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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Building a Europe
for and with children



**Round Table to
present the project's first deliverables:
the legal and policy assessment report,
the training gap analysis and
the comparative study**

24 October 2024

Grand Plaza Hotel and Congress centre,
Slovenska cesta 60, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

<https://www.grandplazahotel.si>

**Joint EU-Council of Europe project
“Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court
proceedings in Slovenia”
23SI08**

The project is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission, Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project **“Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia”** aims to ensure the better protection of children’s rights in civil court proceedings in Slovenia through ensuring the best interests of the child. Implementation of the Project contributes to the ongoing reform in Slovenia on upholding children’s rights and becoming a pioneer country spreading excellence in child-friendly justice in all EU Member States.

While Slovenia has made big steps forward for the protection of **children’s rights in criminal law proceedings**, significant improvements are still needed to uphold children’s rights **in the area of civil law**, particularly as regards delays in family law proceedings involving children. According to the **Slovenian Supreme Court report**, the main two challenges to overcome these delays are:

- **The lack of court experts in clinical psychology**, who are the most appointed experts in family law proceedings.
- **The excessive use of legal instruments**, as the law is often ineffective during the process and there is lack of systemic approach.

The project is co-funded by the **European Union** and the **Council of Europe** and is implemented by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division in close co-operation with the **Slovenian Ministry of Justice** from **1 September 2023 to 28 February 2026**.

The project is divided in two outcomes:

- 1. A comprehensive Action Plan to reform Slovenia’s legal framework in the field of civil court proceedings involving children is adopted;**
- 2. The implementation of the Action Plan has been initiated.**

Agenda	
8:30-9:00	Registration and welcome of participants <i>Welcome coffee</i>
9:00-9:30	Welcoming remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Andreja Katič, Minister of Justice of Slovenia</i> • <i>Kjartan Björnsson, Deputy Director and Head of Unit, Governance and Public Administration, DG REFORM, European Commission [recorded message]</i> • <i>Regina Jensdottir, Head of the Children's Rights Division and Co-ordinator for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe [recorded message]</i>
9:30-10:15	Preliminary Keynote speech
	<p><i>Moderator: Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Presentation of the case Q and R. v. Republic of Slovenia and its follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nedim Kulenovic, Legal Advisor, Execution of the Judgments of the ECHR, Council of Europe</i> • <i>Robert Golobinek, Office for International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
10:15-11:15	Panel I: Training gap analysis
	<p><i>Moderator: Mag. Andrej del Fabro, Head of the Child-friendly Criminal Justice Department, Ministry of Justice of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the methodology, the results and the recommendations by PIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Katarina Bervar Sternad, Director, Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (PIC)</i> • <i>Ana Bajt, Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (PIC)</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
11:15-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-12:30	Panel II: Legal, policy and institutional assessment report
	<p><i>Moderator: Mija Cankar, Secretary in Civil law Directorate, Ministry of Justice of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the methodology, the results and the recommendations by the expert team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tadeja Oštir, Family Judge and Head of the Family Law Department in Ljubljana</i> • <i>Jasna Murgel, President of the District Court in Maribor</i> • <i>Zoran Stankić Rupnik, Lawyer</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
12:30-12:40	Closing remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paola Gaffurini, Project Manager, Governance and Public Administration Unit, DG REFORM, European Commission</i> • <i>Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</i>
12:40-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>