



ENCLAVE

Enhancing the capacity of legal & justice professionals on forensic interview procedures for child victims and witnesses of violence

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT ENCLAVE



MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- » BENCHMARK PROTOCOL
- » COMPARATIVE REPORT & POLICY RECOMMENDATION
- » NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT
- » TRAINING MATERIAL FOR PROFESSIONALS
- » GUIDELINES FOR VICTIM SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

ENCLAVE BRINGS TOGETHER PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Children's best interests must be a primary consideration when they are involved in criminal proceedings. However, children victims and witnesses of abuse are often re-victimized by justice systems that are not adapted to their rights and needs. Poor implementation of the forensic investigation tackles the welfare of a child due to the lack of capacity of legal and justice professionals as well as victims' support services, regarding the forensic interview.

The aim of the 2-year ENCLAVE project, funded by EC Justice Programme, is to foster impactful changes in criminal proceedings so as to introduce and mainstream an effective and coherent implementation of the protocol for forensic interview for child abuse to prevent repeated victimization, intimidation and retaliation connected with violence. The overall goal of ENCLAVE is to boost the implementation of a more appropriate and victim-sensitive approach within criminal proceedings tailored to the particular needs of children victims and witnesses of abuse.

The ENCLAVE team brings together academia, professionals and experts in fields of criminology and gender based violence from Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Italy and Spain to increase the capacity of legal and justice professionals on the application of the protocol of forensic interview with child victims and witnesses of abuse, and to advocate for compulsory capacity building for corresponding professionals involved in criminal proceedings with regards to child abuse.

First in-person partner meeting in Madrid

The first Steering Committee meeting was held in Madrid on 20-21st of September. Partners discussed the main challenges occurred so far and the next steps to be taken to keep on track with all the deliverables and milestones. The goal is to prevent the revictimization of children victims and witnesses of abuse by developing training materials to increase the capacity and knowledge of specialists when conducting forensic interviews.



Not all partners were able to meet in present, but we took most out of the hybrid meeting solutions.

Work in progress

Partners in Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Italy and Spain are currently implementing an online survey and conducting interviews with forensic psychologists, judges, prosecutors and police officers on their professional practice regarding testimony taking of minors, ages 7-16, victims and/or witnesses of sexual abuse. The aim is to conduct research on the forensic interview protocol and its impact on legal proceedings.

Next steps

The ENCLAVE project will analyse the context and procedures, and will determine the training needs of legal and criminal justice professionals at 5 EU countries (EL, ES, IT, BE, EE) towards the maximization of the application of the Directive 2012/29/EU at the extent of the introduction, update and widespread implementation of the protocol of forensic interview for child abuse. Moreover, based on the results of this comprehensive data collection and research, best practices regarding the forensic interview process will be identified in order to develop a comprehensive Training Manual and Training activities for legal and criminal justice professionals and victims' support services, so as to develop and implement capacity building and raising awareness activities among them.



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