Audit Report 12/2021

"Social Reintegration of Prisoners:
How is the State manifesting its concern for their adaptation to their social environment and their vocational rehabilitation?"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objectives of the Hellenic penitentiary system include the treatment of prisoners in a way that the consequences of liberty deprivation are mitigated, while respecting human dignity.

This framework includes actions that promote the education, entertainment and vocational training of detainees, in order to enable their smooth reintegration into their social, professional and family environment following their release from prison.

The audit findings consist of the following:

1. Significant omissions were observed during the penitentiary system strategic planning (the entities which were competent for the implementation of the relevant actions were not consulted; best practices or recommendations set by European or international organisations do not seem to have been taken into account; previous actions were not evaluated, in order to identify systemic deficiencies). Several actions do not include specified objectives nor are these objectives accompanied by indicators of achievement.

2. The actual reintegration needs of detainees are not taken into account when selecting specific reintegration actions. The procedure of informing the detainees about the programmes implemented in the Detention Centers does not ensure their equal access to programmes in which they could join.

3. Educational structures do not function in all Detention Centers. No significant number of actions related to vocational training are carried out.

4. The responsible Ministry did not dispose of data on either resources required or resources available; therefore, the sufficiency of resources for the implementation of actions could not be assessed.

5. The lack of adequate and appropriate information on the implementation of reintegration actions does not allow the competent authority to evaluate them and to take corrective measures.