



Policy Recommendations

Greece

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Executive Summary

The CHILD Project policy recommendations for Greece propose a comprehensive reform agenda to establish a child-friendly justice system that fully protects child victims and witnesses of violence. Building on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, and the evidence generated through the CHILD Project, the recommendations aim to eliminate secondary victimization, strengthen interagency cooperation, and ensure equal access to justice and protection services across the country.

The proposed reforms focus on four strategic pillars: strengthening legal and institutional frameworks; enhancing multidisciplinary coordination among justice, law enforcement, social protection and health services; expanding professional capacity through standardized training and certification; and establishing trauma-informed, child-centred procedures at every stage of a child's journey through the justice system. Particular emphasis is placed on the systematic use of forensic interviewing, the "single interview" principle, nationwide expansion of the Houses of the Child, and the creation of unified monitoring and data systems.

Successful implementation will require sustained political commitment, legislative reform, adequate resources, and coordinated action among ministries, judicial authorities, law enforcement agencies, child protection services, healthcare providers, local authorities, and civil society organisations. Collectively, these measures seek to transform Greece's response to violence against children into a system that prioritises children's rights, wellbeing, participation, and recovery while ensuring effective access to justice.

Introduction

The primary objective of the CHILD Project policy recommendations is the advocacy for the formal adoption and push for systemic changes towards the systematic implementation of National Strategy on Child-Friendly Justice (2026–2030). This initiative is explicitly designed to align Greek legislation and institutional interventions aligned to both the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Guidelines of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice](#). By establishing binding procedural guarantees across the criminal, civil, and administrative sectors, the recommendations aim to combat and respond to the prevailing systemic gaps and create a holistic, child-centric legal framework. To ensure maximum impact, the scope of this document targets critical systemic reforms to streamline institutional workflows, implements rigid procedural safeguards to prevent the re-traumatization of minors during legal proceedings, and constructs a seamless operational narrative linking healthcare, social services, and law enforcement systems. Achieving these legislative and structural milestones, requires the unified mobilization of key national stakeholders, including National Administration, ministries, regional and municipal authorities, the Hellenic Police judicial bodies, frontline healthcare providers, and specialized non-governmental organizations. Together, these entities are called upon to transition the justice system from a source of secondary distress into a secure, protective environment that respects the dignity, rights, and evolving capacities of vulnerable children.

These policy recommendations are directly informed by the critical findings and primary deliverables of the [CHILD Project \(Towards a CHILD-friendly legal Order for Fair Justice Provision\)](#), aimed at adapting justice systems to protect child victims and witnesses of violence. Dedicated to bridging the gap between legislative intent and institutional reality across nine EU member states, the project has consolidated front-line data to establish standardized, multi-agency operational procedures. The actionable reforms proposed in this document stem directly from the project's core outputs. Most notably, these include the CHILD Handbook for Professionals on Forensic Interviewing and Protection of Child Victims, the "Victims Journey" multi-agency mapping tool, and targeted capacity-building training modules designed to enforce a trauma-informed, child-centric approach across the entire judicial network.

Recommendations.

1. Policy & Governance

This section of Policy Recommendations addresses the recommendation targeting the National Administration in Greece. They target specifically the need for policies improvement related to the Hellenic Ministry of Justice the Hellenic Ministry of Citizens Protection and the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family.

1.1. Ministry of Justice

- To eliminate secondary victimization of child victims during the investigative and trial phases by strictly enforcing the "single recorded interview" principle and broadening statutory protections:
 - **Comprehensive Scope Expansion of Article 227 ΚΠΔ:** Amend Article 227 of the Greek Code of Criminal Procedure to change its restrictive nature. Currently, Article 227 applies strictly to offenses against sexual freedom and human trafficking. The statute must be expanded to mandate video-recorded child testimonies across all categories of violence against minors—explicitly incorporating physical abuse, domestic violence, severe neglect, and cyber-violence.
 - **Removal of Judicial Discretion:** Abolish judicial discretion regarding the physical presence of the minor in adversarial court proceedings. The law needs to stipulate that for all covered offenses, a pre-recorded forensic interview is the sole permissible method of securing the minor's testimony for trial, removing any legal loopholes that allow children to be called into an active courtroom.
 - **Explicit Codification of the "Single Forensic Interview" Principle:** Codify a strict "single interview" doctrine within Article 227. The statutory text must move beyond merely replacing live court presence and explicitly prohibit repeat interviews across all stages of the pre-trial and trial phases. Codify a strict judicial bar that renders subsequent or additional oral examinations legally impermissible if a valid forensic video recording already exists. Any exception to this rule must be treated as an absolute last resort, permissible exclusively via a heavily reasoned, non-appealable

Court Order issued by a judicial panel—not a single investigator—and strictly conditioned on the discovery of critical, objective evidence that could not have been obtained during the initial interview. Beyond the release/amend principal guide / Act N. 4478/2017 of the National Gazette, a following guide needs to be published under the Authority of the Ministry which would be the principal guide of the Law provision, and this would be open for amendments / updates.

- Update and strengthen the implementation framework of the [National Action Plan for the Rights of the Child](#) and the [National Action Plan against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation](#) through the development of a coordinated child-friendly justice component aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice.

The revised framework should include:

- Specific and measurable actions aimed at ensuring child-friendly judicial, administrative and protection proceedings for all children, including child victims, witnesses and children in vulnerable situations.
- A results-based monitoring and evaluation framework with clear indicators, baselines, targets, responsible institutions and reporting timelines.
- Regular collection and publication of disaggregated administrative and judicial data on children's access to justice, participation in proceedings, case duration, use of child-friendly interviewing procedures and access to support services.
- Formal coordination mechanisms among the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, Ministry of Education, law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, courts, child protection services and independent monitoring bodies.
- Mandatory and continuous capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals working with children.
- Institutionalised child participation mechanisms enabling children and young people to contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of policies affecting them.
- Independent monitoring and periodic evaluation of implementation (the Greek Ombudsman, academic institution or accredited child-rights organizations), including

annual progress reports and mid-term and final assessments. Child participation in monitoring should be a priority based on Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Some policy measures should be reviewed with direct child participation through youth advisory groups, consultations, surveys on their experiences with justice and protection services; focus groups involving children who have interacted with the justice system.

- Support the appointment and recognize the active role of the Juvenile Probation Officer/ Guardian of the minor at the First Instance Courts in Greece. At some regions (Heraklion) the position of the Guardian of the minor / Juvenile Probation Officer is missing as the vital “intermediary” to assess the social context of the minor at the pre trial phase and provide all the important information to the Judge.
- Adopt and implement binding national multidisciplinary guidelines and operational protocols for all professionals involved in the prevention, identification, referral, investigation, prosecution and support of child victims of violence, drawing on and institutionalizing the standards and practical tools developed through the [CHILD Handbook](#). The protocols should establish common procedures, referral pathways, information-sharing rules and safeguards based on a trauma-informed and child-centred approach. Compliance with the protocols and the [CHILD Handbook](#) standards should be supported through mandatory training, professional accreditation, regular supervision and periodic monitoring of implementation. In conjunction to the provision of the 4800/2021 Act, a special attention should be focused towards very strict measures against fake forensic reports by private sector professionals (i.e. immediate removal of the license for profession), and immediate legal action against professionals who take advantage of their post to act in favor of one parent by using the “violence against the child” process.
- Ensure the full operationalization, adequate staffing and sustainable funding of **the Houses of the Child** in the capitals of all 13 Regions of Greece, guaranteeing multidisciplinary services, timely access for child victims and nationwide geographical coverage.
 - Review and amend Ministerial Decision 2238 B'/10-6-2019 to explicitly incorporate trauma-informed, child-centred and rights-based standards consistent with the

UNCRC, the Lanzarote Convention and the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice.

- Adequate funding and staffing of all the “Houses of the Child” at the mode of operation of the Barnahus. In addition, the “Houses of Child” have to be protected by specialized force of the Hellenic Police so to ensure the safety of the child, and of its parents.
 - In cases of migrant children there has to be ensured that independent translation needs to be available. All in all, the effective operation of the “House of the Child” needs to ensure the effective collaboration of the responsible entity (Ministry of Justice) and the Hellenic Police. The time between the reporting and the forensic interview has not to be over 1 month.
 - Invest into building the appropriate “Shelters for short term accommodation” of the children and their 1 parent/guardian. These shelters should be based at the cities where the House of Child is in operation, so the child could be accommodated in safety and under the support of specialized staff. The Shelters as well as the Houses of the Child should be guarded by the Hellenic Police 24/7 so to secure safety and protection.
- **Accreditation:**
 - Establish a mandatory accreditation and periodic recertification system for all the professionals involved in cases of violence against children (of public and private sector), including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, psychologists, social workers, interpreters and forensic experts. Accreditation should be linked to specialised training on child rights, child development, forensic interviewing, trauma-informed practice and child-friendly justice standards (see [CHILD Handbook](#)).
 - Establish a national quality assurance and accreditation framework for non-governmental organisations providing specialised services to child victims of violence. Accreditation should be based on objective quality standards, safeguarding requirements, staff qualifications and service delivery criteria, and should be reviewed periodically (e.g., every three years). Formal cooperation protocols should

be developed between public authorities and accredited organisations to ensure coordinated service provision.

- Establish a unified national child violence data collection system covering reports, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, referrals and support services. Data should be collected by First Instance Courts, Prosecutors' Offices, Houses of the Child and relevant public services using common indicators and definitions.

Data should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, nationality or migration status, ethnicity where legally permissible, geographical area and form of violence. Aggregated statistics should be published annually in accordance with data protection and privacy requirements.

- Amend the mandate about the longer presence of the Minor Prosecutors to the First Instance Courts (4years of non-transfer). Provision of support for burnout avoidance to the Minor Procecutors, with the provision of service of a specialist.

1.1.1. Judiciary (Judges & Prosecutors)

- Fully implement and expand the provision of the Article 226A of the Greek Code of Criminal Procedure so to mandate:
 - Pre-trial examinations of child victims occur within the specialized infrastructure of the "Children's Houses" (Σπίτι του Παιδιού). This must be a strict statutory obligation across all forms of violence against children (physical, psychological, cyber, or severe neglect), completely removing any judicial discretion to bypass these environments or conduct traditional, adversarial courtroom depositions.
 - To achieve this, the Ministry of Justice has to fulfill its explicit statutory obligation under **Article 74 of Law 4478/2017** (as amended by Article 35 of Law **4640/2019**) to fully fund, adequately staff with specialized scientific and administrative personnel, and fully operationalize the independent regional offices legally designated for Athens, Thessaloniki, Piraeus, Patras, and Heraklion, Crete.
 - Geographical Contingency Mechanisms and Minimum Environmental Standards: To guarantee equal protection in geographical regions where a

"Children's House" is not yet available or accessible, a binding Joint Ministerial Decision (KYA) needs to establish Universal Minimum Environmental and Procedural Standards for all local courts and prosecutor offices. In compliance with Paragraph 5 of Article 74, until a regional office is fully functional, any examination of a minor must be strictly prohibited in standard police or court offices. Instead, authorities must be legally mandated to utilize pre-approved, child-friendly spaces certified by the Ministry of Justice (such as specialized municipal social service rooms or NGO facilities) that meet the CHILD Handbook criteria, always accompanied by a certified child psychiatrist.

- **Mandatory Deployment of Mobile Forensic Units:** For remote, island, or rural jurisdictions lacking permanent infrastructure, the Ministry of Justice, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Cohesion & Family, must legislate and deploy the "Mobile Child-Friendly Forensic Units" as first entry points for the case reporting before the proper forensic interview. These mobile units—equipped with minimal standardized audiovisual recording technology and staffed by traveling multi-disciplinary teams (psychologists and specialized police officers)—must travel to the child's locality. This operationalizes the "Victims Journey" framework remotely, ensuring that a child in a rural area receives the exact same standard of forensic protection, single-recorded interview protocols, and trauma-reduction measures as a child in a major metropolitan center.
- **Introduce judicial guidelines (CHILD Handbook) on how to evaluate child testimony.** This must explicitly instruct judges and prosecutors not to misinterpret fragmented, nonlinear, or changing narratives as a lack of credibility, recognizing these instead as results related to their trauma.
 - **In-Court Evidentiary Equivalence of Digital Testimony:** Enact a clear legislative bridge between Article 226A КПА and trial-stage evidence evaluation rules (such as Article 178 КПА). The law must explicitly grant full, uncompromised evidentiary weight to the initial, video-recorded forensic interview. This must serve as the primary,

standalone source of child evidence at trial, rendering sub-sequent in-person oral testimonies or cross-examinations fundamentally unnecessary unless specific, newly surfaced factual elements are established.

- Codification of Trauma-Informed Assessment Metrics (Articles 177 & 178 ΚΠΔ): Formally integrate the evidentiary evaluation criteria from the CHILD Handbook into the statutory guidelines used by judges and prosecutors. The law must explicitly instruct judicial officers not to misinterpret fragmented, nonlinear, non-chronological, or structurally changing narratives as a deficit in credibility. Instead, these patterns must be legally recognized as neurobiological and psychological markers of severe trauma.
- Amend procedural rules to limit the timing of the procedures and set priorities.
 - Set maximum period of time for investigation phase in cases involving child victims.
 - Require prosecutors to classify such cases as urgent.

1.1.2. Lawyers & Legal Aid

- Automatic and Ex-officio Legal Representation: Amend Law 3226/2004 to remove all family income criteria and application barriers for minors. The state must automatically appoint an independent legal aid defense counsel to a child victim immediately upon initial contact with authorities, securing independent advocacy even if family members are the alleged perpetrators.

Establish mandatory specialization training via Bar Associations. Lawyers appointed for children should be appropriately trained and accredited (see above) in child-friendly justice, child psychology, and trauma-informed practices. Training should ensure quality legal representation, so lawyers can communicate with children in an age-appropriate way, advise the court on the child's best interests, and prevent further psychological harm during proceedings. Use of the CHILD Training material.

1.2. Ministry of Citizen Protection

As the primary authority responsible for the detection, reporting and investigation of violence against children, the Ministry of Citizen Protection plays a critical role in ensuring that child victims are identified early, treated in a child-friendly manner and protected from secondary victimisation

throughout police procedures. Beyond strengthening institutional structures and information systems, priority should be given to establishing uniform operational standards, specialised competencies and accountability mechanisms across all police services dealing with children.

- Adopt and implement binding operational protocols for police officers handling cases of violence against children, incorporating trauma-informed, child-centred and rights-based approaches and drawing on the standards and practical tools developed through the CHILD Handbook.
- Establish mandatory accreditation and periodic recertification (every 3 years) requirements for police officers working on cases involving child victims, witnesses or children at risk, including specialised training on child development, communication with children, trauma, forensic interviewing and child-friendly justice.
- Designate at least one accredited child protection focal point within each Police Directorate to supervise compliance with child-friendly procedures and coordinate referrals to child protection and justice services.
- Introduce mandatory supervision and quality assurance mechanisms for child protection investigations, including periodic case reviews and audits of compliance with child-friendly interviewing and referral standards.
- Ensure the systematic use of child-friendly interview rooms and recording procedures in all police investigations involving child victims, in line with the standards applied by the Houses of the Child.
- Development and management of a comprehensive and unified data base for the cases of violence against children including cases of cyber violence under a segregation protocol available to all research and operating agents to the field.
- Development of a case management platform available to all front-line services (health care units, social services, judicial entities - first instance court / minor prosecutors office).

1.2.1. Police (Hellenic Police – EL.AS.)

- “First Contact Protocol”:
 - establishment of an internal rule (circular/ standard procedure) that immediately refers any case involving a child at risk to the Prosecutor for Minors under Article

1532 Civil Code Greece (the law already exists, but in practice there are gaps in consistency and timing),

- Prohibition of informal statement-taking before trained professional arrive (no ad-hoc questioning of a child without trained adult interviewer present, in order to avoid re-traumatization and re-victimization of the child)

Evidentiary Exclusion of Unprofessional Questioning: Enact a strict exclusionary rule of evidence prohibiting all forms of ad-hoc, informal, or undocumented statement-taking by responding patrol officers. To eliminate secondary victimization and prevent memory contamination, any pre-interview notes or statements obtained from a child outside the presence of a certified professional and without utilizing the CHILD Handbook protocols must be deemed strictly inadmissible as evidence in court. Expand child protection Units within Police's Domestic Violence Units & ensure at least one trained child interviewer per Unit. This means that at least each regional police directorate should have at least one officer certified specially trained in child-sensitive interviewing, child protection practices and recognising trauma and communication needs of minors –to guarantee equal access to child-friendly justice regardless of geography.

1.3. Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family

As the lead authority responsible for child protection policy and the coordination of support services for children and families, the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family should strengthen the continuity, quality and accessibility of protection services for child victims of violence. Particular emphasis should be placed on multidisciplinary coordination, quality assurance, monitoring and the integration of child-friendly justice principles within child protection interventions.

- Establish a national child protection coordination mechanism responsible for overseeing referrals, case management and cooperation among social services, justice institutions, law enforcement authorities, health services and educational institutions.
- Develop and adopt national quality standards for child protection services, including standards on case management, risk assessment, child participation, multidisciplinary cooperation and service provision for child victims of violence.

- Introduce mandatory accreditation and periodic recertification requirements for social workers, psychologists, guardians and other professionals providing child protection services, including training on trauma-informed care, child-friendly justice and children's rights.
- Establish a national quality assurance and accreditation framework for non-governmental organisations providing specialised services to child victims of violence, including periodic monitoring and evaluation of compliance with safeguarding and service quality standards.
- Ensure the full operationalization, staffing and sustainable funding of the Houses of the Child in all 13 Regions, including the provision of specialised psychosocial support, family support services and long-term follow-up interventions.
- Develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for child protection services with measurable indicators, annual reporting obligations and periodic independent evaluations assessing accessibility, quality and outcomes for children.
- Institutionalize mechanisms for child participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of child protection policies and services, ensuring that the views of children are systematically incorporated into policy development and service improvement.
- Develop national guidelines on interagency case management and information sharing, ensuring that all child protection actors operate under common procedures and coordinated referral pathways.

1.3.1. KETHI

- Establish formal cooperation protocols between KETHI, child protection authorities, accredited child protection organisations, women's organisations and specialised victim support services to ensure coordinated responses in cases involving violence against children. The protocols should define referral pathways, information-sharing procedures, case coordination mechanisms and safeguards for confidentiality and data protection.
- Create multidisciplinary local and regional coordination mechanisms involving KETHI, child protection services, Houses of the Child, women's organisations, shelters, social welfare services and relevant public authorities to facilitate joint case management and ensure continuity of support for child victims and non-offending caregivers.
- Develop integrated support pathways for cases where children are exposed to domestic violence or gender-based violence against their mothers or caregivers, ensuring that child

protection interventions and support services for women are planned and delivered in a coordinated manner.

- Institutionalise the participation of accredited child protection and women's organisations in policy development, monitoring and evaluation processes related to child protection, violence against children and child-friendly justice, including through regular consultation mechanisms coordinated by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family and KETHI.

1.4. Inter-Ministerial Coordination (Justice, Interior, health, Social Affairs)

- Adopt implement and monitor of the operation of the Joint Ministerial Decision (KYA) establishing a ***National Coordination Mechanism for Child-Friendly Justice including the novel provisions of the second level adoption of the 1385/2024 EU Directive*** of shared responsibility to Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Citizen Protection, and Ministry of Social Cohesion & Family. The process should be centrally coordinated by the General Coordination Secretariat an independent executive public service, subordinate to the **Presidency of the Government**, with the mission of **coordinating and coordinating** actions for the implementation of government work. The mechanism should operationally link judicial procedures with the child protection system established under Law 4837/2021, ensuring integrated case management and prevention of procedural duplication.
 - In alignment with Law 4622/2019 on the Executive State, the proposed KYA must establish an Inter-Ministerial Secretariat to bridge the operational gap between the

justice system and the decentralized child protection agencies mandated by Law 4837/2021, creating a unified, GDPR-compliant digital case-management database.

- Issue a **Presidential Decree (ΠΔ)** establishing a binding procedural framework for inter-agency cooperation in all cases involving child victims of violence. The Decree shall operationalise existing obligations under Law 4478/2017 (Directive 2012/29/EU – Victims’ Rights Directive), Law 3500/2006 on domestic violence, and Law 4531/2018 ratifying the Istanbul Convention, ensuring the consistent application of child-friendly justice safeguards across all competent authorities.
 - The Presidential Decree shall define mandatory coordination rules, sequencing of responsibilities, and minimum procedural guarantees across the Hellenic Police (EL.AS.), Prosecutors for Minors, judicial authorities, social welfare services, health and psychosocial services, and the Houses of the Child. It shall operationalise the CHILD Handbook “Victim Journey” as the reference model for inter-agency case flow, ensuring predictable, child-centred and trauma-informed procedures at each stage of intervention.
 - The Decree shall regulate mandatory referral pathways, timeframes for inter-agency action, and minimum standards for child participation, information provision, and protection from secondary victimisation, ensuring uniform implementation across the territory.
- Mandate of **Regional Child Protection & Justice Councils**: Establish specialized Councils within all 13 Peripheries of Greece to act as the local enforcement branches of the National Coordination Mechanism. These Councils will hold the explicit mandate to monitor the implementation of child-friendly policies, ensure consistent inter-agency file-sharing, and execute data-driven mapping to identify and eliminate urban-versus-rural infrastructure disparities. Task Regional Councils with ring-fencing European Structural and Investment Funds (ΕΣΠΑ) specifically to build and maintain certified, child-friendly temporary interview environments in remote, island, or rural jurisdictions. In regions marked by severe geographical fragmentation, the Regional Councils will manage the rapid mobilization and logistical deployment of Mobile Child-Friendly Forensic Units to ensure uniform protection standards regardless of the child's location.

2. Capacity Building & Inter-Disciplinary Training Frameworks

2.1. Institutionalization of the CHILD Training Curricula

- **Mandatory Academy Integration:** Establish the permanent and compulsory integration of CHILD Training modules and the CHILD Handbook for Professionals into the core curricula of national training institutions responsible for justice, law enforcement, and child protection. This shall include the National School of Judges (ΕΣΔΙ), the Hellenic Police Academy, and the official training programmes for public social workers and relevant forensic and health professionals involved in cases of violence against children.
- **Joint Multi-Agency Seminars:** Establish a statutory requirement for bi-annual, cross-sectoral training operations managed by the National Coordination Mechanism. Prosecutors, frontline police officers, municipal social workers, and child advocates must undergo unified simulation training based on the "Victims Journey" mapping tool to ensure synchronized institutional behavior during active crises.

2.2. National Certification and Specialized Registries

- **Child-Friendly Justice Certification Framework:** Establish a national certification framework for professionals handling cases involving child victims or witnesses, based on completion of accredited [CHILD curriculum training](#). Certification shall constitute a formal qualification standard for assignment to specialised child-related casework within justice, law enforcement, and social protection services, without prejudice to the constitutional and institutional status of judicial and legal professions.
- **Continuous Professional Development:** Introduce mandatory continuous professional development requirements for professionals engaged in child protection and child justice systems, linked to periodic renewal of specialised certification. Training shall include updated methodologies on trauma-informed practice, cyber-violence, forensic interviewing, and child communication standards, ensuring alignment with evolving international best practices.
- **Specialised Professional Registries:** Develop and maintain national registries of professionals certified in child-friendly justice practices, including specialised units within law enforcement,

justice, and social protection systems, to support effective allocation of complex child-related cases to appropriately trained personnel.

2.3. Core Trauma-Informed Competencies

- **Trauma-informed Practice Framework:** All training frameworks must prioritize the scientific understanding of how severe trauma affects child development, memory retention, and communication capabilities. Professionals must be rigorously trained to recognize that fragmented, non-chronological, or structurally shifting narratives are natural neurobiological coping responses rather than indicators of a lack of credibility.
- **Standardization of Forensic Interviewing Practices:** Promote the use of evidence-based forensic interviewing protocols, including internationally recognised models such as NICHHD, in combination with the CHILD Handbook operational standards. National training frameworks shall ensure harmonised application of child-sensitive interviewing methodologies across police, judicial, and child protection services, with the objective of reducing repeated interviewing and secondary victimisation.
- **Unified Training Standards Across Systems:** Ensure that all professionals involved in child victim cases operate under a common set of training standards and competencies, promoting consistency in practice, inter-agency coordination, and procedural safeguards across the justice and protection system.

CHILD Policy Recommendations - Greece.

Policy and Legislative Reform

- Expand legal protections to ensure all child victims of violence benefit from child-friendly justice safeguards, regardless of the type of offence.
- Codify the “single forensic interview” principle and strengthen the use of video-recorded testimony to prevent repeated questioning and re-traumatisation.
- Introduce clear procedural safeguards, timelines, and priority handling for cases involving child victims.

Strengthening Child-Friendly Justice Infrastructure

- Fully operationalise and sustainably fund Houses of the Child across all 13 regions of Greece.
- Develop certified child-friendly interview environments and mobile multidisciplinary forensic units to ensure equal access for children in remote, island and rural areas.
- Guarantee that all child interviews are conducted in safe, specialised environments by trained professionals.

Enhanced Interagency Coordination

- Establish a National Coordination Mechanism for Child-Friendly Justice linking justice, police, social services, health and education sectors.
- Create Regional Child Protection and Justice Councils to oversee local implementation and address service gaps.
- Introduce unified referral pathways, case-management procedures and information-sharing protocols across all agencies.

Professional Training and Accreditation

- Institutionalise the CHILD training curricula within judicial, police, social work and related professional training systems.
- Establish mandatory accreditation, recertification and continuous professional development requirements for all professionals working with child victims.
- Create national specialist registries to ensure that child-related cases are handled by appropriately trained personnel.

Trauma-Informed Practice

- Promote consistent application of trauma-informed and child-centred approaches across all services.
- Strengthen professional understanding of the impact of trauma on children's memory, communication and behaviour.
- Standardise evidence-based forensic interviewing methodologies to improve the quality of evidence while protecting children from further harm.

Data, Monitoring and Accountability

- Establish a unified national data collection system on violence against children.
- Introduce measurable indicators, regular reporting and independent evaluation mechanisms.
- Ensure child participation in policy development, monitoring and evaluation processes.

Expected Impact

- Reduced secondary victimisation and re-traumatisation of child victims.
- Faster, more coordinated and more effective responses to violence against children.
- Improved access to justice, protection and support services nationwide.
- Stronger institutional accountability and evidence-based policymaking.
- A fully integrated child-friendly justice system aligned with European and international child rights standards.