

RISE

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGENCY



Our vision

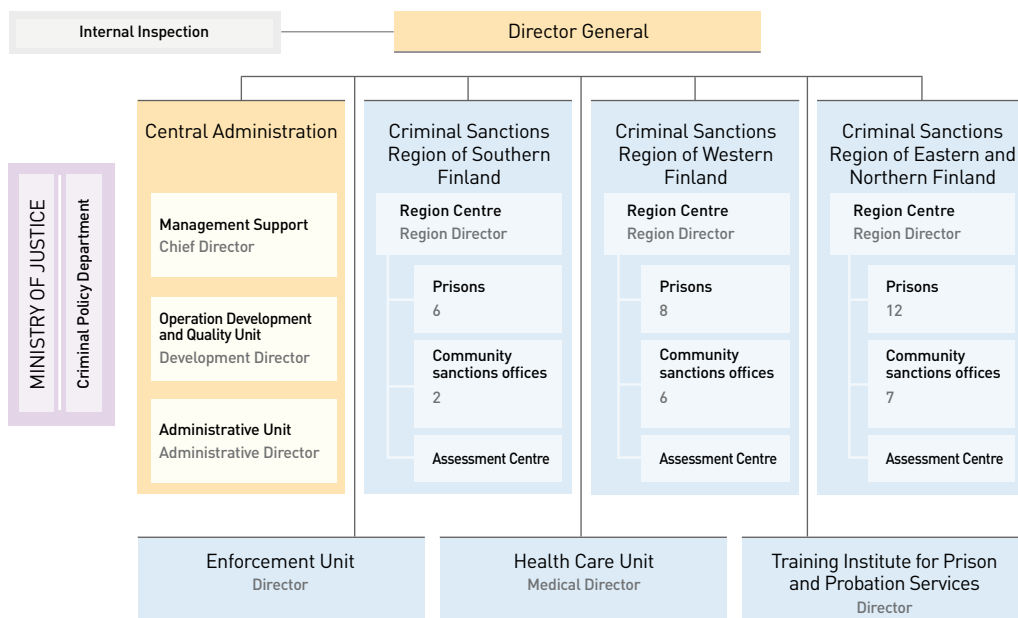
The Criminal Sanctions Agency carries out influential, reliable, and significant work for the safety of society.

Criminal Sanctions Agency

The Criminal Sanctions Agency (RISE) is responsible for the enforcement of sentences and remand imprisonment. It operates under the direction of the Ministry of Justice and implements the criminal policy defined by the Ministry.

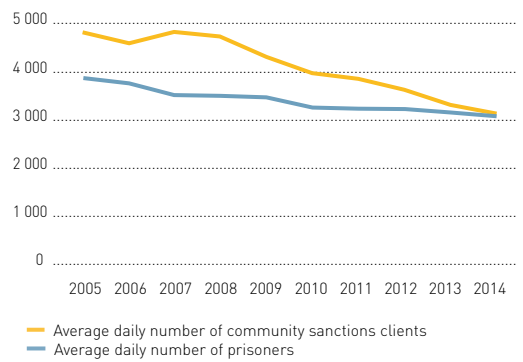
The primary duty of the Criminal Sanctions Agency is to see that the sentences passed by the courts are enforced lawfully and safely in Finland. In particular, the Agency aims to enhance the safety of society by decreasing the sentenced offenders' risk of reoffending.

Organisation of the Criminal Sanctions Agency





Average daily numbers of community sanctions clients and prisoners 2005–2014



Nationwide operator

The Central Administration of the Criminal Sanctions Agency is located in Helsinki. The basic units of the Agency are the community sanctions offices (15) and the prisons (26), which operate around the country. The prisoner places are divided so that 70% are in closed prisons and 30% in open prisons or wards (situation on 15 March 2015).

Finland is divided into three criminal sanctions regions. The regional centre of the Criminal Sanctions Region of Southern Finland is located in Helsinki, in the Criminal Sanctions Region of Western Finland the centre is in Tampere, and in the Criminal Sanctions Region of Eastern and Northern Finland the centre is in Kuopio. Each criminal sanctions region has its own assessment centre, which is in charge of the placement in the prisons, the assessment of people who have been in remand imprisonment before an actual prison sentence, and the planning of the sentence terms based on that assessment. Administrative work is concentrated in the regional centres. The formal enforcement is managed by a nationwide Enforcement Unit. The Health Care Unit is responsible for the health care of the prisoners.

The Training Institute for Prison and Probation Services located in Vantaa arranges prison officer education and in-service training.

Towards more open enforcement

The goal of the sentence term is to guide the offenders towards a life without crime. The sentence term is planned and realised so that the sentenced offenders can develop their abilities to settle into a new life after serving the sentence. When the sentenced offenders can practice the skills promoting their life control during the sentence term, they have a better chance to reintegrate into society as its full members after release.

The strategy of the Criminal Sanctions Agency emphasises a transition towards a more open enforcement of sentences. In practise, it means increasing the use of open prisons and community sanctions. Simultaneously, the work carried out in the release phase supporting the released offenders' aim to live without crime is intensified. More open sentence enforcement is promoted by, among others, the use of probationary liberty under supervision and the establishment of release units.

A gradual, controlled release is one of the basic concepts of the Imprisonment Act. The safety aspect of society also supports the releasing of prisoners via open prisons and probationary liberty under supervision.

Penalty according to the offence

Criminal sanctions are divided into prison sentences served in closed or open prisons and community sanctions served in freedom.

The general penalties sentenced for offences are fine, petty fine, conditional or unconditional imprisonment, monitoring sentence, community service, juvenile punishment, and supervision imposed on young offenders (15–20 years old) as an ancillary sanction to conditional imprisonment.

The prisons are responsible for the enforcement of unconditional prison sentences and conversion sentences for unpaid fine. Additionally, the prisons take care of the enforcement of remand imprisonment together with the police. The community sanctions offices are in charge of the enforcement of community sanctions and the supervision of parolees.

IMPRISONMENT

A prison sentence is either for a fixed term or for life. The minimum length of a fixed-term prison sentence is 14 days and the maximum length 12 years. A maximum of 15 years of imprisonment can be sentenced concurrently. If the sentence is imposed for life, the sentenced offender can be released after 12 years of imprisonment at the earliest. If the

offence was committed when under the age of 21 years, the corresponding time is ten years. The decision on the release of a life sentence prisoner is made by the Helsinki Court of Appeal. Life sentence prisoners can also be released by the pardon of the President of the Republic.

CONDITIONAL IMPRISONMENT

A prison sentence not exceeding two years can be passed as conditional. In addition to the conditional sentence, an ancillary fine or community service order may be imposed on the sentenced offender. Conditional imprisonment includes a probationary period between one and three years. If the sentenced offender commits another offence during the probationary period, the sentence may be enforced in prison. Offenders who have committed their offences under the age of 21 can be ordered to supervision for the duration of the probationary period as an additional sentence. More than half of all prison sentences are conditional.

MONITORING SENTENCE

Monitoring sentence is placed between community service and unconditional imprisonment. It may be used to replace short, under six-month long unconditional prison sentences and can last six months at most.

A monitoring sentence is served at home where the sentenced offender is supervised with the help of electronic equipment. The guideline is that a monitoring sentence can be imposed if it promotes the offenders' social coping and contributes to the prevention of further offences. The offenders sentenced to a monitoring sentence have several obligations and they have to commit themselves to, among other things, continuous supervision and abstinence from substances and participate in various rehabilitating activities. In addition, the monitoring sentence requires that the offenders' cohabitant consent to it and that the offenders' accommodation is suitable for the enforcement of the sentence.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

An unconditional prison sentence not exceeding eight months can be converted to 14–240

hours of community service, which is unpaid work performed under supervision. Community service can also be imposed as an ancillary sanction to a conditional prison sentence exceeding eight months. In that case, the length of the service can be at most 90 hours.

JUVENILE PUNISHMENT

Juvenile punishment is meant for offenders who are under the age of 18. A young offender at the age of 15–17 can be sentenced to juvenile punishment if a fine is considered an insufficient punishment and an unconditional prison sentence too severe. The maximum length of juvenile punishment is 12 months and its implementation is planned together with the young offender and his or her guardian. The Criminal Sanctions Agency implements and supervises juvenile punishment.

SUPERVISION OF CONDITIONALLY SENTENCED YOUNG OFFENDERS

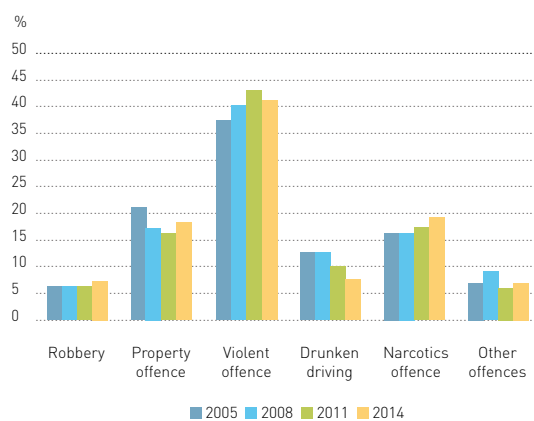
Conditionally sentenced under 21-year-old offenders may be subjected to supervision in addition to conditional imprisonment if it is considered that it promotes their social adaptation and prevents further offences. The supervision of young offenders is organised by community sanctions offices.

Planned enforcement of sentences

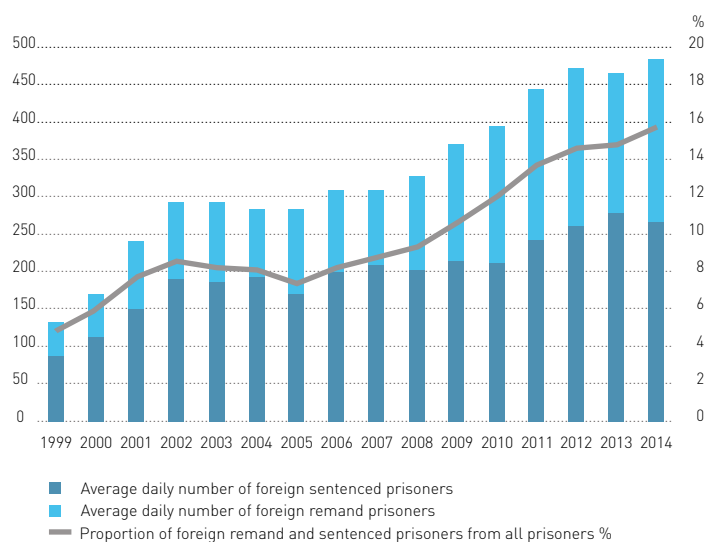
The enforcement of sentences is a planned and controlled process.

The enforcement of prison sentences starts from the assessment of each sentenced offender, which is followed by the serving of the sentence and finally the release. Based on the assessment, sentenced offenders receive an individual sentence plan, which aims to improve their abilities to live without crime. The placement institution is chosen according to the prisoners' activity and rehabilitation needs, risk of recidivism, as well as security needs and threats. Generally, the aim is to place the sentenced offenders as near as possible to their home municipality. The decision on the placement is made by the Assessment Centre of the criminal sanctions region.

Principal offences of sentenced prisoners 2005-2014



Proportion and amount of foreign remand and sentenced prisoners from the average number of all prisoners 1999–2014



According to the Imprisonment Act, a sentence has to be enforced without delay. If the sentenced offenders are not ordered to be imprisoned at the moment of sentencing, they wait for the enforcement of the sentence in freedom. The sentenced offenders can apply for a postponement of the enforcement of imprisonment on social, medical, or financial grounds.

In regard to community sanctions, the Criminal Sanctions Agency prepares pre-sentence reports on suspects for the court before the imposition of a sanction. Community sanctions also use sentence plans according to which the sentences are enforced. The goal of the plan is to promote the sentenced offenders' social coping and prevent them from committing offences. The plan is drawn up together with the sentenced offenders and the goals of the sentence term are determined in it. For example, the goals can include addressing substance abuse problems or improving the educational or employment situation.

CLOSED OR OPEN PRISON?

Prisoners serve their sentence either in a closed or an open prison. Prisoners, who are deemed to adapt to the freer conditions than the conditions in closed prisons, are placed in open prisons. Prisoners placed in open prisons are required to commit themselves to abstinence from substances.

In closed prisons, prisoners who wish so can also be placed in so-called contract wards where they commit themselves to abstain from substances and undergo necessary tests, which are used to control the abstinence. In these contract wards, the abstinence is supported, among other things, with the help of various programmes. Every year, over 30 000 substance tests and about 30 special searches to find unlawful articles or substances are carried out in closed and open prisons. All closed prisons have a dog trained to detect narcotics.

Male and female prisoners are placed in separate accommodation wards in prisons. Vanaja Open Prison located close to Hämeenlinna has a family ward where sentenced prisoners can stay with their small children. Remand prisoners with children have a small ward in Hämeenlinna Prison.

AVERAGE PRISON TERM APPROXIMATELY TEN MONTHS

In this millennium, the prison population rate of Finland was at its highest around 2005 when it rose due to a tightened sentencing practice and increased number of violent and narcotics offences. Since then, the prison population has been decreasing and the daily average prison population rate is now about 3 100. In the early 21st century, the number of life sentence prisoners has doubled to a total of over 200. The average length of the prison term of released prisoners is slightly over ten months.

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS SENTENCED FOR VIOLENT OFFENCES HAS INCREASED

The prison population structure has also changed in the 21st century. The number of offenders sentenced for property offences has lowered steadily, whereas the number of offenders sentenced for violent offences, especially assaults, has risen. Every fifth prisoner has been sentenced for homicide. The share of long-term prisoners has increased whereas the share of those who stay in prison under 12 months has decreased. The share of foreign prisoners has risen to 15 per cent. The average age of all prisoners is about 37 years.

Community sanctions are served in freedom

A significant part, i.e., approximately one fourth of the sentences recorded in the sentence register are served in freedom as community sanctions. The most common form is community service, which is typically sentenced for aggravated drunken driving. Other community sanction forms include the monitoring sentence, the supervision of parolees, and the supervision imposed on young offenders as an ancillary sanction to conditional imprisonment.

NON-PROFIT WORK FOR SOCIETY

Offenders sentenced to community service perform non-profit work during their leisure time. The Criminal Sanctions Agency is responsible for the arrangement of the service place and supervises the service.

Community service is generally carried out in service places provided by the municipalities, various associations, or the parishes. Community service can be, for example, maintenance work in sports grounds or park areas. The working schedule is normally 3–4 hours at a time twice a week.

Rehabilitation aims at life without crime

Rehabilitating programmes are an important part of the sentence terms of both offenders serving prison sentences and those serving community sanctions.

PRISONERS RECEIVE VERSATILE REHABILITATION

Prisons arrange various rehabilitating programmes, which can be divided into substance rehabilitation programmes, programmes aiming to prevent recidivism, and other social rehabilitation.

A significant part of the rehabilitative activities in the prisons is substance rehabilitation because the majority of prisoners have substance abuse problems. In shorter substance rehabilitation programmes,

prisoners are motivated to live without substances. Longer group programmes support a life without crime and substances in a more varied manner. The programmes aiming to prevent recidivism are either general programmes or programmes meant for offenders who have committed specific offences, such as violent or sexual offences. The object of these programmes is to increase the sentenced offenders' problem-solving and interaction skills as well as to influence the offenders' thinking and, thus, behaviour.

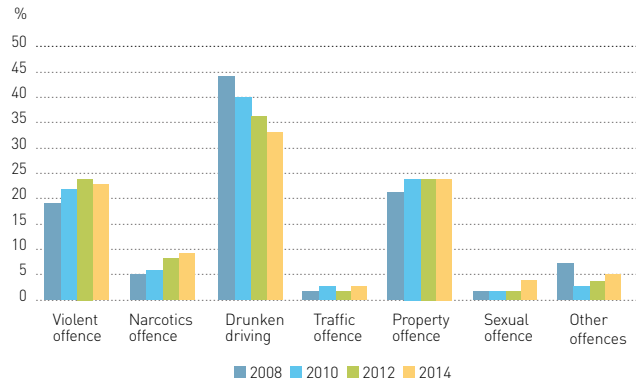
The goal of the social rehabilitation directed to prisoners is to maintain and increase their social abilities and everyday life skills. Additionally, the programmes developing social skills have an important role in the prevention of recidivism. Support activities for prisoners are organised also in co-operation with the local municipalities and various third sector operators, such as parishes and different voluntary organisations.

IN COMMUNITY SANCTIONS, REHABILITATION FOCUSES ON THE INDIVIDUAL

The activity programmes used in community sanction work are shorter than the programmes arranged in the prisons and the emphasis is on individual motivation programmes. Depending on the offence, the rehabilitating programmes used in community sanctions focus on, for instance, the motivation to change, anger management, or drunken driving.

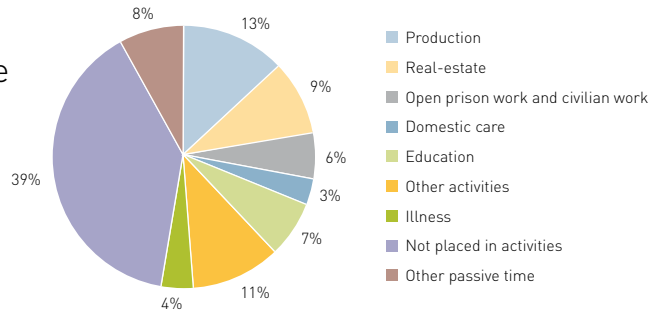
The advantage of the programmes aimed for offenders serving community sanctions is that the offenders can practise the skills, which they have learned during the programmes, in society. In the implementation of programmes, it has to be taken into account that the offenders sentenced to community sanctions can also use the public treatment and rehabilitation services of society as they serve their sentence.

Principal offences of community sanctions customers 2008–2014





Prisoners' use of time in 2014



Everyday life in prison

The prisoners receive daily meals and clothing in prisons. The prisoners can also use their own clothes, but it can be restricted based on the prison order or occupational safety. If the prisoners use their own clothes, they are required to maintain the clothes themselves. In open prisons, the prisoners always use their own clothes.

The prisoners have to take care of the cleanliness of their accommodation and other living facilities as well as other cleaning and household chores in their spare time. Additionally, the prisoners can, for instance, go to the library, do handicrafts or exercise together with other prisoners. The prisoners get to exercise outdoors at least one hour every day. Prisons also have facilities for practising religion.

Closed prisons have canteens where the prisoners can buy goods, such as hygiene products, groceries and tobacco, for their personal use. In open prisons, the prisoners can purchase goods they require either from a mobile shop or a local grocery with an escort.

RULES OF CONDUCT CREATE SAFETY

The prisoners have to follow the prison order as well as the requests and orders of the staff. They must behave properly towards the staff, other people, and other prisoners. If the prisoners breach the prison order or the rules, they may be imposed a disciplinary punishment. Severe breaches are passed to the police for further investigation.

PRISONERS CAN KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Within certain limits, the prisoners are permitted to communicate with the outside world by telephone and correspondence. In closed prisons, the prisoners are not allowed to use their own mobile phones and, in open prisons, the use of mobile phones is restricted. The prisoners can have visitors in the visiting premises or the family visiting rooms of the prison during the visiting hours. Most visits are supervised.

The prisoners may be granted a prison leave on certain conditions. In general, a prison leave can be granted when two thirds of the prison term has been served. The prisoners can get a maximum of three days of prison leave within a period of two months. The prisoners may also be granted a prison leave under escort. Life sentence prisoners can be granted a prison leave if they have been in prison for at least eight years and, in special circumstances, even before that.

Prisoners work and study

The prisoners are obliged to work, study, or participate in some other activity in prison. The goal of the different activities is to promote the prisoners' abilities to live without crime, i.e. to improve their working and functioning capacity as well as to support substance-free lifestyle.

WORKING IN OR OUTSIDE PRISON

The goal of the work arranged in prison is to maintain and develop the prisoners' vocational proficiency and working capacity. The work activities are an essential part of the rehabilitation of the prisoners and a fixed element of their daily schedule. On certain conditions, the prisoners may be allowed to work outside the prison or carry out work on their own account in prison. The prisoners performing such work pay income taxes and compensation to the prison for maintenance costs. In open prisons, the prisoners who work are paid wages, which is taxable income.

The traditional prison work branches include wood industry, metal industry, and agriculture. In addition, a significant part of the real estate maintenance is carried out by the prisoners. The products made by the prisoners are sold in prison shops around Finland.

VARIOUS STUDY POSSIBILITIES

The prisons organise versatile education in co-operation with the nearby educational institutions. The prisoners are offered vocational, orientating, and general education. University and polytechnic studies are available in form of distance learning. On certain conditions, the prisoners can also study in educational institutions outside the prison in the daytime. Studying outside the prison on a study permit is possible usually in open prisons. Approximately every tenth prisoner studies daily. The educational institutions give the prisoners study certificates, which include no indication of that the studies were completed in prison.

PRISONERS ARE ENTITLED TO HEALTH CARE

The health and working capacity of the prisoners is assessed in the placement phase. The prisoners have various health problems and only half of all prisoners are fully fit for work. The health services for the prisoners are arranged in accordance with the law and the statutes on the treatment guarantee.

The prisoners' health care is arranged by a nationwide Health Care Unit the main office of which is located in Hämeenlinna. The Health Care Unit employs over 200 health care professionals in the prison polyclinics and hospitals. Most prisons have a polyclinic. The Prison Hospital located in Hämeenlinna Prison primarily treats and rehabilitates prisoners with somatic illnesses. The two units of the Prison Mental Hospital operate in Turku and Vantaa.

Gradually towards freedom

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

The offenders sentenced to imprisonment can be released on parole when they have served two thirds of their sentence. If the offence was committed under the age of 21 years, the corresponding time is half of the sentence. Prisoners, who have not served a prison sentence within three years preceding the current offence, can be released

on parole when they have served half of their sentence or, in the case of a sentence imposed for an offence committed under the age of 21, when they have served one third of their sentence.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND SUPERVISION

Conditionally released parolees are imposed a probationary period, which can last at most three years. The probationary period can also include supervision, which is arranged and implemented by the community sanctions offices of the Criminal Sanctions Agency. If the parolees are found guilty of new offences during the probationary period, a court decides whether they also lose their parole.

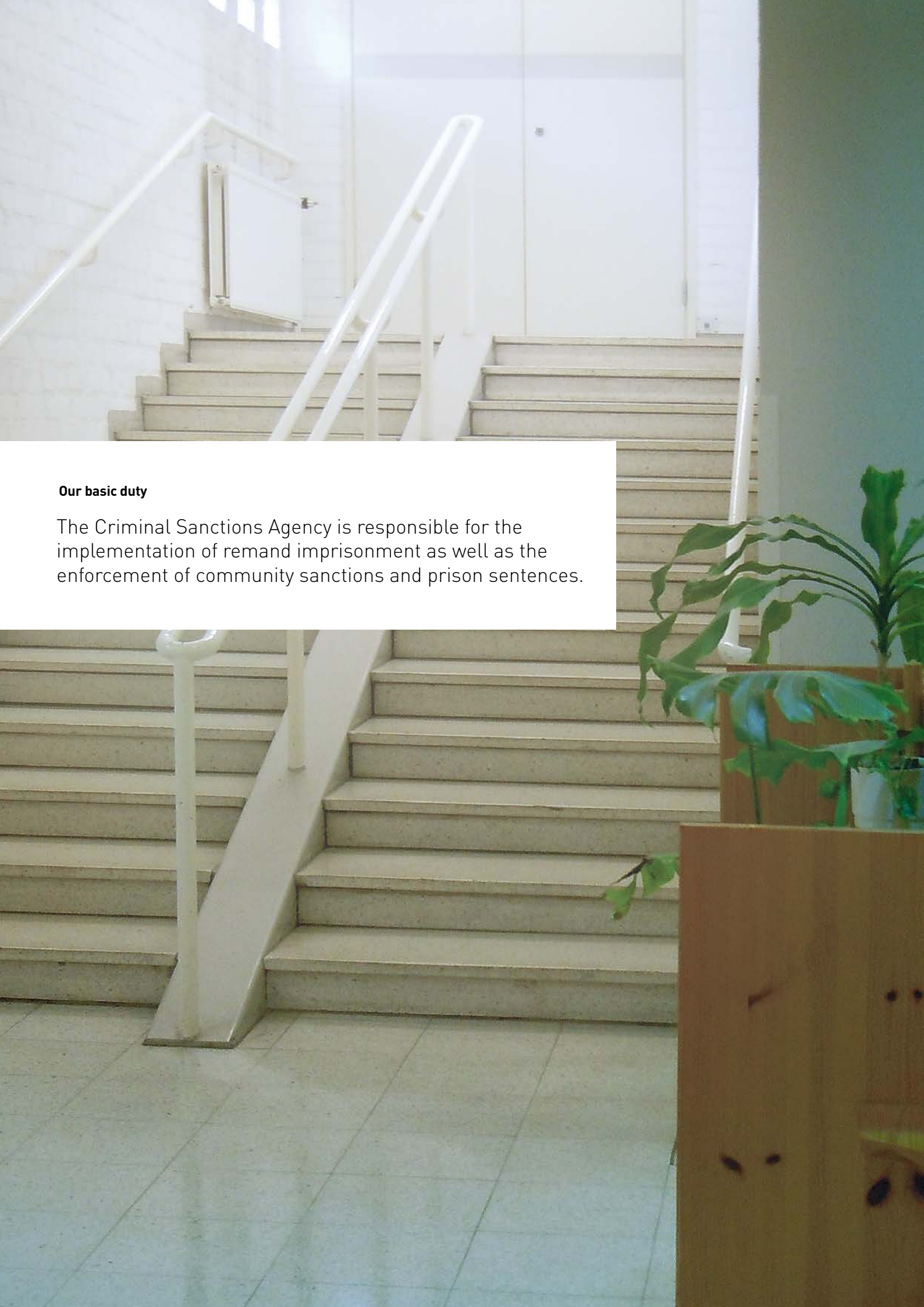
PROBATIONARY LIBERTY UNDER SUPERVISION

Prisoners can be placed in probationary liberty under supervision outside the prison a maximum of six months before their release on parole. The prisoners are presumed to comply with abstinence from substances and other conditions of the probationary liberty. An implementation plan is prepared for probationary liberty. The compliance with the conditions of the probationary liberty is supervised in many ways.

PREPARATION FOR FREEDOM

Besides the placement in an open prison, the prisoners can be given an opportunity to take responsibility and practise for normal life during the prison term by, among others, placing them in a release unit or a unit preparing for freedom. In the release unit, the main focus is on the intensive preparation for the transition to freedom both with support and independently. Intensive release measures are also carried out in co-operation with outside institutions.

Each criminal sanctions region has supervision patrols, which, among other things, supervise and support people who are imposed a monitoring sentence or probationary liberty and supervise prisoners, who have study permits, work in civilian work-



Our basic duty

The Criminal Sanctions Agency is responsible for the implementation of remand imprisonment as well as the enforcement of community sanctions and prison sentences.



Our values

Respect for human dignity

Justness

Belief in an individual's potential
to change and grow

Safety

places, or are placed in release units. The supervision patrols support and guide the sentenced offenders to live without crime and follow their progress. The patrols also monitor the sentenced offenders' movements, keep contact with them, and control their abstinence from substances.

SMALL PART OF PRISONERS ARE CAUGHT IN A PRISON CYCLE

Approximately 30 per cent of all prisoners are in prison for the first time. For over half of them (60%), the first time is also the last and they will not return to prison again. Only a few of the prisoners are caught in an actual prison cycle.

COMMUNITY SANCTION WORK FUNCTIONS AS A CONNECTOR

Community sanctions are enforced in the community and, therefore, the sentenced offenders have a chance to maintain their social networks. The sentenced offenders are guided to seek the services provided by society. The aim is that after completing the sentence, the offenders would continue to use the municipal services, such as substance abuse services when necessary.

Equal employment

The criminal sanctions field provides equal employment: in the past few years, the women's share of the whole staff has risen to over 40 per cent. The proportion of women is even higher in the management of the prisons and the community sanctions offices. Nowadays, over half of the prison directors are women. The average age of the whole staff of the Criminal Sanctions Agency is about 45 years.

The Criminal Sanctions Agency has slightly under 3 000 employees of whom nearly half carries out guarding and supervision duties. The administrative duties employ 9 per cent and rehabilitation work 8 per cent of the staff.

The duties related to the implementation of community sanctions are carried out by 7 per cent, i.e. a little over 200 people, of the whole staff of the Criminal Sanctions Agency. The health care employs 7 per cent of the whole

staff just as domestic care and real estate maintenance. Work activities employ 6 per cent, management 3 per cent, and assessment work 2 per cent of the staff.

WORK SITUATION IN THE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FIELD IS GOOD

The employment situation is good in the recently reformed criminal sanctions field. The supervision staff are often employed right after completing the basic degree of the criminal sanctions field.

At the moment, women form about one fifth of the supervision staff in the prisons. However, about one third of the students attending the education of the prison service field are women, thus the women's share of the supervision staff will probably increase in future.

The degree education of the criminal sanctions field as well as the training maintaining, furthering, and increasing professional skills are provided by the Training Institute for Prison and Probation Services, which is part of the Criminal Sanctions Agency. The Training Institute was established in 1976 and it has a special criminological research library in its facilities.

The Training Institute for Prison and Probation Services takes actively part in the development of the work in the field as well as in the training, development, and evaluation of the programmes reducing recidivism. The Training Institute also functions as the Nordic information centre of its field and is systematically involved in the international co-operation concerning the education of the criminal sanctions field.

Because there is only one educational institution that provides the basic education of the field, the student numbers can be adjusted to the prevailing employment situation. Several dozens of new students start criminal sanctions field studies annually.

The studies of the field can be continued in Laurea Polytechnic in Vantaa where it is possible to complete a polytechnic degree programme on correctional services. The degree qualifies for the demanding expert and superior duties in the prison services. Those, who carry out community sanction work, usually have a polytechnic degree.

Enforcement in open conditions is cheaper than closed conditions

The Criminal Sanctions Agency uses about 243.3 (net 226.7) million euros for the enforcement of sentences annually. The annual income of the Agency is about 16.6 million euros, which includes, among others, the sales proceeds of the prison products.

The costs of community sanctions are noticeably lower than the costs of imprisonment. In closed prisons, the cost of one pris-

on day is approximately 208 euros, which is about 15 times higher than the costs caused by the implementation of community service. All in all, four fifths of the sum consist of the staff expenses and the costs of the premises. The enforcement of community service costs less about 15 euros per day.

In open prisons, the cost of one prison day is approximately 147 euros (net), which is about one-third less than a prison day in a closed prison. The daily costs of probationary liberty under supervision are about 75 euros.

Criminal Sanctions Agency in numbers

Annual expenses of sentence enforcement	about € 243.3 (net 226.7) million
Annual income	about € 16.6 million
Number of staff approximately	2 900
Daily average of prisoners	3 097
of whom female prisoners	239
foreign prisoners	483
life sentence prisoners	203
Daily average of community sanctions clients	3 137
Cost of one prison day in a closed prison	about € 208
Cost of one prison day in an open prison	about € 147
Cost of one day of probationary liberty under supervision	about € 75
Cost of one day of community service	about € 15

Source: The annual report of the Criminal Sanctions Agency 2014

Prisons and community sanctions offices in Finland

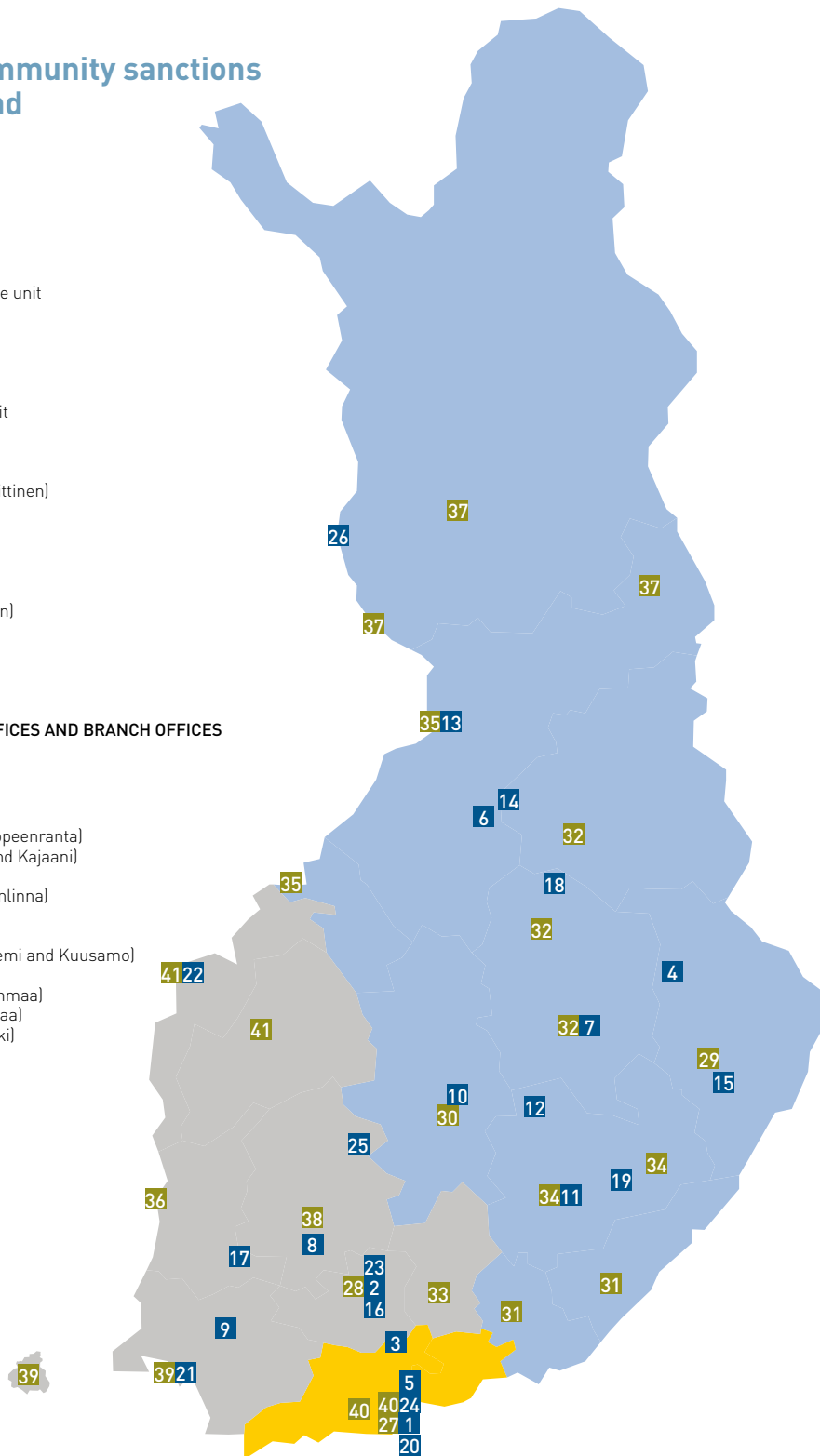
PRISONS

1. Helsinki
2. Hämeenlinna
3. Jokela
4. Juuka
5. Kerava
6. Kestilä
7. Kuopio and Kuopio release unit
8. Kylmäkoski
9. Käyrä
10. Laukaa
11. Mikkeli
12. Naarajärvi
13. Oulu and Oulu release unit
14. Pello
15. Pyhäselkä
16. Riihimäki
17. Satakunta (Köyliö and Huittinen)
18. Sukeva
19. Sulkava
20. Suomenlinna
21. Turku
22. Vaasa
23. Vanaja (Vanaja and Ojoinen)
24. Vantaa
25. Vilppula
26. Ylitornio

COMMUNITY SANCTIONS OFFICES AND BRANCH OFFICES

27. Helsinki
28. Hämeenlinna
29. Joensuu
30. Jyväskylä
31. Kouvola (Kouvola and Lappeenranta)
32. Kuopio (Kuopio, Iisalmi and Kajaani)
33. Lahti
34. Mikkeli (Mikkeli and Savonlinna)
35. Oulu (Oulu and Kokkola)
36. Pori
37. Rovaniemi (Rovaniemi, Kemi and Kuusamo)
38. Tampere
39. Turku (Turku and Ahvenanmaa)
40. Uusimaa (Espoo and Vantaa)
41. Vaasa (Vaasa and Seinäjoki)

- CRIMINAL SANCTIONS REGION OF SOUTHERN FINLAND
- CRIMINAL SANCTIONS REGION OF WESTERN FINLAND
- CRIMINAL SANCTIONS REGION OF EASTERN AND NORTHERN FINLAND
- prisons
- community sanctions offices and branch offices





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