



a 'Scandinavian perspective'

# FOREIGN OFFENDERS

# NYBORG PRISON

**The largest closed prison in Denmark.**

**281 inmates.**

**35 % foreign inmates.**

**22 % will be deportet after serving  
their sentence.**



# THE WARDS

The original departure ward at *Nyborg* prison has a capacity of 28 inmates, divided in 2 sections.

The capacity of the ward is almost always used to the full.

A few spaces are occasionally occupied by clients not sentenced to deportation. Often this is due to security reasons.

# WORK ACTIVITIES

The inmates in *Nyborg* are divided across the prison's various workplaces. In the tailor shop, school and training school the inmates can participate in various forms of qualifying education/instruction leading to a diploma that may help them to find employment in their home country.

Deportation instruction in a school context. Some of them only have limited or no affiliation with the country to which they are being deported and therefore have little knowledge of the society in which they will soon be living.

# WORK ACTIVITIES

*In general:*

Today, no departure ward inmates sentenced to deportation receive instruction in Danish. This restriction was introduced with the multiannual agreement stipulating that '*... foreigners sentenced to deportation shall not receive instruction or do work targeted at adaptation to the Danish society*'.

With regard to treatment options and programmes, inmates sentenced to deportation are given the same opportunities as all other inmates.

# DEPORTATION INSTRUCTION

In *Nyborg* deportation instruction takes the form of individual interviews with the inmates focussing on their individual case. In this connection, the ward uses the material which is available in several languages on the Danish Prison and Probation Service's intranet. In addition, a more informal form of deportation instruction is undertaken on a daily basis, when the staff answers inmates' questions concerning their individual situation.

## STAFF EXPERIENCE

The departure ward in *Nyborg* was established in 2008, and the staff in the ward are therefore experienced within the area – and typically also as officers in general. Upon hiring new staff, the competences of the applicants are carefully considered. The prison has thus been able to choose a staff with various linguistic competences, benefitting the inmates as regards overcoming the language barriers that often result from combining different nationalities.

## LEVEL OF CONFLICT

In *Nyborg* the departure ward is the calmest in the community. According to the prison, this is largely a result of the experienced staff and their great focus on the composition of inmates in the ward.

The ward in *Nyborg* was originally established, among other things, because the prison had for some time experienced conflict rooted in language and culture barriers among the inmates. The idea was that compiling inmates who were not part of a language or culture community would reduce the number of conflicts in the prison as a whole.

## LEVEL OF CONFLICT

The idea proved correct: The number of such conflicts in the prison was reduced, and the departure ward has from the start proven to be calm and well-functioning.

For illustration of the generally calm environment it may be mentioned that the ward is sometimes used as light duty or start-up of staff who need a 'break' following unpleasant experiences or long-term service in highly challenging wards.

## COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE

*Nyborg* enjoys good cooperation with the police. The prison regularly meets with the National Centre for Foreign Nationals (NUC) under the Danish National Police, which on a regular basis participates in staff meetings in the ward. The NUC's participation in these meetings helps to give the staff better insight into the rules concerning deportation and the challenges facing the police in such cases and thus results in a competency boost.

The cooperation has also facilitated more flexible contact between the police and the prison.

## COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE

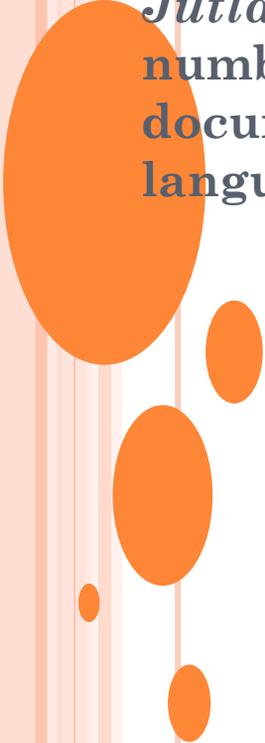
The police districts generally express great satisfaction with their cooperation with the Danish Prison and Probation Service, including the departure wards.

It is equally important to mention, however, that the police districts also find that the *foreigner* is well-informed of the process up until deportation.

# SPECIAL CONDITIONS

## Language:

The house rules in *Nyborg* and *eastern Jutland* have been interpreted into a number of languages, making the documents available in relevant languages and authorised translation.



## FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

No special funds have been allocated to the running of the departure wards under the Danish Prison and Probation Service, and there are therefore no financial consequences to report.

