

Children's Alternatives to Detention protecting their Rights in Europe (CADRE)

As of February 2021, the ICJ-EI is implementing a two-year project on "Children's Alternatives to Detention protecting their Rights in Europe (CADRE)" seeking to promote the expansion, implementation and improvement of viable and effective alternatives to detention for migrant children in full respect of their rights in the European Union.

This effort aims to contribute to ending the resort to detention of children in migration by promoting viable alternatives to detention, meaning arrangements which can ensure the children's well-being and rights under EU and international law.

The project targets seven focus countries – Malta, Greece, Bulgaria, Poland, Belgium, Hungary and Italy. It is implemented in collaboration with national partner organisations: Aditus (Malta), Foundation for Access to Rights (Bulgaria), Greek Council for Refugees (Greece), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland), Defence for Children International - Belgium, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary), and the Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI) (Italy) and supported by the participation of the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum-Seekers (Malta).

Within this project the partners aim to train professionals who work with migrant children, and on detention and alternatives to detention in the focus countries, namely public officials, civil society organisations, lawyers and judges – on the human rights implications of alternatives to detention, by instilling a child-rights culture centered around their best interests and access to child-friendly procedures. The project aims to equip these participants with awareness of and access to best practices and standards, skills and ability to implement them, and to foster a transnational and multidisciplinary community of experts from different backgrounds for mutual support and exchange on developments in the field.

In doing so, the project aims to ensure an effective and consistent application of EU and international law and standards on alternatives to detention, benefitting migrant children at risk of being detained or whose rights may be violated in alternatives to detention, in the focus countries, and in the long-term, across the EU more generally.

The project partners will: (i) hold three transnational workshops attended by at least 60 experts from seven EU countries followed by several online public conferences/talks; (ii) develop four training modules translated into six different languages and other e-learning tools; (iii) hold national trainings in the five focus countries, and (iv) widely disseminate all publications and materials, including through developing a webpage with a database and videos.

