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1. The IJJO at a Glance
1. The IJJO at a Glance

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) is a Belgian Foundation of Public Interest, set up in 2003 and based in Brussels. The main objectives are

- To be a permanent international forum for professionals in juvenile justice all over the world.
- To ensure an international, comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to a JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHOUT BORDERS.

Activities

In order to achieve its objectives, the IJJO carries out different activities

- Organization of conferences, events and thematic workshops, attended by participants from all over the world.
- The coordination of research studies and collaboration in comparative analysis among experts.
- Advocacy and counselling for international and national organisms.
- Raising awareness through International Campaigns:
  - “Legal assistance for children in conflict with the law”.
  - “Two decades of juvenile justice: improvements since the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child”.
  - “Paths of integration of children in conflict with the law”
  - “Keeping the youth out of Exclusion: the Benefits of Volunteering”
**Achievements**

- **International network of collaborators**
  According to its objective of promoting cooperation through an international network, the IJJO,

  - Counts on more than 11,000 users, collaborators and contacts all over the world.
  - They have access to an online information centre in English, French and Spanish, visited monthly by 8,300 visitors.
    - Documentation Centre: 3,300 documents from 163 countries
    - Press Room: 25,000 news items from 184 countries.
    - Organizations: 990 organizations from 105 countries.

- **Recognitions at the international level**
  The IJJO’s work to develop juvenile justice systems and models in line with International rules and standards has been acknowledged by the following organizations:
  - Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC
  - NGO with consultative status with UNESCO
  - Member of the UN Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice
  - Participatory status with the Council of Europe.
  - “Expert” NGO of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child for the European Union
  - Observer Status in the Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee with civil society organizations and networks.

- **IJJO Regional Councils for Juvenile Justice**

- **The IJJO has set Councils for Juvenile Justice to connect with national and local realities and needs and to better reach their goals: the European Council for Juvenile Justice, the Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice, the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice and the African Council for Juvenile Justice.**

- **International School for Juvenile Justice (EIJJ)**
  - In order to improve intervention with minors, the IJJO focuses on training and research as two of its action priorities. Thus IJJO created the EIJJ as training and research space aiming at the generation and dissemination of knowledge and the development of training activities in areas related to juvenile justice.

- **Collaboration agreements**
  - In order to contribute to achieve its objectives and strengthen collaboration within the IJJO network, the Observatory has signed collaboration agreements, for instance with: Ministry of Justice of Chile, Generalitat Valenciana of Spain, Ministry of Justice of France, University of Miskolc in Hungary, United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders (ILANUD), Fundación Ortega y Gasset, Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Cádiz, Instituto Interamericano del Niño, la Niña y Adolescentes (IIN), Department of Juvenile Observation and Protections of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru.
2. Presentation
2. Presentation

2.1. Word by the Chairman

It’s in mid-nineteenth century when began to emerge in our society the specific concern about the situation of minors in conflict with the law. Young offenders were judged as adults and imprisoned with adults.

The substantial political and social changes and perspectives, along with new trends in educational intervention led to the initiation of a reform process towards the progressive implementation of juvenile justice systems to address specifically the problems, peculiarities and characteristics of minors/youth in conflict with the law, orienting their philosophy or reason towards their re-education and reintegration.

On the other hand, a comprehensive idea of juvenile justice systems and models has included effective mechanisms and tools for preventing and treating juvenile delinquency. We must also highlight the ensuring of legal guarantees in line with the children’s circumstances and appropriate legal assistance and representation as well as the necessary resources that contribute to their integral development, while always prioritizing the areas of education and training and never leaving any room to social discrimination or exclusion of children and young people.

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and the evolution of juvenile justice should be studied and analysed from a global perspective, taking into account the plurality of socio-political systems, resources and circumstances that exist worldwide. Furthermore, I would like to underline the importance of coordination and collaboration between the agents and experts involved in the minor’s re-educational process. We must always act from a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional approach.

Because of this diversity and plurality of juvenile justice models, available resources and cultural, political and social circumstances, we are aware that these aspects and are reflected in the evolution of juvenile justice around the world.

This diversity and the different realities, situations and treatments of juvenile offenders in the world was the starting point for the establishment of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) in 2003, and which is currently a Belgian Foundation of Public Interest based in Brussels (Belgium).

Under the slogan of defending a JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHOUT BORDERS, the IJJO emerged as a space for promotion and networking among professionals, experts and institutions; to promote the development of international policies, programs, research and resources, oriented towards a sanctioning-educational action that promotes the prevention and efficient integration of minors and young people in conflict with the law. All this is done within the framework of international and United Nations rules and standards, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This report is a summary of the activities undertaken so far by the Observatory, and I want to thank all the collaborators for their participation and encourage those who are not collaborating with this Observatory yet to do so, in order to improve juvenile justice between all of us, and consequently the situation of our minors in conflict with the law.

Dr. Francisco Legaz
Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory
2.2. IJJO Purposes

The objectives are incorporated in the IJJO’s global strategy to promote the international development of policies, legislations and intervention methods into the context of a juvenile justice without borders.

- To develop a permanent, international forum of analysis, information exchange and mutual reflection on legislation, models of intervention and research on a worldwide scale in order to tackle the problem of juvenile delinquency.

- To promote the international rapprochement of different ways of dealing with problems: legal, psychological, criminological, social, educational, cultural, police, medical, etc...

- To promote global analysis linked to this phenomenon, by analysing the different issues relating to young people in conflict with the law in all its forms.

- To create, from different disciplines, networks of experts collaborating on the development of new initiatives that would anticipate the challenges posed by a constantly changing situation.

- To contribute to improving intervention in terms of legislation, education, justice, police, health and social issues, thus creating codes of good practices.

- To become a space without borders offering support to professionals, institutes and organizations and thus enable the exchange of information and experience internationally, by means of databases, conferences, workshops and seminars.

- To provide information and support to developing countries about procedures for applying laws on the penal responsibility of young people.

- To promote the creation of an international network of juvenile justice observers.

- To sensitise and shape public opinion worldwide in order to favour solidarity and a commitment to present and future issues related to young offenders.

- To encourage the creation and development of gatherings relating to international juvenile justice which seek, among other things, to intervene and develop educational programmes, research, or the diffusion of experiences related to minors and young people in situations of social exclusion.
2.3. The IJJO worldwide

- The Continental Observatories
The IJJO aims to become closer to the national/local realities, needs and circumstances, and so it has created continental observatories: the European, African and Latin American Juvenile Justice Observatories. These local IJJO branches respond to the need of assisting States from the civil society to efficiently implement international rules on the protection of the rights of the child, facilitating the permanent study and improvement of juvenile justice systems.

The European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO)

In July 2008, the IJJO created the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO), attending to the differentiating aspects and common issues that converge in the juvenile justice systems throughout Europe, to promote a convergence process in regulations and good practice. The objective of the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (based in Brussels) is to create a European space of reflection, development of initiatives, establishment of codes and principles of good practices, at the service of education and integration of European youth in conflict with the law.

European Council for Juvenile Justice

In order to carry out the most important objectives and activities, the IJJO and its European branch, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory have developed in 2009 the European Council for Juvenile Justice. Among its activities, the European Council for Juvenile Justice will formulate recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in Europe; gather quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children, adolescents and young people in conflict with the law; propose coordinated actions between public administrations, non-governmental organisations and academic and training centres, in various countries in Europe.

In order to present its activities and structure to the representatives of the public administrations, universities and NGOs involved in juvenile justice in Europe, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory has organised three meetings so far.

Public administration Meeting: ‘Towards a European common strategy in juvenile justice’.

Together with the Directorate-General for the Judicial Protection of Youth of the French Ministry of Justice’s, the IJJO organised in collaboration with the EJJO, a meeting which gathered national representatives in charged of national policies regarding youth justice and protection. This meeting was held in the framework the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (Paris, November 30th and December 1st 2009).

NGOs Meeting, ‘A key message from NGOs across Europe’.

The creation of think tanks to exchange and develop good practices among different entities responsible for intervention in the field of juvenile justice, was the objective of the meeting of 27 not-for-profit organisations from all Member States, specialised in the intervention with minors and young people in conflict with the law. (Paris, on December 2nd and 3rd 2009).
Academia Meeting: ‘Towards a European common academic approach in juvenile justice’.

The academic branch of the Council held its first meeting at the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium - the French-speaking Parliament of Wallonia and Brussels. Representatives from 27 universities and academic centres specialised in the field of criminology and juvenile criminal law in the Europe took part in this meeting. (Brussels, on December 16th and 17th 2009).

These meetings were supported by the European Commission and financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security.

During 2010 the IJJO and the EJJO have continued developing their advocacy work for the European institutions (EC and COE), the development of EU projects and the European Council for Juvenile Justice.

In order to make available the progress achieved towards the establishment of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, the IJJO and the EJJO organized the second meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice in November 11, 2010 in Rome.

During this meeting, experts focused on some of the most relevant issues and concerns highlighted during the first meeting in 2009, such as for instance: the implementation of international standards of juvenile justice systems in Europe, the guarantees in the treatment of children and youth in custodial measures or the process of integration of young offenders.

The findings and conclusions out coming from this meeting were presented to the European Commission, as three Green Papers containing the recommendations on the issues discussed by all participants.


With the objective of promoting the advances reached since its constitution and of establishing narrower lines of collaboration between its members, on the 11 of November 2010 the Second Conference of the European Council of Juvenile Justice was celebrated in Rome, within the framework of the Fourth International Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory.
The II Meeting of the ECJJ counted on the participation of more than 70 professionals and experts linked or belonging to the corresponding sections of the Council: Civil Services Section, NGO Section, Academic Section, representing the 27 member states.

As a result of this meeting, the ECJJ has issued the Three IJJO Green Papers on Child Friendly Justice:


- The Green Paper on ‘The social reintegration of young offenders as a key factor to prevent recidivism’, developed under the coordination of Mrs. Severine Jacomy – Vite (Swiss consultancy agency specialized in the Rights of the Child).


Following the Fifth Biennial Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ) met in London and for the third time on November 7 and 8, 2012. Created to foster juvenile justice without borders at a European level, the European Council met in London, with the support of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales, to discuss its forthcoming initiatives as well as the consequences of the financial, economic, social and political crises on juvenile justice systems throughout Europe. This meeting dealt with different current issues such as the future of the European Council or the consequences of the economic situation for juvenile justice systems. During this Meeting, the IJJO reiterated its will and dedication to fostering greater communication and coordination amongst juvenile justice professionals throughout Europe. To this extent, the IJJO underlined the upcoming launch of an Intranet available to all ECJJ members as well as the publication of a website devoted entirely to the European Council for Juvenile Justice. The latter will, among others, emphasize the work undertaken by the Council, introduce its members, and present the different ECJJ meetings. Besides, the third Meeting of the ECJJ was the opportunity for its members to discuss the consequences of the financial, economic, social and political crises on juvenile justice systems in their respective country. Their feedback will be the core of an upcoming publication, which should not only provide an overview of the crises repercussions throughout Europe but also a series of recommendations on how to ensure the best possible juvenile justice systems in times of crises.
The IJJO organized First Meeting of the Asian Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, was held in Bangkok in June 2012. The objective is to translate the know-how and conclusions drawn from meeting into concrete actions and documents which can be used for advocacy purposes as well as for the training of the judiciary and law enforcement officials, civil society and community based organisations.

The issues of children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses of crime have become an increasing concern for most of the countries of the Asia and Pacific region. Significant reform initiatives are underway in many countries to give response to several issues concerning: violence against children, child trafficking and protection of the rights of the children in conflict with the law. In some countries there is a lack of specific juvenile justice systems to guaranty the right of children between the ages of 16-18.

In order to assist countries in the region in the development of the reform initiatives underway, the IJJO establishes the Asian Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice to formulate recommendations on the development of juvenile justice in Asia; to gather quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children, adolescents and young people in conflict with the law.

The Asian Pacific Council brings together representatives of competent public administrations in juvenile justice, universities or academic centres and NGOs with expertise in legislation, implementation, supervision, research or intervention in the field of juvenile justice. The Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile assumes the following functions:

- The Promotion of a sustainable collaboration and coordination among all parties and stakeholders in the development of JJ policies for social integration of young people and children in conflict with the law.

- The development of strategies to ensure the respect for the rights of children and adolescents in conflict with the law and to promote crime prevention policies toward regional institutions, based on existing initiatives and programs.

After the First Meeting of the Asian Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice, the IJJO is working on undertaking research regarding the situation of juvenile justice and related issues in the Asian and Pacific Region. The findings and output will be published as a White Paper on the situation of juvenile justice in the Asian and Pacific Region

- The Thai Joint Declaration on Juvenile Justice

Main findings, results, recommendations and actions proposed by experts at the Meeting will be issued as the “Thai Declaration on Juvenile Justice”. A working group will be selected at the Meeting to draft and develop the Declaration, which will lay forth a series of commitments and proposed actions to implement the recommendations.
- The basis for definition of Guidelines for Child-friendly Justice in Asia and Pacific Region

In order to translate good practices from other regions and to set a pace for the implementation of reforms in the child justice systems in Asia and Pacific, the IJJO together with other experts in the conference will work on the development of Guidelines for child-friendly justice in Asia. The aim is to contribute to improve the treatment of the children in all circumstances, entering in contact with civil, administrative or criminal justice. These guidelines are aimed at supporting Asian States in protecting children’s rights at all stages of judicial and extrajudicial procedures and promote the rights of information, representation and participation of children.

- Recommendations on the development of an Asian Pacific Strategy on juvenile justice, including on violence against children in conflict with the law

Documents and papers presented at the meeting on themes highlighting good practices will be compiled into a solid report which will be shared for purposes of learning and linking in the field of juvenile justice. This will be the basis for working on the development of the Asian Strategy on juvenile justice.

In March 2008, the Latin American Juvenile Justice Observatory (LJJO) was constituted by the IJJO. The juvenile delinquency phenomenon is a current issue causing great concern in Latin and Central America. The LJJO is the result of the IJJO initiative for the promotion and complete development of minors and young people in this society and of their social inclusion. The LJJO has participated in several projects in various countries in Latin America, for instances in El Salvador, Paraguay and Ecuador.

Project “Comprehensive Care for Adolescents Women in conflict with the law and children deprived of their family environment” in Paraguay

By participating in this project, the LJJO aims to foster a paradigm shift in the implementation of Juvenile Justice in Paraguay. In order to promote the shift from a repressive and punitive doctrine where teens are treated as adults, towards a new one based on the respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Standards on Juvenile Justice, ratified by the Paraguayan State. In this sense, the adolescent is to be considered a subject in its own right, a human being in development who is to be integrated back into society.

In the framework of this project, the Ibero-American Congress on “Adolescents and violence in the juvenile justice systems. Situation, preventive methods and responses: the Latin-American experience” was held in Asunción (Paraguay) in December 2012, with the support of Fundación Diagrama and under the auspices of the Junta de Andalucía of Spain.

The IJJO was glad to take part on this international event that hosted professionals in the Academic, Institutional and NGO fields. The conference analysed
the topic from many different perspectives such as the role of the State; the protection of the children from all violence within the juvenile justice system; the impact of exclusion and social inequality in the fulfilment of the rights of the children in Latin America; to ensure alternative measures to detention; media criminalization and the role of the society. Furthermore, the OIJJ, through its Secretary Director, Cristina Goñi, specifically participated in the workshops on “crime prevention. Strategies and recommendations”; “social exclusion and drug use as aggravating aspects” and the overall conclusions.

**Project “Support to the Municipality of La Union in the creation and development of public policies and services for child care and youth” in El Salvador**

In order to generate favourable living conditions for children and young people living in unsafe conditions and or social vulnerability, the LJJO is involved in the development of this project in El Salvador, which aims to support the Municipality of La Union in the creation of public policies and services for young people.

**Seminar “Building restorative processes with juvenile justice in Latin America”**

The LJJO had the pleasure to share best practices and programs concerning the socio-professional reintegration of juvenile offenders. This meeting led to a debate regarding practices and programs aim to support the education of adolescents in conflict with the law and the individual sustainable developments project, as well as awareness raising projects regarding social reintegration in Europe and Latin America. The LJJO focused its intervention on the need to support and develop strategies and policies in accordance with specific rules and standards on children rights and more specifically on juvenile in conflict with the law.

**Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice**

Recognising that the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is a current and worrying issue in central and Latin America, the IJJO has a particular interest in working to provide coordinated and efficient solutions which contribute to reducing delinquency in this region and above all to promote the integral development of minors and young people of this society and encouraging social inclusion.

With the aim of developing their most relevant objectives and activities, the LJJO includes within its structure the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice as an organ for meetings, debate and analysis, always acting under the management of the Administrative Council of the LJJO. Amongst its activities the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice focuses on preparing recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in the region of Latin America, and the compilation of quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children, adolescents and young people in conflict with the law.

The Latin American Council brings together representatives of public administration working in the field of juvenile justice, universities and academic centres, and non-governmental organisations with experience in legislation, application, supervision, research and/or intervention in juvenile justice. The objective is to propose coordinated action between the representatives of these three sectors to compile reports, proposals and developing projects.

It is important to remember that the IJJO is highly interested in using instruments to promote sustainable collaboration and coordination between all parties and agents involved in the development of juvenile justice policies for the social integration of young people and minors in conflict with the law throughout Latin
American and the world. The IJJO strategy throughout its meetings and the work of the Council is to promote their results and decisions with the aim of guaranteeing a respect of the rights of children and adolescents in conflict with the law and in situations of social exclusion.

**African Juvenile Justice Observatory (AJJO)**

The main objective of the African Juvenile Justice Observatory (AJJO) is the observation of the juvenile justice situation in Africa, setting up a transnational space to analyse and elaborate propositions on minors in exclusion or in conflict with the law, in order to contribute to the definition of good practices to develop a better juvenile justice system in Africa. The African Observatory is created within a society which is worried about the phenomenon of social exclusion of minors and adolescents, because this continent, which is mostly a young one, has to face up to numerous inequities related to education, training, access to the labour market, health, etc. The creation of the AJJO responds to the need for civil society to help states when effectively implementing the international rules on the protection of the rights of the child in order to make the continuous study and improvement of juvenile justice systems easier.

**African Council for Juvenile Justice**

Since the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by African states, there have been notable changes related to awareness of the rights of young people in practice and in policies in Africa. Within the wide ranging field of juvenile justice it is clear that the principles enshrined in the Convention are at the heart of attempts to introduce changes in the majority of countries on the continent. However, the African continent faces many challenges with regards to the rights of minors in conflict with the law. With the aim of encouraging development and the promotion of the rights of young offenders, the AJJO includes within its structure the African Council for Juvenile Justice as an organ for meetings, debate and analysis, always acting under the management of the Administrative Council of the AJJO.

The African Council brings together representatives of public administration working in the field of juvenile justice, universities and academic centres and non-governmental organisations with experience in legislation, application, supervision, research and/or intervention in juvenile justice. The objective is to propose coordinated action between the representatives of these three sectors to compile reports, proposals and developing projects.

Specifically, the Council also functions as a space for reflection to support action lines that are currently being developed in order to achieve favourable justice for children in Africa. The IJJO is working on the organization of the first meeting of the African Council for Juvenile Justice together with Open Society South Africa and the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention. The meeting is scheduled for 2013 in Tanzania.
2.4. Recognitions

As a privileged messenger from civil society, the IJJO works to bring the voice of juvenile justice experts to the international arena, in particular to those forums where IJJO work has been recognised.

The IJJO has been granted participatory status by the Council of Europe. Since 1952, the Council of Europe recognizes the influence of NGOs and offers them the opportunity to participate, as a vital component of European society, ensuring freedom of expression and association, both of which are fundamental to democracy. Thanks to this recognition, the IJJO is seizing the opportunity to develop new initiatives and proposals to be submitted for debate within this Institution, which represents 47 States of the European continent.

The IJJO has been also recognised as an ‘Expert NGO’ of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child for the European Union. Through the creation of the NGO Forum, the European Commission works to elaborate a common strategy on the Rights of the Child, particularly regarding the subjects related to violence against children, discrimination and social exclusion.

The IJJO has been granted observer status in the Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee with civil society organizations and networks. Set up in 2004, the Liaison Group ensures that the EESC interacts with European civil society organizations and networks. It is designed to be both a liaison body and a structure for political dialogue. The Liaison Group ensures that the EESC has a coordinated approach towards these organizations and networks, as well as monitoring joint initiatives.

The IJJO has also obtained Consultative Status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Through the development of this institutional cooperation and the relationship between both entities, both regulated and non-regulated education are to be promoted for children in social exclusion and in conflict with the law, as well as specialised training for the practitioners involved in juvenile justice.

In 2011, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted the International Juvenile Justice Observatory the UN special consultative status during the meeting that took place in July 2011 after receiving a favourable recommendation of the NGO Committee of ECOSOC. Thanks to this recognition, the Observatory shall intervene and participate in meetings, events and activities of organizations such as the Council of Human Rights, in order to improve the situation of minors at risk of social exclusion and
promote the rights of the minors in conflict with the law in the world. Specifically, it will develop proposals and written recommendations, present statements/declarations to the Council and associated bodies in all areas related to the juvenile justice. This recognition allows the IJJO to be involved into the mechanisms of the UN and to have the opportunity to influence the decision making process related to the defence of the Rights of the Child.

Beside the IJJO an active Member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, a UN coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, sharing information and pooling their capacities and resources in order to increase the effectiveness of programme implementation.

Recently the IJJO has been admitted as a Member of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and has officially become member of the Fundamental Rights Platform, after the approval of its application to participate in this network. The IJJO has been working together with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) since 2010 to promote children’s rights within the EU, in particular those of the children and youngsters at risk of social exclusion or in conflict with the law.
3. Activities
The IJJO activity is based on four principal axes: education on crime prevention, juvenile justice work development, a specialised resources centre on juvenile justice, and investigation and research developments, pursuing a three way mission - prevention, treatment and socioprofessional reinsertion.

In order to develop its strategies, projects and activities aimed at obtaining the best results in the best interests of the children, the IJJO collaborates with the following groups of partners:

- Public Administrations: Social workers, police, prison and probation officers, judges, court officers, youth offenders’ institutions.

- Academia: universities, secondary-school teachers, research institutes, training centres, Human Rights Centres.

- Not-for-profit organizations: associations, foundations, charities, international networks, observatories, youth facilities.

- Practitioners: lawyers, psychologists, family counsellors, social agencies.

The final beneficiaries of IJJO activities are, of course, children and young people at risk of social exclusion or reclusion, those in conflict with the law, young offenders, children with antisocial behaviour and those youngsters lacking legal assistance.
The IJJO undertakes a wide range of activities, such as networking and collaboration, training and capacity building, organization of events, counselling and advocacy, as well as information and communication, following a well established scheme made up of five phases:

1.- Gathering information
2.- Analysis
3.- Networking
4.- Development of strategies
5.- Advocacy and training

3.1. Networking

Since its establishment, the IJJO has been building an important international network of experts and has undertaken a great number of collaboration activities with international institutions and organisms, NGOs and universities.

The IJJO can claim to be one of the most relevant worldwide networks in juvenile justice, with more than 10000 people cooperating as users or as collaborators. It is of great relevance that there is a growing number of experts and practitioners from all over the world, who consult, communicate and assist us, every day. The IJJO sincerely thanks them for their essential contribution to the development of our network. In order to formalize the existing network of collaborators, the IJJO gives official recognition to the relationship between the network members by making possible the requirement of the Consultative Status with the IJJO.

The number of people collaborating with the IJJO increases 50% annually.

Per year, over a million pages are visited on the IJJO website.

More than 8300 people visit the IJJO website per month.
INFORMATION SOURCES

IJJO
- Collaborators
- Users
- IJJO collaboration

OTHERS
- Non-profit organizations
- Public institutions
- Academia

IJJO WEBSITE
Searching and gathering information
Analysis
Assessment
Dissemination of reliable information through web portal
Website visited monthly by 8000 visitors

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

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3.2. Information Dissemination

The IJJO has developed itself as an international resources centre hosting thousands of reports and articles in three languages: French, English and Spanish. The IJJO pursues the mapping of juvenile-justice-related data as well as the update of an online library on juvenile justice publications. Furthermore, the IJJO aims to enhance its online resources through the collection of national juvenile justice legislation in all Member States, as well as all the rules and norms concerning childcare, and at the same time develop an online encyclopaedia on legal terms and procedures.

As part of its information dissemination activities, the IJJO has launched a Communication Plan to promote relevant international texts on the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the promotion of UN Standards on measures in juvenile justice. This Communication Plan is addressed to NGOs, universities, public authorities and administrations at the national, regional and local levels. As tasks linked to this Plan, the Legislative File Project has been started with the aim of offering IJJO users a comprehensive source of national legislation on minors, including laws in force, partial reforms and other texts regarding childcare. The elaboration of this file is possible thanks to the cooperation provided by our users and collaborators in the development of this innovative task.

**IJJO information centre**

*Every year, the information available for users and collaborators increases by 20%.*

![Bar Chart](image)

- **Documentation Center**: 3300 documents from 163 countries
- **Press Room**: 25000 news items from 184 countries
- **Agenda**: 1700 events held in 82 countries
- **Organizations**: 990 organizations from 105 countries
- **Links**: 280 internet links from 34 countries

The IJJO database provides 30.400 records from 200 different countries.

Considering that the harmonization of the juvenile justice vocabulary among European countries is an important step to be taken, the IJJO has opened an online encyclopaedia containing legal terms. The IJJO GLOSSARY comes into being for the purpose of collecting together the terms that form part of the jargon most commonly used by professionals and employees involved in juvenile justice around the world.

For the IJJO, information and documentation is vital in order to achieve our aims; correct information and a well-built database is essential. This is why the IJJO has an exceptional documentation centre from the beginning. Our documentation centre and database are made up of multimedia information, the latest documents containing updated information related to juvenile justice, publications, reports, research and theses, books and studies, a glossary of key terms, definitions and links related to the juvenile justice issue, important and relevant statistical data and a complete legislative dossier regarding juvenile law in
the world. The IJJO database is an extraordinary tool used by more than 8900 experts from 152 countries and by 550 collaborators from 67 countries.

Besides, the IJJO offers researchers and doctoral students the opportunity to access our international communication platform and to publish the summary of their thesis and research on juvenile justice and the situation of minors in conflict with the law.

By end 2011, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory launched a new website, totally redesigned and with new sections (Juvenile Justice in Images, European Policies on Juvenile Justice and projects and research) with the aim of continuing to be a platform for communication and an effective instrument of consultation with professionals and experts on juvenile justice worldwide.

3.3. Collaboration Activities

The IJJO has undertaken a number of collaboration activities with other international institutions and organisms, NGOs and universities. To provide a short general overview, the IJJO, for example, is an active member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ), established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The work of the Panel is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, international standards and norms on juvenile justice and other relevant instruments. In this context, the IJJO together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hosted the Interagency Juvenile Justice Panel’s 2011 Annual Meeting, in Brussels, in April 2011. This was an opportunity to meet with EU representatives involved in the drafting of juvenile justice policies and initiatives.

Moreover, the IJJO is also involved in the development of crime prevention activities in Member States across the EU, in particular through its collaboration with the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). On a regular basis, the IJJO also shares information on juvenile delinquency and crime-prevention-related matters with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC).

Furthermore, the IJJO carries out interinstitutional developments with public authorities responsible for juvenile justice activities. This includes signing collaboration agreements with the Ministries of Justice of some European countries and from other regions of the world. The aim of the collaboration agreement is to identify ways of developing strategies and public policies to guarantee a better future for minors at risk of social exclusion.
A number of collaboration agreements have been signed so far, as for instance, with: Ministry of Justice of Chile, Generalitat Valenciana of Spain, Ministry of Justice of France, University of Miskolc in Hungary, United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders (ILANUD), Fundación Ortega y Gasset, Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Cádiz, Instituto Interamericano del Niño, la Niña y Adolescentes (IIN), Department of Juvenile Observation and Protections of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru.

EUROsociAL II Programme

EUROsociAL II programme is a technical cooperation initiative of the European Commission which main objective is to contribute to increase social cohesion in Latin America. The programme aims at supporting national public policies in order to promote social cohesion levels and strengthen the institutions and organizations responsible for these policies. EUROsociAL II works on five themes that reflect the interests and priorities of the Latin American governments.

The IJJO and the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) are part of the consortium as an operating partner in the fifth axis of Public security/rights and access to the justice’ in the subject area of ‘Public Safety’. This axis is led and coordinated by France Expertise International (FEI).

During June and July 2012, the IJJO carried out the missions for deepening knowledge to Latin American countries that expressed interest in the area of Public Safety of the program: Colombia, Ecuador, Salvador, Honduras, Uruguay and Mexico. The main aim of these missions was to bring together public actors responsible for the development and implementation of public security policies and specifically the prevention of violence. The main objectives of these missions were:

- To recognize and study all the public initiatives in the prevention of violence and youth violence and specifically with respect to the coordination of stakeholders involved in the prevention of violence and youth violence.

- To identify how EUROsociAL can strengthen and support governmental initiatives in the public safety and through what mechanisms and specific activities can benefit from the programme.

The IJJO is committed and actively involved in the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in Latin America through activities and projects in the region. Similarly, the IJJO is very interested in providing coordinated and effective responses to decrease the levels of youth violence in Latin American countries, promoting the integral development of the children and young people of Latin American societies as well as promoting social inclusion. With respect to this, the Observatory works on the creation of Latin American think tanks, development initiatives, implementation of norms and standards of good practice and works for education and integration of Latin American youth in social exclusion and in conflict with the law.
3.4. Training Professionals and Experts

The IJJO works to provide continuing professional training, by organizing international conferences open mainly to participants from developing countries, as well as thematic workshops and seminars related to children’s and young people’s social development issues. The IJJO was glad to be invited to participate at a great number of events organized by other organizations.

It is important to mention the creation by the IJJO of the International School for Juvenile Justice, as a training and research space to reinforce the generation and dissemination of knowledge and the development of training actions in the different juvenile justice fields.

• IJJO International Conferences

Every two years, the IJJO organises an International Conference where numerous experts from different fields come together to analyse juvenile justice systems, action models and intervention models, which can be applied at national level. By encouraging the creation and monitoring of these international juvenile justice groups, the aim of the IJJO is to contribute to the progress and improvement of policies, and to stimulate the development of new educational intervention programmes and research that concentrates on minors at risk of social exclusion.

V Biennial Conference: “Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World” (UK)

The IJJO held its 5th International Conference “Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World” in London, at Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel, from Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th November 2012. The Conference was organized under the Patronage of the UNESCO. Besides within the framework of this Conference the IJJO also organized the Second Edition of the IJJO ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders International Award’ with the financial support from the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.
The conference aimed to address the issue of the consequences of the economic crises in the situation of a growing number of children and families experiencing social exclusion. This event was an opportunity to discuss how states can promote the full development of young people and foster the inclusion of children in conflict with the law.

Through keynote presentations, workshops, panel sessions, a great number of experts tackled a wide range of issues, such as: policy development for socially excluded children and young people in trouble; crime prevention, diversion and inclusion strategies; analysis of cost efficiency and efficacy of Juvenile Justice; community and multi-agency interventions; social inclusion, crime reduction and alternatives to custody; effective practice; direct/individual work with children, parents and families.

During the conference, the Observatory presented the mid-term results of some of the research project that coordinates at the EU level, as for instance the DREJC Project “Juvenile Crime related to drug misuse” as well as the Daphne Programme “European comparative analysis and knowledge transfer on mental-health resources for young offenders”.

The IJJO held its Fourth International Conference “Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse” in Rome (Italy) on 9 and 10 November 2010. This Conference was organized by the IJJO in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth of Italy in the framework of the International Year of Youth, the Ministry of Justice and the Istituto Don Calabria. The conference aimed to promote analysis and debate on policies and programs regarding the intervention programs for juvenile offenders with mental disorders. This event was mainly addressed to professionals and agencies involved in the field of juvenile justice and mental health.
The Fourth International Conference IJJO focused the debate on the importance of integration as the final goal of any intervention. More than sixty speakers from around the world, discussed the issues related to intervention with young offenders particularly vulnerable due to mental and / or drug misuse.

III IJJO International Conference: “Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices” (Spain)

In October 2008, the III International Conference ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices’ took place in Valencia, organised by the IJJO together with the County Council of Justice and Public Administrations of the Generalitat Valenciana (Spain).

During these two days, more than 450 practitioners and experts from 45 countries in Europe, America, Africa and Australia met to analyse juvenile justice systems, action models and intervention programmes applicable in the different European Union Member States.

During the conference’s opening ceremony the IJJO officially presented the creation of the European Juvenile Justice Observatory and the Latin American Juvenile Justice Observatory. These two Observatories have been set up to contribute to a permanent improvement of juvenile justice, giving special attention to the differentiating aspects and the common points that converge in all the systems that make up juvenile justice both in Europe and Latin America, and to establish themselves as elements that promote the convergence process of rules and good practices.

The output of the European Agis Programme, which was carried out by the Criminology Department of the University of Greifswald (Germany), the Don Calabria Institute (Italy) and Diagrama Foundation – Psychosocial Intervention (Spain) in collaboration with the IJJO, was presented at the Conference. The European Agis Programme gathered the expertise of 34
European experts, who worked to share their analysis of the current situation of juvenile delinquency in the European Union, the existing juvenile justice systems, the reform processes, the modification proposals of the organisms involved in juvenile justice, the ways of treatment, the educational / internment centres, the alternative and restorative measures, as well as recidivism and social integration.

**II International Conference: ‘Juvenile justice in Europe: a framework for integration’ (Belgium)**


At this conference, more than 300 professionals from 35 countries met together to share their knowledge regarding the situation of minors in conflict with the law in Europe and in the world, and their experiences and good practices concerning intervention in the field of juvenile justice.

**The First International Conference ‘Juvenile Justice and the Prevention of Delinquency in a Globalized World’ (Spain)**

The First International Conference organized by the IJJO took place in Salamanca on the 27th, 28th and 29th of October, 2004. The Conference was funded by the European Social Fund through the Operational Programme against discrimination (Objective 1) within the Community Support Framework (2000-2006).

A group of university experts, scientific researchers, international and national NGOs and administrations analysed the most recent trends in juvenile delinquency and the main key actions for its prevention. They also tackled the evaluation of the sanctions and measures and, furthermore, applied new approaches in the Juvenile Justice systems.

The Brussels Conference took place at a time when a number of changes were happening in Europe related to the social perception of the juvenile delinquency phenomenon and the evolution of the different penal laws for youth.
The IJJO started its work in January 2003, with the clear aim of facilitating the work of those who deal with youth in conflict with the law. From the beginning, it was considered necessary to generate a ‘virtual work’ tool: the IJJO website, as an open window to the world to make communication and the exchange of information much easier.

• Thematic Workshops & Conferences

Juvenile Justice in the midst of the crises: ways of ensuring the respect of children’s rights despite negative externalities

As promoting the development of juvenile justice across Europe is one of the main objectives of the IJJO, the organisation is eager to determine the impact the current crises have on European juvenile justice systems. With this objective, the IJJO invited a number of stakeholders in the field of juvenile justice and the rights of the child to participate in a workshop held within its premises on December 19 2012. In recent years, European juvenile justice policies have come under increasing pressure, as governments have been forced to make significant cuts in their budgets, which has put a strain on the development of many policies. Hence, in order to discuss opportunities to guarantee the rights of the child in these times of crises, the IJJO organised a workshop at its headquarters. Led by the Secretary General of the IJJO and its Director of International Affairs, this event gathered representatives from UNICEF and Defence for Children International, and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss one of main priorities of the IJJO: the publication of a White Paper on the impact of the global crises on European juvenile justice systems. One of the objectives of this White Paper is to emphasise that even in these though economic circumstances, it remains possible to innovate and increase the effectiveness of European juvenile justice systems. In this context, the participants of the workshop agreed on the necessity to promote the application of alternatives measures as opposed to detention. Not only is detaining a child or minor more expensive, it is also capable of seriously hampering the development of the child or minor. Instead, the participants unanimously preferred the use of, for example, community-based programmes, as these programmes allow young offenders to remain in a safe and familiar environment, helping them to successfully reintegrate in their surroundings. In addition, since alternative measures are generally cheaper than detention, their use may even help governments reduce their expenditure. During the workshop it was also identified that one of the main obstacles that stands in the way of an increased use of alternative measures is the fact that policy makers and the public are not easily convinced of the effectiveness of these measures. Therefore, the participants stressed the importance of comparing the costs and effectiveness of different juvenile justice approaches. According to the participants of the workshop, this kind of research may contribute to the acceptance of alternative measures as the most effective way to address juvenile delinquency. All in all, this workshop provided a number of useful insights for the upcoming IJJO White Paper.
### Ending violence against children in custody

The IJJO hosted within its premises an all-country meeting gathering several organisations dedicated to end violence against children in custody. This project, coordinated by the Children’s Rights Alliance for Children (CRAE), now enters its final phase and is already showing results of great interests. On July 3rd and 4th, 2012, six organisations championing the rights of children in conflict with the law, one representative of the European Commission and an independent evaluator, met at the IJJO headquarters in order to review the progress of each partner in a project entitled “Ending violence against children in custody”. Two of the partners, Defence for Children – ECPAT from the Netherlands and the Office of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in Cyprus, came with young people, who used to be in conflict with the law. These three youngsters brought a fresh and lively vision to situations faced by children in detention emphasizing the physical and/or psychological violence they have suffered from before, during and after their detention. This meeting was also the occasion to discuss with these young people the upcoming phases of the CRAE-led project. As a matter of fact, for this third and last stage, each organisation will have to develop, among others, a dissemination strategy aiming at diffusing the project outcomes, such as the national report as well as the child-friendly version of the latter. To this extent, partners will focus, from now on and until the end of the project in January 2013, on the promotion of their findings and hopefully convince national leaders that violence in situation of detention can be avoided, and should be avoided, especially when it comes to children.

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### UN recent initiatives on Children’s Rights and their consequences on juvenile justice

On December 10 2012, the IJJO organised a seminar addressing the consequences of recent UN initiatives on juvenile justice and children’s rights. In the past few months, the United Nations’ General Assembly has indeed adopted three initiatives, which are affecting, or should soon affect, juvenile justice throughout the world: a Third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on a Communications Procedure – Providing children with a complaint mechanism at the International level [Dec. 2011]; a Human Rights Council resolution 19/37 on the Rights of the Child [April 2012]; and a General Assembly resolution on the Human Rights in the administration of justice [Nov. 2012]. To discuss these matters, the IJJO gathered representatives of the European Commission (coming from DG Justice and DG Development and Cooperation - EuropAid), members of NGOs such as Defense for Children International or BICE, the International Catholic Child Bureau and youth justice professionals coming mainly from Belgium. Moreover, the IJJO was able to count on the presence of Ms. Anita Goh, children’s rights expert working for International Action for Child Rights and co-chair of the international campaign “Ratify OP3 CRC”. The latter is a coalition of international, regional and national non-governmental organisations and networks, human rights institutions and other non-governmental bodies, which are committed to achieve rapid ratification and entry into force of the Third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC. Ms. Goh went over the entire procedure followed by this coalition from the advocacy work done before the United Nations years ago to raise the institution’s awareness about the lack of complaint mechanism for children to the most recent developments including the recent adoption of a resolution and its on-going ratification process.
IJJO raises the topic of Mental Health for Young Offenders during the 21st Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The IJJO organized jointly with UNODC in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Thailand a Side Event “Mental Health and Young Offenders: A challenge for the justice and the health system” in Vienna on the 27th of April 2012, during the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 2012. Within the framework of the Mental Health and Young Offenders advocacy activities, the IJJO promotes and develops several advocacy actions. In this occasion, this MHYO Side event aims to raise awareness on the specific needs of vulnerable children with mental health problems, illnesses and disorders in the criminal justice system. With a wide expert and professional audience participation, the IJJO had the pleasure to count on experts that tackled the nature of the problem and the international standards on health care.

IJJO Three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice Presentation

To present its advocacy work in the field of Child-friendly justice, the IJJO organized, together with its European branch, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO), and the Istituto don Calabria, a seminar at the European Economic and Social Committee, on the 9th of June 2011. The seminar aimed at presenting the Three IJJO Green Papers on Child Friendly Justice, as results of the research work developed within each one of the three Sections of the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ), a consultative body of the European Juvenile Justice Observatory.


This year, this meeting focused on global public health. The IJJO organised a side-event on the subject of health for young offenders with mental disorders.

The Annual Ministerial Revision of the ECOSOC focused on global public health. The IJJO organised a side-event on the subject of health for young offenders with mental disorders. During the side-event, importance was given to the need of interdisciplinary cooperation between the judicial and health systems. Considering that access to health care is a fundamental right, this side-event underlined the importance of health resources for people deprived of their liberty, acknowledging the need to promote well-being and health in prison intervention policies. In fact, there is a high prevalence of young offenders with mental disorders or illnesses, especially in the context of deprivation of liberty. In order to promote the development of mental health assistance systems in youth justice so as to
offer specific alternatives and promote reintegration possibilities, it is essential to carry out individual assessment through the psychopathological screening of minors in conflict with the law. This side-event was also a very special occasion to promote the IJJO Joint declaration: “Harmonisation of juvenile justice systems on a European level”, underlining, as one of the essential elements, the protection of the physical and mental integrity and well-being of minors deprived of their liberty, and respecting the individualisation principle of the treatment and application of socio-educational measures.

Regional Innovation Fair for Latin America “Youth: the Core for Sustainable Development” (Costa Rica)

In 2008, the ECOSOC’s Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), focused on “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.” In order to identify the programmes and policies which have contributed to achieving these goals, the IJJO, in collaboration with Fundación Diagrama and the UN-DESA-NGO Section of ECOSOC, and with the participation of the Ministry of Culture and Youth of Costa Rica and ILANUD, organized the Regional Innovation Conference for Latin America “Youth: the Core of Sustainable Development” in Costa Rica in June 2008.

The Regional Innovation Conference “Youth: the Core of Sustainable Development” focused more specifically on the relationship between sustainable development and youth. As sustainable development tries to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, therefore today’s youth comprise the first of such future generations that are involved and affected. Almost 20% of Latin America’s current population is young people between the ages of 15 and 24. This segment of the population has specific needs, as well as unique abilities to promote the Millennium Goals. Within the AMR process, the Innovation Conference offered a unique opportunity to gather a variety of involved experts and members of civil society, from the academic world and the private sector, in order to promote sustainable development. In order to make this exchange possible, the Conference brought together experts and practitioners to share best practices and successful models based on their experiences in the field of sustainable development and youth.

The Conference covered two important topics: the impact of sustainable development on youth and innovation in youth sustainable development. The objectives of the Conference were to: innovate in
the development of strategies to incorporate the challenges of youth and sustainable development principles into national and international policies; and to improve and renovate national and international programmes in order to treat efficiently treat the basic needs of youngsters.

**International Seminar on Ethics and Childcare: a collective engagement (France)**

The Enfance et Partage association fights against all kinds of mistreatment and for the acknowledgement of the Rights of the Child. For the occasion of its 30th birthday, Enfance et Partage organized, in partnership with the IJJO, the International Seminar: ‘Ethics and childcare: a collective engagement’in November 2007 at UNESCO in Paris (France). The Seminar focused on the following issues: media and endangered childhood; interdisciplinary communication and professional secrecy; youth offenders but also victims, and accompanying the minor when parents fail.

**International Congress - Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: New Penal Forms (Spain)**

In November 2007, the General Direction of Juvenile Reform, Council of Justice and Public Administration of the Assembly of Andalusia organized together with the IJJO, the International Congress entitled ‘Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: New Penal Forms’.

This international event brought together academic experts, researchers, and policy and practice professionals from different countries in order to develop and communicate transversal strategies and policy responses to juvenile delinquency according to the following axes: Identification of Recent Patterns in Juvenile Delinquency (origin, analysis and comparative trends) and Policy and Practice Interventions (New initiatives and responses to juvenile delinquency).

**III World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights (Spain)**

The IJJO collaborated in the organization of the III World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights, held in November 2007. The IJJO organized
and moderated the roundtable on “Recognition of the Rights of Adolescents in Conflict with Criminal Law: a Critical Perspective Derived from Practice”.

**International Conference ‘The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe’ (France)**

The IJJO was a designated member of the scientific committee of the International Conference on ‘The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe: the contexts of origin, the migration routes and the reception systems,’ held in October 2007.

This conference aimed to generate a forum of exchange and discussion on this issue and intended to achieve two main objectives: on the one hand, to establish a dialogue between researchers and specialized practitioners in order to put forward a more coherent social and legal treatment to help make respect for children’s rights prevail over immigration rules (as a recent judgement from the European Court of Human Rights has established). On the other hand, the forum intended to integrate the research findings on this issue with the purpose of achieving a better understanding of the current migration trends and to develop methodological thinking in order to acquire knowledge of the contexts of origin and the different dimensions of the increasing problem of separated children from numerous countries.

3.5. IJJO participation in events

- In the framework of United Nations and at the International level

**V World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights (Argentina)**

The IJJO has participated in the V World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights that was held in San Juan, Argentina, in October 2012. The purpose of World Congress was to improve the international commitment towards child and adolescent protection, to foster collaboration and exchange experiences with the aim of ensuring the effective exercise of their fundamental rights, as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The IJJO presented its objectives to regional, national, European and international institutions, stressing the need to collaborate at the international level in building a better world for children and adolescents.

Within the framework of the V World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights, a side event on “Minimum Age of Young Criminal Responsibility in the World: situation and balance of the countries in the regulation of criminal minority under the International Convention on the Rights of the Child” was organized; this was the opportunity for the IJJO to make a presentation on the state of the art on the age of young criminal responsibility in Europe.
As collaboration partner of the V World Congress, the IJJO has had the pleasure to follow the organization activities over the last two years. In particular the IJJO had the pleasure to host the delegation of the Organising Committee of the V World Congress on Children and Adolescents’ Rights (October 2012, in Argentina). Since the first World Congress, the IJJO has had the honour of participating as a member of the Scientific Committee in the previous editions held in Barcelona, Lima and Peru, reaffirming its commitment to the development of a better justice that promotes the respect of the rights of the child.

2012 Annual Meeting of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice

The 2012 Annual Meeting gave the opportunity to the IJJO and others Panel members to outline an overview of its activities for the period 2011-2013. In particular the IJJO explained its work on mental health, crime prevention, youth gangs, to name a few. The IJJO has issued this year the study Mental Health resources for Young Offenders (MHYO), and now is working on the implementation of this project results at international level. The Observatory has launched a campaign in the framework of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering on “Keeping the youth out of exclusion - the benefits of volunteering”. IJJO was also actively participating in advocacy and counselling activities and contributed to EU consultation process and UN meetings. Besides, the IJJO had also issued the Three IJJO Green Papers on Child Friendly Justice, which had been taken into consideration by EU institutions. These Green Papers are the result of the work carried out within the framework of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, a think-tank set by the IJJO that gathers representatives of the public administration, research institutes and civil society. A Council for Juvenile Justice has also been set by the IJJO in the Asian-Pacific Region and the Latin-America.

Annual full-day meeting of the Human Rights Council’s 19th Session

During the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council, the IJJO participated in the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child, held in Geneva on the 8th of March. As a conclusion of the Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO) Publications, the Observatory delivered an oral statement on the mental health situation of children deprived of their liberty as well as on pretrial detention, in collaboration with Open Society Justice Initiative and Penal Reform International.

The Human Rights Council is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. There are three regular sessions throughout each year, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Among its themes, the HRC specifically includes the topic of children and dedicates an annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child. This year’s annual full-day meeting focused on “children and the administration of justice” and was held on the 8th of March. The HRC opened its annual full-day meeting by holding a discussion on children in conflict with the law, debating key challenges, worrisome trends and best practices regarding children in contact with judicial systems.
Kampala Conference on “Deprivation of Children’s Liberty as a Last Resort”

Since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Africa has witnessed unprecedented developments in child law, practice and policy as well as in the field of Juvenile Justice. However there is still much to be done to improve laws, and procedures and their implementation in the justice system in Africa when it deals with children. This was the overall aim of the Kampala Conference on “Deprivation of Children’s Liberty as a Last Resort”, held in November 2011 and organised by Defence for Children International (DCI) and The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF). The Conference was attended by representatives of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the African Union, UN agencies, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, governments, CSOs, INGOs, and other experts from all over Africa and other parts of the world. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory was invited to take part at this Conference and to make a presentation on “International policies and standards in juvenile justice”

3rd annual seminar for ‘Childhood without Bars’ project. Restorative Juvenile Justice.

As part of the Latin American countries initiative for Juvenile Restorative Justice, in October 2011, the IJJO took part in the 3rd annual seminar for ‘Childhood without Bars’ BICE project entitled “Childhood out of prison bars”. During the seminar, which took place in Guatemala, IJJO acted as an expert and contributed to the project’s further evaluation. In the context of reflection, dialogue and exchange of significant practices, the IJJO has organized a meeting at a regional-level, aiming at the development of mission and objectives for the Latin American Juvenile Justice Council (LJJC) through enhanced strategic thinking.

5th Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting “Joining forces, empowering prevention”

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory has taken part in the 5th Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting, held in South Africa, on the 6-7 September 2011. The Meeting was held at the International Convention Centre in Cape Town and was hosted by World Heath Organization, the Ministry of Health of South Africa, and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. The meeting began by recalling the 1996 World Health Assembly Declaration which affirmed that “violence is a leading worldwide public
heath problem”. Since then the WHO has been working in placing the prevention of violence as a public health priority at international level. In this context, the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) acts as a network of WHO Member States, international agencies and civil society organizations working to prevent violence. Under an evidence-based public health approach, the Alliance targets the risk factors leading to violence and promotes multi-sectoral cooperation.

2011 Annual Meeting of the Interagency Panel of Juvenile Justice

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hosted the Interagency Juvenile Justice Panel’s 2011 Annual Meeting, which took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 5 -6 April 2011. Panel members discussed on the issue of “Violence against children in police custody and pre-trial detention” and drawn the attention on the fact that children held in detention were more likely to be abused and neglected. Reducing the duration of detention could therefore be seen as a mean to fight violence against children. Panel members also discussed on the IPJJ’s goals and strategy in the field of technical assistance activities to be provided to countries requesting counseling on juvenile justice issues. Following IJJO and OHCHR proposal during the 2010 Annual IPJJ Meeting, the second day offered the opportunity to meet with EU representatives involved in the drafting of juvenile justice policies and initiatives. Following the priorities established in the European Commission EU Agenda on the Right of the Child the objective of this joint meeting, between UN representatives, NGOs and European Institutions policy makers, was to ensure that when Brussels drafts legislations, international standards are fully taken into account. Participants held a general discussion on the major challenges to overcome regarding juvenile justice systems and on the tools to make the rights of the child fully respectful. Participant also regretted that there is a tendency to adopt punitive approach towards youth delinquency and to harden penalties against children. In this context, the issue of the minimum age of criminal responsibility, as well as the upper age-limits for juvenile justice, was also raised by the experts. It was emphasized that diversion was more cost-effective and gave better results in the long term. Efforts in prevention and intervention at an early stage when the child was in difficulties were recommended. General agreement was reached to guarantee that the best interests of the child should be always kept in mind.

Workshop: Education of Minors deprived of Liberty in Africa

The IJJO participated in the ‘Workshop: Education of Minors deprived of Liberty in Africa’, organized by IDAY and DCI (Belgium) in Brussels in January 2011, in which African and European organizations that work in Africa in the field of education and juvenile justice participated. The workshop had the objective of promoting and reflecting on the right to an education of minors in conflict with the law and who are deprived of liberty in Africa. The importance of the development of better coordination between the actors of this sector, Europeans on the one hand, Africans on the other, and especially the commitment of African organizations to these problems was emphasized. Finally a more constructive vision of education in juvenile justice systems, in order to promote basic rights for minors in conflict with the law, was recommended.
X Annual Meeting. Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) (Switzerland)

The X Annual Meeting of the Inter-institutional Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) took place in Sion (Switzerland) in June 2010. This is a coordination panel on technical counselling that was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its centred resolution 1997/30. During this meeting, the members highlighted the importance of developing a common approach on the development of justice adapted to minors in conflict with the law, victims and crime witnesses. The participating experts defined strategies mainly based on the development of information and communication methods regarding the improvement of the justice systems for minor offenders. The IJJO highlighted the need to also reinforce the respect for the international standards and recommendations in juvenile justice within the European Union.

XII United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Brazil)

The XII United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place in Salvador (Brazil) in April 2010. Representatives from more than 100 countries and international, regional and non-governmental organizations, including the IJJO, attended the Congress. In addition to meetings held with governments, a number of side events took place in which a wide range of subjects were discussed in relation to criminal justice, underlining the need to respect and protect human rights within crime-prevention actions, in dealing with the crime and administering criminal justice. As such, in the Joint Statement on behalf of the nongovernmental organizations attending the Congress, the IJJO promoted and presented the ‘Joint declaration on Harmonising juvenile justice systems at the European level’, an outcome of the Third International Conference organized by the IJJO in 2008 and which was signed by more than 1,000 experts around the world.

Side event of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Austria)

During the 17th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice organised a plenary session called ‘Advocacy: legal and policy strategies to address violence experienced by children in justice systems.’ This session counted on the participation of the IJJO as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Defence for Children International (DCI) - The Netherlands, and Penal Reform International (PRI).
The International Seminar on Human Rights and Probation (Portugal)

The International Seminar on Human Rights and Probation organized by the General Directorate of Social Reinsertion from the Ministry of Justice of Portugal took place in Torres Novas (Portugal) in April 2010. An important number of experts in the field of human rights, justice and criminology came together to share their experience on how to respect Human Rights in the penitentiary systems in Europe and at the international level. The IJJO was invited to take part at this Seminar and raised this opportunity to highlight the importance of implementing articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Besides, the IJJO presented its International Campaign ‘Two decades of Juvenile Justice: improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child’, which was launched on November the 20th, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the Seminar, experts discussed the latest developments in the field of protecting human rights within the justice systems. Particular attention was brought to some important issues such as: using force in the penitentiary system; the right to punish and the regional international laws; the best practices and technical means in the penitentiary system; the enforcement of sentences in Europe; juvenile justice and Human Rights. The Seminar concluded by giving a simple but strong message: it is important to recognize that the value of our society is measured by how it treats it’s own prisoners, how the penitentiary system respects the prisoners’ human rights.

2nd International Meeting of Crime Observatories (Chile)

The IJJO had the pleasure of participating in the 2nd International Meeting of Crime Observatories in Chile in March. This event was co-organised by the International Centre for Crime Prevention (ICCP), and the National Delinquency Observatory (OND) of the National Institute for High Security Studies (INHES) of France, in cooperation with the Chilean Ministry of the Interior. The Director of the ICCP insisted on the need to deepen knowledge about crime through innovative observation methods in order to provide adapted responses in the field of prevention.

XI International Metropolis Conference ‘Paths and Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places’ (Portugal)

The IJJO participated in the XI International Metropolis Conference: ‘Paths and Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places’, held in October 2006 in Lisbon, Portugal. During this conference, the IJJO organized and coordinated a workshop on ‘The situation of non-accompanied minor immigrants in Europe’.
At European level

The 5th International Conference of the European Forum for Urban Security (France)

In December 2012, the IJJO took part in the fifth international conference of the European Forum for Urban Security in Paris. More than 900 people attended the Conference, including the French Ministers of Interior and Justice; representatives of UN-Habitat; UN Women and other international organizations and civil societies from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year’s international Conference was themed “Security, Democracy and Cities: The Future of Prevention” and aimed to provide an interdisciplinary platform for exchange of good practices and knowledge on crime prevention worldwide. The IJJO participated in the working session “Collective Violence”, where Secretary General Cristina Goñi presented the Observatory’s activities related to the issue of urban juvenile violence and gangs in Europe within its ITACA Project—“Interaction of different subjects. Towards a strategic Common answer concerning juvenile gangs.” She further highlighted the IJJO’s work in relation to Central America and its cooperation in training and social inclusion programmes for adolescents linked to gangs. Finally, the conclusions of the V IJJO Conference in London specifically addressing this topic were also presented. In addition and parallel to the EFUS conference, the EUROSocial II mission for citizen security took place in Paris. It was attended by representatives from Panama and Colombia, as well as the partners France Expertise Internationale (FEI) and the IJJO. The theme of the EFUS conference was highly consistent with the main work of the mission and thus, the participants could benefit through exchanging good practices and arranging future study visits. The meeting was concluded by taking stock of the activities during 2012 and defining strategies and an action plan for 2013.

The Fundamental Rights Agency’s Annual Conference (Brussels)

As a member of the FRA’s Fundamental Rights Platform, the IJJO had the chance to take part at the Conference of the Agency organized under the auspices of the President of the European Parliament, during 6th-7th December in Brussels. The Conference was themed “Justice in austerity—challenges and opportunities for access to justice” and analyzed the effects of the economic crisis on judicial systems and on the right of access to justice as also enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It further explored the possible ways to address the challenge of providing effective justice with limited resources and emphasized that citizen’s right to redress should not fall victim of financial cuts. The topic is in line with the theme of the 5th IJJO International Conference “Criminality or social exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World”, held in London, in November 2012. The IJJO Conference explored the effects of the financial crisis on juvenile justice and owing to the experts participating in it, has provided a valuable input to this topic. Particular attention was paid to the rights of the most vulnerable segments of society, such as children in conflict with the law, stressing the usefulness of diversion from the juvenile justice system, providing alternative measures and personalized approach.

The IJJO will follow up this working line through its European Council for Juvenile Justice and by drafting a White Paper regarding the implications of the economic crisis in relation to juvenile justice. The aim is to respond adequately to new social and political phenomena, most of all, and to be adaptable and determined to make a change, while...
not compromising fundamental rights of the youths involved. Within the context of the relations of the IJJO with the Fundamental Rights Agency, one of the members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, Ms Maija Gellin, Director of National Programme for School Mediation and Restorative Approaches in Education (VERSO), and Board Member of Finnish Forum for Mediation (FFM), Finland, took part in the workshop “Towards effective mediation policy making” at the FRA Conference. The IJJO was glad to take part in the process of exchange of information and further strengthen its role as an advocate of the rights of young offenders.

**2012 Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Brussel)**

On December 5, 6 and 7, 2012 the Second Annual Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion took place in Brussels. Organised by the Commission (DG Employment) in partnership with the Cypriot Presidency, this Convention reviewed the progress made towards reaching poverty target and acted as a forum for consultation on the upcoming Social Investment Package. The Platform was indeed created in 2010 as one of Europe 2020 flagship initiatives (along with Youth on the Move or Innovation Union) and aims at fostering poverty reduction and job growth despite the crises the European Union face at the moment. To address the phenomenon of unemployment and try to reduce it, in the hope of de facto reducing poverty and social exclusion, the Commission has been working for the past few months on a Social Investment Package. The latter should be regarded exactly for what it is: an investment, which will have far greater returns than the funds invested in it. Participants were encouraged to contribute to the draft of the Social Investment Package, which first started with a consultation on social inclusion in April 2012. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory, which contributed to the consultation, and to the Package, hope to see the latter publicly published during the first semester of 2013.

**Workshop on the promotion of Council of Europe’s guidelines on child-friendly justice (Irlande)**

Within the framework of the implementation of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice, in December 2012 in Cork (Ireland) the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) had the opportunity to actively participate in a workshop on Child-Friendly Justice. This event brought together an international group of academics, civil society members, those involved in judicial training networks and Council of Europe and EU representatives to develop a programme to work towards implementation of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice. The meeting discussed the need to raise awareness about the Guidelines, to disseminate them widely and to develop programmes aimed at educating and developing the capacity of those working in the legal system. Since April 2009, a group of experts in the field of juvenile justice and children’s rights has been working on the preparation of these European guidelines. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) and at European level, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO), are among the several organizations that make up this Group of Specialists on child-friendly justice. The Council of Europe approved Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice in November 2010. The Guidelines are the first regional standards of their kind and, according to the Council, aim to “give European governments guidance to enhance children’s access to and treatment in justice, in any sphere – civil, administrative or criminal.” The Guidelines “are not only a declaration of principles, but aspire to be a practical guide for the implementation of internationally agreed and binding standards in both in-court and out-of-court proceedings”. While they have been developed with a regional context in mind, the Council’s Guidelines serve as a fine model to be elaborated and adapted in other parts of the world.

**7th European Forum on the Rights of the Child (Brussels)**
On November 13th and 14th 2012, DG Justice organised the 7th European Forum on the Rights of the Child under the title of offering a platform for the exchange of good practices and numerous networking opportunities among the actors concerned with children’s well-being. Gathering some of the most outstanding children’s rights advocates, the European Forum on the Rights of the Child is one of the highlights of the year for the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, who especially welcomed the host of a workshop dedicated to juvenile justice. In presence of Ms. Vivian Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, of Ms. Roberta Angelili, Vice-President of the European Parliament and President of the Alliance for Children, and of Mr. Laszlo Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, more than two hundreds children’s rights professionals coming from the four corners of the European Union gathered in Brussels to discuss the state of children’s rights in Europe and address a few specific topics. As a matter of fact, DG Justice decided to put the emphasis on child protection systems this year discussing its functioning and the diverse challenges it faces. Child protection systems are various and concern different types of vulnerable children. To this extent, five different workshops were organised and addressed: the involvement of child welfare authorities in case relating custody; the role of child protection systems in protecting children on the move; the role of child protection systems in protecting children from violence; the role of child protection systems in protecting children with disabilities; and the role of child-protection systems in child-friendly justice.

‘Juvenile Delinquency-Child Friendly Justice Structures and Processes for the Prevention and Rehabilitation’ (Cyprus)

In October 2012, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) organized a three-day conference on the topic of juvenile delinquency and child friendly answers. The conference covered a wide range of issues regarding processes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and strategies on how to improve rehabilitation and to avoid recidivism. The IJJO were among the invited organizations and agencies and made an interesting presentation on the international legal framework and key challenges on juvenile justice.

Reintegrating former prisoners: political forum ExOCoP (Germany)

The ExOCoP, European learning network focusing on the rehabilitation of (ex) offenders, held its annual policy forum in Berlin on 18th and 19th June 2012. Together with forty European partners and a dynamic and challenging working group this network has managed to gather several representatives of European institutions, mostly the members of the European Commission as like as the members of the civic society and local authorities and national stakeholders in order to reintegrate former prisoners.
In fact, The ExOCoP has a unique goal: to reduce recidivism by developing a program of The Education, Training and Employment Assistance (ETE) for the access into the strategic structures of reintegration of prisoners and former prisoners. Hosted in the Permanent Representation of Bremen before the Federal Government of Germany, this meeting brought together experts, practitioners and European stakeholders for the future of prisoners and ex-prisoners. In this context, representatives of The Ministry of Justice, national prison administrations or NGOs such as the European Association for education in prison or 180.nl and also members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice attended the forum and shared their experiences with each other in the field of rehabilitation. During two days, this event proved to be a perfect opportunity for European experts and members of The ExOCoP to discuss together news or continuing challenges faced by their employees on every day basis.

Local cooperation in youth crime prevention (Belgium)

A group of eleven experts on crime prevention was gathered by the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) to share, debate and identify what are the criteria for an effective local cooperation in youth crime prevention with the police as a partner.

The main aim of the workshop was to identify good practices of local cooperation in youth crime prevention where the police is involved as a partner. Besides, the information shared in the workshop helps to clarify which methods of local cooperation might work in a European context. During the workshop the panellists tackled important issues on crime prevention such as the importance of taking into account other institutions besides the police. Other aspects tackled were the relationship between police and the community, the training of the professionals, the importance of the monitoring and evaluation and the particular characteristics of each prevention program. With all the opinions and information shared a toolbox will be created being the main output of the workshop. This toolbox will be a manual regarding local cooperation in youth crime prevention. The target groups for this toolbox are local policy makers and practitioners. During this workshop, the IJJO has presented their experience in the youth crime prevention field. It also has presented, through this experience gained, criteria to prevent youth crime such as the importance of training the professionals working in detention centres in order to tackle recidivism or the importance to address the policy makers.

2nd Meeting – DAPHNE III Program, The European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO) (The Netherlands)

With the aim of sharing the progress and advances made in the European Project 'European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO)', the IJJO met with members of the European MHYO Project in the city of Utrecht (Netherlands) on the 28th and 29th of April 2011. The European Commission's Directorate General for Justice, Liberty and Security
has supported the International Juvenile Justice Observatory since the end of 2009 in the development of a project for analysis and comparison between European organisations that share an interest in the current situation of child and young offenders with mental health problems in Europe.

**Stakeholders’ Meeting: ‘Applying FRA’s indicators on the rights of the child: policy priorities for data collection’ (Austria)**

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (OIJJ) participated on the occasion of the meeting of experts organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in the city of Vienna in February 2011, insisting on the importance of the development of fundamental principles and tools which were favorable to the betterment of juvenile justice in Europe. In this way, the Fundamental Rights Agency has developed sets of indicators on rights of the child (RoC) which provides an initial toolkit to evaluate the impact of adopted EU law and policy on children’s status and experience across various fields. This initiative springs from the wish of European institutions to find the way of avoiding the difficulties of data availability in the Member States.

**Fundamental Rights Conference (FRC) “Ensuring Justice and Protection for all Children” (Belgium)**

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) participated actively, through the presentation of international standards and rules in the field of Juvenile Justice, within the framework of the FRC, organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in collaboration with the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, which took place in the city of Brussels during December 2010. During this conference special emphasis was put on the development of strategies and challenges in order to specifically protect vulnerable children and provide a justice system which is favorable to the child in the European Union. In this context, the FRA examined practical implementation, protection and promotion of fundamental rights for the child, in line with the fundamental regulatory principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Fifth Meeting of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child (Belgium)**

The IJJO has participated on the 14th October in Brussels to the Fifth Meeting of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child, where Ms. Viviane Reding, European Commissioner, Mrs. Roberta Angelilli, vice president of the European Parliament and the Belgian Minister for Justice Mr. Stefaan De Clerck of behalf of the Belgian presidency of the European Union, stressed the importance of developing child-friendly justice and improvement of juvenile justice systems in Europe. The IJJO submitted its recommendations to the Commission highlighting the need to respect the rights of minors in conflict with the law.

During this meeting, the IJJO informed about the conclusions and recommendations obtained from the Expert Group on Child friendly Justice, held in Brussels in July 2010. The IJJO considers essential to develop a justice that better responds to the needs and circumstances of children and that’s the reason why the IJJO works hard within the Expert Group, whose objective is to obtain and compile the information about the situation of children in contact with the justice system. The expert group’s work is part of the consultation process undertaken by the Commission for the preparation of the forthcoming Communication on the Rights of the Child 2011-2014.
Representatives from the Council of Europe and the civil society were present at this meeting. Most experts insisted on the importance of developing a juvenile justice according to international standards, particularly regarding the age of criminal responsibility, which shall not be too low, or the need to orientate the justice system towards the social reintegration of children. The experts addressed many other issues related to: children’s access to justice, legal representation of children and assistance provided to them, participation and providing information to children in justice systems and child protection in judicial proceedings in criminal, civil and administrative law.

X Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology: Crime and Criminology: From individuals to organizations (Belgium)

The X Annual conference aimed at fostering a Criminology that works on a double level of analysis (individual – organizational) and at stimulating bridges between them. Following the tradition of the European Society of Criminology, the 2010 Annual Conference embraced most of the issues about crime, crime prevention and deviance, and enhanced exchanges and cooperation between scholars, academics and other institutions (both public and private).

The IJJO participated actively by presenting the issues related to juvenile delinquency. In particular, the Observatory presented the mid-term results of some of the research project that coordinates at the EU level, as for instance the DREJC Project “Juvenile Crime related to drug misuse” as well as the Daphne Programme “European comparative analysis and knowledge transfer on mental-health resources for young offenders”. Besides, the IJJO also presented the European Council for Juvenile Justice, as part of the European Juvenile Justice Observatory (the European Branch of the IJJO), which brings together representatives of competent public administrations in juvenile justice, universities or academic centres and NGOs with expertise in legislation, implementation, supervision, research or intervention in the field of juvenile justice.

Expert meeting on Child-Friendly Justice (Belgium)

The Expert meeting on Child-Friendly Justice took place in July 2010. The aim of the expert group on “child-friendly justice” was to gather expert information on the situation of children that come in contact with justice systems. The expert group is one of the consultative activities carried out by the Commission in the preparation of the forthcoming Communication on the Rights of the Child 2011-2014.

Most of the experts invited had a legal academic background and work experience on issues pertaining to children and justice. Representatives of the Council of Europe and civil society were also present.

The topics discussed encompassed issues related to access of children to justice, legal representation of children and assistance provided to them; participation and provision of information to children in justice systems and protection of children in judicial proceedings in all fields of law: criminal, civil and administrative law. Particular attention was paid to the treatment of child crime perpetrators and child victims.
Experts meeting: ‘Victim’s rights and the support and treatment they receive, key problem, priorities and concerns’ (Belgium)

In February 2010, the Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security held a Meeting of Experts on the protection of victims and victims’ rights. Over fifty experts from almost every Member State took part at the meeting. The experts were both representatives of the Member States and from various organizations, associations and research groups in the field of victim’s rights. The IJJO was invited to this meeting and addressed the specific problem of minor victims in legal proceedings. The main purpose of the meeting was to allow the Commission to examine how the Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JAI of 15 March 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings is implemented by Member States, and what might be the proposals for improving the Framework Decision. The experts discussed different positions on how to improve the situation of victims and concluded that there is room for improvement in the implementation of the Framework Decision by the Member States.

European Conference on Prison Education. ‘Pathways to inclusion – Strengthening European Cooperation in Prison Education and Training’ (Hungary)

This conference organized by the European Commission in April 2010 gathered professionals and legislators in the field of prison education. Representatives from the Council of Europe, European and international not-for-profit organizations, and justice, education and labour ministries responsible for training in prisons attended the meeting. This meeting highlighted the importance of exchanging experience between educational organizations and the prison system, as well as promoting collaboration and the identifying specific needs for encouraging preparation for the release, and as a result, the reintegration of ex-offenders. The IJJO has participated actively in translating the voice of minors in situations of conflict with the law, echoing the Milan preparatory meeting ‘Strengthening European cooperation in prison education and training’. Furthermore, a working paper was drafted by the IJJO together with Work-Wise and some of the workshop participants, which focused on the development and promotion of European programmes and on expectations of organizations involved in the education and training of minors deprived of their liberty.

European Crime Prevention Network- Best Practice Conference (Sweden)

“Preventing Crime and Victimisation among Children and Young People. Current and future challenges – school, cyberspace and recruitment to criminal groups” was the title of the annual conference organized by the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). This event brought together about 200 policy-makers, practitioners and researchers from 24 Member States and European organizations.

The IJJO participated in this conference during the plenary session focused on the main topics of this event. The IJJO’s contribution ‘Towards a common European perspective on the prevention of juvenile crime: the International Juvenile Justice Observatory strategy’, focused on delinquency and victimisation in school and cyberspace, as well as recruitment to criminal groups. 32 crime prevention projects were all submitted during the conference and most of them were discussed in the workshops.
9th Annual Conference of the European Society for Criminology (Slovenia)

In September 2009, the IJJO participated at the 9th Annual Conference of the European Society for Criminology. Researchers, professionals and experts in the field of criminology participated in this event, which focused on the exploration of the efficiency of criminal policies and the protection of human rights. The harmonisation of juvenile justice systems on a European level and the existence of regional/national differences in juvenile violence were some of the core topics of the IJJO participation at the Annual ESC Conference.

Building a Europe for and with children Towards a strategy for 2009-2011. (Sweden)

In September 2008, the IJJO participated at the conference ‘Building a Europe for and with Children: Towards a Strategy for 2009-2011’, organised by the Council of Europe in Stockholm (Sweden). This event, which counted on the participation of important representatives on a public and institutional European level, focused on the promotion of the rights of the child and the eradication of violence against minors.

‘Focus on children in migration’. From a European research and method perspective (Poland)

The IJJO participated in March 2007 in Warsaw (Poland), at the International Conference ‘Focus on Children in Migration’, organised by Save the Children Sweden in cooperation with the Separated Children in Europe Programme and the European Network of Masters in Children’s Rights.

The aim was to stimulate discussion on the latest research findings among researchers and practitioners from universities, non-governmental organizations, European regional bodies and professional practitioners on various aspects of children involved in migration in Europe, from the perspective of children’s rights, in order to improve research in this field.

VIII Annual Conference: ‘Criminology in the Public Sphere’. (United Kingdom)

In September 2008 in Edinburgh, the IJJO participated in the VIII Annual Conference ‘Criminology in the Public Sphere’, organised by the European Society of Criminology. The European Society of Criminology is established as a distribution, exchange, research and education forum on a European level for experts in the field of criminology at an international and European level.
• At National level

Justice and Childhood Forum (Spain)

The Spanish Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health along with Social Services and the Organisations for the Prevention of Child Abuse organized this Forum to improve, as a matter of urgency, the situation of children and adolescents in the justice system. The aim was to gather experts in juvenile justice and facilitate an atmosphere of analysis and discussion in order to provide recommendations and good practices to be applied in the administration of justice and further improve the work of professionals in the field.

First Iberoamerican Congress on Therapeutic Justice and brought out the topic on Mental Health and Young Offenders (Spain)

In October, in the city of Pontevedra in Spain, the IJJO had the chance to participate in the First Iberoamerican Congress on Therapeutic Justice where they presented the results of the MHYO Project: The European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders. Organized by the Iberoamerican Association of Therapeutic Justice and the University of Vigo, the First Iberoamerican Congress on Therapeutic Justice (TJ) brought Spanish and Iberoamerican researchers and professionals from multiple disciplines related to law and justice together in order to share their experience and knowledge with a view to achieving more humane and more effective laws and legal procedures, which focus on emotional and psychological well-being. Ms. Agustina Ramos, the coordinator of the IJJO’s MHYO Project presented and endorsed an innovative multidisciplinary approach by promoting increased awareness of this issue and advocating the need to establish mutual cooperation between organizations and actors with shared responsibilities in the legal, social and health sectors. Finally, the IJJO upholds its commitment to defending and promoting initiatives related to the prevention of mental health problems in young people who find themselves subject to the juvenile justice system or in conflict with the law and initiatives related to their treatment. These activities aim to improve intervention strategies and develop interdisciplinary activities among professionals in related fields, since interdisciplinary cooperation between the areas of defence, health and justice is a key factor in the protection of human rights.

‘Child Protection, Compliance of CRC and Child Labour’, National Seminar on Universal Periodic Review (Bangladesh)

In September 2012, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Bangladesh organized a two-day seminar in cooperation with UNDP, DANIDA, SIDA and SDC in Dhaka. The representatives from these organizations together with the IJJO made an overview of the Universal Periodic Review process, which is a global exercise and a new concept for Bangladesh. They also agreed on the fact that there is still much work to be done to implement the recommendations to improve protection and promotion of human rights. The IJJO was pleased to
take part at this event presenting and shared its ideas on how to improve the justice system in the region. Moreover, the IJJO is very interested in providing assistance and making recommendations in order to stop violence against women, human trafficking and child labour as well as develop juvenile justice system within the Asian region.

‘Juvenile delinquency’ (Republic of Srpsk)

In September 2012, more than 50 national representatives from ministries, agencies and NGO’s, including the IJJO participated in the two-day seminar organized by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Srpska and supported by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX of DG Enlargement of the European Commission. The aim of the event was to train the representatives of police agencies and prosecutor’s offices in the Republic of Srpska on current EU rules concerning juvenile delinquency, juvenile prevention as well as intervention programs. This country is experiencing some encouraging results in the reduction of juvenile delinquency thanks to prevention programs run in cooperation with a number of social stakeholders.

‘Criminal and Prison Reform Policy in the context of a democratic and inclusive government’ (Perú)

In September 2012, the IJJO took part at the International Conference ‘Criminal and Prison Reform Policy in the context of a democratic and inclusive government’ organized by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru. The IJJO made a presentation on the current European Criminal Policies. The conference was also attended by a number of professionals and experts in criminal policy in the region. They overviewed many topics related to criminality, such as the prevention and treatment of delinquency, penal and criminal policies and challenges to be faced when developing new policies and strategies in the field of crime prevention and social matters.

‘Youth Gangs: What Measures and Perspectives’ (France)

On 27th June 2012, Association Diagrama (France) in collaboration with the National Juvenile Legal Protection - section of the French Department of Justice – and the IJJO, organized the conference “Youth Gangs : Measures and Perspectives” in Paris. This conference is part of the European ITACA Initiative - “Interaction of different subjects towards a strategic common answer concerning juvenile gangs” in which Association Diagrama (France) participated hand-in-hand with
other organisms based in Italy, UK, Belgium, Portugal and Spain - that aims to focus on the analysis at various European levels on youth gangs, at creating a vision of the phenomenon - for primarily understanding it and identifying key elements - in order to implement common practices and actions to address, or including, prevent this phenomenon. During this seminar, participants addressed, among other things, the early prevention of youth gang criminality as well as the prevention and fight against the recidivism. Moreover, a discussion about perspectives and best practices and a report on recommendations successfully ended the seminar.

**Education under constraint: first Evaluation of the CEF Plan (France)**

The Closed Educational Centers (“CEF: Centres Educatifs Fermés was designed as an alternative to incarceration for 13 to 18 year-old persistent recidivists who commit serious acts. Today, the use of this measure is at the heart of many discussions such as the one organized by the Convention Nationale des Associations de Protection de l’Enfant, that took place on the 21-22th June in Limoges. Two days of training organized by the CNAPE (National Convention of Associations Child Protection) in partnership with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory IJJO were included as part of a multidisciplinary approach during which panels, workshops, case studies and perspectives in turns drawn an assessment of the action and efficiency of CEFs, evaluated educational practices and discussed necessary future developments to upgrade care services regarding the specificity of aimed people and doing in connection with all stakeholders involved in upstream and downstream from the internalization process.

**Meeting on Juvenile Criminal Law (Spain)**

On May the 10th of 2012, the IJJO participated in the Meeting on Juvenile Criminal Law, organized by the Bar association of Legal Advisers of the Cadiz province in collaboration with the Town Council of Chiclana. One-day training gathered near 200 professionals in the field of legal assistance to juvenile offenders, including a large number of lawyers, judges and magistrates. The experts were informed about some good practices in juvenile justice, carried out by the education Department of the City of Chiclana de la Frontera in the field of alternatives to detention and the fight against absenteeism and focus on the collaboration between local police, educators, lawyers, court, and prosecution in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. This meeting was also the opportunity for the IJJO to sign a collaboration agreement with the Bar Association of Cadiz. Sharing a common interest in the study, research and training in the criminal law of the child and the rights of children in conflict with the law, the IJJO and the provincial Bar Association of Cadiz work hand in hand to develop activities in the area of Juvenile Justice in order to promote respect for the rights of children in conflict with the law.
Seminar “Building restorative juvenile justice process in Latin America” (Ecuador)

Within the Framework of the 2nd year of the Childhood without Bars Project, the Delegation for the Latin American BICE organised the Seminar ‘Building restorative juvenile justice process in Latin America’in June 2010. The IJJO, through its continental branch the Latin American Juvenile Justice Observatory (LJJO), had the pleasure to share socio-professional integration and family participation practices and programmes aimed at the young offender’s socio-professional reintegration. This meeting focused on practices and programmes concerning the educational accompaniment of adolescents in conflict with the law, which aim at encouraging the development of sustainable life projects. Some social reintegration projects currently carried out in Europe and Latin America were also presented during the seminar. The LJJO focused its intervention on the need to support and develop strategies and policies according to the specific international rules and standards regarding the minors’ rights and more specifically those of minors in conflict with the law. The study of the juvenile justice situation in Latin America was tackled deeper into as well as the different practices and challenges in this matter. Special attention was paid to the importance of supporting the third sector regarding the international and regional institutions, such as the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. Some participants also insisted on the need to develop awareness campaigns on relevant topics in the region, such as the fight against the lowering of the minor offender’s age of criminal responsibility and the necessary encouragement of inter-disciplinarity to improve the educational intervention.

Getting to know and assess minors’ personalities (Italy)

Study days organized within the framework of the Italian Network for the Assessment and Treatment of Young Offenders, in collaboration and coordination with the Central Training Institute (Istituto Centrale di Formazione), took place on 15 and 16 April in the city of Rome, Italy. The International Juvenile Justice Observatory contributed towards the analysis of the situation of young offenders deprived of their liberty and suffering from mental illnesses, and as well as the need to develop multidisciplinary intervention strategies and policies, which enable partnership between the justice and health systems.

Violence of minors within the family and at school (Spain)

The development of strategies to improve intervention with troubled youngsters in an intra-family and socio-educational context was one of the objectives of the training seminar that took place in November in Cordoba (Spain). The Provincial Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Autonomous Region of Andalusia, aware of the social questions about the phenomena of conflicts caused by minors, both in their family and social situation and at school, asked for the participation of the IJJO.

The IJJO gave a comparative analysis on the violence of minors within the family and at school, a reflection upon European experiences, the current situation and the different relevant aspects to take into account for the future development of tools facilitating a positive and reintegrating involvement. The academic qualification offered by the International School for
Juvenile Justice, oriented towards professionals from the socio-educational field, was also presented during the training seminar. The main objective is the integral development of young people in exclusion, reclusion or at social risk, through their online training course ‘Diploma - Specialist in conflict management and tackling bullying at school’.

**Making it work: Turning good practice into standard practice (Portugal)**

In March 2009, the IJJO participated in ‘Making it work - Turning good practice into standard practice’, organised by the European Offender Employment Forum. Participants addressed the issue of the establishment of an interdisciplinary intervention network, in order to promote socio-professional integration and better European cooperation to exchange good practices and mutual learning between Member States.

**Juvenile Justice Summit. Miami (United States)**

The IJJO was invited to participate at the Juvenile Justice Summit, hosted by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the US Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The results of the intervention model in the prevention of delinquency in Miami-Dade County were specially highlighted during this event.

### 3.6. Research and analysis activities

The IJJO constitutes a permanent international virtual space that serves as a point of encounter, work and reflection for the professionals, administrations and organizations with links to the juvenile justice. It enhances global, national and local analyses of the phenomenon, analysing the different ways in which young people come into conflict with the law, examining not only the aspects that these manifestations have in common, but also the way in which the causes of the phenomenon differ.

The Observatory is currently undertaking, and has carried out, different research projects at the European and national level on a wide range of topics related to juvenile delinquency, such as: use of drugs, bullying, etc.

**CRAE: Ending violence against children in custody**

Through this innovative European Programme it is aimed to make progresses towards ending violence against children and young people in custody through the Analysis the extent of domestic and European law, policy and practice on protecting children in custody from violence comply with international law. In addition to this, the Investigation of children’s experiences and views empowers children with experience of custody to campaign for change. Raise awareness among child custodial workforce and decision makers of extent of legal compliance and children’s experiences and views. All in all, it is highly relevant to influence child custodial workforce and decision makers to make changes in order to end violence against children in custody. The IJJO role participation is focused on the promotion and guidance on international and European obligations related to violence in child custody through the conduction of a European level desk-based study and Campaign Report dissemination. This research has been produced with the financial support
of the Daphne III Programme of the European Union. The project website can be accessed at www.violencefreecustody.org.uk.

**ITACA PROJECT - Towards a strategic Common answer concerning juvenile gangs**

The Project ITACA intends to study the particular type of crimes related to juvenile gangs, meaning observing and studying carefully the characteristics of this type of aggregation that tends to commit deviant acts with specific peculiarities and in particular to examine both the ways in which juvenile crime group starts to commit crimes and also the specific connotations that these actions assumes for society.

The opening to other Countries gives the possibility to face a general problem really widespread, at different level, in many realities. As far as we are concerned, in Europe there are no many data gathering the extent and the features of the phenomenon of juvenile gangs at European level. Furthermore, the ITACA partners open a debate to establish the outline, characteristics and actual extent of the present issue in Europe. Firstly, an analysis of the phenomenon features will be done and secondly, it will be identified a comparison of prevention and treatment practices implemented in several European countries, in order to adopt new shared practices and intervention paths towards a strategic common answer concerning juvenile gangs.

**Support the Municipality of La Unión in the creation and development of public policies and care services for children and youth**

The main objective of the project “Support the Municipality of La Unión in the creation and development of public policies and care services for children and youth” is improve the living conditions and the integral development of children, adolescents and young people in risk and/or social exclusion in El Salvador. In order to generate such conditions, the project aims to support the Municipality of La Unión (Department of La Unión) through policies and public services oriented to the attention of this target group. Therefore is required a direct attention to children, adolescents and youth through the implementation of a series of educative, formative, entertainment/leisure events and social activities.

Further, it will be created a Child Development Center (CDC) as an educational space responsible for the care of children between 0 and 6 years which will develop a program of varied activities for children and youth: Program of psychosocial skills, playful, youth support, social organization and community youth. In addition, it will be implemented a Family Orientation Program aimed at the parents of the target
group. Alongside it will promote the institutional strengthening of the Municipality through a public policy specifically aimed at people under 25, as the basis of the Municipality actuation in relation to the target group. This policy will arise from the perspective of gender and will encourage the participation of the beneficiaries and the civil society. Finally, the professionals of the Municipality who work in the area of social care will be provided with training to improve the care of children and youth. The Municipality will undertake to develop the above policies and to include within the municipal budget the maintenance costs of the CDC.

**Tertiary Prevention Strategies for Substance-Abusing Juvenile Offenders.**

Within the framework of the European Programme “drug prevention and information”, the IJJO is collaborating within the European Project: ‘Juvenile Drug Use. Tertiary prevention strategies’. According to the review of several studies and researches there have recently been several changes on the profile, age of first use of young people and drugs misuse. Bearing in mind that the target group of the present programme is youngsters in conflict with the law with substance misuse with community based sanctions, the partners project members will propose a reflection on the issue and tackle the national service strategies which are currently managing our target group. An interdisciplinary vision which involves the youth justice, public health and social services is crucial in the present approach. The possibility of establishing an exchange and transnational comparison – within Europe – that focuses on the development and implementation of effective strategies based on the analysis of the promising strategies at EU level, increases the efficacy of networks that include diverse institutions and the multidisciplinary nature that characterizes these networks.

**European Project ‘DREJC’**

The objective of the IJJO within the European Project DREJC, financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, is to stimulate, promote and develop multidisciplinary and European methods to strategically prevent juvenile delinquency related to the use of drugs. The goal of the project is to develop an international study as well as some innovative recommendations on the intervention procedures with youth offenders and drug addicts in the interface between criminal and treatment measures.

**European Dimension Project. European comparative analysis and transfer of knowledge on juvenile delinquency forms.**

The IJJO is participating in and monitoring the European project ‘European Dimensions in Juvenile Delinquency’. The objective of this programme, financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, is to promote efficient indications to define programmes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency by taking into consideration the experiences and results that were obtained in five European countries. Recent phenomena in juvenile delinquency, such as cyber crime and e-bullying, the influence of drug use on crime, youth gangs and finally the exploitation of immigrant youths in crime, are analysed and studied in each country and also on a global level. These topics were also developed during the IJJO International Congress on Recent ‘Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: New Penal Forms’.
AGIS Programme ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: current situation, reform developments and good practices’.

The aim of the research is to collect knowledge regarding the legal situation, actual legal reforms or proposals as well as the practices of juvenile justice agencies and courts (sentencing practice, development of treatment and educational facilities etc.). It also includes the legal situation and practice in residential care institutions and/or youth prisons, focusing on examples of “good practices” in the field of juvenile justice and juvenile institutions. The results of the study could be used by the European Union as an important material for further harmonizing juvenile justice in Europe on the one hand, and for disseminating “good practices” in this field on the other.

Youth Programme ‘Let bind safe net for children and youth at risk’. (Europe)

The target group of the project ‘Let bind safe net for children and youth at risk’, are young people at risk or in situations of social exclusion. The IJJO participated in this programme as a collaborator, together with 15 other European countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, The Netherlands, Turkey and Ukraine). The main aim was to create a thematic network through analysis, reflection, research and a study of the results, as well as to develop a good-practices guide based on the work models of the different countries.

European Project AGIS “Protection of Children in and from Prison”

The IJJO took part in the European Agis Project entitled “Protection of Children in and from Prison”, based on research into the situation of children in custodial institutions. The main objective was to establish a programme or a common approach of good practices among the countries of the European Union. The project’s recommendations could assist institutions and professionals to acquire the necessary skills to offer greater protection to young people, with the aim of preventing abuse and bullying and combating the re-offending or the repetition of abuse suffered in prison on release.

The first meeting of the Agis partners took place in November 2004, in Cologne (Germany), and the conclusions were presented during the final conference in England, in December 2005.

• The IJJO’s own research work

The European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO)

The European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO) is an innovative and sustainable project aimed at sharing knowledge and expertise in the field of young offenders with mental health (MH)
issues. Therefore, The European Commission’s Directorate General for Justice, Liberty and Security has supported the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) since the end of 2009 in the development, follow up and the leading action of the present project for analysis and comparison between European organisations that share an interest in the current situation of child and young offenders with mental health problems in Europe.

European Union Member States have to face similar issues when dealing with health, social, and justice institutions. The project aims to bring about innovative mechanisms for implementing a change and convergence, which foster all young offenders’ institutions and judicial services across the EU. There is a specific need for local, regional and national mental health institutions within the juvenile justice system in terms of MH resources for young offenders, as well as, mutual cooperation between bodies and agents with common responsibilities.

**Objetives**

The project’s global strategy focused on the analysis of the national health and judicial systems for young offenders with mental health disorders aged between 10 and 21 years old, in order to promote the necessary changes both in policy and practice, as well as to agree on minimum standards concerning the functioning of the institutions in both sectors. As a result of this research, the lack of specific mental health programmes within juvenile justice systems in the different countries became evident. Based on the findings, the project has created training tools and a good practice framework adapted to the needs of professionals working in the areas of development and psychological processes of young people, within an integrated and multidisciplinary perspective of the justice and health systems.

The ultimate goal of the MHY0 programme during the two years is the future development of good practices and tailored professional training on young people’s evolutionary and psychological processes, taking into account their individual needs, from an integrative and multidisciplinary perspective on the part of the justice and health systems.

**Results**

As a conclusion of this research, the lack of specific mental health programmes within juvenile justice systems in the different countries became evident. Based on the findings, the project created training tools and a good practice framework adapted to the needs of professionals working in the areas of development and psychological processes of young people, within an integrated and multidisciplinary perspective of the justice and health systems.

The results of the current project are presented in two volumes - first Volume I ‘Mental Health Resources and Young Offenders: State of art, challenges and good practices’, and second Volume II ‘MHYO Manual for improving professional knowledge and skills, and developing advocacy programme’. The first section of this Manual sets out training tools for improving professionals’ knowledge and skills, and the second section includes recommendations and an advocacy programme.

**Research on Juvenile Justice Indicators for Europe.**

The objective of this research is to draw an accurate map of juvenile justice in Europe, which could be used as a scientific basis to strengthen and unify the tools and
procedures among the legal professionals, regardless of the differences between European penal systems. This study provides a comparative and reference tool that can be used as a starting point for evaluation, monitoring and policy development in the field of juvenile justice.

The study aims to provide a comprehensive framework for measuring and presenting specific information about the situation of children in conflict with the law, pointing to the development of specific indicators of juvenile justice.

This research has been conducted in collaboration with Dr. Ineke Pruin (assistant professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Greifswald), who was awarded the Fellowship “Juvenile Justice Without Frontiers” IJJO, with the support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security.

The Situation and Treatment of Unaccompanied Children in Europe. A comparative study of six countries: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and United Kingdom

The IJJO issued its own research work on this matter, which is becoming an increasingly important political and social issue in all European countries. The study focused on the phenomenon of migration, which could be the cause or the direct consequence of social exclusion situations among minors and youths.

One of the areas of IJJO interest is the migration towards Europe of minors that are not accompanied by adults that are responsible for their care. This currently represents a social phenomenon with great relevance on a political, judicial and social level in the surrounding countries.

This comparative research work on the situation and treatment of unaccompanied minors in six European Member States is our contribution to a better global understanding of the migration of unaccompanied minors. The study aims to contribute to the development of research initiatives and debates that will provide an appropriate and efficient response to this particular phenomenon.
3.7. Advocacy and counselling activities

By making the voice of juvenile justice organizations and civil society echo in the international agenda, the IJJO works to provide comments, background studies and analysis on the juvenile justice implications of EU decisions. The IJJO has been requested by European and international institutions to provide its opinion and expertise, based on research and expert consultation.

• For United Nations

Expert Consultation on the prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system

The IJJO joined UN partners based in Vienna, New York and Geneva during an Expert Consultation on the prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system, held in Vienna on the 23rd of January 2012. The meeting was a critical step in the consolidation of cooperation of UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, etc.), partners and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais to cope with the problem of violence against children within the juvenile justice system. This is in the line with the IJJO work carried out since its beginning through advocacy action, awareness raising campaigns and technical assistance activities. The overall aims of the consultation were to examine how juvenile justice can be an integrated part of the development of strong child protection systems; to identify the risks and systemic factors that lead to both children’s involvement with the criminal justice system, and to violence against children within the system, as well as approaches that help address the risks how to strengthen legislation and the enforcement process, and how to best to shift from a punitive approach to a child sensitive juvenile justice system.

Joint Statement on behalf of Non-governmental organizations present at the High-level Segment of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Brazil).

The IJJO took part in the drafting process of the Joint Statement made on behalf of numerous NGOs and individual experts, represented at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Statement was prepared through an open consultative process to develop a shared viewpoint on crime prevention and criminal justice.

• For EU Institutions:

European society has shown increasing interest in developing analysis of justice for minors in conflict with the law. In particular, members of European Economic and Social Committee have frequently debated over issues related to juvenile delinquency and means to prevent juvenile crime. In 2006, the EESC requested IJJO expertise to elaborate a background document in this matter, which was used to draft the Opinion “The Prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.” (2006 - C 110/75, 9.5.06).

In 2009, the IJJO took part in the drafting process of the Opinion SOC/316 Urban areas and youth violence, presented by the Chair of the Committee of Latin America, and a Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, together with the IJJO, as an expert on this matter, at the European Economic and Social Committee. The Opinion was adopted by majority.

Moreover, the IJJO was pleased to collaborate with a Member of the European Parliament, in the drafting of the European Parliament resolution of 21 June 2007 on juvenile delinquency, the role of women, the family and society (2007/2011(INI)). The report on juvenile delinquency, adopted in June 2007 by the EP Plenary Session, revealed all dimensions of the problem on a national, European and international level, as well as the differences in national legislation regarding prevention and rehabilitation measures, and also judicial intervention.
In November 2011 the IJJO took part in an EU wide consultation promoted by the European Commission with regards to the application of penal legislation in the field of detention, sharing its views and expertise in order to promote the use of alternatives to detention. As a matter of fact, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 37), the IJJO advocates in favor of considering detention as a measure of last resort and promotes alternatives and diversion measures instead of the deprivation of liberty of the minor. As a result, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory provided the European Commission, and more specifically the DG Justice, with a series of comments and suggestions, good practices as well as a certain expertise in the field of criminal justice of minors, juvenile justice and Children's rights addressing various and yet equally important matters such as: deprivation of liberty, the proper implementation and respect of international standards, non-custodial measures, community-based sanctions or the situation of children deprived of liberty within the welfare or health system, whose well-being is often not taken into consideration whenever such consultation are launched. All in all, through this consultation, the IJJO is really keen on supporting the rights of children in contact with the law and finally contribute to a juvenile justice without borders together with the promotion of diversion measures instead of the deprivation of liberty of children in conflict with the law.

More recently, the IJJO has been involved in a large number of consultation processes at the EU level providing its expertise in issues related to juvenile justice, protection of children’s rights, prevention of delinquency, etc. The following is a non exhaustive list of contribution made by the IJJO to EU consultations:


- Consultation on the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child. (EEAS).

- Consultation on the 2012 Recommendation on Child Poverty, for DG Employment.

- 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

Besides the IJJO has also issued the Three IJJO Green Papers on Child Friendly Justice, which have been taken into consideration by EU institutions when drafting the EC Green Paper on detention:

- The Green Paper of ECJJ Public Administration section, which focused on “The evaluation of the implementation of international standards in national juvenile justice systems”.

- The Green Paper of the ECJJ Academic Section “Measures of deprivation of liberty for young offenders: how to enrich international standards in juvenile justice and promote alternatives to detention?”

- The ECJJ NGO Section Green Paper which covered the important issue of “The social reintegration of young offenders as a key against recidivism”.

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• **IJJO Joint Declaration: Harmonising Juvenile Justice Systems at the European Level.**

The III IJJO International Conference, ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe - Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practice’, held in Valencia (Spain) in October 2008, gave birth to the ‘Joint Declaration: Harmonising juvenile justice systems at the European level’. This declaration is based on the results of the AGIS programme “Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe- current situation, reform developments and good practices” and is considered to be an excellent set of recommendations for the European Union. The declaration has been widely supported by experts, as well as relevant governmental bodies at the European, national, regional and local levels.

In order to provide a sustainable response to the transnational and multi-interinstitutional cooperation between all juvenile justice agencies and organizations, the Joint Declaration is a starting point towards providing a common ground of understanding, to further harmonize and share effective instruments in the treatment and the study of children in conflict with the law.

• **Minimum standards in pre-trial detention procedures-European Commission**

Considering that a common position at a European Union level is needed in order to protect the rights and well-being of juveniles and a child-friendly justice system, the IJJO has issued a set of recommendations on minimum standards in pre-trial detention procedures - European Commission.

The IJJO supports the principle of separation from adults and convicted juveniles in pre-trial detention as laid down in the international instruments. Besides, the IJJO finds it important to provide legal assistance to minors in conflict with the law as stated in the IJJO International Campaign, and strongly recommends the adoption of diversion measures over pre-trial detention- being integrated within the public or private social welfare programmes, probation services, electronic homemonitoring programmes, etc.

• **IJJO Opinion on the EU Stockholm Programme**

**“Freedom, Security and Justice: What will be the future? - Consultation on priorities of the European Union for the next five years (2010-2014)”**

Welcoming the European Commission’s consultation process on the future of the EU in the area of freedom, security and justice- the Stockholm Programme- the IJJO issued its opinion on the priorities of the European Union for the next five years.

In its opinion, the IJJO called for a strengthening of European institutions’ engagement to improve juvenile justice policies and highlighted the utility of a European Frame of Reference on juvenile justice. To shape a common strategy, an adequate response to juvenile delinquency should be among the European Union’s objectives to which most attention should be given: not only because it affects a particularly vulnerable sector of the population (minors and young people, frequently belonging to groups at risk of social exclusion), but also because taking preventive action for today’s young offenders means not only seeking their social rehabilitation, but also preventing the adult crime of tomorrow. Moreover, the IJJO encouraged the Commission to publish a green paper on improving juvenile justice policies, in order to target reflection and debate more accurately, and to reach as many institutions, organizations and individuals as possible. Finally, the IJJO called for support for relevant civil society organizations and professionals in the process.
Council of Europe Guidelines on a child-friendly justice

In the framework of the IJJO’s relation with the Council of Europe (participatory status), the Observatory and its European branch, the EJJO, are members of the group of experts in the field of juvenile justice and child rights in charge of the drafting of the European Guidelines on a child-friendly justice.

The objective of the Group of Specialists is to produce comprehensive guidelines on child-friendly justice, which will assist member states in ensuring that children have favourable access to justice. The guidelines should contribute to improving the treatment of the child when they are likely to be brought into contact with civil, administrative or criminal justice. To this end, the guidelines should build on the existing national, European and international standards and make substantial references to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

As a tool, the guidelines are intended to provide good practices and propose useful solutions to overcome any legal gap. They should also cover all stages of judicial and extrajudicial procedures and promote the rights of information, representation and participation of children. With the aim of giving a voice to children, the Group of Specialists has developed a questionnaire to be fulfilled by children on how justice could be more child-friendly; the findings will be considered during the drafting of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly Justice.

The final version of the Guidelines on a child-friendly justice have been studied and discussed by the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) at the Plenary Session from 11 to 14 October 2010 and have been adopted by the Committee of Ministers in November 2010.

International Campaigns

2011 EJJO Campaign: Keeping the Youth out of Exclusion: the Benefits of Volunteering

For the European Year of Volunteering 2011, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory, the European branch of the IJJO, as Member of the Alliance of the EYV, has been actively participating in the running of this European Year and launched the Campaign “Keeping the Youth out of Exclusion: the Benefits of Volunteering”.

Always willing to enhance children’s well-being, both Observatories decided to focus on the benefits brought by volunteering to the youth, especially to those in situation, or at risk, of social exclusion.

Hence the European Juvenile Justice Observatory developed an awareness campaign, which details the benefits brought by volunteering to the youth. For instance, volunteering is inter alia including activity, which helps children and young people feel implicated in their community; it broadens their circle of friends and provides them with practical and social skills that may help them find a job in the future.

Such benefits have been underlined by theories developed at an academic level and practices discerned at a grass roots level. In fact, the awareness campaign developed by the European Juvenile Justice Observatory emphasizes these findings and gives the floor to different stakeholders. Hence, theories developed by academics...
are exposed alongside testimonies of volunteers, social workers and national representatives.

2010 IJJO Campaign: Paths of integration of children in conflict with the law.

In the context of the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion the IJJO wished to put particular emphasis on the situation of children in conflict with the law and the need to ensure their social and professional reintegration.

The goal of this campaign is to bring the issue of integration of ex young offenders to the core of the European debate. Through this campaign, the IJJO underlines the importance of supporting, improving and evaluating programs and rehabilitation measures for children in conflict with the law. This action of IJJO takes part in the context of the mission that the EU has set to make society more durable, responsible and able to help young people, victims of the shortage of the society in which they grow. Therefore, the IJJO has decided to echo the policies and actions developed for children, adolescents, and young people in contact with the judicial system, considering its reintegration as a source of change and preventing recidivism.

The IJJO highlights the difficulties faced by children when former offenders integrate successful in school systems, in the workplace and more generally in society. It is necessary to combat the stereotypes about young offenders and break the link that takes them to marginalization and exclusion.

The aim of the activities of the IJJO in the context of the European Year was to develop minimum standards and recommendations through the work of a committee of experts in the field of reintegration of children at risk. Their purpose is to help reduce the risk of marginalization, recidivism, maladjustment, exclusion and on the other hand, they are aimed at increasing accessibility to professional life, through education and training, tailored and customized. These recommendations may serve as inspiration for the various European institutions, public authorities, NGOs as well as for all professionals working with children at risk in order to work together to ensure a future to children and allow them to move freely.

To this end, the IJJO is part of the coalition group of European social NGOs, to carry out joint projects, and achieve a consensus among civil society actors on development and the objectives of the European Year. In addition, the active IJJO participated in other areas by carrying out activities on the theme of social and professional integration of juveniles in conflict with the law. This work has allowed to improve the understanding of the European and national policies in this area, and to reveal structural and functional weaknesses. It is important to develop the social structure; the responses of civil society and the collaboration of juvenile justice systems, with the main objective of reintegrate children in conflict with the law.

2009 IJJO Campaign: “Two decades of Juvenile Justice: improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the IJJO launched the International Campaign: Two decades of Juvenile Justice: improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child".
Twenty years gives us enough time to analyse and assess whether the Convention has helped in improving the situation of the children around the world, in particular that of children and young people in contact with the juvenile justice system. This evaluation is possible thanks to the work done by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Our campaign was intended to provide a retrospective overview of the evolution of juvenile justice developments to date, from around the world. To achieve this aim, we asked some of the most important people who have worked on the promotion of children’s rights to give us their visions and share their experiences regarding the improvements and failures in the implementation of the Convention. Their messages remind us that a lot of work remains to be done in this field, but they also throw light upon the path where actions need to be developed in the future by states and civil society.

**2007 International Campaign on legal assistance for children in conflict with the law**

In order to keep on contributing to efficient strategies that stimulate the international development of policies, legislations and appropriate intervention methods, the IJJO launched the IJJO Campaign: ‘Legal assistance for children in conflict with the law’. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about the need to provide free and efficient legal assistance to children entering into contact with justice systems, who are frequently victims of abuse and neglect, indifferent and inadequate parenting as well as economic hardships.

The IJJO will further develop the International Campaign on legal assistance for children in conflict with the law, especially in the Eastern European countries that have a need for lawyers focusing on a range of EU policies, including: human rights in EU Member States and accession countries, human rights in EU foreign policy, security and human rights and judicial and police co-operation.
4. How to collaborate with the IJJO
4. How to collaborate with the IJJO

The Observatory is geared towards a varied international audience.

Participation in the IJJO is open to organizations including professional associations, administrations, legislators, police, social workers, researchers and professionals concerned with the situation of young offenders in conflict with the law.

As Collaborators

Collaborators are specialists who look for an active participation to promote the development of juvenile justice all over the world. They represent a real network for the Observatory in very diverse scopes and countries.

A special relation is developed with our Collaborators, who are able to benefit from all the services offered to Users, and send us their own documents, studies or research to publish on the IJJO website, after the approval of the Technical Committee.

As Users

The User receives the latest news relating to juvenile justice, the monthly newsletter, and is informed of all official notices and events organized by the IJJO.

The User is allowed to access all the Observatory’s documents with a personal code that he will receive upon registration.
5. International School for Juvenile Justice
5. International School for Juvenile Justice

The International School for Juvenile Justice (ISJJ) is a training and research space on an international level whose priority purposes are to reinforce the generation and dissemination of knowledge and the development of training actions in the different juvenile justice fields.

It is set up as an interdisciplinary training and research centre which belongs to the IJJO, in order to contribute to the promotion of a Global Juvenile Justice without Borders.

The International School for Juvenile Justice is also a way to promote meetings, cooperation and networking among professionals, researchers, teachers, agents and public and private organizations that are active in the field of juvenile justice. Its main action lines will deal with the most important questions regarding prevention, educational intervention, the judicial framework, protection of minors, social insertion, etc.

Objectives

- To develop training programmes – regular learning or e-learning – concerning the defence and protection of children’s, adolescents’ and young people’s rights.

- To support the creation and dissemination of knowledge, with the intention of influencing the improvement of the situation and treatment of minors and young people at social risk.

- To promote and participate in research in the field of prevention, protection and intervention with minors and young people, especially within the field of juvenile justice.
- To participate in international knowledge networks that contribute to developing the objectives of the International School for Juvenile Justice.

- To foster awareness regarding childhood, adolescence and youth.

- To promote knowledge of the situation of children and youth around the world, cooperating closely with observatories and organizations on the different continents.

The International School for Juvenile Justice can collaborate with universities, public and private training and/or research organizations and centres as well as other institutions and organizations that allow it to achieve its objectives.

The School offers a virtual classroom and a library to students.

Research

The School will carry out and support research actions that make the analysis and creation of knowledge easier within relevant areas for the integral development of minors and young people in conflict with the law.

Therefore, the School can establish agreements with public or private, local, regional, national and international institutions and organizations, as well as with governmental or non-governmental organizations in order to carry out research more easily.

As an active R&D&I agent, the International School for Juvenile Justice is also set up to channel the best dissemination of existing knowledge on an international and comparative level.

Diploma

In the school year 2009/2010, the International School for Juvenile Justice offered Diploma “Specialist in coexistence and bullying at school”, mainly to professionals in the socio-educational field, to expand their knowledge on how to prevent, detect and treat bullying to ensure a positive climate of coexistence in classrooms.
6. “Juvenile Justice without Borders”
International Award
6. “Juvenile Justice without Borders” International Award

The “JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHOUT BORDERS” INTERNATIONAL AWARD is created by the IJJO with the aim of recognizing the work of experts, personalities and institutions that show a steady commitment towards the development of juvenile justice systems focused on the integral promotion of children and young people in conflict with the law.

This International Award recognises the outstanding achievements made in juvenile justice in the field of research, advocacy and intervention, within the respect of the UNITED NATIONS standards and other international rules:

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly within the framework of its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989,
- United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines),
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) and

Objective

The main objective of this International Award is to recognize world-wide those professionals and institutions that have shown a firm and positive commitment to juvenile justice and children’s rights in the areas of law, models of intervention and research, within the respect of international standards.

By recognizing professionals and institutions linked to juvenile justice, the International Award promotes the dissemination of knowledge and policies aimed to improve the situation and intervention with children and young people at risk of exclusion. The International Award also contributes to highlight good practices among stakeholders and to arise public awareness in juvenile justice in order to enhance solidarity concerning present and future issues related to children and young people in conflict with the law.
2010 Winners

In the first edition 2010, the Jury of the International Award wanted to reward institutions and personalities by recognising the important progresses and achievements in the defence of minors’ rights and in legal and psychosocial fields as well as in research and direct intervention with minor offenders.

The award was given by the Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes. The winners of this first edition were: The United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders – ILANUD, represented by its Director, Dr. Elías Carranza and Dr. Carlos Tiffer a collaborator in criminal matters; The directorate-general of the Police and Guardia Civil on the Spanish Home Office, due to the specialized work carried out by Children – Female Teams (EMUME) and Children Groups (GRUME) represented respectively by Mr. Andrés Sotoca Plaza, lieutenant of the EMUME Central and Mrs. María José del Castillo Urbina, SAF Central Group Leader of the National Crime Squad; Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green, first Children’s Commissioner of England; and Professor Dr. Frieder Dünkel, from the University of Greifswald (Germany).

The Ceremony of the “Juvenile Justice without Borders” International Award took place on the 9th of November 2010 at the Auditorium del Massimo in Rome, during the Fourth IJJO International Conference “Building Integrated Juvenile Justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drug misuse”.

2012 Winners

In the second edition of the ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award, the IJJO was honoured to give the Award to the following persons and institutions in recognition of their steady commitment and involvement in promoting a better situation and treatment of children and youth in conflict with the law. This Edition took place on the framework of the V International Juvenile Justice Observatory International Conference “Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World” (London, 6-7 November).

The 2012 winners of the “JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHOUT BORDERS” INTERNATIONAL AWARD are Mr. Georges Loinger; Prof. Jaap E.Doeck; Mr. David Mugawe; Mrs. Wansley Walters; Mrs. Renate Winter; General Direction for the implementation of judicial provisions. Department for Juvenile Justice. Ministry of Justice. Italy. Represented by Mrs. Serenella Pesarin; Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Ministry of Justice of Thailand. Represented by Mr. Tawatchai Thaikyo and the Durham County Council.

The Award Ceremony takes place on the 6th of November 2012 in London during the Fifth IJJO International Conference “Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World”.

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