

Project “My Lawyer, My Rights”

Enhancing children's rights in criminal proceedings in the EU

Coordinator: Defence for Children International (DCI) - Belgium

Duration: 24 months

Dates: 1st September 2016 – 31th August 2018

KICK-OFF SEMINAR – REPORT



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1. INTRODUCTION

This kick-off seminar gathered all partners, experts and members of the advisory group of the European project “My Lawyer, My Rights. Enhancing Children’s rights in criminal proceedings in the EU”.

The aim was to settle down the basis for the implementation of this project in every country, counting on the valuable contributions of international experts in the field, with the support of the Ministries of Justice from Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy and Poland and from Lawyers working in the field. This meeting allowed fostering synergies between partners, improving mutual trust and providing a common working method. The overall objectives were: 1) to strengthen cooperation between the different project’s actors for an optimal and smooth running of the project; 2) to integrate valuable inputs from multidisciplinary partners to the working methodology the project’s coordinator has developed.

The first day of the seminar was devoted to present the content and objectives of the project in detail (including the timeline and deadlines); to introduce every participant (their experience, their role in the project, etc.); to present the legal framework this project is based on as well as the state of play in the different countries participating. Part of the day was also devoted to the methodology of the project.

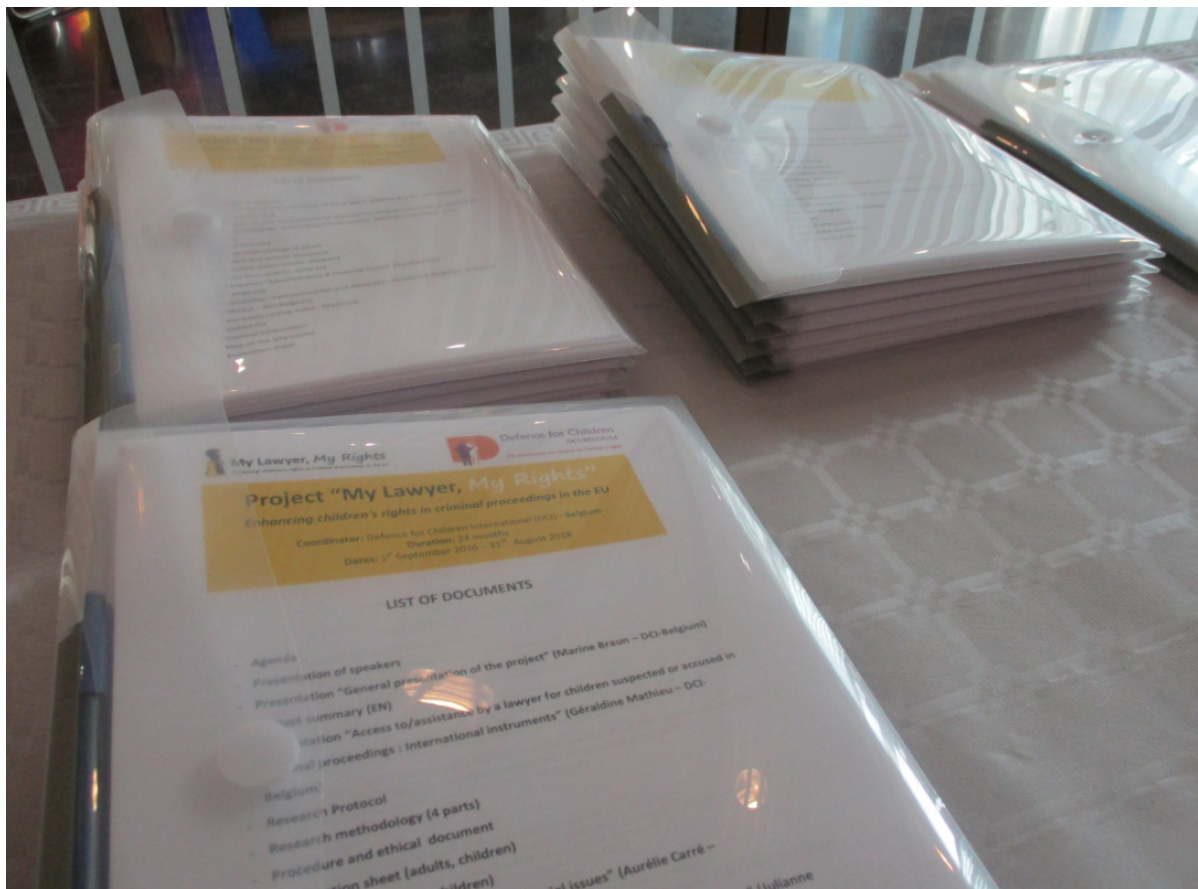
The second day of the seminar was committed to the presentation of the partners of the project, their own projects and the link with “My Lawyer, My Rights”. It was also important at this stage to explain in detail the methodology to be followed in every partner country to implement the national research. The different workshops and expertise-sharing between partners and experts allowed integrating suggestions and comments to optimise the working method. Moreover, constraints and possible obstacles were raised during the discussions and solutions were sought by common understanding. Lastly, there was a presentation in order to remind and clarify the advocacy and communication framework of the project, as well as the financial and administrative issues of the project.

A **folder** was handed in to partners containing:

- Agenda
- Presentation of speakers
- Presentation “General presentation of the project” (Marine Braun – DCI-Belgium)
- Project summary (EN)
- Presentation “Access to/assistance by a lawyer for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings : International instruments” (Géraldine Mathieu – DCI-Belgium)
- Research Protocol
- Research methodology (4 parts)
- Procedure and ethical document
- Information sheet (adults, children)



- Consent form (adults, children)
- Presentation "Administrative & Financial issues" (Aurélie Carré – DCI-Belgium)
- Presentation "Communication and Advocacy : Timeline & Strategy" (Julianne Laffineur – DCI-Belgium)
- Awareness-raising video - Materials
- Contact list
- Practical information
- Map of the city-center
- Evaluation sheet



2. AGENDA

Wednesday 19th October 2016

09:30 – 10:00	Registration and Welcome coffee
10:00 – 10:30	Introductory speech and general presentation on the youth lawyer <i>Mr. Benoît Van Keirsbilck, Director of DCI-Belgium and President of DCI-International</i>
10:30 – 11:20	Short presentation of participants – Round table
11:20 – 11:50	Coffee-break
11:50 – 12:30	General presentation of the project <i>Mrs. Marine Braun, Juvenile Justice Officer and Project Coordinator DCI-Belgium</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation on international instruments applicable regarding the access to a lawyer for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings <i>Mrs. Géraldine Mathieu, Juvenile Justice Expert DCI-Belgium</i>
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:45	State of play in each of the partner countries (15 min/ partner) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belgium: Ms. Marine Braun, Juvenile Justice Officer and Project Coordinator DCI-Belgium - Bulgaria: Mr. Kaloyan Stanev, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee - Ireland: Mrs. Naomi Kennan, Child Law Clinic (UCC) - Italy: Ms. Júlia Pàmias Prohías, DCI-Italy - The Netherlands: Mrs. Maartje Berger, DCI-The Netherlands - Poland: Mr. Marcin Wolny, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
15:45 – 15:55	Presentation of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and of their project “FAIR” (Fostering Access for Immigrant children's Rights) <i>Mrs. Karolina Babicka, Legal Adviser in the European Programme of ICJ</i>
15:55 – 16:15	Coffee-break
16:15 – 17:15	Workshops in groups on a draft of the research methodology (national research and report, common report, deadlines)
17:15 – 18:00	Pooling results of the workshops
19:30	Dinner in the city center



Thursday 20th October 2016

09:15 – 09:30	Summary of the previous day and introduction to the second day of work
09:30 – 09:50	Presentation on socio-legal defence centres and on children's access to justice in its international aspects <i>Mrs. Anna D. Tomasi, Advocacy Officer, International Secretariat of DCI</i>
09:50 – 10:35	Presentation on interviewing children and on children's participation in youth lawyers training (+ discussion to share experiences) <i>Mrs. Shauneen Lambe, Barrister in England and Wales and an Attorney in Louisiana, Expert on youth justice</i>
10:35 – 10:50	Presentation on the training of youth lawyers in Flanders <i>Mr. Eric Van der Mussele, Lawyer specialized in youth cases in the Antwerp Bar, member of ECBA</i>
10:50 – 11:00	Child Circle's experiences and involvement in the project <i>Mrs. Rebecca O'Donnell and Mrs. Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Child Circle Belgium</i>
11:00 – 11:10	Presentation of the European Criminal Bar association (ECBA) <i>Mrs. Ines Carvalho Sá and Prof. dr. Holger Matt, Criminal Lawyers and members of ECBA</i>
11:10 – 11:40	Workshops in groups on the questionnaire for interviews with children
11:40 – 11:55	Coffee-break
11:55 – 12:10	Pooling results of the workshops
12:10 – 12:40	Workshops in groups on the questionnaire for interviews with professionals
12:40 – 12:55	Pooling results of the workshops
12:55 – 14:10	Lunch
14:10 – 14:40	Presentation on the practical questions of the project (financial and administrative; rights and obligations of partners, deadlines, etc.) <i>Mrs. Aurélie Carré, Management and Finances Officer DCI-Belgium</i>
14:40 – 15:10	Presentation of the advocacy timeline and the practical details on how to best communicate between partners <i>Mrs. Julianne Laffineur, Advocacy and Communication Officer DCI-Belgium</i>
15:10 – 15:45	Conclusion and brief presentation on the continuation of the project



3. CONTENT

DAY 1:



Mr Van Keirsbilck, President of DCI and Director of DCI-Belgium, introduced briefly **the reasons why DCI-Belgium decided to implement this project**. Juvenile Justice has been one of the main priorities of the Movement for many years now. During the last years, DCI, through direct experience in the field, through the implementation of other projects, and through its contacts with important networks and experts at the international and national level, has confirmed that the participation of children in juvenile justice and their relationship with their lawyers are very often **a source of difficulties**. Children complain because they did not receive the right service, the right support. They have the feeling they have not been heard by the judge. They may also have expectations not in line with the real role of the lawyer – which highlights a lack of information regarding the functioning of justice. Another difficulty is **the lack of experience and the lack of adequate training of the Lawyers**. Finally, the project will also raise – and try to solve – the difficult question **regarding the mandate given by the children to his/her lawyer**. Who's the best to know the best interest of the child? Is it the child or the Lawyer? How to decide?

The presentation by Benoit was followed by a rapid **tour de table of every participants present** at the meeting, so that partners, experts and members of the advisory council would be able to know the different actors in the project, and would be able to put a name on each face (see list of participants hereafter).



Mrs Marine Braun, Juvenile Justice Officer and Project Coordinator at DCI-Belgium, explained in detail **the content, objectives, timeline and scope of the project:**

Objectives of the project:

1. Guarantee the proper application of the EU Directive 2013/48 on the right of access to a lawyer and of the Directive 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children suspects or accused in criminal proceedings and other related standards :
 - In the specific field of juvenile justice;
 - By supporting Member States ;
 - By advocating (at international, regional and national level) for harmonisation of the policies.
2. Define the role of the youth lawyer and empower them to become “agents of change” in the better implementation of the right of access to a lawyer for children accused or suspected:
 - By defining and providing the basic training a youth lawyer needs;
 - By putting in place the adequate structure to do so.

Expected results:

1. A better overview of the reality:
 - How children feel and experience their right of access to a lawyer;
 - How youth lawyers experience their role and job.
2. Identify good practices and obstacles for a correct implementation of the concerned Directives in juvenile cases.
3. Improved level of compliance of national practices with the concerned EU Directives.
4. Improved knowledge on the subject among different actors involved in the juvenile justice systems as well as an increased awareness on EU standards and law.
5. Place the issue as a priority in the political agendas.

Actors:

Co-beneficiaries

Experts

Associate partners

Members of the advisory council

Collaboration



Timeline and workstream:

WS	Activities	MONTH																							
		S 1	O 2	N 3	D 4	J 5	F 6	M 7	A 8	M 9	J 10	J 11	A 12	S 13	O 14	N 15	D 16	J 17	F 18	M 19	A 20	M 21	J 22	J 23	A 24
WS 0	Management & Coordination	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WS 0	Kick off meeting in Brussels		█																						
WS 1	Desk-research co-beneficiaries			█	█	█	█	█																	
WS 1	Desk-research DLA-Piper			█	█	█																			
WS 1	National reports						█	█	█																
WS 1	Revision national reports									█															
WS 1	Common Report									█	█														
WS 0	Meeting #1 in Brussels										█														
WS 2	Develop website & platform					█	█	█	█																
WS 3	Drafting manual for MS										█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
WS 3	Revision & Dissemination MS										█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
WS 3	Drafting manual for YL in EU													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WS 3	Revision & Dissemination YL													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WS 3	Editing video					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WS 4	Advocacy Strategy	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
WS 0	Meeting #2 in Brussels																					█			
WS 4	Dissemination strategy																					█	█	█	█

Planned activities:

- Meetings in Brussels (3)
- Website + online platform -> data collection/research
- National research: Mapping of youth lawyers systems in 20 countries of the EU (DLA Piper & partners)
- National reports
- Common report
- Manual addressed to policy makers in MS
- Manual (practical tool) addressed to youth lawyers in the EU
- Awareness-raising video performed by children
- Advocacy Strategy
- Information sessions for national authorities (partners)
- Advocacy meetings with national policy makers (partners)
- Awareness-raising sessions at different national Bars and Bar Associations (partners)
- National seminars for key actors (in partners' countries)
- Targeted Dissemination Strategy in the 28 EU countries
- Project's outputs and results in at least 3 strategic EU conferences
- Project's outputs and results in the EU Parliament
- Project's evaluation and impact's assessment

Outputs:

- 20 national reports



- 1 common report (comparative analysis of the youth lawyers system in place)
- 1 website (database) -> information tool
- 2 manuals -> legal based and including practical tools
- 1 awareness-raising video
- 30 information sessions for national authorities
- 30 in-person advocacy meetings with national policy makers
- 6 national seminars
- 30 awareness-raising sessions for lawyers
- 1 impact's assessment report

Project monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF):

Collection of data through:

Desk research (any legal or policy changes – collaboration from the pro-bono lawyers after the project)

2. Immediate evaluation forms for professionals

3. Follow up questionnaires

4. Surveys using quantitative and qualitative indicators and data disaggregated by gender, age and groups of professionals

Highlighted from discussions:

Questions regarding the schedule for the evaluation process are raised : The evaluation is going to be implemented throughout the project - the idea is to have a picture at the beginning and at the end of the project at least to know if changes have arisen - even if 2 years is a really short time period.

The materials for the research collected by DCI-BE, and/or sent by the experts working on the project, will be made available to every participants via the website of the project and google drive. The data-base on the website of the project alimented with all useful documents transmitted or received is also already in progress.

Benoit insist that the research carried by DLA-Piper is only a *desk* research - More than only a desk research is expected from the partners.

Géraldine Mathieu, Juvenile Justice Expert at DCI-Belgium, explained **the International instruments related to the access to/assistance by a lawyer for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings**, with a specific focus on the Directive 2013/48/EU and Directive 2016/800.

She explained that the right to a lawyer is essential to enable children to exercise their rights. Then she gave an overview of the international standards.

Regarding the training of lawyers, she explained that in Belgium there is no class about children's rights at university and there is no mandatory class on children's rights when you become a lawyer.



She also presented the Directives this project aims at implementing (2013/48/EU and 2016/800/EU) and the Directives linked to the project (2010/64/EU and 2012/13/EU).

Regarding the Directive 2016/800/EU, Geraldine drew attention on the fact that the proposal of Directive mentioned in article 6 that children were not allowed to waive their rights to be assisted by a lawyer. But it was cancelled and is not mentioned anymore in the Directive. Then she explained that in Belgium, the law provides that the child cannot waive his right to a lawyer. She said that, in her opinion, waiving is dangerous; a lot of children don't trust their lawyers because they are not specifically trained to work with children.

She also drew attention on the difference of vocabulary in the Directive 2013/48/EU and the Directive 2016/800/EU. In the Directive of 2016, the word ASSISTANCE is used where PRESENCE is used in the Directive of 2013. What is the difference? This point has to be discussed...

We also have to read carefully the recitals 26 and 27 of the Directive 2016/800/EU. What is to be understood? It is not really clear...

Highlighted from discussions:

The presentation is followed by exchanges related to the difference of vocabulary between the two Directives (right of *access to Lawyer* / right of *assistance by a Lawyer*) and the difference of rights enshrined by these texts. The Directive 2016/800/EU, while having been adopted to ensure more safeguards for children, foresees more exceptions and derogations for children than the Directive 2013/48/EU foresees for adults. The suppression of the interdiction for children to waive their rights to be assisted by a lawyer is also not clear.

The position of DCI-Belgium is that we have to keep in mind the case-law of the ECHR and the guidelines of the Council of Europe on a child friendly justice to interpret the definitions of the Directives.

We should come up with our own interpretation, a common position and have very strong arguments to defend this position.

We have to read the Directives as minimum rights. We have to identify all the possible actors around the children suspected or accused, such as social workers, parents, etc. and their role in order to have a realistic approach;

The Directives foresee the effective participation of the lawyer, we must also assure that children participate effectively;

There are a lot of other procedures than criminal proceedings (administrative, procedure for foreign children, etc.) we have to see what is similar and what isn't;

Our interpretation of all the questions and issues around this project must permit a better role of the lawyer.

After the lunch, the exchanges continued with **the presentation by each partner countries of their specific state of play** regarding children's rights in criminal proceeding and their relationship with their Lawyer.



Belgium (Marine Braun - DCI-BE):

After a short presentation of DCI-BE, Marine Braun explained that in Belgium the legislation regarding the rights of children in criminal proceeding is mainly based on the “Salduz” decision issued by the European Court of Human Rights in 2008¹.

The Belgian law provides that suspected children have the right to the effective assistance by a Lawyer at every step of the criminal procedure, starting before the first interrogation of the children by the Police, including the preparatory phase of the proceedings and the main proceedings. Children are not allowed to waive this right. But this right is only provided under certain circumstances.

A bill is currently discussed at the Belgium Parliament to transpose the directive 2013/48 on the right of access to a lawyer.

In certain cases, youth judges can decide to end their function regarding a specific file and pass it over to the adult’s judge (*dessaisissement*). In these cases, the children will no longer benefit from the guarantees offered to children in the juvenile justice system.

The training and requirements regarding the youth Lawyers are slightly different between the French-speaking part of Belgium and the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium:

In the French-speaking part of Belgium, there is a youth section in every bar, composed by volunteer lawyers who commit to undertake the training organized by their bar, which must be multidisciplinary. The youth section must also ensure the permanent training of its members. The training of youth lawyers who are appointed through the legal aid system differs thus between the different bars.

In the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, lawyers who want to be on the volunteer youth lawyers’ list must have followed the specific training on youth law organized by the Order of the Flemish bars. Possibly, it can also be a lawyer who can prove his specialization or who commits to undertake a training. The Order of the Flemish bars’ training is an 80 hours multidisciplinary training with a theoretical and practical part, including exercises on communication with children.

The political agenda regarding children’s rights in Belgium is linked to the drafting of the Belgian UN report on the rights of the child. The national commission of children’s rights, whose role is, among others, to write the Belgian reports for the UN committee on the rights of the child, said that “children and justice” is one of the priorities to address in the next Belgian report (for July 2017). Some of the issues regarding this topic concern youth lawyers, in particular a need for a better respect and quality of the right to a lawyer for children, and their mandatory specialization on children’s rights and communication with children.

The main challenges we identified so far are the discontinuities in the assistance by a lawyer: a child is rarely assisted by the same lawyer through the whole proceedings; children doesn’t know their rights and are only informed of those rights when they are first interrogated by the police; legal dispositions are not always met in the practice, for instance when the right to a

¹ Salduz c. Turquie (application n°36391/02) – 27th November 2008



confidential consultation with a lawyer is provided, there is often no lawyer because of availability, mobility or remuneration problems. Many children that we have interviewed in the past are complaining about the work of their lawyer; too often, they confess that they don't know their lawyer or they are not happy with their work.

Highlighted from discussions:

Géraldine Mathieu (DCI – BE) highlighted the difficulty of comprehension of the judicial system and the poor knowledge of their rights by the children with whom she worked for previous projects.

Bulgaria (Kaloyan Stanev - Bulgarian Helsinki Committee):

The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee participated to an important project – financed by the European Union – in 2012/2013 related to children and Lawyer - for which they worked mainly with children deprived of their liberty.

In Bulgaria, there is no official status of suspected person in their criminal law and it is an important problem. Police detention during 24h is supposed to be an administrative procedure. So children can be detained at the police station but they don't receive the same guarantee as in criminal proceedings. At the police station, children are asked: do you want a lawyer or an aid from the legal aid bureau? In many cases, people sign that they don't want a lawyer, and the interview begins. A few people (children) demand an access to a lawyer. It leads to a lot of problems: police violence, rights denials, etc. Quite a lot of cases of police violence happen in the police station. Once this stage ends, when the child is officially accused and in the criminal court, they have to have a lawyer, it is mandatory. They cannot derogate to this right.

When the child has a lawyer, it's most of the time a legal aid lawyer. There is no obligation for the lawyer to meet the child before the court session. In practice, they meet ten minutes before the court session, which is not sufficient to understand everything for the child. Children have reported that lawyers don't say what they would like them to say. They don't feel really represented. So the perception of the lawyer is not really good ...

What is positive is the obligatory participation of the lawyer when the trial starts.

In the new legislation that is proposed, there is a special training for youth lawyers. It's the first time that such a thing is included in the law. Another thing is that if the lawyer is not present, the court session must be postponed.

The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee is hoping to support this proposition with this "My Lawyer, My Rights" project.

Highlighted from discussions:

=> The question of the applicability of the Directive to procedure which are not qualified by the Member States as criminal proceeding as such (see Recital 17 of the Directive



2016/800). In Bulgaria (as in Belgium, for example), children are not concerned by criminal proceedings per se.

=> The question of the minimum age to be arrested for children / of the criminal responsibility

Example : (Maartje Berger) In The Netherlands, you can have a case involving a group of children of different age, and the ones younger than 12 (the age of criminal responsibility) don't have access to a lawyer but they are under a lot of pressure because they are appointed as witnesses and they are asked a lot of questions.

(Karolina Babicka) For information, In Czech Republic children younger than 15 can be put in a center but they don't have the right to a lawyer, so there is an urgent need of legislation.

=> Question of the formal status of witness // the status of suspects. (Ines Carvalho) How do we know a child becomes a suspect after being a witness, for example? Most of the time, in practice, it starts with children as witnesses and later on they are considered as suspects so does the Directive applies to them, regarding recital 4 (or 7) ?

Ireland (Naomi Kennan – Child Law Clinic):

The Child Law Clinic is currently running a Research on unmet legal need for children, i.e. a comprehensive analysis of the unmet legal needs of children in Ireland, including children in conflict with the law. As part of this research, the CLC interviewed key stakeholders about existing gaps in the availability of legal information, advice and representation.

Before the judicial proceedings, the participation and the representation of Children is organised by the Children Act 2001. Where a child is arrested and brought to a police station on suspicion of having committed an offence, the member in charge of the station must make sure that the child is informed of his/her entitlement to consult a solicitor and how this can be done. There is no compulsory requirement for a legal representative to be present - the legal representative is not required to sign the child's statement. In Ireland, children may waive their right of access to a lawyer.

A governmental program (the Diversion Program) has been put in place so that any child who has committed an offence and who accepts responsibility for his/her criminal behaviour can be admitted to a diversion programme BUT there isn't a formal role for legal representation at this point – this is concerning as one of the critical criteria to gain admission to the Diversion Program is that the child has accepted responsibility for the offence.

During judicial proceedings, in general, Irish law provides that an accused person is entitled to legal representation in any criminal proceedings if he or she is in a position to pay privately for it. For children, an application for legal aid is usually made on the first court appearance and where legal aid is granted, legal counsel will then be provided to the child.

After judicial proceedings, No specific measures are in place in Ireland to ensure that a child effectively receives relevant information after judicial proceedings in age-appropriate language. In practice, it



appears that information on the right to appeal is provided by the child's legal representatives although no rules or guidelines provide for a specific procedure in this regard.

Regarding the situation of youth Lawyers, although it references training for the judiciary, the Children Act 2001 does not include a statutory requirement for legal professionals who represent children in conflict with the law to have any specialised qualifications, training or skills. Overall, the education and training available for legal professionals is limited in that it tends to be optional, infrequent and likely to attract those already interested and motivated. The fact that practitioners who work with children in legal settings having little or no understanding of their clients as rights holders has been documented by various studies or projects.

In Ireland the political agenda is focused on the Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018. Its first objective (objective 1.1) is to identify and provide appropriate training for those responsible for delivery of services to young people who offend or who are at serious risk of offending - Training needs identified/provided (within budgetary constraints) by all relevant agencies on core competencies required to deal with young people who offend or who are at serious risk of offending – Responsibility: All stakeholders.

Recently, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Section 2 of the 2016 Concluding Observations on Ireland) states that “[t]he Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to provide adequate and systematic training and/or sensitization of professionals working with and for children.”

Highlighted from discussions:

Can children be sent to an adult court in Ireland? => For very serious cases, the reply is yes.

Italy (Júlia Pàmas Prohias, DCI-IT):

Júlia presented the state of the legislation regarding children in conflict with the Law: All children in conflict with the law have access to a public defender, i.a. a Lawyer paid by the State, whose role should be to combine a defensive and re-educative function. The public defender should register in a list of public defenders specifically prepared in juvenile law established by the Bars. Besides the public defender, the child is assisted by the Juvenile Justice Services.

The role of the Juvenile Justice Services is important: In Italy, suspected or accused children are informed about their rights of access to a lawyer by the Juvenile Justice Services. When a child is detained or arrested, the Prosecutor decides whether to place him in a First Reception Center where he is informed about the criminal proceeding, including the access to a lawyer, or leave him at liberty and then he will be contacted by the social services, which will be in charge of providing all the concerned information. So in any case, the staff of the Juvenile Justice Services informs the child of his right of access to a lawyer. A further element that could be explored during the research is the extent to which this information is given in an appropriate and understandable way.



According to the law, the role and mandate of the youth Lawyer are not only legal as it is mostly the case in other countries, but also social. For instance, the Lawyer must act as a bridge between the child and the legal services, he must mediate between the child and the offended party, act as a link between the parents and the judicial structures.

The legislation provides for the requirement of specialization for the juvenile public defender while leaves to the criteria of the accused or suspected person the selection of the private lawyer. The law establishes that the public juvenile defender has to be “available” and “suitable” to be included in the register of the Bar. The condition of suitability requires that the defender has to demonstrate that he has continuously performed the profession of lawyer before the juvenile justice authorities, that he has attended training courses on juvenile law and child-related issues. The Bars must also organize updating training courses for Lawyers on juvenile law and child-related issues.

However, at least until recently, the different associations were the main training providers. They are very active in promoting training opportunities, seminars and conferences. Unfortunately there is a need for multidisciplinary and inter-agency training since normally the training courses are addressed to a single typology of professionals. Now the CSM (the Superior Council of the Magistrates) is promoting a series of integrated trainings that involve both judges and lawyers.

Regarding the Italian official position or agenda for children’s rights, it is highlighted that the issue of children’s right of access to a lawyer is not placed in the political agenda and has never been extensively approached by the national authorities. This project offers the opportunity to raise the issue at national level with the national authorities, youth lawyers and other stakeholders. The main objective should be to promote the best interest of the child as a guiding principle for any action concerning children in conflict with the law. The lawyer is on a privileged position to ensure that this happens in practice.

DCI-IT mentioned two criticalities/needs regarding the role of the youth lawyer in Italy:

The best interest of the child does not seem to always prevail over other particular interests. It has been noted that in some cases the permanence of the child within the juvenile justice system is longer than necessary or than appropriate, and this seems to be determined by the professional interests of the lawyer. In such cases, thus, a conflict of interests between the interest of the child and the professional interest of the lawyer seems to exist.

There is a need for qualified and specialized multidisciplinary training. In some contexts, youth lawyers have promoted courses because they have recognized the need for further training.

DCI-IT suggested that opportunities for inter-agency exchange and cooperation should be promoted and fostered. Ex. between lawyers and staff of the juvenile justice services, judges, prosecutors...

The Netherlands (Maartje Berger, DCI-NL):

Maartje Berger explained that the law has been recently modified in the Netherlands in the view of the implementation of the Directive 2013/48/EU, of the recent directive 2016/800 and of other European recommendations. However Youth lawyers are not satisfied with this new framework so there will probably be a new law next year. A concept law is on the agenda of the first chamber.



The ZSM (i.e. ASAP) procedure for young people has also recently been modified: if a young person is arrested or suspected, every person involved is gathered as soon as possible to decide how to proceed. In most of the cases, the young person won't see the judge.

=> The new law is – regarding children's rights – less protective than the current law.

=> The Netherlands will have to inform suspects better and more actively on the right of access to a lawyer (due to DIR 2013/48) and to respect the new EU Directives.

Every child needs to be informed of the right to a lawyer before and during police hearings; The police has information folders in 20 languages plus specific folders prepared by DCI-NL. Lawyers are called when a young person is arrested, and they have to be present within 2 hours.

In practice, lawyers are always late, so they have to keep the child and wait for the lawyer. A solution to this problem should be found.

Youth lawyer's Role & mandate:

- Every minor who is arrested and suspected of a crime has the right of access to a lawyer (for free);
- A lawyer will be automatically called upon after the arrest of a minor;
- Lawyers have to be reserved and silent, don't interfere. Lawyers don't agree with this and are negotiating;
- For some small crimes in the ZSM phase there is **no** access to a lawyer. Lawyers are not part of the table of ZSM, but they should in the opinion of DCI-the Netherlands;
- A child **can waive** his right to a lawyer;
- When the child is not arrested and has to come to the police station, he has to PAY for the lawyer, it is not for free. It should be made easier to send the child home in DCI-The Netherlands' opinion.

Are those Issues placed on the national political agenda or raised by other bodies?

- Waiver of the right;
- ZSM and the (non) presence of a lawyer;
- Motion in parliament (second chamber) about a child friendly police for minors dealing with the police and shortening the maximum duration a child can stay in a police cell;
- The national guidelines for the police contain a special chapter on minors since July 2016.

Training of youth lawyer:

- Since the 1st July 2013 The Netherlands introduced a special "juvenile justice piket";
- Special education on youth law and juvenile justice is obliged to get cases from the prosecution → Lot of youth lawyers are complaining because there are not enough cases so they lose their experience. It is a problem;
- There are many youth lawyer associations at local and national level. Members have to be specialized. But lawyers who come in police stations are not always trained.



First findings, best practices and challenges:

- Although there are several EU directives, parliament still has difficulties to implement them;
- In some cases children have to stay longer in the police cell to wait for a lawyer;
- Best practice: the project “no police cell for minors, unless...”;
- Challenges: to make access to a lawyer available in all cases where a child is suspected of a crime;

Highlighted from discussions:

Suggestions for the project “My Lawyer, My Rights”: The implementation of DIR 2016/800 should also be part of the project

Reply from DCI-BE → it has been added in the project’s description.

Poland (Marcin Wolny, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights):

After having presented its association and the cases and projects they are working on, Marcin Wolny explained that they have some doubts on whether the Directives will be applicable to Poland. This issue was already raised by their commission of criminal law.

Due to the provisions of the treaty on the functioning of the EU, the directives might not be applicable to juvenile justice in Poland. If the directive (2016/800) is not applicable to the juvenile justice system in Poland, it would mean that a lot of children would not be granted the safeguards of the directive.

Another doubt was that it might be difficult to find young people to interview for this project.

The age of criminal liability in Poland is 17 years old. In some specific cases such as the assassination of the President, the young person can be prosecuted if he/she is 15 years old. In criminal proceedings, the procedure is the same for children and adults. Children have to be informed of their rights of access to a lawyer in writing. That system should be improved because even adults have problems to understand the declaration of rights. If the person is under 18, he/she has to have a lawyer and can have a court appointed lawyer.

Most children facilities in Poland are not equipped for private meetings with lawyers.

In Poland, the number of youth lawyers is very low. There is no specific training. In the first year of criminal law, only 30 minutes are dedicated to juvenile justice proceedings!

Highlighted from discussions:

Under the age of 17 years old, educational and correctional measures can be imposed. The most severe measure is to send the child to a correction facility, which is a closed institution where children can be deprived of liberty until 21 years old.



(Benoit Van Keirsbilck) In fact, the Polish system is quite similar to the Belgian one. At the end of the day, the child can end in a closed institution. There is a question of how you call the system. Depending on the name you give to the juvenile justice system, you can have – or not - the safeguards of the criminal system. You have to look concretely what can happen to the children, what the judge can decide, the length of the decision, the consequences, etc. The content of the system is more important than his name.

Remember that according to the Havana rules, there is a deprivation of liberty each time the child cannot go outside at will.

=> The same issue related to the question of the applicability of the Directive to procedure which are not qualified by the Member States as criminal proceeding as such is (see Recital 17 of the Directive 2016/800) as in Bulgaria and in Belgium where children are not concerned by criminal proceedings per se but could also be deprived of their liberty.

Then Mrs Karolina Babicka, presented her organization, the **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)** as well as their project “FAIR” (Fostering Access for Immigrant children’s Rights).

The International Commission of Jurists is an international NGO. The Commission is composed by eminent judges and lawyers from all over the world. Their mission is to secure human rights through the rule of law and they pursue the implementation of international human rights law into national legal systems. The Europe Programme of the ICJ engages in advocacy at the EU and Council of Europe level, capacity building and strategic litigation.

The FAIR project, coordinated by the ICJ, supported by the EU and Open Society Foundation, started in March 2016 and will be implemented over the period of two years. The objective is to foster access to justice for migrant children through creating and supporting a pool of European lawyers equipped to represent migrant children in international and national contexts. The main project activities are developing training materials (they are at the stage of finalizing them), implementing national trainings for 20 lawyers in each of the seven target countries and a strategic litigation retreat for 3 lawyers from each country. The training materials and related videos will be disseminated at the end of the project in the seven countries and during a final Brussels event. The countries they cover are Malta, Germany, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Bulgaria and Italy.

The training materials (guiding principles to access to a lawyer, e.a.) cover the procedural rights of migrant children (including the right to be heard), the right to family life, detention, economic, social and cultural rights, how to access international human rights mechanisms and a practical handbook for lawyers on how to communicate with migrant children.

The training materials will be translated in the languages of the target countries.

[\(Link to the FAIR presentation on Prezi\).](#)

These two projects have a lot in common: the same actors: children and lawyers – the search for the best way to improve their relationships and the efficiency of the lawyers. They are



interested for each of the partners involved, which are associations working mainly in the field of Juvenile Justice. Sharing the outputs and conclusions will be fruitful for the both project and will increase their dissemination and repercussions.

The rest of the day was dedicated to the presentation of the methodology for the elaboration of the manuals, via **workshops in groups to discuss and to enhance the research methodology and discussion based on the draft methodology documents** drafted by DCI-BE (national research and report, common report, deadlines).

Mrs Marine Braun is in charge of the coordination of the project and of the elaboration of the main outputs, including the research in Belgium and the drafting of the Practical Guides. She elaborated a common research methodology to be used in all partner countries. She presented the methodology and the different documents to all partners and experts.

That introduction was followed by discussions in smaller groups. The aim was to evaluate these first documents, to integrate partners and experts' comments and suggestions and to decide a common methodology to be applied.

→ See annex 2 of the report – The commentaries and modifications which have merged from the workshops discussion are reported in **green** in the document.





DAY 2:

The second day of seminar started with a **short summary of the previous day** given by Marine Braun.

Mrs Anna Tomasi, Advocacy Officer at DCI-IS in Geneva, presented **the model of socio-legal defence centres** defending by DCI as well as **the international aspects of the children's access to justice**.

What is DCI?

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an international grassroots non-governmental organization that has been promoting children's rights since 1979, and was involved in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as well as other UN instruments in the field of children's rights and juvenile justice² and possesses special consultative ECOSOC status since 1991. Presently DCI counts with over forty National Sections worldwide and continues to grow.

² The UN Havana Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty adopted in 1990; the UN Beijing Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice adopted in 1985; the UN Riyadh Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile delinquency adopted in 1990; the UN Bangkok Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders adopted in 2010; the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child friendly justice adopted in 2010.



Socio legal defence centers (SLDC)?

DCI is now trying at the international level to build one unique model, extrapolating from realities on the ground; this project was discussed with key players like UNICEF.

The SLDC are «One-stop shops» which regroup a wide range of legal and social services for children: Child Advocacy Centers; Family Defence Centers ;«help desk office»,

At the collective level, SLDCs try to build a child friendly system within the country (social advocacy). At the individual level, a SLDC is also a place where children and adults can walk in the door to a welcoming environment to report child rights violations (or threats thereto) and be assured of professional and child-focused assistance. A SLDC provides legal representation or can guide children towards social services, etc. Its role is to actively protect the child in his own individual rights (case advocacy).

All centers have the same structure:

- A Human Rights based approach;
- Multidisciplinary team: specifically trained lawyers, social workers, etc. (Medical team in case of sexual abuse);
- A child centered approach: empowering children to be effective Human Rights holders, ensuring that children can participate and have a leading role in their own lives. SLDCs also conduct advocacy campaigns in school to inform children of their rights, etc.

Global study on children deprived of liberty?

DCI worked on the drafting of several international standards and also worked on the study on children in armed conflicts (1996) and on the study on children and armed violence (2006). DCI felt that the issue of children deprived of liberty needed a political push so they launched a huge campaign 3 years ago to support a study on children deprived of liberty and request the appointment of an Independent Expert.

Since August 2013, a coalition of NGOs, all working in different areas, has been established and forms the NGO Panel. The campaign was officially launched in Geneva in March 2014 and the Committee on the rights of the child has sent a letter to recommend to the UN General Assembly that a study be undertaken on the issue of children deprived of liberty (May 2014).

The United Nations General Assembly took a resolution that explicitly requested a global study on children deprived of liberty in December 2014 (A/RES/69/157 para.51.d) and the Office of the United Nations Secretary General officially appointed Manfred Novak (Austria), a former UN special reporter on torture, as Independent Expert to lead the study (in October 2016) .

This study wants to have a positive approach. DCI wants to look how we can go beyond the issues and show that not losing children in the system is cost effective and better for society. (www.childrendeprivedofliberty.info).



Highlighted from discussions:

SLDCs :

- In several countries, similar centers exist but another vocabulary is used. For instance, in Egypt they are called psycho socio legal centers; in USA they talk about a holistic defence and in the UK the talk about holistic representation;
- The aim of DCI's project is to put a label on such centers, to build a unique model and to present it to the UN committee on the right of the child as a practice because it is a key tool;
- The reason why this project is presented at the kick-off meeting of the project "My Lawyer, My Rights" is that the link between the centers and lawyers is very important. SLDCs need lawyers and lawyers cannot do everything by themselves, they need some support in the field.

In the national sections, there is also a referral work; if a doctor is needed, they will refer the case to him/her.

Mrs Shauneen Lambe presented her work **on interviewing children and on children's participation in youth lawyers training** and her association "Just for Kids Law".

Just for kids Law started ten years ago in the UK, not funded in any way by the government. There was a hole on how children are defended by lawyers. There is no requirement about any training in juvenile justice. Any lawyer can defend a child in court.

They developed their first training in the UK, and used a lot of tools used in the States. They provide any child who needs it an advocate (not specifically a lawyer but someone who can advise them).

They also ensure the participation of young people within the organization. As they provide direct support, they are able to see problems that are emerging on a systemic level, and so they can have an expert view on specific problems and relay them to policy makers.

Their vision is to help transform the lives of children and young people from crisis, to stability, towards independence using the rule of law and child centred advocacy.

Youth Lawyer's training:

In its training programme, Just for kids Law always involves children. So lawyers get feedbacks directly on how they should interact with children and it is empowering for young people because they often are perceived negatively. It is done using role plays where young people act and play a scene and then give their feedbacks. There are also Q&A sessions where people talk about their experiences, so children can explain what they like and what they don't like. Example: Children hate it when they see their lawyer talking to the prosecutor, because they think that their lawyer is colluding against him with the prosecutor. So it's important to explain why a lawyer would do that.

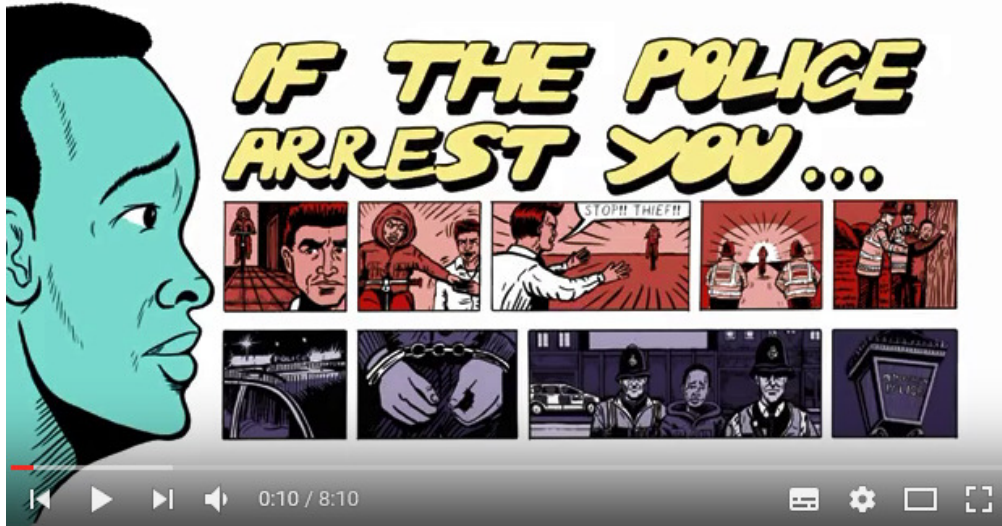
Everything is made possible because children are present during these trainings.



Children-friendly justice materials:

Just for Kids Law has produced different Children-friendly justice materials to help the children to understand the functional of the police, the justice and the different actors involved.

Example: **"At the police station"** (youtube) cartoon format.



Mr Eric Van der Mussele, Belgium Lawyer specialized in youth cases, member of the ECBA explained largely **the best practices in the training of youth Lawyers in the Flemish Bars.**

Introduction

Professionals who intervene for minors in legal settings, and who intervene on their behalf, do experience that it is not evident to assist minors in the same way as adults seeking justice. Certain questions and doubts arise in the mind of the minors themselves, their parents, social workers, teachers, institutions, magistrates and colleague-lawyers.

Training in this field means multidisciplinary training.

We cannot succeed as a professional group on our own. We need all professionals to cooperate, and to learn with and from each other.

A last remark relates to the fact that all practitioners including interpreters, have to realize that legal aid and assistance for minors by lawyers is relatively new in a number of countries.

Interpreter mediated questioning and defending children in the pre-trial procedure

In the Antwerp court area we are lucky to dispose of a good body of local registered, trained, examined and sworn interpreters. In other court districts in Belgium legal interpreters have to swear the oath, but they are not screened on languages, knowledge of legal deontological and interpreting skills, and they are not registered.

Youth lawyers are appointed taking into account their knowledge of foreign languages, to be effective in consultation with their legal aid clients. This is a good basis but only to be able to start up consultation and defence.



Sometimes police is calling so called “ad hoc” interpreters who are not registered and without being sworn, without language screening, training in language and legal skills, and without examination. (To swear the oath as an interpreter is not possible before the police, it has to be done before a judge)

These problems are not only affecting the quality of the interpreting, but even the legal value of the interpretation and of the complete hearing.

A last element that does not exist today, is a training with all active legal practitioners in the pre- trial procedure, and focused on interpreting and translating issues together with the registered interpreters.

The cornerstone “best interest of children” in the legal framework

In Antwerp we are happy to rely on 105 specialised trained and certificated youth lawyers to assist and advise in more than 3000 appointments for youth cases, and a still growing number of SALDUZ police hearings.



The principles and the organisation of the Flemish youth lawyers training could inspire other legal practitioners and interpreters to organise similar multidisciplinary and communication trainings.

All legal practitioners, as well interpreters should study and be trained in communication with children and juvenile victims, suspects and witnesses. Training of Interpreters should contain as well, as for legal practitioners, elements and courses on interdisciplinary items and on communication with children.

Role of the lawyer:

If one decides to offer assistance and advice to the minor as a lawyer, one must be careful not to defend its own point of view. On the contrary, one should see to it that the point of view of the minor is passed on very clearly and is discussed in the debate, at least in so far the minor has sufficient judgment.

Actions in the local Bar and the first initiatives for training youth lawyers

The need for training became tangible, from the first initiatives of volunteers youth lawyers in 1985. They acted “pro bono”, as a legal aid law and financial compensation for lawyers did not exist at the time.

Even today Belgian university law programs, do not include as an obligation a minimum Youth law program.



This means that it was and still is possible in Belgium that jurists, after University and even after the trainee period and Bar-exam, can continue their work as a lawyer or a prosecutor or judge without knowledge of youth law, youth procedures, psychology and communicating skills with minors.

As soon as it became a legal obligation to call upon additionally trained legal aid volunteers (as moreover is made compulsory in the recent legal aid legislation in the Judicial Code), it was decided from January 2000 on to entrust the ex officio legal aid to minors exclusively to the group of youth lawyers having followed a specific training.

These are both trainee lawyers and Bar members who are specialized in the subject. In the meantime all 14 Flemish Bar Associations have taken the initiative of legal aid services on call exclusively working with volunteer youth lawyers, after compulsory additional training, and if possible ranging from the first contact with legal problems until the end of the measure.

In Antwerp the youth section organizes minimum 5 trainings of 2 hours, every year.

Initiatives within the OVB (Association of Flemish Bar Associations)

After the very first changes in the Antwerp and Brussels Bars in 1985, there was recently an initiative of the OVB (the Association of Flemish Bars) to provide for youth lawyers in cooperation with university, a program of 80 hours courses in as well legal as paralegal disciplines. In 2005 this training was materialized.

Final Considerations

Legal practitioners and interpreters and authorities themselves have to find out how legal assistance including interpreting services for foreign minors can be organized in Europe.

The main concern has to be the “best interest of children”.

We have to think about:

- Quality training through theoretical presentations about children in criminal procedures, organised at the same moment and together with judges, prosecutors, lawyers, social assistants and interpreters.
- Quality training through practical introductions and role plays, in the pre-trial settings, in cooperation with lawyers, judges (policeman, prosecutor, social worker...), minors (ev. actor) suspect/victims...

Then Mrs Rebecca O'Donnell presented **Child Circle's experiences and its involvement in the project “My lawyer, my rights”**.

Child Circle is based in Brussels and work on the child protection dimension of EU measures. They work in areas where children have special needs (such as migration issues, circumstances where children are involved in justice systems, etc.) and on children's participation. Their key goal is the expertise. They also do an advocacy work and are working on practical projects. Olivia and Rebecca are both experts on the child protection dimension of key EU policies and have each been working on EU matters in Brussels for over 20 years.



Regarding the role of child circle in this project, their experience will be useful to connect our project with other relevant project and to see how other actors work together with the lawyer. Apart from legal measures, there are also policy measures it would be interesting to work on.

Child Circle worked/ is working on several other projects, inter alia: Migrant children who go missing (SUMMIT project) ; Promise ; Separated children.

According to Rebecca, Article 7 of the Directive 2016/800/EU regarding the right to an individual assessment is very interesting. It would be interesting to see how this right will shape the justice process, what it means for the lawyer, to what extent the criminal courts will have to go on with the protection of children, etc. She also underlined that there are cases where children are treated like suspects and are also victims but are not treated likewise (in cases of child trafficking for instance).

Highlighted from discussions:

It would be a good idea to map all the professionals working in juvenile systems for the project MLMR.

Mrs Ines Carvalho Sà from the association **European Criminal Bar Association** explained the work of her association.

It is an independent organisation of specialist defence lawyers in all the Council of Europe countries (see www.ecba.org). The ECBA aims to promote the fundamental rights of persons under investigation, suspects, accused and convicted persons. It also has members who work with young offenders. It also works on achieving a better quality of process.

Membership is open to all lawyers, whether practicing or in academic life, who support those aims.

The ECBA holds conference twice a year, to meet and discuss the latest developments in European criminal law and its impact on national law, practices and procedures. It is also a platform for lawyers to meet and exchange information and knowledge. Moreover, it is network of lawyers since clients can have problems in different European countries. The ECBA published a handbook for defence lawyers.

Ines addressed also some issues regarding the role of the lawyers that are also important for the project MLMR. She explained that, in many cases, lawyers have to overcome the myth that they are not an obstacle to criminal justice. Lawyers ensure the fairness of proceedings because immediate access to legal advice is a precondition to exercising one's rights.

Highlighted from discussions:



Combating the myth and stereotypes regarding the role of the lawyer, and of the other actors in Juvenile Justice is a very important issue that we will have to emphasize in our project MLMR.

The rest of the morning was dedicated to the **workshops in groups to discuss and to enhance the questionnaires for the interviews with children/lawyers/ and other professionals** drafted by DCI-BE (national research and report, common report, deadlines).

=> See annex 2 of the report – The commentaries and modifications which have merged from the workshops discussion are reported in **green** in the document.



After the lunch, the exchanges continued with Mrs Julianne Laffineur, Advocacy & Communication Officer at DCI-Belgium, introducing **the advocacy timeline and the practical details on how to best communicate between partners.**

Advocacy strategy in 10 steps:

1. Define the issue
2. Set goals and objectives
3. Identify your target audiences
4. Build support
5. Identify opportunities
6. Develop the message
7. Develop tools & Select media of communication
8. Draft dissemination plan
9. **Dissemination**
10. Monitoring & evaluation of progress and impact

Outputs:

Website address: mylawyermyrights.eu

Audio recording + drawings + report cards



Timeline:

Draft dissemination plan (July-August 2017)

Dissemination (Sept. 2017 – June 2018)

Detailed time-line:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WS	Sept. 16	Oct. 16	Nov. 16	Dec. 16	Jan. 17	Feb. 17	Mar. 17	Apr. 17	May 17	Jun. 17	Jul. 17	Aug. 17	Sept. 17	Oct. 17	Nov. 17	Dec. 17	Jan. 18	Feb. 18	Mar. 18	Apr. 18	May 18	Jun. 18	Jul. 18	Aug. 18
Advocacy Strategy :																								
4 Define the issue																								
4 Set goals and objectives																								
4 Identify target audiences																								
4 Build support																								
4 Identify opportunities																								
4 Develop the message																								
4 draft dissemination strategy																								
Communication tools :																								
3 Output 1 : video																								
3 Output 1 : video																								
2 Output 2 : Website + database																								
2 Output 2 : Website + database																								
4 Output 3 : Info sessions																								
4 Output 3 : Info sessions																								
4 Dissemination																								
4 Evaluate progress & impact																								
Developing																								
Implementation																								

How to communicate within the MLMR project?

E-mail

Skype

Google Drive: Useful documents - Sharing national reports, etc.

Visual identity of MLMR :

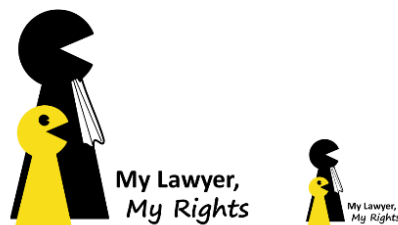
Header ppt :



Logo Maxi (official docs + website) :



Logo Mini (others – square version) :



Font:
Calibri
Segoe Print

Colour references **Yellow** :
Red : 248
Green : 222
Blue : 26



Funder's visibility:



Mrs Aurélie Carré, project manager at DCI-Belgium, presented **the practical questions of the project (administrative and financial aspects of the project)**.

Who's who?

Brief presentation of the different actors of the project, from a financial point of view:

- ▶ Beneficiaries
- ▶ Associate partners
- ▶ International Experts
- ▶ Commission - DG JUST
- ▶ Co-financers

Who does what?

The beneficiary/coordinator is the organization leading and coordinating the partnership that applied for the grant - reporting towards the EC - accountable for its financial management

- Contact with the European Commission: project@defensedesenfants.be

The Co-beneficiary is **responsible** for the implementation of the tasks described.

Budget allocated: 80% of the budget funded by EU but (100% of the budget *must be justified!*)

- Changes in the implementation of the project: prior approval of DCI-Belgium and the European Commission - EU ownership of the deliverables - Post-Audit (European Commission): all documents related to the project (narrative and financial) should be available for a period of 5 years after payment of the balance

REPORTING for co-beneficiaries: Annex 3 of the partnership agreement signed



REMITTANCE for co-beneficiaries: Annex 3 of the partnership agreement signed
EXPERTS: Payment claims and supporting documents have to be send on time

How? Finance in practice

General principles:

- “Retroactivity” of the control of the EC
- Every expenses must be eligible
- Every expenses must be justified by supporting documents
- Conversion into €
- Respect of EU and co-funders visibility

4. CONCLUSIONS

In this first meeting the exchange of information between partners and experts was especially valuable and enriching. It was extremely interesting to learn about the experience of each participant in their respective countries. Everyone showed a great enthusiasm to meet other European colleagues working on the same issues.

The basis for the next phase of the project, the national researches, was set.

The coordinator tried to answer partners’ doubts and constraints and sought for solutions for the questions raised to the extent possible. Partners showed great enthusiasm to start the research and the coordinator stated out its willingness to provide as much support as possible to partners throughout the project.

A common thought during the seminar was that the project is very ambitious regarding the limited available resources. Furthermore, discussions pointed the lack of clarification regarding certain parts of the European Directives regarding their scope of implementation in particular. Goals and objectives, the working method and the deadlines have nevertheless been defined.

Concerning evaluation sheets that the coordinator got from the participants to the seminar, the general opinion was very positive. Only time managing during speeches must be improved for next meetings.



5. PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Organisation
1	Shauneen Lambe	Expert
2	Anna Tomasi	Expert
3	Eric Van der Mussele	Expert
4	Benoit Van Keirsbilck	DCI-BE
5	Marine Braun	DCI-BE
6	Géraldine Mathieu	DCI-BE
7	Aurélie Carré	DCI-BE
8	Julianne Laffineur	DCI-BE
9	Florence Bourton	DCI-BE
10	Rebecca O'Donnell	Child Circle BE
11	Olivia Lind Haldorsson	Child Circle BE
12	Marcin Wolny	Helsinki Committee – PL
13	Kaloyan Stanev	Helsinki Committee – BG
14	Naomi Kennan	Child Law Clinic – IR
15	Julia Pamas	DCI-IT
16	Gabriella Gallizia	DCI-IT
17	Maartje Berger	DCI-NL
18	Ines Carvalho Sa	ECBA
19	Karolina Babicka	ICJ
20	Vicky De Souter	SPF Justice – BE
21	Mirena Tsenova	Ministry of Justice – BG
22	Mikołaj Pawlak	Ministry of Justice – PL
23	Antonella Bianco	Ministry of Justice – IT
24	Anne-Sophie Leloup	Youth Rights Service – BE
25	Tara Alexander	DLA-Piper
26	Niall Nolan	Barrister, Bar of Ireland- IR

Absents:

Holger Matt (ECBA)

Jan De Winter (OVB)

Stéphanie Moor (Avocats.be)

Natacha Deroeck (CEO- HELP Programme)

6. ANNEXE

Annex 1: Reviewed research methodology



We would like to thank the WBI for its precious contribution to the meeting!

