



## ADVANCED PRACTICES OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN PREVENTING THE FORMATION OF CRIMINOGENIC MOTIVATION AMONG INMATES

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17153057>

**Annotation:** The article explores advanced practices implemented by certain foreign countries to prevent the formation of criminogenic motivation among inmates. It examines innovative rehabilitation programs, psychological interventions, and social reintegration strategies aimed at reducing recidivism and fostering positive behavioral changes. By analyzing case studies from various jurisdictions, the study highlights effective methods such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, vocational training, and community-based support systems. The article underscores the importance of addressing underlying psychological and social factors to deter criminal tendencies and promote successful reintegration into society.

**Keywords:** Criminogenic motivation, inmate rehabilitation, recidivism prevention, cognitive-behavioral therapy, social reintegration, vocational training, psychological interventions, foreign correctional practices, behavioral change, community-based support.

On a global scale, several countries are experiencing high rates of incarceration, with the number of individuals deprived of liberty significantly exceeding the established prison capacity limits. Notably, the United States (2.1 million), China (1.7 million), Brazil (760 thousand), the Russian Federation (660 thousand), and India (420 thousand) have been identified as the leading countries in this regard, with their prisons holding these substantial numbers of inmates<sup>1</sup>. These indicators demonstrate not only a high crime rate, but also the ineffectiveness of rehabilitation mechanisms in penal institutions and the insufficient elimination of criminogenic motivations among convicts.

In contrast, the penitentiary system in the Netherlands is based on preventive and rehabilitative approaches aimed at systematically analyzing and deliberately addressing the factors that lead to crime. In recent years, the number of inmates in this country has significantly decreased, resulting in the complete closure of 19 prisons. Meanwhile, cells in the remaining institutions are left empty and are even being leased to neighboring countries<sup>2</sup>. This situation is primarily explained by the effectiveness of comprehensive measures aimed at fundamentally eliminating the criminogenic motivations of individuals. For instance, people prone to drug addiction receive treatment with the assistance of specialists, those who exhibit violent behavior are offered therapy focused on managing aggression, and individuals facing financial difficulties are provided with economic advice. In this approach, recognizing the personal, social, and psychological factors that led to the commission of a crime and addressing them through targeted interventions is employed as the primary method.

<sup>1</sup> Prison populations continue to soar in much of the world, new report published by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research shows. <https://www.prisonstudies.org/news/icpr-launches-12th-edition-world-prison-population-list>.

<sup>2</sup> Why are there so few prisoners in the Netherlands? <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/12/why-are-there-so-few-prisoners-in-the-netherlands>

According to Van der Spoel, the head of the Dutch prison, a two-year rehabilitation program is developed for inmates who have committed repeat offenses. This program focuses on working with their personal motivation system, social perspectives, and adaptive capabilities. As a result, less than 10 percent of those who participate in this program end up back in prison. This clearly demonstrates the high effectiveness of the individualized approach aimed at eliminating criminogenic motivation in inmates.

Analysis of advanced foreign experience, particularly the penitentiary system of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), demonstrates that the core of penal policy focuses on ensuring the resocialization of convicted individuals and reducing their criminogenic motivation. Despite housing over 60,000 prisoners in the country's correctional facilities, priority has been given to an approach aimed at limiting their numbers and ensuring humane conditions for serving sentences. Notably, only 15 out of 186 prisons operate as open-type institutions, which serves to gradually restore an individual's degree of freedom during the execution of their sentence.

In Germany, special psychological diagnostic centers have been established to identify and assess the personal status of inmates and the criminogenic motivation arising from their psycho-emotional background. At the same time, the existence of "transitional houses" in the process of reintegration into society after serving sentences is yielding significant practical results. This system is complemented by educational mechanisms aimed at reevaluating criminogenic motivation, correcting an individual's negative perspectives, and fostering a sense of responsibility for their actions.

In Germany, approximately 1,800 inmates participate annually in restorative justice mechanisms, particularly in mediation programs. These processes create a foundation for convicts to understand victims' interests, develop empathy, and strive for internal change while fully acknowledging their mistakes. The success of this approach lies in its aim to eradicate the root causes of criminogenic motivation in offenders.

In penitentiary policy, alongside comprehensive measures encompassing psychological, pedagogical, and rehabilitative approaches, significant emphasis is placed on preserving the personal dignity of individuals serving sentences and acknowledging their civic status in society. The possibility of conditional release after serving 1/2 or 2/3 of the sentence is directly evaluated by psychologists and the institution's administration, based on the level of criminogenic motivation of the convict.

In addition, fully operational probation services for individuals released on parole (where nearly 5,000 specialists are active) serve as an effective support in their social adaptation, employment, and achievement of psychological stability. Meanwhile, the active involvement of public oversight committees in prisons ensures transparency and open dialogue between the state and society.

In general, innovative approaches in the German penitentiary system are aimed at reducing the criminogenic motivation of inmates, fostering positive motivational orientations in them, and diminishing the influence of criminal subcultures. This experience serves as a model worthy of study and implementation for countries striving to reform their penal systems<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> What can US corrections learn from the German prison system? <https://www.corrections1.com/correctional-healthcare/articles/what-can-us-corrections-learn-from-the-german-prison-system-Hgvc02nL77KqAjhG/>



The United States of America (USA) is one of the countries with the highest incarceration rates in the world, with the number of inmates in its prisons approaching 2.1 million. This accounts for approximately 25 percent of the global prison population. Additionally, it is reported that about 12 million people pass through pre-trial detention centers annually, highlighting the scale of the repressive approach in the country's penal policy. According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, 38.6% of inmates are Black, 30.1% are Latino, 27.5% are White, 2.4% are Native American, and 1.5% are Asian. This disparity in ethnic and racial composition indicates the presence of internal social issues and systemic injustices within certain aspects of the judicial and investigative system<sup>4</sup>.

One of the factors intensifying the formation and persistence of criminogenic motivation in the USA is the repressive penal policy, particularly the practice of life imprisonment for minors. This country is recognized as the only state that applies this type of punishment, which demonstrates how incompatible such penitentiary policy is with humanitarian principles. Any form of punishment, especially for young people, may not eliminate their criminogenic motivation, but rather lead to its further reinforcement.

At the same time, it is worth highlighting some positive experiences in the USA. In particular, the programs being implemented to provide prisoners with higher education serve as an example of this. According to research conducted by the Rand Corporation, any form of education can reduce recidivism by an average of 43%. This result confirms that education can be considered an effective tool for fostering positive motivation in inmates, instilling confidence in change, and reducing criminogenic tendencies.

In general, the US penitentiary policy exhibits a contradictory stance between repressive and rehabilitative approaches. On one hand, there is widespread use of long-term prison sentences and harsh sanctions against minors. On the other hand, programs exist that focus on education, vocational training, and fostering healthy social motivation. To eliminate the criminogenic motivation of inmates, it is crucial to expand these positive practices and review the penal policy based on the principles of humanitarianism and rehabilitation.

In the Canadian penitentiary system, centralized and decentralized control mechanisms have been introduced depending on the term of the convict's sentence in the organization of the processes of execution of punishment and adaptation (reintegration) into society. In particular, the process of conditional release for persons sentenced to 2 years or more is carried out by federal authorities, and for persons sentenced to less than 2 years - by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). The CSC coordinates the activities of correctional institutions in 13 provinces and territories and forms an individual approach, taking into account the individual characteristics of each convict<sup>5</sup>.

A noteworthy aspect of Canadian penitentiary policy is the prioritization of rehabilitation mechanisms aimed at reducing criminogenic motivation and fostering a positive motivational model in inmates during the execution of sentences. The Law "On Corrections and Conditional Release" outlines the following areas that facilitate the reintegration of convicts: guardianship institutions, rehabilitation programs, preparatory measures for release, supervision of conditionally released individuals, and educational and training programs. These measures stimulate positive changes in the internal motivational

<sup>4</sup> Inmate Race. Statistics are updated weekly. Last updated on Saturday, 5 July 2025. [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_race.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_race.jsp).

<sup>5</sup> Working with offenders. <https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/programs/offenders.html>.

system of the convicted person and serve to replace the destructive motivation formed on the basis of criminal behavior with socially beneficial incentives.

In conclusion, it can be emphasized that the experience of foreign countries demonstrates the necessity of an individualized approach in reducing criminogenic motivation and ensuring the reintegration of convicts, as well as the effective implementation of rehabilitation programs, educational services, and probation. Comprehensive interventions addressing personal issues in the Netherlands, the system of restorative justice and "transitional houses" in Germany, rehabilitation programs in Canada, and the practice of engaging inmates in education in the USA prove that strengthening humanitarian and preventive approaches in the execution of sentences is the most effective way to prevent recidivism, diminish the influence of criminal subculture, and foster positive motivation.

