



Défense des Enfants
DEI-BELGIQUE

Le mouvement mondial pour les droits de l'enfant

Children's Rights behind bars *CRBB Project, Objectives & Programme of the Conference*

1st of March 2014 – 29th of February 2016





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Le mouvement mondial pour les droits de l'enfant

A project coordinated by DCI-Belgium

Children's Rights behind bars

- EU Funded 2 years Project

Financed by the **European Commission** within the framework of the Criminal Justice Programme.

+ Council of Europe, Fonds Houtman, National Lotery & Wallonie-Bruxelles International

Regular, external and independent monitoring visits to places where children are deprived of liberty are key to prevent torture and other human rights' violations and to protect fundamental rights.



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Goals & Objectives

- Respect **human rights of children** deprived of liberty
- Improve **international juvenile justice standards** to protect the rights and needs of incarcerated children
- Strengthen the **cooperation** between EU Member States
- Strengthen the **monitoring mechanisms** to control children detention



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CONTEXT AND CURRENT SITUATION

- **Many children** are deprived of liberty in Europe
- **Lack of oversight and monitoring in detention** including police cells, fewer possibilities to report incidents, a significant risk of violence (...)
- Diverse sources of **violence** (staff, rules, other detainees, self-harm)
- Lack of a strong **child protection system**, inadequate staffing and certainly a lack of monitoring, oversight and complaint mechanisms.
- In Europe, such mechanisms exist in most of the states but are not **coordinate and harmonised** well enough.



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Rationale

- Several HR institutions, monitoring mechanisms, **visit places of detention** to supervise conditions of detention and prevent torture and other HR violations,
- Need for **regular visits** to verify living and procedural conditions of detainees, including juvenile detention facilities and police cells.
- No **practical guidelines** to support these mechanisms to properly monitor living and detention conditions of children.
- **Special criteria** must be taken into account (for interviewing children; multidisciplinary procedures)
- international human rights law includes **specific standards** for children in detention.



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Expected results

- Promote adequate **coordination and harmonisation** of practices between existing monitoring bodies and key actors (nationally, regionally and internationally)
- **Strengthen these mechanisms** and foster synergies & complementarities
- Provide a **common assessment criteria**
- Provide **practical tools** and effective methods
- Foster the acquisition of **comparable information**



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Outcomes

- 1 **practical Guide** + 1 brochure
- 14 national reports
- 1 global-comparative report (European overview)
- 1 website
- 3 international seminars
- 1 **final conference**
- Activities based on the Guide & follow up



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Partners

- Austria : Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights
- Belgium : Defence for Children International (DCI)
- Estonia : Institute of Sociology and Social Policy.
University of Tartu
- France : Defence for Children International (DCI)
- Ireland : Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT)
- Italy : Defence for Children International (DCI)



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Partners

- Latvia : Ombudsman's Office of the Rep. of Latvia
- Luxembourg : Association Nationale des Communautés Educatives et Sociales (ANCES)
- Netherlands : Defence for Children International (DCI)
- Poland : Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
- Romania : Research Centre CICOP. West University in Timisoara
- Spain : Fundación Proyecto Solidario por la Infancia



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Associated Partners

- United Kingdom: The Howard League for Penal Reform
- Serbia : Child Rights Centre
- Council of Europe
- World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)
- Fonds Houtman (Belgium)



Experts (11)

- Ileana BELLO : Director, DCI – International Secretariat
- Ursula KILKELLY : Pr., University College Cork, Head/Dean Faculty of Law
- Bernard DEVOS : Ombudsman French Com. Belgium, ENOC chairman
- Philip D. JAFFE : Dir., Centre interfacultaire en droits de l'enfant (CIDE), University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Nevena VUCKOVIC : Former member of the CRC (UN).
- Sonja SNACKEN : Pr. Vrije Universiteit Brussel, former expert CPT
- Malcolm EVANS : Pr. University of Bristol, expert SPT
- Paola JACK : Former Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Agency, Northern Ireland
- Anne-Sophie BONNET: Expert French NPM under the OPCAT
- Nikhil ROY : Prog. Dev. Dir. Penal Reform International (PRI)
- Ton LIEFARD : Pr. University of Leiden, Law School



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Activities : National Researches / Reports

- **National researches** in 14 countries
- Assessment of monitoring, inspections and complaint mechanisms : **existence, implementation n & effectiveness**
- Through a **common approach** & methodology (questionnaires, visits, interviews of stakeholders, staff and children)
- Exchanges and comparisons during **3 european seminars**



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Activities : A European overview

- Main aim : make the **link** between the national research and the European practical Guide
- by using **practical information** gathered through national research
- to **feed the Guide** with best practices that can be inspiring and, to identify major or recurring problems.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS BEHIND BARS

Human Rights of children deprived of liberty:
Improving monitoring mechanisms.



A European Overview
2015



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Content : European overview

- List and **comparison between existing monitoring and complaint mechanisms** (at national and international level)
- **Analyse of the effectiveness & accessibility** of these mechanisms
 - Independence
 - Information (to the children)
 - Training of the Monitors
 - Organisation & follow up of the visits
 - Child specific dimension



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Practical Guide

- Drafted by DCI-Belgium with the input of all experts and partners
- Taking into account the 14 national reports





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Final Conference : aims / public

- **AIM** : present & promote the Guide / raise awareness (on the Guide, the monitoring) / prepare the dissemination / discuss the follow up + information about the Global Study
- **PUBLIC** : broad range of professionals, who are entitled to monitor or visit places where children can be deprived of their liberty.



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Follow up of the project / guide

- Awareness raising, promotion, dissemination activities : Present the Guide in Conferences, send it to relevant people, promotion its use,...
- Training of Monitoring bodies (transforming the Guide in a training tool)
- Using by Monitoring bodies
- Gathering feedback
- Adapting to other regions / translation / improvement



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Questions – Answers – Discussion



Thank you for your attention