

Major events in 2011

Capacity expansion, renovations

Due to our ongoing capacity expansion programme, the total capacity of Hungarian prisons increased by 269, 2.2% (from 12335 to 12604) in 2011. The renovation of Unit II of Budapest Remand Prison involved an investment exceeding HUF 100 million; the facility was officially opened on June 1, adding 237 places to our total capacity.

On June 15 Pálhalma National Prison finished the construction of a biological wastewater treatment plant in Sándorháza. The total value of the investment exceeded HUF 60 million; some of the construction work was done by prisoners.

Renovations on the building of Prison Service Training and Conference Center were finished on September 12. The project used EU and national funds to improve energy efficiency.

Another construction project aimed at the improvement of energy efficiency was finished at the Székesfehérvár unit of Közép-dunántúli National Prison on December 2.

The 110-year-old building received new doors and windows, central heating units and water heaters, and its laundry, which employs prisoners and serves local institutions, was also renovated in the 65-million-HUF project, part of which was financed from EU funds.



Prison Service Mastery Championship

The first round of our professional excellence rally called Prison Service Mastery Championship took place on July 29. Teams of six from 30 institutions entered the first round, six of which were selected for the finals on September 1. Tasks included questionnaires, on-call readiness drills, weapon handling and maintenance, and questions about handling disabled prisoners, checking prison cells and receiving new inmates after official hours. This year the cup went to Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison. The winning team consisted of Capt. János Kurusa (team leader), Capt. Miklós Deli, Lt. Mariann Nagy, Lt. Zoltán Légrády, WO. Mihály Szalma, and WO. László Pigniczki.



Prison Service Day

The day of St Adrian, patron of prison guards, is official Prison Service Day. Penitentiaries, prison institutions and prison enterprises organized family events for staff around the country; thousands participated. The Prison Service Day all-staff meeting was held on September 6 at 125-year-old Sopronkőhida Strict and Medium Regime Prison. After the official address of Mr. Károly Kontrát dr, State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, the Director General, Lt. Gen Antal Kökényesi dr, presented awards to staff members for excellence in their fields.



Anniversaries at our institutions

Sopronkőhida Strict and Medium Regime Prison was 125 years old in 2011. The building had been designed by Gyula Wagner and officially opened on November 1, 1886. It was a very modern building at the time, with electricity, central heating and ventilation in every room, and a total of 686 prison cells.

The Győr prison building had also been designed by Gyula Wagner and opened for business in 1886. The 125-year celebration of Moson-Sopron County Remand Prison was held on November 30, 2011.



Prisoner employment

In a press conference held at Kalocsa Strict and Medium Regime Prison Minister of the Interior Sándor Pintér dr, and Director General Lt. Gen. Antal Kökényesi dr, presented the new model of law enforcement combat uniform manufactured by the institution. In response to the request of the government to increase prisoner employment, the prison enterprise Kalocsa Konfekcióipari Kft. is going to be responsible for manufacturing law enforcement uniforms, and is going to subcontract part of the task to Ipoly Cipőgyár Kft. and Ábránd Textil Kft., both prison enterprises. Prison Service Headquarters introduced its plans for the enforcement of new legislation on prisoner employment in two workshops, along with the selection of products and services prison enterprises offer. New legislation requires public institutions to handle their procurements through a central body now operated by Prison Service Headquarters. Employment of prisoners increased by 793 from 2010.



Science and research

The Hungarian Society of Correctional Science was founded on April 15. The state secretary responsible for corrections appointed Brig. László Huszár, dr, Head of Strategic Planning at Prison Service Headquarters president. The aim of the society is to identify, advance and encourage the practical application of scientific achievements in the field. The Society, working with the Hungarian Prison Service Association, organized a prison service conference on November 24.

The Hungarian Prison Service Association's prison security interest group held its meeting on May 5 in Hajdú-Bihar County Remand Prison. On May 12 the Association organized a conference titled "Thoughts on developing correctional legislation" at the Legal Faculty of ELTE University.

The conference titled "Drug prevention in penitentiaries and associated institutions" took place in the Baracska unit of Közép-dunántúli National Prison on October 27. More than a hundred participants included representatives of twenty-six Hungarian penitentiaries and various non-governmental organizations.

Sports competitions

Our national sports competitions continue to be popular with the institutions. This year shooting, chess, patrolling, small-court football, judo, cross-country running and service dog competitions were all part of the annual championship.

The annual prison service cross-country running competition was held on April 13. 512 competitors from 33 institutions participated; the Budapest Remand Prison team won, breaking the three-year winning sequence of Pálhalma National Prison.

The prison service patrol competition was held on May 18 in the surroundings of Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison. First place went to Baranya County Remand Prison.

Finals of the small-court football competition were held on June 29 at the sports center of Budapest Police Headquarters. The Budapest remand Prison team won.



The 2011 prison service shooting competition was held on September 14 at the shooting range of the Márianosztra Strict and Medium Regime Prison. First place went to Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison.

The annual service dog competition was held at Tököl Juvenile Prison on October 7. First place went to Budapest Strict and Medium Regime Prison.

The 2011 prison service chess championships were held on October 12 at Prison Service Training and Conference Center. The Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison team won.

The 2011 prison service judo competition was held on November 16 at the UTE judo center in Budapest. First place went to the team of Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison.

The award ceremony for all-year sports championships in law enforcement was held on December 16 at the government recreational facilities in Balatonőszöd. Budapest Remand Prison won the cup, which was presented to Maj Gen András Csóti, acting Director General of the Prison Service.



