

## “Building an economic case for a child-friendly justice” Special Workshop

### WORKSHOP REPORT

by **Ms Mariama Diallo**  
Children’s Rights Specialist  
Eurochild associate member



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co-organized by  
**Eurochild** and the **Embassy of France in Romania**,  
with the participation of the  
**International Juvenile Justice Observatory**

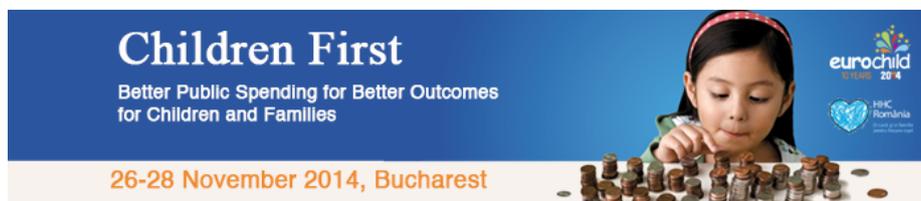
**Eurochild 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
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## I. Executive Summary and Key Messages

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This report presents the results of the workshop “Building an economic case for a child-friendly justice” co-organized by Eurochild and the Embassy of France in Romania, with the participation of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, which took place in Bucharest on 27 November 2014. This workshop was delivered in the context of Eurochild’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference “Children First: Better Public Spending for Better Outcomes for children and Families”. The aim was to incorporate the issue of public spending in justice for children into the larger debates taking place during the three days of the conference.

This report contains six main sections: the context of the workshop, key messages to stakeholders, the profile of participants, the methodology used, recommendations from the group work and a final section with a synthesis of the discussions and internal recommendations. The workshop focused on three key questions:

- 1. In times of austerity, how do we build an economic case in favour of juvenile justice reform and demonstrate long term return on investment?*
- 2. How do States reform their juvenile justice system while ensuring optimum use of public resources, e.g. through implementation of integrated, interdisciplinary services, or public-private partnerships?*
- 3. Which approaches and tools are States using to measure, monitor and evaluate results for children and young people involved in the justice system?*

Over 40 participants from 10 European countries attended the workshop. These professionals represented government bodies, NGOs, international organisations, foundations and diplomatic representations. The group was interdisciplinary with the participation of senior experts in the juvenile justice field: judges, lawyers, policy officers, project managers, consultants, researchers, social workers, probation officers, a mediator, a psychologist, an ombudsman and executive directors. This allowed for enriching debates on the creation of best practice recommendations.

The group works highlighted main recommendations to build an economic case for child-friendly justice, including special emphasis on allocating sufficient budgets for data collection and sharing, cross-sectorial work, evidence generation, capacity building for professionals, and where necessary, review of legislation to shift from a punitive approach to an educative approach.

The keynote presentations revealed how money could be saved by the abolition of out-dated legal texts and the creation of new structures better focused on outcomes for children. After demonstrating the costs of programming for young people, they argued how progress can be made in youth justice reform when budgets are cut, while warning to ensure that due process is still provided for young people and that quality of services is maintained.

The final section of this report presents a brief synthesis of the discussions and internal suggestions for further steps in order to move forward the results of this workshop to a level of dynamic and high-impact activities. These suggestions include *inter alia*: the creation of a Eurochild thematic working group on justice for children to further develop economic arguments for youth justice; facilitating access to funding opportunities for projects that contribute to data collection, evidence generation and professional capacity building; building stronger bridges with EU institutions, the Council of Europe and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency to incorporate into their strategies economic argumentation; ensuring child participation at all level; and envisaging making use of diplomatic channels to link field realities with policy making.



The following key messages to the relevant stakeholders in the area of justice for children have been made:

### KEY MESSAGES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

I. Public budgets should be scrutinized and the effectiveness of public spending analysed to ensure effective investment in child-friendly justice. This means improving the level of existing child-friendly services and procedures, revising budgets that tend to imbalance the provision of actual services to beneficiaries versus excessive administration costs, as well as reallocating budgets to the creation of new child-friendly services. When inexistent or out-dated, child-friendly justice provisions and budget lines should be incorporated in key justice reforms.

II. Investing in four key areas of child-friendly justice - prevention services, diversion measures, community sanctions and alternatives to pre-trial detention and imprisonment – proves to be more cost effective because of its social return on investment:

- Children and young people who have been in contact with the law, especially the ones from vulnerable households at high risk of social exclusion, will benefit from improved reintegration services and become active contributors to the development of their social communities.
- Improved family support, social and education services offer children and young people with concrete opportunities to be fully integrated and active in today and tomorrow's society, while providing them with the necessary skills to participate in the labour market.
- Investing in youth crime prevention and reduction of risk factors that lead children to crime guarantees a safer society and environment for the children and their communities.

### III. Immediate possible steps for key stakeholders

#### At EU level:

- Organise a European discussion on cross-sectorial data standardisation in the youth justice sector, to provide governments with evidence for better decisions about cost savings and budget allocations, as well as to allow Europe wide comparable data on youth justice.
- Ensure that calls for proposals to access EU funding in the area of child justice incorporate investment in data collection and the creation of evidence generating structures.

#### At national level, national governments to:

- Demonstrate how child-friendly policies can be linked with efficient expenditure to prevent youth crime, as part of justice reforms.
- Provide harmonised guidelines and indicators for data collection on the number and profile of children and young people in contact with the law.
- Revise legislation where necessary and invest in formulating and diffusing clear child-friendly justice standards to sub-national administrations for the provision of child-friendly services.
- Reallocate budgets for costly detention services to youth justice alternative services, while implementing accessible public procurement processes, for better long-term social integration of young people who committed a crime.

#### At sub-national level, local administrations to:

- Invest in setting-up cross-sectorial collaboration mechanisms with other public departments, as well as with NGOs, to build professional capacity and contribute to the provision of quality youth justice services.
- Assist in developing easy-to-use data collection and sharing tools for accessible data on children and young people in contact with the law.



- Revise and allocate sufficient budgets to child justice and make necessary adjustments for the creation of new prevention services and alternative to detention services for young offenders.

**At local level, NGOs to:**

- Assist, as part of the implementation of their projects, sub-national and national Governments in collecting and sharing data, as well as generating evidence of child-friendly approaches in the justice sector. NGO expertise and knowledge of young people and children in contact with the law constitutes valuable information for the elaboration of the necessary budgetary reforms.
- Assist governments in applying children and young people consultation mechanisms for youth justice policy development. Ensuring young people’s voices are heard contributes to more adequate policies and budgetary decisions for long-term social return on investment.

**II. Context of the special workshop on juvenile justice**

European States find themselves at different stages of implementation of reforms in juvenile justice. Numerous international and regional provisions exist on child-friendly justice for example the Beijing Rules, Riyadh Guidelines, Havana Rules, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Council of Europe 2010 Guidelines on Juvenile Justice<sup>1</sup>. Despite this exhaustive framework, European States fail to show satisfactory results in terms of reducing juvenile crime, ensuring that the needs of children in contact with the law are met and providing efficient and effective child-friendly alternatives to detention. In times of austerity, how can States ensure long-term results-oriented measures that benefit of children, while facing public budget spending constraints, such as severe budget cuts or inefficiently allocated available budgets?

Since 2008, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered a regional cooperation for children’s rights in Romania, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova, with the creation of a regional position. This cooperation led to numerous projects in the field of child protection, including justice for children. In 2012 a pilot project was launched: “AUDIS - For a better hearing of children involved in judicial proceedings”. This project ensured, through a series of exchanges of experience between Romanian, French, Bulgarian and Moldovan experts, the implementation of two pilot interdisciplinary hearing rooms in Romania, two interdisciplinary training sessions and two study visits. This project also led to the elaboration of a European Commission funded project “Listen to the Child”, piloted by SAPI in Bulgaria, which aims at creating methods to evaluate the needs of child victims in judicial proceedings.

In June 2014, when the Children’s Rights Attaché of the Embassy of France in Romania was invited to participate in Brussels in Eurochild’s General Assembly, a discussion with its Secretary General rapidly led to the idea of proposing a special workshop during Eurochild’s Annual Conference “Children First: Better Public Spending for Better Outcomes for Children and Families”, to be taken place in Bucharest in November 2014. As the Embassy of France was looking into developing its cooperation in the field of justice for children, Eurochild was particularly interested in expanding its range of expertise in this field, which had already been initiated through a partnership with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) on the European project “Alternatives to Custody for Young Offenders - Developing Intensive and Remand Fostering Programmes”<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/childjustice/publicationsavailable\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/childjustice/publicationsavailable_en.asp).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see IJJO’s webpage at <http://www.oijj.org/en>.



With IJJO’s White Paper “Save Money, Protect Society and Realise Youth Potential – Improving Youth Justice Systems During a Time of Economic Crisis”<sup>3</sup> recommendations as a guideline, it was agreed to propose a workshop which would, as a first attempt, gather key experts and government representatives working with young people in contact with the law from various sectors and disciplines. They would be asked to formulate suggestions on existing gaps and on how to put forward reforms in the juvenile justice sector. The main challenge was to think of this issue in terms of building an economic case, while addressing three key questions:

1. *In times of austerity, how do we build an economic case in favour of juvenile justice reform and demonstrate long-term return on investment?*
2. *How do States reform their juvenile justice system while ensuring optimum use of public resources, e.g. through implementation of integrated, interdisciplinary services, and public-private partnerships?*
3. *Which approaches and tools are States using to measure, monitor and evaluate results for children and young people involved in the justice system?*

IJJO agreed to partner in this initiative and send a representative to present the White Paper as well as formulate a synthesis and main recommendation as a result of the workshop.

This report aims at sharing the main content and discussions which took place during the workshop, and propose some further steps as a follow-up.

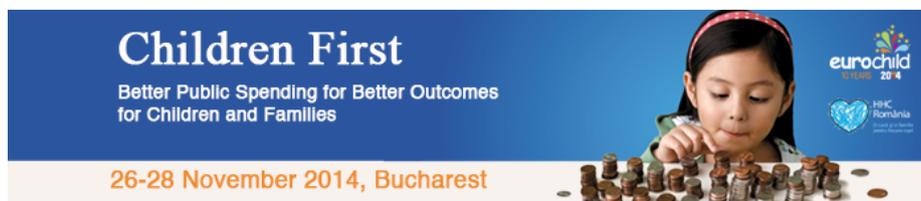
### III. Profile of Participants<sup>4</sup>

The following professionals attended the special workshop:

- 41 participants from government bodies (Ministry of Justice, National Authority for Child Protection, Ministry of Social Affairs), from NGOs (local NGOs and NGO federations) as well as representatives from UNICEF Bulgaria, Eurochild, the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Eurochild, OAK Foundation, the Romanian Ombudsman, IJJO and the Embassy of France in Romania.  
In order to ensure the participation of a wide and diverse range of professionals, it was agreed that prior to the workshop, the Embassy of France in Romania would send targeted invitations to specific institutions and NGOs who could actively contribute to the discussions. 30 experts responded positively to this invitation. The other 11 seats were filled by the interested participants who had registered for Eurochild Annual Conference.
- The participants came from 10 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Estonia, France, Northern Ireland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Serbia.
- 10+ disciplines were represented: judges, legal advisors, social workers, project managers, local and regional policy officers, probation officers, a mediator, a psychologist, researchers, executive directors and consultants.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.oijj.org/sites/default/files/white\\_paper\\_publication.pdf](http://www.oijj.org/sites/default/files/white_paper_publication.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See Annex 3 for the full list of participants.



#### IV. Methodology used<sup>5</sup>

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**Experts Invitation:** prior to the actual workshop, a selection of more than 40 highly experienced experts was organized in order to assert the quality of discussion and assess possible outcomes. Participants were selected from the networks of the consultant, the Embassy of France in Romania and Eurochild. The consultant knew 65 per cent of the participants based on her previous work experience, which played a major role in succeeding on having a full highly qualified and experienced group of participants on the day of the workshop.

**Invitation to contribute to the discussions:** a week before the event, all participants were sent an email with information about the workshop, the objectives of the day and an invitation to register their interest in one of the four group discussions to take place during that day. A positive answer was received from this email and 75% of the participants chose the group they wished to attend. This means that they came to the workshop with relevant information to enrich the discussion and use their time wisely.

**Documents provided during the workshop:** all participants were given a folder with the following documents: the final workshop programme, the list of participants, an executive summary of IJJO's White Paper, a summary of the AUDIS project, a document including diagrams and a legal lexicon on alternatives to detention and Eurochild's annual report.

**Keynote presentations:** Ms Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General of Eurochild, and M. Christophe Gigaudaut, Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs of the Embassy of France in Romania gave introductory speeches<sup>6</sup>. After IJJO's consultant Ms Marianne Moore presented IJJO's White Paper, three case studies from Bulgaria, France and Northern Ireland were presented on building an economic case for a child-friendly justice.

**Group work:** the participants were divided into three groups to work together for an hour and a half. Each group shared with the rest of the participants what they discussed. The aim of this exercise was to discuss and produce a series of observations and recommendations that would contribute to building an economic case for a child-friendly justice.

**Conclusion:** IJJO's representative Marianne Moore formulated a main synthesis and recommendation of the workshop.

**Minutes:** Ms Mariama Diallo, children's rights specialist and workshop organiser and facilitator, facilitated the discussions, while IJJO's consultant Ms Marianne Moore took notes.

**Final report and Executive Summary:** as a result of the workshop, the workshop leader Mariama Diallo drafted a final report and an executive summary. The executive summary is part of Eurochild's Annual Conference Report. These documents should be widely published and made available to all interested parties.

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<sup>5</sup> See Annex 2 for the workshop programme.

<sup>6</sup> See Annex 5 for the introductory speech of the Embassy of France in Romania.



## V. Building an economic case: IJJO's perspective and 3 case studies<sup>7</sup>

Addressing the issue of improved youth justice systems from the economic perspective was a challenging question for the speakers who were invited to briefly present some of their experience and points of views.

They were confronted with the question: How can we efficiently link the issue of better public spending – where it is expected that well-resourced as well as under resourced governments could rationally divide and specifically dedicate a budget for children - with the question of a child-friendly justice - where children's rights are ensured throughout process? How can we avoid a system in which we close existing services due to lack of resources, without proper evidence-based research? How can we lobby for the reallocation of budgets, when the current system has proved inefficient and detrimental for the rights of the children involved?

To propose some answers to these questions, four presentations were given by one consultant with IJJO, one member of the National Network for Children in Bulgaria, one Regional Director of the Judicial Youth Protection of the French Ministry of Justice, and one policy officer of the Children's Law Centre in Northern Ireland.

### a. **IJJO: “Save Money, Protect Society and Realise Youth Potential – Improving Youth Justice Systems During a Time of Economic Crisis”** by Ms Marianne Moore, Consultant with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory

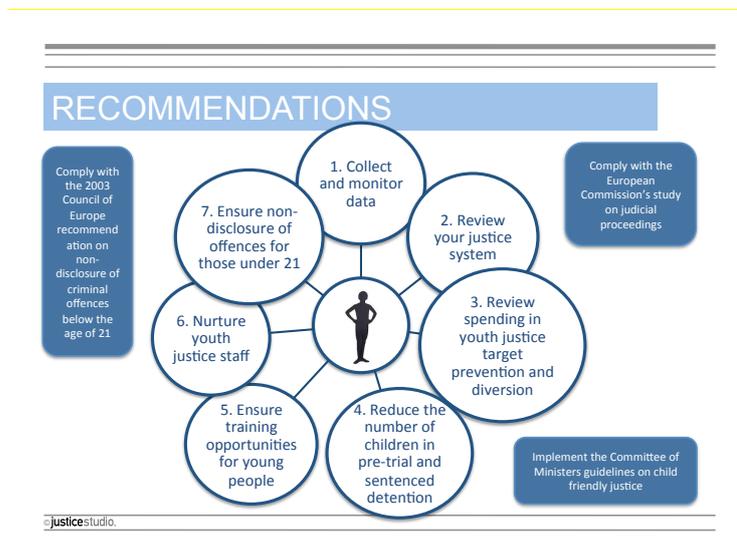
Ms Marianne Moore presented the White Paper and highlighted the following points:

- *Cut where it hurts the most:* cuts in youth justice services don't reduce youth crime but enhance the risk factors, which lead children to commit crime.
- *Evidence-based practice:* it is essential to have a clear picture of the youth justice systems in place.
- *Greater efficiency, positive professionals:* safer societies could be achieved by States working on a clearer vision of their youth justice policies and ensuring a safe and positive environment for its workforce.
- *Focused policies:* investing in prevention, diversion, community sanctions and reducing the number of children in detention save money and better protect young people, contributing to an improved society in the long run.
- *Realizing youth potential:* young people must be involved in any solution through close consultation.

<sup>7</sup> See Annex 4 for the PowerPoint presentations.



The White Paper formulates the following ten recommendations to governments:



**b. Bulgaria: “In times of austerity, how do we build an economic case in favour of juvenile justice reform and demonstrate long term return on investment?” by Ms Joana Terzieva, Children’s Rights Consultant with the National Network for Children**

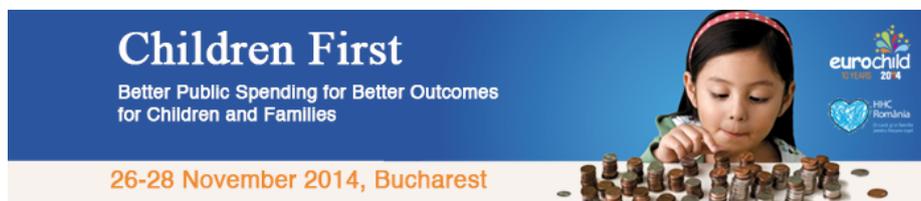
Ms Joana Terzieva explained how, despite the progress made in the last 25 years since the communist regime, Bulgaria was faced with the challenge of combating the 1958 anti-social acts of minors and juveniles Act. Supported by increased funding over the last years, this Act gives power to central and local commissions to fighting anti-social acts for juveniles. However, many questions remain open on the efficiency and impact of the work of these commissions. Moreover, official data shows that 92% of the budget is allocated to staff costs; no clear budget or information is provided for the training curriculum of the professionals involved.

Based on this analysis, in a country such as Bulgaria, in the field of juvenile justice, long-term return on investment goes beyond the question of having sufficient funding for creating new services, but it requires focusing on the following:

- Rethink the efficiency of the current youth justice system, its existing services, its costs and reallocate available budgets to renewed structures for juveniles.
- Invest in professional capacity building for the departments for child protection and local special units.
- Review any punitive legislation, which does not respect the rights of the young people in conflict with the law.
- Create and promote new diversion services.

**c. France: How do States reform their juvenile justice system while ensuring optimum use of public resources, e.g. through implementation of integrated, interdisciplinary services, public-private partnerships? by M. Hervé Duplenne, Interregional Director of the Judicial Youth Protection of the Ministry of Justice in Western France**

M. Hervé Duplenne addressed the issue of optimum use of resources, from the perspective of a public department who faced severe budget cuts while looking into maintaining the quality level of



socio-educative services provided. This proved to be particularly challenging since budget cuts surely impact young people most at need and the efficiency of the child protection services.

M. Duplenne showed how in its department budget-saving reflexions had taken place to increase family and community placements of young offenders, versus placement in an enclosed facility. As an example, he mentioned that in France, the placement of a young person in a family/community costs 11-15 euros versus 590 euros per day in a detention facility. He advised a few solutions when a department is faced with costly placement facilities:

- Adjust the budget but don't compromise on the teaching.
- Find solutions for education by organizing daily placements in foster families so a teenager can choose between various structures.
- Change the project from a collective placement to a familial placement.
- Close the costly service.

In conclusion, he showed how in France, an optimum use of resources can also mean engaging in formal partnerships with local NGOs specialized in youth justice services. Special attention needs to be put on a careful analysis of existing options: cutting budgets should never downgrade the types of placement or neglect the children who are being taken care of. Short-term savings can reduce the quality of services provided, while strategic budget allocations can optimise the quality of care provided to children in contact with the law.

**d. Northern Ireland - Which approaches and tools are States using to measure, monitor and evaluate results for children and young people involved in the justice system? by Ms Natalie Whelehan, Policy Officer at the Children's Law Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland**

Natalie Whelehan addressed the issue of measuring, monitoring and evaluating results for children from the perspective of delays, while Northern Ireland's Department of Justice, facing severe budget cuts, is implementing its reform on a "Faster, Fairer Justice" system.

She explained how, in Northern Ireland, policing and justice were only recently developed in the Hillsborough Agreement of February 2010. In 2011, a review of the youth justice system, which examined how children and young people were processed at all stages of the criminal justice system, including in detention, led to 31 recommendations. One of them related to delays: "the delay that permeates the entire criminal justice system is by far the most serious challenge we identified. With 4.7 adjournments average in each case, the juvenile justice centre is used as a remand centre."

Ms Whelehan proposed how several bodies, at central and local level, were involved in measuring, monitoring and evaluating proper implementation of the review recommendations. This was achieved through regular progress reports, quarterly plans, policing boards, criminal justice boards as well as checking on the targets set in the Youth Justice Agency business plans.

As part of the "Faster, Fairer Justice" agenda, while policies were driven by value for money, the authorities decided to put greater emphasis on diversion measures, to decrease the number of children sent to court. A new measure was introduced as part of this strategy: **Youth Engagement Clinics**, run by a Youth Justice Agency and police service initiative were set up to improve the processing times in youth cases for young people aged 10-18. While this proved to



be successful in the two pilot police districts it was launched, concerns were raised about not respecting the rights of the young people involved as to a legal representation (only 7 out of 100 were advised by a solicitor) and presumption of innocence.

Measuring, monitoring and evaluating tools need to be well designed in order to look at results for children. They however require an investment in time, which necessarily has budget implications: special attention should be put on changing the way young people are dealt with, while avoiding implementing cost-savings and speedy processes at the expense of justice. Some delays are just unavoidable, especially when it concerns ensuring a child's right to fair trial and respect of its fundamental rights.

## VI. Focused policies: Groups' Recommendations

IJJO's White Paper proposes 4 focused policies, which can ensure child-focused measures and procedures as well as prove budget-friendly:

- a. Prevention:** Cost-effectiveness and reducing child arrests
- b. Diversion:** Cost-effectiveness and reducing the number of children sent to court
- c. Community-based sanctions:** Cost-effectiveness and involving the community to deal with children who offend
- d. Detention as a last resort:** Cost-effectiveness and reducing the number of children in pre-trial detention and in prison

Due to the profile of the participants and their level of expertise, it was decided to divide them into three groups: Prevention, Diversion and Community-based Sanctions/Detention as a last resort, each composed of 7-12 experts. For an hour and a half, they were asked to formulate suggestions based on the following eight guiding questions:

1. To what extent does your country implement and support preventive/diversion/community-based programs for young people?
2. What would be the barriers to implementing preventive/diversion/community-based programs and services?
3. How can we overcome those obstacles and challenges to implementing preventive/diversion/community-based programs and services?
4. How can resources be targeted to support more preventive/diversion/community-based programs and services for young people in your country?
5. How can we ensure data is collected and monitored?
6. What potential is there for more investment in vocational training for young people as part of preventive/diversion/community-based programs in your country?
7. What are the arguments in support for reducing child arrests and how can they be built upon in your country?
8. What opportunities are there for more cross-sectorial working and supported budgets?

### Main group work recommendations

#### Group 1: Prevention: cost-effectiveness and reducing child arrests

- 1.1. **Adopt a child-centred approach in preventing youth crime** at every level (school, child protection authorities, vocational training, church, police, etc).



- 1.2. **Make better use of existing structures and experts working with children at risk:** there is a tendency for local government structures not to cooperate with each other. Sometimes local structures exist, but don't function properly.
- 1.3. **Allocate budgets for evidence generating structures:** a first step would be to invest in measures and procedures to help identifying who the children and young people are and how the work is provided to help children at risk of coming in conflict with the law, and so we know who we need to target services at.
- 1.4. **Urge local structures to harmonize and share data on children at risk of getting involved in youth crime:** information about children at risk is too fragmented in many countries; each structure, such as schools and police, has its own data sharing system, if existent, but data is rarely shared. Advantage should be taken of institutions such as the ombudsperson and academia producing data on juvenile justice.
- 1.5. **Invest strategically in family support:** families need support with accessible services at the local level. Primary services are not enough; specialized services are also necessary to preventing children from coming into conflict with the law.
- 1.6. **Invest in equipping professionals with relevant resources and skills in various key sectors to help families better identify risks.**
- 1.7. **Involve child helplines across Europe in prevention of youth crime:** national child lines can play a key role in reducing child arrests, not just by referring cases, but also by pre-identifying children at risk and offering them an accessible, free, anonymous and confidential service.
- 1.8. **Ensure there is a robust monitoring system of youth justice services:** special caution is required for systems adopting conditional cash transfers (benefits for children based on conditions such as the child going to school) which need to be closely monitored in order to make proper use of available budgets and to show that it positively impacts children's well-being.

## **Group 2: Diversion: Cost-effectiveness and reducing the number of children sent to court**

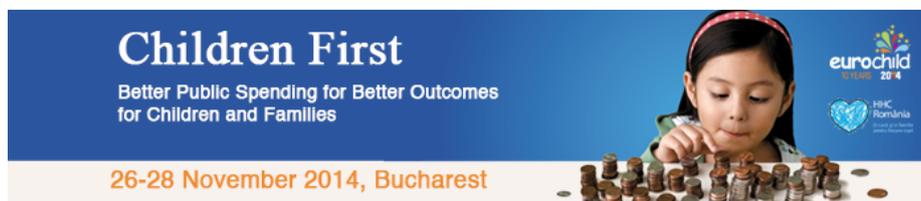
- 2.1. **Investment in diversion services requires ensuring that clear definitions of diversion are used:** governments can have very different definitions of diversion, which are more or less widely interpreted. Avoid "camouflaging" a measure of deprivation of liberty as a diversion measure.
- 2.2. **Show evidence that diversion does not mean a soft approach:** make sure that in order to save costs, children do not end up falling through the system.
- 2.3. **Social return on investment by using diversion measures takes time:** the biggest challenge is for governments to make the right decisions with restricted resources; a thorough analysis of which youth justice service needs to be cut and which one need to be developed will prove to have positive long term outcomes in terms of socio-economical integration of young people.



- 2.4. **Invest earlier in social support for youth at risk, before diversion becomes necessary:** show what the real cost to society is. Build confidence in the ability of professionals to change things. Fund standardised trainings for professional social workers to argue cases in the best interests of the young person involved.
- 2.5. **Involve governments in using international standardised indicators across countries so we have Europe wide comparable data:** encourage national discussions on data and a European discussion on cross-departmental decisions and data standardisation. This process would provide governments with evidence to help them make the best decisions about cost savings.
- 2.6. **Increase cross-sectoral work and promote resource sharing across departments to help reducing the number of children sent to court:** there are barriers across police, justice, social and education sectors which prove to be detrimental for the young person who has allegedly committed an offense.

**Group 3: Reducing the number of children in detention: Cost-effectiveness and involving the community to deal with children who offend in order to reduce the number of children in pre-trial detention and in prison**

- 3.1. **Ensure sufficient budget for coordination of existing alternative to detention services so to avoid duplication of services and community responses to children:** coordination of child protection, justice and police systems would enable community sanctions through educative measures to be coordinated with probation services when necessary.
- 3.2. **Widely publicise the fact that utilising community sanctions as an alternative to detention is not only less costly, but more importantly ensures better long-term outcomes for children and young people who offend..**
- 3.3. **Ensure there is more data available on the number and the profile of young people who offend:** budget opportunities are difficult to identify and quantify without this data.
- 3.4. **Publicise the fact that reoffending rates are lower in terms of community sanctions as opposed to recidivism:** reoffending rates are better for community sanctions and we need to publicise this more. There is not much data so we need to ensure it is collected.
- 3.5. **Review legislation to ensure that it is fit for purpose, allowing the recognition of community sanctions:** much of the legislation that is currently operating doesn't allow for community sanctions. Need to amend the legislation so that community sanctions can be used instead of detention.
- 3.6. **Allocate sufficient public budget for the specialization of professionals working with children and young people who offend:** probation officers, educators, judges would benefit from specialized trainings when they are in charge of following up the young person's case.



## VII. Synthesis - What's next?

*"Every day, our actions create value. It's not about money, it's about value."  
Nicholas Rees, UNICEF Policy Analysis Specialist*

*"Invest in children to give them better options for the future"  
Ivan Tancabel (16), President of the Children's City Council, Opatija, Croatia*

All participants agreed that investing sufficient resources to implement reforms in juvenile justice had three major benefits in terms of social return on investment:

1. Ensuring protection of children and young people, especially the ones from most vulnerable households at risk of social exclusion.
2. Ensuring real opportunities for children and young people to be fully integrated and active in today and tomorrow's society, with proper access to education, health, social services, and the labour market.
3. Aiming for safer societies: preventing youth crime and reducing risk factors that lead children to crime.

Overall, participants recognised that it was essential to ensure that children and young people are consulted in all of these measures when we are improving justice systems.

The keynote speakers showed how money could be saved by the abolition of out-dated legal texts and the re-organisation of existing structures into new structures that are better focused on outcomes for children. They also demonstrated the costs of programming for young people and how saving money does not need to compromise the outcomes for children. Last but not least, they argued how progress can be made in youth justice reform when budgets are cut, while warning to ensure that due process must still be provided for young people.

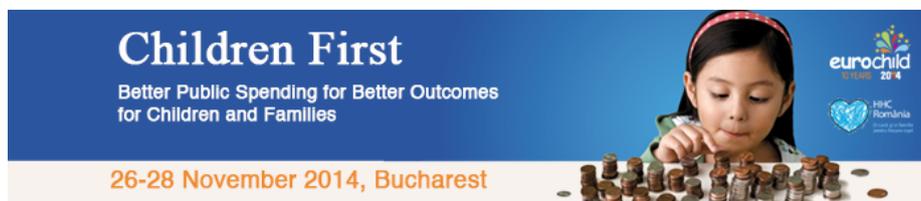
The participants emphasised the need to allocate sufficient budgets for data collection and sharing, cross-sectoral work, evidence generation, capacity building, and, where necessary, reviews of legislation to shift from a punitive approach to an educative approach.

It was also recognised that there are resources available, they just needed to be used in a more appropriate manner. However, strategies and approaches might be slightly different depending on the countries budget situation:

- for those countries with higher budgets but facing severe budget cuts, the challenge is to ensure the maintenance of a good level of services and child-friendly procedures;
- for those countries with fewer resources that show an insufficient number of child-friendly services, the challenge is to efficiently lobby for a reallocation of available budgets to new child-friendly services.

As a result of this workshop, the following **internal suggestions were made for further steps**:

- 1) Create within Eurochild a **thematic working group (TWG) on justice for children to further develop economic arguments for youth justice** and highlight existing best practices. The TWG could focus on three axes: public spending and child-friendly approach, creative solutions for youth justice programs implementation in the context of severe budget cuts, and child participation in youth justice policy development. This thematic working group would gather key



senior professionals from various sectors. The work of this TWG would also contribute to the elaboration of the next **UNCRC General comment on public spending**. This TWG could be set up with the collaboration of the European Commission **DG Justice**.

2) Share the results of this workshop at each European government's level to encourage States to prioritize, as part of their justice for children reforms, investing in **data collection and sharing, cross-sectorial work, evidence generation, capacity building**, and, where necessary, **review of legislation** to shift from a punitive approach to an educative approach.

3) At country level, diffuse information on and facilitate access to **funding opportunities** such as calls for proposals on the rights of the child regularly launched by the European Commission DG Justice to support European wide projects on **data collection, evidence generation and capacity building of professionals in the field of juvenile justice**.

4) Lobby States to consider investing in child-friendly approaches to juvenile justice; ensure that operational efficiency is provided together with allocation efficiency; and **link child-friendly policies to efficient expenditure to prevent youth crime**.

5) Communicate the results of this report to and build a stronger rapport with the **Council of Europe**, to ensure that the economic aspects of juvenile justice are incorporated as part of the elaboration of its **2020 Strategy on the Rights of the Child**.

6) Child participation: take into account children's views, which will be expressed as part of **FRA's 2015 research on justice for children**. Ensure that decision makers in the field of juvenile justice hear the voice of young people in contact with the law.

7) Maximize the use of diplomatic bodies to diffuse the result of this report: **diplomatic representations could assist in channelling information to help link field realities with policy makers' strategies at EU level in the area of justice for children**. For instance, take advantage of the existence at the Embassy of France in Romania of the regional cooperation for children rights between Bulgaria, Romania, Republic of Moldova and France.

8) **Eurochild and IJJO** to follow up and share this report and its recommendations, as part of their lobby work to EU institutions and EU governments.



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