



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 10.65 million at the end of 2009. ¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 104.
- Link to Probation Service:
 - www.dgrs.mj.pt (website of the DGRS)
- Links to websites:
 - www.dgsi.pt (Library of the DGRS)
- Member of the CEP in: 1983.

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- The Portuguese Probation Service, the Direcção-Geral de Reinserção Social (DGRS), is a governmental organization, which is part of the Ministry of Justice. The DGRS is responsible for the definition and execution of public policies regarding criminal prevention and the social integration of adults and juveniles (the execution of educative measures and alternative sanctions and measures to imprisonment).
- The DGRS is organized on three levels. The central service (located in Lisbon) is involved in management of resources, technical coordination and support to operational activity. The regional delegations (4 in the continent and 2 in the autonomous regions) supervise the activity of probation teams (47). Of these teams, 42 are located within the community (depending on the region, some teams can deal with adults or juveniles only and some can deal with both) and 5 work in the area of prisons (these teams only deal with adult inmates).
- The DGRS can deal with adults as well as juveniles. Young offenders between the age of 12 and 16 years can be submitted to, amongst others, educational measures. These measures, which have to be imposed by a court, can be executed by the DGRS within the community or in one of the six educational centres.
- Electronic monitoring is executed by special regional teams (10) of the DGRS, which are managed directly by the central service.
- The total yearly expenditure of the DGRS was € 42.515.246 in 2006. In the same year the expenditure of the DGSP was € 193.875.241.

Tasks

Within the pre-trial phase, the main task of the DGRS is to give technical support to the courts regarding adult offenders. This means that the DGRS can provide the judge or (in some cases) public prosecutor with a pre-trial report (on request

¹ International Centre for Prison Studies (2009), *Prison Brief for Portugal*. London: King's College. Available online at: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/worldbrief/

of the court). The reports can, amongst others, be used to decide whether or not a defendant should be submitted to a measure of coercion during the pre-trial stage (pre-trial detention for instance). They may be used to assist the court to determine a correct sanction as well. Furthermore, probation officers are in charge of supervision and the control of the execution of various measures of coercion (special probation teams can for example supervise defendants who are monitored electronically during house arrest). After trial, the DGRS deals with the execution of community sanctions and measures (supervision of suspended sentence, parole, house arrest under electronic monitoring and community service). In some cases, electronic monitoring can be used in a pre-parole phase.

Number of staff on the 31st of December 2009

Management	33
Probation workers	663
Administrative and other staff	314
Total	1,010

- Number of offenders/clients dealt with on the 31st of December 2006: 11,408.

New developments

With the execution of the Program of Reorganization of the Central Administration of the State (PRACE) in 2007, the DGRS was created and replaced the old Instituto de Reinserção Social (IRS). As an answer to the specific criminal needs, the DGRS has developed various intervention strategies. These strategies involve instruments for the evaluation of risks and needs and intervention programs oriented to the social rehabilitation of offenders. Within this context, the DGRS has set up two intervention programs: the STOP program - responsibility and security- (the program, which is directed toward offenders/convicts of the crime of driving vehicles in state of drunkenness, was initially implemented in 2004 and is now being revised) and the (experimental) program for domestic violent aggressors (which is directed to offenders accused of domestic violence or crimes directly related to domestic violence).

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post-Trial Phase
Preparing social report on measure of coercion (213-4 CCP)	x		
Preparing social report to provisory suspension of prosecution (281 and 282 CPP)	x		

Preparing social report to provisory suspension of prosecution (281 and 282 CPP)	x		
Preparing previous information for electronic monitoring (201 CPP and Law 122/99, 20 th August)	x		
Supervision/assistance to offenders with provisory suspension of prosecution (281 and 282 CPP)	x		
Mediation/victim support (Law 93/99, 14 th July ; Law 21/2007, 12 th July)	x		
Supervision/organizing community service (282 CPP; 58 and 59 CC; Decree-law 357/97, 24 th December)	x	x	
Supervising drug/alcohol treatment programs (Law 15/93, 22 nd January)	x	x	
Supervising electronic monitoring (201 CPP; 44 CC; 62 CC; Law 122/99, 20 th August)	x	x	x
Corrective measures applied to young adult offenders (Law 401/82, 23 rd September)	x	x	
Substitution of fine by work (48 CC)		x	
Pre-sentence report (370 CCP)		x	
Supervising sanction of probation	x	x	
Supervising suspended sentence (50-57 CC)		x	
Supervising the mental ill or retarded offenders (in-out patient orders) (94, 95, 98 CC)		x	
Supervising special measures for drugs addicts (Law 15/93, 22 nd January)	x	x	
Supervising/assisting conditional release or parole		x	
Advisory report with respect to pardon (164 - f ,CRP; Decree-law 783/79, 29 th October)		x	x

This summary is based on the country chapter in the book *Probation in Europe*, the most comprehensive survey of probation systems and services in Europe today. If you wish to order it, please click [here](#).

