

RESOLUTION (67) 5

(Adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 4th March 1967)

**RESEARCH ON PRISONERS CONSIDERED FROM THE
INDIVIDUAL ANGLE, AND ON THE PRISON COMMUNITY**

The Committee of Ministers,

Considering that in the member countries of the Council of Europe, despite the existence of alternative measures to prison sentences, a very large number of offenders serve their sentences or undergo their treatment in prison establishments ;

Considering the need to prepare offenders for their return to society and to combat relapse into crime ;

Considering that these objectives have not been achieved, relapse being apparent on a large scale among former prisoners ;

Considering also the serious expense which institutional treatment represents for Governments and, as a consequence, the need to increase the effectiveness of such treatment to the maximum ;

Whereas, therefore, it is necessary to undertake a detailed study of prisoners as individuals as well as of the prison community ;

Whereas, one of the objects of the Council of Europe in the matter of crime problems is to promote criminological research by an exchange of information and by co-ordination of efforts in this sphere ;

Whereas such co-operation would make it possible to harmonise measures of European criminal policy ;

Having regard to the recommendations of the Third Conference of Directors of Criminological Research Institutes,

Recommends member Governments to :

(a) encourage research on prisoners and the prison community, for example, by establishing research centres within their prison administrations or supporting research undertaken by independent organisations ;

(b) assist research workers by giving them access to prison establishments and by ensuring the co-operation of public services ;

(c) take the findings of such research into consideration when working out measures of crime policy ;

(d) promote research to evaluate results of new measures of criminal policy, and more particularly undertake research when changes are made or contemplated ;

Recommends in particular that research promoted or contemplated by Governments should cover all aspects of institutional treatment, in other words :

(a) that research on prisoners considered from the individual angle should include :

- (i) clinical studies ;
- (ii) comparative studies of the offender's personality before and after a particular measure has been applied to him ;
- (iii) studies which relate the subject's conduct after treatment to the treatment he received ;
- (iv) a study of the correlations between offenders' characteristics and the effects of the various forms of treatment applied ;

(b) that research on the prison community should include :

- (i) studies of the role, viewpoints and attitudes of prisoners ;
- (ii) studies of the role, viewpoints and attitudes of prison staff ;
- (iii) studies of the relations between these two groups, which together comprise prison society ;
- (iv) studies of those factors which in the social structure of the prison impede change, thereby giving rise to a marked resistance to reform within the prison organisation.