

Major events in 2013

The new Prison Service Code

On December 17 the Parliament of Hungary adopted Act no. CCXL of 2013 on punishments, measures, forced measures and detention for misdemeanors. For the first time prison service work is regulated through an Act, the highest level in Hungarian legislation. The new Prison Service Code is a forward-looking piece of legislation that sets a new course for Prison Administration for decades to come.



Capacity expansion, modernization, development

In December 2013 the total capacity of the Hungarian Prison system increased by 159. In 2014 Hungarian prisons are expected to see another capacity expansion of 1200.

In Pécs and Kecskemét buildings were modernized, new heating installed, security improved, engineering and electricity refitted, ventilation replaced just to mention a few. Materials manufactured by prison enterprises were used wherever possible, and prisoners were employed for every task they are skilled to perform. In Kecskemét the kitchens were completely refitted. With the modernization of its site in Gyorskocsi street, the capacity of Budapest Remand Prison increased by 100. The new premises were officially opened on December 18.

In order to increase prisoner employment and make the organization more self-sufficient, Állampusztá Agricultural Ltd. constructed a new poultry slaughterhouse, which was officially opened on January 24. The unit cost HUF 500 million and is capable of processing 1100 tons of poultry meat to EU stan-



dards. The modern plant and its supporting operations created 80 prisoner workplaces. The prison enterprise grows crops and vegetables and farms animals: it has the capacity to raise 80-90 thousand turkeys and 700-800 thousand chicken a year.

On October 18 an outlet store for products made by prisoners, the first of its kind, was opened in Sátoraljaújhely. The Prison Service is planning to set up a franchise network to sell its products. The first store is owned by clothing and textiles manufacturer Adorján-Tex Ltd.

Several institutions renovated their buildings in 2013. Part of the cost was funded by the central budget and part of it came from various tenders. Hajdú-Bihar County Remand Prison finished renovating its outer walls and sentry stations on July 10. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Remand Prison started using its new hanging bridge and firesafe supporting structure on July 29. Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison reconstructed its facade and added staff changing rooms to its unit II; both were officially opened on August 2.

Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison renovated its Unit III summerhouse roof structure, Sátoraljaújhely Strict and Medium Regime Prison and Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison Unit B renovated prisoner sanitary facilities, and Prison Service Headquarters refitted its building to accommodate a cafeteria for 50.

Zala County Remand Prison opened its new prisoner classroom on August 30, but the institution made other investments, too, such as creating vegetable and meat processing chambers, a cold storage, renovating prisoner sanitary facilities and reconstructing staircases.

The first tender project to finish was Közép-dunántúli National Prison's energy management modernization in Baracska. The investment cost HUF 16 million and used prisoner labor to create secure, modern and cost-efficient buildings.



Budapest Remand Prison held an opening ceremony for its solar power system on April 25. The institution received HUF 65 million in 2011 to create a photovoltaic system; the investment is expected to save HUF 2.5 million in energy cost every year.

Tolna County Remand Prison finished the construction of its new roof, complete with solar panels, on October 1. The investment aimed at reinforcing the roof structure and supplying hot water. The solar project received HUF 16 million funding under Hungary's „Új Széchenyi” program, while the Prison Service provided HUF 20 million for renovations. The investment is expected to bring a 60-65% saving in energy costs by providing hot water, which is about 10% of the institution's total energy cost.

Tököl Juvenile Prison finished its modernization project on November 22. The investment cost HUF 586 million and covered the main gate, the offices of the security department, vehicle maintenance workshops, the visitor's building, the Governor's offices, and prisoner living quarters.

Flood control

In June 2013 the Prison Service, like other law enforcement organizations, participated in flood control operations. Officers and prisoners volunteered to work in flood control and damage control, and did so with exemplary dedication and discipline. 1046 members of staff and 1992 prisoners from 29 institutions



contributed to control efforts in twelve, and damage control in twenty towns and villages. We received a lot of praise from the Mayors of the villages, the emergency services, and experts of water and railroad management.

The Master of Prison Administration competition

The finals of the national Master of Prison Administration championship were held on August 29 and 30 at Prison Service Training Center in Igal. Challenges incorporated the theory and practice of prison service work; the institutions could delegate teams of six. The Állampuszta National Prison team won the game.



St. Adrian's Day

Prison Service Day was held on September 6, for the 18th time, in Balassagyarmat. At the opening ceremony various awards and honors were presented to members of staff. Institutions nationwide organized family events for staff to celebrate prison service work.

Szombathely National Prison held its St. Adrian's Day celebration on September 9. The municipality of Szombathely presented a flag to the institution on its 5th anniversary.



Scientific community

Hungarian Corrections Society organized its forum on prison history on June 11 at ELTE Law School.

An international corrections conference was held at the Ministry of the Interior on September 25. The topic was Hungary's new Prison Service Code; experts from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the CPT were present.

On November 5 the Ministry of the Interior hosted another prison service conference titled "A new era in corrections", organized by the Law Enforcement Scientific Committee and Prison Service Scientific Com-

mittee. Speakers talked about the past, present and future of the Prison Administration; the Prison Museum brought a special exhibit, and products made by prison enterprises were available.

Law Enforcement Scientific Committee presented awards for scientific achievement on November 29. Lt. Mihály Somogyvári from the Department for Strategic planning at Prison Service Headquarters earned first place in the Law Enforcement Review competition. Prison Service Scientific Committee awarded Lt. István Nagy from Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison first place for a paper on digitalizing 1950's media for historical research.



National sports championships

Like in previous years, national sports championships were very popular with the institutions. Except for the service dog competition, the events were organized by Prison Service Training Center.



April 17: cross-country running championship. 475 competitors from 30 institutions; the Állampusztá National Prison team won.

May 22: service patrol championship. 26 teams, Vác Strict and Medium Regime Prison won.



May 31: service dog competition. 41 competitors from 12 institutions; Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison won.

June 19: small court football championship. Six finalists participated, the Pálhalma National prison team won.



September 11: shooting competition. 120 competitors, 30 institutions; Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison won.

October 9: chess championship finals. Six finalists; the Juvenile Prison team won.

November 13: judo championships. 120 competitors, 14 institutions; the Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison team won.

The award ceremony for all sports championships in law enforcement was held on December 11 at National police Headquarters Training Center. First place in the all-year Prison Service championship went to Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison.

First prison drama festival

On June 20-21 Pálhalma National Prison hosted the first Prison Drama Festival at the House of Arts in Dunaújváros. Prisoner companies from six institutions performed their plays to a jury lead by actress Judit Pogány. Best performance was that of Tiszalök National Prison company, best director went to the Forensic Mental Hospital company, best screenplay went to Állampusztá National Prison company and best actor was a prisoner from Budapest Remand Prison.



