

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON PROBATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



General Information

- Number of inhabitants: 10.53 million at the end of July 2009.¹
- Prison population rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 208.
- Link to Probation Service:
 - www.pmscr.cz
- Links to websites:
 - www.justice.cz (Ministry of Justice);
 - www.spj.cz (Association for the Probation and Mediation Justice =SPJ);
 - www.bkb.cz (Association for Assisting Victims of Crime=BKB);
 - www.vscr.cz (Prison Service).
- The PMS is CEP member since the first of January 2009.

Characteristics of the Probation Service

- The PMS was constituted as a nationwide organization, which started its operation in January 2001; the Act on the Probation and Mediation Service (PMS) passed parliament in 2000.
- The PMS is a state probation organization, which is funded by the government (responsible: the Ministry of Justice).
- Internal organization:
 - PMS works closely with the Council of Probation and Mediation, an advisory body of the Ministry of Justice. The Council is involved in the planning and development of probation practice. Members are, amongst others, representatives of the PMS, judges and state prosecutors;
- Other organizations involved in probation work:
 - non-profit organizations;
 - prison service.
- Clients of the PMS are persons who committed crimes and those who have been victimized by crime as well as the community concerned. The PMS works with both adults and juvenile offenders.

Tasks

- The key area of operation is assumed to be the pre-trial criminal proceedings. During this phase, the PMS provides services for both the victim and the accused directed at settling conflicts arising out of criminal offence. This involves :

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

- mediation between the victim and the accused;
- delivering of pre-sentence reports.
- Cooperation of the victim as well as the accused with the PMS is voluntary (PMS applies the principle that it is more effective to cooperate than to compel the accused merely on the basis of the powers entrusted by the law).

Number of staff

- The PMS staff (431 persons at the first of January 2010) consists of:
 - 315 officers;
 - 93 assistants;
 - 23 headquarters staff
- Daily average number of offenders dealt with by the PMS: unknown.

New developments

- The PMS in line with its national priorities for 2007-2009 aims to develop the following core issues:
 - improve the quality of the system of youth probation programmes;
 - develop and implement the accreditation system for the probation and rehabilitation programmes for adult offenders;
 - introduce a certification system for restorative justice and victim support programmes;
 - implement a system of five core specializations of PMS staff (mediation, probation-supervision, parole, community service order and juveniles) including further development of existing specialization training courses;
 - implement a pilot project testing a service for victims of crimes;
 - implementation of new sanctions and measures introduced by a new Penal Code (since 1/1/2010): home detention, prohibition of participation on specific social events (especially regarding football hooliganism).

Probation during the different stages of the criminal procedure

	Pre-Trial Phase	Trial and Enforcement Phase	Post Release Phase
Supervision/assistance to pre-trial detainees	x	x	
Supervision/assistance etc. to offenders whose cases were conditionally waived	x	x	
Supervision/assistance to offenders whose pre-trial detention has been	x	x	

conditionally suspended			
Mediation/victim support	x	x	
Supervising/organizing, etc. community service	x	x	
Supervising/organizing training or learning projects	x	x	x
Supervising etc. drug/alcohol treatment programmes	x	x	x
a. Diversions	x	x	
b. Educational and penal measures for juveniles	x	x	
c. Waiver of criminal proceedings	x		
Pre - sentence report	x	x	
Supervising etc. sanction of probation	x	x	x
Supervising etc. suspended sentence		x	x
Supervising etc. special measures for drugs addicts	x	x	x
Supervising etc. conditional release/parole			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](#).

