

SNIS Final Report: “International Law and Migration Detention: Coding State Adherence to Norms”

17 December 2013

1) Abstract to the Executive Summary

The project “International Law and Migration Detention: Coding State Adherence to Norms” was launched in February 2011 with the objective of developing a methodology for assessing whether states adhere to international legal norms relevant to the burgeoning global phenomenon of immigration detention. A project of the Graduate Institute’s Global Migration Centre (formerly the Programme for the Study of Global Migration) that builds on previous work undertaken by the Global Detention Project, the SNIS-funded research initiative has had several noteworthy results, including:

- (1) the elaboration of an overarching normative framework for immigration detention that covers all binding norms – be they universal or regional;
- (2) the review of universal and regional soft law instruments;
- (3) the development of indicators to assess the degree to which countries adhere to these norms;
- (4) the in-depth development of an online database documenting the phenomenon of immigration-related detention that serve the dual goals of publicizing rigorously constructed data on national detention regimes and providing a central organizing framework for information and analysis on detention produced by relevant actors across the globe;
- (5) the establishment of a network of legal advocates and rights actors to assist in developing an analytical framework for assessing detention policies and producing data necessary for assessing state performance; and
- (6) the publication of a series of reports building on the work of the project that explore various dimensions of the detention phenomenon.