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**27th meeting of the Working Group of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)**

**Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 11 May 2021**

## **Update on the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) for 2021**

**Marcelo F. Aebi, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Criminology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland**

# The current SPACE Team

- Marcelo F. Aebi
- Mélanie M. Tiago
- Yuji Z. Hashimoto

## New members from June 2021

- Lorena Molnar
- Edoardo Cocco

# SPACE I

- Press conference: 8 April 2021

Prison Populations

**SPACE I - 2020**

Marcelo F. Aebi  
Mélanie M. Tiago



Strasbourg, 31 January 2020  
PC-CP (2021)12

pc-cplspace/documents/pc-cp (2021)12  
Updated on 11 April 2021

## Prisons and Prisoners in Europe 2020: Key Findings of the SPACE I report

Marcelo F. Aebi and Mélanie M. Tiago

### 1. Introduction

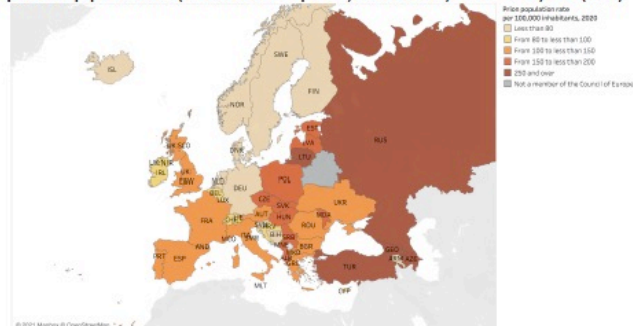
This document summarises the main findings of the 2020 Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics on Prison Populations, better known under the acronym SPACE I. The rates and percentages presented here correspond to the European median values and are presented in the text in round numbers unless they are lower than 10; in particular, the rates are calculated on the basis of data weighted by the population of each country (see *Methodology* for further details). The detailed state-level data are presented in Tables 3 and 4 at the end of the document.

Forty-eight (48) of the 52 prison administrations in the 47 Council of Europe member states answered the SPACE I 2020 questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 92%. The following prison administrations did not send their answers: Bosnia & Herzegovina (State level, Federal level, and Republika Srpska), and Ukraine. However, data concerning the total number of inmates in Republika Srpska (Bosnia & Herzegovina), the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ukraine, as well as the total capacity of prison institutions in these same prison administrations were retrieved from other sources (see SPACE I, Comments to Tables 3 and 16) and are therefore included in the computation of the relevant European median and average values. On the contrary, these computations do not include the few inconsistent figures detected during the validation procedure (see Table B of the SPACE I 2020 report for details).

### 2. Stock indicators: Prisons and Prisoners on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, there were 1,528,343 inmates in the penal institutions of the Council of Europe member states for which data are available. This corresponds to a European prison population rate of 103.2 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Map 1. Prison population rates (number of inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (N=51)



SPACE  
Council of Europe  
Annual Penal Statistics

Series UNILCRIM 2021/1  
Strasbourg and Lausanne: Updated on 8 April 2021

# SPACE II

- Press conference to be held in June

# Videoconference, 22-23 March 2021



## CONFERENCE “THREE DECADES OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS IN EUROPE: METHODS, TRENDS AND THE IMPACT ON POLICY MAKING” (22-23 MARCH 2021)

(BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY)

### MONDAY 22 MARCH

09.30-09.40: Opening of the meeting **Marcelo AEBI** (University of Lausanne) and **Annie Devos** (Chair of the Council for Penological Co-operation)

#### SESSION 1: EUROPEAN SOURCEBOOK OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

*Moderator:*

09.40 - 10.00: Introducing the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Sourcebook, **Marcelo AEBI** (Switzerland)

10.00 - 10.30: Round table to present the chapters of the European Sourcebook

Police: **Rannveig ÞÓRISDÓTTIR** and **Tara KAHN** (Iceland)

Prosecution: **Jörg-Martin JEHLE** (Germany)

Convictions: **Paul SMIT** (The Netherlands)

Prisons: **Melanie M. TIAGO** (Portugal) and **Marcelo AEBI** (Switzerland)

Probation: **Yuji Z. HASHIMOTO** (Italy)

Victimisation Studies: **Chris LEWIS** (United Kingdom)

Offence definitions: **Stefan HARRENDORF** (Germany)

10.30 - 10.50: The added value of the European Sourcebook, **Stefano CANEPPELE** (Italy)

10.50 - 11.10: *Coffee break*

11.10 - 12.00: Questions & Answers

12.00 - 14.00: *Lunch break*

#### SESSION 2: VALIDITY, RELIABILITY AND COMPARABILITY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

*Moderator:*

14.00 - 14.20: Prospects, problems and pitfalls in comparative analyses of criminal justice data, **Stefan HARRENDORF** (Germany)

# European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics 2021 Sixth edition

Marcelo F. Aebi  
Stefano Caneppele  
Stefan Harrendorf  
Yuji Z. Hashimoto  
Jörg-Martin Jehle  
Tara S. Khan  
Olivia Kühn  
Chris Lewis  
Lorena Molnar  
Rannveig Þórisdóttir  
Paul Smit  
and national correspondents

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# Original Data of the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics 2021 Sixth Edition

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9

Marcelo F. Aebi  
Update on SPACE for 2021

Strasbourg, 11/05/2021

# Forthcoming: Publication of the proceedings of the Conference of October 2020



## CONFERENCE “MEASURING CYBERCRIME IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: THE ROLE OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS”

(29-30 OCTOBER 2020, STRASBOURG)

(BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY)

### *PROGRAM DAY 1*

13.00-13.10 Introduction Annie DEVOS (PC-CP Chair) & Marcelo AEBI (University of Lausanne)

#### *PRELUDE SESSION: CYBERCRIME IN TIMES OF COVID-19 AND IN POSTCOVID-19 ERA*

13.10-13.30 COVID-19 and cybercrime. What we know, what we do not know and what we shall measure:  
[Fernando MIRÓ LINARES](#) (University M. Hernandez)

#### *SESSION 1 - MODERNISING CRIME & JUSTICE STATISTICS*

13.30-13.50 The International Effort in the Modernization of Crime Statistics [Michael LEVI](#) (University of Cardiff)

13.50-14.10 Cybercrime & the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes [Alexander SEGER](#)  
(Council of Europe)

14.10-14.50 Cybercrime Statistics: National Experiences

Estonia: [Andri AHVEN](#) and [Mari-Liis SÕÕT](#) (Estonian Ministry of Justice)

Spain: [Francisco SANCHEZ JIMENEZ](#) (Spanish Ministry of Interior)

14.50-15.20 Self Report Delinquency Survey & Cybercrime: The State-of-the-art, [Lieven PAUWELS](#)  
(Ghent University)

15.20- 15.30 Questions & Answers

# COVID-19

## Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the short-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations

Marcelo F. Aebi and Mélanie M. Tiago\*

### Key Findings

- This special SPACE I report analyses trends in European prison populations from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- This period includes roughly the first month in which the COVID-19 pandemic started spreading in Europe and led most countries to impose lockdowns to their populations.
- Even if it is a short period of time (from mid-March to mid-April), the spread of the pandemic had a direct effect on imprisonment: The vast majority of prison administrations showed decreasing or stable prison population rates:
  - Decrease** (more than -4%): San Marino, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Slovenia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Norway, Andorra, Scotland (UK), Italy, Netherlands, Albania Portugal, France, and Northern Ireland (UK);
  - Stable** (between -4 and 4%): Croatia, Poland, Georgia, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Montenegro, Moldova, Lithuania, Austria, Catalonia (Spain), England and Wales (UK), Spain State Administration, Russian Federation, Serbia, North Macedonia, Armenia, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Romania, Malta, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Republika Srpska (BiH), and Greece.
  - Increases** (more than 4%): Sweden.
- The lockdown of European populations seems to have contributed to that downward/stable trend because the exception to that trend is Sweden, who did not introduce a lockdown.
- More than 128,000 inmates were released in 20 member states as a preventive measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19:
  - The vast majority of these inmates (102,944) were released after 15<sup>th</sup> April in Turkey, a country that had until then the second biggest prison population in Europe.
  - The total numbers of releases, however, includes 10,188 inmates released in France, a country that reported all its releases and not only those related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Only a few prison administrations were not affected by COVID-19 infections; 15 administrations reported infections both among staff and inmates, and 14 among members of staff only:
  - No infections:** Republika Srpska (BiH), Bulgaria, Georgia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia and San Marino.
  - Infections both among inmates and staff:** Albania, Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain (Catalonia and State Administration), Sweden, Turkey and Scotland (UK).
  - Infections among staff only:** Andorra, Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Moldova, Monaco, Portugal, Romania and Northern Ireland (UK).

\*The authors are, respectively, professor and researcher at the Research Unit in Criminology of the School of Criminal Sciences at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. The opinions expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe. The authors wish to thank all the SPACE national correspondents and prison administrations of the Council of Europe that answered the questionnaire and made the publication of this report possible.

## Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations

Marcelo F. Aebi and Mélanie M. Tiago\*

### Key Findings

- This special SPACE I report analyses trends in European prison populations during the first nine months of the year 2020 using four points in time as reference: 1 January, 15 April, 15 June, and 15 September. These dates correspond to the state of prisons and prison populations before the pandemic (1 January), after the first month of the lockdowns (15 April), by the end of the lockdowns (15 June) and by the end of the summer (15 September).
- Trends in the very short-term had been analysed in the first report of these series (Aebi & Tiago, 2020), which showed that the spread of the pandemic was accompanied by stable or decreasing prison population trends. The updated figures included in this report corroborate that finding. In particular, when the prison population rates of 47 prison administrations on 15 April are compared to the ones on 1 January 2020, the trends observed are the following:
  - Decrease** (more than -4%): Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Northern Ireland (UK), and Scotland (total: 17 prison administrations)
  - Stable** (between -4 and 4%): Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Republika Srpska (BiH), Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain (State Administration), Catalonia (Spain), Turkey, and England and Wales (UK) (total: 29 prison administrations)
  - Increase** (more than 4%): Sweden
- The lockdowns of the European populations, which had been in place during only one month by mid-April, seem to have contributed to these trends, as the only country that registered an increase of its prison population was Sweden, who did not confine its population.
- The contribution of the lockdowns to the decrease of the prison populations is corroborated by an analysis of the situation by the end of the spring, that is to say by the end of the confinement. On 15 June, among the 43 prison administrations that provided data, the number of those with lower prison population rates than in January had risen to 27, while 14 showed stable trends and only two (Sweden and Greece) had higher rates in June than in January.
- During the summer, and without lockdowns, the downward trend in the prison population was reversed in 12 countries (Andorra, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Northern Ireland, and Scotland had higher rates on 15 September than on 15 June) and stabilized in 22, while Bulgaria and Montenegro were the only two prison administrations—among the 36 that provided data—with a lower rate in September than in June.

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# **Forthcoming: Trends on prison and probation during the first year of the pandemic (2020)**

# Thank you for your attention

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