

30TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF PRISON AND
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SPACE I 2024: Key facts and figures

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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 2024**
 - 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 **2023**

Participation

- Fifty-one (51) prison administrations in the 46 Council of Europe member states answered the SPACE I 2024 questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 100%.
- This is the first time in the SPACE statistics history.

Total number of inmates on 31st January 2024

1,021,431 inmates

Map 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2024

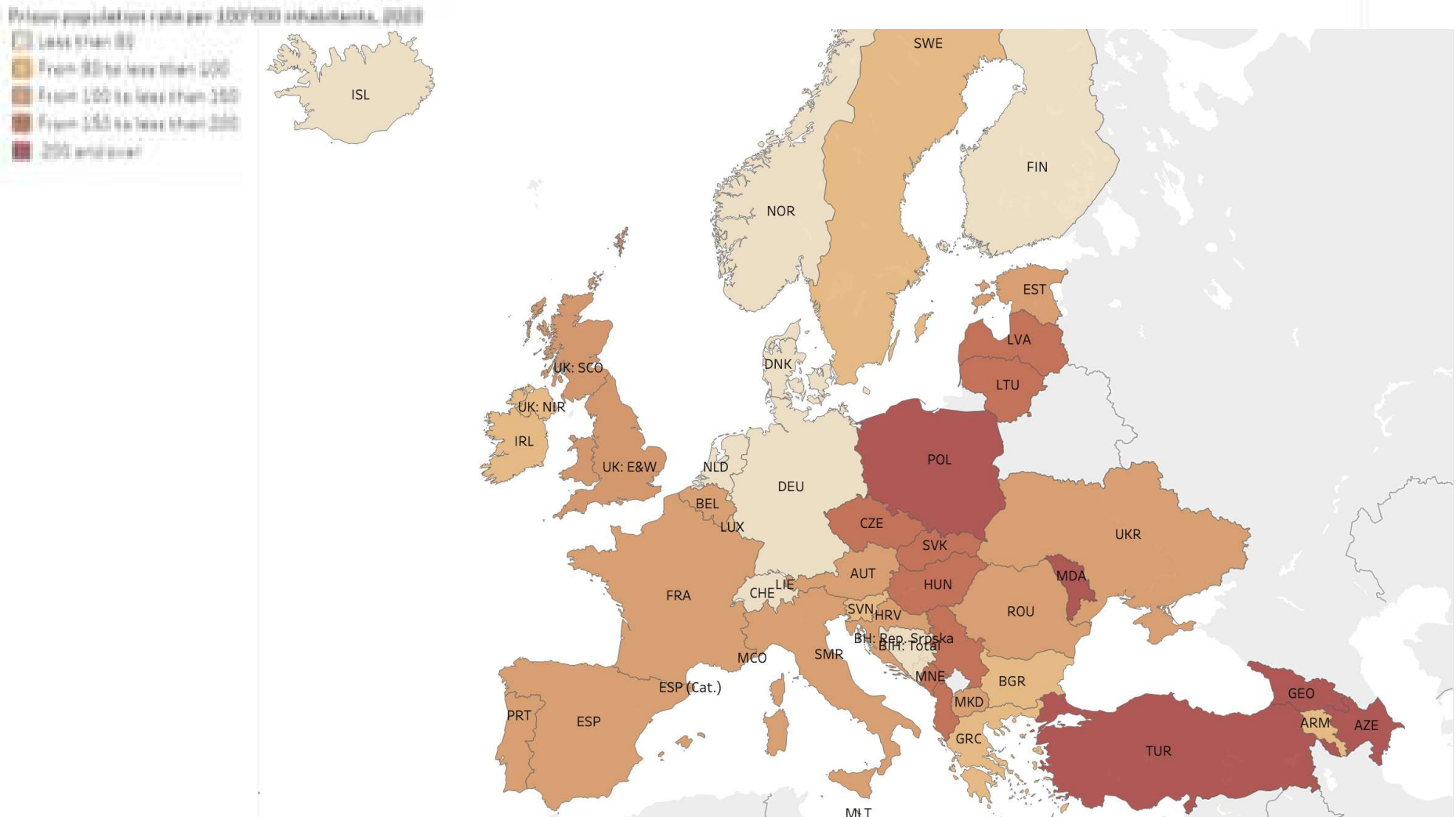


Figure 1. Prison population rates (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31st January 2024 (n=51 PA)

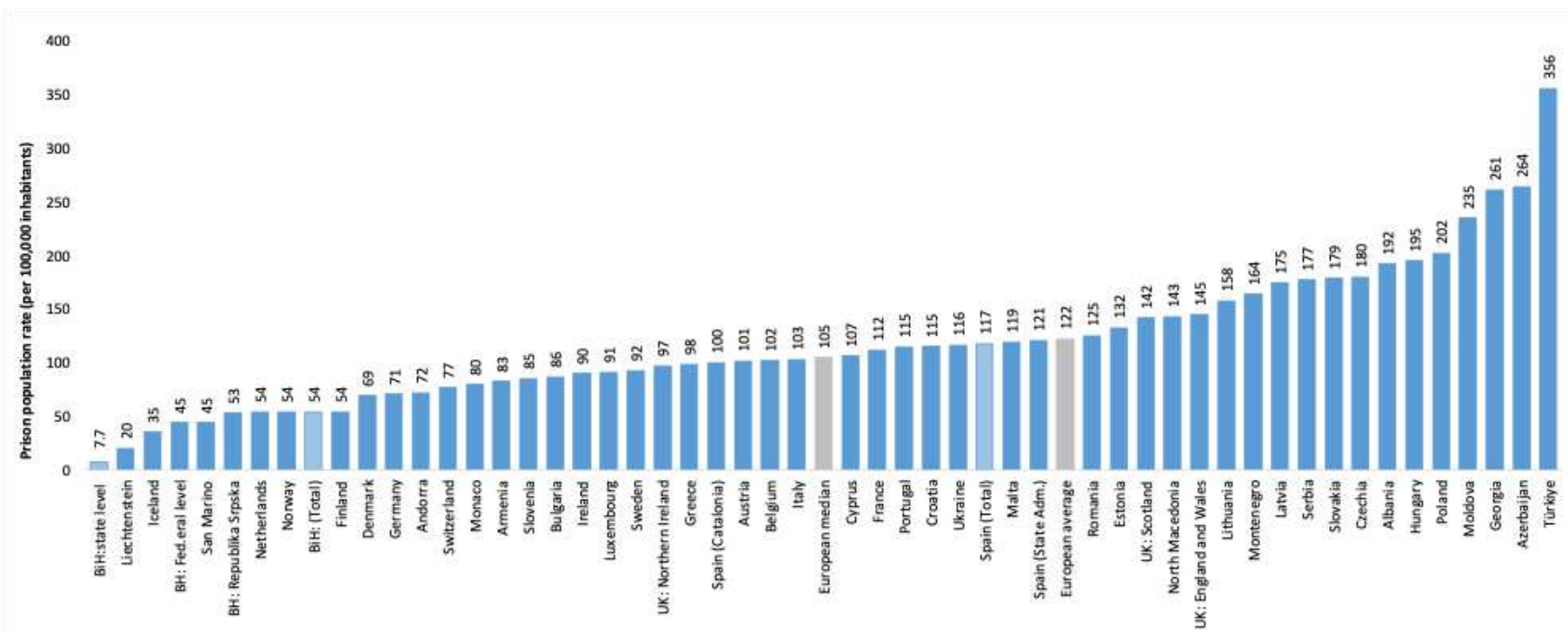


Figure 2. Trends in the prison population rates, from 2005 to 2024 (n=48 PA)

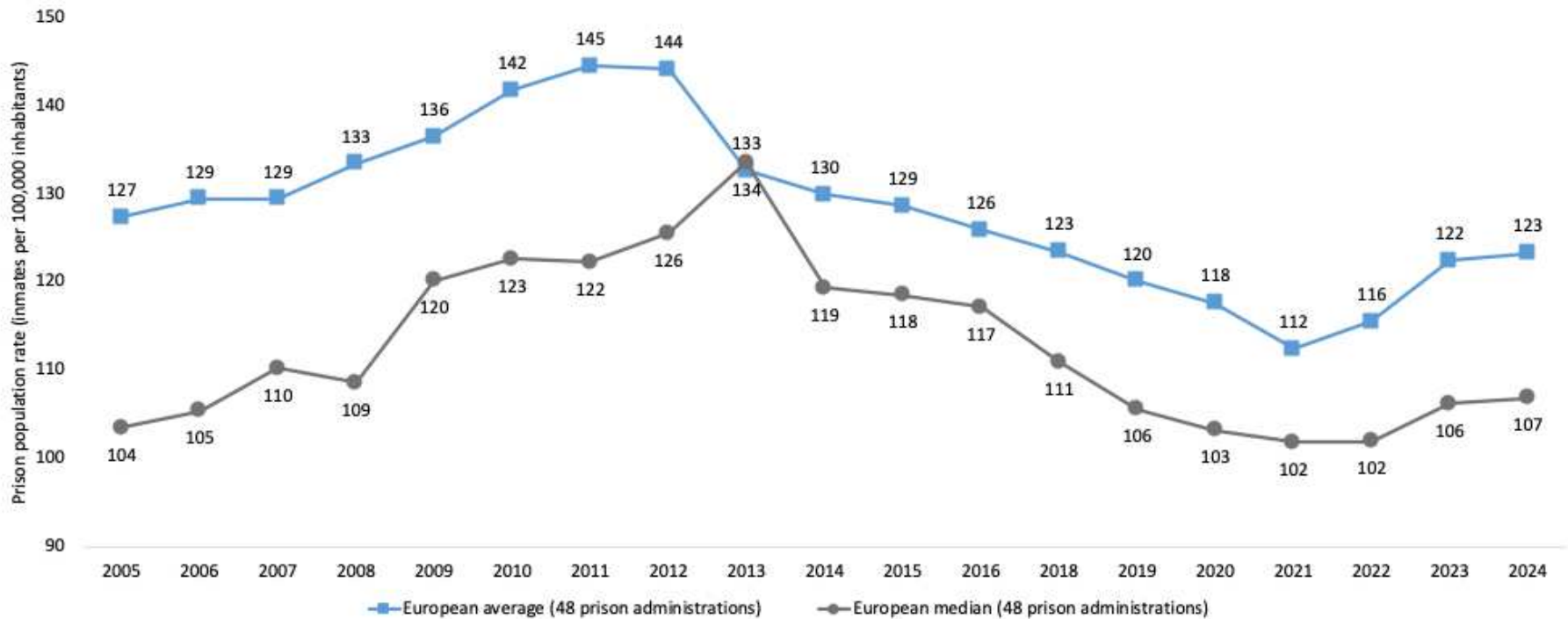


Figure 2.1 Trends in the prison population rates by prison administration, from 2005 to 2024

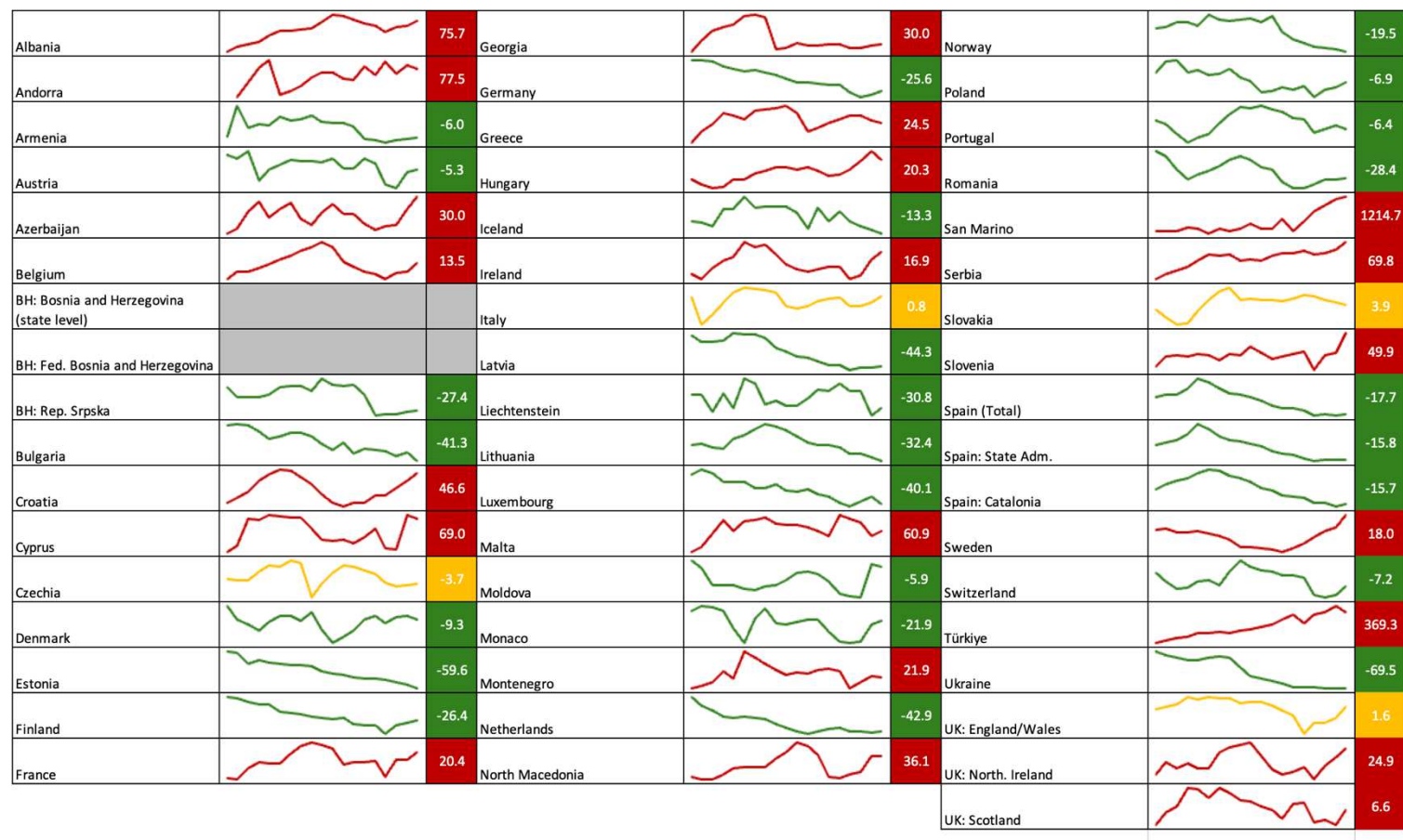


Figure 3: Percentage change in prison population rates (2024 compared to 2023) (n=48 PA)

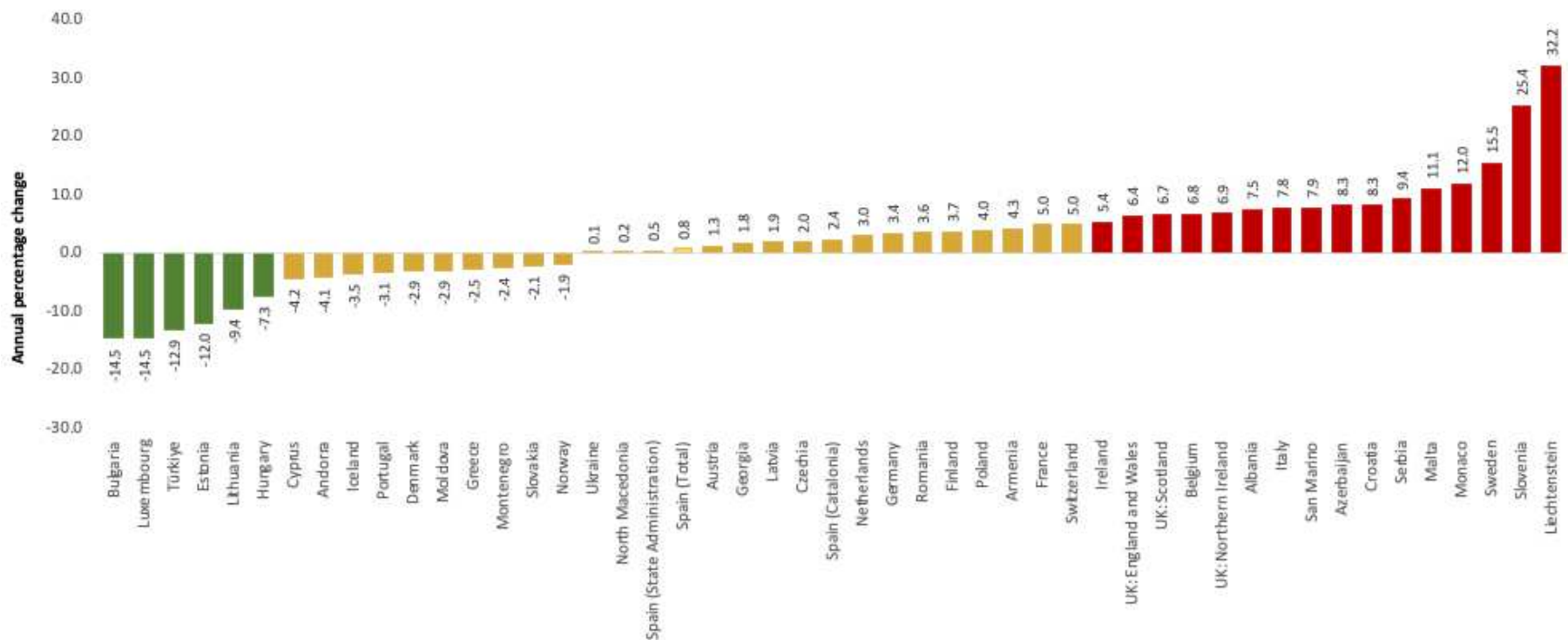
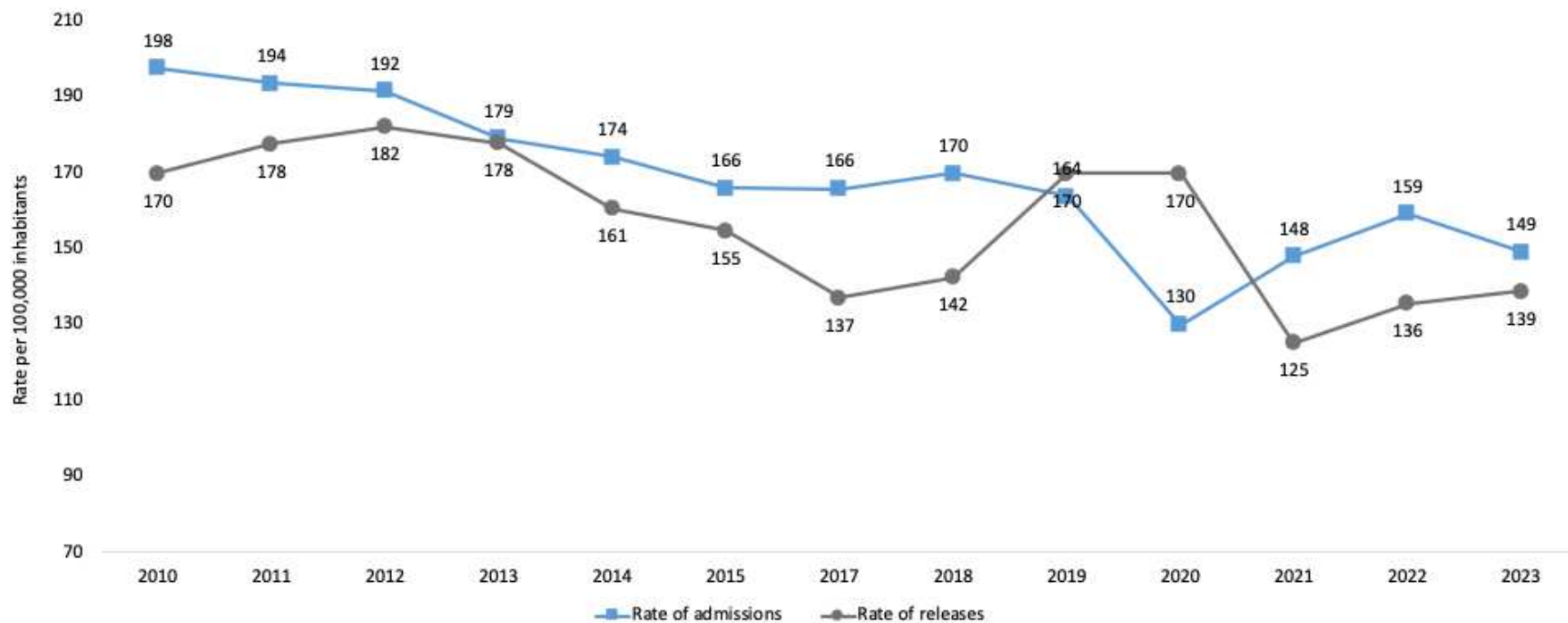


Figure 4: Evolution of the European average and median rates of admissions and releases per 100,000 inhabitants (2010-2023) (n=34 PA)



More about trends in prison populations



Figure 5. Percentage of female inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2024 (N=48 PA)

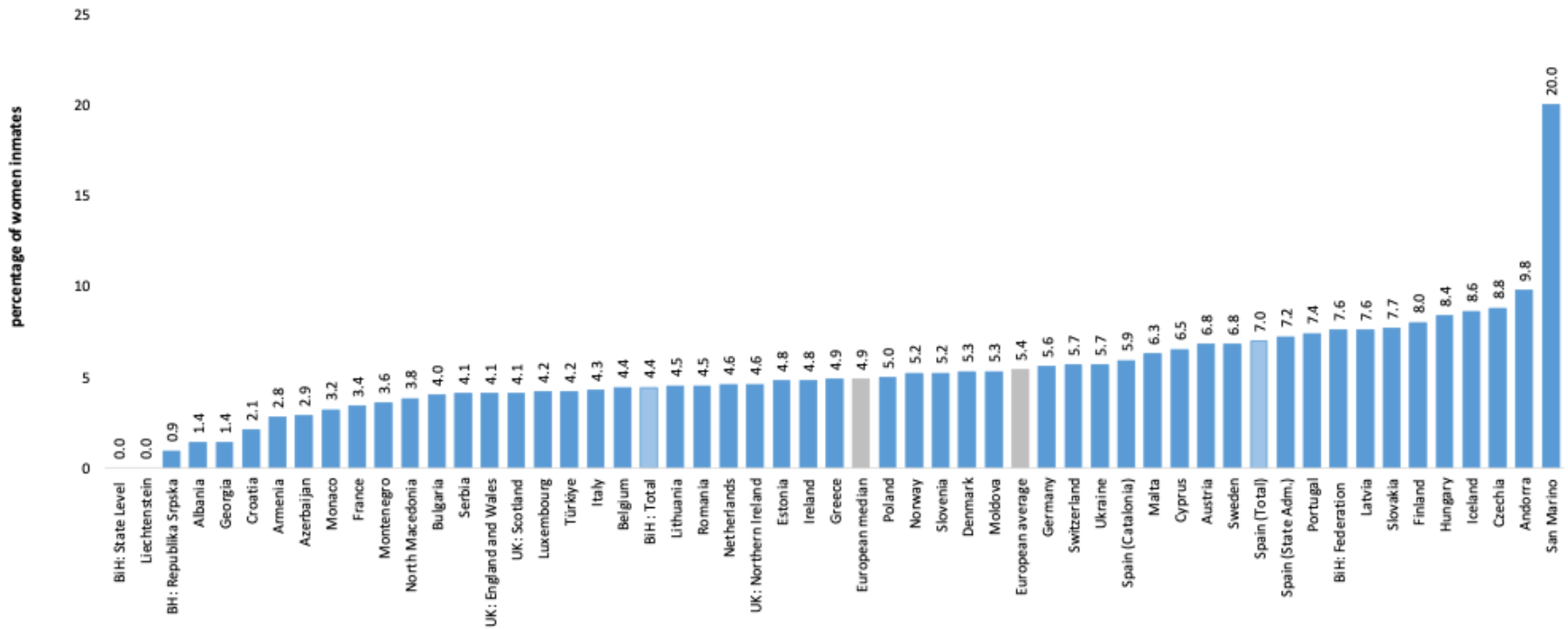
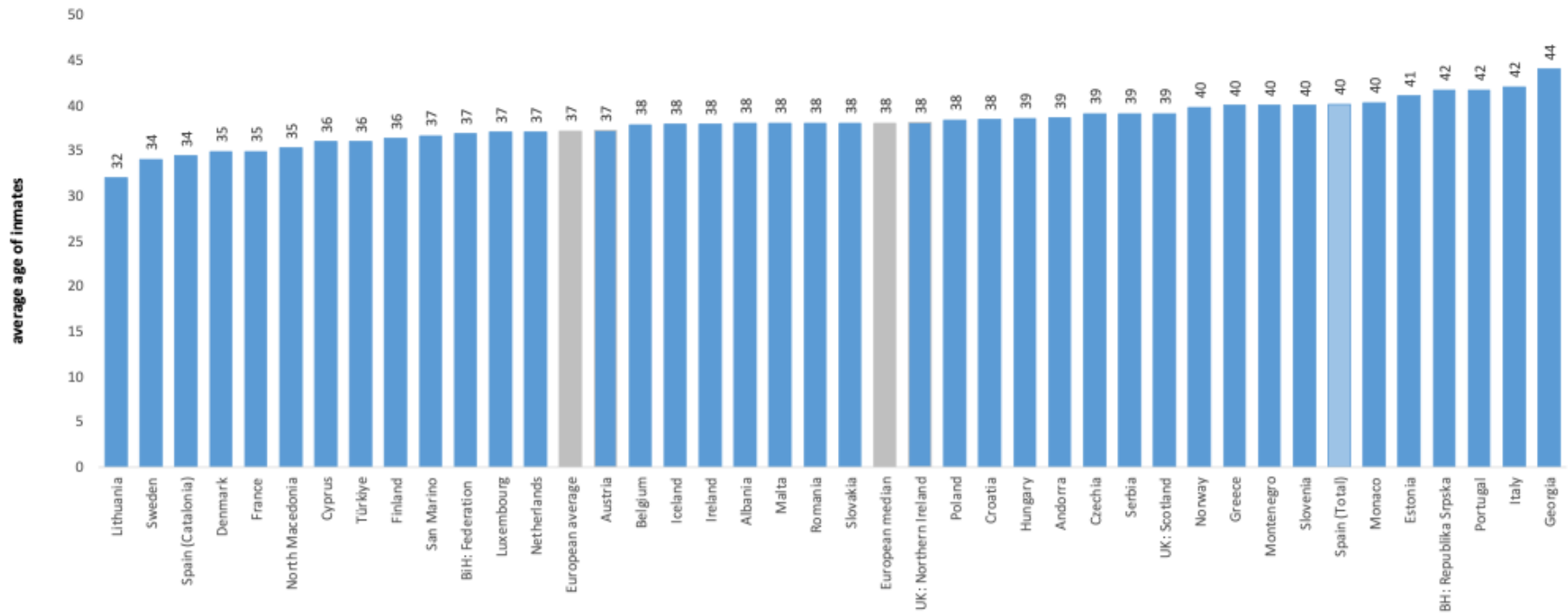


Figure 6. Average age of inmates on 31st January 2024 (N=39 PA)



Figures 7 Proportion of age categories on 31st January 2024 (n=39 PA)



Figure 8. Prison density (number of inmates per 100 detention places) on 31st January 2024 (n=50 PA)

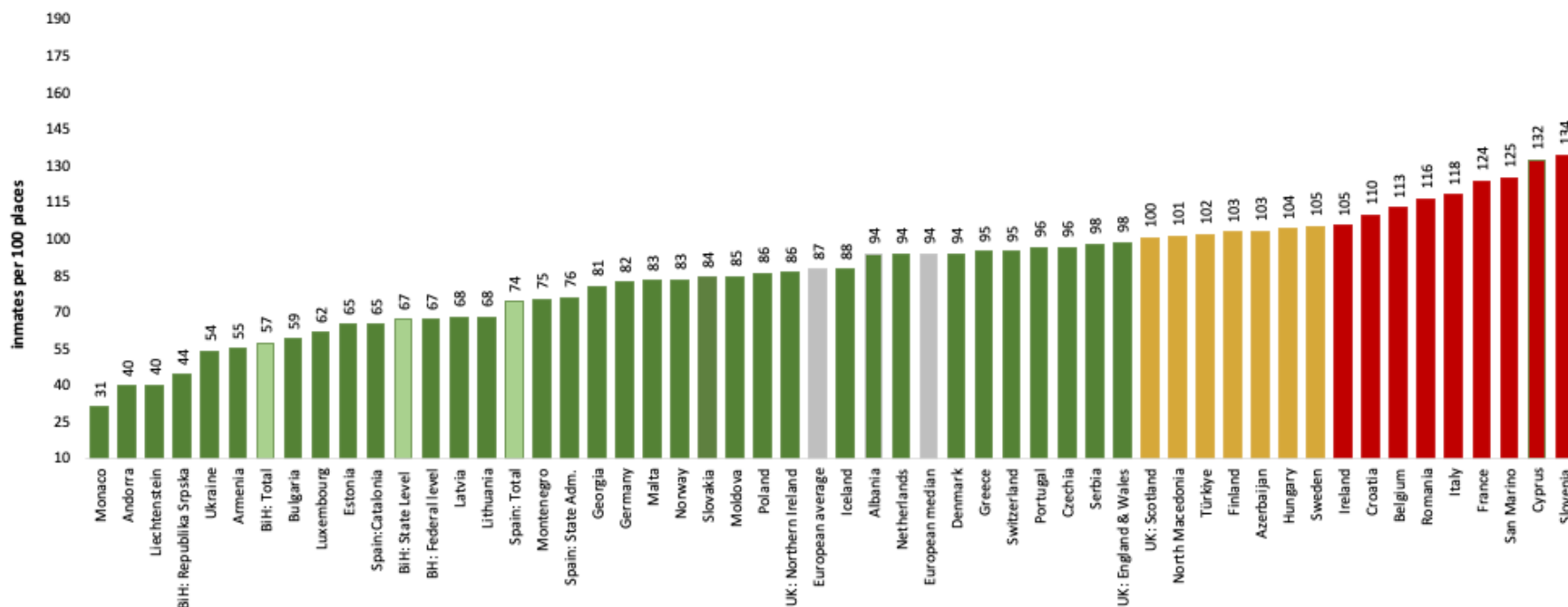


Figure 9. Breakdown of sentenced prisoners by principal offence on 31st January 2024, in percentages (n=47 PA)

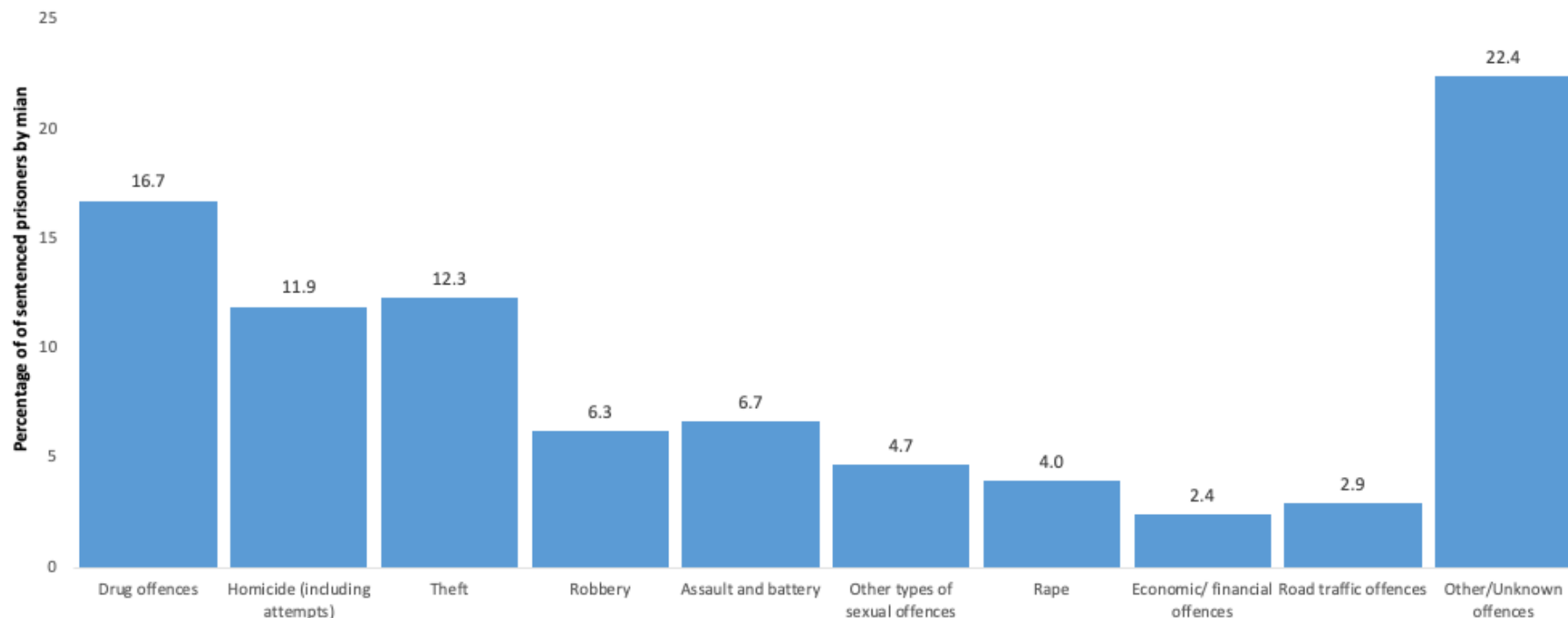


Figure 10. Percentage of sentenced prisoners serving sentences for drug offences on 31st January 2024 (n=46 PA)

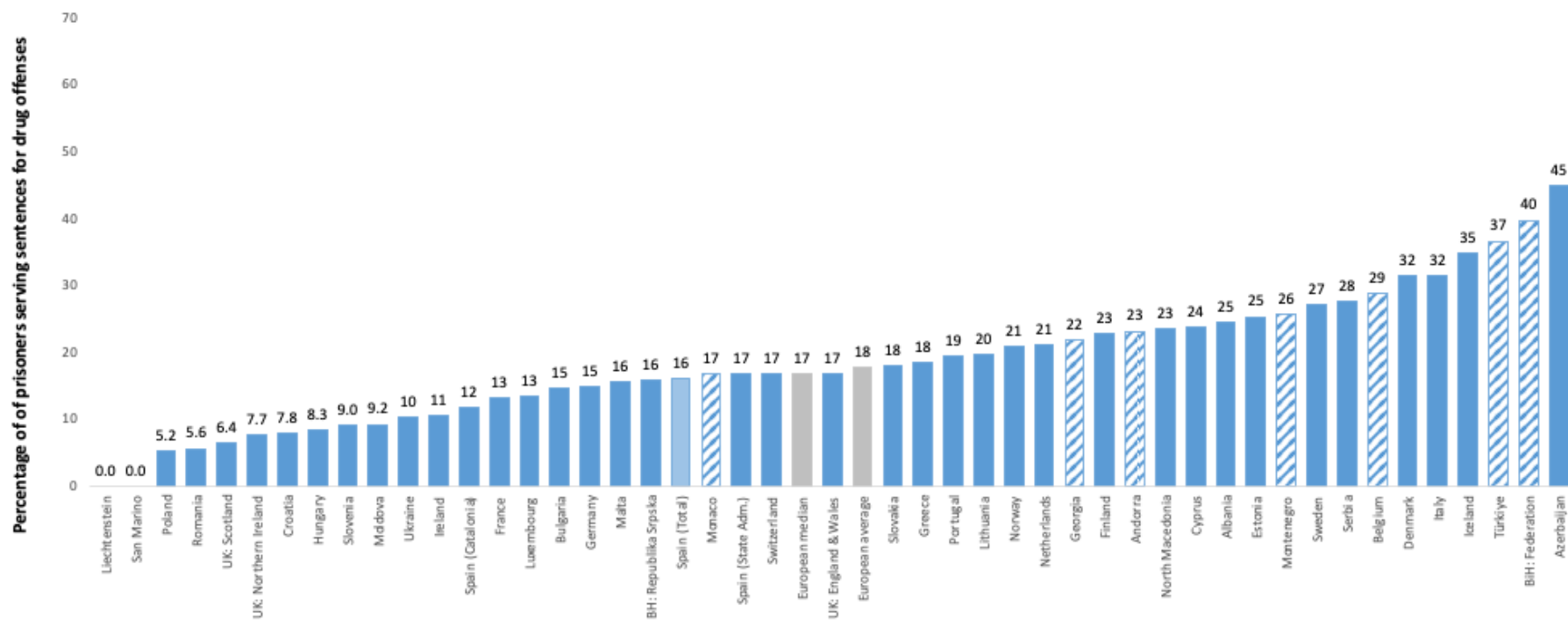


Figure 11. Breakdown of sentenced prisoners by sentence length on 31st January 2024, in percentages (n=47 PA)

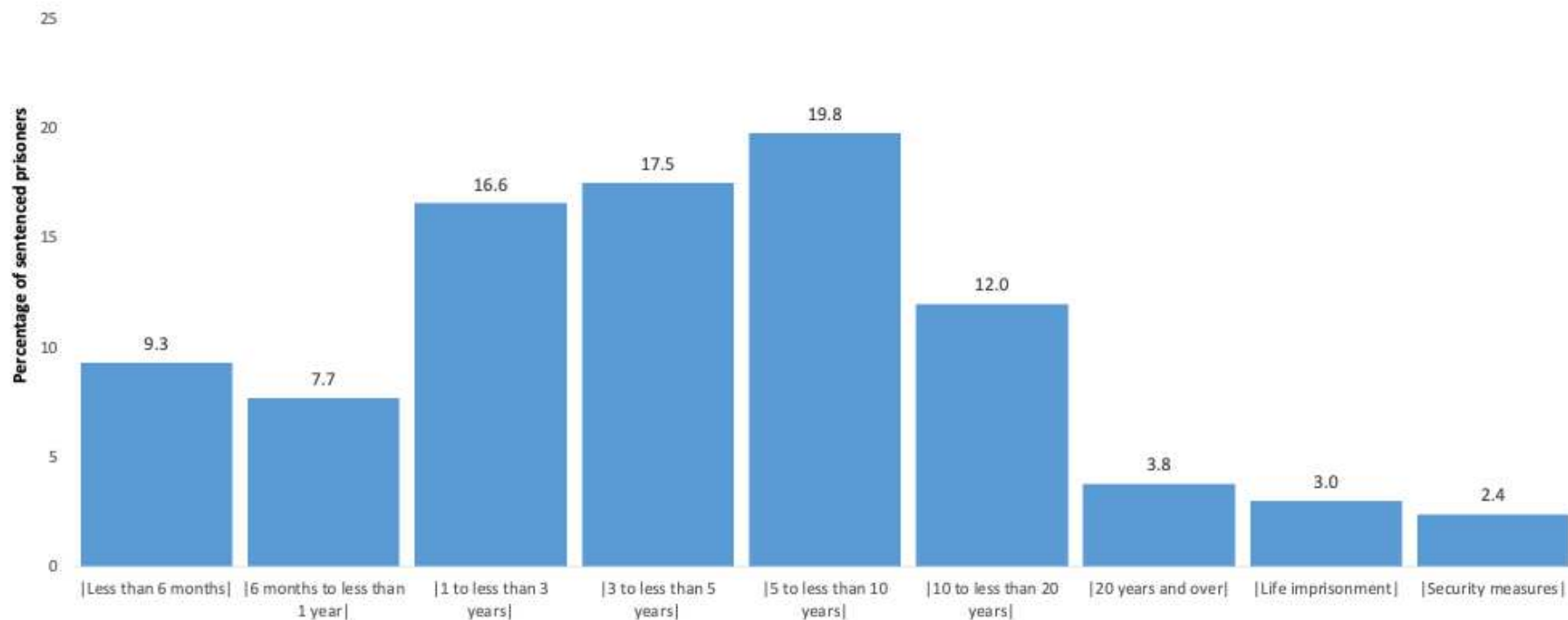


Figure 12. Percentage of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison population on 31st January 2024 (n=47 PA)

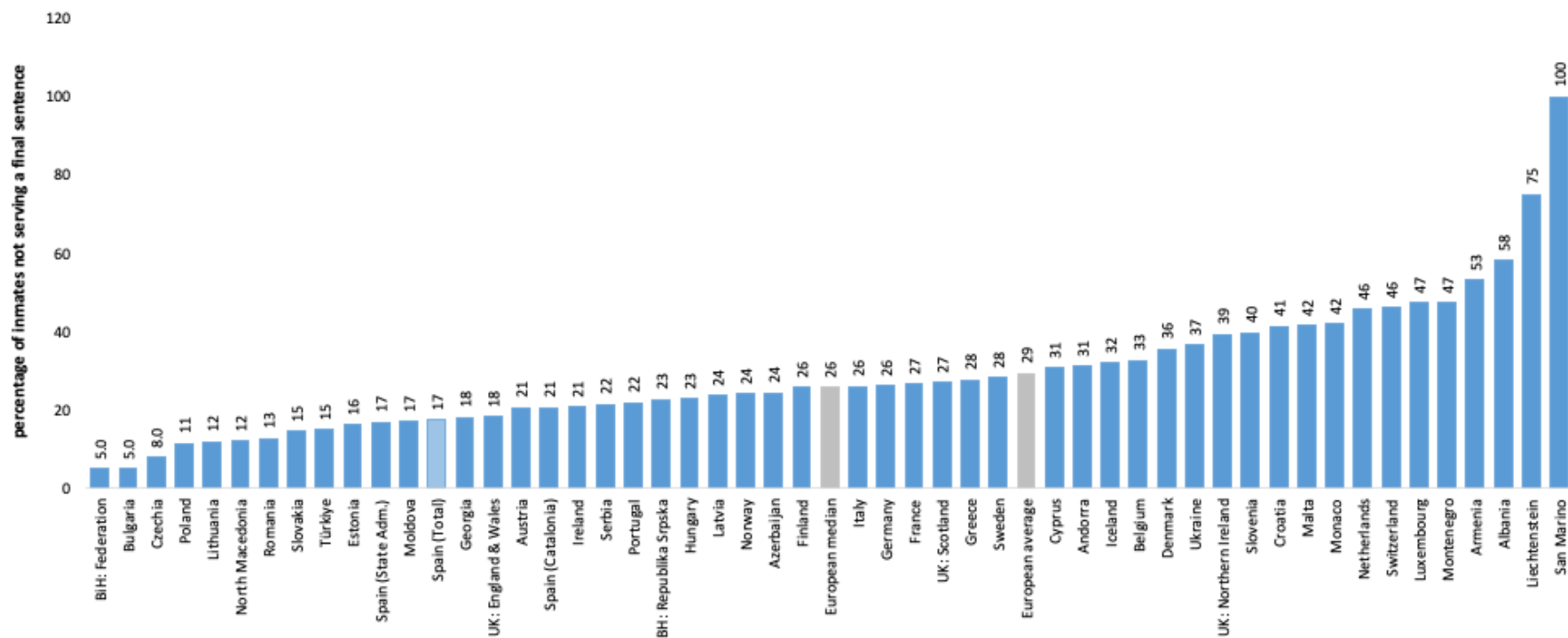
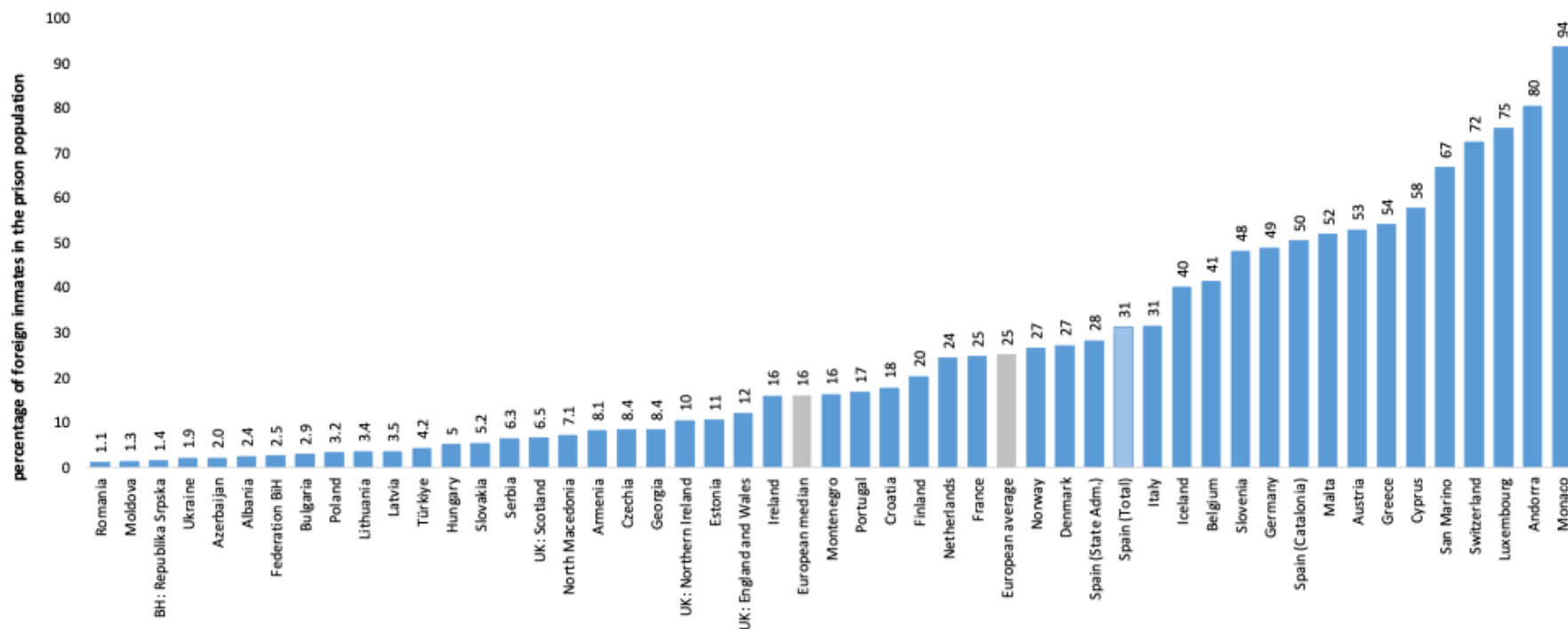


Figure 13. Percentage of foreign inmates in the prison population on 31st January 2024 (n=48 PA)



More about trends in foreign offenders



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by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

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by the European Union
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Implemented
by the Council of Europe

Figure 14. Average length of imprisonment in 2023, based on the stock and flow of inmates (n=49 PA)

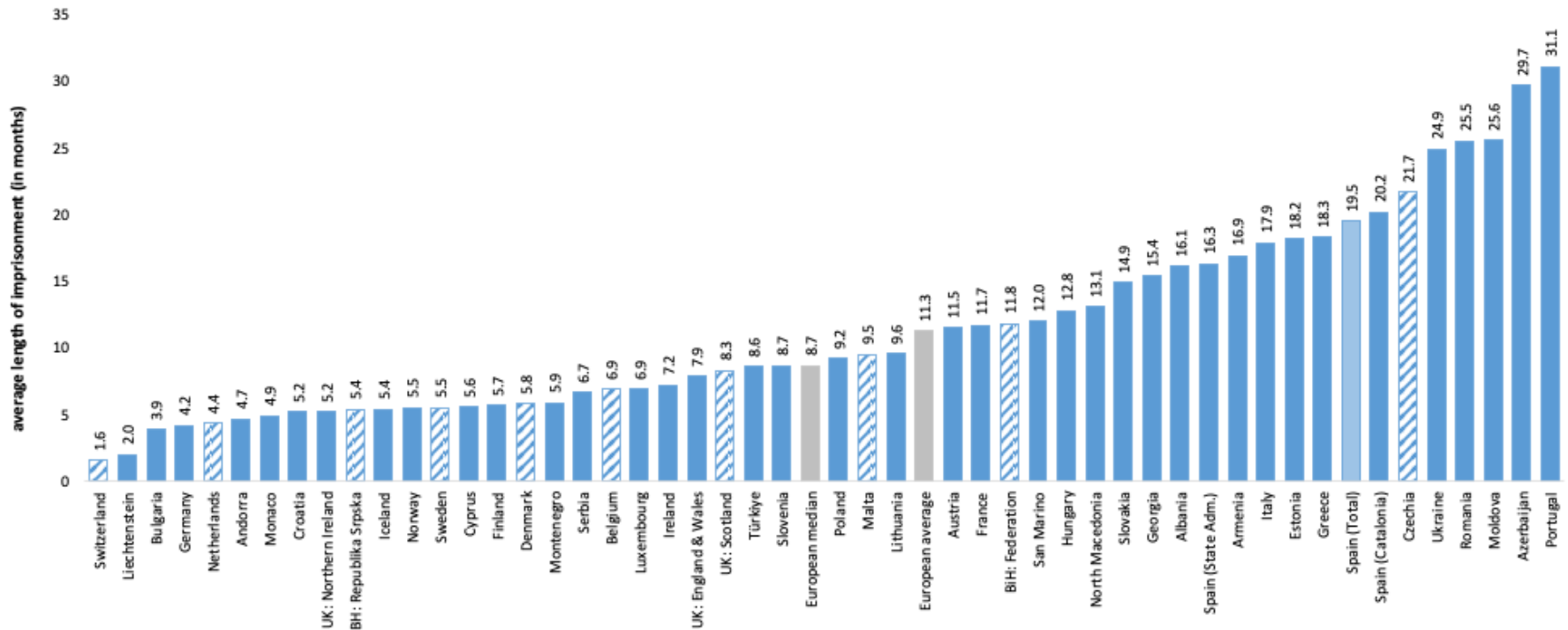


Figure 16. Ratio of inmates per one prison staff member on 31st January 2024 (n=49 PA)

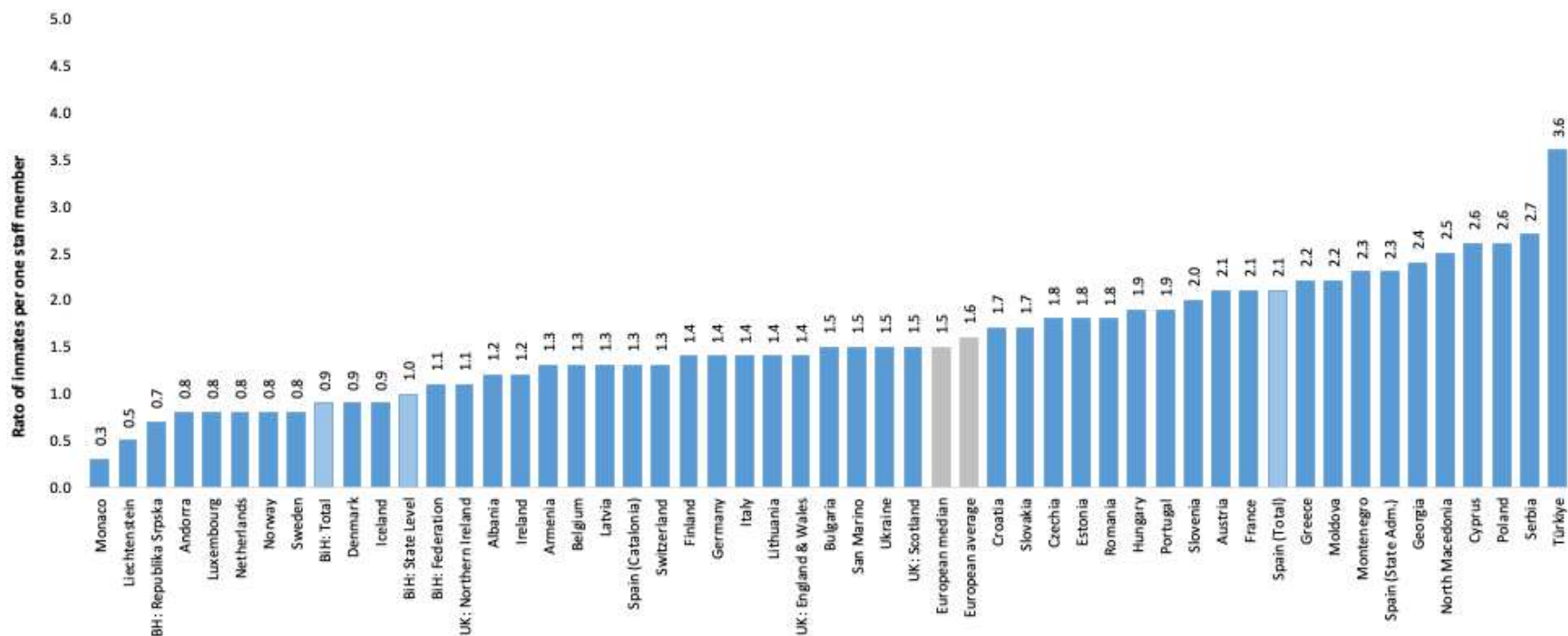
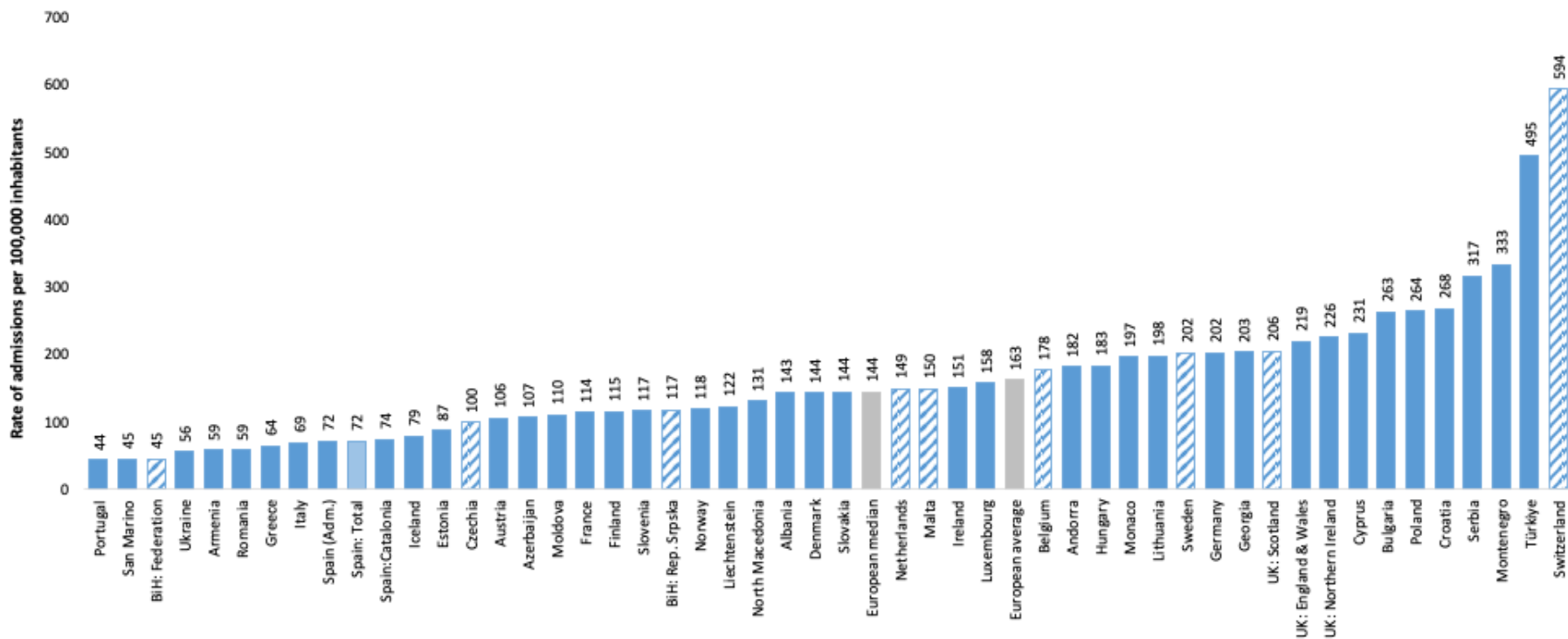


Table 1. Evolution of stock indicators (2023-2024)

	2023	2024	% change 2023-2024
Stock indicators			
Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants (39 PA)	116.2	115.1	-0.9
% of female inmates in the prison population (39 PA)	4.9	4.8	-1.3
% of foreign inmates in the prison population (37 PA)	14.2	11.9	-16.1
<i>Of which:</i> % of foreign inmates from EU countries (34 PA)	24.8	27.9	12.4
% of inmates not serving a final sentence in the prison populations (38 PA)	22.1	23.9	8.6
Prison density per 100 places (37 PA)	93.5	94.9	1.5
Number of overcrowded prison administrations (more than 100 inmates per 100 places) (37 PA)	11	14	27.3
Ratio of inmates per one staff member (38 PA)	1.6	1.5	-4.5
Ratio of inmates per custodian solely dedicated to custody (31 PA)	3.3	3.2	-3.0
Sentenced prisoners by offence			
% of prisoners sentenced for drug offences (34 PA)	15.5	18.2	-1.7
% of prisoners sentenced for theft (34 PA)	12.6	12.2	-3.3
% of prisoners sentenced for homicide (34 PA)	12.8	12.2	-5.1
Sentenced prisoners by length of sentence imposed			
% of prisoners sentenced to less than one year (35 PA)	12.7	12.3	-3.4
% of prisoners sentenced from 1 to less than 3 years (33 PA)	24.7	25.2	2.1
% of prisoners sentenced from 3 to less than 5 years (34 PA)	17.9	18.8	4.8
% of prisoners sentenced from 5 to less than 10 years (33 PA)	22.0	22.7	3.0

Figure 17. Rate of admissions in penal institutions, per 100,000 inhabitants, during 2023 (n=49 PA)



PA with stripped 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 2023 (n=48 PA)

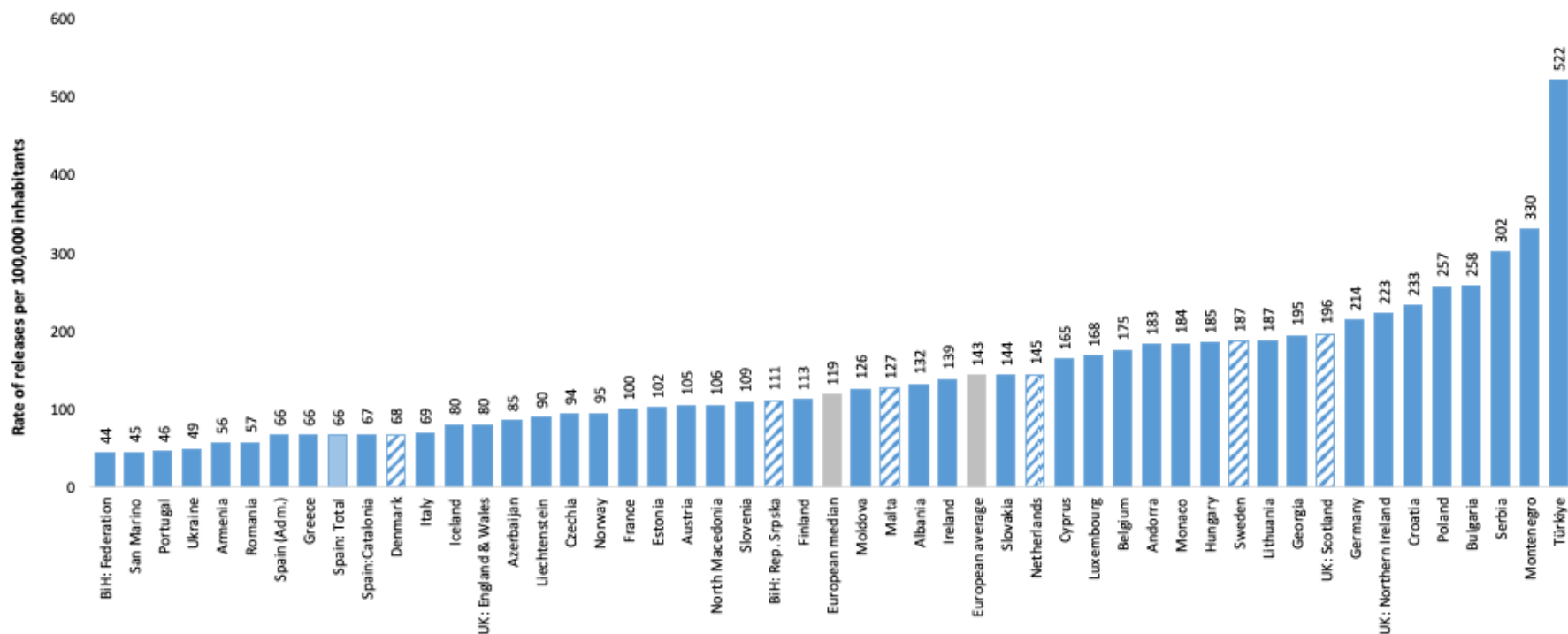


Table 2. Evolution of flow indicators (2022-2023)

	2022	2023	% change 2022-2023
Flow indicators			
Rate of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants (38 PA)	126.3	143.3	13.5
Rate of releases per 100,000 inhabitants (37 PA)	109.4	112.5	2.8
Average length of imprisonment in months (based on the stock and flow) (38 PA)	11.5	10.5	-8.4
Cost indicator			
Total budget spent by the prison administrations (35 PA)	234 897 102.00 €	272 842 157.50 €	16.1

Costs of imprisonment in 2020

- ✓ The costs are calculated on the basis of **real expenditures** and not on the foreseen budgets
- ✓ Around 25 billion Euros (46 prison administrations)
- ✓ Daily cost of an inmate = **€ 81** (44 prison administrations)
- ✓ Huge variations across countries



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Thank you for your attention!