

Online Workshops for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Personnel **Access to Justice for Children Accused and Suspect in Criminal Proceedings** **ACCESS project**

Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Personnel I: June 3 (14:00–16:00 CET)
Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Personnel I II: June 10 (14:00–16:00 CET)

The **ACCESS Online Workshops for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Personnel** are designed to build on insights from the Transnational Roundtable discussions held in March 2025 in Brussels, focusing on the application of EU legal frameworks and practical solutions for juvenile justice. These workshops focus on applying EU legal frameworks and sharing practical solutions to ensure effective support for children in conflict with the law, particularly regarding their access to justice and procedural safeguards.

Bringing together prosecutors and law enforcement personnel from Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia, the workshops offer a space for participants to exchange experiences, identify common challenges, and strengthen their role in ensuring fair proceedings for children. The focus is on enhancing their understanding of Directive 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children and its practical application in day-to-day work. The workshops aim to foster a collaborative environment in which participants can gain a deeper understanding of existing mechanisms and explore potential approaches for handling cases involving children in conflict with the law across different jurisdictions. These sessions will enrich participants' understanding and perspectives, contributing to a stronger network of professionals promoting child-centred approaches in justice systems across Europe. The sessions will include a mix of expert-led presentations and interactive activities, allowing participants to engage in case studies and group discussions.

In line with the project's overarching goal of promoting equality in criminal proceedings, the workshops will also offer a platform for participants to share experiences on overcoming systemic challenges, such as discrimination or the disproportionate impact of criminal proceedings on certain groups of children. By collaborating with professionals from different jurisdictions, participants will identify practical solutions and strategies to improve children's access to justice.

The Access to Justice for Children Accused and Suspect in Criminal Proceedings (ACCESS) project aims to foster EU-wide effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for children in criminal proceedings, and respect for children's procedural rights amongst legal and other professionals. The project aims to foster the effective application of Directive 2016/800 by addressing the gaps identified in access to procedural rights through peer exchange among justice professionals from six EU countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia). These will become ambassadors of change in follow-up online workshops and national seminars, where further stakeholders will be involved.

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AGENDA

Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Personnel I: June 3 (14:00–16:00 CET)

14:00–14:10	Introduction & Tour de Table Welcome, participant introductions, and session objectives
14:10–15:10	Case Study: A Child Convicted for Robbery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comparison of justice system approaches in different EU countries</i> • <i>Discussion points:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Impact of intellectual disability, visual, or auditory impairments</i> ○ <i>Organizational support available for children in the system</i> ○ <i>Influence of online life: how online communities, social media, blogs, and other platforms might shape children's behaviour</i>
15:10–15:40	Small Group Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Decision-making in early procedural stages: discretion, alternatives to prosecution, and mediation options</i> • <i>Cross-country comparison: specialization, cooperation, and safeguards in youth-focused roles</i> • <i>Best practices in balancing discretion and ensuring equal treatment for all children in the justice system</i>
15:40–16:00	Reporting Back Key takeaways shared with the group

Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Personnel I II: June 10 (14:00–16:00 CET)

14:00–14:10	Introduction Overview and insights from the Brussels workshop
14:10–15:00	Restorative Justice & Criminal Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Impact of restorative justice on criminal records</i> • <i>Challenges and opportunities in deleting criminal records at age 18 (e.g., Germany)</i>
15:00–15:50	Role of the Prosecutor & Youth Justice Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discretionary powers and professional guidelines: limits and accountability</i> • <i>Regional or institutional frameworks supporting consistent decision-making</i> • <i>Contributions of prosecutors and law enforcement to diversion, restoration, and prevention of reoffending</i>
15:50–16:00	Wrap-Up & Key Takeaways Summary, next steps, and closing remarks

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