

# Florești facility - Romania

## Introduction



Ploiești prison is located in Ploiești, about 80 km north of the capital Bucharest. The prison houses 395 people and accommodates male adults after conviction in semi-open and open regimes. The educational activities offered there aim to prepare people in detention for early release to facilitate their reintegration. In October 2022, Ploiesti Prison began a new open program. This pilot project is located at a different location, 25 km from the Ploiesti prison, in Florești. The project is officially known as "Work point with permanent accommodation for incarcerated persons- Florești, Prahova" (also referred to as "Florești facility" in this report). The program was implemented at the chosen

location based on cooperation with a private partner who provides accommodation in exchange for work done by residents for the company. This program is sort of a mix between a prison and a halfway house. The residents, however, are known as incarcerated people.

## Scale

Florești facility can accommodate 40 to 50 residents. The capacity is thus closely above the recommended limit of 30.

### RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

## Differentiation

### *Target group:*

A special commission based at the Ploiesti Penitentiary carefully selects candidates showing specific qualities and qualifications. For accommodation in the Florești facility, people in detention must comply with the selection conditions for open detention outside a penitentiary facility. Among the conditions are: a definitive sentence of incarceration, qualification for an open-detention regime, not to be subject to disciplinary sanctions, not to be criminally investigated for crimes other than the one for which one is convicted, to have submitted to one's arrest (not to have run away to avoid being arrested), not to be pursued internationally by Interpol, to be medically fit for work and to be psychologically evaluated and

declared fit for work. The program is mostly dedicated to incarcerated people approaching the date of release (Parole Commission). Even though there are no specifications age-wise, applicants are mostly in their twenties.

#### *Forms of security:*

Static security seems to be predominant. Florești facility is fitted within high fences topped with barbed wires. The windows are equipped with grids and surveillance cameras are strategically placed throughout the premises. Access to the facility is controlled by a gatehouse, regulating both entry and exit. During daylight hours, residents are granted freedom of movement within the facility. However, at night, corridors leading to individual rooms and common areas are locked. The overall security is overseen by only two guards. While cell phones are allowed for work purposes, they are not permitted within the facility. Since the interaction between the guards and the residents is limited, there is little relational security.

#### *Activities:*

Few activities are offered at the Florești facility as the residents all have to work. Since their employer is in the tire logistics business, they are expected to manually load/unload containers with tires. Residents receive the legal minimum salary in Romania, but here they receive only 40% of this amount (10% is compulsorily saved to be given upon release). The remaining money is given to the penitentiary administration as a participation to cover accommodation costs. Furthermore, they are expected to do housekeeping in the common areas and their shared rooms. Theoretically, residents have some control over their own activities, for example to arrange appointments with third parties, but the program is still experimental. In practice, the schedule is usually determined by the correctional facility. Other activities outside the prison may be allowed, provided they are organized by staff. These are usually community visits or visits to local employment centers. Residents may receive visits from their families (visits with children or intimate visits with their partner) in another nearby ward as the institution is not yet equipped with the necessary rooms.



## Community-integration

### *Location and architecture:*

Florești facility is situated in Florești, in the district of Prahova, in Romania. Ploiești is the capital city of Prahova, which is where the Ploiești prison is based. The municipality of Florești has a population of approximately 52 735 (2021).<sup>1</sup> Florești has been one of the fastest-growing cities in Romania, with a substantial increase in inhabitants due to urbanization and development.

The facility is located in a remote industrial area providing almost no public services as there is no residential area around. It is located in the immediate vicinity of the workplace 100 meters away. The neighbourhood consists of a small industrial area. The traffic is very limited, consisting mostly of trucks.



The architecture of the building itself is shaped like a barracks, which does not make it feel homely. The inside is similar to the outside, although they have used some warm colors on the walls, making it a bit homier. Residents have shared bedrooms (five to six people per room) and a shared kitchen and dining room. There are no flowers or trees nearby, unlike in Ploiesti where the prison's half-opened headquarters is located.

### *Interaction with the community:*

Unlike Ploiesti prison, which interacts heavily with the nearby community, almost nothing is implemented in the Florești facility in this regard, except visits to the community or to local employment agencies.

### **Publicity/ read more**

- Article about a press conference in Romania about Florești facility:  
Conferința de presă a directorului general al Administrației Naționale a Penitenciarelor, 23.09.2022. (n.d.). *Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor*. Retrieved June 26th, 2023, from <https://anp.gov.ro/blog/evenimente/conferinta-de-presa-a-directorului-general-al-administratiei-na-tionale-a-penitenciarelor-23-09-2022/>

#### **Florești facility**

Founded: 2022  
Capacity: 40  
Security level: Medium  
Nearest city/town:  
Florești (Romania)  
Nature of interaction:  
Visit by FARAPEJ  
(13/04/2023)

<sup>1</sup>Florești (Cluj, Romania) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map, Location, Weather and Web Information. (n.d.). *City Population*. Retrieved June 26th, 2023, from [https://www.citypopulation.de/en/romania/cluj/\\_/057706\\_\\_flore%C8%99ti/](https://www.citypopulation.de/en/romania/cluj/_/057706__flore%C8%99ti/)