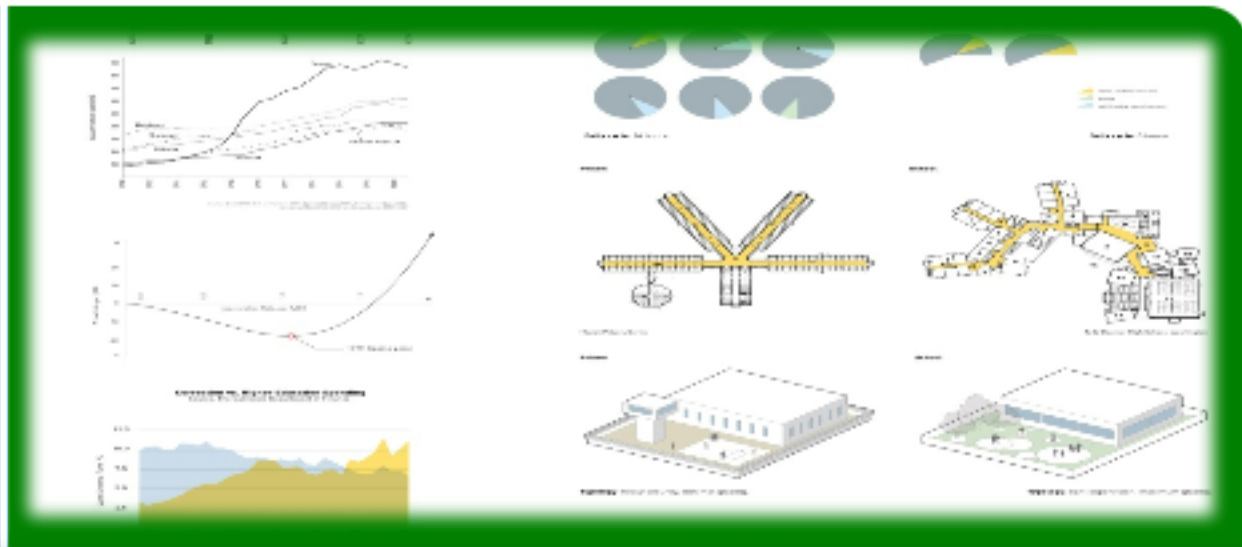




31ST COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF PRISON AND
PROBATION SERVICES (CDPPS)
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SPACE I 2025:

Key facts and figures on foreigners in European prisons

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Background

- The **Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics** (SPACE) are compiled every year by the **University of Lausanne** on behalf of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe-
- The latest **SPACE I** report depicts the situation of European prisons on **31st January 2025**
 - How many prisoners?
 - How many places available in prison?
 - Characteristics of the prisoners : pre-trial vs. sentenced, females, foreigners, length of their sentences, type of offence, etc.
- **SPACE I** also provides data on the flow of prisoners (entries and releases) and the costs of imprisonment during the whole year **2024**

Participation

- Fifty-one (51) prison administrations in the 46 Council of Europe member states answered the SPACE I 2025 questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 100%.

Total number of inmates on 31st January 2025

1,107,921 inmates

Map 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2025

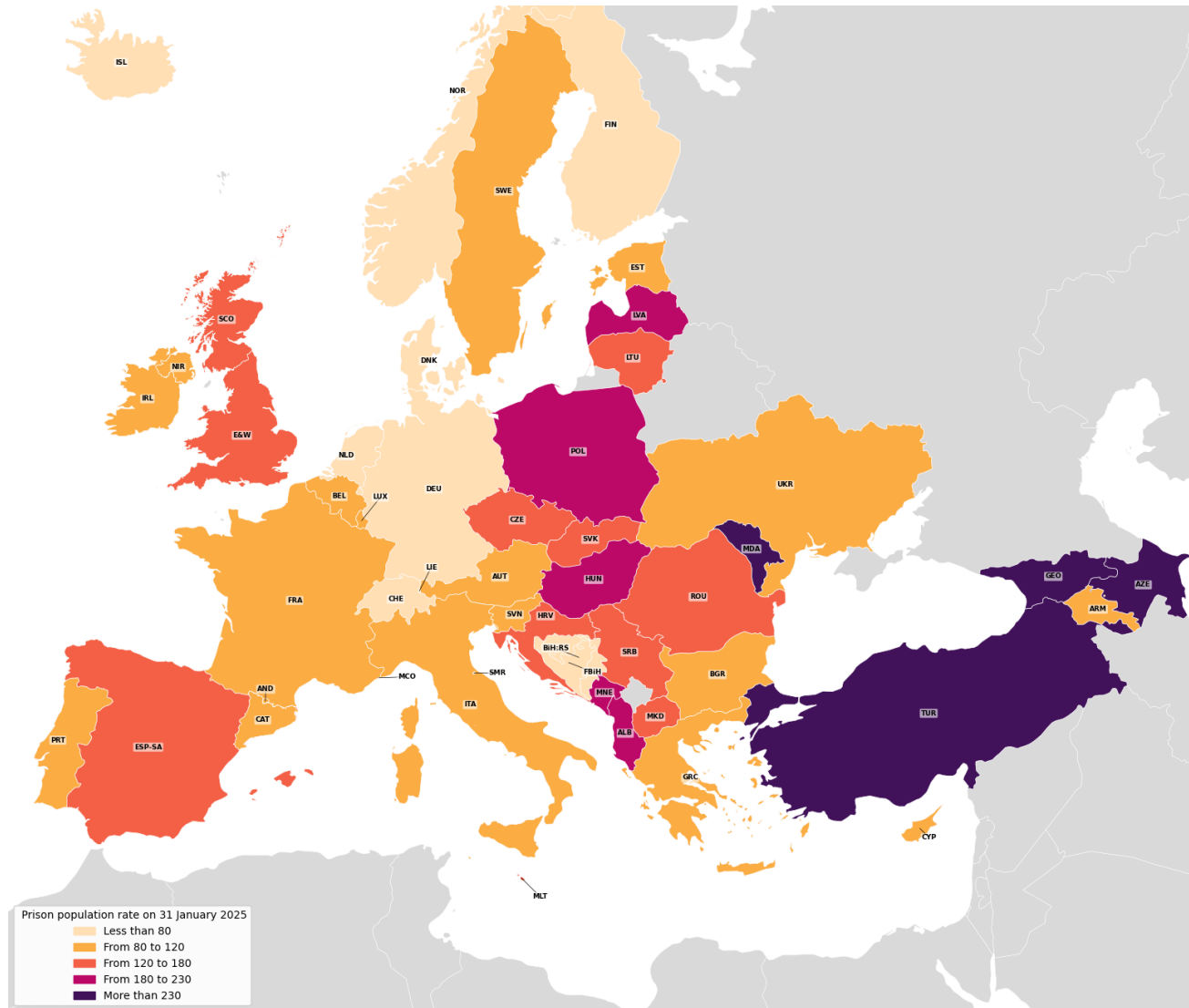


Figure 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2024 (n=51 PA)

Figure 2. Trends in the prison population rates, from 2005 to 2025 (n=49 PA)

Figure 2.1 Trends in the prison population rates by prison administration, from 2005 to 2025

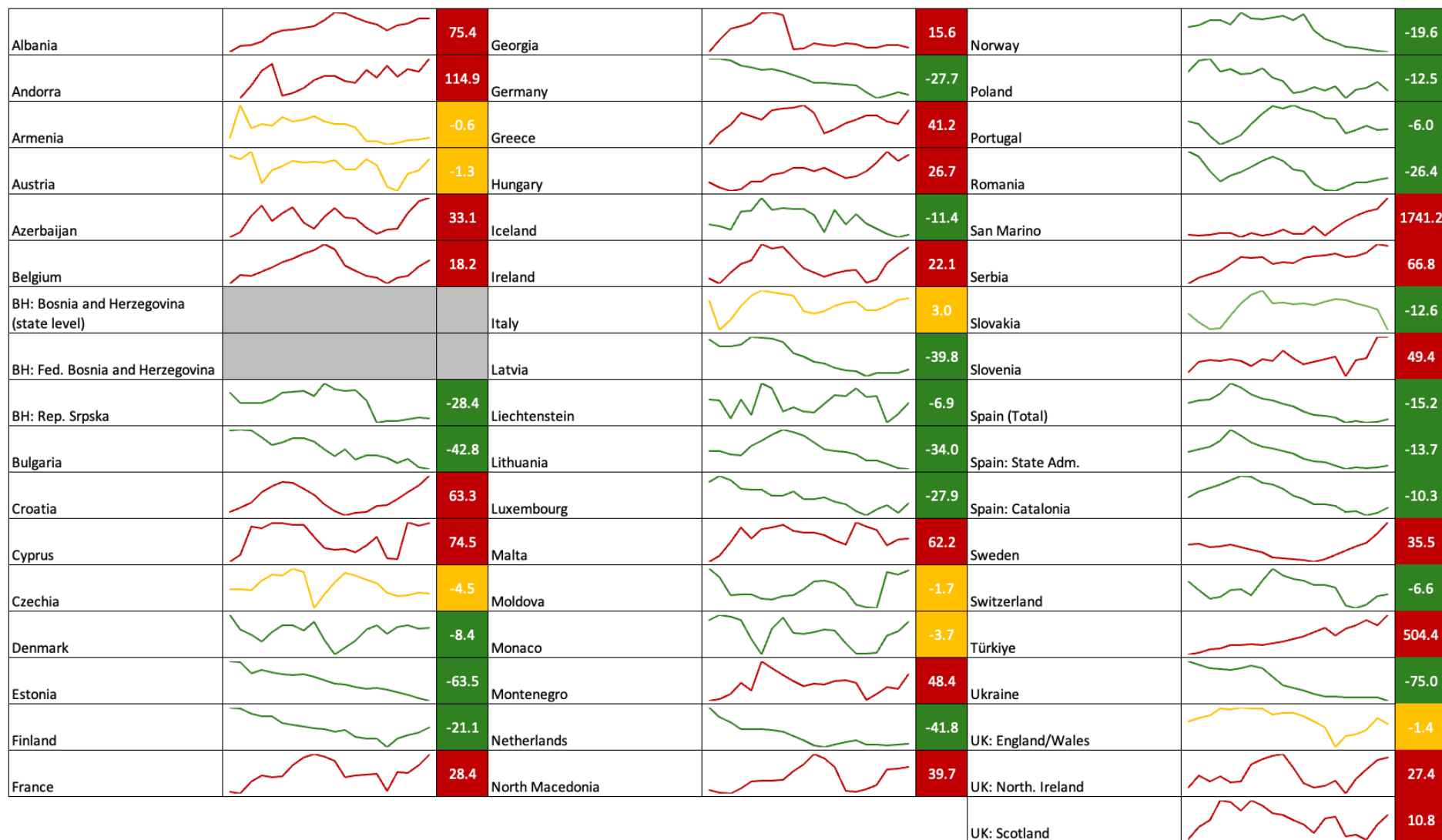


Figure 3: Percentage change in prison population rates (2025 compared to 2024) (n=51 PA)

Figure 4: Evolution of the European average and median rates of admissions and releases per 100,000 inhabitants (2010-2025) (n=38 PA)

Figure 5. Percentage of female inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2025 (N=50 PA)

Figure 6. Average age of inmates on 31st January 2025 (N=41 PA)

Figures 7 Proportion of age categories on 31st January 2025 (n=42 PA)

Figure 8. Prison density (number of inmates per 100 detention places) on 31st January 2025 (n=51 PA)

Figure 9. Breakdown of sentenced prisoners by principal offence on 31st January 2025, in percentages (n=40 PA)

Figure 10. Percentage of sentenced prisoners serving sentences for drug offences on 31st January 2025 (n=45 PA)

Figure 11. Breakdown of sentenced prisoners by sentence length on 31st January 2025, in percentages (n=47 PA)

Figure 12. Percentage of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population on 31st January 2025 (n=50 PA)

Figure 13. Percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2025 (n=48 PA)

Figure 15. Average length of imprisonment in 2024, based on the stock and flow of inmates (n=48 PA)

Figure 16. Ratio of inmates per one prison staff member on 31st January 2025 (n=49 PA)

Table 1. Evolution of stock indicators (2024-2025) between PAs of countries that answered both questionnaires and are more than 1 million inhabitants

	2024	2025	% change 2024- 2025
Stock indicators			
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (42 PA)	114.6	115.0	0.3
% of female inmates in the prison population (41 PA)	4.8	5.2	8.9
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (40 PA)	9.4	11.1	18.6
<i>Of which:</i> % of foreign inmates from EU countries (36 PA)	28.1	25.6	-8.8
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison populations (41 PA)	22.8	22.0	-3.7
Prison density per 100 places (41 PA)	94.7	95.2	0.5
Number of overcrowded prison administrations (more than 100 inmates per 100 places) (41 PA)	14	14	0.0
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (41 PA)	1.5	1.4	-3.4
Ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (34 PA)	3.2	3.2	0.8
Sentenced prisoners by offence			
% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (35 PA)	18.0	17.1	-5.1
% of prisoners sentenced for theft (36 PA)	12.5	12.9	3.0
% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (36 PA)	12.6	11.5	-9.1
Sentenced prisoners by length of sentence imposed			
% of prisoners sentenced to less than one year (37 PA)	12.5	12.7	1.4
% of prisoners sentenced from 1 to less than 3 years (33 PA)	25.2	24.3	-3.5
% of prisoners sentenced from 3 to less than 5 years (35 PA)	18.0	16.6	-7.7
% of prisoners sentenced from 5 to less than 10 years (35 PA)	22.7	22.2	-2.1

Figure 17. Rate of admissions in penal institutions, per 100,000 inhabitants, during 2024 (n=48 PA)

PA with striped pattern do not comply with the standard definition of “admission” and therefore their data are not comparable to that of the rest of the countries.

Figure 18. Rate of releases from penal institutions, per 100,000 inhabitants, during 2024 (n=48 PA)

Table 2. Evolution of flow indicators (2023-2024) between PAs of countries that answered both questionnaires and are more than 1 million inhabitants

	2023	2024	% change 2023- 2024
Flow indicators			
Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (39 PA)	136.8	122.3	-10.6
Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (38 PA)	110.1	109.0	-1.0
Average length of imprisonment in months (based on the stock and flow) (39 PA)	11.5	11.4	-0.7
Cost indicator			
Total budget spent by the prison administrations (35 PA)	236 107 000.00 €	249 699 000.00 €	5.8

Costs of imprisonment in 2024

- ✓ The costs are calculated on the basis of **real expenditures** and not on the foreseen budgets
- ✓ Around 26 billion Euros (46 prison administrations)
- ✓ Daily cost of an inmate = **€ 127** (44 prison administrations)
- ✓ Huge variations across countries



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Thank you for your attention!