



**COVID-19
Feedback Collection
5 November 2020**



Supported by the Justice
Programme of the European Union

	Infected Prisoner	Infected Staff	Dead Prisoner	Dead Staff	
Austria	0	0			
Belgium	225				From Belgium we do report the number of cases from the beginning of the pandemic with the number of infected from the beginning and the ones that are infected at the moment. Since the pandemic, 225 detainees have tested positive for Covid19, of which 126 are still active Covid19 (108 sick, 1 detainees in external hospital and 17 post-Covid),
Bulgaria	6	25			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 number of Covid-19 infected inmates in Bulgarian prisons and detention centers: There are 1 inmate and 1 detainee infected by Covid-19. Staff members have been tested positive on Covid-19 - 2. 16 staff members are recovered.
Cyprus	0	0			No COVID infections in Cyprus prisons (inmates or staff).
Czech Republic	13	143			11 infected inmates (10 convicts and 1 pre-trial detainee) 114 staff members (71 uniformed staff members, 43 civilian employees)
Denmark	0	0			* In Denmark, 3 inmates have tested positive. All three have recovered.
England and Wales					https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-covid-19-statistics
Estonia	91	5			* 2 of the 5 infected staff members are teachers from the secondary school that provide education in prison
Finland	0	2			Update to Finnish corona figures: - Prisoners: 0 (during the whole epidemic) - Staff: 2 prison guards (this autumn + 6 members of administrative staff last spring)
Georgia	0	0			
Hungary	0	6			* 14 September 2020
Ireland	8	76			Number in Custody: 3,764
Israel	37	34			
Italy	6	1	4	2	* 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
Latvia	1	2			
Lithuania	2	14			Infected inmates – 2 (1 in an open prison, 1 in a correction house) Infected staff – 14 (7 prison officers, 2 probation officers, 5 administrative staff at the Headquarters)
Luxembourg	32	13			
Malta	1	1			1 prisoner still not recovered
Moldova	3	30			
Netherlands	31				The statistics provided by the Netherlands are the number of positive C-19 cases among detainees at a certain moment. Current number measured at the 28th of October 13 confirmed C-19 infections among detainees within the prison administration. 4 confirmed C-19 infections among detainees within forensic care 4 confirmed C-19 infection among detainees within a correctional facility for juvenile offenders 10 confirmed C-19 infections among detainees within a detention centre. Total: 31 confirmed C-19 infections among detainees.
Northern Ireland	5	43			
Norway	17	35			The latest statistics from the Norwegian Correctional Service are from 29 October. The numbers of inmates/convicted persons infected with Covid 19 are 17. Among staff members, 35 are infected with Covid 19. 16 staff members and 7 inmates/convicted persons have not recovered from Covid 19.
Poland	36	779			
Romania	0	*			* 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.
Slovakia	92	131			

Slovenia	0	7			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.
Spain	203	199			Under observation: 336 officers; 1030 inmates.
Spain - Catalonia	25	46			In Catalonia recently we have had two outbreaks in two of the prisons, hence to date, the figures since march 2020 are as follows: •Inmates: 105 active positive cases and 202 already recovered (total 307) •Staff: 77 active positive cases and 209 already recovered (total 286) Currently, family visits are still possible in all prisons except for the two in which the outbreak has been located. Family visits are taking place with all security measures (temperature measurement, half of the visiting members allowed, facemask, hand wash, 1,5 m distance from the inmate and in a room with ventilation). In the two prisons with the outbreak, families can still visit but in a room with a partition glass.
Sweden	0	-			Since March we have had 160 infected inmates. All of whom are healthy now so as of today 2nd November we have 0 infected inmates.
The IPS would like to know if any jurisdiction has trialled the use of official mobile phones by prisoners in prisons to enhance communications with families and/or prisoner services?					
Catalonia	<p>To date in Catalonia, 221 smartphones and 21 tablets were distributed among the prisons and 30 smartphones and 7 tablets among juvenile justice educative centres for enabling video calls via whatsapp with families. All tablets and smartphones are provided with a tripod and a pointer in order to meet the health safety requirements to prevent the spread. To avoid a possible misuse of the smartphones by inmates these are exclusively managed by the prison staff who would set up the video call for every inmate so that the inmate does not have to touch the device.</p> <p>Initial Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What prisoners are eligible for this phone service and how are prisoners selected for this service? All of the inmates who wish to communicate with their families are eligible. •What security arrangements are in place? Every inmate has a list of phone numbers to which s/he can make regular phone calls. The phone numbers that are included in this list have previously undergone a security check by the prison. The phone number with which the whatsapp video call has to be made, must be one of the phone numbers of this list used for regular phone calls. •What type of devices are used and how are they secured to prevent any abuse of the device i.e. Calls to unauthorised persons? Regular smartphones that are being only managed by prison staff who set the video call in motion for the inmate. During the video call, the inmate is not allowed to touch the smartphone to prevent any possible way to spread of the virus. •Has the use of mobile phone devices been a success? Or have any challenges or difficulties arisen? In general, it can be said that it has been a success as it has allowed inmates to communicate with their families visually in times of lockdown. It has also allowed inmates whose families were living far away or abroad, to meet their relatives for the first time in a long time, and this has proven to have a very positive impact in the inmates in many respects. We are going to start a study with the aim of reviewing the current inmate telephone system; mainly, with the idea of changing to an IP telephony system. •Did the use of a mobile device require any legislative changes i.e. Prison Rules, Criminal Justice Act? No <p>Technical questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Were calls and text messages logged by the prison authority, or just the mobile carrier? Video calls are also registered in our OMS. •Was there a limit on the number of calls and duration? If yes, how was this achieved? <p>Since the start of the pandemic, the time of regular phone calls has been doubled from 10 phone calls of 8 minutes each to 20 phone calls 8 minutes each per person. Video calls frequency and length have been managed like a regular family visit and the record has been kept in a similar way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Were international calls allowed, or just national calls? International calls are allowed via the regular phones. When inmates have no income, their phone calls, both national and international, are at the expense of the prison budget. When using mobile phones, video calls are made via whatsapp which allows for international calls as well. •Was the mobile phone just a basic voice & text phone or were smart phones (iOS/Android) allowed? What functions are enabled/disabled on the phone devices (mobile data, apps etc.)? •The distribution of smartphones and tablets among prisons and educative centres has been made in a very short time to meet the urgency caused by the pandemic preventing the families from visiting their relatives in prison. For now, only prison staff is allowed to manage the smartphones and set the video calls in motion for the inmates every time. Therefore, for now, no application nor function has been disabled or enabled. However, considering to introduce video calls in the long run for those whose families live too far away to visit, we are working on turning it into a system that better meets security standards. 				
Czech Republic	In the Czech Republic communication through mobile phones for inmates and their families hasn't been introduced and currently there are not even any plans for this type of communication. We use prison phone call system and video visits.				
Norway	Mobile phones are not in use in Norwegian prisons. Increased use of tablets (I-pads) has been introduced because of Covid-19.				
Slovakia	In Slovakia, mobile phones are not in use in the prisons.				
Finland	Mobile phones are not allowed in Finnish closed prisons. In open prisons (where we have about 1/3 prisoners) the inmates had already before the epidemic non-smartphones that are provided by the prison.				
France	Family visits are maintained, but in a more restrictive manner: visiting rooms must have protective devices. There is no longer access to family living units. The delivery of laundry by families remains possible but in compliance with sanitary rules. From 01 November, a telephone package of 30 euros is offered to inmates with a telephone account. Phone messaging will again be free.				
Netherlands	No phones are allowed inside of the prisons				
Poland	In Poland, Prison Service does not provide mobile phones to inmates. Due to the pandemic, prisoners have the opportunity to call their families more often.				
Israel	Mobile phone at the Israeli Prisons are not allowed. To add to that I would like to say that there are many attempts from prisoners to try and smuggle cellphone to the prison facilities through visitation.				
Belgium	Mobile devices for telephony for prisoners are not allowed in Belgian prisons. The inmates can use normal fix telephones in the cell or video visit (WEBX) in secured conditions in the common areas.				
Latvia	<p>According to Section 41 Part 6 of the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia, inmates serving their sentence in open prisons are also allowed, with the permission of the Head of the custodial institution, to keep personal computer equipment with Internet access, if it is necessary for the provision of education or employment of the inmate, and a personal mobile phone. Personal computer equipment and a mobile phone held by inmates are subject to inspection.</p> <p>An inmate can receive a mobile phone only by parcel or courier delivery. If there is a permission for the acceptance or replacement of the mobile phone, then, in the presence of an inmate, with assistance of Surveillance Section, the parcel is opened, the mobile phone is verified, registered and immediately issued. Mobile phones issued to inmates are registered in the Mobile Phone, Sim Card and Computer Register.</p> <p>If the phone does not have a permit or the inmate is at work, the mobile phone is kept in the Surveillance Section until issued. SIM cards can be purchased at the prison shop.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, there are no significant changes, so far inmates rarely change phones and SIM cards practically not at all.</p> <p>Inmates keep their mobile phones with them and they are subject to inspection.</p> <p>Inmates in partly-closed prisons with the lowest or highest degree of serving the sentence have free access to payphones located in all units.</p>				

Current and planned COVID-19 lockdown measures and regulations in prison services?

<p>Belgium</p>	<p>The Belgian prison system has strengthened the following measures with effect from 30 October 2020: Fouilles - A check with the MDP during a movement to and from the walk is sufficient. Nothing else changes. The control of windows and bars is retained, as is the case for the celloules. If it is established or suspected that prohibited substances or objects are being brought in, regardless of the road along which they pass, an adequate response must be given. In the case of objects thrown on the walk from outside, the local police may be asked to patrol on a regular basis. The advisability of using a drug dog should be investigated. A mask and gloves must always be worn during the search. Alcohol gel must also be present in the vicinity of the search so that hand hygiene can be respected. Visit - Following the federal measures that have been imposed, external contacts will be limited as much as possible. All forms of visit will be suspended. As compensation for the cancellation of the visit, all inmates present receive extra telephone credit. You will receive more details about this later. Video calls are organised as much as possible. Treatment of clothing and objects of inmates It must remain possible to bring in and take out clothes. If it is possible to wash garments internally, the entry and exit can be limited. Incoming and outgoing mail - Incoming mail refers to all mail (regular mail, registered mail) reaching the prison from outside as well as internal correspondence between inmates in the facility. The measures do not apply to internal communication tools such as report slips. Leave incoming mail untouched in a ventilated room for 24 hours before begging internally. Outgoing mail will be handled as usual. Taking fingerprints of inmates The fingerprints for identification at registration and the photograph of the detainee must be taken. The taking of the 10 fingerprints for APFIS may be postponed until a6. Hearings on disciplinary matters Hearings for disciplinary files Lawyers must always be invited to the hearing. If lawyers themselves refuse to be present during the hearing, the hearing may take place without the presence of a lawyer. Of course, lawyers may not be denied access if they do offer to attend. Lawyers may, at their own request, participate by telephone in hearings for the handling of a disciplinary file. During the proceedings, the lawyer may be called to take part in the part that applies to him or her. Please keep a careful record of all the invitations if it concerns a situation of refusal by the lawyer. For detainees, the same instructions apply as for hearings to deal with a disciplinary file of inmates. Supplement: When dealing with a hearing of detainees, every effort must be made to ensure 1) that the lawyer is present or 2) that the detainee can call his lawyer before the hearing and that the lawyer can be reached by phone during the hearing. If the lawyer refuses to participate physically or by phone, a pro bono lawyer must be appointed. If this also fails, the hearing must still take place. The organisation of the hearings of the complaints committees is discussed between the central administration and the CTRG. After the corona crisis. Access to the prison - Persons who have to speak to inmates for professional reasons are still admitted to prison for the time being. These are, in particular, members of the police, security and intelligence services, judicial authorities, lawyers, the judiciary, communities and health care workers. The premises must be cleaned between each visit, in accordance with the instructions concerning the maintenance of premises. As a minimum, urgent deliveries will continue. Planned works will continue as far as possible. All visits by groups have been cancelled. This concerns, for example, guided tours with students, choirs of the worship services, external sports teams, theatre performances, etc. Student work placements are cancelled unless the school allows this. Observation traineeships are suspended...All requests from the press/media must be submitted to the spokespersons. Changing the regime and activities of inmates. Activities - The 'open-door' regimes are allowed to continue as the detainees are part of the same bubble: - within the same compartment as the walk ; - a maximum of 2 detainees at the same time in 1 cell ; - provided they are required to wear a mouth mask. Furthermore, all regular organised group activities (training, culturally suspended except: Employment: domestic work, working in a cell, working in the studios (also these led by externals). Walk - With regard to the organisation of the walks, the following specific recommendations apply (in order of importance): - Stable compartments (as far as possible the same composition of groups of detainees; mix as few compartments / sections as possible); - Smaller groups; - Longer walking times (if compartmentalisation with smaller groups allows). Library - Books from the library can be kept in cells, but inmates cannot go to the library. - Individual worship in consulting rooms;- Individual discussions with the PSD and external partners; - Activities and therapeutic counselling organised by care equipment and external services in accordance with the instructions of the doctor responsible Individual training courses that take place in meeting rooms or classrooms. Cell mutations - Unnecessary cell mutations must be avoided so that detainees remain in the same stable group as far as possible. This measure should ensure that, in the case of a positive detainee, the risks of further infection are limited to this group as far as possible. Transfers between prisons - Prisoners transferred to another prison are placed in preventive quarantine on arrival and tested. Preventive quarantine is lifted as soon as the result of the test is known and negative. As the capacity of the COVID sections in Bruges and Lant is limited, priority is given to symptomatic detainees. The central medical service is responsible for the placement policy. Methods of enforcement - Suspension of penalties (UV and PV) Execution of all decisions to award UV and PV shall be suspended. Prisoners in semi-freedom or restricted detention can still go on leave, but must be separated from other prisoners. The aim is to prevent contamination from the free society entering the prisons through convicts who enjoy sentences and who, in that context, regularly leave the prison and return to it. The Director may grant an exception where urgent and humanitarian circumstances justify it or if it seriously compromises probation.</p>
<p>Bulgaria</p>	<p>General Directorate Execution of Sentences (GDES) provides measures and instructions in the prisons, probation services and detention centers according to orders from Ministry of the Health and the Ministry of the Justice. Below you will find the imposed current measures in Bulgarian prison facilities by GDES.</p> <p>General Directorate Execution of Sentences has taken protocols which are based on orders from Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Health in order to deal with the Covid-19. The protocols consist of measures and detailed described procedures which are sent to the prison facilities. The current measures, imposed in Bulgarian prisons and detention centers are as follow:</p> <p>General prevention measures in prisons and detention centers – maintenance of good sanitary hygienic condition and frequent ventilation of the air in all premises and regular disinfection of the surfaces.</p> <p>Prisons staff According to the instructions, which have been sent to all prisons and detention centers, all the prison staff with direct contact with the inmates are obligated to wear personal protective equipment. In the protocols the procedures with prison staff members, tested positive on Covid-19 or have being in a touch with someone who is infected, are detailed described.</p> <p>New arrivals are subject of medical examination and monitoring. All new arrivals are obligated to fill in a questionnaire regarding their health condition and questions about being in a contact with someone, tested positive on Covid-19, if known. When an inmate shows symptoms, compatible with COVID-19, the medical staff in the prison is organizing a testing at referent laboratory. Until the results come out, the inmate has to be isolated. All inmates who have been in a contact with the potential infected inmate are isolated. In case that the inmate is tested negative on Covid-19, the isolation is terminated and the inmate is placed under medical supervision for 14 days. An inmate who is tested positive on Covid-19 is isolated and the medical treatment is according to his health conditions and symptoms. In case of complicated infection, the prison chief could prepare a proposal to the prosecutor about suspension of the execution of the sentence because of medical reason.</p>
<p>Czech Republic</p>	<p>The country is currently in a kind of lockdown, however with number of exceptions. Schools, restaurants, bars, cafes, sport and cultural facilities are closed. Most of the shops are closed – apart of shops selling food, chemist's and pharmacies. Hotels can provide accommodation for business travels only. People are recommended to leave homes only to go to work and shopping for food, leaving homes between 9pm and 5 am is forbidden unless you travel to work or to a hospital or back. The government urged state administration as well as private companies to apply home office for all staff members where it is possible.</p> <p>Measures related to prison service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspension of family visits since 23 October: Compensations related: Maximum use of video visits Extended time per a phone call – up to 30 min Increased amount for purchase in prison shop Extended time outside Extended activities of treatment programme Obligatory face masks anytime the prisoners are outside cell or bedroom Obligatory face masks for staff members any time they are outside their office Indoor sport activities in groups of max 10 prisoners Body temperature checks and hand disinfection on the entrances Video conferences with courts, attorneys, prosecuting authorities and probation if possible Limitation of entries of external workers (probation, NGOs, Churches,...) Limitation of transfers of prisoners Home office for all positions where possible (HQ+administration of prisons) Online learning for new recruits

Estonia	In Estonian prisons restrictive decisions are made case-by-case, depending on the regional situation of each prison and the active positive cases inside a prison. Long-term visits are suspended in all prisons. And, in all prisons there is an isolation unit for risk group prisoners (with a severe underlying medical condition, or having a serious disease or medical condition). In case a person is tested positive for C-19, everybody who has been in close contact will be tested, also when necessary a cohort testing of prisoners and prison officers will be carried out.
Finland	The only restrictive measure imposed in Finland so far during the second wave was denying visits and prison leaves over one weekend in one prison after one staff member had tested positive. There have not been any restrictive measures in other prisons. The Ministry of Justice is drafting a law that would allow prison directors to decide on suspending prison leaves, prison visits and activities on the grounds of an epidemic. Currently the legislation does not permit this kind of measures.
Lithuania	Art 119.2 of the Penitentiary Code of the Republic of Lithuania stipulates that "when a state of national emergency, quarantine or emergency situation is declared in the Republic of Lithuania or the parts thereof, the Director General of the Prison Department or the authorized official has the right, after notifying the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, to issue a temporary order, valid no longer than until the state of national emergency, quarantine or emergency situation is revoked, to suspend or restrict: 1) prison leaves; 2) posting of inmates' letters and delivery of incoming letters or handed-over items to inmates; 3) third persons' entrance to the penitentiary establishments; 4) purchase of personal items for inmates; 5) cultural, sports or other crowded/mass events at the penitentiary establishments; 6) implementation of other rights which, pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, may be temporarily restricted during a state of national emergency, quarantine or emergency situation." Long-term visits (up to 24 hrs) were suspended in all the Lithuanian penitentiary establishments since spring 2020. On 29 October short-term visits were suspended. Inmates were offered three additional video visits or telephone calls to compensate short-term visits. Since 30-10-2020 all leaves were suspended for all categories of inmates. Entrance of the community, NGO or religious representatives to the establishments is decided on a case-by-case basis by the director of the correctional establishment.
Spain	On behalf of Spanish Prison Service (central administration), restrictive decisions are taken case by case, depending on the geographical situation of each prison and also the active positive cases inside the penitentiary center.
Netherlands	As of yet there is no plan for a lockdown within the Dutch Custodial Institutions Agency.
Norway	There is no planned lockdown in the Norwegian Correctional Service. The different restrictions which have been imposed during the Corona pandemic, have been manifested in circulars issued by the Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service. The circulars have been revised and evaluated on a regular basis, according to the development of the pandemic in the society. In March many restrictions were enforced, after which they have been gradually eased. Currently, with rising infection rates, different restrictions are being enforced again. This is, however, currently dealt with on a local level. No lockdown is planned at the moment, but this might be subject to change.