements for social service providers” of 13 June 2022 set requirements for organising the work of employees and the assistance that must be provided, as well as the number of children/adults per the living space (bedroom), the equipment of the rooms, including detailed requirements for kitchen equipment.

In order to make the rooms more personal, patients are allowed to keep various private items, personal belongings and interior decor in the ward, and for patients whose mental health condition allows this, there is a lockable private locker in the ward. Every year, the hospital plans and carries out ward renovations. After the opening of the new building (at Siguldas Street 24 in Daugavpils), patients will be provided with better facilities and infrastructure, including a better personal environment.

Section 128, Paragraph 3

In 2017, Latvia introduced client care based on the level of care, which not only involves the provision of services according to the set level of care, but also the organising of long-term social care services in the institution based on the level of care set for the client, including lessons and active free time. There are also requirements for the number of specialist positions per care level group that a provider of state-funded long-term social care services must have.

For extramural lessons, both the units of the hospital has a day-care centre, a library, a computer room, music therapy, a visual-plastic classroom, a clay studio, a dance group, a floristry summer booth, an outdoor exercise track, and sports pitches. Patients work with specialists on weekdays, from 9:00 to 18:00. Cultural and sports events take place both inside and outside the units. In good weather, outdoor time is organised for the patients, with activity groups in verandas. Patients can walk freely in the hospital park several times a day. Patients in the geriatric unit, including bed-ridden patients, are regularly taken outdoors using aids and additional staff. In order to enable the patients to utilise their free time every day, one nurse’s assistant and one librarian position have been additionally created in each unit with the aim of expanding ways for spending free time outdoors and indoors, as an addition to non-drug treatment methods.

Section 129

The reorganisation that began based on Cabinet Order No. 12 “Regarding the reorganisation of the state limited company “Aknīste Neuropsychiatric Hospital” and state limited company “Daugavpils Neuropsychiatric Hospital”” of 7 January 2020, ended on 4 January 2021 with the merger of Aknīste Neuropsychiatric Hospital with Daugavpils Neuropsychiatric Hospital. Although the companies have been merged, the patients of the Aknīste unit continue to mainly receive their treatment at the Alejas estate, in Kraujas, Gārsene Parish, Jēkabpils Municipality. The Aknīste facility has 350 psychiatric beds, enabling long-term psychiatric care, including care provided based on a court decision; however, previously, it was a long-term challenge to provide these services in the amount and with the quality necessary due to a lack of human resources.

In order to correct this situation, it is planned to move about 100 patients who need round-the-clock assistance and observation by on-duty psychiatrists from the Aknīste unit to the Daugavpils unit, thus using the treatment resources available in Daugavpils for better access to specialists and treatment, enabling the availability of high-quality state-funded psychiatric care services in general. The geographical proximity of Daugavpils Regional Hospital (SIA “Daugavpils reģionālā slimnīca”) should also be noted as an important factor for emergencies. The Ombudsman’s Office has also repeatedly remarked on the excessive number of patients in the Aknīste hospital unit. Given that the space available in the Daugavpils hospital unit does not allow accommodating of additional patients, an additional building is needed for setting up new units.

Section 131, Paragraph 4

The hospital works with the municipality in the recruitment of medical personnel. Every year, an average of two new doctors begin working at the hospital. The hospital plans to partially solve the issue of staffing with doctors at the unit in Aknīste by employing 2 new specialists starting on 1 October 2023. For the provision of additional human resources, in line with the development of healthcare services and trends in healthcare job market demand, a simplified procedure for learning a second related basic specialisation has been introduced at the medical residency level. Since the admissions for 2022/2023 residency, one can apply (under different conditions) for residency positions in psychiatry: as an addiction therapist with the previously obtained specialisation of a psychiatrist or child psychiatrist — 1 position; as a psychiatrist with the previously obtained specialisation of an addiction therapist — 1 position; as a child psychiatrist with the previously obtained specialisation of an addiction therapist — 1 position. In 2019, in order to improve the availability of child psychiatric services, the child psychiatrist subspecialisation was transformed into a basic specialisation for physicians, thus reducing the time necessary for obtaining the specialisation by 4 years and enabling the faster entry of new specialists to the job market.

Section 132, Paragraphs 2 and 3

Taking these recommendations into account, in accordance with the requirements set for social service providers in long-term social care institutions for adults, every client must have an individual social care or social rehabilitation plan developed for them, based on the level of care and individual needs. The client’s social care or social rehabilitation plan must be regularly updated in accordance with the applicable requirements. In order to implement the recommendations specified in the Committee’s

report, MoW will prepare proposals for enabling the implementation of the recommendations for Daugavpils NPH. Proposals will also be issued for other providers of state-funded long-term social care services.

Section 135

The hospital employs professional staff who organise multi-professional rehabilitation to restore professional and social skills of the people receiving the care (painting, drawing, sewing, housekeeping, cooking, knitting, other handicrafts and activities). The number of specialists has increased from 27 to 36 since 2021. The medical staff of the hospital prepares an individual treatment plan for every patient, in conjunction with the patient. Patients are involved in the preparation and updating of the plan, thereby improving the patient's understanding and participation in their treatment. **Taking the recommendations of the Committee into account, in the individual treatment plan the hospital indicates the specific goals, the medical products used, the specialists in charge who will participate in the treatment, and in the event of a change in health condition, amends the plan.** The plan is signed by both the patient and the attending physician.

Section 136

Hospital physicians use approved clinical algorithms in the treatment, including algorithms for the treatment of mental health problems and severe mental illnesses, and pharmacotherapy. Additional attention is paid to the issue of polypharmacy. All types of antipsychotics are available in the hospital, both first and second generation. The hospital has no problems with the supply of psychoactive medication. Second-generation antipsychotics are mostly included in the prescriptions; however, in rare cases (in the cases of neuroendocrine dysfunction, significant resistance, patient's own choice, significant psychomotor agitation and risks of suicide/self-harm), first-generation drugs are prescribed as an alternative. Monotherapy is the prevailing principle in patient treatment, except for in complicated cases of illnesses.

Section 138, Paragraph 2

In addition to 3 internal medicine physicians, 27 contracts for consultant services have been concluded, including with two cardiologists, which make it possible to monitor the physical condition of the patients and the side effects of their medications. The hospital has also additionally bought a new electrocardiograph to enable high-quality patient examinations.

Section 139

Section 5 of the Law on the Protection of the Body of Deceased Human Beings and the Use of Human Tissues and Organs in Medicine states that a post-mortem examination (autopsy) of a deceased person can be performed if the person consented to this, with a corresponding note in the health information system. If the deceased person prohibited the post-mortem examination after their death with a note in the health information system, it is only allowed in the cases mentioned in Section 6. If the preferences of the deceased person are not known and the deceased person has no next of kin, the question of performing a post-mortem examination is decided by the head of the department of the medical institution, if the person died in a medical institution,

or by the attending physician or the physician who confirmed death, if the person died outside of a medical institution. Section 6 of the Law stipulates that, regardless of the preferences expressed by the deceased person, a post-mortem examination must be performed if:

- 1) the likely cause of death is an infectious disease;
- 2) the cause of death is a disease that was not diagnosed when the person was still alive, or undiagnosed complications of preventive measures, treatment, or disease;
- 3) the weight of the stillborn child exceeds 500 grams.

In the opinion of the MoH, it is not necessary to make corrections to the laws and regulations, because the existing regulation foresees cases when the post-mortem examination (autopsy) of a dead person must be performed or is impossible, and when, under certain conditions, the head of the department of the medical institution decides to perform the post-mortem examination. Psychiatric patients usually stay in psychiatric hospitals for a long time, which means that the head of the department is the best position to know the health status of the patients and their illnesses, including chronic ones. At the same time, MoH will discuss the raised issue with psychiatry experts and consider the possibility of introducing a single methodological guide for confirming death regarding patients who died in a psychiatric treatment facility.

Section 143

At Aknīste Hospital, every case of using mechanical restraint on a patient is recorded in a special log set up for this purpose in every unit of the hospital and is also recorded in the general hospital registration log. The general hospital registration log was introduced in 2020; this was confirmed by the Ombudsman's Office during its visit in 2022.

Section 144

The Medical Treatment Law stipulates that the medical institution makes it possible for the patient to provide informed written consent to further medical treatment. If the patient does not agree to further treatment and there is no indication to provide psychiatric care without the patient's consent, the patient is discharged. Cabinet Regulation No. 453 "Rules on the procedure for restraining patients and items that are prohibited in a psychiatric facility" of 12 July 2016 determine the procedure for removing patient mechanical or medicinal restraints for a voluntary patient. The MoH plans to raise the issue with the medical institutions in order to discuss how to practically implement the established requirements more accurately and efficiently.

Section 148

According to Section 68 of the Medical Treatment Law, psychiatric care may be provided to a patient without consent, if the patient:

- 1) 'has threatened or threatens, tried or is trying to cause personal injuries to him or herself or to another person or has behaved or behaves violently to other persons and a medical practitioner has determined that the patient has a mental health disorder for which the possible consequences may be personal injury to the patient him or herself or another person;

- 2) the patient has indicated or indicates an inability to care for him or herself or for a person under his or her guardianship and a medical practitioner has determined that the patient has a mental health disorder for which the possible consequences may be unavoidable and serious deterioration of the persons health.'

If patient's mental state meets these criteria, the board of physicians writes application to court regarding the need to continue patient's treatment against patient's will. If a person with limited legal capacity refuses treatment, but their guardian insists on the need to continue treatment, the physician informs the court of whether the patient's mental state meets these criteria. If these criteria are not met, the patient is discharged from the hospital with recommendations for further outpatient treatment.

Section 151

The hospital always transports its patients to the court hearing or enables their participation in the court hearing via videoconferencing. State Ltd "Daugavpils Neuropsychiatric Hospital" is the first hospital that began participating in court hearings through videoconferencing. The organising of court activities is within the competence of the MoJ.

Section 153

The Law on the Rights of Patients states that all patients have the right to ask questions and receive answers before giving informed consent. In the hospital's admissions unit, the psychiatrist provides the patient with:

- 1) information about the patient's rights (also in the form of a brochure);
- 2) information about the treatment, medications, side effects, living conditions in the hospital;
- 3) clear information about patient's condition, the proposed treatment and possible side effects, as well as the possibility for the patient to withdraw their consent.

The MoH has begun a discussion on the possibility of requesting a second opinion by another doctor about the treatment chosen by the attending physician, which includes psychiatric treatment. In addition, to more accurately determine the diagnosis and further approach to the treatment, a physician conference can be convened. According to Section 69.1(10) of the Medical Treatment Law, the patient is entitled to challenge a physician's decisions by submitting an appeal to the head of the medical institution within one month.

Section 154, Paragraph 2

At the hospital, in addition to information given verbally by the physician, a brochure is issued in the admissions unit, which states internal rules of the hospital, information on rights of the patient (including legal assistance), consent to treatment, procedures for submitting complaints, as well as a description of rehabilitation services and recreation options. The hospital has issued the brochure in accordance with the recommendations of the Ombudsman's Office. The brochure is written in simple language and assistance is provided to patients who cannot understand it.

Annex to the comments of the Latvian government concerning the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on Latvia

In response to the implementation of Recommendation No. 90, Latvia provides the following information about resocialisation measures:

1) Information about the involvement of lower-grade convicts and detainees in employment.

Statistics about the employment of lower-grade closed-prison convicts, from the 2022 employment report.

Prison	Total employed convicts/ detainees as of 31.12.2022	Number of lower-grade closed/partially closed prison convicts employed as of 31.12.2022	Number of upper-grade closed/partially closed prison convicts employed as of 31.12.2022	Total convicts/ detainees as of 31.12.2022	Total number of lower-grade closed/partially closed prison convicts as of 02.01.2023	Percentage share of lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts engaged in employment to all convicts engaged in employment as of 31.12.2022 (%)
Riga Central Prison	141/-	58/7	49/27	407/471	220/35	46
Daugavgrīva Prison	233/-	84/-	141/8	885/80	639/9	36
Ilūciems Prison	88/5	-/45	-/43	150/44	78 (including 5 temporary imprisonment)	51
Jelgava Prison	118/-	58/-	60/-	312/3	176/-	49
Jēkabpils Prison	35/- (7 open prison employees)	-/18	-/10	284/-	154 (including 90 temporary imprisonment)	51
Valmiera Prison	95/-	51/-	44/-	195/37	132/-	54
Olaine Prison	43/- (37 open prison employees)	1/-	4/1	159/20	32 /3	2
Liepāja Prison	13	8/-	4/1	81/65	72/3	62

The information in the last column of the table shows that of all convicts employed as of 31 December 2022, almost half (46%, 49%, 51% in two prisons, and 54%) of those employed were lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts, with the exception of Olaine Prison, where out of the 43 convicts employed, 37 were open-prison convicts and only 1 a lower-grade closed-prison convict (2% of all those employed). Of all the convicts employed in Daugavgrīva Prison, 36% were lower-grade closed-prison convicts, while in Liepāja Prison, out of the 13 convicts employed as the prison's maintenance staff (there is no company to employ convicts in the prison), 8 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (62% of all of the employed).

On average, employed lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts spend 8 hours a day at their workplaces (with a company or employed as maintenance staff). Convicts employed by companies are mostly assigned the standard full weekly working hours - 40 hours and an eight-hour working day in a five-day working week. Convicts employed as prison maintenance staff work 1 to 8 hours a day, depending on the allocation of workload set for the position.

The average time that lower-grade closed-prison convicts spend out-of-cell, performing the maintenance, cleaning, and improvement of prisons and prison grounds, as well as work to improve the cultural and living conditions of convicts, without compensation is set at 4 hours. A convict may be assigned to unpaid work for more than 4 hours, if the convict requests this. Convicts performing paid work for more than four hours a day are not involved in unpaid work.

Detainees can be involved in unpaid work only in the cleaning and improvement of the remand prison and its grounds, as well as in the improvement of the cultural and living conditions of the detainees. These activities can last two hours per day according to the daily schedule. At the detainees' request, they may spend more time performing this work.

For example, 401 persons were involved in unpaid work in Daugavgrīva Prison between January 2022 and December 2022 (in the Grīva unit, 249 convicts were involved in unpaid work, of which 193 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (78%). In the Daugavpils unit: 152 convicts were involved in unpaid work, of which all 152 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (100%). In 2023, Daugavgrīva Prison is planning to continue using its lower-grade closed-prison convicts in unpaid work (up to 30 convicts are planned to be involved each month).

Iļģuciems Prison reports that lower-grade closed-prison convicts and some of the detainees are given the opportunity to engage in employment, meaning that the prison's inmates of these categories spend most of their day outside the cells. However, there are inmates who do not want to engage in employment, due to health or other reasons. The detainees of the Remand Unit of Iļģuciems Prison engage in employment with a company with the conclusion of a work contract for a certain period, and the conclusion of such a contract is only possible with the permission of the head of the remand prison and the person in charge of the investigation.

Convicts at Jelgava Prison are employed for paid work for a company or as part of the maintenance staff. In 2023, it is planned that an average of 50 lower-grade closed-prison convicts will be employed by 4 companies, and about 8 convicts will be in the maintenance staff. The work takes place on weekdays. The planned duration of a working day is 7 hours on average.

As in 2022, in 2023, it is planned to employ lower-grade closed-prison convicts, with 7 convicts in the maintenance staff, and 40 convicts hired by companies (employed on weekdays for up to 8 hours a day) in Valmiera Prison. 2 lower-grade closed-prison convicts (every day, for up to 4 hours a day) are to be engaged in unpaid maintenance, cleaning, and improvement of the grounds of Valmiera Prison, as well as in works to improve the cultural and living conditions of convicts. 2 detainees will be engaged (every day, for up to 2 hours a day) in cleaning and maintaining the grounds of Valmiera Prison (remand unit), and improving the cultural and living conditions of detainees.

Regarding Section 89 of the CPT report, Latvia states the following.

Detainees are employed for work in Iļģuciems Prison only. In 2022 an average of 5 detainees were employed (as of 30 June 2022, 7 detainees were employed, while 3 detainees were employed as of 31 December 2022).

Section 23 of the Law on the Procedures for Holding under Arrest ('Law') states that *the main method for the social rehabilitation of detainees is socially productive activities: general, professional, and interest education, learning activities and employment, as well as*

psychological assistance. Section 26 of the Law sets the conditions for the employment of detainees:

1. The management of the remand prison employs the detainee as part of social rehabilitation, if the detainee applies to the head of the remand prison, and the remand prison has such an option (Section 26(1) of the Law);

2. The detainee is employed in a cell or in a specially equipped room at the remand prison (Section 26(3) of the Law);

3. The detainee is employed in such jobs for which it is possible to determine a lump-sum rate (Section 26(4) of the Law);

4. The detainee is employed by concluding a work contract for a particular duration. The conclusion of such a contract is only possible with the permission of the head of the remand prison and the person in charge of the investigation (Section 26(5) of the Law);

5. The scope of the work contract and the procedure for concluding it if the person hired is a detainee, is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers (Section 26(6) of the Law);

7. The payment rate set for the detainee must not be less than the payment for equivalent work outside the remand prison (Section 26(7) of the Law).

Thus, in accordance with the regulatory framework, paid employment of a detainee is possible if the detainee requests this with an application, if this is possible in the remand prison, which depends on the desire of businesses to employ the detainee, the resources available to the prison, and on the specific nature of the work for which the detainee can be hired. It should also be considered that the detainee can unilaterally withdraw from the contract if they cannot perform the order for any reason beyond their control that is related to their status as a detainee, and this is confirmed by the person in charge of the investigation and the head of the remand prison. When entering into a work contract with a detainee, a business must take into account the procedure and restrictions set in the internal rules of the remand prison, as well as the legal status of the detainee as a person in custody and the restrictions and conditions related to this (Sections 13 and 14 of Cabinet Regulation No. 387 'Regulations for the scope of the work contract and the procedure for concluding it if the person hired is a detainee' of 12 June 2007). Therefore, the status of the detainee can pose a significant impediment to the performance of the contracted work.

At the same time, when involving detainees in employment, the management of the prison must comply with Section 11(4) of the Law, in that detainees must be housed separately from convicts, unless the convicts are placed in the remand prison for committing a different criminal offence. The requirement for keeping detainees separate from convicts must also be complied with in the context of the employment of detainees specified in Section 26 of the Law.

In compliance with Section 11 of the Law that prescribes keeping detainees separate from convicted persons, companies that employ convicts in a production facility set up at the site of the prison are not allowed to provide employment opportunities to detainees. The maintenance staff of prisons has no such position that would have the duty of ensuring compliance with the requirement of keeping detainees separate from convicts. The provisions of Cabinet Regulation No. 387 'Regulations for the scope of the work contract and the procedure for concluding it if the person hired is a detainee' of 12 June 2007 must also be observed in employing a detainee.

2) Information on the involvement of lower-grade convicts and detainees in education programmes.

Section 24 of the Law stipulates that the management of the remand prison must whenever possible ensure that detainees receive general, vocational, and interest education.

According to Section 61.³ of the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia ('Code'), education is one of the methods for the social rehabilitation of convicts, which in turn is a part of the resocialisation of the convicts. In accordance with Section 67 of the Code, the learning as part

of general and vocational education is organised for convicted persons in accordance with the procedures specified in the laws and regulations governing general and vocational education.

The duty of the prison institution to enable the teaching of general education programmes for convicted minors is defined in Section 62 of the Code. All juvenile inmates are enrolled in basic education programmes at Cēsis Juvenile Facility and Ilģuciemis Prison. Juvenile inmates can also gain general secondary education.

According to the 2022 annual report on education, the total number of inmate students as of 31 December 2022 was 147, of which 76 were adults, 47 were minors, and 24 were detainee minors.

Involvement of lower-grade convicts and detainees in education activities in prisons.

Ilģuciemis Prison: In the 2022/2023 academic year, 7 lower-grade closed-prison convicts and 6 detainees were getting general education in the prison. In the 2022/2023 academic year, 17 lower-grade closed-prison convicts and 7 detainees were getting vocational education in the prison. In February 2023, 18 additional lower-grade closed-prison convicts and 2 detainees were getting vocational education.

Inmates participate in informal education programmes: as part of European Social Fund project No 9.1.2.0/16/I/001 ‘Integration of former inmates into society and the job market’ in 2022; an MS Excel Basics course of 40 hours was taught in Ilģuciemis Prison. 1 lower-grade convict participated. MS PowerPoint Basics - 2 lower-grade convicts took part in the 40-hour course. Latvian language training - a course of 120 hours, attended by 3 lower-grade convicts and one detainee. Both the categories participated in the Handicraft Studio programme (two groups, 120 hours per group), with 5 lower-grade convicts and one detainee. In 2023, a Latvian language training course (120 hours) takes place in the prison, involving 1 detainee and 4 lower-grade convicts. Two groups are planned for the English language training course (120 hours) and the Nail Design course (60 hours). Inmates of these categories will be included in all the groups, but the exact number will be known once the groups are set up.

Cēsis Juvenile Facility: In 2022, detainees in the Cēsis Juvenile Facility spent approximately 6-7 hours a day outside their cells during the academic year and 4-5 hours a day during the summer, including participation in education activities, such as lessons at Cēsis Evening Secondary School No. 2, Vidzeme School of Technology and Design, and the Woodworking informal education programme taught by the BUTS education centre.

In 2023, detainees will be involved in the following education activities:

	Event name	Duration	Event time/hours	Number of participants ¹	Notes
1.	Learning at Cēsis Evening School No. 2	01.03.2023-31.05.2023	Every weekday, from 8:45 to 14:25/6 hours	7 (all those studying at school)	Not including school breaks
2.	BUTS learning centre, Woodworking informal education programme	19.06.2023-11.08.2023	~3 times a week/5 hours	Based on demand	
3.	BUTS learning centre, Power Point Basics informal	14.08.2023-25.08.2023	5 hours every weekday	Based on demand	

	education programme				
4.	Professional Qualification Programme studies at the Vidzeme School of Technology and Design	01.09.2023-31.12.2023	Every weekday	7 (all who wish to participate)	Depending on the detainees' willingness to participate

¹ The number of participants is an estimate and may change depending on the total number of detainees, as the number of detainees changes regularly.

Daugavgrīva Prison: between 1 March 2023 and 31 December 2023, it is planned to involve detainees and the lower-grade closed-prison convicts in the following informal education programmes:

No.	Name of informal education programme	Planned informal education programme duration	Number of detainees and lower-grade closed-prison convicts	Note
1.	English 120 hours	May to October 2023	Up to 12 persons	(2 groups)
2.	Basics of Business 60 hours	May to October 2023	Up to 12 persons	

In Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year (January 2022 to June 2022), the following were enrolled in general primary education and general secondary education programmes at the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:

- 1) Grade 8: 10 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 2) Grade 9: 9 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 3) Grade 10: 5 inmates, with 1 detainee and 4 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 4) Grade 11: 4 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 5) Grade 12: 7 inmates, with 2 detainees and 5 lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In view of the above, in Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year, 100% of the 35 inmates who received general education in the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison were either detainees or lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year (September 2022 to December 2022), the following were enrolled in general primary education and general secondary education programmes at the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:

- 1) Grade 8: 18 inmates, with 1 detainee and 17 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 2) Grade 9: 17 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 3) Grade 10: 7 inmates, with 2 detainees and 5 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 4) Grade 11: 12 inmates, with 3 detainees and 9 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 5) Grade 12: 4 inmates, with 1 detainee and 3 lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In view of the above, in Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year, 100% of the 58 inmates who received general education in the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison were either detainees or lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year (January 2023 to June 2023), the following were enrolled in general primary education and general secondary education programmes at the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:

- 1) Grade 8: 10 inmates, with 1 detainee and 9 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;

- 2) Grade 9: 15 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 3) Grade 10: 7 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 4) Grade 11: 11 inmates, with 2 detainees and 9 lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 5) Grade 12: 2 lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In view of the above, in Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year, all 100% of the 45 inmates who received general education in the Daugavpils unit of Daugavgrīva Prison were either detainees or lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year (January 2022 to June 2022), **38 convicts were enrolled in general secondary education programmes at the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:**

- 1) Grade 10: 12 convicts, of which 7 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 2) Grade 11: 8 convicts, of which 3 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 3) Grade 12: 18 convicts, of which 10 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

This shows that of the 38 convicts who were enrolled in general education in the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year, 20 (53%) were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year (September 2022 to December 2022), **46 convicts were enrolled in general primary and secondary education programmes at the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:**

- 1) Grade 8: 4 convicts, of which 3 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 2) Grade 9: none were enrolled in the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison;
- 3) Grade 10: 10 convicts, of which 7 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 4) Grade 11: 20 convicts, of which 11 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 5) Grade 12: 12 convicts, of which 9 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

This shows that of the 46 convicts who were enrolled in general education at the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year, 30 (65%) were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

In Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year (January 2023 to June 2023), **40 convicts were enrolled in general primary and secondary education programmes at the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison:**

- 1) Grade 8: 4 convicts, of which 2 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 2) Grade 9: none were enrolled in the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison;
- 3) Grade 10: 12 convicts, of which 6 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 4) Grade 11: 17 convicts, of which 11 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts;
- 5) Grade 12: 7 convicts, of which 5 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

This shows that of the 40 convicts who were enrolled in general education at the Grīva unit of Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year, 24 (60%) were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

Number of convicts involved in vocational education in Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year (January to June 2022).

In Semester 2 of the 2021/2022 academic year (January to June 2022), 183 convicts were involved in vocational education, of which 88 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (48% of the number of convicts involved in vocational education programmes).

Number of convicts involved in vocational education in Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year (September to December 2022).

In Semester 1 of the 2022/2023 academic year, 198 convicts were involved in vocational education, of which 103 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (52% of the number of convicts involved in vocational education programmes).

Number of convicts involved in vocational education in Daugavgrīva Prison in Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year (January to June 2023).

In Semester 2 of the 2022/2023 academic year, 195 convicts were involved in vocational education, of which 99 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (51% of the number of convicts involved in vocational education programmes).

Likewise in 2022, those convicted in Daugavgrīva Prison could participate in the following informal education programmes: MS Word Basics, Latvian, MS Power Point Basics, and MS Excel Basics. Of the 79 convicts who engaged in informal education in Daugavgrīva Prison in 2022, 55 (70%) were lower-grade closed-prison convicts.

As of 13.02.2023, 195 convicts were involved in vocational education, of which 99 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts (51% of the number of convicts involved in vocational education programmes), in Daugavgrīva Prison.

As of 13.02.2023, 85 inmates were involved in vocational education, of which 69 were lower-grade closed-prison convicts or detainees (81% of the number of inmates involved in vocational education programmes), in Daugavgrīva Prison.

Jēkabpils Prison: the following informal education activities are planned in the prison (for partially closed-prison inmates and upper-grade inmates) starting on 1 March 2023:

1. Painting and Graphics, taught until 07.05.2023, once a week, 12 convicts will be involved;

2. Latvian, taught from 01.06.2023 to 15.08.2023 and from 01.09.2023 to 15.11.2023, four times a week, 20 convicts will be involved;

3. English, taught from 01.06.2023 to 30.07.2023 and from 01.09.2023 to 30.10.2023, four times a week, 20 convicts will be involved;

4. Career counselling by the State Employment Agency, provided from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, six times a month, 96 inmates will be involved.

In 2022, lower-grade convicts spent an average of three hours a day outside the cell/unit. On average, 50 lower-grade convicts were involved in the following formal and informal education activities:

Starting from 01.03.2023, the time spent outside the cell/unit may increase to 5 hours per day.

Jelgava Prison: In 2023, the following education activities are available to lower-grade convicts:

1. vocational and general education activities:

1.1. 21 lower-grade convicts receive vocational education at Jelgava Technical School. The training takes place according to the schedule on weekdays, from 08:40 to 16:00, with a lunch break from 12:00 to 13:20;

1.2. 10 lower-grade convicts currently receive general education at Jelgava Secondary Crafts School. The training takes place on weekdays according to the schedule, with the duration depending on the number of academic hours;

2. informal education programmes:

The informal education programme in Woodworking began on 27.01.2023; 7 lower-grade convicts are enrolled in it, with the training taking place from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:00.

In 2022, lower-grade convicts in Jelgava Prison could participate in the following informal and interest education programmes:

1. Computer Science, duration: 04.07.2022 to 27.07.2022 (120 academic hours, with lessons conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:20); 7 lower-grade convicts participated;

2. Painting and Graphics, duration: 11.06.2022 to 03.09.2022 (120 academic hours, with lessons conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:00); 10 lower-grade convicts participated;

3. Woodworking, duration: 01.08.2022 to 19.08.2022 (120 academic hours, with lessons conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:00); 8 lower-grade convicts participated;

4. Latvian (3 student groups); 120 academic hours, with lessons conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 and/or from 13:30 to 16:00; 18 lower-grade convicts participated;

5. Handicrafts; 120 academic hours, with lessons conducted from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 16:00); 9 lower-grade convicts participated.

The time spent outside the cell depends on the involvement of the inmate in resocialisation processes and is highly variable. If a convict works a full-time job or receives vocational education in the classroom, participates in a resocialisation programme, and goes for daily time outdoors, then in general, the convict spends about 10 hours a day outside their cell. Some lower-grade convicts do not show any interest and desire to engage in resocialisation processes.

Liepāja Prison: the involvement of inmates in informal and interest education programmes as of 1 March 2023 is as follows:

1. English; will be taught from 01.05.2023 to 01.10.2023. Two groups of up to 10 inmates. Course amount: 120 hours;

2. Latvian; will be taught from 01.05.2023 to 01.10.2023. Two groups of up to 10 inmates. Course amount: 120 hours;

3. Basics of MS Excel; the programme will be taught between 01.05.2023 and 01.10.2023, for one group of up to 10 inmates. Course amount: 60 hours;

4. Basics of MS Word; the programme will be taught between 01.05.2023 and 01.10.2023, for one group of up to 10 inmates. Course amount: 60 hours.

The Construction programme of Jelgava Technical School is taught in Liepāja Prison. The training is to take place until 01.07.2023. 11 detainees and 5 convicts participate in the training. The duration of the programme is 752 hours.

In 2022, 26 convicts in Liepāja Prison engaged in informal education, while 29 convicts were engaged in formal education. In 2022, the inmates involved in education spent at least 6 hours a day outside the cell.

Riga Central Prison: lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts engage in all the informal and interest education programmes, general and vocational education programmes provided to convicts in the prison. The level of security assigned to the inmate is not considered as a criterion when assessing the participation of the convicted person in these activities. The basic criteria for inclusion in education programmes are the resocialisation needs of the convict and their desire to participate in the activities. A similar situation is with detainees who can enrol in vocational and general education programmes while in prison. The prison uses all the resources available to make sure that the lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts and detainees spend as much meaningful time outside their cells as possible.

In 2022, lower-grade closed-prison convicts were involved in the following education activities:

1. 72 convicts enrolled in general education programmes at Riga Reinholds Šmēlings Secondary School;

2. 92 convicts enrolled in vocational education programmes at Jelgava Technical School and Riga Style and Fashion Vocational School;

3. 40 convicts enrolled in informal education programmes (Painting and Graphics, Latvian, Computer Science).

Valmiera Prison: starting from 1 March 2023 and until the end of the year, it is planned to involve detainees and lower-grade closed-prison convicts in:

1. general education activities - teaching secondary education (Year 10 and 11) three times a week (~24 hours a week) until June 2023, and then from 1 September 2023 to the end of 2023. Currently, 4 detainees and 1 convicted person are enrolled;

2. vocational education activities, teaching the trade of a woodworking machinery operator, welder, finishing construction worker five times a week (~30 hours a week) until July 2023, and then from 1 September 2023 to the end of 2023. Currently, 5 detainees and 3 convicted persons are enrolled;

3. informal education activities, with professional upskilling courses (it is not possible to specify the exact names of the programmes at the moment, because the procurement procedure is not over yet. The following courses are planned: wood carving, leather handicrafts, computer skills, Latvian language), the schedules for the teaching of the courses have not been approved.

In 2022, lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees were involved in the following education activities:

1. secondary education: 7 convicts and 4 detainees three times a week (~24 hours a week) from 25 April to 1 July 2022 and from 1 September to 23 December 2022 (25 weeks, ~600 academic hours);

2. vocational education: woodworking machinery operator (1 convict, 6 detainees), welder (1 convict, 3 detainees), finishing construction worker (7 convict, 7 detainees) five times a week (~30 hours a week) from 2 May to 23 December 2022 (30 weeks, ~900 hours);

3. informal education activities:

3.1. computer science (2 convicts, 11 detainees) 120 hours;

3.2. making ornaments of various materials (8 convicts) 120 hours.

3) Information about the involvement of convicts and detainees in recreation activities.

Valmiera Prison: In 2022, the prison offered consultations by the State Employment Agency (SEA), meetings with the head of the Ratnieki social rehabilitation centre and the State Probation Service. Activities with information about addictions and creative workshops were organised.

Starting from 1 March 2023 and until the end of the year, it is planned to provide free time, sports, and information activities for detainees and convicts. These activities include cinema and board game nights.

Recreation activities planned for 2023:

- screening of films produced in Latvia, with the support of the Kinopunkts association — once every two months; new board game sessions — once or twice a month. A total of about 18 activities are planned.

- gym activities for inmates engaged in education — once a week starting from March 2023 until the end of the year. A total of 52 activities are planned;

- activities with information about addictions: once every three months; a total of 4 activities are planned;

- meeting with the head of the Ratnieki social rehabilitation centre: three times a year;

- thematic creative workshops: in March 2023, for Easter, Midsummer, 18 November, Christmas. A total of 5 activities are planned.

In 2022 out-of-cell convicts and detainees participated in:

- screenings of films produced in Latvia, with the support of the Kinopunkts association: 6 activities (28 convicts, 22 detainees), 9 hours in total;

- organising of new board game events: 9 activities (50 convicts, 34 detainees), 18 hours in total;

- gym activities for inmates engaged in education: once a week starting from September 2022 until the end of the year, ~26 hours (8 detainees, 3 convicts);

- information meeting with the head of the Ratnieki social rehabilitation centre: once for 2 hours; 4 convicts;
- Waiting for Christmas... ('Ziemassvētkus gaidot...') creative workshop: twice for 4 hours (9 convicts).

Riga Central Prison: partially closed/closed-prison convicts are involved in recreation activities. The prison management is considering increasing the time convicts and detainees spend outside the cell, but this depends on a number of factors and is difficult to implement.

Olaine Prison (Latvian Prison Hospital): In 2022, detainees and convicts spent 272 hours outside the cells visiting book repositories.

Free-time activities outside the cell: making a holiday collage; activity using the Pandemic board game, 4 hours in total.

In 2023, it is planned to mostly involve clients in individual consultations of specialists, and inmates of the Prison Tuberculosis Units will be able to visit the resocialisation room, which has a novuss table and board games, available 2 times a week, 1 hour per visit. A total of 104 activities are planned.

Liepāja Prison: starting from 1 March 2023, the following free time activities are planned in the prison for convicts and detainees. It is planned to involve up to 30 convicts and up to 15 detainees in approximately one month. On average, one activity takes 2.3 hours, as an out-of-cell activity.

1) Career counselling by SEA. To be carried out by 31.12.2023, with no less than three group consultations per month. The duration of one consultation is 1 to 1.5 hours. It is planned to involve up to 30 lower-grade convicts in career counselling.

2) Attending a creative workshop. The event is planned to take place every day. It is possible to attend with a period of up to 7 hours a day. During one day, no less than 1 convict and no less than 1 detainee attends the creative workshop.

3) Table tennis. The event is planned to take place every day. It is possible to attend with a period of up to 7 hours a day. During one day, no less than 2 convicts and no less than 2 detainees play table tennis.

4) English lessons organised by a volunteer of the 'Radi Vidi Pats' association. The event is planned to take place once a week. The duration of one lesson is two hours. 7 convicts attend the lessons.

5) Bibliotherapy activities organised by a volunteer of the "Radi Vidi Pats" association. The event is planned to take place once a month. The duration of one lesson is two hours. 3 convicts attend the activities.

6) Activities for meaningfully spending free time organised by a volunteer of the "Radi Vidi Pats" association. The event is planned to take place once a week. The duration of one lesson is two hours. 5 convicts attend the activities.

7) Art therapy sessions organised by volunteer Iluta Dreimane. The sessions are planned to take place twice a month. The duration of one session is one hour. 6 convicts attend the sessions.

8) Lecture by the State Probation Service about the conclusion of a settlement and conditional early release. The lectures are planned to be held once every three months. The duration of the lecture is no less than two hours. It is planned to involve 10 detainees and 10 convicts per lecture.

9) Family day event. Family days are planned to be organised between 01.03.2023 and 31.12.2023. A total of 6 events are planned. The duration of one event is 5 hours. 5 convicts participate in one event.

10) Free time activity for the Free from Addictions unit conducted by the staff of the resocialisation division. The events are to be implemented at least once a week. The duration of one event is 2 hours. 4 convicts take part per event.

11) Thematic free-time activities conducted by the staff of the resocialisation division. The events are planned to be held once every two months. The duration of one event is 2 hours. Up to 15 detainees and no less than 5 convicts take part per event.

Jēkabpils Prison: the following free-time activities (for lower and upper-grade partially closed-prison inmates) are planned: career counselling by the State Employment Agency; painting and graphic design, sports activities, board games, screenings of films, creative workshops, Easter activity, White Tablecloth Day, preparation of Mother's Day greeting cards, celebration of Midsummer, Family Day preparations, trivia quiz event, activities dedicated to 18 November, board games, Christmas creative workshop, Family Day preparation, baking of gingerbread, and other recreation activities taking place from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023. 43 events in total. Convicts from all units are to be involved in all of the events.

Planned free-time activities (for lower and upper-grade partially closed-prison inmates):

1. Career counselling by the State Employment Agency, provided from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, six times a month, 96 inmates will be involved;
 2. Painting and graphics, provided until 07.05.2023, once a week, 12 convicts will be involved;
 3. Sports events, board games (all year round), convicts from all units will be involved;
 4. Screening of films, convicts from all units will be involved;
 5. Easter creative workshops, from 28.03.2023 to 31.03.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 6. Easter event, 06.04.2023, convicts involved: 35 to 50;
 7. Creative workshop dedicated to the 4th of May ('White tablecloth celebration'), with a screening of a film, from 25.04.2023 to 28.04.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 8. Preparation for Family Day (in April, June, July, August, October, December), for up to 20 convicts each time;
 9. Preparation of Mother's Day greeting cards, from 09.05.2023 to 11.05.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 10. Līgo holiday event, 22.06.2023, convicts involved: 35 to 50;
 11. Trivia quiz, from 17.10.2023 to 20.10.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 12. Activities dedicated to 18 November: thematic films, preparation of greeting cards, from 14.11.2023 to 17.11.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 13. Creative Christmas workshops, from 12.12.2023 to 15.12.2023, convicts from all units will be involved;
 14. Baking of gingerbread, from 20.12.2023 to 22.12.2023, for 10 to 15 convicts every day.
- In 2022, lower-grade convicts spent an average of three hours a day outside their cell/unit.

Jelgava Prison: In 2023, various resocialisation activities are available to lower-grade convicts. The number of participants varies depending on the purpose of the activity:

1. online chess lessons under the supervision of a coach. The lessons take place once every two weeks. The activity is provided by volunteers. Target group: convicts. On average, 18 lower-grade convicts take part in the activity. A total of 26 activities are planned;
2. various thematic activities dedicated to different holidays (Christmas, New Year's Eve, Easter, Midsummer, Independence Day, etc.). At least four times a year: creative workshops and board games. The activity is organised and implemented by the resocialisation division of Jelgava Prison. A total of 4 activities are planned;

3. sports activities (tournaments in novuss, table tennis, table football, etc.): at least once a month. On average, 25 lower-grade convicts take part in the activities. A total of 12 activities are planned;
4. various artistic, individual, cultural, education activities organised by the State Probation Service, the Addiction Centre at Olaine Prison, partners and volunteers in Jelgava Prison (concerts, activities, information and education events conducted by various religious organisations, social rehabilitation centres, volunteer funds). The number of participants in an activity varies depending on the purpose of each activity. For example, the information events organised by the State Probation Service and Olaine Prison Addiction Centre or the concerts organised by religious organisations are attended by approximately 40 lower-grade convicts, while the information event by the head of Ratnieki social rehabilitation centre J. Kapustins, takes place in the form of individual discussions, and about 10 lower-grade convicts attend this activity;
5. State Agency of Employment career counselling events took place on 12.01, 19.01, 26.01, 09.02, 16.02, with a duration of about 3 hours. A total of 5 activities were planned.

Starting in 2022, Jelgava Prison held various activities for convicts. These included family day events, out-of-cell sports activities, information events, lectures on relationship-building, and chess training sessions. In total, 35 activities took place, with approximately 600 convicts participating. On average, one activity took 3.5 hours.

Daugavgrīva Prison: starting from 1 March 2023, it is planned to involve detainees and lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts in various activities outside the cell, such as sports, making of applied art, discussions about films, and family day events.

The management of Daugavgrīva Prison ensures that every day (Monday to Sunday), 4 to 6 inmates can go to outdoor and indoor sports areas where they (detainees or lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts) can engage in physical activities. Inmates living in up to two cells can be combined per such activity, with an average of 6 to 15 inmates able to engage in physical activities. The management of Daugavgrīva Prison tries to ensure that each of the detainees and lower-grade partially closed/closed-prison convicts are taken to engage in physical activities outside the cell 2 times a month (the duration of the physical activities is, on average, 1 hour).

From 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, lower-grade closed-prison convicts are planned to be taken from their cells for applied art sessions (1 activity once a week, duration from 1 to 2 hours. On average, there will be 4-5 convicts per the group).

From 01.03.2023 to 01.09.2023, detainees and lower-grade convicts sentenced to life imprisonment and serving the sentence in a separate unit are planned to be taken from their cells for a film screening with a discussion (2 activities per month, duration 2 hours. On average, there will be 5-8 inmates in the group).

Starting 01.03.2023 to 01.09.2023, detainees and lower-grade convicts sentenced to life imprisonment and serving the sentence in a separate unit are planned to be taken from their cells for a family day event. It is planned to organise 1 activity, the duration of which is 5 hours, and involve 4-5 convicts with a life sentence.

In order to increase the amount of time detainees and lower-grade closed-prison convicts spent outside their cells, starting from 01.03.2023, the management of Daugavgrīva Prison plans to organise weekends recreation activities for inmates (on Saturdays or Sundays), involving officials and employees of the resocialisation division.

Cēsis Juvenile Facility: activities planned for 2023 (a total of 11 types of activities are planned with an average intensity of 1 time per day to 1 time per week):

1. sports activities will take place for 1.5 hours, every day from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, and will be available to all who wish to participate. Weather permitting, sports activities take place in the stadium;

2. the handicraft and reading group will meet for 1 hour once a week, from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, and will be available to all who wish to participate. At least 1 hour per week per detainee;

3. the music group will meet for 1 hour once a week, from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023, and will be available to all who wish to participate. According to the individual plan, every detainee gets at least 1 hour per month;

4. the gardening group will meet for 1 hour every weekday, from 01.04.2023 to 01.11.2023, and will be available to all who wish to participate;

5. the family day activity will take place on 13.05.2023, 19.08.2023, and 16.12.2023, and will take 5 hours. It is available to all who have visitors;

6. Pro Bono free-time activities will be held once for 2 hours every two months from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023 and will be available to all who wish to participate;

7. Bona Fide Latvija free-time activities will be held once for 2 hours every two months from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023 and will be available to all who wish to participate;

8. 'Svēta Lūkasa atbalsta biedrība' free-time activities will be held once for 1.5 hours every two months from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023 and will be available to all who wish to participate;

9. 'Cilvēks-cilvēkam' free-time activities will be held once for 3 hours every two months from 01.03.2023 to 31.12.2023 and will be available to all who wish to participate;

10. the Rucka Art Foundation art project will take place for 2 hours approximately 3 times a week, from 17.04.2023 to 14.05.2023, and will be available to all who wish to participate;

11. a one-time activity will be held as part of European Social Fund project No. 9.1.2.0/16/I/001, with a lecture on emotional difficulties, the impact of addictions on family life, and being a parent while in prison. The activity will be on 15 March 2023, and will take 4.5 hours.

In 2022, juvenile detainees in the Cēsis Juvenile Facility could spend time outside their cells, participating in various activities. During the academic year, it was about 6-7 hours a day, and during the summer break, 4-5 hours a day. All detainees could participate in various activities, such as sports, a handicraft and reading group, a gardening group, family day activities, as well as various activities offered by the State Probation Service and the Pro Bono association. In addition, there were various information seminars and meetings with guests, for example, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Mihails Papsujevičs, and Sergejs, a former inmate of the institution. Detainees were also able to participate in creative workshops and seminars dedicated to HIV, learn new board games and develop a pro-social hobby with volunteers.

Iļģuciems Prison: Various recreation activities began in 2022 and will continue in 2023 to encourage the resocialisation of lower-grade convicts. These activities are primarily sports sessions, lectures, support groups, and free-time activities, the total number of which could reach 240 in 2023.

Sports sessions led by volunteer coach Jānis Liepiņš began in 2022 and will continue in 2023. These are held twice a week, for 1.6 hours. 8 lower-grade convicts, as well as 5 detainees, are involved in the sessions. A total of 104 activities are planned for 2023.

In cooperation with the 'Iļģuciema sievietes' association, the Basics of a Good Life ('Vērtīgas dzīves pamati') series of lectures took place in 2022 and continues in 2023 in Iļģuciems Prison. These activities are held once a week, with a duration of 4 hours, and are attended by 6 lower-grade convicts. Women's support group activities are held once a month, with a duration of 2 hours, attended by 9 lower-grade convicts. Building and Focusing Your

Attention classes are held 2 times a month, with a duration of 2 hours, attended by 4 lower-grade convicts. A total of 88 activities are planned for 2023.

Both in 2022 and in 2023, the 'Board games and creative drawing' free-time activity was held in the prison in conjunction with the BONA FIDE association; the activity takes place twice a month and lasts for 3.5 hours. The activity is attended by an average of 8 lower-grade convicts. A total of 24 activities are planned for 2023.

In conjunction with Kinopunkts, screenings and premieres of films made in Latvia took place in 2022 and will continue to take place in Iļģuciems Prison in 2023. On average, 1 to 2 films are screened per month; the duration of the activity is around 3 hours. Some 25 lower-grade convicts attend these free-time activities. In total, some 24 activities are planned for 2023.

Lower-grade convicts and some of the detained persons in the prison are given the opportunity to engage in employment, education, and free-time activities, with a broad range of available options. Participation in these activities is voluntary, and inmates in these categories most often choose to participate in the resocialisation process and spend most of the day outside the cells. However, there are inmates who do not want to participate, due to health or other reasons. These individuals spend most of the day in cells.

4) Information about the involvement of convicts and detainees in spiritual care.

Every inmate, regardless of their grade, prison schedule, or location, can receive spiritual care (which is fully voluntary, based on a request by the inmate).

Cēsis Juvenile Facility: The following activities took place in 2022:

19.05.2022, Witness concert in the chapel, with Baptist singer and preacher Pjotrs Bugajevs;

26.11.2022, service and concert in the chapel, with the participation of Finnish Lutheran preachers;

Individual discussions with a priest: 302;

Screening of videos and discussions: 336;

Religious literature study sessions: 347;

Church services: 8.

Detainees were offered the opportunity to use spiritual care discussions with a chaplain, church services, and concerts. The Christian Teachings spiritual care programme was provided in the prison.

Daugavgrīva Prison: between 01.03.2023 and 31.12.2023, detainees and lower-grade closed-prison convicts are planned to be involved in spiritual care activities, organised by the chaplain of Daugavgrīva Prison, in conjunction with representatives of various denominations. The frequency and duration of the activities will depend on the capacity of the representatives of different denominations to hold spiritual events in Daugavgrīva Prison.

In 2022, the following activities took place:

a) Church services: 39;

b) Religious music concerts: 6;

c) Religious literature study sessions: 30;

d) Screenings of videos and discussions: 62;

e) Individual discussions with a priest: 432;

f) Alpha course: 8;

g) Christian Teachings programme: 12.

Jelgava Prison: In 2023, the Your Path to Freedom ('Tavs ceļš uz brīvību') programme run by the Ezer association will continue on the following dates: 15.01, 29.01, 12.02, and it is planned to continue this programme on the following dates in 2023: 26.02, 12.03, 26.03, 09.04, 23.04, 07.05, 21.05, 04.06, 18.06, 02.07, 16.07, 30.07, 13.08, 27.08, 14:00 to 16:00 14 convicts are currently attending the activities of the programme.

In 2023, the spiritual care programme Searching for the Meaning of Life ('Dzīves jēgas meklējumi') will continue in Jelgava Prison on the following dates: 07.01, 14.01, 28.01, 04.02, 11.02, 18.02, 18:00 to 19:30. Currently, 16 convicts attend the programme.

In 2022, lower-grade convicts in Jelgava Prison could participate in the following out-of-cell resocialisation activities:

Resocialisation (spiritual education) programmes:

1) Searching for the Meaning of Life 31.12.2022 (32 convicts participated), 24.12.2022 (32 convicts participated), 17.12.2022 (32 convicts participated), 10.12.2022 (32 convicts participated), 03.12.2022 (32 convicts participated), 12.11.2022 (32 convicts participated), 05.11.2022 (32 convicts participated), 29.10.2022 (32 convicts participated), 22.10.2022 (28 convicts participated), 15.10.2022 (32 convicts participated), 08.10.2022 (32 convicts participated), 24.09.2022 (21 convicts participated), 17.09.2022 (32 convicts participated), 20.08.2022 (23 convicts participated), 30.07.2022 (9 convicts participated);

2) 'Your Path to Freedom' 25.12.2022 (23 convicts participated), 11.12.2022 (22 convicts participated), 13.11.2022 (22 convicts participated), 30.10.2022 (22 convicts participated), 16.10.2022, 22 convicts participated, 02.10.2022 (22 convicts participated), 18.09.2022 (22 convicts participated), 21.08.2022 (22 convicts participated), 07.08.2022 (22 convicts participated), 24.07.2022 (22 convicts participated), 26.06.2022 (22 convicts participated), 05.06.2022 (22 convicts participated), 22.05.2022 (22 convicts participated), 01.05.2022 (17 convicts participated).

The following free time spiritual care activities took place in Jelgava Prison in 2022:

24.04.2022, at 14:00-15:30, Easter service organised by the Orthodox Church, 13 convicts participated;

08.05.2022, at 14:00-15:30, Orthodox Church catechesis (faith studies) activities, attended by 13 convicts;

16.05.2022, at 09:00-10:00, Holy Thursday Service of the Orthodox Church in the chapel, 8 convicts participated;

12.06.2022, at 14:00-15:00, Orthodox Church Pentecost service, 13 convicts participated;

20.06.2022, at 09:00-10:00, Service of the Orthodox Church in the prison chapel, 8 convicts participated;

10.07.2022, at 14:00-15:00, Service of the Orthodox Church in the prison chapel, 13 convicts participated;

25.07.2022, at 09:00-10:00, Holy Thursday Service of the Orthodox Church in the chapel, 12 convicts participated;

31.07.2022, at 14:00-15:00, a concert for convicts organised by the Orthodox Church, 17 convicts participated;

06.08.2022, at 18:00-19:00, an out-of-cell concert organised by Seventh Day Adventists for the convicts, 28 convicts participated;

14.08.2022, at 14:00-15:30, catechesis lessons organised by the Orthodox Church in the prison chapel, 16 convicts participated;

25.09.2022, at 14:00-15:30, catechesis lessons organised by the Orthodox Church in the prison chapel, attended by 17 convicts;

10.10.2022, at 09:00-10:00, Holy Thursday Service of the Orthodox Church in the chapel, 20 convicts participated;

20.11.2022, at 14:00-15:30, catechesis lessons organised by the Orthodox Church in the prison chapel, attended by 17 convicts.

Convicts serving their sentence in Jelgava Prison can regularly visit the Jelgava Prison chapel, which has a chaplain who provides regular spiritual care for inmates in conjunction with Latvian religious organisations and Christians from other countries. The chaplain organises religious services of various denominations, individual discussions, and religious music concerts.

Spiritual care measures in 2022:

- a) Church services: 147;
- b) Individual discussions with a priest: 142;
- c) Religious literature study sessions: 145;
- d) Your Path to Freedom programme: 16.

Jēkabpils Prison: In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place:

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 416;
- b) Individual meetings: 477;
- c) Church services: 31.

Valmiera Prison: In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place:

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 152;
- b) Religious literature study sessions: 11;
- c) Church services: 22;
- d) Screenings of religious films: 6;
- e) Concerts: 4.

Riga Central Prison: In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place:

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 385;
- b) Religious literature study sessions: 27;
- c) Church services: 84;
- d) Screenings of religious films: 56;
- e) Your Path to Freedom programme: 7.

Liepāja Prison: the prison chaplain works on a daily basis with detainees and convicts. The chaplain organises individual discussions and group activities, as well as meetings of inmates with representatives of other denominations. In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place in Liepāja Prison:

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 84;
- b) Religious literature study sessions: 55;
- c) Church services: 44;
- d) Screenings of religious films: 3.

Olaine Prison (Latvian Prison Hospital), Addiction Centre: In 2022, detainees spent an average of 296 hours out of cell, including 49.5 hours visiting the chaplain.

In 2022, convicts spent an average of 1096.4 hours out of cell, which includes visiting the chaplain: 275.1 hours, spiritual care: 85.8 hours. 3 persons individually participated in the weekly Christian Teachings spiritual care programme organised by the LPA. In total: 42 sessions, 31.5 hours; 2 persons attended and completed the 12-Step Method addiction programme with a spiritual focus in the outpatient and special unit of the Prison Hospital in 2022. In total: 26 sessions, 28.6 hours; 1 person completed the catechesis course, with 7 meetings and additional study of spiritual literature before baptism, a total of 7 hours; convicts participated individually in a church service organised by volunteers, 7 times, for a total of 9.1 hours.

In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place **in the Prison Addiction Centre:**

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 49;
- b) Religious literature study sessions: 139;
- c) Church services: 76;
- d) True Freedom programme: 9.

Iļģuciems Prison: In 2022, the following spiritual care activities took place:

- a) Individual discussions with a priest: 856;
- b) Religious literature study sessions: 72;
- c) Church services: 114;
- d) Mirjama programme: 397 activities;
- e) Screenings of religious films: 84;
- f) Concerts: 1.

5) Information about the involvement of convicts and detainees in resocialisation programmes.

It is planned to increase the involvement of inmates (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees) in socialisation programmes. Resocialisation programme (social rehabilitation programmes and social behaviour correction programmes) activities are held once or twice a week, with a duration of 1.5-2 hours. The average number of participants in the programme group is 8.

Daugavgrīva Prison (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees): In 2022	Planned for 2023.
I am Aware: 1 group	I am Aware: 2 groups Stress Reduction: 2 groups Say Yes to Change!: 2 groups Parental Skills: 1 group Life Goes On: 1 group

Jelgava Prison (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Not carried out	I am Aware: 1 group Say Yes to Change!: 1 group

Riga Central Prison (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
I am Aware: 1 group Life Goes On: 1 group Say Yes to Change!: 1 group	I am Aware: 1 group Life Goes On: 1 group Say Yes to Change!: 1 group School of Life IV: 1 group Path of Change 2: 1 group

Valmiera Prison (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Say Yes to Change!: 1 group Parental Skills: 1 group Life Goes On: 1 group	Say Yes to Change!: 2 groups

Cēsis Juvenile Facility (detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Say Yes to Change!: 2 groups Parental Skills: 1 group I Know, I Can, I Do: Road to Safe Haven: 1 group	Stress Reduction: 1 group Thoughts. Responsibility. Action: 1 group Path of Change 2: 1 group

Iļģuciems Prison (detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Stress Reduction: 2 groups I am Aware: 1 group	I am Aware: 1 group Stress Reduction: 1 group Health Risk Management: 1 group

Liepāja Prison (lower-grade closed-prison convicts and detainees):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Not carried out	School of Life IV: 1 group Thoughts. Responsibility. Action: 1 group

Jēkabpils Prison (there are no detainees and lower-grade closed-prison convicts):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Not carried out	Life Goes On: 1 group

Olaine Prison (Latvian Prison Hospital) (maximum number of lower-grade closed-prison convicts: 18):

In 2022	Planned for 2023.
Not carried out	Stress Reduction: 1 group

It should be noted that the participation of detainees in collective activities outside their cells may be prohibited by the official in charge of the investigation, and may also be impossible due to security reasons. In order to reduce the time these persons spend in their cells, it is necessary to use individual forms of work, which require a lot of human resources.

Some lower-grade convicts do not show any interest or desire to engage in resocialisation processes.

Information provided by the prisons shows that their limited infrastructure does not allow the full implementation of resocialisation measures for the inmates. In order to increase the number of hours inmates spend outside their cells, it is necessary to increase the number of prison employees who directly focus on working with inmates, organising and conducting various activities.

It should also be considered that the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the frequency and attendance of the activities implemented in the prisons in 2021 and 2022.