

# FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

I am glad to present the latest Prison Service Yearbook to you, hopeful that, like in previous years, you will be able to see the whole picture of our activities through it.

Last year's news were dominated by a structural change in the Government, which also affected our supervision: after 47 years of separation, the Prison Service is once again subordinated to the Ministry of the Interior. Joint supervision helped us reinforce our relations with other law enforcement agencies, and brought a positive change to our financial and staffing situation.

Despite our difficult financial situation and long-term structural problems, we remained faithful to our mission to perform all of our legally required obligations. We maintained strict budgetary control. We lived up to many challenges using our internal resources and new approaches to finance. I dare say that 2010 was the first year in a long time when we managed to finish the year with a reassuring debt situation.

The recent changes in criminal justice and other legislation, along with a steep incline in prisoner numbers, brought challenges for the Prison Service. These trends had a clearly visible effect, and our staff needed all of its dedication, skill and moral strength to balance it out. Our prisons are safe, and prison service work complies with the applicable standards.

Social reintegration programs, workshops and trainings in prisons continued to be a priority last year. By offering spiritual guidance to prisoners, prison pastors contributed to our work towards two of our main goals: successful social integration and stability in our institutions.



Last year the Prison Service distinguished itself in emergency relief efforts during the floods. In recognition of our social awareness, we received, for the first time, a Certificate of Excellence from the Prime Minister.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the management of the Ministry, and representatives of partner organizations, non-governmental organizations and religious organizations for their efficiency and generosity in assisting us to such an extent as they do with our professional efforts.

And I hereby thank all of Prison Service staff for their dedication to deliver our main objective: expertise, humanity and legal conformity in incarceration.

**Antal Kökényesi, Dr**  
**Lieutenant General, Senior Prison Advisor,**  
**Director General**

# ACTIVITIES OF THE HUNGARIAN PRISON SERVICE 2010

**Management, control, monitoring**

## Organizational changes

The year 2010 brought several changes to the life of the Prison Service. After the general election a new government structure was created, which caused fundamental changes in the organization of central public administration. After 47 years of separation, the Deed of foundation of the new Ministry of the Interior subordinated the supervision of prison administration, yet again, to the Ministry of the Interior.

After the change of government there was a lot of new legislation, and many of the newly passed regulations affected prison service work. Under an amendment to Act no. LXIX of 1999 on misdemeanours, perpetrators of misdemeanours against property are now to be incarcerated by the Prison Service. This change in legislation, together with other changes in the Criminal Code (the mean value clause and the so-called "three strikes" principle) resulted in an increased demand for prison capacity.

The internal structure of prison administration also changed: Nagyfa National Prison merged into Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison, and all juvenile prisons were integrated into the county institutions they fall under jurisdiction of (Szirmabesenyő-Miskolc, Kecskemét, Pécs).

In order to increase prison capacity, we had to reopen temporarily closed prisoner living quarters at the Solt unit of Állampuszta National Prison.

## Monitoring and audit

Targeted and topical audits were more frequent than in previous years; they took place on a total of 260 occasions, covering all professional and functional activities of prison administration. Prison Service Headquarters (PSHQ) held comprehensive audits at Állampuszta and Pálhalma National Prisons, Hajdú-Bihar, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Veszprém County Remand Prisons, and prison enterprises in Állampuszta and Pálhalma.

An expert committee, headed by the Deputy Director General for Security and Incarceration, investigated service shift management and overtime duty accounting practices in several institutions. The committee continues its work in 2011.

Of the external supervisory authorities, prosecutors' offices maintained their usual level of intensity in legal conformity investigations. They performed a total of 1192 audits at various Prison Service institutions. In addition to validating legal conformity at these institutions, the investigations also provided valuable insight through statements and opinions, thus contributing to the success of our operation. The State Audit Office, as usual, made a comprehensive audit of the financial management of our budget chapter in 2009, in which PSHQ was also required to submit financial documents. None of the investigations revealed any irregularities.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights visited 8 locations and made 14 on-site investigations, including some follow-up investigations to measure the efficiency and results of previous audit recommendations.