English summary

In this thesis it will be reseached how prison culture can influence on the professional social work that is carried out in the Danish State prisons. The main focus will be on researching how different views, values and expectations between social workers, prison wardens and inmates have different impact on the quality and implementation of the professional social work. Furthermore the thesis will include reflections on how ”forced placement” and the ”concept of time” play a part in total institutions.

The scientific-theoretical take off will be on a phenomenological-hermeneutic perspective. The methode used for the empirical research will take form in qualitative interviews. The interviews will be collected at the Danish State Prison Vridsløselille among the professional social workers employed there.

The author of this thesis is herself employed as a professional social worker at the Danish Prison and Probation Service and has been that for several years. This gives a great inside, but also line up some scientific issues, which are discussed within the thesis.

In the more analytical parts of the thesis there will be terms and features that can be pointed towards what will be refered to as a ”prison culture”. One of the main conclusions in the thesis is that there within a prison culture can be identified a dominating culture as well as a sub-culture. The different cultures will be in a constant struggle and fight for power. These conflicts will be time and energy consuming, and will graduately take away focus from the quality and implementation of the professional social work that is carried out in the prison.

Conclusively it will be stated that it *is* possible to successfully carry out professional social work within a state prison. This is possible in spite of and in contrast to the dominating culture. A culture that otherwise complicate the implementation of a relevant professional social dimension. A dimension that is needed for a successfull resocialization of the inmates.