

INVITATION TO TENDER

MedMinors: Social exclusion and delinquency of unaccompanied refugee minors in the Mediterranean countries of first entry (Greece, Italy, Spain)

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, sparking a crisis as countries struggled to cope with the influx, and creating division in the EU over how best to deal with resettling people. An estimated 362,000 refugees and migrants risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea in 2016, with 181,400 people arriving in Italy and 173,450 in Greece. In the first half of 2017, over 105,000 refugees and migrants entered Europe, while in 2018, 18,920 have already been documented so far.

This movement towards Europe continues to take a devastating toll on human life. Since the beginning of 2017, over 2,700 people are believed to have died or gone missing while crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, with reports of many others perishing en route. These risks do not end once in Europe. Those moving onwards irregularly have reported numerous types of abuse, including being pushed back across borders.

Ever since the closure of the Balkan route and the EU-Turkey agreement, a large number of refugees have been trapped in Greece, among them great numbers of unaccompanied refugee minors (UAM) who are striving to survive and get their way across the borders. A similar situation can be seen at the rest of the Mediterranean countries, such as Italy and Spain.

In recent years, the number of children on the move arriving in the European Union, has dramatically increased. In 2016, over 100,000 children arrived in Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria, of whom 33,806 (34%) were

ROSA-LUXEMBURG-STIFTUNG, Office in Greece

Gesellschaftsanalyse und politische Bildung e.V.
Tax No.: 997287355
Kallidromiou 17, GR-10680 Athens, Greece
Tel.: +30 210 3613769, Fax: +30 210 3617769
E-Mail: info.athens@rosalux.org, Web: rosalux.gr

unaccompanied or separated children (UNHCR, UNICEF & IOM, 2017). During the same year, the European Union's law enforcement agency, Europol, states that at least 10,000 UAM have disappeared in Europe. With European governments' mismanagement and restrictive policies, UAM have been socially excluded and as a result, have often suffered from extreme forms of violence, exploitation, trafficking, as well as from physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

With concern for all the above, Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung (office in Greece) along with Steps organization, is conducting MedMinors research in both three countries of first entry (Greece, Italy, Spain), as a response to the necessity for coordination and networking among groups and organizations. We aim to provide advocacy to the institutions and we expect that the outcomes of this research project will provide fertile land for influencing legislators, officials, as well as organised groups to consider possible reactions/remedies to the phenomenon.

Aims of the Research

The research must evaluate how policies (National & European), law implementation and/or absence of legislation provision, socially exclude UAM and prevent them from exercising their rights. Furthermore, the study must focus on the consequences of the previously described situation with regard to UAMs' delinquency and exploitation of any kind.

Researcher's qualifications

- Academic and activist expertise in the field of refugee protection.
- A rights-based education
- Research experience, especially in quantitative and collaborative research projects
- High quality writing skills in English

Researcher's responsibilities

- To take 25 recorded interviews using a given questionnaire
- To take in-depth interviews with key-informants
- To construct and take interviews from focus groups where needed
- To keep weekly skype meetings with the coordinator of the project in Greece.
- Write the final report using his/her findings and updated bibliography.
- Deliver the final written country report two months after the formal assignment.

Offers

Your offer for conducting one of the country researches should include

- Complete and comprehensive CV,
- List of previous research publications

Please state if you are liable to VAT or exempt. For each component study the budget ceiling is 3.500 EUR (gross value)

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Deadline for the submission of offers is 14 May 2018. Please send your offer via email to Electra.Alexandropoulou@rosalux.org.

Only successful bidders will be informed about the awarding decision until 17 May 2018.