

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Moldova Country Profile

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This country profile on Moldova 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

MOLDOVA

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	219.9	High	NAP	198.0	↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	237.8	High	NAP	335.5	↓↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	109.6	Medium	NAP	73.4*	↑↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	10.0	High	NAP	7.2	↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	10.2	Medium	NAP	7.3	↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	117.0	High	NAP	83.8	↑↑↑↑↑
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	32.7**	Low	NAP	31.7	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	6.2	High	NAP	5.8	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	1.1	Low	NAP	1.4	↓↓↓↓
of which: in pre-trial detention	22.1	Low	NAP	19.4	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	20.9	Medium	NAP	20.5	↓↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	62.8	High	NAP	59.8	↓↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=8)	11.2	High	NAP	6.8	↑↑↑↑↑
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2014	0.0	Low	NAP	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.8	High	NAP	2.5	↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	69.9	Medium	NAP	62.0	↑↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	18 811 600	NAP	NAP	18 316 154***	↔
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	7.4	Low	NAP	6.6****	↑↑↑↑↑

\* Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

\*\* Data refers to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\*\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Moldova in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-12%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-39%), percentage of foreign inmates (-39%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-44%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-23%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-21%), and ratio of inmates per staff (-12%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: rate of releases from penal institutions (+90%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+32%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+32%), prison density (+65%), percentage of female inmates (+25%), percentage of suicides (+151%), percentage of custodial staff (+16%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+92%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: median age of the population (+4%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (+4%).

### Moldova in comparative perspective

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

## General comments

Figure 1 (217)

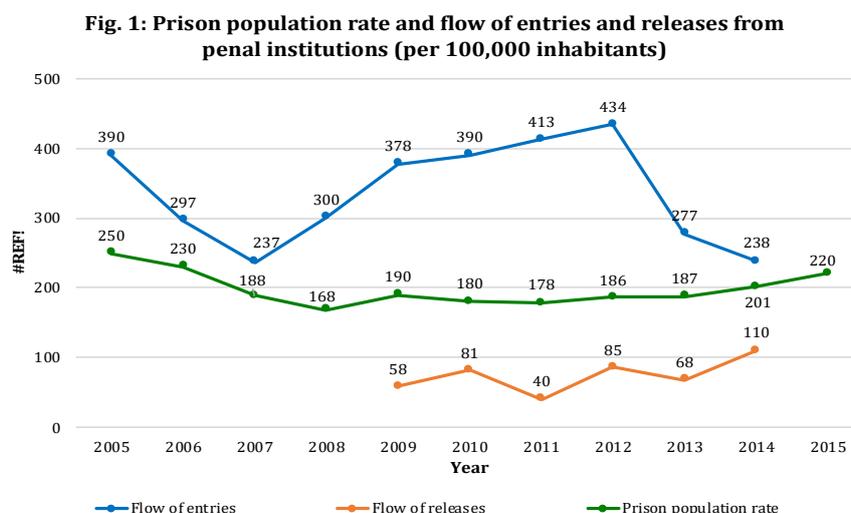


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Moldova (stock) decreased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 250 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 220.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 39%. In 2005, there were 390 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 238.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) increased by 90%. In 2009, there were 58 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 110.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show dissimilar rates and trends.

According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, the observed trends in Figure 1 are related to several factors. The reduction of the prison population is mainly related to laws on amnesties for some categories of detainees and to legal reforms. In particular:

- The law on amnesty in connection with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution (No. 278, 2004) through which 1,323 inmates were released and 3,320 were granted a reduction of the length of their detention.
- Law No. 188 of 10 July 2008 on amnesty in connection with the declaration of the year 2008 as "Year of Youth". In this regard, in 2009, the courts examined the situation of 608 inmates and decided to liberate 299 of them and reduced the length of the sentence for another 147, while no changes were made for the remaining 162 inmates.
- The legal system of the country allows inmates to reduce the length of their detention through their work in prison. Before 2005, this compensation system implied that, for persons working in normal conditions, 3 days of work would count as 4 days of detention. In 2005, there was a change in the method of calculation that benefited the inmates, because 2 days of work in normal conditions started to be counted as 3 days of detention. In 2012, on the contrary, there was a new change but in detriment of the inmates, because working days in normal conditions started again to be counted as 3-for-4, and also working days in harmful conditions passed from being counted as 1-for-3 to 2-for-3.
- The Law no.184 from 29.06.2006, on modification and completion of the Criminal Code, aims to reduce the length of criminal sanctions and to increase the number of offenses for which community sanctions and measures can be used as alternatives to imprisonment.
- The reduction of the number of detainees, was also due to a revised concept of punitive policy oriented to the decriminalization of acts by implementing provisions of the law No. 292-XVI of 21.12.2007 and No. 277-XVI of 18 December 2008, which introduced modifications to the Criminal Code. Thus, until 31.12.2009, the Supreme Court of Justice examined 750 files and decided to reduce the length of detention of 498 inmates and replace imprisonment by a milder punishment for another 4 inmates.

- As a consequence of these laws, the number of persons in pre-trial detention decreased roughly from 3,000 to approximately 1,300 during the period under study.

Figure 2 (218)



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 32%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 7.6 months, while in 2014 it was 10.0 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 32%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 7.7 months, while in 2014 it was 10.2 months.

Figure 3 (219)

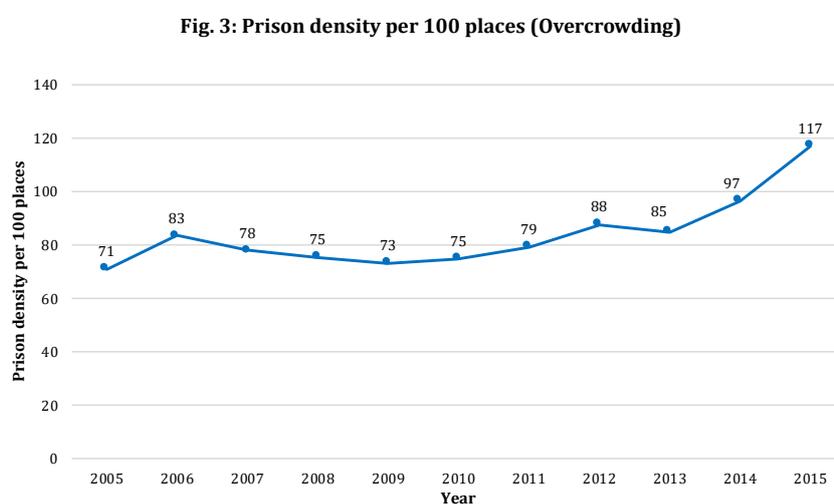


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Moldova increased by 65%. In 2005, the country had 71 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 117.

Figure 4 (220)

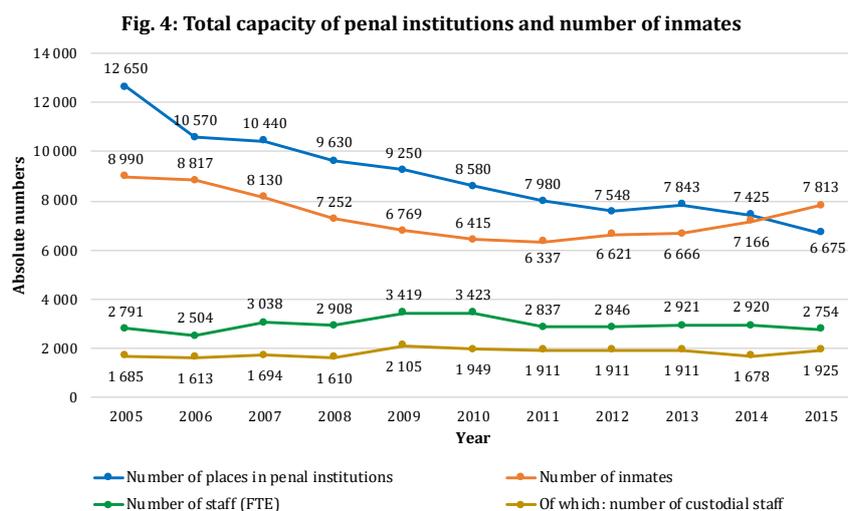


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Moldova decreased by 47%. In 2005, the country had 12,650 places, while in 2015 it had 6,675. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, the decrease in the number of places in prison is related to the closing of two prisons in 2005 and 2006 and to changes in the method used to count places of detention. This is related to the Government Decision No. 826 of 14 August 2005 regarding the approval of the prisons list. Following that decision, the prison system went from 19 prisons to 17 (the two prisons closed in 2005 and 2006 had a capacity of roughly 1,000 places). Also in 2005 the new enforcement code of criminal penalties entered into force. This code provides for a minimum space of 4 square meters per inmate.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 13%. In 2005, the country had 8,990 inmates, while in 2015 it had 7,813.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff remained relatively stable. In 2005, Moldova had in total a staff of 2,791 persons, while in 2015 it had 2,754.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 14%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 1,685 persons, while in 2015 it was 1,925.

Figure 5 (221)

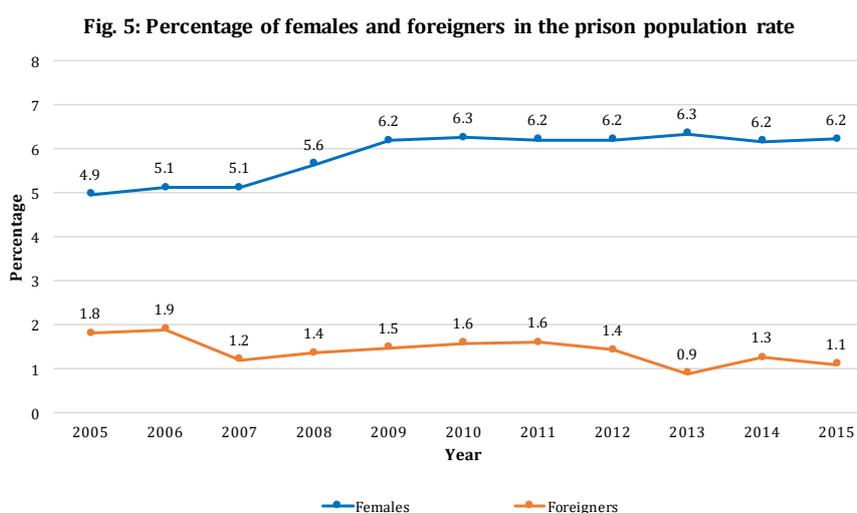


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 25%. In 2005, 4.9% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 6.2% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 39%. In 2005, 1.8% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 1.1% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (222)

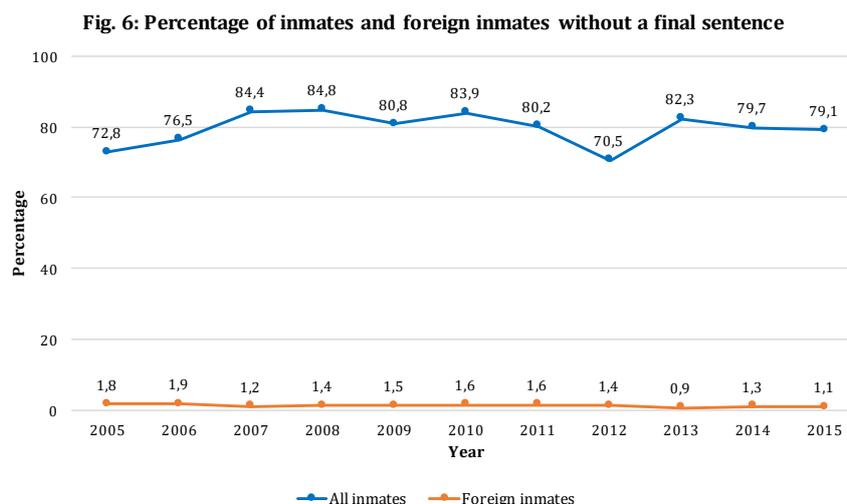


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 23%. In 2005, 73% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 79% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 39%. In 2005, they represented 1.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 1.1% of them.

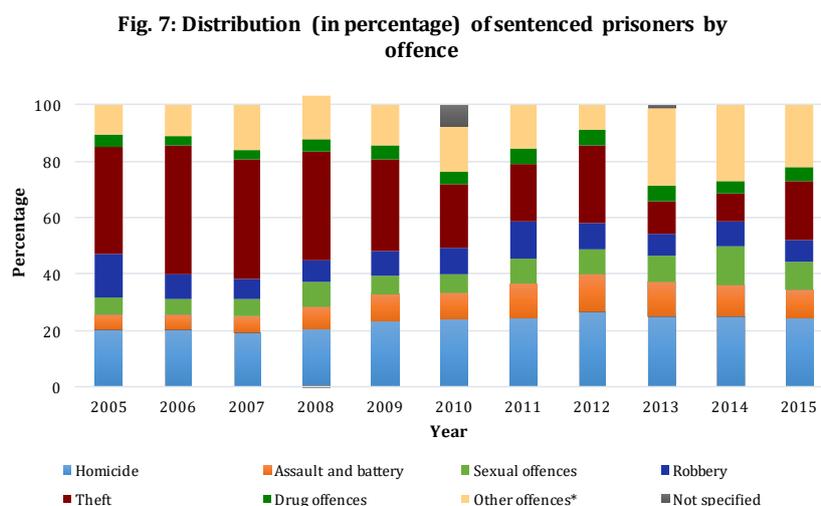
Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (223)

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

<sup>1</sup> The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 (224)

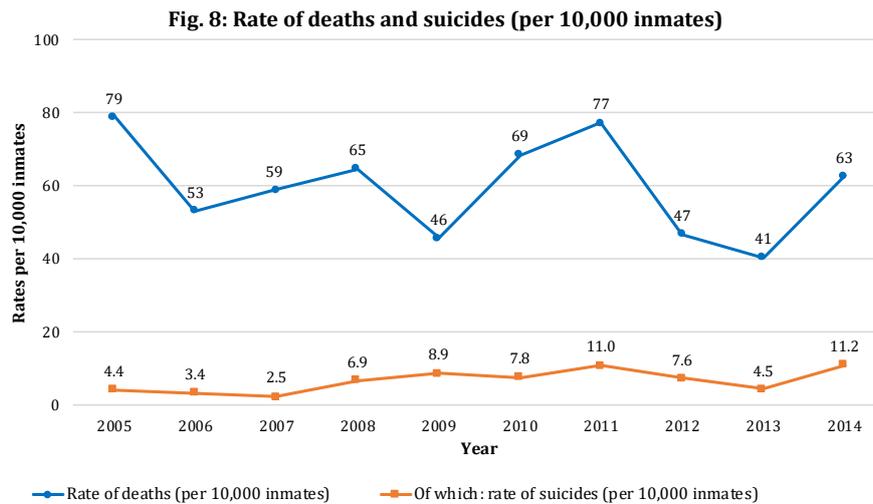


Figure 8 shows that the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates followed a curvilinear trend during the period under study, although the rate of 2014 is lower than the one of 2005. In 2005 there were 79 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 63.

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 2 and 8 suicides per year) to reach reliable conclusions.