



**State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights (SAPCR)  
Council of Europe**

***“Combating Violence Against Children in Albania”***

**Needs Assessment, Round table**

**26 March 2015, Tirana - International Hotel**

The first Council of Europe Co-operation Document for Albania was approved by the Committee of Ministers in October 2012. In July 2014, the Committee of Ministers took note of the progress report on the implementation of the co-operation document, acknowledged the progress achieved and paved the way for the preparation of a new Programmatic Cooperation Document 2015 – 2017.

The round table in Albania will provide an opportunity for Albanian authorities, key stakeholders and Council of Europe to work together in identifying the country's needs to be addressed in order to strengthen the child protection system's capacity at national and local levels, to protect and promote children's rights, and to support the implementation of integrated strategies to protect children from violence as well as to ensure access to child-friendly services, in line with Council of Europe standards.

**Objectives of the round table:**

The key objective of the round table is to obtain an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in the existing system of protection of children from violence in Albania, to identify the main needs and raise awareness on the Council of Europe standards in the three areas mentioned below:

(Session 1) Analyse the extent to which an integrated system for child protection has been implemented in Albania, in line with the recommendation of the Council of Europe. Identify the areas where priority intervention can be made and progress developed.

(Session 2) Present a model of an integrated approach for child protection against sexual violence and abuse, in line with the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Identify the priority action that needs to be addressed, through prevention, protection of children, participation and prosecution of the perpetrator.

(Session 3) Raise awareness on the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-friendly justice and identify the main gaps and needs in the country to improve children's access to justice (criminal, civil and administrative).

The final aim of the Roundtable will be to determine the needs for support to be provided to Albania, through the elaboration of a comprehensive project on Children's Rights for a duration of two years.

## Draft Programme

### Registration

9:00 – 9:30 | Registration

### Combatting Violence Against Children: A Priority

Opening Ceremony  
*Moderator: Ina Verzivolli, State Agency for the Protection of Child Rights*

Ms. Bardhylka Kospiri, Vice-Minister of Social Welfare and Youth  
Mr. Marko Leiddekker, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana  
Mr. Idlir Peci, Vice-Minister of Justice

9:30 – 10:15 | Ms. Nora Malaj, Vice-minister of Education  
Representative of Ministry of Interior Affairs  
Ms. Antonella Scolamiero, Head of UNICEF

10:15 – 10:30 | Break

### Integrated Strategy for Child Protection

*Moderator: Kela Lopari, Adviser to the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth*

10:30 – 10:45 | **Integrated Strategy for Child Protection** - *Anniko Lai, Head of Department, Department of Children and Families, Ministry of Social Affairs, Chair of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk.*

10:45 – 11:25 | Overview of the national child protection system for Albania –*SAPCR*

Social Welfare Systems strengthening: challenges and opportunities for child protection - *UNICEF*

Child Protection Unit / State Social Services/ NGO

- *Center from the victims of violence - Juliana Vokopola*
- *The challenges and opportunities of the CPU model - Marjana Lara*

11:25 – 12:00 | Discussion on gaps and priorities for the future

12:00 – 13:15 | Lunch Break

## Strengthening protection of children from sexual violence

	<i>Moderator: Izela Tahsini, Faculty of Social Sciences</i>
13:15 – 13:30	<b>Strengthening protection of children from sexual violence. The experience of Croatia</b> – Prof.dr.sc. <i>Gordana Buljan Flander, Ph.D., Associate Professor Psychologist and Psychotherapist, Director of Centre for Child Protection</i>
13:30 – 14:00	Presentation from law enforcement authorities – <i>Police</i>  The role of the psychologist and the importance of forensic interviewing  What do we know about sexual abuse and exploitation of children in Albania: insights from Becan study and the Alo 116 111- <i>Altin Hazizaj</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Discussion on gaps and priorities for the future
14:30 – 14:45	Break

## Child Friendly Justice

	<i>Moderator: Emira Shkurti (UNICEF)</i>
14:45 – 15 :00	<b>The experience of Child Friendly Justice from Netherlands</b> <b>Presentation of the CoE Guidelines on Child Friendly Justice</b> - Prof. Dr. T. (Ton) Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights, UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights, Leiden University, Law School
15:00 – 15:30	Progress and gaps in national legislation - <i>Vasilika Hysi, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Parliament of Albania</i>  How Friendly is juvenile justice in Albania, probation service and the the protocol for interviewing children in Albania – <i>Holta Zaçej, LL.M</i>  Child-friendly Justice in Albanian Courts – <i>Prosecutor for minors</i>
15:35 – 16:00	Discussion on gaps and priorities for the future
16:00 – 16:15	Conclusions