



Assessing the Risk of Isolation of Suspects and Accused



October 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](http://www.csd.org)) – 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

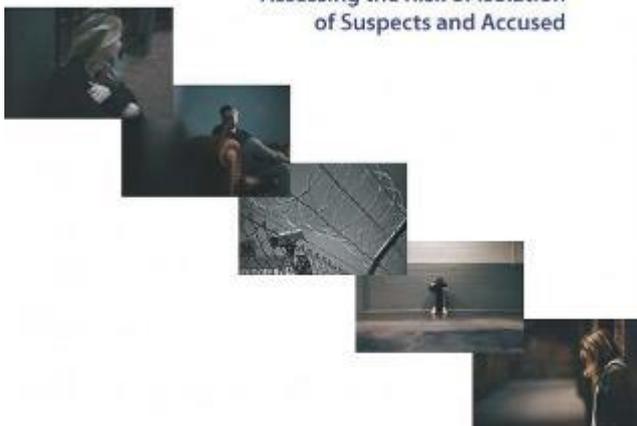


Factors Affecting the Social Status of Suspects and Accused

This report aims to examine the factors that affect the social status of suspects and accused drawing upon the prevalent legal practices in four European Union Member States: **Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, and Italy**. Each of the four national case studies is structured along the following key aspects: legal status of suspects and accused, custodial and non-custodial measures during proceedings, disclosure of information, legal and practical impact of proceedings on suspects and accused, and assessment of the impact of proceedings by competent authorities.



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FACTORS AFFECTING
THE SOCIAL STATUS OF
SUSPECTS AND ACCUSED

[Full text \(Adobe PDF, 3.93 MB\)](#)



Safeguarding the presumption of innocence

Sp. Vlachopoulos, Professor at the Law School of Athens, Khaterimini, 26 August 2018

The presumption of innocence, is the assumption of any suspected offense as innocent until proven guilty according to lawful procedures, is the "mirror" of any legal culture. It may not be explicitly mentioned in the Constitution but it is a constituent element of both the constitutional guarantees and more generally the principle of the rule of law. In this field, Greece's performance is far from satisfactory. It has not yet been realized that the guilt of a person is not ascertained by either the journalist or the political opponent, but the judge. [Read more](#)

Innocent Until Proven Guilty? New Study Looks at the Presumption of Innocence

Liberties, 1 August 2018

"Suspects in Restraints. The Importance of Appearances: How Suspects and Accused Persons are Presented in the Courtroom, in Public and in the Media" is an EU-wide research project whose objective is to contribute to the correct implementation of the Directive through reducing the number of instances in which suspects and accused persons are presented in the public in ways that create a perception of guilt, and to contribute to a better understanding of the presumption of innocence among public officials and the general public. [Read more](#)

People may be 'unfairly stigmatised' by criminal records checks despite being acquitted, Supreme Court finds

Lizzie Dearden, Independent, 30 July 2018

Britain's highest court has called on the government to ensure that people found not guilty of offences are not "unfairly stigmatised" by criminal record checks. Ruling on an appeal by a taxi driver who was cleared of raping a female passenger, Lord Carnwath, said the Home Office must give "careful thought" to the value of disclosing unproven allegations. [Read more](#)



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