

# SPACE I 2012

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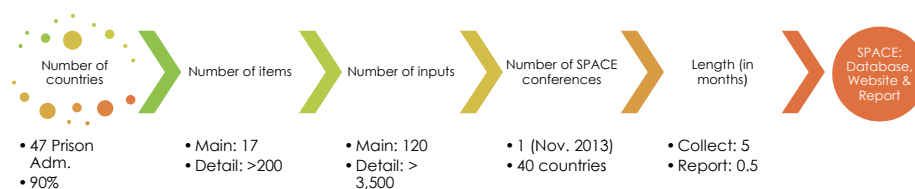
[www.unil.ch/space](http://www.unil.ch/space) Project SPACE at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland

[www.coe.int/prison](http://www.coe.int/prison) Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) of the Council of Europe, France

## In brief...

- Between 2011 and 2012, the number of inmates held in European penal institutions decreased by approximately 90,000 persons. On 1 September 2011 there were 1,825,356 inmates held in penal institutions across Europe and in 2012 there were 1,737,061 inmates.
- In spite of the decrease of the raw number of inmates, the median European Prison Population Rate [PPR] slightly increased between 2011 and 2012: +2.7%. In 2011 the PPR was 122 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants and in 2012, this value raised until 126 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.
- The median density in penal institutions was 98 inmates per 100 places, which is one inmate less than in 2011 when it was 99 per 100.
- In 2012, the problem of overcrowding remained acute for 21 European Prison Administrations [PA] compared to 23 PA in 2011. 20 of these PA were the same as in 2011.
  - ✘ The most overcrowded penal institutions are still in the same countries: Belgium (2012: 132; 2011: 127 ↑), Hungary (2012: 139; 2011: 139 =), Cyprus (2012: 140; 2011: 138 ↑), Italy (2012: 145; 2011: 147 ↓), and Serbia (2012: 160; 2011: 158 ↑).
- During the year 2011, the average expenses for the detention in penal institutions of 1 inmate/day were 103€. The range of expenses goes from 3€/day in Bulgaria to 620€/day in Sweden.
- Very short custodial sentences are often used across Europe. Yet, there was observed a slight decrease. On 1 September 2012, on average 20% (median=15%) of the total number of sentenced prisoners were serving sentences of less than 1 year. In 2011, the average indicator was equal to 22% (median=19%).
- On the other hand, persons sentenced to more than 10 years represented 11.7%. The level of this type of inmate remained the same as in 2011 (11.4%).
- The most common offences for which prisoners were held in custody in 2012 were: theft (20%) and drug offences (17%). Sentenced prisoners for homicide represented 13%.
- 43 countries represented by 47 PA answered the SPACE I 2012 questionnaire, which corresponds to 90% of the total number of PA within the Council of Europe.

## Survey...



\* The median is less affected than the average by the extreme values included in a dataset. Therefore, the medians are more reliable than the average values. Consequently, the use of median values is recommended.



## Key figures for 2012

**1 737 061** is the total number of inmates in Europe

Prison Population Rate [PPR]:

- Considering Europe as a single country, there would be **212 inmates** per 100,000 inhabitants;
- Average PPR in European countries was **150 inmates** per 100,000 inhabitants;
- Median PPR in European countries was **126 inmates** per 100,000 inhabitants.

Evolution of PPR (*median values*) 2011-2012 → slight increase (**+2.7%**):

- Biggest decrease: Montenegro-8%↓
- Biggest increase: Romania+14%↑

**21 (out of 47)** countries with prison overcrowding

**13%: median %** of foreigners in the total prison population (the average value is **21%**):

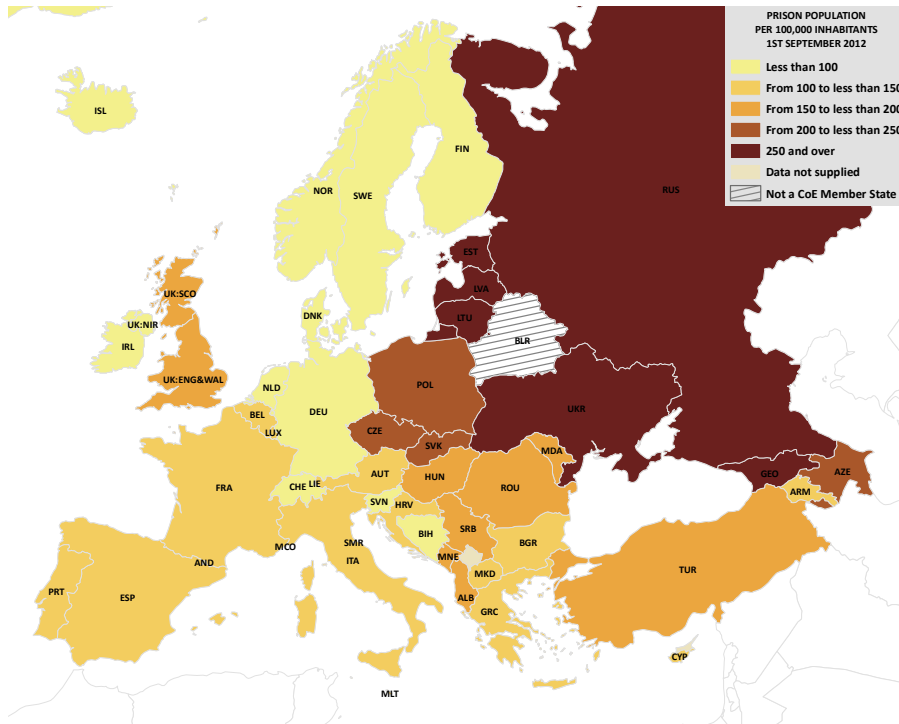
- Highest: Switzerland=74%
- Lowest: Romania=1%

**1/4** of all inmates were without a final sentence:

- Highest: Netherlands=49%
- Lowest: Poland=8%

## Prison Population Rates

In 2012, the number of inmates per 100,000 inhabitants in European countries (see Map 1) was distributed in relatively the same way as in 2011. The highest prison population rates can be observed mainly in Central and Eastern European countries.



Map 1: Prison population rates on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2012

Even if the prison population rates have remained high in Central and Eastern European countries, a positive evolution has been noted since 2003 (see Figure 1). Over the last 10 years, six Central and Eastern European countries have seen decreases in their prison populations, and another two have only seen slight increases. On the other hand, there are some countries (mostly in Southern or Western parts of Europe) that have revealed a linear increase in prison population rates.

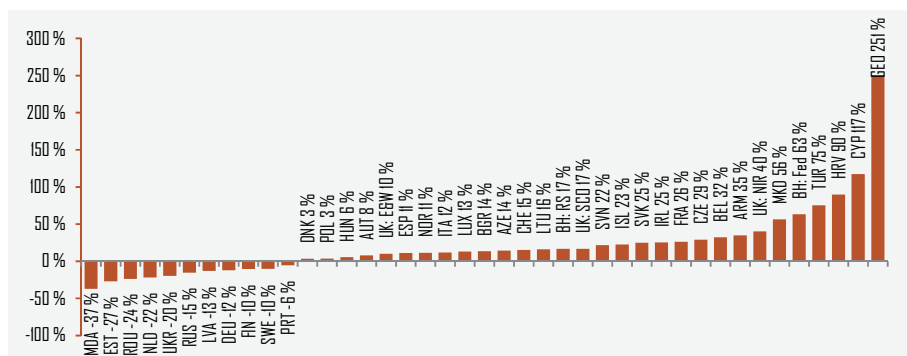


Figure 1: Evolution of prison population rates between 2003 and 2012

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## Inmates' characteristics (median and average values)

Juveniles: 0.7% (1.0%)

Young adults (18 to less than 21 years): 4.6% (4.7%)

Median age: 33 years / Average age: 36 years

Females: 5.0% (5.4%)

Foreigners: 12.9% (21.3%)

Dangerous offenders: 0.6% (2.2%)

The most often sentenced for **theft**: 17.1% (20.0%)

The most common length of sentences: **from 1 to less than 3 years**: 25.0% (25.7%)

## Custodial Features

Overcrowding: European prisons are full (98% of their capacities were used).

Turnover Ratio\* during 2011: **58%** (there are 1/3 more people entering prisons than people who are released from prisons annually).

\* a low turnover ratio may lead to further overcrowding

Mortality in 2011: **26 deaths** per 10,000 inmates (↑ compared to 2011: 25)

Suicidarity in 2011: **7 suicides** per 10,000 inmates (23% of all deaths)

Average amount spent in 2011: **42€** per inmate/day (median) or 103€ per inmate/day (average)

Escapes: 2 escapes per 10,000 inmates in 2011.

In 2012: 3 inmates per one custodian (median) & 16 inmates per other member of staff (e.g. medical staff, teachers, psychologists, social workers).

95% of all staff employed by Prison Administrations work inside penal institutions.

## Special groups of inmates

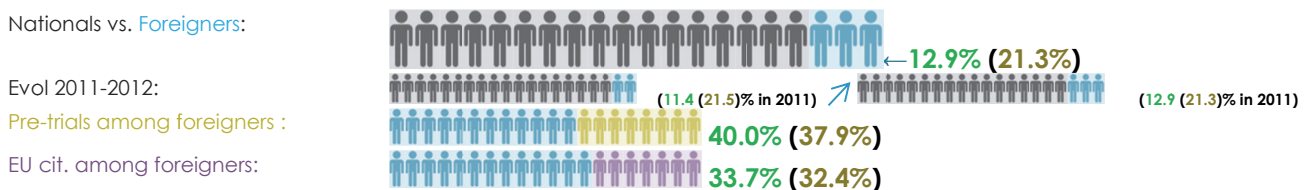
The main categories of special custodial populations studied in SPACE I are: females (Table 3 in the SPACE I 2012 report), foreigners (Tables 4 & 4.a, SPACE I 2012) and juvenile offenders (Table 2.2, SPACE I 2012).

### Females in 2012 (median and average values)



Generally, females constitute a relatively small part of prison populations. Nevertheless, there are several countries (Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Russia, and Spain) where female inmates are overrepresented (more than 7% of the whole prison population).

### Foreigners in 2012 (median and average values)



In the majority of Central and Eastern European countries, the proportion of foreign inmates does not exceed 10%, while in Southern and Western Europe they are overrepresented and their percentages vary roughly from 30 to 75% of the total prison population (see Figure 2). For the last 10 years, the proportion of foreign inmates in European prison populations has been growing (mostly in Southern and Western European countries).

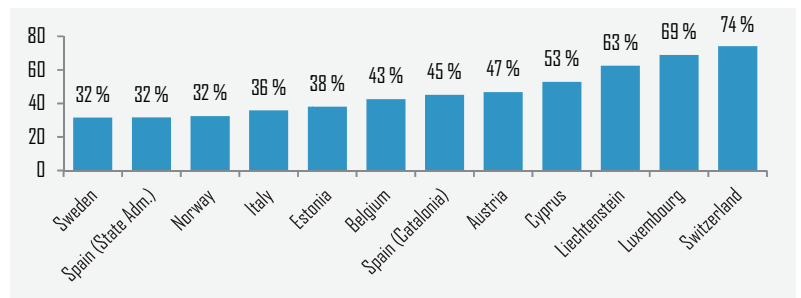


Figure 2: Highest % of foreign inmates in the total prison population on 1st Sept. 2012

As a rule, the definition of "foreigner" corresponds to a person without the nationality of the country where he/she is imprisoned. This includes both persons who do not have their legal residence in that country and persons who have a regular permanent resident permit.

### Juvenile offenders in 2012

Many countries have separate administrations that deal with juvenile inmates (i.e. people aged less than 18). This means that the latter are not included in the total prison population. In those administrations that include them, they represented in 2012 **less than 1%** of the prison population.

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## Main characteristics of custodial sentences

Inmates with final sentenced represent about 75% of the total European prison population.

### Type of offences in 2012 (median values)

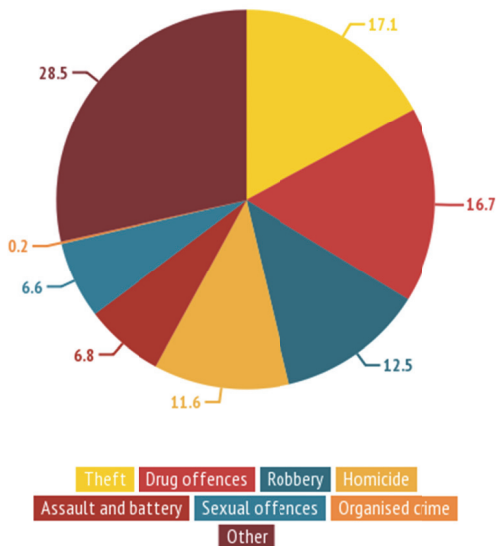
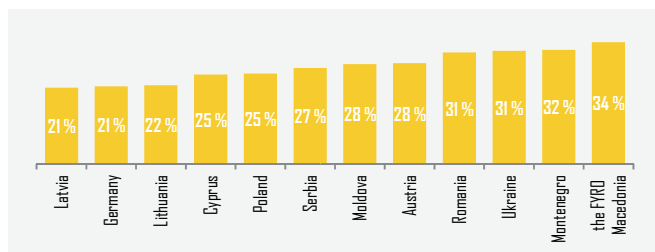


Figure 3: Breakdown (%) of sentenced inmates by main types of offences

On 1 Sept. 2012, theft was the main type of offence for which the largest part of prisoners (17.1%) was serving their final custodial sentences (see Figure 3). The second biggest group consisted of drug offences (16.7%) and – compared to 2011 – it still represents the same proportion of sentenced inmates in custody. Robbery (12.5%) and homicide (11.6%) are the last two largest groups of offences. Concerning the group “other”, it can be said that it generally includes fine-defaulters, persons sentenced for misdemeanors and other less serious forms of criminal offences as well as administrative offences.

In 2012, the highest proportions of those sentenced for theft (more than 20%) are found mainly in Central and Eastern European countries (see below):



Between 2011 and 2012, the percentage of prisoners sentenced for theft and drug offences remained stable among persons serving final custodial sentences.

However, when comparisons are based on the rates per 100,000 inhabitants, it should be stressed that the median rate of drug offenders decreased from 15.0 to 12.5 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants between 2011 and 2012. The rate of inmates sentenced for theft did not change (14.1 in 2011 & 14.8 in 2012).

### Length of sentences in 2012

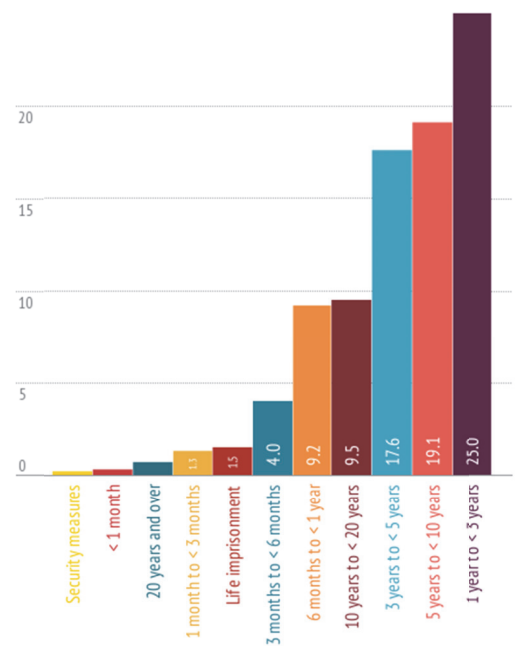


Figure 4: Breakdown (%) of sentenced prisoners by length of sentences

On 1 Sept. 2012, 25% (median) of inmates were serving custodial sentences from 1 year to less than 3 years. When all short sentences (i.e. less than 1 year) are cumulated, the proportion of inmates who were serving such terms in 2012 is relatively high (15%). From the Council of Europe perspective, these prison terms could be replaced by non-custodial community alternatives.

On the other hand, in 2012, very long custodial terms (10 years and over, as well as life custody and security measures) represented 12% of all sentenced prisoners. This proportion remained the same as in 2011.

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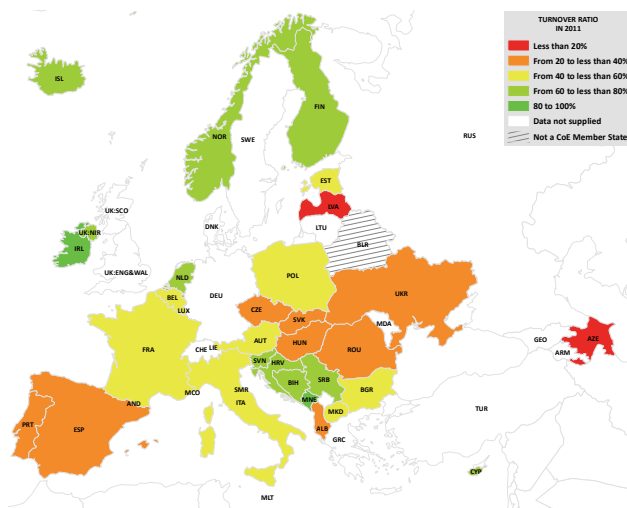
## Custodial flow of entries and releases

**Entries:** During the year 2011, 170 persons per 100,000 inhabitants entered into penal institutions. This rate is slightly lower than in 2010 (184).

**Releases:** In 2011, a median number of 140 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants were released from custody. This indicator remained exactly the same as in 2010.

In order to produce a more complete picture, the estimated turnover ratio (per 100 inmates likely to be released) is calculated for each country. This ratio corresponds to the estimated exit rate per 100 potential exits (based on the number of inmates held in custody). A low turnover ratio (i.e. less than 60%) implies longer periods of custody and could thus be seen as an early warning sign of a risk of prison overcrowding (see Map 2).

The slight decrease in entries did not have any influence on the general prison population rates, which as mentioned before, remained similar to the ones of 2010 (see Map 1).



Map 2: Geographical distribution of custodial Turnover Ratios in 2011

[For more details on Turnover, see SPACE | 2012, Part B, pp. 111-122.]

## Expenses per inmate

In 2011, the average amount spent for the detention in custody of one inmate per day was 103€. This figure, calculated on the basis of information provided by 42 countries, does not take into account differences in the cost of living and other economic indicators across countries (e.g. GDP, purchase power, poverty rate, exchange rate Euro vs. national currency).

Countries with the highest expenses per inmate and per day are generally those with lower prison population rates (see Figure 5).

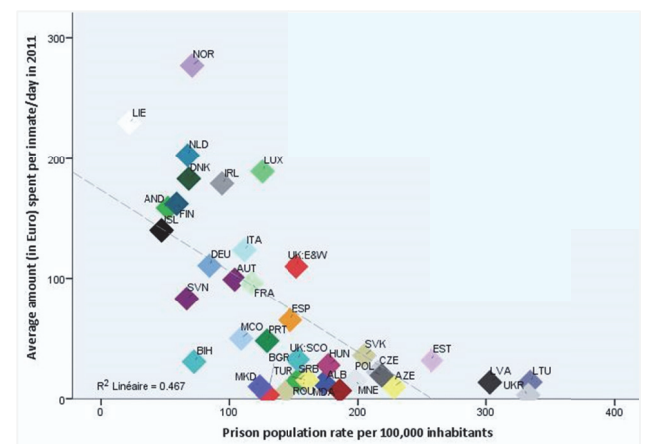


Figure 5: Prison population rates versus amounts spent per inmate/day

55% of all countries that answered this question show low expenses per inmate (less than 50€ per day). On the contrary, only 5 countries spent more than 200€ per inmate/day (Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, and San Marino).

*In sum*, there are big disparities in terms of expenses per inmate across Europe, and these expenses are usually inversely proportional to the prison population rates.

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## Synthesis Tables

**Table 1: Characteristics of prison populations**

Member States	Prison population on 1st September 2012	Inmates per 100,000 inh.	Density per 100 capacity	Median age	% Females	% Foreigners	% Detainees without final sentence(1)	Rate of detainees without final sentence per 100,000 inh.	Average length of imprisonment in 2011 (in months)
Albania	4 890	173.7	110.7	28	1.8	1.8	41.1	71.5	16.2
Andorra	41	52.5	32.8	37	17.1	78.0	68.3	35.8	3.8
Armenia	4 714	144.0	107.3	NA	4.3	2.7	24.7	35.6	NA
Austria	8 756	104.1	100.3	33	6.6	46.8	20.9	21.8	8.9
Azerbaijan	21 034	227.8	85.5	NA	2.4	3.0	14.3	32.7	29.9
Belgium	12 310	111.0	131.7	34	4.6	42.5	27.5	30.5	7.5
<b>BH: BiH (st. level)</b>									
BH: Fed. BiH	1 700	72.7	97.8	40.29	2.9	2.6	15.2	11.0	8.3
BH: Rep. Srpska	1 062	74.3	77.3	35.73	1.7	6.0	10.2	7.6	9.3
Bulgaria	10 663	145.5	NA	NA	3.2	1.9	14.4	20.9	17.8
Croatia	4 741	110.9	120.9	33	4.4	6.0	16.2	17.9	4.8
Cyprus	930	107.9	140.1	35	7.6	52.9	39.6	42.7	2.9
Czech Rep.	22 644	215.5	106.3	34	6.4	7.6	9.6	20.8	16.8
Denmark	3 829	68.6	92.9	31	3.9	25.6	36.2	24.9	3.4
Estonia	3 417	257.8	96.3	32	5.2	38.1	24.3	62.7	14.6
Finland	3 196	59.2	104.6	35	7.2	15.1	20.3	12.0	6.1
France	76 407	117.0	117.0	31.5	3.5	18.2	22.1	25.9	8.7
Georgia	23 227	516.4	101.4		5.1				
Germany	69 268	84.6	88.6	33.5	5.7	27.9	16.2	13.7	7.6
Greece	12 479	112.2							
Hungary	17 585	177.1	138.8	NA	7.2	3.7	28.1	49.7	8.4
Iceland	152	47.6	92.1	31.5	8.6	24.3	17.1	8.1	5.4
Ireland	4 323	94.3	98.0	30	3.7	12.9	11.7	11.0	2.9
Italy	66 271	111.6	145.4	37	4.3	35.9	39.3	43.8	10.5
Latvia	6 195	303.0	77.7	32	6.8	1.2	27.3	82.8	5.1
Liechtenstein	8	21.9	40.0	38	0.0	62.5	25.0	5.5	2.2
Lithuania	10 033	334.0	106.7	30	4.6	1.5	16.5	55.2	11.6
Luxembourg	659	125.6	92.7	35	4.4	68.9	39.3	49.3	7.1
Malta	622	149.0			6.4				
Moldova	6 621	186.0	87.7	NA	6.2	1.4	29.5	54.8	21.0
Monaco	41	109.1	52.6	28	22.0	95.1	73.2	79.8	2.6
Montenegro	1 229	197.8	111.7	33.9	3.0	14.9	29.5	58.3	6.6
Netherlands	11 324	67.7	85.8	32	5.4	21.0	48.5	32.8	3.5
Norway	3 551	71.2	93.4	33	5.3	32.4	26.9	19.2	4.0
Poland	84 156	218.4	96.8	32	3.2	0.7	8.3	18.2	10.9
Portugal	13 614	129.1	112.7	34.86	5.6	19.1	19.5	25.2	24.2
Romania	31 883	158.7	118.9	26	4.6	0.6	10.8	17.1	24.1
Russian Fed.	717 400	501.5			8.2				
San Marino	1	3.0	8.3	60	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2
Serbia	11 070	153.4	159.3	35.5	3.9	2.0	25.0	38.3	4.8
Slovak Rep.	11 075	204.9	102.6	35.04	6.1	2.0	12.6	25.8	17.2
Slovenia	1 377	67.0	105.2	34.24	5.1	11.8	23.9	16.0	4.0
<i>Spain (total)</i>	69 621	147.3	89.4	36	7.6	33.6	15.6	22.9	19.0
Spain (State Adm.)	59 410	149.7	88.9	37	7.8	31.7	15.3	22.9	19.2
Spain (Catalonia)	10 211	134.9	92.6	35	6.7	45.1	17.4	23.4	17.9
Sweden	6 431	67.8	91.3	35	6.0	31.5	24.6	16.7	2.1
Switzerland	6 599	83.0	94.6	NA	4.9	74.2	41.2	34.2	NA
the FYRO Macedonia	2 543	123.5	106.1	35	2.4	2.7	10.6	13.1	13.5
Turkey	120 275	161.0	86.2	33	3.8	1.8	40.1	64.6	9.0
Ukraine	151 122	332.5	95.9	32.97	6.3	1.7	21.3	70.8	38.7
UK: Engl. & Wales	86 048	152.1	94.7	31	4.8	14.9	13.2	20.0	8.5
UK: North. Ireland	1 779	97.6	98.1	31	3.3	7.4	37.4	36.5	3.2
UK: Scotland	8 145	153.3	104.6	NA	5.8	3.6	18.9	29.0	NA
Average		149.9	97.7	34.0	5.4	21.3	25.0	32.1	10.4
Median		125.6	97.8	33.7	5.0	12.9	22.1	25.8	8.3
Minimum		3.0	8.3	26.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Maximum		516.4	159.3	60.0	22.0	95.1	73.2	82.8	38.7

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**Table 2: Inmates under custodial sentences**

Member States	Length of sentences (% of final sentenced inmates)				Most common offences (% of final sentenced inmates)			
	Less than 1 year	1-less than 3 years	3-less than 10 years	10 years and more (incl. Life custody)	Theft	Drug offences	Robbery	Homicide (incl. attempts)
Albania	8.2	10.1	55.0	26.7	10.0	18.7	12.1	41.8
Andorra	38.5	7.7	38.5	15.4	7.7	38.5	7.7	15.4
Armenia	2.8	16.5	67.4	13.2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Austria	18.2	33.8	38.5	9.5	27.9	17.8	16.7	6.2
Azerbaijan	11.4	NA	77.4	11.2	18.5	32.5	5.4	11.9
Belgium	4.0	16.7	60.9	18.4	44.1	35.9	39.6	11.0
BH: BiH (st. level)								
BH: Fed. BiH	24.3	23.8	33.3	18.6	19.6	12.9	8.0	20.6
BH: Rep. Srpska	12.5	26.3	41.2	20.0	2.1	12.2	14.2	17.5
Bulgaria	31.8	32.9	23.7	11.6	18.2	6.2	47.9	11.5
Croatia	12.9	32.4	35.1	12.7	17.1	22.4	11.0	9.9
Cyprus	23.1	25.6	34.0	17.3	24.7	25.3	5.3	9.6
Czech Rep.	30.9	39.7	23.2	6.2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Denmark	29.0	34.0	24.9	11.5	11.3	22.1	13.4	8.0
Estonia	12.3	24.6	49.4	13.7	13.6	21.9	19.4	20.1
Finland	18.2	32.6	34.1	15.0	10.1	17.3	6.4	23.8
France	36.5	30.3	20.3	12.8	NA	13.9	19.3	5.8
Georgia								
Germany	43.5	19.8	32.0	4.8	21.5	14.1	12.5	7.3
Greece								
Hungary	15.5	37.2	38.3	9.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iceland	31.0	25.4	30.2	13.5	13.5	21.4	4.8	11.9
Ireland	12.7	23.8	47.7	15.8	17.8	19.6	3.2	10.7
Italy	6.5	21.0	50.9	21.6	5.5	38.8	14.4	16.0
Latvia	6.2	19.3	58.4	16.1	21.1	14.3	31.1	12.5
Liechtenstein	0.0	80.0	20.0	0.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	6.2	27.3	48.4	18.1	21.8	11.4	16.5	23.9
Luxembourg	8.8	32.8	34.6	23.8	13.3	27.8	8.5	16.0
Malta								
Moldova	1.0	10.7	52.2	36.1	27.7	5.8	9.2	26.7
Monaco	81.8	9.1	0.0	9.1	81.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Montenegro	24.3	48.7	19.8	7.2	31.6	27.0	3.3	10.6
Netherlands	43.5	25.4	20.9	7.6	12.4	14.0	15.5	14.3
Norway	36.6	27.8	24.7	8.2	8.7	26.2	7.7	6.3
Poland	27.4	42.3	18.7	6.5	25.1	4.1	17.7	7.4
Portugal	7.0	13.9	54.8	19.4	12.4	20.6	14.5	9.7
Romania	2.7	23.0	54.6	19.6	30.9	4.2	17.7	20.4
Russian Fed.								
San Marino	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Serbia	52.7	18.8	19.9	8.6	26.6	16.1	14.3	10.8
Slovak Rep.	26.5	28.8	36.2	8.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Slovenia	14.4	35.2	38.2	12.3	14.7	13.3	18.7	10.7
Spain (total)	8.3	19.4	52.6	19.7	3.9	25.8	30.7	7.1
Spain (State Adm.)	8.5	20.2	51.9	19.4	1.5	26.6	31.9	6.9
Spain (Catalonia)	7.0	14.6	56.4	22.0	18.8	21.2	23.5	8.3
Sweden	20.8	33.9	33.8	11.5	7.3	20.6	10.5	11.7
Switzerland	34.9	17.0	24.8	6.4	18.0	22.5	7.6	11.8
the FYRO Macedonia	13.1	27.7	45.8	13.4	33.7	13.2	13.2	9.9
Turkey	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.5	10.1	14.2	21.4
Ukraine	3.8	16.5	68.5	11.1	31.4	14.9	17.1	14.1
UK: Engl. & Wales	9.9	23.3	32.9	24.5	16.3	14.5	12.6	10.2
UK: North. Ireland	15.6	20.0	35.6	28.0	16.1	5.6	6.6	16.4
UK: Scotland	20.9	NA	NA	18.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average	19.5	25.7	40.2	14.2	20.0	17.1	12.9	13.0
Median	14.9	25.0	36.2	13.3	17.1	16.7	12.5	11.6
Minimum	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum	81.8	80.0	100.0	36.1	81.8	38.8	47.9	41.8

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**Table 3: Life in custody**

Member States	Mortality rate per 10,000 inmates (2011)	Suicide rate per 10,000 inmates (2011)	Average daily expense (in € /inmate) in 2011	Number of inmates per one custodian on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept.12
Albania	18.9	4.2	13.15 €	1.7
Andorra	0.0	0.0	158.59 €	0.7
Armenia	70.9	13.3	6.07 €	3.6
Austria	42.2	14.8	99.00 €	2.9
Azerbaijan	70.4	5.8	9.75 €	15.0
Belgium	44.0	10.1	NA	1.8
BH: BiH (st. level)				
BH: Fed. BiH	12.0	6.0	32.11 €	2.5
BH: Rep. Srpska	38.0	0.0	29.00 €	2.3
Bulgaria	46.7	5.4	3.12 €	2.7
Croatia	25.6	3.9	NA	3.0
Cyprus	0.0	0.0		1.7
Czech Rep.	16.4	3.9	22.00 €	11.4
Denmark	32.9	12.7	183.00 €	1.5
Estonia	35.5	8.9	31.45 €	4.5
Finland	27.6	21.5	162.00 €	2.3
France	26.3	15.6	96.03 €	2.7
Georgia				
Germany	18.0	7.5	110.70 €	2.6
Greece				
Hungary	22.4	5.2	27.60 €	4.0
Iceland	0.0	0.0	140.00 €	2.0
Ireland	14.1	0.0	179.00 €	1.5
Italy	24.6	9.4	123.75 €	1.8
Latvia	41.2	10.7	13.47 €	3.5
Liechtenstein	0.0	0.0	230.00 €	0.5
Lithuania	33.7	11.6	13.67 €	5.1
Luxembourg	31.1	31.1	189.03 €	2.2
Malta				
Moldova	77.3	11.0	6.67 €	8.5
Monaco	0.0	0.0	49.70 €	1.3
Montenegro	37.7	22.6	15.00 €	2.9
Netherlands	34.5	13.0	202.65 €	1.6
Norway	17.0	11.3	277.00 €	1.5
Poland	15.6	2.7	19.25 €	5.3
Portugal	50.5	6.3	47.81 €	3.2
Romania	29.5	3.0	15.65 €	7.8
Russian Fed.				
San Marino	0.0	0.0	750.00 €	0.1
Serbia	82.2	6.4	15.00 €	4.3
Slovak Rep.	14.0	6.5	35.61 €	15.4
Slovenia	31.4	15.7	83.00 €	2.6
Spain (total)	28.3	2.4	64.99 €	3.7
Spain (State Adm.)	24.3	2.4	54.66 €	3.8
Spain (Catalonia)	51.3	1.9	75.31 €	3.2
Sweden	20.8	10.4	621.00 €	1.5
Switzerland	16.5	9.9	NA	3.6
the FYRO Macedonia	47.7	8.0	10.00 €	4.9
Turkey	21.3	2.4	15.27 €	3.6
Ukraine	63.6	3.0	3.06 €	11.1
UK: Engl. & Wales	22.5	6.7	110.00 €	3.0
UK: North. Ireland	23.5	11.7	NA	1.4
UK: Scotland	29.0	NA	32.37 €	2.6
Average	29.8	7.7	102.7 €	3.8
Median	26.3	6.5	41.7 €	2.7
Minimum	0.0	0.0	3.1 €	0.1
Maximum	82.2	31.1	750.0 €	15.4

*NB: See the relevant notes and comments in the SPACE / 2012 report!*

\* The median is less affected than the average by the extreme values included in a dataset. Therefore, the medians are more reliable than the average values. Consequently, the use of median values is recommended.



# Special thematic file...

## Short prison sentences

*Definition:* the concept of *very short prison sentence* corresponds here to the lengths of sentences imposed by judicial authorities lasting from zero to less than one year custody.

*Recent results:* In 2012, the median proportion of the prisoners sentenced to the very short sentences was 15% of the total number of prisoners who were serving a custodial sentence on 1 September 2012.

*Short historical series:* Between 2008 and 2012, the proportion of the inmates sentenced to the very short prison sentences slightly fluctuated. The part of this type of prisoners reached its maximum point in 2011, when they represented 19% of the total number of the sentenced prisoners. Yet, in 2012 there was noted a decrease of the proportion. As it can be seen on Figure 6, the part of short sentenced inmates represented 15% in 2012.

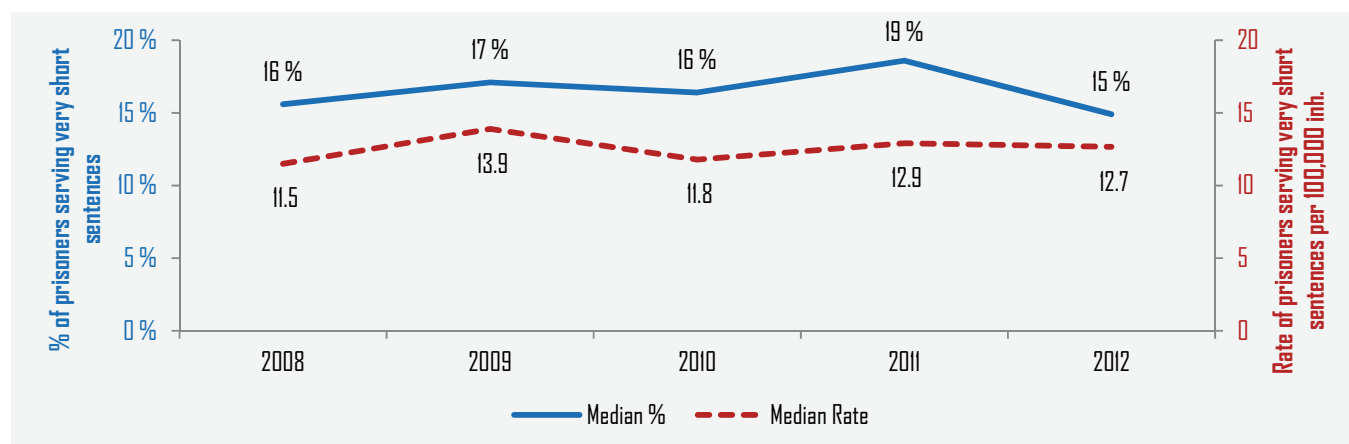


Figure 6: Evolution between 2008 and 2012 of prisoners sentenced to very short custodial sentences (% & rates)

Although the percentages declined between 2011 and 2012, the rate of short sentenced inmates per 100,000 inhabitants remained exactly the same during the last two years. The explanation seems to be obvious: during the last years, the general population in the European countries continuingly increased. The raw number of inmates increased as well (there were additional 3,000 inmates in custody with very short sentences in 2012 compared to 2011). The fact that the total number of sentenced inmates increased had an adverse impact on the percentages.

*Discussion:* the analysis of recent trends for the period lasting from 2008 to 2012 shows that the raw number of inmates who served short sentences in European penal institutions has increased. Nevertheless, this trend did not become visible because of the general increase in the number of sentenced prisoners as well as of the increase of the total population in European countries.

## General Summary

 **98**

Number of inmates per 100 available places in custody.

 **8**

Number of months (median) that the inmates spent in custody during the year 2011.

 **103**

€ spent per inmate and per day of detention in custody (increase compared to 2011: 93€).

Between 2011 and 2012, there were no significant changes in prison populations across Europe. The minor positive and negative changes are summarized below.

### Positive:

- (1) Slight decrease in the number of inmates per one member of custodial staff;
- (2) Increase in the amount spent per day of detention on each inmate in custody;
- (3) Stabilisation of the average length of stay in custody ( $\approx$  8 months);
- (4) Slight increase in the number of inmates released before the end of their sentence (conditional release, Electronic Monitoring or other forms of community supervision).

### Negative:

- (1) Slight increase in suicide rates;
- (2) Slight increase in the number of foreign inmates held in custody (mainly in pre-trial detention and those who are EU citizens);
- (3) No change in the proportions of the type of offences for which the inmates were serving sentences in custody. Theft is still overrepresented.

*The SPACE team is extremely thankful to all national correspondents who collect, discuss, validate, and explain national figures. It is their contribution that makes SPACE possible.*

## SPACE team news...

During the year 2013, the SPACE group:

- a. Elaborated a new system of annual modules (added to the main SPACE I questionnaire on specific topics). In 2013, the 1<sup>st</sup> module was on "Custodial Staff".
- b. Improved the quality of the SPACE Website (new information on recidivism studies, the most recent data on prison populations, SPACE e-mail address).
- c. Made three presentations at international conferences (European Society of Criminology, CoE annual Conference of Directors of Prison Administration and Meeting of the European Committee on Crime Problems [CDPC])
- d. Together with the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP), CoE, we organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of national correspondents (we are very thankful to Roy Walmsley, Iliana Taneva, and Christine Coleur, as well as to our colleagues from all around the Europe who –every year– fill in the SPACE questionnaire).



1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SPACE national correspondents (Strasbourg, 4-5 Nov. 2013)

*\* The median is less affected than the average by the extreme values included in a dataset. Therefore, the medians are more reliable than the average values. Consequently, the use of median values is recommended.*