



Assessing the Risk of Isolation of Suspects and Accused



April 2018

9million
are prosecuted every year in the EU.
Many of them are never found guilty.



ARISA is a EU funded project to investigate the consequences to people's personal lives when accused in committing a crime.

ARISA explores what happens to a person suspected of or charged with a criminal offence. Anyone accused of doing something wrong is supposed to be innocent unless otherwise is proven in court. In practice, however, people accused of committing a crime often suffer the negative consequences of this crime even before the court decides on their guilt. As a result of the criminal investigation, suspects can lose their job, family, social standing and many more. Last but not least, the participation in the investigation itself may lead in additional expenses in terms of both time and money.

In this context, ARISA's goal is to identify all these factors, explore their harmful impact on the suspects and accused, and enable authorities to reduce this impact without affecting the investigation.

ARISA is carried out by a consortium of research institutes experienced in the field of prison reform and inmates' rights from four Member States (Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) – Sofia; The Center for European Constitutional Law (CECL - www.cecl.gr) - Athens; Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (www.apg23.org) - Rimini, Italy; and Droit au Droit (DAD) – Brussels).

Check the **ARISA's website** (<http://arisa-project.eu/>) to find all the information about the project in one place, stay updated on new developments, download publications in several languages or get in contact with the project team.

Publications



Country reports on the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused

The reports summarise the findings of the analysis of the **factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused** in **Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy**. The studies offer information about the legal restrictions and remand measures applied on suspects and accused during the criminal proceedings, their impact on the accused person's economic status, personal life, and family and community links, and the rules and practices for disclosing information about the proceedings to third persons, to the public and to the media.

ARISA

OECD JUSTICE PROGRAMME



ARISA: Assessing the Risk of Isolation of
Suspects and Accused

COUNTRY REPORT ON THE FACTORS
AFFECTING THE SOCIAL STATUS OF
SUSPECTS AND ACCUSED

BELGIUM



This document was funded by the Justice 2020 Action under the Justice Programme (2014-2020).

The content of the document represents the views of the authors and not necessarily the European Commission. It is intended to provide information, not to be used for the purpose of the programme's activities.

[ARISA Country report Belgium](#) (pdf, 1 MB)

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[ARISA Country report Bulgaria](#) (pdf, 1 MB)



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GREECE



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ITALY



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[ARISA Country report Italy](#) (pdf, 1 MB)

News



Presumption of innocence, trial presence guaranteed

Europost, 5 April 2018

New rules guaranteeing that anyone accused or suspected of a crime is innocent until proven guilty entered into force across the EU on 1 April. The rules will also better protect peoples' right to remain silent and right to be present at their trial. It will ensure people across the EU always benefit from these procedural rights, which are currently not protected in the same way in every Member State. [Read more](#)

New EU directive on presumption of innocence of accused comes into effect

Sofia Globe, 3 April 2018

New European Union rules guaranteeing that anyone accused or suspected of a crime is innocent until proven guilty apply since April 1 2018, the European Commission said on April 3. The directive ensures that public authorities and judicial decisions are prohibited from making any public references to guilt, before the person is proven guilty. [Read more](#)

New rules guaranteeing the right to presumption of innocence and the right to be present at trial apply since 1 April

European Commission, 3 April 2018

New EU rules guaranteeing that anyone accused or suspected of a crime is innocent until proven guilty apply since Sunday 1 April. The rules will also better protect peoples' right to remain silent and right to be present at their trial. It will ensure people across the EU always benefit from these procedural rights, which are currently not protected in the same way in every Member State. [Read more](#)

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