

Call for Research Proposals

I. Introduction and Context

Violence is one of the biggest threats that young people face, not only for their physical but also their mental health, and much of this violence happens between peers. In the past year alone, one billion children worldwide – over half of all young people aged 2–17 years – have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence. Both boys and girls experience high levels of violence, both at home and in school where children spend a significant amount of time. 40% of 13-15 year old were involved in a physical fight in the past 12 months, and 39% reported being bullied at least once in the past 2 months, translating to 261 million 13-15 year old boys and girls who had experienced these forms of violence in a school setting.

In South East Europe, violence against children in schools is pervasive. In Moldova for instance, thousands of children experience violence. UNICEF reports that 76 percent of Moldovan children aged 2-14 years old experience violent methods of discipline and almost every second adolescent knows a peer suffering from bullying in school.

School violence has a big impact on children's educational attainment, mental and physical well-being, and ability to meet their potentials. First of all, a violence-prevention agenda for schools needs a strong evidence and knowledge base, and needs to 'Partner with children, listen to them and work with them, recognizing the contribution of children to the creation of violence-free schools'.

Indeed, children themselves play a role as agents of transformation. Children have the right to be heard, to express opinions on matters that affect them, and to access information, while respecting the roles and responsibilities of parents and others in authority. When children learn to communicate opinions, take responsibility and make decisions, they are prepared for improved academic performance and good citizenship.

Schools are important spaces where children can develop pro-social behaviour and skills for positive relationships. Social and gender norms – whether harmful or positive – are emphasized and perpetuated within school culture. As with all violence, violence in schools can vary depending on whether the child is a boy or a girl. School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) describes the range of acts or threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence happening in and around schools that are driven by gender norms and stereotypes and enforced by unequal power dynamics (2). For example, boys may be more likely to receive harsh physical discipline from male teachers, while girls may be more likely to experience sexual harassment or pressure to exchange sex for grades. IPV or "dating violence" also reflects gender inequalities in power.

The project is being co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency, the European Union, Oak Foundation, and Tdh
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The Child Protection Hub is a regional initiative providing knowledge and capacity building as well as networking opportunities for thousands of child protection workers in South East Europe. For more information, please visit: www.childhub.org

The ChildHub plans to conduct a **regional formative research to measure the social and gender norms impacting on school related (gender based) violence (SRGBV), and the potential role of children in challenging these social norms.**

II. Questions for the Research

Some of the questions the research would try to answer, will be targeting three groups of informants (children, community members and parents and school professionals) and will include:

- The attitudes, behaviors and perceptions of children, community members and school professionals about violence against children in general, and school related gender based violence in particular
- The perceptions of school children, community members and school professionals about their peers' attitudes towards violence against children and SRGBV
- School children sense of agency and efficacy in preventing or responding to violence against children in general and SRGBV in particular
- Community members and school professionals' perceptions and attitudes towards children's agency and efficacy in preventing and responding to violence against children

In order to conduct this regional research, **ChildHub is looking for a highly professional lead researcher, to lead a team of researchers** working in 8 countries of South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia).

III. Scope of Service

The **International researchers**, will be responsible to:

The lead researcher(s), will be responsible to:

- Develop a common methodology that can be followed by each participating country, including desk review, interview with children, parents, and professionals
- Conduct an overall review of what existing research show about violence children experience in and around school

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- Desk review of existing demonstrated effective practices in involving children in preventing and addressing violence against children in schools and SRGBV in the region
- Develop with the ChildHub team the study frame, questions, research protocol and methodologies with all related tools;
- Conduct a regional workshop for the national researchers for the countries involved;
- Oversee the 8 in-country qualitative studies with the respective local researchers;
- Oversee data analysis;
- Develop the regional synthesis of the 8 country studies and recommendations for designing interventions with children to address school related gender based violence (in English)

The research report is expected to be presented at ChildHub's next regional conference April 2020.

IV. Expected timeframe

- Selection of candidates: mid-July
- Methodology and desk research: August-September
- Field work: October-December
- Report writing: January-March
- First draft reports: mid-March
- Second drafts April 1st 2020

V. Profile

- Proficiency in English both in writing and orally
- Sound knowledge of research methodologies
- Substantial research experience, and publications in the field of child protection
- Ability to work with an international team of researchers
- Availability

VI. How to apply:

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Please submit the following information to info@childhub.org

- CV
- List of relevant publications
- Preliminary research concept
- Price offer

Applications will be reviewed and treated as they come. Early application is therefore recommended.