

# Managing foreign national prisoners – The Belgian experience

Vantomme Sofie  
Prison governor  
Penitentiary complex Bruges



# Prison of Bruges, 4 prisons and a medical centre in one building: complexity and consequences



## Managing foreign national prisoners: group regime and lack of individual cells – complexity with mixed populations

- Foreign national prisoners in remand
- Cell assignment
- Intake by prison governor
- Policy
- Religion



## Belgian prisons: federal Justice government in collaboration with district government

- Justice department as a federal government
- district government responsible for personal services and care
- foreign national prisoners without rights to stay in Belgium
- Library



# Challenges concerning early release of foreign national prisoners

- Conviction < 3 years
- Conviction > 3 years
- The impact of the Immigration Liaison Office
- Report by the social service



# The cooperation between the Justice department and the Immigration Liaison Office: challenges to overcome

- Foreign national prisoners in remand
- Conviction </> 3 years
- Special Needs



## A new challenge: terrorists in detention

- separation in different prisons and deradicalization
- Cooperating with specialized services
- Satellite teams
- Policy in development



Thank you for your attention

Q&A

