



Child-friendly justice in the Greek and Cypriot courts

Newsletter

February 2024



Welcome to the third issue of the **CHILD Front** newsletter! Our newsletter aims to provide information about our activities in the field of training of judicial officers in child-friendly justice.

The next issue of the newsletter is expected to be released at the end of February 2024.

Transnational Training Seminars - National School of Judiciary of Greece - December 2023





The in-person two-day transnational training seminars on child-friendly justice were successfully held on 11-12 and 13-14 December 2023, at the National School of Judiciary in Thessaloniki, Greece. More than 85 judges and prosecutors from Greece and Cyprus were trained on both general, as well as specific topics of child-friendly justice per branch of justice. Specifically, the Criminal Justice branch included topics related to child victims, witnesses, suspects and defendants in criminal trials. The Civil Justice branch included subjects relating to family law and child custody and the Administrative Justice branch included subjects relating to asylum procedures and migrant minors.

In addition, the seminars included interdisciplinary training on child psychology and child-friendly communication, as well as training in data protection issues affecting children involved in judicial proceedings.

The training emphasised on practical problems and solutions through interactive exercises, case studies, group work and role-playing.

Transnational Online trainings

Following the transnational in-person trainings at the National School of Judiciary of Greece, an additional two-day transnational online training per branch of justice was held on the 29th and 30th of January 2024.

Comments from participants:

The participants evaluated their experience of the training as particularly useful, emphasizing the professionalism and expertise of the facilitators as well as the importance of the interdisciplinary approach from the field of child psychology, which was considered essential as a methodological tool for approaching and communicating with children in the legal treatment of their claims.

What were the most important things you have taken away from this training?





“The multidisciplinary approach to the subject with the excellent speakers enhanced our knowledge and skills to deal with criminal cases involving children (either as victims or perpetrators) in an effective way. Thank you very much and we look forward to similar activities in the future.”

“I have gained knowledge on how to deal with and handle juveniles, experience, I met with colleagues and exchanged views.”

“It’s very important to be informed about the tools and minimum obligations of investigating authorities and courts as derived from European law. The concept of secondary victimisation was highlighted and I was given the opportunity to further understand the specifics of dealing with child victims and perpetrators.”

“Particularly important was the exchange of experiences from the exercise of our duties with colleagues and the exchange of views as well as the contact with other judicial systems and other disciplines, such as psychology. The latter is particularly important in the whole range of our work, especially in the context of managing cases involving minors.”

Asynchronous e-learning platform

Apart from the synchronous training activities, up to 100 judges and prosecutors have been foreseen to sign up in the asynchronous e-learning platform and complete the e-course designed exclusively for the CHILD front project.

The training will be available in Greek and English and addressed to judges, prosecutors, trainee judges and training providers as well as field experts in the area of child-friendly justice.

Four training packages will be designed:

(1) Judicial training methodology and child-friendly justice issues,



- (2) Child-friendly justice in the fields of Criminal, Civil and Administrative justice,
- (3) Protection of personal data of children involved in judicial proceedings,
- (4) Child psychology and child-friendly communication, including practical guidance on providing effective support for children involved in court proceedings.

The aim of the asynchronous training activities is to provide the opportunity to all aforementioned target groups to access training easily, at their own pace. The e-learning platform will also include a wide range of features (Library, Forum, Chat) designed to facilitate online learning and provide an engaging and effective educational experience to its target audiences.

The operation of the platform will run from March 2024 till the end of the project (April 2024) and will remain accessible for at least three additional years.

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



**Co-funded by
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