

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON REINTEGRATION PROCESSES OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

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The following recommendations derive from the contributions of professionals dealing with reintegration of children involved in criminal proceedings gathered during the workshops organised in WS3 of the project Children's Rights Behind Bars 2.0. They are aimed at sharing useful perspectives that can inform reintegration processes with a bottom-up approach in order to reinforce their efficiency. They emerge from discussions structured around a child rights-based multidisciplinary framework.

Reintegration processes should:

- Be prepared and start during detention or during the period in which an alternative measure is being served by the child.
- Consider child participation as a core element, thus be built around the child's personal situation, characteristics, needs, resources, aspirations and expectations.
- Connect with the child on an individualised manner, trying to go beyond the formal dimension, taking care of the emotional aspects, finding a common language and a common understanding of things, discovering meaningful communication channels and tools, building together with the child a path that makes sense for her or his story.
- Include an educational/emotional support aimed at reinforcing the capacities and self-esteem of children and young people and accompanying them during the whole process.
- Try to identify one person who can act as main reference for the child during the whole reintegration process.
- Enhance the use of measures and activities that are non-coercive but freely agreed with the child.
- Be planned and implemented by appropriately trained professionals who have knowledge on child-related issues from a rights-based perspective.
- Involve different actors and mandates both of the justice and protection system but also from outside the system (non-institutional actors).
- Be shared among services and professionals that are coordinated, supervised and that participate to joint sessions of training, exchange and reflection.
- Be supported by meaningful and relevant "maps" (i.e. tools and mechanisms) that can connect and orient professional mandates from a inter-agency perspective.
- Be informed by principles and regulations and uphold the rights of each child from a systemic perspective.
- Enhance the right to information and make sure that children and their families are clear on the limits between legality and illegality.
- Create the conditions for children's stories to be changed.
- Take into account and, when possible, connect with the context of origin of the child (including family and school) in order to influence it in a way that may deter the child from recidivism.
- Consider and address the community level as part of the (social) reintegration context.
- Connect with prevention programs and policies.
- Be supported with appropriate economic and human resources.
- Be constantly supervised and monitored during implementation and assessed after its completion.