



EXPERT CONSULTANT IN CRIMINOLOGY

Fair Trials is seeking an external expert in criminology for the project “Improving judicial assessment of flight risk” which is part-funded by the European Union and runs from 1 June 2022 to 30 April 2024 (“the Project”).

About the Project

Pre-trial detention is a major contributor to the overcrowding of prisons in the EU which can in turn contribute to inhuman and degrading detention conditions. Certain groups are also disproportionately affected by the overuse of pre-trial detention, for example, poor and marginalised people, racialised and ethnic groups and foreign nationals. In the past ten years, this has been increasingly recognised by both European regional courts and policy makers.

Tackling overuse of pre-trial detention will require a number of measures and a multi-pronged approach by different stakeholders. The project intends to contribute to the broader goal of tackling the overuse of pre-trial detention by taking an in-depth look at judicial decision-making on one of the most commonly applied grounds of detention – flight risk (danger of absconding, risk of evading justice). By taking a deep dive into judicial decision-making on flight risk, the project will look at the prosecutorial and judicial practice of assessing flight risk to identify the most effective measures to reduce pre-trial detention based on this and potentially other grounds of detention.

Methodology

The project will have three main phases. In the first phase we will establish the state of play across the EU. This will consist of two parts. Firstly, we will review the most relevant scientific research and statistics on flight risk as a ground for pre-trial detention. Secondly, we will establish to what extent existing regional standards established by the ECtHR create a clear and enforceable framework for a consistent pan-EU approach to the assessment of grounds for detention with a specific focus on flight risk.

This will feed into the second phase, where we will look at how these findings are applied in the practice of national courts in five Member States. The methodology will be developed with a view to not only legal issues, but also to enable inter-disciplinary analysis at a later stage. The research and analysis will be based on empirical data – legislative framework and pre-trial decisions assessing flight risk. The findings will be discussed with each of the main stakeholder groups – judges, prosecutors and lawyers – in order to obtain their practical insight and discuss proposed recommendations to address the identified challenges.

In the third phase we will engage in advocacy domestically and on a regional level and produce a regional report.

About the role

The role of the external expert is to support and advise the Project partners in their research methodology, incorporate a sociological analysis of research findings, and develop recommendations that reflect the broader systemic functioning of criminal justice.

The external expert will:

- 1) assist in the development of the methodology for the domestic research (analysis of judicial decisions and conducting focus groups) and where necessary support its adaptation to local context to make sure it covers aspects that will enable inter-disciplinary analysis at the stage of production of domestic reports;
- 2) deliver a training for all project Partners to assist with the analysis of domestic research findings from a criminological perspective, e.g., analysis of the extent to which discriminatory trends in the assessment of flight risk can be detected and whether factors outside the legal framework are influencing the outcome of proceedings;
- 3) participate in regular project meetings and contribute to internal discussions of project findings from a criminological perspective;
- 4) consult with partners to incorporate a criminological analysis of the findings in the drafting of the regional report.

Expected time required: 25 days.

Required qualifications, experience and competences

Advanced university degree in criminology – preferably PhD candidate in criminology or post doctoral researcher in criminology.

Good understanding of the systemic issues leading to recourse to pre-trial detention.

Fluency in written and spoken English.

Residence or permission to work in the EU.

Application procedure

Interested applicants are invited to send their a short cover letter explaining their relevant experience and CV in English, to ilze.tralmaka@fairtrials.net (please include your expected daily remuneration) until **6 May 2022, 18.00 CET**. We may hold a short interview and in any event will contact you to let you know the outcome of your application.