PRISA **Strengthening procedural rights for vulnerable individuals that are suspects and accused in criminal proceedings**

NEWSLETTER

The project *Strengthening procedural rights for vulnerable individuals that are suspects and accused in criminal proceedings (PRISA)* is implemented from September 2026 until August 2028, with the financial support of the Justice Programme – European Commission, by Association Pro Refugiu (Romania), University of Bucharest (Faculty of Law), Center for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria), Centre for European Constitutional Law (Greece), Institut catholique de Lille (France), Institute for Law and Society (Poland)

The project aims to enhance the application and access to procedural rights for vulnerable individuals that are suspects and accused in pre-trial and trial proceedings in Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Poland. PRISA focuses on the fact that in the context of the digitalization of the justice system, vulnerable individuals should be entitled to specific safeguards, and while speedy procedures are relevant to handle cases in a timely manner, the justice system must also ensure access to a fair trial in each case. Despite a robust EU legal framework, in the Member States there are still plenty of challenges in terms of access to rights for individuals involved in criminal proceedings. The project activities are structured in five work packages and consist in: research focused on analysing the legislative framework and practice in order to identify current bottlenecks that hinder access to the procedural rights to which suspects and accused are entitled (5 national reports and 1 comparative report will be produced following the collection and analysis of information); 2 transnational expert group meetings and 5 national roundtables to debate about challenges and solutions to enhance procedural safeguards in judicial proceedings; an action plan that will provide a strategic overview of a range of approaches and measures that can be implemented by judicial bodies to facilitate access to procedural rights for vulnerable individuals that are suspects and accused; elaboration of a manual for practitioners and the implementation of 5 national conferences to increase awareness about the impact that the digitalization of the justice system has on procedural rights. Communication and dissemination activities will be carried out periodically throughout the 24-month implementation period, both online and through the organisation of events (e.g. a final transnational conference), targeting at least 50.000 social media users and 500 institutions and organisations with competences in the field of justice and rights protection (ministries, government agencies, law enforcement bodies, judicial bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations)



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