



# Longstay : One-way ?

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# 1. Introduction

- ❑ The psychiatric patient who commits a crime, carries a double stigma :
  - That of being a psychiatric patient
  - That of being a criminal
- ❑ In Belgium, traditionally, most of these people (mid and high security) end up in prison (internment)
- ❑ Prisons are not the ideal locations to lock up these people = more and more common sense
- ❑ There is a need of alternatives for the “traditional institutions” (prisons)



- ❑ Law on internment 1964: psychiatric disordered offenders receive treatment (in theory a good law, but no means for a good execution)
- ❑ Increasing domestic criticism last decades
- ❑ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture criticises the situation on internment in Belgium
- ❑ Case Dutroux 1996 (sexual offences and murder on children)
- ❑ Case Derochette 1997 (sexual offences and murder on a child)
- ❑ Case Ait Oud 2006 (sexual offences and murder on children)
- ❑ Prison overcrowding : remand houses/psychiatric “annexes”/(sections of) social defence
- ❑ No treatment in prisons

- ❑ Number of inhabitants : 10.500.000
- ❑ Number of inmates : 10.500
- ❑ Prison capacity : +/- 8.700
- ❑ Intention to build 7 new prisons (replacement of old prisons e.g. Brussels, but also extension of capacity) – ready 2012-2013-2014 ???? What to do in the meantime ?
- ❑ Intention to “rent” prison places in the Netherlands (Tilburg)
- ❑ Elections last week : Flemish and European Parliament
- ❑ **Prisons are a federal matter ! Social security too. Mental health care : community and regions (services for mental health care) responsible. Inspection in (psychiatric) hospitals = Flemish matter in Flanders ; giving of rules = federal matter. Social aid for inmates = community matter**
- ❑ Economic crisis

## 2. Present situation for (ex-)internees in Belgium - Flanders

- ❑ > 500 internees in Flemish Prisons
- ❑ 3 projects for mid-security (internees on parole) : OPZC Rekem, PC Bierbeek, PC Zelzate (one public service – OPZC Rekem- and two private institutions since 2001)
- ❑ Low risk ⇔ “general” psychiatric institutions
- ❑ High security : preparation for the construction of two new facilities (no prisons) for approx. 270 and 120 internees (Ghent and Antwerp), to be ready in 2012 (?). OPZC Rekem candidate exploitation in cooperation with other partners
- ❑ New legislation for mentally ill criminals (postponed - at least 2012 commencement) – new courts responsible – not only for internees on parole. Copy paste system for conditional release – influences of the Ait Oud case

# 3. High Security Institutions – Questions Questions Questions

- What is high security ?
- Who is responsible for the new institutions
  - Ministry of Justice (building dossier in cooperation with the federal estate department ; security) : a prison hospital ? A hospital prison ? A hospital ? A prison ?
  - Ministry of Health Care (federal) : is only (partly) responsible if it is a hospital ; criterion : does the psychiatrist decides who comes in ? If no => no hospital ...
  - Who is the “file owner” of the “high security institutions” ???
  - Is it possible to contract out if the operator is not known ???
  - What are the criteria for exploitation ???
  - Who can compete ???



## 4. OPZC Rekem Belgium

- OPZC Rekem : agency of the Flemish Community ( public service)
- Close to the Netherlands (12 km Maastricht) and Germany (45 km Aachen)
- Regional psychiatric Centre with 3 locations (Rekem, Lanaken, Antwerp)
- Regional general psychiatry (adults, geronto-psychiatry) : psychiatric hospital and psychiatric nursing home
- Supra-regional forensic psychiatry : psychiatric hospital and psychiatric nursing home on two locations Rekem and Antwerp
- Staff 600 and patients/residents 490



# 5. Knowledge Centre Forensic Psychiatric Care OPZC Rekem

- Centre of expertise for intramural and ambulatory forensic psychiatric care
- Main themes : diagnosis, risk taxation, treatment and follow-up
- Tasks :
  - Quantitative and qualitative analyses
  - Collection and dissemination of scientific data and information
  - Networking with experts
  - Development of expertise and know-how
  - Projections regarding forensic psychiatric care

Start : September 2009

- Cooperation with the EFP Utrecht under construction
- 250.000 € per year (own means of OPZC Rekem)
- 3 persons (project leader, senior researcher, junior researcher to start)
- In search of a good international network
- Important of being present here today

- **INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE  
CENTRE FOR FORENSIC  
PSYCHIATRIC CARE**
- **IN SEARCH OF EVIDENCE BASED  
TREATMENT FOR FORENSIC  
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS**





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# A solution some day !

