



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children



Call for tenders: Expert to support the ENOC-UNICEF initiative for a multi country impact assessment of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights to protection

Specification

Title of the work: Multi country impact assessment of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights

Starting Date: January 2021

Office: working remotely

Type of consultancy: ENOC expert contract

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted us with an unprecedented situation that has affected and will continue to deeply affect children's lives worldwide, far beyond any health risks.

The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) is a membership body made up of 43 independent children's rights institutions in 34 countries within the Council of Europe, whose main objective is to safeguard and promote children and young people's fundamental rights. Its mission is therefore to closely monitor the situation of all children throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as responses from local, national and European authorities during and after the end of isolation measures; to share critical information, good practices and experiences in order to keep children and their families safe; and to guarantee respect of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant European and International Human Rights instruments¹.

In this context, ENOC and UNICEF have initiated a collaboration around the issue of COVID-19 and children's rights. In May 2020, ENOC and UNICEF conducted a short online survey on Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children's responses to the new challenges generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty three ENOC members responded. Following this survey, nearly 60 representatives of Ombudspersons for Children's offices and UNICEF participated in an online session on June 2nd 2020, to discuss and share some experiences on the impact of COVID-19 on their work and on children's rights in their respective countries. The main issues raised in the survey and during the joint online session are summarized in a summary Report [here](#).

¹ [ENOC Statement on Children's Rights in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Following up on this ongoing collaboration, UNICEF ECARO proposed to further partner with ENOC to support national child rights mechanisms to assess key identified areas and specific vulnerable groups of children including those in institutional care, in detention/closed institutions, affected by violence, involved in child labour or caught in migration. Through this cooperation project, UNICEF will support ENOC to provide direct technical assistance to a number of Ombudspersons for Children's offices in Europe and Central Asia for the undertaking and completing of specific Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs) related to COVID-19.

ENOC is looking for an expert on children's rights with extensive knowledge and expertise on Child Rights Impact Assessment processes to lead the project and assist participating countries in undertaking and completing CRIAs related to COVID-19.

Methodology

These assessments will be an important input into ENOC's work plan for 2021 on "COVID-19: learning for the future" and a way to continue and implement ENOC's 2020 work on CRIA. Indeed, as a specific objective in 2021 ENOC will focus on assessing the cumulative impact of states' responses to COVID-19 on children's rights in Europe. Building on what has been completed in 2020 in the area of CRIA, ENOC through its membership will map how COVID-19 legislation and practices have affected children's rights and what are the lessons learnt to ensure better preparedness and capability to respond effectively to a similar challenge in the future. In this framework, the ENOC-UNICEF project will complement the process and support ENOC members, especially those who have limited expertise and experience on CRIAs, in developing and implementing an impact assessment of COVID-19 states measures (law, policies, practices or decisions) on children's right to protection.

Building on the work of ENOC in 2020 on CRIA², a special tool – a Common Framework of Reference (CFR) – was developed that the participating Ombudspersons for Children's offices will have the opportunity to practically use in the framework of the ENOC-UNICEF partnership. This step-by-step guide provides a model which is flexible and adaptable to the local context and needs of ENOC members. The contracted expert many need to adapt the CFR to to the specificity

² ENOC 2020 materials (outputs and deliverables) related to CRIA are available on the ENOC website: http://enoc.eu/?page_id=3718

of the project and to the assessment of the impact of COVID-19, and will use it as a key methodological tool when assisting Ombudspersons for Children.

Bearing in mind the different capacity of the offices within the ENOC membership, the project does not aim to require a fully-fledged CRIA in every country. The scale and depth of the assessment may vary from one country to another depending on each country's capacities and resources (technical and financial).

Therefore, the contracted expert will develop adjusted methodologies for the country assessment based on the CFR. The options may include: a) a simpler methodology (e.g. desk review), b) mixed methodology (e.g. desk review and field data collection with the key service providers and families), c) a broader methodology including all child rights.

Coverage

A total of 15 countries are expected to participate in this project:

- 7 Ombudspersons and Commissioners for children's offices that are ENOC members in UNICEF programme countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- 5 Ombudspersons and Commissioners for children's offices that are ENOC members in non-UNICEF programme countries: Cyprus, Ireland, Sweden, Slovakia, and The Netherlands.
- 3 Ombudspersons and Commissioners for children's offices in Central Asia UNICEF programme countries: Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. In these countries, the assessment will focus on impact on children affected by migration.

In countries where UNICEF has a full country programme, UNICEF country offices will provide day-to-day technical support to Ombudspersons' offices at national levels to develop the impact assessment (identify the researcher at country level to collect and analyze data, methodology, review of draft country reports, quality assurance, etc). ENOC through its contracted expert will more closely supervise and support the assessments in 5 ENOC members' countries where there is no UNICEF country programme (Cyprus, Ireland, Sweden, Slovakia, The Netherlands).

Deliverables/Outputs

The outcome of this initiative will be:

- a) Comprehensive Child Rights Impact Assessments of COVID-19 on the protection of children covering various domains as will be determined in the 15 participating countries
- b) A Synthesis/overview report of the CRIAs across the region or by sub-region.
- c) The findings will be disseminated within and outside the region and are expected to inform national level actions to further enhance the protection of children impacted by COVID-19, to inform international and regional bodies' (including but not limited to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the European Union) learning and future responses to the COVID-19 situation or any other similar emergency.

The successful contractor will be leading the project and supervising its implementation, especially by supporting participating countries in completing their CRIA (quality assurance on the development of methodology, training, bilateral assistance to participating countries, especially the ones that are not UNICEF programme countries, etc), with the support of UNICEF ECARO and the ENOC Secretariat. Specific roles include:

- a) Provide participating countries with assessment guidelines based on the ENOC Common Framework of Reference and tailored to the capacities of countries;
- b) Provide a reporting structure for the CRIAs, which should be the same for all participating countries to enable compilation of country, sub regional and regional reports;
- c) Organize, together with UNICEF ECARO and the ENOC Secretariat, a launching event to introduce the joint project, its purpose, objectives and expectations to project participants but also more broadly to ENOC members and other stakeholders such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the EU, etc.
- d) Facilitate a training/capacity building event for participating ombudspersons for children's offices on how to develop and conduct independent CRIAs customized to this particular assessment;
- e) Organize sub-regional working sessions/update meetings to check progress and provide support and advice as may be required;
- f) Provide guidance and quality assurance to the participating countries on the assessment: development of methodology – regional and country specific, data collection, analysis, drafting of the country reports;
- g) Summarize and analyze country findings in regional and/or sub regional report(s);

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- h) Launch the reports and disseminate findings at selected forums including with EU and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Timeframe

This work will be completed between January and October 2021. The timeline outlining key milestones for the work is as follows:

Task	Deliverable	Approximate timeframe
Invitation to quote and proposals	Call for tenders /Specification	18 December 2020
Submission of quotes and proposals	Proposal including relevant experience and curriculum vitae, proposed methodology and budget.	13 January 2021
Successful expert appointed	-	19 January 2021
Launch event	Design and moderate a launch event (online, ½ - 1 day long) to present the initiative, expectations and timeframe, introduce the ENOC CRIA tool (CFR) & brainstorm with participating Ombuds offices.	End of January 2021/Early February 2021
CRIA training with participating UNICEF country offices and ENOC members	Facilitate a training/capacity building event for participating ombudspersons for children on how to develop and conduct independent CRIAs customized to this particular assessment.	February-March 2021
CRIA Methodology	Design detailed and customized methodologies/ guidelines for undertaking CRIAs, based on the ENOC CFR, and tailored to the capacity and assessment domains of participating countries.	February-March 2021
Reporting Structure	Provide an uniform reporting structure for CRIAs to allow consistency in the collection, reporting and analysis of data and	March 2021

	findings	
Assessments and analysis at country levels	Provide day-to-day guidance/assistance and quality assurance to the participating countries on the assessment. Organize, if necessary, status update or individual working meetings (online) to check progress and provide advice.	February-May 2021
Country Reports on CR impact assessment of COVID-19 state measures	Guide the countries throughout the drafting of country reports and provide feedback on the drafts. .	Avril-May 2021
Regional Report on a multi country impact assessment of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights to protection	Draft regional and/or sub regional report(s) based on the compilation and analysis of country assessments' findings.	May-June 2021
Feedback on Country/Regional Reports	Feedbacks received on the first draft reports included in a second draft.	June 2021
Feedback on Country/Regional Reports	Feedbacks received on the second draft reports included in the final version.	July 2021
Final Reports	Finalize the last version of the reports.	31 August 2021
Reports dissemination	Promote the results of the report. Disseminate findings of the initiative at selected international and European forums.	September-October 2021

Mandatory Requirements including minimum standards

1. The successful contractor will have significant experience of conducting research or providing expert advice in one or more of the following areas: Children and Young people's rights; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other European and international human rights instruments; human rights impact assessment and child rights impact assessment.
2. Proven experience in the design and implementation of methods of qualitative and quantitative research, including facilitating, collecting and/or conducting polls, surveys, and interviews.
3. Proven experience in the analysis of data from different sources, qualitative and quantitative data, and within different countries/contexts.
4. The successful contractor will provide examples of undertaking research or providing expert advice within these areas and is able to work within the timeframes provided.
5. Proven experience of organizing trainings and provide quality assurance in a multi-country project.
6. Project management skills.
7. Good communication ability to explain analytical results to a non technical audience.
8. Fluency in spoken and written English.

Desirable:

9. Experience of working directly with children and young people.
10. Previous work experience with the United Nations System or other children's rights organizations.

Contract management

This project is funded by UNICEF ECARO. The expert will be contracted by ENOC on the basis of a consultancy/expert contract. Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for the dissemination of the project findings at selected international and European forums will be covered by ENOC separately (if travel restrictions are lifted and meetings are organized physically).

It will be essential that the successful contractor liaises with the ENOC Secretariat and UNICEF ECARO regularly to update on progress and to highlight any issues which may impact on the successful and timely completion of the project. A schedule of updates will be agreed at the start of the project and the deadlines for each element of the project are set out within the schedule of work.

The available budget is based on a 9 months consultancy fee (3 days full time work per week in average), that is a maximum of **20.000 €** (inc.VAT). The consultancy will require flexibility and availability from the contractor, to adapt to times that might require more investment than others, depending on the support needs of participating countries and on the key milestones of the project.

Submission and assessment of quotes

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria and therefore quotes should be submitted and should outline:

1. **Expertise** (in the relevant policy and research areas of children and young people's rights; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other European and international human rights instruments; human rights impact assessment and child rights impact assessment) and experience in undertaking similar projects. This should include the relevant experience of the contractor, including curriculum vitae.

Evaluation criteria: marks available = 25

2. **Methodology** (to include feasibility, robustness and effectiveness of approach)

Evaluation criteria: marks available = 25

3. **A budget for the project.** The contractor should present a total cost of the project and related work (including VAT) in Euros plus a breakdown of costs for each part of the project. Contractors should include any other information which adds value to their proposal.

Evaluation criteria: marks available = 50

Interested candidates are invited to send their application to secretariat@ombudsnet.org and secretariat@enoc.eu. The quotation process will close at 12 noon on **13 January 2021**. Applicants will be notified on 19 January 2020 if they have been successful.