Minutes of the meeting

Improving juvenile justice systems in Europe: Training for professionals
JUST/2013/FRC/AG
Expert meeting 7-8 October 2015, IJJO, Brussels

Index
I. About the meeting
II. Introduction of the project
III. Introduction of the training package
   A. Presentation of the project partners’ needs
   B. Discussion around the toolkit
   C. Presentation of the video project directed by Include Youth (N.I.)
   D. Discussion around the Training of Trainers in January
   E. Discussion around the Manual
   F. Discussion around the National workshop and Constitution of national coalition

I. About the meeting

Objectives of the meeting:
This meeting was scheduled to prepare the content of the Training Package (Toolkit, Manual and Video) as well as the methodology of the “Training the trainers” session of January 2016 (last week of January) and finally draft the content of the National workshops.

Co-funded by Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union
The main objectives of this meeting regarding the training package were to:

1. Establish the scope of the training.
2. Determine the nature of the prime stakeholders and actors to be covered by the training.
3. Decide on the identity of the target group.

Were present:
- Mr. Ton Liefaard, Leiden Law School, University of Leiden (The Netherlands)
- Ms Stephanie Rap, Leiden Law School, University of Leiden (The Netherlands)
- Mr Cédric Foussard, International Juvenile Justice Observatory
- Ms Adélaïde Vanhove, International Juvenile Justice Observatory
- Ms Kate Moffett, Include Youth (N.I., United Kingdom)
- Ms Avril Calder, International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
- Mr Roberto Rivello, Council of Europe
- Ms Maria José Bernuz, Faculty of Law of Zaragoza (Spain)
- Ms Els Dumortier, Crime and society Research, Vrije Universiteit of Brussels (Belgium)
- Ms Florence Brion, Criminologist, General Delegate on Children’s Rights, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium)

II. Introduction of the project by IJJO
By Cédric Foussard

Improving Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Training for Professionals
The main objective of the project is to improve the EU youth justice systems and to understand where they can be made more efficient and more child-friendly, focusing on a
better implementation of the Guidelines of the Council of Europe on Child Friendly Justice and international standards. There will be a special focus on the right to be heard and on the improvement of communication by professionals.

*Action line*

**Workstream 0:** Management and Coordination of the Project - 24 months.

**Workstream 1:** Creation of a training toolkit, a manual, visual support and a survey destined to the partners - 6 months.

**Workstream 2:** Training session on Child-friendly Justice - 9 months.

**Workstream 3:** National workshops on the implementation of the toolkit - 4 months.

**Workstream 4:** Evaluation through an online course and final Conference - 7 months.

*Plan of activities*

The project will consist of training modules on the creation on Child Friendly justice:

- Training of trainers
  
a) Partners’ training – January 2016
  
b) National Juvenile Justice stakeholders’ training
- National interdisciplinary workshops on child-friendly justice (for defender, social, health, care professionals, penitentiary staff, etc)
- Online training
- Final Conference

*Expected results*

1) The main expected result is the **promotion of know-how, knowledge and good practices** on training practices for Juvenile Justice Stakeholders.
2) The **creation of a toolkit and manual**, which will be translated into several languages to increase the accessibility of the project and promote sustainability. The toolkit will be used primarily to provide training, and the manual will be distributed to the trainees.

3) The **online training course**; and

4) The **creation of a national coalition on juvenile justice** in each partner’s country, are also expected outcomes of the project.

The final conference will allow the IJJO to present the results of the project and will facilitate a global exchange on European curricula on juvenile justice.

**Partnership**

**Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (Vienna, Austria)**

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights is an extra-university independent academic institution specialising on research in various fields of human rights. The Institute regularly implements projects on juvenile justice, including on the prevention of violence and on monitoring/accountability in relation to juveniles deprived of their liberty; this includes participatory research with juveniles. The Institute also offers trainings to professionals.

**Hope for Children - UNCR Policy Centre (Cyprus)**

The “Hope for Children” UNCRC Policy Center is an international humanitarian and independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus. It is responsible for organizing trainings for professionals and academic seminars on issues about juvenile justice and for submitting non-papers and position papers to relevant Government departments in relation to juvenile justice. It is a constituent part of the Child Law Clinic, in association with the University of Nicosia, which has expertise on juvenile justice.

**Rubikon Centrum (Czech Republic)**

RUBIKON Centrum is a non-profit organization that has operated in the Czech Republic since 1994 in the field of crime prevention and effective dealing with the consequences of

---

Co-funded by Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union
crime. The main activity of RUBIKON Centrum concerning juvenile justice is the provision of probation programs for juveniles. Since 2004, two main probation programs were provided, based on cognitive-behavioural therapy and aimed at reducing recidivism of juvenile offenders. The program reinforces the strengths of clients and teaches them to manage risky situations in everyday life without conflict with the law. It reduces the risk of recurrence of juvenile offenders and helps their social integration. 90 lecturers were trained by the RUBIKON Centrum in relation to these programs.

**Association Diagrama (France)**

Association Diagrama is a non-profit association of national dimension, created October 14, 2003, in Brittany (France). It aims to implement educational and social support projects for children, teenagers and their families, as well as dependents because of age, illness or physical or mental disability. Actions and competence fields of the association are focused mainly on the development of prevention programmes, education centres and services, training and research.

**Greek Ministry of Justice (Greece)**

The Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights is responsible for ensuring the training of professional involved in juvenile justice and special detention centres for minors, and it also supervises the National School of Judges and the lawyers associations.

**Istituto Don Calabria (Italy)**

The Istituto Don Calabria manages diurnal and residential services specialized in the rehabilitation of adolescents with penal and civil Juvenile Judicial Authorities provisions. The Istituto develops agreement and cooperation Protocols with associations on the field concerning the activities of vocational training, support, tutoring and work inclusion for the specific target, activating every year about 120 paths oriented to the work insertion of adolescents signalled by competent Services. Principal areas of intervention are: a) promotion of a quality culture; and b) management of the services (Residential Centres, reception for
adolescents, Diurnal centre in convention with the Ministry of Justice - Juvenile Justice Centre, domiciliary educative intervention).

**Providus Center (Latvia)**

PROVIDUS cooperates regularly with most of the stakeholders in the field of Juvenile Justice in Latvia (the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Welfare, State Inspectorate for Protection of Children’s Rights, State Probation Service, Ombudsman Office, State Police and Latvian Prison Administration, and most of the NGOs working with children). As PROVIDUS goals include promotion of evidence-based policy making, their contribution mostly consists of providing research-based evidence for best approaches for promoting child-friendly justice. PROVIDUS activities are mainly focused on early prevention of youth crime and antisocial behaviour as well as promotion of inter-institutional and multi-disciplinary cooperation as systematic approach for problem solving in the best interest of the child, as well as restorative justice and victims’ rights.

**Portuguese Ministry of Justice (Portugal)**

The main areas of activity within the Juvenile Justice field for the Ministry are a) advising the courts in pre-sentence stages and in determining the appropriate measure; b) enforcement of juvenile Justice measures within the community; and c) enforcement of juvenile justice measures in Educational Centres. The DGRSP is a national service with decentralized implementation, which allows a uniform intervention but simultaneously enriched with local contributions, by linking with local community services.

**Fundación Diagrama (Spain)**

Fundación Diagrama is a non-profit organization working since 1991 in addressing the needs of vulnerable people or in social difficulties, always acting for the defence and promotion of Human Rights. The main activities of the organization as regards the juvenile justice are: a) management of centres for the execution of judicial measures which involve deprivation of liberty; b) management of programmes for the execution of judicial measures which do not
involve deprivation of liberty, where professionals are properly trained on the rights and needs of minors at different age groups; and c) carrying out and participating to research with the target of improving the understanding of reality and needs of minors in conflict with the law, as well as the juvenile justice systems.

**Include Youth (N.I., United Kingdom)**

Include Youth undertakes activities aimed at influencing public policy and policy awareness in the areas of youth justice and education, employment and training of young people. They work directly with young people in or leaving care or in the community to improve their employability or to participate in policy decision-making processes. They achieve their objectives through policy advocacy and produce resources and provide training, information and support to practitioners and organisations.

**Finish Forum for Mediation (Finland)**

The Finnish Forum for Mediation (SSF), founded in 2003, is a Finnish mediation cooperation organization which ideology is based on the modern mediation movement. The Finnish Forum for Mediation has developed a model for restorative justice in the field of education and has trained learning societies to use restorative practices in Finland for over 15 years. They possess a wide range of trainings, training methods, high quality trainers and materials in the field of restorative justice, restorative practices and mediation.

**The University of Cork (Ireland)**

As a University, they are responsible for educating lawyers and non-lawyers on juvenile justice matters. They undertake research that aims to bridge the gap between the theory of youth justice and its practice. They bring together academic and practical perspectives and provide regular continuing professional development training both to lawyers and non-lawyers.

**Beneficiaries**
Project partners and national stakeholders will be the beneficiaries of the manual and toolkit; partners of the project will benefit from the training sessions and can become trainers as their own schedule permits, and via national workshops they will be able to train other national stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system and in contact with children. They will also benefit from receiving the manual in their own language.

The main objective is the creation of a national coalition on juvenile justice in each partner’s country, which will participate to the sustainability of the project.

Partners and members of the European Council on Juvenile Justice will be beneficiaries of the online course provided by the International School for Juvenile Justice, which will remain open on the IJJO’s website so that in the future, more European stakeholders will be able to access it.

Other opportunities

The EU directive on procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings\(^1\) should be voted upon in December 2015. EU Member States will then have around 18 months to implement it.

This project and its components are likely to constitute an asset for the implementation and application of the directive in partners’ countries, and it is expected that the material created as part of the project will be used for this purpose.

III. Introduction of the training package

The training package comprises the manual and the toolkit, developed by Ton Liefaard, Stephanie Rap and the IJJO, and the video project conducted by Include Youth (UK). The training package consisting of the Manual and Toolkit will be coherent in its structure and a similar outline for both the toolkit and the manual will be developed to make its use easier, despite their objectives not being the same.

**A. Presentation of the project partners’ needs**

*By Stephanie Rap*

Partners were asked to fill out a survey on their preferences and their needs regarding the project and, most specifically, the training. Questions concerned: training and lifelong learning of professionals in their respective countries; examples and best practices of already existing trainings; the experience of partners in providing trainings in the field of juvenile justice / child-friendly justice; the training needs in their respective countries (e.g. knowledge, skills, target groups); and the training needs with regard to advocacy.

A brief presentation of the partners, their experience in professional training and their backgrounds was provided during the meeting.

The results of the survey were then exposed in more details:

**Knowledge:** partners indicate that knowledge about international and European law standards in terms of justice and detention is needed. Were mentioned especially: basic knowledge about youth justice and detention, its goals, impacts; the principles of child-friendly justice; communication strategies and age-adapted language; restorative practices, strengths-based intervention; resilience of young people in juvenile justice; non-suggestive interviewing techniques; informed participation of children;

**Interdisciplinary knowledge:** most partners agreed that there is a need and they specified it as a multidisciplinary cooperation. There is quite a range of topics and skills they deem necessary to obtain training on: legal knowledge informed by psychology and development
studies, and criminology; positive development in adolescence and criminal dropout; addictive behaviours and deviant behaviours; a "common vision" for prison staff, including security, social workers, psychologists, educators etc.

**Skills:** all partners highlighted the need for communication skills. Some also mentioned de-escalation, mediation, conflict management, psychological skill and social work/pedagogic skills.

**Specific topics:** most of the partners indicated that communicating with child witnesses and victims was a topic they would like to see covered in the training. Children’s right to participate, right to be heard, listening to and communicating with children, youth detention and aftercare, restorative justice, multi-agency cooperation and advocacy were all mentioned as desired topics.

**Target groups for the trainings:** professionals mentioned were probation officers, prison personnel (prison staff, psychologists, social workers, sociologists) and residential care personnel, police officers, judges, lawyers and court personnel (working in Public Prosecutor’s offices and first-instance juvenile courts, e.g. investigators), and decision-makers.

All partners agreed that what is needed is specific training on the right to be heard and on how to communicate with children.

**B. Discussion around the Toolkit**

*Presentation given by Ton Liefaard*

The toolkit presents a comprehensive methodology concerning training and capacity building for professionals as well a compendium of techniques related to advocacy, working in groups, to encourage the multi-agency work, fostering child participation and empowerment, as well as a snapshot of the main concepts related to juvenile justice and children rights.
The toolkit is going to be vital to various phases of the juvenile justice procedure. A child’s right to be heard, his right to information, participation and involvement, should be respected in every phase.

During the meeting, it was decided to adopt the following structure for the toolkit, in order to address the whole judicial procedure in three separate phases:

- **The first phase** involves the arrest, interview and obtaining of background information on the child involved;
- **The second phase** involves the trial and court procedure;
- **The third phase** involves the “sentencing” process, which also include pre-trial detention, and all sorts of intervention and diversion measures.

It was decided that the toolkit should also provide knowledge about procedural justice, which is vital to the child’s sense of involvement in the decision-making process and to the overall fairness of the procedure.

After discussion, it was agreed that the toolkit will focus mainly on children in conflict with the law (accused). However, since the parts on proceedings are directed to children in need of care generally, they also concern children victims and witnesses of crimes.

C. Presentation of the video project directed by Include Youth (N.I.)

*By Kate Moffett*

Around forty youths live at the Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (which is the only centre of this type in Northern Ireland). Kate Moffett engages with them on a weekly basis, in small groups.

Three young people have identified themselves as being willing to participate in the project, and will therefore figure in the video. They are two 14 & 15 years old males and a 17 years old female.
The video will be 20 minutes longs, and will be divided in three parts. The filming will be completed during November 2015.

The first part will consist of testimonials from the three young people in conflict with the law living at the Woodlands Centre, as well as a staff member talking about the training provided to them.

The second part will consist of a testimonial of what a restorative justice experience is like for a juvenile. For this part, one young person & one staff member from Northern Ireland Alternatives were interviewed about restorative justice and the young person’s experience of it.

The third part will consist of Include Youth’s perspective: a testimonial with a young girl on how she came from a background of no knowledge of her rights to being empowered by education and now being active for the promotion of children’s rights.

D. Discussion around the Training the Trainers session of January

It was agreed during the meeting that the aim of the Training the Trainers session of January is to ‘create a common language’ to all participants. To this aim, a basis of three components was agreed on: communication skills, informed participation, and follow-up (in which the notion of ‘support’ is included, as meaning a structure to help children avoid recidivism).

Everyone considered it a priority that the different actors engage with each other and understand each other’s perspective on their roles.

The subject of the kind of training, and the tools to be used during the Training the Training session, was at the origin of a productive discussion. It was agreed that the following tools and training skills will be used: role-play; video (made by Include Youth), as a basis for debate and discussions; methodology training, in which substance will be included; and at least one experience of interactive training.
It was decided that part of the training will also be dedicated to explaining to the future trainers, without being exhaustive, which methods they could use as trainers and how to engage different actors in the same training session.

A provisional planning of the Training the Trainers session of January 2016 was established during the meeting, and reads as follow:

**Day 1 – 14:30-19:30:** Presentation of the project; “icebreaker”.

**Day 2 – 9-18:00:** Clarification of the manual and the toolkit; video presentation and discussion; small role-play; presentations by different actors.

**Day 3 - 9-15:00:** Skills; feedback; how to plan a training session.

### E. Discussion around the Manual

The Manual is a user-friendly support document of reference for the trainees (partners and as well as beneficiaries of the national seminars). The manual will be translated into the different national partners’ language. It includes the main juvenile justice concepts and key topics and will consist of a selection of promising practices, techniques and a case study concerning the improvement of the communication between workers and children.

It was decided during the meeting that it was important to include international and European standards of juvenile justice and children’s rights, as well as a part on the international and European judicial and institutional structure so as to avoid any confusion as to the source of the texts.

Different suggestions on how to improve the readability of the manual were made, including the writing of a chapter in the 1st person through the eyes of a child, the inclusion of text boxes, case studies, images, citations. There was a common agreement that those are necessary to make it more user-friendly as the Manual is to target a broad range of professionals.
An online version of the manual will also be made available. There were some suggestions during the meeting concerning the addition of ‘national practice and institutions’ parts online, which could be updated by the partners and contain useful links directing users to the institutions in charge of juvenile justice in their respective countries. Participants all agreed on the principle.

**F. Discussion around the National workshops and Constitution of national coalitions**

It was stressed during the meeting that when partners will organise national trainings, it will be in this particular context of the implementation of the directive. The project will therefore benefit from this momentum and participate to the implementation of the directive. In this regard, the Manual is expected to have a life of its own, distinct from the project.

The sustainability of the trainings and more generally, of the project and its material, will depend on the constitution of national coalitions in each of the partners’ countries. The objective is to bring together a group of people (a mix of NGOs and State agencies at the national level) interested in juvenile justice with willingness to improve the situation at the European level. The national coalitions will be a basis to rely on for continuing trainings and promoting awareness about children’s rights during judicial proceedings. During the course of the project, and especially during the Training the Trainers sessions, it will be important to give tools to the partners on how to run these kind of groups.

All participants agreed that the creation of those national coalitions should be one of the main outcomes of the project.