

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY IN ROMANIAN PRISONS

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PROJECT
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The Romanian Prison System: A Brief Overview

Prison Overcrowding

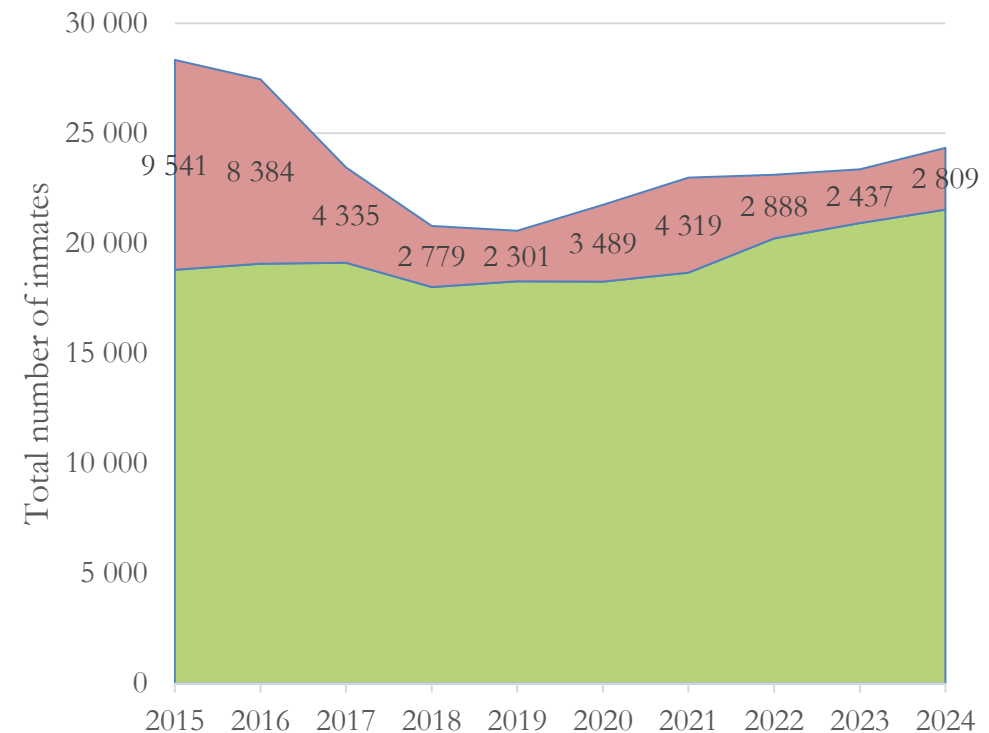
● Historical chronic overcrowding

⚖️ **Rezmiveş and Others v. Romania** (ECHR, 2017):

- Violation of Article 3: overcrowding, poor hygiene, bad food, lack of ventilation, pests
- Court issued a pilot judgment, recognizing a structural problem

📊 Recent Situation:

- Despite reforms, overcrowding remains high (over 115% in recent years)
- Ongoing investments and new facilities, but the problem persists



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Environmental and Sustainable Life Education in Prisons

Ecological Education Program

- Aims to develop ecological behavior and pro-environmental values
- Open to all inmates
- 1,084 participants (2024–present)

Sustainable Life Education Program

- Focuses on responsibility towards the environment and others
- Promotes positive social attitudes and work ethic
- Open to all inmates
- 896 participants (2022–present)

These programs help build environmental awareness and responsible habits among inmates.



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Gardening Workshops in Romanian Prisons

Occupational Gardening

- Teaches sustainable living and responsible behavior
- Activities: decorative plants, green space design, herb cultivation, garden maintenance

Gardening Workshop

- Practical skills: tool use, soil prep, planting, maintenance, harvesting
- Prepares inmates to manage home gardens and grow their own food

Impact

- 1,709 participants (2022–present)




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Practical Vocational Training: Plant Cultivation

-  **Hands-on learning in vegetable cultivation**
 - Inmates gain practical skills through peer-led group activities
 - Focus on essential tasks: soil work, planting, maintenance, and harvesting

-  **Professional Training Courses (2024–2025):**
 - Plant Cultivation Worker: 17 participants
 - Green Space Caretaker: 214 participants
 - Vegetable Grower: 30 participants

These programs support skill development and reintegration into the workforce.



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Farming Behind Bars: The Timișoara Model

Large Agricultural Operation

- 150 hectares of farmland and over 1,000 animals
- Inmates are involved in crop cultivation and animal care

Self-Sustaining Production

- Food is produced and consumed within the prison

Cost Savings

- Daily food cost per inmate is only 1.6 EUR, covered by the state

Work and Reintegration

- 80 detainees live and work in the two external sections at Timișoara




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Prison Inmates in National Environmental Volunteering

 Active in **"Let's Do It, Romania!"** since 2010
- National Administration of Penitentiaries (NAP)
involves inmates and staff in annual clean-up campaigns

 **"Planting Good Deeds in Romania"** (2017–2022)
- ANP and EcoAssist collaborated on nationwide tree-planting
- Inmates and staff contributed to reforestation efforts

 **Romania's Return Guarantee System (SGR)** – 2024
- Deposit: 0.50 RON (€0.10) per container; refunded at return points
- Over 3 billion containers returned in first year; 84% collection rate by October; goal: 90% by 2026



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DELTA Project: Eco-Reintegration for Inmates (Norway Grants)

Goal

- Train inmates in eco-construction and crafts for better reintegration

Actions

- 126 inmates trained; 5 eco-houses built in the Danube Delta
- 50+ staff trained in human ecology
- Focus on Roma inclusion

Impact

- 5 public events, 14 partnerships, national promotion
- New training infrastructure, reduced recidivism

Budget: €580,320 | Period: 2014–2017



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DELTA Project: Romania's Bastøy

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Human Ecology in Action: Shaping the Future of Prisons

What is Human Ecology?

- Study of how humans interact with natural, social, and built environments
- Emphasizes sustainable practices for long-term coexistence

Sustainable Construction & Operations

- Prisons use eco-friendly materials, renewable energy, and reduce waste

Green-Collar Training & Prison Gardens

- Inmates gain skills through green job training and gardening, aiding rehabilitation

Challenges

- Balancing security with sustainability
- Some initiatives may be more symbolic than practical



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THANK YOU!

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