



INTERNATIONAL  
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# IJJO approach to child-friendly justice



Set up in 2003.

A Public Utility Foundation.

Dedicated to Juvenile Justice without borders.

• Advocates in favour of an international and interdisciplinary vision of juvenile justice.

• Acts as a multidisciplinary network of experts.

• Promotes development strategies, policies and intervention methods.



Commits to several ACTION LINES, among which:

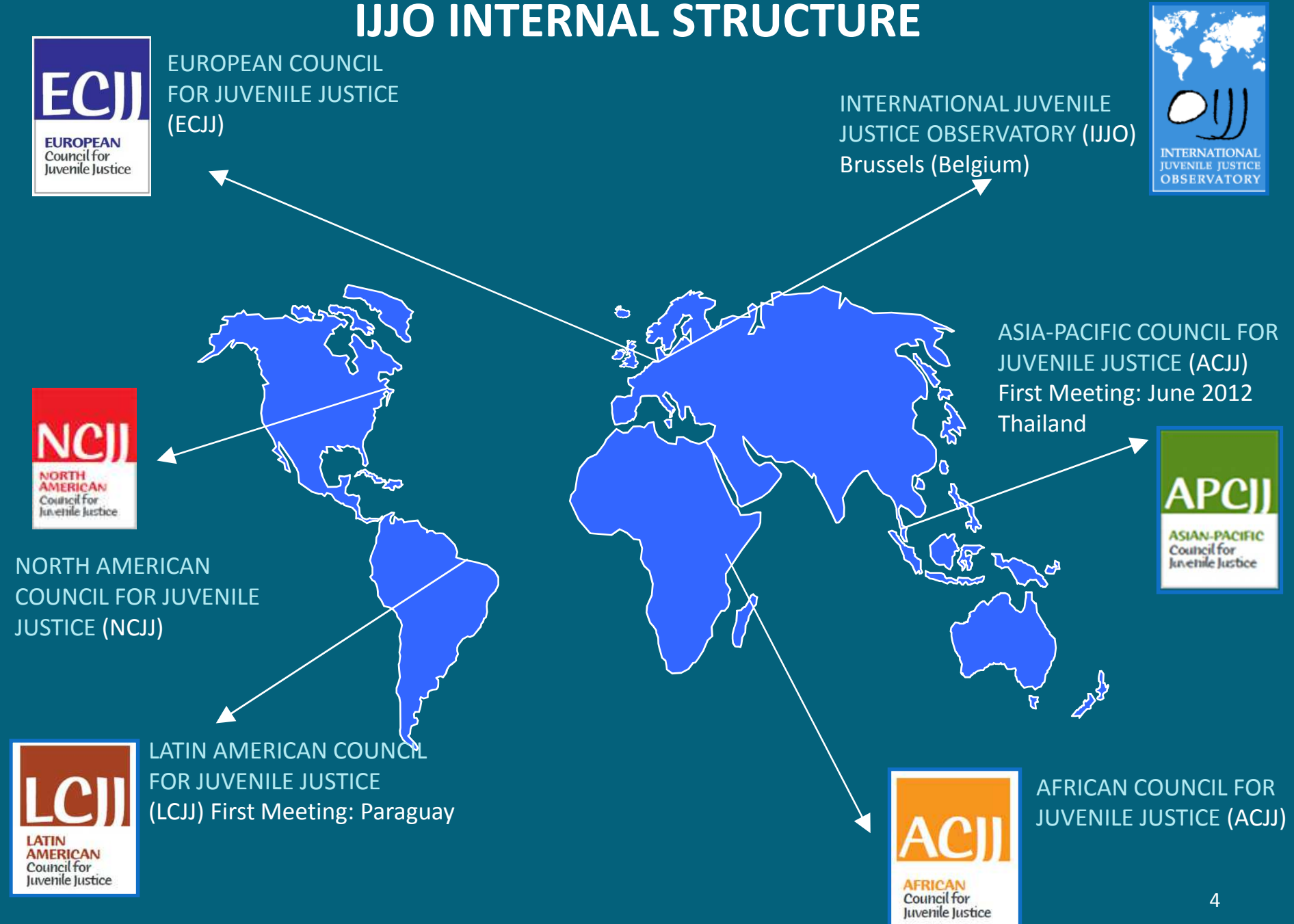
Research & Analysis

Public Awareness &  
Information  
Dissemination

Training & Technical  
Assistance

Advocacy work  
through the ACJJ,  
the APCJJ, the NCJJ,  
the LCJJ & the ECJJ

# IJJO INTERNAL STRUCTURE





Set up in 2008 a network of more than 80 experts.

A space of debate, study and analysis on Juvenile Justice.

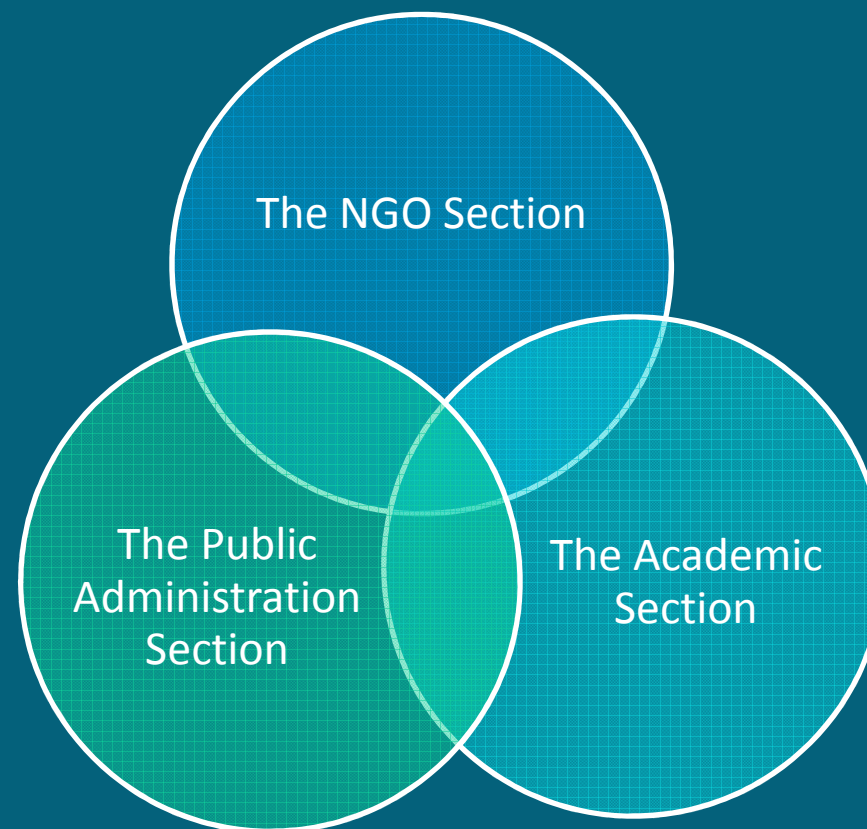
A pool of knowledge and expertise for all IJJO and EU institutions.

An opportunity to raise the voice and opinion of professionals.

A challenge to link and to promote the most inspiring initiatives at EU level.

**Three sections  
emphasizing the richness  
of the Council .**

**A network connecting  
stakeholders coming from  
three different sectors.**





The NGO Section

- 27 NGOs; organisations and professionals with a thorough field understanding and experiences of interventions on the ground.



The Academic Section

- 27 Researchers and Professors tied to Faculties, Departments and / or Universities.



The Public Administration Section

- 27 Representatives of national bodies in charge of juvenile justice such as Ministries or Departments of Justice.

- A network dedicated to the promotion of a **child-friendly justice** approach throughout administrative, civil and judicial proceedings.
- Professionals committed to imagine, draft and set up effective and sustainable **policies preventing e.g. youth violence, promoting alternatives to detention and advocating in favour of an enhanced social inclusion of the most vulnerable ones.**
- A priceless knowledge of the **EU and international institutions**, which facilitates the draft of concrete **recommendations** and efficient **advocacy work** .
- **A unique network bridging the gap between juvenile justice stakeholders and working ceaselessly for juvenile justice without borders.**

# Child-friendly Justice

CFJ aims to provide a range of **strategies** that can be used to adapt a legal proceedings to the **particular circumstances** of the child involved

# International Standards concerning Juvenile Justice

- International Standards are very important part of anchoring the rights of children within juvenile justice
- At an international level, such standards are mainly promoted by the United Nations
  - Documents issued by the UN are of great importance -> apart from Vatican and Kosovo, every state in the world is a UN State party
- In last two decades UN has issued a several documents concerning children's rights or dealing with children involved in legal procedures or children held in custody



# IJJO approach to Child friendly justice

- IJJO considers CFJ under a more comprehensive and holistic approach
- going beyond the legal proceedings and covering other situation where children are vulnerable:
  - at-risk of social exclusion
  - preventing of entering in conflict with the law
  - social reintegration of young offenders

# IJJO approach to Child friendly justice

- Not only concentrate on the number of implemented standards, but also on the quality of their implementation.
- In order to achieve a child-friendly justice, the full application of the juvenile justice protections to those under 18 years of age is essential.
- Direct efforts towards four simple goals: prevention, diversion, community sanctions and reducing detention.

# IJO approach to Child friendly justice

- More specialized youth justice institutions and adequate -specialized training
- Increase cost-effectiveness of crisis response
- Another measure should be promoting diversion and transform juvenile justice into a more balanced and restorative justice system

# IJJO approach to Child friendly justice

- It is necessary to improve the inefficiency of reliable, comparable and official data on youth justice across Europe: data collection.
- States must conduct regular and independent evaluation on the effectiveness of their practice of juvenile justice at all levels
- promote a multi-agency and holistic approach to the reintegration of young offenders

# CFJ in the proceedings

## Offenders rights

- Police officers and legal professionals should explain to children in a way that they can understand
- Any child apprehended and suspected of wrongdoing should be given an immediate opportunity to contact a parent, guardian or trusted person and provided with access to a legal aid
- Children should only be detained in exceptional circumstances and, where this is necessary, should never be detained alongside adults

# CFJ in the proceedings

## Victims rights

- Professionals who might encounter child victims should receive appropriate training and be able to quickly refer them to designated points of contact in the legal system.
- Steps should immediately be taken to protect child victims from further harm and to link them with services they may need to reach a full physical and psychological recovery.
- Free 24-hour helplines should be put in place to offer child victims a chance to discuss their options before bringing matters to the attention of authorities.

# CFJ in the proceedings

## Victims rights

- Children should be interviewed by trained professionals in the presence of trusted adults; the number of interviews should be kept to an absolute minimum; and, where multiple interviews are necessary, the same interviewer should conduct each session.
- Children should not be forced to have contact with alleged perpetrators and, where appropriate, audio-visual or closed-circuit television technology should be made available to facilitate prerecorded testimony or live communication from a remote location.

# CFJ in the proceedings

## Witnesses rights

- Children should be asked straightforward questions in language that they understand; techniques designed to test or confuse witnesses, as are frequently employed during cross-examination in adversarial legal systems, should be avoided.
- It should never be presumed that children's testimony or evidence is untrustworthy or inaccurate simply because it is not submitted by an adult.
- When a child agrees to testify in court, measures should be taken to keep the child at ease.



# RECENT IJJO PUBLICATIONS ON CFJ

- IJJO CHILD-FRIENDLY-JUSTICE GREEN PAPERS
- WHITE PAPER Innovating and improving youth justice practice in a time of economic crisis: “Save money, protect society and realise youth potential”

**GREEN PAPER ACADEMIC SECTION**  
European Council for Juvenile Justice

Measures of Deprivation of Liberty for young offenders: how to enrich International Standards in Juvenile Justice and promote alternatives to detention?

**European Juvenile  
Justice Observatory**



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



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

Published in 2012 and drafted under the aegis of Prof. Dr. Ursula Kilkelly for the Academic section, this particular Green Paper worked on the deprivation of liberty for young offenders and the promotion to alternatives to detention. The latter is indeed still frequently used within many juvenile justice systems despite its recognized status of *ultima ratio*.

**GREEN PAPER NGO SECTION**  
European Council for Juvenile Justice

The social reintegration  
of young offenders as a  
key factor to prevent  
recidivism

**European Juvenile  
Justice Observatory**



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



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

Also published in 2012 and drafted this time under the aegis of Séverine Jacomy - Vité on behalf of the NGO section, this Green Paper paid close attention to the fate of young offenders and to the care and attention they receive after a period of detention. The latter is indeed considered to play a great role in a child's return to a more normal life.

**GREEN PAPER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SECTION**  
European Council for Juvenile Justice

## Evaluation of the Implementation of International Standards in National Juvenile Justice Systems

**European Juvenile  
Justice Observatory**



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



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

Last but not least, this Green Paper was drafted under the aegis of Dr. Ineke Pruin for the Public Administration section. Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECJJ, the latter decided to work on ways of evaluating the implementation of juvenile justice International standards and eventually came up with series of recommendations and propositions for the creation of eventual indicators.

# IJJO White Paper

- Innovating and improving youth justice practice in a time of economic crisis: “Save money, protect society and realise youth potential”, Moore, M.2013.
- Objective: how a CFJ approach is consistent with international and national standards of best practise, ensuring that the children are empowered rather than criminalised and that rather than costing more money than traditional punitive approaches, educative and community-based measures actually cost less

Thanks for your attention!

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