REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
INTERNATIONAL
JUVENILE JUSTICE
OBSERVATORY

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1. The IJJO at a Glance

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) is an international Foundation of Public Interest based in Brussels (Belgium), which since 2002 has worked for the rights of children and young adults at risk of social exclusion, especially those in conflict with the law and caught up in cycles of violence and crime, as well as victims and witnesses.

The IJJO's activities cover all phases of action in the process of violence, from citizen security policies, social prevention of situations of risk and violence, and the administration of justice to adolescents and young adults, to crime and penitentiary policies designed to achieve effective social integration and entry into the labour market.

The IJJO's main objectives are to:

- Encourage the improvement and modernisation of juvenile justice systems and public policies
- Strengthen professional competence in the field.
- Serve as a permanent, international forum for juvenile justice professionals throughout the world.
- Promote a juvenile justice without borders, within the framework of international regulations and standards adopted by the United Nations.

Activities

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

- The coordination of research studies and collaboration in comparative analysis among experts.
- Organisation of conferences, events and thematic workshops, attended by participants from all over the world.
- Technical assistance and cooperation for international and national agencies.
- Raising awareness through international campaigns.
- Managing one of the most significant documentation centres at international level in the field of juvenile justice.
- Recognising and honouring outstanding progress made by juvenile justice professionals and bodies.
2. Presentation

2.1 Word from the IJJO Chairman

It was in the mid-nineteenth century that the specific concern about the situation of minors in conflict with the law began to emerge in our society. At that time, young offenders were being judged as adults and imprisoned with adults.

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

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 prioritising 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 using a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional approach.

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) is aware of the diversity and plurality of juvenile justice models, available resources and cultural, political and social circumstances, with these aspects 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 IJJO in 2002, 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, programmes, research and resources, oriented towards a sanctioning-educational action that promotes the prevention of juvenile delinquency and effective 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.

The Observatory pursues its primary objectives by creating new action mechanisms and through its own development in new fields of work. Over the years, the IJJO has also considerably extended its advocacy work and signed new cooperation agreements with numerous ministries, universities and foundations. Its research projects cover a range of crucial issues such as mental health, prevention of self-harming and the impact of the current economic crisis on juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice system. All projects have been carried out using a multidisciplinary and prevention-based approach, adapted to take into account new social, political and economic developments arising across the world. As well as gaining recognition at European and international level, the IJJO carries out cooperation and technical assistance projects for governments and institutions aimed at modernising public policies on issues related to citizen security and social prevention of violence, the administration of justice for adolescents and crime policies geared towards young adults’ social integration and entry into the labour market.

We have made major efforts to turn our great dream into reality: extending the IJJO’s influence at international level to continue improving juvenile justice standards across all continents worldwide. In this respect we must highlight one of our greatest achievements in recent years, the creation of the Councils for Juvenile Justice in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, and the International Council for Juvenile Justice. The councils have been established as think tanks, bringing together experts in the field of juvenile justice from public authorities, universities and civil society organisations. At the same time, the Continental Councils give the IJJO a greater presence at regional level, allowing it to better foster the development of local actions. The councils have held a number of meetings and are currently working together to achieve a greater protection of the rights of the child.

Recognising the need to ensure continuity in terms of past and future efforts, the IJJO is designing projects to prevent juvenile delinquency and promote programmes involving comprehensive and effective intervention, based on European best practices. The projects will focus on young offenders, both those awaiting trial and those that have been sentenced to detention facilities, and will count on the participation of these juveniles and others with similar experiences.

Reflecting on everything that we have achieved so far not only fills us with pride but also with the ambition to plan future actions to continue achieving our objectives. There is no doubt that there are still many challenges impeding the
protection of the rights of the child. We consider that the specialised training of professionals in the field of juvenile justice is a key priority, as is the need to promote the right of children and young adults to be listened to and to participate in designing the policies that affect them (as provided for in article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). Particular attention must also be paid to the issue of social exclusion and the effects of poverty on young people. Finally, it is important to incorporate a gender perspective into our agenda with specific attention given to women and girls, who in certain societies are exposed to different forms of violence because of their gender, recognising their particular vulnerability to sexual violence, human trafficking and forced labour.

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 IJJO
2.2. Objectives

The IJJO’s objectives are incorporated into its global strategy to promote the international development of policies, legislations and practices that lead to progress and the improvement of juvenile justice systems.

- To promote studies at global, regional, national, and local level related to juvenile crime and juvenile justice systems, analysing the various problems presented by young people in conflict with the law.

- To create networks of experts from different disciplines, 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 prevention, treatment, social integration and entry into the labour
market for young people in conflict with the law.

- To develop a permanent, international forum of analysis, information exchange and mutual reflection on legislation, models of intervention and research at international, national, regional and local level in the field of juvenile justice.

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

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

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

- To raise public awareness about the issues relating to young people in conflict with the law, leading to solidarity and social engagement.

- To promote the creation and development of international networks whose objectives include intervention and development of educational programmes and disseminating experiences relating to young people in situations of social exclusion.

2.3. The IJJO in the world
Continental Councils for Juvenile Justice

As part of its commitment to promote the improvement of juvenile justice systems and policies, and to ensure that activities are carried out with maximum proximity to real local situations, the IJJO launched Continental Councils for Juvenile Justice in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, North America, Africa and the Middle East. These Councils were created as a working cooperative network specific to the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, set up with the aim of generating spaces for analysis and reflection, developing initiatives, and establishing codes and principles of good practice across the different continents.
The ECJJ is based in Brussels and aims to create a European space for reflection, developing initiatives and establishing codes and principles of good practice, to further the education and integration of European adolescents and young people in conflict with the law.

The Council formulates recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in Europe; gathers quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children and adolescents in conflict with the law through research and Green Papers; and proposes 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 representatives of public administrations, universities and NGOs involved in juvenile justice in Europe, the European Juvenile Justice Observatory has organised four meetings so far.

First Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ) - 2009

Public administration meeting::
‘Towards a common european strategy in juvenile justice.

In collaboration with the EJJO and the Directorate-General for the Judicial Protection of Youth of the French Ministry of Justice, the IJJO organised a meeting that gathered together representatives in charge of national policies regarding youth justice and protection. This meeting was held within the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (Paris, 30 November and 1 December 2009)
NGOs meeting:

‘A key message from NGOs across Europe’.
The meeting brought together 27 not-for-profit organisations from all Member States, specialised in intervention with children and young people in conflict with the law. The objective of the meeting was to create a space for reflection and exchange of good practices among the different entities involved in intervention in the field of juvenile justice (Paris, 2 and 3 December 2009).

Academia meeting:

‘Towards a common academic European approach in juvenile justice’
The academic branch of the Council held its first meeting at the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium, supported by the European Commission and financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security. Representatives from 27 European universities and academic centres specialised in the field of criminology and juvenile criminal law took part in this meeting (Brussels, 16 and 17 December 2009).

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

Second Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice:
‘Towards a European Strategy for the Development of Juvenile Justice’- 2010

With the objective of promoting the advances reached since its constitution and establishing closer lines of collaboration between its members, on 11 November 2010 the Second Conference of the ECJJ was held in Rome, within the framework of the 4th IJJO International Conference. The 2nd Meeting of the ECJJ saw the participation of more than 70 professionals and experts representing the 27 Member States, from or involved in the Academic, NGO and Public Administration Sections of the Council.

As a result of this meeting, the ECJJ issued three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice.
In 2012, following the 5th IJJO International Conference, the ECJJ met in London for the third time, with the support of the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union and the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming initiatives of the ECJJ to promote a juvenile justice without borders in Europe. During the meeting, the IJJO reiterated its will and dedication to fostering greater communication and coordination amongst juvenile justice professionals throughout Europe. In addition, the members of the ECJJ analysed the consequences of the financial, economic, social and political crisis on juvenile justice systems in their respective countries.

White Paper launch: ‘Save Money, Protect Society and Realise Youth Potential: Improving Youth Justice Systems during a Time of Economic Crisis’

In 2013, and in line with the comments provided by the experts at the latest meeting of the ECJJ, the Observatory presented its White Paper ‘Save Money, Protect Society and Realise Youth Potential: Improving Youth Justice Systems during a Time of Economic Crisis’.

- Public Administration Section: ‘The Evaluation of the Implementation of International Standards in European Juvenile Justice Systems’ coordinated by Dr Ineke Pruin- University of Greifswald (Germany).

- NGO Section: ‘The social reintegration of young offenders as a key factor to prevent recidivism’ coordinated by Mrs Severine Jacomy-Vite (Swiss consultant specialised in the Rights of the Child).

- Academic Section: ‘Measures of Deprivation of Liberty for young offenders: how to enrich International Standards in Juvenile Justice and promote alternatives to detention in Europe?’ coordinated by Dr Ursula Kilkelly- University of Cork (Ireland).
and Realise Youth Potential: Improving Youth Justice Systems during a Time of Economic Crisis’ at the headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee. The Paper indicates the four factors that governments should take into account to improve juvenile justice systems: directing resources towards crime prevention to reduce expenditure on the criminal justice system; promoting alternative measures to liberty deprivation for minors in conflict with the law, to ensure that they are given a second chance; fostering the use of community-based measures, which have proven to be more effective in reducing recidivism; and reducing the number of children in detention centres both pre and post-trial, as these types of measures increase the likelihood of reoffending.

Fourth Meeting of the European Council for Juvenile Justice - 2014

Thanks to the financial and institutional support of the Justice programme of the European Commission, the Observatory will bring together for the fourth time representatives of the European Council for Juvenile Justice from the 28 Member States. This year the meeting will take place in December in the city of Brussels.

The meeting’s objective will be to present the results of the research project ‘Towards a European Model for Restorative Juvenile Justice’, which harnessed the expertise of the members of the Council and aims to secure the approval and validation of a theoretical and conceptual model for a restorative juvenile justice approach, which will take the form of various publications, a state of the art of the situation of restorative juvenile justice in each of the
EU states and a manual for professionals on the functional implementation of the European Model of restorative juvenile justice.

• Developing strategies to ensure respect for the rights of children in conflict with the law and to promote crime prevention policies among regional institutions, based on existing initiatives and programs.

Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice

The Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice 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 Council assumes the following functions:

• Promoting a sustainable collaboration and coordination among all parties and stakeholders in the development of juvenile justice policies for the social integration of young people and children in conflict with the law.

First Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice - 2012

In June 2012, Bangkok hosted the First Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice, organised by the IJJO with the support of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand. The objective of the meeting was to share knowledge and experiences in order to draw up concrete actions and documents that can be used to foster the training of judiciary and law enforcement officials, civil society and community-based organisations.

The situation of children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses of crime has become an increasing concern for many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Significant reform initiatives are underway in many countries to respond to issues relating to violence against children, child trafficking and protection...
of the rights of children in conflict with the law. However in other countries there is a lack of specific juvenile justice systems to guarantee the right of young people between the ages of 16-18.

The outcome of the first meeting of the APCJJ was the report ‘A Voice for the Future of Juvenile Justice in Asia-Pacific. Introduction to the Asia Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice and Leading Juvenile Justice Reforms in the Region’, which analyses regional responses to issues in this field from a Human Rights perspective, focusing on the main juvenile crime prevention policies, development of restorative justice measures and detention conditions in the region. The report proposes a series of recommendations for regional and national policy-makers as well as academic and civil society experts.
Second Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice - 2014

On September 2nd and 3rd, an event was held in Bangkok between representatives from eight Ministries of Justice from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as part of the agenda of the second meeting of the IJJO’s Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice. The meeting, organized by the IJJO and the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection (DJOP, a subdivision of Thailand’s Ministry of Justice), served to exchange knowledge and experiences, share proper practices, and propose improvements for the treatment of children in conflict with the law in their respective countries.

During the meeting, experts discussed how to ensure that these individuals receive essential services, as well as how to address the lack of freedom in neighboring states in accordance with international legal framework. This initial dialogue is part of a progressively developing collaboration between member states in the context of opening borders. In this context, the meeting led to a necessary interchange about difficulties relating to judicial cooperation within ASEAN, as well as topics relative to the prevention, legislative reform, specialization of the juvenile justice system, drug-related crimes, detention conditions, and alternatives to deprivation of liberty.

Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is a current and worrying issue in Latin America, which is why the IJJO works to provide coordinated and efficient solutions that contribute to reducing delinquency in this region, and promote the integral development of minors and young people by encouraging social inclusion.

With the aim of developing the Observatory’s most relevant objectives and activities, the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice (LCJJ), part of the IJJO, serves as a body for meetings, debate and analysis. The LCJJ’s activities include preparing recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in Latin America, and compiling information on the situation of children and young adults in conflict with the law.

The LCJJ brings together public administration representatives working in the field of juvenile justice, universities and academic centres, and NGOs 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 and develop projects, with the aim of ensuring respect for the rights of children and young adults in conflict with the law and in situations
of social exclusion. In this regard, the LCJJ has taken part in several projects in various Latin American countries, such as El Salvador, Paraguay and Ecuador.

**Preparatory Meeting for the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice - 2011**

In October 2011 the ‘Childhood without Bars’ seminar on restorative juvenile justice, organised by BICE, took place in Guatemala, with participation from the IJJO. In the context of reflection, dialogue and exchange of significant practices, the IJJO organised a meeting at regional level focused on the mission and objectives of the Latin American Council for Juvenile Justice that saw the participation of juvenile justice experts from different countries and fields (academics, civil society and public administrations), with the aim of developing future strategies and synergies relating to the future of children in conflict with the law in Latin America.

**African Council for Juvenile Justice**

The phenomenon of social exclusion among children and young adults is a matter of great concern in Africa, given that the continent, which has a large young population, faces numerous inequalities in terms of access to education, training, the job market, healthcare centres etc. Since the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by African states, there have been notable changes concerning awareness of these rights. Specifically, the principles enshrined in the Convention are at the heart of attempts to introduce changes into the juvenile justice systems of the majority of countries across the continent, although many challenges remain in this respect.

With the aim of encouraging the development and promotion of the rights of young offenders in Africa, as well as implementation of good practices, the African Council for Juvenile Justice (ACJJ), part of the IJJO, serves as a body for meetings, debate and analysis. The ACJJ seeks to assist African states in effectively implementing international regulations on the rights of the child, as well as examining and improving juvenile justice systems across the continent.

The ACJJ brings together public administration representatives working in the field of juvenile justice, universities and academic centres, and NGOs 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 and proposals, and develop projects.

North American Council for Juvenile Justice

In North America, juvenile justice has taken major steps forward over the last few decades. Although significant improvements have been made which provide opportunities for further developments in the future, these changes tend to differ significantly between the three main countries of the region: the USA, Mexico and Canada, since the current situation, as well as the cultural and historical contexts, are different in each of these countries.

With the establishment of the North American Council for Juvenile Justice, the IJJO not only intends to correct the defects rooted in the juvenile justice systems in order to implement modern and transparent justice systems, but also aims to provide better protection to the children of the region and ensure that the rights of children in conflict with the law are respected.

Following the successful experience of other continental councils for juvenile justice, the North American Council for Juvenile Justice brings together representatives of public administrations with competencies in juvenile justice, universities and academic centres, and non-governmental organisations with experience in the field of juvenile justice.

The objective is to propose coordinated actions between experts and professionals in order to draft reports, devise proposals and develop projects.

First Meeting of the North American Council for Juvenile Justice – 2014

The main objective the First Meeting of the NACJJ was to develop a platform to exchange good experiences, practices and knowledge regarding juvenile justice programmes and further develop projects in the North American region.

The First Meeting provided an overview of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, its Continental Councils and the activities and accomplishments developed by the Councils, and an introductory overview of the juvenile justice systems of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The result is to translate the know-how and experiences shared during the debates and presentations 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 organizations.
Middle East Council for Juvenile Justice

The Middle East Council for Juvenile Justice is currently in development. It will be operative within the next two years.
2.4. Recognitions

In July 2011, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted the International Juvenile Justice Observatory UN special consultative status, on the recommendation of the NGO Committee. Thanks to this recognition, the Observatory participates in meetings, events and activities of organisations such as the Human Rights Council, in order to improve the situation of minors at risk of social exclusion and promote the rights of minors in conflict with the law throughout the world.

In addition, the IJJO is recognised in the following capacities:

- **Consultative status** with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Through the development of this institutional cooperation and the relationship between both entities, education programmes are promoted for minors in social exclusion and in conflict with the law, as well as specialised training for practitioners involved in juvenile justice.

- **Member** of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ), a UN coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice. The IJJO and the IPJJ share information and pool their capacities and resources in order to increase the effectiveness of programme implementation.

- **Member** of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD), a World Bank initiative to promote collaboration among international and national organisations within a broad spectrum of areas related mainly to law and justice.

- **Participatory status** at the Council of Europe in recognition of its influence and involvement as a vital component of European society, ensuring freedom of expression and association, both of which are fundamental to democracy.

- **Expert NGO** of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child for the European Union, working, through this forum, to develop a common strategy on the Rights of the Child on issues such as violence against children, discrimination and social exclusion.

- **Observer status** in the Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee with European civil society organisations and networks.

- **Member** of the European Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP). The IJJO has been working together with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) over the last 5 years to promote children’s rights within the EU, in particular those of children and young people at risk of social exclusion or in conflict with the law.
3. Activities

The IJJO’s activities are primarily based around four core areas related to juvenile justice: violence prevention, access to justice, administration of justice, and social integration of adolescents and young adults caught up in cycles of violence.

These activities cover all phases of action in the process of violence, from citizen security policies, social prevention of situations of risk and violence, and the administration of justice to adolescents and young adults, to crime and penitentiary policies designed to achieve effective social integration and entry into the labour market.

One of the IJJO’s major assets in achieving its objectives is its collaboration with a wide variety of groups of professionals from different areas related to the field of juvenile justice. Examples include:

- Public Administration: social workers, police, prison and probation officers, judges, court officers, practitioners from organisations working in juvenile justice, etc.

- Academia: universities, secondary school teachers, research institutes, training centres, etc.

- International and national civil society organisations: associations, foundations, charities, international networks, observatories, youth facilities, etc.

The final beneficiaries of IJJO activities are, of course, children and young people at risk of social exclusion, those caught up in cycles of violence and those in conflict with the law throughout the world.

3.1. Research and innovation

The Observatory manages and participates alongside universities and centres of excellence in research projects, favouring the generation of specialised knowledge in subject matters and factors that affect the cycle of juvenile violence and contribute to improving the effectiveness of public policies.

With a multidisciplinary focus, the projects address topics such as citizen security, community prevention, cybercrime and cyberbullying, the influence of substance use in exclusion processes, comparative legislation studies, socio-economic factors, the role of CSR and the private sector in social and labour market inclusion, and assessment and monitoring in juvenile justice systems, among others.
PROMINENT RESEARCH PROJECTS


The objective of this research project is to improve and deepen knowledge regarding theoretical and practical aspects of restorative juvenile justice in Europe.

The first stage will be to conduct research into best practices in restorative justice for young offenders in EU states. The second phase of the work plan will involve selecting practices that meet the following criteria: they must be innovative, effective and grounded in scientific evidence, and must have been assessed. Finally, based on the conclusions of the national studies, the group of experts will begin designing a European model for restorative juvenile justice and creating a toolkit to enable professionals to apply this model in their respective countries.

The research project will conclude with the following publications:
- A European Model for Restorative Juvenile Justice, devised on the basis of the lessons learned by the specialist institutions and led by a group of academic experts
- A Toolkit to allow professionals to apply this model in their respective countries

The IJJO wishes to spark interest and foster restorative practices and justice as an effective method to reduce the number of children and adolescents held in detention, and promote economic policies aimed at their social reintegration.
CRAE: ‘Ending Violence against Children in Custody’ (2011-2013)

This innovative European project is based on the analysis of national and European laws designed to protect minors in custody from violence, as well as laws concerning children facing detention. Launched in January 2011, the project is coordinated by the Children’s Rights Alliance for England (CRAE), an organisation that protects the human rights of children by lobbying government and others who hold power, by bringing or supporting test cases and by using regional and international human rights mechanisms.

The project is particularly interesting insofar as it involves children who used to be held in custody. Their involvement is important as they are able to share their first-hand knowledge of custody, make recommendations and assist other children, by raising the awareness of those that work in the area of child custody.

Within the framework of this project, the IJJO’s involvement is centred on promoting international and European standards relating to violence against children in custody, by conducting a theoretical study at European level and through the distribution of the Campaign Report. This research project was carried out with financial support from the European Union’s Daphne III programme. The website for the project is: www.violencefreecustody.org.uk.

‘European Comparative Analysis and Transfer of Knowledge on Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders’ (2009-2011)

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 IJJO since 2009 in the development, follow-up and coordination of the 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, fostered by 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.

The project’s global strategy focused on the analysis of the national health and judicial systems for young offenders with mental health problems aged between 10 and 21, 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 a training and 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.

With the aim of sharing the progress and advances made in the European Project, the IJJO has met several times with the partners of the project, notably in the city of Utrecht, Netherlands, in April 2011, where they began to outline the project’s results.

The results of this project are presented in two volumes. The first is entitled ‘Mental Health Resources and Young Offenders: State of art, challenges and good practices’ (Volume I), and the second ‘MHYO Manual for improving professional knowledge and skills, and developing advocacy programme’ (Volume II). 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.
‘Juvenile Justice Indicators for Europe: How to Measure Juvenile Justice’ (2009-2010)

The IJJO fostered this study in order to draw an accurate map of juvenile justice in Europe in terms of the application of international and European standards, and thereby finally establish a set of indicators for evaluation, monitoring and policy development in the field of juvenile justice. This research was conducted in collaboration with Dr Ineke Pruin (University of Greifswald, Germany), who was awarded the ‘Juvenile Justice without Frontiers Grant’ by the 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 study was designed to provide a framework for measuring and presenting specific information about the situation of children in conflict with the law, focusing on the development of specific juvenile justice indicators. The objective of the project is to identify significant indicators on the basis of which one can establish whether juvenile justice systems in Europe are working in accordance with international standards. Furthermore, the presented report aims to determine the means by which these indicators, once identified, can be surveyed.

Developing these indicators in a manner that considers the different forms of state interventions and responses to juvenile delinquency that exist across Europe is particularly challenging and to this extent, obtaining the respective data becomes a rather complex endeavour.


One area of particular interest to the IJJO is the migration of unaccompanied children. This phenomenon was the subject of a study carried out by the Observatory, which offered a comparative view of the situation and treatment of unaccompanied children in six EU countries: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and United Kingdom. In one of the sections, the study addresses the specific case of unaccompanied minors who, for various reasons, remain outside the protection system, drawing attention to child offenders and child victims of exploitation networks.

This research project aims to contribute to the development of research initiatives that will provide a comprehensive response to the needs and expectations of foreign unaccompanied minors.
RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

‘Towards a more comprehensive and coherent approach in understanding and improving conditions related to detention’ (2014-2015)

The different standards still in place within various Member States of the EU when it comes to detention conditions, prison management and supervision, as well as alternatives to detention, make it apparent that there is a need for an exchange of best practices and experiences in the field between the various actors, so as to facilitate a more coherent European approach in the matter, as envisaged by the Commission’s Green Paper and the European Parliament’s aim of standardising legislation on detention related matters and improving conditions. The setting of training seminars provides an ideal platform for this, where the need for better detention standards, alternatives to imprisonment, the rehabilitation of offenders, the proper implementation of relevant EU framework decisions in the field and better cooperation between prison monitoring bodies can be discussed, analysed and effective ways forward realised.

The project consists of three seminars that will be implemented in Strasbourg (France) and Trier (Germany).

‘Reincidências – Young offenders recidivism and prevention of delinquency’ (2013-2016)

This project aims to create and implement within the Portuguese probation services (DGRS) a technical and methodological support device that systematically collects data, in order to carry out studies to calculate the rate of recidivism among young offenders and the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system’s ability to prevent crime. Based on research methods used in the social sciences, it is essentially grounded in two ideas: (1) that the reduction of recidivism and social reintegration levels are the most important indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system’s intervention; (2) the importance of evaluating risk and protection factors associated with recidivism, with the aim of preventing it.


The project’s priority is to improve conditions relating to detention. Specifically, it aims to identify good practices in alternatives to custodial measures for young offenders within the juvenile justice system, taking into account two key elements: the need for security coming from the media and wider society, and young people’s right to rehabilitation and re-inclusion.

The general approach of the project is to harness the mutual learning and close cooperation between partners at European and national level as a critical success factor in implementing these activities. The methodology that will be used in developing different WPS will focus firstly on an in-depth analysis of the different contexts and legal frameworks in the Member States, in relation to detention alternatives for young offenders in conflict with the law.
The main value of the project is the priority protection of children’s rights in all cases when a child has already entered or is at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

In order to achieve its objectives, the project activities are divided into 4 work streams, which range from a European field study on innovative methods, tools and best practices to a public education campaign on the results of the project.

‘Children’s Legal Education-Adapted Resources (CLEAR)’ (2013 - 2014)
Managed by Save the Children Romania, one of the members of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, the Children’s Legal Education – Adapted Resources (CLEAR) project aims to develop and ensure the effectiveness of both a child-friendly Manual educating children about their rights, and an affiliated Tool Guide designed for professional practitioners such as teachers, educators, social and/or community workers, etc. The Manual and the Tool Guide are developed in collaboration with the seven different partners involved in CLEAR, and both will be subsequently reviewed with the support of focus groups, online consultations, Children’s Rights experts and children themselves.

Offering its extensive network of collaborators, the IJJO hopes to bring a European-wide perspective to this project and to actively contribute to its dissemination.

‘Alternatives to Custody for Young Offenders’ (2013 - 2014)
Led by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, this ambitious European project aims to promote foster programmes as an alternative to detention for children awaiting trial or sentence, as well as for those found guilty of offences sufficiently serious to warrant custody. Indeed, fostering is one of the many alternatives to custody provided for by Article 40 of the UNCRC.

Project members aim at first drafting an overview of inspiring fostering practices implemented within the European Union before developing a comprehensive step-by-step multi-agency framework for an Intensive and Remand Fostering Programme. The protocol of intervention will include a training programme and briefing documents designed to be effective tools for multi-agency networks, in particular foster carers, fostering and youth justice staff, and criminal justice and police personnel, with proposed core minimum standards, guidelines, practical tools procedures and information designed for young people.

‘Net for U - Needs Tackling and Networks for Unaccompanied Children Integration’ (2012 - 2013)
The circumstances facing unaccompanied children across the whole of Europe are of increasing concern to a large number of NGOs working with and for children. The Net for U project aims to improve the integration of unaccompanied foreign
children. In this respect, the different partners taking part in the project set out the objective of defining an effective multidimensional intervention programme.

This in itself is based on achieving the following goals: devise a knowledge-based intervention model to improve helpful practices regarding ongoing special needs assessment, family tracing procedures, the development of appropriate training and education opportunities, social and leisure activities, the children’s active involvement in cultural life, and building a permanent transnational cooperation network among professional practitioners, social workers and all other actors dedicated to the rights and well-being of unaccompanied children. The key outputs of the Net for U project are a Toolkit for a common approach to special needs assessment and family tracing; an Intervention Manual to assist professional practitioners in building programmes individually tailored to the children concerned; and a Guidelines document to establish a permanent foster network (NET Forum) for a cooperative strategy between organisations and stakeholders at local, national and international level.

The second Net for U meeting was held in London in May 2013 and brought together partners and experts involved in the project to analyse and present a territorial analysis, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the existing practices and situations in their respective countries with regard to unaccompanied foreign minors.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS

‘CO.S.Mi - Social Communication and Foreign Minors in the Juvenile Justice System in Europe’ (2012 - 2013)

CO.S.Mi was a project led by the Italian Department of Juvenile Justice exploring the impact of prejudice and discrimination on foreign minors, especially regarding crime-related stereotypes, and assessing how social communication techniques are and can be used to increase awareness and reduce the level of prejudice and discrimination directed towards foreign minors. The focus on this topic is in part a response to repeated calls by the European Union for Member States to adopt policies that support the integration of immigrants and also a recognition of the particularly difficult situation in which foreign minors find themselves. Evidence indicates that the current social context in many EU Member States tends to be increasingly intolerant of immigrants; within this context foreigners are frequently equated with crime and foreign minors may be particularly vulnerable to stereotypes, prejudice and various forms of discrimination both within the broader community and within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
‘ITACA: Towards a Strategic Common Answer Concerning Juvenile Gangs’ (2011-2013)

The European Juvenile Justice Observatory, the European branch of the IJJO, is one of the partners involved in the ITACA project, which aims to analyse the phenomenon of violent juvenile gangs from a common shared perspective at European level. The project consists in studying types of gang-related crimes, paying particular attention to the specific characteristics of the acts committed in order to examine both the ways in which gangs start committing crimes and the specific consequences of their actions for society. This study also involves compiling data and information that enables comparisons between practices implemented in different European countries with a view to preventing and addressing this phenomenon, in order to adopt new intervention paths towards a common strategic response to juvenile gang violence. The website for this project is: www.youthgangs.ejjo.org/

The IJJO presented the results of this project during the conference ‘Youth Gangs: What Measures and Perspectives?’ in June 2012, organised in collaboration with the Judicial Youth Protection Directorate of the French Ministry of Justice in Paris.

‘Tertiary prevention strategies for substance-abusing juvenile offenders’ (2010-2011)

The IJJO took part in the research project ‘Tertiary prevention strategies for substance-abusing juvenile offenders’, within the framework of the European programme ‘Drug prevention and information.’ The project’s objective is to support the development of specific, effective and preventative intervention with minors in conflict with the law, who
are consumers of addictive substances and carrying out a community integration measure. According to the review of several studies and research projects, there have recently been numerous changes in terms of profile, age of first use and drug consumption tendencies. The partners involved in the project examined the issue and analysed the national strategies pursued with such groups of minors. Through the analysis of pre-existing good practices in different European countries, the results obtained by the study led to actions that raised awareness among different stakeholders, professionals and experts in the field.


Between 2008 and 2010, the IJJO took part in this research project which analysed the reality of young offenders in different EU countries from the perspective of those specific groups of young people that commit drug-related crimes. The project was financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, with the ultimate objective of making recommendations to the European institutions to enhance the multidisciplinary treatment of these minors.


The IJJO took part in the ‘European Dimension’ project, financed by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, which saw the participation of five EU Member States. The objective was to conduct a comparative study at national level of the most relevant recent phenomena in juvenile delinquency: cybercrime and cyberbullying, the influence of drug use on crime, youth gangs, the exploitation of immigrant youths in crime networks and violence towards parents by children. The project resulted in a number of recommendations on prevention and treatment being formulated for the European institutions.


The research project ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe – current situation, reform developments and good practices’ was carried out from 2006 to 2008 within the framework of the European Commission’s AGIS programme. The project brought together experts in the field of juvenile justice from each of the EU’s Member States, with the aim of conducting a national comparative study of aspects such as: legal framework, legal reform proposals, tendencies, practices within public bodies and administration of justice, sanctions, custodial and non-custodial measures, models of applicable good practices, etc.
3.2 Cooperation and technical assistance

Given the demand for guidance in processes of public policy-making and technical assistance for governments and institutions, the IJJO offers its experience and knowledge in the processes of modernising juvenile justice systems, mainly in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Tools and mechanisms used and developed by the Observatory include:

- Assessments, studies and other analytical work prior to formulating policies and programmes.
- Advisory and support services for formulating public policies and legislation.
- Exchanges between similar institutions: internships, study visits, etc.
- Thematic meetings between experts and production of documents for political positioning.
- Training and professional skills development.

Through bilateral collaboration agreements with ministries and public and private administrations, the IJJO provides technical assistance on policies, programmes and projects linked to the cycle of juvenile violence, from policies on social prevention of violence to the administration of justice for adolescents and young adults, and all related aspects. Collaboration agreements have been signed with: the Ministry of Justice of Chile, the Ministry of Justice of France, the University of Miskolc in Hungary, the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), Fundación Ortega y Gasset, the Bar Association of Cadiz, the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru, the National Secretariat for Children, Youth and Family of Argentina (SENAF) and the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB).

In addition, the Observatory provides technical assistance for regional and sub-regional financing programmes promoted by the European Union, international cooperation agencies and multilateral organisations whose objective is to foster an exchange of knowledge and experiences between national and regional representatives.

Among the more recent collaboration agreements and regional financing programmes in which the IJJO has taken part, it is important to highlight the EUROsociAL II Programme:

**EUROsociAL II PROGRAMME**

The EUROsociAL II Programme is a technical cooperation initiative of the European Commission, the main aim of which is to contribute to increasing social cohesion in Latin America. The programme is a continuation of the first EUROsociAL phase (2004-2009) and seeks to support national public policies aimed at improving levels of social cohesion.
while also strengthening the institutions and entities that implement them. EUROsociAL II works in five core areas that reflect the interests and priorities of Latin American governments. The IJJO participates in the programme as an operational partner in matters of citizen security and justice.

AREAS WHERE THE IJJO PERFORMS COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORK

A. CITIZEN SECURITY POLICIES AND SOCIAL PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

The primary aim of Citizen Security is to support Latin American countries in implementing and strengthening public policies related to violence prevention, by improving coordination between the actors responsible in this area. The IJJO carries out technical assistance work in the field of Citizen Security in the following countries: El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

EL SALVADOR

‘Support for the Municipality of La Unión in the creation and development of public policies and services for child care and youth’

In order to create favourable living conditions for children and young people living in unsafe conditions and/or social vulnerability, the ‘Support for the Municipality of La Unión in the creation and development of public policies and services for child care and youth’ project in El Salvador aims to support the municipality of La Unión in creating public services and policies for such groups.

In order to achieve this, the project intends to focus directly on children and adolescents by implementing a series of educative, formative, entertainment/leisure events and social activities. In this regard, a Child Development Centre (CDC) is being created, to serve as an educational space for children between 0 and 6 years. Various activity programmes for children and young people have been developed, focused on psychosocial skills, recreational activities, youth support, social organisation and youth community. In addition, a Family Orientation Program aimed at the parents of the target group is being implemented.

Alongside this, the project will promote the institutional strengthening of the Municipality through a public policy specifically aimed at people under 25, which will serve as the basis of the Municipality action plan in relation to the target group. This policy will take a gender-oriented approach and encourage the participation of both the beneficiaries and 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 young people. The Municipality has pledged to develop the above policies and to include the maintenance costs of the CDC within the municipal budget.
**COLOMBIA**

The technical assistance that the IJJO provides in Colombia falls mainly within the framework of building a national policy for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and consists primarily of three work streams: tools for public policy design, incorporation of a restorative justice approach and methodologies for evaluating violence risk factors.

It is important to note that as part of this cooperation, the IJJO fosters scientific evidence based technical assistance, analysis of the institutional offer for secondary and tertiary prevention and the provision of national and international best practices, all within the framework of a national-territorial linking process and through the involvement of young people and communities.

**Technical and methodological assistance in designing National Policy for the Prevention of Juvenile Violence**

*National offer assessment workshop and International forum on good practices of youth crime prevention*

The objective of the Workshop was to present the findings of an analysis into the current state of the institutional offer in Colombia to the civil servants responsible for this offer, with participation from all of the entities convened.

The Forum of good practices aimed to offer a high-level, technical platform to exchange successful experiences implemented by public administrations, scientific knowledge and national, regional and international good practices from Europe and Latin America in relation to juvenile delinquency prevention, in order to contribute to designing the National Policy for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in Colombia, taking into account international good practices from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Chile, El Salvador, Peru and Canada.


- Report: ‘Transfer and adaptability of seven international experiences in juvenile delinquency prevention’

*Assessment workshop on the decentralised institutional offer and intervention at territorial level*

The main objectives were to involve local authorities in the process of designing the National Policy for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, so that the new policy would take into account the diverseness of local territories in terms of their problems and offers, and to involve authorities and civil servants at a political level. It took place on 15 and 16 April 2013 in the cities of Sibaté and Manizales.

Transfer of methodologies in management and evaluation of youth violence risk factors in the CONPES juvenile delinquency prevention design

**Study visit for introduction to and training on theoretical framework and practical implementation of risk factor evaluation methodology.**

Objective: introduction to and training on the theoretical and conceptual framework as well as on the management and assessment tools of juvenile violence risk factors, via a theoretical seminar led by a team from the University of Barcelona and the Catalan Department of Justice.

**Specialist consultancy for transferring knowledge relating to risk factor evaluation methodology in the CONPES process.**

Objective: transfer knowledge and make recommendations regarding the adaptability of the assessment methodology of the risk factors Riscanvi and Savry to the designing of the first CONPES draft on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. This is set to take place in 2014.

**Training and skills development in risk factor assessment**

Objective: transfer knowledge and make recommendations regarding the adaptability of the assessment methodology of the risk factors Riscanvi and Savry to the designing of the first CONPES draft on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

**Assistant in Restorative Justice tool design in Colombian context**

**Exchange visit to Peru as part of Restorative juvenile justice programme**

Objective: study visit to Peru to learn about the ‘Restorative juvenile justice’ programme implemented by the Peruvian Attorney General’s Office. Further knowledge and build upon the lessons learned and conclusions gained from this programme. In addition, identify potential aspects that could be adapted to the Colombian context regarding the design of the National Policy for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. Output: study visit report with recommendations.

**Working meeting on Restorative Justice practices (2014)**

Objective: discuss and raise awareness about incorporating restorative justice practices in the different stages of prevention, administration of justice and judicial proceedings.

**Specialist consultancy to draw up a Restorative Justice manual (2014)**

Objective: obtain the relevant information for the production of a manual to design Restorative Justice practices, directed at the professional practitioners working in juvenile delinquency prevention. Drafting phase of this design manual on Restorative Justice practices, which will contain sections adapted to the different implementation phases of the restorative practice.
Expected output:
• Restorative Justice practices manual.

Capacity building of Restorative Justice practices manual (2014)
Objective: present and obtain approval for the design manual on Restorative Justice practices, directed at the members of the Interinstitutional panel. The priority objective is the technical assistance of key representatives with decision-making power from all the competent institutions, in order to disseminate and validate the document.

URUGUAY
Improving the effectiveness of the interinstitutional panel, ensuring concrete and systematic coordination between national stakeholders.

Guidance on the operating set-up of the interinstitutional panel
Objective: create an operating procedure that enables joint action by the public bodies involved in the interinstitutional panel for the Local Integrated Public Safety Management Programme. A further objective was to encourage the members of the interinstitutional panel to play an active role in the programme. This took place from 2-4 April 2013.
Output: Proposed joint action protocol for the participants of the interinstitutional panel.

Workshop to validate the implementation procedure of the Local Integrated Public Safety Management Plan and Training Workshop for the ‘Comprehensive Care Model’
Objective: on the one hand, validate the design of the operating procedure enabling joint action by the public bodies involved in the interinstitutional panel for the Local Integrated Public Safety Management Programme. On the other, provide training to professionals on the different operating stages, their role in these stages and the intervention method to be used. This took place on 25 and 26 June 2013.
Output: Validation of joint action protocol for the members of the interinstitutional panel.

Community police training for trainers to ensure development of joint actions and enhance relations with social stakeholders and other security services.

International Good Practices Forum on Municipal Police Coordinated Action
Objective: ensure proper coordination between the municipal police and other police units using successful international practices, in order to improve coordination between the police and other public stakeholders to achieve greater crime prevention in Uruguay. The forum resulted in the production of a report on lessons learned from the good practices that were presented. This took place on 30 and 31 July 2013.
Challenges to implement interinstitutional policies to prevent violence and juvenile delinquency

Objective: present to professional practitioners in Uruguay (senior officials, policy and strategy leaders, technical practitioners) the British MMAGS model (Manchester Multi-Agency Gang Strategy). Specifically, they were presented with the model and the academic references and evidence behind the MMAGS intervention model, the design of the juvenile delinquency prevention policy, the multi-agency approach it used and the role of the police within this approach. This took place on 11 and 13 November 2013.

Output: Training manual for trainers to incorporate a multi-agency and intersectoral approach into juvenile delinquency prevention and police action.

ECUADOR

The technical assistance provided together with the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior focused on raising awareness among national and local public officials responsible for security and violence prevention on the issue of coordinated action and methodological support for designing and implementing the Programme on social prevention of crime and violence for youth requiring priority attention.

Strengthening methodology in working with young people requiring priority attention using an intersectoral approach and through coordination of stakeholders ‘Tools for the social prevention of youth violence’ Workshops

Objective: ensure the appropriate involvement of local stakeholders in the implementation of the Prevention programme via best practices and participation in the methodological assistance workshops. The workshops resulted in support for the implementation of the Programme on social prevention of crime and violence for youth requiring priority attention, through an exchange of
international and regional good practices, and scientific evidence on approaches that work effectively to prevent juvenile delinquency. A report on the systematisation of shared international good practices was also produced. The workshops took place in Ecuador on 9 and 10 May in Esmeraldas, 13 and 14 May in Riobamba and 1 and 2 August in Quito, in coordination with the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior.

Output: Systematisation of experiences in youth violence prevention.

**Development of a methodology protocol and monitoring of the Programme on social prevention of crime and violence for youth requiring priority attention, and Protocol validation workshop**

Objective: create a methodology protocol for joint action between the parties involved in the programme, and seek methodological support as well as the involvement and consensus of all parties linked to the programme. The programme was continuously monitored throughout the year and both the protocol and the strategy carried out thus far were updated. Finally a protocol validation workshop was held.

Output: Protocol to develop the Programme on social prevention of crime and violence for youth requiring priority attention.

**Support for police action in interventions with young offenders**

**Site visit- Exchange of police good practices in youth violence prevention**

Objective: learn about police experiences in relation to minors and youth violence prevention, with the ultimate objective of using one of the practices presented as the model to be applied in Ecuador.

**Consultancy to draw up police action protocols for juvenile delinquency and violence**

Objective: design a police action protocol for young offenders. This includes compiling and selecting successful international experiences in police action specifically aimed at intervention with young offenders.

**Workshop to approve police action protocols for juvenile delinquency and violence**

Objective: present the action protocol and adapt it based on feedback from the workshop participants. Validate and approve this police action protocol to prevent juvenile delinquency and violence.

**MÉXICO**

The Observatory works in cooperation with the Directorate General of Intersecretarial Coordination, part of the Under-secretariat of Prevention and
Citizen Participation, on the following core issues:

**Support for the coordination of the Intersecretarial Commission for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime with its 9 under-secretariats.**

This work stream was aimed at support and coordination for the Intersecretarial Commission for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime in Mexico, and was intended to raise awareness and obtain commitments from all involved parties. The following activities were carried out:

**Assessment of the institutional offer in social prevention of violence and crime**

Objective: gather information on the under-secretariats coordinated by the Intersecretarial Commission for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime, and provide support to strengthen coordination between actors.

**Training for federal and local officials in social prevention of violence and crime**

**Study of the public academic and training offer of State Departments and examination of specific training demand**

The Intersecretarial Commission for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime carried out an examination of the specific demand in terms of training, and mapped the public academic and training offer of State Departments by conducting interviews with the relevant persons. The objective was to establish a clear, concrete definition, in terms of content and format, of future training activities related to social prevention of violence and crime.

**Consultancy to set up a training course on social prevention of violence and crime**

Objectives: set up a course on social prevention of violence and crime for federal and local officials; design a course programme that can be copied and that can assist in designing municipal projects in this field.

**Training for trainers course on social prevention of violence and crime**

Objective: training of federal and local officials in matters of social prevention of violence and crime.

**Analytical work to draw up a Good Practices Guide**

Objective: systematisation of the international good practices in social prevention of violence and crime primarily aimed at young people that can be adapted and function in the target areas of the National Programme for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime. The guide contains good or promising practices that can be used as a basis for building prevention related projects.
Documenting and systemising the implementation of the public policy on social prevention of violence and crime

Analytical work to establish a methodology to document and systemise experiences

Objective: systemise and document experiences of implementing the National Programme for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime. This supporting documentation will make it possible to observe and identify changes in the areas where the programme has been implemented.

Methodology assessment and validation workshop

Objective: organise a workshop to assess and validate the proposed methodology in documenting and systemising experiences of implementing the social prevention of violence and crime policy.

B. ACCESS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

PERU

National Plan for Prevention and Treatment of Adolescents in conflict with the Penal Law 2013-2018 (PNAPTA)

Following the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Peru in September 2012, the IJJO has collaborated in drawing up this national plan. It constitutes the first national policy in Peru concerning adolescents in conflict with the law, and was implemented by the Ministry of Justice and approved by the National Council of Criminal Policy (Conapoc) in 2013.

The Plan represents a step forward for restorative juvenile justice issues, with its integrative approach to rights protection, as well as an example to follow for other Latin American governments. The approval of the Plan is the first joint commitment from all the entities of the Conapoc (composed of the Executive, Congress, the Judiciary, the Public Ministry, the Ombudsman, regional governments, municipalities and civil society) in order to establish a public policy at national level.

First National Survey on Drug Use among Young Offenders

The Report on the First National Survey on Drug Use among Young Offenders resulted from the collaboration between the Peruvian Judiciary’s Youth Centres Department, the Peruvian Drug Observatory, the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) and the IJJO
ARGENTINA

In 2013, the IJJO signed a collaboration agreement with the National Secretariat for Children, Youth and Family of Argentina (SENAF) in order to contribute to improving juvenile justice policies and legislation, providing solutions and giving a voice to juvenile justice professionals both in Argentina and Latin America.

Activities developed include specialised juvenile justice training, generation of crime-related knowledge and technical assistance. A monitoring commission, comprising one representative from each institution, is responsible for overseeing compliance with the commitments made under the agreement.

PARAGUAY

‘Comprehensive care for adolescent women in conflict with the law and children deprived of their family environment’

By participating in this project, the IJJO’s objective was to foster a paradigm shift in the implementation of juvenile justice in Paraguay, promoting a system based on respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international standards on juvenile justice, as ratified by the Paraguayan government. Accordingly, the aim was for adolescents to be considered subjects in their own right, human beings in development who can be integrated back into society.

In the framework of this project, the Ibero-American Congress on ‘Adolescents and violence in juvenile justice systems. Situation, preventive methods and responses: the Latin American experience’ was held in Asunción (Paraguay) in 2012, with the support of Fundación Diagrama and under the auspices of the Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain). The conference analysed the topic from different perspectives such as the role of the State, the protection of children from all forms of violence within the justice system, the impact of exclusion and social inequality in respecting the rights of the child in Latin America, alternative measures to detention, criminalisation in the media and the role of society.

The IJJO also took part in this international event, which brought together academic professionals as well as professional practitioners from institutions and NGOs. Specifically, the Observatory participated in the workshops ‘Crime prevention. Strategies and recommendations’ and ‘Social exclusion and drug use as aggravating aspects’ and in the process of drawing the overall conclusions.
C. SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION POLICIES FOR PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

The objective of this area of activity is to create or collaborate in social and professional public reintegration policies designed for the prison populations of participating countries (Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay) through exchange of good practices, up-to-date information, training by experts to develop local skills, creation of employment to achieve integration on release from prison, and dissemination of successful activities carried out in this area, especially those focused on reintegration through professional training and job creation in detention contexts. These initiatives are based on social and professional reintegration programmes that have given positive results in Europe and Latin America.

Lines of action for social and professional reintegration of persons in conflict with the law are as follows: creating public companies that generate employment; developing training and work programmes; establishing inter-institutional committees to coordinate those involved; developing specific treatment programmes; fostering social and professional reintegration of vulnerable groups, particularly young people; designing and implementing pilot models to improve prison compounds.

NICARAGUA

Three work streams are being pursued in Nicaragua, in coordination with the Public Defender’s Office.

First, the Strategic Social and Professional Reintegration Plan for women and adolescents in detention has been designed and drafted (2013).

Second, plans for the design and approval of an intervention model for women and adolescents in relation to social and professional reintegration have been established (2014).

The third and final work stream is focused on creating and defining the functions of the inter-institutional and intersectoral national network to coordinate social and professional reintegration activities.

PANAMA

The focal point in Panama is the Interdisciplinary Studies Institute (I.E.I.). The Strategic Social and Professional Reintegration Plan for adolescents in detention was designed and drawn up in 2013. This work stream has continued in 2014.
The second work stream (2014) involves the design and validation of a model for prison staff training for trainers to design social and professional reintegration programmes.

The third work stream is focused on the design and implementation of the Strategic Social and Professional Integration Plan through a pilot programme.

PERU

Technical assistance in Peru is provided through the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE) and focuses on several work streams.

First, productive activity models through two specific activities (2013): A) technical assistance to assess internal and comparative regulations on prison population employment; B) technical assistance to formulate the first employment regulation adapted to a prison context.

The second work stream is Training and employment. The analysis of the Peruvian prison system resulted in the development of a proposed productive technical training model for the prison population. This work stream continued in 2014 with the development and implementation of a pilot programme.

The third work stream focuses on designing a consensual intersectoral policy proposal primarily aimed at the social and professional reintegration of the prison population.

URUGUAY

In Uruguay the participating institutions are the National Board for the Welfare of Prison Inmates and Released Prisoners (PNEL) and the National Rehabilitation Office (INR). There are three work streams in Uruguay:

The first was the development of the Strategic Social and Professional Reintegration Plan for women and young people aged 18-25 in detention (2013).

Training for trainers is the second work stream and includes developing a social and professional training model to be implemented within the prison system and area, as well as a training for trainers plan.

Finally, technical assistance will be provided in designing and implementing a pilot programme for social and professional integration in a penitentiary institution.
In 2013, the IJJO signed a collaboration agreement with the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB) to work in the core area of social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty, as part of the EUROsociAL II Programme.

The agreement seeks to support national public policies aimed at improving levels of social cohesion while also strengthening the institutions and entities that implement them.

Regional Meeting on Dialogue and Programming

As part of the collaboration activities, two Regional Meetings on Dialogue and Programming were organised by the COMJIB in coordination with France Expertise Internationale (FEI). The first took place in Argentina in April 2013 and the second in November in Montevideo (Uruguay).

The objective of these events, aimed at those in charge of the prison systems of the countries participating in the project, was to develop a regional consensus on social and professional reintegration and to establish a dialogue on good practices in this area. Each national representative defined their priorities, agreeing to work in different subject areas, such as minimum regulations for professional reintegration and training of prison staff.

European Prison Regime Forum

In 2014, the European Prison Regime Forum in Lisbon provided the IJJO with another opportunity to collaborate with the COMJIB within the framework of the EUROsociAL II Programme. The event, organised by the Directorate-General of Reintegration and Prison Services of the Portuguese Ministry of Justice, focused on the role of education, training and employment in achieving effective reintegration and reducing recidivism.

The forum was launched in the context of the approved Portuguese National Rehabilitation and Reintegration Plan, which was presented by the Head of the Programmes Division of the Directorate-General. The Plan includes a hundred concrete measures to modernise and improve the efficiency of the prison system in order to prevent recidivism, with the main challenge being the professional reintegration of former prisoners.

The forum was an opportunity for European public administrations and Latin American participants to exchange experiences and knowledge. The Latin American authorities represented appreciated having the opportunity to find out more about the challenges, difficulties and lessons learned during the design and implementation of programmes that ensure the effective integration of persons in conflict with the law into the labour market.
3.3. Training and professional development

The IJJO promotes continuing professional development by organising international conferences, workshops and specialist and other training courses in different aspects of juvenile justice.

International School for Juvenile Justice

The International School for Juvenile Justice (ISJJ) is run by the Observatory and offers an e-learning platform to institutions and individuals with the aim of providing specialist training to professionals across the globe in the different areas of juvenile justice.

The ISJJ is also a collaborative meeting and networking space for all professionals, researchers, teachers, agents and public and private bodies involved in the field of juvenile justice.

Its main lines of action concern the most relevant issues in terms of prevention, educational intervention, legal frameworks, protection of children, social inclusion, etc.

With its active role in Research Development and Innovation (RDI), the ISJJ also serves as a vehicle to better disseminate existing and comparative knowledge at international level.

Among the courses offered by the school are:
- 'Juvenile Justice within Europe from an International Perspective'
- 'Specialist in conflict management and bullying at school'
- 'Effectiveness and innovation in alternative measures to liberty deprivation'
- 'Towards a focus on justice and restorative practices in juvenile justice systems’

IJJO International Conference

Every two years the IJJO organises an International Conference, which brings together more than 400 experts in different fields and disciplines to analyse juvenile justice systems, action models and intervention methods that could be implemented at national level.

By organising regular International Conferences, the IJJO establishes an area without borders to support professionals, institutions and organisations involved in the development of juvenile justice in the world, enabling international knowledge to be obtained in this sphere.

During the Conferences the IJJO seeks to address topical issues, with themes
of general interest such as the mental health of young offenders, juvenile justice in times of austerity, the development of common strategies to strengthen juvenile justice systems, etc.

6th IJJO International Conference
‘Making Deprivation of Children’s Liberty a Last Resort: Towards evidence-based policies on alternatives’ (Belgium)

In 2014, the IJJO will hold its 6th International Conference on 3 and 4 December in Brussels (Belgium), entitled ‘Making Deprivation of Children’s Liberty a Last Resort: Towards evidence-based policies on alternatives.’ The Conference will address the need to improve the effectiveness of the policies and programmes aimed at breaking cycles of violence in its different stages, with the priority given to alternatives to detention, mediation and conflict resolution in a social, family and community environment.

5th IJJO International Conference
‘Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World’ (United Kingdom)

The 5th IJJO International Conference entitled ‘Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World’ took place in London in November 2012. The Conference was organised, under the auspices of UNESCO, to address the issue of juvenile delinquency prevention, and also considered the consequences of the economic crisis on a growing number of children and families in situations of social exclusion.

Through keynote speeches, workshops and round tables, a large number of experts discussed crosscutting topics in the field of juvenile justice, such as: policy development for socially excluded children and young people in trouble, crime prevention, inclusion strategies, analysis of the cost-effectiveness of juvenile justice, community-based and multi-agency intervention, alternatives to custody, good practices and working directly/on a one-to-one basis with children, parents and families.
The event provided the opportunity to discuss how states can promote the comprehensive development of young people and foster the social inclusion of children in conflict with the law. In addition, the IJJO organised the second edition of the ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award within the framework of this Conference, with financial support from the European Union’s Criminal Justice Programme.

4th IJJO International Conference
‘Building Integrated Juvenile Justice Systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drug misuse’ (Italy)

Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drug misuse’ (Italy)

The 4th IJJO International Conference ‘Building Integrated Juvenile Justice Systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drug misuse’ was held on 9 and 10 November 2010 in Rome, Italy. The event was co-
organised by the Istituto Don Calabria and in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Youth, the Italian Ministry of Justice, the Comune di Roma and Diagrama Association International. The IJJO International Conference took place in the context of the International Year of Youth 2010, and adopted as its central theme the need to develop programmes and resources that enable effective intervention with minors and young people who suffer from mental health problems and/or addiction to toxic substances, and at the same time find themselves in situations of risk and/or conflict with the law.

During the conference, the Observatory presented the results of some of the research projects that it coordinates at EU level, such as the project ‘Drug-related Juvenile Crime’ (DREJC) and the Daphne programme ‘European comparative analysis and knowledge transfer on mental-health resources for young offenders.’

The 4th IJJO International Conference focused the debate on the importance of integration as the final objective in any intervention method. More than sixty speakers from all over the world discussed a range of issues related to intervention with young offenders and minors in situations of vulnerability due to mental health problems and/or drug abuse.

3rd IJJO International Conference
‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices’ (Spain)

The 3rd IJJO International Conference, entitled ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices,’ took place on 21 and 22 October 2008 in Valencia, Spain. The event was co-organised with the Ministry of Justice and Public Administrations of the Valencia Regional Government.

During the Conference, more than 450 professionals and experts from 45 countries in Europe, America, Africa
and Oceania analysed juvenile justice systems, action models and intervention programmes applicable in the different European Union Member States.

The 3rd IJJO International Conference gave rise to the IJJO Joint declaration: Harmonising juvenile justice systems at the European level, which was based on the results of the research project ‘Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices.’ The declaration contains an important set of recommendations for the European Union and has been widely supported by experts and public administrations at European, national, regional and local level.

Finally, the first results of the Agis Programme, which was carried out by the Criminology Department of the University of Greifswald (Germany), the Istituto Don Calabria (Italy) and Fundación Diagrama (Spain) in collaboration with the IJJO, were also presented at the Conference. This European programme gathered the expertise of 34 European experts, who analysed the current situation of juvenile delinquency in the European Union, existing juvenile justice systems, reform processes, the modification proposals of agencies involved in juvenile justice, treatment methods, educational/detention centres, alternative and restorative measures, and recidivism and social integration.

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 were 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 a convergence process of regulations and good practices.
2nd IJJO International Conference

‘Juvenile Justice in Europe: A framework for integration’ (Belgium)


The Conference brought together more than 300 professionals from 35 countries to share their knowledge regarding the situation of minors in conflict with the law in Europe and throughout the world, as well as experiences and good practices concerning intervention.

The Brussels Conference took place at a time when a number of changes were occurring with regard to both the social perception of the juvenile delinquency phenomenon and the evolution of specific juvenile justice regulations in some of the European Union’s Member States.

1st IJJO International Conference

‘Juvenile Justice and the Prevention of Delinquency in a Globalised World’ (Spain)

The 1st IJJO International Conference was held in Salamanca, Spain, on 27, 28 and 29 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).

From the beginning, the International Conference was set up as an event that would encourage personal knowledge and reflection between professionals, and facilitate meetings between universities, institutions, NGOs, public administrations and experts from the public and private sphere.
Thematic workshops and seminars

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

Promoting the development of juvenile justice across Europe is one of the main objectives of the IJJO. In this respect, the IJJO invited a large number of experts in the field of juvenile justice and children’s rights to participate in a workshop in December 2012 in Brussels, in order to analyse the impact of the current crisis on European juvenile justice systems.

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. Thus the IJJO organised this workshop at its headquarters to discuss existing opportunities to guarantee the rights of the child in such times of crisis and to present its White Paper on the impact of the global crisis on European juvenile justice systems.

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

On 10 December 2012, the IJJO organised a seminar addressing the consequences of recent UN initiatives on juvenile justice and children’s rights, specifically: Third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on a Communications Procedure – Providing children with a complaint mechanism at the International level [Dec. 2011]; Human Rights Council resolution 19/37 on the Rights of the Child [April 2012]; and a General Assembly resolution on Human Rights in the administration of justice [Nov. 2012]. This meeting saw the participation of representatives from the European Commission, members of NGOs such as Defence for Children International, the International Catholic Child Bureau and juvenile justice professionals in Belgium.

‘Ending violence against children in custody’

In July 2012, the IJJO hosted a meeting of the partners involved in the project ‘Ending violence against children in custody’ (coordinated by Children’s Rights Alliance for England). The meeting, held at the IJJO headquarters, brought together six organisations championing the rights of children in conflict with the law, a representative from the European Commission and an independent assessor, in order to review the progress of each of the project’s partners. The meeting was also attended by a small group of young people who had previously been in situations of conflict with the law. The group shared their experiences of the situations faced by children in custody and provided a more complete picture of the physical and/or psychological violence suffered by children before, during and after custody.
IJJO Presentation of three Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice

To present its advocacy work in the field of child-friendly justice, the Observatory, together with the Istituto don Calabria, organised a seminar in collaboration with the European Economic and Social Committee on 9 June 2011. The objective of the event was to present three IJJO Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice, products of the advocacy and research work developed within each of the three sections of the European Council for Juvenile Justice (ECJJ).

Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Committee

The Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) in 2009 adopted as its central theme an analysis of the global public health system. Within this framework, the IJJO organised a side-event in Switzerland on the mental health of young offenders with mental disorders. During this side-event, the international situation of minors with mental disorders in juvenile justice systems was analysed, and the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation between judicial and health systems highlighted. Given the high prevalence of young offenders with mental disorders, especially in custody situations, the meeting concluded that it is essential to carry out individual assessments of minors in conflict with the law through psychopathological screening, to ensure respect for their rights.

‘Mental Health and Young Offenders: A challenge for justice and the health system’

The IJJO, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Thailand, organised a meeting on ‘Mental Health and Young Offenders: A challenge for justice and the health system’ in Vienna in April 2012, during the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The aim of the event was to raise awareness on the specific needs of vulnerable children with mental health problems, illnesses and disorders in the criminal justice system.
In 2008, ECOSOC’s Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) emphasised the need to ‘implement internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.’ In order to identify programmes and policies that have contributed to achieving these goals, the IJJO, in collaboration with Fundación Diagrama (Spain), the DESA-NGO Branch of ECOSOC, the Costa Rican Ministry of Culture and Youth, and with participation from ILANUD, organised the ECOSOC Latin America Regional Innovation Fair ‘Youth: the core of sustainable development’ in Costa Rica.

Within the framework of the AMR, the Innovation Fair ‘Youth: the core of sustainable development’ focused specifically on the relationship between sustainable development and youth. Young people in Latin America constitute a segment of the population with specific needs, as well as fundamental skills and abilities to promote the Millennium Goals. Therefore, the Fair focused on innovation in the development of strategies to incorporate the challenges of youth and sustainable development principles into national and international policies, as well as on renovation in national and international programmes in order to effectively treat the basic needs of young people.

### 3.4. Advocacy

The Observatory works to promote the rights of the child and young people in conflict with the law by participating in international events and forums in its capacity as a leading institution in the field, as demonstrated by its Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC, UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and its status as an Expert NGO at the European Forum on the Rights of the Child for the European Union.

In these forums, the IJJO seeks to place the issue of juvenile justice on the international political agenda and incorporate it into programmes and strategies favouring effectiveness and innovation, by producing reports such as:

- “Save Money, Protect Society and Realise Youth Potential: Improving Youth Justice Systems during a Time of Economic Crisis”
- “Measures of Deprivation of Liberty for Young Offenders: How to Enrich International Standards in Juvenile Justice and Promote Alternatives to Detention?”
- “The Social Reintegration of Young Offenders as a Key Against Recidivism”.

The following section outlines the key work that has been performed in this area:
A. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

International Expert Consultation on Restorative Justice for Children

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, together with the Governments of Indonesia and Norway, organised an International Expert Consultation on Restorative Justice for Children, which took place in Bali from 26 to 28 June 2013.

The Consultation highlighted the need to use alternative measures as a key strategy to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence in the justice system. Experts focused on positive developments and promising practices, as well as shortcomings and challenges in the use of restorative justice processes for children within formal and informal justice systems. Attention was also paid to challenges in countries where law reform and a paradigm shift (from punitive approaches to child sensitive restorative justice programmes) have led to increasing rehabilitation and reintegration of children at community level. A number of presentations focused on how mediation is practiced in countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, Norway, Peru and Thailand.

Expert Consultation on Prevention and Responses to Violence against Children within the Juvenile Justice System

The IJJO joined UN agencies based in Vienna, New York and Geneva during an Expert Consultation held in Vienna on 23 January 2012. The meeting was a critical step in consolidating the cooperation of UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, etc.), partners and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, in order to cope with the problem of violence against children within the justice system. This is in line with the work carried out by the IJJO since its inception through advocacy action, awareness campaigns and technical assistance activities.

There were several aims to this expert consultation: analyse the importance of juvenile justice to the development of strong child protection systems; identify the possible risks to children within the criminal justice system; identify approaches that help to strengthen legislation and the enforcement process; and determine how best to shift from a punitive approach to a child sensitive juvenile justice system.

Joint Declaration of NGOs present at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Brazil)

The IJJO participated in the drafting of the Joint Declaration of non-governmental organisations and individual experts attending the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice in 2010. The declaration was drawn up through an open consultative process in order to make known the global views of civil society in relation to crime prevention and criminal justice.

**Member of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice**

The IJJO participates in the Annual Meetings of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ).

**The 2013 Annual Meeting** was hosted by Penal Reform International (PRI) and Child Rights International Network (CRIN), and took place in London in May 2013. The meeting brought together IPJJ members to define the Panel’s strategic priorities and address issues such as the provision of technical assistance for common actions. During the meeting, the IJJO was elected as a member of the Steering Committee of the IPJJ, which coordinates overall follow-up actions and technical assistance activities. This is one of the IPJJ’s most important activities, the aim of which is to help States comply with their obligations under international law and to provide advice to all stakeholders dealing with the rights of children in conflict with the law.

**The 2012 Annual Meeting** gave the IJJO the opportunity to present an overview of the activities it had carried out, in particular its work on the mental health of young offenders, crime prevention and youth gangs. The meeting coincided with the publication of the IJJO study ‘Mental Health Resources for Young Offenders (MHYO)’, as well as the implementation of the project’s results at international level.

The IJJO hosted the **2011 Annual Meeting** in Brussels, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The participants addressed the issue of violence against children in police custody and pre-trial detention, highlighting that children held in detention are more likely to be abused and mistreated, and promoting the notion of reducing the duration of detention as a preventative measure. The meeting was attended by EU representatives involved in the drafting of juvenile justice policies.

At the **2010 Annual Meeting**, members stressed the importance of developing a common approach on the development of a justice model adapted to minors in conflict with the law, child victims and child witnesses. The participating experts defined strategies based on the development of information and communication methods, in order to contribute to the improvement of justice systems for young offenders. Within the framework of this meeting, the IJJO highlighted the need to reinforce the respect for international standards and recommendations in juvenile justice within the European Union.
The Observatory has had the opportunity to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council, specifically in the Annual Full-day Meeting on the Rights of the Child at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council. The aim was to identify the main existing challenges in achieving full realisation of the child’s right to health, as also enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In her opening statement, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted the high rate of child mortality in low-income regions. She also stressed that special attention should be paid to children in vulnerable situations, such as those with disabilities, migrant children, children in institutions and child victims of violence. The increase in mental health problems among adolescents was also discussed.

During the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva in March 2012, the IJJO participated in the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child. In collaboration with Penal Reform International and Open Society Justice Initiative, the IJJO presented the conclusions of the Mental Health and Young Offenders (MHYO) project, concerning the mental health of children in custody as well as in pre-trial detention. The annual full-day meeting focused on ‘Children and the administration of
justice’, emphasising key challenges, worrying trends and good practices regarding minors within the criminal system.

The IJJO was also invited to take part in the International Seminar on Human Rights and Probation, organised by the Directorate-General of Social Reintegration of the Portuguese Ministry of Justice in April 2010 in Torres Novas. In its address, the IJJO highlighted the importance of implementing articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the Observatory 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 20 November, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Convention. Particular attention was given to issues such as the use of force within the prison system, the right to punish and regional international laws, best practices and technical means within the prison system, and compliance with sentences in Europe. The Seminar concluded with the message that the value of our society is measured by how it treats its own prisoners and respects their human rights.
Children’s rights and violence prevention
In Latin America

The IJJO participated in the 5th World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, which was held in San Juan (Argentina) in October 2012. The purpose of the Congress was to improve the international commitment towards child and adolescent protection, by fostering collaboration and an exchange of experiences with the aim of ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a collaborating partner of the 5th World Congress, the IJJO was able to closely monitor the activities of the organisation. The IJJO has also participated as a member of the Scientific Committee in all of the World Congresses, held in Venezuela, Peru, Spain and Puerto Rico.

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC, Canada), the National Observatory of Crime and Criminal Justice Responses (ONDRP, France), the National Observatory of Crime on Public Transport (ONDT, France), the National Police of Colombia, the Government of the Department of Bolívar (Colombia), and the Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC) co-organised the Fourth international conference on crime observatories in August 2013. The IJJO was invited to take part in the event, the aim of which was to exchange the experiences and knowledge of national and international observatories on strategies for public safety with other organisations and professionals working in the same field. The meeting generated knowledge on security-related changes on the public agenda, and helped to identify effective strategies to improve public safety as well as mechanisms to monitor the justice system and human rights.
Marking the establishment of the Network of Children-Related Observatories, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) organised the First international conference of the Network of Children-Related Observatories in Bogotá, Colombia, in order to exchange experiences and create the Network of Children-Related Observatories, an international network of organisations dedicated to monitoring the situation of children in Latin America. The Network aims to gather and manage knowledge between observatories on children and adolescents, in order to exchange perspectives, methodologies, and information that will improve the well-being of children in Latin America. During the meeting, the IJJO presented its expertise in using monitoring and evaluation tools for the implementation of international standards in juvenile justice systems. The event was made possible due to support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

In Africa

The Observatory also performs advisory work and advocates in favour of the rights of the child in Africa. Since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Africa has witnessed unprecedented developments in policy and practice in this area, as well as in the field of juvenile justice. However there is still much to be done to improve laws, procedures and their
proper implementation in juvenile justice systems in Africa. This was the overall aim of the Kampala Conference on ‘Deprivation of Children’s Liberty as a Last Resort,’ 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, INGOs, including the IJJO, and other world experts.

The IJJO also took part in the 5th Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting in South Africa in September 2011, hosted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of Health of South Africa, and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. The meeting focused on placing violence prevention 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 organisations working to prevent violence. Using an evidence-based public health approach, the VPA targets the risk factors leading to violence and promotes multisectoral cooperation.

Regarding the issue of educating minors deprived of liberty, one of the IJJO’s areas of interest, the Observatory participated in the ‘Workshop: Education of Minors Deprived of Liberty in Africa’, organised by IDAY and DCI (Belgium) in Brussels in January 2011 and attended by African and European organisations working in Africa in the field of education and juvenile justice. The workshop had the objective of promoting and reflecting on the right to education of minors in conflict with the law and deprived of liberty in Africa. Emphasis was placed on the importance of better coordination between the actors in this sector and the commitment of African organisations to these problems. Finally, recommendations were made for a more constructive vision of education in justice systems, in order to promote basic rights for minors in conflict with the law.

In Asia

The Observatory has also been present in Asia to support initiatives in favour of the rights of the child. In September 2012, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), together with UNDP, DANIDA, SIDA and SDC, organised the seminar ‘Child Protection, Compliance of CRC and Child Labour’ in Bangladesh. The representatives of these organisations, together with the IJJO, drafted an overview of the Universal Periodic Review process, a global exercise and a new mechanism for the region.

In the United States

On 16-18 April 2013, the Annie E. Casey Foundation organised the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) conference in Atlanta (United States), where the IJJO spoke about implementing international standards. Nearly 800 juvenile justice professionals gathered
to discuss innovative efforts that have the potential to reform juvenile justice systems and reduce youth incarceration in the United States.

B. AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Within the framework of the European Union

The IJJO has participated in various consultation processes carried out within the EU institutions, providing its expertise in issues related to juvenile justice, protection of the rights of the child and crime prevention.

Through its participation in these processes, the IJJO demonstrates its full commitment to defending the Rights of the Child, especially in relation to children in conflict with the law, and contributes to a juvenile justice without borders and the promotion of alternative measures to liberty deprivation.

IJJO contributions include:


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


- Contribution to the public consultation on the Communication ‘Towards a stronger European response to drugs’ (DG Justice).


- Consultation for the Coalition to make the Internet a better place for kids (DG Information Society and Media).

In addition, the IJJO has issued a series of Green Papers on Child-Friendly Justice. The content of these papers was taken into consideration for the drafting of the European Commission Green Paper on detention:


- 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’

- Green Paper of the ECJJ NGO Section: ‘The Social Reintegration of Young Offenders as a Key Against Recidivism’

In order to foster a EU-wide common position to protect the rights and well-being of young people and promote a child-friendly justice system, the IJJO has issued a set of recommendations and proposals to the European Commission on ‘Minimum standards in pre-trial detention procedures.’ The report focuses on the need to improve pre-trial detention conditions for young offenders through educational, training and work
programmes, in order to ensure their comprehensive development. The IJJO is also in favour of separation between adults and children in pre-trial detention and considers that it is crucial to ensure these minors receive legal assistance.

The IJJO took part in the Conference ‘Improving the work with Children on the move in the EU’ in Brussels in 2014, where it presented the results of the European project ‘Net for U – Needs tackling and networks tracing for unaccompanied minorsintegration’. The conference focused on sharing experiences and practices to improve the work of professionals dealing with unaccompanied children on the move, in regard to two key aspects: needs assessment and family tracing. The event featured discussions on family tracing, needs assessment tools under the Dublin Regulation and improving the coordination and cooperation between EU and non-EU actors for a better protection and integration of children on the move in Europe.

The IJJO participated in the second meeting of the European Project ‘Keeping Youth Away from Crime: Searching for Best European Practices’, coordinated by the Latvian Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS in Riga in 2013. All of the researchers involved in the project took part in the meeting, the main aims of which were to analyse the information and knowledge acquired during the development of the project; discuss the next stages; present three Latvian pilot projects; comment on difficulties encountered; and present and share good practices in the Netherlands, Lithuania and Estonia. The objective of the project is to establish the best European practices for working with children from at-risk groups, and thereby improve children’s welfare and social inclusion, reduce the risks of crime and rejection, and create a safer environment for successful child development in Europe. The main tasks of the IJJO are to coordinate and provide national research in five European countries through its network of experts, and to organise the project’s final conference in Brussels in 2014.

Within the framework of this project, the IJJO took part in a study visit hosted by the University of Edinburgh in 2013, which provided the opportunity to analyse juvenile justice policies and practices in Scotland. The visit featured contributions by a range of experts in criminology, education, child protection, youth work and other fields, as well as three young people who recounted their own experiences of the juvenile justice system. Research partners also visited the community project based at the Citadel Centre in Edinburgh, which works with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the area.

In 2013, the IJJO participated in the conference ‘Assises de la Justice: Shaping Justice policies in Europe for the years to come’, organised in Brussels by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice. The main aim of the conference was to bring together judges, lawyers, experts and EU policymakers to exchange ideas on the effectiveness and independence of justice systems, the rule of law and the European area of justice based on mutual trust. Participants also sought to define the priorities of the Post-Stockholm Programme.
The 17th Annual Conference of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) entitled ‘Children on the move: children first!’ was held in Brussels in September 2013. The objective of the Conference was to discuss the challenges and difficulties faced by children forced to abandon their countries, state failings in respecting their rights and basic needs, the role of Ombudspersons for Children in ensuring that this vulnerable group does not remain invisible, and the effect of the economic crisis on Member State immigration and asylum policies. Participants called on European states and institutions to ensure that their laws, policies and practices are compliant with the CRC and with all other relevant international or European instruments related to the rights of the child, giving particular attention to unaccompanied children and those that have been separated from their families.

In December 2012, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, in collaboration with the Cypriot EU Presidency, organised the Second Annual Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion in Brussels, which examined the progress made in terms of reducing poverty and acted as a forum for consultation on the upcoming social investment package. The Platform was created in 2010 as one of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives, and aims at fostering poverty reduction and job growth in spite of the economic crisis. To achieve this, the Commission has been working alongside the IJJO and other organisations on designing a social investment package.

The IJJO took part in the ExOCoP political forum on ‘Reintegrating former prisoners’ in Berlin in June 2012. Together with more than forty European partners, the ExOCoP (European learning network focusing on the rehabilitation of ex-offenders) aims to reduce recidivism by developing a programme of Education, Training and Employment Assistance (ETE) to provide access to strategic reintegration structures for prisoners and former prisoners. Hosted at the Permanent
Representation of Bremen before the Federal Government of Germany, the meeting brought together European experts and practitioners working on the futures of prisoners and former prisoners, and provided an opportunity to discuss new challenges in this area.

In September 2012, more than 50 national representatives from ministries, agencies and NGOs, including the IJJO, took part in the Seminar on juvenile delinquency organised by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska, and supported by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Enlargement through its Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX). The primary aim of the event was to familiarise the representatives of police agencies and prosecutor’s offices in the Republic of Srpska with EU regulations concerning juvenile delinquency, crime prevention and intervention programmes. There have been some encouraging results in terms of juvenile delinquency reduction thanks to several prevention programmes carried out in cooperation with other social stakeholders.

In May 2012, the Observatory participated in the Meeting on Juvenile Criminal Law, organised by the Bar Association of Legal Advisers of the Cadiz Province. This was a one-day training event aimed at nearly 200 professionals in the field of legal assistance to young offenders, including a large number of lawyers, judges and magistrates. The meeting was also the opportunity for the IJJO to sign a collaboration agreement with the Bar Association of Cadiz.

European Economic and Social Committee
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
European society has shown increasing interest in the analysis of justice for minors in conflict with the law. The members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) have held frequent discussions on issues related to juvenile delinquency and the means to prevent it.

In November 2011 the IJJO took part in an EU-wide consultation promoted by the European Commission with regard to the application of criminal justice legislation in the field of detention, sharing its views and expertise in order to promote the use of alternatives to detention. In this respect, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 37), the IJJO advocates in favour of considering liberty deprivation of minors as a last resort measure, and fosters alternative measures.

As a result, the Observatory provided the European Commission, and more specifically the Directorate-General for Justice, with a series of comments, suggestions, good practices and experiences in the field of criminal justice for minors and children’s rights, addressing matters such as: liberty deprivation, proper implementation and respect for international standards, non-custodial and community-based measures, and specified measures for children deprived of liberty within the health system.
Within the framework of the European Commission’s consultation process on the future of the EU in the field of freedom, security and justice (Stockholm Programme), the IJJO drafted an **Opinion on the Stockholm Programme**, calling for a strengthening in the commitment of the European institutions to improve juvenile justice policies.

In 2009, the members of the EESC approved the Opinion on ‘**Urban areas and youth violence**,’ presented by the Chair of the Latin America Follow-up Committee and Advisor to the EESC. The IJJO took part in the drafting of the Opinion as an expert. The IJJO also collaborated in the drafting of the European Parliament resolution of 21 June 2007 on juvenile delinquency and the role of women, family and society. The report revealed the different dimensions of the problem at European, national and international level, as well as the differences in national legislation regarding prevention and rehabilitation measures.

In 2006, in the capacity of expert advisor, the IJJO took part in the drafting process for 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**,’ which has been used as a reference by experts, professional practitioners and researchers.

### Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

As a member of the FRA, the IJJO took part in the **Annual Conference of the Fundamental Rights Agency**, organised in Brussels under the auspices of the President of the European Parliament in December 2012. The Conference was themed ‘Justice in austerity challenges and opportunities for access to justice’, and analysed the effects of the economic crisis on judicial systems and on the right of access to justice, as enshrined in the EU Charter on Human Rights and in line with the 5th IJJO International Conference. The IJJO followed up this work stream through its European Council for Juvenile Justice and issued a White Paper on the repercussions of the economic crisis for juvenile justice. One of the members of the ECJJ, Ms Maija Gellin, Director of the National Programme for School Mediation and Restorative Approaches in Education (VERSO), and Board Member of the Finnish Forum for Mediation (FFM), took part in the workshop ‘Towards effective mediation policy making.’

At the meeting of experts entitled ‘**Applying FRA indicators on the rights of the child: Policy priorities for data collection**’, organised by the FRA in Vienna in February 2011, the IJJO addressed the importance of developing fundamental principles and tools that foster a betterment of juvenile justice in Europe. In this respect, the FRA developed a set of indicators on the rights of the child that serves as a toolkit to assess the impact of adopted EU legislation and policy on children.
In December 2010, the IJJO presented international standards and regulations in the field of juvenile justice at the Fundamental Rights Conference (FRC) ‘Ensuring Justice and Protection for all Children’ in Brussels, organised by the FRA in collaboration with the Presidency of the European Union. During the conference, participants discussed the development of strategies and challenges specifically to protect vulnerable children and provide child-friendly justice within the European Union. In this context, the FRA examined the implementation, protection and promotion of fundamental rights for children, in line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

European Forum on the Rights of the Child
The IJJO took part in the Conference ‘Growing with Children’s Rights’ in Croatia, where it assessed the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in February 2012. The Conference had three objectives: to take stock of the progress achieved within the first two years of the strategy’s implementation; to propose priority measures for the following two years and foster collaboration between the various stakeholders; and to identify issues that could lie at the heart of Council of Europe action beyond 2015. Mr Cédric Foussard, IJJO Director of International Affairs, addressed the round table on juvenile justice with a presentation on ‘Alternatives to deprivation of liberty of young offenders: The development of fostering programmes.’ This focused on alternatives to liberty deprivation, in particular the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), a community-based intervention in which a multi-disciplinary team works intensively with young people and their families during a placement with specially trained foster carers, encouraging and reinforcing positive behaviour and directing them away from the negative influences of peers in conflict with the law. The above mentioned presentation was submitted within the framework of the EU project ‘Alternatives to Custody for Young Offenders - Developing Intensive and Remand Fostering Programmes’, led by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF).

The IJJO also took part in the European Forums on the Rights of the Child in 2010 and 2012 in Brussels. The 7th Forum was organised by the Directorate-General for Justice of the European Commission and aimed at offering a platform for exchanging good practices and establishing networking opportunities among the actors concerned with children’s well-being. This 7th Forum placed an emphasis on the functioning of child protection systems and the challenges these systems face. Five workshops were organised and addressed five different themes: the involvement of child welfare authorities in custody cases; protecting children on the move;
protecting children from violence; protecting children with disabilities; and child-friendly justice.

At the 5th Forum, the IJJO submitted its recommendations and proposals to the European Commission, highlighting the need to respect the rights of minors in conflict with the law. During the Forum, the IJJO presented the conclusions of the Expert Group on Child-friendly Justice, which met in Brussels in July 2010. The IJJO considers it essential to develop a justice that better responds to the needs and circumstances of minors, which is why the Expert Group works to compile as much information as possible about the situation of children in contact with the justice system. The Expert Group has been part of the consultation process undertaken by the European Commission in preparing the Communication on the Rights of the Child 2011-2014.

Child-friendly Justice

Aware of the importance of fostering child-friendly justice, in 2014 the IJJO participated in the Conference ‘Reimagining Youth Justice’ in London, organised by the Howard League for Penal Reform. On behalf of the IJJO, Ms Marianne Moore, International expert in youth justice, presented the IJJO White Paper ‘Save money, protect society and realise youth potential’ and emphasised that in spite of the economic climate, it remains possible -and necessary- to innovate and increase the effectiveness of European juvenile justice systems.

The Observatory also took part in an Expert meeting on Child-Friendly Justice held in 2014 in Brussels, with the aim of exploring the impact of European efforts to provide children with access to justice, and developing a child-friendly justice system in EU Member States. Organised by the European Children’s Rights Unit of the University of Liverpool and the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Southampton, in collaboration with Eurochild, the seminar aimed both to develop a unique, interdisciplinary network of organisations and stakeholders working on children’s rights, and to exchange practices, data and new approaches concerning the development of child-friendly justice systems in Europe. The seminar focused on how to achieve proper and effective implementation of European policies, guidelines and legislative initiatives at national and regional level.

The ‘European progress in achieving child-friendly justice’ seminar was
proceedings in all fields of law: criminal, civil and administrative. Particular attention was given to the treatment of child perpetrators and child victims.

In October 2012, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) organised a conference in Cyprus entitled ‘Juvenile Delinquency-Child Friendly Justice Structures and Processes for Prevention and Rehabilitation’ on the topic of juvenile delinquency and child-friendly responses. The conference covered issues regarding processes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and strategies on how to improve rehabilitation and avoid recidivism. The IJJO was among the organisations invited and addressed the conference on the international legal framework and key challenges in the field of juvenile justice.

The IJJO also participated in a workshop to promote the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice in December 2012 in Cork (Ireland). The event brought together academics, civil society members, experts in judicial training networks and EU representatives to develop a programme to work towards implementation of the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice. Participants at the meeting discussed the need to raise awareness about the Guidelines, to disseminate them throughout the world and to foster educational programmes to develop the skills of professional practitioners working in the legal system. A group of experts in the field of juvenile justice and children’s rights had been working on the preparation of these European guidelines since April 2009. The IJJO and, at European level, the EJJO, are among the organisations that make up this group of specialists on child-friendly justice.

Due to its Participatory Status at the Council of Europe, the IJJO formed part of the group of experts in the field of juvenile justice and the Rights of the Child involved in drafting the Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice. The aim of these guidelines is to contribute to improving the treatment of children whenever they enter into contact with the civil, administrative or criminal justice system. The Guidelines are based around existing national, European and international instruments and refer to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, offering a series of good practices and proposing practical solutions to existing problems. They also include children’s rights to information, representation and involvement. The Group developed a questionnaire on child-friendly justice as part of the preparation of the draft Guidelines. The Guidelines were ultimately adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in November 2010.

Crime prevention and Criminology

A group of experts in crime prevention, including the IJJO, took part in the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) in 2012 to share, discuss and identify the criteria for effective cooperation with local police in juvenile delinquency prevention. The event resulted in the production of a juvenile delinquency prevention manual aimed at local policymakers and professional practitioners. During the
workshop, the IJJO offered its expertise in youth crime prevention and presented a set of criteria to prevent juvenile delinquency, including the importance of training the professionals working in detention centres in order to tackle recidivism.

The 10th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology- ‘Crime and Criminology: From individuals to organisations’ was held in Liège (Belgium) in 2010 with the main aims of fostering criminology analysis both at individual and organisational level, and stimulating the creation of links between the two. The Conference addressed issues relating to crime prevention in order to contribute to enhancing cooperation and knowledge-sharing between researchers, academics and public and private institutions. During the event, the IJJO presented the initial results of the EU-wide research projects in which it is involved, including the project ‘Drug-related Juvenile Crime’ (DREJC) and the project ‘European comparative analysis and knowledge transfer on mental-health resources for young offenders’, conducted within the framework of the European Commission’s Daphne programme.
3.5. Generation and management of information

Since its establishment, the IJJO has built up a significant international network of experts and undertaken a large number of collaboration activities with international agencies, public administration bodies, professional practitioners, NGOs, universities and training centres.

In this respect, the IJJO can be considered one of the most relevant networks in the field of juvenile justice, with more than 11,000 collaborators and users cooperating on a continuous basis. It is worth noting that the number of experts and professionals from all over the world who consult, communicate via, or make important contributions to the network is growing every day. The IJJO is extremely grateful for all of these contributions, which have helped to develop and consolidate our network.

The IJJO has established itself as an international resource centre hosting thousands of reports, publications and articles in an online library, which is constantly updated in three languages: English, French and Spanish. In addition, the IJJO compiles national legislation from Member States on juvenile justice and child protection, and has published an online encyclopaedia on legal terms and procedures. The IJJO’s database is used by more than 10,419 users in 108 countries and 765 collaborators in 56 countries.

Furthermore, the IJJO maintains and regularly publishes national legislative files on juvenile justice and child protection for every country within the international community. The implementation and development of this project has been possible thanks to the cooperation of the IJJO’s users and collaborators.

As part of its information dissemination activities, the IJJO also launched a Communication Plan to promote relevant international texts on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, as well as UN Standards on juvenile justice measures. This Communication Plan was addressed to NGOs, professionals and experts, universities, public authorities and administrations at national, regional and local level.

IJJO Resource centre

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

In a bid to standardise the vocabulary used in the field of juvenile justice, the Observatory has developed an IJJO Glossary to compile terms that form part of the jargon most commonly used by youth justice professionals and stakeholders. This tool facilitates a greater understanding of the different concepts that define juvenile justice systems at international level.
3.6. Awareness

Awareness campaigns

The IJJO promotes international campaigns with the aim of raising awareness about the rights of children and juvenile justice, with issues such as legal assistance for children in conflict with the law, the benefits of voluntary work to prevent social exclusion and paths to full reintegration into society.

2011 IJJO International Campaign

‘Keeping the Youth out of Exclusion: The Benefits of Volunteering’

As part of the European Year of Volunteering 2011, the IJJO, in its capacity as a member of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance, launched the awareness campaign ‘Keeping the Youth out of Exclusion: The Benefits of Volunteering’, focusing on the positive impact that volunteers can have on young people at risk of social exclusion or who already find themselves in situations of social exclusion.

The Campaign sets out the benefits of volunteering with young people. For instance, volunteering is, among other things, an inclusive activity, which helps children and young people feel like a part of their community. It also broadens their circle of friends and at the same time provides them with practical and social skills that may help them find a job in the future.

Such benefits have been emphasised both by academic theories and practices discerned at grass roots level. Thus theories developed by academics are presented alongside accounts by volunteers, social workers and national representatives.

2010 IJJO International Campaign: ‘Paths of integration of children in conflict with the law’

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

The goal of this International Campaign was to place the issue of integrating young offenders at the centre of the European agenda. Through the campaign, the IJJO underlined the importance of supporting, improving and evaluating reintegration...
measures and programmes for children in conflict with the law. This action was carried out in the context of the mission established by the EU; to make society more responsible and able to help young people who fall victim to its shortcomings. The IJJO highlighted the difficulties faced by former young offenders when it comes to integrating successfully into school systems, the workplace and society in general. It is necessary to combat existing stereotypes and break the link that leads to marginalisation and exclusion.

2009 IJJO International Campaign
‘Two decades of Juvenile Justice: Improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child


The IJJO campaign provided a retrospective overview of the evolution of juvenile justice around the world. To achieve this, the IJJO asked some of the most important figures who have worked on promoting the rights of the child to give their views and share their experiences.
regarding the improvements and failures in the implementation of the Convention. Their feedback reiterated that a lot of work remains to be done in this field, and highlighted future actions that need to be carried out by states and civil society.

2008 IJJO International Campaign: ‘Legal assistance for children in conflict with the law’

In 2008, the Observatory launched the IJJO Campaign: ‘Legal assistance for children in conflict with the law.’ The aim of the campaign was to raise international awareness about the need to provide free and effective legal assistance to children and young people who come into contact with the justice system. These groups risk becoming victims of abuse and neglect, and in all cases require effective legal assistance to ensure that they are properly treated by all parties involved, from the moment of detention to the end of the imposed measure or penalty. The IJJO participated in different training seminars and events to promote the campaign, which was also extensively followed up on the Observatory’s website.
‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award

The ‘JUVENILE JUSTICE WITHOUT BORDERS’ INTERNATIONAL AWARD was created by the IJJO in order to recognise the work of institutions, experts and other individuals who have shown a firm commitment to juvenile justice systems focused on the comprehensive development of children and young people in conflict with the law.

In this respect, the Award is granted as international recognition for outstanding progress or achievements in terms of research, advocacy for children’s rights, or direct intervention with young offenders, always within the framework of standards and regulations adopted by the United Nations.

Through this recognition, the International Award also fosters the dissemination of knowledge and policies aimed at improving the situations of children and young people at risk of social exclusion.

In addition, the ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award helps to highlight good practice models at international level and create social awareness with regard to the most relevant issues affecting juvenile justice.

First Edition 2010

The ceremony for the first ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award took place on 9 November 2010 at the Auditorium del Massimo in Rome.

The award was presented by the Chairman of the IJJO, 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 ILANUD collaborator Dr Carlos Tiffer, involved in criminal matters.

- Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, first Children's Commissioner of England.

- Professor Dr Frieder Dünkel, from the University of Greifswald (Germany).

- The Directorate-General of the Police and Guardia Civil of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, for the specialised work carried out by the Units for Females and Children (EMUMEs) of the Guardia Civil and the Children's Units (GRUMEs) of the National Police Force, represented respectively by Mr Andrés Sotoca Plaza, lieutenant of the
EMUME Central Unit in the Guardia Civil, and Ms María José del Castillo Urbina, SAF Central Group Leader of the National Police Force.

Second Edition 2012

Within the framework of the 5th IJJO International Conference ‘Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World’ (London, 6-7 November), the Observatory presented the Second Edition of the IJJO ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award.

The winners of the Award were:

• Mr Georges Loinger, Honorific award for heroism in saving children during the Second World War.

• Prof Dr Jaap E. Doeck, Emeritus Professor of Family and Juvenile Law.

• The African Child Policy forum, represented by Mr David Mugawe, Executive Director.

• Ms Wansley Walters, Secretary for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

• Justice Renate Winter, United Nations Judge in Sierra Leone.

• The Directorate-General for the Implementation of Judicial Provisions (Juvenile Justice Department, Italian Ministry of Justice), represented by its General Director Ms Serenella Pesarin.

• The Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Ministry of Justice of Thailand, represented by Mr Tawatchai Thaikyo, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Justice.

• Durham County Council, England.

Third Edition 2014

The third edition of the ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award will be presented on 3 December 2014, within the framework of the 6th IJJO International Conference.

The awards ceremony will be held in the Town Hall of Brussels, located in the city’s emblematic Grand Place. The Town Hall, which dates back to the 15th century, is considered a masterpiece of Gothic architecture.
Once more, the ‘Juvenile Justice without Borders’ International Award will honour the achievements of exceptional professionals and organisations that dedicate their work to Juvenile Justice, recognising their significant progress in the field.

The winners of the Award in its third edition are:

- **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**, Honorific award for using their music as a tool to promote a peaceful and fair solution to conflict and to enhance the respect of human rights regardless of culture, religion or race differences.

- **Mr. Robert Badinter**, Former Minister of Justice of France and former President of the French Constitutional Council.

- **Mr. David Farrington**, Emeritus Professor of Psychological Criminology and Leverhulme Trust Emeritus Fellow in the Institute of Criminology of Cambridge University.

- **Justice Muhammad Imman Ali**, Judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

- **Indian Coalition of NGOs**, represented by Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, co-founder of HAQ: Centre for Child Rights.

- **Penal Reform International**, represented by its Executive Director Alison Hannah.

- ‘**Choices’ Programme of the Portuguese Ministry of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers**, Represented by Pedro Calado, High Commissioner for Migration and National Coordinator of Choices Programme.