

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Romania Country Profile

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This country profile on Romania 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	ROMANIA		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	144.9	Medium	High	148.1	↓↓↓
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	62.9	Low	Low	64.6	↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	79.2	Low	Low	68.4	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	37.7	High	High	39.4	↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	30.3	High	High	27.9	↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	101.3	High	High	95.9	↔↔
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	34.0	Medium	Medium	31.6	↔↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	5.2	Medium	Medium	4.7	↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	0.9	Low	Low	0.7	↑↑↑↑
of which: in pre-trial detention	24.8	Low	Low	16.7	↑↑↑↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	8.4	Low	Low	11.8	↓↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	38.6	High	High	30.6	↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=13)	4.1	Medium	Medium	3.9	↑↑↑↑↑
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2013	0.0	Low	Low	27.9	↓↓↓↓↓
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.2	High	High	2.5	↓↓↓↓
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	33.6	Low	Low	33.6	↔↔
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	230 012 271.0	NAP	NAP	212 172 447.8*	↑↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	19.8	Low	Low	13.3**	↑↑↑↑↑

* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Romania in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: prison population rate (-17%), rate of entries into penal institutions (-14%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-8%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-40%), percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention (there were no suicides in pre-trial detention in 2014), and ratio of inmates per staff (-27%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+30%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+5%), percentage of female inmates (+11%), percentage of foreign inmates (+21%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+48%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+43%), percentage of suicides (+135%), total budget spent by the prison administration (+15%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+465%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: prison density (+1%), median age of the population (+3%), and percentage of custodial staff (-2%).

Romania in comparative perspective

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

General comments

Figure 1 (273)

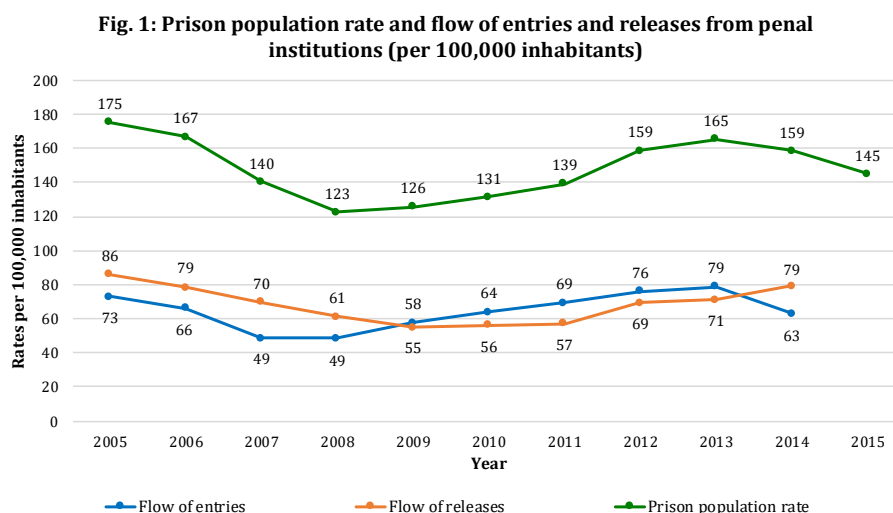


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Romania (stock) decreased by 17%. In 2005, the country had 175 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 145.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 14%. In 2005, there were 73 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 63.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 8%. In 2005, there were 86 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 79.

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

Figure 2 (274)

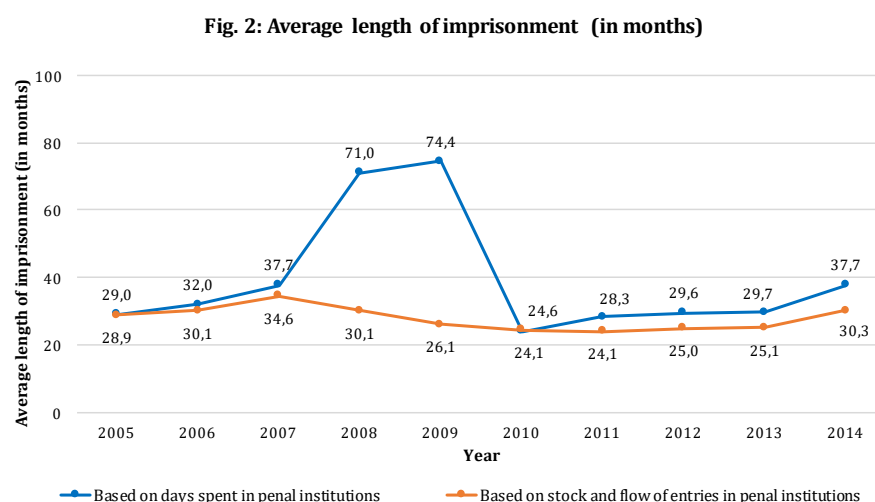


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 30%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 29 months, while in 2014 it was 38 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 5%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 29 months, while in 2014 it was 30 months.

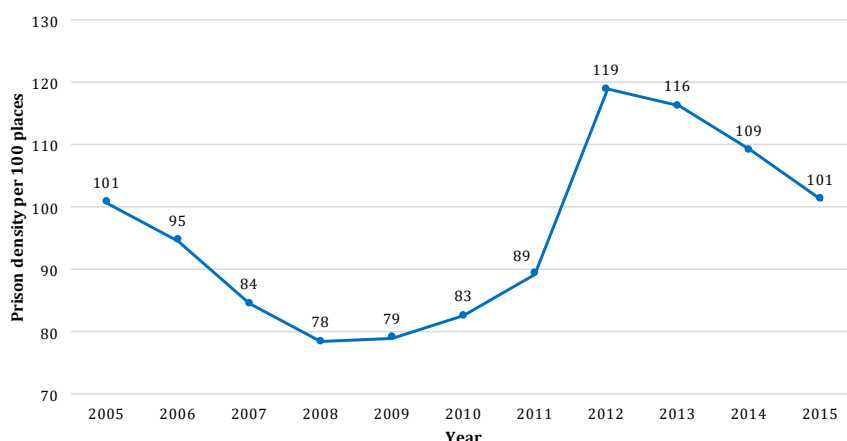
Figure 3 (275)**Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)**

Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Romania remained stable. In 2005 and 2015, the country had 101 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.

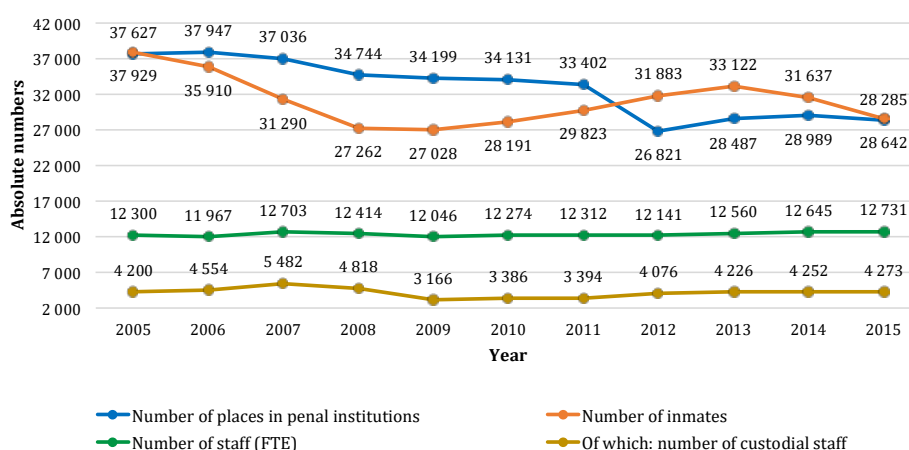
Figure 4 (276)**Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates**

Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Romania decreased by 25%. In 2005, the country had 37,627 places, while in 2015 it had 28,285. According to the information collected during this research, no penal institutions were closed in Romania during the period under study. The decrease in the capacity of the penal institutions is due to works of modernisation of the existing detention places.

During the same period, the total number of inmates decreased by 25%. In 2005, the country had 37,929 inmates, while in 2015 it had 28,642.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 4%. In 2005, Romania had in total a staff of 12,300 persons, while in 2015 it had 12,731.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 2%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 4,200 persons, while in 2015 it was 4,273.

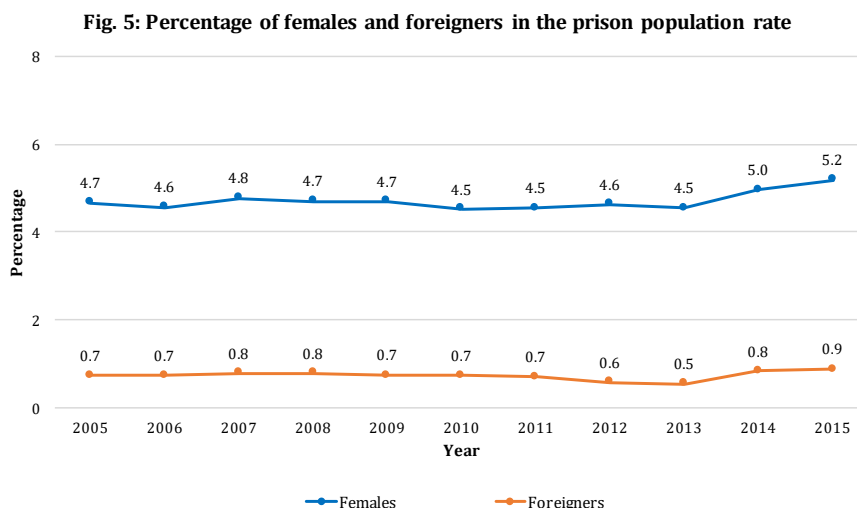
Figure 5 (277)

Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 11%. In 2005, 4.7% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 5.2% of the total prison population.

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

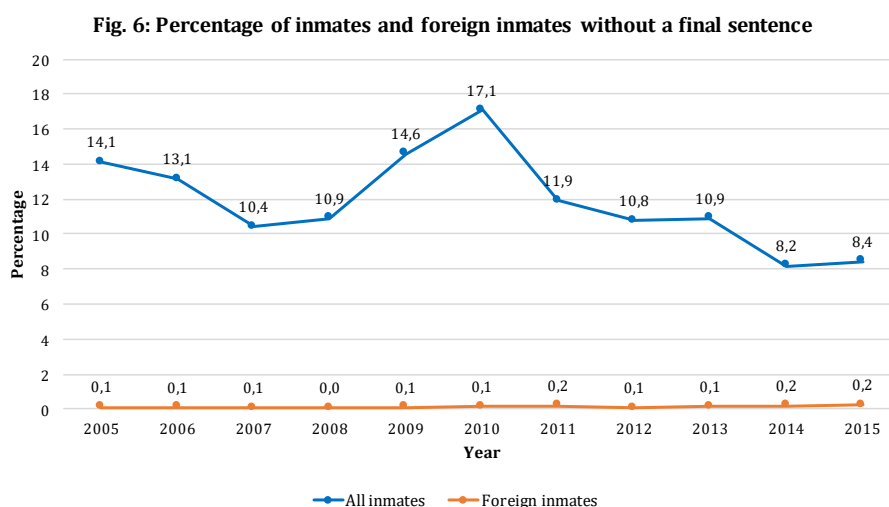
Figure 6 (278)

Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 40%. In 2005, 14% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 8% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 79%. In 2005, they represented 0.1% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 0.2% of them.

Figure 7¹²³ (279)

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

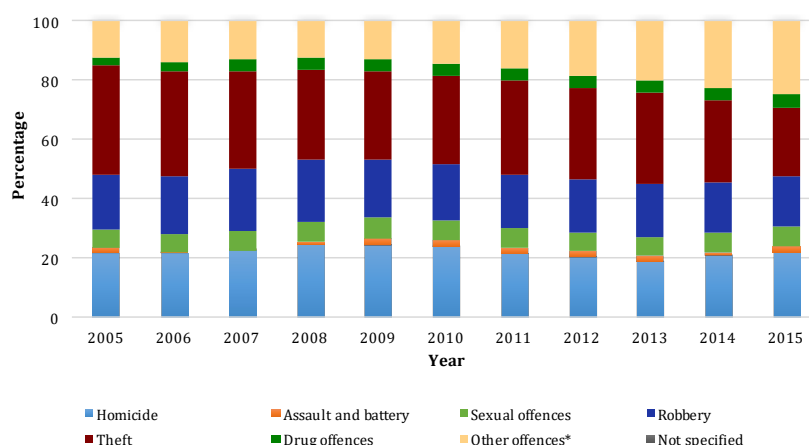
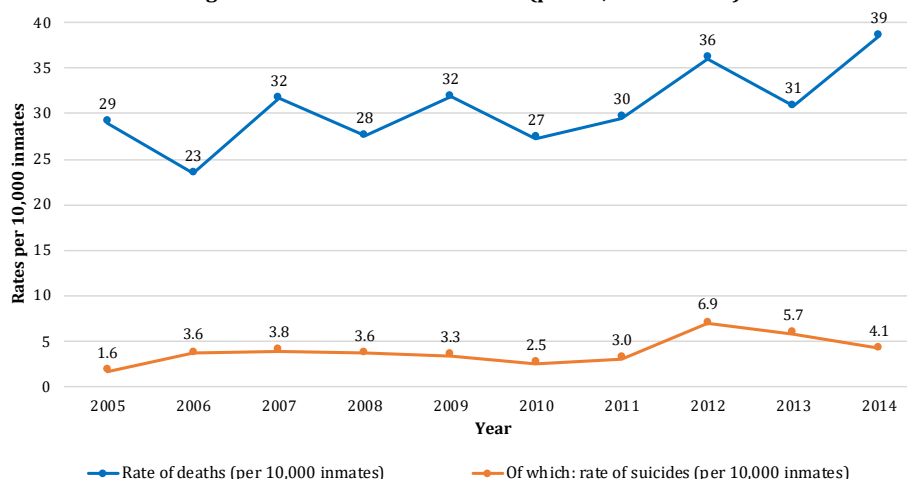


Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, drug offences, and other types of offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery, robbery, and theft have decreased.

Figure 8 (280)

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



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.

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).