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PREMIER CONGRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES EN MATIÈRE DE
PRÉVENTION DU CRIME ET DE TRAITEMENT DES DÉLINQUANTS
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PERSONNEL

LE PERSONNEL PÉNITENTIAIRE EN GRÈCE

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NATIONS UNIES

Summary

Prison personnel in Greece is divided into administrative, auxiliary and supervisory staff.

I. — The administrative personnel comprises directors, assistant-directors, secretaries and accountants. Secretaries generally must have a law degree, accountants a high school or commercial high school diploma. For promotion from one class to the next, up to the posts of assistant-director and director, several years of meritorious service are required for candidates without a university diploma the periods of service are doubled. Directors of first class with a law degree may be transferred to the central service in the Ministry of Justice. Assistant directors without a law degree may be promoted to the post of prison director after passing examinations and obtaining a special diploma on the basis of courses on penal law and procedure, criminology, penology, constitutional and public law.

Short-term courses (two weeks) for the administrative personnel are organized periodically in the form of lectures on topics relating to the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders.

In the main prisons, the administrative personnel holds joint meetings with the auxiliary staff every three months for the discussion of questions concerning prison administration and the treatment of prisoners.

II. — The auxiliary personnel is composed of agricultural and technical staff, medical staff, teachers and chaplains.

Each rural prison has a chief of the agricultural service with an agricultural engineering diploma and several years experience in the field, an assistant, and subordinate agricultural and technical staff, the latter being hired according to needs on a non-permanent basis.

The larger prisons have physicians under permanent contract, smaller prisons have the services of public health physicians under temporary appointment with a monthly salary. Dental services are also provided. The psychiatric annex for the mentally abnormal is placed under the direction of a psychiatrist and the prison sanatorium under the direction of a lung specialist. The prison hospital, under a medical director, has a specialist at the head of each of its sections, as well as the services of a pharmacist. Physicians having some knowledge of psychiatry are preferred. When permanently appointed they may be promoted up to the grade of prison director. Nursing staff must have two years prior experience and pass an examination.

The education of the inmates of larger prisons is ensured by teachers holding primary school teaching diplomas and by physical training instructors.

Large prisons have permanently appointed chaplains; smaller prisons receive for a monthly salary the services of a priest designated by the bishop. Permanent prison chaplains may, with the approval of the Ministry of Justice, perform the functions of assistant director.

III. — The supervisory personnel comprises chief warders, assistant chief warders and guards. Apart from age and health requirements, candidates for guard must have a primary school diploma, have done military service, and enjoy a good general reputation.

They are on probation for two years and have to attend courses for a three to six months period at the School for prison guards at Athens combined with practical work in prisons, after which they have to pass examinations. Promotions are made on a competitive basis and partly on seniority, partly by selection. The higher supervisory personnel may qualify by appropriate studies for transfer to the administrative personnel.

The report gives further details on the organization of the service, on retirement age and benefits, etc.

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.