

The presentation provides an overview of the Portuguese prison and probation services presenting data related to prison population, crime typology and legislation. A particular emphasis is given to intervention programs, mainly regarding inmates and probationers attending specific programs for domestic violence (e. g. spouse abusers) and sex offenders. Recent data on recidivism rates are discussed concerning the efficacy of the current approaches based on the R-N-R model. Staff recruiting and training is a subject of particular concern since the actual number of employees in the system is diminishing and aging, while different types of criminality and criminals are entering thus posing particular challenges for the prison and probation services. More recent approaches related to electronic monitoring and artificial intelligence as useful tools to manage risk evaluation and offenders' treatment are also discussed to improve correctional interventions.