

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Poland

Country Profile

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This country profile on Poland 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

POLAND

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	186.6	High	High	214.1	↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	222.9	High	High	238.8	↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	227.5	High	High	237.3*	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	7.6	Medium	Medium	8.6	↓↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	11.0	High	Medium	10.9	↔
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	81.1	Low	Low	100.9	↓↓↓↓
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	34.0	Medium	Medium	33.1	↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	3.4	Low	Low	3.2	↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	0.7	Low	Low	0.7	↓↓↓↓
of which: in pre-trial detention	40.7	Medium	Medium	48.7	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	6.3	Low	Low	11.4	↓↓↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	13.8	Low	Low	15.2	↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=26)	3.4	Low	Low	3.8	↓↓↓
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)	2.4	High	High	2.9	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	53.2	Low	Low	54.4	↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro)	---	NAP	NAP	---	---
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	20.4 **	Low	Low	19.6***	↓

* Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

** Data refers to 2013

*** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Poland in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-14%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-9%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-5%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (-29%), prison density (-32%), percentage of foreign inmates (-21%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-25%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-64%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-10%), percentage of suicides (-17%), ratio of inmates per staff (-29%), percentage of custodial staff (-7%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (-6%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: percentage of female inmates (+16%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: average length of detention based on stock and flow (+3%), and median age of the population (0%).

Poland in comparative perspective

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

General comments

Figure 1 (257)

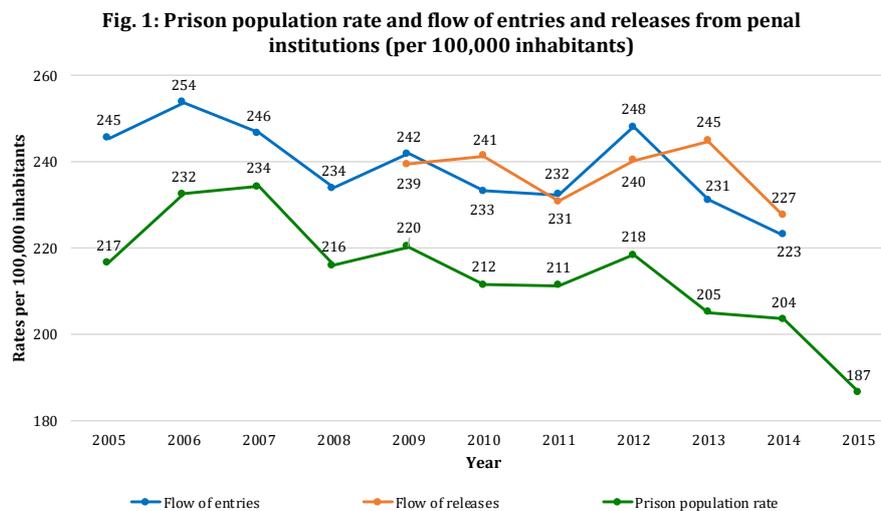


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Poland (stock) decreased by 14%. In 2005, the country had 217 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 187.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 9%. In 2005, there were 245 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) decreased by 5%. In 2009, there were 239 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 227.

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

According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, the decreases observed in Figure 1 are the result of changes in the Polish Criminal Code and a new criminal policy: Non-isolation sanctions are applied more often. Imprisonment is treated as a last resort. Fines and community sanctions and measures are also applied more often. On 27 September 2013, modifications were introduced to the Code of Criminal procedure, the Criminal Code and the Code of Petty Offences. Since then, cycling (i.e. riding a bicycle) under the influence of alcohol is not a crime anymore, but a petty offence. This modification led to a decrease of the prison population by 5,000 persons.

Figure 2 (258)

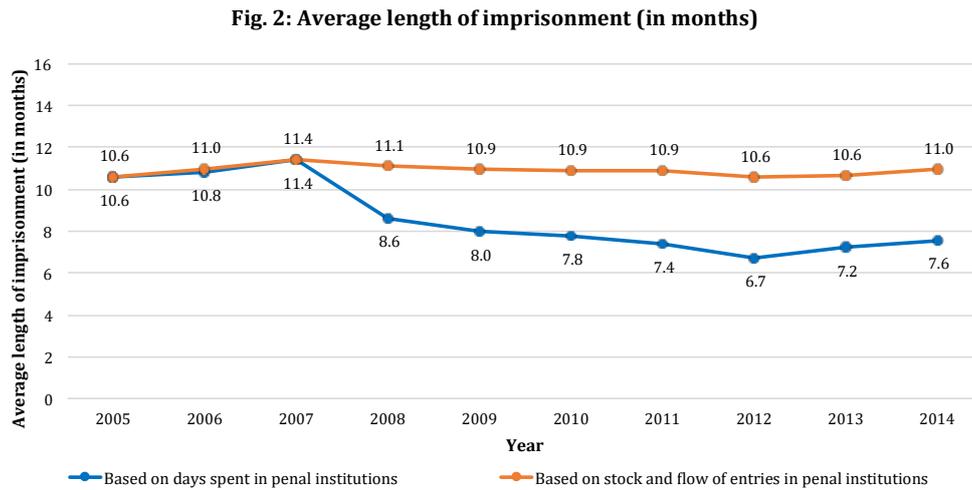


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions decreased by 29%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 10.6 months, while in 2014 it was 7.6 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 3%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 10.6 months, while in 2014 it was 11.0 months.

Figure 3 (259)

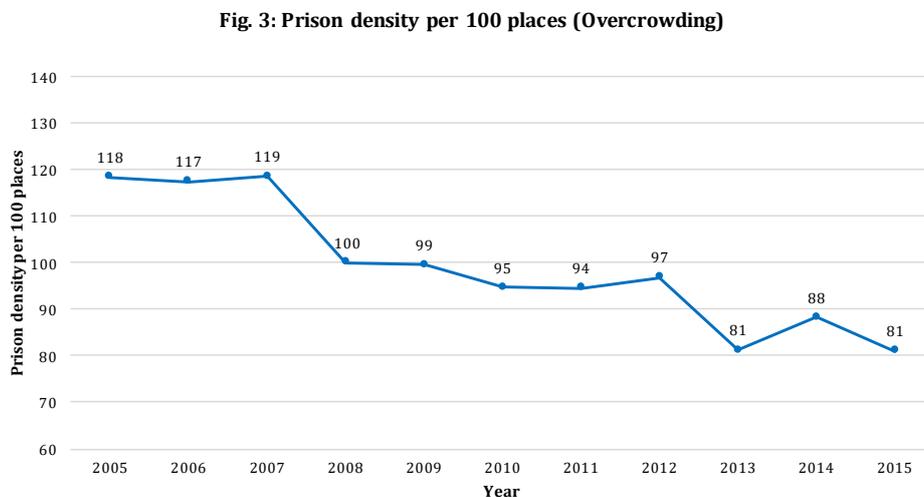


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Poland decreased by 32%. In 2005, the country had 118 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 81.

Figure 4 (260)

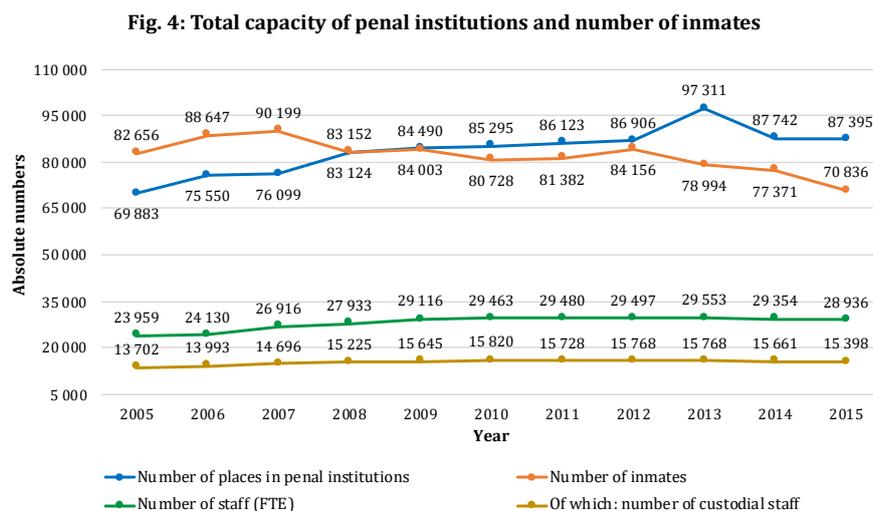


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Poland increased by 25%. In 2005, the country had 69,883 places, while in 2015 it had 87,395. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, this increase was due to a governmental program that allowed creating 17,000 places in prisons from 2006 to 2009. This program was accepted by the Council of Ministers in February 2006 as a governmental program.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 14%. In 2005, the country had 82,656 inmates, while in 2015 it had 70,836.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 21%. In 2005, Poland had in total a staff of 23,959 persons, while in 2015 it had 28,936.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 12%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 13,702 persons, while in 2015 it was 15,398.

Figure 5 (261)

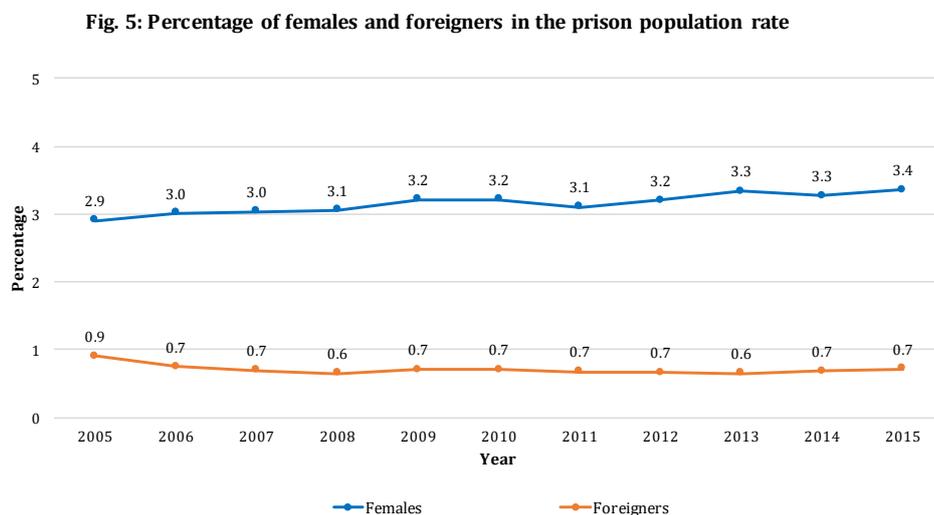


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 16%. In 2005, 2.9% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 3.4% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 21%. In 2005, 0.9% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 0.7% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (262)

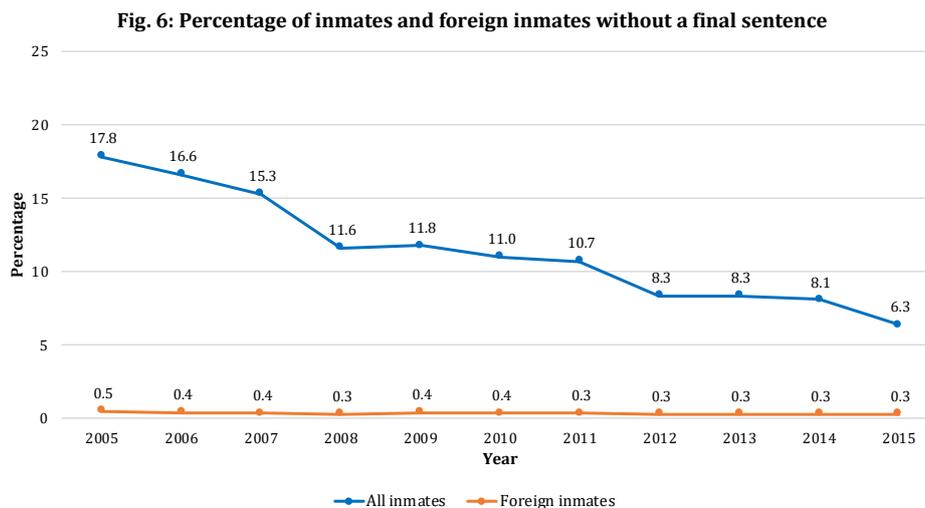


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 64%. In 2005, 17.8% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 6.3% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 40%. In 2005, they represented 0.5% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 0.3% of them.

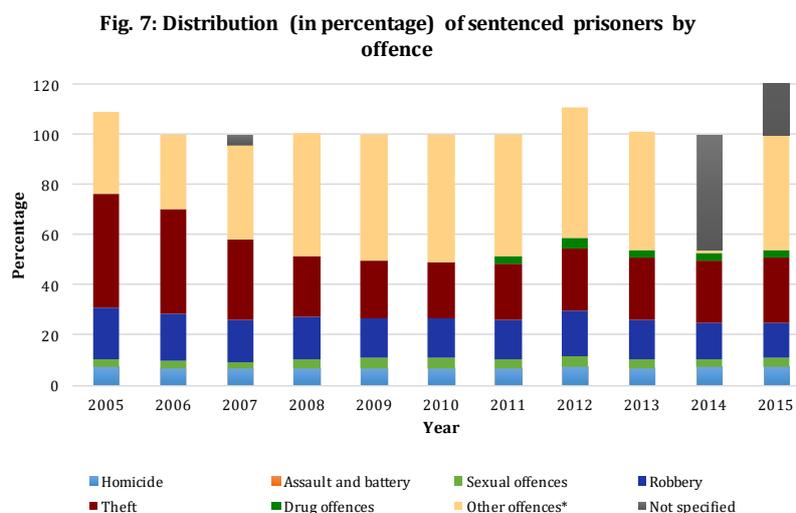
Figure 7¹²³ (263)

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences and other types of offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for robbery and theft 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 (264)

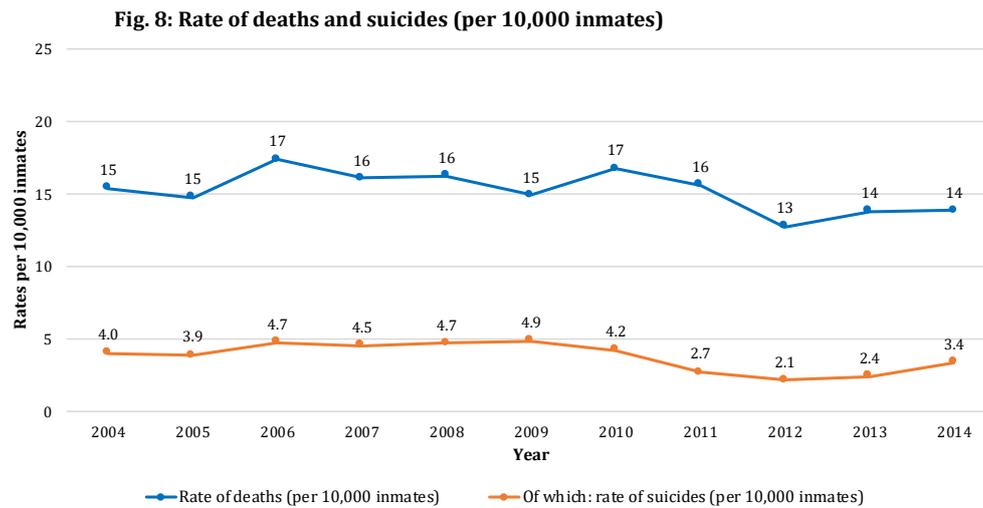


Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates decreased by 6%. In 2005, there were 15 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 14.

During the same period, the rate of suicides of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates decreased by 13%. In 2005, there were 4 suicides per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 3.4.