

Opportunity to create a Win-Win Situation between the Republic of Kosovo and Switzerland by transferring prisoners from the Balkan Region, who are currently spending their prison sentence in Switzerland, into a prison in Kosovo, which would be (partially) financed by Switzerland.

Basic Concept

1. Initial Situation

By the end of 2017 (Source: Swiss Statistics Authority), about 6'900 prisoners spent a shorter or longer sentence in a Swiss prison. Among them were 71.5 % foreigners, 28.5 % Swiss.

Unfortunately, the Swiss Authority of Statistics does not make a specific statistic on how many of these 71.5 % are coming from the Balkan region. Deducting asylum seekers, whose application was denied (only in prison to be expelled), it can be assumed that about 40 - 50 % of the inmates in the Swiss prisons are coming from the Balkan region, which would be a total of approximately 2'900 persons.

The other 20 to 30 % are mostly asylum applicants and criminal tourists (dieser Ausdruck existiert evtl. nicht, was verstehst Du unter Kriminal-Touristen) from the North and West of Africa and from other countries, like Romania and Bulgaria.

Romania and Bulgaria are also belonging to the Balkan region, but Romania and Serbia are currently not accepting The Republic of Kosovo as an independent country yet. As a consequence, we could currently not send inmates from Serbia and Romania to a prison in The Republic of Kosovo. If, we estimate, that 1'000 to 1'500 inmates in the Swiss prisons are from the Republics of Serbia and Romania, **it would be possible to send approximately 1'000 – 1'400 prisoners to a prison in the Republic of Kosovo**, which would have to be built.

A prisoner in Switzerland costs about CHF 400 a day, (<https://www.suedostschweiz.ch/zeitung/ein-haeftling-kostet-die-schweiz-390-franken-pro-tag-0>) meanwhile in the Republic of Kosovo the daily cost be as low as CHF 3 a day.

The UN Human Rights Organization has blamed Switzerland several times for not respecting the Human Rights, because many Swiss Prisons

are more than full. Especially in the Canton of Geneva, the jail cells, which have been constructed for two persons, have currently three to four inmates, which is very problematic for the human tradition of Switzerland. Champ-Dollon, the prison of Geneva, is so overloaded that there has been a.s.a.p. (das verstehen ich nicht) a new prison to be built.

Switzerland spends, for all inmates, about CHF 1 Billion Swiss Francs for law enforcement in prisons a year. (weshalb braucht es diesen Satz?).

Kurzum: Die Schweiz könnte rund 500 Millionen Franken sparen, wenn unser Projekt umgesetzt werden könnte!

Surprisingly quite a few citizens of the Republic of Kosovo would like to spend their prison sentence in the Republic of Kosovo, since they have there their relatives and culture there, close. Some of them are double-citizens.

Even, if a lot of money could be saved with the above-mentioned solution. Nevertheless, many of the Ministers of Justice of several Cantons of Switzerland are currently refusing to agree to such transfers to The Republic of Kosovo. With a good project we could change this skeptical attitude. Among these inmates, are men who would be – according to the Swiss law – immediately be expelled to the Republic of Kosovo or kept for the rest of their life in Switzerland (auch diesen Satz würde ich streichen).

2. The Idea to solve this Unacceptable Situation in Short Time

Unfortunately, the Republic of Kosovo is currently suffering from a big economic crisis and a high unemployment rate, which forces a lot of Kosovarian to emigrate to other countries, where they hope to get a job. In addition, Switzerland is one of the countries in Europe with the highest per capita number of people who are originally not coming originally from this country.

Several meetings with the Ambassador and several members of the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo have already taken place last year. They were delighted by the idea, that all long-term prisoners from the Balkan region (apart from Serbia and Romania) could spend their sentence in a prison in the Republic of Kosovo. One day in a prison in the Republic of Kosov cost as little as 1/10th of the amount in Switzerland!

Talking about a win-win situation means, that in the Republic of Kosovo new jobs could be created, and construction investments, from Switzerland, would come to Kosovo, paid by Switzerland!

At the same time, Switzerland would need to build less new prisons, which means cost reductions of several dozens of 25-30 million CHF! It would also have the positive effect, that prisoners, who would not be willing to leave Switzerland to their home-country after having served their prison-sentence, would be already out of Switzerland, so that Switzerland could save a lot of money on transfers and social minimum aid.

3. **Conclusion and Conditions**

- Switzerland would invest approximately 5 – 10 million of CHF for a new prison, preferably in Pristina, in which all long-term inmates of the Swiss prisons could spend their sentence at a price which is only a fraction of the corresponding costs in Switzerland.
- The prisons could be built in a comparatively very short time (perhaps even only half a year after the final decision / the international treaty between Switzerland and the Republic of Kosovo which would have to be signed).
- It would be ideal, if the CEO of the new prison should be a Swiss-Kosovarian double-citizen, with a master's in law, made in Switzerland, and with a salary which is according to Swiss standards and paid by Switzerland. This would avoid possible corruption which is still an issue in the Republic of Kosovo.
- The prison would be meant for all suitable inmates coming from the Balkan Region, except from Serbia (because of the on-going disputes between Serbia and Kosovo) and Romania, who did not acknowledge the Republic of Kosovo yet. However, this problem would be solved as soon as Kosovo would become short-term a Member of the European Union.
- The Republic of Kosovo could create several hundred new jobs, which could help to prevent young Kosovarian to leave the country, because they have problems to have a job in their home country.
- The KFOR could make anytime audits in the prisons and the DEZA could save considerable funds on development aid per year.
- This new concept could serve as a sample project on how to help.

If the project is successful –it could be the focus of a project for Balkan prisoners coming from the EU, which would improve the

image of the Republic of Kosovo and Switzerland in the European Union.

4. **Next Steps:**

- The Member of the Swiss House of Representative, and Member of the Parliament Commission of Justice.
Mr. Nationalrat Luzi Stamm would be able to come to Pristina as soon as possible, eventually together with his assistant Mr. Guido Stöcklin, to meet The Prime Minister and/or the Minister of Justice of The Kosovarian Republic. It also would be possible that both sides could discuss that proposal over Skype to save time and money. The goal must be that the Prime Minister of The Republic of Kosovo, his Excellency Mr. Haradinaj.
- Would write a letter to the Swiss Justice Minister, Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, in which he would confirm his interest/commitment to the above-mentioned concept.
- As it will take time until all the necessary contracts between Kosovo and Switzerland and the new prison will be built, The Swiss Ministry of Justice could - in accordance with the Ministers of Justice of several Cantons - transfer some Kosovarian prisoners to the Republic of Kosovo and probably the Republic of Albania, in which they will spend their prison sentence at local Kosovarian prisons. For those prisoners Switzerland or/and their Cantons could cover all cost.

5. **Conclusion**

- With this concept, Switzerland and The Republic of Kosovo could establish a win-win-situation. "Win-Win" means, that both countries are profiting. The example of Kosovo could serve as a master-example for the European Union.

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