



# ENCLAVE

Enhancing the capacity of legal & justice professionals on forensic interview procedures for child victims and witnesses of violence

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT ENCLAVE



## MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- » BENCHMARK PROTOCOL
- » COMPARATIVE REPORT & POLICY RECOMMENDATION
- » NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT
- » TRAINING MATERIAL FOR PROFESSIONALS
- » GUIDELINES FOR VICTIM SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

### ENCLAVE COMPARATIVE REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The main goal of the report is to increase the knowledge of legal and justice professionals in EU civil, criminal and fundamental rights instruments addressed to child victims or witnesses of sexual violence. It contrasts the knowledge and application of the Victim's Rights Directive, to detect bridges and gaps between theory and practice in the implementation of the forensic interview protocol, and maps out forensic interview protocols and their impact on the preliminary investigation phase and the oral hearing. In addition, it addresses the need for policy recommendations to ensure the proper implementation of forensic interview procedures as well as of the Directive 2012/29/EU in the participating countries.

### TRAINING MATERIAL FOR PROFESSIONALS

A comprehensive training set of materials on the practical aspects & tips on the application of legal framework concerning the forensic interview procedure for child victims and witnesses of abuse, relevant for the whole EU and in line with Directive 2012/29/EU.

### GUIDELINES FOR VICTIM SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The material aims to provide a practical guide highlighting the action guidelines that victims support organization (VSO) workers, mostly social workers and child protection specialists, must know to provide safety and reduce secondary victimization of child victims/witnesses of sexual abuse. It is important to remember that each child has her/his particular needs, personality, and circumstances, in addition to her/his own experience of sexual violence.

# Capacity-building event for Estonian Victim Support professionals

On June 30th, Estonian partner Women's Support and Information Centre representatives implemented training for women's shelter workers and victim support specialists on how to support minors (and their families) who have been victims or witnesses of sexual abuse and are involved in criminal proceedings.

Specialists should:

- Provide professional support and a sense of security.
- Give advice (the child must be believed, no why-questions).
- A child in need of help must be reported to the Children's House (Lastemaja).
- The parent/mother must be explained what this entails, what kind of processes are started, who are the specialists, and with whom the child must meet.
- Provide information about victim support services and keep in touch for follow-up.



*Researcher and sociologist Anu Laas facilitating local capacity-building event in Estonia*

## Next steps

The final stretch of the project is conducting numerous capacity-building activities in all partner countries with law enforcement, legal and justice professionals, and victim support specialists, in order to test all the developed materials.

To boost the implementation of a more appropriate and victim-sensitive approach within criminal proceedings partners will organize advocacy meetings with relevant stakeholders. Also, for dissemination purposes, all partners will organize multiplier events for wider audiences.

The final conference of the ENCLAVE project will be held in Brussels, on 12th of January, 2023.



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101005464 —ENCLAVE —JUST-AG-2020 / JUST-JACC-AG-2020