

CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE
EUROPEAN NETWORK

Annual Report 2025

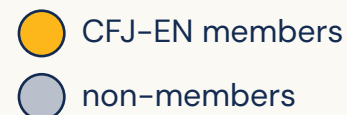
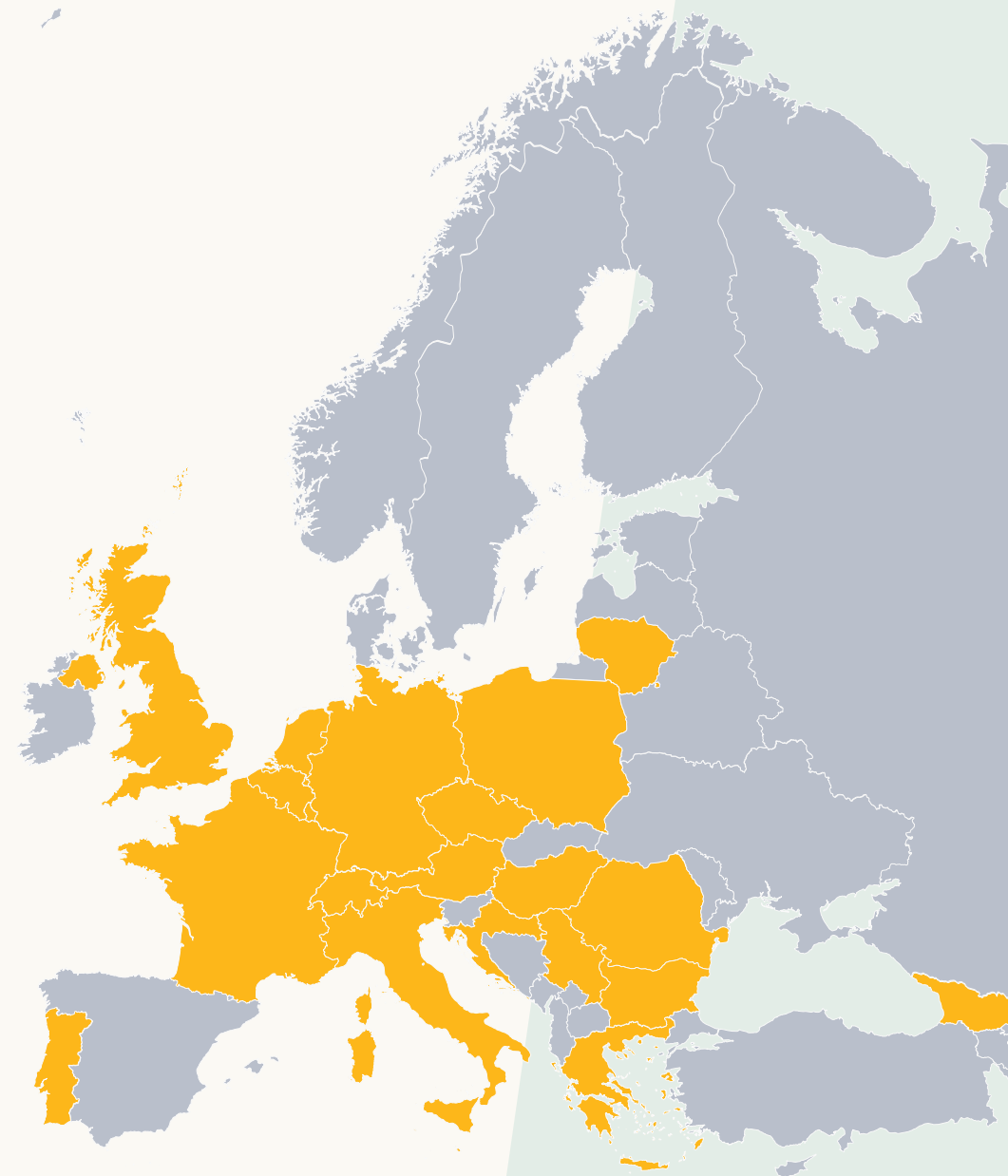


Growth of the Network

Our network is expanding!

In 2025, four new members joined the Child Friendly Justice European Network.

- Increased our total membership from **36** to **40** (representing overall growth of **11%**)
- Expanded into two new countries – **Luxembourg** and **Georgia**
- At the end of 2025, we supported **35 members** in **17 EU member states**, and **5 members** in **4 non-EU states**



Public Engagement

2,659
professionals
reached

Advocating Across Borders

- 40 major events: Attended national, international and regional forums to promote child-friendly justice
- Diverse audience: Reached a growing cohort of practitioners, legal professionals, policymakers and young people with lived experience of the justice system to better advocate for children's rights.

Highlights

- Fifth World Congress on Justice With Children (Madrid)
- European Commission Forum on the Rights of the Child (Brussels)
- European Parliament debate on child sexual abuse (Brussels)
- Council of Europe Midterm Review of the Strategy on the Rights of the Child (Strasbourg)
- Children of Prisoners Europe Conference (Malta)
- Barnahus Network (Tallinn)
- UNICEF Luxembourg training on Child-Friendly Justice (Luxembourg)
- European Children's Rights Network (Brussels)



Events Organised in 2025

Month	Event	City	Attendance
September	European Webinar – Towards Justice: Bridging Systemic Gaps for Child Victims of Domestic Violence	Online	58 participants
October	General Assembly	Athens, Greece	39 participants
October	Annual Seminar – Bridging Child Protection and Child Justice: Enhancing Collaborations for Child-Centred Justice Systems	Athens, Greece	116 participants
October	Academic Seminar – Children Below the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility	Athens, Greece	45 participants
November	Child Justice Caravan	Brussels, Belgium	8 young people

Advocacy Core Pillars

Work continued with the support of our Advocacy and Campaigning Working Group.

1. Demystifying Justice

Every child should understand what's happening to them in the justice system. We push for judges, lawyers and other adults involved to explain things clearly, in language children can follow.

2. Child Victims

Children exposed to domestic violence are not passive witnesses; they are victims in their own right. Even without being directly assaulted, witnessing violence at home causes serious psychological trauma and disrupts emotional, developmental and social functioning across every age group, from infancy through to adolescence.

3. Climate Justice

Climate change disproportionately affects children's rights and their access to justice. We call on states to reform justice systems and climate policies to protect children, and to guarantee their safe, meaningful participation in climate decision-making and litigation.



Advocacy in Action

1. Demystifying Justice

- Advocacy webinar for CFJ-EN members (12 September), presenting the Advocacy Toolkit and flagship campaigns
- “Wise Wednesdays” social media campaign spotlighting key child-friendly justice stakeholders
- Published [*Collaborating with Children and Young People with Lived Experience of the Justice System*](#), a how-to guide for practitioners

2. Child Victims

- Co-organised [*European Webinar*](#) with Work With Perpetrators European Network ([WWP EN](#)), “Towards Justice: Bridging Systemic Gaps for Child Victims of Domestic Violence” (58 participants)
- Produced a new [*factsheet*](#) on domestic violence, with WWP EN
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WWP EN and with [Children of Prisoners Europe](#) to deepen ongoing collaboration

3. Climate Justice

- Presented 2024 Annual Seminar recommendations to European Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra’s team (Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth) via the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG)
- Led a workshop, “Advocating for Child-Friendly Justice in Challenging Times,” at the World Congress on Justice With Children (Madrid), with the presence of UN Special Rapporteur Elisa Morgera

Child Justice Caravan

Young Justice Transformers

Eight young people with lived experience of justice systems — from the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy — led our Child Justice Caravan in November 2025 in Brussels.



- **A year of preparation:** The Young Justice Transformers work throughout the year with CFJ-EN members Young Perspectives (Netherlands), SAPI (Bulgaria), and Defence for Children International Greece and Italy, as part of our subgranting programme on child participation.
- **EU-level meetings:** They met directly with the European Commission's DG Justice and DG Home, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, and civil society organisations including Victim Support Europe and Missing Children Europe.
- **A strong voice for change:** Drawing on lived experience of migration and asylum procedures, victimisation, and contact with the law, they shared first-hand insights that are reshaping how EU decision-makers approach child-friendly justice.
- **Their message:** Across the board, the young people called for clearer, child-friendly information about their rights — and for justice systems to invest in life and workplace skills rather than focus on punishment alone.

Subgranting Scheme

Each year, CFJ-EN awards part of its EU funding to member organisations through a [subgranting scheme](#), enabling them to set up local groups of “Young Justice Transformers” — young people aged 15–25 with direct experience of justice systems. Over several months, these groups turn their lived experience into tangible outputs: research, advocacy tools, training resources and public performances that bring their perspectives directly into policy and practice. In 2025, four members ran projects under this scheme, in Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands and Greece.

Bulgaria — SAPI

SAPI created safe, weekly discussion spaces for young people with justice-system experience across Sofia, Vidin and Shumen, building their confidence and advocacy skills. The groups are now inspiring other social services to adopt the same model.

Italy — DCI Italy

Through “Bridge the Gap,” young people with experience of asylum or criminal proceedings co-created a [White Book](#) of policy recommendations with the University of Genoa, presented at the Child Justice Caravan.

The Netherlands — YOPE

YOPE worked with experts by experience to design and pilot a peer-to-peer support framework for children deprived of liberty, resulting in a practical, transferable [P2P Model Handbook](#).

Greece — DCI Greece

Building on its ongoing “Justice Starts With Us” programme, DCI Greece used theatre techniques to help young people with justice-system experience build advocacy skills, culminating in a mock trial at the CFJ-EN Annual Seminar and other locations.

Publications and Training Tools

In 2025, CFJ-EN continued to build its role as a trusted knowledge hub for practitioners, policymakers and researchers working on child-friendly justice, producing the following resources:

2025 CFJ-EN Handbook: Child-Friendly Justice in Europe

An updated edition of our flagship reference guide. The 104-page Handbook includes new sections on key terminology, additional resources for practitioners, and an expanded overview of relevant case law.

Collaborating with Children and Young People with Lived Experience of the Justice System: A How-to Guide for Practitioners and Decision-Makers

A practical tool for practitioners and decision-makers on involving children and young people meaningfully, safely and ethically in decision-making processes, events and projects that affect them.

Factsheet: The Rights of Children who are Exposed to Domestic Violence Cases

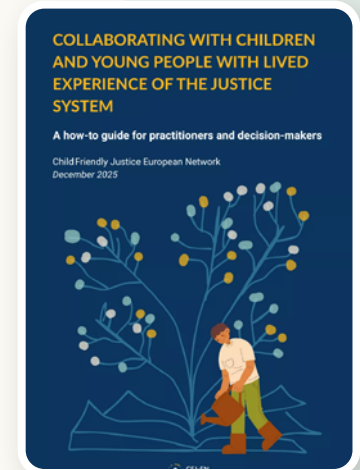
Produced in partnership with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN), this factsheet sets out the legal framework and good practice for protecting child witnesses of domestic violence.

Training Database

Our online, freely accessible database of training opportunities for practitioners on child-friendly justice, now featuring over 60 new listings covering courses, tools and manuals across a wide range of themes.

Looking ahead

The CFJ-EN is mapping laws across Europe concerning children below the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) — developed with Leiden Law School and pro bono support from Baker McKenzie. The initial findings were presented at our Academic Seminar in October. The interactive map will be published on our new website once complete.



Strategic Alliances

Coalitions & MoUs

Strengthening advocacy in Europe with formal partnerships:

- **Formal collaboration:** Signed a memorandum of understanding with WWP EN and Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)
- **EU Perspectives Group:** Co-launched a collaborative space with 11 expert child rights networks.

Institutional Tenders

Delivered capacity-building programmes as part of the [Joint EU-CoE Child Friendly Justice Project](#):

- **Awareness-raising:** Delivered 12 sessions on child-friendly justice in Poland, Belgium and Slovenia.
- **Train the Trainer:** Delivered three in-depth training modules on child-friendly justice for legal professionals in Belgium.

Evaluations & Future Outlook

“The future success and credibility of the Network depend fundamentally on its ability to... model inclusivity and equity in all its work.”

– Independent Gender and Social Inclusion Analysis: Final Report

In 2025, we commissioned an independent Gender and Social Inclusion Analysis to help us reflect on our work and identify where we can do better. The report recognised the Network’s growing reputation and commitment to child participation, while also highlighting practical steps to make our communications, events and ways of working more accessible and inclusive. We have already begun implementing these recommendations and will continue this work throughout 2026.

In 2025, a separate independent evaluation assessed the Network’s progress since its establishment in 2022. It found that CFJ-EN has developed strong operational capacity, high-quality training and tools, and established itself as a credible authority on child-friendly justice. The evaluation recommended strengthening child participation, making greater use of members’ expertise, and increasing visibility at national level. It concluded that the Network has largely achieved its objective of becoming a leading source of expertise on child-friendly justice.



The Network at a Glance

Steering Committee

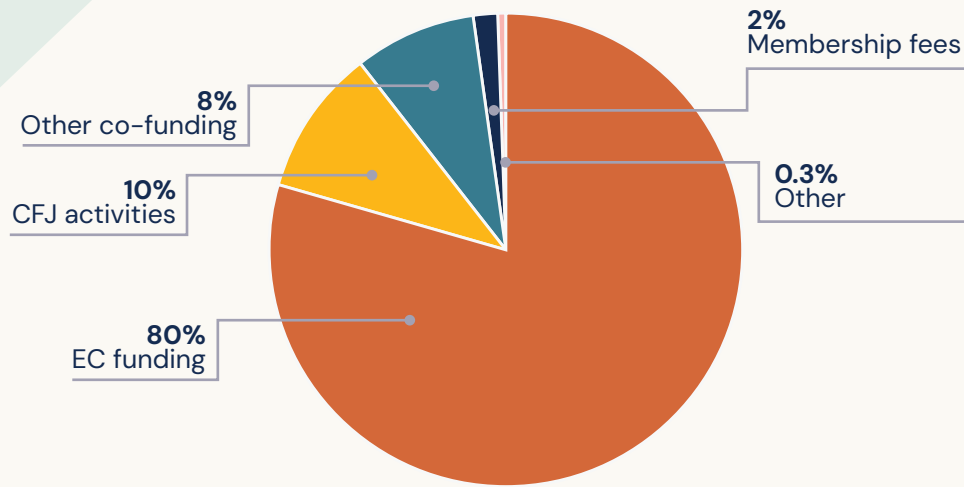
Benoît Van Keirsbilck	DCI Belgium
Gabriella Gallizia	DCI Italy
Dora Kiss	Terre des Hommes, Hungary
Manu Krishan	Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
Donna McEwan	Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, Scotland
Helmut Sax	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Austria
Nuala Mole	The AIRE Centre, UK
Nantina Tsekeri	DCI Greece
Linda Zalane	Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, Germany

Operational Team

Mariama Diallo	CFJ-EN Coordinator
Mimona Manouach	Financial and Administrative Officer
Pierre Trbovic	Quality and Accountability Officer
Eleanor Mears	Communications Officer
Lotte Buekenhout / Marie Chapot	Advocacy Officer
Teresa Schepis / Stefania Kulaj	Coordination Assistant
Eulalia Martí Pallares	Communications Assistant

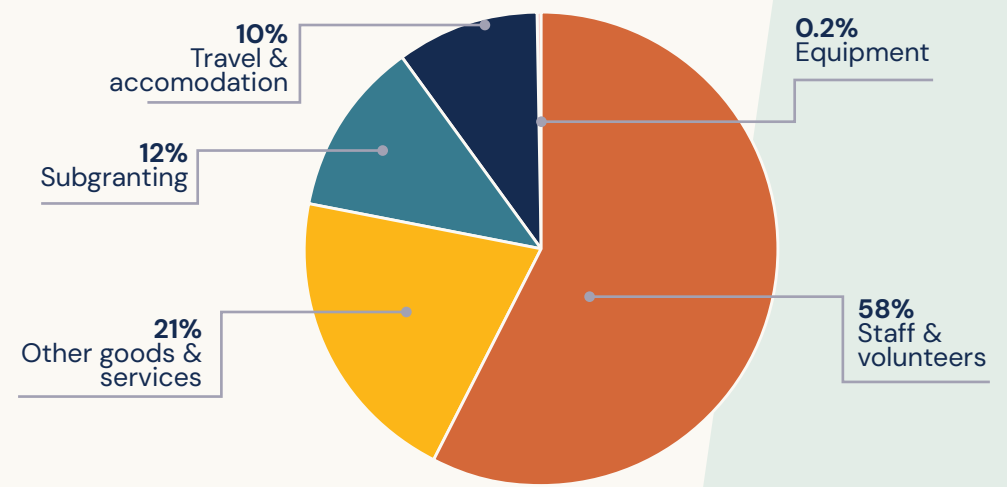
Finances

Revenue



Revenue 2025	Amount (€)
EC Funding	€282,499
CFJ-EN Activities / Services	€35,461
Other Cofunding	€29,225
Membership Fees	€6,650
Other	€1,234
Total Revenue	€355,069

Expenditure



Expenditure 2025	Amount (€)
Staff & Volunteers	€204,783
Other Goods & Services	€72,888
Subgranting	€42,012
Travel & Accommodation	€34,649
Equipment	€737
Total Expenditure	€355,069

A huge thank you!

2025 wouldn't have been possible without our donors, service providers, partners, Young Justice Transformers, volunteers and all our members.



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TIMOTHY REDANT | ALICIA DE VUYST | KEZIA ALBERTINE | LENITY THOMAS | GRACE HAMMOND**

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