

## **POPULAR SCIENTIFIC PROJECT SUMMARY**

Behind the curtain of penitentiary rehabilitation, there is a family of prisoners. Close to the inmates become both a recovery facility and a motivator for changing the inmates. Good emotional, psychological and economic condition of people close to the prisoner increases the chances of successful social reintegration of the former prisoner. Researchers and practitioners – including the extensive rehabilitation mechanism – usually take into account the needs and deficits of prisoners as a priority. The project primarily strengthens the "inaudible voice of prisoners' families", assuming a different perspective of observing the phenomenon. The focus was on the family situation in the penitentiary crisis, namely the experiences of the parents of prisoners. The main purpose of the study is to describe and reconstruct the biographical experiences of prisoners' parents, including in particular the description of the "process of becoming a parent" of the imprisoned child. It can be assumed that the imprisonment of a child is a crisis that has a significant impact on the parent. All the changes taking place play an important role in shaping his life paths. Moreover, the child's penitentiary isolation may become a source of shame and guilt, as well as important in the creation of his/her own image. The parent of a prisoner involved in the criminal career of his or her child experiences different challenges and difficulties (both within the family structure and in wider social contacts). Based on the autobiographical narrative interviews, these complicated life experiences – other dimensions of parenthood (including crises, difficulties, suffering and impotence, social rejection, milestones and critical paths that become part of the life of fathers and mothers of prisoners – will be analysed. The leading method will be the biographic method according to the German sociological tradition of Fritz Schütze. The central research task is complemented by the diagnosis of the family support system through the analysis of existing documents (regulations, legal regulations, organization statutes) and observation/visits in selected public benefit organizations, as well as the implementation of free interviews with social activists performing work for families in the crisis of penitentiary isolation. The final applications will include (analyzed and compared) narrations (interviews) and diagnoses of the Polish support system (help offers). Combining the areas of rehabilitation pedagogy and interpretive sociology (interdisciplinary character of research) will allow to enrich the area of social sciences with the problem of „work with” difficult parenthood and the characteristics of other dimensions of paternity and motherhood revealing previously undiscovered perspectives of experiencing and understanding the problem.