

Addressing Communication Barriers in Criminal Proceedings: The Role of Intermediaries and Communication Support for Children with Disabilities

Webinar

12:00 - 13:30 CET, 29 September 2026

The [ENSURE](#) public webinar will bring together justice professionals, policymakers, civil society representatives and project partners to reflect on the challenges faced by children with disabilities in criminal proceedings, with a particular focus on communication barriers and access to appropriate support. The discussion will explore the role of intermediaries and other communication support mechanisms in facilitating children's effective participation in legal processes.

The webinar will examine key challenges identified in **Austria, Romania and Serbia** in relation to communication with child victims with disabilities. The webinar will further provide an overview of relevant international standards on communication support for children with disabilities. It will serve as a platform to promote the integration of intermediaries, support peer learning across jurisdictions, and raise awareness of the importance of specialized support in ensuring effective access to justice.

The [Ensuring Access to Intermediaries for Children with Disabilities in Legal Proceedings \(ENSURE\)](#) project aims to enhance access to justice for child victims with disabilities by improving communication and coordination among professionals involved in criminal proceedings. Implemented between March 2025 and February 2027, the project focuses on developing and strengthening the role of intermediaries and other support mechanisms in Austria, Romania and Serbia, while drawing on best practices from across Europe.



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AGENDA

12:00 – 12:05	Welcome and Introduction	<i>Karolína Babická, Senior Legal Adviser, ICJ</i>
12:05 – 12:45	<u>SESSION 1:</u> National Perspectives on Communication Barriers	Overview of key communication challenges faced by children with disabilities in criminal proceedings in Austria, Romania, and Serbia <i>Speaker: Viktoryia Konashava, Legal Researcher, ICJ</i>
	<u>SESSION 2:</u> Communication Support and Intermediaries	Brief overview of relevant international standards on communication support for children with disabilities in criminal proceedings <i>Speaker: Wilson Macharia, Legal Adviser, ICJ</i>
	<u>Discussion</u>	
12:45 – 13:25	<u>SESSION 3:</u> Intermediary Systems from other Jurisdictions	Case study of intermediary system and communication support framework in Bulgaria and Ireland <i>Speakers:</i> - <i>Maria Krasteva, Legal Expert, NIE Bulgaria</i> - <i>David O'Shea, Senior Speech and Language Therapist and Registered Intermediary</i> Discussion
13:25 – 13:30	Closing and Next Steps	<i>Viktoryia Konashava, Legal Researcher, ICJ</i>



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