Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice
November 7th and 8th 2012
London (United Kingdom)
THIRD MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE
NOVEMBER 7TH – 8TH
LONDON (UNITED KINGDOM)
On November 7 and 8, 2012, the European Council for Juvenile Justice met in London, United Kingdom, for the first time in order to endorse the formalisation of the ECJJ as a formal network and ponder the challenges faced by juvenile justice practitioners in the light of the different crises, which are affecting the 27 EU Members States.

Organised under the framework of the Fifth Biennial Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World, the Third Meeting of the ECJJ was able to rely on the collaboration and support of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales as well as on the financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.

Building on the foundation of the Fifth IJJO Conference, the Third ECJJ Meeting also paid close attention to the consequences of the financial, economic, social and political crises that have had and continue to have on juvenile justice focusing on the situation faced throughout the 27 Members of the European Union. Moreover, this Meeting was the opportunity to acknowledge the formalisation of the ECJJ and to introduce a few novelties such as the new ECJJ Extranet, website and the creation of an advisory and practical body, the Executive Committee.

The Meeting was able to rely on the participation of experts coming from its three sections: the NGO, Academic and Public Administration section as well as on the collaboration of Mr. John Drew, Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales; of Mrs. Justice Rousteau, Chairwoman of the European Council for Juvenile Justice; and on the presence of Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes, Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory.

It should also be pointed out that the ECJJ had the chance to rely on the presence and to benefit from presentations made by: Mr. Jaap E. Doek, former President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, action Chair of the European Network of Ombudspeople for Children and Ombudswoman for Children in Cyprus; Mr. Dusty Kennedy, Head of Wales at the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales; Mrs. Maria-Amor Martin Estebanez, Team Coordinator for the Child Rights and Family Unit within the Fundamental Rights Agency’s Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department; and by Ms. Gordana Berjan, Administrator within the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe Justice and Human Dignity Directorate.

Apologised was Mrs. Margaret Tuite, Child Rights Coordinator within the DG Justice of the European Commission, who could not attend the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice but did share the EC latest initiatives thanks to the support of Mr. Cédric Foussard, Director of International Affairs at the IJJO, who kindly agreed to present Mrs. Tuite’s presentation on her behalf.

In accordance with the general thrust followed by the European Council since its launch in 2009, the ECJJ’s main objectives are to exchange common solutions and good practices to make juvenile justice systems efficient, keeping in mind the respect of a child’s best
interest as well as their social and professional insertion; to draft special recommendations on the programmes and actions developed by the European institutions and other intergovernmental organizations playing a role in managing common problems on the global agenda. Moreover, the ECJJ contributed to study and analyze in depth the influences of EU decision on juvenile justice policies and to make sure that juvenile justice issues are part of European institutions’ strategies.

To this extent, after providing the necessary inputs, which led to the publication of Three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice, the members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice are now contributing to a White Paper on Youth Justice, which should not only provide an overview of the repercussions the crises had on juvenile justice throughout Europe but also a series of recommendations on how to ensure the best possible youth justice systems in time of crises.

This upcoming publication should be disseminated throughout Europe during the first half of 2013 thanks to the financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.
Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes  
Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes thanked the assembly for participating once again in a Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ). Since 2009, stakeholders have indeed steadily carried on showing a keen interest in youth justice and have enthusiastically worked hard to contribute to its fundamentals. Moreover, as usual, Dr. Legaz underlined how glad the ECJJ Coordinator is to welcome the ECJJ members coming from the 27 EU Member States as well as representatives of several European institutions, who agreed with pleasure to attend this Meeting and share their latest initiatives.

Dr. Legaz reiterated his wish to establish the ECJJ under the banner of a juvenile justice without borders, a goal, which is pursued not only throughout Europe but in other parts of the world as well. As a matter of fact, the phenomena of juvenile violence and the evolution of juvenile justice shall be seen and studied from a global perspective, addressing the diversity of systems, resources and socio-cultural circumstances that exist in our world. It indeed has to be taken into account if one wishes to improve the challenges faced by children in conflict with the law.

To this extent, the IJJO launched regional Councils starting in 2009 with the European Council for Juvenile Justice. Always in accordance with UN standards such as the UNCRC, such Councils are the result of a global strategy, where the IJJO wishes to work closer to national and local realities in the hope of addressing the needs of juvenile justice professionals all over the world. As Dr. Legaz rightfully pointed it out, 2012 was a busy year for the IJJO: in June, the First Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice was indeed organised in Bangkok, Thailand, thanks to the support of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand whereas the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice was celebrated in November 2012 in London, United Kingdom. Each region has its specificities and concerns. In Europe, for instance, since the beginning of the financial, economic, social and political crises, which hit each EU Member States, juvenile justice professionals have expressed their growing concern regarding the funding earmarked to children in conflict with the law. As a matter of fact, public services are affected by budget cuts and unfortunately,
youth justice is not spared. Moreover, punitive approaches are used more and more and child-friendly educative measures are neglected; this is unfortunately often on the grounds that punitive approaches comply with the majority of the general public’s expectations.

In order to contribute and assist countries, professionals and other stakeholders in this region in the promotion of child-friendly approaches in all the initiatives and policies underway, the IJJO decided to dedicate part of this Meeting to these on-going challenges. Dr. Legaz wish to foster the collaboration between the IJJO and the members of the ECJJ in order to translate the know-how, experience and inspiring initiatives developed and implemented throughout Europe into a White Paper, “Investing in children in time of crises: ensuring effective and efficient youth justice systems in time of crises”. The latter shall be sued for advocacy purpose before the main stakeholders that is to say before the European institutions at a European level but also before national Parliaments and governments at a more local and national level. As a matter of fact, this White Paper shall benefits the IJJO as well as the ECJJ members willing to influence international organisms and national bodies in charge of youth justice policies and / or responsible for the defence of the Rights of Children in conflict with the law.

Thanks to the presence and collaboration of public administrations, universities and representatives of the civil society, of the support of judges, penitentiaries institutions, and ombudsmen for children, with expertise in legislation, implementation, supervision, research or intervention in the field of juvenile justice, Dr. Legaz hoped for a fruitful Meeting; this shall enable all of us to reach our goals and hence have a positive bearing on the improvements of the situation, adolescents and young people faced by children in the conflict with the law throughout Europe.

Mrs. Sylvie Rousteau
Chairwoman of the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO)

Within the line of Dr. Legaz’s speech, Mrs. Rousteau welcomed the participants of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice and thanked them for their presence. Moreover, Mrs. Rousteau thanked the ECJJ members for their availability: it was indeed rewarding to being able to rely on their expertise and extensive knowledge for the third time since 2009.

Mrs. Sylvie Rousteau recalled that the rationale behind the creation in 2009 of the ECJJ was to establish a sustainable European network gathering some of the most esteemed professionals in the area of youth justice. Next to this, the ECJJ pursues, among others, the objective of formulating recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in Europe; gathering quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children, adolescents and young people in conflict with the law; and of suggesting coordinating actions between public administrations, non-governmental organisations and academic and training centres coming from the twenty-seven Member States of the European Union.

On top of recalling the primary goals of the ECJJ, Mrs. Rousteau took the time to address the previous Meetings of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, which respectively took place in 2009 in either Brussels or Paris and in
2010 in Rome. Furthermore, she detailed the ECJJ latest publication: the three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice drafted by the three sections of the Council (Public Administration; NGO; Academic).

The IJJO and EJJO’s goals remain to strengthen the collaboration between experts and stakeholders working for the well-being of children in conflict with the law as well as the development of a common European strategy on juvenile justice. As a result, as Mrs. Rousteau underlined it, both the International and European Juvenile Justice Observatories have ceaselessly carried on working for the enhancement of their policy and advocacy action lines, the consolidation of their collaboration with European institutions such as the European Union or the Council of Europe, and their involvement in even more consultations and European projects than before.

Lastly, Mrs. Rousteau expressed her gratitude to all ECJJ Meeting participants for their attendance and involvement; she hoped this Meeting embodied one more step towards the strengthening of the European Council for Juvenile Justice and believed the upcoming and fruitful work, debate and analysis would contribute to the improvement of the sometimes alarming situations faced by children in conflict with the law throughout Europe.

**Mr. John Drew**  
Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales

Mr. John Drew spoke on behalf of Chris Grayling MP, who could unfortunately not attend the Third Meeting of the ECJJ. As a politician, Mr. Grayling sits on the right of the British political spectrum, where members are usually quite eurosceptic. Yet, when he asked Mr. Drew what the purpose of the ECJJ Meeting was and learned its goals and mission, he could not be more enthusiastic and urged Mr. Drew to attend on his behalf. Thanks to this endorsement, Mr. Drew felt he could confidently attend and took part in this meeting. Mr. Drew was especially enthusiastic about the regularity of the ECJJ Meetings which enables the creation of a common language amongst youth justice professionals throughout Europe. Eventually, he concluded his presentation by reiterating his pleasure to attend the Third Meeting of the ECJJ and praised its upcoming programme.
Ms. Cristina Goñi
Secretary General of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Ms. Cristina Goñi reminded all participants about the goals of the Third Meeting of the ECJJ, especially emphasizing the interest of drafting a White Paper underlining the consequences of the various crises affecting youth justice systems throughout Europe. Consequently, Mrs. Goñi introduced the next speakers: Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, ombudsman for children in Cyprus; Mr. Jaap E. Doek, former Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Mr. Dusty Kennedy, Head of Wales at the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales.

Mrs. Leda Koursoumba
Ombudsman for Children in Cyprus and Chair of the ENOC

Mrs. Leda Koursoumba first introduced the ENOC that is to say the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children. The ENOC is an NGO made up of independent children’s rights institutions coming from thirty-four countries in Europe.

Every year, the ENOC members meet to discuss and find new ways to promote children’s rights. This year, their annual meeting was held in Cyprus since the Cypriot representative, Mrs Koursoumba herself,
is chairing the ENOC until 2013. As Mrs. Koursoumba rightfully underlined, the topic chosen this year is in perfect accordance with the purpose of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Justice. As a matter of fact, their annual meeting, which was held in Nicosia from October 10th to 12th, was dedicated to juvenile delinquency and child-friendly justice – structures and processes for prevention and intervention. Several high-ranked youth justice professionals attended this meeting, among which Renate Winter, Kirsten Sandberg and representatives of the EU and IJJO.

The meeting was concluded by the adoption of a statement: “the ENOC Position Statement on the rights of children at risk and in conflict with the law”, which states, among others, three major principles. Firstly, every measure needs to be taken in accordance with the best interests of the child; secondly, non-discrimination is a must, irrespective of any difference; and thirdly, one ought to ensure children are heard and involved in their future. As a matter of fact, ensuring children’s participation by letting them express their views and opinions should not be a favour granted to them but a rule.

As Mrs Koursoumba underlined, such principles should be mainstreamed at each stage of a child’s encounter with the law, whether it is when dealing with prevention or intervention measures. Both stages were dealt with extensively during the last ENOC meeting in Nicosia and presented in detail by Mrs Koursoumba during the first day of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice. Mrs. Koursoumba recalled every stakeholder’s role when it comes to prevention, quoting social protection, health care services, local communities, justice systems and insisting on the important role played by school, where children spent most of their time. When it comes to intervention, Mrs. Koursoumba asserted the importance of having a minimum age of criminal responsibility as high as possible and urged for detention truly being a measure of last resort, promoting alternatives to detention and a regular inspection and supervision of detention measures when such cannot be avoided.

Eventually, after stressing the usefulness of training for adults working with children in conflict with the law, Mrs. Koursoumba insisted on the need to collect data systematically and comprehensively to ensure that each system is working at its best. By the same token, Mrs Koursoumba advocated in favour of external and internal complaint mechanisms; as they guarantee the effectiveness of youth justice and ensure every child’s participation in accordance with international standards.

**Mr. Jaap E. Doek**
Former President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Mr. Jaap E. Doek shared his thoughts on the future of the European Council for Juvenile Justice. According to him, it is now time for ECJJ members to decide what the Council needs to be exactly: a talk-shop? A think-tank? A real advocacy force? Yet, irrespective of its future goals, Mr. Doek also stated that having a space for reflexion for European youth justice professionals is crucial for a couple of reasons.

First of all, Mr. Doek insisted on the usefulness of the ECJ when it comes to establishing a common language amongst youth justice professionals throughout Europe. As a matter of fact, as he rightfully underlined, the same
expression can sometimes cover different concepts from one country to another.

To illustrate his point, Mr. Doek used two examples: the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the concept of child-friendly justice. When drafting the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its affiliated Protocols, Mr. Doek indeed remembered that agreeing on the minimum age of criminal responsibility was not easy for the ones involved: everyone had his own opinion of what an appropriate minimum age was and opting for 12 did not satisfy everyone.

By the same token, child-friendly justice is a popular; yet vague concept according to Mr. Doek. Mr. Doek recognised that drafting a definition is a real challenge but it is imperative to do it. Mr. Doek also firmly believes in universal concepts but wondered if one should not adapt the definition to each part of the world in order to take into consideration everyone’s sensibility and culture. This also calls for another reflexion on the future of the European Council for Juvenile Justice: should the Council expand to other countries? In this regard Mr. Doek referred to the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States that is to say the former members or satellites of the USSR.

Expansion, according to Mr. Doek, also means expanding the activities of the ECJJ. For instance, the Three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice were promoted at a European level before the EU institutions, other NGOs advocating in favour of children’s rights and the Council of Europe; yet, Mr. Doek felt they could have also been promoted before national Parliaments in order to accentuate their dissemination.

All these thought-provoking considerations clearly underlined one of the goals of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, namely addressing its future, and thanks to his presentation, Mr. Doek certainly opened a lot of areas to think about for the IJJO and ECJJ members.

**Ms. Cristina Goñi**

*Secretary General of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory*

Ms. Goñi mentioned a number of consultation processes the IJJO contributed to: e.g. the IJJO has been steadily promoting the IJJO Child-Friendly Justice Green papers conclusions and recommendations at a European level. Besides, the following is a non exhaustive list of contribution made by the IJJO to EU consultations: Contribution to the Green Paper “Strengthening mutual trust in the European judicial area - A Green Paper on the application of EU criminal justice legislation in the field of detention”, for DG Justice; Contribution to the public consultation on the Communication “Towards a stronger European response to drugs”, for DG Justice; Contribution to the 2012 report on the follow-up of the 2008 Recommendation on Active Inclusion, for DG Employment; Consultation for the Coalition to make the Internet a better place for kids, for Information Society and Media Directorate-General and the Consultation on the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child for the EEAS. Moreover, Three IJJO Green Papers on Child Friendly Justice mentioned before have been taken into consideration by EU institutions when drafting the EC Green Paper on detention and the 2012 Recommendation on Child Poverty.

By the same token, the IJJO organised an official presentation of the Green Papers at the European Economic and Social
Committee. This event introduced the Green Papers’ results and supported the ECJJ views before representatives of European institutions, international organizations and national delegations. Furthermore, significant European stakeholders were invited and eventually contributed to the discussion and recommendations each author of the Green Paper had drafted.

Concerning the point made earlier regarding the dimension of the European Council for Juvenile Justice and its potential enlargement, Ms. Goñi recognized it has been an issue discussed on several occasions whether during IJJO Board of Administration meetings or during previous ECJJ informal and formal meetings. Since the ECJJ is at the moment mainly funded by the European Union, it is true that the ECJJ has to be representative and ensure the participation of representatives coming from the 27 EU Member States. Nevertheless, this does not mean that Eastern European countries, and in general those forming the 47 Member of the Council of Europe, should not be involved, for instance within a special regional Committee for neighbouring countries.

What’s obvious is the need for the IJJO to improve its communication to better convey its actions and successes at a European level, to share information about all the initiatives it has developed or develops at a European level whether it involves the promotion of the ECJJ and its members or not. As a matter of fact, this is a challenge the Observatory will address for the next year.

**Mr. Dusty Kennedy**  
Head of Wales at the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales

Mr. Dusty Kennedy first introduced himself and his work before detailing how his unit adapted to new paradigms whether it was...
devolution or the consequences of the crises on youth justice in Wales. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kennedy has had to face changes even before the crises starting with the consequences of devolution on the justice systems in the United Kingdom. As a matter of fact, as Mr. Kennedy pointed it out, after 1998, entities dealing with children were spread across the nation as well as divided between the national and local levels, and this resulted in challenging changes, which had to be dealt with. For instance, justice and enforcement remained the prerogative of the state; yet, schools and social care services for instance were handled locally. Devolution meant more coordination and unfortunately, when it could not be reached, some contradictions.

Mr. Kennedy also always made sure to set the work of the Youth Justice Board in Wales in accordance with international standards, and especially with regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Articles 34 and 12, which respectively state the vulnerability of children and their right to be heard, were especially important to Mr. Kennedy, who ensured they were the script of the YJB of Wales in cases raging from prevention measures to reintegration and without forgetting detention. Moreover when Mr. Kennedy joined the Youth Justice Board, detention was more the rule than the exception; nowadays, only thirty-seven children are not benefitting from diversion.

Ms. Cristina Goñi
Secretary General of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Ms. Cristina Goñi thanked all panel participants for their contribution to the first part of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice. Furthermore, she also thanked all ECJ members and other stakeholders for their attendance and hoped for a fruitful second day meeting.
Mr. Cédric Foussard
Director of International Affairs of IJJO
on behalf of Ms. Margaret Tuite – Child Rights Coordinator at the DG Justice - EC

Mr. Cédric Foussard welcomed all ECJJ members and other stakeholders to the second part of the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice and introduced the first panel members of the day. This panel was aimed at introducing some of the most recent initiatives developed by European institutions with regard to juvenile justice and children’s rights.

Unfortunately, the first institution invited to take the floor, the European Commission, and more precisely DG Justice, was unable to attend the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice being monopolised by the organisation of the 7th European Forum on the Rights of the Child.

Nevertheless, the Commission sent its submission, which was essentially about the Commission’s latest initiative when it comes to children’s rights and justice that is to say a Study to collect Data on Children’s Involvement in Administrative, Civil and Criminal judicial Proceedings. Mr. Foussard, the Director of International Affairs at the IJJO, which is itself involved in this study as a member of its Steering Group, kindly agreed to present it before the ECJJ members and other stakeholders on behalf of Mrs. Tuite and the European Commission.

The above-mentioned study started in September 2012 and should end in April 2013 for the collection of data on criminal justice, and by 2014 for the collection of data and civil and administrative law. Every member of the European Union is taking part in this process, as well as Croatia, which is meant to join the EU in July 2013. Ideally, the outputs of this study will provide a contextual overview for each state involved, including all indicators and statistics available.

To reach this goal, the Commission first conducted a pilot study from September to November in three different countries and in...
one area in particular, criminal justice. The countries chosen were Belgium, Greece and the United Kingdom, essentially England and Wales. This mock study showed that some of the research questions needed to be further refined, however, due the overall success of the mock study, the principal study could be initiated and officially started in November 2012.

As a reference in juvenile justice in Europe and beyond, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory is part of the Steering Committee assisting the European Commission in meeting this challenge, along with other European experts, such as Prof. Kilkelly or Dr. Katsigaraki, both members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice. As Mr. Foussard rightfully pointed it out, the Commission is willing to work in collaboration with more European professionals and kindly invited ECJJ members and other stakeholders attending the Third Meeting of the European Council to come forward if interested to take part in this study.

Before ending its presentation, the Commission, with the help of Mr. Foussard, underlined the upcoming call for proposals, which will be available under the Fundamental rights and citizenship programme. These proposals would be especially relevant when addressing the need for the development and delivery of training modules on child-friendly justice. The latter should be developed not only for legal practitioners but also for all stakeholders working with children in conflict with the law (police, social and health workers, educators, and so on).
After concluding the Commission’s presentation, Mr. Cédric Foussard left the floor to the next panel speaker, Mrs. Berjan, who spoke on behalf of the Council of Europe.

**Ms. Gordana Berjan**  
Administrator within the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe Justice and Human Dignity Directorate

Mrs. Gordana Berjan thanked the IJJO for inviting her on behalf of the Council of Europe. She was especially grateful for the opportunity to showcase the CoE work and was looking forward the opportunity to be updated on the ECJJ work and initiatives.

First, Mrs. Berjan introduced the new Strategy on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the Council of Europe on February 15th, 2012. It is the third strategy adopted by the Ministers’ Deputies since the strategy first introduction in 2006. The third Strategy on the Rights of the Child wished in particular to address the discrepancy between international standards and the reality that is to say the discrepancy between the theory and law in practice. As a result, the four next years will mainly focus on monitoring children’s rights and especially the implementation of international standards such as the 2010 Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice. Mrs. Berjan believes indeed in the quality of the standards already adopted and wishes to ensure their implementation now. To this extent, the Council of Europe aims at using more effectively their existing monitoring mechanisms in order to design tailor-made advice and cooperation projects between the Council of Europe and some of its Member States, especially in Central and Eastern Europe in the context of the CoE Neighbourhood Policy; and to gather reliable data on the implementation of UN and CoE standards within the CoE Member States. In this regard, ECJJ members could be useful in giving inputs on the situation in their respective country when it comes to juvenile justice but also concerning other areas of great concern for the Council of Europe: violence in school, disabled children, unaccompanied foreign minors, etc.

Regarding the international standards, which need to be rightfully and fully implemented as soon as possible, Mrs. Berjan mentioned the 2010 Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice as well as the 2011 Guidelines on Child-Friendly Health care or the 2011 Recommendation on children’s rights and social services friendly to children and family. On top of reducing the discrepancy between theory and practice, according to Mrs. Berjan, making sure children are perceived as rights holders is another important challenge, especially in the field of justice.

Coming back to the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice since they are at the core of the Council of Europe’s work when it comes to juvenile justice, Mrs. Berjan emphasized the objectives behind their drafting: a blatant lack of access to justice for children; and a justice system, which was not adapted to children’s rights and specific needs in many ways, which encompasses not only criminal matters but administrative and civil justice as well.

After briefly addressing the 2011 Guidelines on Child-Friendly Health Care and the 2011 Recommendation on Children’s Rights and Social Services Friendly to Children and Families, Mrs. Berjan focussed on the 2010 Guidelines for Child-Friendly Justice, as they are a the centre of the CoE’s work.
with regard to juvenile justice. Mrs. Berjan stressed that the rationale behind the initiation of these Guidelines was to address the lack of access to justice for children and the fact that many judicial systems have not incorporated children's rights and are not adapted to deal with the specific needs and interests of children. Therefore, the CoE is devoting a lot of work to support and promote the development of child-friendly justice systems in the Member States. This is often done through bilateral cooperation programmes, which in most cases are aimed at central and eastern European countries. Mrs Berjan emphasised that child-friendly services and mechanisms should be established in all sectors that frequently deal with children. In this regard, Mrs. Berjan mentioned health and social services and, naturally, justice systems. Next, Mrs. Berjan discussed the scope of the Guidelines for Child-Friendly Justice. Firstly, the Guidelines apply regardless of the area of law (civil, administrative or criminal). Secondly, the Guidelines apply before, during and after court proceedings. Thirdly, the guidelines apply regardless of the capacity in which children come in contact with the justice system (party, victim, witness, alleged perpetrator etc.) Fourthly, the Guidelines apply in any kind of proceedings, be it inside or outside court.

After discussing the scope of the Guidelines, Mrs. Berjan stated that good practices from across the 47 Member States provided the basis of the Guidelines. Furthermore, the Guidelines contain a number of case studies, developed to provide governments and professionals with guidance on child-friendly justice.

Moreover, the Guidelines define a number of relevant concepts. For example, a child is every person under the age of 18. Next to this, in a child-friendly justice system the respect and effective implementation of all children’s rights at the highest attainable level is guaranteed. And, according to the Guidelines, justice should be accessible, age appropriate, speedy, diligent, adapted to and focused on the needs and rights of the child, respecting the rights of the child including the rights to due process, to participate in and to understand the proceedings, respect for private and family life and to integrity and dignity.

Mrs. Berjan also stated that during the drafting process numerous children were consulted. This makes the Guidelines unique, as this was the first time the CoE involved children when drafting an instrument that affects them. The children that participated in this process had often been in contact with the criminal justice system and were therefore well placed to help develop the provisions of the Guidelines.

Hereafter, Mrs. Berjan addressed a number of current and emerging issues. Together with the EU, the CoE will translate the Guidelines into all EU languages. Moreover, the CoE supports studies initiated by the European Commission and the FRA on the participation of children in judicial proceedings. In addition, the CoE works on a EU Forum on the Rights of the Child and a workshop on child protection systems and child-friendly justice. Furthermore, Mrs. Berjan mentioned the European Judicial Network, which acts a network of national contact points for the facilitation of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Furthermore, to emphasise that detention should always be a measure of last resort, the CoE, in cooperation with the HELP network, shall ensure that a module on children is included in a new online training course on alternatives to detention aimed at legal professionals. In addition, the CoE is also developing a training course on child-
friendly Justice, which will be based on the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice. Together with the University of Cork, the CoE will organise an experts meeting in December 2012 in which the above-mentioned training modules will be discussed. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to determine the next steps in order to ensure the effective implementation of existing standards.

Mrs. Berjan also mentioned the 31st Conference of Ministers of Justice held in Vienna from 19 to 21 September 2012. In this regard Mrs. Berjan spoke about the Resolution on “Responses of Justice to Urban Violence” which was discussed during the conference. The rationale behind the drafting of this resolution was the concern about the rise of outbreaks, riots and collective violence in urban areas in Europe, which has led to a feeling of insecurity and has caused economic losses for the European societies. The Resolution deals with juveniles as both perpetrators and victims of urban violence and stresses the vulnerability of youth encountering the instigators of riots on the Internet and social media. Mrs. Berjan also stated that the Committee of Ministers would be asked to invite the European Committee on Crime Prevention Problems to examine a number of current issues pertaining to juvenile justice.

In the last part of her presentation, Mrs. Berjan spoke about children in detention. The European Committee on the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has prepared a report on children’s rights, which shall be presented in early 2013 and will be available on the CoE website. The CPT report will identify a number of deficiencies and challenges in this field, identify ways of how the CPT can contribute towards improving the protection of children’s rights in detention and bring forward a number of recommendations for countries. In addition, Mrs. Berjan mentioned the round table on the (non) detention of unaccompanied minors and separated children, organised together with the UNHCR. The purpose of this round table was to look at the possibilities to create a principle specifying that the detention of these minors and children is never an option, nor acceptable.

To conclude her presentation, Mrs Berjan called for a stronger cooperation between the IJJO and the CoE and stated that only when we start seeing children as rights holders we will be able to do them justice.

Dr. Maria Amor Martín Estébanez
Programme Manager of Legal Research within the FRA Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department

Dr. Maria-Amor Martín Estébanez first recalled the mandate of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) established five years before in Vienna under Council Regulation 168/2007.

Dr. Estébanez reminded the audience of the main objective and some of the key missions of the FRA: to provide assistance and expertise on fundamental rights issues to the EU institutions and the Member States when they implement EU law; including through the collection, recording, analysis and dissemination of relevant, objective, reliable and comparable information and data on fundamental rights issues in the EU; and the promotion of dialogue with civil society in order to raise public awareness of fundamental rights and actively disseminate information about its work. Dr. Estébanez also highlighted that the FRA operates
under the EU Treaties and on the basis of a Multi-annual Framework decided by the Council of the EU. For the period 2008-2012 the Council identified nine thematic areas out of which two are especially relevant for the work undertaken by ECJJ members and other stakeholders attending the ECJJ Meeting; access to efficient and independent justice; and the rights of the child, including the protection of children.

If one of the key missions of the FRA is to provide the EU institutions and Member States with assistance, the FRA also works with a broad range of other stakeholders such as National Human Rights Institutions and Equality Bodies, Local authorities, the Media, the Courts, Civil Society Organisations and vulnerable groups: the Council of Europe; the OSCE; the UN; the media; the general public etc.. Dr. Estébanez explained the FRA’s modus operandi regarding its key activity in providing evidence-based advice, as it concerns: problem identification and project formulation in consultation with stakeholders; evidence gathering and analysis allowing to reach opinions and conclusions which are then provided to stakeholders who again feed back into FRA’s work in an ever evolving process. Dr. Estébanez also explained the FRA’s organisation and management structure, headed by the FRA’s management board, which is composed of one independent person appointed by each Member State, as well as representatives from the Commission and the Council of Europe. The Management Board is the FRA’s planning and monitoring body and is assisted by an executive board composed by five of its members. The FRA also has a director who implements the tasks set for the Agency and manages the FRA’s staff. In addition the FRA also has a Scientific Committee, and it can rely on other entities such as the National Liaison Officers (27) representing the EU Member States vis-a-vis the Agency; and the Fundamental Rights Platform, which is made up of representatives of the civil society. The IJJO is one of the 342 civil society organisations currently taking part in this Platform, and organisations interested in joining are more than welcome to apply as Dr. Estébanez kindly reminded the ECJJ members and other stakeholders attending the Meeting.

After having explained the mandate, main missions and organisation of the FRA, Dr. Estébanez described the FRA’s work regarding the Rights of the Child by reference especially to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as the 2006 Commission Communication ‘Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child’ and the 2011 Commission Communication on an EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child. More concretely, Dr. Estébanez discussed the areas of work of the FRA where reports have been published so far.

These included developing indicators for the protection, respect and promotion of the rights of the child in the EU, which have provided an initial toolkit to evaluate the impact of adopted EU law and policy on children’s status and experiences across various fields of EU competence. The work on the indicators also allowed identifying situations where children are particularly vulnerable, such as child victims of trafficking or unaccompanied and separated children arriving to the EU. This led FRA to the elaboration of a report on child trafficking in the EU which noted, for instance, that in half the Member States, child victims of trafficking could
be prosecuted for border offences or other offences like illegal prostitution.

Against the background of the challenges faced by the EU in having to embed fundamental rights within responses to criminality or terrorism that both directly and indirectly impact on minority communities in the EU, in particular Muslim communities, the FRA also worked on a comparative study between Muslim and non-Muslim youth in three EU Member States to address the larger topic of discrimination, social marginalisation and violence. This study established that there are no links between the religious affiliation and violent behaviour of the children interviewed; there are indeed no indications that Muslim youth are more likely than non-Muslim to be physically or emotionally violent towards others. Nevertheless, this research found out that there is a greater tendency to violence associated to youth experiences of discrimination or social marginalisation. As a result, policy makers should think about addressing exclusion and daily-life discrimination which affects youth, when countering criminality or terrorism.

The situation of unaccompanied and separated children from third countries arriving to the EU has also been examined by FRA’s qualitative research involving 302 adults, and 336 children across twelve EU Member States. This report, which refers to relevant UNCRC provisions and EU asylum, migration and family reunification legislation in its references to the protection of unaccompanied minors, has provided a valuable insight into the children’s views and perspectives and therefore contributed to the implementation of Article 12 of the UNCRC. The report has paid close attention both to the living conditions (accommodation; healthcare; education and training; religion, cultural norms and values; recreation and leisure; social interaction and experience of racism; etc.) and the experience of legal issues and procedures concerning the children (age assessment; family tracing and reunification; asylum procedure; detention; maltreatment and abuse; turning 18; etc.). For instance detention was reported in most of the selected Member States, and children in detention often suffered from lack of information and legal counselling as well as abusive situations. Lack of clarity on minimal requirements for and conditions of detention is common, particularly in situations of ‘administrative’ detention. Dr. Estébanez also noted that the FRA has recently issued an Opinion on the Data Protection Package at the request of the European Parliament where rights of the child considerations occupy a prominent position, and is also working on the Guardianship of trafficked children and on the Roma and their access to education.

Eventually, Dr. Estébanez described more thoroughly one of the FRA initiatives to ECJ members and other stakeholders: the Children and Justice Project. The FRA has already worked on this project in 2012 when it conducted field research with adults and intends to conduct field research with children in 2013. This project aims at identifying practices and procedures of child participation in justice proceedings, and assessing the implementation of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice while promoting it. A variety of legal and social professionals have been interviewed in 10 EU Member States (e.g. judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other law enforcement staff on the one hand; psychologists, social workers, staff
of social service providers and NGOs on the other hand). The final report will cover such issues as the implementation of the children’s right to information, to be heard and to protection and safety, and the weight given to the children’s views.

Dr Estébanez concluded her presentation by inviting ECJJ members and other stakeholders taking part in the ECJJ Third Meeting to attend the 2012 FRA Fundamental Rights Conference, which took place on December 6th and 7th at the European Parliament in Brussels. The Conference was devoted to the topic ‘Justice in austerity: challenges and opportunities for access to justice’. It had a similar focus as the Fifth Biennial Conference of the IJJO insofar as it intended to address the effects of the economic crisis on judicial systems and those seeking justice, ways of maintaining access to justice for everyone, or ideas on how to turn this time of economic crisis into an opportunity for innovation, and reform.

Mr. Cédric Foussard
Director of International Affairs at the IJJO

Mr. Cédric Foussard first thanked Mrs. Berjan and Dr. Estébanez for their thorough presentations before emphasizing the possibility for ECJJ members to join the FRA Platform, the FRA’s network of civil society organisations. Through this network, participating organisations and individuals can play an active role vis-a-vis the FRA’s work, an initiative, which could interest ECJJ members, especially Academics, who seem to be underrepresented within the Platform. Eventually, Mr. Foussard opened the floor and invited everyone to ask questions to the first round of panellists of the day.

Ms. Sonia Zdorovtzoff
Policy Officer – European Affairs at the IJJO

Ms. Sonia Zdorovtzoff asked Dr. Estébanez if the upcoming mandate of the FRA (2013 – 2018) was already known and also taking into account juvenile justice and children’s rights matters.

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez
Programme Manager of Legal Research within the FRA Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez reiterated the continued interest of the FRA for justice matters and children’s rights, and in the possibility to build on the work done so far. As a matter of fact, the decision that these issues remain a key aspect of the FRA’s work depends on the decision of the Council of the EU – and ultimately the EU Member States which compose this Council. Dr. Estébanez, however, underlined the role that other important FRA stakeholders such as NGOs and Academics can play in letting their preferences as to the FRA’s thematic mandate be known.

Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck
President of Defence for Children International

Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck called for a renewed collaboration between the European institutions (EU and CoE alike) and other entities such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the European Court of Human Rights (affiliated with the CoE). As a matter of fact, since the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in 2007, the European Union does benefit from some leeway when it comes to Human Rights and even children’s rights; as a result, to avoid a competition between bodies, one has to ensure the cooperation between all entities whether
they are linked to the EU, the Council of Europe or other entities such as the United Nations.

Eventually, Mr. Van Keirsbilck wished to learn more about a complaints mechanism available for children. According to Mr. Van Keirsbilck, the current procedure (complaints mechanism can often only be used by adults; cf. the one of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for instance) is problematic and sometimes even discriminatory for children who cannot rely on responsible adults.

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez
Programme Manager of Legal Research within the FRA Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department

Dr. Maria-Amor Martín Estébanez informed Mr. Van Keirsbilck about current initiatives involving co-operation among different bodies, notably when it comes to children’s rights and justice by referring to the FRA’s work in this domain. For instance, the aforementioned children and justice project not only is closely co-ordinated with the Commission but also implemented in very close co-operation with the Council of Europe. The aim is to continuously involve judicial, and other legal and social profession organisations, throughout the project implementation. The FRA is also planning to develop a handbook of European case-law on the rights of the child in co-operation with the European Court’s Secretariat and the Council of Europe. This initiative has been very much welcomed by FRA stakeholders but eventually needs the approval of the FRA’s Management Board to be officially launched. Furthermore, Dr. Estébanez answered Mr. Van Keirsbilck’s question about available complaints mechanisms for children by reminding the role of Ombudspeople (especially Ombudspersons for Children) and national human rights institutions throughout Europe and pointing out the Third optional Protocol to the UNCRC, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 11, 2011 and opened for signature since February 28, 2012, this text enables children to complain to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child directly that is to say without the will and assistance of an adult. This Protocol will enter into force once ten States have ratified it. FYI, so far, thirty-five States, among which twelve States of the European Union, have signed it and only two States (Gabon and Thailand) have ratified it.

Dr. Ruth Farrugia
Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta, Malta

Dr. Ruth Farrugia called for more studies evaluating children’s rights monitoring. As a matter of fact, it is of the utmost importance to know if children have access to justice throughout Europe. Dr. Farrugia recalled that in 2010 in Rome, the FRA representative introduced the possibility of developing evaluating mechanisms for children’s rights. Dr. Farrugia wondered if this was still relevant. Moreover, Dr. Farrugia enquired if the CoE was developing national and / or local self-assessment tools for children’s rights professionals. Such initiatives are vital according to her, and even though she well understood some concerns about over assessing and too much monitoring, she insisted on the usefulness of these tools and mechanisms, which are the only way to know if what one is doing works.

Ms. Gordana Berjan
Administrator within the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe Justice and Human Dignity Directorate

Dr. Gordana Berjan assured Dr. Farrugia of the Council of Europe’s interest for evaluating and
monitoring tools. Yet, the Council of Europe is not developing new standards at the moment and rather focuses on using the ones already existing. This work is especially conducted by the CEPEJ, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, which aims among others, at developing and implementing the instruments adopted by the Council of Europe in order to improve the efficiency and functioning of justice in its Member States.

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez
Programme Manager of Legal Research within the FRA Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez agreed with Dr. Farrugia about the usefulness and the need for more evaluation and monitoring, noting that the indicators developed by FRA provide just an initial toolkit to evaluate the impact, highlight the achievements and reveal the gaps of adopted EU law and policy on children’s status and experience across various fields (eg. family environment and alternative care; protection from exploitation and violence; adequate standard of living; education, culture, citizenship and participation in activities related to school and sport). Yet, before further developing such tools (which the FRA has already started doing in the field of family justice, cross-national divorce and parental separation) the FRA needs to assess which areas, procedures and issues would be evaluated or monitored by EU Member States and other key stake-holders in order to develop useful tools. This is exactly what the FRA is trying to assess at the moment.

Dr. Raffaele Bracalenti
Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research, Rome, Italy

Dr. Raffaele Bracalenti recognised using the CoE Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Department of the Italian Ministry of Justice and wondered if anything new was going to be published especially regarding the situation of unaccompanied foreign minors.

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez
Team Coordinator Child Rights and Family within the FRA Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department

Dr. Maria-Amor Martin Estébanez referred the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014) launched by the Commission on April 2010 as well as to the work of the EU Agency recently established in Malta, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). EASO has been tasked to prepare common a best practice handbook on age assessment, as well as to develop the interviewing children module of the European Asylum Curriculum. The FRA is assisting EASO in these tasks, key for achieving the adequate protection of unaccompanied and separated children arriving to the EU, but which could serve as reference in other domains of child protection and access to justice.
Prof. Federico Perali’s study aimed at underlining the discrepancy between the society and the government propensity to invest in juvenile justice as well as the discrepancy between the two aforementioned regions.

To evaluate the costs of juvenile justice in Veneto and Sicily, Prof. Perali had to rely on data and information provided by the authorities, which were of low quality according to him; on the other hand, the benefits of juvenile justice, when properly implemented, were deduced from the general public willingness to pay for a social reintegration program.
Thanks to a close study of the Italian justice and juvenile justice system, Prof. Perali inferred the costs of an adult conviction (198 Euros) and the one of a young offender (400 Euros). If detention really was a measure of last resort for young Italian offenders, an important amount of money (circa 72 million Euros) could be saved annually or allocated to the social reintegration of adults.

Furthermore, thanks to a survey conducted in both Veneto and Sicily, Prof. Perali was able to underline the greater willingness of the poorer South (Sicily) to invest in juvenile justice (a social reintegration programme for young offenders financed by their own taxes in this particular survey) than the more wealthy North (Veneto). This also underlines the presence of some leeway for the authorities: some citizens are actually willing to invest in young offenders’ future despite of their region own economic situation.

The unexpected findings produced by this study demonstrate the need for costs / benefits studies across Europe. To this extent, the commitment to draft a White Paper looking at the consequences of the economic, political, and social crises makes sense insofar as such study could help authorities to ensure the efficiency while protecting the effectiveness of juvenile justice systems throughout Europe.

To launch the debate, Prof. Perali first detailed some of the objectives of the White Paper: implementing a quick health check of the European juvenile justice systems thanks to experts’ views; allowing the IJJO to realise an early alert system to provide relevant recommendations in a short time;
and collecting available key data from each European country.

The latter should be collected through both a quantitative and qualitative survey, which should be defined and conducted in a timely manner, using the resources of the IJJO, such as the upcoming Intranet devoted to the European Council for Juvenile Justice. To illustrate his speech, Prof. Perali then exposed some of the key available data he found for Italy, well aware that some of these may not be available or hard to find in some countries.

Prof. Perali indeed emphasized his commitment to adapt to the ECJJ members respective systems, work environment and available data: he presented some avenues of reflexion and hoped the next steps will be filled with feedbacks and breakthroughs in order to draft the best possible White Paper.

Dr. Eftychia Katsigarachi
Director of Special Therapeutic Institute's Organizing & Function from the Ministry of Justice of Greece

To illustrate the consequences the crises can have on juvenile justice and look at the situation in one country in particular, Dr. Eftychia Katsigarachi took the floor.

Dr. Katsigaraki first introduced the specificities of juvenile justice in Greece. According to the Greek Criminal Code, a child between the age of 8 and 13 is absolved from any criminal responsibility of wrongdoing; a minor aged from 13 to 15 years old is subject to reformative or therapeutic measures only. Eventually, for any child above the end of 15, “the court takes into consideration all the circumstances surrounding the case, and may decide that it is optimal the Placement in
a Special Detention Institution for Youngsters than the imposition of reformatory or therapeutic measures”.

As a result, between the age of 16 to 18, minors could: be placed in detention; be placed or asked to regularly visit in an institution, where their mental health issues could be treated by professionals (therapeutic measures); or be confronted with a reformatory measure. In Greece, the latter could, for instance, take the shape of: a reprimand; a placement with foster parents; a placement within institutions designated for the care of children; a hearing between the offender and the wronged party, and eventually their respective family (restorative justice); a compensation for the victim; a community service; attending social and psychological programs in special institutions; or enrolling in training or vocational schools.

To decide if a child aged between the age of 13 and 18 should be put in detention (if above 15) or benefit from a therapeutic or reformatory measure, Greece can rely on Courts dedicated to children. As Dr. Katsigaraki pointed it out, there are three types of Courts devoted only to children and juvenile justice: a one-member Court; a three-member Court and a last resort Court, the Court of Appeals. The first two Courts respectively judged 15, 841 and 642 juvenile offenders between 2009 and 2010.

Among those trialled by a one-member Court (the most common Court), 63% of them were first-time offenders whereas 37% of them were recidivists. In addition, among these same children, 7% were girls whereas 93% were boys. A reprimand is the most common measure imposed on children whereas restorative justice measures are quite unpopular amongst one-member
Courts staff. As a matter of fact, out of 3,586 sentences imposed on minors in the city of Athens, a hearing or mediation between a young offender and their victim was applied three times; compensation applied in one case; and a community service to somehow restore the child’s wrong doing was applied one time as well.

Eventually, Dr. Katsigaraki provided ECJJ members and other stakeholders attending the ECJJ Meeting with some insights into the financial situation in Greece. Since the country needs to cut expenditure in every single area, justice, and juvenile justice, was not left untouched. For instance, even though the number of juveniles in detention has not considerably changed, youth detention facilities receive 116,250,000 Euros in 2012 when they could count on 129 million Euros in 2009. Reformative measures are also used in a similar number of cases between 2009 and 2012; yet, the national authorities cut the allocated budget and are asking youth justice professionals to do the same with less.

As a conclusion, Dr. Katsigaraki shared with the audience some of the suggestions the Greek government formulated to address the current economic situation: opt for restorative justice measures more often; ask for and wisely use budgets allocated by European programs while exchanging experience and good practices; seek for alternative sources of funding. In addition, NGOs and volunteers are solicited ceaselessly since the economic situation worsened in Greece. Volunteers indeed work for free, which enables the authorities to save money; moreover, even if they wanted to hire new staff members, the Troika restricts the Greek authorities from hiring anyone new.

Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck
President of Defence for Children International

Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck then quickly took the floor to ask if anyone had questions about Dr. Katsigaraki or Prof. Perali’s presentation.

Dr. Helena Valkova
Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Dr. Helena Valkova wondered how Prof. Perali defined deviant behaviour, a phrase he used several times in his presentation, and how one could exactly measure the costs of deviant behaviour.

Prof. Federico Perali
Economist at the University of Verona, Italy

Prof. Federico Perali acknowledged he may have used the phrase too lightly and recognized that a clear definition of all terms needs to be made before starting working on the White Paper.

Mrs. Velina Todorova
Deputy Minister of Justice of the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria

Mrs. Velina Todorova joined the conversation to remind ECJJ members and others that UNICEF had already defined most relevant terms. As a result, rather than talking about children with deviant behaviour, it would be more appropriate and legally correct, for instance, to talk about children in conflict with the law.
Mr. Cătălin Claudiu Bejan
Director General Adjunct of the National Administration of Pentitentiairies of the Ministry of Justice of Romania.

Mr. Cătălin Claudiu Bejan also added the importance of taking prevention and community-based programs into account; the White Paper should not just address the costs and benefits of detention in a situation of economic crisis.

Mrs. Hara Galanou
Juvenile Probation Officer at Athens Juvenile Probation Service

Mrs. Hara Galanou added a few remarks to Dr. Katsigaraki’s presentation being Greek and experiencing the consequences of the economic, social and political crises as well. As Dr. Katsigaraki rightfully pointed it out, the crises have put a strain on child services and more generally, the economic situation has a greater social impact on families and everyone’s daily lives throughout the entire country of Greece. Rather than reflecting on ways of doing more with less, one should advocate in favour of a shift of paradigm: why are the Greek authorities and the Troika more likely to invest in saving private banks rather than supporting Greek citizens?

Mrs. Leda Koursoumba
Ombudsman for Children in Cyprus and Chair of the ENOC

Mrs. Leda Koursoumba added to Mrs. Galanou’s intervention by accusing some countries to lack vision for children and in order to make sure that children’s rights are respected and mainstreamed one should make sure media are well aware of the situation and consequences of the cuts and other harmful decisions. According to Mrs. Koursoumba, children’s advocates should reach out to the media and make sure the voices of the most vulnerable ones are heard.
Ms. Sonia Zdorovtzoff, Policy Officer – European Affairs at the IJJO

Ms. Sonia Zdorovtzoff, Policy Officer – European Affairs at the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, launched this first panel by introducing the activities conducted by the IJJO in the last few months. After the Second Meeting of the ECJJ in 2010 in Rome, three Green Papers, one per ECJJ section, were produced, published and promoted before the relevant institutions and stakeholders. As a matter of fact, Ms. Zdorovtzoff recalled presenting the Green Papers on several occasions: for DG Justice Consultation on a “Green Paper aiming at strengthening mutual trust in the European judicial area”; in the EEAS Consultation on the EU Guidelines for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child; on the occasion of DG Employment creation of an ad hoc group and Consultation on Child Poverty; to contribute to DG Employment 2012 Report on the follow-up of the 2008 Recommendation on Active Inclusion; or on the ongoing Steering Committee launched by DG Justice on the occasion of a “Study to collect data on children’s involvement in judicial proceedings in the EU”. Moreover, Ms. Zdorovtzoff also had the opportunity to promote the Green Papers during the EC 5th and 6th European Fora on the Rights of the Child, meetings of the Alliance for Children (group of MEP interested in the respect, promotion and mainstreaming of children’s rights) or at CRAG Meetings (CRAG = Children’s Rights Action Group, a coalition of NGOs advocating for children’s rights at a European level; e.g. Eurochild, Save the Children, Plan, Terre des Hommes, SOS Villages d’Enfants, European Youth Forum, IJJO, etc.) and trainings within the European Parliament. Apart from the three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice, the IJJO had the opportunity to promote the work and expertise of ECJJ members thanks to other various outputs.

Therefore, after a brief mention of the Green Papers and the institutions and stakeholders to which they were presented, Ms. Zdorovtzoff briefly introduced two other outputs: a European-level awareness campaign and the creation of a website created in the context of a European project. The awareness campaign, “Keeping the youth out of exclusion – The benefits of Volunteering”, was developed under the framework of the 2011 European Year on Volunteering and underlined through four different sections how volunteering can help a youngster keep out of social exclusion whether they need or not to turn their life around after committing an offense. Ms. Zdorovtzoff briefly presented the four sections: a brief review of academic researches underlining the benefits of volunteering for the youth; a series of interviews from various stakeholders (young people who benefited from volunteering themselves; a social worker promoting volunteering among the youth; a member of a government advocating in favour of civic engagement); some recommendations for national and European decision-makers; and
the presentation of four NGOs working for and with children, who are willing to volunteer. These NGOs were the following: SOVA (United Kingdom), Udruga MoSt (Croatia), Schüler Helfen Leben (Germany), and Unga Kris, a Swedish NGO, whose representative, Kristoffer Johansson is an official member of the ECJJ. As mentioned, the awareness campaign can be found here: http://eyvcampaign.ejjo.org/

Another outputs developed recently and promoting the work of ECJJ members would be the website developed under the ITACA project, which aims at reviewing juvenile gangs’ formation and perception throughout Europe. After briefly introducing the project, whose applicant, the Istituto don Calabria, is a member of the ECJJ, Ms. Zdorovtzoff explained how the website developed by the IJJO was going to complement the work led by the project partners: it should provide a greater overview of juvenile gangs by including news, researches and good practices coming from the four corners of the world while promoting the work undertaken under the framework of the ITACA project. The address of such website can be found here: http://youthgangs.ejjo.org/

Promoting the work of the ECJJ and its members is one important duty of the IJJO since it has been appointed as Coordinator of the ECJJ; nevertheless, as Mr. Doek rightfully pointed it out on November 7th, the IJJO could go further and now is the time to decide where the European Council for Juvenile Justice should go. According to Ms. Zdorovtzoff, two questions need to be address: where do we want the ECJJ to go? And how should be achieve this goal? Before dealing with “where?”, Ms. Zdorovtzoff introduced a few tools, which should facilitate the “How?” in the next few months.

First of all, the European Council for Juvenile Justice will soon have its own webpage, a practical tool, which should facilitate the promotion of the ECJJ, its work and the work of its members. Ms. Zdorovtzoff shortly presented a draft of the webpage design and a spent more time detailing the ECJJ members’ page. As a matter of fact, the webpage will include a section on its members where each member will have their picture and biography displayed. Moreover, Ms. Zdorovtzoff announced to the ECJJ members that they will soon be able to use their own Extranet; the latter will enable the members to share their work among each other and to keep the IJJO informed about their latest initiatives. Furthermore, this collective instrument will allow the IJJO to keep the ECJJ members on European matters and initiatives developed by the IJJO on a more regular basis. Both instruments are being finalised at the moment and should be available in 2013.

Ms. Zdorovtzoff also reminded ECJJ members of the usefulness of European funds. The IJJO has been or is currently involved in European projects engaging or led by ECJJ members; nevertheless, such collaboration could be further developed and the IJJO hopes to work more often with the ECJJ members in such context. On the other hand, a new opportunity to work with ECJJ members has arisen. As a matter of fact, the IJJO is working on giving renewed impetus to the International School of Juvenile Justice. Instead of a one-year long course, this time, the IJJO aims at offering four medium-length programmes, which will be available all year round and should be freely available to official ECJJ members. These programmes are being developed as the moment and Ms. Zdorovtzoff invited ECJJ members to express their interest in being involved in their drafting. The topics shall cover a wide-range of areas from international standards to community intervention and prevention programme, and without forgetting topics
such as child psychology or intervention procedures.

Eventually, Ms. Zdorovtsoff opened the discussion and asked ECJJ members to think about a series of questions such as: the relevance of a steering committee? Their will to take part in it? Shall the ECJJ open to new members? From other professions? Other Countries? The usefulness of advocating in favour of child offenders before other institutions such as the European or national parliaments?

To answer these questions and discuss about other topics presented before such as the consequences of the crises on juvenile justice throughout Europe, ECJJ members broke into sections. Each section was led by one of their members: Prof. Kilkelly for the Academics; Mrs. Yiasouma for the NGOs; and Mrs. Damato for the representatives of the Public Administration section.

After this presentation, members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice broke into section and discussed several questions in workshops. Some of the issues addressed concerned the future of the ECJJ (ins and outs of the ECJJ Executive Committee; enlargement of the ECJJ to other corporations, countries, etc.) whereas others dealt with the challenges faced by juvenile justice practitioners since the beginning of the crises.

Mrs. Koulla Yiasouma, Prof. Ursula Kilkelly and Mrs. Joyce Damato acted as Moderator and then Rapporteur for their respective section that is to say the NGO section, the Academic section and the Public Administration section. Here are summaries of their reports:

**Mrs. Koulla Yiasouma**
Director of Include Youth - Northern Ireland

Mrs. Koulla Yiasouma began her presentation by mentioning that NGO’s in the field of youth justice often operate at the intersection of different systems. Therefore,
it was agreed at the Meeting that these NGO’s have the potential to make an important contribution to the work of the European Council for Juvenile Justice. Moreover, Mrs. Yiasouma stated that in order to improve the governance of the ECJJ, it is necessary to further clarify the terms of reference that are being used. However, as this is a recent process, it was acknowledged that clarifying these terms will take some time.

Hereafter, Mrs. Yiasouma identified two main priorities the ECJJ should focus on. Firstly, the integration of socially excluded people, and in particular of those leaving institutions, should be ensured. Secondly, the ECJJ should work on guaranteeing social justice. If one is truly concerned with keeping young people out of the judicial system, proper and functioning health care, educational and housing services should be provided.

Another aspect the ECJJ should emphasise on is improving the framework for child friendly youth justice. To achieve this, it is important that the general public’s awareness of children’s rights is increased. In addition, professionals working in this area should receive training in children’s rights.

Mrs. Yiasouma also discussed a number of challenges prevalent in the field of youth justice. It was argued that to give young people the best possible start in adult life, at the age of 18 criminal records should be expunged. Also, it has to be guaranteed that legal advice and services provided by trained legal personnel are available to children and young people. Important is furthermore that best practices are shared between professionals.

Mentioned was also the necessity to protect children and recognise how they are struggling in life. Hence, it has to be ensured that policy makers are willing to listen to
the problems of children and young people. Moreover, the views of children and young people should be heard and taken into account with the guarantee that their best interests and their right to protection and privacy are ensured. Lastly, it is important that children and policy makers get together to work on improving youth justice systems.

Prof. Ursulla Kil Kelly
University College Cork, Ireland

Prof. Ursulla Kil Kelly advocated for the creation of an academic section within the ECJ. The rationale behind the call for such a section is that it would assemble a group of inter-disciplinary scholars from a wide range of jurisdictions/juvenile justice systems, which can work together on research and function as an independent and authoritative forum on juvenile justice matters.

Mrs Kil Kelly also explained that the group represents academics from all over Europe in the fields of law, sociology, social policy, psychology and pedagogy. Moreover, Mrs. Kil Kelly stated that the members of the group bring with them a vast amount of knowledge with regard to different aspects of juvenile justice, including early intervention, diversion, youth courts and detention.

Next, Mrs. Kil Kelly addressed some activities the Academic section is qualified to carry out. Firstly, Mrs. Kil Kelly specified that the Academic section would be in the position to carry out co-authored inter-disciplinary and inter-jurisdictional research. Moreover, Mrs. Kil Kelly called for a continued online dialogue to promote relationships between researchers in different countries and disciplines.

Secondly, Mrs Kil Kelly proposed to use the portal to improve the dissemination of research and to make it accessible to a wider public. In
addition, the portal can facilitate a mapping exercise to determine where the gaps are and how to address them. This exercise will also contribute to the avoidance of duplication.

Thirdly, Mrs. Kilkelly emphasised the importance of guaranteeing the quality and integrity of international research, especially of research by or with the IJJO. Mrs Kilkelly foresees that the Academic section can provide a peer review mechanism in order to ensure that the research published by the IJJO is of the highest quality. In this regard, it was put forward that for such a peer review to be successful, there should be a ‘firewall’ between the Academic section and the rest of the IJJO’s activities.

Fourthly, Mrs. Kilkelly also expects that the Academic section can act as a watchdog to ensure that governments act honestly. By acting as a watchdog, the Academic section would also be put in the position to interpret existing data and ensure the accuracy of material used by other researchers.

Fifthly, according to Mrs. Kilkelly, the Academic section should promote and facilitate research on the implementation of international standards and provide an evidence base for policy makers.

Sixthly, and finally, Mrs. Kilkelly brought forward that the Academic section could support the IJJO in delivering evidence to policy makers. Next to carrying out research, academics are also committed to bring about reform and/or change. Mrs. Kilkelly underlined the dedication of the Academic section to achieve this.

To conclude, Mrs. Kilkelly highlighted the need for an advisory/steering committee.

Mrs. Joyce Damato
Policy Development Directorate at the Ministry of Home and Parliamentary Affairs

Mrs. Joyce Damato presented the conclusions
of the discussion held among the Public Administration section and its members. Representatives of the Public Administration section are especially interesting in seeing the IJJO address the following topics: how to reduce the number of children in custody; how to increase funding for prevention; how to reduce recidivism and make measures more effective; how to promote social and labour integration and to involve private sector on these programmes.

Moreover, the lack of training and capacity building programmes for policy makers and practitioners worries all the representatives. All call for the IJJO technical assistance in drafting and providing activities for educating and / or updating the knowledge of judicial staff and all professionals involved in judicial proceedings and the implementation of judicial decisions.

As a potential priority of the ECJJ, some representatives expressed their interest in sharing good examples, in exchanging lessons learned among the Council members like it was done to draft the Green Papers and is planned for the White Paper.

Some representatives of the Public Administration section also wished for EU directives and / or recommendations, which would comply, or at least strongly encouraged, Member States to invest national and European funding in juvenile justice in order to improve e.g. the living conditions and infrastructures welcoming children in conflict with the law.

Regarding the issue of the Executive Committee, most of the representatives of the Public Administration section expressed their interest in joining this body but also underlined their wish to take part in the ECJJ as individuals rather than as representatives of their respective governments. As such they would not be able to freely share their opinion and perspective as youth justice professionals with an extensive knowledge of the ins and outs of juvenile justice and judicial proceedings.
Dr. Raffaele Bracalenti first highlighted the CO.S.MI project and discussed its three principal objectives. Firstly, the project aims at collecting information on the risk of discrimination faced by foreign minors in the juvenile justice system and in broader society. Secondly, the CO.S.MI project focuses on collecting information on good practices in the field of social communication with the goal of fighting discrimination and supporting the reintegration of foreign minors who have come in contact with the law. The third objective of the project is to create an EU network to promote the use of social communication and support foreign minors who have come in contact with the law.

In the second part of his presentation Dr. Bracalenti spoke about juvenile justice systems. Over the last century, public schools and crèches have been established to enable both parents to go to work for several hours a day. However, these schools were unable to deal with mentally handicapped children and their families could not care for them either. Hence, public institutions were created where mentally handicapped children were given specific pedagogical support. However, institutionalising mentally handicapped children proved to be highly expensive and municipalities were not always willing to cover the costs unless these people posed a threat to society.

Hereafter, Dr. Bracalenti addressed the concept of childhood, which includes both infancy and adolescence. Whilst adolescence an extremely complex concept, Dr Bracalenti argued that much more attention is given to early childhood.
As studies led to the acknowledgement that minors are both physically and physiologically vulnerable, laws and rules were developed to control children’s lives.

Dr. Bracalenti then moved on to discuss the role of education in the lives of children. In the traditional paternalistic educational systems, which allowed for domestic and school violence for disciplinal reasons, children were quickly formed into adults. As this approach is nowadays no longer conceivable, Dr. Bracalenti put forward the question of how juvenile justice systems should react to the increasing level of dissatisfaction with regard to dealing with adolescence.

Dr. Bracalenti addressed the above-mentioned question in detail in the final part of his presentation. Firstly, he brought forward that some people prefer the old paternalistic approach, as this is less expensive and juvenile justice systems do not provide the expected results. Secondly, Dr. Bracalenti stated that most juvenile justice systems combine aspects of sanctioning and educating. However, he argued that the focus often lays on the future of the minors and less on the present problems. According to Dr. Bracalenti, this places a high burden on parents, educators and actors within the juvenile justice system who deal with minors on a day-to-day basis. The third observation made by Dr. Bracalenti is that in order to ensure its effectiveness, juvenile justice systems have to involve schools, families and communities.

Moreover, to fight stigmatisation, the responsibility for enforcing measures should be shared between these actors and emphasis should be put on the social reintegration of minors. To conclude his presentation, Dr. Bracalenti put forward his opinion on juvenile justice. In the view of the speaker, it is of the utmost importance to ensure a child’s right to take part in decisions that affect him, or in case of civil and criminal proceedings, to guarantee that a child’s opinion is heard. Dr. Bracalenti supports the use of restorative justice, especially when it gives children the opportunity to express their views, not as offenders, but as individuals. He also prefers
systems in which a child is not obliged to admit a crime, as this may limit the extent to which a juvenile expresses his views freely.

**Prof. John Pitts**
Professor of socio-legal studies at the University of Bedfordshire, UK

Prof. John Pitts started his presentation by showing a map of London on which all the gang-related fatalities in London in 2007 were pinpointed. The majority of the people that were killed in gang-related shootings were of African or Caribbean origin. After this introduction, Prof. Pitts presented the question of why cities are presently dealing with gang-related problems in certain areas. To answer this question, Prof. Pitts gave an overview of how neighbourhoods in Great Britain changed during the 1980s and 90s. He identified a number of factors that have influenced the change of these neighbourhoods. To name a few: the reallocation of poor people to council estates, income polarisation, educational polarisation, poverty, unemployment and the erosion of informal systems of social control and support. According to Prof. Pitts, talking about crime is important, as it is often linked to deprivation and disadvantage, prevalent in these areas of acute social disadvantages.

Prof. Pitts then focussed on the Beaumont Estate Waltham Forrest in North East London where he is from and where he carried out his research. Many cities are becoming more and more successful in addressing crime, with the exception of crime in certain problematic areas. In this regard Prof. Pitts made reference to the work of the sociologist Loic Wacquant who described the return of extreme poverty and social destitution and public violence in certain troubled parts of first world cities. Prof. Pitts used the following characteristics to describe the hard-to-deal-with kind of crime occurring in these problematic areas: youthful, implosive, repetitive, symmetrical, violent, under-reported, embedded, drug-driven and symbolical.

Furthermore, Prof. Pitts stated that the trade
in drugs has a major influence on crime and violence; areas in which drug trade is rife also experience the rise of crime and violence. Drug businesses often dispose of a large workforce in order to manufacture, package and distribute the drugs and to assure that contracts are respected. These businesses often chose to operate in areas characterised by acute social disadvantages. Prof. Pitts also pointed out that when peace arrives in a certain area, drug related businesses quickly move to other places.

Prof. Pitts also addressed the worrying trend that currently more and more children and young people, in imminent danger of getting involved with gangs, start to adopt the style and behaviour of gangs. Gangs have also started to apply violence to protect their territory. Reference in this regard can be made to increasing number of so-called ritualised stabbings. Moreover, young people can easily get affiliated with gangs for the simple reason that they live in a gang-affected neighbourhood. Even if they refuse to join, gangs can pressure these young people into illegal behaviour. In turn, gangs from other neighbourhoods will see these people as threats against which they need to defend themselves. In this regard Prof. Pitts spoke about ‘reluctant gangsters’; young people from gang-affected neighbourhoods who join gangs for self-protection.

In the last part of his presentation Prof. Pitts discussed the conclusion of the Malcolm Stevens report on the killing of Kodgo Yenga. According to this report, when it comes to crime and delinquency, contemporary gangs have different justification values and a different view on safety and respect. Their values and views are contrary to the idea behind all modern anti-offending programmes and conventional early intervention approaches and youth crime prevention strategies.
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. John Drew
Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales

Mr. John Drew was invited to share a few words with the assistance to close the day. Mr. Drew admitted having three fantastic and fruitful days with the IJJO and the ECJJ. During the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, Mr. Drew learned some lessons, among which the need and usefulness of sharing more information amongst youth justice professionals throughout Europe. Vibrant networks such as the ECJJ contribute to this need and we should therefore foster their greater use and growth according to Mr. Drew.

Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes
Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

Dr. Francisco Legaz concluded the Third Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice by first thanking all participants and pointing out the importance of such meetings: as Mr. Drew rightfully pointed it out, sharing information is key to the success of juvenile justice. As a result, the support, involvement and motivation of youth justice professionals like the ones gathered on the occasion of the Third Meeting of the ECJJ are truly important. To this extent, Dr. Francisco Legaz thanked once again the participants and hoped for many more meetings of the European Council for Juvenile Justice.
THE 2012 IJJO’S ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Dissemination of the three IJJO Greens Papers on Child-Friendly Justice
  - via European Commission Consultations
  - via Council of Europe meetings and events
  - via the Alliance for Children of the European Parliament
  - via the Children’s Rights Action Group
  - via the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion
  - Brussels-based events such as the European Forum on the Rights of the Child

- Formalisation of the European Council for Juvenile Justice

- Ascertainment of the ECJJ sustainability and functioning

- Promotion of ECJJ members’ activities before European institutions and the civil society

- Promotion of the ECJJ at an international level
  - before the United Nations bodies such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice or the Annual Meeting of the Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice
  - before the IJJO other regional Councils, for which the ECJJ set the example

- Organisation of the Third Meeting of the ECJJ

- Invitation and involvement of the ECJJ members to the Fifth IJJO International Conference

- Creation of a special Extranet dedicated to ECJJ members

- Complete revamp of the EJJO webpage into the ECJJ website

- Introduction of a potential enlargement of the ECJJ to other countries or professions

- Development of new on-line training offers and capacity-building activities for ECJJ members via the IJJO School

- Launch of the Executive Committee of the ECJJ

- Maintained institutional relations and the financial support of the European Commission
After almost ten years championing the rights of children in conflict with the law and advocating for juvenile justice, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory welcomes the mindset change, which occurred at both national and international level: policy- and decision-makers have indeed started to finally include juvenile justice on their agenda. As a result, there is a greater awareness and implementation of Children’s Rights into national juvenile justice systems throughout Europe. Most EU Member States have indeed integrated child offenders’ special needs: being children first rather than lawbreakers, and lawbreakers only, who need to comply with a sentence. Yet, discrepancy between the reality and Juvenile Justice international standards remains; thus, the latter must be effectively and operationally implemented.

Such achievement was only made possible by a real synergy of the work undertaken within each country by the ECJJ members and at an international level by the IJJO whether before European institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe or before UN bodies. Of course, even though the IJJO cooperates worldwide with youth justice experts since 2003, Europe was where its first regional Council was established in 2009, and after four years, one has to recognize the valuable outputs provided by the members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice in the pursuit of the IJJO’s initiatives at EU level. In this regard, the meetings of the ECJJ were of utmost importance, and the Third Meeting of the ECJJ was no exception.

Among other issue during this Third Meeting, the IJJO addressed the setting up of a new body to the ECJJ members, the ECJJ Executive Committee, which shall facilitate the ECJJ functioning, suggest upcoming headways and provide insightful outputs. This new entity already sparked the interest of a few members and should meet for the first time before the end of 2013.

In a near future, with the help and support of the ECJJ members, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory also aspires to shed light on a few worrying topics such as the specific situation faced by girls within judicial systems; the situations faced by children living in marginalised urban areas; the legal and administrative journey of unaccompanied foreign minors; etc. The aim is to keep on supporting youth justice professionals throughout Europe irrespective of the topics they most affectionate and to enlarge the IJJO’s scope of action to develop research, capacity building activities, manuals and useful toolkits for professionals mainstreaming children’s rights and based on scientific research. As a matter of fact, it is crucial for the IJJO to support the development of more evidence-based policies to ensure the respect of Children’s Rights. As a matter of fact, scientific evidence-based researches are the best way to weigh on the design of regional and national policies.

Considering the current economic constraints weighing on national governments and, which recently influenced the scope of the European budget, juvenile justice, like any other public services, is likely to suffer from cuts. Nevertheless, the IJJO, alongside its European collaborators, hopes to convince policy- and decision-makers that the crises created an opportunity for change rather than inevitable spending cuts and their related negative outcomes. This is for instance one of the objectives behind the ECJJ on-going research and upcoming publication: a White Paper entitled «Juvenile Justice in a changing world: investing in children in time of crises». First discussed at the Third Meeting of the ECJJ, the White Paper aims indeed at convincing
national policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders of the effectiveness of child-friendly measures, and more importantly of their efficiency.

In this time of austerity and social discord, it is indeed imperative to continue to improve youth justice across Europe. Financial cutbacks mean that money is tight but this does not need to halt progress. We still need to ensure the best interest of children in conflict with the law is upheld. In our forthcoming White Paper, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, on behalf of the European think-tank on Juvenile Justice, the European Council for Juvenile Justice, is outlining how the current economic and social setbacks in Europe have affected youth justice policy and practice. From this, a range of solutions are presented to promote a child-rights approach to youth justice. The White Paper highlights how a child-rights approach is consistent with international and national standards of best practises ensure that the children of all countries are empowered rather than criminalised, and that rather than costing more money than traditional punitive approach, our suggestions actually cost less. The IJJO wants to emphasize that time of economic and social difficulty are key opportunities to innovate and improve outcomes for children. The White Paper will help policy-makers and civil society stakeholders clearly identify drivers, which will provide a more efficient justice system. As such, the full potential of young people in each country can be fulfilled.

Ultimately, the IJJO’s goal is to improve youth justice systems and ensure the respect and implementation of juvenile justice international standards such as the 1989 UNCRC. In this enterprise, members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice are the backbone of the IJJO’s European action thanks to their extensive knowledge and expertise, their national network and their endless will to contribute to juvenile justice without borders. Consequently, their contribution to European and international discussions is more important than ever as precursors of the IJJO’s regional Councils.
With the financial support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union