

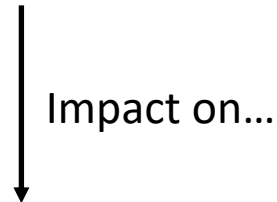
26th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services
20-21 September 2021 | Funchal

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

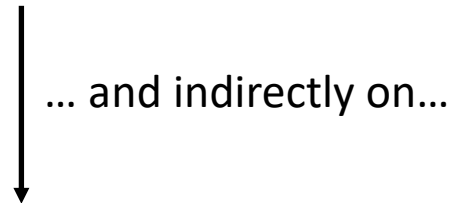
Mélanie M. Tiago (MLaw)

Background

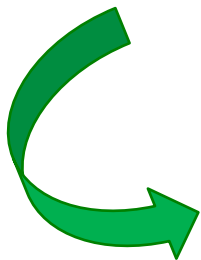
March 2020: Populations' lockdown to reduce the spread of COVID-19 pandemic



...the extent of crime...



...the size of prison population...



SPACE I COVID-19 project

SPACE I COVID-19 project

Aim: to measure the side effects of the pandemic on the prison populations in the Council of Europe member states

How?

1. Addition of few extra questions to the simplified SPACE I questionnaire sent every spring
2. Two follow-up questionnaires sent in the following months

The **short-term** impact of COVID-19

The **medium-term** impact of COVID-19

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

Summary of findings: principal results concerning short-term impact of COVID-19

From 1st January to 15th April:

- Decreasing or stable prison population rates;
- More than 128,000 inmates were released in 20 member states as a preventive measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19;
- Only a few prison administrations were not affected by COVID-19 infections.

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

Background

- The second phase of *SPACE I – COVID-19 project*
- Comparison of the situation on 1st January, 15th April, 15th June and 15th September 2020
 - ✓ 1st January 2020 → Before the pandemic
 - ✓ 15th April 2020 → First month of lockdowns
 - ✓ 15th June 2020 → End of lockdowns
 - ✓ 15th September 2020 → End of summer
- Participation rate to the three questionnaires: 67%

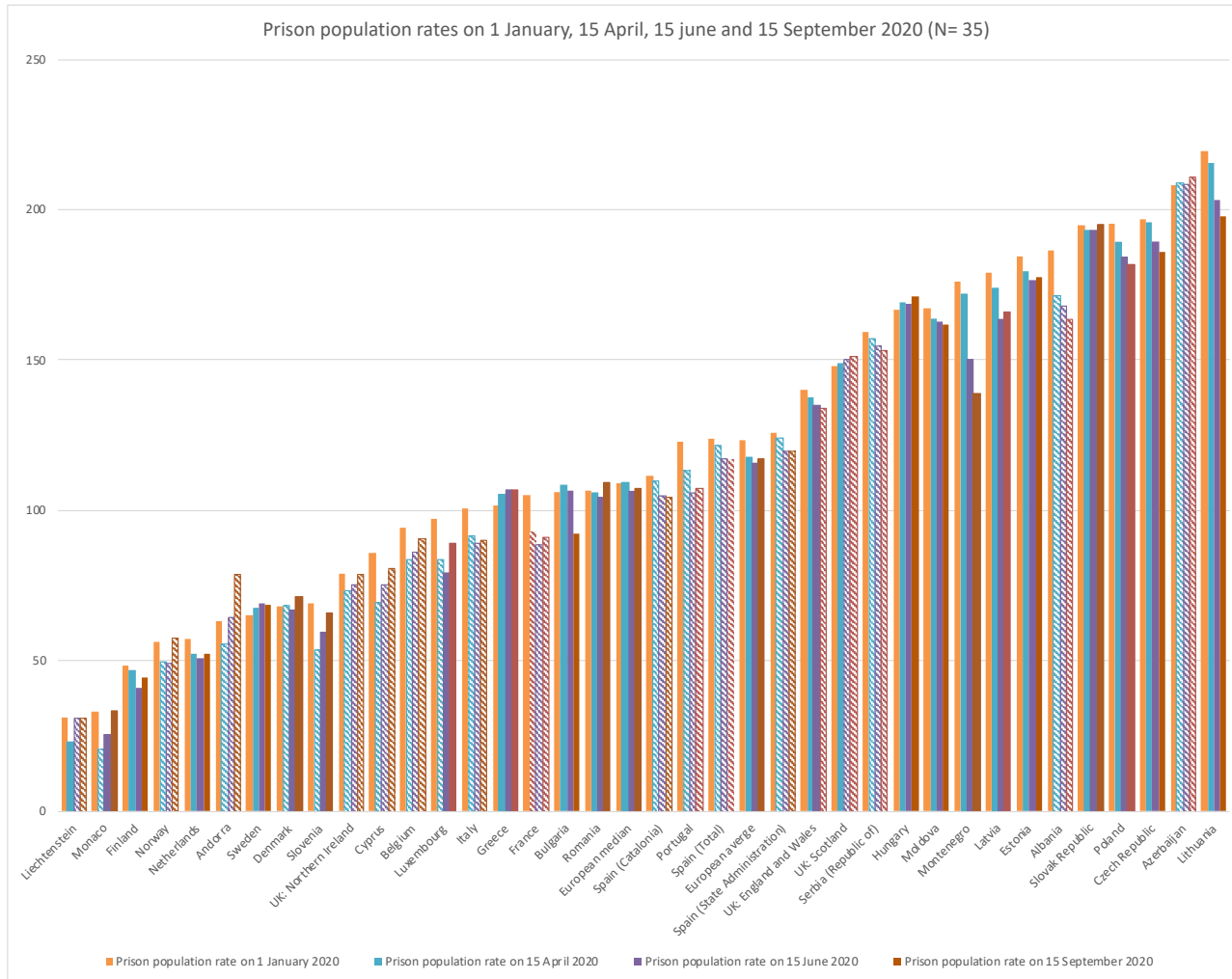
What was measured...

	1 st Phase	2 nd Phase
Size of prison populations	X	X
Capacity of institutions	X	X
Releases as preventive measures	X	X
Presence of infections among inmates and staff	X	X
Number of staff who tested positive		X
Number of inmates who tested positive		X

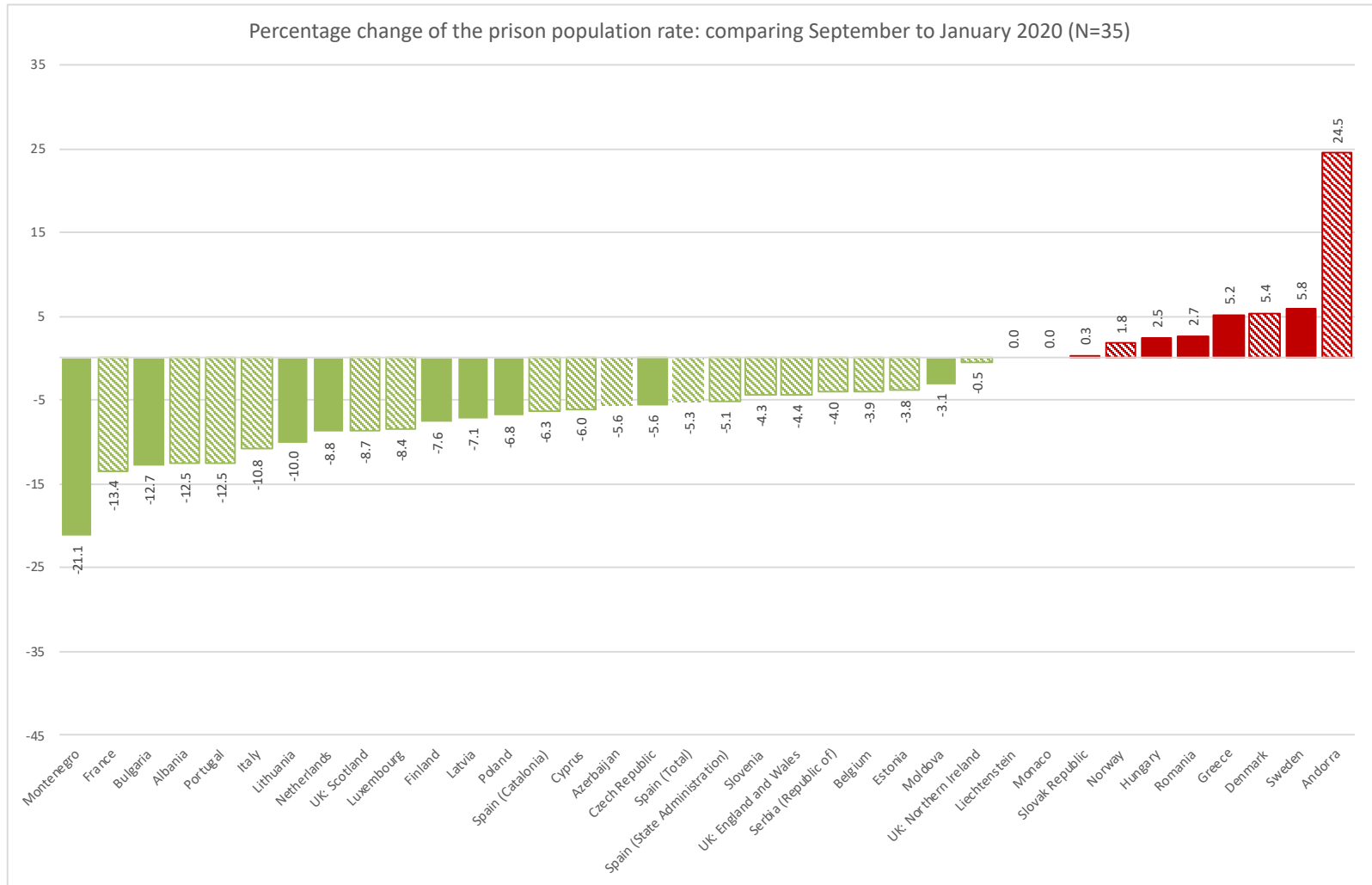
Prisons and Prisoners on 1st January and 15th April 2020

	1 st January	15 th April	15 th June	15 th September	% change 1 st January - 15 th September
Number of inmates (n= 35)	546,589	522,675	508,891	512,222	↓
Prison population rate per 100'000 inhabitants (n= 35)	121.4	116.0	113.8	115.8	↓

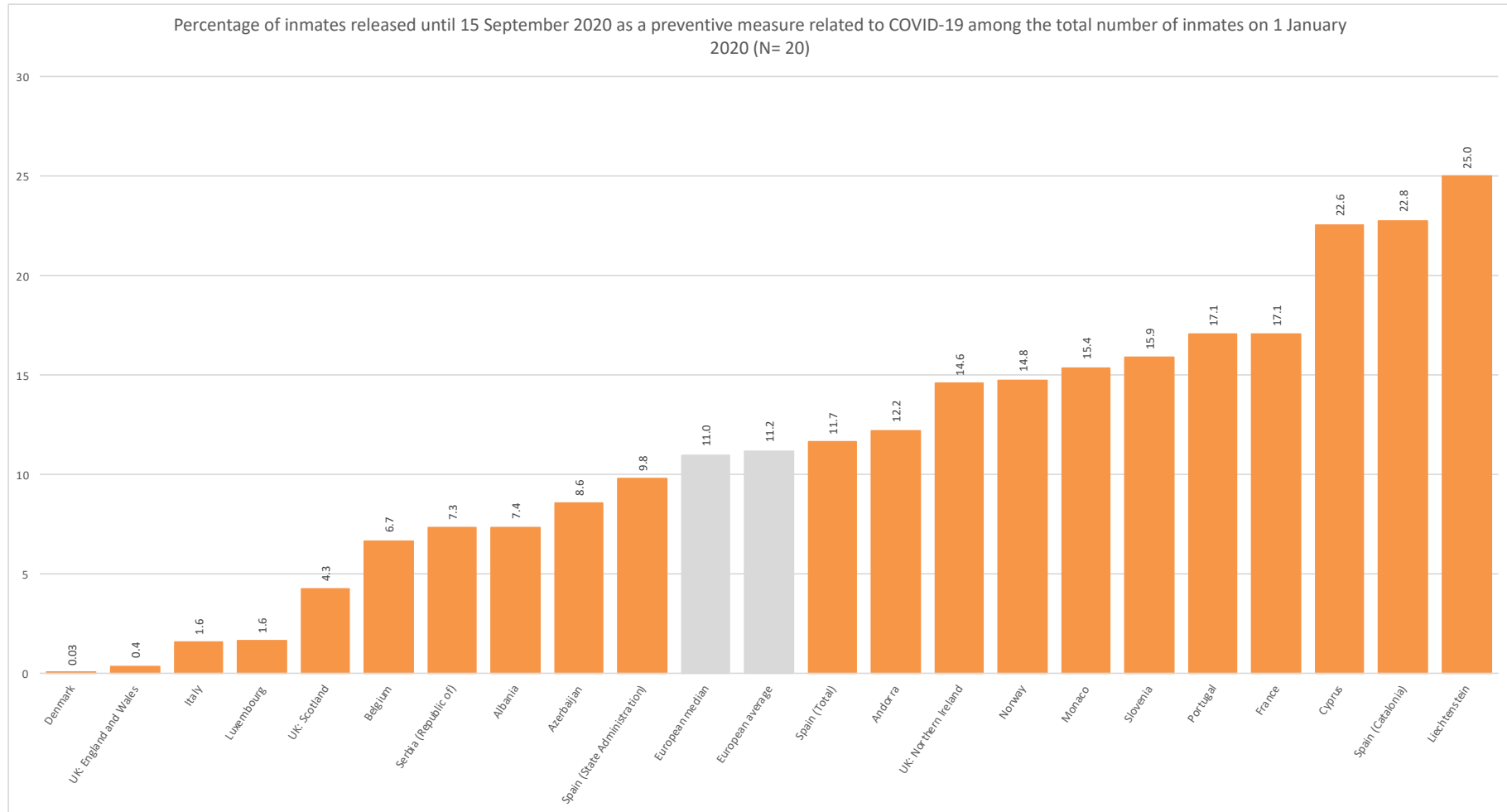
Prisons and Prisoners



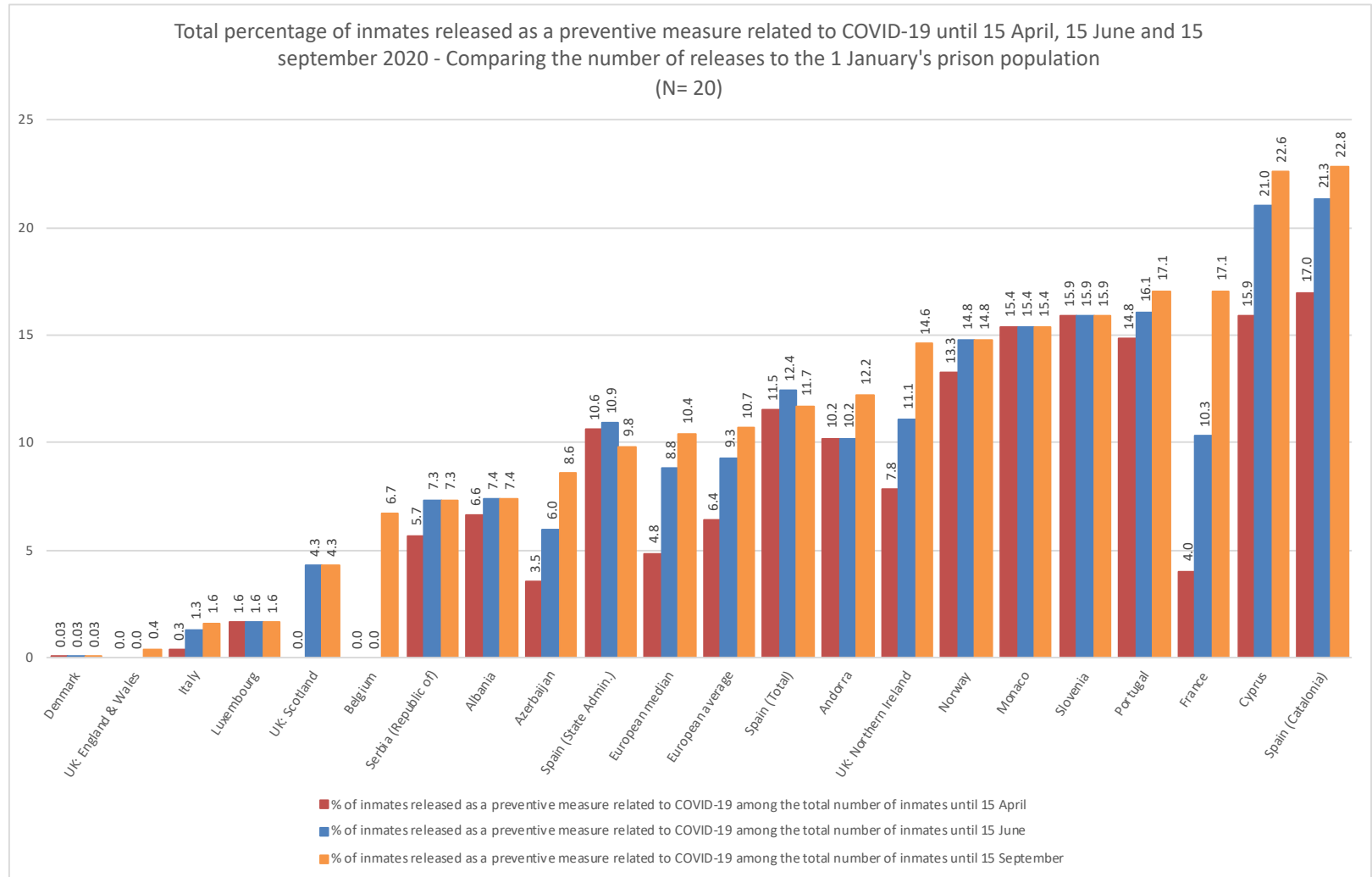
Prisons and Prisoners



The impact of COVID-19 on prison populations



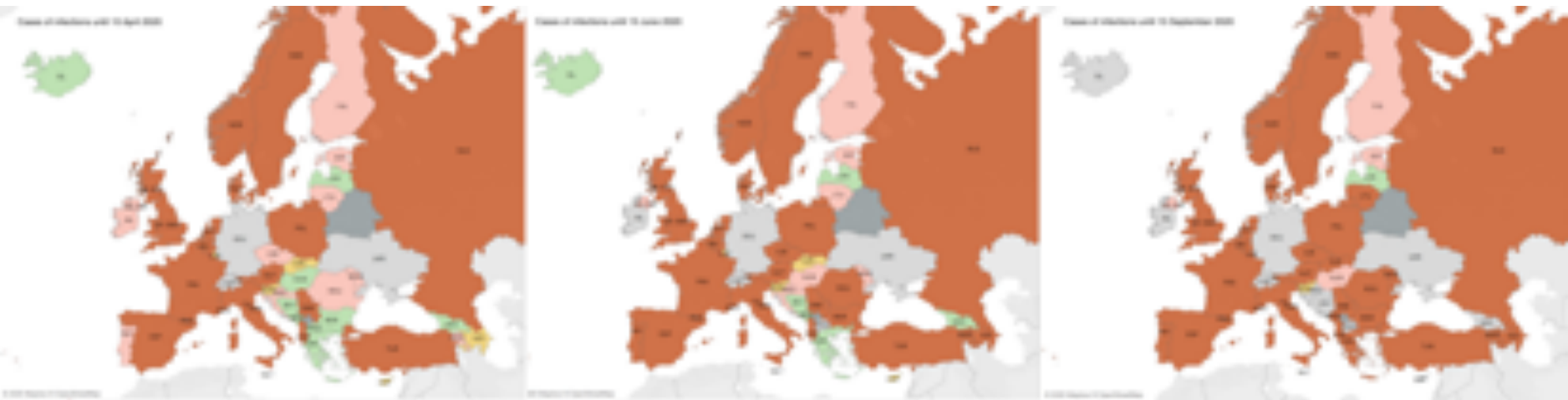
The impact of COVID-19 on prison populations



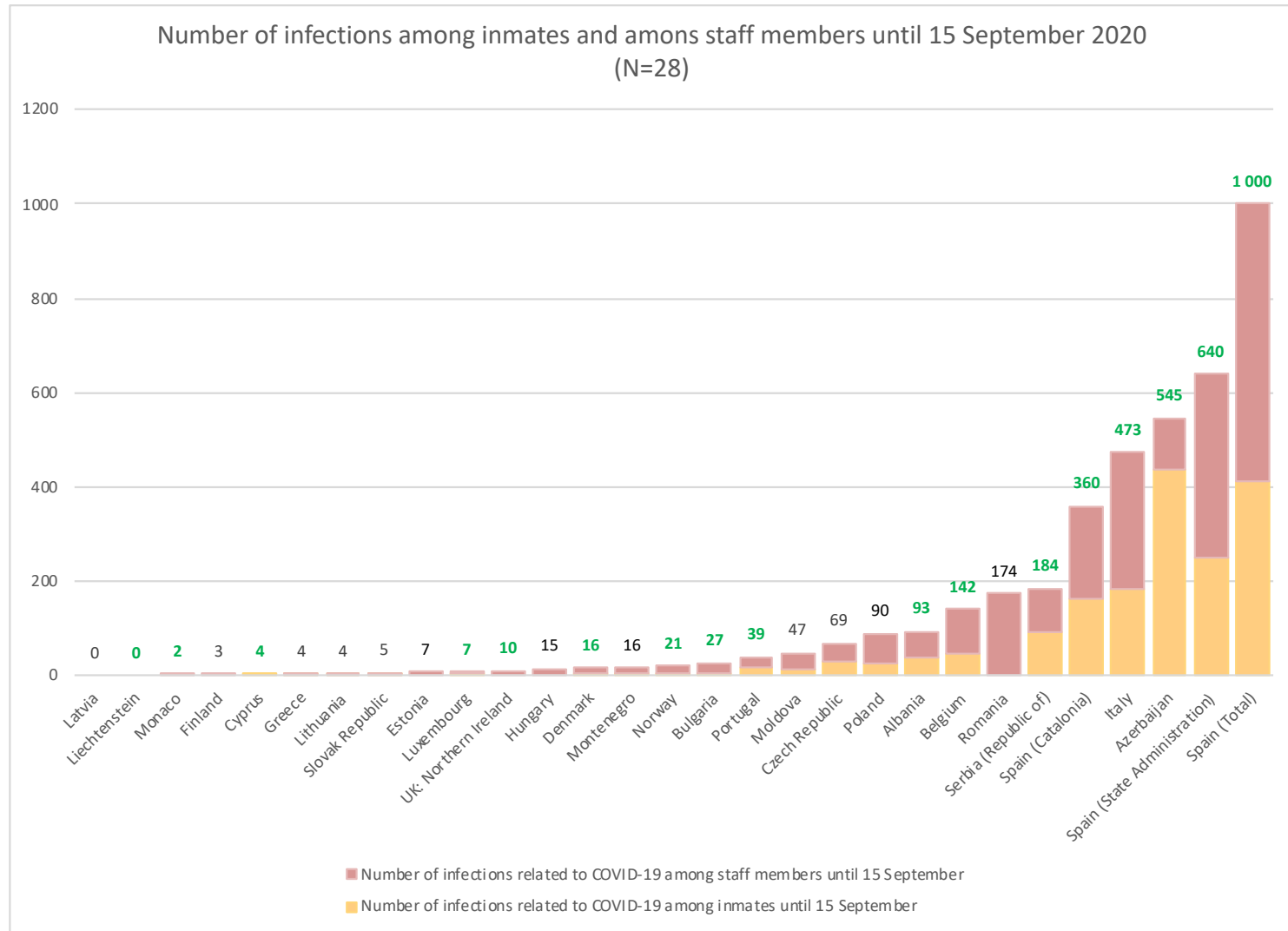
The impact of COVID-19 on prison populations



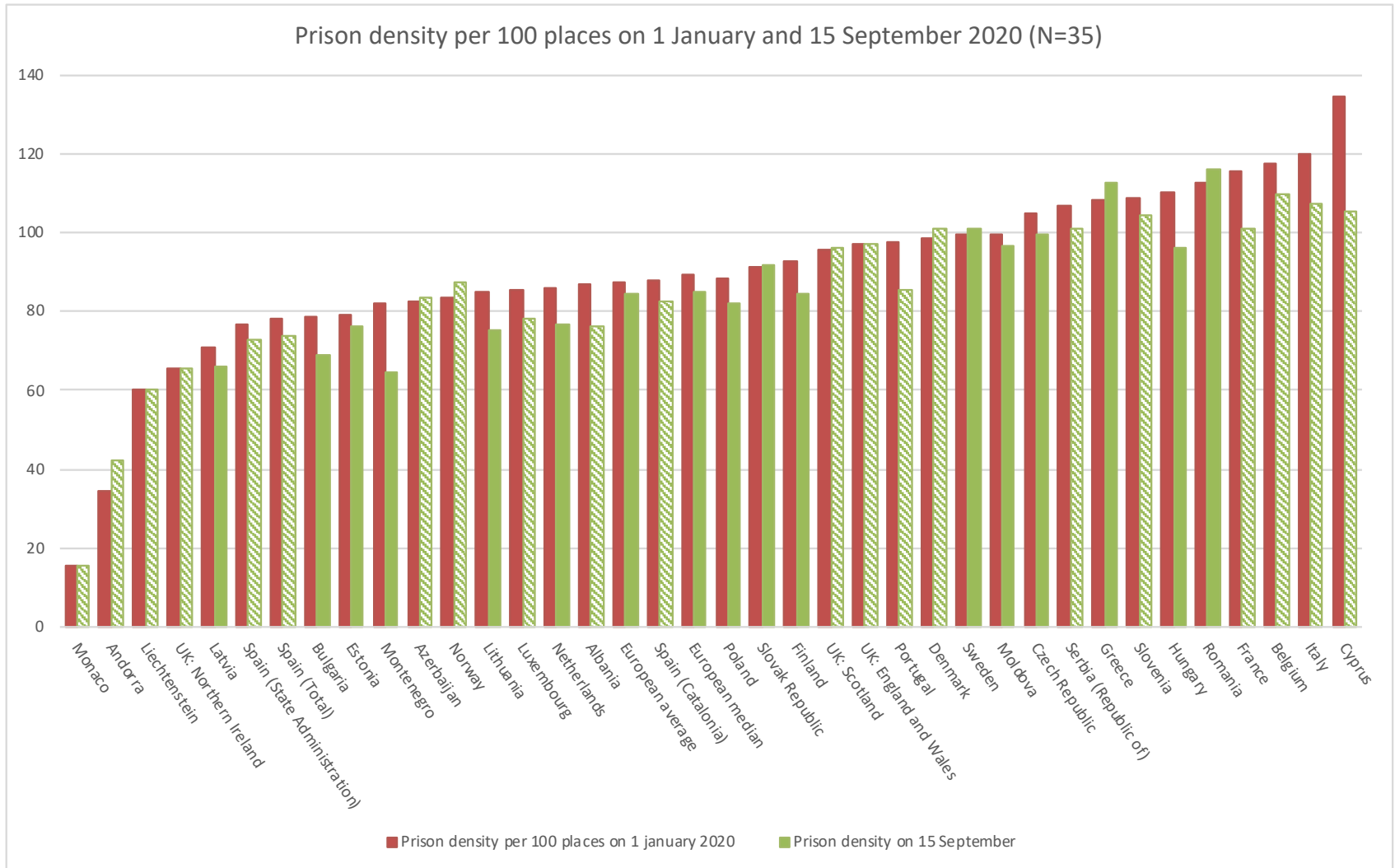
The impact of COVID-19 on prison populations



The impact of COVID-19 on prison populations



Prison density and overcrowding



Thank you for your attention!



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