

Poland

University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

Prison radio stations are located in almost every correctional institution in Poland. These stations can only be heard within the prison confines and concentrate mainly on re-transmitting programmes of popular radio stations. They also share news from inside prison and support the rehabilitation process through educational programming (Doliwa, 2013).

All of them use the closed circuit cable system of broadcasting. This is mainly connected to the fact that this way of transmitting the radio signal was widespread in Poland after World War II.



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The new communist regime was interested in the development of radio as a tool of propaganda. They were created in housing estates, workplaces, dormitories and prisons.

As for now, Polish prisons remain one of the few places where one can find a network of loudspeakers joined by means of cable.*

* Doliwa, U. (2013). Radio behind bars: The Polish case. *The Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast and Audio Media*, 11(2), 119–36.





- There are around 150 prison radio stations active in Poland.
- There is no formal network between the different prison radio stations.
- They distribute their programme using closed circuit cable system.
- Most of the time they re-transmit programmes of popular radio stations.
- A core element of every programme are announcements with an obligatory menu for the day.
- Every year there is a contest organised 'Living History - My Small Homeland - My Family - Me' - for the best broadcast prepared by prison radio journalists hosted by pre-detention centre in Koszalin.
- The primary goal of every prison radio is taking part in the rehabilitation process of prisoners.
- Prison radio is the most egalitarian medium in prisons – not everyone has a TV-set in the cell but everyone has a radio loudspeaker.