

## Workshop on Juveniles and Young Adults in Probation

21 June 2023

**Venue:** *Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training  
Carrer de Pau Claris, 158, 08009 Barcelona*

### Report

**On 21 June 2023 CEP organized a Workshop on juveniles and young adult offenders in Probation. The workshop was held at the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training in Barcelona. The aim of the workshop was to increase awareness on what are the effective and efficient ways of working with juveniles and young adult offenders, which programmes are used to prevent juveniles being involved with crimes, support treatment process, among others. The workshop covered the topic from the perspective of probation and other criminal justice professionals.**

The workshop was attended by 35 participants from 10 different EU jurisdictions that came together to understand and discuss on the question of how to respond appropriately to the offending of juveniles and young adults

A World Café session brought together smaller groups of participants to discuss and share knowledge and experiences from different jurisdictions and thus support mutual learning as one of the core skills necessary for further professional development.

The programme of the workshop was divided in two parts. A first part in the morning 4 plenary presentations took place.

In the afternoon world café discussions were organized. The group of participants was divided into 4 small groups and discussions were on: *Risk and needs assessment tools, good practices, challenges when working with juveniles and interagency cooperation.*

#### Presentations

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**Child justice in Europe: current trends and challenges - Mr Cedric Foussard, Coordinator of the Global Initiative on Justice with Children and Advocacy and Global Learning Senior Advisor for Terre des Hommes Foundation, France.**

This presentation encompassed a wide range of crucial topics concerning child justice. It started examining the international standards set for child detention, emphasizing the significance of adhering to these standards to protect the rights and well-being of children. Moreover, it provided an overview of child justice within the European Union, shedding light on key aspects and developments. It further explored the European Union Directive on procedural safeguards for children, emphasizing the need for effective measures to protect children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, including the promotion of their effective participation.

Additionally, the presentation offered valuable recommendations for child justice systems, emphasizing the significance of implementing safeguards to protect children deprived of their liberty during times of crisis.

**Implementing a gender equality approach aimed at professionals working in the juvenile justice system – the Catalan perspective - Ms Anna Vidal Mena, Psychologist, responsible for gender equality issues at Juvenile Justice intervention and programs team, Catalan Justice Department, Catalonia – Spain and Ms Sandra Lopez, Psychologist at Juveniles Justice Educational Centre Can Llupià, Catalan Justice Department, Catalonia – Spain**

The presentation was divided into two sections/parts. In the first part, the expert speakers presented a description of the Catalan juvenile justice system. This description identified the age of criminal responsibility in Catalonia and included an explanation of the different intervention areas of each juvenile justice team.

The second part of the presentation was focused on presenting the project itself on "Implementing a gender equality approach aimed at professionals working in the juvenile justice system – the Catalan perspective". This part of the speech included a detailed explanation on how to include referee professionals on equality and gender-based violence when working with juveniles in the criminal justice system, objectives of the project, working process and actual moment.

**Participatory Youth Practice and co-creation of youth justice services - Professor Hannah Smithson, Criminology and Youth Justice, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom**

Professor Hannah Smithson discussed the current Youth Justice landscape in England and Wales. Child First approaches have dominated the landscape over the past couple of years. By presenting details of a framework of youth justice practice co-created with justice-involved children – Participatory Youth Practice, Hannah Smithson discussed the enablers and barriers to a genuine Child First approach to Youth Justice in the UK.

**Youth Supervision – Swedish perspective - Ms Maria Svantesson, Expert at the head office, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Sweden and Mr Göran Hellstrom, Expert at the head office, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Sweden**

Maria Svantesson and Göran Hellström presented a Swedish view on youths in probation and their experiences from implementing a new probation sentence for young offenders in Sweden.

Sweden has a special law for young offenders and young offenders refers to persons aged between 15 to 17 years old. In the law, there are special provisions for how the Police, the Prosecutors and the Courts should handle cases with young offenders. There are four different youth sanctions in Sweden for young offenders and three different authorities are responsible for the sanctions. Social Services have an overall responsibility for youths in the society, for providing secureness and treatment, but there are other authorities responsible for the sanctions. Although Sweden has a tradition of trying to keep the young ones away from of the Criminal Justice System changes have been made to adjust the sentences for young to be more similar to the sentences for adults.

The new sentence Youth Supervision started in January 2021. The aim of the sanction is to fill a gap in the Criminal Justice System and to increase the trustworthiness of the system when matching individual needs of control and support. The Court decides the length of the supervision period and it can be between six months and one year. The Youth Supervision includes electronic monitoring on weekends. Most of the juveniles on Youth Supervision are young men, only 10 percent are females. The average age is 17 years old, and the average length of the sentence is eight and a half months. The most common offence is robbery and other common offences are assault and rape.

In year 2020, The Swedish Prison and Probation Service created an organization for implementation of new legislation, including the new sentence Youth Supervision. The Swedish Government had the intention to change

several sentences within the Probation field. In the long-term support for implementation of the new sentence, The Swedish Prison and Probation Service arranged for a national support, which involves close case guidance and network groups for the case managers. Not only does this contribute to creating a uniform case management and practice, but it is also an opportunity to share good examples and form best practice.

Link to the website: <https://www.cep-probation.org/recap-cep-workshop-on-juveniles-and-young-adult-offenders/>