

Open public consultation - EU guidance on integrated Child Protection Systems

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

1 Context

1.1 Aim of the public consultation

In 2012 and 2013 the European Forum on the rights of the child looked at the role of integrated child protection systems across a range of situations that children encounter, with a view to developing EU guidance on where and when the EU can support the EU countries and where individual EU countries can contribute to EU activities. The importance of developing such guidance was also reflected in the [EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016](#). The aim of this consultation is to allow as wide a range of stakeholders and organisations as possible to contribute to the development of guidance on integrated child protection systems.

1.2 Target audience of this public consultation

The public consultation is targeted primarily at those who have a role in the protection of children, including: child protection workers, social workers, guardians or guardians ad litem, police, prison staff, border guards, judges, prosecutors, children's lawyers, children's ombudspersons, academics, journalists and reporters, health practitioners, education professionals, Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, Health, Education, Finance, Interior, Agencies and departments responsible for child protection, NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child, international organisations, EU institutions and agencies, family organisations, media, etc.

1.3. Integrated child protection systems

For this consultation and the future guidance, we define an **integrated child protection system** as the way in which all actors, stakeholders and system components work together across sectors to form a protective and empowering environment for all children. Formal and informal structures, functions and capacities are assembled to **prevent and respond** to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, as set out in [Article 19 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child and in General Comment No 13 \(2011\) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence](#). It generally comprises the following components: human resources, finance, laws and policies, governance, monitoring and data collection as well as protection and response services and care management and includes the following actors: children, families, communities, those working at subnational or national level and those working internationally. Most important are the relationships and interactions between and among those components and those actors within the system. The outcomes of these interactions comprise the system. (For additional information on child protection systems see the [UNICEF 2012 Delhi conference report](#) under background documents).

Within the EU, child protection systems are primarily the responsibility of individual EU countries. However, in the light of the EU's general objective to promote protection of the rights of the child, the EU also has a role to play. The EU has a mandate to establish uniform, common or minimum rules, depending on the context, in the area of external borders, free movement within the EU, asylum, trafficking and other issues. The EU can also play a role when a child's safety involves more than one country, for example when an unaccompanied child moves from one country to another, or when a child goes missing.

1.4 Aim of EU guidance on integrated child protection systems

- a) To provide information on EU legislation and policies relevant to integrated child protection systems
- b) To clarify where the EU can support national child protection systems
- c) To illustrate good practice on integrated child protection systems and to promote means of exchange of good practice in crossborder/transnational as well as national contexts

1.5 Languages

You may submit your contribution in any official EU language. However, to facilitate our analysis and allow easy access to the information published, contributions in English would be welcome.

1.6 Length of contribution

Completing the survey may take up to 30 minutes depending on the length of your replies to the open questions. To facilitate analysis of your replies we would kindly ask you to keep your answers concise and to the point. You may include URLs for relevant online content in your replies, in particular for the good practice examples that you wish to share.

1.7 Confidentiality

Incoming contributions will be published on the website of DG Justice. (See also the [Privacy statement](#))

1.8 Deadline

The consultation will run over 12 weeks and close on 03/07/2014. No contributions will be accepted after the deadline.

2 Your role and the context in which you work

2.0 Are you replying to this consultation:*

- in a professional capacity and/or on behalf of an organisation
- as a private person

2.1 Organisation name*

Ministry of Security and Justice

2.2 What type of organisation do you work for?*

- Child protection service
- Social services
- Police
- Prison
- Border guards
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Providers of legal services for children
- Guardian or guardian ad litem organisation
- Children's ombudsperson
- Health sector
- Education sector
- Academic institution
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Finance
- National, regional or local child protection agency
- NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child
- Media
- International organisation
- EU institution or EU agency
- Other (please specify)

2.3 Function / Position*

advisor on International Relations

2.4 Which country do you work in?*

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other (please specify)

3 Contact details

3.1 Full Name*

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3.2 Postal address (optional)

3.3 E-mail address*

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4 National context

Q1: Which group(s) of children do you work with most? (you may tick several boxes)

- Child victims of sexual abuse/exploitation
- Child victims of neglect or abuse
- Child victims of trafficking
- Children with disabilities
- Children in a situation of migration
- Unaccompanied children in a situation of migration
- Children without parental care/in alternative care
- Children in police custody or detention
- Street children
- Children of parents in prison or custody
- Children in judicial proceedings
- Children in or at risk of poverty
- Missing children (e.g. runaways, abducted children, unaccompanied children going missing)
- Children affected by custody disputes, including parental child abduction
- Children left behind (by parents who move to another EU country for work)
- Children belonging to minority ethnic groups, e.g. Roma
- Child victims of female genital mutilation or forced marriage
- Children who are not in compulsory education or training or working children below the legal age for work
- Child victims of bullying or cyberbullying
- Other (please specify)

Q2: Please select which actors you work with the most (you may tick several boxes):

- Child protection service
- Social services
- Police
- Prison
- Border guards
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Providers of legal services for children
- Guardian or guardian ad litem organisation
- Children's ombudsperson
- Health sector
- Education sector
- Academic institution
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Finance
- National, regional or local child protection agency
- NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child
- Media
- International organisation
- EU institution or EU agency
- Other (please specify)

Q3: In your opinion, which of the following common challenges for an integrated child protection system are the most important to address? (You may tick several boxes)

- Inadequate legal and policy framework
- Lack of quality data and knowledge
- Lack of resources (staff, financial, infrastructure)
- Lack of prevention and response services
- Lack of coordination
- Lack of oversight and accountability
- Lack of respect of the child's right to be heard (UNCRC Article 12)
- Lack of family and community involvement
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Nederland ziet een meerwaarde in de gemeenschappelijke uitdaging om de samenwerking tussen lidstaten te faciliteren, de ontwikkeling van best practices in de lidstaten en de uitwisseling van informatie en best practices tussen lidstaten te bevorderen. Duplicatie met activiteiten en maatregelen die reeds in de EU en andere internationale kaders, met name de VN en de Raad van Europa, plaatsvinden, dient hierbij te worden vermeden. De uitvoering van de richtsnoeren mag niet leiden tot extra rapportageverplichtingen van de lidstaten.

Q4: Can you share any examples of effective measures to prevent violence against children? Good practice examples should meet one or more of these criteria: promote child participation (UNCRC Article 12), make children and their families more resilient, raise awareness, promote and facilitate coordination among actors. Please focus on examples that could be of interest or relevance to other countries, explain the practice and why you think it is good.

- Yes
 No

Please specify

In Nederland zijn de volgende voorbeelden te noemen; - Het ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie (VenJ) en het ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport (VWS) hebben in 2012 het Actieplan 'Kinderen Veilig' (2012-2016) opgesteld dat gericht is op het voorkomen, signaleren, stoppen en schade beperken van kindermishandeling en seksueel misbruik. Bij de uitvoering van het Actieplan werken de ministeries van VenJ en VWS samen met onder andere het ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap, politie, OM, Raad voor de Kinderbescherming, jeugdzorg, onderwijsinstellingen en meer. De Taskforce kindermishandeling en seksueel misbruik is ingesteld om toe te zien op de uitvoering van dit Actieplan middels een tweejaarlijkse monitor, uitvoeringsorganisaties aan te jagen om daadkrachtig stappen te zetten in de aanpak van kindermishandeling en specifieke thema's op de agenda te zetten bij onder andere managers, professionals, bestuurders en de samenleving. De Jongeren Taskforce Kindermishandeling wordt eveneens ingezet bij de uitvoering van de acties uit het actieplan om zo de stem van het kind mee te nemen en kinderen te laten participeren in de aanpak van kindermishandeling. - Het onderzoeksterrein seksueel geweld tegen kinderen is in 2012 aan het mandaat van de Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel toegevoegd. De Nationaal Rapporteur rapporteert periodiek over aard, omvang en aanpak van alle vormen van seksueel geweld tegen kinderen, en beoogt een structurele, continue, kwantitatieve én kwalitatieve analyse van de gehele 'keten', voor zowel slachtoffers als daders.

5 Crossborder or transnational context

Q5: Have you carried out any work related to cross-border cases of child protection?

- Yes
 No

Q5.1: Which group(s) of children was your work related to most? (You may tick several boxes)

- Child victims of sexual abuse/exploitation
- Child victims of neglect or abuse
- Child victims of trafficking
- Children with disabilities
- Children in a situation of migration
- Unaccompanied children in a situation of migration
- Children without parental care/in alternative care
- Children in police custody or detention
- Street children
- Children of parents in prison or custody
- Children in judicial proceedings
- Children in or at risk of poverty
- Missing children (e.g. runaways, abducted children, unaccompanied children going missing)
- Children affected by custody disputes, including parental child abduction
- Children left behind (by parents who move to another EU Member State for work)
- Children belonging to minority ethnic groups, e.g. Roma
- Child victims of female genital mutilation or forced marriage
- Children who are not in compulsory education or training or working children below the legal age for work
- Child victims of bullying or cyberbullying
- Other (please specify)

Q6: In your experience, in a cross-border context, which actors play the most important role in addressing violence against children? (You may tick several boxes)

- Child protection service
- Social services
- Police
- Prison
- Border guards
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Providers of legal services for children
- Guardian or guardian ad litem organisation
- Children's ombudsperson
- Health sector
- Education sector
- Academic institution
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Finance
- National, regional or local child protection agency
- NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child
- Media
- International organisation
- EU institution or EU agency
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Centrale autoriteiten voor Internationale Kinderaangelegenheden

Q7: Which non-legislative mechanisms or tools are most useful for good cross-border cooperation among child protection systems? (Please select one or more, and explain what, in your experience, works or does not work in the text box at the end of the list below. Please also use the box for others that are not listed.)

- Existence of protocols
- Existence of a formal specialised network
- Existence of an informal network
- Availability of information on counterparts in other countries
- Existence of designated national focal point in your own country for transnational child protection questions or child protection issues
- Existence of designated national focal point in other countries for transnational child protection questions
- Existence of common IT systems and databases (e.g. registers of sex offenders)
- Other
- None

Please specify:

6 Coordination and cooperation mechanisms

Q8: Can you provide an example of good coordination/cooperation with other actors at national level in preventing and/or responding to violence against children and outline the formal mechanisms behind this cooperation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify:

Het ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie (VenJ) en het ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport (VWS) hebben in 2012 het Actieplan 'Kinderen Veilig' (2012-2016) opgesteld dat gericht is op het voorkomen, signaleren, stoppen en schade beperken van kindermishandeling en seksueel misbruik. Bij de uitvoering van het Actieplan werken de ministeries van VenJ en VWS samen met onder andere het ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap, politie, OM, Raad voor de Kinderbescherming, jeugdzorg, onderwijsinstellingen en meer.

Q9: Do you have any examples of the impact that policies in another EU country may have on child protection in your country?

- Yes
 No

Q10: Can you provide an example of good coordination/cooperation with actors in another EU country in a cross-border context?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

- De samenwerking tussen Centrale autoriteiten voor internationale kinderontvoering, internationale kindbescherming en interlandelijke adoptie bij de uitvoering van de Haagse verdragen en verordening Brussel IIbis. - Cross Border mediation bij familiale geschillen. - De uitwisseling van informatie via de informele expert workinggroup on childrens rights van de Europese Commissie.

7 EU Legislation and policy and international standards

Q11: Are you aware of any EU legislation or policy documents that address violence against children?

- Yes
 No

Please specify which pieces of EU legislation or policy documents are most useful in addressing violence against children and briefly describe how they are useful? (Use legislation title and/or number e.g. Victims' Directive or Directive 2012/29/EU)

Nederland wil geen voorkeur uitspreken over welke EU wetgeving of beleidsdocumenten het nuttigst zijn bij de aanpak van geweld tegen kinderen. Wel wil Nederland haar erkentelijkheid uiten richting de Europese Commissie voor het zeer nuttige overzichtsdokument van EU-wetgeving en beleidsdocumenten "EU acquis and policy documents on the rights of the child" (http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu_acquis_2013_en.pdf)

Q12: Can you provide one or more examples of how implementation of international standards has contributed to better protection of children in cross-border situations?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

- Het internationale verdrag voor de rechten van het kind - Het Europees verdrag voor de rechten van de mens - De Haagse verdragen voor internationale kinderontvoering, internationale kinderbescherming en interlandelijke adoptie - De toetreding en ratificatie van de Raad van Europa verdragen op het terrein van kinderrechten. - De relevante EU-wetgeving (zie vraag 11)

8 EU Funding

Q13: Do you consider EU funding useful for improving child protection systems?

- Yes
 No

What should EU funding best be used for?

- Nederland is van mening dat EU-financiering het beste kan worden gebruikt ter ondersteuning van de ontwikkeling van best practices, de uitwisseling van informatie en beste praktijken tussen lidstaten en de ondersteuning van opleidingsmogelijkheden op nationaal niveau.

9 Data collection and research

Q14: Can you provide examples of how you use available data and figures to inform your work (policy, legislative, funding, awareness-raising)?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

- In de nieuwe Jeugdwet in Nederland zijn speciale bepalingen opgenomen die zien op het gebruik en de verwerking van beleidsinformatie ten behoeve van de implementatie en uitvoering van de jeugdwet. (<http://www.voordejeugd.nl/>) - <http://www.kinderbescherming.nl/> - Het Nederlands Jeugdinstituut is het landelijk kennisinstituut voor jeugd- en opvoedingsvraagstukken. Het ontwikkelt, beheert en implementeert kennis waarmee de kwaliteit van de jeugd- en opvoedingssector verbeterd kan worden. Het Nederlands Jeugdinstituut is een non-profit instelling met een publiek profiel. Dat wil zeggen dat het gericht is op het publiek maken en delen van kennis met de sector vanuit een maatschappelijk belang.
(<http://www.nji.nl/nl/Kennis/Databanken/Cijfers-over-Jeugd-en-Opvoeding>)

Q15: Can you provide examples of available Europe-wide information about the situation of children that is useful for your work in addressing violence against children?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

- EU Study to collect data on children's involvement in judicial proceedings
(http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=DS0313659) - <http://www.unicef.org/protection/statistics.html> -
http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/217018/European-Report-on-Preventing-Child-Maltreatment.pdf

Q16: Can you give one or more examples of research or benchmarking which has been particularly helpful in your work to address violence against children?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

Zie vraag 15

10 Child participation

Q17: In the context of preventing and/or responding to violence against children, can you give a good practice example of how children's views were solicited or heard (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12) and how they influenced a decision-making process?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify:

- De instelling van een Nationale Jeugdraad in Nederland (<http://www.njr.nl/>) - De jongeren taskforce kindermishandeling (<http://www.taskforcekinderenveilig.nl/>)

11 Capacity building/Training

Q18: Can you give examples of any multidisciplinary or interagency training programmes in your country or in a cross-border context?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please describe briefly these training programmes and their benefits:

In Nederland draagt Jeugdzorg Nederland namens haar leden bij aan de verdere professionalisering in de jeugdzorg. Het bieden van kwalitatief goede zorg en hulp aan kinderen en hun ouders. Dat willen organisaties en professionals in de jeugdzorg. Professionalisering vraagt van beroepsbeoefenaars dat zij investeren in hun vakmanschap en van organisaties dat zij investeren in hun vakmensen. Deze gezamenlijke investering stelt de professional in staat om de beste hulp te bieden en biedt kinderen en hun ouders de zekerheid dat hulpverleners goed geschoold zijn en blijven en de ruimte krijgen om professioneel te kunnen handelen. Onderdeel van professionalisering is dat jeugdzorgwerkers en gedragswetenschappers zich inschrijven in een beroepsregister. Registratie en herregistratie vraagt van hen dat ze hun vak bijhouden, dat ze handelen volgen hun eigen beroepsethische normen en tot slot leidt de binding aan tuchtrecht tot toetsing van het handelen van professionals aan die normen. Dat kan leiden tot het aanscherpen van de beroepsnormen. Het Kwaliteitsregister is openbaar. Opdrachtgevers en klanten kunnen in het register zien of een hulpverlener is geregistreerd. Voorbeelden van specifieke opleidingsprogramma treft u aan via onderstaande weblinks. - <http://www.fcb.nl/jeugdzorg/> - <http://www.youchooz.nl/opleidingen>

Q19: Is there a need for more training?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please briefly outline training needs:

Nederland is geen voorstander van de ontwikkeling van een Europees opleidingscurriculum.
Nederland is wel van mening dat Europese financiële ondersteuning bij de ontwikkeling van beste opleidingspraktijken een bijdrage kan leveren aan de versterking van de kwaliteit van het aanbod van opleidingen op nationaal niveau.

12 Awareness

Q20: Can you give examples of any campaigns held in your country on the prevention of violence against children within the last three years?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify and provide relevant hyperlinks:

<http://www.vooreenveiligthuis.nl/> <http://www.klokhuis.nl/kindermishandeling>

Q21: Can you give examples of how the media in your country have reported on violence against children?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please specify and provide hyperlinks if relevant:

http://www.telegraaf.nl/binnenland/21462588/_Cel_voor_kindermishandeling_.nl

Q22: Can you give examples of how you worked with the media to influence policy or practice changes?

- Yes
 No

13 Accountability

Q23: How should the performance of integrated child protection systems be appropriately monitored and supervised?

In de nieuwe Jeugdwet in Nederland zijn bepalingen opgenomen die voorzien in een adequaat toezichtsarrangement. (<http://www.voordejeugd.nl/>)

14 EU support

Q24: In which of these areas could the EU support national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation? (Please rank: 1 = most importance -> 6 = least importance).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Coordination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
EU funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capacity building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness-raising	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q24.1 Are there any other areas where the Eu could support national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation? Please specify:

Nederland is van mening dat de activiteiten die voortvloeien uit deze openbare raadpleging tot hebben de activiteiten van de lidstaten te versterken en niet deze over te nemen.

Follow-up to this public consultation

Contributions received in the course of this online public consultation will be posted on the [DG Justice website](#) and taken into account during elaboration of the guidance on integrated child protection systems. It is expected that the guidance will be adopted in the last quarter of 2014.