



Call results

COPE Regranting scheme 2026 Game with Mum & Dad

21.04.2026

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CHILDREN OF
PRISONERS EUROPE



GAME WITH
MUM & DAD

Selected beneficiaries

Legal name of organisation	Alternative Sociale Association
EU Member State of establishment	Romania
Title of the project	Game with Mum & Dad (GWMD)
Description of project	<p>The project "Game with Mum & Dad" (GWMD) aims to mitigate the negative impact of parental imprisonment on children by transforming rigid prison visits into play-based interactions that strengthen emotional bonds. The core objective of the 2026 edition is the strategic regional expansion of this model, implemented across four prison units in Romania: Iași, Vaslui, Botoșani, and, for the first time, the Ișalnița (Craiova) External Section of the Women's Prison.</p> <p>The key innovation and most critical aspect of this project is the inclusion of the women's prison. Incarcerated mothers often face much harsher social stigma and specific emotional barriers in maintaining relationships with their children. Our intervention at Ișalnița is specifically designed to support maternal identity in detention and rebuild the mother-child attachment in a safe and supportive environment. This expansion is bolstered by an inter-prison peer-mentoring system: experienced staff from Iași, Vaslui, and Botoșani penitentiaries will guide the team at Ișalnița, ensuring a direct transfer of best practices and high-quality implementation. The project will directly reach 80 children and their incarcerated parents, providing them with the opportunity to reconnect naturally, beyond the physical barriers of detention. In parallel, the online campaign (utilizing drawings and anonymized audio testimonies) will humanize these families and work to reduce social stigma. The project will culminate in a cross-sectoral advocacy conference, bringing together justice and social service professionals to promote the integration of these child-friendly practices as a standard operating procedure within the Romanian prison system.</p>

Legal name of organisation	Hoppenbank e.V.
EU Member State of establishment	Germany
Title of the project	Game with Mum & Dad (GWMD)
Description of project	<p>Hoppenbank e.V. is a criminal assistance organization from Bremen. We work locally and with local organizations and the city department. We want to carry out the "GWMD" project in cooperation with the prison in</p>

	<p>Bremen (we have had good experiences in the project in 2024 and 2025). Social workers, prison staff as well as sports officials and volunteers will work together. We want to offer 5 to 6 events in the prison in Bremen and also 4 events in prison in Bremerhaven during the project period for 25 people each - families, incarcerated fathers with children and mothers. The events take place in the prison, in the sports hall. In Bremerhaven there is no sportshall so we need to use the conference room. During the individual events there are ball sports tournaments with mixed teams of fathers and children. The ball sports will be football and – for children who cannot do or not want to take part in football - badminton and a netball game as an open offer. The correctional facility in Bremerhaven has so far not offered any family-sensitive activities and is completely new to this field. That’s why it’s all the more wonderful to take the first step there with GWMD. It is an institution for short-term sentences and unfortunately does not have a sports hall. We are trying to create an alternative in the conference room with small movement activities and games, as well as something creative. The most important aspect is keeping the families’ time together in focus.</p> <p>All children are included - regardless of their language, gender and health - so that every child can experience a wonderful day with their parents. At the same time the mothers can go into an exchange, take a break and get advices.</p> <p>The children can express their own wishes. For example, in 2024 they asked for a trampoline, which we were able to implement in 2025. There is also always an evaluation in which everyone participates — children, relatives, and incarcerated individuals.</p> <p>In addition, since March 1st, 2026, the State Coordination Office for Children of Incarcerated Parents in Bremen, funded by Auridis, has been located with us. At many network meetings between correctional services and youth welfare, GWMD is presented as best practice. Videos and photos of the events illustrate how important the families’ shared time is. GWMD is used in the areas of public relations, training, and network events.</p> <p>We want to create a press report about the events and the project.</p>
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Legal name of organisation	CASPAE
EU Member State of establishment	Portugal
Title of the project	Game with Mum & Dad

Description of project	<p>The "Game with Mum and Dad" project will be implemented in six prisons in the central and northern regions of Portugal (Coimbra, Aveiro, Santa Cruz do Bispo Feminino, Guarda, Paços de Ferreira, and Izeda). Instead of traditional football, the project will use korfball – a fully inclusive, mixed-gender team sport that promotes gender equality, cooperation, mutual respect, and equal participation of all players.</p> <p>The project follows a collaborative and participatory methodology, strongly involving children, young people and prison staff in the planning, preparation and delivery of all activities.</p> <p>The methodology is structured in three main phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness-raising and information sessions for prison staff and imprisoned parents, focusing on the importance of quality family bonds and child-centred approaches; 2. Korfball training sessions with imprisoned parents, co-facilitated by prison staff, to develop social, emotional and cooperation skills while strengthening parental roles; 3. Game with Mum and Dad events, integrated into differentiated family visit days, including family welcoming, age-appropriate briefing sessions with children, the korfball match, a shared snack, and a symbolic gift-giving moment. <p>Children will play an active role in the project's evaluation through accessible methods such as audio messages and drawings, empowering them as agents of change and ensuring their perspectives are meaningfully included. Throughout all activities, the project applies robust child safeguarding measures, promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities, and adheres to the highest ethical standards for consent, assent, data collection and dissemination.</p> <p>The project will culminate in a cross-sectoral advocacy event, bringing together stakeholders from the justice, social, education and community sectors. This final event will present the results, amplify children's voices, highlight the importance of quality family contact for children's well-being and happiness, and advocate for more child-sensitive and family-oriented practices within the Portuguese criminal justice system.</p>
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Legal name of organisation	Małopolskie Stowarzyszenie Probacja
EU Member State of establishment	Poland

Title of the project	Game with Mum & Dad
Description of project	<p>The "Game with Mum & Dad" – Polish edition 2026, implemented by the Małopolska Probation Association, targets incarcerated parents and their families in four (4) penitentiary institutions in Poland. The project will engage approximately 144 participants, including around 48 children. In total, four family events will be organized—one in each participating institution—each centered around a friendly football match involving incarcerated parents and their children. Where possible, matches will take place on prison sports fields; otherwise, they will be held in external locations designated by prison authorities. Each event will be preceded by short training sessions and warm-ups led by professional coaches from the Polish Football Association (PZPN), a long-term partner of the project. All participants will receive commemorative T-shirts.</p> <p>Following the matches, family picnics will provide a safe and informal environment for children and parents to spend quality time together. A key objective of the project is to enable physical closeness and natural interaction between children and their incarcerated parents—an opportunity not available during standard prison visits. The project will also involve the support of volunteers and sponsors, who will contribute to the organization and implementation of events. The project builds on existing cooperation agreements with correctional institutions and the positive experience of previous editions. In 2026, the initiative will expand to a new region (Rzeszów district), reflecting growing institutional support and the outcomes of prior promotional and intersectoral activities. The project will conclude with a nationwide expert debate organized in cooperation with the University of the National Education Commission in Kraków. The event will present the project model and promote systemic solutions supporting children of incarcerated parents. Project activities will be promoted through traditional and social media.</p>

Legal name of organisation	Mezinárodní vězeňské společenství, z. s. (PF CZ (Prison Fellowship Czech Rep.), MVS)
EU Member State of establishment	Czech Republic
Title of the project	Game with Mum & Dad
Description of project	The "Game with Mum and Dad" project, led by our organization, aims to connect incarcerated parents with their children through one of the most natural forms of

interaction – play. The project aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment for families affected by parental incarceration, while also advocating for their rights and promoting social change on a broader scale. The project is inspired by our programs, "A Day with Your Child" and "A Day Behind the Walls", which have successfully supported family contact in a child-friendly and positive environment.

In the same spirit, we will organise three GWMD events in cooperation with three different prisons across the Czech Republic. In addition, we are currently in advanced discussions with a fourth facility, specifically a women's prison.

Each event will include a joint football match between incarcerated parents and their children, complemented by additional activities. As a team sport, soccer naturally promotes cooperation, communication, shared joy, and can further strengthen family bonds.

Furthermore, we will document the event through photographs, capturing the perspectives of children with incarcerated parents. These photographs will be presented at the cross-sectoral event and used to amplify their voices and experiences.

Following these events, we will organize a cross-sectoral event called "Round Table" to present the results of our work and discuss its broader implications. Given our previous experience with this event, which attracted media attention and brought together stakeholders at the highest level, we plan to hold the "Round Table" again at the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. It will be attended by experts, representatives of public institutions, members of the Prison Service, and our clients, including children, incarcerated parents, and caregivers. The aim is to open a structured discussion, identify gaps in current support systems, and explore concrete steps to improve the situation of these children. We also plan to request the patronage of the First Lady to further emphasize the importance of this initiative.