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Gorazd MEŠKO
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Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe

New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the
Post-COVID-19 Times – Challenges and Opportunities, Book of Abstract



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New Risks, Crime, Policing, Courts, Prisons and Security in the Post-COVID-19
Times – Challenges and Opportunities

Book of Abstracts

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Improving Prison Quality of Life Through Security Staff-Prisoner Relations

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The concept of quality of life in prisons, which encompasses both material and immaterial aspects, is grounded in philosophical and socio-psychological categories such as well-being, trust, dignity, identity, and autonomy. Each of these dimensions is analysed and measured within the context of prisons and their environments. Prison life, with its unique characteristics, is part of a broader cultural context, which presents an additional challenge for research focused on assessing and improving the quality of life in prisons, to enhance treatment of prisoners. This paper explores the relationship between prison staff and prisoners as a key interpersonal dynamic in prison life, with particular emphasis on the development of trust. The method involves a comparison and critical analysis of the results of various studies on this topic, including interviews with prison staff as part of the PrisonLIFE project in Serbia (2024). The research aims to identify common experiences in the perception of the staff-prisoner relationship across different prisons, cultural contexts, and even linguistic practices. The findings contribute to theoretical discussions on prison management and interpersonal dynamics and have practical implications for developing cross-cultural standards that enhance prison life and inmate well-being in diverse cultural and linguistic settings.

Keywords: quality of prison life, well-being, social prison climate, prisoners, prison staff