



**Fostering Child-Friendly Legal Environments
through collaborative networks**

FOSTER E- newsletter

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About the FOSTER Project

The project **FOSTER – Fostering Child-Friendly Legal Environments through collaborative networks** has the aim to create a child-friendly justice system and strengthen the legal representation of child victims by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and awareness of lawyers working in this sensitive and crucial area.

Key Objectives

The project's primary goal is to

- Build the capacity of lawyers by providing training on children's rights, the legal framework for the rights of crime victims (EU Directive 2012/29), trauma-informed approach, and victim-sensitive communication.
- Foster the development of strong cooperation networks among legal practitioners, judicial authorities, state actors, and civil society organisations involved in child protection.

Project partners and involved countries

The project is implemented in four European countries: Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovenia by a consortium of five partner organisations:

- The [Center for the Study of Democracy – CSD](#) in Bulgaria
- The [ELTE Centre for Social Sciences](#) in Hungary,
- The [Institute of Criminology \(IK\)](#) at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, Slovenia,
- The [Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos – SSP. P. Sakellaropoulos](#) in Greece, and
- The [Centre for European Constitutional Law – CECL](#) in Greece, as project coordinator.

The project is co-funded by the European Union under the Justice Programme (JUST-2023-JACC-EJUSTICE/ 101160568).

Training and awareness material

Training Packages

Based on the Training Needs Assessment results, the consortium partners worked on the creation of two tailored training packages: one for **trainers**, focusing on adult learning methodologies to facilitate the delivery of trainings to lawyers and one for **practicing lawyers**, emphasising the rights of child victims of crime under EU law. The



training packages also include modules on data protection and confidentiality issues, child psychology, child-friendly communication, and inter-agency collaboration.

The **training package for trainers** is available in the following links: in [English](#), Greek ([CECL](#), [SSP P. Sakellaropoulos](#)), [Slovenian](#), [Bulgarian](#), and [Hungarian](#).

The **training package for lawyers** is available in the following links: in [English](#), Greek ([CECL](#), [SSP P. Sakellaropoulos](#)), [Slovenian](#), [Bulgarian](#), and [Hungarian](#).

Professional Guides

Developed based on trainer's and trainees' feedback from the FOSTER training workshops, two **professional guides for trainers and for lawyers** were created by the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) aiming to address practical challenges with actionable tips.

The **guide for trainers**, which focuses on the importance of training as a tool for transforming European standards into everyday practice, providing methodological and educational tools for the development of effective training programmes for lawyers, is available in the following links: in [English](#), Greek ([CECL](#), [SSP P. Sakellaropoulos](#)), [Slovenian](#), [Bulgarian](#), and [Hungarian](#).

The **guide for lawyers** which highlights the need for the meaningful integration of victims' rights into legal practice and offers a structured framework for professional development centred on children's needs, is available in the following links: in [English](#), Greek ([CECL](#), [SSP P. Sakellaropoulos](#)), [Slovenian](#), [Bulgarian](#), and [Hungarian](#).

E-Learning Course

An e-learning course developed by the project partners is available on the CECL e-learning platform (Cecl.edu.gr). The course is designed for legal professionals and addresses key topics including child-friendly justice, the rights of child victims of crime under international and EU law, ethical considerations and data protection, child developmental psychology and communication, trauma-informed approaches, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

The training is enriched with a variety of engaging resources, such as videos, case studies, and interactive exercises, to support practical learning and application.

The course is offered in English, Greek, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Slovenian. Interested participants can access it **free of charge** by creating an account on the cecl.edu platform.

Designed with user-friendly navigation, the course allows participants to progress through modules at their own pace, according to their individual needs and preferences. The total duration is approximately three hours, and participants receive a certificate upon successful completion.



Training activities

Train-the-Trainers Seminar in Slovenia

The Institute of Criminology (IK) hosted a seminar in Ljubljana, Slovenia on June 19-20th, 2025 to train 20 legal professionals from Greece, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Hungary. The aim of the Train-the-Trainers was to enable participants gain the skills necessary to be able to conduct effective national trainings to lawyers. The training covered topics of child-friendly justice, interviewing child victims of crime and child-friendly communication, understanding trauma and trauma-informed communication with children, and engaging adult learners through active learning methods.



Trainings for Lawyers in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia



Two-day interactive workshops were conducted in Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovenia between October 2025 and February 2026 aiming to enhance lawyers' understanding and application of EU and national law regarding child victims, with a strong focus on psychological and communication approaches tailored to children. The trainings were delivered both in-person and online format. In Bulgaria, 81 lawyers attended the trainings in-person; in Slovenia, 41 lawyers attended the trainings in-person; in Greece, 128 lawyers attended the trainings conducted both in-person and online, and in Hungary, 101 lawyers attended the trainings conducted both in-person and online. A total of **351 lawyers** attended the training workshops.



Face to face training in Greece



Face to face training in Bulgaria



Face to face training in Hungary



Face to face training in Slovenia



The FOSTER Final Conference: “Enhancing Child-Friendly Justice Systems for Victims of Crime”

On 21 May 2026, the Centre for European Constitutional Law, in Greece, in collaboration with all partners organised the project’s final conference. The conference took place in Athens in a hybrid format, bringing together legal professionals, academics, judicial representatives, child protection experts, and civil society practitioners from across Europe.

A total of 106 participants from Slovenia, Greece, Bulgaria, and Hungary attended the conference either in person or online. The event provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the project’s achievements and facilitated a multidimensional discussion on the implementation of child-friendly justice principles for child victims of crime across the partner countries.

The discussion during the conference was facilitated by the contributions of fifteen stakeholders from the involved countries:

- *Ms. Monioudi-Pikrou, Ombudsperson for Children’s Rights*
- *Mr. Papadopoulos, Lawyer and Legal Advisor at the Athens Bar Association*
- *Ms. Sfakianaki, General Director of the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA)*
- *Ms. Dimitriou, Honorary Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Greece*
- *Mr. Panagos, Assistant Professor at the Law School of Athens, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*
- *Ms. Kozjek, Judge at the Ljubljana Court of Appeal, Slovenia*
- *Ms. Lingorski, New Bulgarian University’s Know-how Center for Alternative Childcare, Bulgaria*
- *Ms. Angelopoulou, Lawyer and Legal Advisor at SOS Villages, Greece*
- *Dr. Csalár, Head of the Internet Hotline Department at the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary*
- *Ms. Naggyőr, Lieutenant Colonel at the National Police, Hungary*
- *Dr. Hudoklin, Child Clinical Psychologist, Slovenia*
- *Ms. Oikonomou, Head of Children’s House Piraeus, Greece*
- *Mr. Karountzos, Deputy Head of the Department for Monitoring Reports of Child Abuse at the Child Protection Directorate of the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA)*
- *Ms. Kanellopoulou, Access to Justice Project Coordinator at Terre des Hommes Hellas*



- *Mr. Spetsidis, Project Coordinator at the Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture, Greece*

The conference highlighted the progress achieved and the challenges that remain in ensuring child-friendly justice systems that place the rights, needs, and wellbeing of child victims at the centre of legal and protection procedures. At the same time, the discussions reinforced the importance of continued cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation among legal professionals, public authorities, and civil society actors.





Upcoming

Policy Paper on Child Protection in Criminal Proceedings

Drawing on insights and recommendations from national and transnational roundtables, this paper will highlight best practices and policy suggestions. It will be published in English and translated into Greek, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Slovenian.

Intersectoral Networking Guide for Lawyers

This guide will promote effective collaboration between legal professionals and other key actors—such as psychologists, educators, healthcare workers, and child protection agencies—involved in child protection. It will be available in English, Greek, Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Slovenian.

Stay Connected

Whether you're a legal practitioner, lawyer, public authority representative, or child protection professional, your engagement is warmly welcomed.

 **Website:** <https://www.cecl.gr/>

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