



PRI
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REPORT
ACTIVITY

20
25

This bilingual report includes photographs by
Gian Paolo Iervolino.

Retournez le livret pour la version française.

PRISON INSIDER

ACTIVITY REPORT — 2025

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A WORD FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

2025 proved to be a particularly challenging year for Prison Insider.

It was characterised by structural changes and a more restricted financial context. Despite these difficulties, the association continued its missions with its audiences and maintained its primary actions thanks to the dedication of its team, Executive Committee and partners.

DEPARTURE OF THE DIRECTOR

Over the summer, the association experienced a major change when Florence Laufer stepped down as Director to move to Canada with her family. Having served in this position since 2019, she had supported and structured the association's development for several years. The current team had no experience with any other Directors, making this a significant milestone in the life of the organisation.

As such, her departure required an internal reorganisation and a transition period for project management and the steering of the organisation.

A TOUGHER FINANCIAL SITUATION

The year was also characterised by a general decline in funding, especially in state subsidies. Nearly 50% of associations saw a decrease in their public funding in 2025. Prison Insider did not escape this trend: a single favourable response was obtained from among the numerous calls for projects submitted throughout the year.

A BOLD DECISION

Despite these constraints, the Executive Committee decided in the autumn not to "trim the sails": only one employee left the permanent team, and plans to recruit a Director for 1 January 2026 were maintained.

Accordingly, Céline Martin, who holds a PhD in public law and was previously a project manager at the NGO ERIM, which works to promote and defend human rights, was recruited

and took up her post in early 2026.

A COMMITTED TEAM AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This year was defined by the strong involvement of:

- the team of permanent employees, who remained united, highly motivated and optimistic
- the Executive Committee, which served as interim management
- Board members, who provided their support to our unprecedented fundraising campaign

SUSTAINED ACTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Despite the difficulties mentioned above, 2025 was a very good year for Prison Insider: the platform gained recognition and the productions were rich and varied. Unprecedented content was published throughout the year, including:

- the publication of new country profiles, which reinforced the *Prison Life Index* tool
- the launch of *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars*, a six-episode docuseries exploring the invisible impact of prison on relatives
- the collection of first-hand accounts, in particular in Türkiye, Iran and Tunisia, in connection with the arrest of lawyer Sonia Dahmani
- a fundraising campaign aimed at the general public and partners, which raised nearly 25,000euros

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR

With significant challenges that must be addressed in order to reinforce momentum, the coming year will primarily be dedicated to:

- developing new partnerships and sources of funding
- consolidating the association's internal organisation and reflecting on the evolution of its economic model

As Albert Einstein said, *“In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity.”*

SOFIA SOULA-MICHAL & ERIC JEANTET
Co-Presidents



ONE PURPOSE, ONE JOURNEY

Prison Insider is a platform that produces and disseminates information about prisons around the world. Its objectives are to inform, to compare and to share testimonials on prison conditions as they relate to fundamental rights. Its work contributes to the fight against torture and the prevention of human rights violations. To that end, Prison Insider collects, verifies and synthesises available data. It produces knowledge and makes it accessible to the general public. Prison Insider also develops, mobilises and leads a diverse network of committed individuals around the world. Its ultimate purpose is to provide people with the means to take action.

Prison Insider was created by Bernard Bolze, founder of the International Prison Observatory (OIP). It began in 2015, years after OIP ceased to be international. People from various fields – economics, associations, institutions and academia – came together to create a modern information format. Thanks to their efforts, the website was launched in 2017 in English, French and Spanish.

In 2025, the team included seven employees and three freelance translators, as well as four civic service (service civique) volunteers for a few months each. Supporting such a workforce was made possible by financial backing from national and international partners. Over the years, Prison Insider's selection of publications has expanded to include country profiles, the Prison Life Index, investigations, interviews, testimonials, fact-checking articles, docuseries, podcasts and an international press review. In addition to the website, Prison Insider also provides training, awareness activities and services, and continuously shares the knowledge it has produced via different channels. Thanks to these rich, diverse activities, Prison Insider is recognised today as a major force in the defence of the rights and dignity of incarcerated people around the world.

CLEARING THE BAR, STAYING THE COURSE

In 2024, we advocated for not surrendering to simplification, outcry and resignation. We held strong, with rigour, clear-headedness and persistence. In 2025, the issue was direction, and we have stayed on course despite the storm.

The need for our work has never been so apparent, and yet the conditions for performing it have never been so hostile. Even more so than in the past, prisons are becoming places of institutionalised humiliation and daily arbitrariness. This is no longer a gradual downward spiral: it's an eruption. This inexhaustible violence spits in the face of the rule of law – and which the State, through its silence, legitimises when it does not provoke it directly.

Funding has dried up – sometimes by design, in a strategic attempt to dismantle associative movements that represent opposition to power.

Nevertheless, we persist. Because our duty is not only to inform, but also to document. To bear witness. To say what's happening, what is not said, what is denied – so that history, later, cannot say that we did not know, that we did not take action.

And to do that, what could be better than making connections? Connections, between the people at Prison Insider who provide information and those who read our work, and those who are imprisoned. In 2025, we also decided to connect with the relatives of incarcerated people in six different countries by sharing their lived experiences in our documentary series, *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars*.

Prison Insider keeps records, monitors rights, and amplifies voices so they may never be silenced. Because courage means holding on, reinventing oneself, making adjustments – without ever betraying one's mission. It's hitting where it hurts, hitting hard, with words, facts, personal accounts, reports, actions and sometimes also messages of hope and

of changes to come.

I am addressing this message to you as part of this activity report, which is presented with Florence Laufer, the outgoing Director, after taking over as Director of Prison Insider – with enthusiasm and determination – in January 2026.

CÉLINE MARTIN, Director of Prison Insider
FLORENCE LAUFER, Director of Prison Insider from 2019 to summer 2025



PRISONS IN 2025

As the reliance on incarceration continues to grow, prisons around the world have never been so full. Prison overcrowding has become more widespread and has worsened. In 2025, occupancy rates reached 194% in Tunisia, 135% in France, 112% in Mexico and even 341% in Uganda. The Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) reports that 120 countries are affected, 45 of which have occupancy rates exceeding 200%.

In response to this crisis, most governments have chosen to invest in expanding their prison estate. Announcements of the construction of new correctional facilities are on the rise in El Salvador, South Africa, Belgium, Honduras and the United Kingdom.

This is a straightforward, one-size-fits-all solution, but it is ineffective: prisons continue to constantly lack space, and people continue to cycle in and out of them.

Above all, incarceration's effectiveness in lowering delinquency and crime rates has never been scientifically proven. In contrast, what has been proven is that prison continues to be a place where human rights are violated, as observed time and time again in our publications.

The worst may still be in the future, as numerous countries are shifting towards higher-security prison policies. In Italy, the "security" law of June 2025 introduced the offence of "uprising in a correctional facility". This law has made it possible to punish passive resistance with sentences of one to five years of imprisonment and up to eight years for the incarcerated individuals identified as the "organisers". Several Nordic countries – which had previously been praised for their prison model – changed course and have now gone the route of tightening security in detention. In Denmark, for example, disciplinary sanctions are becoming increasingly intrusive and open facilities are becoming more closed.

This emphasis on security is merely a reflection of the authoritarian transformation settling in across society as a whole. Year after year, policing and prosecution policies increasingly discriminate against poverty, criminalise marginalised people and suppress grassroots movements. In many places around the world, participating in a protest movement is now considered an offence. Environmental activists, Indigenous communities, journalists, lawyers and members of the LGBTQI+ community see their activism transformed into a threat that must be neutralised.

In Mexico, Indigenous activists and environmentalists are charged with "disorderly conduct", "obstruction of communication channels" or even "terrorism". In Denmark, the names of certain climate activists now appear on the list of terrorist threats. In Algeria, the penal code has made it possible to prosecute for "terrorism or sabotage anyone who has called to change the system of governance through unconstitutional methods". Amnesty International has reported an excessive use of force by French police and the use of arbitrary arrests, detention and enforced disappearances in Kanaky New Caledonia.

Given this situation, optimism may not be easy, but the need for information cannot be doubted. It is during the moments when human rights are the most at risk that information becomes the most meaningful: it documents these alarming changes and helps people join forces to fight for the respect of basic rights and human dignity, everywhere. More than ever, informing is defending, and defending is fighting.

INFORM

2025 began with the publication of the country profile for Côte d'Ivoire, which was developed in collaboration with FIACAT and ACAT Côte d'Ivoire. This work falls within the scope of the *Archipel II* project, supported by the Agence française de développement (AFD) and the Fondation de France. This factual and comprehensive review of Ivorian prisons expands on the *Prison Life Index's* assessment of the country, which was published a few months earlier.

As the year came to a close, work began on producing the country profile for Tajikistan. Two Prison Insider staff members travelled to Dushanbe in early 2026 to conduct interviews with associations, institutions, legal professionals and other stakeholders.

In addition, the team continued tracking news stories throughout the year and enriching existing country profiles. Before the end of the year, each of them was updated with the latest available data.



281 news briefs were written about 18 countries.

Our press review included

1,052 articles covering 118 countries in three languages.

PRISON LIFE INDEX

2024 culminated in the online publication of the first version of the *Prison Life Index*, an evaluation tool for quantifying and concisely reporting State compliance with international standards. Twelve countries were evaluated: Australia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Georgia, Ireland, Lebanon, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Scotland and South Africa.

Further development of the index was put on hold in 2025 due to a lack of funding, despite an active, continuous search. The team nevertheless continues to work on adjusting the methodology in order to simplify data collection, which would facilitate the rollout of the index on a greater scale, all while maintaining a high level of methodological rigour.

COMPARE

As in previous years, the team focused on unique subjects:

CAUGHT IN THE SPIRAL questioned – through first-person accounts, interviews and conversations – the human and social costs of the recourse to imprisonment in Burundi, Iran, Tunisia and elsewhere. The team also published several long-form articles. *The shadow of colonialism* covered the colonial heritage of prison systems in three parts: the origin of a system; post-independence, a sense of unfinished business; and prison: a registered design. *Locking up the opposition* explored how defending human rights and activism can become reasons for incarceration.

WHAT PRISON IS NOT, our first fact-checking series, invited readers to put things into perspective and question the collective perceptions of prisons in Europe. This series was produced as part of the *Unmasking truth* project with support from the European Media and Information Fund. Four articles addressed common misconceptions on various subjects: the reality of prison conditions, prison construction, the Nordic prison model and power dynamics. This project also presented an opportunity to carry out our first investigation to be co-produced with StreetPress. It is divided into two parts: the first explores the suicides in detention linked to the lack of psychological care and to imprisonment conditions; the second focuses on suspicious deaths, which have more to do with institutional violence in the prisons of France, Romania and Hungary.

TESTIMONIALS

"These are women who carry prison. We are the ones who support the people on the inside, who keep them alive."

ANDREA
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"You realise you're not going through this alone. And you can talk about it openly, people will understand you, and guide you, I think that's amazing."

L.
Lyon, France.

"I thought that if mothers got organised, we could ease the suffering of people on the inside and their mothers' suffering."

RAILDA
São Paulo, Brazil

Prison Insider encourages readers to compare different points of view to better understand the realities of the correctional system. Seven interviews, five first-person accounts, two podcasts and one portfolio were published on the site in 2025. After Libel published the print version of *InsideOutside* in December 2023, 11 of its 12 compositions were shared online in 2025.

The highlight of the year was the release of the docuseries *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars*. Created in collaboration with *ACiFaD* (Argentina), *Amparar* (Brazil), *Relais Famille* (Canada), *OIP-SF(France)*, *Documenta* (Mexico) and *POPS* (United Kingdom), this production threads together first-hand accounts from relatives in these six countries. Each video explores a different theme and can be watched independently from the others. The intertwining accounts outline the daily lives of mothers, fathers, daughters, wives and sisters as they are impacted by detention: the importance of the group, the violence experienced on the outside, the cost of detention, stigma, the weight of inequality and, lastly, the power of action. An online launch event was held on 3 October with nearly 130 participants from 14 different countries.



TRAINING AND RAISING AWARENESS

For several years, Prison Insider has carried out training and awareness activities, which in 2024 were integrated into the *Archipel* project, funded by the Agence Française de Développement. The goal of these actions is to share and showcase the information produced, by reaching out to various audiences to promote respect for the rights of incarcerated people.

The team continues to run a training module aimed at civic service volunteers, entitled "Prisons here and elsewhere: issues impacting dignity in detention". Two training sessions were held in 2025, in Grenoble and Lyon.

Speaking engagements for other audiences grew exponentially. Workshops were offered to professionals, and modules on fundamental rights in prison were delivered in various contexts, in particular at universities. Prison Insider also supported and guided numerous people (students, professionals, journalists, volunteers, etc.) in their projects to share information and produce citizen action related to detention.

Prison Insider continued to invest in Concertina: Summer Gatherings to Explore Imprisonment (Concertina, Rencontres estivales autour des enfermements), a three-day event where several hundreds of people gather in Dieulefit (France) for various experiences: round tables, workshops, film screenings, radio programmes, art and photography installations, concerts, etc. The team helped to jointly develop the 2025 edition, whose theme was "Appetites", and moderated and participated in various workshops. The event was a success, with 1,200 participants.

As early as summer 2025, preparations had already begun for the 2026 Gatherings, whose theme is "Lands".

In 2024, the team set a target of expanding its outreach activities, in particular by participating in discussions during

public events. It has risen to the challenge: Prison Insider was present at several events, in particular at festivals in and around Paris and Lyon. And there's more to come! The team plans to scale up these actions and broaden their scope in 2026.

Graphic work further cemented itself as a key driver in reinforcing the impact of our publications and our awareness-raising activities. Three graphic designers assisted us in 2025: Virgile Bellaïche, Valentin Lombardi and Zoé Vermander.

Illustrations now play a central role in our communications, both on the website and on social media, boosting readability and content buy-in.

TRANSLATION

In 2025, the organisation of our translation team changed drastically, as project management shifted to centre on one person due to limited resources for this task. The translators nevertheless handled a significant volume of work – 235,000 words, or the equivalent of two or three novels. The translations were complementary but varied: country profiles, first-person accounts and even the subtitling of the docuseries. Three paid translators and 20 or so volunteers were involved in ensuring, despite reduced resources, that information remained available.



IMPACT

2024 and 2025 were affected by a series of geopolitical and financial crises that weakened the environment of organisations that defend human rights. With the rise of authoritarian regimes came the restriction of civic spaces and increased questioning of the credibility of associations. In this context, measuring and documenting the impact of our actions is essential.

Prison Insider continued and consolidated work on monitoring its impact, initiated in previous years. Tools for measuring impact, as well as for project monitoring and evaluation, were refined in order to better adapt to the team's day-to-day needs and improve data collection and analysis. In addition to this progress, internal skills were strengthened, in particular through participation in dedicated training sessions.

The team worked directly with **1,565 people** throughout the year, through training, presentations and various exchanges. The information published by Prison Insider was regularly used by national and international institutions. It was notably cited by the experts of the United Nations Committee Against Torture while examining several countries, as well as in the context of requests for the transfer or extradition of incarcerated people.

In France, Prison Insider also appeared in institutional spaces, when *Prison Life Index's* assessment of the country was presented as evidence in a case tried at the assizes in June and when the team visited the Senate as part of a fact-finding mission on sentence enforcement.

Our information was relayed by **62 media outlets** around the world in 2025. In addition to being quoted, we were regularly contacted for speaking engagements, reinforcing our platform's reputation as an authoritative source on prisons. This visibility went hand in hand with audience growth on social media, in particular on LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

Prison Insider has established itself as a leading figure in prison conditions for institutions, media outlets, civil society

organisations and, more broadly, for anyone concerned with prison-related issues. Impact monitoring makes it possible to demonstrate the significance of this work, in a context in which human rights are being undermined, and to enhance the organisation's accountability.

DISSEMINATION AND AUDIENCE

Our website logged **408,583 visits** in 2025, an increase of 23% compared with 2024. Visitors were located around the world, in particular in France, the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Belgium, Canada, Australia, Mexico and Argentina.



Although Prison Insider does not regularly share content on YouTube, we had a more meaningful presence on the platform in 2025 thanks to the online publication of our docuseries *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars*. Its six episodes generated more than **845,390 views**, demonstrating the potential of audiovisual formats in reaching new audiences.

We continued to gain social media followers:

INSTAGRAM: 2,891 (+25% year-on-year)

LINKEDIN: 6,559 (+16% year-on-year)

FACEBOOK: 5,516 (stable year-on-year)

The newsletter got a brand-new look, with a redesigned format and a new name: *Panorama*.

Sent out one Friday per month in three languages, it presents our latest articles, an international press review, an events calendar, and reading, video and podcast suggestions, as well as sections dedicated to our contributions and trips and to the month's latest news. Over 4,900 people have subscribed to it. It had an open rate of about 36% (stable compared with 2024), reflecting the loyalty of our readers.

... ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza...
Dante Alighieri

GRANDI
SIGNIFICIO



LIBRERIA
UNIVERSITARIA

LIBRERIA
UNIVERSITARIA



IN THE MEDIA

Prison Insider further expanded its media presence this year. The *Prison Life Index* continued to pay off in early 2025, contributing to numerous articles, podcasts and interviews. The country profile for Côte d'Ivoire attracted considerable interest, with 14 mentions in Ivorian and international media outlets. The launch of Prison Insider's first docuseries, *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars*, was also a milestone, significantly enhancing our media visibility, especially in Latin America. Here are a few examples of our appearances in the media:

1 JANUARY

"Emmanuel Macron, artisan du dérèglement pénitentiaire"

— *Libération (France)*

13 JANUARY

"Prison : "Les détenus n'ont pas d'espace de vie" l'alerte de Prison Insider"

— *Radio France (France)*

24 JANUARY

"I Compared The Food Served In Prisons Around The World, And It's Pretty Eye-Opening"

— *BuzzFeed*

12 FEBRUARY

"Faut-il abolir le système pénal ?"

— *France Culture, Questions du soir : le débat (France)*

23 MARCH

"Les très très courtes peines de prison sont-elles efficaces, comme l'affirme Valérie Pécresse ?"

— *France Info : Vrai ou Faux (France)*

8 APRIL

"En Côte d'Ivoire, un détenu meurt après une tentative d'évasion à la prison de Bouaké"

— *TV5 Monde, Jeune Afrique, Le Monde Afrique (France)*

25 APRIL

"L'enfer des prisons ivoiriennes : pourquoi un taux d'occupation de 297,07 % parmi les plus élevés au monde"

— *Abidjan.net (Côte d'Ivoire)*

16 MAY

"Droit des détenus, coût de l'opération... Pourquoi l'envoi de prisonniers à l'étranger n'est pas une solution miracle"

— *Le Nouvel Obs (France)*

16 JUNE

"La prison était un outil de répression pour la mise en valeur de la colonie"

— *Afrique XXI*

22 JUNE

"Les barreaux du temps colonial"

— *Senepus (Senegal)*

3 JULY

"Iran : isolement, interrogatoires "très musclés"... Que sait-on du quotidien dans la prison d'Evin ?"

— *TF1 Info (France)*

15 AUGUST

"Témoignage Suisse : je ne pouvais pas imaginer une telle inhumanité"

— *Zakonia (Russia)*

19 AUGUST

"France's Dead-End War on Crime"

— *Jacobin (United States)*

11 SEPTEMBRE

"Tres piezas del tablero: gabinete, desafuero y seguridad"

— *Delfino (Costa Rica)*

3 OCTOBER

"Des prisons vertes, ça existe ?"

— *Radio Canada (Canada)*

3 NOVEMBER

"Prison Insider y ACiFaD presentan campaña internacional sobre el impacto de la prisión en las familias"

— *Mercado, Al día (Argentina)*

6 DECEMBER

"Las voces del otro lado de las rejas": una campaña global expone el impacto invisible de la prisión en las familias"

— *Ámbito (Argentina)*

Prison Insider's publications continued to be shared by numerous networks, including Avocats Sans Frontières, the Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty & Status, the Council of Europe's European NPM Forum platform, Incarceration Nations Network and Women Beyond Walls.

They also served as resources for various reports and studies, including:

"Green prisons: A guide to creating environmentally sustainable prisons"

— *UNICRI and Penal Reform International*

"Imagining the future of prison administration in response to the climate emergency"

— *Julien Sipra and Anouk Mousset*

"Global Prison Trends 2025"

— *Penal Reform International*

"Design Principles for Prison Landscapes: Security, Biodiversity and Wellbeing"

— *University of Birmingham*

"Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants: Mauritania"

— *Global Detention Project*

"An Evaluation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' Significance and Application in Nigeria"

— *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation*

"Et ailleurs : en Finlande, la réinsertion passe (encore) par le logement"

— *Dedans Dehors, International Prison Observatory—French branch (OIP-SF)*



HERE AND THERE

Numerous trips and gatherings set the rhythm for the year. Many of our trips were for the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, as the team travelled to Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom. In parallel, Prison Insider's speaking engagements continued in the form of training courses, conferences, professional gatherings and public events.

A look back at a few of our speaking engagements and trips in 2025:

JANUARY

- Participation in the meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean sub-group of the Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty & Status, organised by Avocats Sans Frontières, Brussels, Belgium
- Trip to São Paulo to meet with Amparar as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, Brazil

FEBRUARY

- Training on the *Prison Life Index* with the association Albin, Clermont-Ferrand, France
- Trip to Mexico City to meet with Documenta as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, Mexico

MARCH

- Discussion at the one-day seminar "Prisons of the world and institutional categories: Crossed perspectives on 'groups' in detention", organised by Centre d'Études et de Recherche sur la Diplomatie, l'Administration Publique et la Politique, Grenoble, France
- Participation at the National Gatherings of the International Prison Observatory – French branch as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars project*, Lyon, France

APRIL

- Trip to Buenos Aires to meet with ACiFaD as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, Argentina

MAY

- Lecture for the university degree "The Meaning of Sentences" within the Humanities and Philosophy department of Université Bourgogne Europe, online

JUNE

- Trip to Montreal to meet with Relais Famille as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, Canada
- Lecture as part of the continuing education session "Prison under consideration" by the National School for the Judiciary, Paris, France
- Fifth edition of Concertina, Summer Gatherings to Explore Imprisonment, Dieulefit, France

JULY

- Lecture during the Festival Woodstower on social inequality and the green transition, Lyon, France
- Trip to Manchester to meet with POPS as part of the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* project, United Kingdom

AUGUST

- Lecture for the Summer University, "Oversight of places of deprivation of liberty: legal aspects and practical issues", organised by Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Université d'Artois, Douai, France

SEPTEMBER

- Public outreach at the Together Against the Death Penalty stand during the Fête de l'Humanité, La Courneuve, France
- Participation in the training course "The future of prisons in France" at the Nancy Bar, France.

OCTOBER

- Participation in the 3rd edition of the Pour la Suite du Monde festival, as part of a screening of the film REAS, Lyon, France.
- Organisation of the launch event for the *Connecting Stories Beyond Bars* docuseries, with the six partner organisations, online
- Trip with StreetPress for the collaborative investigation into suicides and suspicious deaths in European prisons, Budapest, Hungary

NOVEMBER

- Leading a training session for European journalists on methods for documenting prison, online
- Lecture at an interactive conference on French justice organised by Orasi, Lyon, France
- Presentation of the "Prisons in the eye of the storm" series of articles at the Maison de l'Écologie, Lyon, France
- Participation in a round table on the memory of colonisation at the Our Future forum, "Sharing our places", organised by the Institut Français and the French Embassy, Salvador, Brazil

DECEMBER

- Lecture for the university degree "The Meaning of Sentences" within the Humanities and Philosophy department of Université Bourgogne Europe, online



THE ORGANISATION AND ITS TEAMS

PERMANENT MEMBERS

Sara Blanc Thoumine (research and publication), Clémence Bouchart (research and publication), Marion Devesa Haurillon (research and publication, until October), Madeleine Dykmans (administration and finance), Mehdi Faïez (research and publication, until March), Nathália Keller Rorato (projects and development), Florence Laufer (management, until August), Sarah Nouvellon (research and publication, starting in May), Marion Pécout (research and publication, until March), Itzelhi Rubio Madrid (communication and dissemination).

TEMPORARY MEMBERS

Manon Bochart, Cécile Dossa, Melissa Skander, Canelle Tomasoni.

TRANSLATORS

Diana Giron Silva, Maura Schmitt, Jaufré Vessiller--Fonfreide

ADMINISTRATORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Éric Jeantet (Co-President, lawyer emeritus at the Lyon Bar, former President of the Lyon Bar), Sofia Soula-Michal (Co-President since May, lawyer at the Lyon Bar), Judith LeMauff (Secretary since May, coordinator at a social re-integration association), Charles Jourdain (Deputy Secretary, lawyer at the Lyon Bar), Audrey Bigot (Treasurer since May, Director of a community luggage storage centre), Christine Breney (advisory support on organisation and management since May, retired).

BOARD MEMBERS

Bernard Bolze (co-founder of Prison Insider, founder of the International Prison Observatory), Sylvain Cormier (lawyer), Eva Csörgö (Programme Director at Fondation Salvia), Alexandre Delavay (lawyer at the Paris Bar, former President of Prison Insider), Clara Grisot (Communications Officer at Ateliers Frappaz and former member of the Prison Insider team), Khaled Miloudi (poet), Sylvain Savolainen (lawyer at the Geneva Bar), Helena Solà Martín (Director of the Anti-Torture Programme at OMCT), Jean-Marie Vieux (retired), Elisabetta Zamparutti (Italian member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, co-founder of the Hands off Cain association).

VOLUNTEERS

Carolina Nascimento (support and advice), Clara Grisot (preparing news briefs), Bruno Hérail (press review), Muriel Imhof (review of German press), Florence Laufer (senior advisor), Roksana Naserzadeh (support and advice).

VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS AND PROOFREADERS

William Avery Hudson, Leah Buhain, UBO students, Axel Johnke, Shannon Kirby, Kosana Pilling, Tanya Solari.



OUR NETWORKS AND SUPPORTERS

NETWORKS

- Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty & Status
- World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
- Possible's National Community
- World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT, SOS-Torture Network)
- Plateforme Droits Humains (PDH)
- United Nations Volunteers

SPONSORSHIP

- SACVL

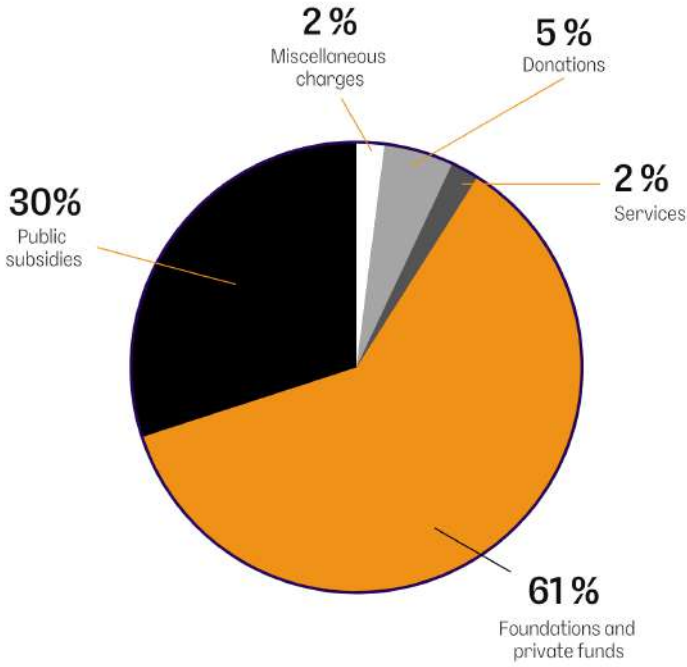
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Bar of Lyon
- Lyon Chair of Human and Environmental Rights
- European Commission
- Private donors
- European Media and Information Fund, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- Fondation de France

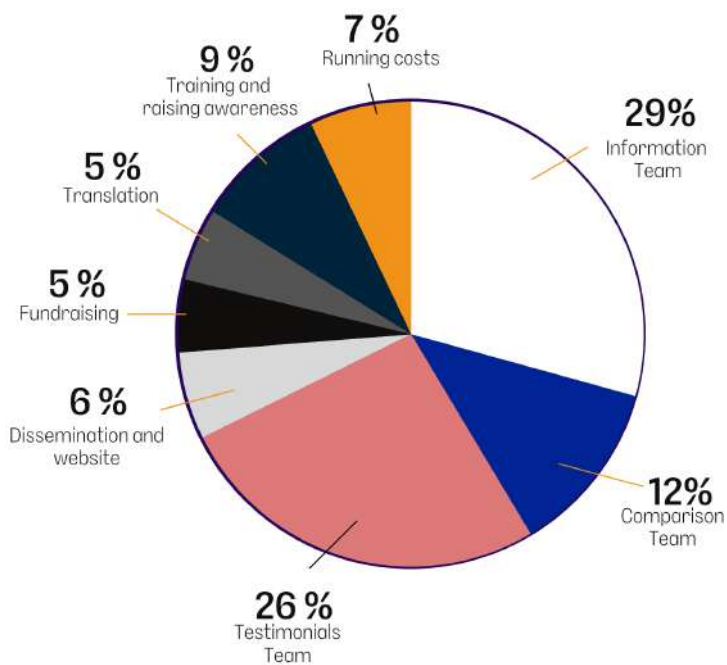


INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

SOURCE OF FUNDS 2025



USE OF FUNDS 2025



BALANCE SHEET

Balance sheet - Assets	Gross	Depreciation Provision	Net at 31/12/2025	Net at 31/12/2025
NON-CURRENT ASSET				
Intangible assets				
<i>assets</i>	45 350	43 200	2 150	2 150
Property, plant and equipment				
<i>Other tangible fixed assets</i>	11 028	7 909	3 119	4 498
Financial assets				
<i>Other fixed financial assets</i>	15		15	15
Total I	56 393	51 109	5 284	6 663
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debts receivable				
<i>Receivables from customers and related accounts</i>				9 301
<i>Other receivables</i>	96 030		96 030	23 823
Other current assets				
<i>Liquid assets</i>	259 728		259 728	347 160
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	645		645	2 532
Total II	356 403		356 403	382 816
OVERALL TOTAL	412 796	51 109	361 687	389 479

Balance sheet - Liabilities		At 31/12/2025	At 31/12/2024
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Capital without rights of recovery			
<i>First net position established</i>		10 000	10 000
Profit or loss carried forward		16 498	15 863
Profit or loss for the financial year		-8380	634
Net position (subtotal)		18 117	26 498
Total I		18 117	26 498
DEDICATED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			
Dedicated funds			10 000
Total II			10 000
DEBTS (1)			
Loans and sundry financial debts			
Supplier debt and related accounts		2 334	6 671
Tax and social security debts		22 388	34 461
Other liabilities		24 559	26 359
Deferred income		294 288	285 491
Total III		343 570	352 981
OVERALL TOTAL		361 687	389 479
(1) Of which due after one year			
Of which due within one year		343 570	352 981

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income and Expenditure	Year N 31/12/2025	Year N-1 31/12/2024
OPERATING INCOME		
Contributions	95	100
Sales of goods and services		
<i>Sales of services</i>	7 267	39 640
Income from third party funders		
<i>Public subsidies and operating grants</i>	134 822	178 145
<i>Financial contributions</i>	270 570	274 578
Donations		
	24 109	8 331
Write-up of provisions, impairment and transfer of costs		
Use of dedicated funds	10 000	
Other income	32	9 059
Total I	446 896	509 852
OPERATING COSTS		
Other purchases and external costs	157 155	128 349
Grants and subsidies	27 247	15 559
Taxes, levies and similar payments		2 145
Personnel costs	222 236	276 339
Social security contributions	48 912	75 499
Allocations for depreciation and provisions	1 379	1 393
Carryforward of dedicated funds		10 000
Other current operating costs	1	36
Total II	456 930	509 318
PROFIT OR LOSS (I-II)	-10033	534
FINANCIAL INCOME		
Other interest and related income	1 653	101
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT (III-IV)	1 653	101
CURRENT RESULT before tax (I+II+III+IV)	-8380	634
VOLUNTARY IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Benefits in kind	40 892	46 724
Volunteer work	89 727	144 523
Total	130 620	191 247
VOLUNTARY IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS COSTS		
Free provision of goods	40 892	46 724
Volunteer personnel	89 727	144 523
Total	130 620	191 247

OUTLOOK FOR 2026

As 2026 began, the environment for people taking action to support respect for human rights had become increasingly restricted. The drying up of US funding and the decline of official development assistance in France and Europe combined with strategic changes within private foundations are reshaping the conditions for taking action against the redistribution of certain resources towards security initiatives.

Prison Insider is not immune to this upheaval. As is the case for many organisations, we will have to scale back some of our goals. Even so, our work remains vitally relevant. It is more necessary than ever to maintain and strengthen spaces for collaboration and for accessing information.

The priority for 2026 is to ensure the continuation of our major projects, in particular updating our 18 country profiles. This substantive work, which largely goes unseen and is demanding in the long term, relies on meticulous monitoring of legislative changes and significant events. This information is published throughout the year in the form of news briefs, which are integrated annually. The key figures on the site are also updated regularly for all countries. The support of the Fondation de France is essential in order to ensure this work can continue in 2026 and to reinforce the involvement of people directly affected by prison as well as institutions in our projects.

We are also moving forward with the implementation of the second phase of the *Archipel* project, with the support of the Agence française de développement and the Fondation de France. This project goes beyond producing content: it provides a structured space for regular discussions between member and partner organisations.

In a context in which human rights are increasingly marginalised, the need to combine forces and strengthen ties between partner organisations appears more vital than ever.

The new year began with the production of the country profile for Tajikistan, thanks to the support from the European Union, and a presentation in Dushanbe with the pilot group for the implementation of the country's national preventive mechanism against torture.

The partnerships developed in 2025 reinforced Prison Insider's collaborative working methods. In 2026, the association plans to build on this momentum by exploring new opportunities with its partners, through several projects that are currently under consideration.

Although the priorities may have changed, the course has been maintained: continue documenting, informing and making connections, to bring prison conditions to light and push back against the violation of basic human rights.



A WORD FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER

I began photographing in 1996, working strictly in analog and black and white. At the time, I was a young officer in the Italian Army, still trying to find my place in the world. Photography has always accompanied me, offering a space in which to transfer into images everything that, by choice or by necessity, I did not want or was not able to express with words. For me, photography is a Pandora's box: a place of truth, sometimes uncomfortable, but always necessary.

In 2016, I published my first book, *Flowing Time*, released by Edizioni03, in which, through the use of long exposure, I explored the transience of the human being, who leaves behind only a faint trace of their passage on Earth. Today, in *The Beauty in the Beast – stories of prisons and resilience*, that same technique allows me to tell the opposite process: the human capacity to recover, redefine oneself, and rebuild through commitment, study, and work.

I began this journey with great emotion and a sincere sense of fear: fear that, upon crossing those thresholds, I might not be welcome, that I would encounter resistance; but also fear of not being equal to the goal I had set for myself, to the suffering, the hopes, and the difficulties that, at every level, those who inhabit these worlds face every day. Looking back, I realise I chose an important and delicate theme: a challenge first and foremost with myself, and with my ability to convey sensations, nuances, and truths.

Detention leaves a deep mark on anyone who experiences it. It erodes dignity, blurs identity, and makes true reintegration into society extremely difficult, if not impossible. A society that too often continues to see every formerly incarcerated person – man or woman – as an inconvenient presence, a mistake. A beast.

With this project, I did not intend to denounce prison living conditions, a topic already widely discussed; nor to question the necessity of detention or the importance of rehabilitation paths aimed at restoring dignity to the human

before the formerly incarcerated person.

My intention moves instead against the dominant narrative. I wanted to observe and tell how men and women work every day to preserve and enhance human essence, offering a concrete possibility of redemption or, simply, easing the weight of life inside a cell. An alternating gaze between incarcerated people, with their stories and their truths; institutions, represented by the penitentiary police, directors, and staff; and those external realities which, through volunteer work and the support of individual citizens, bring tangible help both inside and outside prison walls.

Along this path, I collected testimonies, listened to stories, shared the anxiety of waiting and the nervous energy released on football fields. I saw men marked by wrong choices devote themselves to tailoring or pastry making; study mathematics and English; meditate. Pray.

GIAN PAOLO IERVOLINO



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