



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



"National best practices in the field of child-Friendly Justice in Greece"

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Best practices for child-friendly justice in the fields of prevention and rehabilitation are **at the heart of our common efforts**.

Greece(*Ministry of Justice*) has been recognized for its strong contribution in documenting and implementing best practices in the:

Handbook of Council of Europe with Title: “The State of Child-Friendly Justice in Europe”

Greece: Teaching children about court proceedings through mock trials

In **Greece**, mock trials are organised with secondary schools, engaging students aged 12 to 18 in practical legal scenarios. Students engage in a simulated criminal trial at the courthouse, guided by legal professionals, for hands-on learning of justice processes. Role-playing as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and defendants helps students understand court roles and legal procedures firsthand.¹⁸⁵

Greece: Creative non-custodial measures

In 2024, **Greece** amended its law to introduce new specialised educational, artistic and cultural programmes for children convicted of criminal offences.²²⁵ Since the measures came into force, pilot programmes have been launched focused around sport, performing arts, cinema and collaborations with museums and cultural institutions. Judges are given discretion to impose the measures in appropriate cases.

The RE:MIND program²²⁶ is a web-based educational intervention aimed at rehabilitation for children who have committed minor offences. Drawing from narrative psychology, moral education, and cognitive behavioral principles, it promotes self-reflection, emotional intelligence, and ethical reasoning. The programme uses classical Greek myths and contemporary literature, to introduce moral themes such as responsibility, anger management, and friendship within an interactive digital framework. Learning is guided by Socratic dialogue, encouraging critical thinking and value reconstruction. RE:MIND bridges abstract ethical principles with real-life decision-making, fostering long-term behavioral change through empathy and cognitive flexibility. The programme reflects a shift from punitive measures to restorative, developmental approaches in youth rehabilitation.

A sport programme was also piloted across seven regions, through a partnership between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Sport. Children aged 12-18 who have committed minor offences are given placements with sports clubs under the guidance of a supervisor within the club. The programme has built partnerships with a range of clubs across various sports.

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Educational Initiatives

- **A central pillar of our approach is the prevention of juvenile delinquency through education and experiential learning.**

In cooperation with schools, Local Bar Associations, and Courts of First Instance, Greece has developed the ***Mock Trials*** program.

- By integrating Child-Rights principles with hands-on experience, these initiatives **promote respect for justice, for human rights and shared social values.**



- **Innovative Rehabilitation Measures for Juveniles**
- **Another equally important priority of Greece's Child-Friendly Justice Policy, is the enhancement of rehabilitation measures imposed on minors exhibiting delinquent behavior.**
- **Under Law 5090/2024, Greece introduced a set of innovative non-custodial measures, focusing on psychoeducation, culture, and sports, with the aim of supporting personal positive development and successful social reintegration.**

☐ Sports-Based Interventions Supporting Social Inclusion.

Structured sports participation has been incorporated as a rehabilitative measure, recognizing its positive impact on and social inclusion.



☐ Cultural and Creative Interventions Promoting Personal Development

Cultural rehabilitation measures are implemented in cooperation with :

❖ *the Ministry of Culture,*

❖ *Hellenic Film and Audiovisual Center(Cinema therapy activities)*

❖ *Municipal Theatres (theatre workshops)*

❖ *Archaeological Museums*



These programs *focusing on emotional expression*, promote empathy, **cultural awareness, and personal growth among young offenders.**

❑ **Psychoeducational and Early Intervention Measures (RE:MIND)**

RE:MIND is an online psychoeducational programme designed to assess and address mild juvenile delinquent behavior.

It employs a rehabilitative, **Child-Centred Principles** that promotes, moral judgement through early non-punitive intervention.



**Rehabilitative Engagement:
Moral Insight & Neurodevelopment**

A Dual-Track, Child-Friendly Justice Model for Mild Youth Offenders

Implementation, Safeguards and Monitoring Mechanisms

❖ All initiatives are supported by targeted training for the professionals responsible for their implementation.

The relevant methodologies and educational materials are **formally defined through ministerial decisions**.

Clear monitoring and safeguard procedures —such as evaluation questionnaires and commitment agreements guarantees :

consistent implementation



transparency &



Efficient supervision in line with child-friendly justice standards.



All initiatives are implemented in strict accordance with the applicable legal provisions,



including Public Prosecutor orders,



Investigative measures,



Rulings issued by Juvenile Courts, as provided for under Articles 122, 124, and 126 of the Penal



Code.

This **legal grounding guarantees procedural integrity and safeguards the rights of all parties involved**.

- **The design and application of rehabilitation measures are guided by two fundamental principles.**

- ❖ The principle of **subsidiarity** guarantees that rehabilitation is prioritized over alternative sanctions whenever appropriate.
- ❖ The principle of **proportionality** requires that each measure be carefully tailored to the nature and severity of the offense, as well as to the juvenile's personality and social and living environment.



Together, these principles promote individualized, fair and effective rehabilitative interventions.

□ Conclusions

Within this framework, **Greece's child rights based approach** guarantees that children are **at the heart of all justice interventions.**

By documenting and sharing these practices

Greece contributes to supporting child-friendly justice across Europe, in full alignment with Council of Europe and EU standards.

