

Prisons and Prisoners in Europe 2021: Key Findings of the SPACE I report

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1. Introduction

This document summarises the main findings of the *2021 Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics on Prison Populations*, better known under the acronym SPACE I. The data used to produce the Figures included in it are presented in Tables 3 and 4. The comments to these Figures use as reference the *European median values* — presented in round numbers unless they are lower than 10 — and only take into account countries with more than 100,000 inhabitants when illustrating major deviations from that indicator of central tendency (see *Methodology* for further details).

Forty-nine (49) of the 52 prison administrations in the 47 Council of Europe member states answered the SPACE I 2021 questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 94.2%. The following prison administrations did not send their answers: Bosnia & Herzegovina (State level and Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Malta.

Readers should keep in mind that the restrictions on movement introduced across the world to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 modified the structure of opportunities to commit crimes and led to a decrease of most offline offences (Nivette et al. 2021)¹ and an increase of some types of online offences (Kemp et al., 2021)²; in addition, they slowed down the functioning of prosecutors and courts. Consequently, there was a decrease of the number of persons entering into penal institutions (flow of entries) and this, combined with the fact that some countries released inmates as another preventive measure against COVID-19, had an influence on the number of inmates held in detention (stock) during 2020 (Aebi & Tiago, 2020a, 2020b)³ and on 31st January 2021.

¹ Nivette, A. E. et al. (2021). A global analysis of the impact of COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions on crime. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 5(7), 868-877.

² Kemp, S. et al (2021). Empty streets, busy internet: A time-series analysis of cybercrime and fraud trends during COVID-19. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 37(4), 480-501.

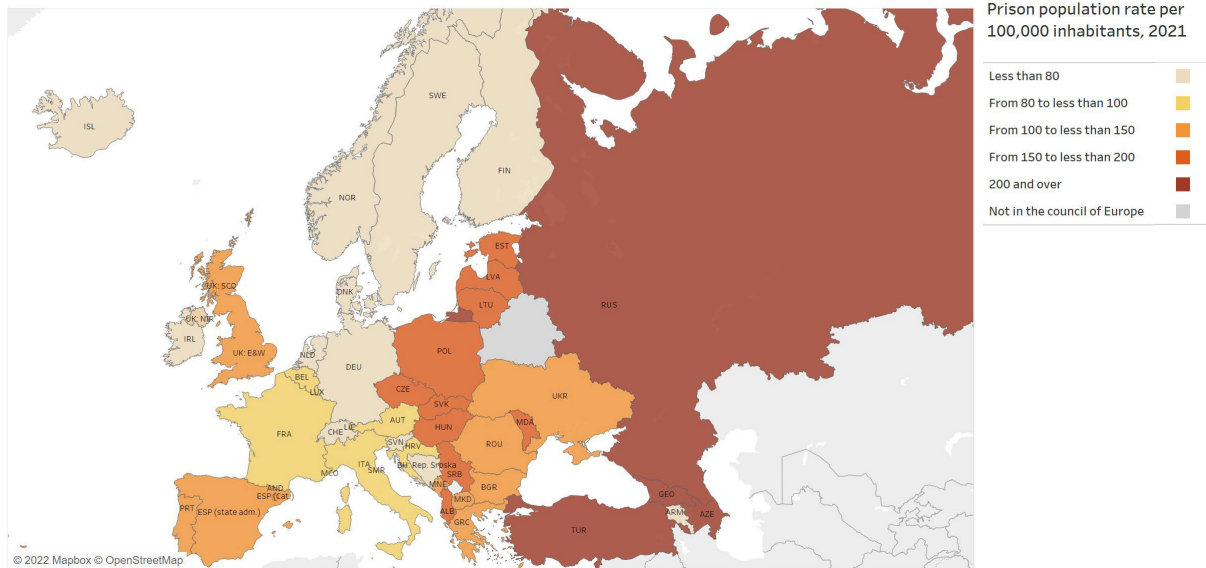
³ Aebi, M. F. & Tiago, M. M. (2020a). *Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the short-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations*. Series UNILCRIM 2020/3. Council of Europe and University of Lausanne.

Aebi, M. F. & Tiago, M. M. (2020b). *Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations*. Series UNILCRIM 2020/4. Council of Europe and University of Lausanne.

2. Stock indicators: Prisons and Prisoners on 31st January 2021

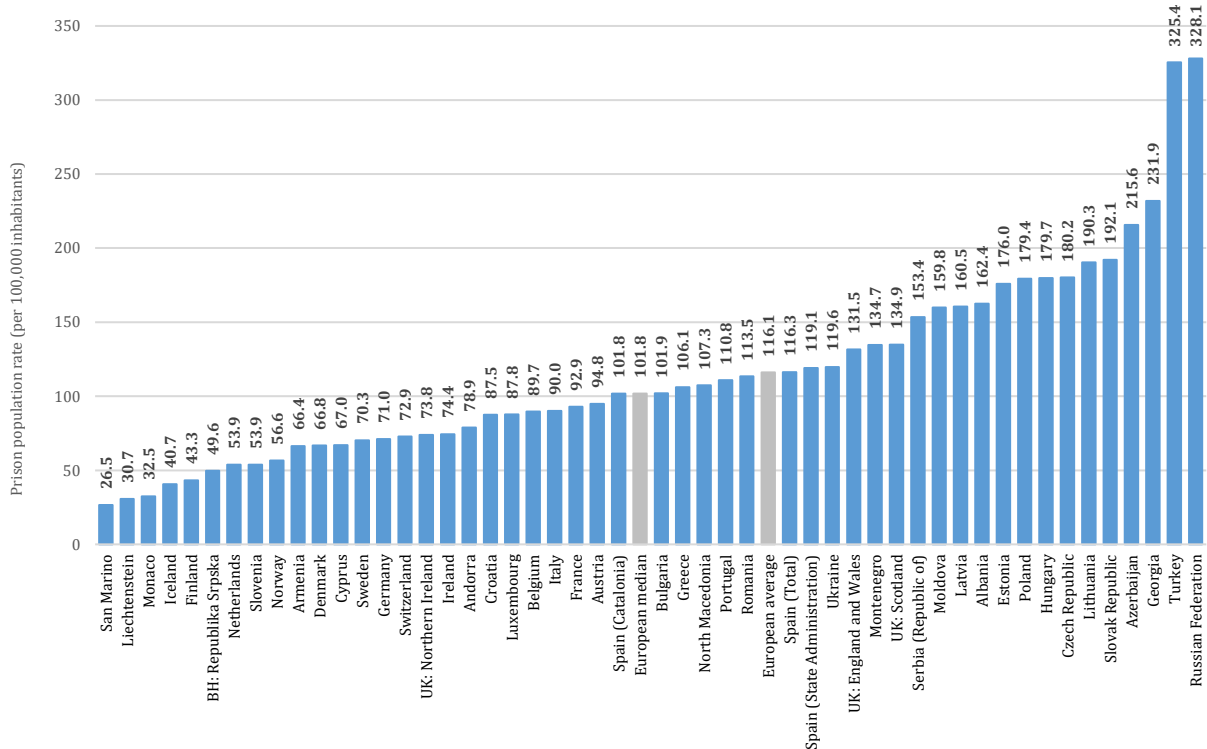
On 31st January 2021, there were 1,414,172 inmates in the penal institutions of the Council of Europe member states for which data are available. This corresponds to a European prison population rate of 102 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Map 1. Prison population rates (number of inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2021 (N=49)



Map 1 presents prison population rates in six categories (from less than 80 inmates to 200 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 200 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) are found in the East of the continent (Russian Federation, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan), while the lowest ones (*i.e.*, less than 80 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) are found in Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Armenia, the Isle of Ireland and in the five Nordic countries,

Figure 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2021 (N=49)



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 was 36 years. In countries with at least one million inhabitants, this age varied from 30 to 44 years (see SPACE I, Table 6).

Sixteen percent (16.1%) of the inmates were aged 50 or over, and 2.7% were aged 65 or over (see SPACE I, Table 6). The second category (65 years or more) is included in the first one (50 years or more), but the number of prison administrations that provided data for both categories slightly differ. Forty-four prison administrations were able to provide data on inmates aged 50 or over (Figure 2.1) and 43 on inmates aged 65 or over (Figure 2.2). SPACE started collecting data on these sociodemographic indicators in 2019 with the aim of testing the hypothesis that prison populations are ageing across Europe, but such analysis will only be possible once a few more years of data are available. What can be said right now is that the presence of a relatively high percentage of inmates aged fifty or over and aged sixty-five or over is not directly associated with the ranking of the country in other indicators presented in this study, such as the prison population rate (Figure 1) or the average length of imprisonment (Figure 12).

Figure 2.1 Percentage of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population on 31st January 2021 (N=44)

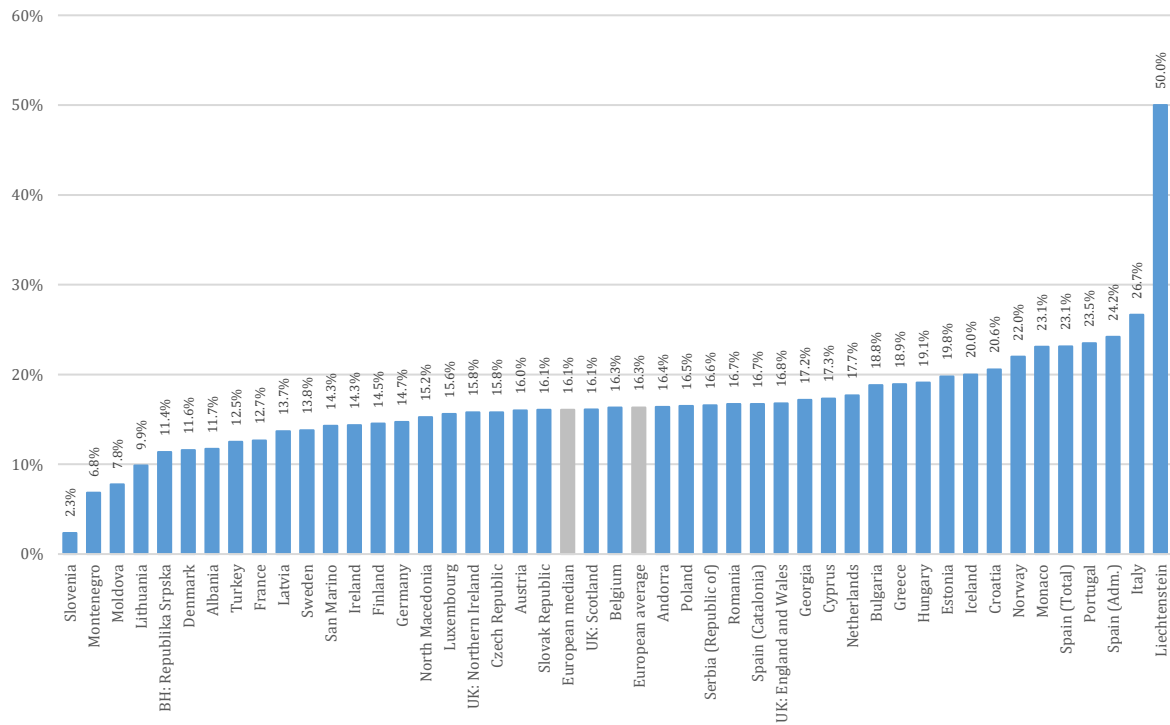
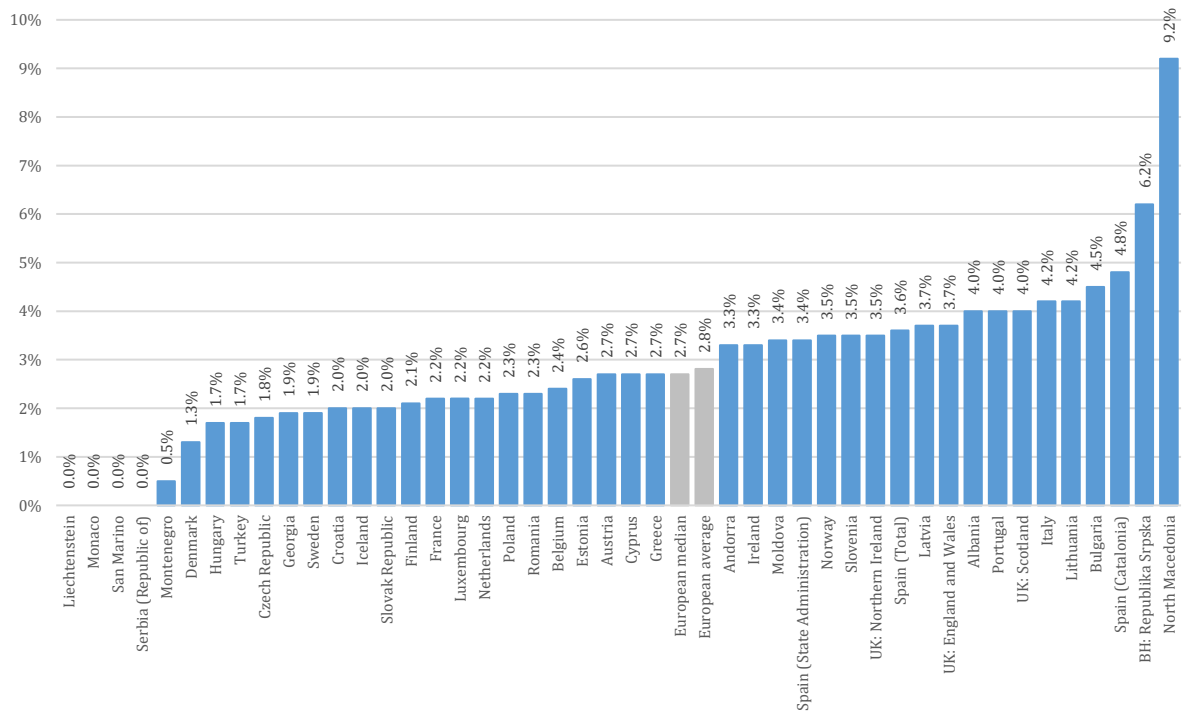


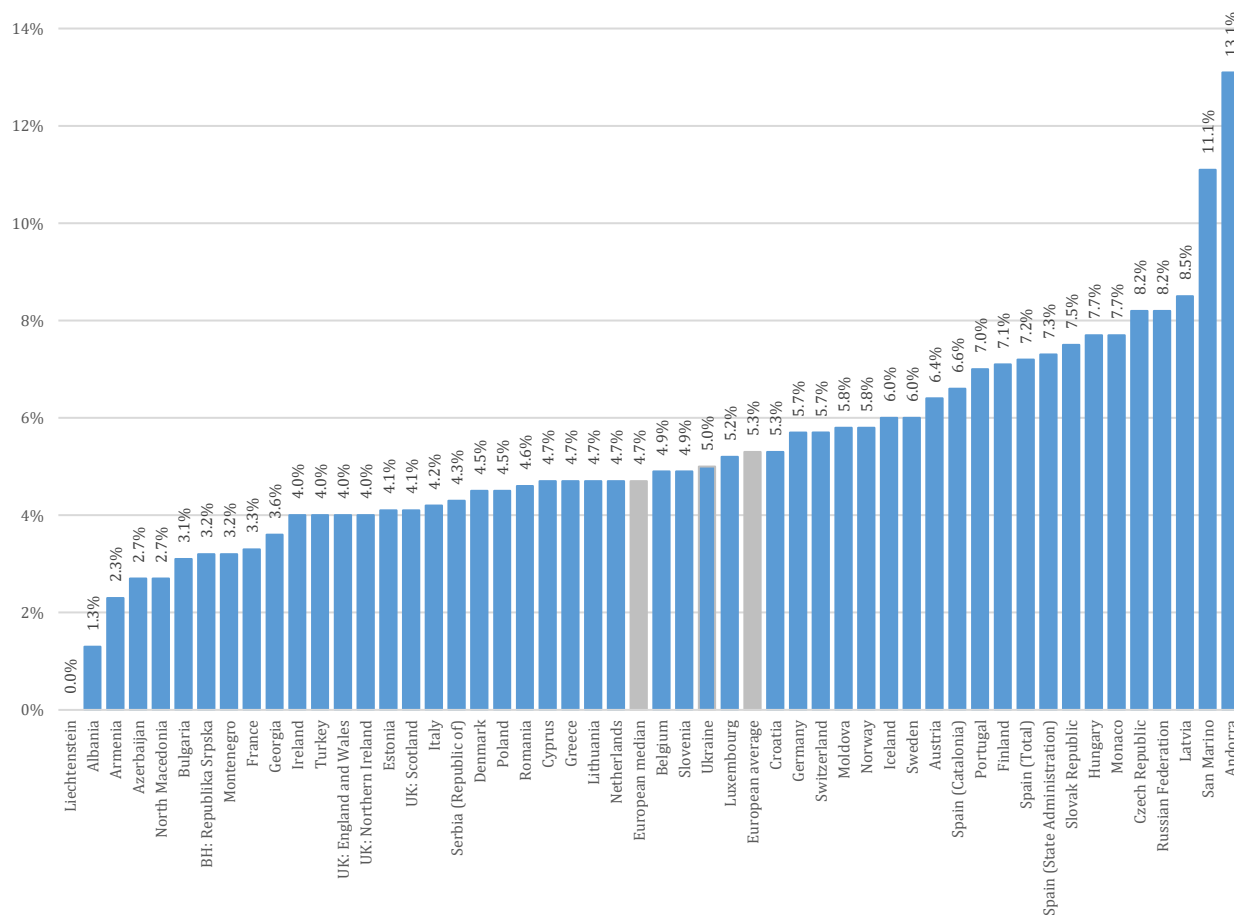
Figure 2.2: Percentage of inmates aged 65 or over in the prison population on 31st January 2021 (N=43)



Gender

In round numbers, 95% of the inmates held in Europe are men, and only 5% are women (see SPACE I, Table 7). Although there are differences across penal administrations, the underrepresentation of women in penal institutions is a constant across Europe, as can be observed in Figure 3. In countries with at least 100,000 inhabitants, the highest percentage is 8.5% (Latvia) and the lowest is 1.3% (Albania).

Figure 3. Percentage of female inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2021 (N=49)



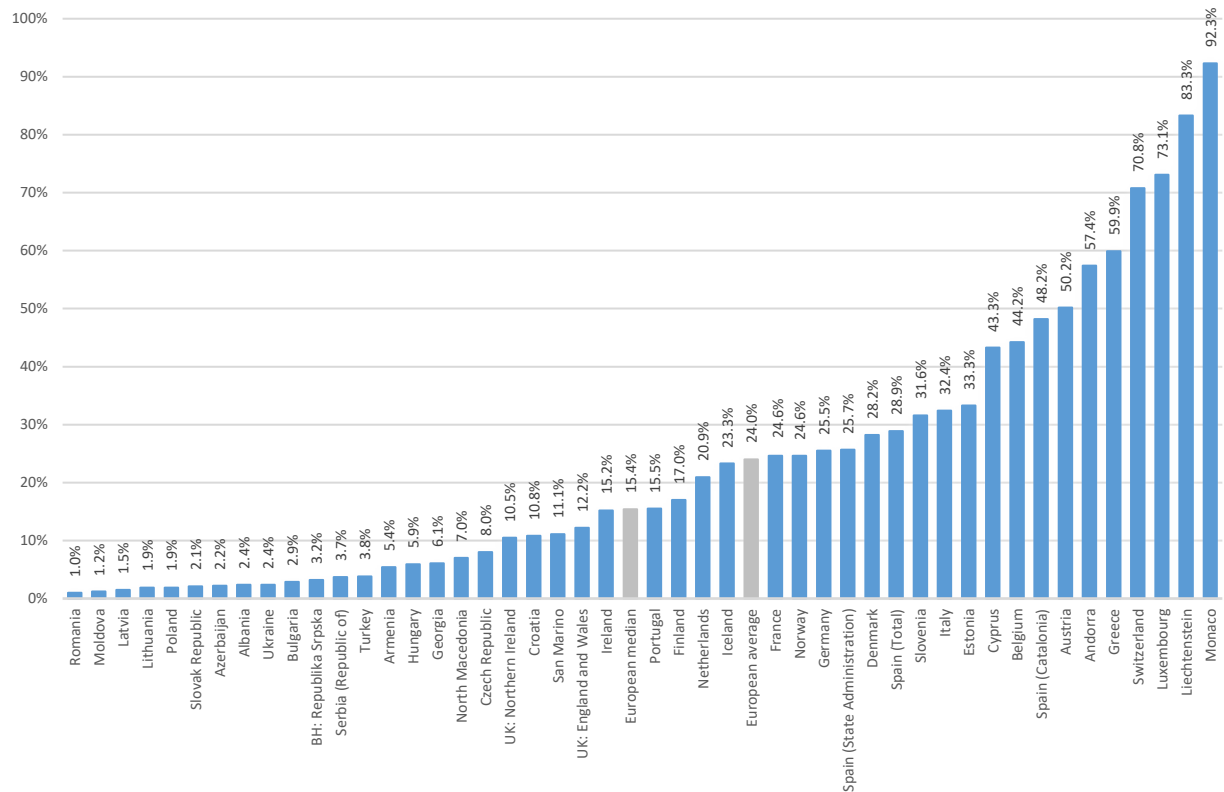
Nationality

Fifteen percent (15%) of the inmates held in Europe are foreigners, but this percentage differs substantially across nations. In the East of the continent, it is usually lower than 5%, while in the Centre and the West it is at least of 10% and, in a few countries, it can reach 50% or more. That is the case in Austria (50%), Greece (60%) and Switzerland (71%). These percentages are presented in Figure 4.

Only a few prison administrations collect data on the resident status of the foreigners held in their prisons. Among them, the percentage of those who have a legal resident status also fluctuates considerably, ranging from none to 86% (see SPACE I, Table 13).

Almost one third of the foreign inmates held in Europe come from the EU member states (see SPACE I, Table 13). In this context, 2021 was a year of transition because some countries apply to their inmates from the United Kingdom their new status of non-EU citizens while others still count them as coming from a EU member state.

Figure 4. Percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2021 (N=45)



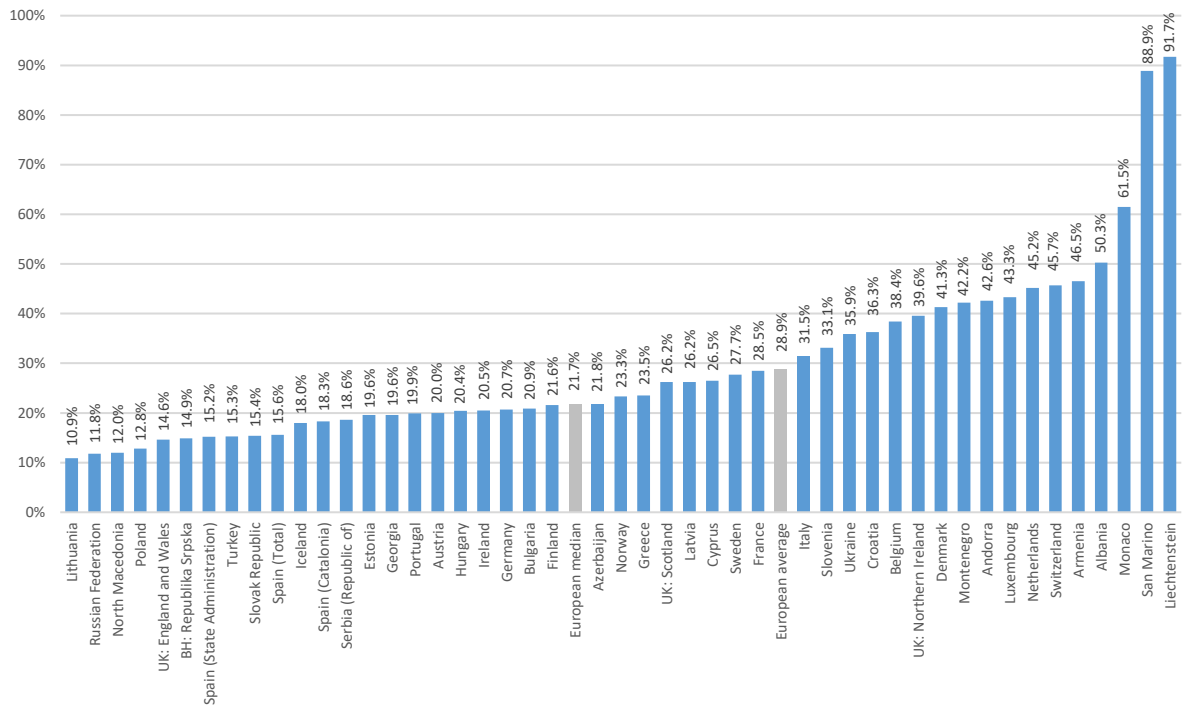
Legal status

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 Committee of Ministers 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 prison administrations, ranging from 8% to roughly 50% in countries with at least 100,000 inhabitants. 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. Consequently, 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 consider the comments provided by each country (see SPACE I, Table 8 and its notes).

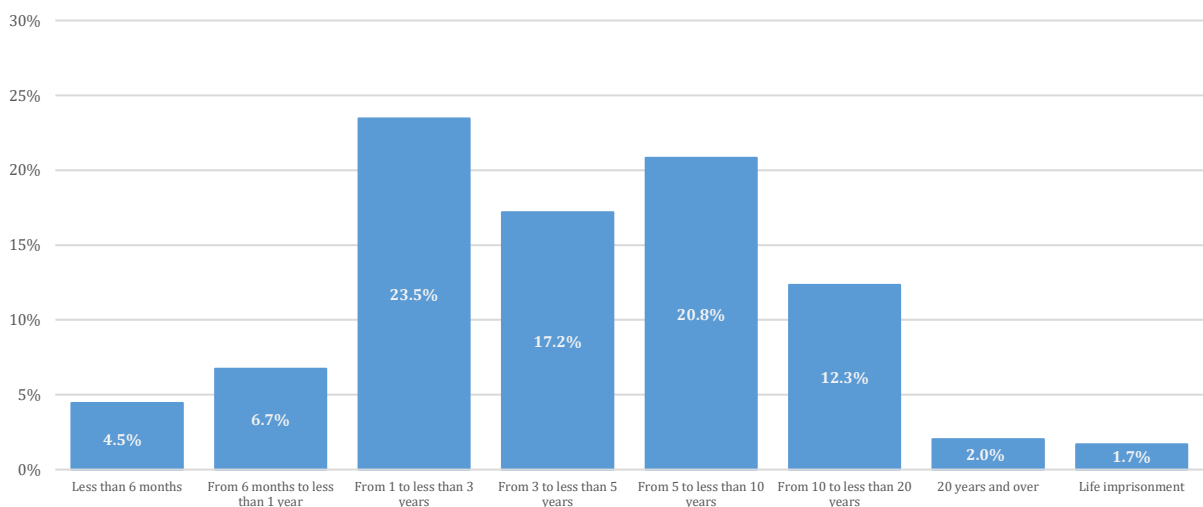
Figure 5. Percentage of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population on 31st January 2021 (N=49)



Length of sentence imposed

Figure 6 presents the distribution of the length of the sentences imposed to the inmates who are serving a final sentence. It can be seen that they are mainly serving sentences from 1 to less than 3 years (23.5%), from 3 to less than 5 years (17%), and from 5 to less than 10 years (21%). Only 2% are serving sentences of 20 years or more, while 1.7% are serving life imprisonment. In addition, less than 1% are placed 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 2021 (N=43)



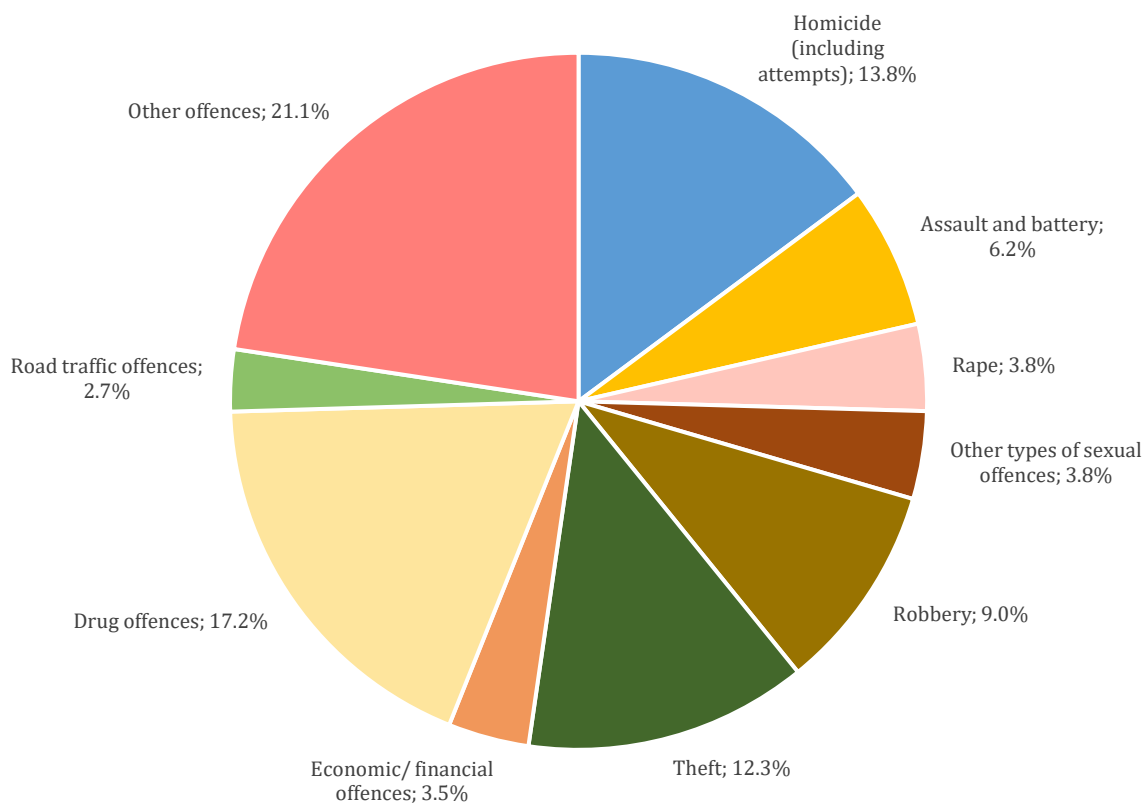
Type of offence

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of sentenced prisoners according to the offence for which they were convicted. It can be seen that 17% of the sentenced prisoners held in European penal institutions have been convicted for drug offences. Prisoners convicted for homicide (including attempts) (14%) represent the second largest category, followed by those sentenced for theft (12%).

If one places all inmates serving sentences for offences involving violence (homicide, assault and battery, rape, other sexual offences, and robbery) in a single category, they represent 36.6% of the prison population.

These percentages must be interpreted cautiously because some countries apply the principal offence rule — and therefore only consider the most serious offence included in the sentence— and others do not apply it (for further details, see SPACE I, Table 9).

Figure 7. Distribution of sentenced prisoners according to the offence for which they were sentenced, in percentages, on 31st January 2021 (N=43)⁴

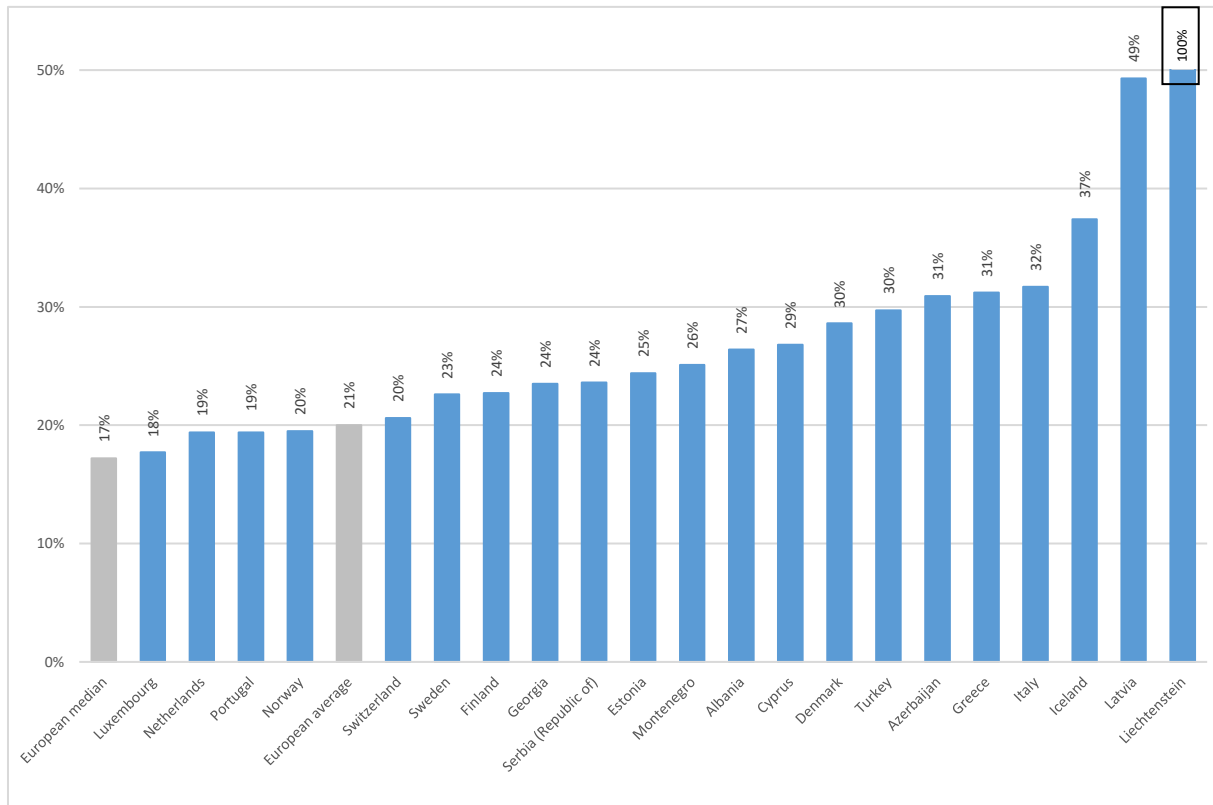


⁴ Terrorism is included on the category *other offences* as the average percentage of prisoners serving sentenced for this offense is less than 1% of the total.

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 twelve prisons administrations (that is to say, roughly in one out of four member states of the Council of Europe), prisoners sentenced for that kind of offences represent 25% or more of their prison population.

Figure 8. Percentage of sentenced prisoners serving sentences for drug offences on 31st January 2021 (upper half of the distribution only) (N=22)⁵



⁵ San Marino is not included in this Figure because the data provided for this indicator is inconsistent.

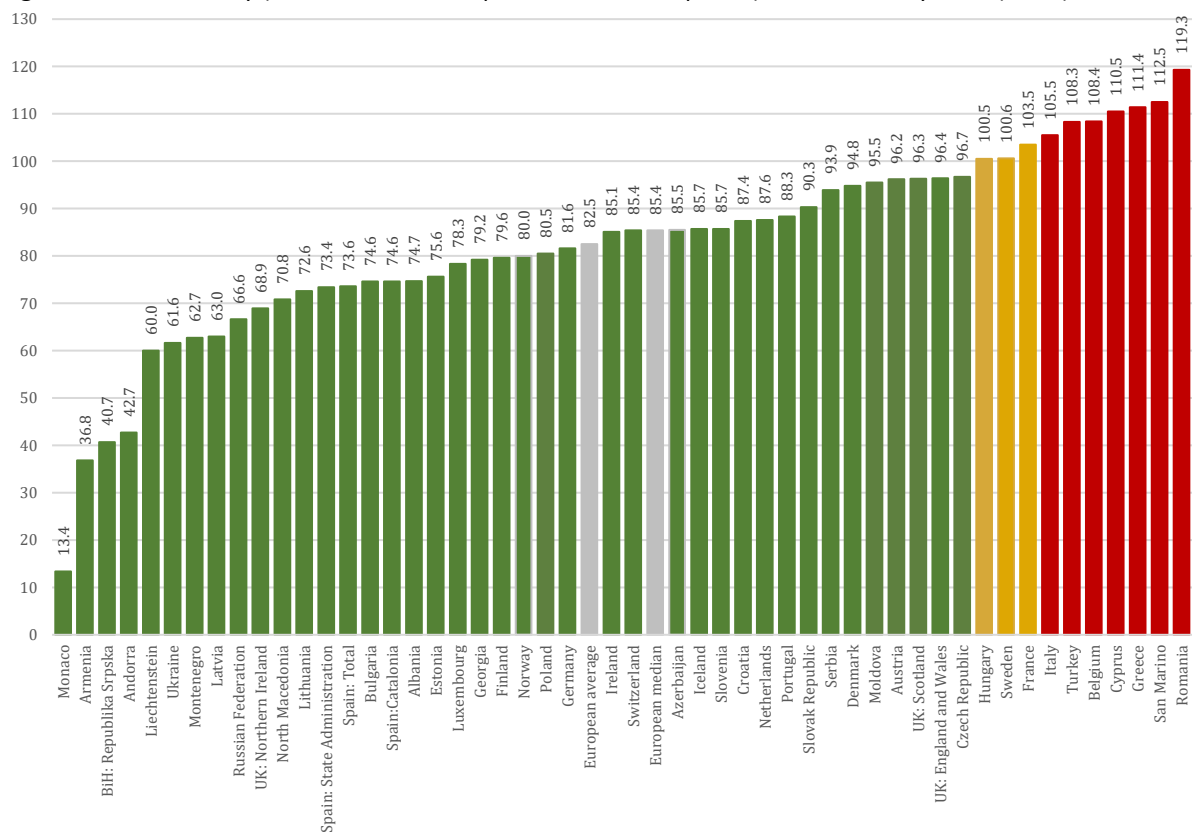
Prison density and overcrowding

According to the information provided by the prison administrations, ten of them had a prison density of more than 100 inmates per 100 places. Among these ten prison administrations, three had a density that was higher than 100 but inferior to 105; while the other seven were experiencing serious overcrowding, with rates of more than 105 inmates per 100 places. These ten prison administrations are presented in different colours (yellow and red respectively) in Figure 9, which ranks prison administrations according to their prison density.

It must also be mentioned that the estimated level of occupation of the cells differs considerably among the prison administration that provided the relevant data, ranging roughly from 1 to 10 inmates per cell. At the European level, there are roughly 1.5 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.

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 2021 (N=49)

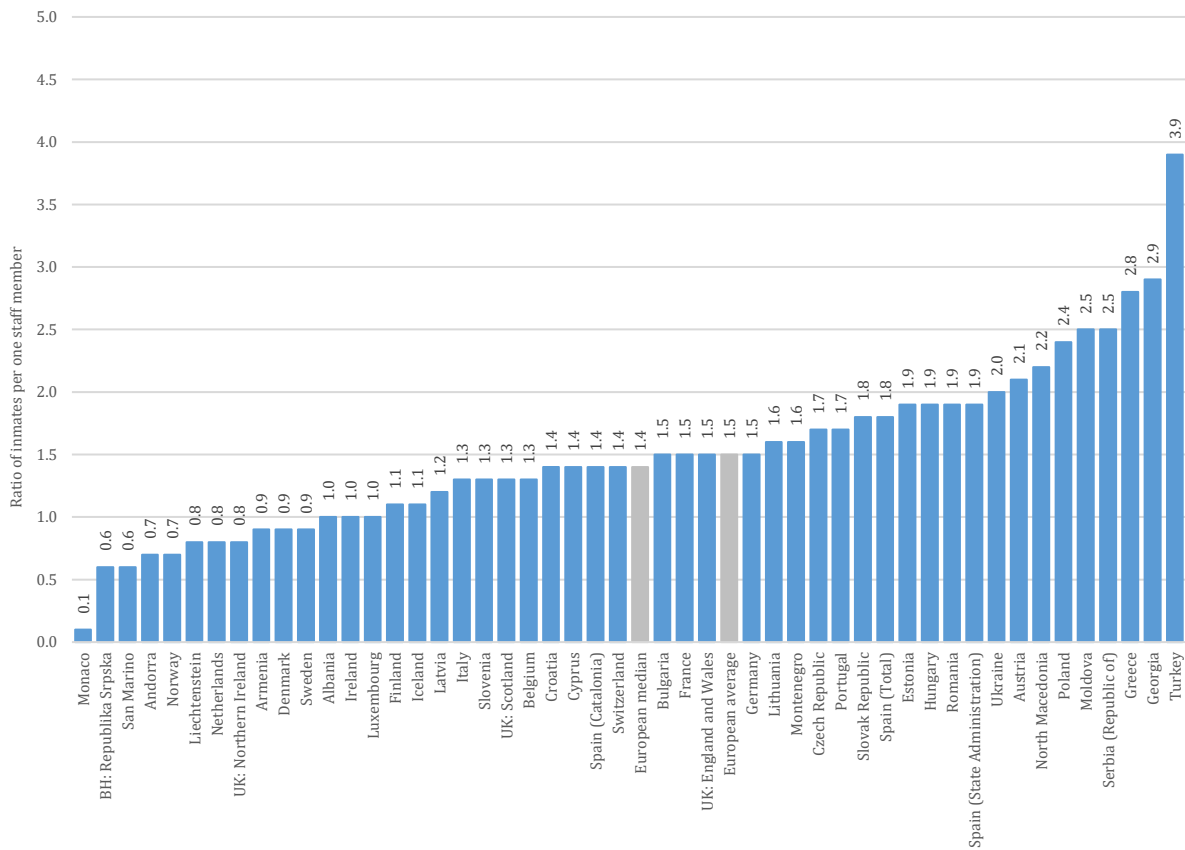


Prison staff

At the European level, there were 1.4 inmates per 1 member of prison staff. This ratio varies across prison administrations, ranging from less than one to more than three, as can be seen in Figure 10.

When the ratio is based on the custodial staff only, the European median increases to 2.3 inmates per custodian. Finally, if the calculation is restricted to those among them who are dedicated solely to ensure safety and security in penal institutions, it increases to 2.4 inmates per *custodian solely dedicated to custody* (according to the terminology of the SPACE I questionnaire; see SPACE I, Table 21).

Figure 10. Ratio of inmates per one prison staff member on 31st January 2021 (N=47)

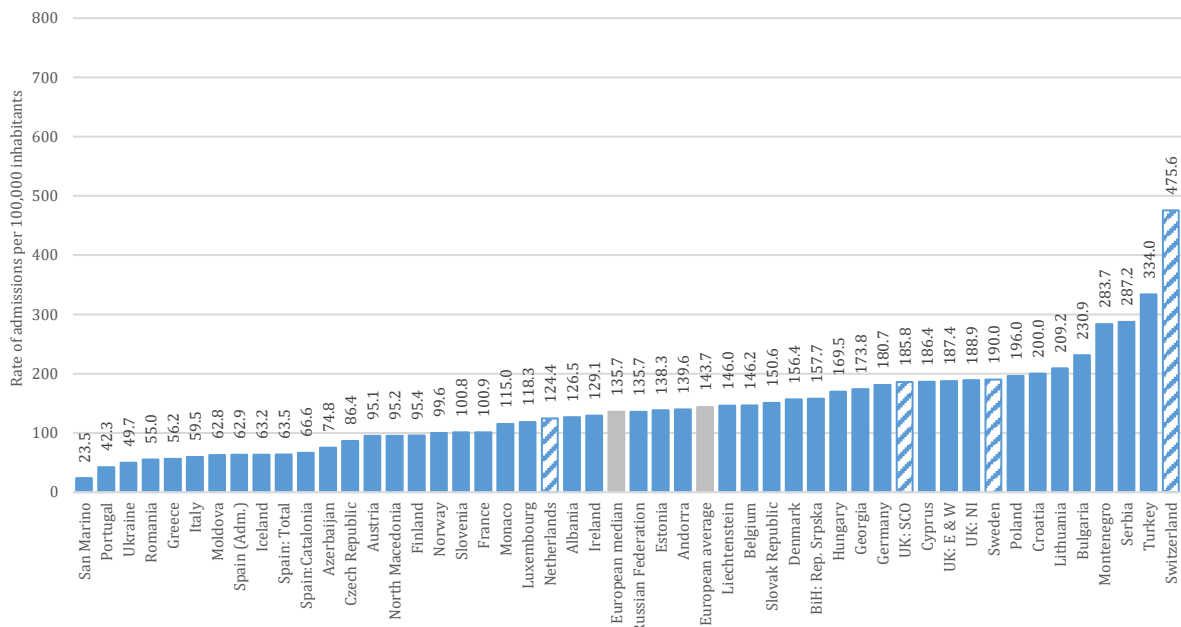


3. Flow indicators: Admissions, IALI, exits, turnover ratio, and cost of imprisonment during the year 2020

Admissions into penal institutions

During the year 2020, there were 1,252,761 admissions into penal institutions in the 47 prison administrations that provided data for this indicator, representing a European median rate of 135.7 admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (see SPACE I, Table 23). Figure 11 shows the rate of admissions by prison administration. The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Scotland (UK) use a definition of admissions that does not comply with that of SPACE I; therefore, their rates are not comparable to those of the rest of the prison administrations and are presented in a striped pattern (see SPACE I, Table 22)⁶.

Figure 11. Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants during 2020 (N=47)



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. Moldova and Azerbaijan, for example, have low rates of admissions, but high prison population rates; on the contrary, Northern Ireland has a low prison population rate and a high rate of admissions (see Table 1 below). The key factor in that context is the length of imprisonment, which is presented in the next section.

⁶ For example, Switzerland counts as releases and admissions the transfers of inmates from one Swiss penal institution to another; which increases artificially the total number of admissions and releases.

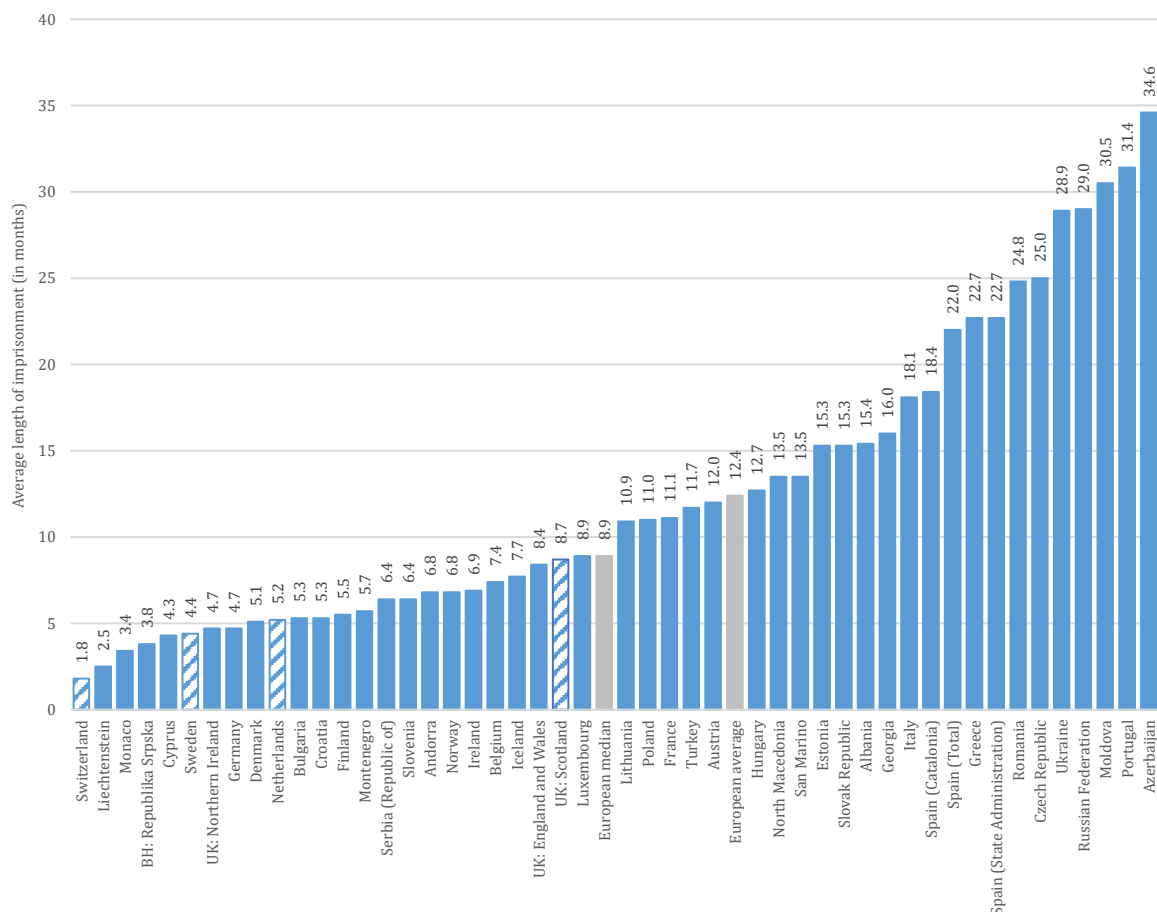
Indicator of the average length of imprisonment (IALI)

Research suggests that lengthy detentions are usually correlated with the punitivity of a criminal justice system or with its slowness. Swift criminal justice systems are characterized by short criminal procedures, while the less punitive criminal justice systems tend to impose short sentences and facilitate the liberation of inmates.

Based on the stock and flow of inmates, in 2020 the estimated length of imprisonment in Europe was 8.9 months. The distribution by prison administrations is presented in Figure 12. Going back to the previous comparison, it can be seen that in Northern Ireland, inmates tend to remain in penal institutions for short periods of time, while in Moldova and Azerbaijan, the average length of imprisonment is very high. Once again, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Scotland are presented in a striped pattern, because their definition of flow (used to estimate the IALI) does not comply with that of SPACE I and therefore their estimated lengths of imprisonment are not comparable to those of the rest of the prison administrations (see SPACE I, Table 22, and the example given in footnote 6).

The length of imprisonment varies also according to the legal status of inmates. For inmates not serving a final sentence, the average length of imprisonment was 4.5 months; while for sentenced prisoners it was 20 months (see SPACE I, Table 31).

Figure 12. Average length of imprisonment in 2020 (based on the stock and flow of inmates) (N=47)



The length of imprisonment in Europe can also be estimated using the total number of days spent in penal institutions during the year (for details, see SPACE I, Part E). This way of estimating the IALI provides a slightly shorter length of imprisonment in 2020: 8.6 months.

Exits (releases, deaths, and escapes) from penal institutions

During 2020, there were 1,146,994 exits in the 45 prison administrations that provided reliable data for this indicator, which corresponds to a European median rate of 115 exits per 100,000 inhabitants (see SPACE I, Table 25).

Almost all (more than 99%) of the exits in 2020 were due to releases. Escapes represented only 0.05% of the exits, while deaths in penal institutions accounted for 0.3% of them (See SPACE I, Table 25).

Releases: The European median rate was 112 releases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Deaths in prison:

The European *prison mortality rate* in 2020 was 29 inmates per 10,000 inmates.

The European *prison suicide rate* in 2020 was 5.7 inmates per 10,000 inmates.

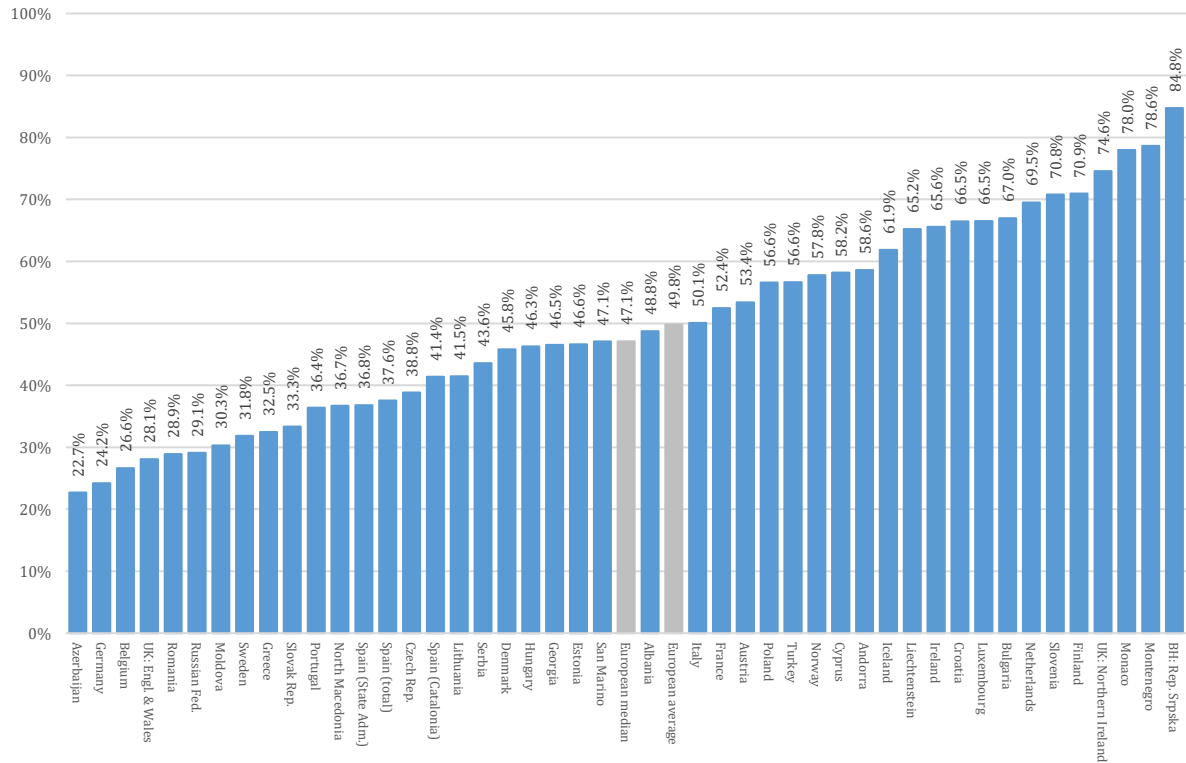
Escapes: The European median rate was 2.2 escapes per 10,000 inmates. This is a major decrease compared to 2019 (when the median rate was 8.2) and can be explained partially by the fact that the measures introduced to control the spread of COVID-19 restricted also the movements of inmates —less prison leaves and less work outside the walls of the penal institution, for example— and partially by the decrease of the number of admissions, which is also related to the measures introduced to limit the Coronavirus spread (see Section 6 below).

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). It is calculated using raw data: the prison population (stock), the number of admissions (flow of admissions) and the number of releases (flow of releases). In particular, the sum of the stock on 31st January 2021 (taken from SPACE I 2021) and the flow of admissions during the year provides an estimate of the total number of inmates likely to be released in 2020 (i.e., the potential releases). This number is then put in relation with the effective number of releases during 2020. 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 turnover ratio of the European prison population in 2020 was 47%. This indicator concerns the 44 prison administrations that provided data for all the indicators required for the estimation of it and is presented in Figure 13. A comparison with Figure 1 shows that, among countries with at least 100,000 inhabitants, those with the lowest turnover ratios usually have high or very high prison population rates.

Figure 13. Turnover ratio in 2020 (N=44)



Cost of imprisonment

At the European level, imprisonment costed more than 26 billion Euro in 2020. More precisely, the 45 prison administrations that provided data indicated that the budget spent by their prison administrations in 2020 was 27,307,038,273 Euro.

Forty-four prison administrations provided also the daily amount spent for the detention in custody of one inmate. At the European level, each inmate costed 77 Euro per day.

Disclaimer: The cost of imprisonment does not consider 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 5.1% 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 5.1% 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, both Tables specify the number of prison administrations (PA) for which data are available (e.g., the prison population rate is available for 49 PA, but the percentage of foreign inmates in that population is available only for 46 of them). This is due to the fact that some prison administrations 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 B, except when all of them are in the same cluster. In this case, only the name of the country is mentioned.

Table 1. Ranking of countries according to the main prison indicators, 2021 and 2020⁷

	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 2020						
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (N=49)	Russian Fed., Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Slovak Rep., Lithuania, Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Albania: Latvia, Moldova, Serbia, Scotland, Montenegro, UK: England & Wales.	Ukraine, Spain (State admin.), Romania, Portugal, North Macedonia.	Greece, Bulgaria, Spain (Catalonia).	Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, Croatia, Andorra.	Ireland, UK: Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Cyprus, Denmark, Armenia, Norway, Slovenia, Netherlands, BiH: Republika Srpska, Finland, Iceland, Monaco: Liechtenstein, San Marino.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta.
n	17	5	3	7	17	2
% of female inmates in the prison population (N=49)	Andorra, San Marino, Latvia, Russian Fed., Czech Rep., Hungary, Monaco, Slovak Rep., Spain, Finland, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Iceland.	Norway, Moldova, Germany, Switzerland, Croatia, Luxembourg.	Ukraine, Slovenia, Belgium, Lithuania, Greece, Netherlands, Cyprus, Romania, Poland.	Denmark, Serbia, Italy, Estonia, Scotland, UK: England & Wales, Ireland, Turkey, UK: Northern Ireland, Georgia.	France, Montenegro, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, North Macedonia, Armenia, Albania, Liechtenstein.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta.
n	15	6	9	10	9	2
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (N=46)	Monaco, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Greece, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Denmark, Germany, France, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands.	Montenegro, Finland.	Portugal, Ireland.	UK: England & Wales.	San Marino, Croatia, UK: Northern Ireland, Czech Rep., North Macedonia, Georgia, Hungary, Armenia, Turkey, Serbia, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Bulgaria, Albania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Slovak Rep., Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Moldova, Romania.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta, Russian Fed., Sweden, UK: Scotland.
n	20	2	2	1	21	5
% of inmates aged 50 or over in the prison population (N=44)	Liechtenstein, Italy, Spain (State admin.), Portugal, Monaco, San Marino, Norway, Croatia, Slovenia.	Iceland, Estonia, Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Cyprus, Georgia.	UK: England & Wales, Spain (Catalonia), Romania, Serbia, Poland, Andorra, Belgium, Scotland, Slovak Rep., Austria, Czech Rep., UK: Northern Ireland, Luxembourg.	North Macedonia, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Latvia, France, Turkey.	Albania, Denmark, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro.	Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta, Russian Fed., Switzerland, Ukraine.
n	9	8	13	8	6	7

⁷ Inside each cell of Table B, countries are ranked in descending order according to their rate or percentage in the corresponding variable. For example, in the first cell, Russian Federation is presented first because it has the highest prison population rate (328.1 per 100,000 inhabitants), followed by the Turkey (325.4 per 100,000 inhabitants), Georgia (231.9 per 100,000 inhabitants), and so on.

	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
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population (N=49)	Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Albania, Armenia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Andorra, Montenegro, Denmark, UK: Northern Ireland, Belgium, Croatia, Ukraine, Slovenia, Italy, France, Sweden.	Cyprus, Scotland, Latvia, Greece, Norway.	Azerbaijan, Finland, Bulgaria, Germany.	Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Portugal, Georgia, Estonia, Serbia, Spain (Catalonia), Iceland.	Spain (State admin.), Slovak Rep., Moldova, Turkey, BiH: Rep. Srpska, UK: England & Wales, Poland, North Macedonia, Russian Fed., Lithuania, Romania, Czech Rep..	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta.
n	19	5	4	9	12	2
Prison density per 100 places (N=49)	Romania, San Marino, Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Turkey.	Italy, France, Sweden, Hungary, Czech Rep., UK: England & Wales, Scotland, Austria, Moldova, Denmark, Serbia, Slovak Rep.	Portugal, Netherlands, Croatia, Iceland, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Ireland, Germany.	Poland, Norway, Finland, Georgia, Luxembourg, Estonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Spain, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Russian Fed..	Latvia, Montenegro, Ukraine, Liechtenstein, Andorra, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Armenia, Monaco.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta.
n	6	12	9	14	8	2
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (N=47)	Turkey, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Serbia, Poland, North Macedonia, Austria, Ukraine, Estonia, Spain (State admin.), Hungary, Romania, Slovak Rep., Portugal.	Czech Rep., Montenegro, Lithuania, UK: England & Wales, Bulgaria, Germany, France.	Switzerland, Spain (Catalonia), Cyprus, Croatia, Scotland, Italy.	Belgium, Slovenia, Latvia, Iceland, Finland, Luxembourg.	Albania, Ireland, Armenia, Sweden, Denmark, UK: Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Norway, San Marino, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Monaco.	Azerbaijan, BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta, Russian Fed.
n	15	7	6	6	13	4

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

	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 2019						
Rate of admissions per 100,000 habitants in 2019 (N=47)	Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Croatia, Poland, Sweden, UK: Northern Ireland, UK: England & Wales, Cyprus, Scotland, Germany, Georgia.	Hungary, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Denmark, Slovak Rep., Belgium, Liechtenstein.	Andorra, Estonia, Russian Fed., Ireland.	Albania, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Monaco.	France, Slovenia, Norway, Finland, North Macedonia, Austria, Czech Rep., Azerbaijan, Spain, Iceland, Moldova, Italy, Greece, Romania, Ukraine, Portugal, San Marino.	Armenia, BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Latvia, Malta.
n	15	6	4	4	18	4
Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019 (N=46)	Turkey, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Poland, UK: Northern Ireland, Serbia, Croatia, Georgia, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Lithuania, Hungary, Cyprus, Estonia, Albania, Luxembourg, Russian Fed., Ireland, Andorra.	Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovak Rep., Slovenia.	Czech Rep., Denmark, France, Austria, Finland.	Norway, UK: England & Wales, Sweden.	Italy, North Macedonia, Spain, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Greece, Ukraine, Romania, Armenia, San Marino.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Latvia, Malta, Switzerland, UK: Scotland.
n	18	5	5	3	15	5

	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
Suicide rate per 10,000 inmates in 2019 (N=46)	France, Latvia, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium, Lithuania, Estonia, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Moldova, Albania, Austria, Denmark, Ukraine, Slovenia, UK: England & Wales, Finland, Czech Rep., Serbia.	Norway, Russian Fed..		Greece, Germany, Armenia, North Macedonia, Georgia.	Romania, Poland, Slovak Rep., Switzerland, Hungary, Sweden, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, San Marino, Montenegro, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Cyprus, Croatia, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Andorra.	BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Ireland, Malta, UK: Northern Ireland, UK: Scotland.
n	21	2	0	5	18	5
Rate of escapes per 10,000 inmates in 2019 (N=47)	Luxembourg, Finland, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, France, Austria, North Macedonia, Croatia, Germany, Norway, Ireland, Montenegro, Italy, Lithuania, Greece, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Moldavia, Bulgaria.	Ukraine.	Russian Fed..	Romania.	Hungary, Czech Rep., Turkey, UK: Northern Ireland, UK: England & Wales, Slovenia, Slovak Rep., Serbia, San Marino, Poland, Netherlands, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Iceland, Georgia, Estonia, Cyprus, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Azerbaijan, Andorra, Albania	Armenia, BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Malta, UK: Scotland.
n	22	1	1	1	22	4
Average length of imprisonment, in months [based on the stock and flow] (N=47)	Azerbaijan, Portugal, Moldova, Russian Fed., Ukraine, Czech Rep., Romania, Greece, Spain, Italy, Georgia, Albania, Slovak Rep., Estonia, North Macedonia, San Marino, Hungary, Austria, Turkey.	France, Poland, Lithuania.	Luxembourg, UK: Scotland.	UK: England & Wales, Iceland, Belgium, Ireland, Norway, Andorra.	Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Finland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, UK: Northern Ireland, Sweden, Cyprus, BiH: Rep. Srpska, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Switzerland.	Armenia, BiH: State level and Fed. of BiH, Latvia, Malta.
n	20	3	2	6	16	4

*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 (2020-2021) and the flow indicators (2019-2020)

Table 2 shows the variations of stock indicators from 2020 to 2021, as well as flow indicators from 2019 to 2020. **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 document. For example, even if the present SPACE I report includes data on admissions and releases in 47 PA during 2020 (see Figure 11 above), only 44 of them had provided the relevant data for 2019 (See SPACE I 2020), and therefore the comparison can only be performed between those 44 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 (2020 to 2021) and flow indicators (2019 to 2020)

	2020	2021	% change 2020-2021
Stock indicators			
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (48 PA)	104.3	101.9	-2.3
% of female inmates in the prison population (47 PA)	4.8	4.7	-1.5
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (43 PA)	15.1	15.3	1.3
<i>Of which:</i> % of foreign inmates from EU countries (39 PA)	29.3	27.5	-6.3
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison populations (47 PA)	21.6	21.8	0.9
Prison density per 100 places (49 PA)	90.2	85.4	-5.3
Number of overcrowded prison administrations (more than 100 inmates per 100 places) (49 PA)	14	8	-42.9
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (45 PA)	1.6	1.4	-14.8
Ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (42 PA)	2.7	2.4	-10.0
Sentenced prisoners by offence			
% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (41 PA)	17.70	17.72	0.1
% of prisoners sentenced for theft (41 PA)	13.8	11.9	-8.7
% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (41 PA)	13.0	13.7	5.9
Sentenced prisoners by length of sentence imposed			
% of prisoners sentenced to less than one year (44 PA)	15.7	11.7	-25.5
% of prisoners sentenced from 1 to less than 3 years (44 PA)	22.1	22.7	2.8
% of prisoners sentenced from 3 to less than 5 years (44 PA)	17.8	17.2	-3.1
% of prisoners sentenced from 5 to less than 10 years (44 PA)	19.9	20.4	2.5
	2019	2020	% change 2019-2020
Flow indicators			
Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (43PA)	149.8	132.4	-11.7
Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (45 PA)	118.0	109.4	-7.2
Average length of imprisonment in months (based on the stock and flow) (44 PA)	7.8	8.7	10.5
Cost indicator			
Total budget spent by the prison administrations (36 PA)	7,010,884,463.3€	6,424,348,443.7€	-8.4

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 (-2.3%);
- The percentage of female inmates in the prison population (-1.5%);
- The percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population (+1.3%);
- The percentage of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population (+0.9%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (+0.1%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 1 year to less than 3 years (+2.8%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 3 years to less than 5 years (-3.1%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced from 5 years to less than 10 years (+2.5%).

The following indicators registered a *decrease*:

- The percentage of foreign inmates from EU countries (-6.3%)*;
- The prison density per 100 places (-5.3%);
- The number of PA experiencing overcrowding (-42.9%);
- The ratio of inmates per one staff member (-14.8%);
- The ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (-10.0%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for theft (-8.7%);
- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for less than 1 year (-25.5%)**;
- The rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (-11.7%);
- The rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (-7.2%);
- The total budget spent by the prison administrations (-8.4%).

Finally, the following indicators that registered an *increase*:

- The percentage of prisoners sentenced for homicide (+5.9%***);
- The average length of imprisonment in months estimated on the basis of the stock and flow of inmates (+10.5%****).

*The decrease in the percentage of foreign inmates from EU countries could be related to the fact that, in several countries, inmates from the United Kingdom are already being counted as non-EU citizens.

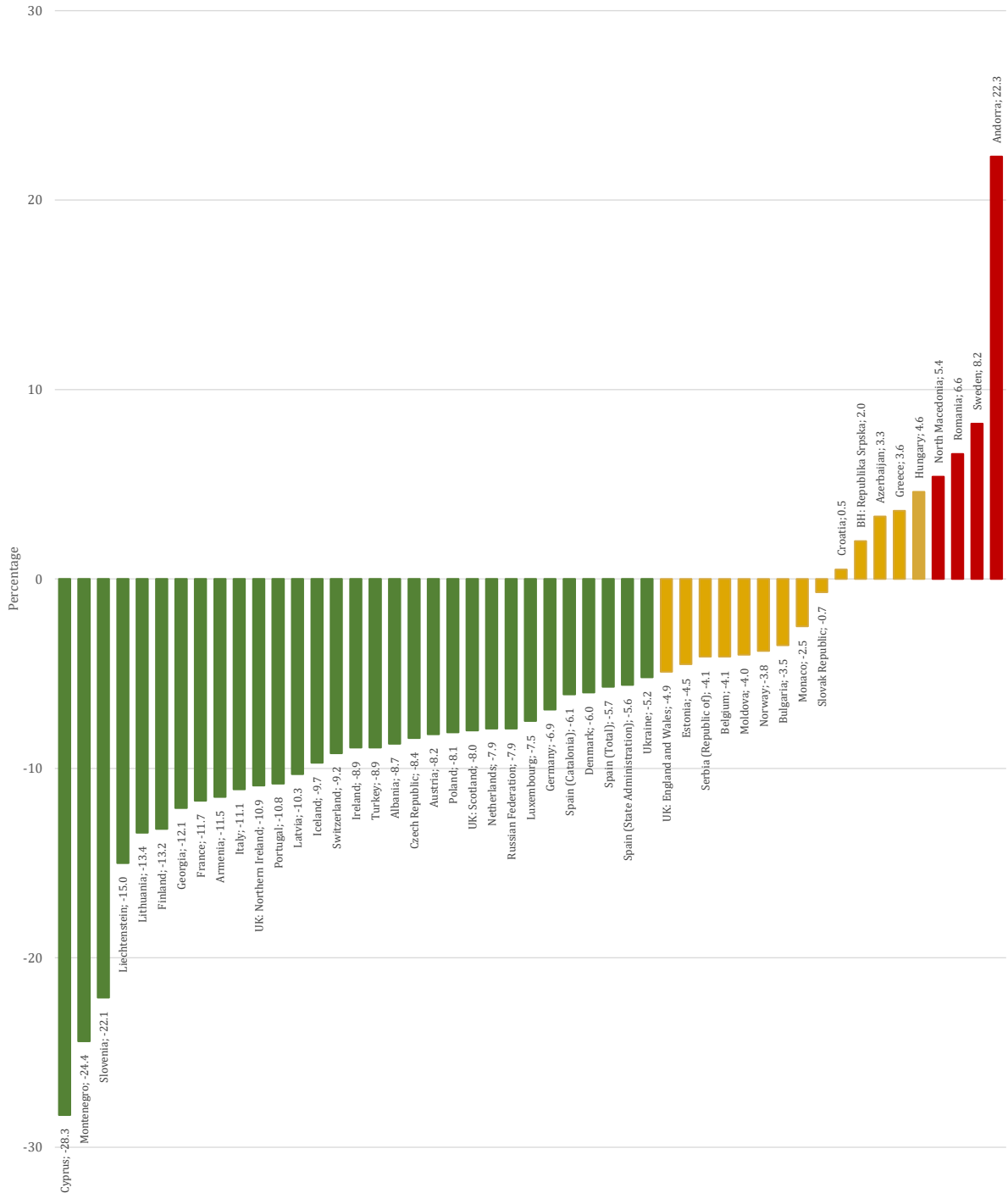
** The decrease in the percentage of prisoners sentenced to less than one year could be an indirect consequence of the lockdowns, which produced a decrease of street crime and slowed down the functioning of the criminal justice system.

*** The interpretation of the increase of a proportion in the framework of a decrease of the overall total is problematic. The increase of the percentage of prisoners sentenced for homicide could be due, for example, to the fact that the number of inmates sentenced for homicide decreased at a slower pace than the total number of sentenced prisoners. In any case, that increase does not mean that there was an increase of homicides in 2020.

**** The increase of the average length of imprisonment (IALI) could be related to the decrease of the rate of admissions into penal institutions, which means that in the computation of the IALI there is probably an underrepresentation of the detainees remaining in detention for short periods of time (see Section 6 below).

At the *individual level*, Figure 14 shows the annual variation of the prison population rate in the 48 prison administrations (PA) that provided data both for 2020 and 2021. It can be seen that the prison population rate increased in only 4 PA (presented in red in Figure 14), was stable in 14 PA (presented in yellow in Figure 14), and decreased in 30 PA (presented in green in the Figure 14). As explained in the introduction, this overall decreasing trend is related to the consequences on crime and punishment of the restrictions on movement introduced to control the spread of COVID-19.

Figure 14: Percentage change in prison population rates (2021 compared to 2020) in 48 prison administrations

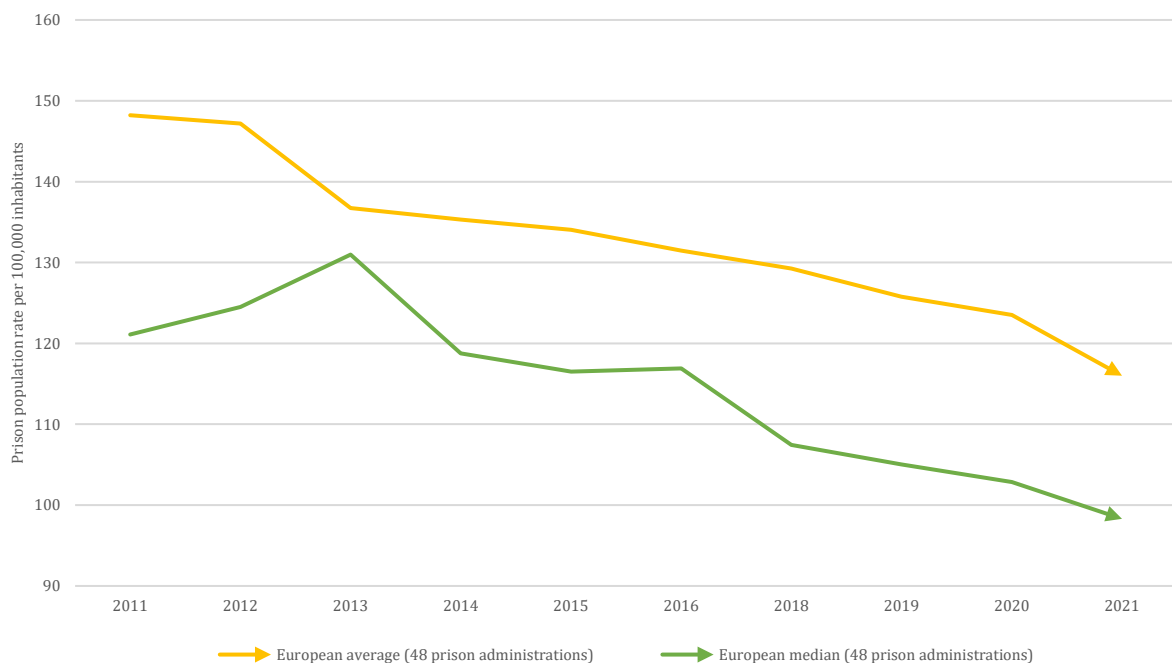


6. Trends from 2011 to 2021

Figure 15 shows the trends observed in the European median and average prison population rates from 2011 to 2021 (see *Methodology* for details on the exclusion of the year 2017). Forty-eight 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., 2020), available on the SPACE website, which updated the whole SPACE I series for the years 2005 to 2015⁸.

It can be seen in Figure 15 that the *average* European prison population rate decreased constantly from 2011 to 2021. The *median* European prison population rate followed a similar downward trend, but only after 2013. The COVID-19 pandemic (through the mechanisms already mentioned above) only made the decrease of 2021 steeper than that of previous years.

Figure 15. Trends in the prison population rates of 48 prison administrations from 2011 to 2021



⁸ Aebi, M.F., Berger-Kolopp, L., Burkhardt, C. & Tiago, M.M. (2020). *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>

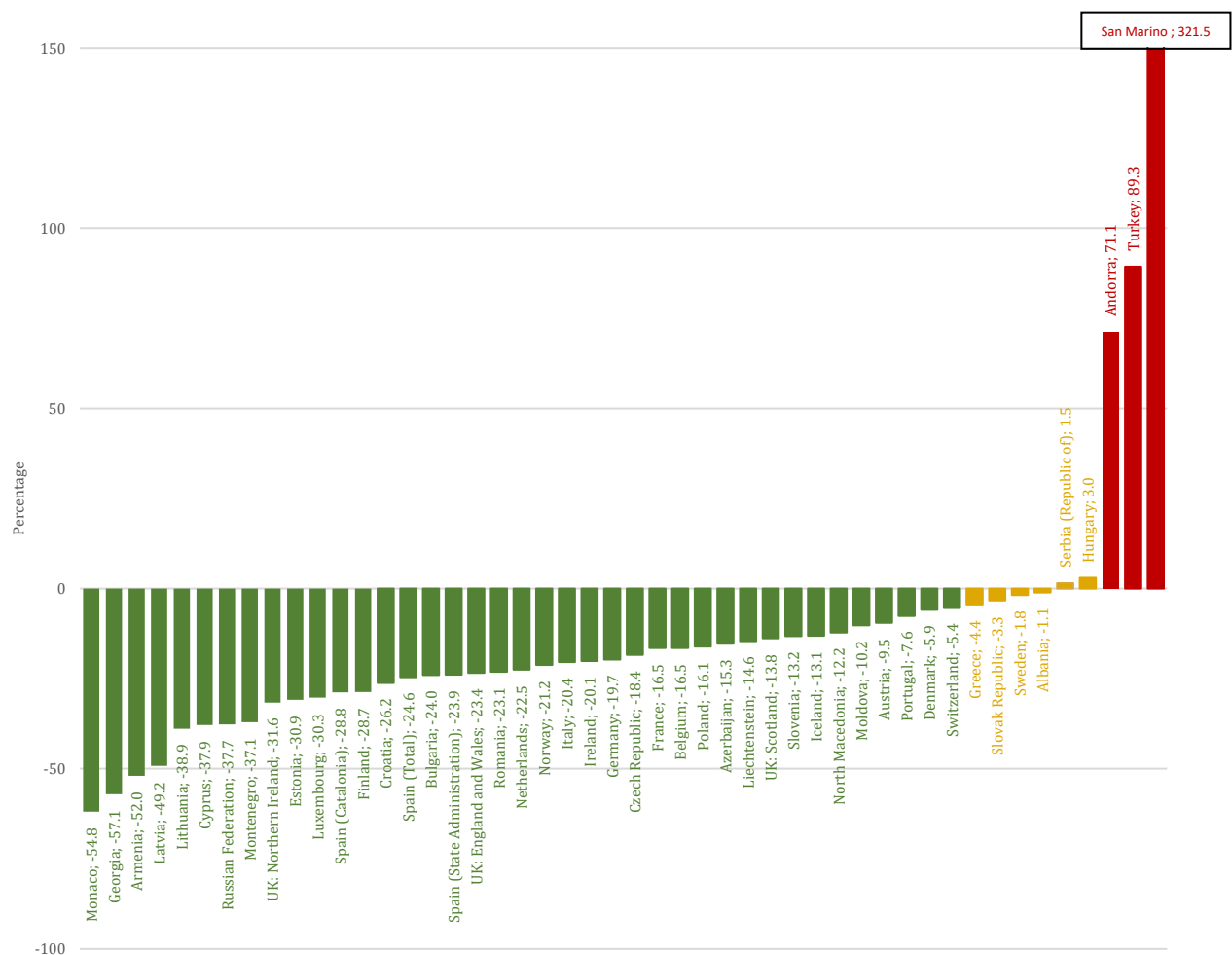
Figure 16 presents the situation at the individual level, indicating the percentage change in the prison population rates of the 47 prison administrations under study. For example, in 2021 the prison population rate of Georgia was 57% lower than in 2011, while the rate of Turkey in 2021 was 89% higher than in 2011.

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 2021 than in 2011; however only one of them (Turkey) has a country population of more than 100,000 inhabitants, which allows a reliable comparison between 2011 and 2021.
- Thirty-eight (38) prison administrations show a lower prison population rate in 2020 than in 2010.
- Six (6) prison administrations show a stable situation, in the sense that their rates in 2021 are similar to those in 2011.

In sum, with the exception of Turkey —that doubled its prison population— the vast majority of European countries experienced significant decreases in their number of inmates during the second decade of the 21st Century.

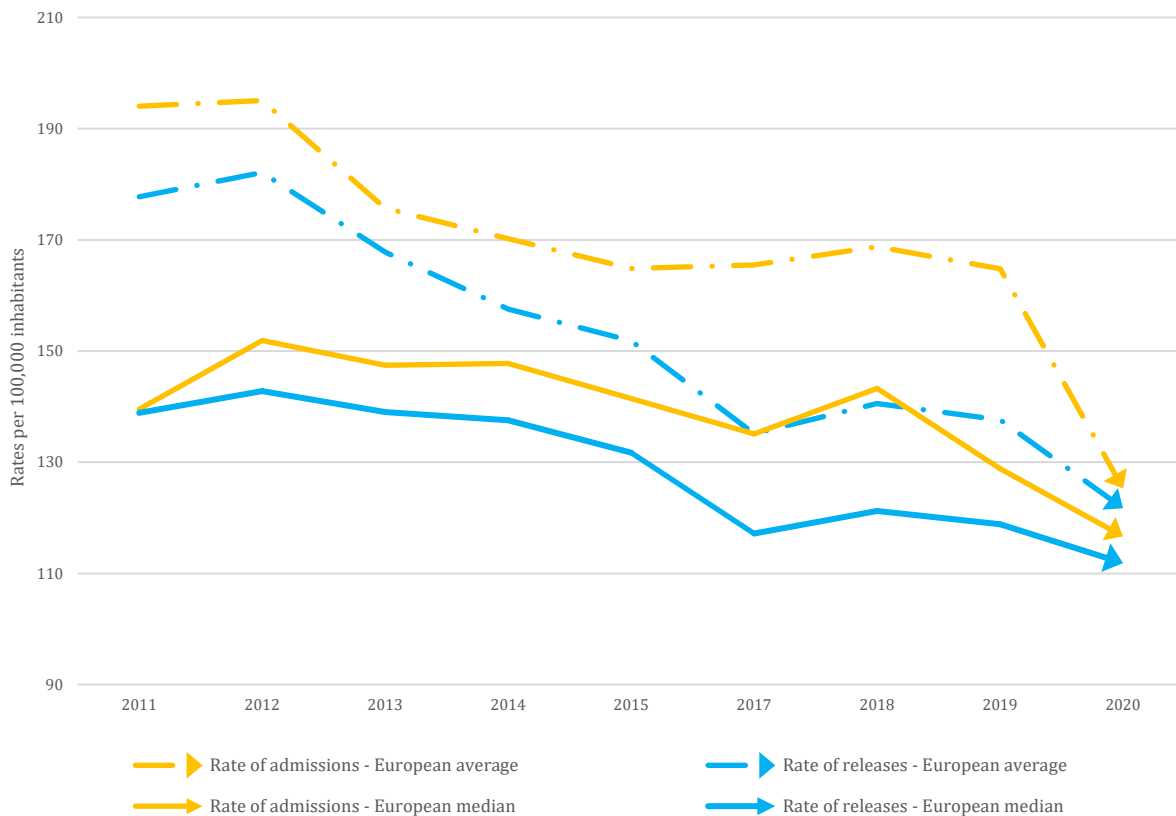
Figure 16. Percentage change in prison population rates (2021 compared to 2011) in 47 prison administrations



Finally, Figure 17 shows the trends observed in the European median and average rates of admissions in penal institutions and releases from them for the period 2011 to 2021 (see *Methodology* for details on the exclusion of the year 2016). Thirty-four 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 study *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* (Aebi et al., 2020), 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 rates of *admissions* in penal institutions and *releases* from them are at their lowest in a decade.
- Overall, both rates have followed a downward trend from 2012 onwards.
- The drop in the rate of *admissions* was particularly steep in 2020, corroborating the influence on crime and punishment of the Coronavirus-related restrictions on movement: Less interactions between people mean less contact crime in public spaces, which implies less offenders arrested by the police and placed in detention.
- The drop in the rate of *releases* in 2020 was also sharper than in previous years, but not as steep as the one observed in *admissions*. In that perspective, most detainees are held on remand for short periods of time — the average length of detention for pre-trial detainees is 4.5 months (see Section 3 above)— which means that they are admitted and released in the same year. Consequently, if the number of admissions decreases, as it happened in 2020, that decrease will entail a drop in the number of releases in the same year. In that perspective, a plausible hypothesis is that, in 2020, a considerable amount of the releases concerned sentenced prisoners as well inmates released as a measure to fight the spread of COVID-19. Those releases played a significant role in the decrease of the prison population rate observed on 31st January 2021 and presented in Table and Figure 15.

Figure 17. Trends in the rates of admissions and releases of 34 prison administrations from 2011 to 2020



7. Tables

Table 3. Stock indicators on 31st January 2021

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 aged 65 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	4 595	162.4	1.3	2.4	11.7	4.0	50.3	32.9	7.9	26.4	9.1	16.0	25.6	74.7	1.0
Andorra	61	78.9	13.1	57.4	16.4	3.3	42.6	8.6	2.9	0	8.6	11.4	8.6	42.7	0.7
Armenia	1 967	66.4	2.3	5.4			46.5				13.4	17.9	35.2	36.8	0.9
Austria	8 465	94.8	6.4	50.2	16.0	2.7	20.0				29.0	17.2	14.5	96.2	2.2
Azerbaijan	21 813	215.6	2.7	2.2			21.8	13.9	11.6	30.9	11.3	44.1	29.5	85.5	
Belgium	10 379	89.7	4.9	44.2	16.3	2.4	38.4				4.4	23.6	33.1	108.4	1.3
BH: BiH (total)															
BH: BiH (st. level)															
BH: Fed. BiH															
BH: Rep. Srpska	564	49.6	3.2	3.2	11.4	6.2	14.9	23.5	9.8	10.8	16.3	13.8	16.7	40.7	0.6
Bulgaria	7 049	101.9	3.1	2.9	18.8	4.5	20.9	14.2	25.9	12.5	32.9	16.8	6.4	74.6	1.5
Croatia	3 531	87.5	5.3	10.8	20.6	2.0	36.3	13.2	23.1	8.0	32.8	19.0	13.9	87.4	1.4
Cyprus	600	67.0	4.7	43.3	17.3	2.7	26.5	14.3	13.2	26.8	24.0	16.1	24.3	110.5	1.4
Czech Rep.	19 286	180.2	8.2	8.0	15.8	1.8	8.1				38.6	16.9	15.7	96.7	1.7
Denmark	3 902	66.8	4.5	28.2	11.6	1.3	41.3	8.3	6.3	28.6	32.6	16.2	20.1	94.8	0.9
Estonia	2 341	176.0	4.1	33.3	19.8	2.6	19.6	15.3	8.7	24.4	28.6	20.3	24.8	75.6	2.0
Finland	2 395	43.3	7.1	17.0	14.5	2.1	21.6	23.7	8.2	22.7	27.6	21.6	13.6	79.6	1.1
France	62 673	92.9	3.3	24.6	12.7	2.2	28.5	10.8	16.1	16	33.5	13.1	13.0	103.5	1.5
Georgia	9 232	231.9	3.6	6.1	17.2	1.9	19.6	14.1	21.1	23.5	19.5	20.5	41.0	79.2	[2.9]
Germany	59 045	71.0	5.7	25.5	14.7		20.7	8.0	19.9	13.2				81.6	1.5
Greece	11 334	106.1	4.7	59.9	18.9	2.7	23.5	11.1	16.9	31.2	2.7	10.4	31.0	111.4	2.8
Hungary	17 483	179.7	7.7	5.9	19.1	1.7	20.4	7.2	18.4	6.1	30.0	18.5	24.7	100.5	1.9
Iceland	150	40.7	6.0	23.3	20.0	2.0	18.0	11.4	8.9	37.4	31.7	10.6	17.1	85.7	1.1
Ireland	3 724	74.4	4.0	15.2	14.3	3.3	20.5	14.2	15.8	10.3	23.4	21.8	23.2	85.1	1.0
Italy	53 329	90.0	4.2	32.4	26.7	4.2	31.5	18.5	4.7	31.7	16.3	22.3	29.1	105.5	1.3
Latvia	3 038	160.5	8.5	1.5	13.7	3.7	26.2	13.8	47.1	49.3	16.5	21.5	29.3	63.0	1.2
Liechtenstein	12	30.7	0.0	83.3	50.0	0.0	91.7	[100.0]	0.0	[100.0]	100.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	0.8
Lithuania	5 320	190.3	4.7	1.9	9.9	4.2	10.9	28.8	12.3	16.4	19.3	16.0	23.2	72.6	1.6
Luxembourg	557	87.8	5.2	73.1	15.6	2.2	43.3	15.8	20.9	17.7	35.4	11.1	14.2	78.3	1.1
Malta															

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 aged 65 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
Moldova	6 429	159.8	5.8	1.2	7.8	3.4	15.3	21.9	7.5	7.4	8.5	15.7	37.7	95.5	2.5
Monaco	13	32.5	7.7	92.3	23.1	0.0	61.5	0.0	28.6	0.0	14.3	0.0	42.9	13.4	0.2
Montenegro	836	134.7	3.2	17.7	6.8	0.5	42.2	13.5	8.1	25.1	29.6	14.3	18.8	62.7	1.7
Netherlands	9 415	53.9	4.7	20.9	17.7	2.2	45.2	16.6	10.8	19.4	32.0	11.7	12.7	87.6	0.8
North Macedonia	2 220	107.3	2.7	7.0	15.2	9.2	12.0	13.7	18.1	17.1	23.8	20.8	20.4	70.8	2.2
Norway	3 053	56.6	5.8	24.6	3.0	3.5	23.3	10.1	3.2	19.5	28.5	17.4	17.4	80.0	0.7
Poland	67 894	179.4	4.5	1.9	16.5	2.3	12.8	7.7	23.6	3.9				80.5	2.4
Portugal	11 412	110.8	7.0	15.5	23.5	4.0	19.9	10	11.5	19.4	12.5	19.4	37.9	88.3	1.7
Romania	21 774	113.5	4.6	1.0	16.7	2.3	10.4	23.1	16.9	4.6	22.7	25.6	26.2	119.3	1.9
Russian Fed.	478 714	328.1	8.2				11.8							66.6	
San Marino	9	26.5	11.1	11.1	14.3	0.0	88.9	0	[300.0]	[500.0]	[0.0]	[0.0]	[0.0]	112.5	0.6
Serbia	10 540	153.4	4.3	3.7	16.6		18.6	10.3	25.4	23.6	26.5	24.3	20.8	93.9	2.5
Slovak Rep.	10 489	192.1	7.5	2.1	16.1	2.0	15.4	6.8	10.4	13.9	26.4	19.0	28.2	90.3	1.8
Slovenia	1 136	53.9	4.9	31.6	2.3	3.5	33.1	11.8	27.4	16.4	31.6	21.1	15.9	85.7	1.3
Spain (total)	55 110	116.3	7.2	28.9	23.1	3.6	15.6	8.2	4.1	16.9	19.1	20.6	26.1	73.6	1.8
Spain (State Administration)	47 228	119.1	7.3	25.7	24.2	3.4	15.2	7.7	2.3	17.2	19.5	20.6	25.7	73.4	1.9
Spain (Catalonia)	7 882	101.8	6.6	48.2	16.7	4.8	18.3	11.1	15.5	15	17.0	20.7	28.4	74.6	1.4
Sweden	7 297	70.3	6.0		13.8	1.9	27.7	14.0	4.7	22.6	36.2	21.0	16.4	100.6	0.9
Switzerland	6 316	72.9	5.7	70.8			45.7	16.4	22.8	20.6	16.7	20.3	12.0	85.4	1.4
Turkey	272 115	325.4	4.0	3.8	12.5	1.7	15.3	14.1	25.8	29.7	7.3	6.6	24.3	108.3	3.9
Ukraine	49 520	119.6	5.0	2.4			35.9	17.6	35.7	11.6				61.6	2.0
UK: Eng. & Wales	78 180	131.5	4.0	12.2	16.8	3.7	14.6	10.8	11	15.2	13.8	11.4	20.2	96.4	1.5
UK: N. Ireland	1 414	73.8	4.0	10.5	15.8	3.5	39.6	18.6	11.4	7.5	20.8	12.4	18.0	68.9	0.9
UK: Scotland	7 441	134.9	4.1		16.1	4.0	26.2	19.1	5.7	7.1	23.5	14.9	23.5	96.3	1.3
Average		116.1	5.3	23.2	16.3	2.8	28.9	15.8	15.0	18.1	24.1	17.1	21.9	82.5	1.5
Median		101.8	4.7	15.3	16.1	2.6	21.7	13.8	12.3	17.1	23.5	17.2	20.8	85.4	1.4
Minimum		26.5	0.0	1.0	2.3	0.0	8.1	0	0	0	2.7	0.0	0.0	13.4	0.2
Maximum		328.1	14.3	92.3	50.0	9.2	91.7	32.9	47.1	49.3	100.0	44.1	42.9	119.3	3.9

Table 4. Flow indicators for the year 2020

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	126.5	141.8	140.9	48.8	10.9	0	15.4	45 587 312.00 €
Andorra	139.6	128.0	128.0	58.6	0	0	6.8	3 637 200.34 €
Armenia		45.1	44.9		5.1	0		18 132 697.00 €
Austria	95.1	101.4	101.4	53.4	10.6	80.3	12.0	552 000 000.33 €
Azerbaijan	74.8	66.9	65.9	22.7	1.8	0	34.6	63 780 807.00 €
Belgium	146.2	142.7	62.8	26.6	15.4	7.7	7.4	541 116 340.75 €
BH: BiH (total)								
BH: BiH (st. level)								
BH: Fed. BiH								
BH: Rep. Srpska	157.7	176.4	175.8	84.8	0	0	3.8	16 055 817.00 €
Bulgaria	230.9	[214.8]	[222.9]	67.0	1.4	2.8	5.3	13 910 817.00 €
Croatia	200.0	191.9	191.0	66.4	0	73.6	5.3	68 040 503.45 €
Cyprus	186.4	147.4	147.4	58.2	0	0	4.3	20 095 856.65 €
Czech Rep.	86.4	103.8	103.6	38.8	7.8	0.5	25.0	466 799 504.00 €
Denmark	156.4	103.5	102.2	45.8	10.3	174.3	5.1	464 453.00 €
Estonia	138.3	147.0	145.9	46.4	12.8	0	15.3	67 293 531.00 €
Finland	95.4	99.8	98.4	72.0	8.4	321.5	5.5	188 164 000.00 €
France	100.9	103.3	101.7	52.4	27.9	137.1	11.1	3 056 111 715.45 €
Georgia	173.8	189.0	188.8	46.5	4.3	0	16.0	35 813 918.00 €
Germany	180.7	115.2	60.9	24.2	5.3	51.3	4.7	3 721 520 047.78 €
Greece	56.2	53.0	52.7	32.5	5.3	11.5	22.7	6 435 408.63 €
Hungary	169.5	162.3	161.6	46.3	2.9	0.6	12.7	256 240 260.00 €
Iceland	63.2	64.3	64.3	61.9	0.0	0.0	7.7	13 874 072.00 €
Ireland	129.1	133.8	133.5	65.6		24.2	6.9	431 906 000.00 €
Italy	59.5	75.3	74.9	50.1	11.4	22.5	18.1	2 982 136 917.00 €
Latvia					19.7			58 404 903.00 €
Liechtenstein	146.0	115.2	115.2	65.2	0	0	2.5	18 631 757.00 €
Lithuania	209.2	166.9	165.6	41.5	13.2	15	10.9	98 787 500.00 €
Luxembourg	118.3	141.0	137.1	66.5	18.0	430.9	8.9	66 688 656.14 €
Malta								
Moldova	62.8	68.9	67.5	30.3	10.9	3.1	30.5	27 328 800.00 €
Monaco	115.0	115.0	115.0	78.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	
Montenegro	283.7	329.6	329.0	78.6	0.0	23.9	5.7	10 416 430.28 €
Netherlands	124.4	124.0	123.9	69.5	12.7	0.0	5.2	834 603 000.00 €
North Macedonia	95.2	75.5	74.3	36.7	4.5	76.6	13.5	20 945 462.00 €
Norway	99.6	90.5	90.2	57.8	6.6	39.3	6.8	369 428 827.00 €
Poland	196.0	212.7	212.4	56.6	4.0	0.0	11.0	
Portugal	42.3	56.5	55.7	36.4	18.4	5.3	31.4	
Romania	55.0	49.2	48.8	28.9	4.1	1.8	24.8	352 064 667.00 €
Russian Fed.	135.7	136.7	135.0	29.1	6.0	2.2	29.0	3 720 497 600.00 €
San Marino	23.5	[20.6]	[23.5]	47.1	0.0	0.0	13.5	500 937.32 €
Serbia	287.2	295.0	191.9	43.6	7.6	0.0	6.4	104 387 304.00 €
Slovak Rep.	150.6	114.8	114.3	33.3	3.8	0.0	15.3	231 717 054.00 €
Slovenia	100.8	109.7	109.4	70.8	8.8	0.0	6.4	48 504 985.80 €
Spain (total)	63.5	67.9	67.5	37.6	11.3	3.6	22.0	1 707 789 388.89 €
Spain (State Adm.)	62.9	67.4	67.7	36.8	10.8	3.0	22.7	1 217 534 439.89 €
Spain (Catalonia)	66.6	70.1	66.1	41.4	14.0	7.6	18.4	490 254 949.00 €
Sweden	190.0	83.9	82.9	31.8	2.7	142.5	4.4	764 591 530.00 €
Switzerland	475.6				3.2	232.7	1.8	NA
Turkey	334.0	373.6	373.4	56.6	2.1	0.4	11.7	875 882 351.86 €
Ukraine	49.7	52.1	52.1	30.8	10.1	2.4	28.9	203 172 796.42 €
UK: Engl. & Wales	187.4	90.1	89.6	28.1	8.6	0.0	8.4	4 224 490 000.00 €
UK: North. Ireland	188.9	195.8	195.8	74.5		0.0	4.7	117 744 000.00 €
UK: Scotland	185.8	191.9	***				8.7	435 800 000.00 €
Average	143.7	134.7	114.4	49.8	7.2	40.3	12.4	
Median	135.7	115.2	102.2	47.1	5.7	2.2	8.9	
Minimum	23.5	45.1	0.0	22.7	0.0	0.0	1.8	
Maximum	475.6	373.6	373.4	84.8	27.9	430.9	34.6	

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. Outliers are quite common in the sample of countries included in the SPACE report because some member states, like Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, or San Marino, have a very small 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 2019 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 2021, there were 1,414,172 inmates in the penal institutions of the 49 PA of the Council of Europe member states whose data on prison population rates are presented in the 2021 SPACE I report. At the same time, the total population of the territories in which these PA are located was 871 million inhabitants, which would lead to a prison population rate of 162.3 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 101.8 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.

To avoid duplication of data, the total for the whole territory of Spain (which corresponds to the addition of the data for the State Central Administration and the Catalan Administration) is not included in the computation of the average and median European values⁹.

For a few figures the data validation procedure revealed inconsistencies that cannot be explained. These figures are presented between brackets in Tables 3 and 4 and were not considered in the calculation of European average and median values.

⁹ Two questionnaires were received from Spain, one for the PA of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia and one for the State PA. In the latter, most items refer to the whole territory of Spain, but some do not include Catalonia. Therefore, and as it has been done since the mid-2000s, we have estimated the indicators for three entities: Catalonia, the whole country, and the latter without the inmates under the authority of the Catalan PA.

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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