

Serving of sentence

Estonian Prison System

At the moment there are three prisons in Estonia: Tallinn, Tartu, Viru. The big changes in Estonian prison system started with the building of Tartu Prison, which was the first chamber-system prison in Estonia. Until then in most prisons prisoners lived in big rooms and could freely communicate with each other. The purpose of chamber-system prisons is to lessen the communication and spreading of criminal knowledge between prisoners.

The change from camp-type prisons to chamber-system also supports the efforts to resocialize prisoners. That goal is also supported by the principle of locality - the prisoner is imprisoned in the prison that is nearest to his home, so that his social connections and ties with the family remain strong and help him/her to lead a law-abiding life. Resocializing of a prisoner is done through offering possibilities to study and work during imprisonment. Prisoners also have possibilities to use the services of social workers, psychologists, medical personal and chaplains.

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