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**„Perception of received and expected support by prisoners in the period of preparation for release”**

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Crime is a phenomenon that has accompanied the society for centuries and still activity is focused to search effective ways to reduce it. Attempts to prevent the committing of criminal offenses, despite many efforts over the centuries, do not bring results. The scale of crime is not decreasing and, according to some analyzes, it is even increasing. So more and more often, discussions focus on ways how to reduce crime. The effectiveness of penitentiary rehabilitation, conducted in closed institutions, is questioned for many reasons. It does not cause a decrease in recidivism (return to crime), and for the inmate it brings the risk of many negative consequences, in the terms of deprivation of needs in the most important spheres of human life - physical, mental, social and professional. There are many opinions proving that the execution of the penalty of imprisonment brings more harm than good, more demoralizes than makes the prisoner better. On the other hand, isolating the offender who is dangerous to the society, usually for a specified period of time, is necessary for safety reasons, protection of other members of the society, who obey established legal norms. An isolation penalty, although harmful to the person serving it, has an isolating and preventive function. Its purpose is to deter other persons from breaking the law due to the inevitability and the impending severity of punishment. In a situation where the perpetrator of a crime cannot be subject to softer forms of punishment, prisons fulfill their role and will continue to function, despite very high costs of maintaining them. One of the ways of limiting prison isolation is the use punishments supervised in society, when legally and socially justified, consisting in the execution of court decisions in an open environment, working with a convicted person in an open environment on the basis of probation. In both cases, the execution of punishment in closed and non-prison conditions, as a way to strengthen the social rehabilitation influence, but also to reduce the return to crime, the importance of the social support provided to the convicted person is recognized. Reports from the research widely document that the type and amount of support provided to the convicted person has a decisive impact on the course of the social readaptation process of people

released from penitentiary units. The dissertation work was devoted to issues in this area. The subject concerns the establishment of the period of preparation for release from prison offenders with up to 6 months of stay until the end of their sentence. This period is established "when necessary" for those convicts who have a generally difficult life situation and the adaptation problems that await them after release may be difficult to solve on their own. During the period of preparation for the dismissal, the main role in its implementation is played by the court professional probation officer, who, together with the released person, the prison service and social institutions, organizes for the sentenced person appropriate, adequate to the needs, assistance in social re-adaptation. The research conducted among 151 prisoners in penitentiary units showed that the support received by persons, covered by the period of preparation for release, is not sufficient. Moreover, the respondents presented a number of expectations regarding the form of help, its size and sources from which support can be provided. Undoubtedly, the conducted research, as well as theoretical research, will be a significant contribution to understanding the mechanisms of support for people leaving prison, especially those covered by the period of preparation for release.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Günther M...". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping tail.