“Improving Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Training for professionals”
Final Conference/ Valencia/ 15th to 17th of February 2017
Association Diagrama

Presentation of the activities of the project
First session: National strategy

Présentation du projet Européen IJJS et de ses attendus. Formation interne: Adaptations et compléments.
The first day had the ambition to bring together different officials and institutional actors possibly concerned by the project IJJS.

The Seminar was held in the Senate, with the support of the President of the Law Commission. It was organized by the association Diagrama in close cooperation with the ERP, space of Research and Prospective, and with the support of the CNAPE (National Federation of Association of Protection of the childhood).

There were 35 participants on this first day, coming from different institutions:
- Administrations: Juvenile Justice Protection/ magistrates/actors of police training, of magistrate training, of lawyers training.
- University and training institutes for social workers.
- ONG: Associations working on the implementation of judicial measures / associations involving restorative justice / association federation.

This first day was organized in such a way that "facilitators" exposed a subject to open up debate and interactivity.
After presenting the objectives, the contents and the stakes of the IJJS project, as well as the May 2016 directive, we organized 3 times of presentation / debate to compare the contents of the manual with the national realities and needs.

The first discussion focused on the issues of training, priority needs and interdisciplinarity.

The second discussion focused on specific content that could improve the participation of children.

The third debate focused on the partnerships to be mobilized to promote interdisciplinarity.
INTERVENTIONS’ CONTENTS

- **Legal approach:**
The articulation of international and national legislation by targeting the child as a subject of law opened discussions on the current penal system, the place given to parents and the role of lawyers during the proceedings. This has resulted in the need to strengthen the presence and role of lawyers.

- **Sociological approach:**
If the minor's voice is to have pedagogical significance (and not only to give good conscience to the adults who have listened to it and can now make their decisions with serenity), it must be translated in terms of resilience and ability to identify and overcome weaknesses.

- **Institutional approach:**
All the guarantees of rights granted to minors, both during the proceedings and in the modalities by which they are taken care of, can lead to "normative" or even "hypernormative" management, which can take precedence over the quality of the relationship and communication. Considering the "effective participation" of minors as a fundamental right refocuses the objectives around the quality of the bond established with the minor.

- **Educational approach:**
We discussed the implications of improving the participation of minors in educational work. This notion questions the current relationship that minors have with the system and the different professionals. What about this relationship? Do minors trust the system? Do professionals consider "enough" the voice of children? Professionals are perceived as professionals helping or only as "agent of the juvenile justice system"? ....

- **Restorative Justice approach:**
Restorative justice measures favoring the author's participation were briefly presented in the afternoon. This type of judicial measure relies mainly on the notion of "empowerment" very close to "effective participation".
BACK TO THE MANUAL/ FEED BACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

- Overall positive by the particular and complementary contents it contains.

- Positive in putting forward:
  - The notion of "effective participation",
  - The international legislation.
  - The communication skills to improve.

- Necessity to synthesize the legislative part, at the risk that it is too little exploited by the actors on the ground.

- Improving interdisciplinarity: Difficulty in developing relevant content adapted to different occupational categories.

- Additional content proposed:
  - Results of recent studies on psychopathology and delinquency in adolescence.
  - Other conversations techniques.
Second sessions: Training implementation
23 educators participated in the training sessions.

We built 4 groups of 5 or 6 participants.

Program:

1. Introduction:
   - Presentation of the IJJS european project and his aims.
   - Intern training : Adaptations and additions.

2. Module 1: Législations et régulations
   - References in international law.
   - References in european law.
   - National framework.

   - The psychological stakes of adolescence.
   - Psychopathological approaches.
   - Contributions for educational and institutional action.

4. Module 3: Improving the "effective participation" of minors in their care.
   - Return on the notion of "effective participation"
   - Improving communication, conversation skills.
   - Follow-up and accompaniment.
ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING COURSES

- We decided to implement, in a primary phase, the IJJS training with the professionals comes from close educative centers, those for different reasons:

  ◦ First, in accordance with Article 20 of the Directive, which sets out the guarantees relating to the training of professionals. This article refers first and foremost to the personnel involved in placement and detention institutions. In addition, magistrates, lawyers and probation officers are also involved, with this particular mention:

    "Without prejudice to the independence of justice and diversity in the organization of the judicial order between the Member States".

  ◦ This professionals are at every time of every day in contact with young offenders.

  ◦ These professionals must ensure the penal follow-up of the teenagers. They must know enough about the juvenil justice system to provide advices to young offenders.

  ◦ They have to communicate with them, not only during interviews but also at anytime.

  ◦ On a daily basis, these professionals know how to communicate with minors. However, their conversation skills need to be improved, to encourage effective participation of the teenagers.
ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING COURSES

- We decided to use the manual, to follow the training methodology and to add some specifics contents to respond more precisely to the needs of actors on the ground.

- These specific contents were discussed with the professionals of both CEF. For example, after having worked on the content of the manual on international and European legislation, we discussed the real training needs to ensure an optimal level of criminal justice knowledge, enabling adolescents to be best advised on their situation.

- The other specific content added:
  - More informations about the lawyers and there framework because we note that in France lawyers have little involvement in the defense of adolescents.
  - Knowledge about cognitive psychology and psychoeducational perspectives (management of impulsivity, problem solving, empathy improvement ...)
  - Communication adapted to the needs of young people suffering from psychopathologies.
  - Interviewing techniques complementary to motivational interviewing:
    - explicit interviews: very useful for working on impulsive behaviors.
    - Mediations techniques to improve the teams’ abilities to resolve the conflicts on a daily basis in the centers.
EVALUATION OF NATIONAL WORKSHOP: 22 RESPONSES

- **Opinion sur le séminaire:**
  - Very good: 10
  - Good: 10
  - Satisfactory: 1
  - Poor: 1

- **Contents:**
  - Very good: 9
  - Good: 8
  - Satisfactory: 3
  - Poor: 2

- **Organisation:**
  - Very good: 8
  - Good: 13
  - Satisfactory: 1
  - Poor: 0
EVALUATION OF NATIONAL WORKSHOP: 22 RESPONSES

- **workshop contribution:**
  - Very good: 9
  - Good: 6
  - Satisfactory: 5
  - Poor: 1

- **Workshop interest:**
  - Very good: 10
  - Good: 9
  - Satisfactory: 2
  - Poor: 1

- On the basis of these results, we note the high level of satisfaction of the 22 participants in the training who responded to the evaluation.
- The international legal framework was almost unknown to them.
- Participants expressed a strong need to improve their communication techniques with minors, particularly with those suffering from psychopathologies.
NEXT STEPS OF THE NATIONAL COALITION AND TRAINING COURSES
NEXT STEPS

- For the educational staff of the Closed Educational Centers, on the basis of the first experiments, to evolve the content to adapt as best as possible to the field needs to guarantee a minimum level of knowledge and competence.

- Strengthening the involvement of lawyers in the situation of minors in care. Work to create local coordination with lawyers.

- At the local level, promote the organization of seminars bringing together heads of educational institutions, magistrates and prosecutors on different themes related to juvenile law and its implementation.

- Depending on the progress of the projects, reconvene the assembly present at the first workshop on 16.12.16.