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REVIEW OF HUNGARIAN PRISON STATISTICS



HUNGARIAN PRISON SERVICE

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The statistical activity of the Department for Strategic Planning and Analysis of the National Headquarters of the Hungarian Prison Service is dedicated to satisfy society's general need for information, publishing data based on objective facts.

With publishing statistical information related to the activity of the Hungarian Prison Service, we present a fair picture to the professional political decision-makers, governmental organizations, local governments, civil organizations, professional and scientific organizations, institutions of the European Union and international organizations.

Our aim is that the scope of official statistics should meet the user demand for the activity of the Hungarian Prison Service.

The statistical data is published in a regulated and transparent way, taking into account professional impartiality, objectivity and user-orientation, all according to professional requirements.

The defining developmental directions of our scientific activity are relevance, data protection, established and updated methods, commitment toward quality, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and understandability.

The Reviews of Hungarian Prison Service Statistics that were published in previous years as reference points and sources of data have strived to integrate new demands into statistical surveys and the transformation of statistical information according to the demand of the users.

With regard to the inmate statistics, the Review of Hungarian Prison Statistics provides more comprehensive statistics than the Central Statistical Office.

Recommendation of the Editor-in-Chief

I. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this present publication is to provide periodical statistics about the data regarding inmates incarcerated by the Hungarian Prison Service and the activities of the organization. We would like to provide a wide-ranging and current background for research and analytical purposes.

We compile the data on inmates from the statistics downloaded from the software of the Basic Inmate Registry of the Hungarian Prison Service (hereinafter: BIR) and the data collected by certain Departments and Services of the Hungarian Prison Service Headquarters.

While analysing the statistics one must bear in mind that the numbers regarding inmates are dynamic data, the number of inmates may change a number of times a day. Because of this a part of the statistics can only be analysed while taking the date given into account and also, to facilitate analysis we have primarily worked with percentages.

The publication, apart from general organizational data, contains every time a special chapter on inmate groups or another professional area of the Prison Service. In this issue we present data related to activities of Communication Department of the Prison Service.

II. INMATE STATISTICS

Number of inmates and their demographical data

Based on the following diagram it can be stated that the average prison population in the recent 3 year period has continuously decreased.

Annual average prison population

<i>Annual average prison population</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>
2016	18 023
2017	17 944
2018	17 251

Table 1¹

<i>Total prisoner population according to gender and age (31.12.2018)</i>				
	<i>Total prison population (No. of persons)</i>		<i>Juvenile detainees (No. of persons)</i>	
<i>Male</i>	15 096	92.60%	191	95.02%
<i>Female</i>	1 207	7.40%	10	4.98%
<i>Total:</i>	16 303 ²	100.00%	201	100.00%
			<i>Total: 1.23%</i>	

Table 2

¹ Instead of average figures published in former Reviews of Hungarian Prison Statistics, in order to ensure comparability and objective analysis, the statistical comparison of the average annual prison populations of the specific years are presented based on subsequent query from the Prisoner Records software.

² Juvenile minimum security facility, juvenile medium security facility, juvenile pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance, juvenile pre-trial detention without a final sentence.

³ In our publication, when presenting statistics for our analysis we use the data published on 31 December 2018 (16 303 inmates), based on an analysis database report requested later for that day, which permits a more detailed examination. We thought it important to use this more detailed database, as we wish to present you with a more comprehensive and objective picture data and statistical characteristics of the inmates.

Based on the demographic data of prisoners it can be stated that women represent only 7.4% of the total prison population (with no significant changes in this respect), while the ratio of juvenile inmates decreased further (2015: 1.97%, 2016: 1.72%, 2017: 1.37%, 2018: 1.23%, of them 95.02% male).

<i>Distribution according to age (31. 12. 2018)</i>		
<i>Age groups</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>under 16 years</i>	2	0.01
<i>16-18 years</i>	116	0.71
<i>19-24 years</i>	1 995	12.24
<i>25-29 years</i>	2 478	15.20
<i>30-39 years</i>	4 833	29.64
<i>40-49 years</i>	4 284	26.28
<i>50-59 years</i>	1 946	11.94
<i>over 60 years</i>	649	3.98
<i>Total:</i>	16 303	100.00

Table 3

Similarly to the previous year's data, the detailed breakdown according to age shows that detainees belonging to the 30-39 year age group are highest represented. The second most populous age group is the one between 40-49 years, therefore it can be concluded that more than half of the prison population is aged between 30-49 years.

Compared to the previous year's decreasing tendency, the total ratio of prisoners under 25 is slightly increasing (2014: 16.67%, 2015: 15.62%, 2016: 14.06%, 2017: 11.81%, 2018: 12.96%), while the ratio of prisoners older than 40 years increased moderately in line with previous years (2014: 38.36%, 2015: 36.96%, 2016: 40.3%, 2017: 41.09%, 2018: 42.2%)³.

The 19-29 year age group represents approximately 30% of the prison population (27.44%), it is also important to mention the age group over 60 years due to specific needs, representing 3.98% of all inmates, an increase from the 3.8% of last year.

⁴ Collected data based on distribution of age groups published in previous Reviews of Prison Statistics.

<i>Distribution of age groups in percentage terms and changes in the average age of prisoners</i>						
<i>Age group</i>	<i>31.12.2013</i>	<i>31.12.2014</i>	<i>31.12.2015</i>	<i>31.12.2016</i>	<i>31.12.2017</i>	<i>31.12.2018</i>
<i>under 18 years</i>	0.84	0.61	0.46	0.47	0.84	0.72
<i>18 - 21 years</i>	7.77	6.84	6.35	5.33	5.25	4.07
<i>22 - 24 years</i>	9.44	9.35	8.81	8.25	5.75	8.16
<i>25 - 29 years</i>	15.41	15.1	15.28	15.47	17.88	15.20
<i>30 - 39 years</i>	31.9	31.32	30.69	30.22	29.23	29.67
<i>40 - 49 years</i>	23.37	24.58	25.35	26.37	26.18	26.28
<i>50 – 59 years</i>	9.14	9.54	9.98	10.42	11.11	11.94
<i>over 60 years or older</i>	2.13	2.66	3.037	3.48	3.80	3.98
<i>Average age:</i>	36 years 1 month	36 years 8 months	36 years 6 months	37 years 6 months	37 years 10 months	37 years 9 months

Table 4

Based on the above table it is clear that the ratio of juvenile inmates, after decreasing the last couple of years seems to get steady at under 1%. Apart from this, a slight decrease may be observed in the number of inmates between 18 and 21. It can also be observed that the ratio of inmates above 60 is on constant rise every year. From the numbers presenting average age it can be seen that until 2017 it is increasing until 2018 where it seems to stop.

Data related to detention

The average occupancy rates of penitentiary facilities are mostly due to reasons related to criminal legislation and capacity changes (creation of additional spaces, restructuring). The overpopulation of penitentiary facilities is a severe problem requiring solution in most European countries. The Hungarian law enforcement authorities and the prison service intend to meet the applicable requirements by adopting a specific occupancy balancing programme, implementing capacity extension projects and constructing new penitentiary facilities.

<i>Average occupancy rates (%)</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>%</i>
2016	131
2017	129
2018	113

Table 5⁵

With regards to the year 2018 the average number of prisoners was 17 251, meaning a 113% occupancy on an average rate. The increasing capacities, along with the decreasing average number of inmates (2016: 18 023, 2017: 17 944, 2018: 17 251) resulted in a decreasing number of overcrowding compared to last year.

<i>Top 5 penitentiary facilities with highest number of inmates (31.12.2018)</i>	
<i>Szombathely National Prison</i>	1 476 persons
<i>Budapest Remand Prison</i>	1 353 persons
<i>Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison</i>	1 284 persons
<i>Pálhalma National Prison</i>	1 182 persons
<i>Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison</i>	1 032 persons

Table 6

There is no direct relationship between the number of prisoners detained in the individual facilities and overpopulation as it depends on the ratio of the potential and the actual number of prisoners held in the specific facilities. At the same time, the largest facilities according to number of detainees is considered interesting, and therefore indicated in the above table.

⁵ For easier comparison, the average occupancy rates calculated from the average number of prisoners on the closing days of the specific years are indicated based on subsequently calculated data.

<i>Distribution of prisoners according to detention severity (31.12.2018)</i>						
	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Strict Regime Prison</i>	4 727	28.99	4489	29.74	238	19.72
<i>Medium Regime Prison</i>	7 052	43.26	6441	42.67	611	50.62
<i>Minimum Security Prison</i>	725	4.45	672	4.45	53	4.39
<i>Community service and financial penalty converted to imprisonment (minimum security)</i>	378	2.32	358	2.37	20	1.66
<i>Juvenile, medium regime prison</i>	105	0.64	99	0.66	6	0.50
<i>Juvenile, minimum security prison</i>	51	0.31	50	0.33	1	0.08
Convicts	13 038	79.97	12 109	80.21	929	76.97
<i>Pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance</i>	2185	13.40	2013	13.33	172	14.25
<i>Pre-trial detention with no final sentence imposed</i>	464	2.85	428	2.84	36	2.98
<i>Juvenile, pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance</i>	35	0.21	32	0.21	3	0.25
<i>Juvenile, pre-trial detention with no final sentence imposed</i>	10	0.06	10	0.07	0	0.00
Arrestees	2 694	16.52	2 483	16.45	211	17.48
Custody, correctional detention	392	2.40	353	2.34	39	3.23
Compulsory medical therapy	179	1.10	151	1.00	28	2.32
Total:	16 303	100.0	15 096	100	1 207	100

Table 7

The above table indicating the distribution of prisoners according to detention severity shows that more than 80% of the inmates have been delivered a final sentence, with majority still held in medium regime facilities (43.26%).

According to detention severity the next most populous group is of prisoners held in maximum regime prisons (28.99%). At the same time, the trend in relation to highest detention severity, i.e. prisoners with maximum regime sentences is still growing (according to analytical data used in previous Review of Prison Statistics, 2014: 3 869 persons, 2015: 4 136 persons, 2016: 4 446 persons, 2017: 4 710 persons, and 2018: 4 727 persons, which means that 36% of the convicts were sentenced to the most severe detention type.

<i>Duration of sentence</i>				
	<i>31.12.2017</i>		<i>31.12.2018</i>	
	<i>No. of persons</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No. of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Shorter than 1 month</i>	49	0.36	43	0.33
<i>1 month – 6 months</i>	303	2.24	291	2.22
<i>6 months – 1 year</i>	875	6.48	723	5.50
<i>1 year – 2 years</i>	2 550	18.88	2 481	18.89
<i>2 years – 3 years</i>	2 047	15.15	1 961	14.93
<i>3 years – 5 years</i>	2 558	18.94	2 465	18.76
<i>5 years – 10 years</i>	3 459	25.61	3 440	26.19
<i>10 years or more</i>	1 613	11.94	1 676	12.76
<i>Actual life-sentence</i>	54	0.40	57	0.43
<i>Total:</i>	13 508	100	13 137	100
<i>N.a.</i> ^{6,7}	434	N.r. ⁸	472	N.r.
<i>Pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance</i> ⁹	2 821	N.r.	2 220	N.r.
<i>Pre-trial detention with no final sentence imposed</i> ¹⁰	580	N.r.	474	N.r.
<i>Total:</i>	17 343	N.r.	16 303	N.r.

Table 8

The largest group in terms of the length of sentences imposed is still the group sentenced to 5-10 years of imprisonment followed by 3-5 years and then to 1-2 years sentences. Sentences of less than one year are less typical. Compared to the previous year, there has been a light increase in sentencing periods over 5 years. Furthermore, in the case of sentences of more than 10 years the increase is also noticeable in terms of headcount.

⁶ In the future we use N.a. to indicate cases where we do not have any data.

⁷ According to inmate registry, those inmates who have had their final sentencing, but the administration of their sentence was underway when this data was acquired are not in this report.

⁸ In the future we use N.r. to indicate cases that are not relevant with regard to our analysis.

⁹ With regard to our table we have only considered relevant the number of final sentences thus, differing from previous publications, we have not considered juveniles in pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance and pre-trial detention until sentence at first instance.

¹⁰ Furthermore, regarding our data we have not considered pre-trial detainees with first instance sentences and juvenile pre-trial detainees with first instance sentences.

<i>Suicide events</i>								
<i>Year</i>		<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Number of inmates</i>		17 195	17 517	18 042	17 792	18 023	17 944	17 251
<i>Suicide</i>	<i>Persons</i>	8	7	6	5	9	4	6
	<i>Ratio¹¹</i>	4.65	4.00	3.33	2.81	4.99	2.23	3.48
<i>Suicide attempt</i>	<i>Persons</i>	34	42	49	41	21	8	12
	<i>Ratio</i>	19.77	23.98	27.16	23.04	11.65	4.46	6.96

Table 9

The above figures related to suicide and attempted suicide only indicate the cases with a real suicide crisis¹² in the background. Behind the incidents involving self-harm at the specific institutions there is not necessarily a „genuine intent to die”. Such incidents can be caused by tension relief or problems related to imprisonment (including „manipulative” acts aimed at gaining potential benefits).

As a professional development, and as a result of more efficient treatment of prisoners it can be stated, that the numbers of attempted suicides are decreasing with a slight downward trend over a number of years, the same trend can be observed in terms of ratios in the number of actual cases and the number of inmates, well below the international average, despite a slight increase over the years.

¹¹ Ratio: per 10 000 inmates.

¹² Real suicide crisis means cases where immediate suicide risk is perceived based on exploration, tests and other psychological methods.

Recidivism rates (all inmates)		
Recidivism grade	No. of persons	%
<i>First time offender</i>	7649	46.92
<i>Repeat offender not classified as recidivist</i>	1012	6.21
<i>Repeat offender</i>	1399	8.58
<i>Multiple repeat offender</i>	2989	18.33
<i>Habitual offender</i>	2022	12.40
<i>Violent multiple repeat offender</i>	442	2.71
<i>N.a.</i>	790	4.85
<i>Total:</i>	16 303	100.00

Table 10

Based on recidivism data half of the inmates are first time offenders, while repeat offenders represent approximately 42%, of whom 8.58% are repeat offenders, 18.33% are multiple repeat offenders, 12.4% are habitual offenders and 2.71% are violent multiple repeat offenders.

Foreign national prisoners		
Country	No. of persons	%
<i>Inmates who are Hungarian nationals</i>	15 550	95.38
<i>Foreign nationals</i> ¹³	728	4.47
<i>N.a.</i>	25	0.15
<i>Total:</i>	16 303	100.00

Table 11

The ratio of foreign and non-Hungarian nationals in the prison population was similar to previous years. In addition it can be stated that no significant change occurred in the statistical characteristics of foreign national prisoners.

¹³ Prisoners with foreign citizenship include those with foreign nationality who do not have Hungarian citizenship.

Data related to education and training

<i>Enrolment rates</i>									
<i>Academic year</i>	<i>Primary school</i>		<i>Secondary school</i>		<i>Vocational training</i>		<i>Higher education</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Persons</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>(%)</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>(%)</i>	
2011/2012	1 159	42.55	920	33.77	606	22.25	39	1.43	2 724
2012/2013	787	34.78	836	36.94	602	26.60	38	1.68	2 263
2013/2014	1 151	42.07	819	29.93	720	26.32	46	1.68	2 736
2014/2015	1 083	34.91	858	27.66	1 131	36.46	30	0.97	3 102
2015/2016	1 016	31.8	967	30.27	1 156 ⁴	36.18	56	1.75	3 195
2016/2017	909	30.92	1 218	41.43	770	26.19	43	1.46	2 940
2017/2018	821	27.90	1 252	42.54	828	28.13	42	1.43	2 943

Table 12

Compared to previous years the number of inmates in elementary school education has decreased and the number of inmates in secondary education has shown a slight increase, the data on education and training is almost identical to the data of last year. Overall, it is positive that, while the average number of prisoners is decreasing, the overall enrolment rate is showing a slight increase, so the enrolment rate is also increasing.

In addition to evaluating the data, it should be noted that more and more prisoners are joining vocational training or education while working, thereby helping them to successfully reintegrate into society and to follow a law-abiding lifestyle.

<i>Level of education</i>						
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Persons</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Illiterate</i>	89	0.55	70	0.46	19	1.58
<i>Less than 8 years of primary education</i>	1 694	10.41	1 533	10.18	161	13.35
<i>Primary education</i>	9 519	58.51	8 832	58.63	687	56.97
<i>Unfinished secondary education</i>	1 054	6.48	979	6.50	75	6.22
<i>Vocational education</i>	2 197	13.50	2 109	14.00	88	7.30
<i>Secondary school leaving certificate</i>	1 365	8.39	1 239	8.23	126	10.45
<i>University/College</i>	351	2.16	301	2.00	50	4.15
<i>Total:</i>	16 269	100.00	15 063	100.00	1 206	100.00
<i>N.a.</i>	34		33		1	

Table 13

¹⁴ Due to impact of data related to training not completed within the calendar year or not adjusted to academic schedule as well as other factors, instead of the data published in the 2016/1 Review of Hungarian Prison Statistics (1 993 persons), subsequently corrected data have been published.

For the interpretation of educational data it should be noted that the values indicate the current status. Therefore, the table also contains qualifications obtained since the start of detention, i.e. during incarceration, in addition to the formerly acquired level of education.

The majority of inmates, more than 58% of the total prison population, completed primary level of education, while the second most populous group is made up by those who completed vocational education (13.5%). It can be observed that among female prisoners the ratio of illiterate inmates or those with less than 8 years of primary education is higher, while the ratio of inmates with secondary and tertiary level of education (college/university) is also higher among female prisoners.

III. DATA RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Data related to security activity

<i>Security related data</i>						
<i>Year</i>		<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Number of inmates</i>		18 042	17 792	18 023	17 944	17 251
<i>Absconding</i>	<i>Persons</i>	2	3	1	6	5
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.11	1.69	0.55	3.34	2.90

Table 14

In terms of absconding, it is important to distinguish between two different forms (i.e. violation and offence). Violation occurs if a detainee fails to return to the penitentiary facility within a specified period of time from any type of authorized leave or short term absence. Offence occurs if a detainee removes himself from penitentiary custody (from a closed and/or guarded area or a transport vehicle of the penitentiary facility). The above table presents the latter cases.

The number of escapes decreased in 2018 compared to the previous years, in all cases the escaped detainees were returned to the penitentiary facility within a short period of time.

<i>Compulsory attendance - transport</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Compulsory attendance</i>	64 429	64 066	62 248	55 823
<i>Transport</i>	63 794	61 260	56 549	51 955
<i>Targeted transport</i>	15 332	14 528	13 478	11 673

Table 15

Compulsory attendance means the transportation of inmates to court, prosecution service, medical care or other purposes. As regards the individual penitentiary facilities, the number or compulsory attendances also depends on the number of detainees, as well as the professional profile and the specific purpose of the facility. Transport means, among others, the transportation of detainees to the appropriate penitentiary facilities, medical facilities, or for purposes of compulsory attendance.

Based on data of 2018 the transport and targeted transport figures decreased further, presumably as a result of wide-scale attempts to rationalize the number and organization of compulsory attendance and transport, moreover because of the newly introduced teleconferencing technique and the decreasing number of arrestees.

Data related to employment

Average number of employed prisoners (persons)						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Employment by limited companies of prison service</i>	3 753	4 137	4 405	4 548	4 678	3 861
of which employed by industrial companies:	1 846	2 082	2 334	2 521	2 620	2 320
of which employed by agricultural companies:	1 907	2 055	2 071	2 027	2 058	1 541
<i>Penitentiary employment</i>	2 765	2 741	2 963	3 334	3 483	3 125
<i>PPP employment</i> ¹⁵	723	684	672	749	633	723
<i>Total:</i>	7 241	7 562	8 040	8 631	8 794	7 709

Table 16

Employment is a key element and an important tool of reintegrating prisoners into society. The above table shows the types of employment according to the nature of activity carried out by inmates. It can be seen that the number of inmates employed both by the limited companies and the penitentiary institutions of the prison service increased continuously. The total employment of detainees by the end of 2017 continued in 2018, and the results achieved were maintained.

¹⁵ Public-Private Partnership (PPP) – agreed number of prisoners employed by penitentiary facilities operated in the framework of PPP contract.

IV. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF COMMUNICATION OF PRISON SERVICE

Author: Captain Gergely Kellner

Introduction

The communication of the prison service aims to convey a detailed and accurate image about prisons that is free from distortions and stereotypes. As the result of proactive communication news related to prison service cover a growing number of news items showing professional work in the organization. Authentic, prejudice-free representation of prisons in the media helps professional work, promotes public opinion of the prison service profession, and it can help reintegration of the released into society.

In the current analysis a detailed examination will be provided of media coverage related to prison service in the period from 2016 to the end of the first half-year of 2019.

There is an average of 300 news items monthly about the prison service

In the period from 2016 to the end of the first half-year of 2019 there were 12 629 news items related to the Prison Service. In 2016 a total of 3 149 information units (news items, reports, interviews, coverages, publicist writings) were identified in the Hungarian media content service providers coverage, in 2017 there were 3 758, in 2018 there were 3 664. In the first half year of 2019 2 058 news items appeared in relation with prison service, which is the highest data for the half year periods.

Number of media appearances related to prison service from 2016 to the end of the first half-year of 2019							
	2016		2017		2018		2019
	I.	II.	I.	II.	I.	II.	I.
Media appearances (informational unit)	1303	1846	1972	1786	1623	2041	2058

Table 17

Distribution of media appearances by source type percentage from 2016 to the I. semester of 2019

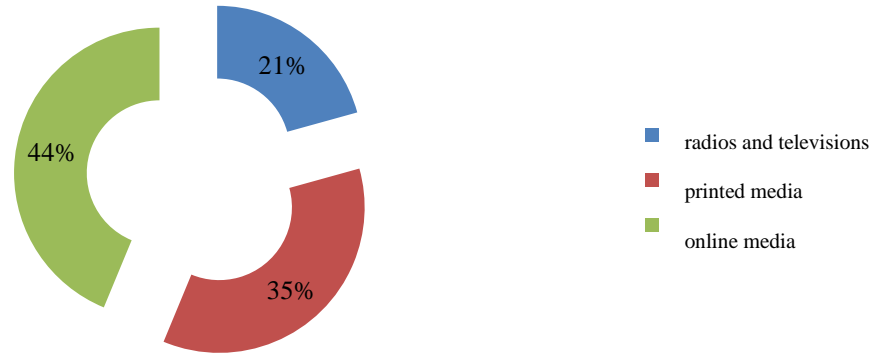


Figure No.1 (Source: Research by Communication Department of Prison Service)

Looking at publication data an outstanding source type of appearances was the online media, which covers 44 percent of the total media appearances. At the same time the proportion of printed media can also be regarded as significant. Radios and televisions covered a little more than one fifth of the media appearances – 21%. In the 42 months examined there were 5525 news items in online media, 4490 in the printed media and 2614 in radios and television.

Number of appearances in communication activities from 2016 - I. semester 2019

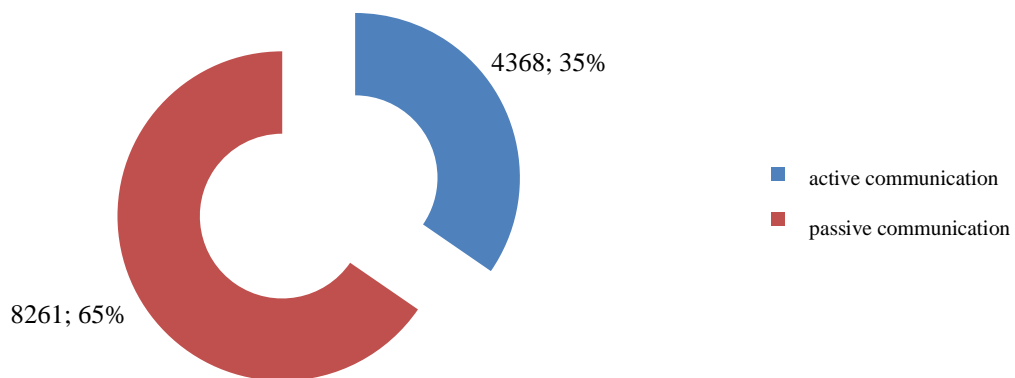


Figure No.2 (Source: Research by Communication Department of Prison Service)

Looking at the type of communication activity 4368 news items (35%) was a result of active communication, their source was the prison service directly. 8261 news items (65%) were a result of passive communication, in these cases it was not the prison service who was the initiator of the communication activity.

Agenda

Based on the data of the last 3 and a half years, 10 information items were issued daily, which were in some way related to the prison service. The topics were mainly related to the most significant areas of the organization, detainees and incidents, as well as the communication campaigns of the organization, court decisions, news about special detainees and escapes.

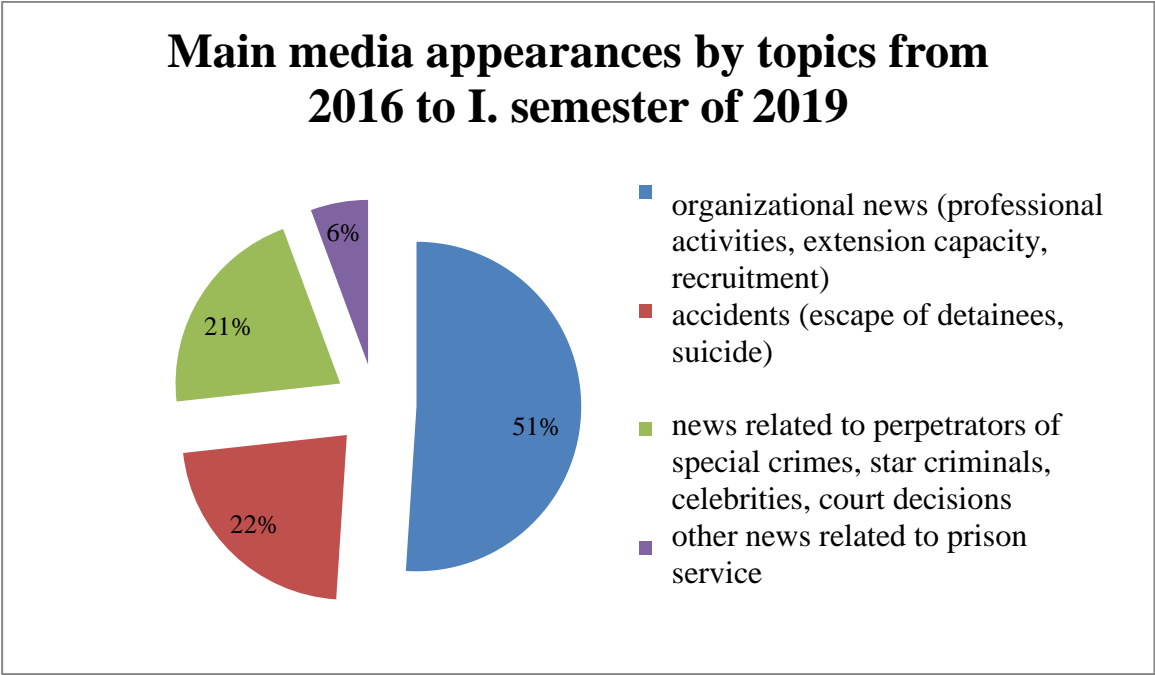


Figure No.4 (Source: Research by Communication Department of Prison Service)

Based on the data, the media’s portrayal of prison centered mainly around three topics: news about perpetrators of special crimes and court decisions (21%), incidents (22%) and the activity of the prison service in general (51%). Only 6% of appearances may not be classified as one of these topics.

Distribution of leading topics by communication activity from 2016 to I. semester of 2019

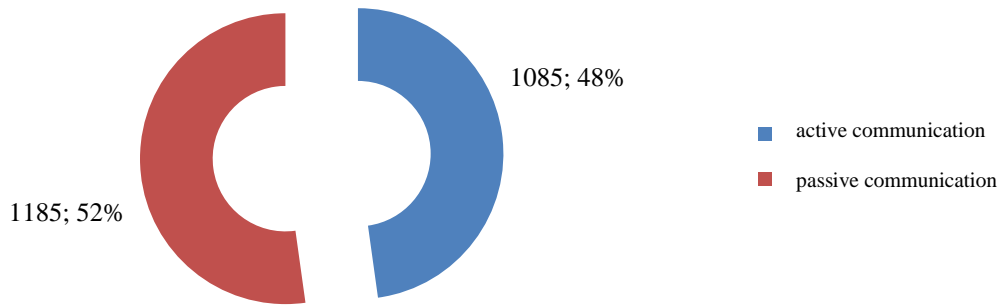


Figure No.5 (source): Research by Communication Department of Prison Service

As a result of the prison service multiyear communication campaign related to recruitment the news related to promoting the profession are leading the list. In the examined period there were a total of 395 news items and citations on these topics in the media. As a result of effective communication on capacity expansion programs, which in many cases are related to recruitment, there were 337 reports and news on this topic in the last three and a half years. This was followed by the case of escaped detainee from the building of Budapest Municipal Court (196 appearances), the fifth place on the list is again about an organizational initiative – the coverage of a Christmas charity and redemption event series which involved personnel of the prison service as well as detainees (114 appearances).

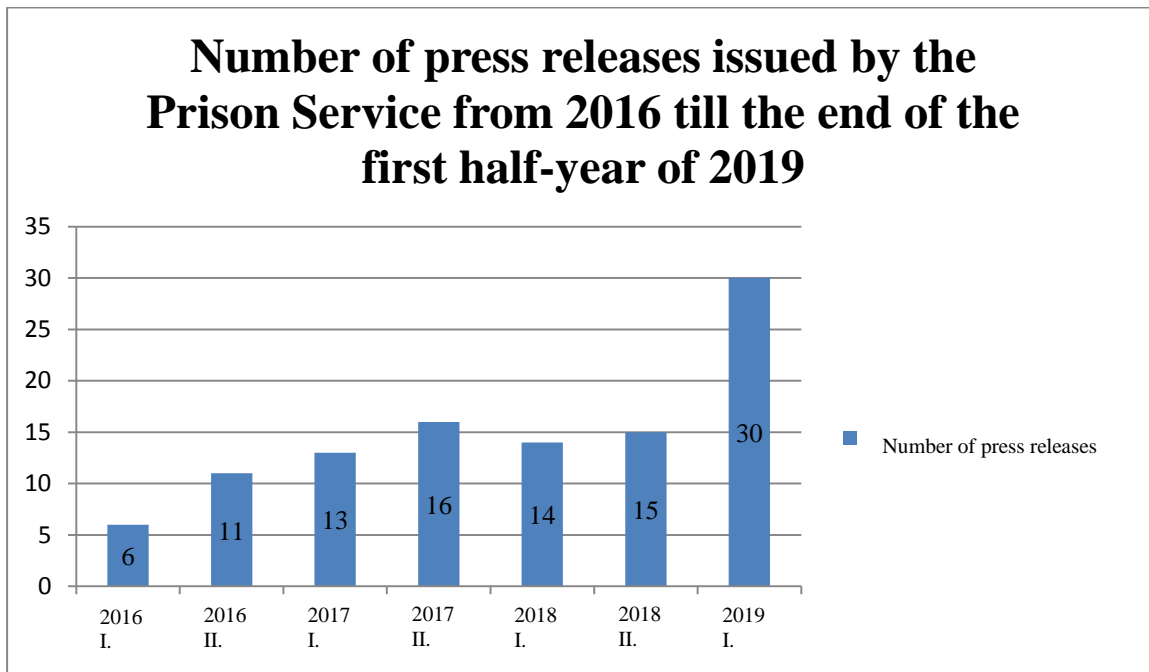


Figure No.6 (Source: Research by Communication Department of Prison Service)

Press releases issued by the prison service are intended to promote a more authentic image of the prison, to increase the social opinion of prison service, and to inform the public. The Communication Department issued 105 press releases in the examined period.

The Prison Service website – Bv.gov.hu

The primary media for the press releases is bv.gov.hu, which is the Prison Service's website. The new website is available from October 12th 2018. It contains not only obligatory official data related to the organization, but also a number of useful and interesting information. One of the main purposes of the bv.gov.hu is to be the primary source of news for the Prison Service communication.

In the period of 2016 to the I. semester of 2019 the bv.gov.hu had 1 104 088 users in 2 169 441 sessions who viewed 8 069 651 pages. Out of the 2 169 441 sessions 61.51% (1334 sessions) were viewed from desktop computers 35.89% (778 528 sessions) from mobile phones and 2.61% (1525 sessions) from tablets by the webpage visitors.

Distribution of sessions on bv.gov.hu by used devices from 2016 to I. semester of 2019

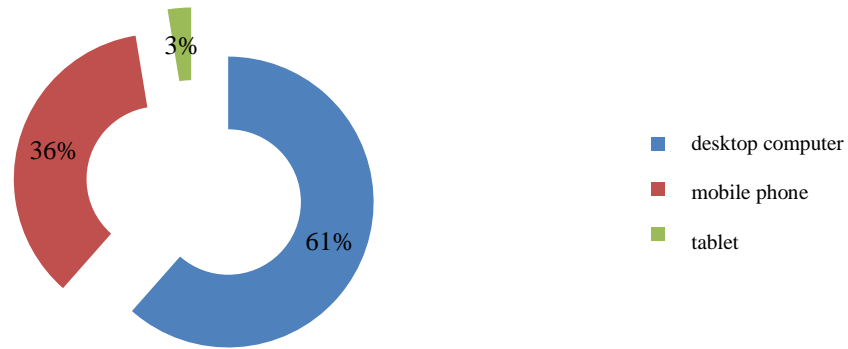


Figure No.7 (source): Research by Communication Department of Prison Service

According to the detailed analysis of webpage visitor data for the first semesters of 2018 and 2019, the number of page viewings registered on the webpage increased by 10% compared to the first half of 2018: while last year in the period of from January 1 to June 30 there were 967 053 page viewers registered, in the same period of 2019 this number exceeded 1 million for the new webpage, to be more precise the number of page viewings was 1 067 168. The visitors of the new bv.gov.hu spent more time on the organization's webpage, the average browsing time increased from 2 minutes and 34 seconds in 2018 to 3 minutes and 3 seconds in 2019. The proportion of returning visitors decreased from 49.42% in 2018 to 43.27% in 2019, which is probably due the increase of higher quality browsing activity.

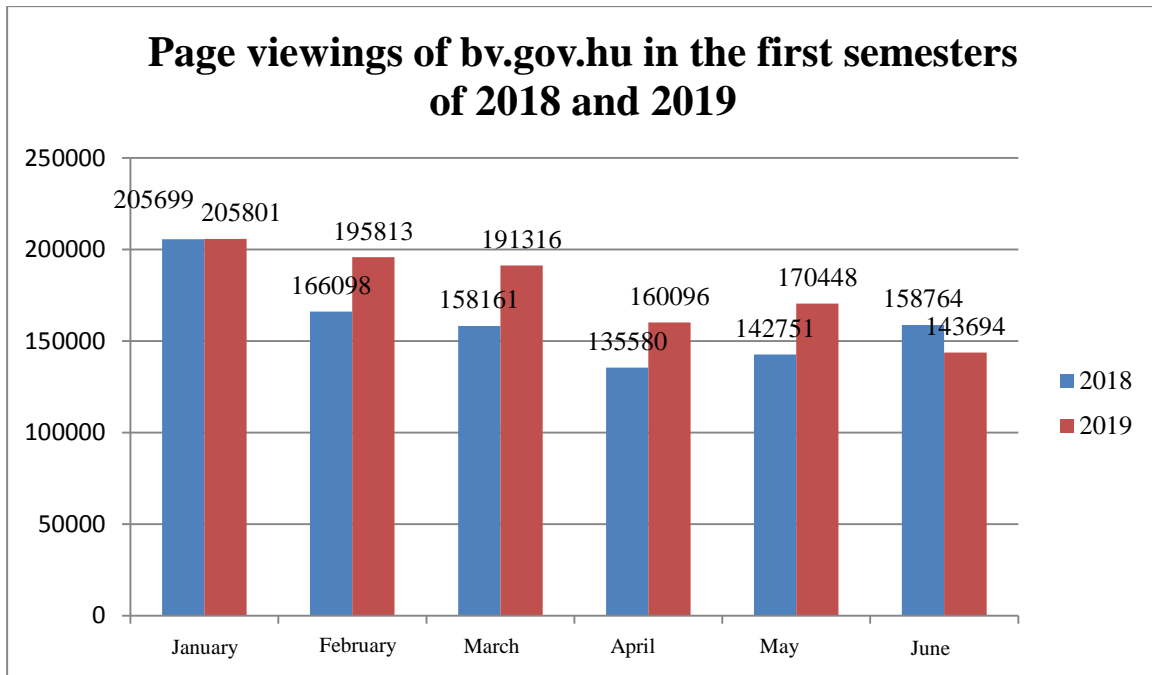


Figure No.8 (Source: Research by the Communication Department of the Prison Service)

Reflection

Based on available data analysed above, active communication and press relations based on long-term communication strategy can bring growing results even in an especially difficult area like communication related to prisons.

V. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The terms listed below are not accurate legal definitions; they primarily serve the better understanding of statistics. Their purpose is to facilitate the interpretation of terms used in prison statistics without extensive legal knowledge.

BASIC TERMS RELATED TO PRISON SERVICE ORGANISATION

Prison Service

The Prison Service is responsible for the enforcement of legally specified custodial sanctions¹⁷ in addition to tasks related to aftercare upon release from prison and correctional probation services. The Prison Service is an independent armed public law enforcement authority under control of the Ministry of Interior.

Hungarian Prison Service Headquarters (HPSH)

The Hungarian Prison Service Headquarters serve as a mid-level governing body of the Prison Service, headed by the Director General. The HPSH is responsible for the supervision, control and professional guidance of the penal institutions and bodies.

Limited company of the Prison Service

The limited companies of the Prison Service are 100% state-owned limited liability companies serving outstanding social and public safety interests, with an aim to provide employment to detainees by means of efficient use of resources in a profit-oriented manner, organised in a holding structure.

Penitentiary institution

Penitentiary institutions, commonly known as *prisons*, are the organisational units of the Prison Service for the actual execution of detention. Such institutions may be categorised based on various aspects. Accordingly, they may be defined as pre-trial or custodial facilities. Pre-trial or county facilities are mainly dedicated to the execution of pre-trial detention, while custodial or national facilities are dedicated to the execution of judicial orders (sentences). In addition, there are various institutions that serve specific professional purposes, including the custody of women, juvenile offenders and detainees receiving therapeutic treatment. In professional terms ‘penitentiary institution’ is used due to the fact that prison has a different meaning according to the severity of the applied regime (see later).

Minimum, medium and maximum security prison facilities

Sentences involving deprivation of liberty must be served according to the regime imposed by the specific court order, i.e. in a minimum, medium or maximum security prison facility. Therefore, in addition/contrary to its commonly used meaning, prison is not an institution,

¹⁷ Punishments, measures, correctional coercive measures, confinement due to minor offence.

but a penitentiary regime determined by the specific court order, ranging from minimum security to maximum security. The strictness of each regime is reflected in the different conditions, the level of institutional control exercised over the individual detainees, the available benefits, etc. Custodial sentences are served as close to the respective places of residence as possible, in penitentiary facilities designated by the Prison Service

BASIC TERMS RELATED TO PRISONERS

Prisoner

According to law-enforcement terminology prisoner is a collective term used for individuals subjected to deprivation of liberty on any grounds, held in various penitentiary facilities. This category includes any individual with a final court order, as well as pre-trial detainees, individuals subjected to compulsory therapy and offenders serving correctional detention.

Correctional detention

Correctional detention is a criminal sanction involving deprivation of liberty, mainly imposed on offenders in relation to whom, based on the relevant social, economic, family related or age related circumstances, no other punishment would be practical due to the moderate gravity of the particular offence, or in relation to whom correctional detention would be considered more effective in the interest of prevention. Correctional detention may be imposed for a period of 5-90 days (as regards juvenile offenders for a period of 3-30 days).

Pre-trial detention until sentence delivered at first instance

Deprivation of liberty ordered by court in relation to offenders subjected to coercive measures (pre-trial detainees) until sentence delivered at first instance.

Pre-trial detention without a final sentence imposed

Deprivation of liberty ordered by court in relation to offenders subjected to coercive measures (pre-trial detainees) until sentence becomes final.

Detention

Detention is a form of punishment involving deprivation of liberty, mainly imposed in cases where the purpose of the specific punishment may be served by deprivation of liberty of a short duration. This kind of punishment may be applied to individuals committing minor offence or criminal offence as specified by the law in lieu of a fine, to be served in penitentiary institutions designated by the law.

Pre-trial detention of juvenile offenders until sentence delivered at first instance

Deprivation of liberty ordered by court in relation to offenders subjected to coercive measures (pre-trial detainees) until sentence delivered at first instance, if the detainee is younger than 18 years of age at the time of committing the specific offence.

Pre-trial detention of juvenile offenders without a final sentence imposed

Deprivation of liberty ordered by court in relation to offenders subjected to coercive measures (pre-trial detainees) until sentence becomes final, if the detainee is younger than 18 years of age at the time of committing the specific offence.

Reintegration custody

Reintegration custody is aimed at optimising the contrast between deprivation of liberty and independent responsible living through control applied over a specific period of time by the competent public authorities. It serves the purpose of reducing overpopulation and deprivation of liberty as well as achieving reintegration goals, and it can be applied to offenders committing less serious crimes, by using electronic monitoring devices based on judicial decision, allowing offenders to spend the last 10-12 months of punishment at home.

In legal terms, it is an atypical form of home confinement.

Provisional compulsory therapy

Provisional compulsory therapy involves deprivation of liberty of persons with mental disorder, imposed by a judge in the course of proceedings (without a final order). Such measures are applied if based on the court's conclusion compulsory therapy would be required upon completion of proceedings. Without establishing liability, the court may order compulsory therapy if an offender suffering from mental disorder was not accountable at the time of committing a violent crime or punishable act involving public threat, and if there is danger of committing a similar act in future, provided that, in case of punishability, the offender would be subjected to a sentence more severe than deprivation of liberty imposed for one year. Provisional compulsory therapy must be performed at the Psychiatric and Mental Institution of the Prison Service.

Compulsory therapy

Compulsory therapy is applicable to offenders committing violent crime against person(s) or a punishable act involving public threat if, due to mental disorder, such an offender is not deemed punishable, and if there is danger of committing a similar act in future, provided that, in case of punishability, the offender would be subjected to a sentence more severe than deprivation of liberty imposed for one year.

Criminal law measures for therapeutic purposes should be applied to offenders committing violent crime against person(s) or a punishable act involving public threat if, due to mental disorder, such an offender is not deemed punishable. The primary aim of these measures is to provide treatment.

Community service converted to imprisonment (to be served in minimum security prison)

An unfulfilled community service imposed in infringement proceedings shall be converted to imprisonment if failure to perform such community service (in full or in part) is attributable to the individual concerned. Four to six hours of unfulfilled community service shall be equivalent to one day of imprisonment.

Financial penalty converted to imprisonment (to be served in minimum security prison)

An unpaid financial penalty shall be converted to imprisonment if failure to pay the imposed fine or, if payment by instalment was granted, failure to pay one month worth of instalment occurs. Imprisonment in lieu of fine shall be of minimum 30, but maximum 540 days duration, where one day of imprisonment shall be equivalent to a fine of minimum HUF 1 000, but maximum HUF 500 000.

Repeat offender not classified as recidivist

A convicted individual formerly sentenced to executable imprisonment due to committing wilful crime, with more than three years passed since the time of release. This category also includes detainees who committed crime formerly or lately, or in both cases, without a wilful intent.

Habitual offender

A repeat offender who committed crime both times in the same or in a similar manner.

Repeat offender

A wilful offender formerly sentenced to executable imprisonment due to committing wilful crime with less than three years passed since completion of sentence or termination of enforceability.

Multiple repeat offender

A wilful offender formerly sentenced to executable imprisonment due to repeat offence with less than three years passed since completion of sentence or termination of enforceability.

Violent multiple repeat offender

A multiple repeat offender who committed all three crimes against person(s) in a violent manner.