

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
PRISON SYSTEM DIRECTORATE
HEAD OFFICE

Zagreb; September 2016.

Re: Issues particular to women foreign prisoners

Example from Croatian Penitentiary in Požega, Department for women:

Women prisoner from Slovakia: sentenced for fraud (advertised and rented apartments to Slovakian tourists without paying to the owner) to imprisonment for 8 months and security measure of deportation from Croatia for the period of 3 years.

The women prisoner was arrested in March in Slovakia on the basis of the European arrest warrant that was issued by the County Court in Split. She was extradited from Slovakia to the Center for Diagnostics. She stated she did not know that she was conducting the criminal proceedings, denied responsibility.

All prison sentences longer than 6 months for women prisoners are enforced in Penitentiary in Požega - in closed, semi-open and open conditions. In Croatia during 2015 a total number of women prisoners was 278 sentenced, 245 remand prison, 11 misdemeanors.

Slovakian prisoner was able to communicate in Croatian quite sufficient and was accepted in good manners by other prisoners.

Every prisoner, men or women, foreign or domestic national, sentenced to more than 6 months is admitted to the Diagnostics Centre in Zagreb. The experts of the Diagnostics Centre (psychologists, social workers, lawyers/criminologists, medical physicians) make a risk assessment of the prisoner and the proposal of prison/penitentiary where the prison sentence will be executed and also they make a proposal of individual sentence plan.

Individual Sentence Plan is consisted of:

- Allocation to a ward
- Working place
- Special treatment programs (Treatment for drug or Alcohol addiction, Treatment for sex offenders, Aggression Replacement Training, PTSD, Program for traffic offenders...)
- Psychiatric and psychological assistance, if necessary
- Other psychosocial treatment (in group or individual)
- Education/vocational training
- Leisure time activities
- Contacts with the outside world
- Privileges
- Precaution measures, safety measures, risk assessment

- Preparation of post-penal period

For Slovakian women prisoner, within her individual sentence plan, no special treatment programs were imposed as no addiction or special treatment needs were identified.

She was engaged in work in penitentiary's laundry and she participated in some leisure activities.

During her sentence, she was offered to communicate with the Slovakian Counsel Representative in Croatia but wasn't interested to do so. She did not request the transfer to continue to serve her sentence in Slovakia.

Due to her good conduct she received two months of conditional release. Upon her release she was obligated to come to the police station where she was given the Decision to leave Croatia in a short notice. Ministry of Croatian Foreign affairs and Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Croatia were informed promptly.

Challenges:

- No visits from her family - she had two children in Slovakia.
- No benefits of leaves - she didn't have the permanent address in Croatia.
- Post penal plan – penitentiary's treatment staff didn't have the insight into her domestic situation in Slovakia.
- **Committee Against Torture:** In concluding observations on the fourth and fifth periodic report for Croatia the Committee expressed its concern that **there is only one prison for females in Croatia** and that it is located in a remote geographic location, which makes the family visits difficult, in particular with small children.

