

PRACTICE (Procedural Rights for All Children in justice)

This pilot project (1/1/2020-31/12/2021) aims at building the capacity of **judges and other relevant professionals** to ensure effective individual assessments of children in criminal proceedings in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

It will thereby support implementation of EU Directive 2016/800, as well as international human rights law obligations of the states concerned. As the EU Directive 2016/800 recognises, all children, when suspected or accused of crime, require particular measures to ensure that their procedural rights are upheld and their best interests protected. This is even more so for children with additional specific vulnerabilities for whom the right to individual assessment under Article 7 of the Directive is of special importance. It is crucial not only that such an assessment is thoroughly carried out, but also that it is fully taken into account and applied by judges, prosecutors and other relevant professionals (recital 39 of the Directive). Such implementation measures are necessary not only for compliance with the Directive and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, but also to meet obligations under international human rights law, including those under the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) concerning the best interests of the child (article 3 CRC) and the right to be heard (article 12 CRC).

The main objective of the project is to contribute to better protection of the procedural rights of children suspected or accused of crimes.

The project is coordinated by the ICJ-EI in partnership with Forum for Human Rights. There will be three training seminars organized in Prague, Brno and Bratislava for 60 judges, lawyers, prosecutors and other relevant professionals from Czechia, Slovakia and a few from selected other EU countries, in order to increase the knowledge of judges and other relevant professionals about EU and international law on these rights, especially on individual assessments and to promote exchange of best practices between these professionals and their EU counterparts.

In the second part of the project the ICJ-EI will draft and publish **recommendations on individual assessments of children with specific vulnerabilities**, to support an EU-wide interpretation and application of Article 7 of Directive 2016/800, in light of international human rights law. These will be also adapted to a child-friendly format to ensure the accessibility of project outputs. The project results will be presented during a final event in Brussels.



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