

Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARIS

Terms of reference for a national researcher

Consultancy	National researcher for developing the desk research on offending and victimization among adolescents
Location	Albania
Starting date	14 June 2024
Type of contract	Service Contract

Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARIS is seeking a dedicated and experienced National Researcher to conduct desk research for a study focused on offending and victimization among adolescents. The researcher will play role in gathering, analysing, and synthesizing existing data and literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current situation, trends, and contributing factors in this area, in the frame of the project “Building resilience of youth towards criminal activities”, leaded by NGO Juventas in partnership with Nisma ARIS in Albania and Belgrade Centre for Human Rights in Serbia, supported by the Regional grant of the “SMART Balkans – Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans” regional project implemented by Centar za promociju civilnog društva (CPCD), Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) and Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) and financially supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA).

Introduction about Nisma ARIS

Nisma për Ndryshim Shoqëror ARIS (abbreviated as NISMA ARIS) is a non-profit organization established in February 2016. NISMA ARIS is an influential non-governmental actor in the civil society sector in Albania.

The mission of NISMA ARIS is to provide services and sustainable solutions for the most marginalized individuals and groups in Albanian society, with a special emphasis on the Roma and Egyptian communities. NISMA ARIS advocates and lobbies at both local and central levels on issues of child and youth protection, development and participation, improving the socio-economic conditions of their families, and empowering the capacities of service providers, non-profit organizations, professionals, and other actors who work with vulnerable children.

Introduction with the project

The project aim contributing to fight against organized crime and building a new paradigm in current socio-economic breakpoint, by strengthening the resilience of youth and providing systematic solutions and support. Specific objective(s) (outcomes) are presented as follows:

- Improved understanding of push and pull factors for recruitment in criminal activities through conducting research among elementary and high school students through two researches.
- Strengthening capacities of police, sport clubs, journalists and youth NGOs for building resilience of youth.
- Building trust between youth and police.

The aim of this consultancy is conducting desk research in Albania for a better understanding of the level of involvement of young people in criminal activities, as well as the push and pull factors through available documents.

National researcher responsibilities and tasks:

Conduct comprehensive literature review:

- Gather and review existing research, reports, articles, and data on offending and victimization among adolescents, both nationally and internationally.
- Identify key themes, trends, and gaps in the existing literature.

Data collection and analysis:

- Collect secondary data from reputable sources, including governmental reports, academic journals, and NGO publications.
- Analyze and interpret data to identify patterns and correlations related to adolescent offending and victimization.

Report writing:

- Prepare a detailed and well-structured report summarizing findings from the desk research.
- Highlight significant findings, trends, and gaps in the current knowledge base.
- Provide recommendations for further research or action based on the findings.

Collaboration and communication:

- Work closely with the project team to align research activities with the study's objectives.
- Present findings to stakeholders in a clear and concise manner, both in written and verbal formats.
- Participate in meetings and workshops as required.

Compliance and ethics:

- Ensure all research activities comply with ethical standards and organizational guidelines.
- Maintain confidentiality and integrity in handling sensitive information.

The outline of the desk research is presented in Annex 1.

Qualifications and skills:

Education:

- Advanced degree in Social Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, or a related field.

Experience:

- Proven 10 years of experience in conducting desk research, literature reviews, and data analysis.
- Prior experience in studying adolescent behaviour, offending, and victimization is highly desirable.
- Experience and familiar with the child protection system, social care services in Albania

Research skills:

- Strong analytical skills with the ability to interpret and synthesize complex information.
- Proficiency in using research databases and tools.

Communication:

- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Ability to present research findings clearly and effectively to diverse audiences.

Organizational Skills:

- Ability to manage time effectively, prioritize tasks, and meet deadlines.
- Meticulous attention to detail in research and report preparation.
- Proficiency in English, both written and spoken.

Child Protection Policies:

All individuals working with Nisma ARSIS programs are required to adhere to child protection policies, policies on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation, internal regulations of Nisma ARSIS, code of conduct, complete legislation on child protection, as well as any other relevant documents they should be aware of. The consultant will carry out their duty in accordance with the Child Protection Policies and the Convention on the Rights of the Child signed by NISMA ARSIS.

Key Deliverables and Timeframe:

The Consultant/s will be engaged in the period from 20.06.2024-31.07.2024 (**15 working days**).

Application Process:

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

- their CV,
- a cover letter detailing their relevant experience,
- financial offer,
- a sample of previous research work

to info@nisma-arsis.org. The application deadline is 14 June 2024, midnight at the latest.

Please, kindly note that: In the subject line of the email application, please include: Application for the position of national researcher. Only individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

Nisma ARSIS is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

Annex 1: Outline of the desk research

1. Introduction
 - 1-2 pages - information about the scope of the publication and the project
2. Pull and push factors analyzed
 - Up to 5 pages - literature review on push and pull factors on resilience of youth towards criminal activities (scientific publications, international and national reports, strategies and action plans – at least 20 documents analyzed)
3. Legal and institutional framework on the national and local level analyzed
 - From 4 - 6 pages on legal framework (International conventions, Constitution, Criminal Code, Family Law, Law on children in the conflict with the law, Law on social and children protection...)
 - From 4 - 6 pages on institutional framework (list of all relevant institutions with basic information on the scope of the work on the national and international level)
4. Mapping of the existing services for children and youth in conflict with the law
 - From 4 - 6 pages the existing services for children and youth in conflict with the law with the information of the scope of the work, capacities of the institutions/organizations and number of children and youth that are -receiving services on the annual bases for the period 2019 – 2023
 - Include both institutions and NGOs
5. Self-evaluation of the capacities and needs of the institutions and NGOs who work in improving youth resilience towards crime.
 - Include questions on number of professionals, needed number of professionals, perception of the level of knowledge perception of the level of support, services needed on the local and national level
6. Training plan for professionals
 - List of trainings per group of professionals
7. Recommendations for improvements of the legal and institutional framework
 - Up to 5 pages of recommendations that are concrete