

## **Inspection visit to the detention centre of the migration office of the information management and processing department of the Police and Border Guard Board**

On 12 October 2015, 13 October 2015, 16 October 2015, 26 October 2015 and 19 May 2016, the advisers to the Chancellor of Justice inspected the detention centre of the migration office of the information management and processing department of the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) in Harku. The Chancellor of Justice has also inspected the centre many times before. The last verification visit took place on 12 March 2013 (follow-up verification visit on 29 November 2013).

The detention centre holds foreigners under the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act, who are facing expulsion from the country, as well as those foreigners, who are asylum seekers, whose detention in the centre has been deemed necessary under the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens (AGIPA).

In October 2015, the centre held 56 persons, 6 of whom were women and 10 minors. Out the minors, 7 were younger than 10 years of age, 5 were minors subject to the obligation to attend school. On 19 May 2015, there were 49 people in the centre, including 9 women, 2 of whom were minors.

Advisers to the Chancellor of Justice spoke to 16 foreigners during the visit, made a tour around the premises of the centre and communicated with various officials at the centre (6 officials and head of the centre). Also, a selection of documents was examined. The health care expert, who participated in the visit, spoke to the centre's physician and assessed the provision of health care services in the centre.

On the whole, the centre left a positive impression. The living conditions were satisfactory, and the imprisoned persons were able to move outside their room in the centre and on its territory to a sufficient extent. Over the course of the last six months, the centre has successfully created new recreation possibilities and begun the process of solving the long-term problem of providing education to minors subject to the obligation to attend school.

Work with enabling education to children subject to the obligation to attend school must be continued, as well as with finding meaningful daily activities for children and adults. The possibility to improve the organisation of catering and the communication possibilities of detainees with their immediate families still remains. Using other people staying in the centre as an interpreter when communicating with the centre's employees and medics should be avoided.

The health care expert who participated in the verification visit made the following observations:

- The expert assesses the availability of general medical care, nursing service and specialised medical care in the centre as being accessible, sufficient and professional. At the same time, problems may occur due to linguistic reasons – it may be that there is no interpreter for a particular language or the interpreter is not readily available. Accordingly, both, the ability of the patient to explain the problem to the physician as well as the ability of the physician to give unambiguous explanations about the illness or symptom may be insufficient – which most definitely lead to complaints by the patient about poor or inadequate care. Also, psychological consultation (with

interpretation) could be more readily accessible to the detainees, in the opinion of the expert.

- The health service is appropriately and adequately documented in the institution; the prescribed examinations, treatment and referrals to specialist consultation correspond to the requirements of modern evidence-based medicine.
- Daily food intake and the variety of food may be deemed provisionally sufficient, insofar as it is possible to obtain the necessary nutrients, vitamins, minerals and calories from the offered food; however, if possible, the cultural, religious or other special needs of the detainees, such as those of children and pregnant women, should also be considered.