WG 6: Empowering rights holders: the contribution of professional groups in improving rights fulfilment

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International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM) and international dimension of cooperation at European level: why, how and with whom

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Premise

Juvenile and Family Justice is a specific matter in which the multi and inter-disciplinary approach, requested by the international legislation, i.e. Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice of the Council of Europe, in fundamental.
Why?

Many European countries are experiencing in civil and penal matters a series of rapid reforms raising concerns that not enough consideration is being given to the international and European framework and the need for harmonization - with the result that the special nature of justice for children may be undermined.

The European Policy Makers (i.e. European Commission), need support to process and write Regulations, Directives, and other legislative act, from professionals working in the field.
Why?

European Countries are faced with new problems of a trans-national nature which need more open and focused cooperation, i.e.:

- refugees children and unaccompanied foreign children;
- child trafficking and child exploitation;
- international adoption
- divorce or separation of couples of different nationalities with children;
- minors in forced marriages;
- child abduction.
The creation of a **IAYFJM European Section (2010)** by the following steps:

- Amendment of the IAYFJM Statutes (art.15 paragraph 15):
  
  “The Council may authorize the creation of a Regional Section. It then emits a certificate which sets the geographic area of the new regional section.”

- **Mandate** of the IAYFJM European Section

- **Annual meetings** to share **data, national legislations, experiences and good practices**, each focused on a specific topic, i.e.: unaccompanied foreign children, juvenile justice systems, youth deprivation of liberty, juvenile justice in a European perspective, youth involved in radicalism / fundamentalism.
With whom?

To **strengthen the international dimension of cooperation** in two ways with:

1. International Governmental Organisations, in particular European Union and Council of Europe, i.e.:
   - Support in a **survey on juvenile justice** (made by the European Commission/FRA);
With whom?

To strengthen the international dimension of cooperation in two ways with:

2. Other professional groups, in particular lawyers, police, social workers, teachers, educators and prison guards, i.e.:

Put in contact with each other lawyers experts on juvenile and family justice of the EU Member States and support them to create a Network at European level;

Initial and on going training with a multidisciplinary approach, involving other professional groups dealing with juvenile and family justice (i.e. by the Institute of Judicial Training of Brussels, www.igo-ifj.be/);
IAYFJM* web site:

www.aimjf.org

* All those working in the juvenile and family justice, may subscribe to IAYFJM