



Model Court: Child - friendly Justice

Bulgaria

Abstract

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- The Model court is intended to be used as basis for the elaboration of a guidelines to assist the competent authorities and professionals in preparation of Individual Assessment (IA) of a child, involved in criminal or civil justice cases.
- The IA is considered to be an important safeguard for the procedural rights of children but also is beneficial to the proceedings in order to reach their effective outcome for the child and society. The model has been developed within the framework of the legislation in force as of February 2021 and does not foresee legislative changes. The model will be used in the training of professionals and will be validated accordingly.
- The model is adjusted to the stages of the proceedings from the first contact of the child with the justice system to the final court decision as follows:

I. Support for the child's first contact with the justice system

II. Preparation of IA for children:

- detained, suspected or accused for committing crime according to Directive 2016/800;
- victims of crime according to Directive 2012/29;
- who are parties or participants in administrative (under the Refuge and Asylum seekers Act) or civil proceedings (under the Child Protection Act and Protection against Domestic Violence Act)

The major issue here is who can carry out an IA within the model.

III. Algorithm for implementing Support Measures

It is the next stage following the identified by the IA specific needs of the child. The Model creates a process, including the main stakeholders for the implementation of social, protective and educational measures including additional protection measures for specific groups where necessary.

The model elaborates on the conditions and regulations regarding the **hearing and interrogation of the child.**



Find more about it in the Session 2 of the 2nd day of the conference in the presentation called *Safeguarding children rights and best interest through effective and respectful participation and interdisciplinarity*



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