

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Bosnia and Herzegovina Republika Srpska Country Profile

Marcelo F. Aebi
Léa Berger-Kolopp
Christine Burkhardt
Mélanie M. Tiago

This country profile on Bosnia and Herzegovina Republika Srpska 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 **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: REPUBLIKA SRPSKA** 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) on 01.09.2015	61.9	Low	NAP	68.4	↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	122.7	Low	NAP	102.3	↑↑↑
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	126.0	Medium	NAP	108.1	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	6.5	Medium	NAP	7.4	↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	6.5	Medium	NAP	8.2	↓↓↓
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	60.1	Low	NAP	79.4	↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	35.6*	High	NAP	33.1	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	1.6	Low	NAP	1.6	↔
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	7.0	Medium	NAP	4.7	↑↑
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	54.1	High	NAP	41.1	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	9.9	Low	NAP	14.9	↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	31.9	Medium	NAP	44.0	↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=1)	10.6	Low	NAP	4.2	↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) - Available since 2013</i>	0.0	Low	NAP	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.0	Low	NAP	1.3	↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	55.5	Medium	NAP	56.5	↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	14 372 347	NAP	NAP	13 114 734**	↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	29.0	Medium	NAP	26.4***	↑↑↑

* Data refers to 2014

**Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

*** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Republika Srpska in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-15%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (-30%), prison density (-37%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-39%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-18%) and ratio of inmates per staff (-40%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: rate of entries into penal institutions (+29%), rate of releases from penal institutions (+50%), average length of detention based on the number of days spent in penal institutions (+8%), percentage of foreign inmates (+19%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+150%), percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (+5%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+13%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+45%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: median age of the prison population (+4%), percentage of female inmates (+3%) and percentage of suicides (+4%).

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Republika Srpska in comparative perspective

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

General comments

Figure 1 (49)

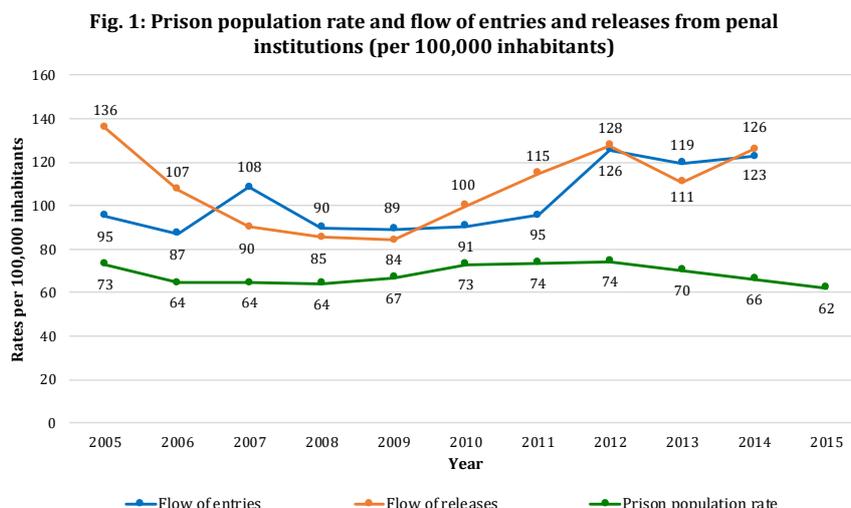


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of the Republika Srpska (stock) decreased by 15%. In 2005, the country had 73 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 62.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) increased by 29%. In 2005, there were 95 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 123.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 7%. In 2005, there were 136 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 126.

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

Figure 2 (50)

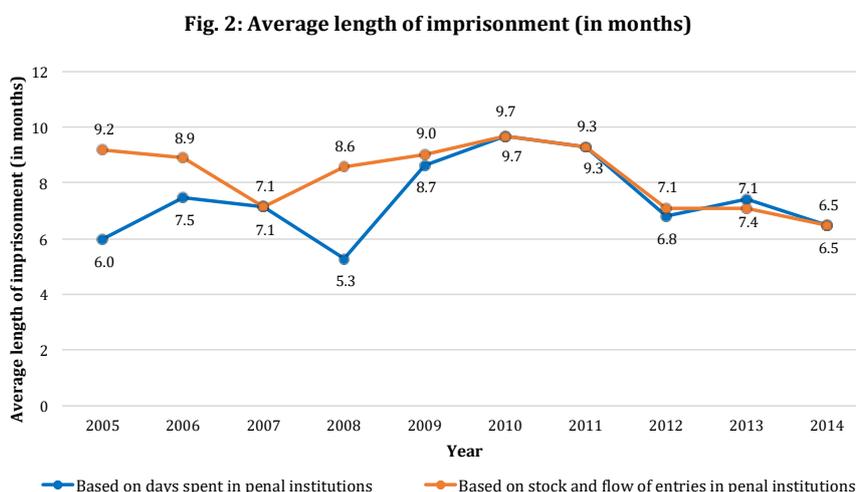


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 8%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 6.0 months, while in 2014 it was 6.5 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows a decrease of 30%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 9.2 months, while in 2014 it was 6.5 months. However, since 2010, the rates and trends of the average length of imprisonment are similar independently of the way in which this indicator is calculated.

Figure 3 (51)

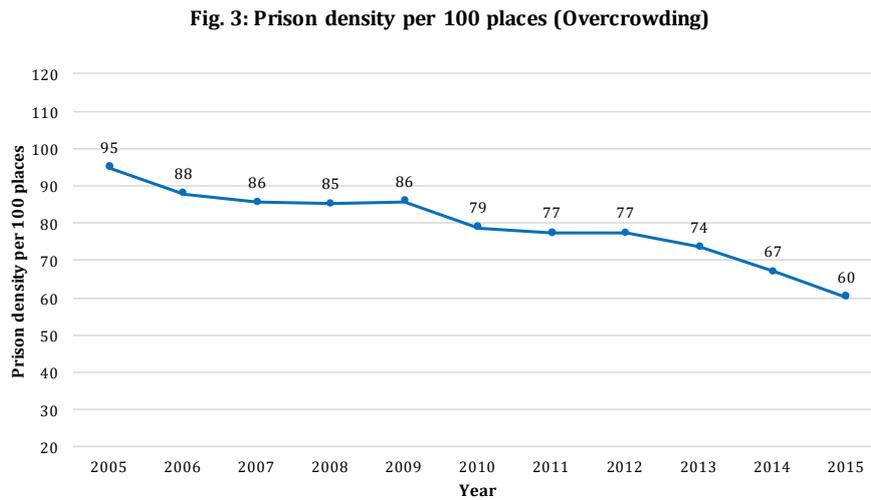


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of the Republika Srpska decreased by 37%. In 2005, the country had 95 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 60.

Figure 4 (52)

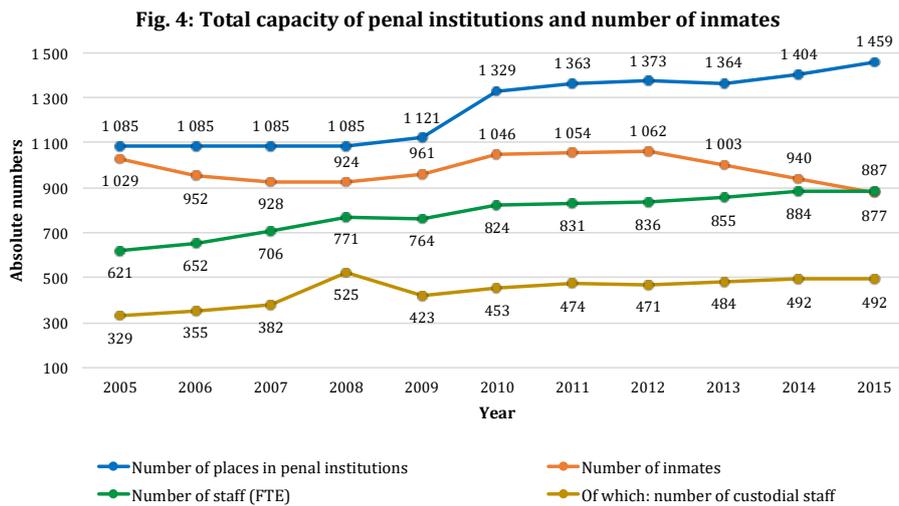


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in the Republika Srpska increased by 29%. In 2005, the country had 1,085 places, while in 2015 it had 1,459.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 9%. In 2005, the country had 1,029 inmates, while in 2015 it had 877.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 43%. In 2005, the Republika Srpska had in total a staff of 621 persons, while in 2015 it had 887.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 50%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 329 persons, while in 2015 it was 492.

Figure 5 (53)

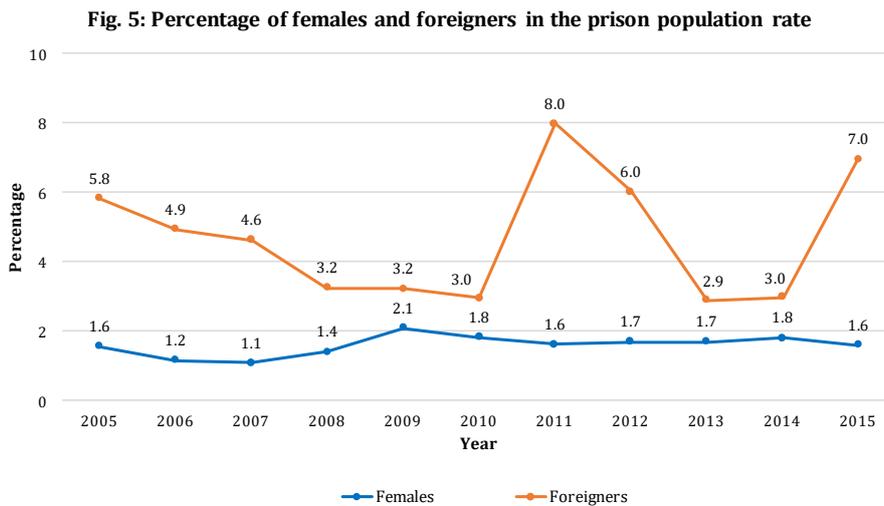


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates remained stable. In 2005 and 2015, 1.6% of the total prison population were females.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 19%. In 2005, 5.8% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 7.0% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (54)

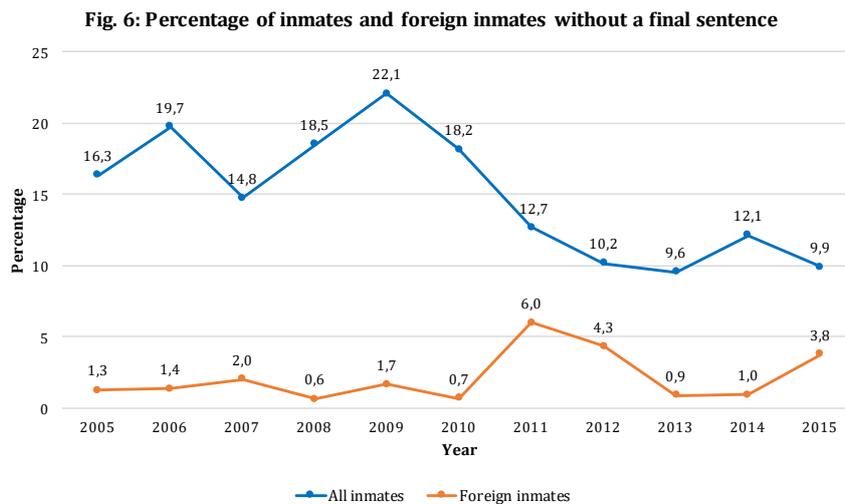


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 39%. In 2005, 16% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 10% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 198%. In 2005, they represented 1.3% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 3.8% of them.

According to the information collected during this research, a new law on criminal procedure entered into force in 2009. This law has greatly tightened the conditions of detention.

Figure 7¹²³ (55)

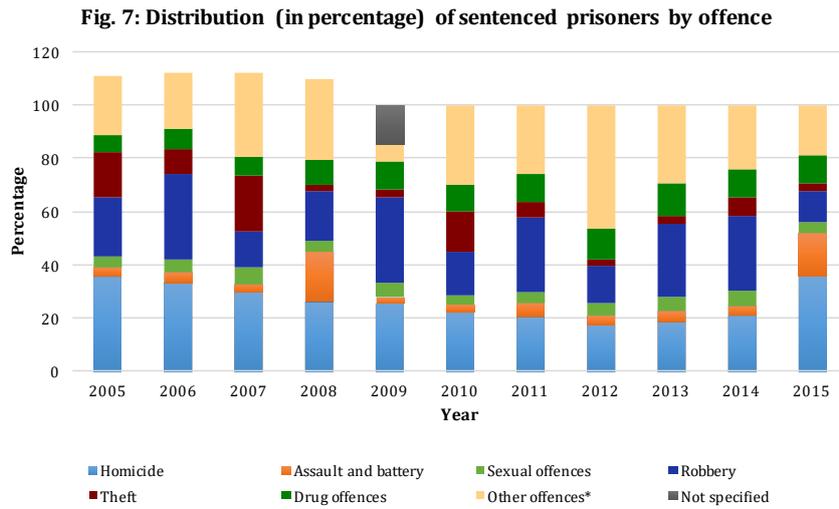
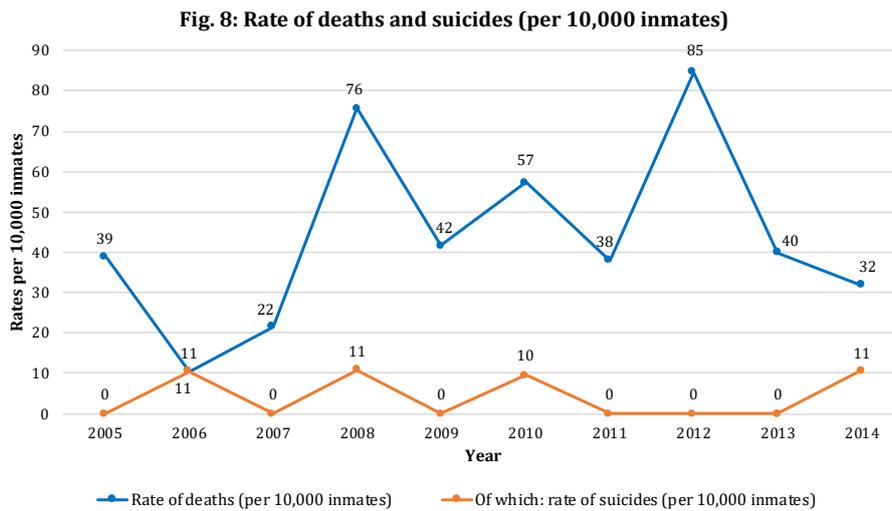


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for assault and battery, sexual offences, and drug offences have increased, while the percentages of those serving sentences for robbery, theft, and other types of offences have decreased.

Figure 8 (56)



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 1 and 9 and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between one and none.

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).