



INTERNATIONAL  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
OBSERVATORY

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INTERNACIONAL  
DE JUSTICIA JUVENIL

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DE JUSTICE JUVÉNILE

# FACT FOR MINORS

Fostering Alternative Care for Troubled minors

Conference in ROME  
2 – 3 December 2016



# IJJO: for fair juvenile justice worldwide

- International foundation based in Brussels
- Aims:
  - Bring an **international and interdisciplinary** vision of juvenile justice
  - Create multidisciplinary **networks of experts** to collaborate in the development of research and new initiatives
  - Promote **international development strategies** of appropriate policies, legislations and intervention methods
- Beneficiaries: children and young people all over the world who are in situations of exclusion leading to conflict with the law

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[www.ijjo.org](http://www.ijjo.org)



# IJJO: for fair juvenile justice worldwide

- Pillars:
  - Prevention policies
  - Promotion of educative and alternative measures
  - Social and professional inclusion
- Main action lines:
  - Research and analysis
  - Public awareness and dissemination of information
  - Training and technical assistance
  - Advocacy work
  - Regional think tanks

# IJJO internal structure



EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (ECJJ)



INTERNATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE OBSERVATORY (IJJO)



NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (NACJJ)



ASIA-PACIFIC COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (APCJJ)



LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (LCJJ)



AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE (ACJJ)

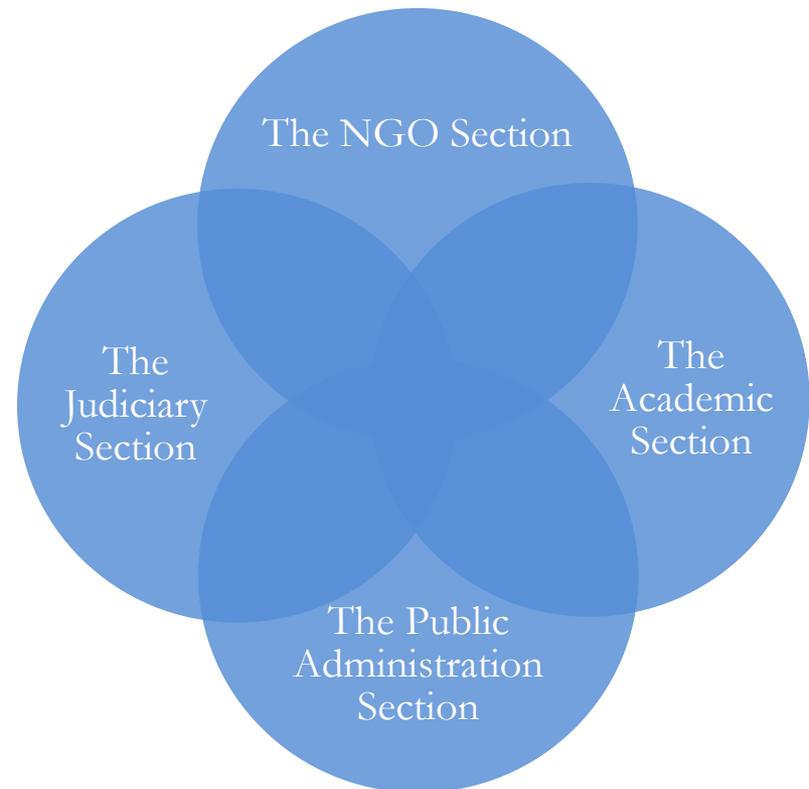




- A network of more than 80 experts set up in 2009
- A space of debate, study and analysis on juvenile justice
- A pool of knowledge and expertise for all IJJO and EU institutions
- An opportunity to raise the voice and opinion of professionals
- A challenge to link and to promote the most inspiring initiatives at EU level

Four sections emphasizing the richness of the council

A network connecting stakeholders coming from four different sectors



# Main IJJO's activities in the project « Fact for Minors »

- Contribute to project methodology, monitoring project activities, and carry out project evaluation;
- Contribute to develop and draft 1) the European guidelines; 2) the European Handbook for professionals of alternative care;
- Contribute to **disseminate the project results and outputs** through network, website, newsletter, etc.;

- Develop an **online course** through the IJJO E.learning platform.
- Participate to all the meetings and organise the Final Conference in Brussels (2018).

# Dissemination strategy

1) The IJJO's website:

- More than 11 000 users
- Updated daily in English, Spanish and French

2) The IJJO and ECJJ's newsletters

3) The IJJO and ECJJ networks (ex. Intergroup on children's rights at the EP) and events.

# E-learning platform

## International School for Juvenile Justice (ISJJ)

### Objectives:

- to develop training and research programmes;
- to generate and disseminate knowledge in the field of the most relevant juvenile justice topics around the world.

### Last courses:

- . 2013: Juvenile Justice within Europe from an International Perspective – Prof. Ton Liefwaard, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.
- . 2015-2016: Alternatives to detention for juveniles – Prof. Ursula Kilkelly, University of Cork, Ireland.

**Upcoming course (2017):** Improving Juvenile Justice in Europe: Training for professionals – Prof. Ton Liefwaard and Dr. Stephanie Rap, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

# Example of an online course

- In short
- 3 months
- 4 modules
- 10 hours/module.
- Online training with direct following up, and interactive forum.
- Knowledge evaluation and final dissertation.
- First edition free of charge.

# OIJJ's related projects

A) Alternatives to deprivation of liberty of young offenders:

The development of fostering programs (2012-2014)

B) MHYO –Mental Health resources for Young Offenders (2009-2011)



# A. Project: Alternatives to deprivation of liberty of young offenders: **The development of fostering programs**

- Article 40 UNCRC mentions foster care as one of the **alternatives to institutional care-detention**,  
However, the care-detention and **custody measures are still being used in the praxis of many EU Member States when dealing with young offenders.**
- The project studies at EU level **remand and intensive Foster Care** which are believed to have **the potential to provide young people with a caring environment and prevent them from negative consequences of detention and custody.**

## Objective to produce:

- A training program and briefing documents designed to be effective tools
- Targeting multi-agency networks, foster carers, fostering and youth justice staff, criminal justice and police personnel
- Core minimum standards, guidelines
- Information for young people



# One year after entering Intensive foster care

## Results :

- Reconviction rates were significantly lower for the young people in the IF group; fewer offences and lower mean gravity score for those offences than for the comparison group.
- Fewer days in custody during this period.

## Challenges:

- **Intensive support in the community over a longer period** – if the gains made during the course of the IF placements are to be sustained.
- **More attention to be paid to the environments to which they return and to post—treatment social adjustment** (Bottoms, 2006; Rutter et al., 1998).
- **Local services need to undertake proactive and intensive work** with young people and families once they have returned; without this there seems little chance that any gains will be sustained.
- **Close collaboration between the care and justice system**



## B. Project : Mental Health resources for young offenders

### Objective:

- Analysis of the national **health and judicial systems for young offenders with mental health disorders** aged between 10 and 21 years old
- Promotion **the necessary changes** both in policy and practice, as well as to agree on minimum standards concerning the functioning of the institutions in both sectors.



## Results :

- The lack of specific mental health programs within juvenile justice systems in the different countries became evident.
- The project has created a **training and good practice framework** adapted to the needs of professionals working in the areas of development and psychological processes of young people, within an integrated and **multidisciplinary perspective** of the justice and health systems.

## Ultimate goal :

- **Future development of good practices** and tailored professional training on young people's evolutionary and psychological processes, taking into account their individual needs, from an **integrative and multidisciplinary perspective on the part of the justice and health systems.**





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# THANK YOU!

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