



Funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme of the European Union

## Newsletter

February 2016

This is the first of a series of trimestral newsletters sharing information on the project *JudEx+: Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children*, and on other relevant news related to child-friendly justice in Europe.



## **JudEx+: Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children**

On **January 15th and 16th 2016** seven organisations from six EU countries (Cyprus, Bulgaria, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom) have come together in Cyprus for the first partnership meeting of **JudEx+**: Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children (JUST/2014/RCHI/AG/PROF/7036). The humanitarian and independent institution **“Hope For Children” UNCRC Policy Center**, is the leading partner of this project funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship programme of the European Union, implemented in cooperation with Know & Can (BG); Frederick University (CY); CESIE (IT); Folkuniversitetet (SE); University of Primorska (SI), and Rinova (UK).

The project aims at improving the child’s experience when entering the judicial system in cases of sexual violence against children, through the development and implementation of a Multidisciplinary Curriculum and Methodology to enhance the capacity of professionals working with children at different stages of the legal procedures. The training programme will focus on children’s rights, voices, developmental needs, and social background.

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### **Children and justice: professionals' perspectives and experiences**

“Each year thousands of children take part in criminal and civil judicial proceedings, affected by parental divorce or as victims or witnesses to crime. Such proceedings can be stressful for anyone. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) investigated whether children’s rights are respected in these proceedings.” The results are presented in the report Child-friendly justice – Perspectives and experiences of professionals on children’s participation in civil and criminal judicial proceedings in 10 EU Member States.

Download the report here: <http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2015-child->



### Inviting stakeholders to participate

Partner organisations are inviting professionals with relevant work experience to participate in discussion sessions focusing on country-specific practices in cases of sexual violence against children, and to share their knowledge on the concept and implementation of a child-friendly judicial system, as well as on existing/needed training programmes for practitioners involved in the legal procedures. By accepting to collaborate, individuals will be contributing, in the long-run, to the establishment of child-friendly methodologies and judicial practices in cases of sexual violence against children.

If you work, or have worked, with children involved in legal procedures in cases of sexual violence against children, or if your work is in any other way related and you'd like to contribute with your knowledge and expertise to the improvement of the child experience, please contact your country's JudEx+ desk:

- **Cyprus, "Hope For Children" UNCRC Policy Center**

Contact person: Aliko Varella  
Email: varella.a@uncrcpc.org  
Tel 22103234 (central offices)

- **Bulgaria, Association Know & Can**

Contact person: Romyana Shalamanova  
Email: znamimoga@gmail.com  
Tel: +359 878 503 025

- **Italy, CESIE**

Contact person: Noemi De Luca  
Email: noemi.deluca@cesie.org  
Tel: 0039 091 6164224

- **Slovenia, University of Primorska**

Contact person: Tjasa zakelj  
Email: tjasa.zakelj@zrs.upr.si

- **Sweden, Folkuniversitetet**

Contact person: Yevgeniya Averhed  
Email: Yevgeniya.averhed@folkuniversitetet.se  
Tel: +4618680036

- **United Kingdom, RINOVA**

Contact person: Amanda Francis  
Email: a.francis@rinova.co.uk

## Upcoming Events/Projects& Activities

JudEx+ group discussions will be held in each partner country throughout **April 2016, on dates to be announced.**

In **June 2016**, partners will meet again to discuss project progress, and the development and implementation of a Training Curriculum, for professionals, on child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children. The meeting will be hosted by **CESIE, in Italy.**





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Δώστε Ελπίδα στα παιδιά

**Our mailing address is:**

Hope for Children  
75 Limassol Avenue, Flat 201  
2nd Floor  
Nicosia 2121  
Cyprus

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