Towards a child friendly justice in Europe

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The Council of Europe

The vision

► Since 1949
► 47 States
► Values and objectives

Human rights
Democracy
Rule of Law
The Council of Europe

The action

5 main tools

► Legal standards
► Monitoring
► Policies
► Assistance
► Awareness raising and capacity building
Action for children’s rights

Programme “Building a Europe for and with children”

- promote children’s rights
- eliminate all forms of violence
  - specific action for specific forms of violence
  - national integrated strategies
Integrated strategies

→ Culture of children’s rights

→ Culture of cooperation

→ Framework: laws, policies and institutions

→ Research

→ Child friendly services and mechanisms
Council of Europe approach to Children and Justice

1. Putting Children’s Rights at the heart

- The CoE key human rights instruments
- Integration of the children’s rights perspective in other standards and actions
  - Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states:
    - on European rules on community sanctions and measures (1992)
    - on mediation in penal matters (1999)
    - concerning new ways of dealing with juvenile delinquency and the role of juvenile justice (2003)
    - on the Rights of Children living in institutions (2005)
    - on assistance to crime victims (2006)
    - European Rules on juvenile offenders subject to sanctions or measures (2008)- 142 rules!
    - Child Friendly Justice guidelines (2010)
2. Holistic and Integrated approach

- All situations in which children come in contact with the justice system

- Justice as a piece of a bigger puzzle: relations with social, health, family and education policies, the media and the private sector
3. Involving and mobilising all stakeholders and networks

- To analyse trends, address new issues, set standards and support their implementation
  - Venice Commission
  - Consultative Councils of magistrates and prosecutors
  - Conferences of Ministers of Justice and other experts Committees,
  - Ombudsman networks, Civil Society, Children
4. Monitoring progress and effectiveness

- Committee of the prevention of torture
- Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
- Conference of Directors of prisons administration (2011)

5. Creating synergies and communicating to

- consolidate progress achieved
- better resist to attempts to question values and principles and
- keep making progress!