

Prisons and Prisoners in Europe 2019: Key Findings of the SPACE I report

Marcelo F. Aebi and Mélanie M. Tiago

1. Introduction

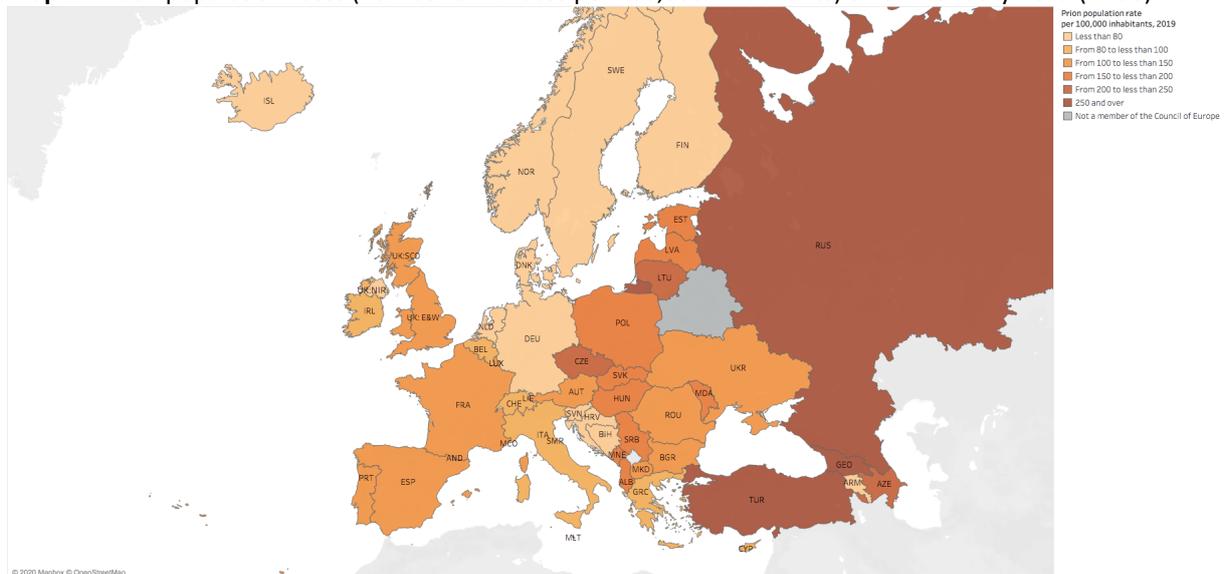
This document summarises the main findings of the *2019 Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics on Prison Populations*, better known under the acronym SPACE I. The rates and percentages presented here correspond to the *European median values* and are presented in the text in round numbers unless they are lower than 10; in particular, the rates are calculated on the basis of data weighted by the population of each country (see *Methodology* for further details). The detailed state-level data are presented in Tables 3 and 4 towards the end of this document.

Forty-five (45) of the 52 prison administrations in the 47 Council of Europe member states answered the SPACE I 2019 questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 87%. The following prison administrations did not answer the questionnaire: Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina (State level, Federal level, and Republika Srpska), Georgia, Malta, and Ukraine. However, data concerning the total number of inmates in Belgium, Republika Srpska (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Georgia, Malta, and Ukraine, as well as the total capacity of prison institutions in Belgium, Republika Srpska (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Georgia, and Malta were retrieved from other sources (see SPACE I, Comments to Tables 3 and 16) and are therefore included in the calculation of the relevant European median values.

2. Stock indicators: Prisons and Prisoners on 31st January 2019

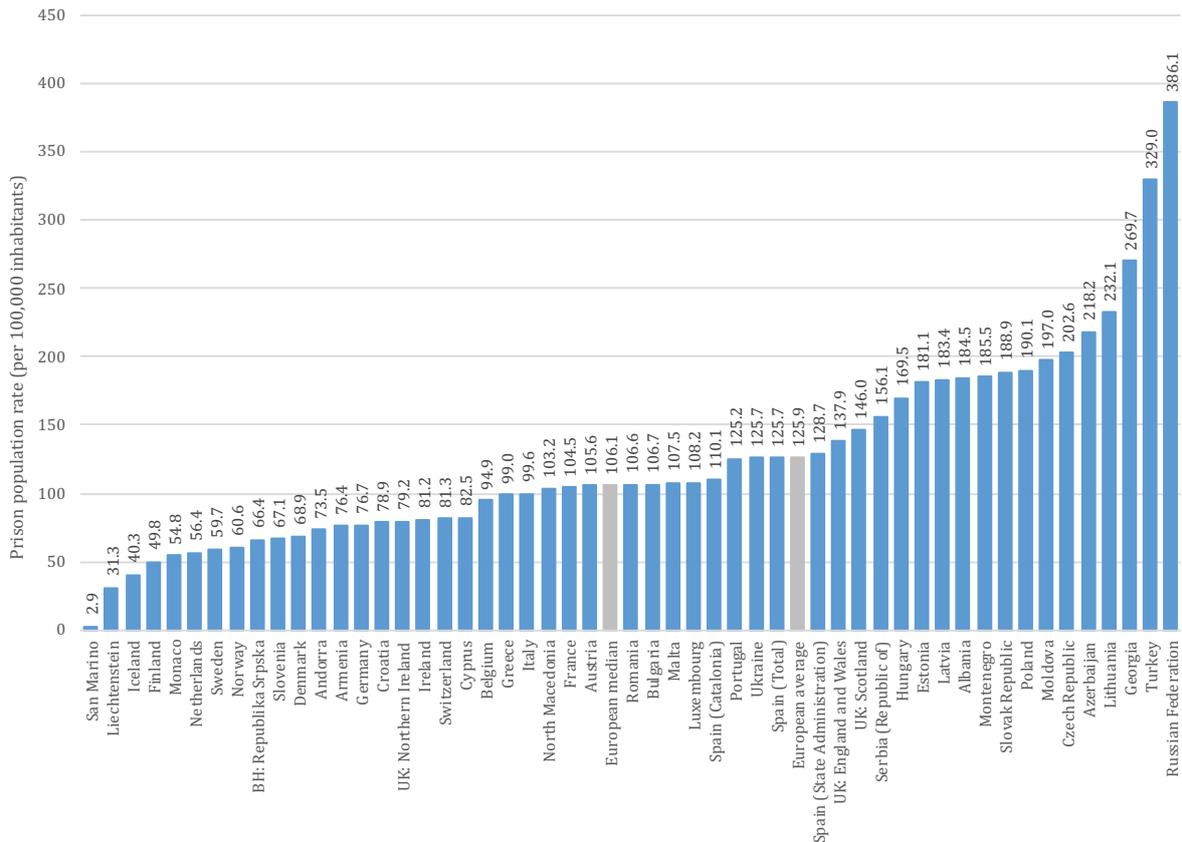
On 31st January 2019, there were 1,540,484 inmates in the penal institutions of the Council of Europe member states for which data are available. This corresponds to a European prison population rate of 106 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Map 1. Prison population rates (number of inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2019 (N=50)



Map 1 visualises prison population rates in six categories (from less than 80 inmates to 250 or more inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) across Europe, while Figure 1 shows the detailed distribution of these rates by country. The highest prison population rates (*i.e.* more than 250 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) are found in the Russian Federation, Turkey and Georgia, followed (with rates of more than 200 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) by Lithuania, Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic; while the lowest prison populations (*i.e.* less than 80 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) are distributed across the Scandinavian countries, a few countries of the Balkan region, Germany, the Netherlands, Iceland and Northern Ireland (UK).

Figure 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2019 (N=50)



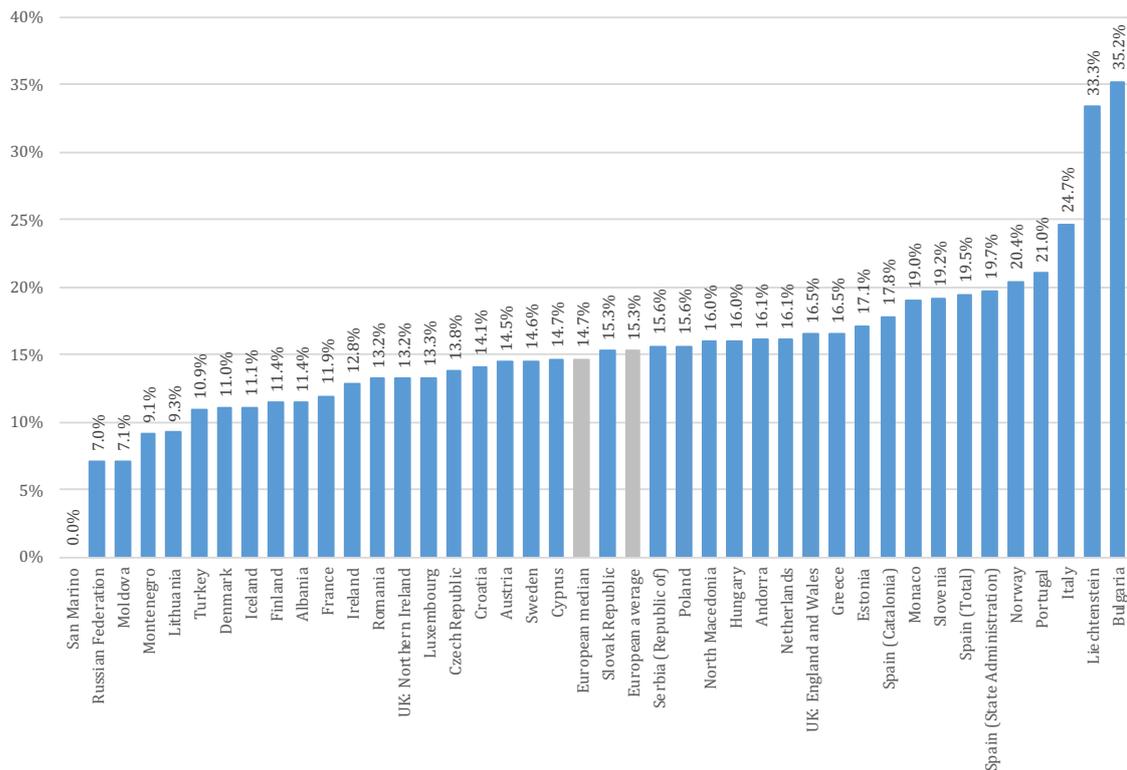
Characteristics of the inmates held in European penal institutions

Age of the prison population

The median age of the inmates held in European penal institutions is 35 years. With the exception of Finland — where the median age of the inmates is 25 years— in countries with at least one million inhabitants, this age varies from 31 to 39 years (see SPACE I, Table 6).

Fifteen percent (15%) of the inmates are aged 50 or over (see SPACE I, Table 6). Thirty-nine prison administrations provided data on this indicator of the ageing of European prison populations, which is presented in Figure 2. The presence of a relatively high percentage of inmates aged fifty or over is not directly associated with the ranking of the country in other indicators presented in this study, such as the average length of imprisonment (Figure 12), the prison population rate (Figure 1), or the percentage of inmates sentenced for drug offences (Figure 8). When one compares this indicator with the ones presented in Table 1 below, it can be seen, for example, that the prison population rate and the average length of imprisonment are very low in Norway, which at the same time is among the 5 countries with the highest percentage of inmates aged 50 or over. Conversely, Portugal is also amid these 5 countries, but has a high prison population rate and a very high length of imprisonment. On the other extreme of the distribution, Russia has the lowest percentage of inmates aged 50 or over, but the highest prison population rate. In fact, several of the countries with a low percentage of mature inmates are among the ones with the highest prison population rate (for example, Moldova, Montenegro, Lithuania and Turkey).

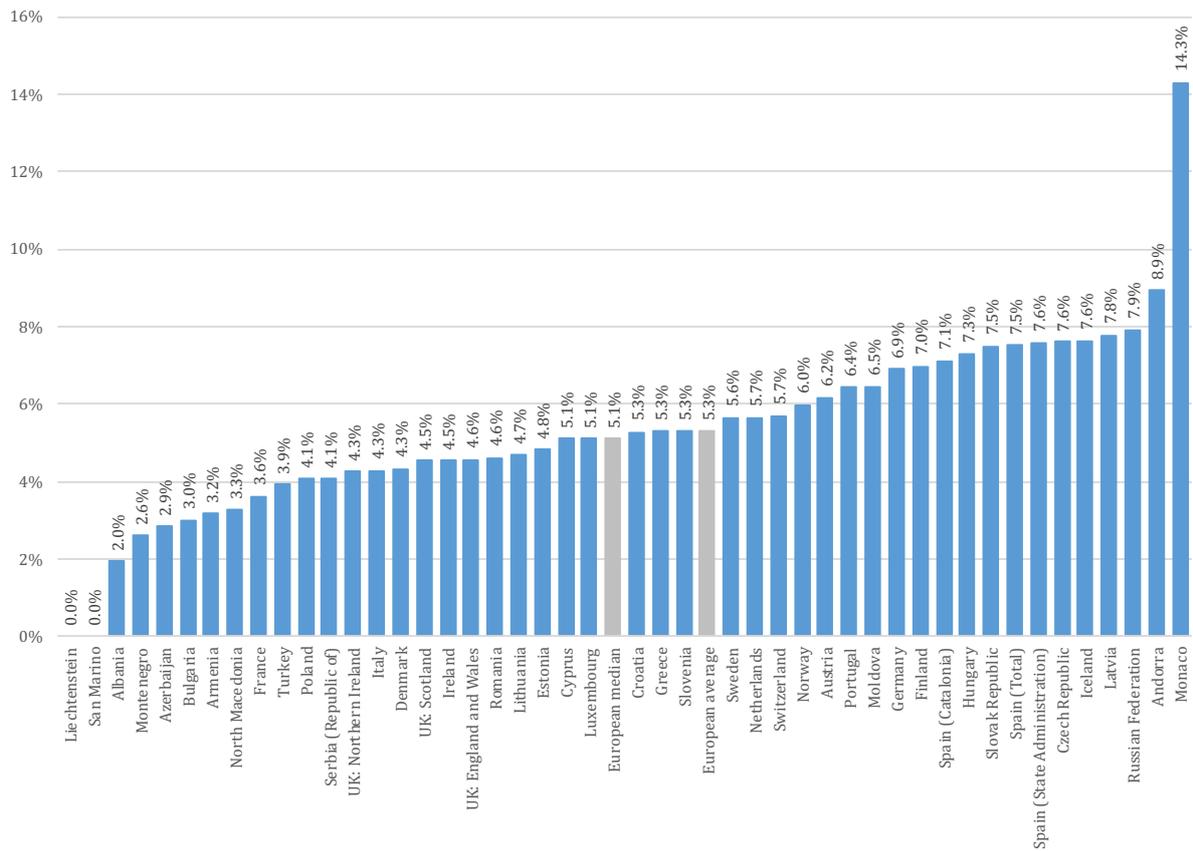
Figure 2. Percentage of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population on 31st January 2019 (N=39)



Gender

Ninety-five percent (95%) of the inmates held in Europe are men, and only 5% are women (see SPACE I, Table 7). Although there are differences across countries, the underrepresentation of women in penal institutions is a constant across Europe, as can be observed in Figure 3. In countries with at least one million inhabitants, the highest percentage is only 7.9% (Russian Federation) and the lowest is 2% (Albania).

Figure 3. Percentage of female inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2019 (N=45)



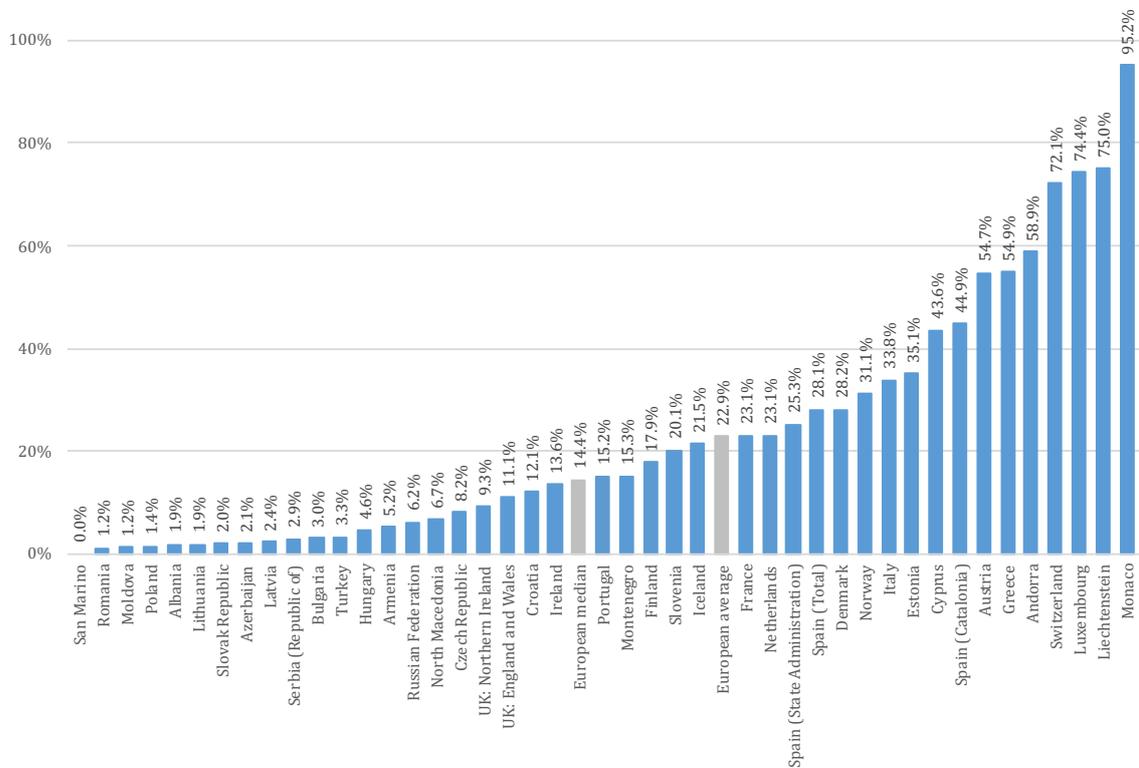
Nationality

Fourteen percent (14%) of the inmates held in Europe are foreigners, but this percentage varies widely across nations. In Eastern European countries, it is usually lower than 5%, while in Central and Western Europe it varies from 2% to 72% in countries with at least one million inhabitants, and from none to 95% in smaller countries. These percentages are presented in Figure 4.

More than one third of the foreign inmates held in Europe come from the EU member states (see SPACE I, Table 13).

Only a few prison administrations provided data on the resident status of the foreigners held in their prisons. Among them, the percentage of those who have a legal resident status varies from none to 60% (see SPACE I, Table 13).

Figure 4. Percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2019 (N=42)



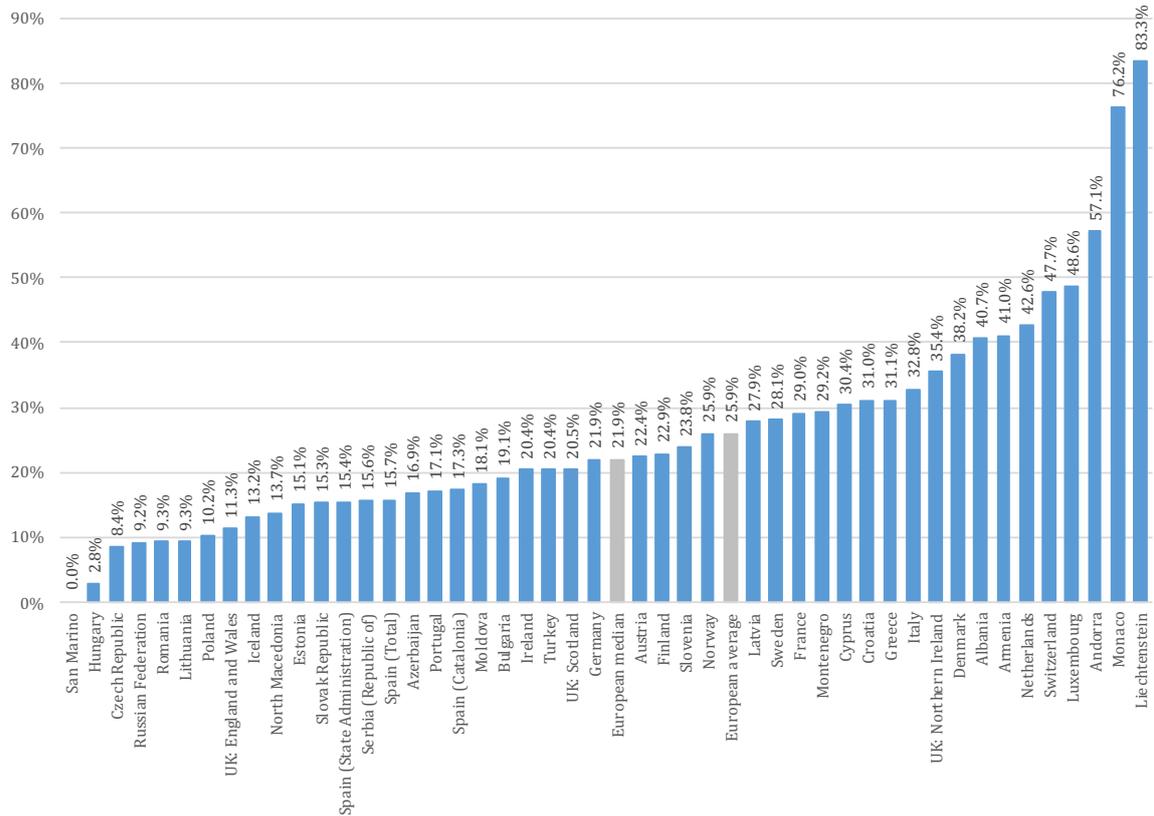
Legal status

Twenty-two percent (22%) of the inmates held in European penal institutions are not serving a final sentence (see SPACE I, Table 8). Following the terminology of the Council of Europe, this means that 22% of the inmates are *detainees* placed in *remand on custody* (see Recommendation Rec (2006) 13). In practice, however, they are often referred to as *detainees placed in pre-trial detention*, or simply as *pre-trial detainees*.

The percentage of detainees not serving a final sentence varies broadly across countries, ranging from 2.8% to roughly 48% in countries with at least one million inhabitants, and reaching 83% in smaller countries. These percentages are presented in Figure 5.

Disclaimer: Instead of waiting until the end of the appeal process, some countries consider inmates as *sentenced prisoners* once they receive their first sentence. As a consequence, those who have appealed or are within the statutory limits to do so are not included in the total number of detainees not serving a final sentence. This means that the interpretation of the differences observed in Figure 5 is not straightforward and must take into account the comments provided by each country (see SPACE I, Table 8 and its notes).

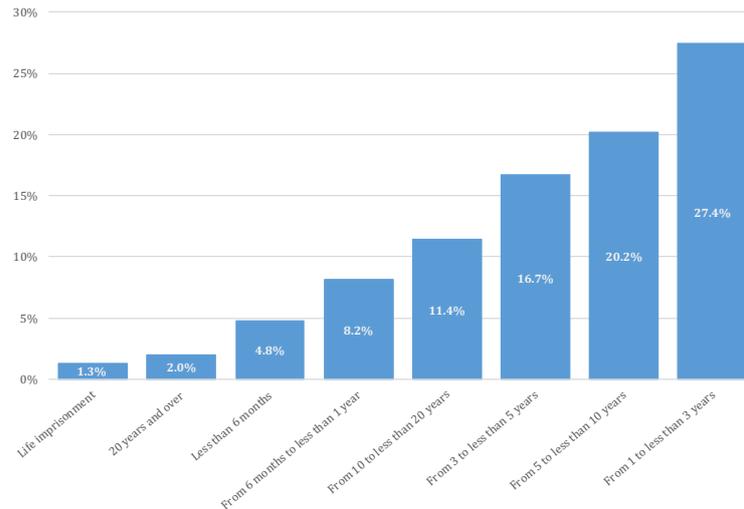
Figure 5. Percentage of detainees not serving a final sentence in the prison population on 31st January 2019 (N=45)



Length of sentence imposed

For those inmates who have been sentenced, Figure 6 presents the distribution of the length of the sentences imposed. It can be seen that they are mainly serving sentences from 1 to less than 3 years (27%), from 5 to less than 10 years (20%), and from 3 to less than 5 years (17%). Only 1.3% are serving life imprisonment, and less than 1% are under security measures (for further details, see SPACE I, Table 11).

Figure 6. Distribution of sentenced prisoners according to the length of the sentence they are serving, in percentages, on 31st January 2019 (N=42)

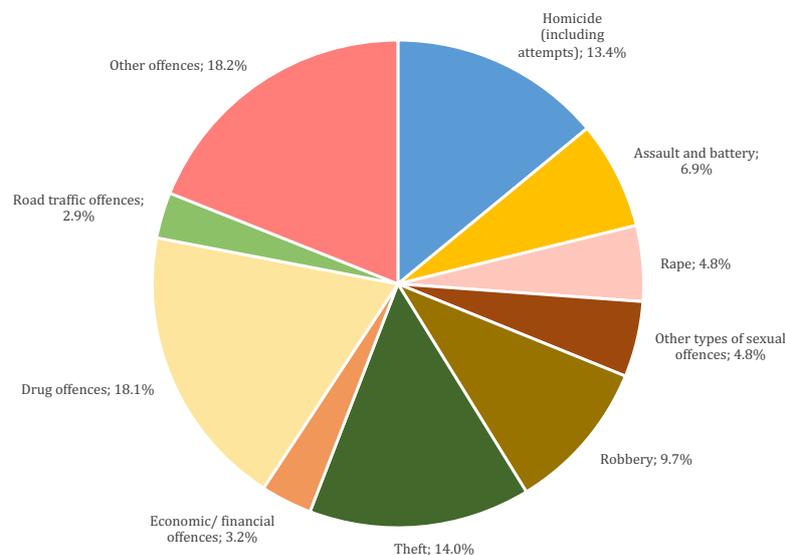


Type of offence

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of sentenced prisoners according to the offence for which they were convicted (for further details, see SPACE I, Table 9). It can be seen that 18% of the sentenced prisoners held in European penal institutions have been convicted for drug offences. Prisoners convicted for theft (14%) represent the second largest category, followed by those sentenced for homicide (13%).

If one combines all the prisoners serving sentences for offences involving violence (homicide, assault and battery, rape, other sexual offences, and robbery) in a single category, they represent 40% of the prison population.

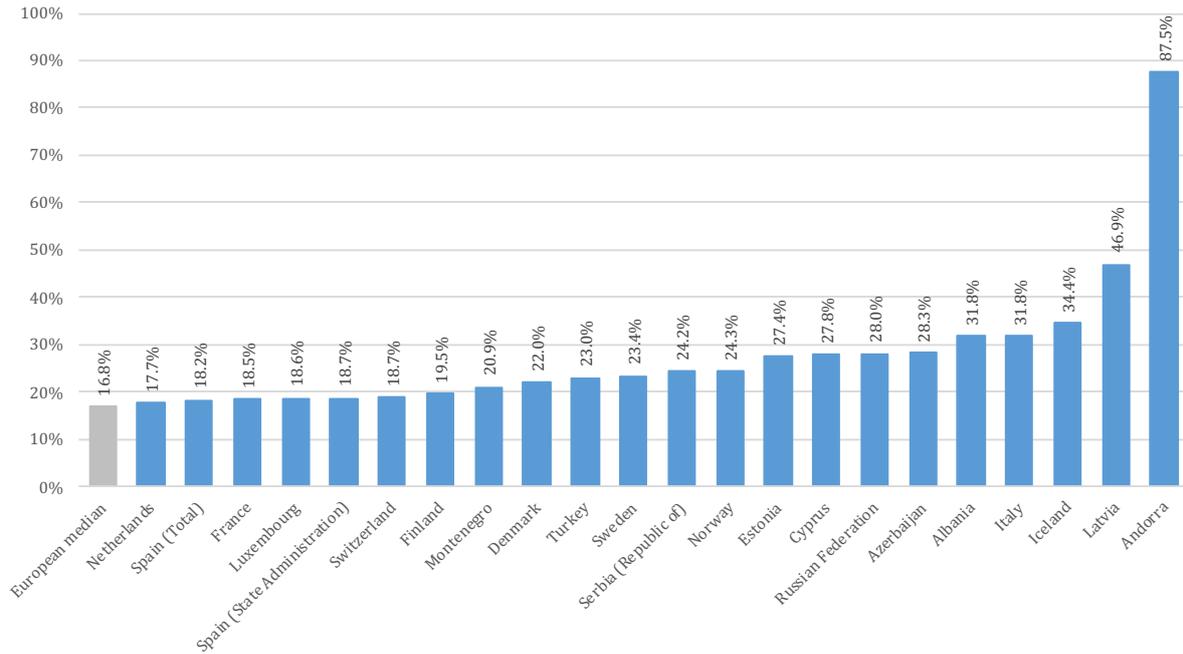
Figure 7. Distribution of sentenced prisoners according to the offence for which they were sentenced, in percentages, on 31st January 2019 (N=40)



Focus on drug offences

Figure 8 presents the upper half of the distribution of countries according to the percentage of prisoners serving sentences for drug offences. It can be seen that, in several countries, prisoners sentenced for that kind of offences represent more than one fourth of the prison population.

Figure 8. Percentage of sentenced prisoners serving sentences for drug offences on 31st January 2019 (upper half of the distribution only) (N=21)



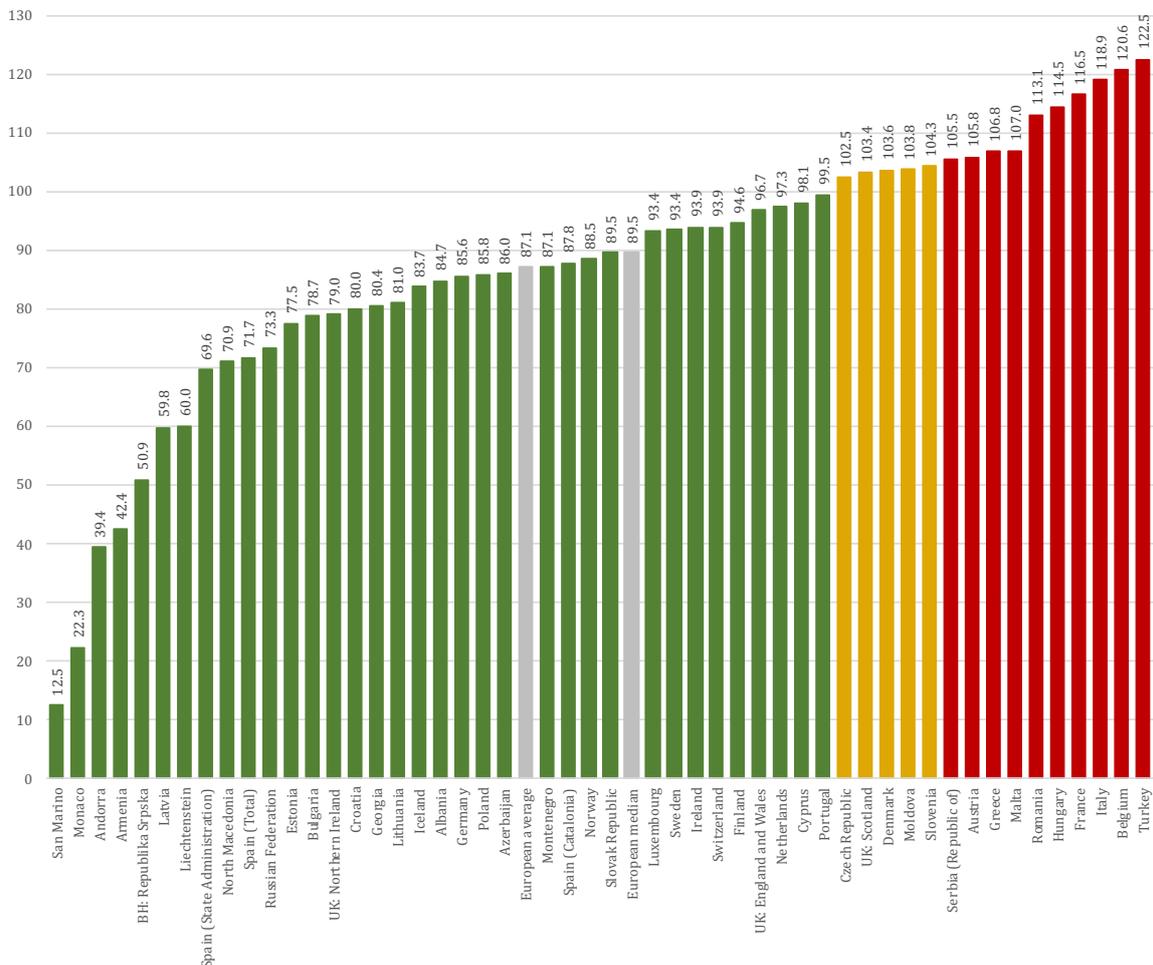
Prison density and overcrowding

According to the information provided by the prison administrations, only 15 of them had a prison density of more than 100 inmates per 100 places. Among these 15 prison administrations, five had a density that was higher than 100 but inferior to 105; while the other ten were experiencing serious overcrowding, with rates of more than 105 inmates per 100 places. These 15 countries are presented in different colours in Figure 9, which shows the distribution of countries according to their prison density.

It must also be mentioned that the level of occupation of the cells varies widely among the countries that provided the relevant data, ranging from 0.7 to 9.6 inmates per cell (See SPACE I, Table 16). This suggests that some penal institutions who are theoretically not experiencing overcrowding may have in practice overcrowded cells. At the continental level, there are roughly 1.4 inmates per cell in Europe.

Disclaimer: Data on prison capacity is provided by the countries and therefore corresponds to their own estimation of it. By definition, there is overcrowding when there are more inmates than the number of places available in penal institutions. In order to define the number of places available (i.e. the capacity of the penal institutions), countries are asked to use the concept of *design capacity*, which refers to the number of inmates that a penal institution was intended to house when it was constructed or renewed. However, many countries use the concept of operational capacity, which refers to the number of inmates that a penal institution can actually house while remaining functional. As a consequence, the rates concerning prison capacity and overcrowding do not allow reliable cross-national comparisons.

Figure 9. Prison density (number of inmates per 100 detention places) on 31st January 2019 (N=49)

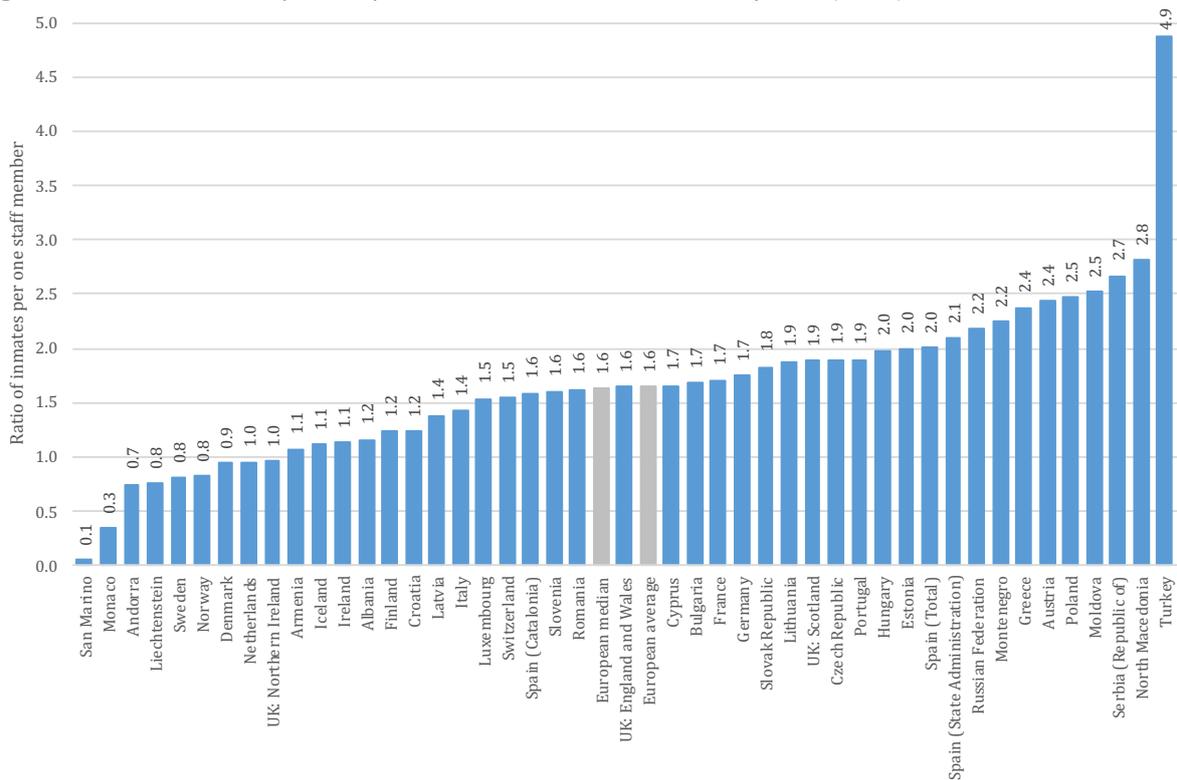


Prison staff

At the European level, there were 1.6 inmates per 1 member of prison staff, but this ratio varies across countries, ranging from a maximum of 4.9 to a minimum of 0.1 inmates, as can be seen in Figure 10.

When the ratio is based on the custodial staff only, it increases to 2.6 inmates per custodian. Finally, if the calculation is restricted to the custodial staff dedicated exclusively to custody, it increases to 2.8 inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (See SPACE I, Table 21).

Figure 10. Ratio of inmates per one prison staff member on 31st January 2019 (N=44)

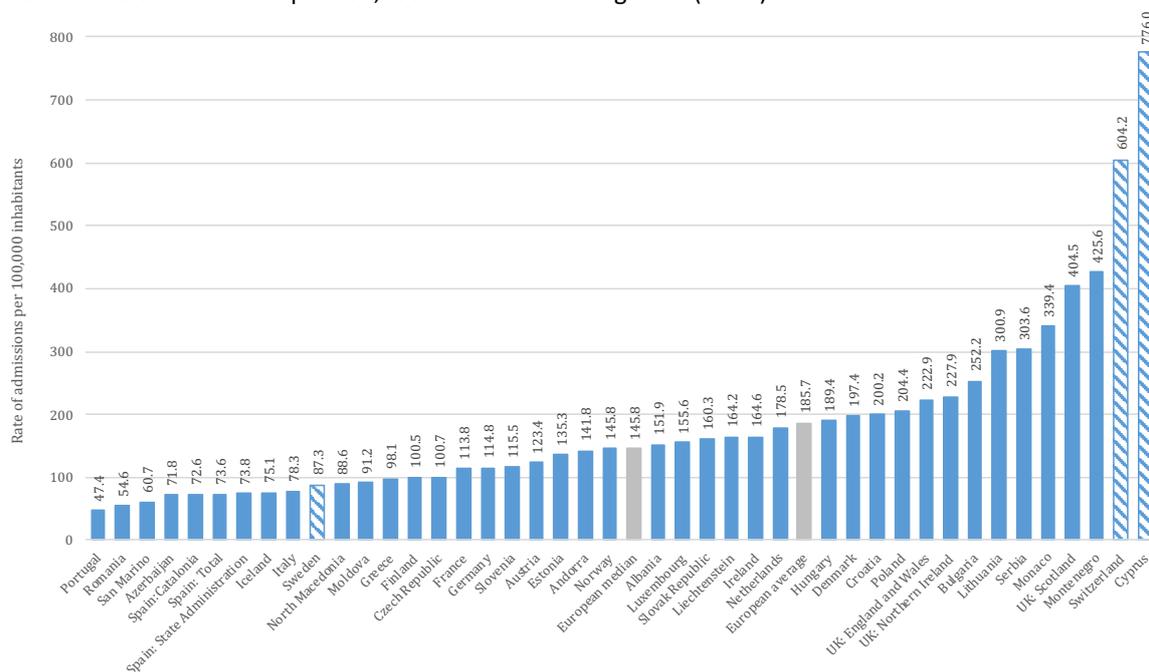


3. Flow indicators: Admissions, IALI, exits, turnover ratio, and cost of imprisonment during the year 2018

Admissions into penal institutions

During the year 2018, there were 776,718 admissions into penal institutions in the 41 prison administrations that provided data for this indicator, representing a European median rate of 146 admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (see SPACE I, Table 23). Figure 11 shows the rate of admissions by country. Cyprus, Sweden, and Switzerland use a definition of admissions that do not comply with that of SPACE; therefore, their rates are not comparable to those of the rest of the prison administrations and are presented in striped bars.

Figure 11. Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants during 2018 (N=41)

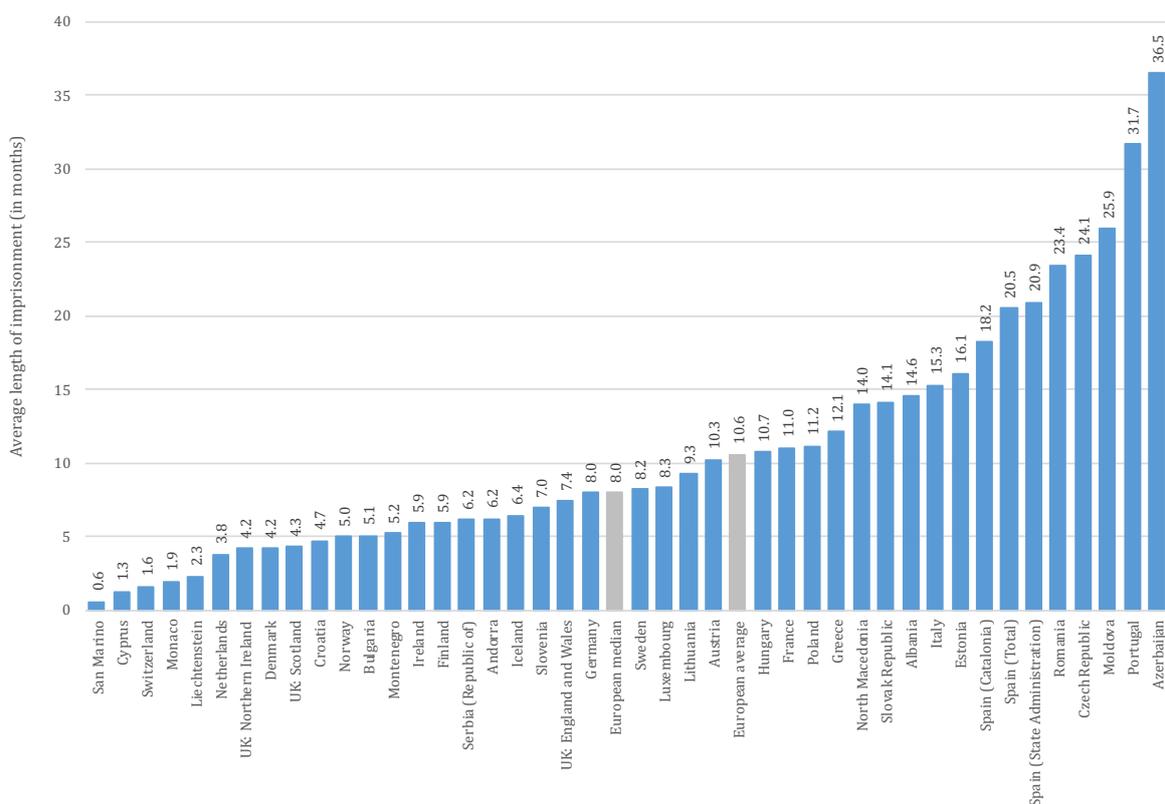


A comparison of the distribution of the prison administrations in Figure 11 with that in Figure 1 reveals that the relationship between the rates of admissions and the prison population rates is not straightforward. Portugal and Spain, for example, have very low rates of admissions, but high prison population rates; on the contrary, the Netherlands and Denmark have very low prison population rates and high or very high rates of admissions (see Table 1 below). The key factor in that context is the length of imprisonment, which is presented in the next section.

Indicator of the average length of imprisonment (IALI)

In 2018, the length of imprisonment in Europe was 8 months. The IALI has been calculated on the basis of the stock and flow of inmates as well as on the basis of the total number of days spent in penal institutions (for details, see SPACE I, Part E). Both ways of estimating the IALI provide virtually the same average length of detention. Figure 12 presents the distribution based on the stock and flow of inmates. Going back to our previous comparison, it can be seen that in Denmark and the Netherlands inmates tend to remain in penal institutions for short periods of time, while in Portugal and Spain the average length of imprisonment is very high.

Figure 12. Average length of imprisonment in 2018 (based on the stock and flow of inmates) (N=41)



Research suggests that lengthy detentions are usually correlated with the punitivity of a criminal justice system or with its slowness. In that perspective, swift criminal justice systems are characterized by short criminal procedures, and the less punitive criminal justice systems tend to impose short sentences and/or facilitate the liberation of inmates. In practice, Figure 12 shows that there are wide differences in the average length of imprisonment observed in Europe.

The length of imprisonment varies also according to the legal status of the inmate. For inmates not serving a final sentence, the average length of imprisonment was almost 5 months; while for sentenced prisoners it was 13 months (see SPACE I, Table 31).

Exits (releases, deaths and escapes) from penal institutions

During 2018, there were 860,647 exits in the 41 prison administrations that provided data for this indicator, which corresponds to a European median rate of 114 exits per 100,000 inhabitants (see SPACE I, Table 23).

The vast majority (more than 99%) of the exits in 2018 were due to releases. Escapes represented only 0.1% of the exits, while deaths in penal institutions accounted for 0.3% of them (See SPACE I, Table 26).

Releases: The European median rate was 117 releases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Deaths in prison:

The European *prison mortality rate* in 2018 was 28 inmates per 10,000 inmates.
The European *prison suicide rate* in 2018 was 5.7 inmates per 10,000 inmates.

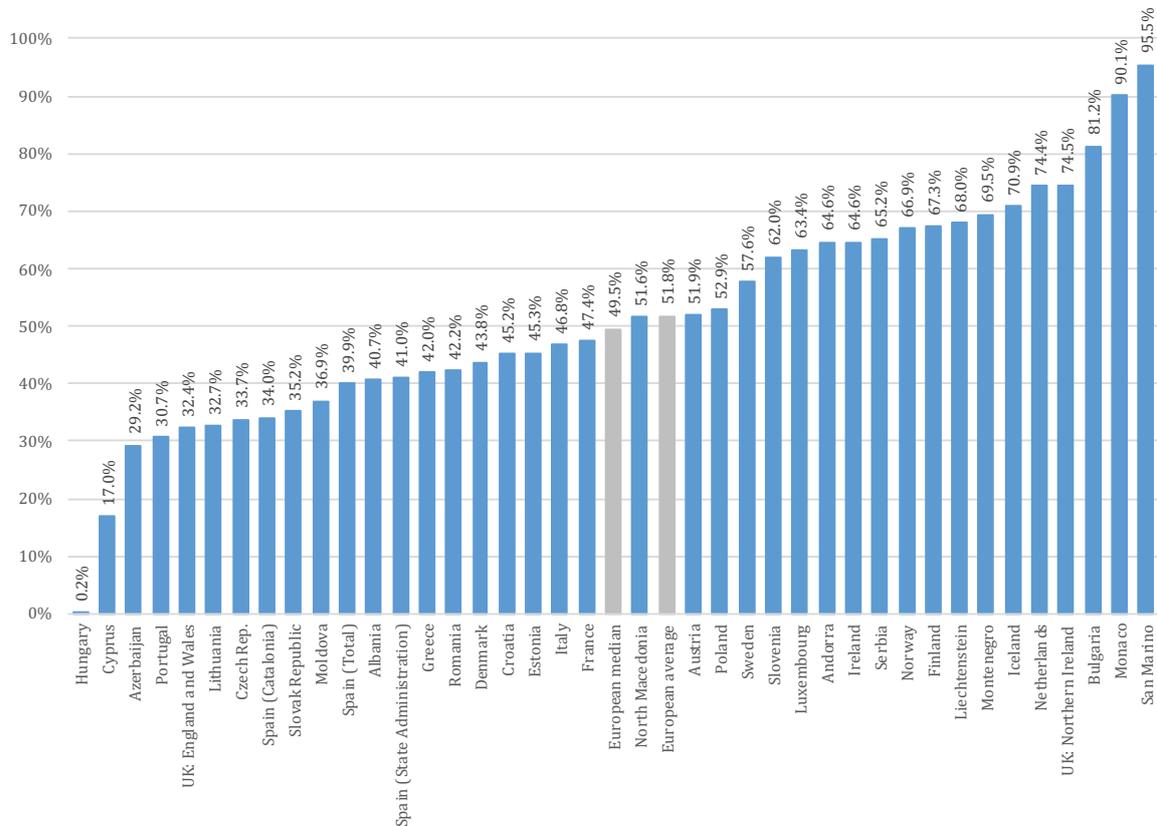
Escapes: The European median rate was 6 escapes per 10,000 inmates.

Turnover ratio

The turnover ratio is an estimation of the release rate per 100 potential releases (i.e. the percentage of effective releases from the total number of potential releases). The calculations are based on raw data: the prison population (stock) on 31st January 2019 and the numbers of admissions (flow of admissions) and releases (flow of releases) in 2018. The sum of the stock and the flow of admissions provides an estimation of the total number of inmates likely to be released during the year (i.e. potential releases). This number is then put in relation with the effective number of releases during 2018. A low turnover ratio (less than 50%) implies relatively long periods of custody and could thus be seen as an early warning sign of a risk of prison overcrowding (See SPACE I, Table 27).

The European turnover ratio of the prison population in 2018 was 50%. This indicator concerns the 38 prison administrations that provided data for all the indicators required for the estimation of it, and is presented in Figure 13. Among countries with at least one million inhabitants, it can be seen that those with the lowest turnover ratios usually have high or very high prison population rates (see Table 1 below).

Figure 13. Turnover ratio in 2018 (N=38)



Cost of imprisonment

At the European level, imprisonment costed more than 26 billion Euro in 2018. More precisely, the 43 prison administrations that provided data indicated that the budget spent by their prison administrations in 2018 was 26,067,663,670 Euro.

Forty-two prison administrations provided also the daily amount spent for the detention in custody of one inmate. At the European level, each inmate costed 68 Euro per day.

Disclaimer: The cost of imprisonment does not take into account differences in the cost of living and other economic indicators across countries (e.g. GDP, purchase power, poverty rate, Euro-national currency exchange rate).

4. Overview of the main indicators by country

Table 1 shows the relative position of each European prison administration according to their score in a series of selected indicators. The prison administrations are divided in five clusters according to their score on each of these indicators:

1. **Very high:** This cluster includes the prison administrations whose score is more than 25% higher than the European median value.
2. **High:** This cluster includes the prison administrations whose score is between 5% and 25% higher than the European median value.
3. **Close:** This cluster includes the prison administrations whose score is similar (i.e. between -5% and +5%) to the European median value.
4. **Low:** This cluster includes the prison administrations whose score is between 5% and 25% lower than the European median value.
5. **Very Low:** This cluster includes the prison administrations whose score is more than 25% lower than the European median value.

For each indicator, the Table specifies the number of prison administrations (PA) for which data are available (e.g. the prison population rate is available for 50 PA, but the percentage of female inmates is available only for 45 of them). This is due to the fact that there are countries that did not provide data for every indicator. Three countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and the United Kingdom) have more than one prison administration. Consequently, each prison administration is mentioned separately in Table 1, except when all of them are in the same cluster. In this case, only the name of the country is mentioned (e.g., the percentage of female inmates is not available for the three PA of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Table 1. Ranking of countries according to the main prison indicators, 2019 (or 2018)

	Very high (the score is more than 25% higher than the European median value)	High (the score is between 5.1% and 25% higher than the European median value)	Medium (the score is close to the European median value, i.e. between -5% and +5%)	Low (the score is between 5.1% and 25% lower than the European median value)	Very low (the score is more than 25% lower than the European median value)	No data available
STOCK indicators on 31st January 2019						
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (50 PA)	Albania, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Turkey, UK: England and Wales and UK: Scotland.	Portugal, Spain (total), Spain (State Administration) and Ukraine.	Austria, Bulgaria, France, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, Romania and Spain (Catalonia).	Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland.	Andorra, Armenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden and UK: Northern Ireland	Bosnia & Herzegovina (State and Federal level).
% of female inmates in the prison population (45 PA)	Andorra, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Moldova, Monaco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Spain*.	Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.	Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Luxembourg and Slovenia.	Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and UK.	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, France, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and San Marino.	Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta and Ukraine.
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (42 PA)	Andorra, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain*, and Switzerland.	Finland, Montenegro and Portugal.		Croatia, Ireland and UK: England and Wales.	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Turkey, and UK: Northern Ireland.	Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Malta, Sweden, Ukraine and UK: Scotland.
% of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population (39 PA)	Bulgaria, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain (total) and Spain (State Administration).	Andorra, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Spain (Catalonia) and UK: England and Wales.	Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Slovak Republic and Sweden.	Albania, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Romania and UK: Northern Ireland.	Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, San Marino, and Turkey.	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Switzerland, Ukraine and UK: Scotland.
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population (45 PA)	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and UK: Northern Ireland.	Norway and Slovenia.	Austria, Finland and Germany.	Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Ireland, Moldova, Portugal, Spain (Catalonia), Turkey and UK: Scotland.	Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain (total), Spain (State Administration) and UK: England & Wales.	Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta and Ukraine.
Prison density per 100 places (49 PA)	Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Turkey.	Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, UK: England & Wales & UK: Scotland.	Azerbaijan, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain (Catalonia), Sweden and Switzerland.	Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Spain (total), Spain (State Administration) and UK: Northern Ireland.	Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Monaco and San Marino.	Bosnia & Herzegovina (State and Federal level) and Ukraine.
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (44 PA)	Austria, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain (State Administration) and Turkey.	Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain (total) and UK: Scotland.	Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Romania, Slovenia, Spain (Catalonia) and UK: England and Wales.	Croatia, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Sweden and UK: Northern Ireland.	Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta and Ukraine.

	Very high (the score is more than 25% higher than the European median value)	High (the score is between 5.1% and 25% higher than the European median value)	Medium (the score is close to the European median value, i.e. between -5% and +5%)	Low (the score is between 5.1% and 25% lower than the European median value)	Very low (the score is more than 25% lower than the European median value)	No data available
FLOW indicators for the year 2018						
Rate of admissions per 100,000 habitants in 2018 (41 PA)	Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland and UK.	Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Slovak Republic.	Albania, Andorra and Norway.	Austria, Estonia, France, Germany and Slovenia.	Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Moldova, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain* and Sweden.	Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Latvia, Malta, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.
Rate of releases per 100,000 habitants in 2018 (41 PA)	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia and Turkey.	Albania, Andorra, Croatia, Estonia, Liechtenstein, and Norway.	Austria, Denmark Slovak Republic and Slovenia.	Armenia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Moldova, North Macedonia and UK: England and Wales.	Azerbaijan, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain*, Sweden and UK: Northern Ireland.	Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Switzerland, Ukraine and UK: Scotland.
Suicide rate per 10,000 inmates in 2018 (43 PA)	Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain (Catalonia), Switzerland and UK: England and Wales.	Czech Republic, Lithuania and Spain (total).	Latvia and Spain (State Administration).	Romania, Russian Federation and Slovak Republic.	Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.	Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta, Ukraine, UK: Northern Ireland and UK: Scotland.
Rate of escapes per 10,000 inmates in 2018 (43 PA)	Austria, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.	Hungary.	Portugal and Spain (Catalonia).		Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Spain (total), Spain (State Administration), Turkey, UK: Northern Ireland and UK: Scotland.	Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta, Ukraine and UK: England and Wales.
Average length of imprisonment, in months [based on the stock and flow] (41 PA)	Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic and Spain*.	Lithuania.	Germany, Luxembourg and Sweden.	Andorra, Iceland, Serbia, Slovenia and UK: England and Wales.	Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, UK: Northern Ireland and UK: Scotland.	Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Latvia, Malta, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

*When the Table only indicates « Spain » it means that the classification is the same for Spain (State Administration), Spain (Catalonia) and Spain (total).

5. Annual variations of the stock indicators (2018-2019) and the flow indicators (2017-2018)

Table 2 shows the variations of stock indicators from 2018 to 2019, as well as flow indicators from 2017 to 2018. **Comparisons are restricted to the prison administrations (PA) for which data are available for both years.** This means that the figures included in the Table may not coincide with those included in the SPACE I report or in other sections of this Key Findings. For example, even if the present SPACE I report includes data on admissions and releases in 41 PA during 2018 (see also page 9 of this Key Findings), only 38 of them had provided the relevant data for 2017 (See SPACE I 2018), and therefore the comparison can only be performed between these 38 PA. The number of PA that provided data for both years is indicated between brackets for each indicator.

Table 2. Annual variations in stock indicators (2017 to 2018) and flow indicators (2018 to 2019)

	2018	2019	% change 2018-2019
Stock indicators			
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (45 PA)	104.0	104.5	0.5
% of female inmates in the prison population (43 PA)	5.08	5.12	0.8
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (38 PA)	15.9	16.6	4.1
<i>Of which:</i> % of foreign inmates from EU countries (36 PA)	32.3	27.5	-14.9
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison populations (41 PA)	22.7	22.4	-1.2
Prison density per 100 places (42 PA)	91.4	88.5	-3.1
Number of overcrowded prison administrations (more than 100 inmates per 100 places) (42 PA)	12	11	-8.3
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (42 PA)	1.60	1.63	2.1
Ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (40 PA)	2.9	2.8	-2.2
Sentenced prisoners by offence			
% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (37 PA)	16.8	17.7	5.3
% of prisoners sentenced for theft (37 PA)	15.8	13.0	-17.6
% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (37 PA)	12.9	13.1	1.6
Sentenced prisoners by length of sentence imposed			
% of prisoners sentenced to less than one year (37 PA)	14.9	16.3	9.3
% of prisoners sentenced from 1 to less than 3 years (39 PA)	24.4	27.4	12.4
% of prisoners sentenced from 3 to less than 5 years (39 PA)	16.0	16.6	3.5
% of prisoners sentenced from 5 to less than 10 years (39 PA)	17.0	20.0	17.8
	2017	2018	% change 2017-2018
Flow indicators			
Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (38 PA)	135.1	138.5	2.5
Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (38 PA)	110.6	115.6	4.5
Average length of imprisonment in months (based on the stock and flow) (38 PA)	8.2	7.7	-5.4
Cost indicator			
Total budget spent by the prison administrations (39 PA)	21,132,271,677€	22,178,618,006€	+5.0

Notes:

- PA = prison administration
- The number between brackets indicates the number of PA that provided data for both years

Considering that increases up to +5% or decreases up to -5% reflect stability, the annual variations observed at the *European level* are summarized below.

The following indicators *remained relatively stable*:

- The prison population rate (+0.5%);
- The percentage of female inmates in the prison population (+0.8%);
- The percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population (+4.1);
- The percentage of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population (-1.2%);
- The prison density per 100 places (-3.1%);
- The ratio of inmates per one staff member (+2.1);
- The ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (-2.2%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for homicide (+1.6%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 3 years to less than 5 years (+3.5%);
- The rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (+2.5%);
- The rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (+4.5%);
- The total budget spent by the prison administrations (+5.0%).

The following indicators registered a *decrease*:

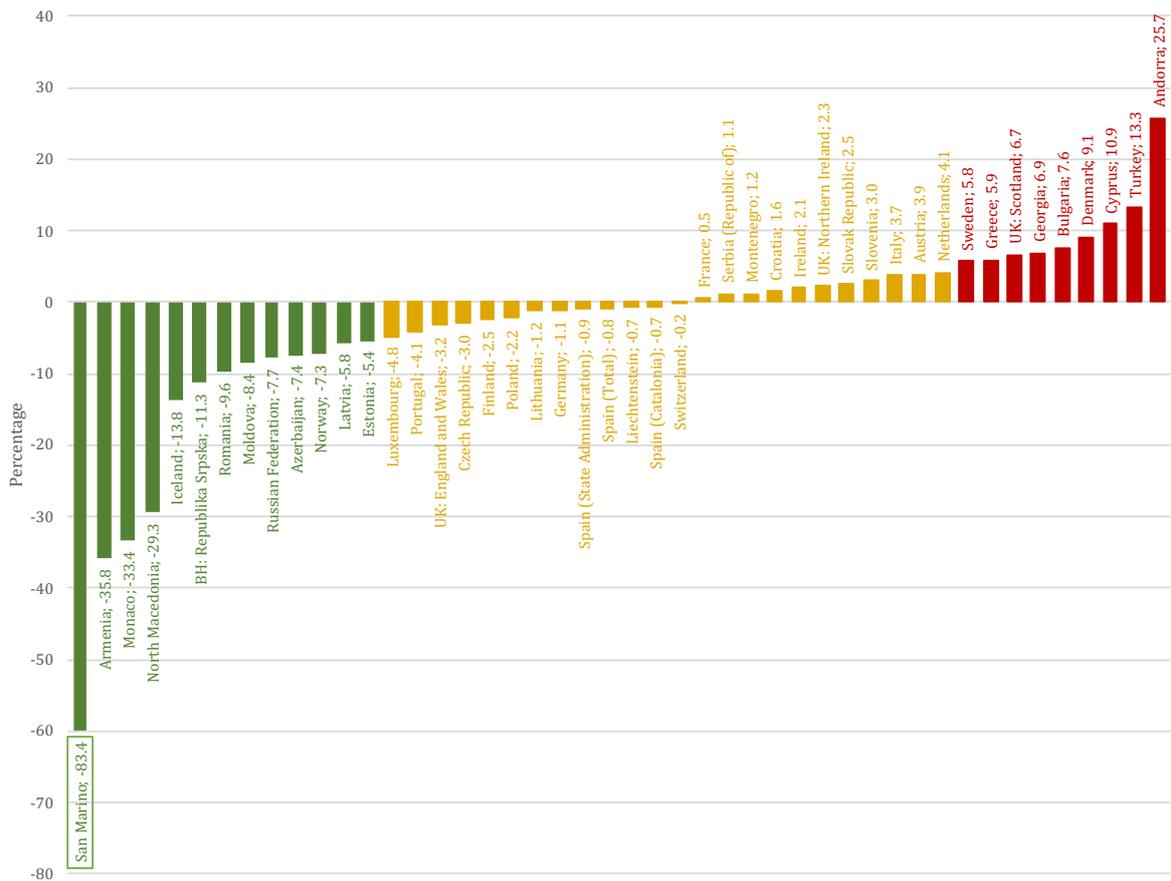
- The percentage of foreign inmates from EU countries (-15%);
- The number of PA experiencing overcrowding (-8.3%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for theft (-18%);
- The average length of imprisonment in months estimated on the basis of the stock and flow of inmates (- 5.4%).

The following indicators registered an *increase*:

- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (+5.3%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 1 year to less than 3 years (+12%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 5 years to less than 10 years (+18%).

At the *individual level*, Figure 14 shows the annual variation of the prison population rate in the 45 prison administrations (PA) that provided data for 2018 and 2019. When the two Spanish PA are analysed separately, it can be seen that the prison population rate was stable in 24 PA (presented in yellow in Figure 14), increased in only 9 PA (presented in red in Figure 14), and decreased in 12 PA (presented in green in the Figure 14).

Figure 14: Percentage change in prison population rates (2019 compared to 2018) in 45 prison administrations

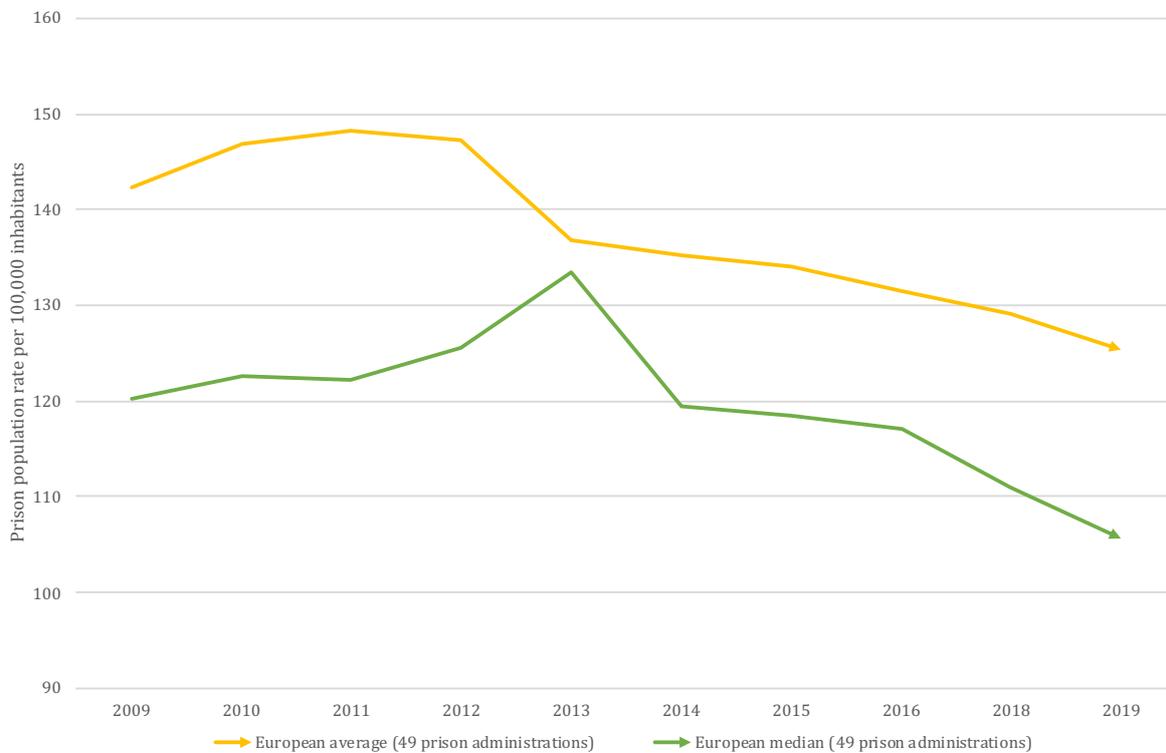


6. Trends from 2009 to 2019

Figure 15 shows the trends observed in the European median and average prison population rates from 2009 to 2019 (see *Methodology* for details on the exclusion of the year 2017). Forty-nine prison administrations (detailed below in Figure 16) provided the necessary data for the computation of these indicators. The values for a few missing years were estimated using linear interpolation, which explains slight differences with rates presented elsewhere. The first part of the series is taken from the study *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* (Aebi et al., 2019), available on the SPACE website, which updated the whole SPACE series for the years 2005 to 2015¹.

As can be seen in Figure 15, the *median* European prison population rate increased from 2009 to 2013 and decreased after that, in such a way that the rate of 2019 is lower than that in 2009. If the comparison is based on the *average* European prison population rate, the only difference is that this rate started decreasing one year before (in 2012 instead of 2013).

Figure 15. Trends in the prison population rates of 49 prison administrations from 2009 to 2019



¹ Aebi, M.F., Berger-Kolopp, L., Burkhardt, C. & Tiago, M.M. (2019). *Prisons in Europe: 2005-2015* (Volumes 1 and 2). Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing.

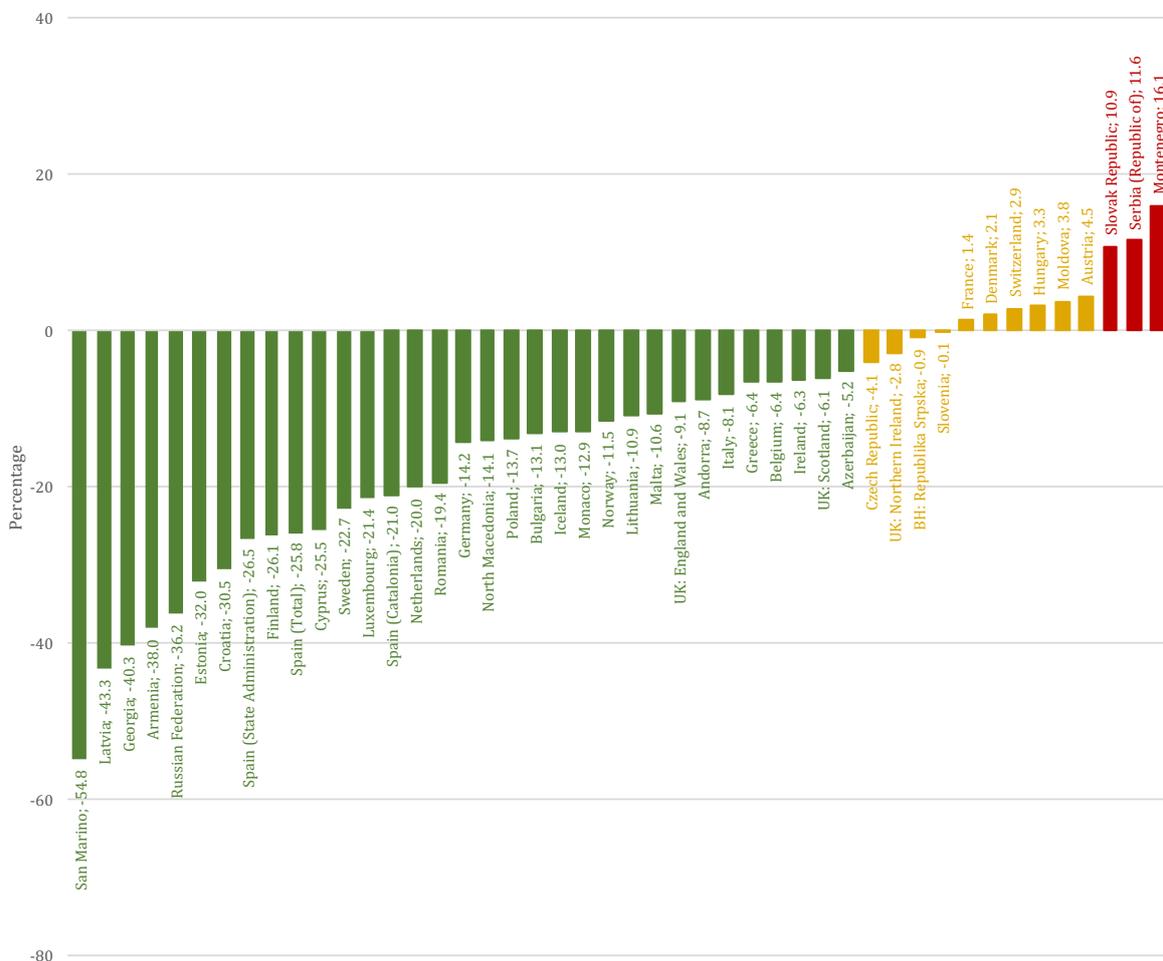
<https://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2019/12/Prisons-in-Europe-2005-2015-Volume-1.pdf>

Figure 16 presents the situation at the individual level, indicating the percentage change in the prison population rates of the 49 prison administrations under study. For example, in 2019 the prison population rate of Armenia was 36% lower than that in 2009, while the rate of Albania in 2019 was 16% higher than that in 2009.

Following once more the logic of considering increases and decreases up to 5% as a synonym of relative stability, the situation can be summarized as follows:

- Three (3) prison administrations show a higher prison population rate in 2019 than in 2009.
- Thirty-six (36) prison administrations show a lower prison population rate in 2019 than in 2009.
- Ten (10) prison administrations show a stable situation, in the sense that their rates in 2019 are similar to those in 2009.

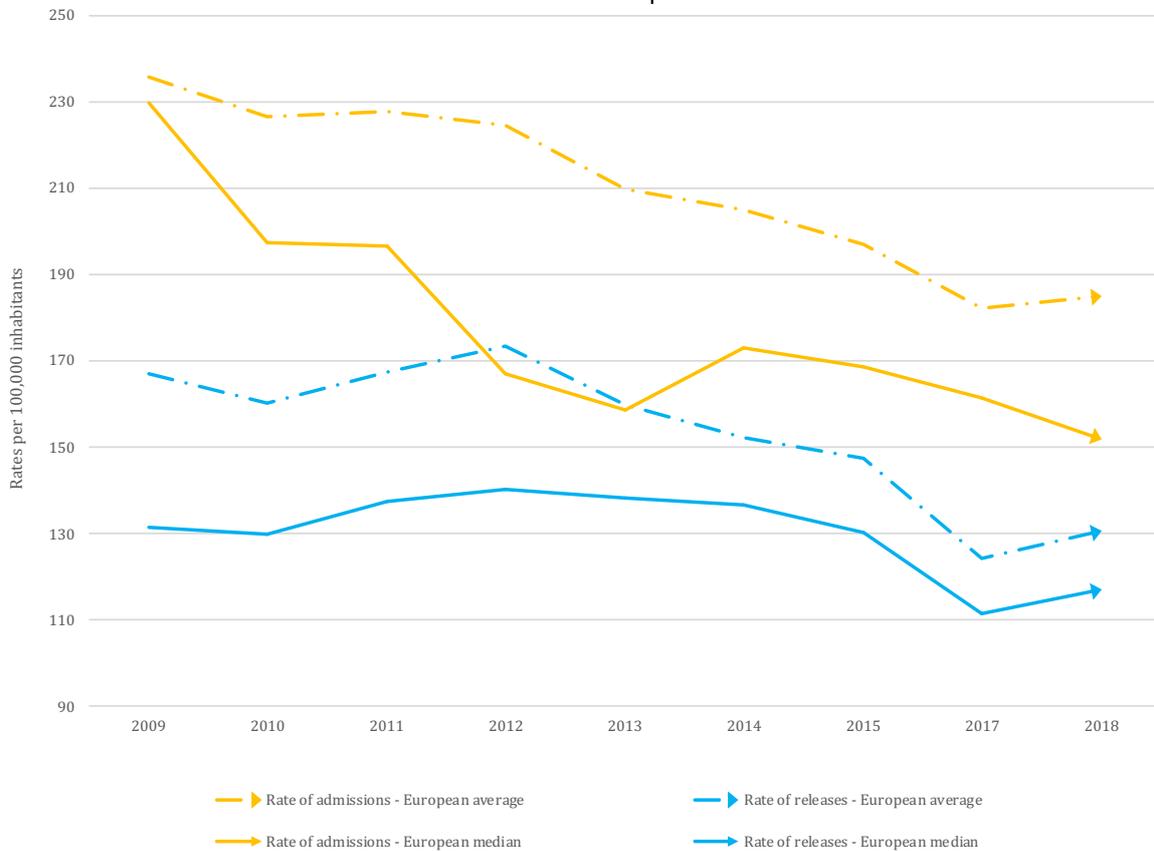
Figure 16. Percentage change in prison population rates (2019 compared to 2009) in 49 prison administrations



Finally, Figure 17 shows the trends observed in the European median and average rates of admissions and releases from 2009 to 2018 (see *Methodology* for details on the exclusion of the year 2016). Thirty-one prison administrations provided the necessary data for the computation of these indicators. The values for a few missing years were estimated using linear interpolation, which explains slight differences with rates presented elsewhere. As in the case of Figures 15 and 16, the first part of the series is taken from the already mentioned study *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* (Aebi et al., 2019), available on the SPACE website, which updated the whole SPACE series for the years 2005 to 2015 (see footnote 1). It can be seen that:

- The *rate of admissions* followed a downward trend from 2009 to 2018, independently of the indicator (average or median) analysed.
- The *average rate of releases* remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2012 before decreasing until 2017, while the *median rate* suggests that the stability lasted roughly until 2014-15.

Figure 17. Trends in the rates of admissions and releases of 31 prison administrations from 2009 to 2018



7. Tables

Table 3. Stock indicators on 31st January 2019

Country	Total number of inmates (including pre-trial detainees)	Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants	% of female inmates in the prison population	% of foreign inmates in the prison population	% of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population	% of inmates without a final sentence in the prison population	% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (including attempts)	% of prisoners sentenced for theft	% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 1 to less than 3 years	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 3 to less than 5 years	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 5 to less than 10 years	Prison density per 100 places	Ratio of inmates per one staff member
Albania	5 280	184.5	2.0	1.9	11.4	40.7	27.4	8.1	31.8	10.9	22.7	26.8	84.7	1.2
Andorra	56	73.5	8.9	58.9	16.1	57.1	29.2	4.2	87.5	8.3	8.3	12.5	39.4	0.7
Armenia	2 266	76.4	3.2	5.2	NA	41.0	NA	NA	NA	8.2	23.5	38.6	42.4	1.1
Austria	9 351	105.6	6.2	54.7	14.5	22.4	***	NA	NA	31.2	17.4	13.7	105.8	2.4
Azerbaijan	21 926	218.2	2.9	2.1	NA	16.9	14.0	12.0	28.3	NA	NA	NA	86.0	NA
Belgium	10 883	94.9											120.6	
BH: BiH (total)														
BH: BiH (st. level)														
BH: Fed. BiH														
BH: Rep. Srpska	762	66.4											50.9	
Bulgaria	7 466	106.7	3.0	3.0	35.2	19.1	13.8	30.2	10.3	31.0	15.6	13.7	78.7	1.7
Croatia	3 217	78.9	5.3	12.1	14.1	31.0	15.4	22.5	7.7	31.2	16.8	16.8	80.0	1.2
Cyprus	723	82.5	5.1	43.6	14.7	30.4	10.7	9.8	27.8	25.9	15.4	26.3	98.1	1.7
Czech Rep.	21 577	202.6	7.6	8.2	13.8	8.4	NA	NA	NA	37.3	17.2	15.7	102.5	1.9
Denmark	4 003	68.9	4.3	28.2	11.0	38.2	7.4	8.9	22.0	31.6	13.8	14.6	103.6	0.9
Estonia	2 399	181.1	4.8	35.1	17.1	15.1	16.3	9.6	27.4	27.6	22.4	24.8	77.5	2.0
Finland	2 748	49.8	7.0	17.9	11.4	22.9	20.5	10.0	19.5	29.2	18.8	16.1	94.6	1.2
France	70 059	104.5	3.6	23.1	11.9	29.0	10.0	17.6	18.5	34.3	14.4	13.6	116.5	1.7
Georgia	10 042	269.7											80.4	
Germany	63 643	76.7	6.9	NA	NA	21.9	7.3	23.9	12.9	NA	NA	NA	85.6	1.7
Greece	10 613	99.0	5.3	54.9	16.5	31.1	NA	NA	NA	1.9	6.6	29.5	106.8	2.4
Hungary	16 560	169.5	7.3	4.6	16.0	2.8	10.3	20.7	10.1	32.0	19.7	25.7	114.5	2.0
Iceland	144	40.3	7.6	21.5	11.1	13.2	12.3	5.7	34.4	30.3	9.0	11.5	83.7	1.1
Ireland	3 983	81.2	4.5	13.6	12.8	20.4	13.7	17.5	12.0	23.6	19.3	21.7	93.9	1.1
Italy	60 125	99.6	4.3	33.8	24.7	32.8	17.3	5.4	31.8	19.5	22.1	26.8	118.9	1.4
Latvia	3 522	183.4	7.8	2.4	NA	27.9	23.5	49.9	46.9	19.7	20.8	27.5	59.8	1.4
Liechtenstein	12	31.3	0.0	75.0	33.3	83.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	60.0	0.8
Lithuania	6 485	232.1	4.7	1.9	9.3	9.3	26.3	12.6	13.8	24.3	15.0	23.3	81.0	1.9
Luxembourg	664	108.2	5.1	74.4	13.3	48.6	16.5	11.8	18.6	31.9	12.4	15.0	93.4	1.5
Malta	660	133.7											107.0	
Moldova	6 990	197.0	6.5	1.2	7.1	18.1	29.4	17.0	10.7	8.7	15.2	37.9	103.8	2.5
Monaco	21	54.8	14.3	95.2	19.0	76.2	0.0	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	20.0	22.3	0.3

Country	Total number of inmates (including pre-trial detainees)	Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants	% of female inmates in the prison population	% of foreign inmates in the prison population	% of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population	% of inmates without a final sentence in the prison population	% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (including attempts)	% of prisoners sentenced for theft	% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 1 to less than 3 years	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 3 to less than 5 years	% of prisoners whose sentence ranges from 5 to less than 10 years	Prison density per 100 places	Ratio of inmates per one staff member
Montenegro	1 154	185.5	2.6	15.3	9.1	29.2	17.1	26.6	20.9	27.4	14.4	15.4	87.1	2.2
Netherlands	9 753	56.4	5.7	23.1	16.1	42.6	13.1	13.0	17.7	28.7	8.6	10.2	97.3	1.0
North Macedonia	2 144	103.2	3.3	6.7	16.0	13.7	12.9	20.4	13.9	25.3	19.4	21.2	70.9	2.8
Norway	3 227	60.6	6.0	31.1	20.4	25.9	8.7	5.1	24.3	27.4	16.6	15.2	88.5	0.8
Poland	72 204	190.1	4.1	1.4	15.6	10.2	7.2	26.3	3.6	35.7	15.6	10.5	85.8	2.5
Portugal	12 867	125.2	6.4	15.2	21.0	17.1	7.8	16.8	15.7	15.5	18.9	35.6	99.5	1.9
Romania	20 689	106.6	4.6	1.2	13.2	9.3	24.4	17.9	4.4	20.6	25.6	27.9	113.1	1.6
Russian Fed.	563 166	386.1	7.9	6.2	7.0	9.2	19.7	14.9	28.0	19.5	22.2	34.7	73.3	2.2
San Marino	1	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.1
Serbia	10 871	156.1	4.1	2.9	15.6	15.6	9.8	25.0	24.2	25.5	24.1	20.3	105.5	2.7
Slovak Rep.	10 294	188.9	7.5	2.0	15.3	15.3	6.8	12.2	12.2	27.8	17.4	24.4	89.5	1.8
Slovenia	1 396	67.1	5.3	20.1	19.2	23.8	9.7	27.5	14.2	35.3	17.3	16.7	104.3	1.6
Spain (total)	58 983	125.7	7.5	28.1	19.5	15.7	7.7	4.1	18.2	19.7	20.4	26.7	71.7	2.0
Spain (State Administration)	50 612	128.7	7.6	25.3	19.7	15.4	7.3	2.1	18.7	20.0	20.5	26.3	69.6	2.1
Spain (Catalonia)	8 371	110.1	7.1	44.9	17.8	17.3	9.7	15.9	15.4	18.0	19.9	29.2	87.8	1.6
Sweden	6 109	59.7	5.6	NA	14.6	28.1	14.9	7.1	23.4	36.4	17.7	15.0	93.4	0.8
Switzerland	6 943	81.3	5.7	72.1	NA	47.7	14.0	18.8	18.7	19.7	16.6	9.1	93.9	1.5
Turkey	269 806	329.0	3.9	3.3	10.9	20.4	14.3	27.5	23.0	9.9	12.2	27.8	122.5	4.9
Ukraine	52 973	125.7												
UK: Eng. & Wales	82 236	137.9	4.6	11.1	16.5	11.3	9.7	12.9	15.0	16.9	12.9	20.7	96.7	1.6
UK: N. Ireland	1 504	79.2	4.3	9.3	13.2	35.4	15.6	9.8	9.1	23.4	12.9	17.8	79.0	1.0
UK: Scotland	7 984	146.0	4.5	NA	NA	20.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	103.4	1.9
Average		125.9	5.3	22.9	15.3	25.9	13.6	16.4	19.4	27.5	15.8	20.9	87.1	1.6
Median		106.1	5.1	14.4	14.7	21.9	13.4	14.0	18.1	27.4	16.7	20.2	89.5	1.6
Minimum		2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.1
Maximum		386.1	14.3	95.2	35.2	83.3	29.4	60.0	87.5	100.0	25.6	50.0	122.5	4.9

Table 4. Flow indicators for the year 2018

Country	Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants	Rate of exits per 100,000 inhabitants	Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants	Turnover ratio	Suicide rate per 10,000 inmates	Rate of escapes per 10,000 inmates	Average length of imprisonment (based on the stock and the flow)	Total budget spent by the prison administration
Albania	151.9	137.4	136.5	40.7	1.9	0.0	14.6	45 308 227.00 €
Andorra	141.8	137.7	137.7	64.6	0.0	0.0	5.2	3 854 275.30 €
Armenia	NA	89.1	88.7	NA	8.8	NA	NA	15 158 016.00 €
Austria	123.4	120.4	119.4	51.9	12.8	41.7	10.0	493 762 858.32 €
Azerbaijan	71.8	86.7	85.7	29.2	1.8	0.0	NA	47 106 913.00 €
Belgium								
BH: BiH (total)								
BH: BiH (st. level)								
BH: Fed. BiH								
BH: Rep. Srpska								
Bulgaria	252.2	88.6	289.3	81.2	0.0	0.0	NA	13 938 764.00 €
Croatia	200.2	187.4	125.2	45.2	9.3	0.0	NA	69 124 113.24 €
Cyprus	776.0	147.8	147.8	17.0	13.8	0.0	1.2	17 723 823.00 €
Czech Rep.	100.7	103.0	102.6	33.7	6.5	0.0	24.5	419 798 991.00 €
Denmark	197.4	118.4	117.1	43.8	12.5	169.9	3.9	459 060 000.00 €
Estonia	135.3	144.6	144.0	45.3	16.7	0.0	16.8	53 604 395.00 €
Finland	100.5	102.5	101.3	67.3	7.3	229.3	5.8	182 975 000.00 €
France	113.8	103.9	103.3	47.4	14.7	35.3	11.2	2 704 981 650.64 €
Georgia								
Germany	114.8	63.3	NA	NA	12.9	55.3	8.1	3 225 652 749.00 €
Greece	98.1	82.9	82.6	42.0	7.5	10.4	11.7	113 997 940.00 €
Hungary	189.4	204.0	0.8	0.2	1.8	6.6	NA	235 088 625.00 €
Iceland	75.1	84.4	83.8	70.9	69.4	69.4	6.3	14 496 060.00 €
Ireland	164.6	161.4	161.0	64.6	2.5	17.6	5.8	352 690 000.00 €
Italy	78.3	83.5	83.0	46.8	10.1	21.8	14.9	2 879 135 274.00 €
Latvia	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.7	0.0	NA	54 554 891.00 €
Liechtenstein	164.2	133.8	133.8	68.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	NA
Lithuania	300.9	NA	173.4	32.7	6.2	9.3	9.4	695 240 000.00 €
Luxembourg	155.6	174.3	171.3	63.4	0.0	241.0	8.2	60 300 937.19 €
Malta								
Moldova	91.2	107.2	106.4	36.9	8.6	1.4	25.9	26 904 870.00 €
Monaco	339.4	349.6	349.6	90.1	0.0	0.0	2.7	3 412 360.44 €
Montenegro	425.6	425.5	424.4	69.5	0.0	0.0	5.2	10 086 836.33 €
Netherlands	178.5	178.3	175.8	74.4	9.2	414.2	3.7	701 892 000.00 €
North Macedonia	88.6	106.6	99.1	51.6	0.0	191.2	14.4	18 279 485.00 €
Norway	145.8	139.6	139.0	66.9	3.1	93.0	5.3	409 586 022.00 €
Poland	204.4	208.9	208.6	52.9	3.3	0.3	5.9	726 211 404.39 €
Portugal	47.4	53.6	52.9	30.7	8.5	6.2	32.4	269 874 174.00 €
Romania	54.6	68.0	67.7	42.2	4.8	4.4	31.0	295 301 288.00 €
Russian Fed.	NA	192.7	191.0	NA	5.0	1.7	NA	3 515 102 931.65 €
San Marino	60.7	66.5	60.7	95.5	0.0	(20)	2.1	551 388.00 €
Serbia	303.6	299.7	298.3	65.2	0.0	39.6	6.1	83 338 290.00 €
Slovak Rep.	160.3	123.0	123.0	35.2	4.9	3.9	NA	173 848 491.00 €
Slovenia	115.5	114.0	114.0	62.0	0.0	35.8	8.3	39 877 804.46 €
Spain (total)	73.6	80.5	80.1	39.9	6.4	3.6	20.6	1 589 327 950.70 €
Spain (State Adm.)	73.8	83.8	83.4	41.0	5.9	3.2	21.1	1 142 970 617.70 €
Spain (Catalonia)	72.6	63.1	62.7	34.0	9.6	6.0	18.3	446 357 333.00 €
Sweden	(87.3)	85.6	85.6	57.6	3.3	209.5	7.9	723 089 688.00 €
Switzerland	(604.2)	NA	NA	NA	8.6	230.4	1.6	NA
Turkey	NA	NA	280.9	NA	1.6	0.3	NA	1 183 254 371.91 €
Ukraine								
UK: Engl. & Wales	222.9	105.6	105.1	32.4	11.2	NA	7.5	3 609 000.00 €
UK: North. Ireland	222.9	7.3	7.3	74.5		0.0	4.1	143 422 000.00 €
UK: Scotland	404.5	547.3	NA	NA		2.5	4	388 100 000.00 €
Average	(185.7)	143.4	137.2	51.8	7.2	(515.1)	10.2	
Median	145.8	114.0	117.1	49.5	5.7	6.0	7.7	
Minimum	47.4	7.3	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	
Maximum	776.0	547.3	424.4	95.5	69.4	(20)	32.4	

8. Methodology

Unless stated otherwise, this document presents, for each indicator, the *European median value*. The median is the value that divides the data in two equal groups so that 50% of the countries are above the median and 50% are below it. The median is preferred to the *arithmetic mean* (commonly referred to as the *average*) because the latter is extremely sensitive to very high or very low values (technically known as *outliers*), which entail unreliable indicators and instable time series. Outliers are quite common in the sample of countries included in the SPACE report because some member States, like Liechtenstein, Monaco or San Marino, have a very low population and, as a consequence, a change in only one person can have a big impact on its percentages, rates, and trends.

For example, San Marino only had 1 inmate on 31st January 2019, and that person was a national citizen who had received a final sentence. This corresponds to percentages of 100% for national inmates and 100% for sentenced inmates; but the addition of only one inmate could decrease these percentages by 50% (if the additional inmate was a foreign citizen not serving a final sentence). Conversely, as San Marino has a population of 34,590 inhabitants, its prison population rate corresponds to 2.9 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants (*i.e.* it is higher than the real number of inmates and inhabitants), but the addition of only one inmate would increase it to 5.8 per 100,000 inhabitants. This problem is particularly relevant in a longitudinal perspective (*i.e.* when establishing time series or trends), because if a similar increase (in one inmate) takes place from one year to the other, it would represent a growth of 100% of the prison population. In addition, when calculating indicators for the continent, the inclusion of a percentage of 100% for one country artificially increases the European average for the indicator being measured. Something similar happens with other indicators such as the rate of escapes, which in the case of San Marino reached in 2018 the absurd number of 20,000 escapes per 10,000 inmates because there was one person deprived of freedom on 31st January 2019, but two had escaped during 2018.

The European median values are weighted according to the population and the number of inmates in each country. This means that they are estimated on the basis of the percentages and rates per 100,000 inhabitants of each country and not on the absolute numbers for the whole continent. Using the latter would produce different values, which could hide the diversity observed across countries. For example, on 31st January 2019, there were 1,540,484 inmates in the penal institutions of the 50 PA of the Council of Europe member states whose data on prison population rates are presented in the 2019 SPACE I report. At the same time, the total population of the territories in which these PA are located was 832 million inhabitants, which would lead to a prison population rate of 185 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants. However, when the European median value is estimated on the basis of the population and the number of inmates of each country (*i.e.* on the basis of the prison population rate of each country), it corresponds to 106 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, as stated at the beginning of this document.

While the Tables and Figures include decimals, in the comments all values equal or superior to 10 are in principle presented in round numbers (*i.e.*, without decimals), while those inferior to 10 are presented with one decimal.

In order to avoid duplication of data, the total for the whole territory of Spain (which corresponds to the addition of the data for the National Administration and the Catalan Administration) is not included in the computation of the average and median European values.

Whenever Bosnia and Herzegovina is represented in maps, data refer only to the Republika Srpska, which is the only prison administration of the country for which data concerning the prison population rate are available for 2019.

Since the 2018 SPACE I report, the date of reference for stock indicators refers to 31st January of the year preceding the publication instead of 1st September of the year before that one, as it was the case from 1983 to 2016. The aim of that change of date is to publish the latest available data. This means that there are no data available for 31st January 2017, although the data on 1st September 2016 could be considered as an acceptable proxy of the situation on 31st January 2017. In the case of flow indicators, the consequence of the change of date is that there are no data available for the year 2016. Researchers interested in establishing time series can interpolate the value for 2016 on the basis of those observed in 2015 and 2017. In Figures 15 and 17 we have preferred, however, not to interpolate these missing years.

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