

***Recommendation from the Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice  
and Protection of Juveniles***  
- Summary -

***Privatisation in the prison system (a prospective study)***

In 2015, the Council published a prospective study on privatisation in the prison system. The document is a legacy of the past, arising from the coalition agreement of the Rutte I government. This government intended to explore the possibilities of privatisation of (parts of) the prison system, with a view to economization and cost effectiveness. The Council subsequently set up a working group to deal with the topic. After the fall of the government in April 2012, however, the topic of privatisation of the prison system was no longer given any political attention and within the Council, the topic slipped into the background as well. Meanwhile however, the Council had prepared an (incomplete) document. In 2015 was decided to complete and publish this.

The study includes an overview of: national and international experiences with privatisation in other sectors, results/effects of privatisation. It was concluded that some parts of the prison system have, for a long time, been dealing with privatisation to an increasing extent (hiring of private security staff, outsourcing of catering and cleaning, for example).

The study includes as well the general views of the Council on privatisation in the prison system, outlining a number of preconditions which the Council believes must be met should the government plan to further privatise (parts of) the prison system.