



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 21.46 million at the end of 2009. ¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 124.
- Link to Probation Service:
 - www.just.ro (Probation Department of the Ministry of Justice).
- Links to websites:
 - www.anp-just.ro (National Administration of Prisons).
- Member of the CEP in: August 1999.

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- The centralized Probation Service in Romania is a governmental service, which falls under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.
- The Probation Department of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the overall management. The Department is coordinated by two directors, who are appointed by the Minister. Near each county court (41) a probation office, led by a head of the Probation Service, functions. The offices serve to local courts as well. Each probation office is 'administratively' subordinated to the president of the county court (salary, legal holidays, travel, equipment, offices), but in terms of policy and management they fall under the competence of the Probation Department. In this way the Probation Service is not yet an independent agency under the authority of the Minister of Justice.
- The Probation Service deals with adults as well as young adults (18-21 years) and juveniles (aged 14-18 years). Furthermore, they are also involved in working with minors under the age of criminal responsibility (under the age of 14 years). They for instance have to provide reports upon request of a court for minors in conflict with the law, who are not criminal responsible.
- Supervision consists of compulsory control imposed by the court, and assistance, support and counseling provided upon the offender's request. The control is in a large majority of cases dominant.
- The total annual expenditure for the Probation Service was € 1.566.600 in 2006, while the expenditure for the Prison System in the same year was € 177.652.868.

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

Tasks

During the pre-trial stage the Probation Service is obliged to provide the court/prosecutor with an evaluation report (a social inquiry report) for all youth above the age of criminal responsibility (14 years of age). A court can also request the Service to write these reports, if the defendant is a child under the age of 14. Furthermore, probation officers can deal with victims of a crime. They may for instance provide psychological counseling and other forms of assistance. The law allows the Probation Service to cooperate with NGO's regarding the execution of 'other forms of victim assistance'. Within the trial and enforcement stage, probation officers are involved in making pre-sentence reports at the request of a court or a prosecutor. However, the most important task of the Service during this stage is the execution of community sanctions and measures (supervising community service, suspended sentence, drug/alcohol treatment programmes). Moreover, probation officers may offer support for social reintegration of offenders. Upon request, the officers can provide assistance to offenders under probation supervision and to persons in prison. According to the law, the Probation Service has no responsibilities in relation to ex-prisoners. Although some probation offices deliver pre-release programs, they are not responsible for monitoring or supporting ex-prisoners after release. Sometimes when an ex-prisoner asks for the Probation Service's support, he or she is referred to other social work agencies or to an NGO.

Number of staff

- Number of staff in 2009: 298.
- Daily average number of offenders/clients dealt with: 8,198 offenders were supervised by the Probation Service (2009); the number offenders supervised per probation worker was 27,51 (2006); the average number of evaluation reports dealt with per probation worker was 26,54 (2006). It should be kept in mind that there are big statistical differences regarding the different probation offices and the numbers vary per month/year.

New developments

In 2009 a new Criminal Code was adopted (the code is expected to come into force in 2011). With the new Criminal Code, the number of community sanctions and measures has increased (postponement of sentence, conditional release etc.), which will result in a Probation Service being more visible in the judicial practice. Furthermore the Service since 2005 has been going through an intensive professionalization process. This is more obvious in terms of developing standards, accredited programs and standardised tools. The constant concern for best practices, training and research-based programs leads the Service towards performance.

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post Release Phase
Preparing a social inquiry report (for all juveniles in conflict with the law)	x	x	
Mediation/victim support			
Supervising / organizing etc. community service		x	
Supervising / organizing training or learning projects		x	
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programs		x	
Supervising the educative measure of supervised liberty for juveniles		x	
Pre - sentence report	x	x	
Supervising suspended sentence under supervision		x	
Assistance / support to probationers and prisoners in prison		x	
Supervising paroled offenders			
Assistance / support to persons who are granted pardon			x
Other activities, namely:			
1. providing psychological counselling to victims	x		
2. participating to the first interview of the victim	x		
3. crime prevention	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](#).

