



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 2.04 million at September 2008.¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 62.
- Link to Probation Services:
 - www.sigov.si/csd/ (The Community of Centres for Social Work);
 - www.mddsz.gov.si/en/ (Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs).
- Links to websites:
 - www.mp.gov.si/en/bodies_of_the_ministry (Prison Administration of the Republic of Slovenia);
 - www.mp.gov.si/ (Ministry of Justice).
- Member of the CEP in: 2009.

Characteristics of the Probation Services

- Slovenia does not have a single organized Probation Service like elsewhere in Europe. Certain probation activities and measures are carried out by public prosecutors, centres for social work and prisons.
- Social work centres, which are supervised by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, carry out the most probation activities. All 62 social work centres that cover the entire territory of Slovenia are connected to the Community of Centres for Social Work (CCSW). The social work centres also act as coordination facilities for the local community area. The centres are involved in the coordination of other organizations in the local community area (employment, health care, education, NGO's). Community service coordinators are employed at the social work centres and function at regional level (12 regions).
- Mediators are managed by the public prosecutor's office. They are also attached to the Victim-Offender Mediation Association.
- Within the framework of the Prison Administration, which is part of the Ministry of Justice, a juvenile correctional institution takes care of, amongst others, the preparation of a juvenile prisoner (a person under the age of 18 years) for a life after detention. The institutions for instance execute educational measures and deal with rehabilitation work.
- Social work centres and prisons cooperate with healthcare, educational, employment and other (non)governmental organizations with regard to the execution of probation tasks. Furthermore, The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs together with the CCSW and the Community

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

of Municipalities have a network of humanitarian organizations where community service can be performed.

Tasks

During the pre-trial phase of the criminal process, victim/offender mediation can take place at the prosecutor's office (only in case of criminal offences for which a fine or imprisonment of up to three years for another criminal offence is prescribed). In case the mediation proceeding leads to an agreement, the social work centres in cooperation with the mediator and the public prosecutor deal with the preparation and supervision of the performance of generally useful (community) work resulting from the agreement. The social work centres are also in charge of the execution/supervision of various instructions and tasks, which can be given by a prosecutor to defendants whose prosecution is suspended conditionally. Furthermore, these centres organize and are responsible for community service; they assign counsellors for carrying out suspended sentences with supervision; appoint counsellors to assist convicted persons in returning to life after serving sentences; provide the court (on their request) with pre-sentence reports (regarding adults as well as juveniles); counsel released prisoners and carry out various measures for juvenile criminal offenders. Prisons are, amongst others, involved in preparing inmates for release. They take care of social work in prison and deal with the preparation and development of individual treatment programmes.

Number of staff

- Number of victim-offender mediators: 106 (December 2006).
- Number of coordinators for community service (working at centres for social work): 12 (December 2006).
- Numbers of treatment staff in prisons: 183 (December 2006).
- Daily average number of offenders/clients dealt with: unknown.

New developments

- In 2006, the Government adopted the Programme on the Prevention of and Combat against Crime for the period 2007-2011. The Programme emphasizes the concepts of planned and congruent implementation of all of the activities of state institutions, civil society and citizens which could contribute in any way to the controlling and reduction of crime, or minimize the opportunities and possibilities for committing criminal offences. In the field of criminal policy and execution of penal sanctions the Resolution envisages the preparation of new programmes for training and work of convicted persons, the preparation of legislation and the introduction of a Probation Service under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. This 'new' Probation Service has not been established yet.
- In 2006, the National Assembly also adopted the National Programme of Social Security for the period 2006-2010. This document describes strategies and development models for social security programmes and services. The area of work with offenders is part of the network of

public services via (social prevention, social assistance, guidance and care) services, public programmes and public authorizations. The services and public authorizations (programmes, measures and tasks determined in penal legislation) will be implemented by the social work centres, and the public programmes can also be implemented by NGO's. These include developmental and experimental programmes, which the state finances through invitations to tender. The national programme also envisages new programmes for ex-convicts.

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post Release Phase
Preparing a Social Enquiry report	x	x	x
Supervision/assistance to pre-trial detainees	x		
Mediation/victim support	x		
Supervising / organizing etc. community service	x	x	
Supervising / organizing training or learning projects	x	x	
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programs	x	x	
Pre - sentence report		x	
Supervising etc. suspended sentence		x	
Supervising etc. the mentally ill or retarded offenders (in-out patient orders)		x	
Supervising etc. special measures for drugs addicts		x	
Assistance / support to prisoners in prison		x	
Advisory report with respect to amnesty / pardon		x	
Assistance / support to persons who are granted amnesty / pardon.		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](#).

