
Terms of Reference

Consultant for research on data collection on violence against imprisoned children in Europe

March 2023

About PRI

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that develops and promotes fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide. We work to promote criminal justice systems that uphold human rights for all and do no harm. We run practical human rights programmes and support reforms that make criminal justice fair and effective. Our primary objectives are to secure trials that are impartial, sentencing practices that are proportionate and promote social rehabilitation, and humane conditions of detention where alternatives to imprisonment are not possible. We work through country missions, regional hubs, remote coordination, and through partners.

PRI's Europe Programme promotes human rights-based detention conditions and adoption of alternatives to imprisonment, bringing countries in line with European standards and promoting the equal rights of marginalised people in conflict with the law, including those in particular situations of vulnerability, such as children in prison.

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Background

To address and prevent violence against children (VAC) in all its forms –a core element of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and UN Sustainable Development Goal 16– its extent and nature must be understood. This is undoubtedly true in the context of juvenile detention, where children face immense vulnerability due to criminal justice system contact and the impact of prison conditions intersecting with personal or background challenges and characteristics, all while states are responsible for protecting their rights and safety. Data and policies often ignore detained children, and systematic collection of detailed data on VAC must become a priority for all facilities where children are detained to support monitoring, accountability and appropriate responses.

As part of a consortium implementing the project [*Data for monitoring the safety of imprisoned children*](#) (Data MOSAIC), funded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, PRI is joining global efforts to tackle VAC by facilitating more comprehensive and comparable data collection systems on VAC in criminal justice facilities detaining children in Europe. The project will map current data collection practices across justice systems in Europe and draw recommendations for improvements based on identified gaps and needs, international human rights

standards and best practices. These findings, alongside national needs assessments in three focus countries –Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania– and information gathered through working with children with lived experience, front-line staff, international experts and public authorities, will be used to develop and pilot improved data collection strategies and tool(s) on VAC in detention and support extensive advocacy on the matter.

In addition to PRI, the project consortium consists of the following partners: [SAPI](#) – The social activities and practices institute, Bulgaria; [TdH ELVETIA](#) – Terre des Hommes, Romania, [TdH España](#) - Fundación Tierra de hombres, Spain and; [NOVA](#) – Universidade NOVA de Lisboa.

Research objectives

To understand the structural problems curtailing the elimination of violence within the context of child imprisonment and to identify good practices that can be replicated or improved upon to further needed reforms, the mapping research will uncover the current situation of data collection on VAC in criminal justice facilities detaining children in EU member states. Forming a key part of the Data MOSAIC project, the data collection and analysis of the mapping research will be enriched by the three in-depth national baseline studies and feed into subsequent project activities, including the development and piloting of data collection tool(s) and dissemination of evidence-based guidance for implementing data collection on VAC in detention.

The specific objectives of the research include:

- Gaining a better understanding of the phenomenon of VAC in detention in the EU and on how data on VAC is collected and acted upon in child detention settings within criminal justice systems;
- Identifying promising and best practices in data collection on VAC in detention, informed by international guidance and human rights standards, including the rights of the child, and an inclusivity and non-discrimination lens (particularly considering certain, often marginalised groups such as girls and children with an LGBTQI+ identity);
- Identifying gaps and needs in data collection systems on VAC in child detention settings in consideration of international guidance, human rights standards and best practices;
- Feed into the national activities in the project's three focus countries, including in-depth baseline research, development of improved data collection systems (tool, guidance and training), and advocacy.

Research methodology

The mapping research will be desk-based and should include both quantitative and qualitative data. Working with the project team, the consultant will refine and finalise the research methodology which is expected to:

- Include both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive view of the subject matter;
- Consider all forms of violence;
- Consider all relevant international standards and guidelines on criminal justice, rights of the child and VAC;
- Use an intersectional lens that includes the experiences of children from certain, often marginalised groups or with marginalised identities (e.g. gender identity, sexual orientation, cultural, religious, racial or ethnic identities, disabilities, et cetera);

Tasks and deliverables

The consultant will:

- 1) Refine the research methodology based on details and scope of the project and the guidance provided by the consortium, including the provision of input on methodology and scope for in-depth country studies;
- 2) Conduct in-depth desk research, gathering and analysis quantitative as well as qualitative data to synthesise the information gathered;
- 3) Support the national baseline studies in Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania that will be carried out by the consortium partners as needed, with input on work in Ireland most anticipated;
- 4) Contribute to a “Best practice and international standards compendium” to be published on the project website, by the end of July 2023,
- 5) Contribute to other relevant project and research outputs, as agreed, including the development of guidance and the data collection tool.

The tangible deliverables include:

- 1) *A research plan* outlining the detailed methodology and timelines for the work, due April 2023;
- 2) *A Synthesis Needs Assessment Report* (20-30 pages); providing the project consortium with a comprehensive review and analysis of current practices in VAC data collection in child detention settings across criminal justice systems in the EU, with in- depth focus on Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania, due in September 2023;
- 3) *Final presentation* of the research findings to the project consortium, due in September-October 2023.

Duration and timeline

The duration foreseen for the consultancy is from **April 2023** until **November 2023**. However, the bulk of research will need to be completed by **August 2023**. The anticipated timeline of work is:

- Mapping research **April –July 2023**
- Contribution to baseline research - **April –July 2023**
- The Synthesis Needs Assessment Report **July – September 2023**
- Presentation of findings **July – October 2023**

Budget

The total budget for the consultancy should not exceed **8,000 euros**.

Selection criteria

PRI is looking for a consultant with the following skills and competences:

Essential:

- At least a Master’s degree or professional qualification relating to sociology, criminology or other social science studies, human rights law;
- In-depth knowledge of violence against children, particularly in the context of criminal justice systems and detention, including but not limited to relevant international and European human rights law, EU policies and national strategies, current trends, etc;
- Excellent track record and experience on working with quantitative and qualitative data in criminal justice system(s);
- Proven track record of multi-country research and analysis, preferably within the EU;
- Fluency (written and oral) in English;
- Legal residence in the EU
- Ability to travel in Europe, if needed
- Commitment to PRI’s mission, and commitment to PRI’s *International Safeguarding Policy*

Desirable:

- Knowledge and/or experience of human rights monitoring in detention settings;
- In-depth understanding of intersectionality considerations in the context of criminal justice
- Knowledge of relevant EU law on data protection
- Knowledge of other European language(s)

How to apply:

Please apply by providing:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter with reference to the above requirements as well as a budget breakdown;
- Names and contact details of two referees;
- Two examples of relevant published research;

Please send your application to Ms Tanja Dejanova, PRI's Programme Coordinator in Europe at tdejanova@penalreform.org by **9:00am CET on Monday, 3 April 2023**.



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