

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Albania Country Profile

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This country profile on Albania is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015 presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	ALBANIA		TRENDS 2005-2015		
Key Facts					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) (01.09.2015)	207.2	High	NAP	153.7	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	222.5	High	NAP	163.0	↓↓↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	154.5	Medium	NAP	112.4*	↑↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	10.1	High	NAP	12.1	↑↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	10.1	Medium	NAP	12.9	↑↑↑↑↑
Prison density (inmates per 100 places) (01.09.2015)	119.6	High	NAP	112.5	↑↑
Median age of the prison population (in years) (01.09.2015)	28.0	Low	NAP	30.2	↓↓
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	2.0	Low	NAP	2.3	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	1.5	Low	NAP	1.1	↑↑↑↑↑
<i>of which:</i> in pre-trial detention	62.9	High	NAP	56.0	↑↑↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	49.2	High	NAP	38.1	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	23.9	Medium	NAP	25.4	↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=3)	5.5	Medium	NAP	5.1	↓↓↓↓
<i>of which:</i> % in pre-trial detention (n=2) - Available since 2013	66.7	High	NAP	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person) (01.09.2015)	1.4	Low	NAP	1.4	↔
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (01.09.2015)	74.4	High	NAP	75.0	↔
Total budget spent by the prison administration in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2011	21 982 160	NAP	NAP	25 854 720**	↓↓↓↓
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate in 2014 (in Euro) – Available since 2008	13.4	Low	NAP	13.8***	↓↓↓↓

*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

**Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

***Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Albania in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-28%), median age of the prison population (-17%), percentage of female inmates (-25%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-9%), percentage of suicides (-37%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (-22%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+90%), rate of releases from penal institutions (+79%), average length of detention based on the number of days spent in penal institutions (+111%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+139%), prison density (+15%), percentage of foreign inmates (+115%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+151%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+175%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+48%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: ratio of inmates per staff (+3%), and percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-3%).

Albania in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Albania presents:
 - **Low:** Median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of foreign inmates, ratio of inmates per staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
 - **Medium:** Rate of releases from penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides.
 - **High:** Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, prison density, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.

General comments

Figure 1 (1)

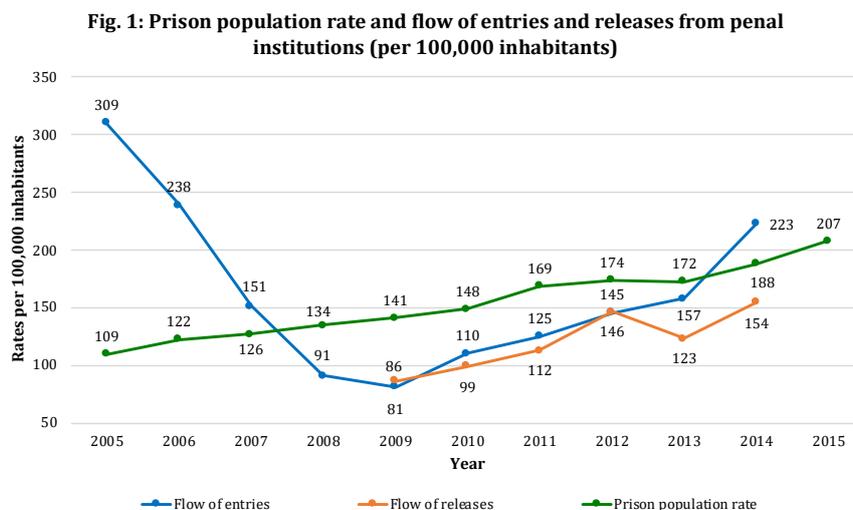


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Albania (stock) increased by 90%. In 2005, the country had 109 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 207.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 28%. In 2005, there were 309 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 223.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) increased by 79%. In 2009, there were 86 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 154.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show relatively similar rates and trends.

According to the information collected during this research, there are several factors that play a role in the observed trends in Figure 1. During the period under study, the Ministry of Justice became the authority in charge of the pre-trial detention centres. At the same time, a series of modifications and amendments to the Albanian Criminal Code were introduced, which led to an increase in the number and variety of criminal acts included in it. In 2009, the Albanian Probation Service started operating, but it seems that it did not have a major influence on the trend observed for the prison population rate. Finally, amnesty laws were adopted by the Albanian Parliament in November 2012 and March 2014, which led to an increase in the flow of releases. Two additional laws on amnesties were adopted after the period under study, in December 2015 and December 2016 respectively.

Figure 2 (2)



Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 111%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 4.8 months, while in 2014 it was 10.1 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows an increase of 139%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 4.2 months, while in 2014 it was 10.1 months.

Figure 3 (3)

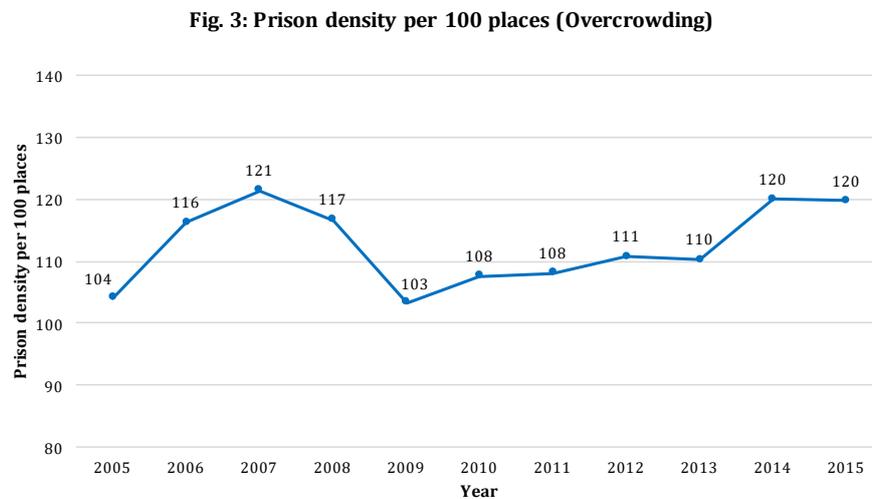


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Albania increased by 15%. In 2005, the country had 104 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 120.

Figure 4 (4)

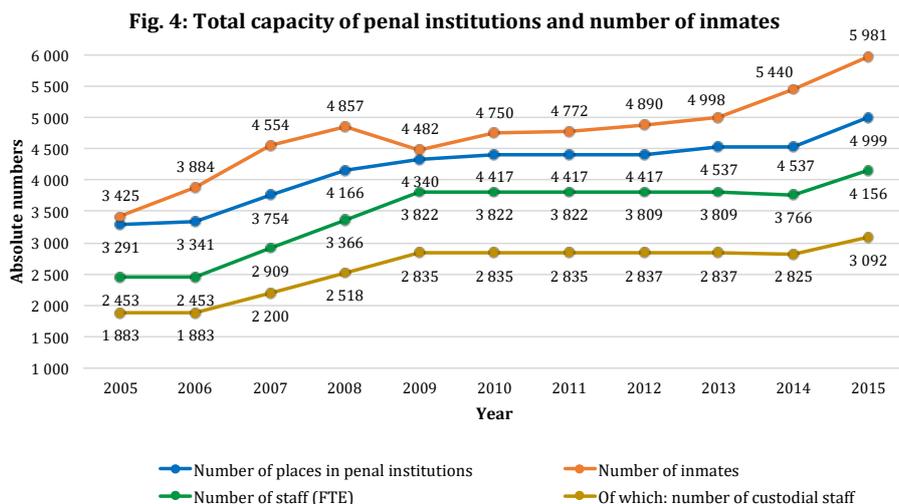


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Albania increased by 52%. In 2005, the country had 3,291 places, while in 2015 it had 4,999. According to the information collected during this research, this is due to the construction of new penal institutions.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 75%. In 2005, the country had 3,425 inmates, while in 2015 it had 5,981.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 69%. In 2005, Albania had in total a staff of 2,453 persons, while in 2015 it had 4,156.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 64%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,883 persons, while in 2015 it was 3,092.

Figure 5 (5)

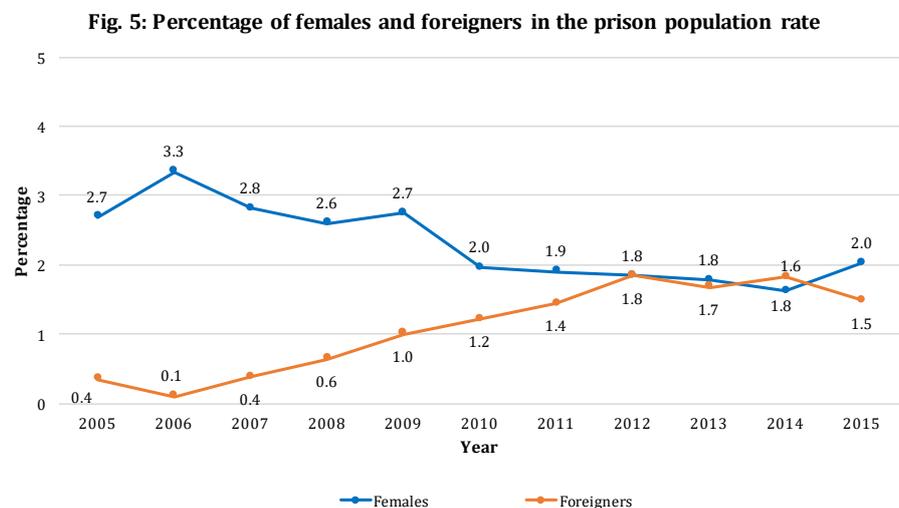


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 25%. In 2005, 2.7% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 2.0% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 325%. In 2005, 0.4% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 1.5% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (6)

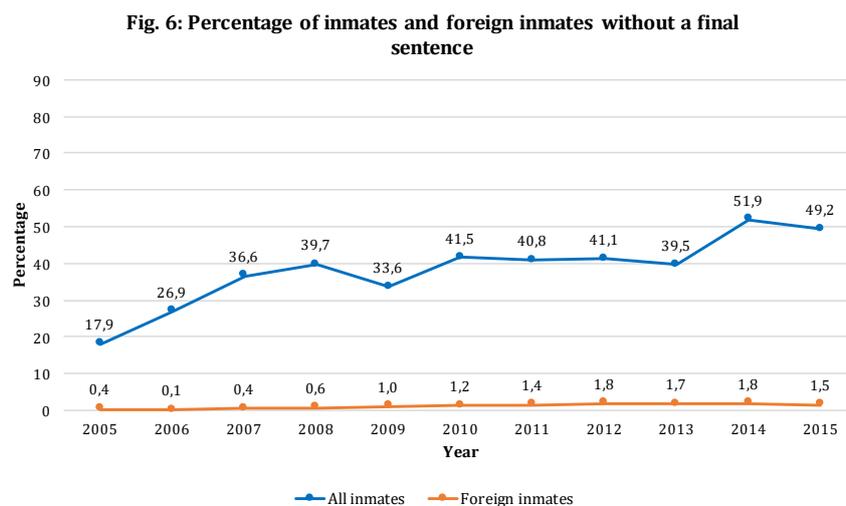


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 175%. In 2005, 18% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 49% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 325%. In 2005, they represented 0.4% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 1.5% of them.

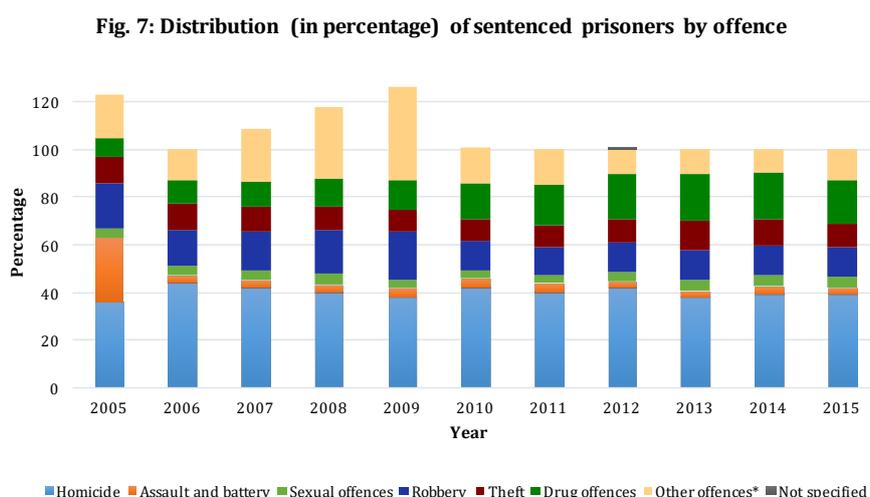
Figure 7¹²³ (7)

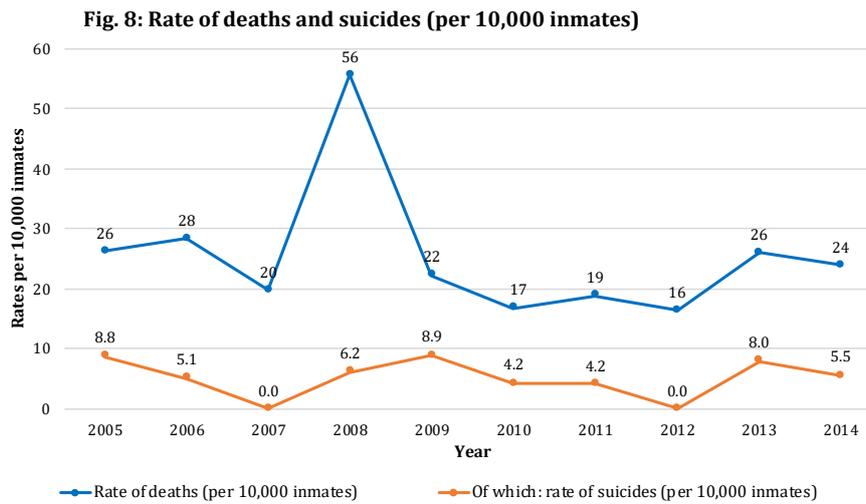
Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, sexual offences, and drug offences, have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery, robbery, theft, and other types of offences have decreased.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

² Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

³ Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).

Figure 8 (8)



The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low. From 2005 to 2014, the annual number of inmates who died in prison oscillated between 8 and 27 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 3 and none.