

## Concept Note on Capacity-building activity on the good practices identified in the Comparative Study of European standards and promising Practices (Output 3)

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### 1. Introduction

The European Union/Council of Europe Joint Project on “Improving the juvenile justice system and strengthening the education and training of penitentiary staff in Slovenia” aims to support the Slovenian authorities in the reform of the juvenile justice system. The key outcome of Component I of this project is to improve the juvenile criminal justice system through new legislation and policies that are in line with European standards and good practices. As a follow-up to the Comparative Study of European standards and promising practices (Output 3) prepared by Council of Europe international experts, the project will organise a capacity-building activity based on the good practices identified from three countries whose juvenile justice systems are comparable to the Slovenian one: Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany.

### 2. General objective and target audience of the Capacity building module

This Capacity-building activity is substantially based on main international and European instruments that specifically deal with children’s rights and juvenile justice.<sup>1</sup>

**The objective** of this activity is twofold:

- 1) *To increase the capacities of professionals by achieving greater awareness in their understanding and implementation of European standards and practices for working with children in conflict with the law;*
- 2) *To increase these capacities of professionals particularly as they relate to the effective engagement of all relevant (judicial) actors, including professionals from the social welfare sector and police (multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary approach).*

In light of the objective, the target audience is expected to be the following professional groups: prosecutors, judges, social workers, defence lawyers, police (i.e. judicial police, section working with child protection/juvenile justice, if any) and clinical psychologists.

### 3. Methodology

The capacity-building activity is foreseen to be implemented through a one-day workshop split into two main parts (3 hour each). The workshop will be designed to include a participatory approach through:

- **practical discussions and work on real case scenarios:** complex case/s of juveniles in conflict with the law will be selected and presented to the participants. The selected cases will be real life cases which have already been addressed by court(s) at national and European level (ECtHR). The cases will be examined and discussed with the support of visiting professionals from the three selected countries. Guidelines /questions will be developed and disseminated to participants to guide the process, and the participants will be invited to identify and discuss the weak points of the cases, and propose alternative ways of handling them.
- **plenary presentations and discussions:** the views of participants on the necessary steps to address the cases, in line with national and European legal standards, will be presented and discussed;
- **joint conclusions on best practices of the work on cases and recommendations for future capacity building needs:** international experts – summary.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Comparative study.

**Number of participants:** It is expected for maximum of 18 participants, to be present at the workshop without counting the international experts and visiting professionals.

**Facilitators:** three international consultants (Silvia Randazzo, Susanna Greijer and Bistra Netkova) and visiting professionals, representatives of their juvenile justice systems, from the selected promising practices countries in Output 3: Sweden (Social worker), Germany (Judge), and the Netherlands (Prosecutor).

***Detailed plan of the capacity building activity***

Session	Time	Description of the activity	
Session 1	9.30 - 10.00	Title	Introduction and opening remarks
		Objectives	1. To introduce the objectives of the capacity building to participants 2. To introduce the facilitators and the visiting professionals and their roles 3. To introduce the capacity building programme and objectives
		Subjects	Introduction, presentation of participants/objectives of the capacity building
		Format	Presentation-discussion (30 minutes)
		Documents	The Comparative Study
Session 2	10.00- 13.00	Title	Work in groups – case study (3 groups/6 participants per group)
		Objectives	1. To enable participants to use European standards and practices in discussing and solving the case at hand; 2. To familiarise participants with possible good practices from the selected European countries with respect to the case law at hand; 3. To foster cross-sectorial and multi-disciplinary cooperation;
		Subjects/Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual assessments;</li> <li>➤ Diversion proceedings and measures;</li> <li>➤ Sanctions;</li> <li>➤ Children with mental health issues</li> </ul>
		Format	Case study – work on a case concerning juveniles in conflict with the law – one or two cases depending on the time (180 minutes)
		Documents	Case materials
		Method	Each group consists of up to six participants, including a judge, a prosecutor, a social worker, a defence lawyer, a police officer and a psychologist. Each group is accompanied by an international consultant and a visiting professional from Sweden, Germany or the Netherlands. The visiting professionals will rotate between the three groups (approximately one hour per group).
Session 3	14.00- 17.00	Title	Plenary discussion
		Objectives	1. To share the view of procedures that each group has identified as necessary and helpful when looking at the case file; 2. To exchange information of practices regarding the case from visiting professionals from Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands; 3. To come to conclusions and recommendations for the best way to address the case at hand in line with European standards and practices.
		Subjects/Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual assessments;</li> <li>➤ Diversion proceedings and measures;</li> <li>➤ Sanctions;</li> <li>➤ Children with mental health issues</li> </ul>
		Format	Presentations and discussions (180 minutes)
		Documents	Notes from participants
		Methods:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group presents their main findings (20 minutes per group);</li> <li>• Each visiting professional presents the practice in his/her country regarding the case at hand (15 minutes per professional);</li> <li>• Joint discussion of the results, the problems and dilemmas regarding the case, and the multi-sectorial work and examples from the practice (60 minutes);</li> <li>• Wrap-up by the international consultants (15 minutes).</li> </ul>