# Ex ante publicity for negotiated procedure for middle and low value contracts

**JUST/2016/RCHI/PR/RIGH/0163 - Mapping of research on Roma children in the European Union 2014-2017**

| Contract name | Purpose | Indicative date for call for tenders |
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| Mapping of research on Roma children in the European Union 2014-2017 | The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') intends to launch a negotiated call for tender in order to contract a service provider to map existing research on Roma children.<br><br>Children (aged 0-18) make up a significant proportion of the estimated 10-12 million Roma[1] in Europe, and around six million Roma in the EU. Roma children are among the most excluded, deprived, and discriminated against in Europe. Many Roma children live in overwhelmingly poor conditions on the margins of society, and face extreme levels of social exclusion.<br>Whilst there is existing research on the rights of the child of Roma children from a broad range of stakeholders - from governments, civil society, international organisations, academics and practitioners - child rights-based research, namely on aspects of children's lives that is influenced and informed by relevant international human rights standards is not well coordinated, with a knock on effect on cooperation especially in respect of EU-funded research, as well as on EU policy design and implementation. **This study therefore aims to map existing research (and identify potential research gaps) on Roma children's rights**, with a view to:<br>• Identify the most relevant research carried out<br>• Assess whether this research has been child-rights based<br>• Explore research gaps<br>• Suggest child rights-based research to be replicated or further used, and forms of | September 2017 |

[1] The term "Roma" is used as an umbrella which includes groups of people who have more or less similar cultural characteristics, such as Sinti, Travellers, Kalé, Gens du voyage, etc. whether sedentary or not. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1444910104414&uri=CELEX:52011DC0173.

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| | research that should be implemented<br><br>The Commission wishes to map and classify existing research on Roma children, and assess the extent to which it adopts a child-rights approach according to the criteria set out below.[2]<br>**Child rights-based research** has "as an end-goal the further realisation of the rights of the child. It is grounded – preferably explicitly – in the CRC and the General Comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The rights of the child can and should underpin research on children where, especially in the geographically diverse EU region, the rights of the child can serve as a unifying standard in which to ground research. Child rights-based research involves children in research about them, both as a means to empower children and produce better research results...Action research that takes a child rights-based approach enhances the capacity of duty-bearers to realise the rights of the child by intent and design rather than pure chance. Research which is CRC-compliant involves all stakeholders."[3]<br>In short, **criteria** for assessing to what extent research on Roma children is child rights-based include: (a) the research is informed by the UN CRC, including in respect to Article 12 on child participation; (b) its procedures comply with CRC standards, also in regard to child participation; and (c) its outcomes benefit the child or children, for example by improving the enjoyment of rights and by developing their capacity to claim their rights, as well as the capacity of public authorities, as duty-bearers, to fulfil their obligations.<br>The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has collected relevant information on the participation of children in research in EU Member States.[4]<br>Research to be mapped may be transnational, national, regional or local and can include quantitative research, such as household and personal surveys, in particular school-based surveys. It may be qualitative, such as experiential research or action research projects (where research and delivery of actions is combined). A focus on the added value of integrated research, where different issues are jointly addressed or analysed, is particularly welcome. Relevant research carried out by the European Commission will be included.<br><br>The **geographical scope** of the mapping covers the following countries:<br>1) BG, CZ, HU, RO, SK, (Member States with the largest Roma communities – over 200 000 | |

[2] For more general information on human rights-based approach, see http://hrbaportal.org/faq/what-is-a-human-rights-based-approach

[3] The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Taking Stock after 25 Years and Looking Ahead. Edited by Prof. Ton Liefaard, Leiden University, the Netherlands and Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. CHAPTER 23 CHILD RIGHTS RESEARCH FOR 2040: A EUROPEAN COMMISSION PERSPECTIVE *Margaret Tuite*

[4] http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/rights-child/child-participation-in-research

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| | people)<br>2) DE, ES, EL, FR, IT (Member States with large Roma communities – over 100 000 people) with both Roma who are country nationals and Roma from other Member States, bringing particular inclusion challenges<br>3) BE, NL and IRL (small to midsize Roma communities) with both Roma or Travellers who are country nationals and Roma from other Member States, bringing particular inclusion challenges<br>4) AL, BIH, KS and SR (IPA beneficiaries in the enlargement region with a representative distribution of Roma – estimated average of 37 500 to 600 000 people) with domiciled Roma, Roma from other Western Balkan countries and Roma who have applied for asylum in Member States or migrated to Member States, bringing particular inclusion challenges, including upon return[5]<br>The mapping should review research which as a minimum includes data or information on at least one or, preferably a combination of the following **topic areas**:<br><br>a. Birth registration and ID documentation<br>b. Citizenship and statelessness (identification and determination of statelessness as well as resolution)<br>c. Poverty and social exclusion<br>d. Taking account of the concept of schools as engines of social inclusion:[6] education (inclusive, quality education), covering all levels of education (early childhood education and care; primary and secondary education; upper-secondary, vocational training and other forms of labour market integration) and in particular the following cross-cutting issues[7]<br>i. Participation in education: enrolment, attendance, performance and achievement rates<br>ii. Accessing special assistance in education, social and medical services for those children with special needs and/or learning difficulties/disabilities<br>iii. Discrimination in mainstream education: indirect discrimination | |

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/glossary/terms/acceding-countries_en
[6] https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/in-the-eu-there-should-not-be-place-for-discrimination-of-roma-children
[7] See also: https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/in-the-eu-there-should-not-be-place-for-discrimination-of-roma-children

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| | through difficult access to and or distance from schools; direct discrimination through class and school segregation; placement in special needs schools<br>iv. The inclusion of Roma culture and language as part of the curriculum in early childhood education and care, in primary and secondary schools, also in accordance with specific minority rights, as applicable<br>v. Early school leaving<br>vi. Second chance education<br>vii. Access to technical and vocational education<br>viii. Transition from education to the labour market or to forms of informal employment<br>e. Social norms, stigma and discrimination against Roma children<br>f. Multiple discriminations (e.g. disability, LGBTI, gender, migration/exercising freedom of movement, etc.)<br>g. Removal from parental care, alternative care including de-institutionalisation, guardianship<br>h. Roma children in detention<br>i. Migrant Roma children from third countries, and EU Roma exercising free movement rights, Roma children left behind by parents who migrate for work<br>j. Circumstances of Roma children who return or are returned to their country of origin (reintegration measures or lack thereof)<br>k. Residential and housing segregation and forced evictions<br>l. Housing deprivation, for example access to basic services such as water and electricity[8]<br>m. Material deprivation[9] | |

[8] See Eurostat definitions at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing_conditions

[9] See Eurostat definitions at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Material_deprivation_statistics_-_early_results

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| | n. Practices of early and child marriage<br>o. Violence against children, including bullying, hate speech (particularly online) and hate crimes, child trafficking, including forced begging and forced criminal activity<br>p. Criminal victimisation, including bias motivated;<br>q. Health related research, including on vaccinations<br>r. Access to healthcare (including preventive healthcare, vaccinations and mental health care);<br>s. Cross-cutting horizontal issues, including:<br>i. Child participation in research/interventions<br>ii. How the specific needs and circumstances of Roma children are mainstreamed in other child-related aspects, such as:<br>1. Overcoming barriers, including institutional discrimination<br>2. Cross-border cooperation and sharing of information<br>3. Training tools on the rights of Roma children, including for instance training tools on inclusive education, managing diversity in the classroom<br>4. Integration strategies and action plans<br>5. Collection of data (quantitative and qualitative)<br><br>The contractor may map other research on the above which examines the situation of Roma children, but not exclusively (i.e. includes some children who are not Roma).[10]<br>**1.3. Key questions to be answered**<br><br>1. What is the volume of existing research on the rights of Roma children?<br>2. What proportion of this research is assessed as child-rights-based according to the criteria set out above?<br>3. What are the main research gaps on the rights of Roma children?<br>4. Based on the mapping, what recommendations can be made to ensure that future research is human rights-based? The contractor should draw up separate | |

[10] See for instance http://wwwen.uni.lu/research/highlights/overcoming_bias_in_decision_making

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| | recommendations for the EU (funding research/EU policy) and for national level (authorities/policymakers/funding/academia/practitioners/ombudspersons for children). | |

**Please note:** this overview is for information only. If you are interested in participating in the tender procedure, you may email your details to JUST-04-CFT@ec.europa.eu with a reference to the call for tender you are interested in (JUST/2016/RCHI/PR/RIGH/0163) no later than 15 September 2017.

Provision of your contact details does not automatically lead to invitations to tender. The Commission may, at any point, decide to cancel the procedure.