



**Child-friendly justice in the Greek and Cypriot courts**

Newsletter

November 2023



Welcome to the second newsletter of the **CHILD Front** project! Our newsletter aims to share information on our activities in the field of training of judicial officers in child-friendly justice.

The next issue of the newsletter is expected to be published in January 2024.

## Training of Trainers - Study Visits

### Online and On-Site Train of Trainers

The Train of Trainers was conducted from 18 to 24 October 2023. It included



three days of online and one day of face-to-face training, with the participation of five judges and two prosecutors from Greece and three judges from Cyprus. The fourth day of the training was organised by [Save the Children Italia](#), in cooperation with the Italian School for the Judiciary, and was conducted in Rome, on 24 October 2023.

The objective of the Train of Trainers was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to provide training in the field of child-friendly justice to their peers, with a particular emphasis on face-to-face, online, and hybrid training methodologies for legal professionals. The judges and prosecutors who underwent training will act as trainers in the project's cross-border educational seminars scheduled for December 2023 in Thessaloniki.



## Study Visit at Cooperative CivicoZero Centre - Rome - 25 October 2023

Participants visited CivicoZero, a social cooperative providing integration and support services to minors, especially unaccompanied third-country nationals. The visit allowed them to explore the cooperative's facilities and engage in



discussions with professionals working there about their experiences with the beneficiaries, particularly minors.



## Study Visit at Sofia District Court - 27 October 2023

During the visit, which was organized by the [Center for the Study of Democracy](#), participants had the opportunity to meet judges and prosecutors from Sofia Regional Court and discuss issues related to child-friendly justice. They toured the courtrooms, including a specially designed room (blue room) where cases involving or concerning children are heard.



## Participants' comments:

Participants evaluated their training experience as highly positive, emphasizing the content of the training, the quality of educational materials, the effectiveness of trainers, and the utility of experiential learning.

### What do you think you have gained from this training?

- "...experience in training tools and methods, interaction with experts from different scientific fields, knowledge and experience exchange with colleagues."
- "I gained insight into the approach to children in civil, criminal, and administrative procedures, allowing me to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject."



- "I understood how other countries implement the theoretical guidelines of child-friendly justice in practice."

### **What were the most significant lessons learnt from the study visits?**

- "The analysis of training methods was very important. So were the practical exercises that followed. In addition, the visit to Cooperativo CivicoZero was very useful, as the organisation's contribution and approach regarding unaccompanied children was demonstrated. Finally, I think that our presence at the Sofia District Court (visit to the blue room), where the way of questioning children by judges through psychologists was analysed, was particularly beneficial."

## **Transnational Training Seminars – Thessaloniki – December 2023**

In the framework of the project, the Greek National School of the Judiciary and the Centre for European Constitutional Law - Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation are going to organise three two-day transnational training seminars on child-friendly justice:

- At the Greek National School of the Judiciary, in Thessaloniki, on 11-12 and 13-14 December.
- Online, in January 2024.

Stay tuned for more information!

Seminars are addressed to judges, prosecutors and students from the Schools of the Judiciary, from Greece and Cyprus. They focus on the EU and broader European framework concerning child-friendly justice, with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary training by experienced child psychiatrists and experts in child psychology and child-friendly communication.

Furthermore, each seminar addresses specific topics relating to different branches of justice, focusing in particular on:

- The child as a victim, witness, suspect, and accused in criminal proceedings.
- Family law and child custody.
- Rights of underage migrants and asylum seekers.
- Protection of the personal data of children involved in judicial proceedings.

The education will be experiential and interactive, emphasizing practical problems and case studies, as well as the current jurisprudence of European courts.



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**More information about the project will be included in future newsletters!...**



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