



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 5.49 million at September 2008.¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 63.
- Link to Probation Service:
 - www.kriminalforsorgen.dk (National Office of the Prison and Probation Service: Department of Prisons and Probation);
- Links to websites:
 - www.socialrdg.dk (Danish Social Workers Union)
 - www.dst.dk (Statistics Denmark)
- Member of the CEP in: 1981

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- The Danish Welfare Society (a private organization established in 1951) which was an amalgamation of all little societies, mainly funded by private donations, was entrusted with all supervision activities outside prisons.
- In 1973 all probation activities in Denmark were transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The Probation Service is integrated in the Prison and Probation Service, which is part of the Ministry of Justice.
- The Danish Welfare Society though, still exists today as a private foundation. From 1951 this Society had worked with professional staff, but has also to a great extent made use of volunteers in the probation work. The voluntary element is only present to a very small extent today.
- The Probation Service is administered from 14 local offices spread out over the country.
- The Prison and Probation Services in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands are also within the Director-General's field of responsibility.
- The Service administers eight halfway houses with room for 180 residents. The halfway houses are to provide residents with social and educational assistance in order to assist inclusion into society and facilitate moving into an own home. The houses are primarily for those prisoners in the last part of sentence and for clients under supervision who need a place to stay. All houses can accommodate man and women. Most of them can facilitate children.

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

- Despite the age of criminal responsibility is 15, the Probation Service only deals with very few persons under the age of 18, as every effort is done to keep juvenile offenders from the prison and probation system. Juvenile offenders are mainly referred to measures administrated by the social services.

Tasks

- Core activities of the Prison and Probation Service are amongst others:
 - preparation of pre-trial reports (approximately 12,000 per year);
 - supervision of offenders given a suspended sentence, community service order or mentally disordered offenders, and other community based orders (daily about 7,500);
 - supervision and control of offenders on electronically monitored schemes (daily about 200);
 - supervision of offenders released on parole (daily about 1,500);
 - working with remand prisoners (about 1,700 places in remand prisons);
 - networking with authorities and organizations in order to provide enhanced opportunities for social inclusion;
 - crime preventive work – i.e. talks in youth clubs and schools, participation in the SSP-cooperation (school – social services – police) in local areas.
- Activities of the Danish Welfare Society:
 - offering economic assistance to offenders and families when the social welfare system, or the probation and after-care system, cannot help;

Number of staff in the Danish Probation Service (excludes the Prison system)

- Chief probations officers:	14
- Senior probation officers:	24
- Probation officers:	278
- Administrative staff:	80
Total:	396

- Daily average number of offenders/clients dealt with: about 9,000.

New developments

- A steering model for the Probation Service was introduced in 2005 in order to secure the quality of work done and to be able to distribute resources effectively. The steering model monitors both the quantity and the quality of the service delivered. The file of each client is kept in a client system accessible from the Department of Prisons and Probation, who monitors the case handling and interferes if necessary.

- Electronic monitoring was introduced in July 2005.
- Motivation: acknowledging the fact that motivation is the best way of promoting change, the Probation Service is involved in a program in each remand prison that aims at reaching drug addicts at the earliest possible stage in the system.
- More treatment: after relying many years on external treatment facilities, the Prison and Probation Service now delivers a growing number of treatment possibilities (amongst others treatment for drug and alcohol addicts).
- Mentoring programme: started in 2000 entailing intensified supervision of young persons between 15 and 25 years with a non-Danish ethnic background following a sentence and perhaps incarceration.
- Rehabilitation project: the municipality of Odense and the Ministry of Immigration and Integration entered into a comprehensive rehabilitation project (started in 2006) with the aim of helping serious criminal offenders between 18 and 30 years of age to live law-abiding lives.
- Project Good Release. It started in 2006 and involves prisons, probation and social services in 8 municipalities of Denmark with the aim of optimizing the release situation.

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		
Supervision/assistance to pre-trial detainees	x		
Supervision/assistance etc. to offenders whose case were conditionally waived	x		
Supervising/organizing etc. community service		x	
Supervising/organizing training or learning projects		x	
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programs		x	
Supervising etc. electronic monitoring		x	
Other community sanctions, namely: Supervising/organizing special treatment orders replacing incarceration		x	
Supervising sexual offenders subjected to a treatment order		x	

Pre-sentence report	See above		
Supervising sexual offenders subjected to a treatment order		x	
Supervising etc. sanction of probation		x	
Supervising etc. suspended sentence		x	
Supervising etc. the mentally ill or retarded offenders (in-out patient orders)		x	
Supervising etc. conditional sentence		x	
Assistance/support to offenders in home detention		x	
Supervising etc. conditional release/parole			x
Advisory report with respect to amnesty/pardon		x	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](#).

