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# HELP course on Child Friendly Justice

Maria Andriani Kostopoulou

*Source: FRA, Child-friendly justice: Perspectives and experiences of children involved in judicial proceedings as victims, witnesses or parties in nine EU Member States*

“I would be scared when seeing those policemen big and like that when they would stand there, by the door, like that, bodyguards.”  
(male, 14 years old, party, placement measure case)

“Nobody explained to me what a video conference is.”  
(female, 14 years old, victim, sexual abuse case)

“I didn’t know when to stand up and then I got yelled at: ‘you should stand up when you talk to a judge!’” (male, 14 years old, party, custody case)

“They expect kids to answer some uncomfortable question and they ask them with their official tone, which makes kids feel uneasy and makes it harder to answer.”  
(Croatia, female, 15 years old, victim, sexual abuse case)

“Teacher said that they [police] were waiting and then they [classmates] saw [...] Strange, because, everyone was watching, [...] When someone comes to school, then it would be better without the uniform.”  
(female, 14 years old, victim, sexual abuse case)



## Module 1: Introduction

In this Module we'll take a closer look at defining child-friendly justice, identifying the key stakeholders, understanding the fundamental principles and general elements, as well as the importance of monitoring and evaluation, including in crisis contexts.



### Module 1

What is Child-friendly Justice?

Legal Framework

Key Stakeholders

Fundamental Principles

General Elements

Monitoring & Evaluation

In times of Crisis

What's Next?

# CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

START

## Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Learn about the **legal framework** applicable to child-friendly justice, the key stakeholders and the fundamental principles
- ✓ List the elements that form an **environment** which allows the child to participate in proceedings effectively
- ✓ Understand the need for the States to adapt their legal framework and assess their policies in light of the child-friendly justice principles



Introduction

← 02 / 30



Introduction

← 01 / 30 →



## Module 2

Principles of Child Participation

Relevance of Child Participation

How to Apply Child Participation?

Inclusive Participation

Quiz

### Module 2: The Right to Effective Participation in Justice Systems

# CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

START

## Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Understand **what child participation** is and why it should be ensured when children come into contact with the justice system.
- ✓ Understand **at which stages of the proceedings children's views and opinions should be considered** to ensure they have better access to justice.
- ✓ Understand why children have **different needs than adults**.
- ✓ Learn which considerations should be embedded into procedures for **children who are in particular situations of vulnerability**.



In this Module we'll take a closer look at the principles and relevance of **effective child participation**, how professionals can interact with children in the justice systems and what inclusive participation means.



### Module 3

Definitions

Diversion

Restorative Justice

Procedural Rights

Quiz



### Module 3: Diversion and Restorative Justice

## CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

START



DIVERSION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

← 02 / 31

### Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ To better understand the meaning and the use of diversion and restorative justice and their application in child-friendly justice.
- ✓ To analyse the advantages of these approaches and identify the potential risks.
- ✓ To understand the potential of this approach and imagine different innovative applications



DIVERSION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

← 01 / 31 →



## Module 4

Individual Needs Assessment and Multidisciplinary Approach

Communication with the Child

Investigation, Interviews and Questioning

Legal Counsel and Representation

Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention

Quiz



## Module 4: Children's Rights Prior to Judicial Proceedings

# CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

START



Children's Rights Prior to Judicial Proceedings

← 04 / 36

### Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Be familiar with and apply **international and regional standards and jurisprudence** on protecting children and safeguarding their rights prior to judicial proceedings
- ✓ Understand how to **identify the needs** of and better **communicate with the child**
- ✓ Understand the **role and duties of legal professionals** to support and protect children



Children's Rights Prior to Judicial Proceedings

← 01 / 36 →

#### What to do

#### What to avoid

Use open-ended questions, e.g., what colour was it? Where restricted choice questions are unavoidable, you can give a few options (usually no more than three), with the last one always open-ended. E.g. "Was it red, or was it blue – or was it some other colour?"

Restricted choice questions e.g. was it blue or red?

Use names, e.g., "Maria", "Nic".

Pronouns, e.g., "she", "he"

Use simple, common words and phrases. For older children you can even provide them with a list of legal terms that they are likely to come across and an explanation of them.

Difficult concepts, acronyms, negatives, jargon, suggestive forms of speech, such as "tag" questions (e.g. "you stayed at his place, didn't you?"; "X did not like you, did he?") or difficult legal terms. For example, a young child will not necessarily understand the meaning of technical terms as "allegation", "plaintiff", etc.

Ask one short question (one idea) at a time and try to limit the number of words

Long, complex questions and verbosity

Speak slowly and give children enough time to answer

Rush between phrases and sentences

Be alert to literal interpretation especially by younger children and those with mental health issues e.g. A child may deny going to

Assuming that the child uses, processes, and understands language

[Scroll down]



Children's Rights Prior to Judicial Proceedings

← 09 / 36 →



## Module 5

Access to Court and to the Judicial Process

Individual Needs Assessment and Multidisciplinary Approach

Organisation of Proceedings and Communication with the Child

Legal Counsel and Representation

Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings for Children Suspected or Accused

Safety and Protection Against Secondary Victimization

Quiz



## Module 5: Children's Rights During Judicial Proceedings

# CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

START



Children's Rights During Judicial Proceedings

← 03 / 38

## Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Be familiar with international and regional standards on protecting children and safeguarding their rights during judicial proceedings
- ✓ Understand the role and duties of legal professionals (but also of other actors, such as social workers or psychologists) in proceedings involving children, and how they relate in the process
- ✓ Develop skills on how to apply international and regional jurisprudence



Children's Rights During Judicial Proceedings

← 01 / 38 →



## Child-Friendly Justice and Children'S Rights

### Module 6: After Judicial Proceedings & Deprivation of Liberty

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START

### Specific Objectives

By the end of this Module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Understand that child-friendly justice (CFJ) **also applies after judicial proceedings**
- ✓ **Recall the main principles** and the international legal framework applicable to the deprivation of liberty of children and ensure the correct implementation of these principles
- ✓ Learn about **key findings and recommendations** related to children deprived of liberty



Module 6

This Module discusses child-friendly justice **after judicial proceedings** and the **rights of the child deprived of liberty**. It looks at what should happen after any proceedings and how children's rights should be applied in the context of deprivation of liberty.

Main Principles

Child-friendly Justice After Proceedings

Deprivation of Liberty

Global Study on Deprivation of Liberty

Quiz



After Judicial Proceedings & Deprivation of Liberty

← 03 / 44



After Judicial Proceedings & Deprivation of Liberty

← 01 / 44 →





## Module 7: Violence Against Children & Interdisciplinarity

Violence Against Children

Interdisciplinarity & Team  
Collaboration

Study Case : The Barnahus Model

Quiz

## CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS


START

### Specific Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- ✓ Recall the main legal instruments that pertain to violence against children
- ✓ Identify the various types of violence against children and their characteristics
- ✓ Recognise the need to move from disciplinarity to interdisciplinarity
- ✓ Cultivate individual and collective skills for collaboration
- ✓ Understand the benefits of multidisciplinary and interagency interventions organised in a child-friendly setting (Example of Barnahus)



A top-down photograph of four children lying on a colorful striped blanket. They are all smiling and laughing joyfully. The child on the top left is wearing a light blue shirt and has their mouth wide open in a laugh. The child on the top right is wearing a pink dress and is also laughing with their mouth open. The child on the bottom left is wearing a white shirt and is laughing with their mouth open. The child on the bottom right is wearing a yellow shirt and is smiling broadly at the camera. The background is a blanket with vertical stripes in shades of blue, yellow, and green.

Thank you for your attention!