

**Regional Conference on Children's Access to
Justice
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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**Recent developments in the field of access to
justice and improvement of the rights of
children as victims and witnesses of crime in
Serbia**

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Strategic framework



- ❑ Enhancing the status of victims and witnesses of crime in the criminal justice system of the Republic of Serbia in line with EU standards set out in the Directive 2019/29/EU.

- ❑ Key aims:
 - ✓ Setting up a National Network of Support Services
 - ✓ Strengthening protection of victims and witnesses
 - ✓ Raising awareness of victims' and witnesses' rights

Children as a particularly vulnerable group

- ❑ The Directive – particular attention on child victims (Art. 24) and access to:
 - ✓ possibility of audio-visual recording of interviews with the child and admissibility of such recording as evidence,
 - ✓ appointing a temporary representative for the child,
 - ✓ appointing an attorney to ensure that the child can exercise their right to legal advice and representation.

- ❑ Strategic measures to address identified challenges:
 - ✓ address inconsistencies in the implementation of the legislative framework in the case law;
 - ✓ amendments to the normative framework;
 - ✓ continuous monitoring of practical implementation of measures.



Access to justice



- ❑ Law on Free Legal Aid enables the exercise of the right to free legal aid regardless of the financial situation of a child
- ❑ Beneficiary can be : *“a child whose right, obligation or interest grounded in law is to be decided in the proceedings conducted before the court, a state authority or a public authority”*.

Rights of the child - Special focus in Chapter 23

- ❑ Action Plan for Ch23 – special section dedicated to improvement of rights of the child
- ❑ Measures focus on juvenile justice, protection of children in the social care system and deinstitutionalization
- ❑ Special attention paid to impact indicators, developed in cooperation with UNICEF Serbia



Modelling



- Four Child Victim Protection Units providing support to children V/W modelled in the four cities - transformation of residential care homes into child protection service providers
- Cross-sectoral information sessions in all basic and higher courts
- Multi-sectoral trainings for professionals
- Guidelines on protection of child victims and witnesses from secondary victimisation developed

Providing support to children



Thank you for your attention!

