

## **Summary**

### **Visit to the Kiskunhalas National Prison (Report no. AJB-2456/2020)**

On April 16, 2020, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary and two colleagues of the National Preventive Mechanism paid a visit to the Kiskunhalas National Prison.

The focus of the visit was to check the measures in order to prevent the spread of the pandemics and the means of communication used instead of the visitation of the detainees. The inspection verified the safety equipment provided for the staff and the detainees, and the circumstances of the personal hygiene. The members of the visiting team conducted interviews with the detainees and the staff members.

Almost every detainee used the Skype or they were in contact with their relatives via telephone. The education and the religious activities were not terminated, the detainees could spend their free time meaningfully in small groups. The detainees were able to go to fresh air every day for an hour.

According to a warden's instruction, detainees could use the Skype only if they had a good conduct and were cooperative for three month. If they committed a "non desirable action" the three months' probation started over again. The clause of "non desirable action" caused an irregularity in connection with the rule of law.

The detainees highly appreciated the possibility of Skype-calls. Many complaints were sent by detainees to the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights related to the expensive telephone call rates. Considering the positive experiences of the Skype-calls, it would be advisable that the Hungarian Prison Service should provide this form of communication in the future.