

Hungary

Adj Hangot Egysület (Speak Out Association)

Hungarian prison radio was initiated by a small group of radio presenters and psychologists in 2013. We set out to adapt and implement the initiative of the UK's National Prison Radio to the Hungarian system.

We launched prison radio at Vác Penitentiary, a middle-to-high security prison for men, and later opened two more radio stations: one at a remand prison and another at a prison for women. The radio programs were produced by prisoners for prisoners.

Participation in radio work was voluntary and open to all prisoners. Volunteers received basic training in editing and journalism and took part in team building activities. The inmates decided the content of the radio programmes and they did all the journalistic and technical work.

Apart from the radio work in prisons we organised and took part in various events:

- We conducted several talks, human library projects with prisoners or ex-prisoners at schools, universities and festivals.
- At our first press conference in Hungary, prisoners, prison officers and charity members sat at the same table.
- Our first prison radio conference in Hungary was organised jointly and performed by prisoners and charity members.
- We participated in a week-long popular festival three years running, where visitors could familiarise themselves with prison life.

Our work was abruptly terminated unilaterally by the prison authorities together with many other prison programs four years after our start. If there is ever a change of government, we will surely open again!

- Two years after the launch of the radio almost half (48,6%) of the prisoners tuned in on *Bars FM* several times a day and another quarter (24%) daily.
- A *Bars FM* radio reporter won the special prize award for under-30s journalists reporting on human rights issues in 2016 and 2017.
- In our *Photovoice* project, prison radio presenters described what freedom meant for them in photographs. Exhibition and talks were held in five different cities.



*"You have the right to remain silent!...
Or give your voice!"*

Prison radio slogan



Börtönrádió

