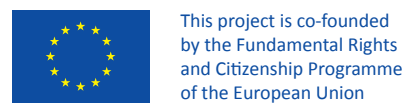


In accordance with the main international and European standards on children's rights and with the Child Friendly Justice Guidelines of the Council of Europe, children should have access to an adequate treatment in justice. Listening to children, hearing their views and recommendations, understanding their aspirations and concerns and taking them into account for decision making processes is key for policy and practice to become more appropriate and effective. It is also a human rights imperative under article 12 (the right of the child to express his opinions and to be heard) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and a prerequisite for achieving compliance with international standards. International and European bodies have repeatedly encouraged States to adapt their legal systems to the specific needs of children. However national juvenile justice systems do not take into consideration on a permanent basis, which often leads to and adapting the system to them.

Background



TWELVE
Children's right to participation and the juvenile justice systems



This project is co-funded by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union

The TWELVE initiative will last 18 months and will involve the following partners: Defence for Children International Italy, Defense des Enfants International Belgium, Defensa de Niños y Niñas International Spain, ARSIS Greece, University of Tartu Estonia and Pulse Foundation Bulgaria. TWELVE's general objective is to improve the respect of children's rights and real needs in practice in the juvenile justice system by developing and implementing a multidisciplinary training program for professionals specifically regarding the optimal participation and listening of children. This initiative therefore was conceived in response to the difficulties, and sometimes the absence of child participation within the juvenile justice systems. This purpose will be achieved through the development of a multidisciplinary training process aimed at strengthening and harmonising the skills and capacities of professionals in addressing children's rights and specific needs through the notion of participation as a key element for an appropriate, efficient and inclusive action. The project will focus on the context of penal proceedings.

Coordinator:



Partners:



To achieve its objectives the TWELVE project is structured around three interlinked pillars:

Analytical activities
to properly assess the real needs both of children in conflict with the law and professionals working with them in 3 European countries (Italy, Belgium and Spain).

Training activities
to develop and replicate a multidisciplinary training program aimed at improving the understanding of the CRC and informing professionals about how to implement its provisions in their daily practice in the 6 partners' countries.

Dissemination activities
to ensure a EU wide dimension as well as to share information and exchange ideas among professionals and officials involved in the juvenile justice system within Europe

Defence for Children International Italy is part of the worldwide movement of DCI, an international human rights organization that has been promoting and protecting children's rights for 30 years.

Contact details:
Defence for Children international Italia
Genova - Roma

Phone:
+39 010 0899050
Fax:
+39 010 0899051

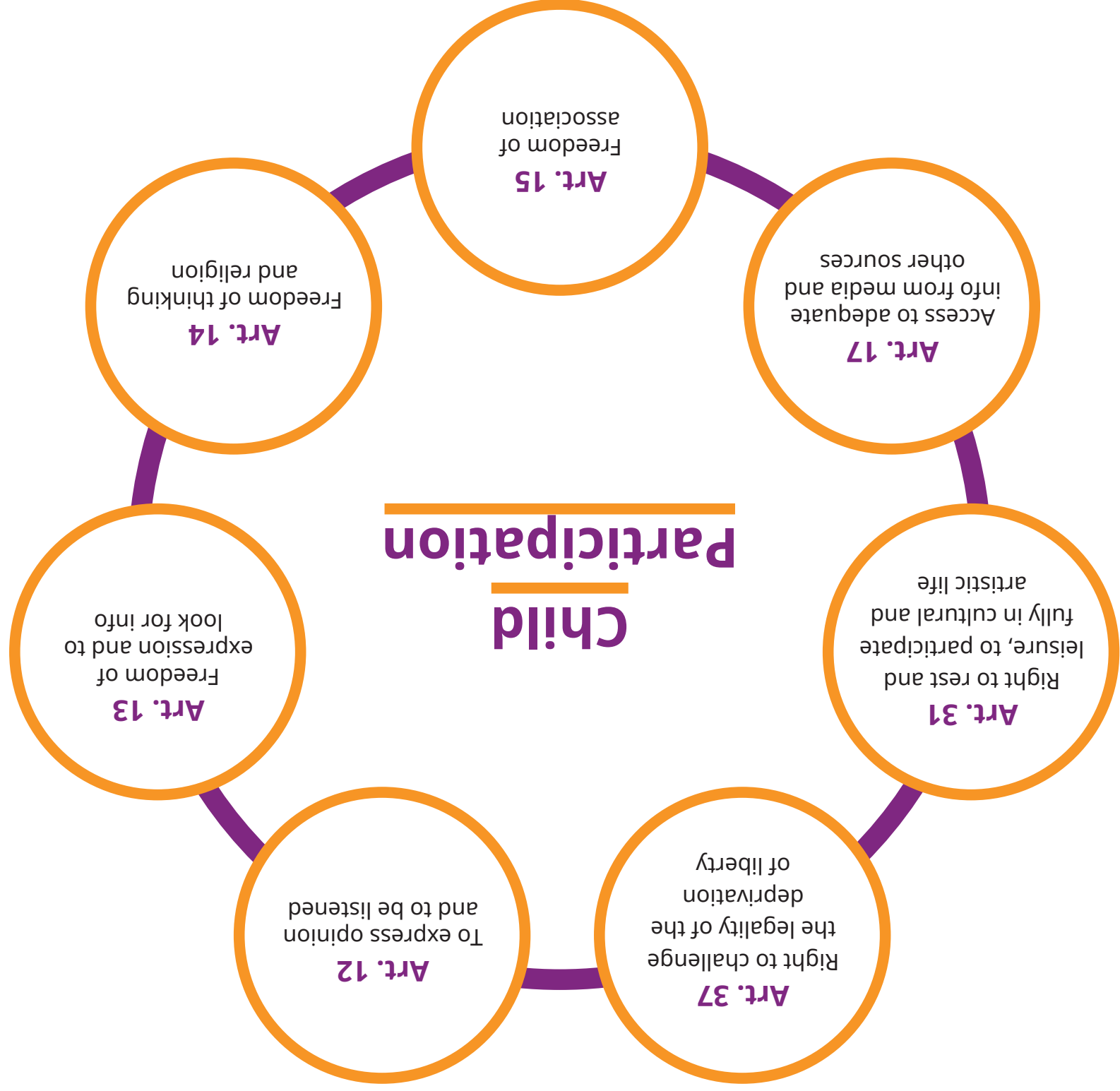
E-mail:
info@defenceforchildren.it

Website:
www.defenceforchildren.it



TWELVE

Children's right to participation and the juvenile justice systems



Relevant articles of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child to understand participation