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GAP ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF ENSURING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD IN CIVIL COURT PROCEEDINGS IN SLOVENIA

The draft report was prepared by:
Ana Bajt and Katarina Bervar Sternad

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Using empirical research methods and analysis of documentation and literature in the field, the PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment has prepared recommendations for ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings. The recommendations were prepared as part of the project "*Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia*" funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe in close cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Justice. The recommendations primarily concern changes in the field of education and training, which is the scope of this research, but secondarily they also concern the broader context and recommendations for systemic change in the field. The study starts by outlining the context of the report and the objectives of the project, introducing the methodology of the work and the stakeholders in the field who also participated in the study. The recommendations have been compiled and presented by PIC, together with an outline of the issues from which they emerge. In Chapter 3, PIC presents a self-assessment of the capacity of justice workers to work with children and the obstacles they face, as well as the obstacles that children themselves face in the course of court proceedings. The following thematic sections then present recommendations: working with parents and prevention, systemic changes to ensure the best interests of the child, topics for training in the area of ensuring the best interests of the child, strengthening cooperation between stakeholders, and ways of delivering training. The training topics cover both substantive and organisational topics: topics directly related to the child, the functioning of institutes, child protection services and other actors in the process, and training on skills in working with families and children. Chapter 4 presents the training already provided in the field and the link with the recommendations of the research. Based on the data, it was found that several training topics have already been covered in past training, but only to a limited extent. Annex 5, which provides a more detailed overview of the training activities carried out by the relevant training institutions, is also an important contribution to the field survey, as a complement to Chapter 4. The report generally follows the proposition that the action plan and the upcoming training to be carried out in the framework of the project should be based on the past training activities presented in the report and on the identified needs for training, as presented in recommendations. All recommendations are summarised in the conclusion of the report.

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Table of abbreviations

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment

Ombudsperson - The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia

MP - Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia

CSD – Social Work Centre

SCSD - Association of Centres for Social Work

OZS - Slovenian Bar Association

CIP - Judicial Training Centre

SOS - Association - Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence

DNK - Association for Nonviolent Communication

1. INTRODUCTION

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment was selected by the Council of Europe, following a public call for experts to provide consultancy services in the framework of the project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia", to analyse the existing education and training for stakeholders involved in civil court proceedings, including the shortcomings of the system, and to make recommendations for further education and training. The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division in close cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Justice. The project runs from 1 September 2023 to 28 February 2026.

The project aims to improve the protection of children's rights in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings involving children. The project will contribute to the reform of the respect for children's rights in court proceedings in Slovenia and to Slovenia becoming a pioneer country in spreading the excellence of child-friendly justice in other EU Member States.

The project has two main objectives:

1. Establish a comprehensive action plan to reform Slovenia's legal framework in the field of civil court proceedings involving children.
2. Initiate the implementation of the Strategy and the Action plan to systemically facilitate child-friendly justice and fast-track case resolution at national level.

The project results also foresee changes in the education and training of stakeholders in the justice system, as the competence of those who come into contact with children is one of the key elements for ensuring their best interests in civil court proceedings in practice.

For the project, the PIC has analysed the current state of training of justice stakeholders to work with children in civil justice proceedings and has made recommendations aimed at improving it. In this report, the PIC presents analysis of the data received and recommendations.

2. METHODOLOGY

In order to prepare the analysis of the situation and recommendations, the PIC has developed an information gathering methodology, which includes the following activities:

- preparing questionnaires and analysing the data received;
- organising focus groups and analysing the data received;
- organising interviews and analysing the data received;
- a review of the training activities available to judicial stakeholders who come into contact with children in civil court proceedings, a review of such training in other

European countries and of the existing literature on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings by means of providing trainings.

The data collection activities were mostly carried out between 11 June and 10 July 2024. Between 10 and 15 July, the PIC carried out preliminary analyses of the data and, on the basis of all the information received, prepared a first draft report by 30 August. A first draft of the report was sent to representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Ministry of Justice and members of the inter-ministerial working group for review, and their comments and opinions were incorporated into the final version of the report. The report includes an updated overview of the current state of training in the field of work with children by key stakeholders in the judiciary and recommendations for the implementation of the necessary training for different stakeholders in the future.

During the writing of the report, the authors worked with a consortium of experts to collect data and to check the quality and relevance of the report: odv. Zoran Stankić Rupnik (collision guardian, counsel for child victims in criminal proceedings, defence counsel for juvenile offenders, member of the expert council at the Children's House, member of the group for the amendment of the Family Code), dr. med. Barbara Šegula Škoberne (specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic expert in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry) and Maša Gril, special pedagogue (external expert of the Ombudsperson's internal organisational unit for children's advocacy, coordinator for the Gorenjska region).

2.1. Project stakeholder profiles

For the purposes of the project, the PIC has identified the following key stakeholders for the consultations:

1. Judiciary:

- Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Higher courts (Celje, Koper, Ljubljana, Maribor);
- District courts (Celje, Koper, Nova Gorica, Kranj, Krško, Ljubljana, Novo mesto, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec).

2. Human rights institutions:

- The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia (Ombudsperson)
 - internal organisational unit for children's advocacy
- The Advocate of the Principle of Equality (the Advocate).

3. Ministries:

- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia (MP);
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia (MZ);
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia (MDDSZ).

4. Social work:

- Social Work Centres (CSDs) (Celje, Dolenjska and Bela krajina, Gorenjska, South Primorska, Koroška, Ljubljana, Maribor, Osrednja Slovenija - Vzhod, Osrednja Slovenija - Zahod, Pomurje, Posavje, Primorsko-Notranjska, Savinjsko-Saleška, Severna Primorska, Spodnje Podravje, Zasavje);
- Association of Centres for Social Work (SCSD).

5. Other institutions:

- Children's House (Barnahus project);
- Slovenian Psychologists' Association;
- Expert Council for Forensic Expertise, Valuation and Court Interpretation;
- Slovenian Bar Association;
- The Slovenian Association of Mediator;
- Slovenian Judges' Association;
- NGOs working in the field of child protection and social welfare.

6. Second:

- collision guardians;
- academia;
- people with experience of participating in civil court proceedings (parents, children).

2.2. Methodology of data collection by questionnaires

For the purpose of the survey, the PIC prepared a questionnaire on 11 June 2024 to collect preliminary information on the education and training available to judicial practitioners, specifically judges, court staff and attorneys. The questionnaire also sought their suggestions for further training related to the protection of the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings, in particular family proceedings, and the need for such training. The PIC forwarded the questionnaire, together with the invitation (see [Annex 1](#)), to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia, which, following prior agreement with the PIC, forwarded it on 12 June 2024 to the key institutions in the above-mentioned areas of work, i.e. to the addresses of the Presidents of the District Courts and the Slovenian Bar Association. The questionnaire was open for completion until 21 June 2024.

Responses to the questionnaire were generally anonymous, the only exception being if the person provided their email address at the end of the questionnaire, which was further notified. The person did not disclose personal data such as name and surname, but we collected the following data: job title (judge, judicial adviser, attorney, etc.), the district court under which their work activity falls, and the number of years of experience in the field.

Stakeholder information

Occupation/field of work:	The district court where your work activity falls:	Number of years' experience in the field:
Attorney	Ljubljana District Court	10-20
Judge	District Court in Celje	20 or more
Judge	District Court in Koper	0-5
Judge	District Court in Kranj	20 or more
Judge	Krško District Court	20 or more
Judge	Ljubljana District Court	20 or more
Judge	Ljubljana District Court	20 or more
Judge	District Court in Maribor	20 or more
Judge	District Court in Novo mesto	20 or more
Judge	District Court in Slovenj Gradec	20 or more
Judge	District Court in Slovenj Gradec	20 or more
Judicial adviser	District Court in Koper	0-5
Judicial adviser	District Court in Kranj	0-5
Judicial adviser	Ljubljana District Court	10-20
Judicial adviser	District Court in Maribor	20 or more
Judicial adviser	District Court in Murska Sobota	5-10
Judicial adviser	District Court in Novo mesto	5-10
Judicial adviser	District court in Nova Gorica	10-20
Judicial adviser	District court in Nova Gorica	10-20
Judicial adviser	Ljubljana District Court	5-10

The same data was collected from participants during focus groups and interviews.

In May 2023, a round table was held on "Expertise in Family Proceedings" as part of *the School of Family Law* organised by CIP, in which Frida Burkelc, family judge at the District Court in Celje (also a member of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Slovenia), participated. In addition to the questionnaire conducted by the PIC for the purpose of this study, this study also refers to the results of the survey conducted by Frida Burklec in preparation for the round table

just mentioned.¹ The methodology of this research also includes the data gathered by the family judge via the questionnaire, as presented in the Magazine *Odvetnik* (“The Attorney”), professional and informative gazette of the Slovenian Bar Association

2.3. Focus group data collection methodology

PIC designed three focus groups for the project:

- focus group with attorneys;
- focus group with children’s advocates (the Ombudsperson’s unit);
- a focus group with representatives of NGOs.

A focus group with lawyers was conducted on 27 June 2024 in cooperation with an attorney and a member of the project consortium, odv. Zoran Stankić Rupnik. Four female attorneys and one male attorney participated in the focus group, together with two legal experts from PIC and the above-mentioned member of the project’s consortium. The focus group discussion was moderated by odv. Stankić Rupnik, on the basis of open-ended questions previously sent to the moderator by the PIC. The focus group with the attorneys lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The focus group with children’s advocates was conducted on 28 June 2024 in cooperation with a special pedagogue at the Šenčur Primary School, the regional coordinator for the children’s advocacy at the Ombudsperson and a member of the project consortium, Maša Gril, and the Deputy Ombudsperson who is responsible for children's rights and children’s advocacy at the Ombudsperson’s Office, Dr. Jože Ruparčič. Six female children’s advocates participated in the focus group, together with two legal experts from the PIC and the above-mentioned representatives of the children’s advocacy team at the Ombudsperson’s Office. The focus group discussion was moderated by Maša Gril and was based on open-ended questions prepared in advance by the PIC. The focus group with the children’s advocates lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes.

¹ Frida Burkelc, *Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve* (2023), *Revija Odvetnik*. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

Stakeholder information

The following stakeholders participated in the focus group with attorneys:

Occupation/field of work:	The district court where your work activity falls:	Number of years' experience in the field:
Attorney	Ljubljana	10
Attorney	Ljubljana	20
Attorney	Ljubljana	29
Attorney	Ljubljana	24
Attorney	Ljubljana	30

The following stakeholders participated in the focus group with children's advocates:

Occupation/field of work:	The district court where your work activity falls:	Number of years' experience in the field:
Teacher of additional support in primary school	Ljubljana	8
univ. dipl. social worker	Kranj	2
dipl. social worker, Univ. dipl. social pedagogy, Counselling service	Kranj	8
univ. dipl. educ., school counsellor	Kranj	8
child education / HBS. incl. pedag.	Kranj	5
special pedagogue	Kranj	25

In order to ensure anonymity, the organisers of the focus group did not collect personal data (names and surnames) of the focus group participants.

Semi-structured interview questions

The lists of open-ended questions for the focus groups included questions on how the participants in the focus groups assess their competence to address the needs of children in the proceedings they are conducting/handling; which training relevant to their work would be useful to them; whether the educational institutions in their area of work offer training on the protection of children's best interests in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings, and whether they attend such training; how they would improve the training system in this area; which lecturers they would suggest for training; how other judicial staff who are also involved in civil litigation involving children assess their competence in this area; which training they think would be useful for others employed according to their experience of working with them; what types of education and training are close to them (face-to-face, distance, hybrid, workshops, lectures, web-based modules, etc.); and). We also asked them about their views on appointing children's advocates and collision guardians to children, and how the use of these two instruments could be improved. A set of training topics has also been proposed.

The lists of open questions provided by the PIC to the moderators of the two focus groups can be found in [Annex 2](#) and [Annex 3](#). Although the discussions of both groups were mainly focused on education, the focus group participants also touched upon other topics and issues related to the work with children and civil litigation in a broader, systemic sense. These are to some extent also summarised in the report, as they give a better insight into the understanding of the participants in the focus groups and, more generally, into the understanding of the issue in a broader context.

The focus group with representatives from the NGO sector was not conducted due to difficulties in coordinating the meeting dates in the course of the empirical research (reasons for this include annual holidays, summer time). Instead of a focus group, the PIC held an interview with a representative of an NGO in the field who has several years of experience of working with children in civil court proceedings.

2.4. Methodology of data collection through interviews

In addition to the questionnaires and focus groups, PIC conducted six interviews with relevant stakeholders in the field for the project. In selecting the interviewees, PIC based its selection mainly on the responses to the questionnaire (the questionnaire included an invitation for a follow-up interview within the project) and its experience of working with some stakeholders in the field.

Stakeholder information

Occupation/field of work:	The district court where your work activity falls:	Number of years' experience in the field:
Judge	Kranj	10 years
Judge	Maribor	28 years old
Paedopsychiatrist, forensic expert	N/A	/
University teacher, researcher	N/A	20 years
President of an NGO	Ljubljana	29 years old
Mother of a child with experience of children's advocacy	Ljubljana	N/A

2.5. Methodology for collecting data on training that has been delivered, is ongoing or is planned

In collecting data on training in the area of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil litigation, the PIC focused on collecting the following information:

- current, ongoing and planned training activities on the best interests of the child in civil litigation;
- an overview of training activities in other European countries in the field;
- a review of the existing literature on the issue of the best interests of the child in civil litigation.

In order to collect information **on current, implemented and planned training activities**, on 20 June 2024, the PIC sent a call for information to relevant institutions and organisations in the field on training and education activities that have been held in the Republic of Slovenia on the topic of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings since 2018 (see [Annex 4](#)). The PIC has sent a call to the following institutions and organisations, which it has previously identified as relevant to the subject area: Judicial Training Centre (CIP), Law Academy of the Slovenian Bar Association (OZS Law Academy), Ombudsperson's Office, Association of Centres for Social Work (SCSD), Association for Nonviolent Communication (DNK), Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence (SOS Association) and the Network for Children's Rights. These institutions and organisations were

identified as key for the implementation of training activities for the project stakeholders, i.e. persons who come into contact with children in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings.

The following information was sought from the PIC on training that had been delivered, was in the process of being delivered or was planned:

- the title of the training;
- the place and date of implementation;
- target group:
 - the profession of the participants (e.g. attorneys, social workers),
 - geographical limitations (e.g. the training was aimed at the professional staff of the Ljubljana District Court, the training was aimed at the wider professional public);
- the programme of the event, including a list of speakers;
- participation data, if any (number and profiles of participants);
- information on whether the training has been repeated in this format.

The PIC received information on training from the following institutions or organisations:

- CIP;
- OZS Law Academy;
- Children's Advocacy unit, Ombudsperson;
- Association of Centres for Social Work (SCSD);
- Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence

The call for information was open until 5 July 2024.

In addition to collecting information through the call, the PIC also collected information on current and existing training activities itself through web browsing. At the same time, the PIC has started to gather information online on training courses in this field in other European countries and on existing literature on the issue of the best interests of the child in civil litigation.

2.6. Presentation of preliminary results

Using the data collection methods described above, the PIC produced four **interim reports** between 11 and 15 July 2024:

- Report on the preparation of the questionnaire in the framework of the project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia" and preliminary analysis of the data collected;

- Report on the focus groups conducted as part of the project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia" and preliminary analysis of the data collected;
- Report on the interviews conducted as part of the project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia" and preliminary analysis of the data collected;
- Report on the review of the educational activities within the project "Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia" and preliminary analysis of the data collected.

On the basis of the interim reports and with further data collection through the above-mentioned collection methods, the PIC prepared the first draft report under the project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia".

3. Data collection and data analysis

The topics covered in the questionnaires, focus groups and interviews are presented below in thematic sections. The thematic strands present the challenges faced by different stakeholders in the justice sector and beyond, and recommendations for education and training that could address these challenges. This report follows the purpose of the project, which is to collect and make recommendations on education and training in the area of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings. In addition to the empirical research, the recommendations compiled in the report are based on the findings of the literature and legal sources.

3.1. Self-assessment of the competence of justice workers to work with children

Despite these training opportunities, justice workers feel differently equipped to work with children. For example, on a scale of 1 to 5 (i.e. from "*not competent*" to "*very competent*"), the self-assessment of the judges, court professionals and attorneys who answered the questionnaire ranges from 3 to 4. Half of the respondents feel fairly competent in dealing with cases involving children, while just under a third feel well qualified. One person feels very competent (judge/judge with work activity at the District Court in Maribor and 20 or more years of work experience), one person feels rather unqualified (judge/judge with work activity at the District Court in Ljubljana and 20 or more years of work experience), two persons unqualified (judicial adviser with work activity at the District Court in Kranj and 0-5 years' experience and a judicial adviser with work activity at the District Court in Koper and 0-5 years' experience).

Participants of the focus group with attorneys also raised concerns about the extent to which they feel qualified to work with children as, for example, collision guardians, for which there is no specific training. It has also been questioned whether people who may not have children themselves can know and represent the best interests of the child, and whether people with

fewer years of experience in the workplace can represent children (e.g. a child being represented by an attorney who himself is 28 years old). The latter two doubts were unanimously rejected as they are not, in the attorney's view, crucial to ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings.

3.2. Barriers faced by justice stakeholders and children

Before summarising the obstacles faced by stakeholders in the judiciary in the area of work with children in civil court proceedings, it is worth explaining that in May 2023, in the courts of first instance, in all eleven district courts in Slovenia, 67 judges were deployed in the family area, including four men, with some judges only on duty for urgent family cases.² According to a May 2023 survey, "there are many judges in first instance courts who have been deciding family cases for five years or less".

3.2.1. Barriers faced by justice professionals

The responses to the questionnaire, which were mainly from the judiciary, provide a good insight into the difficulties they face in civil court proceedings involving children. In response to the open-ended question, a good three-quarters of the respondents, i.e. 16 stakeholders, highlighted the following problems:

- **Not enough involvement of the courts with children.** Judges do not engage with the child enough in the proceedings; they do not address the child directly, nor do they look after the child's best interests throughout the proceedings. The problem is when the proceedings are long, the CSD's opinions are old (sometimes more than a year) and the judges don't even know what the child's situation is.
- **Excessive workload and time constraints.** The biggest problem is the length of proceedings, due to the overcrowding of all the authorities and experts involved. Overloaded caseloads and non-judicial workload, which prevents cases from being managed quickly enough. In addition, the empirical part of the survey pointed out that the respondents regretted that court decisions were not more rapid, that judges were less confident in their ability to decide and to draft a judgement that would not fall to a higher court. Too often, they pile up opinions and call new hearings when they could have closed the case.
- **Lack of material conditions for work** (professional literature, judicial advisers, judicial assistants, registrars and typists...).
- **Incompetence of court staff to work with children.** According to one respondent, court staff have to draw on their own experience in dealing with children, and almost no one in the court is trained as a pedagogue or social pedagogue, which is a major

² Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

obstacle to understanding children in proceedings. There is a lack of training on how to deal with children in an interview, in an informal interview, how to start a conversation, what is reasonable to ask and what is not, how to give legal advice, etc.

- **Lack of knowledge in psychology.**
- **Insufficient number of experts, especially in clinical psychology, paedopsychiatry and family psychology.** Waiting too long for the opinion of experts, especially clinical psychology experts, in proceedings where their opinion is crucial and must be obtained quickly. In particular, there is a shortage of experts in clinical psychology, who, according to one respondent, are the most competent experts in family proceedings. There are only three paedopsychiatric experts in Slovenia.
- **Other problems with experts,** summarised in the May 2023 survey of the family judge, include the unresponsiveness of experts, difficulties in coordinating appointments, the "cherry-picking" of cases according to the merits of the dispute, the absence of records of the availability of individual experts, complications arising from the dismissal of experts already appointed and the appointment of new ones, and situations where experts do not request an extension of the time limit for the preparation of an expert opinion when the opinion has not been produced within the time limit.³
- **Lack of suitable institutions** to place children and lack of adequate training of staff in these institutions.
- **CSDs do not have a working team that includes different professionals (e.g. psychologist, lawyer, etc.).** They do not have lawyers or clinical psychologists on staff, which would be indispensable for each CSD to empower professionals to carry out the tasks set out in the Family Code and within the prescribed time limits. Sometimes CSD workers lack the confidence to do their job.
- **Lack of sufficient number of different programmes to refer parents to in order to improve their parenting skills,** although Slovenia has already been convicted of this before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) (*Volk v. Slovenia*).
- **Lack of prevention and work with parents.** High-conflict disputes, where the parents would primarily need psychosocial support, talking and unburdening in order to see or put the child's needs before their own.
- **Inaccessibility of therapies for participants due to queues and fees.** It is the lack of regulation in the field of psychotherapy in our country - there are few professionals in the health and social services, and there is no clear boundary between professionals and others in the free market.
- **“Supervision” and “interview method” sessions.** According to the respondents,

³ Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

family hearings require a lot of preparation, patience and time to ensure that parents feel heard and that the judge conducts the proceedings in a way that will best protect their child. In some way, the judges tune in with their feelings in order to try to understand them. Thus, the judges should have some leeway to process those feelings as soon as possible. There is currently no system in place to provide judges “supervision” and “interviewing method” sessions which would help to emotionally relieve the judges.

- **The dividing line between criminal and civil proceedings.** Family judges do not have access to the Children's House, where a child who is a victim of crime or domestic violence can be heard only once or as few times as possible. Instead, it is brought up again and again in civil proceedings and reminded of cruel and unpleasant events. Moreover, this divide means that a judge in civil proceedings may entrust children to the custody of both parents, even if criminal proceedings are still pending against one of them (e.g. for reported child abuse).
- **Attorneys for clients** who do not pursue the best interests of the children, but the best interests of their client's "success". Attorneys who do not have specific or fundamental knowledge of family law and the principle of the best interests of the child. Inappropriateness of attorneys at the hearing.
- **Lack of experts who can work with the judge on a continuous basis.**
- **Extensiveness of applications**, multiple applications for interim injunction, etc.
- **Limited budget resources relating to children's best interests.**

Of the 15 responses to the question "are there any particular challenges that would discourage you from participating in continuing professional development in this area", the stakeholders who responded to the questionnaire answered in 10 cases with a clear "no" and in one case with "I think not". Other respondents pointed to time as a challenge and other constraints related to the lack of time: overload of work in other, equally urgent areas, lack of staff, many urgent cases, where judges feel guilty about going for trainings instead of being in the courtroom. There is also psychological overload and lack of time for physical and mental recovery. This question also highlighted the need, even necessity, for psychological support and “interviewing” and supervisory meetings.

3.2.2. Barriers faced by children

Children are not always heard and do not receive the immediate psychological support they need to express their will and opinions freely and unencumbered. Complex family dynamics often make it difficult to express one's opinion (how can children successfully express their opinion in a procedure without hurting either parent).

There is a myriad of institutions that want to extract a lot of information from the child, but no one hears them, and the process often passes them by. Justice workers and institutions often do not take the time to talk to the child in a calm and understandable way.

Children often wonder why they are asked for their opinion if it is not taken into account, which can be very painful for the child. The child should be made aware that the court's decision does not always coincide with the opinion expressed by the child and be told why the decision does not reflect (but takes into account) that opinion. Children's advocates explain the difference between a wish and a benefit to the child at the beginning of the advocacy process, and do not promise to listen to them fully.

The process is not adapted to their age and development. The use of complex language makes it difficult for children to understand the process.

They are afraid of the courts, feel discomfort, shame and insecurity during the process, and feel exposed. They often do not understand the procedures and their purpose. Lack of information on how and when court proceedings take place and the consequences of the courts' decisions, which is easily understandable and accessible to children.

Parents may receive misinformation during the procedure (due to parents' actual misunderstanding of the procedure or bias in the interpretation of the procedure). Conflict between parents affects children's understanding of the process and information.

Inadequate facilities for interviewing children.

The lack of access to therapies and the lack of psychological support for children, which would be quick and effective and would support them before and during the court proceedings.

3.3. Working with parents and prevention

In order to ensure the best interests of the child, the participants in the focus group with children's advocates believe that it is also necessary to work on the parents and not only on institutions, officials or instruments such as the collision guardian or the children's advocate. In addition to the importance of advocacy, parents need to be educated about the concept of the best interests of the child in court proceedings in general. This is preventive work before the case ends up in court.

- **Recommendation #1:** Parents involved in the procedure should be informed about the procedure itself and about the institution of the best interests of the child in the procedure. Guidelines and recommendations should be developed to ensure the best interests of children in proceedings by parents, both in court and in CSD proceedings. The guidelines and recommendations should include practical examples for parents to learn from and put into practice.

Some interviewees emphasised the early referral of parents to different types of programmes and treatments at CSDs and NGOs, which promote the development of parental competences

before the start of court proceedings. They also highlighted the problem of the small number of institutions and programmes aimed at parents, or the lack of qualified staff to work with them. In general, there is a need for preventive work on parents.

- **Recommendation #2:** CSD workers should be empowered to work with parents. CSD workers should be trained according to needs (e.g. on domestic violence).
- **Recommendation #3:** "A school of healthy divorce" should be set up to provide parents with comprehensive information on child-friendly divorce methods (from the point of "we're going our separate ways" to the point of "apart but still ok"). It should provide as much support as possible for everyone, parents and children, stressing that while divorce itself is not traumatic for children, conflicts between parents are.
- **Recommendation #4:** Support and build on family-based prevention programmes. Ensure regular funding for CSD and NGO programmes in the field of child and family protection (funding for staff and training).

3.4. Systemic changes to ensure the best interests of the child

Developing a protocol for working with children and families in CSD and court proceedings. The way children are treated in court proceedings should not be left entirely to the discretion of stakeholders (e.g. judges or CSD workers), but it makes sense to develop a protocol that guides or even prescribes the actions of stakeholders and ultimately standardises them (e.g. across regions). According to the interviewees, the way children are treated should not be left to the individual, their goodwill, energy endowment or human qualities, but should be prescribed and guaranteed according to a standard. According to the interviewees, stakeholders would adhere to the protocol if it existed. But since it doesn't exist, employees act according to their abilities and skills.

- **Recommendation #5:** A protocol should be developed for the treatment of children and families by professionals at the CSD.
- **Recommendation #6:** A protocol should be developed for the treatment of children and families in courts by members of the judiciary.
- **Recommendation #7:** The protocols should contain guidelines for (1) quality work with the family in the period before the case reaches the court, (2) preparation of a quality CSD opinion based on more meetings with the child, home visits, obtaining the opinion of schools, kindergartens, etc., (3) obtaining the child's opinion, which should be up-to-date, obtained during several meetings, possibly through the CSD or through children's advocacy, (4) more effective decision-making by the courts, which should be of high quality and within the appropriate timeframes;

Issues related to the involvement of paedopsychiatrists and clinical psychologists in expertise. According to one interviewee, it would also be useful to look at how to attract more

experts into the expert community, as there are too few experts, and they are key players in court processes. According to the May 2023 survey, judges most often need expert opinions when deciding on custody, upbringing and contact. The main problem raised in one of the interviews in this study is that paedopsychiatrists and clinical psychologists are full-time employees at their workplaces, and expertise is an additional job for them, which they do in their spare time. Suggestions were made along the lines of:

- **Recommendation #8:** At a systemic level, psychologists/paedopsychiatrists who work as experts in addition to their regular job should be granted benefits (e.g. abolition of compulsory afternoon shifts, night shifts, on-call shifts, etc.)
- **Recommendation #9:** A special status for the payment and taxation of expert witness fees should be regulated (in principle, experts are currently officially registered as normalised sole traders, but with the government's policy of increasing taxation of sole traders, the costs are rising)

Systematic regulation of the work of experts and review of their work. A systemic approach is needed to ensure a sufficient number of experts. In this area, the data gathered by the May 2023 survey suggest the following possible solutions:

- **Recommendation #10:** An institution should be set up to deal exclusively with expertise.⁴
- **Recommendation #11:** A coordinator should be appointed at the level of the Ministry to keep records of the workload of experts, to ensure the possibility of engaging *ad hoc* experts.⁵
- **Recommendation #12:** The courts should recruit experts, in particular psychologists, to mediate in family cases and to provide expert assistance to judges.⁶

Organisation of “supervisory” and “intervisory” meetings. According to the participants of the focus group with children’s advocates, attendance at supervisory and intervisory meetings, which are to a certain extent mandatory in the case of children’s advocacy (60% attendance is the minimum for a children’s advocates), also contributes positively to ensuring the best interests of the child. Judges and attorneys do not yet have a systemic option in this case, although it is mainly judges who deal with cases in their entirety (unlike defence lawyers, they do not focus only on the child, but also on the other parties to the proceedings).

⁴ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

⁵ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

⁶ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

- **Recommendation #13:** The awareness of the “supervision” and “interview method” should be checked as well as the need to organise the sessions for the target groups of judges, attorneys and CSD workers.
- **Recommendation #14:** Judges, lawyers and CSD workers should be generally informed about the importance of “supervisory” and “interview” meetings and the positive aspects thereof for their work.

3.5. Topics for training on ensuring the best interests of the child

Gaining specialised skills in working with families and children is key to ensuring the best interests of the child.⁷ Specialised skills should cover a wide range of topics to help justice professionals better understand the child, child protection services and the court process itself. Below is a selection of topics for training in the family field.

In the questionnaire, respondents could choose from the topics already listed or they could indicate training topics that would be useful for them in their work with children. They could have chosen more than one topic. The following proportions of people who completed the questionnaire agree that training on the following topics is needed:

95%: psychosocial status and functioning of children (development, maturity level, etc.).

85%: working with children (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, reasonable adjustments, etc.).

75%: multidisciplinary work (ways of working with forensic experts, social work, etc.).

70%: child protection support services.

65%: obstacles faced by children in court proceedings.

60%: working with children with disabilities (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, etc.).

55%: children's rights in civil court proceedings.

⁷ In the May 2023 survey, the participating judges stressed "the urgent need for lawyers representing parties in family proceedings to obtain specialisation or additional expertise." Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

3.5.1. Topics directly related to the child

Knowledge of the best interests of the child and how it is implemented in practice. During the focus group with attorneys, participants repeatedly pointed out the indifference of fellow attorneys to the respect of the best interests of the child during court proceedings. In hearings, they largely pursue only the interests of their client, i.e. the parent, without regard to the consequences of the proceedings or the content of the final decision for the parent's child. Attorneys often prioritise the best interests of their client over the best interests of the child, who is the client's child. Attorneys attend meetings at the CSD instead of the parents, thus taking over the parental tasks in the proceedings instead of the parents. According to the participants in the focus group with attorneys, judges are generally more educated about the best interests of the child than attorneys.

At the same time, one interviewee pointed out that judges often get caught up in a cycle of finding the culprits or determining who is the less problematic parent or guardian in a given case and who is more cooperative. In doing so, the judge and other stakeholders forget that the family court procedure, which deals with children, has to answer the question of how best to protect the child and how to organise the child's life in a way that protects the child's best interests to the greatest extent possible.

- **Recommendation #15:** Education should be provided on the principle of the best interests of the child and the fundamental importance of ensuring this throughout the procedure (at the CSD, in court, etc.).
- **Recommendation #16:** Education and training should be carried out in connection with all procedures and with all target groups, regardless of their role in the procedure (judges, parents' attorneys, collision guardians, CSD workers, parents of children, etc.).
- **Recommendation #17:** Training should be provided specifically for the professional group of attorneys, in cooperation with the OZS Law Academy.
- **Recommendation #18:** Training should be provided specifically for the professional group of judges and other court staff, in cooperation with the CIP and the Slovenian Judges' Association.

Knowledge of the instrument of joint custody of the children. The May 2023 study highlighted "the inappropriateness of authoritative argumentation in the sense of 'because I said so', even the bias of the expert and the favouritism of one parent, with individual judges also perceiving the expert's lack of knowledge of the instrument of joint custody".

- **Recommendation #19:** Those involved in civil court proceedings should be educated about the institution of joint custody, especially experts and parents of children in proceedings.⁸

⁸ Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12;

Understanding children as bearers of rights and responsibilities. Participants pointed out that children are often not understood as full subjects with their own rights and responsibilities. They are often still placed in a formal position, with no understanding that they are a group of people with special rights, duties and needs, who are at the same time all the more vulnerable because of their age, and who have a need for an adapted procedure.

- **Recommendation #20:** Training should be provided on children's rights in the judicial process, their situation (vulnerability) and how to implement their rights in practice.

Family dynamics and child development. Parental influences are often present but difficult to identify.

- **Recommendation #21:** Training should be provided in psychology, in children as such, and in the different aspects of their growth and development.
- **Recommendation #22:** Training should be given in family dynamics and in recognising the impact of parents on the child and the child's views.

3.5.2. Training on the functioning of institutes, child protection services and other actors in the process

The role of the collision guardian. Participants in the focus group with attorneys pointed out that it is not always clear what the role of the collision guardian is, both for the collision guardian and for other participants in the civil proceedings (e.g. CSD, judges). The collision guardians who took part in the focus group pointed out that they themselves often question what their job is, where the boundaries are, what they can and cannot do. At the same time, informing stakeholders about the role of the collision guardian is important in the case of attorneys, as they can explain to their clients, i.e. parents or guardians, what the role of the collision guardian means for their child, i.e. safeguarding the best interests of the child in the court proceedings, and that the collision guardian as such is not their antagonist (as a party to the proceedings). In addition, others who are part of civil court proceedings, such as the CSD, are often not aware of the existence of an institute such as a collision guardian.

- **Recommendation #23:** Educate all stakeholders, including attorneys who are themselves collision guardians, about the instrument and the possibilities of applying for a collision guardian for a child.

Participants in the focus group with children's advocates pointed out that judges often do not use the institution of collision guardian, saying that they are the ones who have an official duty to protect the rights and best interests of children in proceedings.

- **Recommendation #24:** Judges should be informed about the importance and added value of assigning a collision guardian to the child to protect their rights during the proceedings.

The role of children's advocates. Some interviewees were of the opinion that the use of the children's advocates should be available to all children in court proceedings and in proceedings carried out by CSDs. According to them, it makes sense to consider the appointment of a children's advocate to a child before the case goes to court, i.e. during the interviews at the CSD. The instrument of child advocacy, which has been part of the Ombudsperson since 2018, is mostly praised and considered as having to be used more often and more early on in the consideration of the child. The various target groups need to be informed about the role of children's advocates in civil court proceedings and its importance for the child. In addition to the institutions, parents and legal representatives of children should also be informed about the concept of children's advocacy, as they are the first people from whom consent is sought once the need for the appointment of the children's advocate has been identified by the Ombudsperson. In the absence of the consent of one or both parents, the Ombudsperson proposes to the competent CSD or court to appoint a children's advocate to a child. Thus these two institutions, CSD and the court, should also be informed, in a targeted manner, of their key role in proposing a children's advocate to a child. Attorneys, who are the least familiar with the work of children's advocates according to the participants of the focus group, should also be informed about their work and role in the process. In addition, participants of the focus groups pointed out that the concept of children's advocacy is known to different degrees among different regions of Slovenia. They also stressed that the trainings on the instrument of children's advocacy should be provided on a regular basis, as there is a high fluctuation in staff in family courts.

- **Recommendation #25:** Trainings on the role of children's advocates should be conducted for different target groups - judges, other court employees, attorneys, CSD workers, parents... While cooperation with judges already exists (e.g. participation of children's advocates at family law schools), as well as cooperation with the Social Chamber of Slovenia, child advocates and the SCC office have not yet established cooperation with the Bar Association of Slovenia, so there is room for improvement here.
- **Recommendation #26:** CSD workers should be informed about the importance of the Child Advocate and encouraged to make suggestions for the appointment of an advocate from their side.⁹
- **Recommendation #27:** Training on child advocacy should be organised in different regions of Slovenia. The establishment of the above-mentioned protocol for the treatment of children in courts and CSDs could standardise the use of advocacy.
- **Recommendation #28:** Training on the concept of child advocacy should be provided on an annual basis to familiarize all new stakeholders who are just entering the field

⁹ In this case, the interviewee suggested the use of the so-called family at-risk traffic light, where the CSD could predict the complexity of the civil proceedings through indicators and assess whether or not the parents will be able to take the best interests of the child as a guiding principle in the proceedings, in which case the CSD would involve the child's advocate in the resolution of the situation.

(e.g. family judges). Other stakeholders who have already attended the training can renew their knowledge on advocacy by repeating the training.

The role of the collision guardian in relation to the role of the children's advocate.

Participants in both focus groups noted that justice professionals and CSD workers often do not know the difference between the work of a collision guardian and that of a child advocate. This can lead to misunderstandings about the role and competence of each of them, or the unwillingness of the judge to appoint both a collision guardian and a child's advocate. Participants stressed the need to make it clear to stakeholders that both are needed in the process, as one does not take over the work of the other, but fills the gap. If a collision guardian is appointed, it is very important that the collision guardian also uses an advocate. This enables the child to use what the system has to offer. The efficiency of the legal process is much greater with the use of both instruments.

- **Recommendation #29:** Training should be provided on the difference between the work and role of a collision guardian and that of a child's advocate, including information on the positive aspects of including both in civil proceedings.

The system of institutional care for children during court proceedings. Respondents also lack expertise in social work and in how CSDs and other child protection institutions work.

- **Recommendation #30:** Training should be provided on the institutional childcare system in terms of the child protection measures available.
- **Recommendation #31:** Training on the role of social work centres should be carried out, defining their role for stakeholders.

Empowering judges to protect persons and services that support children during the process. In addition to informing judges about the positive aspects of using the instrument of child advocacy in civil proceedings, they should be informed about their own power to stop "attacks" on child advocates by attorneys during the proceedings, which still happen in practice, as explained by the participants of the focus group with advocates. Attorneys sometimes lack understanding of the concept of child advocacy and may react inappropriately to the role of advocates in court.¹⁰

- **Recommendation #32:** Judges should be trained on their right and duty to take appropriate and immediate action in cases of inappropriate communication by attorneys and others with child advocates.

Knowledge of different areas of court expertise, their work methodology and the need for their engagement. Judges can entrust expert witnesses from different disciplines with the task: clinical psychology, medicine - adult psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry, family psychology and social work. According to the May 2023 survey, judges are most likely to obtain expert opinions in the family field from clinical psychology experts, and least likely

¹⁰ It is rare for a lawyer or judge to misunderstand the role of a defence lawyer in court, because defence lawyers are generally rarely invited to court (except in Kranj).

from social work experts.¹¹ While systemic changes are urgently needed in the area of providing enough clinical psychologists in the expert field, the problem of demand can to a certain extent be alleviated by judges and judicial practitioners starting to rely more on the opinions of social work centres and experts in other fields, who could also provide an appropriate opinion in a given case. In the May 2023 survey, the problem of attorneys' attitude towards expert evidence was also raised, namely that they do not know how to ask the right questions, that questions are irrelevant, suggestive, or asked with the intention of discrediting the experts and their methods, when the expert's opinion is not in favour of the client they represent.¹²

- **Recommendation #33:** Judicial professionals, especially attorneys, should be informed about the importance of expert work and ensuring respect for experts during hearings.
- **Recommendation #34:** Judicial professionals, in particular judges, should be informed about the differences between the different fields of expertise, i.e. which experts' opinions are appropriate in certain cases (e.g. experts' opinions in the subfields of social work, family psychology, clinical psychology, child and adolescent psychiatry and psychiatry).¹³ The document "Descriptions of subfields and list of forensic experts in family matters", prepared by the Ministry of Justice in 2023, can be used to inform about the differences between the fields of expertise.¹⁴
- **Recommendation #35:** Judicial professionals, especially judges, should be informed about the working methodologies used by experts in their respective disciplines (knowledge of psychological tests and methods of interpretation).¹⁵
- **Recommendation #36:** Judges should be informed when the involvement of an expert is even necessary, as in some cases an opinion of the CSD that is of good quality (i.e. based on consultation with other institutions that have already dealt with the child or family, e.g. schools, kindergartens, paediatricians, police; see below) is sufficient.¹⁶

¹¹ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

¹² Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

¹³ The fields of social work or family psychology are relatively new, having been established since 2018.

¹⁴ <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/novice/2024/11%20Opis%20podro%C4%8Dij%20in%20seznam%20sodnih%20izvedencev.pdf>

¹⁵ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12; "For a basic introduction to the tests that are applicable in Slovenia and a better understanding of their content and the purpose of each psychodiagnostic agent, as well as the qualification requirements for its use, some basic information can also be obtained from the website of the Centre for Psychodiagnostic Agents", here: <https://www.center-pds.si/Katalogtestov/Seznamitestovinknjig/Pokategorijah.aspx>.

¹⁶ The May 2023 survey concludes that "the unconvincing tendency to seek expert opinions in cases where this is not really necessary to determine the best interests of the child should be rejected." The judges also "pointed to the need for a shift in case law (especially in the higher courts), towards the idea that it is not always necessary to involve an expert, even if there is a dispute between the parents." Frida Burkelc, Probleatika

3.5.3. Training on skills for working with families and children

Establishing personal boundaries when working with children and in the family area.

Participants in the focus group with attorneys highlighted the difficulty of setting one's own boundaries in the relationship with the child and others involved in the proceedings - to what extent to show affection and understanding to the child, so that there are no misconceptions or expectations on the part of the child about the role of the attorney/collision guardian and the possibility of support that he/she can provide to the child (professionally). A collision guardian can also present the child with a person to whom the child can turn, acting as a psychiatrist, which they are not professionally trained to do.

- **Recommendation #37:** Training and workshops for the target group of attorneys/collision guardians on setting own boundaries when working with (vulnerable) clients. Training should be provided on the skills needed to build a good relationship with clients that is both confidential and professional.

In addition to the children, according to the experience of the participants, collision guardians are often approached by other participants in the court proceedings, e.g. CSD workers, who impose on collision guardians roles that do not belong to them (e.g. the CSD calls the collision guardian if he/she can coordinate with the parents so that the child can go to a summer camp or to submit an annual report, even though the collision guardian is not acting as the child's guardian as such).

- **Recommendation #38:** Educate others involved in civil litigation on the work and tasks of the collision guardian.

Parents' expectations that attorneys will defend their (parental) rights in court proceedings before protecting the best interests of the child in the proceedings was also highlighted as problematic by focus group participants. In these cases, attorneys who respect the primacy of the best interests of the child must make it clear to the client at the outset that their work is premised on the principle of the best interests of the child, and only then the wishes of the client they represent "will be materialized". If the client does not agree with this approach, they will not cooperate with the client.

- **Recommendation #39:** Training should be provided on how to establish a personal boundary when representing a parent or guardian in proceedings.
- **Recommendation #40:** Parents and guardians should be educated about the importance of protecting the best interests of the child throughout the court proceedings, as a priority over the unilateral pursuit of their wishes and those of the other party.

expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

The capacity of justice professionals to interview the child. One attorney pointed out a case where a CSD professional herself refused to interview a child because she doubted her own competence.

- **Recommendation #41:** All stakeholders (judges, attorneys, CSDs, children's advocates) should be trained to interview the child.

Producing quality opinions from the social work centres. Interviewees are generally satisfied with the CSDs' opinions and consider most of them to be professional. If they are poor, they are poor because the CSD does not obtain information from different sources. A quality opinion is considered by some to be made when it includes different sources of information, such as the opinion of the kindergarten or school or other stakeholders present in the child's life. If such information gathering is already part of the CSD's opinion, then the needs and best interests of the child are generally more likely to be better identified in the opinion and the family context better understood. This greatly facilitates the work of experts, according to the expert interviewee.

- **Recommendation #42:** Guidelines should be developed for the preparation of a quality opinion by the CSD, which includes a list of all relevant stakeholders who can empower the CSD professional to write a quality opinion.
- **Recommendation #43:** Training of CSD workers on guidelines and/or the preparation of quality opinions in the field of social work should be carried out.

In addition to the training topics already listed, participants in the empirical part of the research also highlighted the need for training that provides a holistic view of issues affecting the family. Participants stressed the need to place the issues discussed in family proceedings in a broader context, i.e. to inform those involved in family proceedings also about topics such as domestic violence and peer violence. The need for a better broader understanding of the context was also highlighted by participants in the focus group with advocates. They expressed the need to consider the concept of advocacy in a broader context, i.e. why we are seeing more and more cases where an advocate is needed, what we as a society are doing wrong in this respect.

- **Recommendation #44:** Training should be provided on the wider context of work with children and in the family field, on topics such as domestic violence, peer violence, etc.

3.6. Strengthening cooperation between stakeholders

Organising training together with other stakeholders in the justice system. Participants in the focus group with advocates highlighted the need to carry out training activities together with other stakeholders who are part of the civil procedure, especially judges and CSDs, as they are the most in contact with them. In training sessions, they would like to be on an equal footing with them, as listeners, and not in a lecturing way - all with the aim of developing a

debate, an equal exchange of views. They stressed the importance of stakeholders knowing each other, especially those working together on a particular case. This way, the case flows more smoothly and the child's best interests are also better protected. Participants in the focus group with attorneys also pointed out that the area of family proceedings in particular is an area that is not polarised as such, where there is a certain degree of cooperation, especially with regard to children. They highlighted the lack of information sharing and cooperation between attorneys and judges and other stakeholders (e.g. CSDs, professional services in schools) in proceedings concerning children. Joint training would bring the work of some closer to others and strengthen cooperation.

- **Recommendation #45:** Training sessions should be organised with different stakeholders, in particular the following: child advocates, judges, CSD workers. Organising joint training and workshops to learn together, not as a promotion of advocacy.
- **Recommendation #46:** Training sessions should be organised at regional level so that stakeholders get to know each other personally.¹⁷

At the same time, there is also a need for knowledge sharing between regions, as some regions have many good examples of cooperation when it comes to children's advocacy (e.g. Gorenjska), while others do not (yet) have such experience.

- **Recommendation #47:** Inter-regional training should be organised so that stakeholders in one region learn about the practices (good or bad) in another region. In this way, views and insights into the state of child advocacy across Slovenia can be exchanged and cooperation between institutions in different regions can be developed. This can identify opportunities for improvement in a particular region.

Strengthening cooperation with child and education professionals. Participants highlighted the need to involve child and education professionals (e.g. counselling services) both in civil proceedings and in stakeholder training. Participants often lack knowledge about, for example, child development, communication with the child, how to "read" the child. Even if the procedures are different, these skills can be useful as they relate to working and communicating with children in general.

- **Recommendation #48:** In CSD and court proceedings, involve education professionals in the work of CSDs. According to the participants, the CSD would have by far the best opinion if it had worked together with the counselling service to prepare the opinion.
- **Recommendation #49:** Education professionals should also be involved in education and training on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings.

Cooperation with NGOs. Participants highlighted the work of NGOs, which provide both educational and support services, as important for their work and for education. While some

¹⁷ The Office of the VHR already provides some training at regional level in the context of child advocacy.

are already in contact with them, others have expressed a desire to get to know their work and the services they provide better. Knowledge of the work of NGOs is also crucial in terms of referring attorney's clients to support services that they cannot provide themselves, e.g. psychosocial, therapeutic assistance. They also stressed the need to empower the role of NGOs in the procedure, as representatives who make a statement in the procedure can often be intimidated by the procedure, "take three steps back" and, in the words of the participant, "in a way, tolerate violence".

- **Recommendation #50:** Involve staff working in the NGOs in the field in training processes. Stakeholders should also be informed about the work of NGOs in ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings. The actors should recognise that NGOs have a wealth of skills and experience that can be relevant both to the individual case and at system level.
- **Recommendation #51:** NGOs should be empowered through training to make statements in the context of legal proceedings.

Children's advocates working with experts. The good cooperation between the child's advocate and the expert who also examined the child proved to be a positive factor in ensuring the best interests of the child. By working together, the child's advocate and the expert have been able to "piece together" the child's story more successfully, to present his or her point of view.

- **Recommendation #52:** The possibilities of cooperation between the child's advocate and the expert should be explored. In what ways do their roles complement each other and would joint training (child advocates with experts) be welcome.

More cooperation between experts, CSD and children's advocates. These are the stakeholders who actively and directly work with, talk to and deal directly with children in civil court proceedings. It is important that experts, CSDs and children's advocates work together, as each other's opinions are useful for their work.

- **Recommendation #53:** Joint meetings should be organised for experts, CSDs and child advocates to share practical experiences, build relationships and explore opportunities for cooperation.

3.7. Training delivery methods

Participants in the empirical part of the survey also gave their views on how the training should be delivered. The vast majority of respondents like lectures and interactive workshops, while less than a third of those who completed the questionnaire prefer online courses. Multidisciplinary roundtables were also mentioned as a useful way of learning new skills.

90%: lectures.

85%: interactive workshops.

30%: online courses.

Regular training on safeguarding children's best interests. Interviewees felt that regular training should be provided to stakeholders working with and for children. It is difficult to assess whether stakeholders in the field are trained or not, and generalising is not relevant in this case, according to one interviewee - what matters is that justice professionals are trained and that they receive regular training. The fluctuation of staff in the family field is also identified as a problem for training, with some judges and practitioners being constant, while others are new and leaving quickly, which does not ensure continuity of training and development of competences to ensure the best interests of the child in the family field. For these reasons, there is a need for training and regular refresher courses in this field.

→ **Recommendation #54:** Organising training on ensuring the best interests of children and working with children on a regular basis.

Diversity of speakers. Participants in the focus group with attorneys highlighted the need to organise training courses that are not only multidisciplinary and cover a variety of topics. These are courses where different lecturers from the same discipline give lectures, not just people who have established themselves as authorities in a particular field. This maintains the interest in education among the target audience and the possibility to see the problem from different perspectives.

→ **Recommendation #55:** Training should be organised with lecturers from different disciplines that are sometimes overlooked, e.g. family therapists, social pedagogues; also clinical psychologists and mediators.¹⁸

→ **Recommendation #56:** "Fresh faces" should be invited. Even though the Slovenian space is small, participants said that it would be welcome to have lecturers with different perspectives and approaches, and with experience of working in a particular field. We need practitioners, someone with a lot of relevant and up-to-date practical experience.

Obligation to attend training courses. Participants in the focus group with attorneys highlighted training in the area of ensuring the best interests of the child as necessary,

¹⁸ Specific mention was made of Mr Rudi Tavčar as an "outstanding" co-mediator in mediation proceedings.

mandatory and broad - both in terms of content and the inclusion of all stakeholders who come into contact with children in the training.

- **Recommendation #57:** Consideration should be given to a set of training courses that should be mandatory for judicial stakeholders who come into contact with children (e.g. trainings in the field of domestic violence for judges).

Learning from practical examples. Participants in the focus group with children's advocates pointed out that, while they gain a lot of knowledge from the seminars and other training activities organised by the Ombudsperson, they also benefit from practical experience and sharing information on individual cases. Attorneys also pointed out that consulting other attorneys helps them a lot in their work, as they feel that a lot of knowledge is gained in practice.

- **Recommendation #58:** Organise learning from practical examples - multidisciplinary or within professional groups. This requires anonymisation of practical examples.

Simulation, i.e. working on fictitious cases, as an educational activity. One interviewee highlighted the use of simulations, i.e. working on fictitious examples, as a good practice for stakeholder learning. Simulations open up space for different opinions and approaches when dealing with a real case, thus promoting knowledge sharing.

- **Recommendation #59:** Organise learning from fictitious examples.

Co-designing education programmes. Participants of the seminars organised as part of children's advocacy are actively invited at the end of the seminar to make suggestions for future seminars - what they would like to see at the next seminar, what topics they find relevant and interesting. In this way, participants play an active role in shaping the programme.

- **Recommendation #60:** Provide ways to gather feedback on the training (suggestions for improvement, topics for future training).

Number of open training places and possibility of online training. Participants highlighted as problematic the limited number of places for training and quotas which prescribe the maximum number of participants in a particular profession at a training (e.g. in the case of CIP training, only a few places are available for attorneys). As a complement to the face-to-face training activities, they proposed to conduct online training, or even better, hybrid training. In this way, access to training is also provided to those who do not live in the place where the training takes place and would otherwise not attend due to distance or congested schedules. They also highlighted the usefulness of [HELP online training programmes of the Council of Europe](#) which are available to users at any time of the day and contain a wealth of information on legal practice.

- **Recommendation #61:** Online or hybrid training should be offered.
- **Recommendation #62:** Online modules should be created for education on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings, including examples from case law (e.g. adaptation of the Council of Europe's HELP e-course on child-friendly justice)

into Slovenian, or a new online course on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil proceedings in Slovenia).

Training in working with children and in family matters from the very beginning of legal education. In addition to the above suggestions on how to deliver training, participants also highlighted the need to provide such training early in the learning process. Participants also highlighted the lack of specialisations in the field of family law in Slovenia¹⁹, which would address the specifics of children and working with them, both from a theoretical and practical perspective.

→ **Recommendation #63:** Training modules should be developed and training on ensuring the best interests of the child should be provided in the course of studies (e.g. at law or social work faculties, i.e. faculties that train staff for jobs dealing with civil proceedings, especially family proceedings, and the position of children therein).

4. Child-friendly justice training delivered

4.1. Overview of training on safeguarding the best interests of children in court proceedings

In the following, information on the educational activities carried out by the following institutions in the field of ensuring the best interests of children in court proceedings are analysed: Judicial Training Centre (Ministry of Justice), OZS Law Academy (Slovenian Bar Association), Association of Centres for Social Work (SCSD) and Children's Advocacy (the Ombudsperson). The information is analysed in relation to the recommendations made in the previous sections of this report.

In the field of ensuring the best interests of children in court proceedings, several training courses were organised in the Republic of Slovenia between 2018 and 2024, both in the context of criminal and civil proceedings. In general, there seems to be more training on children in court proceedings in the criminal field. The Judicial Training Centre is responsible for the education of judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, advisers at public prosecutors' offices, attorneys and police representatives, the OZS Law Academy for the education of lawyers, and the Association of Centres for Social Work for the education CSD workers at CSDs.

A more detailed overview of the training activities, together with a list of individual lectures and speakers, is available in [Annex 5](#).

¹⁹ England was mentioned as an example of good practice, where there is the possibility to specialise in children's law.

Topics for training on ensuring the best interests of the child

Based on the information on training already carried out in the field of ensuring the best interests of the child in court proceedings, training has already been provided on topics related to the best interests of the child²⁰ and on the concept of shared custody.²¹ To a lesser extent, training activities have already covered children's rights in civil court proceedings, but to a limited extent.²² In the past, training in family dynamics has often been set in the context of domestic violence,²³ while family dynamics without elements of violence have been dealt with only to a limited extent.²⁴ Educational activities on child and adolescent development have been carried out in the past,²⁵ but often in the context of criminal proceedings.²⁶

Training on the functioning of instruments, child protection services and other actors in the process

During the period under review, the **instrument of collision guardian** and the **instrument of children's advocate** were introduced as part of some training activities. Both collision guardianship and children's advocacy were presented this year to a wide range of professionals at the Family Law School 2024, organised by CIP.²⁷ The instrument of a collision guardian was also presented at this year's Law School 2024, organised by the OZS Law Academy.²⁸ The role of the collision guardian was also presented this year at trainings organised by the SCSD for CSD workers.²⁹ In the past years, educational activities have generally not highlighted the instrument of the collision guardian. The instrument of the Child Advocate has been presented on several occasions in the framework of CIP training³⁰, but otherwise the delivery of training on the instrument of the children's advocacy is primarily linked to the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Office organises annual expert meetings on child advocacy and its role in court proceedings (see Child Advocacy Training Activities in [Annex 5](#)). In addition to advocacy training for advocates and the professional public, the Office also organises regular and in-depth training for candidates for children's advocacy. This year, the instrument of children's advocacy was also presented to CSDs workers as part of the training series "Protection of children's benefits in procedures at the centre for social work", organised by the SCSD.³¹ It does not seem that the lectures so far have focused on the dynamics between these two institutes.

Similarly, limited training activities have been carried out in the past on **child protection measures**,³² **the role of social work centres**³³ and on **the role of judges in the courtroom** (in the light of the protection of children's institutes and support services during the proceedings)³⁴.

²⁰ For example, *Procedures for the Protection of the Best Interests of the Child and the Role of the Child in these Procedures* (CIP, Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, Supreme Court Judge, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Expert Consultation on the Proposal for a Law on Irregular Proceedings, Grand Hotel Union, Ljubljana, 11. 9. 2018), *Interim Orders in Proceedings for the Protection of the Best Interests of Children - Condition(s) for Issuing* (CIP, Zvone Strajnar, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court, Newly Formed Case Law in the Field of Family Law - Remote Implementation, 4. 11. and 5. 11. 2021;) and *Measures to protect the best interests of the child* (OZS, mag. Matej Čujovič, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court, Law School 2019, Bernardin Congress Centre, Portorož Friday, 22 March 2019)

²¹ For example, *Collaborative Parenting* (CIP), Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents, forensic expert in clinical child and adolescent psychology and parenting and

guardianship, Newly Developed Case Law in the Field of Family Law, distance learning, 4. 11. and 5. 11. 2021); "COMMON PARENTING AFTER THE BREAKDOWN OF THE LIVING COMMUNITY" Katarina Parazajda, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court and "SURVIVAL IN COMMON PARENTING" Matej Papler, Senior Judge, Koper High Court (Law School 2024, Congress Centre Bernardin in Portorož, 5 April 2024); *COMMON PARENTING AND CHILDREARING - divorce proceedings* (SCSD, Mag. Metoda Maj, Rebeka Kovačec and Frida Burkelc, 2021)

²² For example, the *Institute of "Child Advocacy" as a good practice for the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CIP, Mag. Lea Javornik, Counsellor to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson, Executive School 2020 Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, 27. 1 - 29. 1. 2020, 10. 2. - 12. 2. 2020), *European Convention on Human Rights and Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - Rights of the Child* (CIP, Dr. Marko Bošnjak, Slovenia, President of the First Section and Vice-President of the Court, Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Conference of Judges of the European Court of Human Rights Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, 5. 5. 2023) and *Children's Rights, Parents' Rights* (Child Advocacy VČP, Dr. Zoran Pavlovič, TRAINING OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR 2021 1. - 2 October, 15. - 16 October, 22. - 23 October, 5. - 6 November, 12. - 13 November 2021)

²³ For example, *Domestic Violence* (Gordana Jekić Bradajić, Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Public Prosecutor's Office of Appeals in Belgrade) and *The Impact of Addiction on Family Dynamics and Domestic Violence* (Dr. Sanja Rozman, dr. med., spec., CSAT, CMAT, TAP) (CIP, 17th Expert Consultation on Family Relations in Interpersonal Dependence, Congress Centre Brdo pri Kranju, 9-10 April 2018), *Treatment of Domestic Violence and Victims of Domestic Violence 2021* (CIP, remote, 2. 9. 2021, 7. 10. 2021, 10. 11. 2021, 9. 12. 2021), *Treatment of Domestic Violence and Victims of Domestic Violence 2022* (CIP, Portorož, 20. 6. and 21. 6. 2022);

²⁴ For example, *Understanding the Relationship between the Clashing Parents* (CIP, Branko Brinšek, PhD, medical specialist in psychiatry, forensic expert in the field of medicine and subfield of psychiatry, Family Law School 2024)

²⁵ For example, *Lot 2: Developmental Needs of Children and Adolescents* (SCSD, Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, Safeguarding Children's Best Interests in Social Work Centre Proceedings, 2023), *SAFETY AND RISK FACTORS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING* (SCSD, Dr. *Developmental Psychology of the Adolescent* (SCSD, Dr. Ljubica Marjanovič Umek, 2021), *Developmental Psychology of the Child* (SCSD, Dr. Ljubica Marjanovič Umek, 2019)

²⁶ For example, *Brain development and specific features in minors* (CIP, Assoc. Dr. Tina Bregant, Specialist in Paediatrics, Specialist in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, CIRIUS Kamnik, 2018); *Approach to the child according to his/her developmental stage: cognitive, socio-emotional and moral development* (CIP, Seminar Interviewing a child in a court proceeding (forensic interview), 2018); *MODULE: Understanding the development of the juvenile* (CIP, Basic training for judges, prosecutors and juvenile court judges involved in criminal proceedings, 2022, 2023); *Risk factors in the development of the adolescent* (CIP, Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents, 20th Expert Consultation Are children who commit unlawful behaviour victims or perpetrators?, 2022)

²⁷ For example, *Collision Guardianship in Practice* (Tajka Golob Obrenovič, Attorney-at-Law, Gross & Golob) and *Child Advocacy* (Maša Gril, Regional Child Advocacy Coordinator, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia) (CIP, Family Law School 2024, Riki Balance Hotel, Bled, 16. 5. and 17. 5. 2024);

²⁸ For example, "COLLIZE CHILD PROTECTOR IN FAMILY PROCEDURES - A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE" (OZS, Vanja Tinta Tavčar, District Judge, District Court of Ljubljana, JUDGE'S SCHOOL 2024)

²⁹ For example, the *role of the lawyer, the role of the conflict guardian* (SCSD, The role of the CSD professional in family court proceedings, 2024)

³⁰ For example, the *Institute of "Child Advocacy" as a good practice for the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CIP, Mag. Lea Javornik, Counsellor of the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson, Executive School 2020); *Institute of "Child Advocacy" - presentation of examples of good practice and challenges in cooperation with the courts* (CIP, Mag. Lea Javornik, Counsellor, Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson (first edition), Jasna Vunduk, Senior Counsellor, Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson (second edition), Civil Law Judges' School 2020 and Civil Law Judges' School 2021); *Domestic Violence and the Role of the Child Advocate* (CIP, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jože Ruparčič, Deputy Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia, Treatment of Domestic Violence and Victims of Domestic Violence 2022)

³¹ For example, the *Children's Advocacy* (SCSD, Dr. Jože Ruparčič, Deputy Ombudsperson, Mag. Lea Javornik, Expert Service of the Ombudsperson, PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S BENEFITS IN PROCEDURES AT THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK, 11 April, 7 May, 4 June, 20 June, Ljubljana)

³² For example, *Measures to protect the best interests of children* (Mag. Matej Čujovič, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court), *Child Removal - Theoretical and Practical Aspects* (Frida Burkelc, Senior Judge, Celje District

The training activities that focused most on **expertise in family matters** during the period under review were carried out by the CIP in 2023.³⁵ During the workshops and symposium, participants were introduced to topics such as what should be included in the CSD's opinion in child protection proceedings, how a clinical psychological expert or a psychiatrist formulates their expert opinion, how an expert's interview with a child is conducted, guidelines for expert work in family matters were presented... The training carried out is in the light of the recommendations and should be repeated and built upon. The training was aimed at a broader professional public, who in their work are confronted with the field of expertise in family justice proceedings (judges, judicial advisers, state prosecutors, state attorneys, attorneys, court experts, representatives of social work centres, representatives of the Ombudsperson, representatives of the Social Inspection, representatives of the Children's House, representatives of the Ministry of Justice), namely the above-mentioned target groups from the whole territory of the Republic of Slovenia. Another important contribution in the field of expertise is the lecture entitled "The CSD's Opinion and the Relationship to Expertise" at this year's Law School 2024, which addresses the topic of expertise in a cross-cutting manner (in relation to the role of the CSD).

Regarding **skills in working with families and children**, several training activities on soft skills have been carried out over the years by different professionals. For example, CIP has given lectures on empathy and compassion,³⁶ and on protecting one's integrity³⁷, but only once. The OZS also organises training sessions to relieve lawyers of the burden on several occasions as part of the annual Law Schools.

In terms of **the way in which the training is delivered**, to some extent the training to date has already followed the recommendation of this research, namely that training should be multidisciplinary in nature, both in terms of the topics covered and in terms of the speakers, who are more likely to come from different spheres and areas of work. It is clear from the programmes of educational activities of all actors that they are to a large extent broader than strictly speaking their field of work, and that they address topics in a broader context, e.g.

Court), (CIP, Civil Law Judges' School 2018); *Advanced Seminar for Enforcement Officers, Part 2 - Selected Issues in Enforcement Law - Child Removal in Practice* (CIP, 2021); *Child Protection Measures* (OZS, mag. Nadja Marolt, District Judge, Head of the Family Justice Department at the Ljubljana District Court, Law School 2018); *Measures to Protect the Child's Best Interest* (OZS, mag. Matej Čujovič, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court, Law School 2019); *CSD BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL OF MEASURES AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE* (SCSD, ANITA BREGAR, 2022)

³³ For example, *The Role of Social Work Centres in Enforcement in Family Matters* (CIP, Anita Bregar, Senior Advisor, Assistant Director, CSD Gorenjska Unit Jesenice, Enforcement School 2022); *The Role of the CSD Professional in Family Proceedings in Court* (SCSD, 2024)

³⁴ For example, *Keeping Order at the Main Hearing* (Mag. Nina Betetto, Supreme Court Judge, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Vanja Tinta Tavčar, District Court Judge, District Court of Ljubljana, temporarily assigned to the High Court of Ljubljana, Civil Law Judicial School 2018)

³⁵ Workshops on "Forensic Expertise in Family Matters" (CIP, Led by: Katarina Parazajda, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court and Aleksander Šmid, Senior Judge, Celje High Court); Symposium "Forensic Expertise in Family Matters" (CIP, Chaired by: mag. Matej Čujovič, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia)

³⁶ *Empathy and Compassion* (CIP, Tina Bregant, MD, PhD, paediatrics, spec. FRM, MAES therapist, 17th Expert Consultation Family Relationships in Interpersonal Addiction, 2018)

³⁷ *How to protect your own integrity* (CIP, Tina Bregant, MD, PhD, paediatrics, spec. FRM, MAES therapist, 17th Expert Consultation Family Relationships in Interpersonal Addiction, 2018)

domestic violence. At the same time, training could be more multidisciplinary in terms of participants. CSD workers, experts, school social workers, etc. could also be invited to trainings on family issues for judicial actors - as participants, not just as lecturers. This broadens the range of publics who can participate in a discussion on a given topic from different perspectives on the work. In addition to the participants, who should come from different backgrounds as mentioned in the above recommendations, it would be useful to provide more training in online or hybrid formats, or to record it visually and audio for future reference. So far, most of the educational activities of all actors, except during the epidemic, have been conducted in person, without the possibility of hybrid participation.

The training provided so far could thus be built on the suggestions made in previous sections, which are also summarised in the conclusion of this report. Before summarising the research, the empirical part of the inquiries concerning the training provided is briefly presented.

4.2. Empirical part

When referring to the training available to justice professionals working with children, several respondents to the questionnaire referred to the family law schools organised by the CIP.³⁸ Five respondents have not received training in this area, four did not answer this question and 11 are receiving training. In addition to family law schools, respondents indicated that other multidisciplinary trainings on children, family, psychology, psychiatry, CSD, the Ombudsperson, the Slovenian Foster Parents' Association, trainings on children and violence and domestic violence, and trainings for mediators are also available to them. One respondent also recalled training on interviewing a child. The lawyer/adviser who responded to the questionnaire also mentioned the OZS Law Academy trainings on child-friendly justice.

The persons who participated in the training in the field of children in civil court proceedings evaluated their participation as very useful and positive, as the new knowledge helps them in solving cases, sheds light on the treatment of children in a comprehensive way, strengthens their awareness of the importance of the best interests of the child in court proceedings, provides a new perspective on family dynamics, different angles for dealing with individual problems, and a better understanding of the topic, psychology and approaches.

³⁸ The last CIP Family Law School was organised on 16 and 17 May 2024 in Bled.
<https://cip.gov.si/aktivnosti/detajli/?ID=1f5cddc3-47be-ed11-9c94-005056818ee6&Tag=470>

5. Conclusion

In this report, the PIC has analysed the data received through focus groups, interviews and questionnaires and, having reviewed the training modules already delivered, has made recommendations on the need for further education and training in the area of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia. The recommendations concern mainly changes in the field of education, but also other systemic changes to a lesser extent. By implementing these recommendations, decision-makers can have a profound impact on the current regulation and functioning of the system. The system is currently rigid, the procedures take an excessive amount of time, and the system is still not child-friendly in many respects, especially as regards civil procedures.

In conclusion, we summarise two key findings of the research: changes in the area of the best interests of the child must first aim to ensure quality work with parents and children, especially in social work centres, before their case goes to court. Secondly, if a case comes to court, the court and all stakeholders who come into contact with the child in various ways, in civil court proceedings and beyond, need to be educated, trained and empowered to work with children. Preventive work with parents, children and, indirectly, families in CSDs should be carried out by properly trained and equipped teams that can contribute to resolving interpersonal relations before the matter goes to court. They can direct users to support and parenting skills programmes, which must be supported by the state in terms of staffing, funding and, above all, in the long term. This would empower professionals to carry out preventive work and to monitor, check and encourage families and individuals to resolve the situation without high-conflict relationships and events, especially in court. If a case needs to be heard in court, justice professionals should be equipped with, among other things, well-drafted CSD opinions, quality expert reports based on a known methodology, and a statement from the child obtained by the CSD or the child's advocate. At the same time, the court can also direct parents to mandatory programmes (e.g. parenting skills training) that are geographically, temporally and financially accessible to the users, or regulate the best interests of the child through interim injunctions for e.g. contact arrangements, which are regularly supervised by the CSD.

In the context of prevention activities and in the light of reducing high-conflict divorces, which are traumatic for the child, it is worth highlighting the initiative of one of the focus group participants to set up a "school of healthy divorce". The school would provide parents with all the information they need, especially on the impact of parental divorce on the child - not to prevent it, but on the importance of providing a healthy environment for the child in the event of parental divorce.

With regard to the study and the methodology of the work, it would be useful for the field of research if in the future researchers also focused on the experiences of the children themselves, and based on the interviews and focus groups with them, they could make recommendations based on their own experiences. A limitation of this research is that it is based on data collected from adults, not on the testimonies of the children themselves. Although the scope of this research was limited to the chosen methodology of work, this opens up the possibility of complementing the methodology in future studies on ways of ensuring the best interests of the

child in court proceedings in Slovenia. In general, projects and adult education can make greater efforts to involve the children themselves in activities that concern them, whether these are court proceedings themselves or educational activities about their needs and experience of situations - while safeguarding their best interests and in the presence of trained professionals, pedagogues.

In the case of the development of protocols for working with children, it is worth taking into account good practice from abroad, namely the so-called "bench books", which serves as a tool for judges and other justice workers to address the needs of children and ensure their best interests in court proceedings. The bench books are intended as educational material and are not legally binding. For example, [Children's Court Bench Book](#), which is prepared and regularly updated by the Judicial College of Victoria, Australia's judicial training institution, serves as a tool for the Children's Court.³⁹ The Judicial College, the UK's judicial training institution, has also developed an [Equal Treatment Bench Book](#) which contains a comprehensive chapter on working with children and young people in court proceedings. The Handbook is used on a daily basis by judges in England and Wales, but is also useful more widely for litigants and others who deal directly or indirectly with people, including children, in court proceedings.⁴⁰ In recent months, the PIC has drafted [guidelines on accessibility and equal opportunities for people with disabilities](#) based on good practice from abroad (the bench books). PIC sees space for similar improvements in the area of children.

At the same time, the PIC strongly recommends that a review of past training activities ([Annex 5](#)) should serve as a basis for the design of further training in the field and of an action plan more broadly, drawing on the content of past lectures as well as the lecturers. The Action Plan and further training should be based on the training activities already carried out in Slovenia.

The recommendations are summarised below:

- **Recommendation #1:** The parents involved in the procedure should be informed about the procedure itself and about the institution of the best interests of the child in the procedure. Guidelines and recommendations should be developed to ensure the best interests of children in proceedings by parents, both in court and in CSD proceedings. The guidelines and recommendations should **include** practical examples for parents to learn from and put into practice.
- **Recommendation #2:** CSD workers should be empowered to work with parents. CSD workers should be trained according to needs (e.g. on domestic violence).

³⁹ All Australian bench books for judges and court staff can be found at the following link: <https://www.judicialcollege.vic.edu.au/bench-books> The following manuals are also relevant for work with children or in the family area, among others: Civil Procedure Bench Book, Family Violence Bench Book, Disability Access Bench Book.

⁴⁰ The handbook, prepared in the context of the UK justice system, also includes various other topics such as Physical disability, Mental disability, Mental (capacity), Sex, Modern slavery, Racism.

- **Recommendation #3:** "A school of healthy divorce" should be set up to provide parents with comprehensive information on child-friendly divorce methods (from the point of "we're going our separate ways" to the point of "apart but still ok"). It should provide as much support as possible for everyone, parents and children, stressing that while divorce itself is not traumatic for children, conflicts between parents are.
- **Recommendation #4:** Support and build on family-based prevention programmes. Ensure regular funding for CSD and NGO programmes in the field of child and family protection (funding for staff and training).
- **Recommendation #5:** A protocol should be developed for the treatment of children and families by professionals at the CSD.
- **Recommendation #6:** A protocol **should** be developed for the treatment of children and families in courts by members of the judiciary.
- **Recommendation #7:** The protocols should contain guidelines for (1) quality work with the family in the period before the case reaches the court, (2) preparation of a quality CSD opinion based on more meetings with the child, home visits, obtaining the opinion of schools, kindergartens, etc., (3) obtaining the child's opinion, which should be up-to-date, obtained during several meetings, possibly through the CSD or through children's advocacy, (4) more effective decision-making by the courts, which should be of high quality and within the appropriate timeframes;
- **Recommendation #8:** At a systemic level, psychologists/paedopsychiatrists who work as experts in addition to their regular job **should** be granted benefits (e.g. abolition of compulsory afternoon shifts, night shifts, on-call shifts, etc.)
- **Recommendation #9:** A special status for the payment and taxation of expert witness fees should be regulated (in principle, experts are currently officially registered as normalised sole traders, but with the government's policy of increasing taxation of sole traders, the costs are rising)
- **Recommendation #10:** An institution **should** be set up to deal exclusively with expertise.⁴¹
- **Recommendation #11:** A coordinator **should** be appointed at the level of the Ministry to keep records of the workload of experts, to ensure the possibility of engaging *ad hoc* experts.⁴²
- **Recommendation #12:** The courts should recruit experts, in particular psychologists, to mediate in family cases and to provide **expert** assistance to judges.⁴³

⁴¹ Frida Burkelc, Problematika izvedenstva v družinskih zadevah (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

⁴² Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodziyninskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

⁴³ Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodziyninskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

- **Recommendation #13:** The awareness of the “supervision” and “interview method” should be checked as well as the need to organize the sessions for the target groups of judges, attorneys and CSD worker
- **Recommendation #14:** Judges, lawyers and CSD workers should be generally informed about the importance of “supervisory” and “interview” meetings and the positive aspects thereof for their work.
- **Recommendation #15:** Education should be provided on the principle of the best interests of the child and the fundamental importance of ensuring this throughout the procedure (at the CSD, in court, etc.).
- **Recommendation #16:** Education and training should be carried out in connection with all procedures and with all target groups, regardless of their role in the procedure (judges, parents' attorneys, collision guardians, CSD workers, parents of children, etc.).
- **Recommendation #17:** Training should be provided specifically for the professional group of attorneys, in cooperation with the OZS Law Academy.
- **Recommendation #18:** Training should be provided specifically for the professional group of judges and other court staff, in cooperation with the CIP and the Slovenian Judges' Association.
- **Recommendation #19:** Those involved in civil court proceedings should be educated about the institution of joint custody, especially experts and parents of children in proceedings.⁴⁴
- **Recommendation #20:** Training should be provided on children's rights in the judicial process, their situation (vulnerability) and how to implement their rights in practice.
- **Recommendation #21:** Training should be provided in psychology, in children as such, and in the different aspects of their growth and development.
- **Recommendation #22:** Training should be given in family dynamics and in recognising the impact of parents on the child and the child's views.
- **Recommendation #23:** Educate all stakeholders, including attorneys who are themselves collision guardians, about the instrument and the possibilities of applying for a collision guardian for a child.
- **Recommendation #24:** Judges should be informed about the importance and added value of assigning a collision guardian to the child to protect their rights during the proceedings.
- **Recommendation #25:** Trainings on the role of children’s advocates should be conducted for different target groups - judges, other court employees, attorneys, CSD workers, parents... While cooperation with judges already exists (e.g. participation of children’s advocates at family law schools), as well as cooperation with the Social Chamber of Slovenia, child advocates and the SCC office have not yet established

⁴⁴ Frida Burkelc, Problematika expertenja v rodzinyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

cooperation with the Bar Association of Slovenia, so there is room for improvement here.

- **Recommendation #26:** CSD workers should be informed about the importance of the Child Advocate and encouraged to make suggestions for the appointment of an advocate from their side.⁴⁵
- **Recommendation #27:** Training on child advocacy should be organised in different regions of Slovenia. The establishment of the above-mentioned protocol for the treatment of children in courts and CSDs could standardise the use of advocacy.
- **Recommendation #28:** Training on the concept of child advocacy should be provided on an annual basis to familiarize all new stakeholders who are just entering the field (e.g. family judges). Other stakeholders who have already attended the training can renew their knowledge on advocacy by repeating the training.
- **Recommendation #29:** Training should be provided on the difference between the work and role of a collision guardian and that of a child's advocate, including information on the positive aspects of including both in civil proceedings.
- **Recommendation #30:** Training should be provided on the institutional childcare system in terms of the child protection measures available.
- **Recommendation #31:** Training on the role of social work centres should be carried out, defining their role for stakeholders.
- **Recommendation #32:** Judges should be trained on their right and duty to take appropriate and immediate action in cases of inappropriate communication by attorneys and others with child advocates.
- **Recommendation #33:** Judicial professionals, especially attorneys, should be informed about the importance of expert work and ensuring respect for experts during hearings.
- **Recommendation #34:** Judicial professionals, in particular judges, should be informed about the differences between the different fields of expertise, i.e. which experts' opinions are appropriate in certain cases (e.g. experts' opinions in the subfields of social work, family psychology, clinical psychology, child and adolescent psychiatry and psychiatry).⁴⁶ The document "Descriptions of subfields and list of forensic experts in family matters", prepared by the Ministry of Justice in 2023, can be used to inform about the differences between the fields of expertise.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ In this case, the interviewee suggested the use of the so-called family at-risk traffic light, where the CSD could predict the complexity of the civil proceedings through indicators and assess whether or not the parents will be able to take the best interests of the child as a guiding principle in the proceedings, in which case the CSD would involve the child's advocate in the resolution of the situation.

⁴⁶ The fields of social work or family psychology are relatively new, having been established since 2018.

⁴⁷ <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/novice/2024/11%20Opis%20podro%C4%8Dij%20in%20seznam%20sodnih%20izvedencev.pdf>

- **Recommendation #35:** Judicial professionals, especially judges, should be informed about the working methodologies used by experts in their respective disciplines (knowledge of psychological tests and methods of interpretation).⁴⁸
- **Recommendation #36:** Judges should be informed when the involvement of an expert is even necessary, as in some cases an opinion of the CSD that is of good quality (i.e. based on consultation with other institutions that have already dealt with the child or family, e.g. schools, kindergartens, paediatricians, police; see below) is sufficient.⁴⁹
- **Recommendation #37:** Training and workshops for the target group of attorneys/collision guardians on setting own boundaries when working with (vulnerable) clients. Training should be provided on the skills needed to build a good relationship with clients that is both confidential and professional.
- **Recommendation #38:** Educate others involved in civil litigation on the work and tasks of the collision guardian.
- **Recommendation #39:** Training should be provided on how to establish a personal boundary when representing a parent or guardian in proceedings.
- **Recommendation #40:** Parents and guardians should be educated about the importance of protecting the best interests of the child throughout the court proceedings, as a priority over the unilateral pursuit of their wishes and those of the other party.
- **Recommendation #41:** All stakeholders (judges, attorneys, CSDs, children's advocates) should be trained to interview the child.
- **Recommendation #42:** Guidelines should be developed for the preparation of a quality opinion by the CSD, which includes a list of all relevant stakeholders who can empower the CSD professional to write a quality opinion.
- **Recommendation #43:** Training of CSD workers on guidelines and/or the preparation of quality opinions in the field of social work should be carried out.
- **Recommendation #44:** Training should be provided on the wider context of work with children and in the family field, on topics such as domestic violence, peer violence, etc.
- **Recommendation #45:** Training sessions should be organised with different stakeholders, in particular the following: child advocates, judges, CSD workers.

⁴⁸ Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12; "For a basic introduction to the tests that are applicable in Slovenia and a better understanding of their content and the purpose of each psychodiagnostic agent, as well as the qualification requirements for its use, some basic information can also be obtained from the website of the Centre for Psychodiagnostic Agents", here: <https://www.center-pds.si/Katalogtestov/Seznamitestovinknjig/Pokategorijah.aspx>.

⁴⁹ The May 2023 survey concludes that "the unconvincing tendency to seek expert opinions in cases where this is not really necessary to determine the best interests of the child should be rejected." The judges also "pointed to the need for a shift in case law (especially in the higher courts), towards the idea that it is not always necessary to involve an expert, even if there is a dispute between the parents." Frida Burkelc, Probleatika expertenja v rodzyinskih zadeve (2023), Revija Odvetnik. Available at: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/revija/2023/ODVETNIK%20st-112.pdf> page 12.

Organising joint training and workshops to learn together, not as a promotion of advocacy.

- **Recommendation #46:** Training sessions should be organised at regional level so that stakeholders get to know each other personally.⁵⁰
- **Recommendation #47:** Inter-regional training should be organised so that stakeholders in one region learn about the practices (good or bad) in another region. In this way, views and insights into the state of child advocacy across Slovenia can be exchanged and cooperation between institutions in different regions can be developed. This can identify opportunities for improvement in a particular region.
- **Recommendation #48:** In CSD and court proceedings, involve education professionals in the work of CSDs. According to the participants, the CSD would have by far the best opinion if it had worked together with the counselling service to prepare the opinion.
- **Recommendation #49:** Education professionals should also be involved in education and training on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings.
- **Recommendation #50:** Involve staff working in the NGOs in the field in training processes. Stakeholders should also be informed about the work of NGOs in ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings. The actors should recognise that NGOs have a wealth of skills and experience that can be relevant both to the individual case and at system level.
- **Recommendation #51:** NGOs should be empowered through training to make statements in the context of legal proceedings.
- **Recommendation #52:** The possibilities of cooperation between the child's advocate and the expert should be explored. In what ways do their roles complement each other and would joint training (child advocates with experts) be welcome.
- **Recommendation #53:** Joint meetings should be organised for experts, CSDs and child advocates to share practical experiences, build relationships and explore opportunities for cooperation.
- **Recommendation #54:** Organising training on ensuring the best interests of children and working with children on a regular basis.
- **Recommendation #55:** Training should be organised with lecturers from different disciplines that are sometimes overlooked, e.g. family therapists, social pedagogues; also clinical psychologists and mediators.⁵¹
- **Recommendation #56:** "Fresh faces" should be invited. Even though the Slovenian space is small, participants said that it would be welcome to have lecturers with different perspectives and approaches, and with experience of working in a particular field. We need practitioners, someone with a lot of relevant and up-to-date practical experience.

⁵⁰ The Office of the VHR already provides some training at regional level in the context of child advocacy.

⁵¹ Specific mention was made of Mr Rudi Tavčar as an "outstanding" co-mediator in mediation proceedings.

- **Recommendation #57:** Consideration should be given to a set of training courses that should be mandatory for judicial stakeholders who come into contact with children (e.g. trainings in the field of domestic violence for judges).
- **Recommendation #58:** Organise learning from practical examples - multidisciplinary or within professional groups. This requires anonymisation of practical examples.
- **Recommendation #59:** Organise learning from fictitious examples.
- **Recommendation #60:** Provide ways to gather feedback on the training (suggestions for improvement, topics for future training).
- **Recommendation #61:** Online or hybrid training should be offered.
- **Recommendation #62:** Online modules should be created for education on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings, including examples from case law (e.g. adaptation of the Council of Europe's HELP e-course on child-friendly justice into Slovenian, or a new online course on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil proceedings in Slovenia).
- **Recommendation #63:** Training modules should be developed and training on ensuring the best interests of the child should be provided in the course of studies (e.g. at law or social work faculties, i.e. faculties that train staff for jobs dealing with civil proceedings, especially family proceedings, and the position of children therein).

ANNEX 1 - Invitation to complete the questionnaire

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment

Metelkova 6, 1000 Ljubljana

Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, commissioned by the Council of Europe, is implementing the project "[Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings in Slovenia](#)". The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe's Department for the Rights of the Child in close cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Justice.

The project aims to **improve the protection of children's rights in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings involving children**. The project will contribute to the reform of the respect for children's rights in court proceedings in Slovenia and to Slovenia becoming a pioneer country in spreading the excellence of child-friendly justice in other EU Member States.

Child-friendly justice ensures that children are treated in accordance with their rights, age and level of maturity when they come into contact with the justice system. It involves creating an environment that is sensitive to children's needs and well-being, and providing them with the necessary support, protection and guidance in legal proceedings.

The project has two main outcomes:

1. **Establish a comprehensive action plan to reform the Slovenian legal framework** for civil litigation involving children.
2. **Implementing the Action Plan and Strategy** to systemically facilitate child-friendly justice and fast-track case resolution at national level.

We would be very grateful if you could share with us your experience in the field of education and training in the treatment of children in civil court proceedings and thus contribute to the overall progress of Slovenia in this area.

The questionnaire can be accessed via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/RcLEiWzonR5gMqpR9>

The questionnaire is short and anonymous.

The deadline for submitting the questionnaire is 21 June 2024.

For further questions, please contact us at pic@pic.si, marked "Questionnaire".

Thank you very much in advance!

ANNEX 2 - Set of open questions for the focus group with attorneys

How competent do you feel to address the needs of children in the procedures you are managing/dealing with?

Which training (areas) do you think would be useful for you in your work with children involved in court proceedings, especially family proceedings?

Does the CCA offer training on these topics and do you attend? How could we improve the training system in this area?

If you could choose speakers related to the area of the best interests of the child in civil litigation, especially family proceedings, who would you choose?

How qualified do you think other judicial staff (e.g. judges, judicial advisers) are in this area? Which training courses do you think would be useful for them in your work experience?

What would be your recommendations regarding training for all stakeholders in civil litigation involving children?

Are you familiar with the project of child advocates at the HLC and what is your opinion on the institution of child advocates? Is your work intertwined with theirs? What are the opportunities for improvement?

Do you act as a conflict trustee? How do you see this institution, what are the possibilities for improvement?

Training and education topics that can be useful for different stakeholders in the justice system:

- children's rights in civil court proceedings;
- working with children (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, reasonable adjustments, etc.);
- working with children with disabilities (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, etc.);
- multidisciplinary work (ways of working with forensic experts, social work, etc.);
- the psychosocial state and functioning of the children (development, level of maturity, etc.);
- the obstacles children face in court proceedings;
- child protection support services

ANNEX 3 - Set of open questions for the focus group with advocates

How competent do you feel to address the needs of children in the procedures you are managing/dealing with? Which training (areas) do you think would be of additional benefit to you in your work with children involved in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings?

How are advocates trained? How often do you attend training? Who organises them? Which topics? Is training compulsory?

Do you think there is enough education and training available to you in the field of working with children and beyond? What topics could be further explored in your deliberations?

If you could choose speakers related to the area of the best interests of the child in civil litigation, especially family proceedings, who would you choose?

How could the training and education system in this area be improved?

Are training and education multidisciplinary? Do you meet other stakeholders in the field (judges, court professionals, attorneys) during the training? Are you getting to know their work?

How qualified do you think other judicial staff (e.g. judges, judicial advisers, attorneys) are in this area? Which training courses do you think would be useful for them in your experience?

What would be your recommendations regarding training for all stakeholders in civil litigation involving children?

What are the possibilities for improving the institution of the child advocate in the EHC?

Training and education topics that can be useful for different stakeholders in the justice system:

- children's rights in civil court proceedings;
- working with children (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, reasonable adjustments, etc.);
- working with children with disabilities (practical guidance on interviewing, special measures, etc.);
- multidisciplinary work (ways of working with forensic experts, social work, etc.);
- the psychosocial state and functioning of the children (development, level of maturity, etc.);
- the obstacles children face in court proceedings;
- child protection support services

ANNEX 4 - Overview of training and education in the field of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia

Overview of training and education in the field of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia

Dear Sir or Madam,

PIC - Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment is carrying out a project for the Council of Europe "[Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia](#)". The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe's Department for the Rights of the Child in close cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Justice.

The project aims to **improve the protection of children's rights in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings involving children**. The project will contribute to the reform of the respect for children's rights in court proceedings in Slovenia and to Slovenia becoming a pioneer country in spreading the excellence of child-friendly justice in other EU Member States.

The project has two main outcomes:

1. **Establish a comprehensive action plan to reform the Slovenian legal framework** for civil litigation involving children.
2. **Implementing the Action Plan and Strategy** for systemic facilitation of child-friendly justice and speedy resolution of cases at national level, including through further training and education.

For the purpose of the project, we are collecting data on trainings and courses that have been held in the Republic of Slovenia on the topic of ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings since 2018.

We would like to know what training and education your institution has provided on the situation of children in civil court proceedings, in particular family proceedings, from 2018 to date. We are interested in training and education that has already taken place, that is ongoing and that you are planning.

Here are some of the issues related to the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings:

- best interests of the child
- children's rights in civil court proceedings, especially family proceedings
- working with children in family proceedings (practical guidance on interviews, special measures, reasonable adjustments, etc.)
- multidisciplinary work in family proceedings (ways of working with forensic experts, social work, etc.)
- the psychosocial state and functioning of the children (development, level of maturity, etc.)
- the obstacles children face in court proceedings
- child protection support services
- cooperation with the Advocates (institute at the HLC)

We would like to know about the training and education you have received, are currently receiving or are planning to receive:

- title of the training
- place and date of implementation
- target group

- the profession of the participants (e.g. attorneys, social workers)
- geographical limitation (e.g. the training was aimed at the professional staff of the Ljubljana District Court, the training was aimed at the wider professional public)
- the programme of the event, including the list of speakers
- participation data, if available (number and profiles of participants)
- information on whether the training has been repeated in this format

We aim to receive information on training and education by 5 July 2024.

We would be very grateful if you could share with us a list of the training and education courses you have offered in the course of your work to members of the judiciary and beyond. Information on the training processes already carried out is crucial for the preparation of a strategy for further, multidisciplinary and regular training on ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in the Republic of Slovenia.

For further questions about the project, please contact.

Thank you very much in advance for the information!

ANNEX 5 - Educational activities related to the best interests of the child in court proceedings

Educational activities of the Centre for Judicial Education

Table of training activities carried out by CIP between 2018 and 2024 (June):

<p>17. expert Consultation on Family Relationships in Interpersonal Addiction</p>	<p>Brdo pri Kranju Congress Centre, 9 and 10 April 2018</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants in public prosecutor's offices, lawyers and police representatives</p>	<p>Moderators: Barbara Jenkole, <i>Senior State Prosecutor</i> Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector</i></p> <p>A judge's view of the Family Code Matej Čujovič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Empathy and empathy Tina Bregant, <i>MD, paediatrics, spec. FRM, MAES therapist</i></p> <p>How to protect your integrity Tina Bregant, <i>MD, paediatrics, spec. FRM, MAES therapist</i></p> <p>It's Sunday and the time is 19.08 minutes. Who do I belong to now? Robert Tekavec, <i>Criminal Inspector - Specialist, Ljubljana Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Domestic violence Gordana Jekić Bradajić, <i>Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Public Prosecutor's Office of Appeal in Belgrade</i></p> <p>Resilience - an important protective factor when faced with crisis (traumatic) events mag. Mateja Štirn, <i>univ.dipl. psychologist, ISA Institute</i></p> <p>The impact of addiction on family dynamics and domestic violence Dr. Sanja Rozman, <i>MD, Specialist, CSAT, CMAT, TAP</i></p> <p>Dysfunctional partnerships as a generator of delinquent behaviour Ivo Šume, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Slovenj Gradec</i></p> <p>Boundless love survives only because of clear and agreed boundaries dr. Karel Gržan, <i>pater</i></p> <p>Stockholm syndrome Gordana Jekić Bradajić, <i>Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Public Prosecutor's Appeals Office to the prosecutor's office in Belgrade</i></p>
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<p>Seminar Interviewing a child in court proceedings (forensic interview)</p>	<p>Ljubljana, 9- 11 January 2018 20.-22 February 2018 13. -15 March 2018 10.-12 April 2018 22.-24 May 2018 12.-14 June 2018</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants in public prosecutor's offices, (senior) state lawyers and candidates for state lawyers;</p>	<p>Seminar leaders: prof. dr. sc. Gordana Buljan Flander, <i>Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist, Director of the Zagreb Polyclinic for Child and Youth Protection</i> dr. sc. Lana Petö Kujundžić, <i>President of the Juvenile Division, Zagreb County Court</i></p> <p>Confession of abuse - opportunity or trauma</p> <p>The basics of the procedure for the protection of a child victim or witness of a crime</p> <p>The role of experts in proceedings when a child is a victim or witness of a crime</p> <p>International standards and protocols</p> <p>Preparing a child victim or witness to testify in court</p> <p>Where, how, with whom and how many times to interview the child - ideal and real circumstances for interviewing the child</p> <p>Actual opportunities to talk to the child</p> <p>Structured interview</p> <p>Forensic interview with a child survivor of sexual abuse</p> <p>Evidence of sexual harassment</p> <p>The difference between true and false accusations</p> <p>Approach to the child according to his/her developmental stage: cognitive, socio-emotional and moral development</p> <p>Trauma and recovery</p> <p>The role of experts (judges, public prosecutors, public defenders) and their responsibilities</p> <p>Strengthening the role of judges, public prosecutors and public defenders Victim's letter and future steps</p>
<p>Civil Law Judges' School 2018</p>	<p>Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, 28.</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, (senior) state lawyers, candidates</p>	<p>Measures to protect the best interests of children Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p>

	5. - 30. 5. 2018 and 11. 6. - 13. 6. 2018;	for state lawyers, state prosecutors, assistants at state prosecutors' offices;	<p>Child removal - theoretical and practical aspects Frida Burkelc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje District Court</i></p> <p>Maintaining order at the main hearing Mag. Nina Betetto, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Vanja Tinta Tavčar, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court, temporarily assigned to the Ljubljana High Court</i></p>
Supporting victims of crime - from theory to practice	CIP, Glinška 12, Ljubljana, 29. and 30. 8. 2018;	judges, public prosecutors;	<p>Workshop leaders: Natalija Vrhunc, <i>professional facilitator and coach</i> Katarina Vučko, <i>Legal Adviser and Human Rights Researcher, Peace Institute</i></p> <p>Prevailing thinking: finding the assumptions and beliefs that dominate our current thinking about addressing the needs and rights of victims</p> <p>Victims' rights in Directive 2012/29/EU in practice - What are the key messages of the Directive? Which of these does our system already provide and can be implemented quite easily? What needs to change?</p> <p>Mechanisms for addressing victims' needs and realising their rights: presentation with guests from the field of support services for victims of crime</p>
Expert Consultation on the Draft Law on Non-Court Procedure	Grand hotel Union, Ljubljana, 11. 9. 2018	judges, judicial advisers	<p>New general rules of non-contentious procedure in relation to special rules in proceedings for the regularisation of personal and family relationships Prof. Dragica Wedam Lukić, PhD, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Proposed changes to the jurisdiction of the courts and the type of proceedings in cases, governed by the new Family Code Sara Regancin, <i>Head of the Civil Law Division, Civil Law Directorate, Ministry of Justice</i></p> <p>Participants and their representation and the role of the Social Work Centres in the proceedings Miha Verčko, <i>Director General of the Civil Law Directorate, Ministry of justice</i></p> <p>Procedures for the protection of the best interests of the child and the role of the child in these procedures Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Proposals for improving the irregular procedures under Section III of the UNCT</p>

			Nadja Podobnik Oblak, <i>District Judge, Head of the Invalidity and Probate department, District Court of Ljubljana</i>
Juvenile crime	Mhotel, Ljubljana, 17. 12. 2018	judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;	<p>Seminar leader: Mirjam Kline, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Challenges and specificities of working with the Roma community Manuel Vesel, <i>Senior Police Inspector, General Police Directorate, Police academy, Centre for Research and Social Skills</i></p> <p>Runaways of underage girls to harmful environments - between abuse and culture Dubravka Hrovatič, <i>univ.dipl.soci.del., Violence Prevention Coordinator, Centre for Social Work of Dolenjska and Bela Krajina</i></p> <p>Roma reality between theory and practice Nataša Brajdič Žagar, <i>reserve police officer and assistant at the Centre school and extra-curricular activities</i></p> <p>Brain development and specific features in adolescents doc. dr. Tina Bregant, <i>specialist in paediatrics, specialist in physical and rehabilitation Medicine, CIRIUS Kamnik</i></p> <p>Workshop - case study Mirjam Kline, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Ljubljana</i></p>
Civil Law Judges' School 2019	Hotel Vivat, Moravske Toplice, 6. 3. - 8. 3. 2019 and 20. 3. - 22. 3. 2019;	judges, judicial advisers, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers	<p>Head of School: dr Ana Božič Penko, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Significant new features of the Family Code on parent-child relationships Prof. Dr. Barbara Novak, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p>
Expert consultation The child in the grip of the past and the present	Brdo pri Kranju Congress Centre, 1. 4. and 2. 4. 2019;	judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, lawyers, police representatives;	<p>To the Head of Education: Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, Head of the Juvenile Section at the DDTS, District State Prosecutor's Office in Krško</i> Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector, General Police Directorate, Police Academy, Higher Police School</i></p> <p>Rights and needs of children of parents in conflict with the law (Prava i potrebe djece čiji su roditelji u sukobu sa zakonom)* Mag. Maja Gabelica Šupljika, <i>Prof. of Psychology, Deputy Ombudsperson</i></p>

			<p><i>children's Rights in Croatia, member of the Children of Prisoners Network</i></p> <p>We're going to visit Mum. Or not ... Viktorija Erpič, <i>Head of the Education Department, Ig Prison Institute</i></p> <p>Being a father behind bars - a challenge Lidija Pezdir Ristič, <i>Head of the Treatment Department, Penitentiary Institution</i> <i>dob pri Mirna prison</i> Vanja Jakopin, <i>Dob pri Mirni Prison</i></p> <p>Prison stigma and the experience of the maternal role Prof. Dr. Milica Antič Gaber, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Sudden loss of a parent: the grieving process and options for mental health promotion in adolescents Doc. dr. Vita Poštuvan, <i>Slovenian Centre for Suicide Research, Institute</i> <i>Andrej Marušič, University of Primorska</i></p> <p>Case presentation: From victim to perpetrator and what will happen to the child? Matej Rebec, <i>Criminalistics Inspector, CAP I, Criminalistics Division</i> <i>police, Koper Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Migrant children through the case law of the European Court of Justice Helenca Pirnat Dragičević, <i>Ombudsperson for Children in Croatia</i></p> <p>Forced marriages of Roma girls Lea Lebar, <i>Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Social Protection</i></p> <p>Case presentation: Running away from home – love or compulsion? Nina Slak, <i>Senior Judicial Adviser, Krško District Public Prosecutor's Office</i></p> <p>Pregnancy and family planning among Roma women Simona Čopi, MD, <i>Specialist in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Specialist</i> <i>gemini Gynaecology, Perinatology and Diagnostic Ultrasound Clinic</i></p> <p>The joys and pitfalls of new technology Miha Kramli, <i>therapist, Head of the Centre for Addiction Treatment, Nova Gorica Health Centre</i></p> <p>Do children today care about the truth? Finding the truth in a world of fake news Dr Sonja Merljak Zdovc, <i>editor and journalist at the online newspaper Časoris</i> <i>Stress and effective stress management</i> Prof. Dr. Matej Tušak, <i>Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana</i></p>
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Executive School 2020	Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, 27. 1 - 29. 1. 2020, 10. 2. - 12. 2. 2020	judges, judicial advisers, court assistants, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers;	<p>To the head of school Vladimir Horvat, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Tatjana Kamenšek Krajnc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>Practical workshops on fictitious cases.</p> <p><u>Section for Judges and Assistants</u> Enforcement in child custody and personal contact cases - focus on child removal cases</p> <p>Section Leader: dr Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Enforcing personal contacts with a fine Dr. Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>The role of the judge in enforcement in family matters Kristina Petrič, <i>District Judge, Domžale District Court</i></p> <p>The executor's role in enforcement in family matters Peter Ivkovič, <i>executor</i></p> <p>The institution of "child advocacy" as a good practice for the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Mag. Lea Javornik, <i>Counsellor to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson</i></p> <p>The role of social work centres in enforcement in family matters Anita Bregar, <i>Senior Advisor, Assistant Director, CSD Gorenjska Unit Jesenice</i></p>
Civil Law Judges' School 2020	Hotel Vivat, Moravske Toplice, 4. 3. - 6. 3. 2020 and 25. 3. - 27. 3. 2020;	judges, judicial advisers, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers;	<p>To the head of school Karmen Igljč Stroligo, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia (first performance)</i> Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia (second edition)</i></p> <p>Child Advocacy Institute - presenting examples of good practice and challenges in cooperation with the courts Mag. Lea Javornik, <i>Counsellor to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson (first performance)</i> Jasna Vunduk, <i>Senior Adviser to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson (second version)</i></p> <p>1. FAMILY LAW Head of Section: dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court Judge, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>

			<p>The child as a participant in the proceedings (15-minute discussion at the end) Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>The position of social work centres in interim injunction proceedings (15-minute debate at the end) Katarina Parazajda, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Foster care and guardianship (15-minute discussion at the end) Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p>
Executive School 2021	distance learning, 1. 2. - 3. 2. 2021;	judges, judicial advisers, court assistants, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers	<p>School leaders Vladimir Horvat, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia (first day)</i> Tatjana Kamenšek Krajnc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje High Court (second day)</i> Dr. Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court (third day)</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Protocol on recommended practices in the event of the execution of a decision on the removal of a child by direct surrender Dr. Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p>
Civil Law Judges' School 2021	remote execution, 10. 3. - 12. 3. 2021 and 24. 3. - 26. 3. 2021	judges, judicial advisers, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers;	<p>Head of School Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>SECTION: FAMILY LAW Section leader: mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Foster care (last 15 minutes for questions) Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>The Institute of "Child Advocacy" - presentation of good practice examples and challenges in cooperation with the courts (last 15 minutes for questions) Jasna Vunduk, <i>Senior Adviser to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson</i></p> <p>The child as a party to the proceedings (last 15 minutes for questions) Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>The position of social work centres in interim injunction proceedings (last 15 minutes for questions) Mag. Barbara Petrič, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p>

<p>19. expert consultation on the treatment of particularly vulnerable children</p>	<p>remote implementation, 8. 4. and 9. 4. 2021;</p>	<p>public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers, lawyers, police representatives</p>	<p>Heads of education Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia,</i> <i>head of the Juvenile Section of the Association of State Prosecutors of Slovenia (first day)</i> Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate (Day 2)</i></p> <p>Characteristics of thinking, speech and social understanding in children of different ages: What developmental psychology says Prof. Ljubica Marjanovič Umek, PhD, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Treatment of persons with autism in the context of criminal offences Mag. Janja Kranjc, <i>univ. dipl. psych.</i></p> <p>The complexity of forensic collection of personal evidence on vulnerable persons Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Addressing sexual crime in Slovenia: a look at the past for the future Lora Briški, <i>Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Substantive evidence of an offence against a vulnerable person Prof. Dr. Katja Drobnič, <i>National Forensic Laboratory, Faculty of Security Sciences, University of Maribor</i></p> <p>The child as a subject, not an object of the procedure Petruša Jager, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Relationships between parents, children and doctors in children's healthcare Mag. Urban Brulc, <i>Independent Adviser to the Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Between demands and demands: communication as the key to quality contact and relationships, including in caring for yourself Julija Pelc, <i>specialised psych. counsellor, Gestalt psychotherapist</i></p>
<p>Mental Health Days 2021 Treatment of children and adolescents under the Mental Health Act and treatment during an epidemic</p>	<p>remote implementation, 16. 9. and 17. 9. 2021;</p>	<p>judges, assistant judges, judicial advisers, state prosecutors, assistants at state prosecutors' offices, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers,</p>	<p>Conference leader Peter Svetina, <i>Ombudsperson</i></p> <p>The Ombudsperson's view on institutional care for children and adolescents with mental health and development problems Ana Polutnik, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Law, Adviser to the Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>

		<p>social work centre assistants;</p>	<p>What the amendment to the Mental Health Act brings for children and adolescents with mental health problems and what challenges will need to be addressed in the near future Polona Marjetič Zemljič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Treatment of children and adolescents with emotional, behavioural and educational difficulties Mag. Polona Šoln Vrbinc, <i>Directorate for Early Childhood Education and Primary Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Biserka Lep, <i>Subject Group for School Advisory Work in Kindergartens, Schools and student hostels of the RRDC</i> Borut Marolt, <i>Director of the Logatec Institute for Education and Training</i></p> <p>Early intervention and mental health for children and adolescents Presentation of the Early Treatment Centres Andreja Kovač, <i>MD, Kranj Health Centre</i> Presentation of child and adolescent mental health centres Katja Kobilšek Guna, <i>MD, Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Trbovlje</i></p> <p>Child and adolescent psychiatry Presentation of inpatient hospital activities - Department of Child Psychiatry, Ljubljana Paediatric Clinic Dr. Marija Anderluh, <i>MD, Head of the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Ljubljana Paediatric Clinic</i> Presentation of the Intensive Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit Associate Prof. Dr Maja Drobnič Radobuljac, <i>MD, Head of the Intensive Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit, University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Presentation of the field of treatment of children and adolescents in social work centres and of crisis centres for children and adolescents, Simona Mikec, <i>Special Educator, CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Bežigrad Unit</i> Presentation of training institutions (CUDVs) and the pilot project on sheltered treatment Ivanka Limonšek, <i>Acting Director, Dr Marijan Borštnar Training, Work and Care Institute, Dornava</i></p> <p>Mental health of children and adolescents during an epidemic Bojan Belec, <i>MD, Specialist in Paedopsychiatry, Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents</i></p> <p>Identifying the most common mental illnesses and disorders in children and adolescents Dr. Tristan Rigler, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych., Specialist in Clinical Psych.</i></p> <p>Working with unmotivated users</p>
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			<p>Prof. Dr. Mojca Zvezdana Dernovšek, MD, <i>Specialist in Psychiatry</i></p> <p>Concrete demonstration of problem solving in the field Jure Leva, <i>Counsellor, Institute for Education and Training Logatec</i> Simona Neuvirt Bokan, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., Crisis Centre for Youth Murska Sobota, CSD Pomurje</i></p> <p>Student mental health during an epidemic Dr. Špela Selak, <i>MSc Psych, Univ. Dipl. Comm., National Institute of Public Health</i></p> <p>Presentation by mental health NGOs on their work during the epidemic Mag. Bogdan Dobnik, <i>Dipl. Soc. Del., President of Ozara Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of providers of social protection programmes for children and adolescents during the epidemic Telephone counselling for children and adolescents Tjaša Bertoncelej, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., Programme Manager National Network TOM (Telephone for Children and Adolescents)</i> Day centre for children and adolescents Marjetka Čermelj, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., Senior Counsellor, CSD Ljubljana, Moste-Polje Unit</i> Implementation of a social programme in the field of mental health for adults with mental health problems Amalija Klopčič, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del, Altra Association</i></p> <p>Presentation on the treatment of people with mental health problems in the community during an epidemic Tatjana Romih, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del, CSD Osrednja Slovenija západ</i></p> <p>Video-conferencing and a new way of communication for people with mental health problems Nadja Podobnik Oblak, <i>District Judge, Head of the Invalid and Probate Division of the Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Mental Health Act - where we are, where we stand and what is planned for the future Bogdan Tušar, <i>Acting Director General, Directorate for Health System Development, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>
<p>Refresher seminar for enforcers Session 1 Current issues in enforcement - child removal measures</p>	<p>remotely, 13. 10. 2021;</p>	<p>the training was aimed at executors from all over the Republic of Slovenia;</p>	<p>Moderated by Dr Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Presentation of the theme and protocol Dr. Damjan Orož, <i>Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>The role of the family judge in the removal of a child</p>

			<p>Frida Burkelc, <i>District Court in Celje</i></p> <p>The role of the enforcer in implementing the removal of a child - the enforcer's experience Zoran Kuret Marolt, <i>executor</i></p> <p>Communication with the public Romana Ciko Hočevnar, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>
<p>Refresher seminar for executors 2nd part Selected issues in enforcement law - the measure of removal of a child in practice</p>	<p>remotely, 14. 10. 2021;</p>	<p>the training was aimed at executors from all over the Republic of Slovenia;</p>	<p>Moderated by Dr Damjan Orož, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Police assistance in the implementation of a child removal measure Franc Marolt, <i>Police</i></p> <p>The role of the professional in the removal of a child - first-hand experience Anita Bregar, <i>Assistant Director, CSD Gorenjska</i></p> <p>Case study: implementing child removal in practice Mag. Ksenija Kejžar, <i>District Court in Kranj</i> Vito Krevsel, <i>executor</i></p>
<p>Newly developed case-law on family law</p>	<p>remote implementation, 4. 11. and 5. 11. 2021;</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, social work centre assistants, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers;</p>	<p>Head of Education Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>German court practice in relation to joint legal custody Jörn Müller, <i>District Judge, District Court, Worms, Germany</i></p> <p>Shared parenting Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, <i>Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents, forensic expert in clinical child and adolescent psychology and parenting and guardianship</i></p> <p>The child's unreasonable refusal to have contact with one parent Doc. dr. Jana Kodrič, <i>clinical psychologist, Paediatric Clinic, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, and forensic expert in clinical psychology and neuropsychology of children and adolescents</i></p> <p>Contacts under CSD supervision and family therapy during the procedure Mag. Nadja Marolt, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Psychological aspects of supervised contact and the child's benefit Mag. Method Maj, <i>forensic psychology expert</i></p>

			<p>Head of Education Zvone Strajnar, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Interim orders in proceedings for the protection of the best interests of the child - condition(s) for making them Zvone Strajnar, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Limitation of parental care and custody of children Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) - case law Tatjana Kamenšek Krajnc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>Discussion on open questions in family law case-law Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Katarina Parazajda, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> Špela Prodan, <i>Senior Judge, High Court in Koper</i> Vesna Rezar, <i>Senior Judge, High Court in Maribor</i></p>
Addressing domestic violence and victims of domestic violence 2021	remotely, 2. 9. 2021, 7. 10. 2021, 10. 11. 2021, 9. 12. 2021;	judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;	<p>Head of Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> [first and second version] Mag. Nadja Marolt, <i>Head of the Family Justice Department, District Court of Ljubljana</i> [third performance] Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> [fourth performance]</p> <p>Legal and sociological aspects of domestic violence Associate Prof. Dr. Katja Filipčič, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Presentation of the role of the Centre for Social Work in the emergence of domestic violence and the treatment of victims of domestic violence Saša Car, <i>Violence Prevention Coordinator, Centre for Social Work Pomurje</i></p> <p>Presentation of the role of the police in the emergence of domestic violence and the treatment of victims of domestic violence Bojana Kračan, <i>M.Sc., Senior Specialist Criminal Inspector, Juvenile Crime Department, General Crime Division, Criminal Police Directorate, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentation of the role of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the emergence of domestic violence</p>

			<p>and the treatment of victims of domestic violence Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the role of the courts (criminal law) in the occurrence of domestic violence and the treatment of victims of domestic violence Klavdija Bercieri, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Presentation of the role of the courts (family law) in the occurrence of domestic violence and the treatment of victims of domestic violence Martina Kaše, <i>District Judge, Maribor District Court</i> [first performance] Mojca Gosar Kegel, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i> [second and third performances] Petruša Jager, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i>[fourth performance]</p> <p>Presentation of the network of social protection programmes Mag. Mojca Kambič, <i>Directorate for Family, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</i> [first and third versions] Teja Podgorelec, <i>Directorate for Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</i> [second and fourth edition]</p> <p>Psychological aspects of domestic violence Mag. Method Maj, <i>forensic psychology expert</i></p>
Basic training for judges, public prosecutors and conciliators involved in criminal proceedings against minors	remotely 17. 1. and 18. 1. 2022 and 24. 1. and 25. 1. 2022 (first implementation), 10. 2. and 11. 2. and 17. 2. and 18. 2. 2022 (second version), 17. 3. and 18. 3. 2022 and 24. 3. and 25. 3. 2022 (third edition), 15. 9. and 16. 9. 2022 and 22.	judges, public prosecutors, criminal conciliators, court assistants, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, representatives of the police, representatives of social work centres;	<p>Leaders: Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p><u>Specific features of the treatment of juvenile offenders and juvenile delinquency</u></p> <p>Police treatment of a minor as a suspected offender Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Protection of the rights of minors in criminal proceedings Zoran Stankić Rupnik, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i></p> <p>The role of the social work centre in the treatment of children and adolescents Irena Velić, <i>univ. dipl. Soc. Del., CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Šiška Unit</i> Simona Mikec, <i>Special Educator, CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Bežigrad Unit</i></p> <p>The role of the public prosecutor in proceedings against minors Tamara Gregorčič, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Ljubljana</i></p>

	<p>9. and 23. 9. 2022 (fourth implementation), 3. 10. and 4. 10. 2022 and 10. 10. and 11. 10. 2022 (fifth implementation);</p>		<p>Juvenile court proceedings Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Workshop: Case-by-case discussion from the commission of the offence to the closing words of the parties to the proceedings Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> Tamara Gregorčič, <i>višja državna tožilka, Okrožno državno tožilstvo v Ljubljani</i> Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</i> Irena Velič, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., CSD Ljubljana, unit Ljubljana Šiška</i> Simona Mikec, <i>Special Educator, CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Bežigrad Unit</i> Zoran Stankić Rupnik, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i></p> <p><u>Enforcement of criminal sanctions against minors</u></p> <p>Access to criminal sanctions against minors Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Contribution of social work centres to the imposition of a sanction Irena Velič, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Šiška Unit</i> Simona Mikec, <i>Special Educator, CSD Ljubljana, Ljubljana Bežigrad Unit</i></p> <p>Presentation of educational institutions Borut Marolt, <i>Director of the Logatec Institute for Education and Training</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Re-education Home Jerica Lipec, <i>Director of the Radeče Pre-educational Home</i></p> <p>Juvenile detention and juvenile prison Tomaž Bračko, <i>Director of the Celje Institute for Juvenile Detention and Imprisonment</i></p> <p>Probation and minors? Dr. Danijela Mrhar Prelič, <i>Director of the Slovenian Probation Administration</i></p> <p>Building on a concrete case from the closing words of the parties to the proceedings to the imposition of a sanction Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Deja Kozjek, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> Zoran Stankić Rupnik, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i></p>
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<p>20. expert consultation Are children who commit unlawful conduct victims or perpetrators?</p>	<p>Hotel Kompas, Kranjska Gora, 7. 4. and 8. 4. 2022;</p>	<p>public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers, lawyers, police representatives;</p>	<p>Heads of education Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Causes and risks of aggressive behaviour in children Marija Anderluh, MD, PhD, <i>Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Head of the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Paediatric Clinic, University Medical Centre Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Children, parental separation and risk factors for developing problems Dr. Anja Andrejč, <i>univ. dipl. psych., Centre for Social Work Pomurje - unit Ljutomer</i></p> <p>Treating children and their families at the social work centre - the professional between duties, options and opportunities Anita Bregar, <i>Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Work Gorenjska - Jesenice Unit</i></p> <p>How to break the grip of addiction (and the role of the judiciary and repressive services)? Dr. Bogdan Polajner, <i>univ. dipl. psych., co-founder of the association Project Man</i></p> <p>Juvenile suspect - a practical example Primož Podbelšek, <i>Senior Criminalist Specialist, CAP, Ljubljana Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Risk factors in adolescent development Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, <i>Clinical Psychologist, Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents</i></p> <p>"The teacher is a child-warmer" - the problem of proving and legal qualification of the offence under Article 192 of the Criminal Code Nataša Valentič Kuštra, <i>Senior State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Koper</i></p> <p>How to build a good relationship with adolescents? Sašo Kronegger, <i>Social Educator</i></p> <p>The spiral of responsibility of minors under an educational measure of detention in a re-education home Jerica Lipec, <i>Head of the Treatment Department, Celje Institute for Juvenile Detention and Imprisonment</i></p>

			<p>How is modern socialisation and education of children related to the illegal behaviour of children and adolescents? Associate Prof. Dr. Vesna Vuk Godina, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor</i></p>
Act on the protection of children in criminal proceedings and their integrated treatment in the Children's House	Public Institution House for Children, Ljubljana 9. 5. 2022, 30. 5. 2022, 14. 11. 2022, 28. 11. 2022;	judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;	<p>Heads of education Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> dr Primož Gorkič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Introductory lecture: Children's House Today Simona Mikec, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Education, Director of the Children's House</i></p> <p>Presentation of the draft Law on the Protection of Children in Criminal Proceedings and their Integrated Treatment at the Children's House dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Public Institution Children's House dr Simona Drenik Bavdek, <i>Counsellor to the Ombudsperson, Assistant Head of the Centre for Human Rights, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Procedural Arrangements for the Interrogation of Minors under the Act on the Protection of Children in Criminal Proceedings and their Integrated Treatment in the Children's House dr Primož Gorkič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Break with a tour of the Public Children's House</p> <p>Hearing with the assistance of an expert Mateja Hudoklin, PhD, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych, Specialist in Clinical Psych, Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents</i> Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector, General Police Directorate</i> Slavko Gazvoda, <i>Senior Judge, District Court in Maribor</i></p>
Addressing domestic violence and victims of domestic violence 2022	Portorož, 20. 6. and 21. 6. 2022;	judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;	<p>To the Head of Marjeta Švab Širok, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Case presentation: cultural diversity and unequal treatment Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>

			<p>Cultural diversity, migrants and ethnic minorities in the context of domestic violence Dr. Sanja Cukut Krilić, <i>Research Fellow, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts</i></p> <p>Women victims of domestic violence, members of vulnerable groups between tradition and crime Dubravka Hrovatič, <i>Programme Manager, SOS Telephone Association for Women and Children - Victims of Violence</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Children's House Simona Mikec, <i>Director, Children's House</i></p> <p>Presentation of the Act on the Protection of Children in Criminal Proceedings and their Integrated Treatment at the Children's House Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Outline of the characteristics of the hearing of a child under the Act on the Protection of Children in Criminal Proceedings and their Integrated Treatment in the Children's House Dr. Primož Gorkič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Domestic violence and the role of the child advocate Associate Professor Jože Ruparčič, <i>Deputy Ombudsperson, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the hearing of the child with the help of an expert Dr Mateja Hudoklin, <i>Director, Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents</i></p>
<p>Basic training for judges, public prosecutors and conciliators involved in criminal proceedings against minors</p>	<p>Ljubljana, 20. 2. and 21. 2. and 27. 2. and 28. 2. 2023 (first implementation), 11. 5. and 12. 5. 2023 and 18. 5. and 19. 5. 2023 (second version), 11. 9. and 12. 9. 2023 and 18. 9. and 19. 9. 2023 (third</p>	<p>judges, public prosecutors, criminal conciliators, judicial advisers, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, police representatives, representatives of social work centres, lawyers;</p>	<p>Head of Mirjam Kline, Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p><u>Specific features of the treatment of juvenile offenders and juvenile delinquency</u></p> <p>Police treatment of a minor as a suspected offender Robert Tekavec, Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</p> <p>Protection of the rights of minors in criminal proceedings Zoran Stankić Rupnik, lawyer in Ljubljana</p> <p>The role of the social work centre in the treatment of children and adolescents Irena Velič, univ. dipl. soci. del., CSD Ljubljana, unit Ljubljana Šiška</p> <p>The role of the public prosecutor in proceedings against minors Tamara Gregorčič, Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of</p>

	<p>implementation), 5. 10. and 6. 10. 2023 and 12. 10. and 13. 10. 2023 (fourth implementation);</p>		<p>Slovenia</p> <p>Juvenile court proceedings Deja Kozjek, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court [first, second and third performances]</p> <p>Workshop: Case-by-case discussion from the commission of the offence to the closing words of the parties to the proceedings Mirjam Kline, Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia Deja Kozjek, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court Tamara Gregorčič, Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia Robert Tekavec, Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate Irena Velič, univ. dipl. soci. del., CSD Ljubljana, unit Ljubljana Šiška Zoran Stankić Rupnik, lawyer in Ljubljana</p> <p><u>Enforcement of criminal sanctions against minors</u></p> <p>Juvenile court proceedings Deja Kozjek, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court [fourth performance]</p> <p>Introduction: Access to criminal sanctions against minors Mirjam Kline, Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia [first, second and third performances] Deja Kozjek, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court [fourth performance]</p> <p>Contribution of social work centres to the imposition of a sanction Simona Mikec, univ. dipl. ped., Director of the Children's House</p> <p>Presentation of educational institutions Borut Marolt, Director of the Logatec Institute for Education and Training</p> <p>Presentation of the Radeče Re-education Home Viktorija Erpič, Director of the Radeče Pre-educational Home</p> <p>Juvenile detention and juvenile prison Tatjana Kavšek, pedagogue, Celje Institute for Juvenile Imprisonment and Sentencing Martin Ravenščak, psychologist, Celje Institute for Juvenile Imprisonment and Sentencing</p> <p>Probation and minors? Dr. Danijela Mrhar Prelič, Director of the Slovenian Probation Administration</p>
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			<p>Workshop: Building on a concrete case from the closing words of the parties to the proceedings to the imposition of a sanction Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Zoran Stankić Rupnik, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i> Simona Mikec, <i>univ. dipl. ped., Director of the Children's House</i> Borut Marolt, <i>Director of the Logatec Institute for Education and Training</i> Viktorija Erpič, <i>Director of the Radeče Pre-educational Home</i> Tatjana Kavšek, <i>pedagogue, Celje Institute for Juvenile Imprisonment and Sentencing</i> Martin Ravenščak, <i>psychologist, Celje Institute for Juvenile Imprisonment and Sentencing</i> Dr. Danijela Mrhar Prelič, <i>Director of the Slovenian Probation Administration</i></p> <p><u>Understanding the development of minors</u></p> <p>Chapters in developmental psychology - characteristics of adolescence Dr. Tristan Rigler, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych., Specialist in Clinical Psych.</i></p> <p>Psychopathology and behavioural deviations Dr. Tristan Rigler, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych., Specialist in Clinical Psychology</i></p> <p>Psychopathology and behavioural deviance (continuation of lecture) Dr. Tristan Rigler, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych., Specialist in Clinical Psychology</i></p> <p>Adolescent memory and its impact on confession Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych.</i></p> <p>Development changes and delinkage risk Dr Mateja Hudoklin, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych.</i></p> <p>Psychosocial situation of the adolescent Dr. Bernarda Dobnik Renko, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych.</i></p> <p>Adolescent as perpetrator/victim/witness Dr Mateja Hudoklin, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych.</i></p> <p>Preparing for the hearing of a minor Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector, Police Academy</i> Dr Mateja Hudoklin, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych.</i></p> <p>Types of hearings, protocol for conducting the hearing, individual stages of the hearing Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector, Police Academy</i></p>
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21. expert consultation The child - evidence?!	Grand Hotel Eurostars, Ljubljana, 13. 4. and 14. 4. 2023;	public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers, lawyers, police representatives;	<p>Seminar leaders mag. Jride Mršnik Poljšak, <i>District State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Ljubljana</i> Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Treatment of a child in police proceedings Primož Podbelšek, <i>Criminal Investigator Specialist CAP III, Criminal Police Division, Ljubljana Police Department</i></p> <p>Child-friendly roof Simona Mikec, <i>univ. dipl. ped., Director of the Children's House</i></p> <p>Tell me what happened (asking appropriate questions to child victims) Vesna Babnik, <i>Univ. Dipl. Soc. Del., Children's House</i></p> <p>Hearing a child in the Children's House - a case study Marjetica Žibert, <i>District Judge Counsellor, District Court in Novo mesto Working with child victims of crime</i> Mag. Valerija Ilešič Toš, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., Centre for Social Work Spodnje Podravje, Ptuj Unit</i></p> <p>Legal child abuse: can it be avoided? Tristan Rigler, PhD, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych., Specialist in Clinical Psychology, University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Talking to a child who is deaf or hard of hearing Mag. Barbara Lenart Bregar, <i>univ. dipl. psych., Acting Headmistress of the Secondary School and Home, Ljubljana Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing</i> Bojan Mord, <i>Slovenian Sign Language Interpreter, Ljubljana Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing</i></p> <p>Gynaecological examination of the baby prof. dr. Ksenija Geršak, <i>dr. med., Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana and Gynaecology Clinic, UKC Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Protocol for paediatric emergency clinics when a crime is suspected against a child or adolescent</p>

			<p>Assistant Dr. Veronika Velenšek, <i>MD, Paediatric Clinic</i> Nina Milenković Kikelj, <i>MD, Paediatric Clinic</i></p> <p>How to act supportively with a child victim in proceedings Mag. Mateja Štirn, <i>univ. dipl. psych., ISA institute</i></p> <p>The Toboggan of Influence and the interests of the child Branko Gruban, <i>accredited business communicator</i></p>
<p>Conference of judges of the European Court of Human Rights</p>	<p>Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, 5. 5. 2023;</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, lawyers, (senior) state lawyers;</p>	<p>Conference leaders Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Ana Vilfan Vospernik, <i>Coordinator, Jurisconsult, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>European Convention on Human Rights and Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - Rights of the child Dr. Marko Bošnjak, <i>Slovenia, President of the First Section and Vice-President of the Court, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>The relationship between parents and children, especially in adoption procedures Dr. Pere Pastor Vilanova, <i>Andorra, President of Section III, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>Establishment of a legal relationship between parents and the child born by the surrogate mother Dr. Ivana Jelić, <i>Montenegro, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>Developing case law of the European Court of Human Rights on domestic violence, including forms of online violence Dr. Saadet Yüksel, <i>Turkey, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>What do subsidiarity and the discretion of domestic courts mean in practice? Frédéric Krenc, <i>Belgium, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</i></p> <p>Launch of the European Court of Human Rights' External Knowledge Sharing website - Family law Ana Vilfan Vospernik, <i>Coordinator, Jurisconsult, European Court of Human Rights</i></p>
<p>Educational Days of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Association of State Prosecutors of</p>	<p>Terme Vivat, Moravske Toplice, 8. 6. and 9. 6. 2023;</p>	<p>public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;</p>	<p>Head of Mirjam Kline, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>It has happened ... how to move forward? Simona Mikec, <i>Director of the Public Institution House for Children</i></p> <p>I prepare myself, actively listen to you, then interview you accordingly to get credible information</p>

Slovenia			<p>about the action <i>Neža Miklič, Senior Police Inspector, Higher Police School, General Police Directorate, internationally certified expert in forensic interviewing</i></p> <p>Usefulness of training for psychosocial support and therapies in the Children's House <i>Sandra Smiljanić, professional worker at the Public Institution Children's House</i></p>
Workshops on "Forensic Expertise in Family Matters"	Ljubljana, 1st edition: 2. 10. 2023, 2nd implementation: 3. 10. 2023 and 3rd implementation: 6. 10. 2023;	the training was aimed at first instance judges and their assistants, court experts working in the field of family law and representatives of social work centres providing opinions in family justice cases, namely for the above-mentioned target groups from the whole territory of the Republic of Slovenia;	<p>Vodita: <i>Katarina Parazajda, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> <i>Aleksander Šmid, Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>What should be included in the opinion of the social work centre in child protection proceedings <i>Katarina Parazajda, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> <i>Aleksander Šmid, Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>How a clinical psychology expert forms an expert opinion <i>Dr Bernarda Dobnik Renko, forensic expert in clinical psychology</i> <i>Doc. dr. Jana Kodrič, forensic expert in clinical psychology</i></p> <p>How a forensic psychiatric expert forms an expert opinion <i>Branko Brinšek, forensic expert in psychiatry</i></p> <p>Discussion of a practical case - group work with group leaders</p> <p>Presentation of the findings of each group and the issues raised, with discussion</p>
Symposium "Forensic Expertise in Family Matters"	Ljubljana, 12. 12. 2023;	the training was aimed at a broader professional public, who in their work are confronted with the field of expertise in family justice proceedings (judges, judicial advisers, state prosecutors, state attorneys, lawyers, court experts, representatives of social work centres, representatives of the	<p>Leads: <i>mag. Matej Čujovič, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Presentation of the activities of the inter-ministerial group at the Ministry of Justice on expertise in family proceedings <i>mag. Valerija Jelen Kosi, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice</i></p> <p>Presentation of the results and findings of the workshops on Forensic Expertise in Family Matters in October 2023 <i>Katarina Parazajda, Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> <i>Aleksander Šmid, Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>Confronting mental illness in family justice proceedings <i>Branko Brinšek, forensic expert in the field of medicine, subfield of psychiatry</i></p>

		<p>Ombudsperson, representatives of the Social Inspection, representatives of the Children's House, representatives of the Ministry of Justice), namely the above-mentioned target groups from the whole territory of the Republic of Slovenia;</p>	<p>Expert's interview with the child dr Bernarda Dobnik Renko, <i>forensic expert in the field of psychology, subfield of clinical psychology</i></p> <p>Guidelines for expert work in family matters doc. dr. Jana Kodrič, <i>forensic expert in the field of psychology, subfield of clinical psychology</i></p> <p>Interview with the child Maïke Barnard, <i>Judge, Head of the Family Division, Hamburg District Court, Germany</i></p> <p>Round table on outstanding issues in forensic expertise in family matters</p> <p>Moderator: mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Roundtable participants: Aleksander Šmid, <i>Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i> doc. dr. Jana Kodrič, <i>forensic expert in the field of psychology, subfield of clinical psychology</i> Branko Brinšek, <i>forensic expert in the field of medicine, subfield of psychiatry</i> Tatjana Milavec, <i>Secretary of the Community of Social Work Centres of Slovenia</i> dr. Jerneja Maček, <i>forensic expert in the field of medicine, subfield of child and adolescent psychiatry</i> Irena Toš Koren, <i>forensic expert in the field of psychology, subfield of family psychology</i> Dina Vanja Dobovičnik, <i>forensic expert in the field of social work, sub-field of social work</i></p>
<p>Children in Criminal Proceedings and Children's Holistic Treatment Act in the House for the Islands</p>	<p>Public House for Children, Ljubljana, 28. 3. 2024 (first implementation), 15. 4. 2024 (second implementation);</p>	<p>judges, judicial advisers, public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices;</p>	<p>Head of Education Barbara Jenkole Žigante, <i>Supreme State Prosecutor, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Introductory lecture: Holistic treatment of the child Urša Kovač, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Law, Children's House</i> [first implementation] Simona Mikec, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Education, Director of the Children's House</i> [second version]</p> <p>Procedural Arrangements for the Interrogation of Minors under the Act on the Protection of Children in Criminal Proceedings and their Integrated Treatment in the Children's House Urša Kovač, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Law, Children's House</i></p> <p>Presentation of a case of a child being interviewed at the Children's House Selma Hasanović, <i>Judicial Counsel, District Court of Koper</i></p> <p>Break with a tour of the Public Children's House</p> <p>Hearing with the assistance of an expert - the psychological aspect</p>

			<p>Mateja Hudoklin, PhD, <i>univ. dipl. psych., spec. clinical psych., Ljubljana Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents</i></p> <p>Hearing with the assistance of an expert - the expert's view Nina Mezinec, <i>Specialist Criminal Inspector, General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Administration</i></p>
<p>22. expert consultation The child - a mirror of society!</p>	<p>Hotel Slon, Ljubljana, 18. 4. and 19. 4. 2024;</p>	<p>public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers, lawyers, police representatives;</p>	<p>Seminar leaders mag. Jride Mršnik Poljšak, <i>District State Prosecutor, District State Prosecutor's Office in Ljubljana</i> Robert Tekavec, <i>Head of the Juvenile Delinquency Department, General Police Directorate</i></p> <p>Roughness - a reflection of today's society? Prof. Dr. Dragan Petrovec, <i>Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>AMOK – vpliv psihičnih motenj na pojav agresivnega vedenja Prof. Peter Pregelj, <i>MD, PhD, forensic expert in psychiatry</i></p> <p>Action in the event of AMOK events Vlado Ilič, <i>Senior Independent Police Inspector, General Police Directorate, Office of the Director General of Police</i></p> <p>The Child in Criminal Law - Beyond the Limits of Criminal Responsibility Assoc. prof. Dr. Miha Šepec, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Maribor</i></p> <p>Supportive relationships as a key condition for effectively tackling peer violence Associate Prof. Dr. Katja Košir, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor</i></p> <p>Motivation in relationships - optimism? A doctor's observations on the impact of psychological health on whole-body health Sanela Peresciutti, <i>MD, University Medical Centre Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Violence on the internet Nina Mezinec, <i>Specialist Criminal Inspector, General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Administration</i></p> <p>Juvenile delinquency with a focus on peer violence Prof. Dr. Katja Filipčič, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Treatment of children and adolescents in cases of peer violence at social work centres Rebeka Kovačec, <i>MSc Psych, Centre for Social Work Ljubljana Šiška</i></p> <p>Expert centres and peer violence</p>

			<p>Borut Marolt, <i>Director of the Logatec Professional Centre</i></p> <p>Preventing and stopping peer violence - experience working with children and young people Katja Zabukovec Kerin, <i>Association for Nonviolent Communication</i></p> <p>The impact of online networks on violence Assoc. Prof. Dan Podjed, PhD, <i>Anthr., Institute of Slovene Ethnography ZRC SAZU and Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana</i></p>
Family Law School 2024	Riki Balance Hotel, Bled, 16. 5. and 17. 5. 2024;	judges, judicial advisers, (senior) state lawyers, candidates for state lawyers, lawyers;	<p>Head of School Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p><u>Day 1, 16 May - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</u></p> <p>Divorce in cases of domestic violence Prof. Dr. Barbara Novak, <i>Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Family law disputes: between substance and procedure Mag. Nina Betetto, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Challenges and needs in addressing domestic violence Jasna Podreka, PhD, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana and SOS telefon Association</i></p> <p>Violence and court proceedings Tanja Hrovat Svetičič, <i>Professional Manager of Accommodation Programmes, Association for Nonviolent Communication</i></p> <p>Dealing with domestic violence in family proceedings Vanja Tinta Tavčar, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Round table on the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) Moderator: Mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i> Participants: Katarina Parazajda, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i> Frida Burkelc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje District Court</i> Andrej Razdrih, <i>Attorney at Law, Razdrih Law Firm</i> Sabina Krancelbinder Krapež, <i>Univ. Dipl. in Law, Centre for Social Work Pomurje, Lendava Unit</i> Jasna Podreka, PhD, <i>Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana and SOS telefon Association</i> Tanja Hrovat Svetičič, <i>Professional Manager of Accommodation Programmes, Association for Nonviolent Communication</i></p>

			<p><u>Day 2, 17 May - CHILD'S POSITION IN THE PROCEEDINGS</u></p> <p>The position of the child in court proceedings Dr Mateja Končina Peternel, <i>Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Collision guardianship in practice Tajka Golob Obrenovič, <i>Associate, Gross & Golob</i></p> <p>Understanding the relationship between the warring parents Branko Brinšek, <i>MD, PhD, psychiatrist, forensic expert in the field of medicine and subfield of psychiatry</i></p> <p>Child advocacy Maša Gril, <i>Regional Coordinator for Child Advocacy, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Getting your child's views Dr. Anja Andrejč Balažic, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych, Centre for Social Work Pomurje, Unit Ljutomer</i></p>
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Every year, within the framework of the Education Days of the Association of State Prosecutors of Slovenia, CIP organises a professional excursion to visit various institutions and centres:

Centre for Training, Work and Care of Black Forest in Carinthia	2018	
Therapeutic community within the Community Meeting (Pelikan Institute, Karitas), Kostanjevica pri Nova Gorici;	2019	
Educational establishment: cancelled due to epidemiological situation;	2020	
Logatec Institute for Education and Training	Radeče, 10. 9. 2021;	public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers
Višnja Gora Educational Institution	Višnja Gora, 1. 4. 2022;	public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers
Radeče Re-education Home	2023	public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers
Centre for Training, Work and Care of Black Forest in Carinthia	2024	public prosecutors, assistants at public prosecutors' offices, judges, judicial advisers

According to CIP, the training programmes to be organised in the second semester are still under preparation. Specific lectures on sexual violence and the treatment of victims of sexual violence in the courts may be included in the Criminal Justice School and in the Prosecutors' Education Days. Both training courses are aimed at a specific target group (criminal judges and public prosecutors)

Educational activities of the Bar Association of Slovenia (Bar Academy):

Table of training activities carried out by the SCSD between 2018 and 2024 (June):

Law School 2018	Bernardin Congress Centre, Portorož Friday, 13 April 2018	<p>Section G - Family Section - Family Code</p> <p>Moderated by Dr Nana Weber</p> <p>Matrimonial property regime prof. dr. Barbara Novak, <i>PF Ljubljana</i></p> <p>New parent-child relationships dr. Nana Weber, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i></p> <p>The role of a lawyer in family disputes Petruša Jager, <i>lawyer in Ljubljana</i></p> <p>Child protection measures mag. Nadja Marolt, <i>District Judge, Head of the Family Justice Department at the Ljubljana District Court</i></p>
Law School 2019	Bernardin Congress Centre, Portorož Friday, 22 March 2019	<p>Section H - Civil 2 and Family 1 (Europa Hall)</p> <p>Moderated by: lawyer Petruša Jager</p> <p>Unfair procedure - new features of the UNCT-1 mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Measures to protect the best interests of the child mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>Section I - Družinska 2 (Europa Hall)</p> <p>Moderated by: lawyer Petruša Jager</p> <p>Who is a child at risk? Simona Mikec, <i>Centre for Social Work Ljubljana, Vič Rudnik Unit</i></p> <p>Removal of a child Frida Burkelc, <i>Senior Judge, Celje District Court</i></p>

		<p>Temporary orders under the new Family Code mag. Nadja Marolt, <i>District Judge, Head of the Family Division of the Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>New family lawyers Petruša Jager, <i>lawyer</i></p>
2020 LAW SCHOOL	18. SEPTEMBER 2020, CANKARJEV DOM, LINHART HALL	/
Law School 2021	Thursday 21 October 2021, Bernardin Congress Centre in Portorož	/
Law School 2022	Friday, 1 April 2022 Bernardin Congress Centre in Portorož	<p>Section H - Civil Section 3</p> <p>Best interests of the child and at risk Petruša Jager, <i>District Judge, Family Division of the Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Participation in non-contentious proceedings, with an emphasis on family matters mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>Participation in non-contentious proceedings, with an emphasis on family matters mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p>
Law School 2023	Friday, 24 March 2023 Bernardin Congress Centre in Portorož	<p>Section B - Civil Section</p> <p>Trust in care and education through the prism of the best interests of the child Petruša Jager, <i>Judge, Family Division, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>Section I - Regular training for defence lawyers involved in proceedings against minors Zoran Stankić Rupnik, <i>lawyer,</i> Neža Miklič, <i>Senior Police Inspector,</i> mag. Iride Mršnik Poljšak, <i>District Public Prosecutor and</i> Timon Hren, <i>lawyer</i></p> <p>(6 school hours in total)</p>
LAW SCHOOL 2024	BERNARDIN CONGRESS CENTRE IN PORTOROŽ, 5	Section E - FAMILY LAW: SHARED PARENTING, CONFLICT GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, ENFORCEABILITY OF JUDGMENTS AND COURT SETTLEMENTS"

	<p>April 2024</p>	<p>"THE CSD OPINION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXPERT OPINION" Aleksander Šmid, <i>Senior Judge, Celje High Court</i></p> <p>"SHARED PARENTHOOD AFTER THE BREAKDOWN OF A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP" Katarina Parazajda, <i>Senior Judge, Ljubljana High Court</i></p> <p>"MAINTENANCE IN SHARED PARENTHOOD" Matej Papler, <i>Senior Judge, High Court in Koper</i></p> <p>"THE CONFLICT GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD IN FAMILY PROCEEDINGS - A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE" Vanja Tinta Tavčar, <i>District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</i></p> <p>"THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD OR OF THE PARTY" mag. Matej Čujovič, <i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia</i></p> <p>DISCUSS</p> <p>Section F - REGULAR TRAINING FOR ADVOCACY ADVOCATES COOPERATING IN THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A YOUTH OFFENDER</p> <p>6 school hours in total</p> <p>DURATION OF REGULAR TRAINING Regular training programme:</p> <p>Presentation on the implementation of Article 1(2) of the ACPOHO Zoran Stankić Rupnik Juvenile delinquency and criminal justice responses to it; an overview of the situation and contemporary challenges in Slovenia Dr Mojca M. Plesničar and Dr Jasmina Arnež</p> <p>Presentation of cases and discussion Jrude Mršnik Poljšak and Zoran Stankić Rupnik</p>
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Educational activities of the Association of Social Work Centres (SCSD):

Table of training activities carried out by the SCSD between 2018 and 2024 (June):

<p>The role of the CSD professional in family court proceedings</p>	<p>13. -14 June 2024, Žalec</p>	<p>Speakers Sandra Babič, Director of CSD Pomurje Zoran Stankić Rupnik, lawyer and conflict trustee Frida Burkelc, Family Judge, Celje District Court</p> <p>Preparation of the application for a more permanent measure and interim injunction, insight into the role of the professional - witness in the proceedings or/and the applicant, building professional self-confidence, insight into the role of the judge, lawyer and conflict guardian in the court proceedings.</p> <p>Preparation of Proposal I. Preparation of Proposal II. Role of the lawyer, role of the conflict trustee The role of the referee Simulation of a case in court, analysis, discussion</p> <p>In the form of lectures, simulated court proceedings with all stakeholders, analysis and discussion.</p>
<p>Contacts under supervision</p>	<p>23. april 2024, Ljubljana</p>	<p>Mojca Ojstrež Kogovšek, CSD Sendi Murgel, Social Inspector</p> <p>In this introductory lecture, we will review the legal basis for supervised contacts and define the purpose of supervised contacts. We will review the entire process from the initiation of the order to the initiation of the contacts, the preparation and conduct of the contacts and the preparation of the report to the court. We will continue with role-play exercises and small group work. The final part will present the findings of the social inspections carried out. Participants are invited to raise issues and potential dilemmas related to supervised contacts through the training.</p>
<p>CHILD PROTECTION BENEFITS IN PROCEEDINGS AT SOCIAL WORK CENTRE</p>	<p>11. april, 7. may, 4. june, 20. june, Ljubljana</p>	<p>Lot 1: Benefits for the child - child advocate, cooperation with courts, CSD mandate Lecturers: representative of the Ombudsperson, representative of the District Court, Mišo Pavlović, CSD</p> <p>Child advocacy Dr Jože Ruparčič, Deputy Ombudsperson Mag. Lea Javornik, Ombudsperson's Expert Service</p> <p>Cooperation with the courts Tadeja Oštir, District Judge, Ljubljana District Court</p>

		<p>Protecting the best interests of the child at the CSD in proceedings under the Family Code Mišo Pavlović, social worker at the Centre for Social Work</p> <p>Lot 2: Developmental needs of children and adolescents Lecturers: dr Bernarda Dobnik Renko</p> <p>Sensitising parents about their children's needs Children's needs by developmental stage Supporting parents to communicate during the divorce process Alienation - identification, counselling Preparation of an opinion for the court (assessment of parental competence, proposal for contact) Workshop</p> <p>Lot 3: Talking to the child and young person Lecturers:mag. May Method</p> <p>Initial communication with the child and young person The psychological importance of adequate information and ethics The child's well-being, feelings, thoughts and wishes in the court proceedings Talking about family situations - methods and techniques An expert view of your child's opinion Holistic family treatment and best interests of the child assessment</p> <p>Strand 4: Opinion for the Court - SI findings, case analysis of the CSD opinion for the Court Speakers: Sendi Murgel, Peter Stefanoski, Dr Anja Andrejč Balazic, Nina Cigut</p> <p>Social inspection findings and recommendations Sendi Murgel and Peter Stefanoski</p> <p>Opinion for the CSD Court - case study Anja Andrejč Balažic and Nina Cugut, CSD Pomurje professionals</p> <p>Discussion: questions and suggestions</p>
	9. may 2023	<p>PREPARING A PETITION TO THE COURT IN PROCEEDINGS TO PROTECT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD SAŠA CAR AND SANDRA BABIČ</p>
	25. may 2023	<p>CHANGING YOUR CHILD'S SURNAME MAG. MAY METHOD</p>

16. may 2023	PARENTING SEPARATELY - PSYCHOEDUCATION FOR PARENTS TAJA BORŠTNAR
28. february and 9 March 2023	THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE OF THE PARENTS' DIVORCE, two-day ZOOM and live DR. ANJA ANDREJČ BALAŽIC
	TRAINING AS A FAMILY MEDIATOR The training takes the form of 4 substantive modules, totalling 161 hours, and is included on the list of approved training programmes for mediators at MDDSZ.
12. in 19.9.2023 28.9.2023	OTHER ADVANCED TRAINING FOR MEDIATORS: DIVISION OF ASSETS AND DRAFTING OF A PROPOSAL TO THE COURT, SIMONA FRUMEN NEGOTIATION TECHNIQUES IN MEDIATION, RUDI TAVČAR
29. march and 5. april 2022	PREPARING A REPORT AND OPINION FOR THE COURT, VANJA DINA DOBOVIČNIK 2 versions
8. november 2022 13. december 2022	CSD BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT ANITA BREGAR 2 versions
10. may 2022	A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAŠA CAR, MANUELA MORŠIČ, BORIS RAKUŠA Participants: professionals and police officers.
24. november 2022	PRELIMINARY COUNSELLING AND MEDIATION AT THE CSD MARKO VERDEV, SENDI MURGEL
10. november 2022	PARENTING SEPARATELY - PSYCHOEDUCATION FOR PARENTS TAJA BORŠTNA
10. march 2022 Online version	THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE OF THE PARENTS' DIVORCE, DR. ANJA ANDREJČ

18. march 2022	COUNSELLING AND ADVICE ON FAMILY SEPARATION, DR. ANJA ANDREJČ
25. january 2022 Online version	WORKING WITH THE FOSTER CHILD'S BIRTH FAMILY AND PREPARING A COURT APPLICATION, PETER STEFANOSKI, SENDI MURGEL
2021	WORKING WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA OF A SOCIAL CARE USER Mag. Miran Možina
2021	PROTECTIVE AND RISK FACTORS FOR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING Dr Ljubica Marjanovič Umek
2021	DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE Dr Ljubica Marjanovič Umek
2021	TALKING TO YOUR CHILD IN CRISIS SITUATIONS Neža Miklič
2021	PROFESSIONAL WORK WITH ADOLESCENTS WITH GROWING-UP PROBLEMS AND THEIR PARENTS Marjeta Dečman
2021	REMOVAL OF THE CHILD BY DIRECT SURRENDER Anita Bregar (CSD) Frida Burkelc (judge) Peter Ivkovič (executor)
2021	COMMON CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION - divorce proceedings Mag. Method Maj, Rebeka Kovačec and Frida Burkelc
2021	ATTACHMENT STYLES AND ALIENATION OF THE CHILD FROM PARENT Dr Anja Andrejč
2021	WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE Katja Zabukovec Kerin, DNA
2021	TRAINING AS A FAMILY MEDIATOR The training takes the form of 4 modules with a total of 161 hours of content and is listed as approved training programmes for mediators at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Human Rights.
2020	PARENTS' CONVERSATION - CHILDREN'S FEELINGS, DESIRES AND OPINIONS, mag. May Method

	2020	PRIOR COUNSELLING AND MEDIATION AT THE CSD, 3 repetitions, Sendi Murgel and Simona Frumen
	2020	WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE Katja Zabukovec Kerin, DNA
	2020	TRAINING AS A FAMILY MEDIATOR The training takes the form of 4 substantive modules, totalling 161 hours, and is included on the list of approved training programmes for mediators at MDDSZ.
	2019	COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COURTS AND THE CSJ TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S BEST INTERESTS UNDER THE FAMILY CODE 3 repetitions, Anita Bregar and Frida Burkelc
	2019	GUARDIANSHIP UNDER THE FAMILY CODE 2 repetitions, Dr Barbara Novak
	2019	IDENTIFYING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, Ljubljana, Maribor, Koper prof. dr. sc. Gordana Buljan Flander
	2019	ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN THE CSD - MEASURES AND SERVICES, Sendi Murgel and Peter Stefanoski
	2019	TALKING TO YOUR CHILD IN CRISIS SITUATIONS, Neža Miklič
	2019	CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, Dr Ljubica Marjanovič Umek
	2019	TRAINING AS A FAMILY MEDIATOR The training takes the form of 4 modules with a total of 161 hours of content and is listed as approved training programmes for mediators at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Human Rights.
WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: treatment of abused and at-risk children, children's distress in high-conflict divorces and forensic interview with the child, two-day	30. 31 January 2018, LJUBLJANA (SCSD); 7. march 2018, 8 March 2018, MARIBOR (CSD Maribor);	Training of CSD workers on the introduction of the Family Code WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: treatment of abused and at-risk children, children's distress in high-conflict divorces and forensic interview with the child, two-day (preparation of the child for court, introduction to the forensic interview, age-appropriate interview with the child, parental separation, children's needs and manipulation of children in a conflict relationship, analysis of intervention cases,

	<p>4. 5 April 2018, 5 April 2018, CELJE (CSD Celje);</p> <p>9. 10 May 2018, Koper (CSD Koper);</p> <p>june 2018, June 2018, LJUBLJANA (M hotel)</p>	<p>supervision)</p> <p>Lecturer: Prof. dr. sc. Gordana Buljan Flander</p>
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Educational activities on child advocacy (Ombudsperson)

Table of training activities carried out by the SCSD between 2018 and 2024 (June):

<p>EXPERT CONFERENCE OF CHILD ADVOCACY PARTICIPANTS "Advocate in Court"</p>	<p>11. - 12 October 2019, Hotel Histriion, Portorož</p>	<p>Defence counsel in court: a judge's opinion and experience mag. Ksenija Kejžar</p> <p>The Ombudsperson's and advocates' experience with the courts: examples from advocacy practice</p> <p>Advocacy in court proceedings: a presentation of the legal bases and court procedures from the experience of a lawyer and a defence lawyer Božena Vučajnk</p> <p>Social evening: screening of the film <i>When You Lose Everything (Jusqu'a la garde)</i> - the story of a custody battle</p> <p>How to overcome your fear of speaking (in court) Klemen Belhar</p> <p>Exchange of views and experiences of participants in the consultation with the courts: group work moderator: Peter Steničnik</p> <p>Reporting by groups and drawing up of conclusions moderator: Peter Steničnik</p>
<p>EXPERT CONSULTATION OF CHILD ADVOCACY PARTICIPANTS "A child between two fires and creating a safe space"</p>	<p>17. - 18 September 2021, Rimske Toplice</p>	<p>The child and high conflict between separated parents (lecture with discussion) anja Andrejč, PhD, Psychologist</p> <p>Adolescents in the advocacy process (presentation of advocacy cases with discussion) Slavica Suhovršnik</p> <p>Child refuses contact with one parent and grandparents (advocacy case presentation with discussion) Lidija Bolčina</p> <p>Providing a safe/safer space in the child advocacy process (interactive workshop) Maja Drobne</p> <p>The making of a child's statement in the advocacy process (presentation of an advocacy case with discussion) Matejka Šavli and Natalija Majcen</p>

<p>EXPERT CONSULTATION OF CHILD ADVOCACY PARTICIPANTS "Confronting different forms of violence in advocacy"</p>	<p>7. - 8 October 2022, Brdo pri Kranju</p>	<p>Addressing violence against children (lecture with discussion) Dubravka Hrovatič</p> <p>How to respond to a child's confession of violence (interactive workshop) Dubravka Hrovatič</p> <p>Introduction to mindfulness, its origins and development (prelude to the Saturday workshop) dr Simona Mlinar</p> <p>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (experiential workshop - Group 1) dr Simona Mlinar</p> <p>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (experiential workshop - Group 2) dr Simona Mlinar</p> <p>Presentation of the advocate's and coordinator's experience with cases with elements of violence Advocacy case presentation - contractor not yet finalised Presentation of protocols for dealing with perceived violence during advocacy Nataša Zidar and Peter Steničnik</p> <p>Presentation of the Children's House - Barnahus Slovenia Sandra Smiljanič and Ana Šutar</p>
<p>EXPERT CONSULTATION OF CHILD ADVOCACY PARTICIPANTS "Advocacy as a supportive environment to protect and strengthening the mental health of children and adolescents"</p>	<p>6. - 7 October 2023, Terme Čatež</p>	<p>Children, adolescents and mental health: status and challenges, assist. Matej Vinko, MD, <i>Public Health Specialist, Head of the Centre for Mental Health, NIJZ</i></p> <p>Presentation of the National Mental Health Programme - MIRA, Nastja Salmič Tisovec, <i>Univ. Dipl. Psych, National Health Promoter, NIJZ, OE Novo mesto</i></p> <p>What did the children say about mental health? Results of the Children's Parliament and Tom Phone, Petra Zega and Uroš Brezovšek, <i>Assistant, Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth</i></p> <p>Use the EPG (Electronic Programme Guide), Mojca Šraj, <i>Ombudsperson</i></p> <p>Towards good mental health, experiential workshop, Domen Kralj, <i>M.Sc., Regional Coordinator for Mental Health, NIJZ, OE Celje</i></p> <p>Presentation of the mental health programme for young people This is Me, nuša Konec Juričič, <i>Head of the Unit for Non-Communicable Diseases, NIJZ, Celje</i></p>

		<p>The importance of mental health promotion in advocacy, Vanja Dina Dobovičnik, <i>univ. dipl. soci. del., supervisor in advocacy</i></p> <p>Presenting an advocacy case</p>
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Example of a training programme for child advocates (2021):

TRAINING FOR CHILD ADVOCATES FOR 2021	<p>1. - 2 October, 15. - 16 October, 22. - 23 October, 5. - 6 November, 12. - 13 November</p>	<p>The concept of child advocacy mag. Martina Jenkole</p> <p>Children's rights, parents' rights dr Zoran Pavlovič</p> <p>Advocacy in court proceedings: presentation of the legal basis Bozena Vučajnk</p> <p>Discussion with participants on the work of the advocate Jasna Vunduk, Lidija Hvastja Rupnik, mag. Lea Javornik</p> <p>Establishing a working relationship and personal contact in advocacy dr Katarina Kompan Erzar</p> <p>Child in court mag. Ksenija Kejžar</p> <p>Socialisation, parenting styles (+ workshop) Tjaša Steiner</p> <p>Emotional, behavioural and social disorders dr Tomaž Vec</p> <p>Understanding and strategies for working in conflict situations (+ workshops) Sandi Kofol</p> <p>Talking to your child (+ workshop) mag. May Method</p> <p>Methods and techniques for working with children (+ workshop) mag. May Method</p>
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