



**COVID-19  
Feedback Collection  
19 October 2020**



Supported by the Justice Programme of the European Union

	Infected Prisoner	Infected Staff	Dead Prisoner	Dead Staff	Asked by
Lithuania	0	7			
Belgium	32	118			
Finland	0	1			
Northern Ireland	0	0			
Georgia	0	0			
Cyprus	0	0			
Hungary	0	6			
Slovakia	2	73			
Latvia	0	0			
Slovenia	0	0			
Poland	19	103			
Norway	0	1			
Czech Republic	13	143			
Estonia	0	0			
Sweden	2	-			
Netherlands	4	*			
Spain	106	111			
Israel	12	0			
Italy	6	1	4	2	
Luxembourg	3	0			
Bulgaria	6	25			
Spain - Catalonia	16	36			
Austria	0	0			
Slovenia	0	7			
Denmark	0	0			

Since the beginning of the pandemic 92 inmates (0,8% of the average population) get infected. 32 are still Covid + 118 staff members get infected. 28 Are still absent at work.

\*During the epidemic, there were 6 cases reported in March-April 2020, all recovered. It is the first positive test since then.

\* As of 4th September 2020 the Northern Ireland Prison Service had ten staff and no prisoners test positive for COVID 19.

No COVID infections in Cyprus prisons (inmates or staff).

\* 14 September 2020

To date, 13th of October 2020,

No infected prisoners and staff members in Latvia

This is updated information about the situation in Poland (12th October) - current numbers:

19 infected inmates

103 infected staff members (95 correctional officers, 8 civil employees)

\* 13 staff members have been infected, of which 12 are recovered and 9 inmates/convicted persons have been infected, of which all 9 have recovered.

11 infected inmates (10 convicts and 1 pre-trial detainee)114 staff members (71 uniformed staff members, 43 civilian employees)

In Estonian prison system there are no infected inmates and no infected staff (as of 13.10.20 all 10 infected staff have already recovered).

The Swedish numbers are as follow:Inmates: 2Staff we do not have these statistics

4 confirmed C-19 infections among detainees within the prison administration and 1 confirmed C-19 infection with a detainee within forensic care.

Officers: 111 active cases and 224 under observation; Inmates: 106 active cases and 807 under observation

\* INMATES

- 6 inmates infected as of 12 August 2020
- 243 recovered inmates
- 30 COVID-positive inmates released and/or transferred to their home under the measure of "house arrest"
- 4 inmates dead (of whom 2 died after being released from prison to "house arrest")

PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION STAFF

- 1 (one) staff member infected as of 12 August 2020
- 317 staff members recovered
- 2 staff members dead

To date, 13th of October 2020,

The number of Covid-19 infected inmates in Bulgarian prisons and detention centres:

There are 5 inmates and 1 detainee infected by Covid-19. All of them are recovered.

25 Staff members have been tested positive on Covid-19. 20 staff members are recovered.

The figures in Catalan prisons since march 2020 are as follows:

- Inmates: 16 active positive cases and 172 already recovered (total 188)
- Staff: 36 active positive cases and 185 already recovered (total 221)

The numbers for Prison Administration of the Republic of Slovenia are following (13 October):

7 staff members positive on COVID-19,

0 inmates positive on COVID-19.

\* In Denmark, 3 inmates have tested positive. All three have recovered.

Romania	0	*
Malta	1	1
Moldova	3	30

\* In the Romanian prison system, since the beginning of the epidemic, there have been 148 cases reported among prison staff and 0 cases reported among prison population, until the 31st August.  
1 prisoner still not recovered

**Do the Prison Authorities get petitions from Human Rights Organization about the way the prisons facilities are being managed during the Covid-19 pandemic? If so and there are petitions, what are the responses that are giving to the court and to the public?**

Bulgaria	Bulgarian Helsinki Committee is organizing the conduction of focus groups in the prison in the town of Belene. The focus groups are aimed at informing the staff and the inmates about the Covid-19 infection, the ways of spreading and prevention measures.
Finland	The Criminal Sanctions Agency of Finland has not received petitions from Human Rights Organizations.
Estonia	Estonian Prison Service has not received petitions from Human Rights Organizations.
Cyprus	We never received petitions in the past 6 years
Lithuania	The Lithuanian Prison Department has not yet received any petitions from Human Rights Organizations.
Netherlands	As of yet there have been no petitions from Human Rights Organization regarding the situation around C-19.
Slovakia	As of today, the Headquarters of the prison service has no records on a written submission, resp. a petition from any Human Rights Organization against the activities of individual prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have records on several submissions from inmates and their relatives, in which these persons challenge or question the anti-epidemic measures taken by the prison service against COVID-19. According to our legislation, these submissions/petitions are forwarded for handling to individual prisons, against which they are directed. Moreover, the Headquarters of the prison service is also aware that inmates and in some cases their relatives, send their submissions to the Public Defender of Rights. Then the Public Defender of Rights investigates these objections in the particular prison and the prison provides him/her the cooperation while doing so. It follows from the notifications sent on the results of the handling of these submissions by the Public Defender of Rights that in none of the cases was the violation of the rights of inmates or their relatives in the application of anti-epidemic measures against COVID-19 taken by the prison service.
Czech Republic	The Prison Service of the Czech Republic hasn't received any petitions concerning the restrictions related to C19 pandemic from Human Rights Organizations so far. However, we do receive from these organizations letters or inquiries related to the C19 issue but the communication focuses more on actual measures taken, possible necessary limitations of the rights of inmates and compensations provided. In some cases they deal with individual complaints of particular inmates.

**In this time of the pandemic, do you allow TV crew (reporters and cameras) to enter the prison facilities though there is a risk of infection to inmates / staff or the TV crew?**

Bulgaria	From the beginning of the state of emergency in Bulgarian prison and detention centers TV crew (reporters and cameras) are not allowed to enter the prison facilities.
Finland	During the pandemic time we have not been contacted by TV crews that would like to enter prison facilities. In case this would happen, we would carefully consider whether or not the visit is necessary. Therefore we do not have a procedure. As in Finland: During the pandemic time Estonian Prison Service has not been contacted by TV crews that would like to enter prison facilities. In case this would happen, we would carefully consider whether or not the visit is necessary. Therefore, we do not have a procedural rule in this matter. Every request is being handled individually, depending on the necessity of the occasion.
Estonia	We are very careful regarding the people who enter our facilities: the staff, lawyers, other civil staff, welfare services, medical staff, schools teachers, visitors, police staff, ombudsperson office. It goes without saying that if they present symptoms or their body temperature is more than 37+, are not allowed to enter our premises. Surely, we do not allow TV crews during COVID period
Cyprus	The TV crews have to contact the prisons directly with the request to enter the prison. It is up to the prison director to make a decision whether to allow the crew in or not. During the lockdown no TV crews were not allowed into prisons, the permission may be given after very serious considerations. All precaution measures should be taken to minimize the risk of infection (sanitizing, face masks, social distancing, etc.).
Lithuania	We try to limit the in- and outflow of people in prison facilities as much as possible, so only the people that are strictly necessary for the functioning of the prison are allowed to enter the prison facility.
Netherlands	In connection with the current situation, the contact of inmates with civilians who are not close persons/relatives of inmates or their legal representatives is prevented within the anti-epidemic measures adopted in prisons. Thus, the prison service makes every effort to eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in prisons also by currently preventing the TV crews or individuals from media from entering its premises.
Slovakia	Under current restrictions TV crews are generally not allowed to enter the prisons, however the final decision is upon the prison governor.

**If it possible we would like to have some of your information materials that are giving within the prisons to staff and inmates and the information materials outside of the prisons – to the public and the families in regard the situation inside the prisons facilities.**

Bulgaria	In the attached file you will find the information material, which has been created by Ministry of Health and Medical University of Sofia. The information material is a part of developed written regulations with general prevention measures and a protocol for treatment of infected inmates and detainees, sent to all prisons and detention centers in Bulgaria. The instructions material we have for our staff is written in Finnish. Information material for others is available in English on our website.
Finland	Frequently asked questions (FAQ): <a href="https://www.rikosseuraamus.fi/en/index/topical/corona.html">https://www.rikosseuraamus.fi/en/index/topical/corona.html</a> Coronavirus information for prisoners (in Finnish, English, Swedish, French, Russian and Arabic) in the prisoners' intranet Portti: <a href="https://rikosseuraamus.fi/fi/index/portti/terveysjahyvointi/korona.html">https://rikosseuraamus.fi/fi/index/portti/terveysjahyvointi/korona.html</a> Press releases and news: <a href="https://www.rikosseuraamus.fi/en/index/topical/tiedotteet/2020.html">https://www.rikosseuraamus.fi/en/index/topical/tiedotteet/2020.html</a>

Estonia	Estonian Prison Service has not produced additional information materials concerning Covid-19 pandemic, but we have directed people to use the Estonian Health Board web page that provides the latest information and advice, including the 24/7 hotline for Coronavirus related issues: <a href="https://www.terviseamet.ee/en/covid19">https://www.terviseamet.ee/en/covid19</a> <a href="https://www.kriis.ee/en">https://www.kriis.ee/en</a>
Cyprus	I can provide materials with instructions for the inmates, visitors and staff but the instructions for the staff are only in Greek language.
Lithuania	No special information was prepared, the prisons used the information published on the web pages: <a href="https://npsc.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/visuomenei">https://npsc.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/visuomenei</a> <a href="https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/news/prevenciniai-veiksmi-del-naujojo-koronaviruso-informacija-nuolat-papildoma/koronavirusas/informacija-visuomenei">https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/news/prevenciniai-veiksmi-del-naujojo-koronaviruso-informacija-nuolat-papildoma/koronavirusas/informacija-visuomenei</a> <a href="https://koronastop.lrv.lt/en/#news">https://koronastop.lrv.lt/en/#news</a>
Netherlands	The information that is given to the public regarding the situation inside a prison is dependent on that specific situation, so this differs per prison facility. General information that is accessible to the public can be found on the following website: <a href="https://dji.nl/over-dji/coronavirus/index.aspx">https://dji.nl/over-dji/coronavirus/index.aspx</a> .
Slovakia	In order to inform inmates, prison staff and others about COVID-19 situation (symptoms, how to decrease the risk of infection, washing hands procedure, etc.), the prison service uses information leaflets of the Public Health Authority that are available on its webpage (e.g. annex no.1). In addition, an internal regulation was elaborated that regulates the procedure for anti-epidemic measures in the prison service taken in connection with the second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic.
Czech Republic	Moreover, in connection with restrictions on regular prison visits, an information leaflet was elaborated containing the information about video-visits (annex. no. 2). We don't have centralized materials that are provided to inmates, staff members or to the public. The measures adopted by Prison Service management (HQ) are communicated by the prisons individually.

#### New Arrivals

Cyprus	All the newcomers come with a negative covid test and they are placed in a quarantine unit for 14 days and we repeat the test. If it is negative the inmate is placed in the closed prison - if a positive test appears the inmate will be transferred to a special hospital for treatment or if there are no symptoms the inmate is transferred to a special place outside prisons. This procedure for the repetition of the COVID test started since the 10th of April as it was our suggestion since the 16th of March.
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#### On what legislation are the restrictions imposed on prisoners (such as denying all prison leaves, prohibiting prison visits and limiting activities) based on (e.g. communicable diseases prevention / health care legislation or prison legislation) in your country? (A brief description will be adequate, not need to go to details.)

Lithuania	In Lithuania the restrictions placed on prisoners are based on the Orders of the Director General of the Prison Department, issued in compliance with the Government Resolutions and the decrees of the State Commander of National Emergency Operations
Bulgaria	In Bulgaria all the restrictions for the prisoners such as temporary denying prison leaves, temporary suspension for prison visits and the limitation of activities and instructions for maintenance of good sanitary hygienic condition and frequent ventilation of the air in all premises, regular disinfection of the surface are based on an order from the Ministry of Health for prevention of infection diseases.

#### Have you had to make any law changes in your country to provide the prison service with an adequate legal basis to deal with the epidemic? If yes, what kind?

Lithuania	On 01-07-2020 the amendments to the Penal Sanctions Enforcement Code of the Republic of Lithuania were adopted as a result of COVID-19. The amendments empowered the Director General of the Prison Department, having notified the Minister of Justice, to restrict the inmates' rights in case of the national emergency.
Bulgaria	In Bulgaria there are no legislation changes for providing the prison service with a legal basis to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic.