TRENDS AND FLUCTUATIONS IN THE USE OF IMPRISONMENT AND COMMUNITY SANCTIONS IN EUROPE

Tapio Lappi-Seppälä
National Research Institute of Legal Policy

19th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services
Helsinki June 17-18.2014
Overview 2008-2012
Space I

IMPRISONMENT
Imprisonment rates in Europe:
Stock 2012 (/pop) Space I

- Iceland: 44
- Finland: 58
- Sweden: 62
- Netherlands: 65
- Norway: 68
- Denmark: 68
- Slovenia: 69
- Cyprus: 68
- BiH (State Admin.): 69
- Germany: 78
- Switzerland: 80
- Ireland: 80
- Austria: 87
- UK: Northern Ireland: 98
- France: 101
- Belgium: 103
- Italy: 109
- Croatia: 110
- Greece: 111
- Luxembourg: 120
- Portugal: 122
- Malta: 123
- Bulgaria: 130
- Serbia: 134
- Spain (State Admin.): 138
- UK: Scotland: 142
- FYRO Macedonia: 144
- UK: England and Wales: 146
- Romania: 148
- Armenia: 159
- Hungary: 160
- Turkey: 173
- Albania: 181
- Moldova: 181
- Slovak Republic: 187
- Montenegro: 201
- Azerbaijan: 208
- Czech Republic: 210
- Poland: 215
- Georgia: 218
- Estonia: 219
- Latvia: 248
- Lithuania: 302
- Ukraine: 324
- Russia: 327

Max: 470
Imprisonment rates: Stock 2012 (/pop) Space I

Scandinavia 44-68
Western Europe 65-122
British Isles 89-148
Southern Europe 110-144
South-Eastern Europe 69-208
Eastern Europe 138-218
Baltic countries 248-327
Former Soviet Region 160-470
Regional and national trends

Prisoners 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I)
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 and 2000-2013
Scandinavia
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) – Western Europe (German speaking)
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - Western Europe (Benelux)
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - British Isles
Imprisonment rates 1980-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - Southern Europe
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) – South-Eastern Europe
Imprisonment rates 1960-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - Eastern Europe
Imprisonment rates 1990-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - Baltic countries
Imprisonment rates 1990-2012 (ICPS) and 2000-2013 (Space I) - Former Soviet Region
Imprisonment and crime
PRISON RATES AND CRIME RATES
Four Nordic Countries 1950-2005:
Common crime trends but one deviating prison trend

Prisoners

Crime

DEN  FIN  NOR  SWE

DEN  FIN  NOR  SWE
Nordic countries and England & Wales 1960-2010
Three different prison profiles, with similar crime profile
Germany and the Netherlands 1960-2010

Different prison profile, similar crime profile

Prisoners /pop

Crime / pop

Tapio Lappi-Seppälä 2013
US and Canada
Completely different prison trends, but almost identical total crime trends
Community supervision

Overview 2011-2012
Source: Space II
Community supervision: Changes

Overview 2009-2012
Source: Space II
CONCLUSIONS
CONCLUSIONS

1. While there are signs of stabilization in the increase of incarceration rates, the trend is still upward in several European countries.

2. Some notable success in decarceration has been achieved in eastern high-prison countries.

3. Recorded use of community supervision has increased throughout Europe, with few exceptions.

4. This increase does not seem to be associated with concomitant decreases in the use of imprisonment: countries may have increased (or decreased) the use of both measures.

5. This does not preclude the possibility of individual national success in replacing custodial measures by community sanctions – more work needs to carried out towards this end.