

FROM NIMBY TO WIMBY: MAKING FACILITIES HOUSING PEOPLE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM MORE ACCEPTABLE

ADVICE AND GOOD

PRACTICE BOOKLET



FÉDÉRATION DES
ASSOCIATIONS
RÉFLEXION-ACTION
PRISON ET JUSTICE







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01

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is intended for the various stakeholders involved in projects for small-scale establishments that are integrated in local communities and which accommodate people sentenced to imprisonment. It aims to provide tools to address specific resistance they can run into during the planning process of these projects or facilities.

Without claiming to offer a «silver-bullet» solution for anticipating and overcoming such resistance, this booklet aims to give advice and arguments to overcome resistance and suggest ways of intervening, in particular by promoting and disseminating examples of good practices from innovative facilities and programmes*.

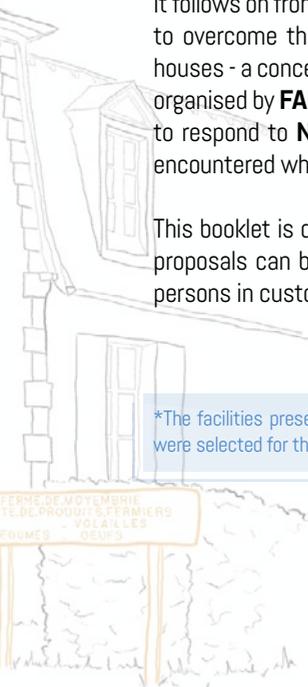
The booklet focuses specifically on communication and concertation around a project, in order to pave the way for it to be accepted by a community. As a result, it does not address all of the aspects and issues involved in a small-scale project to build a locally-integrated prison. It should therefore be read and used in conjunction with other tools during the implementation process.

HOW WAS IT WRITTEN?

This booklet was designed by the **RESCALED** team in France affiliated to the **Fédération des Associations Réflexion-Action Prison et Justice (FARAPEJ)**. It follows on from the activities carried out in 2021 by **RESCALED** and its partners to overcome the obstacles encountered when planning the siting of detention houses - a concept promoted by **RESCALED**. More specifically, it follows the event organised by **FARAPEJ** on 20 April 2021 on the theme "Welcome in my backyard!", to respond to **NIMBY** type reactions (**NIMBY** stands for 'Not in my backyard'), encountered when planning the installation of detention facilities.

This booklet is designed according to the principles of detention houses, but the proposals can be adapted to other types of establishments that accommodate persons in custody.

*The facilities presented in this booklet are not being promoted by the RESCALED movement. They were selected for their similarity to RESCALED's detention house model.



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WHAT IS RESCALED ?

RESCALED is an international non-profit organisation with offices in several European countries. It proposes replacing large prisons with small-scale, differentiated and community-integrated detention houses.

This proposal is based on the observation that the current penitentiary model is not adapted to the 21st century. This change is needed to ensure that the rights and dignity of people in detention are respected according to international human rights standards.

In order to respond effectively to the challenges of over-crowded prisons and the rehabilitation of incarcerated people, detention houses are not intended to be added to existing prisons. Their installation must be accompanied by a policy of decreasing the number of people in prison, which includes decriminalising certain offences, limiting the use of pre-trial detention and developing alternatives to detention.

This 'detention house' concept aims to enable the development of inclusive, safe and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable societies.

THE THREE PILLARS OF DETENTION HOUSES

SMALL SCALE



Detention houses accommodate only a few people. This makes it possible to create a community within which each person regains autonomy and acts in a responsible way. People in detention and staff develop better relationships that ensure dynamic security and the fostering of personalised reintegration trajectories.

Differentiation aims to provide people in detention with the best possible environment to suit their needs and circumstances. The detention houses are different in two ways: the level of security and the activities and training programmes offered. The level of security must be adapted to the reality of the risks, and comprehensive and personalised support must be provided to prepare for the incarcerated people's release and reintegration in society.

DIFFERENTIATION



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION



Being locally integrated, detention houses interact with the local community and collaborate with local stakeholders. They make use of the services available in the community and propose services that are shared with the local residents and that meet the needs of the local area. These projects allow people in detention to engage in activities that are meaningful to them and also to society.



With its concept of detention houses, **RESCALED** intends to break with the overbearing nature of current prisons, both in terms of their scale and of their architecture, which is often dehumanising and desocializing.

Detention houses are designed to reduce the “inside/outside” divide by normalising the conditions of detention and involving local stakeholders in their activities.

03

WHAT IS NIMBY ?

(NOT IN MY BACKYARD)

The establishment of facilities for people under the supervision of the justice system poses challenges for the localities concerned. There is usually a lot of apprehension about prison projects. These reactions are referred to as the NIMBY phenomenon.

The phrase "Not In My Backyard" refers to a reaction by residents to a project that is deemed to be undesirable for the neighbourhood.

NIMBYism is defined as an attitude of intense, sometimes emotional and categorical opposition to a project that local residents consider will have negative effects (Sébastien, 2013).

Several factors influence the way a project is perceived, either facilitating its acceptability or leading to **NIMBY** reactions. They are related to the way in which the planning phase is conducted, the characteristics of the area chosen for the facility (demographic and sociological variables, type of region), the characteristics of the project (type of facility, size, appearance, operation, the organisation that is promoting it, etc.) and the way the intended occupants are perceived (Dear, 1992). Detention facilities are among the most contested structures: 80% of construction projects are reportedly resisted by residents (Meyers, Martin, 2004).

The term '**NIMBY**' is regularly confused with the term 'local opposition'. **NIMBYism** describes situations in which the focus of opposition is the projected site for the facility and not its overall positive character. Local

opposition refers to opposition to a project, whether or not it is perceived as being generally positive for the community (Behar, Simoulin, 2014). For this reason, '**NIMBYism**' should be used to describe opposition when it concerns only the projected site for a project and not the project itself.

NIMBYism has an emotional and irrational connotation, one that is motivated by personal interests that run counter to the general interest and that is considered to be an obstacle to the implementation of projects. But **NIMBYism** can be seen as a form of rational and politically legitimate examination of the public interest (Sébastien, 2013).

This is why, in order to allow the legitimacy of projects to be examined and to facilitate their acceptability, project leaders, whether public or private, must enable a calm, educational, inclusive and transparent dialogue. This booklet gives advice on how to implement this approach with respect to projects for detention houses or similar facilities.



ISABELLE LEROUX :

THE LOCAL ACCEPTABILITY OF DETENTION FACILITIES

Isabelle Leroux is a lecturer in economics at the University of Angers. She studies the economic and social impact of prisons on the regions concerned. She also examines the mechanisms of persuasion used for prison projects and how they affect acceptability.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FINDINGS OF HER RESEARCH ON RESISTANCE TO THE INSTALLATION OF PRISONS AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT?

In response to detention facilities, NIMBYism appears in several ways

- It takes the form of a rejection that reflects fears linked to preconceived ideas about prisons.
- The plans to build a prison raise fears that are felt to be actual threats. However, the perception of the risks associated with the proximity of a prison is often overblown. For example, the risk of escapes with dangerous consequences - although very rare - is often feared.

It is largely the result of a lack of information and dialogue

- The lack of anticipation or consensus-building with local residents tends to lead to a feeling of injustice. This feeling can lead to wider rejection actions (petitions, questioning of public authorities, founding of anti-prison associations, etc.).
- When prisons are built without prior dialogue or with a misrepresentation of expected impacts, mayors regularly face problems of acceptability ex post, when

the prisons are already in operation. It is necessary to educate the population to forestall conflicts and promote acceptability of projects.

A prison can be beneficial to the area in which it is located and to society as a whole

- When it is part of a regional project that has been duly planned beforehand through consultation with the other stakeholders in the region, particularly the local communities. This consultation must consider different themes: economic development, access to services and facilities, social development, links with associations, regional identity, etc.

- When the project is coordinated at different levels (local, departmental, regional, national) to define how it is to be implemented and how it fits into the region. This also helps to determine which skills will need to be mobilised by each level.
- When residents and associations are involved, it is important to explain to them how the facility will fit into the regional project, to present the advantages in a realistic way and to reassure them.



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To go further :

Isabelle Leroux (December 1st 2021) : France: Is prison a business as others?, "Speaker's Corner" series (1), Partnership between Prison Insider and Rescaled.

<https://www.prison-insider.com/en/articles/france-la-prison-une-entreprise-comme-une-autre>

Isabelle Leroux et Éric Rigamonti: (2020). "Les nouvelles prisons françaises, objets de développement économique local ? Socio-économie des impacts sur la commune d'accueil et nouveaux enjeux de territorialité", Criminocorpus, Espaces de détention : territoires, patrimoines et lieux vécus.

<http://journals.openedition.org/criminocorpus/7471>

Éric Rigamonti et Isabelle Leroux (2018). « L'inefficience des partenariats public-privé appliqués aux prisons françaises », Revue d'économie industrielle, 162, pp.9-125.

<https://journals.openedition.org/rei/7093>

Isabelle Leroux et Éric Rigamonti (2017) « Pour une lecture institutionnaliste de l'acceptabilité locale d'un établissement carcéral », Économie et institutions, 25. <https://doi.org/104000/ei.5866>

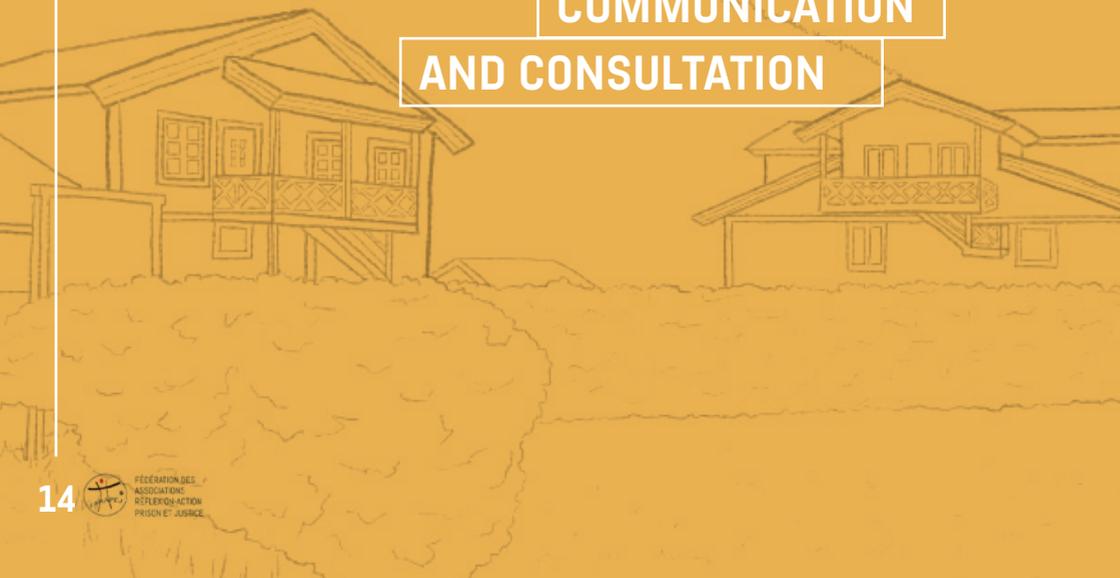
Isabelle Leroux (2017). Interviewed by Yann Thompson, « Pourquoi certaines communes rêvent d'accueillir une prison et d'autres en font des cauchemars ? », Francetvinfo. https://www.francetvinfo/fr/societe/prisons/enquete-franceinfo-pourquoi-certaines-communes-revent-d'accueillir-une-prison-et-d-autres-en-font-des-cauchemars_2251279.html

ADVICE TO ENABLE 04 THE INTEGRATION AND ACCEPTABILITY OF A PROJECT IN ITS REGION :

STEPS TO PROMOTE

COMMUNICATION

AND CONSULTATION



A project must be consistent with the projected site of the facility in order to be viable and accepted by the local population. Consultation with local stakeholders must thus begin during the design stage of a project and continue through to its implementation.

This process takes considerable time and effort, but it can avoid acrimonious situations that could slow down the project. Indeed, the procedure for siting a project is one of the factors that can lead to NIMBY reactions, particularly when local residents consider that they have not been given enough relevant information nor enough opportunity to participate in the consultation process.



Before the site is chosen for such a project, administrative steps must be taken to obtain the necessary authorisations. Although the booklet does not consider this aspect, other resources are available for more information.



There are several structures that can help develop and implement projects, such as:

- Local authorities
- Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Regional Chambers for the Social and Solidarity Economy
- Specialised consultancies



01ST PHASE

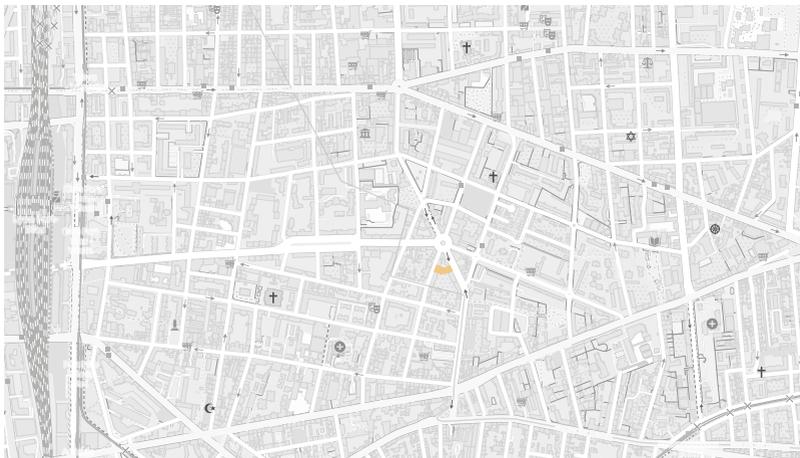
REGIONAL DIAGNOSIS

As it is necessary to check that the project matches the needs of the area, a regional analysis should be carried out before starting the consultation and communication process.

This diagnosis consists in analysing the political forces and sensitivities as well as the history of prison projects or other sensitive projects in the region. It will also reveal the associative, economic, cultural, sporting, medical and university stakeholders established in the area, as well as their activities and relations. By identifying stakeholders who have a regional role or influence, the aim is to identify which social groups influence others and to detect potential supporters as well as opponents.

For this diagnosis, documentary research, interviews with local stakeholders, visits to the area and meetings with the local population can be conducted.

The successful completion of this phase will ensure that a suitable communication and consultation strategy is chosen. It will serve as a basis for future negotiations and discussions.



02ND PHASE

DECIDING HOW TO GUIDE THE DEBATE

From the diagnosis, it is necessary to define the governance of the project, the targets and tools for communication and consultation that will be used, and the implementation schedule.

THE CHOICE OF GOVERNANCE

Once the key stakeholders have been identified, it is about determining the governance of the project, i.e., how it will be managed, particularly during the consultation and communication phase:

- Governing bodies which - by bringing together various stakeholders - enable the sharing of knowledge, the linking of stakeholders and decision-making: Which entities to set up? At what scale(s) should they be set up? What role will each body play?



For example, the Regional Chamber of the Social and Solidarity Economy, in partnership with the Interregional Directorate of Services for western France, is conducting an experiment to set up integration workshops and/or integration-oriented companies in prisons in Brittany (Brest, Lorient-Ploemeur and Rennes).

Several governance bodies, bringing together various stakeholders, have been set up at different levels:

- A regional steering committee made up of national and regional stakeholders (Agency for Public-Interest Work and Professional Integration, the Employment Agency, the Regional Council, the Regional Health Agency, etc.) is responsible for monitoring the experiment and encouraging discussions and meetings between various stakeholders and consultants.
- There are also steering committees at the département level, whose objectives are to bring together the local stakeholders necessary for the development of the project, to anchor the experimentation in its region and to discuss the problems encountered.
- For each actual project, a technical committee is set up. This brings together the DISP (the inter-regional prison services directorate), the management of the establishment, the warders and the integration and probation departments, to take decisions to make the project operational.

- The frequency of meetings: how often should these governing bodies convene?
- Stakeholders to be included in the governing body: local elected officials? institutional partners? economic and associative stakeholders? etc.
- How will the bodies be linked together? Which monitoring tools will be used?
- The roles of each member of the governing body: decision-making role, monitoring role, operational role, influencing role, information relay, etc. ?

There is no standard governance model. Governance must be defined according to the specific characteristics of the project: its constraints and stakeholders, issues to be considered, type of decisions to be taken, frequency of decisions, deadlines, etc.

The project leader is responsible for defining the type of governance, but it is essential to involve the other stakeholders in order to ensure that the choices made are relevant, to take into account the constraints of each person, to be certain that the partners understand the issues at stake and to encourage their involvement. Governance must be defined as early as possible in order to structure the project precisely. However, it should be changed if it is no longer relevant to the project.

THE CHOICE OF TOOLS FOR INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

It is essential to adopt a communication strategy aimed at the population and local stakeholders that enables them to fully understand the project. This strategy must be followed both before and during the implementation of the project.

Several types of information can be provided, including:

- General factual data on the prison system and people in custody (number and types of prisons, occupancy rates, number and categories of people in detention, situation of people in prison, etc.). This information is used to persuade the population that the project is needed.
- Descriptive elements of the project, for example: the motivations and reasons for the project, the projected site, the functioning of the structure, the people to be accommodated, the envisaged deadlines, the financing, the activities that will be organised, etc. The information to be disseminated should be chosen according to the state of progress of the project and the local context. For example, in a potentially project-averse environment, it can be relevant to communicate information gradually. In addition, it may be a good idea to explain fairly early in the process how the structure will contribute to the community.
- It is possible to incorporate visual models of the project that can influence the perception and attitudes of local residents.

The information must be complete, clear and understandable. Under no circumstances should an erroneous but consensual view of the project be disseminated in order to promote acceptability. Not giving all the information, even that which might provoke a rejection, could create unrealistic expectations and lead to disappointment and frustration later on. The nature of the information provided may vary depending on the progress and objectives of the project.

The communication materials that will be used should also be defined: information documents to be distributed through letterboxes, articles in the municipal newspaper, door-to-door visits, open-door events at the site or public meetings, etc. The choice of communication media depends on the resources at disposal (time, budget, staff), the characteristics of the area, particularly its demographics, and the means of communication usually used in the community. There is no single best medium, the challenge is to adapt the materials so that they have the greatest impact in the local context. Different materials may be chosen for different purposes: for example, writing a document that presents the project in general terms before organising an event that allows direct contact with the population, to give them more details about the project.

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For a project to establish a halfway house near Oslo (Norway), the residents of a previously opened halfway house were asked to share their experience of this facility in a written document. The document was then distributed to the local residents near the new facility to reduce fears and opposition.

At the same time, it is necessary to choose whether or not to mobilise the press and media or respond to them, depending on the opposition to and support for the project and the amount of information that should be conveyed.

THE CHOICE OF A TYPE OF CONSULTATION AND THE NEED TO LEAVE SOME DEGREE OF ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE:

Once the communication about the project is decided, the consultation strategy should be defined. The idea is to determine which types of consultation allow for constructive debate by creating situations that are conducive to listening and dialogue: a door-to-door campaign to collect questions, small group meetings, citizens' debates, etc. For example, the public meeting is often a necessary step, but it can also be a platform for opponents and might impede dialogue. Thus, particular attention must be paid to the speakers and the subjects addressed in order to allow for constructive discussions. It may also be worthwhile to organise it in a

complementary way with other meetings such as invitations for small groups to visit the site, working sessions on certain aspects of the project, etc.

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For the implementation of the halfway house in Mechelen (Belgium), two information meetings were organised. One was an open day during which local residents were able to visit the halfway house. The second was organised during the Christmas period to bring the residents and the people living in the halfway house together for an evening of celebration.

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Archifiction, a tool for awareness raising and co-construction

Involve local stakeholders to promote the acceptability of a project in a particular region:

[A tool developed by Anouk Mousset, a state-qualified architect]

Archifiction is a tool, part of a action-research approach, for accompanying the design and implementation of a project. This prospective approach, somewhere between architecture and fiction, aims to provoke debates and discussions between stakeholders from different backgrounds in order to co-construct a project. The debates and archifiction workshops, led by external mediators, provide an uncontroversial way of involving all the stakeholders, including the local residents, who become involved and help design the project.

In order to address the acceptability issues encountered when implementing facilities based on the RESCALED model, archifiction can be used before, during and after the implementation of the project.

Before, it enables people to grasp the intended project: Archifiction sessions can be used to understand what a detention house is, by getting participants to draft the specifications. This tool can also be an aid to decision-making (choice of site, defining specifications, etc.).

During, it allows for co-construction of the project: Archifiction reveals any obstacles to the project and then provides a forum for debating them in order to co-design solutions. For example, faced with the fear among local residents of a loss of quality of life and the deterioration of the neighbourhood's image, the archifiction workshop enables a debate on how the establishment could enhance the identity and image of the region, reflecting, among other things, on the needs of the local area and how the facility can best fit into the landscape.

After, it enables the project to be adapted in order to solve emerging problems and/or to modify the project. For example, when faced with the fears of potential new residents of a nearby housing project, the archifiction workshop allows for participatory and inclusive communication, while providing factual and reliable information to allow for constructive debate and limit efforts to reject the project.

For further information: www.lfau.com

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Restorative justice: a tool to mitigate social conflicts related to the installing of prisons?

An action-research project on restorative justice was undertaken in Tempio Pausania (Sardinia, Italy) in 2016. Its objective was to understand how restorative justice practices may be able to involve the whole community (school, family, police, courts, municipalities, associations, people in detention) and thus resolve conflicts in a peaceful way. The idea for this project came about as a result of the social conflict caused by the opening of a prison in the city.

During public discussion sessions, the stakeholders involved were invited to consider the links between the outside and the inside and the relationships between them in order to envisage a mechanism for peaceful conflict management and foster a sense of community.

One of the results was the organisation of a municipal council meeting inside the prison. The project also demonstrated the importance of listening, respect and collective responsibility within the community (Lepri, Lodi, Patrizi, 2019).

Before starting the consultation phase, it is necessary to anticipate potential points of disagreement and decide on just where to leave some room for manoeuvring, i.e., those points on which it is possible to compromise to satisfy certain demands of the local population or partners. These requests may, for example, concern safety features, any landscaping requirements, architectural aspects, the functioning of the structure, etc.

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During the construction of the halfway house in Mechelen, the local residents expressed the wish that the windows facing the street should be made of tinted glass. This request was implemented, which allowed the residents to feel that their interests had been taken into account.



03

RD

PHASE

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

AND RELATIONS WITH THE REGION

Once the strategy has been defined and adapted to the local context, the various communication and consultation actions can be undertaken. A clear timetable ensures that this process runs smoothly. It is worthwhile to communicate as far in advance as possible, in order to accord stakeholders plenty of room for manoeuvre and thus gain credibility.

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The importance of timing:

The local residents near the halfway house in Enghien (Belgium) were initially opposed to its installation. One explanation may lie in the timing of the events. The information about the siting of the structure was published in July. Due to the summer holidays, local residents were not able to get answers to their questions nor relieve their fears before the information meeting in September, which may have fuelled their opposition.

Throughout the deployment of the strategy, it must be borne in mind that all the concerns expressed by the various stakeholders are legitimate and must be listened to, even if they cannot all be answered favourably. This stage should allow for a real dialogue with the population and stakeholders. It is the types of communication and consultation defined beforehand that will enable this dialogue.

It is also important to keep a finger on the pulse of local opinion, and adapt the strategy if it is not playing out as expected. It is necessary to continue discussing regularly with all the partners to detect potential future opposition and to anticipate new measures to be taken. To identify them, it is possible to conduct a media watch of the press and social networks.

During the siting of the project, it is imperative that the commitments made during the consultation process be kept. There is a risk of new opposition if the concessions that have been made are not respected.

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Projects accepted after the fact?

Some sensitive projects that have been hotly contested may be accepted ex post by local residents.

The emergency accommodation centre in the 16th arrondissement of Paris was strongly contested when it was set up in 2016: public meetings were disrupted, attempts were made to set fire to the infrastructures, etc. The opposition gradually subsided. The centre has now been integrated into the neighbourhood, thanks in particular to the involvement of local residents who make donations and spontaneously offer to be volunteers. Close links have also been established with nearby schools and associations.

This example shows that the acceptability of a project varies over time and that a situation can evolve in a positive but also negative way. It is therefore essential to consult and involve local residents throughout the process.

After a facility has been implemented, a 'good neighbour' approach is desirable to negotiate new issues that may arise. In this case, consultation methods can again be used to discuss and find solutions by building a consensus.



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PROPOSED RESPONSES

TO 3 RECURRING NIMBY ARGUMENTS

The arguments against the establishment of facilities for people under the supervision of the justice system are often similar from one project to another.

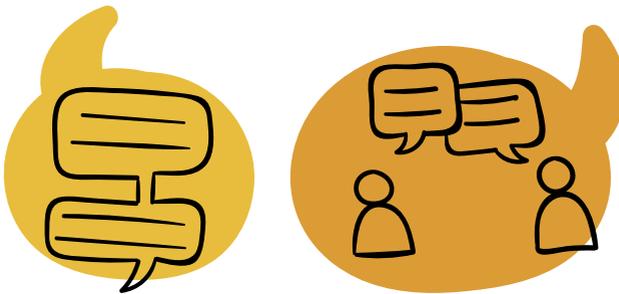


For the purpose of this booklet, we reviewed the literature and studied real cases of opposition to prison projects in order to identify the recurring arguments against such projects.

Based on the findings of this research, the fears can be grouped into three main categories of arguments:

- security and crime arguments;
- arguments related to the modification of the living environment;
- economic arguments.

In the rest of this guide, each argument will be explained and then possible responses outlined, based on examples of good practice that illustrate how small-scale, community-integrated facilities can be accepted by local communities.





RISING INSECURITY AND CRIME



If delinquents come and live next door to us, we and our children will all be in danger.



THE COUNTER-ARGUMENT

When an announcement is made that a prison is to be established, local people sometimes fear for their personal safety and in particular for that of their children. They also fear that the presence of people in detention will lead to an increase in crime (Herzog-Evans, 2009).

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

While, yes, there is no such thing as zero risk, studies show that the installation of a prison does not increase insecurity in the neighbourhood around an institution (Martin and Meyers, 2004).

Throughout the implementation process, it is possible to reassure worried people by using the communication and consultation tools presented earlier in this booklet.

The most important thing is to explain the philosophy and functioning of the structure, so that all the stakeholders in the area, including local residents, can understand the approach. In order to reassure people that they are safe, factual and statistical data should be shared:

- Provide factual data on reintegration, on the benefits of sentence adjustment measures, on the controls carried out by prison integration and probation services and sentence-enforcement judges, etc.
- Show that security incidents are extremely rare despite limited security arrangements: for example, in the open prison in Jiříce (Czech Republic), only three of the ninety-two people held there had to be transferred to a facility with a higher security level.

It is also interesting to share similar experiences that are currently taking place. For example, involving former beneficiaries of innovative schemes, staff or neighbours of existing facilities helps to deconstruct prejudices about these facilities and people in detention and to open up a dialogue.

At the information meeting prior to the establishment of the halfway house in Enghien, the manager of the first Belgian halfway house, the members of the association in charge of managing this house and the mayor of the municipality where the house was to be established, were invited. This meeting was appreciated by the local residents, who thus obtained precise explanations from people who had experience of a similar facility.

It is important to raise public awareness of the different types of security to show that security is not only about physical devices but also about human relationships. This awareness-raising helps to show how «dynamic security»¹ can provide real protection. Secondly, it is necessary to detail the security arrangements planned for the facility. Whether these be physical devices, such as surveillance cameras, security provided by having a person in the establishment at all times, or people leaving the establishment being systematically accompanied, the aim is to be as transparent as possible so that local residents are reassured.

A prison is located one kilometre from the halfway house in Mechelen. This proximity partly explains the favourable position of local residents towards the project, as they were already aware of the issues related to the presence of a larger establishment.

1 Dynamic security is not based on material means (walls, bars on windows, locks, alarms, etc.) but on emphatic, clear communication between staff and incarcerated people. The European Prison Rules encourage the use of dynamic security (EPR, 2006: Rule 51.2). In a preventive approach to the maintenance of order in detention, dynamic security relies on specific training of staff and a state of mind, less focused on surveillance and control but on listening, facilitating, educating, anticipating and resolving conflicts. In this sense, the development of dynamic security calls for a new security policy through the transformation of social relations between professionals and users (Cirap, 2021).

Once the structure has been established, it may be appropriate, depending on the local context and the functioning of the facility, to organise events that are open to the public. It is also a good idea to give local people the opportunity to converse with a resource person within the structure who can answer their questions.

Prior to the establishment of the halfway house in Mechelen, a letter explaining the project and giving the contact details of a resource person was distributed to the local residents.

Generally speaking, if human links are created between residents of the facility and residents of the community, the risk of clashes is lower. Indeed, fears about security are linked to the negative imaginary perceptions associated with prison and thus exaggerate the risks. Interactions between the interior and exterior promote community living.

GOOD PRACTICE: MOYEMBRIE FARM, FRANCE



This example aims to show which actions are implemented to reinforce the interactions between inside and outside and thus reduce the feeling of insecurity. It can be used with the public to show that this type of facility does not reinforce insecurity or to give ideas for activities to be carried out to strengthen relations.

Moyembrie Farm, located in the Aisne département of France, accommodates persons benefiting from work-release measures*. Each year between 30 and 50

men are accommodated and work on the farm. They benefit from an integration contract** and are supported by eight supervisors in all aspects of regaining their autonomy: opening of rights to social services, employment, housing and maintaining family ties.

People from the surrounding communities are regularly invited to come and play sports with the people staying at the farm. In addition, the Moyembrie Farm Association can count on the commitment of many volunteers who contribute to the family-like life on the farm. Moreover, there is a weekly sale of eggs and cheese produced on the farm, which provides a regular opportunity for residents of the facility and local residents to meet. The residents of the farm can regularly participate in shopping, cultural and sports outings with the staff or volunteers. Some men living on the farm take part in badminton lessons at the municipal club. All these activities allow for balanced relationships on the farm but also with the people in the vicinity, and thus limit the feeling of insecurity for the local residents.



6 questions to Marion Moulin about Emmaus farms:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2LmE-J00uZQ>

In this video, Marion Moulin, nationwide Group Manager Emmaus France, presents the Emmaus farms and their local integration as well as ways to make these structures more acceptable.

* This is a sentence adjustment measure that allows a person sentenced to a prison term to serve all or part of his or her sentence outside a prison, in most cases by being entrusted to an association under a formal agreement with the prison administration. Although this measure remains very marginal - 995 people on work-release in June 2022 - it is an increasing trend.

** An integration contract is a type of contract aimed at facilitating the employment of people who have difficulty finding a job. The beneficiary receives training and/or coaching while the employer receives financial support from the State.



CHANGES TO THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND INCREASED NUISANCE



If a new facility is set up, my living environment and peace of mind will be disrupted.



THE COUNTER-ARGUMENT

The proximity of prisons to housing and other facilities is one of the most common arguments against their installation (Dear, 1992). Residents almost systematically consider that the construction of a prison will lead to nuisances. This nuisance can be perceived as changes in the landscape, breaks in the architectural environment, but also as a loss of tranquillity, through potential noise pollution or fear of increased road traffic.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

The fear of a change in the living environment and tranquillity is legitimate. Large prisons with their high walls and barbed wire lead to significant changes in the landscape and noise pollution for the neighbourhood. Nevertheless, in the case of smaller establishments, there is less risk of nuisance and degradation of the living environment. The buildings are less imposing and more easily integrated into the local architecture. Noise pollution, caused by the operation of these establishments and the consequently less numerous flows, is limited.

In practical terms, it is necessary to inform the population of the way in which the facility will be run. The information to be communicated is manifold, including the number of people and characteristics of the population hosted, activities, etc. It is also advisable to specify the noise pollution that the planned activities could cause. For example, if people work in the facility with noisy machinery, residents in the community may be informed of the proposed working hours.

It might also be reassuring for the local population to know the type of supervision planned for the facility. The fact that there will be a sufficiently large, multidisciplinary team can reassure community residents who are wondering how possible disruptions would be managed. The challenge is to show how, whatever the support and the team within the structure, they make it possible to respond to the security and care issues of the persons accommodated in the structure.

Apart from the people being detained, visits are also perceived as a nuisance (Meyers and Martin, 2004). It will therefore be a good idea to share with the local population the arrangements planned for maintaining family ties within the facility and to show that these have been thought through so as to be as least disruptive as possible.

Warning the population of the potential effects of a project on daily life allows them to better visualise the facility in the local environment and thus limit resistance and conflicts after it has become a reality.

GOOD PRACTICE: THE OPEN PRISON IN VANAJA, FINLAND



This example illustrates how an open facility with a low level of security can have a minimal impact on the living environment and be integrated into the community.

In Finland, 30% of incarcerated people are held in open prisons run by the State. These prisons have the lowest level of security in the country and house imprisoned people for whom the security needs correspond to this level.

Vanaja prison is divided into two units, one for men and one for women, located a few kilometres from each other, in neighbourhoods of Hämeenlinna, which has a population of 68,000. The two units accommodate a total of about 100 people in custody. The units have neither perimeter walls nor barbed wire. The boundaries of the facilities are naturally defined by the road and the trees. The architecture blends into the environment with low buildings that do not jar visually with their surroundings. As both prison units are located in forested areas, there is no noise pollution.

People in detention may be authorised to leave the institution for a reasonable purpose, and with an electronic bracelet.

Furthermore, 32 incarcerated people work for municipal services. They take care of the green spaces, maintain the playgrounds, and thus contribute to the well-being and to the maintenance and improvement of the living environment of the local population.





ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS : COMPETITION FOR BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY DEPRECIATION



The shops and services of the new establishment will attract our customers; we will lose income.
We will suffer a loss in the value of our property.



THE COUNTER-ARGUMENT

For local traders, the arrival of a facility offering new products or services can be seen as a threat to their own business.

Owners of property in the vicinity of a sensitive facility are, in most cases, concerned that the value of their property will decrease as a result of the facility's location. This is one of the main fears of owners, as it is impossible to insure a property against a decrease in value due to the establishment of a new facility (Fischel, 2001).

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Detention houses and facilities based on RESCALED principles are intended to be integrated locally by bringing added value to the territory and not to take the place of already established activities. This is why a regional diagnosis and eventually a market survey must be carried out before the establishment of the facility. They can identify economic activities that would be profitable, complementary to the goods and services already on offer and that would meet local needs. It may be worth consulting directly with traders and service providers to show that their needs and concerns will be taken into account.

Furthermore, the aim of detention houses is to foster the link between the inside and the outside world, with a view to the social reintegration of people in detention but also to opening up and raising awareness of prison issues among the general public. The economic activity of the detention house can create a bridge between these two groups of people. Examples include repair workshops, a bookshop, or a café. The aim is to offer goods or services that are not widely available locally and that meet the needs of the region in order for them to stand out and attract local residents.

As for property values, there is no evidence of a significant decline in value following the implementation of a sensitive project. If decline in property prices is observed, it is often related to other issues (Deprez, 2014), as the value of real estate depends on a wider economic context (Dear, 1992).

Moreover, a small-scale and locally integrated facility can even be an asset for the region. The arrival of new residents in an area can help keep certain public services open (post office, health centre, etc.) and increase the turnover of local businesses. The expected economic impact of the establishment could be all the more important as these structures can be expected to call on local services in their operation. Similarly, these new people and the services they provide can create a new dynamic in the community.

GOOD PRACTICE: THE LOW-SECURITY UNIT IN VALDRES, NORWAY



This example illustrates how the economic activity of a prison facility can be integrated into the local fabric and respond to needs and thus be channelled for this purpose.

In Norway, the Valdres* low security unit is a small-scale prison for 25 convicted male. The incarcerated people, who receive individual support, work on the various activities on offer: carpentry, mechanics, cooking, gardening, etc. Several of these activities are designed to link with the outside world and to meet local demand. For example, the unit runs a market in the centre of Valdres, open on Fridays from August to October, where products from the establishment's activities are sold. The best-selling products are Valdresrosas, decorative wooden objects that adorn almost every barn in the region, and garlic, which people from Oslo, 200 kilometres away, come to buy because of its quality. The unit also organises dinners to which local residents are invited. A catering service is also available for family parties and events in the area.

Local stakeholders also take into account the residents of the unit in their activities. For example, the municipality asked the residents to run a café in the summer of 2021. Similarly, for Christmas, children from the nursery school distributed toys to the incarcerated fathers for their children to play with during their visits. The incarcerated people made some objects (birdhouses) for the school.

These links enable the public to take an interest in the situation of people in detention and reinforce inclusiveness and acceptability within the community.



* Official name of Valdres prison: Kriminalomsorgen Innlandet, avd. lavere sikkerhet, Valdres.

INNOVATIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY PROJECTS IN DETENTION FACILITIES

Many innovative projects are being implemented in prisons. These projects show that it is possible to establish meaningful economic activities in a prison environment.

In Portugal, the Reshape association works to promote the employment and reintegration of incarcerated people through a ceramic manufacturing and marketing programme, **Reshape Ceramics**. The beneficiaries work in the programme's two workshops, one in a prison and one outside, allowing for the transition between detention and release. They also receive holistic support to help them reintegrate. In addition to this reintegration objective, Reshape wants to make use of the largely untapped resources within prisons. The association also seeks to raise public awareness of detention issues.

For further information : <https://www.reshapeceramics.com/>

The Université du Café is an association that aims to enable the socio-professional reintegration of incarcerated people through training programmes and practical work in the coffee industry, currently being implemented at the Fleury-Mérogis prison in Paris. The people in detention follow a training course alternating theory and practice as baristas or coffee roasters and receive socio-professional support. At the end of the programme, they obtain an internationally recognised certificate in the coffee sector (Speciality Coffee Association) and a certificate in food hygiene (HACCP).

For further information : <https://www.universiteducafe.com/>

Founded through a partnership between the associations Festin and Marseille Solutions and the prison administration, **the semi-gastronomic restaurant Les Beaux Mets** will open in the Baumettes prison in Marseille in 2022. Thirteen incarcerated people in the work-release structure will work in the kitchen, the dining room and preparing orders and will receive socio-professional support. This project aims to facilitate the reintegration of people in detention but also to change the way people look at detention.



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