

This series of seminars is organised with the financial support of the specific programme 'Fundamental Rights and Citizenship' JUST-2013-FRAC-AG of the European Commission.



## THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN PRACTICE: EXPLORING A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE IN EUROPEAN LAW

- Training seminar for professionals who interact with children in the context of judicial proceedings
- In cooperation with the National Courts Administration of Lithuania

**Vilnius, 16-17 September 2015**

National Courts Administration  
L.Sapiegos g. 15,  
LT-10312 Vilnius

**Languages:** English and Lithuanian

**Organiser:** Anastasia Patta  
**Event number:** 115DT100



Wednesday, 16 September 2015

08:30

Arrival and registration of participants

09:00

**Opening of the seminar**

*Anastasia Patta*

**I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND BASIC INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN JUSTICE SETTINGS**

*Rebecca O'Donnell*

09:15

**Child-friendly justice: an introduction based on scenarios of children participating in judicial proceedings**

- General principles and sources of rights in international and regional law
- The actors involved: the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach

10:00

**Discussion**

10:15

**Furthering 'the best interests of the child' in European law**

- Overview of the role of the EU in child-friendly justice
- Exploring key safeguards in European instruments
- Landmark cases from the European regional courts
- Practical tools and resources available to ensure proper implementation of the EU acquis

11:00

**Discussion**

11:15

Coffee break

11:45

**Workshop I**

**Case study on trafficked child: the interplay of criminal and child protection laws**

13:00

**Discussion of workshop results**

13:30

Lunch



## II. ENSURING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION: THE CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

*Ursula Kilkelly\**

14:30

### **The right to be heard: a general principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

- Introducing Article 12 of the CRC
- Understanding Article 12: a legal and literal analysis
- Implementing Article 12: exchange of positive approaches

15:00

### **Discussion**

15:15

### **Workshop II**

#### **Case study: the right of the child to be heard in civil judicial proceedings**

16:15

Coffee break

16:30

### **Involvement of the child in legal proceedings (Article 12(2) CRC)**

- Different types of proceedings: child as victim, suspect, witness, third party in civil law cases
- Case law of the European Court of Human Rights on effective participation
- Hearing children directly: ensuring an appropriate interview environment

17:00

### **Workshop III**

#### **Discussion on the child's direct and indirect participation in legal proceedings based on a case scenario**

18:00

End of the first day

19:30

Dinner

\* invited



Thursday, 17 September 2015

### III. BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN LEGAL SITUATIONS

*Ankie Vandekerckhove*

09:00

#### **The Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice**

- Organisation of the proceedings: ensuring a child-friendly environment
- Gathering evidence from children

09:45

#### **Tour de table: sharing experiences**

10:15

#### **Best practices in communicating with children in legal proceedings**

- How to engage with children
- Inspiring practices and protocols

10:45

#### **Discussion**

11:00

Coffee break

11:30

#### **Workshop IV**

#### **Role-playing exercises on interacting with children in different cases: suggestions and caveats**

12:45

End of seminar

## Contact



Anastasia Patta  
Project Lawyer  
Tel.: +49 651 93737-130  
E-mail: APatta@era.int



Nicole Stöckl  
Assistant  
Tel.: +49 651 93737-422  
E-mail: NStoeckl@era.int



## Speakers

***Ursula Kilkelly\****,  
*Professor of Law and Director of the Child Law Clinic, University College Cork*

***Rebecca O'Donnell***,  
*Barrister, Child rights and child protection advisor, O'Donnell & Lind, Brussels*

***Ankie Vandekerckhove***,  
*Independent Children's Rights Advisor, Ghent*

*\* invited*

## Project partners

Bavarian State Ministry of Justice, Munich

Croatian Judicial Academy, Zagreb

French School for the Judiciary (ENM), Paris

Lithuanian Courts Administration (NCA), Vilnius

Ministry of Justice of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Stuttgart

Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of Rheinland-Palatinate, Mainz

Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf

Polish School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (KSSiP), Krakow

Romanian National Institute of Magistracy (NIM), Bucharest

Spanish Judicial School – General Council for the Judiciary, Barcelona

*Associate partners:*

Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

Council of Europe

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin



## Calendar of events 2015-2016

### **16-17 September 2015**

National Courts Administration of Lithuania, Vilnius

Languages: English, Lithuanian

### **19-20 November 2015**

Croatian Judicial Academy, Zagreb

Languages: English, Croatian

### **7-8 December 2015**

Romanian National Institute of Magistracy (NIM), Bucharest

Language: English

### **11-12 February 2016**

The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin

Language: English

### **3-4 March 2016**

National School for the Judiciary (ENM), Paris

Language: French

### **April/May 2016**

Polish School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (KSSiP), Krakow

Languages: English, Polish

### **2-3 June 2016**

Spanish Judicial School – General Council for the Judiciary, Barcelona

Languages: English, Spanish

### **26-27 September 2016**

Academy of European Law (ERA), Trier

Language: German

The seminar series aims to bring together participants with diverse professional backgrounds from all EU Member States. The seminars are open to judges and legal practitioners, civil servants, police and law enforcement officials, NGOs working furthering the interests of children.

Please visit [www.era.int](http://www.era.int) for further information about our planned events



## Academy of European Law

Metzer Allee 4  
D-54295 Trier

Rue Belliard 159  
B-1040 Brussels

Tel +49 651 973737 0  
Fax +49 651 93737 773

info@era.int  
www.era.int

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