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**INVITATION TO TENDER: RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Improving Prison Conditions by Strengthening Infectious Disease Monitoring**

**About IPRT and our Work**

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies. IPRT is a small and vibrant organization with an Executive Director who reports to a voluntary Board of Directors; a Deputy Director, a Development and Administrative Executive and an Employment Based PhD candidate. The project offers an excellent opportunity for an experienced researcher(s) to work alongside a dynamic non-governmental organisation.

**Context**

Prisons represent high risk environments for the transmission of infectious diseases, and clinical guidelines and indicators on prison healthcare have been adopted. However, these do not sufficiently or consistently come into play in the work of human rights-based prison monitors. In addition, despite international and European jurisprudence that the absence of adequate medical services in places of detention, can contribute to, or even constitute, conditions that meet the threshold of ill treatment, across Europe inspection of infectious diseases is not part of the current approach to the prevention of ill treatment, and is therefore not a priority during monitoring unless it forms a specific aim of the mission.

IPRT has secured funding to participate in a European Commission funded research project led by Harm Reduction International which is expected to address this important gap. Based on expert consultation, desk-based research and legal analysis, it will compile key indicators, rooted in international human rights law, public health standards, and national best practice. These will be collated into a tool for rights-based prison monitoring mechanisms for consistent and sustainable improvement in infectious disease monitoring as part of their mandates. The overall project objective is to reduce ill-treatment of persons in detention and improve prison conditions through improved and standardised monitoring and inspection mechanisms on infectious diseases (TB, HIV and HCV) meeting IPRT’s dual strategic aims of promoting human rights within prisons and strengthening monitoring systems.

**Requirements for EU funded projects**

EU funded projects have strict financial and narrative reporting requirements and the successful tender will be required to provide narrative progress reports, timesheets, invoices and receipts.

Ideally, a successful tender would demonstrate the following proficiencies:

* Postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline;
* Deep knowledge of public health systems and/or criminal justice;
* Experience in utilisation of a range of research methods;
* Experience in interpretation of EU led research protocols and adapting national research designs as appropriate; experience in seeking and obtaining ethical approval for research purposes [if required];
* Liaison with key stakeholders and gatekeepers involved in Irish criminal justice and/or health;
* Maintenance of detailed, accurate and fully evidenced time-keeping records;
* Experience in producing high standard research to publication standard;
* Exceptional attention to detail and ability to adhere to strict reporting, budgetary and time-recording requirements.

**Methodology**

The lead partners have provided methodological guidance. In brief, the project will require:

* mapping the current situation relating to infectious diseases in prisons in Ireland;
* mapping practices among monitoring mechanisms in Ireland and establishing the role of inspecting bodies in monitoring the infectious disease in prisons.

It is envisaged that information will be collected through bibliographic analysis, desk research and analysis of public documents. Empirical research in the form of semi structured interview with monitoring bodies or others will be at the discretion of IPRT in consultation with the researcher within the time and budgetary constraints. It is not envisaged that interviews with vulnerable populations or within the prison estate will be required.

**Timeline**

Ideally this research should be delivered by June 2015.

**Budget:**

The indicative budget is up to a maximum of €8000 representing a maximum of 40 days [8 working weeks] research at €200 per day **all-inclusive. It should be noted that the budget provided for this project includes any VAT due, overheads, subsistence, travel, disbursements and ordinary daily expenses.**

**Tender Process:**

Tendering organisations or individuals must submit a tender document of not more than 4 pages. Please note the requirements set out above. Each tender should include:

* A profile or CV of the individual making the proposal;
* Details of previous relevant work in the project area;
* Experience in using methodologies outlined in the project description;
* Costing and timeline with respect to each element of the proposed work;

**Assessment of Tender:**

Each tender received will be assessed on the basis of:

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| **CRITERIA** | **SCORE** |
| Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the brief | 40 |
| Track record in relevant work [population health, prison, criminal justice] | 20 |
| Experience in using methodologies outlined in the project description | 20 |
| Availability to carry out the project within the stated timeframe | 10 |
| Value for Money | 10 |
| **TOTAL** | **100** |

**To note:**

* Additional information may be sought at the assessment phase.
* Before final decision, a number of the most competitive tenders may be invited for further discussions/interview on their proposals for the purpose of elaboration, clarification and/or aiding mutual understanding.
* IPRT shall not be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred in respect of the preparation or the submission of any tender documents or associated material.
* The timeline for projects is indicative.

**Tenders should be submitted by e-mail to director@iprt.ie**

**Lowest price tender is not a guarantee of success.**

**CLOSING DATE: Noon on 27 March 2015**