



INTERNATIONAL  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
OBSERVATORY

OBSERVATORIO  
INTERNACIONAL  
DE JUSTICIA JUVENIL

OBSERVATOIRE  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE JUSTICE JUVÉNILE

***Towards a common European perspective on prevention of juvenile crime: The International Juvenile Justice Observatory Strategy in a European Dimension, EJJO.***



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



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# IJJO - EJJO Presentation

- The International Juvenile Justice Observatory is a International Public Utility Foundation, based in Brussels
- Target group of study: minors and young people all over the world who are in situations of exclusion leading to conflict with the law.





# IJJO Principles

- **Article 40, Convention on the Rights of the Child:**  
*“States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society”.*
  
- The IJJO follows and promotes international texts:
  - The Riyadh Guidelines (prevention J. delinquency)
  - The Beijing Rules (min. rules administration)
  - The Tokyo Rules (min. rules non-custodial)
  - The Habana Rules (protection child deprived of liberty)





## IJJO Network

### **IJJO experts network:**

- ***5727 registered users* from 146 countries**
- ***366 collaborators* from 61 countries**
- ***953 people* from 56 countries attended events organized by the IJJO up to 2009**
- **More than 7000 contacts around the world**

**A formal network of entities that have Consultative Status with the IJJO**



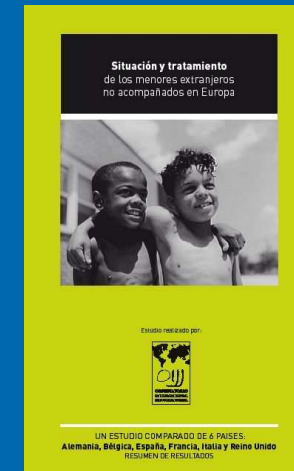




# IJJO Activities

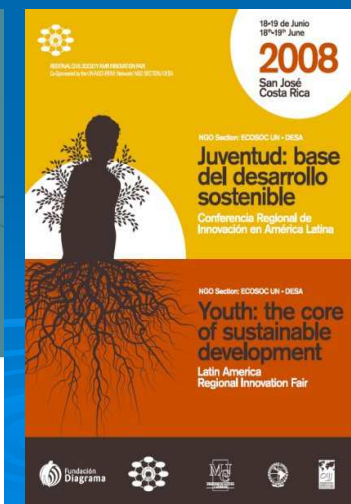
## Research programmes:

- Situation and treatment of unaccompanied children in Europe.
- Juvenile justice systems in Europe - current situation, reform developments and good practices.
- European Dimension on juvenile crime.
- Good-practices guide: Mental Health resources for Young Offenders.



## Training seminars and dissemination:

- Regional Innovation Fair for Latin America: "Youth: the Core for Sustainable Development". (Costa Rica)
- International Congress: 'Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: new penal forms'.
- International Seminar by Enfance et Partage: Ethics and Childcare: a collective engagement. (France)





• – The IJJO: bringing a global perspective on juvenile justice  
Online platform

- **In English, French and Spanish**
- ***100.000 pages visited* by our users during 2008**
- ***Visitors from 135 different countries* in 2008**
- ***Documentation Center. 2316 documents* of 153 countries**
- ***Press Room (daily updated). 19.254 news* from 181 countries**
- ***Agenda. 1161 events* held in 66 countries**
- ***J.J. Organizations. 776 organizations* of 93**
- ***More than 7000 people* get our monthly newsletters**



Fourth IJJO International Conference Roma 2010: "Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse",

- This year's IJJO International Conference will allow the exchange of knowledge and good practices between the different actors from the legal, social, educational and healthcare professions, thereby contributing to the drawing-up of proposals and recommendations designed to encourage the comprehensive treatment of the minors concerned, as well as to provide possible responses to the main issues brought up from a legal and intervention perspective.







# IJJO Campaign: 'Two decades of juvenile justice: Improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child'



## Two decades of Juvenile Justice improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 20th November 1989 - 2009



Introduction

CRC

Fundamental Principles

Juvenile Justice in the CRC

Provisions & Comments

Links

### Convention

#### CAMPAIGN INTRODUCTION

*Ten experts offer us their point of view about Juvenile Justice development during the last 20 years*

On November the 20th, we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**. On the occasion of this anniversary and echoing the universal call for a new mobilisation for the Rights of the Child, the **International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)** launches a campaign "*Two decades of Juvenile Justice: improvements since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*".

The twenty year anniversary is an important point to take stock, analyse and assess whether the Convention has helped improve the situation of children around the world and in particular of children and youngsters in contact with the juvenile justice

Child

Jacques Barrot  
V-P European  
Commission



Miguel Cillero  
UNICEF Chile



Marta Santos Pais  
UN Special  
Representative



Bankole Thompson  
Judge Special Court  
Sierra Leone



Renate Winter  
President IAYFJM



Maud de Boer  
Deputy S.G  
Council of Europe



Isabel Lázaro  
University Pontificia  
Comillas



Julia Sloth-Nielsen  
University of  
Western Cape



Wansley Walters  
Director Miami-Dade  
Juvenile Justice



Jean Zermatten  
V-P Committee  
Rights of the Child



# IJJO Structure

## IJJO continental branches:





# Continental Observatories

- Definition: Spaces for reflection, the development of initiatives and the establishment of codes and principles of good practices, serving the education and integration of young people in conflict with the law.





# EJJO

- The IJJO created the **European Juvenile Justice Observatory (EJJO)** to attend to the differentiating aspects and common issues that converge in juvenile justice systems throughout Europe, being the voice of the european experts and raising proposals and recommendations before the European institutions.
- The objective is to create a European space for reflection, development of initiatives and establishment of codes and principles of good practices within different actors, to serve the education and integration of European young people in conflict with the law.
- 





## 2.- European texts appealing for cooperation in the field of prevention juvenile crime and juvenile justice

1. The European Employment Strategy adopted at the Luxembourg European Council of November 1997;
2. Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 14 December 2000 on the social inclusion of young people (OJ C 374 of 28.12.2000);
3. European Commission White Paper on a new impetus for European youth (COM(2001) 681 final);
4. Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field (OJ C 168 of 13.7.2002);





## 2.- European texts appealing for cooperation in the field of prevention juvenile crime and juvenile justice

5. Recommendation R (2003) 20 of the Committee of Ministers of the **Council of Europe** to member states on new ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of juvenile justice: *“that responses to juvenile delinquency should be multidisciplinary and multi-agency in their approach and should be so designed as to tackle the range of factors that play a role at different levels of society: individual, family, school and community.”*
6. The Hague Programme adopted by the **European Council** in 2004 recognised the importance of sustainable cooperation in the field of juvenile justice: starting by sharing common tools, as for instance statistics on crime and delinquency.
7. The European Youth Pact promoting active citizenship adopted at the *Brussels European Council* of March 2005;



## 2.- European texts appealing for cooperation in the field of prevention juvenile crime and juvenile justice

**8. *European Commission Communication “Towards a EU Strategy on the rights of the Child”*** of 4 July 2006 generated the idea of a European Forum on the Rights of the Child involving institutional bodies (Member States, UNICEF, Council of Europe etc.) and international organizations “as a area of exchange and good practices”.

**9. *European Parliament resolution*** of 21 June 2007 on juvenile delinquency, the role of women, the family and society.

**10. *European Parliament Resolution*** of 16 January 2008 resolution on “*Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child*” supports all cooperation initiatives between international institutions to share experiences, information and statistical data to improve the awareness of the situation of children in the EU



### 3.- EJJO initiatives for improving cooperation between European juvenile justice systems in prevention juvenile crime

3.1. Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee: *'The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.'* adopted on 15 March 2006

3.2 Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee: *'Urban areas and youth violence'*. adopted on 25 June 2009.

### 3.3. European Juvenile Justice Council

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *'The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.'*

- **The principal aim of the opinion is to analyse the situation of minors who, on account of their behaviour which infringes the criminal law, are subject to the various juvenile justice systems and the available intervention mechanisms to protect, re-educate and reintegrate them into society, with a view to preventing recidivist behaviour.**

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

➤ **Causes of Juvenile Delinquency:**

- Economic and socio-environmental factors;
  - Broken families – homes (by joining youth gangs)
  - Socio-economic marginalisation or poverty
  - Truancy and academic failure
  - Unemployment
  - The broadcasting of violent images and attitudes by some media
  - Abuse of drugs and toxic substances
  - Personality and behaviour disorders
  - Shortcomings in the teaching and passing of social and civic values
  - Lack Community and inclusive intervention



**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

Judicial and punitive measures or responses must always be based on the principles of lawfulness, the presumption of innocence, the right to defence, a scrupulously fair hearing, respect for privacy, proportionality and flexibility. Both the judicial procedure itself, and the choice of measure, as well as its subsequent implementation, should be underpinned by the **principle of the best interest of the child.**

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

**Proposals on a European juvenile justice policy;**

**1. General lines approach;**

- All the EU Member States are, to varying extents, witnessing roughly similar phenomena which also require comparable responses.
- The youth justice models of the EU Member States have gradually been converging since the 1970-1980s, following the appearance of the international legal instruments, however, significant differences between MS persist
- A wide range of reasons plead in favour of progressive uniformisation of models and systems for prevention, protection, action and treatment regarding juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice.

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

2.- Steps should be taken to frame a Community policy on juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice system:

- It is essential to have **up-to-date, comparable statistical data** on the state of juvenile delinquency in the EU- 27, to provide a reliable picture of the problem
- There should be a series of **minimum standards or guidelines** between the Member States covering all aspects from the way the police and courts deal with young people in conflict with the criminal law right through to reeducation and resocialisation (COE C-F-J Guidelines)

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

- Creation of a **expert network**, with membership and functions tailored to the specific objective in view. It would also be helpful for the Commission to publish a **green paper** on the subject (***European Juvenile Justice Council***)
- A **European Observatory** on juvenile delinquency should be created. This would facilitate not only the study of the issue, but would also help to disseminate the results and provide advice and support for the appropriate authorities and institutions in their decision-making.

**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *'The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.'*

- 3.- There is a need for **operational coordination** between all the services and agencies involved (interdisciplinary approach)
- 4.- All stakeholders receive the most specialist, and constantly up-dated, training possible.
- 5.- Civil society organisations and professionals should be taken part they must contribute to shaping and subsequently implementing whatever programmes and strategies.



**3.1. SOC/110 Opinion of the EESC.** *‘The prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of the juvenile justice system in the European Union.’*

6.- Any future Community policies will also have to take account of the role of trade union and employers' organisations and their specific channels for Dialogue

7.- The European Commission should therefore introduce budget lines to assist in protecting minors and preventing juvenile delinquency, and to deal with young offenders, through either existing projects or initiatives



### 3.2.- SOC/316 Opinion of the EESC : *“Urban areas and youth collective violence in Europe”*.

#### ➤ Common European Issue?

- The term "collective violence" has no official or legal definition but is often applied to different types of violent event that take place in public in the form either of clashes based on issues of ethnic or racial discrimination between communities, also involving conflicts between rival gangs, or which arise from communities' relations with the institutions, as the relations between young people and the police.
- The phenomenon of collective violence is not only the fact of minors or young adults (including adolescents aged 13–18 and young adults aged 18–21 or even 25, depending on the country, which is still sometimes dealt with by the system of criminal responsibility for minors). As part of a preventive approach, particular attention should be paid to permanent solutions targeting the younger generations, who are the driving force of change and development.
- Whereas these phenomena have worsened in recent years in Europe, occurring in France, the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Greece, etc., they have never been viewed or addressed as a global problem by national governments or by the European institutions. Instead, they have been treated as individual and isolated epiphenomena.



### 3.-EJJO initiatives for improving cooperation between European juvenile justice systems

#### Creation of the European Council of Juvenile Justice

- a) Formulate recommendations on the development and evolution of juvenile justice in Europe.
- b) Obtain quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of children, adolescents and young people in conflict with the law within the region of Europe.
- c) Serve as a transmitter on the action lines that are being developed in various countries of Europe in fields related to intervention with minors in conflict with the law.
- d) Propose the promotion of coordinated actions between public administrations, non-governmental organizations and academic and training centres, in various countries in Europe.
- e) Draft reports, opinions and proposals.





## 3.-EJJO Initiatives for improving cooperation between European Juvenile Justice Systems

Permanent network of experts and researchers: European Council of Juvenile Justice:

### 1) National administration responsible for juvenile justice

Paris 12/1/2009: With the support of the French Ministry of Justice's Department for the Judicial Protection of Youth, the EJJO organized the first European meeting of national representatives in charge of juvenile justice.

### 2. Not-for-profit Organizations

Paris 3-4 December 2009

*A key message from NGOs across Europe.*

### 3. Academic Meeting

Brussels 16-17 December 2009

*Towards a common European academic approach in juvenile justice.*





### 3.-IJJO initiatives for improving cooperation between European juvenile justice systems

**These meetings were organized with the support of the European Commission**

- **to constitute a task force to address the constant research needs and the development of good practices in juvenile-justice-related fields;**
- **to promote dialogue between European academics, practitioners and administrations;**
- **to produce special recommendations on the programmes and actions developed by the European institutions and other intergovernmental organizations that play a role in managing common problems on the global agenda.**





Thanks for your attention.

