

## **Fostering Access to Immigrant Children's Rights (FAIR) Project**

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-European Institutions office) is undertaking a two year project to foster access to human rights for migrant children (FAIR: Fostering Access to Immigrant children's Rights) across the European Union (EU) in collaboration with aditus foundation (Malta), Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge e.V. (B-UMF) (Germany), Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) (Greece), Fundación Raíces (Spain), Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) (Ireland), Legal Clinic for Immigrant and Refugees (LCIR) (Bulgaria), and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSA) (Italy).

The project is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the EU and the Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation (OSIFE), and implemented in cooperation with the AIRE Center, Child Rights Connect, and the Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione (ASGI) (Italy).

One of the main obstacles in access to justice for migrant children is the lack of lawyers specialized in international human rights and EU law on children's rights and on the use of international human rights mechanisms, who can act as an effective point of entry to the justice system for migrant children.

To enhance access to justice for migrant children across the EU, the project aims to create pools of national lawyers in Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta and Spain who are able to defend migrant children's rights effectively through the courts and to assert the right of the child to be heard and to have her or his views taken into consideration in judicial proceedings.

The project will establish a European group of lawyers with expertise in strategic litigation for migrant children's rights, who can act as agents of change both in their own countries and at European level.

By the end of the project, lawyers in seven EU Member State countries will be equipped to use international human rights and EU law guarantees on children's rights and international human rights mechanisms for their protection, and to communicate effectively with migrant children to ensure that their views are taken into account.

A core group of lawyers will also be equipped to engage in strategic litigation before international human rights judicial and non-judicial mechanisms to defend migrant children's rights. Practical training modules and learning tools will be widely disseminated across the EU to support lawyers in defending migrant children's rights.

**This project is Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union** and by OSIFE.

