

The use of SPACE statistics between research and public policy

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The usefulness of a comparative approach



Academic context

- Analysis of the EU Panorama
- Brainstorming around what works and why



Policy review

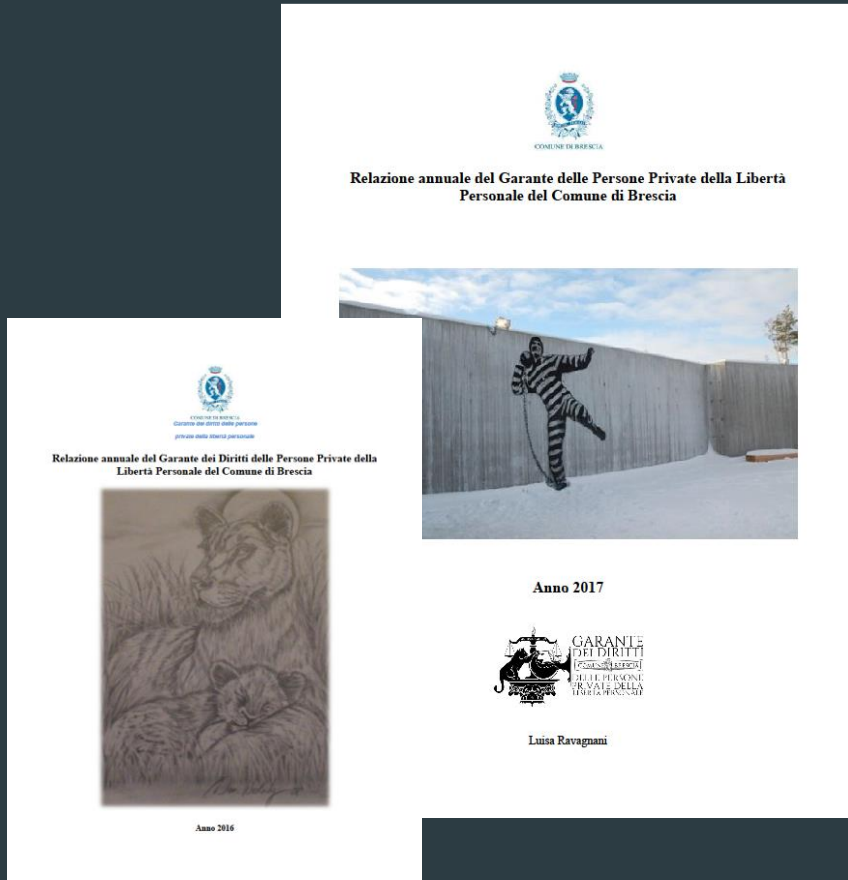
- Analysis of the EU Panorama
- Discussion around possible improvements of the National system



Public awareness

- Dissemination of correct information
- Fight against stereotypes, prejudices and fake news

Guidelines for Ombudsman and Ngos



COE Space statistics offer:

- Important data when dealing with general population, foreign prisoners, women and young offenders
- Clear framework to determine the national levels of compliance with EU legal instruments
- A background for new proposal for the improvement of international good practices at national level

COE Space I Statistics (detention)

The offered data are very useful especially to develop discussion about the efficacy of:

- ▶ Length of the sentence vs type of crime, compared with data coming from police statistics
- ▶ Dimension of prison staff vs. prisoners
- ▶ Prison condition vs. suicide rate

COE II Space statistics (alternative to detention)

The offered data are very useful especially to develop discussion about the efficacy of:

- ▶ Dimension of Probation staff vs. probationers
- ▶ Applicability of probation vs. criminal offences (very important information in order to help foreign prisoners or probationers that want to ask for the application of FD 909, 947, 829)
- ▶ Probation vs prison system

Key findings

- ▶ Very useful and synthetic tool for:
 - Academics
 - Practitioners
 - Prison Admin
 - Ngos
 - Therapeutic Communities
- ▶ Possible problems with the language?
 - Possible Need of translation?

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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 comments to Tables 3 and 16 of the SPACE I 2020 report for further details) 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 31st January 2020

On 31st 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 31st January 2020 (N=51)

Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants, 2020

- Less than 80
- From 80 to less than 100
- From 100 to less than 120
- From 120 to less than 140
- 140 and over
- Not a member of the Council of Europe

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Probation and Prisons in Europe, 2019: Key Findings of the SPACE reports

Marcelo F. Aebi, Yuji Z. Hashimoto and Mélanie M. Tiago

1. Introduction

This document summarises the main findings of the 2019 Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics on Persons under the Supervision of Probation Agencies¹, better known under the acronym SPACE II, and compares them to those of the 2019 Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics on Prison Populations, SPACE I, which was published in April 2020².

The rates and percentages presented here correspond to the European median values computed on the basis of figures weighted by the population and the number of probationers in each country (see Methodology for further details). Forty-six (46) out of the 52 probation agencies (or equivalent institutions) in the 47 Council of Europe member states answered the 2019 SPACE II questionnaire, which corresponds to a participation rate of 88%. However, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which in principle should have three agencies, responded that probation agencies do not exist in the country yet, and therefore could not provide any information. This means that finally there were 43 answers with data suitable for the analyses performed in the SPACE II report and summarized here. The probation agencies that did not answer the questionnaire are the following: Albania, Germany³, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, and San Marino.

It must also be mentioned that the 43 probation agencies that filled in the questionnaire did not necessarily provide data for all the items included in it. Thus, in the title of each Figure and Table included in this document we indicate the number (N) of probation agencies which provided the relevant data required for analysis.

¹ The authors are, respectively, professor and researchers 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.

² Aebi, M. F. & Hashimoto, Y. Z. (2020). SPACE II – 2019 – Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics: Persons under the Supervision of Probation Agencies. Strasbourg: Council of Europe. Available at: www.unil.ch/space.

³ Aebi, M. F. & Tiago, M. M. (2020). SPACE I – 2019 – Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics: Prison Populations. Strasbourg: Council of Europe. Available at: www.unil.ch/space.

⁴ Germany does not produce probation statistics at the federal level.

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Which additional info could help academics and practitioners?

- ▶ Data about the implementation of FDs:
- ▶ How many application per Country?
- ▶ How long the transfer procedure takes?

These additional info, considered jointly with the ones in the Space I and II, could be of great help for a wider application of FDs. Moreover, they would supply a permanent lack of data in this field that is perceived at national level.

Thank you

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