



# Treatment of offenders in prison and a closer look at family-related support



# Overall view of correctional facilities in NRW



- ➔ 36 correctional facilities comprising of
- ➔ 14 minimum security level prisons
- ➔ 6 prisons for women
- ➔ 5 youth prisons
- ➔ 1 preventive detention
- ➔ 1 prison hospital
- ➔ 5 youth detention centres



# Detention places/ occupancy situation

Occupancy capability	Actual available places of detention	Occupancy			Occupancy rate
		total	male (closed prison)	female (minimal security level prison)	
18.948	17.324	14.024,81	13.167 (9.419)	806 (221)	80,44 % (related to actual available places of detention)  Status: Mai 2023





# Basics of the penal system in North Rhine-Westphalia

- **Aim and tasks of the penal system (§ 1 Penitentiary Act NRW):**

The purpose of imprisonment is to enable prisoners to live a socially responsible life without committing crimes. The execution of the prison sentence also has the task of protecting the general public from further crimes.

- **Prison operating principles (§ 2 Penitentiary Act NRW):**

(1) Life in prison is to be brought into line with general living conditions as far as possible. Right from the start, the penal system must be designed to enable prisoners to integrate into life after their release. Capabilities of the prisoners, which they need for a self-determined life in freedom and social responsibility, are to be strengthened. Harmful consequences of the deprivation of liberty must be counteracted. (...)



# Treatment-oriented penal system

## § 3 Penitentiary Act NRW

(1) The basis for achieving the goal of the penal system is the treatment of the prisoners. (...)

(2) The treatment takes into account the individual support needs of the prisoners and specifically includes measures to acquire social skills, therapeutic offers, educational support, the teaching of professional skills and qualifications, motivation and advice offers for addicts and debt counseling. (...)



# Classification and differentiation

- **Differentiated penal system ≠ unified system**
- **The goal is a need-based allocation**
  - Identification of the individual criminogenic factors
  - Identification of tailor-made treatment requirements
  - Identification of the prison that offers appropriate treatment
  - Allocation/transfer to the most appropriate correctional facility/prison
- **“Special feature“: so-called assessment procedure**
  - Adult male prisoners with a long-term prison sentence (duration of imprisonment > 60 months) and persons who are being remanded with a prison sentence of more than 36 months as well as those with prison sentences for violent and/or sexual offenses (duration of imprisonment > 36 months) take part in the assessment procedure at Hagen Prison.



## Structural framework

- Carrying out initial diagnostics (treatment evaluation) at the beginning of imprisonment = analysis of the individual causes of crime
- Creation of an enforcement plan in which the necessary measures to achieve a change in behavior are recorded; the enforcement plan is regularly updated (this implies a review and, if necessary, adjustment of the treatment measures)
- Transition management to prepare and create a favourable release situation



# Treatment measures and treatment options

<b>1. Measures to acquire social skills</b>	<b>2. Crime-focussed treatment programs</b>
1.1 Measures to achieve participation motivation	2.1 Treatment program for incarcerated violent offenders Behandlungsprogramm für inhaftierte Gewalttäter (BiG)
1.2 Social training (according to Otto)	2.2 Other treatment programs for violent offenders
1.3 Teaching social skills (not according to Otto)	2.3 Treatment program for sex offenders Behandlungsprogramm für Sexualtäter (BPS)
1.4 Debt counseling	2.4. Other programs for sex offenders
1.5 Integration courses (without language lessons) for foreigners	2.5 Violence prevention courses for potential perpetrators and victims
<b>3. Therapeutic offers</b>	<b>4. Educational support</b>
3.1 Social therapeutic treatment	4.1 Language and integration courses for foreigners
3.2 Psychotherapy with license to treat in behavioural therapy	4.2 Elementary and literacy courses
3.3 Psychotherapy with license to treat in psychoanalytic therapy/ depth psychotherapy	4.3 Remedial education and up-lift courses/preparatory classes
3.4 Non-licendes psychotherapeutic offers	4.4 Graduation-related measures
3.5 Occupational therapy	







# Treatment measures and treatment options

<b>5. Imparting professional skills and qualifications</b>	<b>6. Motivation and counseling offers for addicts</b>
5.1 Vocational orientation measures	6.1 Addiction counseling
5.2 Vocational preparation measures	6.2 Addiction therapy preparation
5.3 Vocational qualification measures	6.3 Psychosocial care of substituted persons
5.4 Fully qualifying vocational training	
5.5 Academic vocational training	
<b>7. Transition management</b>	<b>8. Other conceptionally based measures</b>
7.1 Transition management work and training (B5)	8.1 Other measures (unless 8.2ff)
7.2 Transition addiction management	8.2 Family-supporting measures – focus on parenting
7.3 Transition debt management	8.3 Family-supporting measures – focus on partnership



## Particular features in North Rhine-Westphalia

### → Low security facilities („open“ prisons)

- ④ 14 prisons are low security facilities or have attached open departments/branch offices with a total of **4248** places.
- ④ Pioneering role NRW: Around 50 % of the prisoners housed in open prisons in Germany are imprisoned in North Rhine-Westphalia (31.03.2022: 3.038 out of 6.081).
- ④ If detention begins while you are free, you will be summoned to an open detention facility (original designation).
- ④ A progressive transfer of prisoners from higher to lower security level is possible (so-called „progression“).
- ④ As a part of the assessing procedure, a direct transfer to a lower security level prison can occur.

### → Relatively new in NRW:

- ④ Conceptual implementation of measures for a family-sensitive prison design





## Family-related support...

- ➔ ...as an important treatment component that has gained importance and attention in recent years.
- ➔ Development of a multi-stage concept with minimum standards included (in effect in NRW since 2020).
- ➔ And now: Introducing the family-related support in prison using the example of Saxony

# From a blind spot toward a conscious task

## Family orientation in the Saxon prison system



## Facts about the Saxon prison system

- 10 prisons, including
  - 1 juvenile detention centre
  - 1 prison for women (Saxony and Thuringia)
  - 1 prison for first-time offenders and with a senior citizens' ward
  - 1 correctional facility with preventive detention
  - 1 correctional institution with hospital

## Facts about the Saxon prison system

Occupancy	Total	Men	Women
<b>Target date: May 16th 2023</b>	2,876	2,632	244
<b>of which in an open prison</b>	97	77	20
	Total	Fathers	Mothers
<b>incarcerated parents</b>	1,312	1,119	193
<b>1 child</b>	624	564	60
<b>2 children</b>	378	322	56
<b>more than 2 children</b>	310	233	77
<b>Number of children</b>	<b>2,542</b>	2,050	492

# Prison Law and Political Impetus in Saxony

- The German penal system is subject to federalism
  - Since 03/2019, the Saxon Prison Act has stipulated that
    - ✓ the interests of family members are to be considered when executing sentences,
    - ✓ the preservation of family ties is to be supported,
    - ✓ family support services are part of the treatment for imprisoned parents, just like addiction counselling and anti-violence training (*CM/Rec. 41*)
  - Coalition Agreement of the Saxon State Government for 2019-2024
    - ✓ Expansion of family-oriented enforcement
    - ✓ Expansion of electronic visits > 20 fixed places (*CM/Rec. 25*)

## Family-oriented offers

- Offers to maintain contact with children
- Offers regarding parent education
- Support/counselling services for adult relatives
- The children of detainees form part of a training topic in the general correctional service





## Family-oriented offers

### ■ Offers to maintain contact:

- Mother-child ward as an open form of correction (*CM/Rec.36 and 37*)
  - ✓ 5 mothers, with max. 6 children (until end of 3rd year)















## Family-oriented offers

- Offers to maintain contact:
  - Child-centred special visits over several hours (half-yearly to monthly) (*CM/Rec.18*)





# Family-oriented offers

## ■ Bautzen Prison:





## Family-oriented offers

### ■ Offers to maintain contact:

- Child-centred special visits over several hours (half-yearly to monthly) (*CM/Rec.18*)
- Detention room phone calls in 9 out of 10 prisons and video calls in every visiting area (*CM/Rec.25*)







## Visiting areas

- Child-friendly regular visiting area (*CM/Rec. 20*)  
(Waldheim Prison)













## Visiting areas

- All prisons have family visiting rooms or long-term visiting areas (*CM/Rec. 20*)  
(Waldheim Prison)











# Family-oriented offers

- Parental education offers (*CM/Rec. 30*):
  - Specially developed fathers'/mothers' skills training
  - Parenting courses, such as those offered outside





## Family-oriented offers

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### I Support/counselling services:

- Relatives' representatives (letter)
- Relatives' cafés
- Couples counselling





## 2 Residential groups for incarcerated fathers in 2 prisons

- Fathers with existing child contact
- Regular staff and regular ward conferences
- Promotion of taking responsibility for the family (e.g., transferring money)
- Compulsory fatherhood trainings
- Recreational rooms designed by the fathers themselves









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- Recreational rooms designed by the fathers themselves
- Family afternoons in the correctional facility
- Group outings with families





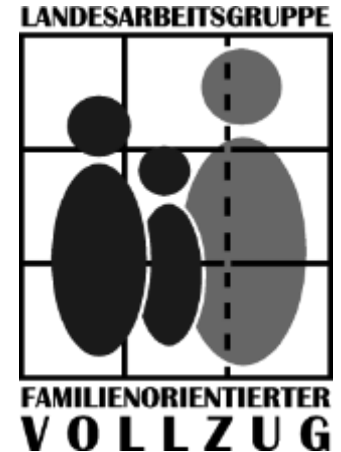
## State working group

### I Organisation

- Personnel from all 10 institutions
- Monthly meetings
- Development of new projects
- Contact persons in the prisons and bi-annual newsletter

### I Achievements to date include, among others,

- Symposium on “Children of imprisoned parents - innocent co-penalised”
- Development of minimum standards for family-friendly visits
  - ✓ Visiting hours (2 times a week until at least 6pm and at least 4 weekend days)
  - ✓ Equipment in the rooms (e.g., friendly rooms, toys and drawing materials)



## State working group

- Photo books for interaction with visiting children (*EU Rec. 29*)



- Professional exchange with external professionals in various Saxon prisons
- Job description of “family officers” (*CM/Rec. 46*) > *Pilot project planned*
- Development of further training for visiting personnel of prisoners’ children (*CM/Rec. 23 and 47*)



## Local cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs

- The social department and its legislation is responsible for the support and counselling of families
  - Has responsibility for many different socially disadvantaged children, not (yet) for children of incarcerated persons
  
- The Ministry of Justice and its legislation is responsible for the care of prisoners
  - Children of prisoners have been the focus of the justice department for more than a decade

## Cooperation project with social affairs department

■ Saxony: so far, only one local cooperation project with 1 counselling centre in 1 prison > financed by the justice system since 2022

- Counselling for imprisoned fathers, among others, on:
  - ✓ Educational questions related to imprisonment
  - ✓ Parent coaching
  - ✓ Fatherhood after separation/divorce
  
- Counselling for children and mothers on topics regarding:
  - ✓ Preparing for the first visit to prison
  - ✓ How do I tell my child in an age-appropriate way?
  - ✓ Childrens' worries and needs, establishing contact with the incarcerated parent
  - ✓ Preparing the detainee for his/her return to the family



# Do you still have any questions?



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