

Mock Trials Initiative: Digital Crimes Against Minors

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Mock Trials: An Educational Bridge Between Youth and Justice



**Two-day educational activity entitled
"MOCK TRIALS"¹**

**"From the Trial of Socrates to Child-Friendly Justice:
Timeless Values and Modern Approaches to Law"**



CHANIA, 13-14 NOVEMBER 2025

¹is implemented within the framework of the European Program entitled "Joint project European Union and Council of Europe for Child Friendly Justice", in which Greece participates (Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Special Legal Issues), as one of the three selected Partner Countries.

A two-day educational initiative entitled "Mock Trials"

Pilot implementation in Chania, Crete, on 13–14 November 2025

Organized by:

Ministry of Justice

Chania Court of First Instance

Chania Bar Association

Directorate of Secondary Education of Chania

Total participants: 45 students from two public secondary schools in Chania

Age range: 14–16 years old



Objectives

- Legal literacy and understanding of justice processes
- Ethical judgment and moral development
- Awareness of child protection and digital rights
- Promotion of civic responsibility and the rule of law

Educational Aims and Significance



The initiative aimed to **familiarize students** with the judicial system in a manner that is accessible, participatory, and respectful of children's rights, in line with European and international child-rights standards. Additional objectives included:

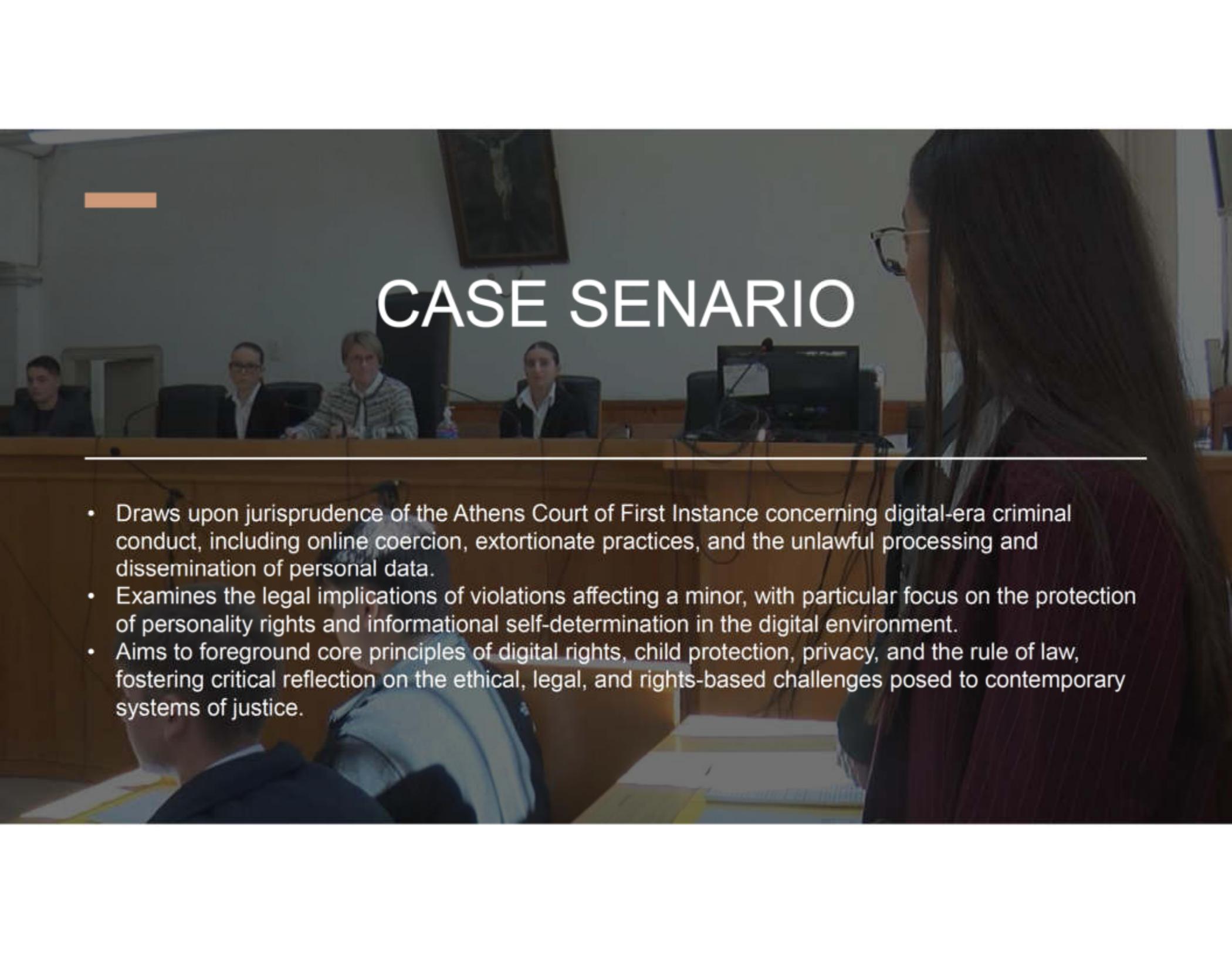
- **Promoting the concept of child-friendly justice** and enhancing understanding of judicial processes
- **Contributing to juvenile delinquency prevention** through reflection on ethical and legal norms
- **Strengthening comprehension of the rule of law** and democratic principles
- **Fostering ethical reasoning**, moral responsibility, and civic awareness through active engagement in mock trial procedures.

By combining experiential learning with a rights-based approach, the mock trial offered students a **unique opportunity to develop critical thinking, social responsibility**, and participatory skills, supporting their holistic development as informed and engaged citizens

•Key Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of child protection, privacy rights, and digital safety
- Improved legal literacy, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning
- Enabled age-appropriate engagement with judicial procedures and experiential learning of the rule of law
- Strengthened civic responsibility, moral judgment, and active participation in democratic processes





CASE SENARIO

- Draws upon jurisprudence of the Athens Court of First Instance concerning digital-era criminal conduct, including online coercion, extortionate practices, and the unlawful processing and dissemination of personal data.
- Examines the legal implications of violations affecting a minor, with particular focus on the protection of personality rights and informational self-determination in the digital environment.
- Aims to foreground core principles of digital rights, child protection, privacy, and the rule of law, fostering critical reflection on the ethical, legal, and rights-based challenges posed to contemporary systems of justice.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Greek Penal Code – harassment, extortion, unlawful dissemination
- Law 4624/2019 – personal data protection, GDPR compliance
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Articles 16 & 19 – privacy and protection from abuse
- Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice – children’s participation and protection in justice processes

PREPARATION & TRAINING



Legal & Educational

- Five preparatory sessions at participating schools,
- conducted by specialized Chania Bar Association lawyers
- Covered: criminal law and procedure, trial stages, and juvenile justice rules
- Voluntary participation and parental consent obtained, ensuring alignment with national and EU safeguarding standards

Digital Rights & Online Protection

- Studied **UNCRC** and the **Handbook on European Law relating to the Rights of the Child**
- Focused on personal data, online offences, and mechanisms to **prevent and address online violence**

November 13th, 2025:

Day 1 - Pre-Event Educational Lecture:

"From the Trial of Socrates to Child -Friendly Justice"

Philosophical & Ethical Lecture

- Lecture: "From the Trial of Socrates to Child-Friendly Justice"
- Classical texts:
- Plato's Apology of Socrates; Gorgias's Apology of Palamedes and Encomium of Helen
- Explored rhetoric, argumentation, persuasion, and demagoguery
- Students reenacted trials, practicing judicial procedures, evidence evaluation, and



Ethics & Moral Development

- Discussed Heinz Dilemma and Kohlberg's stages of moral development
- Pre/post-assessments using Kohlberg Questionnaire and Osgood Semantic Differential Scale to measure ethical reasoning and emotional perceptions



November 14th, 2025

Day 2: Mock Criminal Trial of the Minors

Presided over by the **Juvenile Court Judge of Chania**, ensuring institutional authenticity and adherence to **child-friendly justice principles**

All other courtroom roles—including judges, lawyers, defendants, witnesses, and victims—were **performed entirely by students**

Attended by students from other schools, broadening the **educational and social impact**



- The Court found that the juvenile defendants had **committed the acts charged**, following the evidentiary process.
- The decision focused on each juvenile's **personality, maturity, and individual circumstances**

REFORMATORY MEASURES

- **Re:Mind Programme** : A dual, childcentered psychoeducation and intervention program for mild cases of young offenders.
- **Specially designed cultural programmes for juvenile offenders** (Theatre workshops - Cinema Therapy - Experiential workshop at the New Archaeological Museum of Chania)
- **Participation in sports activities**





What the students said:

- *“Through the mock trial, I understood how a victim feels when their personal data are violated.”*
- *“As a judge, I learned to listen to all sides before making a decision.”*
- *“I realized that both the victim and the accused deserve respect.”*
- *“I learned that everyone has rights and they must be protected.”*
- *“The mock trial helped me understand what justice really means.”*
- *“I learned that sharing personal or inappropriate images is not allowed.”*
- *“I learned to think about other people’s feelings, not only my own.”*
- *“I feel that justice is important and should be trusted.”*
- *“The program helped me understand the meaning of the rule of law.”*
- *“I learned to discuss respectfully and follow rules.”*
- *“I enjoyed playing the role of a lawyer and felt that I was defending justice.”*
- *“The mock trial made me feel like a more responsible citizen.”*



Thank you
for your
attention.

Agapi Microu

Maria Agiasmenaki