

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Greece

Country Profile

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This country profile on Greece 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	GREECE		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	109.3	Medium	Medium	103.5	↑↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	110.4	Low	Low	---	---
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	86.3	Low	Low	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	---	---	---	---	---
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	12.7	High	High	---	---
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	119.3	High	High	135.5	↓↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	---	---	---	---	---
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	4.8	Medium	Low	5.2	↓↓↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	58.3	High	High	53.6	↑↑↑↑
of which: in pre-trial detention	18.4	Low	Low	31.6	↓↓↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	38.2	High	High	28.2	↑↑↑↑
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	22.8	Medium	Medium	---	---
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=6)	4.7	Medium	Medium	---	↓↓↓↓
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=NA) - Available since 2013	---	---	---	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.6	High	High	2.8	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	39.9	Low	Low	---	---
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	108 879 000	NAP	NAP	77 115 096*	↑↑↑↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	28.2	Medium	Low	19.0**	↑↑↑↑

* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Greece in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison density (-24%), percentage of female inmates (-29%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-52%), and percentage of suicides (-31%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+39%), percentage of foreign inmates (+37%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (+30%), ratio of inmates per staff (+27%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+151%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+22%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: none of indicators remained stable.

Greece in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Greece presents:
 - **Low**: Rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
 - **Medium**: Prison population rate, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides.
 - **High**: Average length of detention based on stock and flow, prison density, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, ratio of inmates per staff.
- When the percentage of female inmates and the average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate is calculated, the Greek result is medium compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but low compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (137)

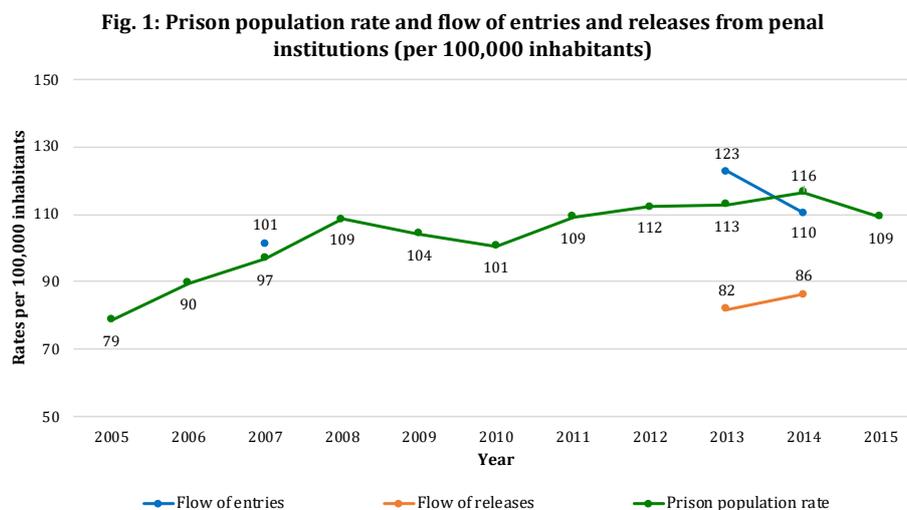
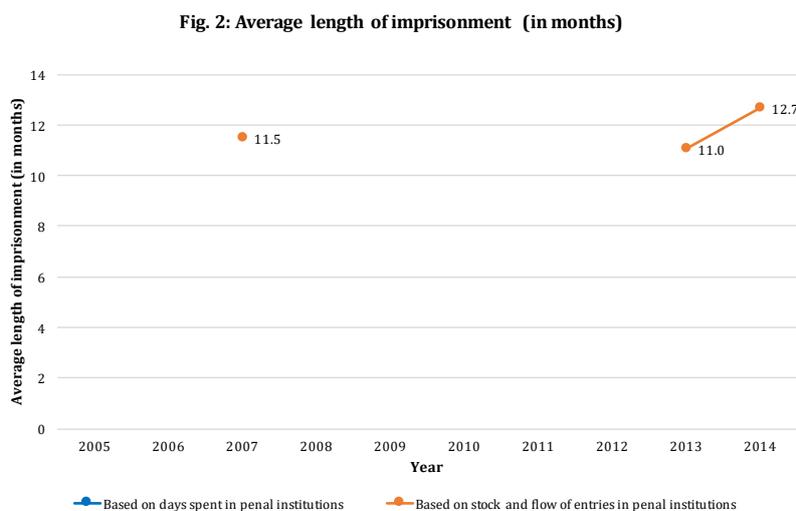


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Greece (stock) increased by 39%. In 2005, the country had 79 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 109.

Most of the data on the flow of entries and the flow of releases were not available.

Figure 2 (138)



Most of the data required for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow were not available.

No data were available for the estimation of the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions

Figure 3 (139)

Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)

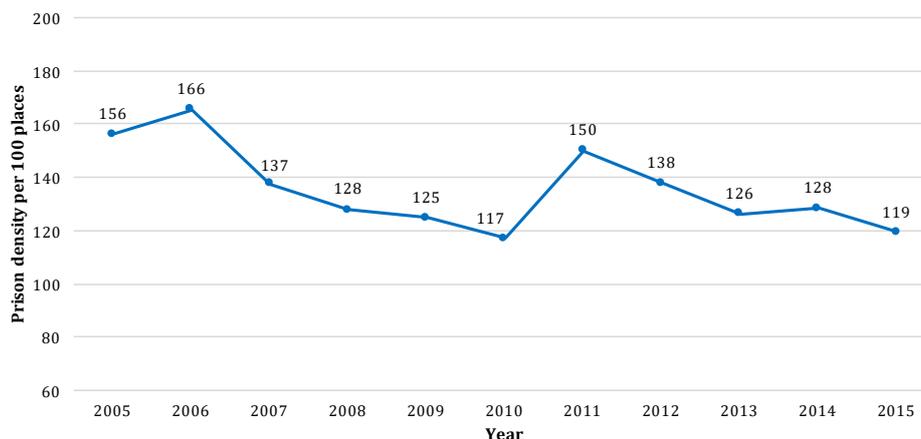


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Greece decreased by 24%. In 2005, the country had 156 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 119.

Figure 4 (140)

Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates

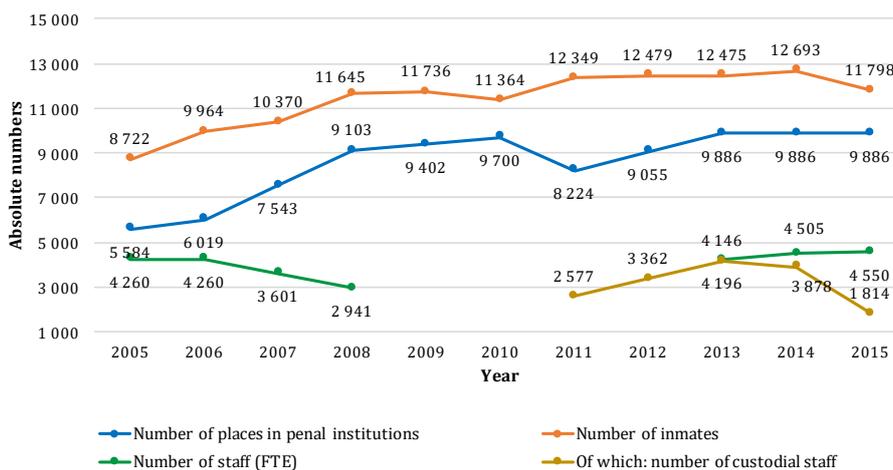


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Greece increased by 77%. In 2005, the country had 5,584 places, while in 2015 it had 9,886.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 35%. In 2005, the country had 8,722 inmates, while in 2015 it had 11,798.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 7%. In 2005, Greece had in total a staff of 4,260 persons, while in 2015 it had 4,550.

For the total number of custodial staff most of the data were not available.

Figure 5 (141)

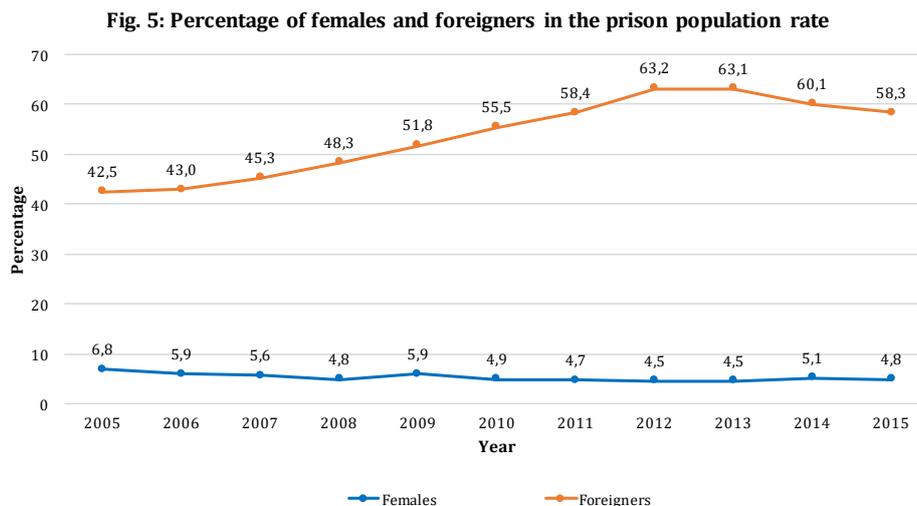


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 29%. In 2005, 6.8% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 4.8% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 37%. In 2005, 42% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 58% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (142)

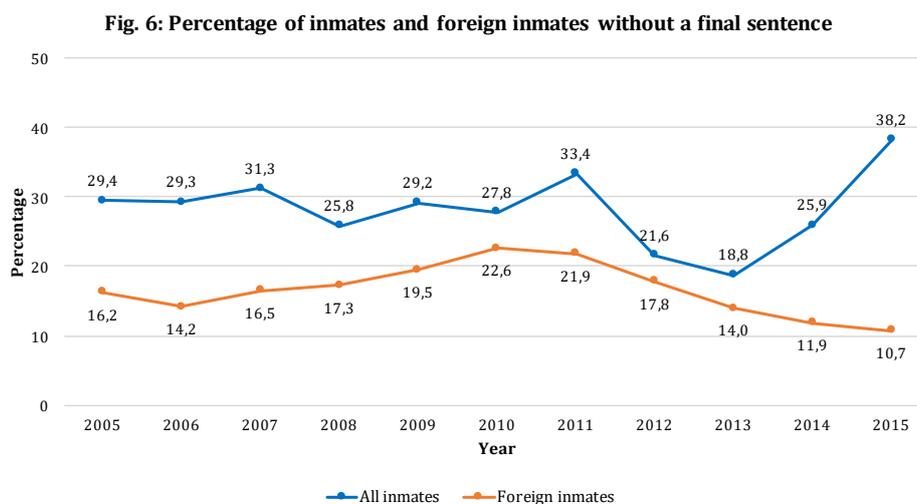
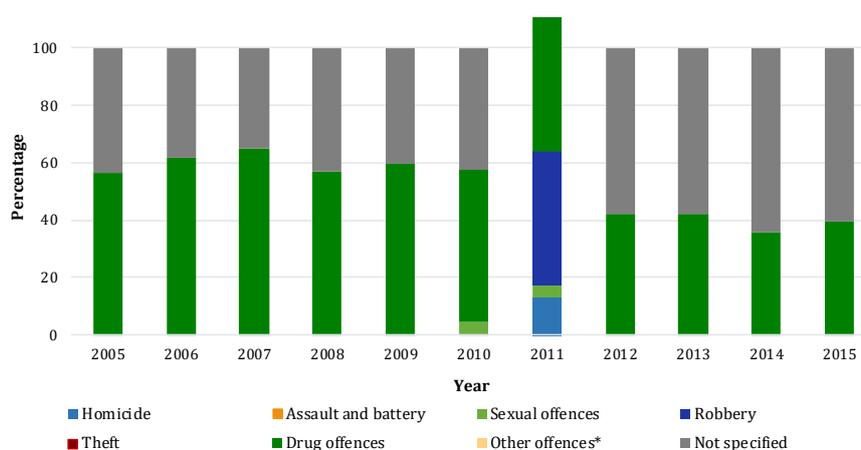


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence increased by 30%. In 2005, 29% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 38% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 34%. In 2005, they represented 16% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 11% of them.

Figure 7¹²³ (143)

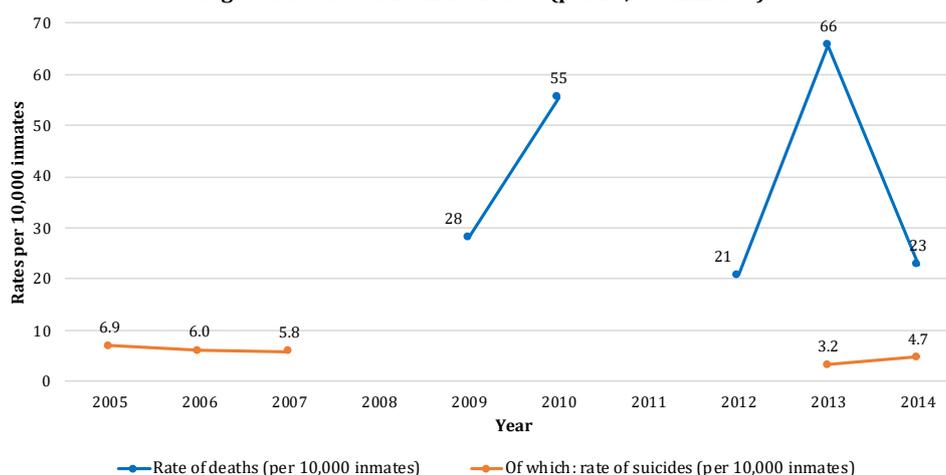
Fig. 7: Distribution (in percentage) of sentenced prisoners by offence



Data on the distribution of sentenced prisoners by offence were available only for drug offences. As can be seen in Figure 7, prisoners sentenced for drug offences represented 56.3% of all sentenced prisoners in 2005 and 39.4% in 2015, which represents a decrease of 30%.

Figure 8 (144)

Fig. 8: Rate of deaths and suicides (per 10,000 inmates)



As can be seen in Figure 8, most of the data on deaths and suicides in penal institutions were not available. For the years in which data were available, the rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates shows extremely instable trends even if the absolute numbers are not necessarily low (between 26 and 82 deaths in prison per year).

On the contrary, any interpretation of the rates and trends of suicides would be misleading because, from a statistical point of view, the absolute numbers are too low (between 6 cases and none per year) to reach reliable conclusions.

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).