

## JUDr. Jeroným Tejc Deputy Minister Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic

Prague 13. května 2020 MSP-65/2020-OMI-SP\_I/5



Dear Mrs. Annet Bakker,

I would like to thank you for your letter on the issue of maintaining educational activities within detention and prison facilities during the Corona pandemic. Let me inform you about the situation in the Czech Republic.

The Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic and the Prison Service of the Czech Republic have paid special attention to this situation and have made their best effort to maximize inmate's education, even though strict measures and actions on fighting COVID-19 have been applied.

Education is a key part of the so-called treatment programs and is provided by the Secondary vocational school of the Prison Service. In light of the resolutions of the Czech Government, teaching is being carried out from distance instead of via direct contact lessons. This includes individual study tasks, self-study and providing of feedback by lecturers.

Apprenticeships and accredited courses have been given priority over other areas of teaching. Preparation for an electronic form of final examination has also been made a part of the inmate's education and scholarships for students who submit all study tasks have been retained. Additionally, educational activities within treatment programs have been prioritized wherever possible. Moreover, in order to secure the best quality of this kind of education, the numbers of professional employees have been increased.

Mrs. Bakker, thank you for the work of your organization and let me re-assure you that the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic will keep the education of inmates as one of the priorities in the prison system. If you require any other information regarding these issues, please contact Dr. Lukáš Dirga (e-mail: LDirga@msp.justice.cz).

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With best regards

Mrs. Annet Bakker EPEA Chairperson Smeet 1 Westzaan

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