

Effects of Imprisonment on Romanian Offenders' Lives
- Project Code PNII-RU-PD-2012-3-0116 -

RESULTS

JANUARY – OCTOBER 2015

Project leader: Cristina Dâmboeanu
(scientific researcher at Institute of Sociology)

Bucharest
- October 2015 -

I. Popularization of the research project

First result. Website update with new information regarding the progress of the research activities and results: <http://www.prisonresearch.ro/>.

II. Dissemination of the scientific results

Second result.

“**Effects of Imprisonment on Offenders’ Lives**”, workshop aimed to disseminate the results of the current postdoctoral research project among the European academic community. Institute of Sociology: Bucharest, 2nd of October.

Participants from abroad: **Anja Dirkzwager** – senior researcher at Netherland Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement and the chair of the European Society of Criminology Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment Working Group; **Paul Nieuwbeerta** (the Netherlands) – professor at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Leiden University; **Hilde Wermink** (the Netherlands) – assistant professor at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Leiden University; **Anke Ramakers** – assistant professor at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, Faculty of Law, Leiden University; **Prof. Dr. Helmut Kury** (Germany); **Gunda Woessner** (Germany) – senior researcher in the Department of Criminology at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law; **Luisa Ravagnani** (Italy) – researcher in Criminology at the University of Brescia, and Expert Judge at the Surveillance Court of Brescia; **Linda Kjaer Minke** (Denmark) – sociologist, associate professor at the Institute of Law, University of Southern Denmark; **Ruta Petkeviciute** (Lithuania) – Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University, Vilnius.

Third result. Scientific publications

Articles

Cristina Damboeanu, Paul Nieuwbeerta (2016), *Importation and deprivation correlates of misconduct among Romanian inmates*, accepted for publication in “European Journal of Criminology” (ISI indexed journal: impact factor 0.928) <http://euc.sagepub.com/>

Books

Cristina Damboeanu (2015). *Prisons in Romania. Effects on Offenders' Lives*. Bucharest: Tritonic (in print); ISBN: 978-606-749-077-0

The book is a collection of empirical studies aimed at understanding the experience of imprisonment and the way(s) it shapes the offenders' lives. It discusses from a sociological perspective three prevailing themes in the literature on prison life and effects of imprisonment that are also highly relevant for policymakers and professionals working within the prison system: (1) prisoner victimization; (2) prisoner human capital and perception on post-release employment prospects; and (3) prisoner family relationships. Much of the research on these topics is based on Anglo-American data; consequently, little empirical evidence transpires from Eastern European countries that even now, 25 years after the fall of Communism, remain rather punitive and deficient in providing adequate conditions of confinement. In an attempt of addressing this gap, the current book focuses on Romania and its under-studied prison system. Its main ambition is to pave the way for future sociological contributions and research on prisons in Romania, with a focus on the lived experience of imprisonment.”

Cristina Damboeanu (ed.) (2015). *Sociological Studies on Imprisonment. A European Perspective*. Bucharest: Tritonic (in print); ISBN: 978-606-749-076-3

This volume includes the papers presented at the International Workshop on the Effects of Imprisonment on Offenders' Lives, organized in Bucharest on 2 October, 2015. As such, the book is addressed to the national and European scholars in criminology, sociology of prisons, criminal justice researchers, as well as to prison practitioners and policymakers interested to develop evidence-based strategies aimed to ameliorate the negative effects of imprisonment and to facilitate instead prisoners' social reintegration in the community and desistance from crime.

Cristina Damboeanu (2105). *Repere pentru o sociologie a recidivei* [Towards a sociology of recidivism] Bucharest: Tritonic (in print); ISBN: 978-606-749-079-4 (*in Romanian*)

Although the Romanian scientific community interested in studying deviance and crime is on the rise, the topic of recidivism continues to be under-researched. The majority of academic studies on prison population aimed rather to identify the main social and psychosocial factors that determined the onset of criminal behaviour among different categories of offenders such as juvenile delinquents, female criminals, violent offenders, and so on. Yet, few Romanian scholars have focused on the etiology of recidivism and the way(s) imprisonment contributes to that. The book attempts to rectify this by critically discussing the theoretical and empirical literature in the field. It is mainly intended for Romanian researchers and academics in criminology and sociology, but also to postdoctoral and PhD candidates interested to deepen their understanding about the causes and correlates of recidivism.

Fourth result. Membership

- 1) Member of European Society of Criminology, *Prison Life and Effects of Imprisonment Working Group*: <http://effectsofprisonlife.wordpress.com/> (2013-2015).
- 2) Member of European Sociological Association, *Quantitative Methods and Qualitative Methods Research Networks* (2014-2015):
<http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks>
- 3) Member of Romanian Center for Penitentiary Studies (2013-2015):
http://www.crsp.uvt.ro/CRSP_en/Home.html

Fifth result. Policy recommendations report

It contains suggestions for supporting and improving the efforts of Romanian prison administrations to: a) tackle prison violence and prison victimization; b) improve prisoners' human capital and their perceptions on post-release employment outcomes; c) ameliorate the risk of family dissolution.

Sixth result. Synthetic scientific report

It presents an overview of the main scientific activities undertaken within the current postdoctoral research project during the entire period of implementation (May 2013 – October 2015) (*in Romanian*).