



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

Contract for Expert to support ENOC's 2021 work on "COVID-19: learning for the future"

Specification

Background

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. Each year one specific issue is chosen that is affecting children and young people's rights and that requires special attention and careful consideration in member states and at a European level. The theme chosen by ENOC for 2021 is *COVID-19: learning for the future*.

Over the course of 2021, ENOC members working together as a forum will carry out extensive work on **assessing the impact of states' responses to COVID-19 on children's rights in Europe**.

As part of this collaboration, and building on what has been completed in 2020 in the area of Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA), ENOC through its membership will map how COVID-19 emergency legislation, practices and measures have affected children's human rights and wellbeing and what are the lessons learnt to ensure a better preparedness and capability to respond effectively to a similar challenge in the future. Based on the findings ENOC will develop and issue a position statement. The purpose of the statement is to formulate recommendations on *COVID19 – learning for the future* (CRIA and COVID19) addressed to competent European, international, national and local authorities to ensure children's rights, interests and needs are thoroughly assessed and upheld in COVID-19 pandemic responses and recovery period.

The position statement will be published after the Annual Conference scheduled to take place at the end of September 2021. The conference is the concluding event on the theme, where the work undertaken over the course of the year is presented, discussed and workshopped. The General Assembly taking place after the Annual Conference will vote on the adoption of the position statement.

Please note that a parallel participation project for children and young people is being coordinated through the European Network of Youth Advisors



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

(ENYA). Children were very little or not at all involved in discussions concerning policies and decisions aiming to contain the spread of COVID-19 while all aspects of their lives have been profoundly affected by the crisis. Therefore, a very important aspect of ENOC's objectives and planned activities is to secure that the views and experiences of children and young people from different geographical areas within the ENOC membership are sought and fully taken into account when addressing ENOC's 2021 priority theme. Children and young people from participating countries will gather on the occasion of an ENYA Forum in June 2021 to share views and personal experience, and elaborate common recommendations on the theme of *COVID-19 – learning for the future*. The ENYA recommendations will be reflected in and will inform the position statement on the same issue.

The Theme – COVID-19, learning for the future

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted us with an unprecedented situation that has affected and will continue to deeply affect children's lives worldwide, and aggravate the conditions of the most vulnerable groups. In its [Statement on Children's Rights in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak](#), ENOC and its members pledged to closely monitor the situation of all children, as well as the responses from local, national and European authorities during and after the end of isolation measures, and to continue to share critical information, good practices and experiences to keep children and their families safe and guarantee respect of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant European and International Human Rights instruments. ENOC's role to ensure that the rights of all children, as guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are respected is even more important during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis.

In this framework, ENOC will focus in 2021 on the impact of COVID-19 states' responses on children's rights. Building up on ENOC's previous years' extensive work on, among others, child poverty, mental health, access to education, digital environment, and the most recent in date Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA), ENOC will adopt a child rights based holistic approach to assess how adequately countries' responses to the COVID-19 health crisis have taken into account children's rights, needs, interests and wellbeing, and to draw the necessary learning for the future.

In 2020, ENOC worked extensively on CRIA, which is a key mechanism for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a crucial tool for advancing children's rights. The use of CRIA



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

supports a systematic assessment and communication of the impact on the rights, needs and interests of children and young people. On the occasion of its 24th General Assembly meeting in November 2020, ENOC adopted a CRIA policy statement and a practical tool. Based on the findings of a mapping study on CRIA, the [ENOC Position Statement](#) draw up a list of recommendations aiming at providing guidance to States, national, regional, European and international authorities on how to implement CRIA and promote the visible integration of children's rights in decision-making. ENOC also issued a [Common Framework of Reference](#) for carrying out CRIAs to allow ENOC members, but also relevant stakeholders, to implement CRIAs as a standard practice. This step-by-step guide provides a model which is flexible and adaptable to the local context and needs of ENOC members. It includes a detailed template to get started on undertaking CRIA and monitoring the impact of decisions, policies, laws or practice on children's rights.

While in normal time, although still modestly, more and more countries apply CRIAs, this was none of the case when adopting emergency measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and is neither the case when adopting measures to mitigate the effect of the outbreak. Through the 2021 work plan, ENOC will support its members to carry out alternative, independent and thorough assessments of what laws and policies passed to fight the coronavirus pandemic mean for children's rights in their countries, and consequently in Europe. ENOC members will have the opportunity to practically use this Common Framework of Reference to measure the implications of COVID-19 states' responses on children and their rights.

Please note that ENOC will be launching in February 2021 a parallel joint project with UNICEF on a multi country impact assessment of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights to protection. Through this cooperation project, UNICEF will support ENOC in providing technical assistance to a limited number of Ombudspersons for Children's Offices in Europe and Central Asia for the assessment of key identified areas and specific vulnerable groups of children (in institutional care, in detention/closed institutions, affected by violence, involved in child labour or caught in migration) and the development of specific CRIAs related to COVID-19. You can find more information on the project [here](#).

Preparation of the 2021 ENOC statement provides an important opportunity to bring to the attention of European, International, national and local decision and policy makers the importance of embedding children's rights and interests, as well as their views and experiences in their responses to the COVID-19



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

crisis, in the recovery phase, but also in other similar crisis in the future.

Outline of approach

Preparation of the ENOC statement will be led by a Working Group of members which the Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights Greece will chair. The statement will be informed by input from the wider ENOC membership (for example, through a questionnaire and via attendance at the ENOC Spring seminar). Indeed the contracted expert will first work on mapping the impact of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights within the ENOC membership. Based on a report compiling country assessments and survey findings, the WG, with the help of the contracted expert, will draw a list of "learning for the future" by elaborating specific recommendations that will help countries around Europe to comply with their international obligations for independent and thorough CRIAs of legislation and measures passed around the pandemic.

The ENOC Spring Seminar tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2021 (location and format TBC) will provide the opportunity for attendees to discuss the findings of country CRIAs and other feedback provided by the members through the mapping study, and to brainstorm about the scope and preliminary terms of the draft ENOC statement on COVID-19: learning for the future. Based on discussions and views expressed at the Seminar, the expert, in collaboration with the WG Chair and members, shall progress on the draft statement and share an initial version in June/July, a revised version in August, and a final version prior to the ENOC Annual Conference in late September 2021.

Deliverables/Outputs

The successful contractor will:

1. Draft a specific **questionnaire** or other appropriate tool/survey aiming to collect in an uniform way the results and findings of country CRIAs or other relevant data related to the impact of COVID-19 States' measures on children's rights;
2. Compile a **synthesis report**, drawing on survey findings received from ENOC members, which will inform the draft position statement. This report will map the impact of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights within the ENOC membership. ENOC members participating in the



European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

survey will be encouraged to use the ENOC Common Framework of Reference to develop and conduct CRIAs in order to ensure consistency in data collection and analysis. The collected information will then be collated, analyzed and summarized in a synthesis report/mapping study.

3. Draft an initial **statement** which includes an overview of the impact of COVID-19 states' measures on children's rights within the ENOC membership, outlines the lessons learnt to ensure better preparedness to respond to a similar crisis in the future, and addresses recommendations on *COVID-19 – learning for the future* to competent European, international, national and local authorities to make sure children's rights, interests and needs, but also their views and experiences, are thoroughly assessed and taken into account throughout crisis response and recovery periods.
4. Attend and facilitate discussions and workshops during the **ENOC spring seminar** to take place in May 2021
5. Revise the draft statement: 1) taking account of WG discussions, 2) workshop recommendations held during the ENOC spring seminar and 3) reflecting and incorporating the recommendations from ENYA.
6. Attend and help facilitate discussions and workshops during the **ENOC Annual Conference** in September 2021 in Athens, Greece (or online).

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; children's rights in emergency/crisis situations.
2. 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.
3. The successful contractor will have experience of working with children and young people.

Schedule of work

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

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Invitation to quote and submit a proposal sent to relevant experts | 20 January 2021 |
| Deadline for submission of quotes and proposal | 3 February 2021 |
| Successful expert appointed | 10-15 February 2021 |
| Questionnaire on CRIA and COVID-19 | 24 February 2021 |
| Synthesis Report provided | Mid-May 2021 (prior to May Seminar) |
| Draft statement provided | June 2021 (after the May Seminar) |
| Attendance/Participation at ENOC Spring Seminar (Poland or online) (1 day) | May 2021 |
| 1 st Revised draft statement provided | 31 July 2021 |
| 2 nd Revised draft statement provided | Early September 2021 |
| Attendance/Participation at ENOC Conference (Greece or online) (1 day) | September 2021 |

Contract management

The lead person for this work in the office of the Greek Deputy Ombudsman for Children's rights will be Anna Routsis. It will be essential that the successful contractor liaises 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 will be €4000 (inc.VAT). This project is funded by ENOC and the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020).

Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for attendance at the ENOC Spring Seminar and Annual Conference (if relevant) will be covered by ENOC.

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; children's rights in emergency/crisis situations) 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 3 February 2021.



ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020). The content of its publications represents only the views of ENOC and is its sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

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