PROFESSIONALS

SURVEY

on professional groups' knowledge, attitudes and practices on the underlying societal attitudes and beliefs preventing children from realizing their rights when in contact with the justice system

The project is funded by the European Union

EU with YOU

unicef
for every child

This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of INDAGO and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

SURVEY

ON PROFESSIONAL GROUPS' KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES ON THE UNDERLYING SOCIETAL ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS PREVENTING CHILDREN FROM REALIZING THEIR RIGHTS WHEN IN CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	**BACKGROUND**	**3**
1.1	Context	3
1.2	The children in the justice and social protection system	3
1.3	Survey Objectives	4
1.4	Ethical Considerations	5
2.	**KEY FINDINGS**	**6**
3.	**ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**	**9**
3.1	Knowledge	10
3.2	Attitudes	23
3.3	Practices	39
4.	**METHODOLOGY**	**48**
4.1	Demography - Sample Structure	49
4.2	Questionnaire	50

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Context

In the early 00s, North Macedonia initiated the reforms of the justice for children system. The first law that provided for a specialized justice for children system was enacted in 2007. With that begin a comprehensive reform of the system that works with children in conflict and in contact with the law.

The first law was a juvenile justice law that had a focus on protection and rights of children in conflict with the law. Later the scope of the law was expanded, and children victims and witness of crime were included. Today the Law on Justice for Children gives rights and protection to children who may come in contact with the law and justice system as victims, witnesses, and offenders or a combination of all.

The law adopts a comprehensive approach towards justice for children and includes basic principles i.e., non-discrimination, the right to be heard, the best interest of the child, foresees interventions without resorting to judicial proceedings, provides for special protection measures in the context of judicial proceedings, deprivation of liberty is a measure of last resort, and includes a monitoring mechanism to support prevention efforts. The community-based services, the after care and reintegration services are provided through the social protection system based on the laws governing that system.

The justice for children institutional framework is complex and it involves many actors. At national level, there are five key government ministries that govern justice matters, police affairs, social affairs, health, and education. They operate on local level though their offices for provision of free legal aid, detention and correction facilities, police stations, centers for social work and its specialized services such as small group homes, health centers, hospitals and schools. The judicial system is a characterized by a network of courts at primary, appellate and supreme court level. Similarly, the public prosecutor has primary, higher and state level prosecution offices, including one specialized for prosecuting organized crime and corruption. A diverse group of practitioners are employed or are working within these systems, judges, prosecutors, attorneys, mediators, court experts etc. The last institution that makes the justice for children puzzle, is the Ombudsman with its role to monitor and report on child rights. Coordinating these various systems and practitioners and establishing collaboration and partnerships among them is a complex task.

There are two coordination mechanisms established at national level, one focused on monitoring the implementation of the justice for children law – the State Council for prevention of child delinquency , and the National coordination body for prevention and protection from abuse and neglect. The two bodies have a similar composition with representatives from the government, civil society organizations, service providers, independent experts, etc. They role is to monitor and report on the situation with the specific child rights within their mandate, and to advocate for improvement of that situation. Both bodies have developed a set of indicators, on justice for children and prevention and protection of children from violence. The indicators help them collect data and information from different institutions, and consequently report and advocate.

1.2 The children in the justice and social protection system

Boys represent most of the children who are in conflict with the law, are victims and/or witnesses of crime or are children-at-risk.

This section presents the situation with children in conflict and contact with the law and services that they are provided during different proceedings. Data presented comes from the Annual Report 2020 prepared by the State Council for Prevention of Child Delinquency.[1]

Minimum age of criminal responsibility

In North Macedonia, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14 years. All children who commit a crime and are below the age of 14, are considered children-at-risk. In North Macedonia, there is a growing number of children-at-risk who have committed a crime. This is concerning since the system offers support to children who are criminally responsible and have committed a crime, or for children who are at risk, but have never committed a crime. However, there are no specific services for children who have committed a crime and are below the age of criminal responsibility.

Child friendly justice

The law foresees different measures to support a child friendly justice system with aim to minimize the challenges that children face at each step of the proceeding. For example, it gives access to legal counsel, provides opportunity to conduct the interview in a child friendly room, it prescribes special protection measures such as using video and audio recording from the testimony of a child victims as a prove in the court procedure etc.

[1] http://dspdp.com.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/tuka-1.pdf

In North Macedonia, children have a right to an attorney and free legal aid at different stages of the procedure i.e., before the police, public prosecutors, judges, mediators etc.

There is an increase in the number of cases, where children who were called in a police station, had an attorney. In 2018, 36 per cent of the children had counsel, compared to 2019 when 52 per cent of children had counsel. The access to counsel is not equally available, and there are big discrepancies between cities. For example, in Skopje, 94 per cent of children who were in a police station had access to an attorney, compared to only 5 per cent in Shtip. The reasons for lack of access to counsel are attributed to the absence of an updated list of trained lawyers for children, and in part due to the lack of mechanisms for timely compensation the costs for the lawyer. In 2019, the Centers for Social work ensured access to an attorney for 20 children, majority of them or 17 were in Tetovo. Seven children had also access to free legal aid, most of them were in Radovish.

There are eight child friendly interview rooms in the country. The rooms are not fully utilized and only seven per cent of the children who were summoned in a police station, had the interview in a child friendly space. Majority of those cases were in Strumica.

Measures and Sanctions

Professionals in the justice for children system predominantly use the educational measures. Majority of children received a reprimand or an intensified supervision by parent/guardian or Center for Social Work. The intensified supervision by a foster family was given only to one child. The institutional measures were used in four cases. Detention as a last resort is one of the principles of the law that is respected. There were few cases when children were deprived of liberty, during arrest, in pre-trial detention or as a prison sentence.

Restorative justice

The restorative model of justice was introduced fourteen years ago, and investment was done in sensitizing the professionals, building their knowledge, and helping them understand and apply the new restorative model. Despite these investments, the courts and public prosecutors who are mandated to use diversion, mediation or alternative measures are not fully using the opportunity given to them by the law.

In 2019, only four children, received alternative measures. They were all boys and all in Skopje. Out of the three available alternative measures, only one was applied, a conditional sentence with protective supervision. The other two, the conditional termination of the procedure and the community work were not applied in any case.

In 2019, the public prosecutors applied diversion measures in 52 cases involving children. Majority of them, or 47 were boys, and 5 were girls. The public prosecutor's office in Skopje, Struga and Veles applied all diversion measures.

When it comes to mediation, the professionals in Tetovo are the forerunners. In 2019, a total of fifteen children were sent to mediation, fourteen were in Tetovo and one in Skopje. The mediation was successful in seven or in 46 per cent of the cases. For misdemeanors, the mediation was successfully completed in 17 per cent of the cases of children who committed a misdemeanor. The most mediation cases were in Tetovo and Bitola. Mediation for children-at-risk, done at the level of the Center for Social Work, was conducted for 34 children or for 2 per cent of the total number of children at risk. It was done mostly in Skopje, and it was successful in 91 per cent of the cases.

1.3 Survey Objectives

The purpose of the survey is to explore the underlying societal attitudes and beliefs among professionals in the justice for children, preventing children from realizing their rights when in contact with the justice system. More specifically, the survey explored aspects related to knowledge, attitudes, personal normative beliefs, factual beliefs and empirical and normative expectations i.e. extent to which social norms influence attitudes and practices towards children in contact with the law.

The data generated through the survey is expected to have a twofold use:

- It will generate insights that will inform and guide interventions to strengthen the professionals of the justice system to adhere to national and international standards for the treatment and protection of children's rights, as well as interventions targeting the access to services, facilities and information in the justice system;
- It will be a key ingredient in producing and implementing a multimedia communication campaign to address the underlying societal barriers and beliefs that prevent children from realizing their rights when in contact with the justice system.

1.4 Ethical Considerations

The research was conducted in compliance with UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis. In addition, ethical standards for research involving children, reflected in the following principles, were also adhered to.

- № conflict of interest was expected and identified as a part of the research.
- As per the ToR, the research covered specific groups of professionals –prosecutors, judges, police force and social workers.
- Informed consent –all participants will be informed about the research, objective and their part in the process. It will be clearly stated that their participation will cause no harm, but also no immediate benefit for them. They will be asked to express verbal consent to participate in the research and will be explained that they can withdraw from the process at any time.
- Confidentiality and anonymity –all participants in the research will be informed that their privacy will be protected, that data collected in the research will be published in aggregated form only, and that identity of children and adults will not be disclosed under any circumstances.
- Data collection will be carried out using CAPI methodology. Collected data will be securely stored in Indago servers. After the analysis has been done, the data will be transferred to UNICEF for future storing.
- № payment or compensation was used in the research.

2. KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of the survey on what is known, believed, and done in relation to justice for children by professional groups, including social workers, police officers, judges, public prosecutors, and lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children, are summarized based on the following aspects: knowledge, attitudes, and practices.

Knowledge

In general, on a spontaneous basis, half of the surveyed professional groups do not know or refuse to define (43%) the **best interest of the child**, while others primarily defined it as protection of the rights and interests of children (24%), as well as legal protection (13%). Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (63%) agree that the best interest of a child is defined in the national legislation, compared to 25% of the professionals who believe the opposite. Moreover, a wide range of terms is used for describing a person under the age of 18 who comes in conflict with the law, among which the most often used terms are child, minor child, juvenile delinquent, and child in conflict with the law. It is worth noting that a notable share of professionals, 16%, do not know or refuse to answer which terminology they use to describe a person under the age of 18 who comes in conflict with the law.

According to the majority of the professionals, the main factors that are likely to determine whether a child is at risk of coming into contact with the law are the following: sexual abuse (72%), a family member who is addicted to alcohol or another substance (71%) and physical abuse (70%). Professionals working in Centres for social work are more likely to be aware of the factors that can likely be determined whether the child is at risk of coming into conflict with the law compared to pPolice officers and lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children.

The general knowledge of the **national child protection legislation and the fundamental rights and principles of child-friendly justice** among professionals is high. However, more education and knowledge would be helpful to all professionals to improve their work with children in contact with the Law. More specifically, according to the majority of the respondents, the laws that protect and regulate the rights of children in contact with the law are the Law on justice for children (81%) and the Law on Social Protection (51%). Concerning fundamental rights, although the knowledge is high, it is worth noting that the professional groups are less familiar with the right to restorative justice measures, i.e.,17% of the professionals consider that the right to restorative justice measures is not a fundamental principle of child-friendly justice, while 15% do not know or refuse to answer. The same goes for the presumption of innocence (13% answer that is not a fundamental right, and 10% do not know), right to have their privacy protected (10% stated no, and 7% do not know), and the right to legal counsel (10% believe is not a fundamental right, while 8% do not know).

When it comes to **measures and sanctions** that can be given to a child, based on their professional knowledge, on a spontaneous basis, most of the respondents (70%) are familiar with increased supervision: by the parent/s or the guardian/s; the foster family, or by the centre for social work as an educational measure available according to national legislation. Other well-known **educational measures** are Reprimand – 57%; Referral to a correctional-educational institution – 59%; and Referral to a Centre for children - 50%. Regarding knowledge of the availability of **restorative justice measures** according to the legislation in the country, approximately the same percentage know one of the diversion measures (Mediation – 42%) and one of the alternative measures (Probation with protective supervision - 41%). Further, compulsory psychiatric treatment inside a health facility and compulsory treatment of children to treat addictions are **safety measures** available according to the legislation in the country and known by slightly more than half of the respondents, 58% and 55% respectively. As for **sanctions**, the professionals are aware of Imprisonment for children (59%), Fine (46%), and Disqualification from driving a motor vehicle from a specific type or category (38%).

Nevertheless, it is worth noting the percentage of professionals unfamiliar with the measures and sanctions - 19% do not know any of the restorative justice measures, 9% - safety measures, and 12% do not know any of the available sanctions according to the legislation in the country. Lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children are more familiar with safety and restorative justice measures as well as sanctions available in national legislation compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work and Police officers.

Attitudes

Professionals' attitudes were evaluated through their agreement or disagreement with statements related that can be grouped into several categories, including:1) how professionals perceive children in conflict with the law, 2) attitudes towards rehabilitation and restorative justice vs. punishment, 3) attitudes towards the protection of children victims and witnesses of crime, 4) stereotypical attitudes, 5) attitudes towards trauma and provision of the support, 6) attitudes towards children rights, 7) behavioural attitude of professionals towards children in conflict with the law 8) attitudes towards the importance of cooperation between

the institutions in the system of justice for children, 9) attitudes towards the ethnicity of a child and crime and 10) attitudes towards the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law.

The summary results for each of them are presented bellow:

- Data shows that more than half of the **professionals perceive children in conflict with the law** as children that need affection and praise just like any other child (57%) and are like any other children (55%). A majority (70%) of professionals disagree that children in conflict with the law will never change and, two-thirds (66%) disagree that children in conflict with the law are essentially bad.

- 70% of the professionals have positive attitudes towards **rehabilitation and restoration** statements like when a child does something wrong, they should come up with a solution on how to repair or compensate for the damage or suffering they caused and 67% agree that most children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated. As for the punishment, 41% of professionals agree that strict discipline can be helpful to children in conflict with the law. However, professionals' attitude is generally divided to those who agree (30%) that children with serious behaviour problems must be punished to learn and to those who disagree with this statement (36%) while 39% of the professionals are neutral. Children need to be punished to learn right from wrong is one more statement where the professionals' attitude is generally divided - 36% agree that children need to be punished to learn right from wrong while 35% disagree. Furthermore, the vast majority – 84% of the surveyed respondents agree that it is possible to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society, compared to 8% of the professionals who believe in the opposite. According to the respondents, the services that would help the most to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society are counselling/ psycho-social support for children and/or parents (75%), and vocational training (60%), and school attendance/ school support (59%).

- The majority of respondents (74%) share the opinion that a **child victim** should be compensated for the violation he/she suffered, 51% agree that video recording of a victim's statement should be always used and 65% agree that child victim should be protected from additional harm during the procedure. More than half (56%) of the surveyed professionals disagree that it is more useful to rely on the parents'/guardians' testimony instead of the children.

- 57% of the professionals share the opinion that there is no such thing as a problematic child, just children who need help working through their problems. 20% of them are of the opposite opinion.

- Justice systems must help children overcome **fear and trauma**, according to responses of 83% of professionals. 71% agree that their job is to help child offenders as professionals, 7% disagree, and 16% are neutral. Furthermore, the professionals believe that children in conflict with the law have experienced severe trauma (53%) and that the majority of children (over 60 percent) will experience some form of trauma in their childhood (41%).

- A large majority (90%) agree that it is important to use a language in which the child can communicate, protect children's privacy (88%), consult the child on decisions that have an impact on his/her life (86%), informing the child about his/her rights – 84% and providing legal counsel to the child - 82%.

- 61% of the professionals agree that they would not mind if their child worked on a school project with a child in conflict with the law, and 53% agree that they would not mind if a child in conflict with the law lives next door. Still, close to a quarter of professionals are neutral about the same situations.

- Most professionals (88%) consider **protection and assistance of the child and family** as well as reporting to be important phases in the cooperation between institutions in the system of justice for children. Also, the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law are knowledge of the legal framework pertaining to justice for children; personal experience gained in working with children in contact with the law and keeping up to date with new knowledge on working with children in contact with the law.

- Close to 40% of the respondents believe that children from specific **ethnic communities** are more inclined to commit crimes than others, while 53% do not share this attitude. Furthermore, of those who do think that children from some ethnic communities are more inclined in committing a crime, 66% of the professionals believe that Roma children are more inclined to commit crimes than others, followed by Albanians (9%). According to these respondents, the main reason why children from certain ethnic communities are more inclined to commit crimes than others is material status /poor social situation (18%). More specifically, some of the reasons they have listed as to why Roma children are inclined to commit crimes more than others are material status /poor social situation and insufficient education.

Practices

According to the answers of the professionals that were part of this survey, two-thirds (67%) have stated that the professionals working in centres for social work are fully guided by the principle of the best interest of the child. Additionally, 36% of the professionals shared the same opinion about the police officers, while 51% of the respondents have answered that police officers are partially guided by this principle.

Based on the experience of the professionals, the majority of respondents (76%) answered that the child is always informed

about the procedure and his/her rights in the language he/she communicates in. Furthermore, more than half (60%) stated that during the first interview with a child, questions to determine the child's experience with trauma are asked; 55% of the professionals answered that when needed, the child always receives medical care while in detention/prison. The opinions on how interviews are carried out vary - More than half of the respondents (55%) said that only one interview is conducted with a child victim or witness of a crime to get all the necessary information, while 40% stated that multiple interviews are always conducted. Additionally, 45% stated that a child can file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have an impact on his/her life

In addition, 58% of the professionals consider the national legislation to allow them 'to some extent" to protect children in conflict with the law in their day-to-day practice.

Cooperation between professional groups is most common among police officers (65%), CSW professionals (61%), and Prosecutors (60%). According to the respondents, the main factors behind the good cooperation are good communication/coordination – 28%, protection of children's interests – 24%, and professionalism – 10%. On the other side, nearly one-third of the professionals never cooperate with Mediators, one fifth stated that they never cooperate with staff in correctional facilities, and 12% never cooperate with judges. Regarding reasons for lack of cooperation, respondents have listed low communication/coordination (28%), inadequate staff - 11%. Still, a significant number of professionals do not know or refuse to give a reason for good (25%) / lack (37%) of cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors.

Two thirds of the professionals have not received any **training** on how to work with children in contact with the law compared to nearly one third (30%) received such training.. Likewise, professionals (49%) adapt their approach and way of working depending on the gender of the child, while additionally 20% adapt their approach and way of working depending on the ethnicity of a child.

3. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The main target group for this survey were professional groups, including social workers, police officers, judges, public prosecutors and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children. A total of 283 interviews were completed. The data was collected during the period from 6 September – 1 November 2021. The survey instrument, i.e., questionnaire used for this survey was designed by Indago project team supported by an external expert engaged by Indago and in close cooperation with UNICEF team. It was divided in the following 4 (eight) thematic sections:

1) A Section – Demography
2) B Section – Knowledge
3) C Section – Attitudes
4) D Section – Practices

The sections from 3.1 to 3.3 consist of detailed analysis, including analysis of statistically significant differences, and graphic presentation of question-by-question results in each thematic section. Statistically significant differences were analysed by the following demographic characteristics of the respondents:

- professional group
- place of work (urban/rural)
- age
- gender
- ethnicity
- education
- years of working experience at a given position
- years of working experience with children

Table 1 includes sample size, i.e., number of interviews completed by each targeted professional group:

	Planned	Achieved
Professionals working in Centers for Social Work	36	38
Police officers	188	185
Judges	40	24
Public Prosecutors	48	6
Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children	30	30
Total	**342**	**283**

Table 1

Demographic data from A Section - Demography of this survey are included at the end of the Report in *Section 4.1. Sample Structure.*

Limitations issues with sample

Because of the high non-response rate among public prosecutors and judges the study ended up with a lesser number of interviews among these professional groups than initially planned.

3.1 Knowledge

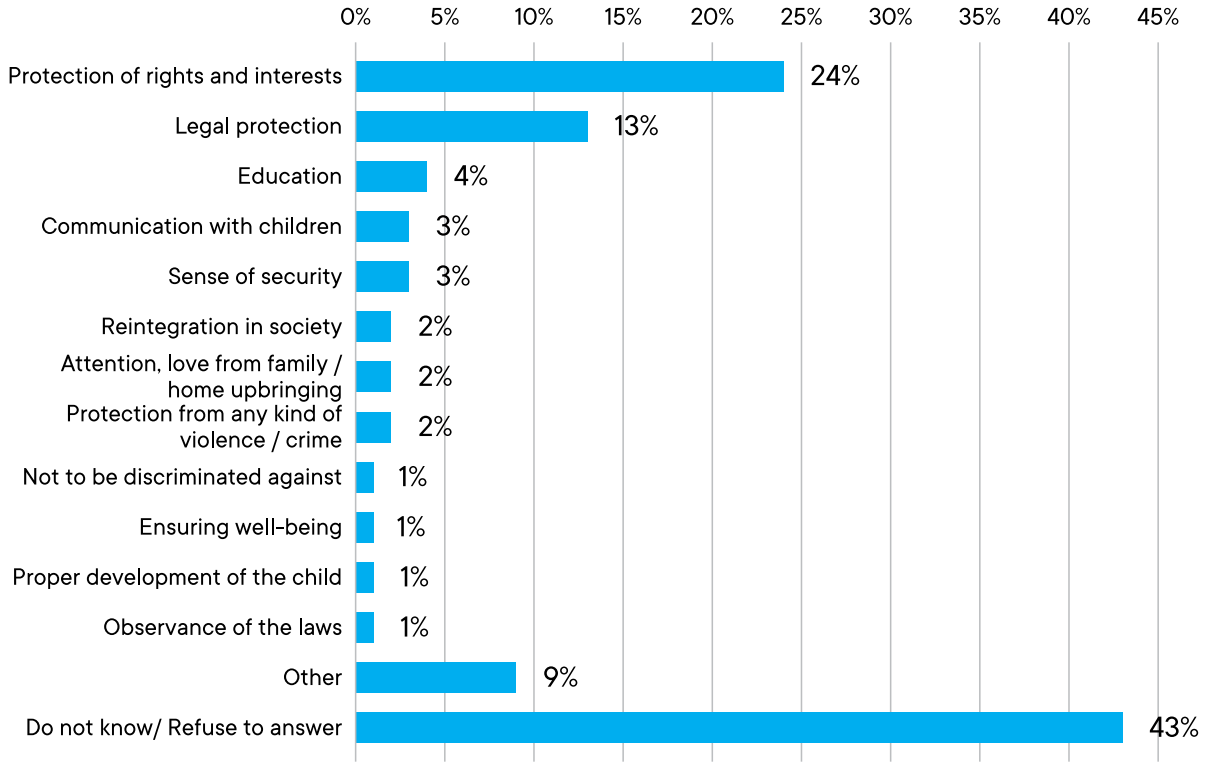
The first section of the questionnaire was designed to obtain information about how professional groups understand the best interest of a child, factors that can determine if a child is at risk to come in conflict with the law, their knowledge of the national legislation (laws that protect children, types of measures, and sanctions etc.), the availability of data and specialized training.

3.1.1. Best interest of a child - its definition and regulation by the national legislation

The survey results show a range of spontaneous, non-prompted associations of describing the best interest of a child. Additionally, the results show that 43% of the surveyed professional groups who during their work experience worked with children do not know or refuse to define the best interest of the child. The best interest of the child primarily is defined in the legal sense, i.e., the protection of the rights and interests of children, as well as legal protection (see Chart 1). For example, 23% mentioned protection of rights and interests; while 13% mentioned legal protection; 4% education, 3% communication with children, and a sense of security.

Chart 1

B01 How would you define the best interest of a child?

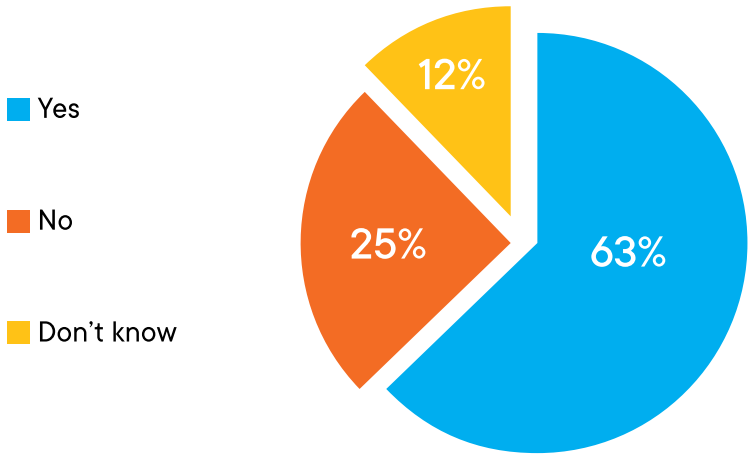


Despite the limited sample of certain professional groups (judges)* disaggregated data on "define the best interest of a child" showed a statistically significant difference in the opinion of surveyed respondents in terms of occupation. More specifically, the majority of the respondents from the pPolice officers – juvenile delinquency inspectors and police officers (62%) have said they do not know/refused to answer the question regarding the definition of the best interest of the child. In comparison, this percentage is much lower amongst theprofessionals working in the Centres for Social Work – case managers (8%), judges (4%), and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (7%).

When asked whether the best interests of the child are defined in national law, around two thirds of the respondents (63%) answered Yes, 25% - No, and 12% - Do not know whether the best interests of the child are defined in national law *(see Chart 2).*

Chart 2

B02 Is the best interest of a child defined in the national legislation?

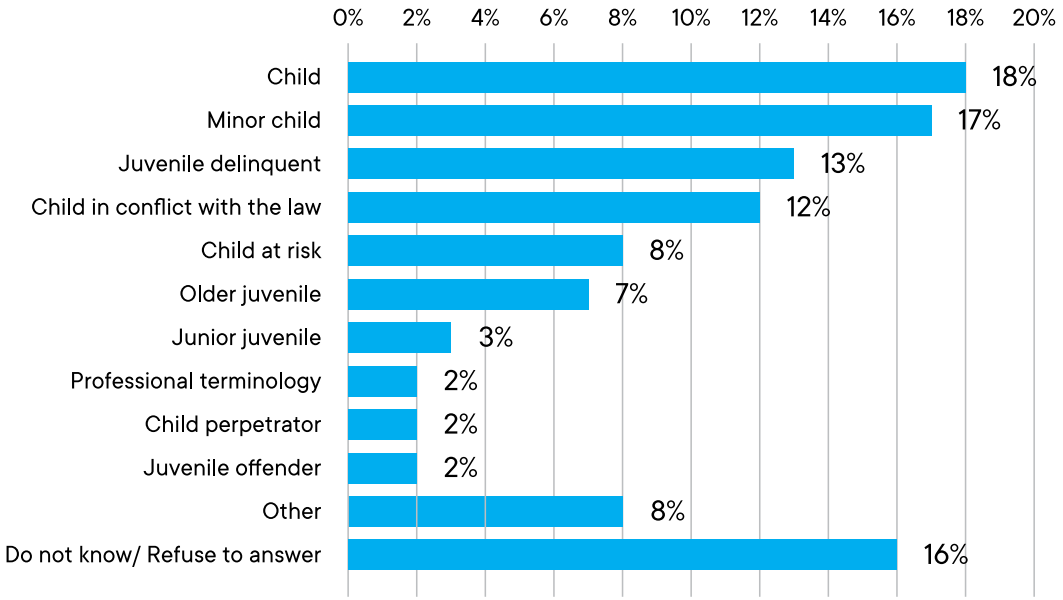


3.1.2. Knowledge of the terminology used for persons under 18 years of age who come into conflict with the law

The use of terminology is essential in terms of justice for children. That is why the respondents were asked which terminology they use for a person under the age of 18 who comes in conflict with the law and 18% responded Child, 17% Minor Child, 13% Juvenile delinquent, and 12% use the term Child in conflict with the law. An additional 16% of the professional groups that were part of this survey do not know or refuse to answer this question (see Chart 3). Analysed by professional groups, it can be noticed that the term that is most commonly used by 32% of professionals working in Centres for Social Work is a child in conflict with the law, 19% of the Police officersare using the term child and minor child while 24% of this professional group do not know or refuse to answer the question. Furthermore, 31% of the lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children most used the term minor child, while judges (small number of respondents) mostly use the term child.

Chart 3

B03. How do you describe—what terminology do you use—a person under the age of 18 who comes in conflict with the law?



3.1.3. Factors that can determine if a child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law

Recognizing factors that can help determine whether the child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law is key to early prevention. According to the respondents, the factors that could determine whether a child is at risk of coming into conflict with the law are child sexual abuse (72%), a family member who is addicted to alcohol, or another substance (71%), as well as physical abuse of a child (70%). **Similarly, about two thirds agree that witnessing a mother being abused (64%) and emotional neglect (63%) are also factors that can likely determine whether the child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law** *(see Chart 4)*. The prompted data shows that whether it is physical or emotional violence, these factors can help professionals determine whether the child is at risk of coming into conflict with the law.

If ranked by using mean values shown in the same chart *(Chart 4)*, the top three factors that can determine whether the child is at risk of coming into conflict with the law by the largest number of the respondents are:

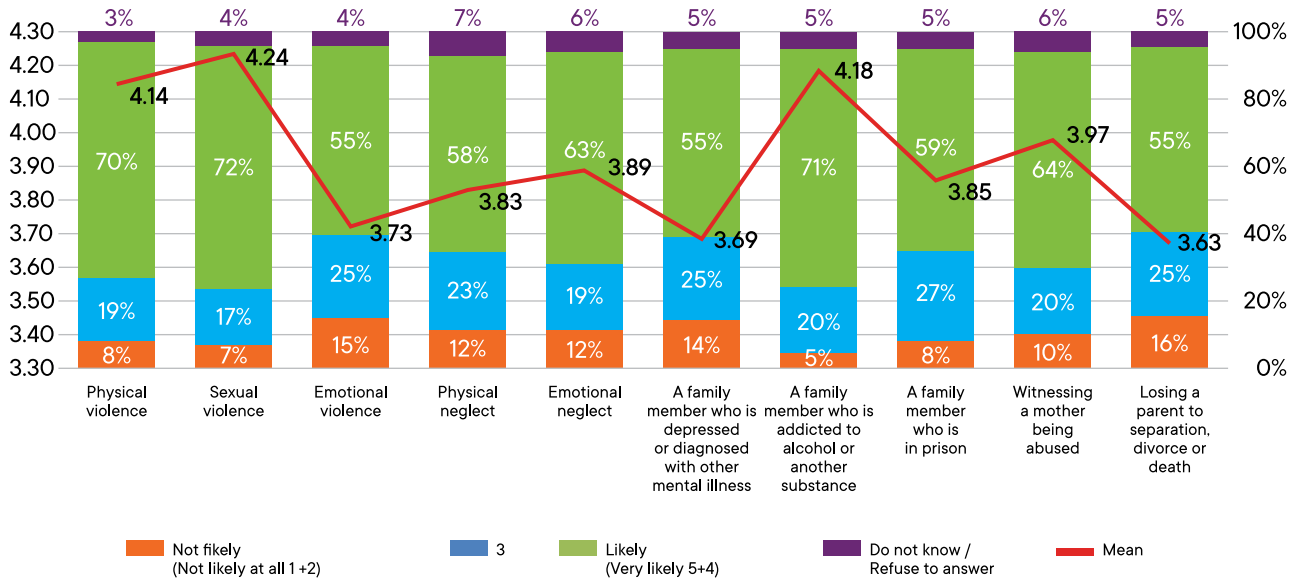
1) Sexual violence;

2) A family member who is addicted to alcohol or another substance;

3) Physical violence

Chart 4

B05. Are any of these factors likely to determine whether a child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law?



Disaggregated data for the highest-rated factors on "are any of these factors likely to determine whether a child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law" (*see Table 2*) shows the following statistically significant differences in the opinion of:

Sexual violence	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (87%) compared to Police officers (64%)
A family member who is addicted to alcohol or another substance	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (87%) compared to Police officers (66%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (67%)
Physical violence	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (84%) compared to Police officers (63%)

Table 2

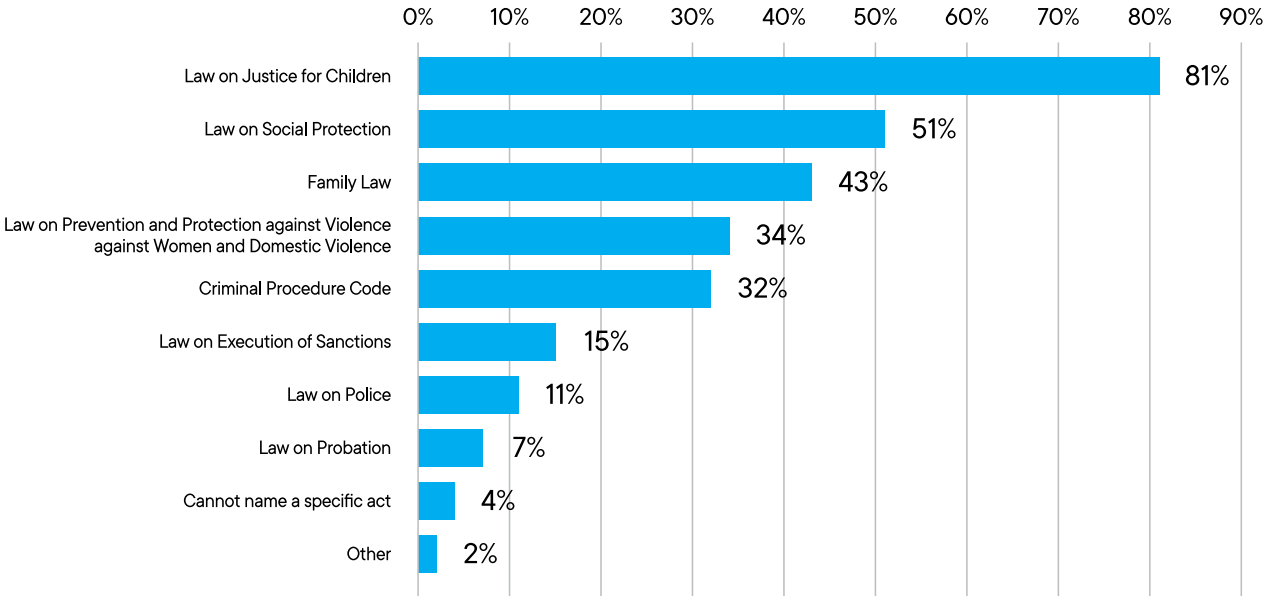
According to the table, we can conclude that from all professional groups the professionals who work in Centres for Social Work consider that sexual and physical violence, as well as a family member who is addicted to alcohol or other substance factors, are factors that can determine whether the child is in danger of coming into conflict with the law.

3.1.4. General knowledge on national child protection legislation and fundamental rights and principles of child-friendly justice

Child protection, crime prevention, law enforcement, court proceedings, and rehabilitation are issues that are key to justice for children system. Professionals must be well acquainted with the laws that protect and regulate the rights of children in contact with the law in order to achieve justice for children. Spontaneously, according to the responses of the professional groups the laws that protect and regulate the rights of children in contact with the law are the Law on justice for children (81%), Law on Social Protection (51%) followed by Family Law - 43%, Law on Prevention and Protection against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence - 34% and Criminal Procedure Code - 32%. *(see Chart 5).*

Chart 5

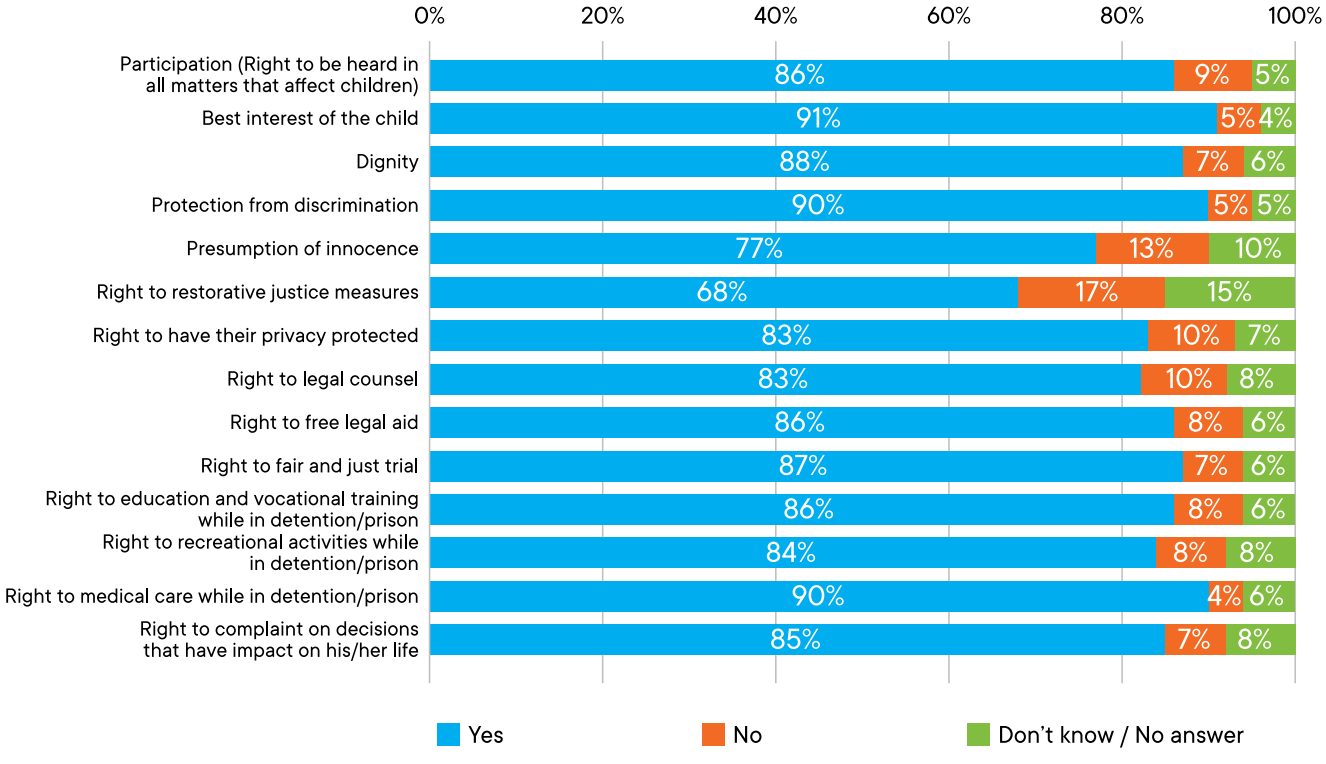
B04. Which laws protect and regulate the rights of children in contact with the law?



The data suggests a high level of knowledge on the fundamental rights of child-friendly justice *(See Chart 6)*. It is worth noting that the professional groups are less familiar with the right to restorative justice measures i.e., 63% answer positively, 17% answer negatively and 15% do not know or refuse to answer whether the right to restorative justice measures is a fundamental principle of child-friendly justice or not. In addition to restorative justice, other less familiar fundamental rights of child-friendly justice to professionals are the presumption of innocence, the right to have their privacy protected, and the right to legal counsel *(see Chart 6 for other specific mentions)*.

Chart 6

B06. Based on your knowledge and experience could you tell me which of the following are fundamental rights/ principles of child friendly justice?



Survey results note statistically significant differences related to the knowledge of the professional groups' respondents for the right to restorative justice measures i.e., police officers (23%) are more likely to consider that the right to restorative justice measures is not a fundamental right of child-friendly justice compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (8%) and lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children (3%). Additional statistically significant differences can be seen in Table 3:

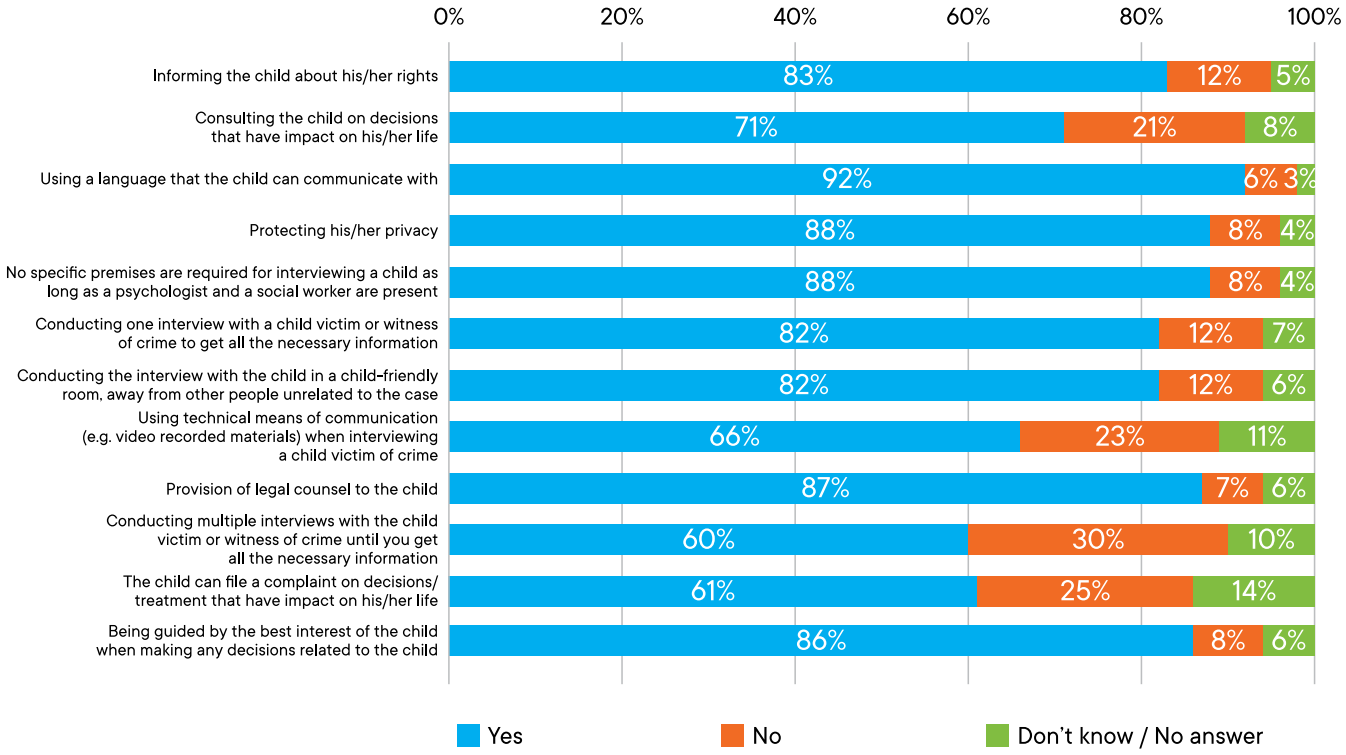
Rights	Agreeing it is a fundamental right/principle in the justice for children system
Participation (Right to be heard in all matters that affect children)	• Professionals working in Centers for Social Work (95%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (97%) compared to police officers (81%) • Professionals over 55 years old (97%) compared to professionals age 45–54 years (79%) • Professionals with postgraduate degree (90%) and university (88%) compared to professionals with high school (74%)
Presumption of innocence	• Professionals over 55 years old (94%) compared to professionals 25–34 years old (69%) and 35–44 years (77%) • Professionals with completed Post graduate degree (92%) compared to professionals with the university (77%) and igh school (68%)
Right to have their privacy protected	• Professionals with postgraduate degree (97%) compared to professionals with university (82%) and high school (76%) education • Professionals with working experience 11 or more years (87%) compared to professionals with 3–5 years' experience – 75% • Professionals who have worked with children for 11 or more years (92%) compared to professionals with 6 to 10 years of experience working with children (73%)
Right to legal counsel	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (97%) compared to police officers (75%) • Professionals over 55 years old (97%) compared to younger professionals (25–34 years –78%, and 45–54 years – 82%) • Professionals with postgraduate degree (93%) compared to high school (72%) education
Right to free legal aid	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (95%) compared to police officers (80%) • Professionals over 55 years old (97%) compared to younger professionals (25–34 years –79%, and 45–54 years – 82%)
Right to fair and just trial	• Professionals with postgraduate degree (97%) compared to professionals with university (86%) and high school (84%) education
Right to education and vocational training while in detention/prison	• Professionals aged 25–34 years (88%), 35–44 years (90%) and over 55 years old (94%) compared to 45–54 years (76%) • Professionals with 11 or more years of experience working with children (89%) compared to professionals with 6 to 10 years of experience working with children (73%)
Right to recreational activities while in detention/prison	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (97%) compared to Police officers (79%) • Professionals with post graduate degree (92%) and university (86%) compared to high school (74%) education • Professionals with 11 or more years of experience working with children (92%) compared to professionals with 6 to 10 years of experience working with children (73%)
Right to medical care while in detention/prison	• Professionals with 11 or more years of experience working with children (98%) compared to professionals with 3 to 5 years (88%) and 6 to 10 years of experience working with children (88%)
Right to complaint on decisions that have impact on his/her life	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (95%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (97%) compared to pPolice officers (79%) • Professionals with post graduate degree (92%) compared to high school (78%) education • Professionals with 11 or more years of experience working with children (94%) compared to professionals with 6 to 10 years of experience working with children (76%)

Table 3

As shown in Chart 7, there is a high percentage of positive answers in relation to aspects that are regulated in the national legislation *(see Chart 7)*. The aspects that have been most mentioned by the respondents as being regulated with the national legislation are the following: using a language that the child can communicate with (92%), protecting his/her privacy (88%) and no specific premises are required for interviewing a child as long as a psychologist and a social worker are present (88%).

Chart 7

07. Based on your knowledge, are the following aspects regulated In the national legislation?



Analysis by respondents' demographic characteristics shows a statistically significant difference related to the aspects that are regulated in the national legislation *(see Table 4)*:

Statements	Agreeing that these aspects are regulated in the national legislation
Conducting multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime until you get all the necessary information	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (74%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) compared to police officers (56%) • Professionals with working experience from 3–5 years (65%) and 11 or more years (63%) compared to professionals with less experience 6–10 years (45%)
The child can file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have impact on his/her life	• Lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children (80%) compared to Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (55%) and police officers– 54% • Professionals over 55 years old (77%) compared to professionals 25–34 years old (55%) • Professionals with completed Post graduate degree (73%) compered to professionals with completed High school (52%)
Using technical means of communication (e.g. video recorded materials) when interviewing a child victim of crime	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (83%) compared to police officers– 59% • Urban (68%) compared to Rural (11%) • Professionals aged 35 – 54 years old (35–44 years – 69%, 45–54 years –76%), compared to 25–34 years (47%) • Professionals over 55 years old (87%) compared to younger professionals (25–34 years- 47%, 35–44 years – 69%, 45–54 years –76%) • Professionals with working experience of 11 or more years (79%) compared to professionals with less experience (3–5 years –51% and 6–10years – 64%) • Professionals who have worked with children for 11 or more years (75%) compared to professionals with up to 2 years of experience working with children (58%)

Table 4

The professionals were also asked what the age of criminal responsibility is as prescribed by the national legislation: 13% of respondents gave various answers bellow the age of 14; 59% of the respondents said the age of criminal responsibility is 14years of age; 13% said it was 16years of age and 12% said that the age of criminal responsibility is 18 years of age.

3.1.5. Knowledge of measures and sanctions available in national legislation

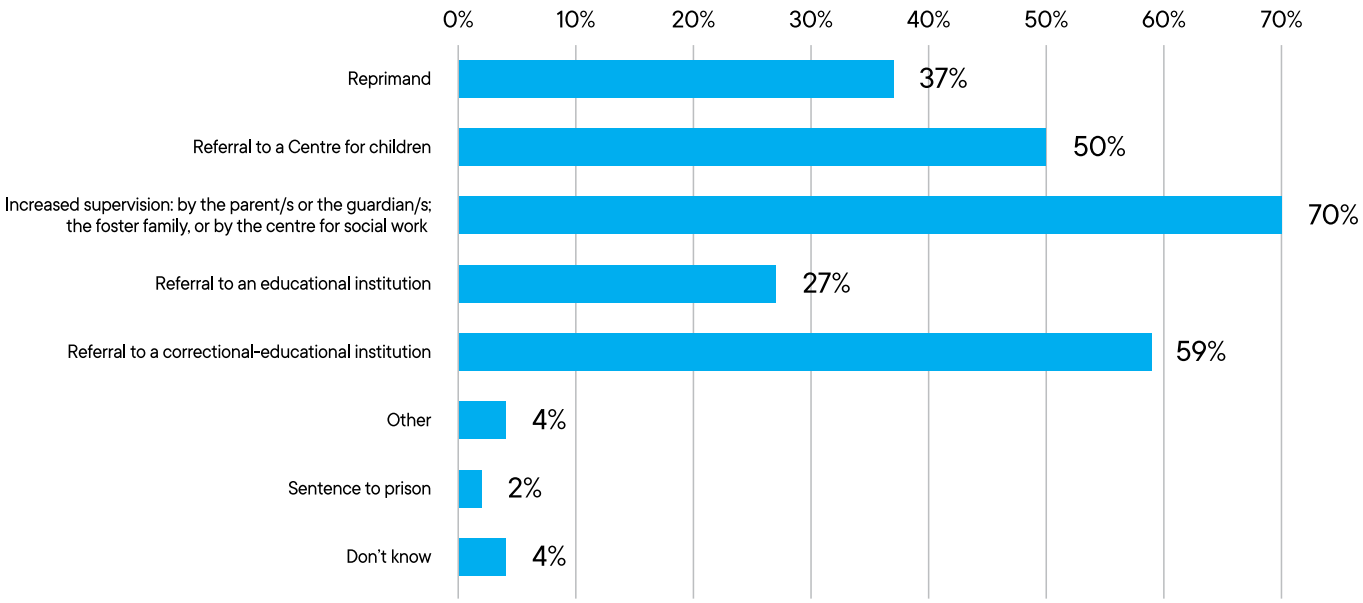
This section will present the knowledge of professionals of the educational measures, the restorative justice and safety measures, as well as the available sanctions, as provided by the national legislation.

Educational Measures

Based on their knowledge, surveyed professionals shared their opinion about the availability of educational measures according to national legislation i.e., 70% of professionals stated that Increased supervision: by the parent/s or the guardian/s; the foster family, or by the center for social work as correctional measures is available in national legislation followed by Reprimand – 57%; Referral to a correctional-educational institution – 59%; and Referral to a Centre for children - 50% *(see Chart 9)*.

Chart 9

BO8. Based on your knowledge, which correctional measures are available according to the national legislation?



Additional analysis shows a statistically significant difference in the knowledge of professionals regarding the top three educational measures on a spontaneous level that respondents mentioned that are available according to the national legislation (*see Table 5*).

Measure	% of Professionals that have referenced the measure
Increased supervision: by the parent/s or the guardian/s; the foster family, or by the centre for social work	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (83%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (95%) compared to police officers(60%) • Professionals over 55 years (84%) and aged 45–54 years old (76%) compared to professionals aged 25–34 years old (60%) • Professionals with working experience from 6 to 10 years (83%) and 11 or more years (79%) compared to professionals with less experience - 3–5 years (57%)
Reprimand	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (97%) compared to police officers (44%) lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (67%) • Professionals over 55 years (90%) compared to younger generation of professionals – (25–34 years – 43%; 35–44 years – 56%; and 45–54 years – 61%) • Professionals with completed College/University degree (64%) compared to professionals with Secondary/High school education (38%) • Professionals with working experience 11 or more years (64%) compared to professionals with less experience (3–5 years –49% and 6–10years – 47%) • Professionals who have worked with children for 11 or more years (75%) compared to professionals with less experience in working with children ((3–5 years –51% and 6–10years – 55%)
Referral to a correctional-educational institution	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (80%) compared to police officers– 52% • Professionals over 55 years (87%) compared to younger generation of professionals – (25–34 years – 58%; 35–44 years – 56%; and 45–54 years – 66%) • Professionals with completed completed College/University degree (64%) compared to professionals with Secondary/High school education (38%)

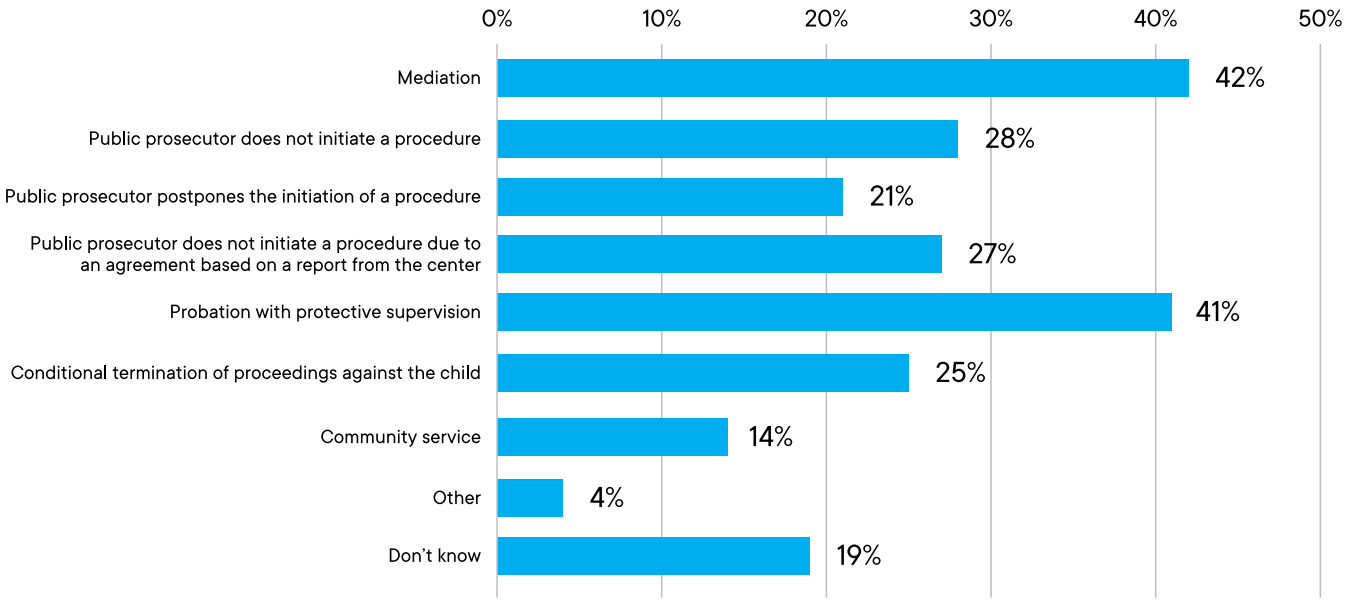
Table 5

Restorative justice measures

With regard to knowledge of the availability of restorative justice measures according to the legislation in the country approximately the same percentage know one of the diversion measures (Mediation – 42%) and one of the alternative measures (Probation with protective supervision –41%). Spontaneously besides Meditation, the knowledge about other diversion measures analyzed by the Chart 10 below is following: Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure – 28%; Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure due to an agreement based on a report from the center – 27% and Public prosecutor postpones the initiation of a procedure –21%. As far as knowledge of alternative measures is concerned, one quarter of the professionals know the conditional termination of proceedings against the child while 14% of the respondents are familiar with community service. **It is worth noting that a fifth of the professionals do not know any of the restorative justice measures that are available according to the legislation in the country.**

Chart 10

B10. What kind of restorative justice measures are available according to the legislation in the country?



Analysed by different professional groups, statistically significant differences were noted with regards to knowledge of this type of measures by the professionals i.e., **lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children are more familiar with the restorative justice measures compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work and Police officers.**

More detailed analysis in Table 6.

Measure	% of Professionals that have referenced the measure
Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (57%) compared to Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (26%) and police officers (18%)
Public prosecutor postpones the initiation of a procedure	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (40%) compared to Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (11%) and police officers (12%)
Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure due to an agreement based on a report from the center	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (40%) compared to police officers (22%)
Probation with protective supervision	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (73%) compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (29%) and police officers (35%)
Conditional termination of proceedings against the child	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (43%) compared to police officers (16%)

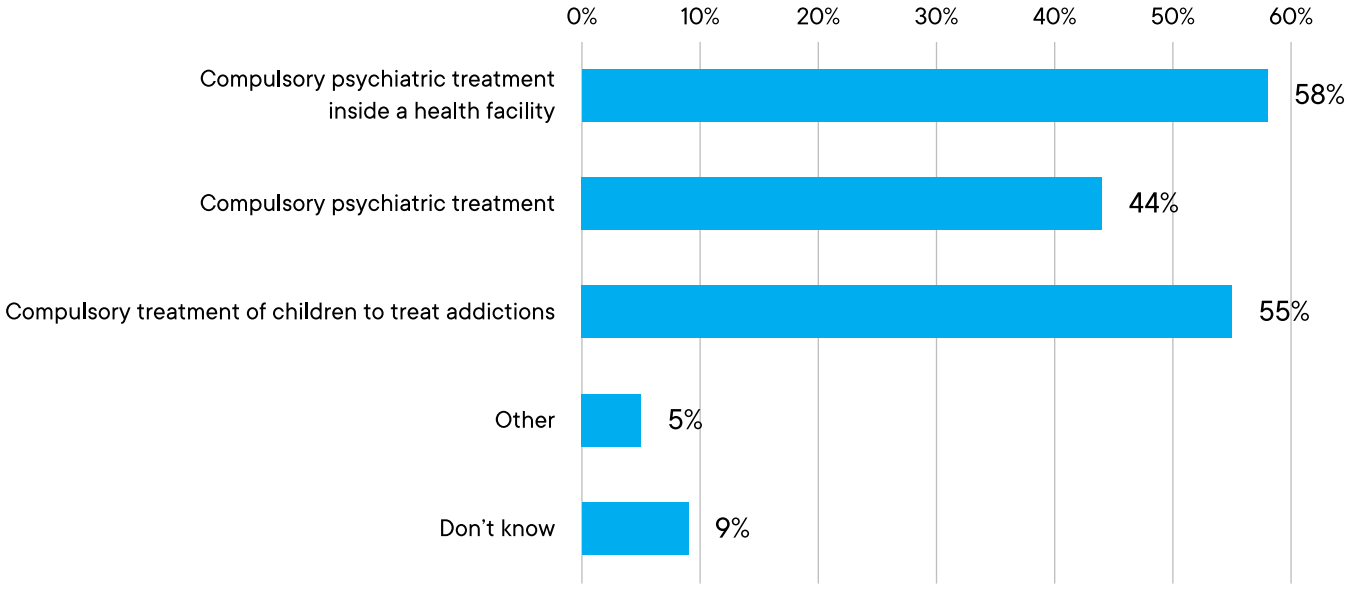
Table 6

Safety measures

Similarly, to the other measures, more than half of the respondents know the safety measures that are available according to the legislation in the country i.e., **more than half of the professionals spontaneously mentioned a compulsory psychiatric treatment inside a health facility (58%) and a compulsory treatment of children to treat addictions (55%) as safety measures that are available according to the legislation in the country. About a tenth of the professionals do not know any of the safety measures that are available according to the legislation in the country** (see Chart 11).

Chart 11

B12. What kind of safety measures are available according to the legislation in the country?



Again, the analysis by different professional groups shows statistically significant differences in regard to knowledge of lawyers who have had specialized training on working with children about the safety measures compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work and police officers. More detailed analysis by professional groups and other demographic data is provided in Table 7.

Measure	% of Professionals that have referenced the measure
Compulsory psychiatric treatment inside a health facility	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (45%) and police officers(55%) • Professionals with working experience 11 or more years (66%) and 6–10years of experience (64%) compared to professionals with up to 2 years' experience - 40% • Professionals who have worked with children for 11 or more years (67%) compared to professionals who have up to 2 years of experience – 48%
Compulsory psychiatric treatment	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (87%) compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (45%) and police officers (32%) • Professionals with working experience of 11 or more years (54%) compared to professionals with up to 2 years of experience - 34% • Professionals who have work with children 11 or more years (55%) compared to professionals who have up to 2 years of experience – 35%
Compulsory treatment of children to treat addictions	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (73%) compared police officers(49%) • Professionals who have worked with children up to 2 years (70%) compared to professionals who have work with children 6–10 years (48%) and 11 or more years (47%)

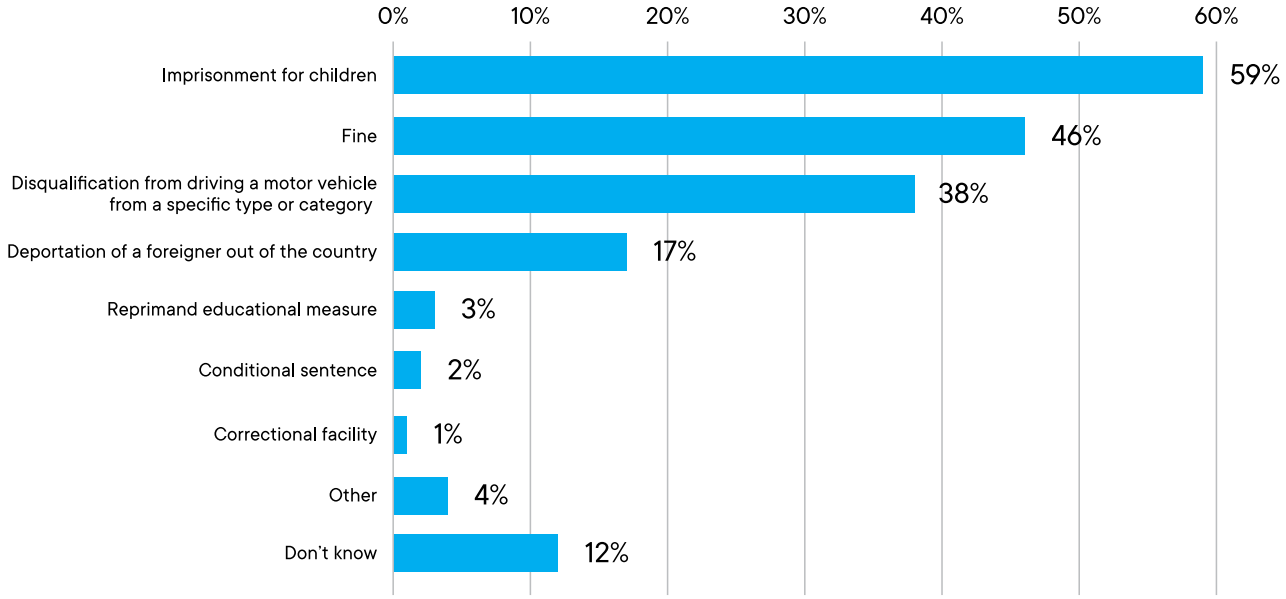
Table 7

Sanctions

Imprisonment for children (59%), Fine (46%), Disqualification from driving a motor vehicle from a specific type or category (38%) and Deportation of a foreigner out of the country (17%) are the most known sanctions that are available according to the legislation in the country. A small number of professionals perceive some of the educational and restorative measures as sentences, like, reprimand educational measures (3%), conditional sentence (2%) and correctional facility (1%). In addition, 12% of the professionals who were part of this survey do not know any of the sanctions that are available according to the legislation in the country (see Chart 12).

Chart 12

B11. What kind of sanctions are available according to the legislation in the country?



Once again, lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children are considerably more aware of some of the sanctions that are available according to the legislation in the country compared to other professionals. That statistically significant difference is presented in more detail in Table 8.

Measure	% of Professionals that have referenced the measure
Imprisonment for children	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (87%) and Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (84%) compared to Police officers (44%)
Fine	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (70%) compared to Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (39%) and Police officers (42%)

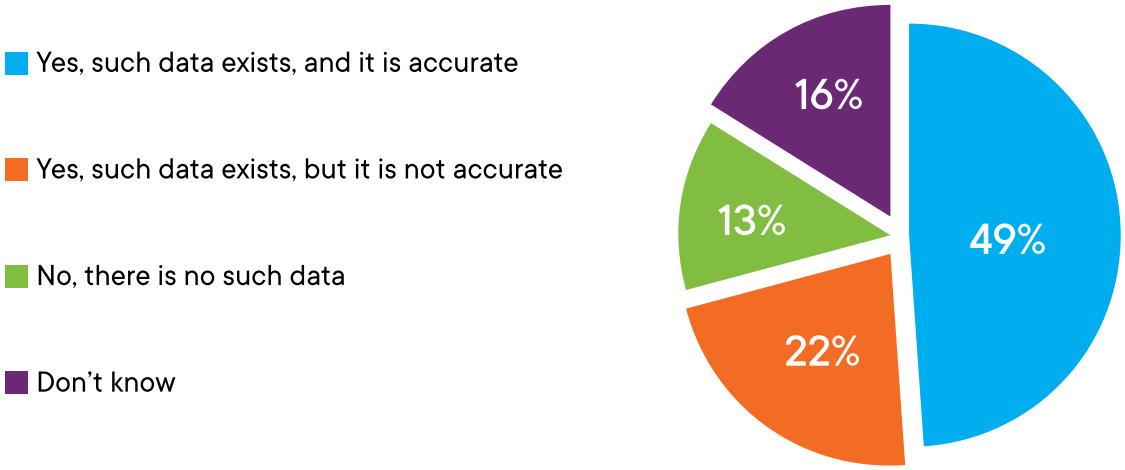
Table 8

3.1.6. Availability of data

About half of the respondents (49%) believe that there is data on the number of cases of children in contact with the law that occur in the country and that they are reported to the competent services. The same percentage of respondents believe that this data is accurate. On the other side, 22% of the respondents believe that such data exist, but is not accurate. 13% of professionals that are part of the survey do not believe there is such data *(see Chart 13)*.

Chart 13

B13. Is there data specifying the number of children in contact with the law that have been reported to the responsible institutions?



Analysed by different professional groups, Table 9 includes statistically significant differences concerning data accuracy.

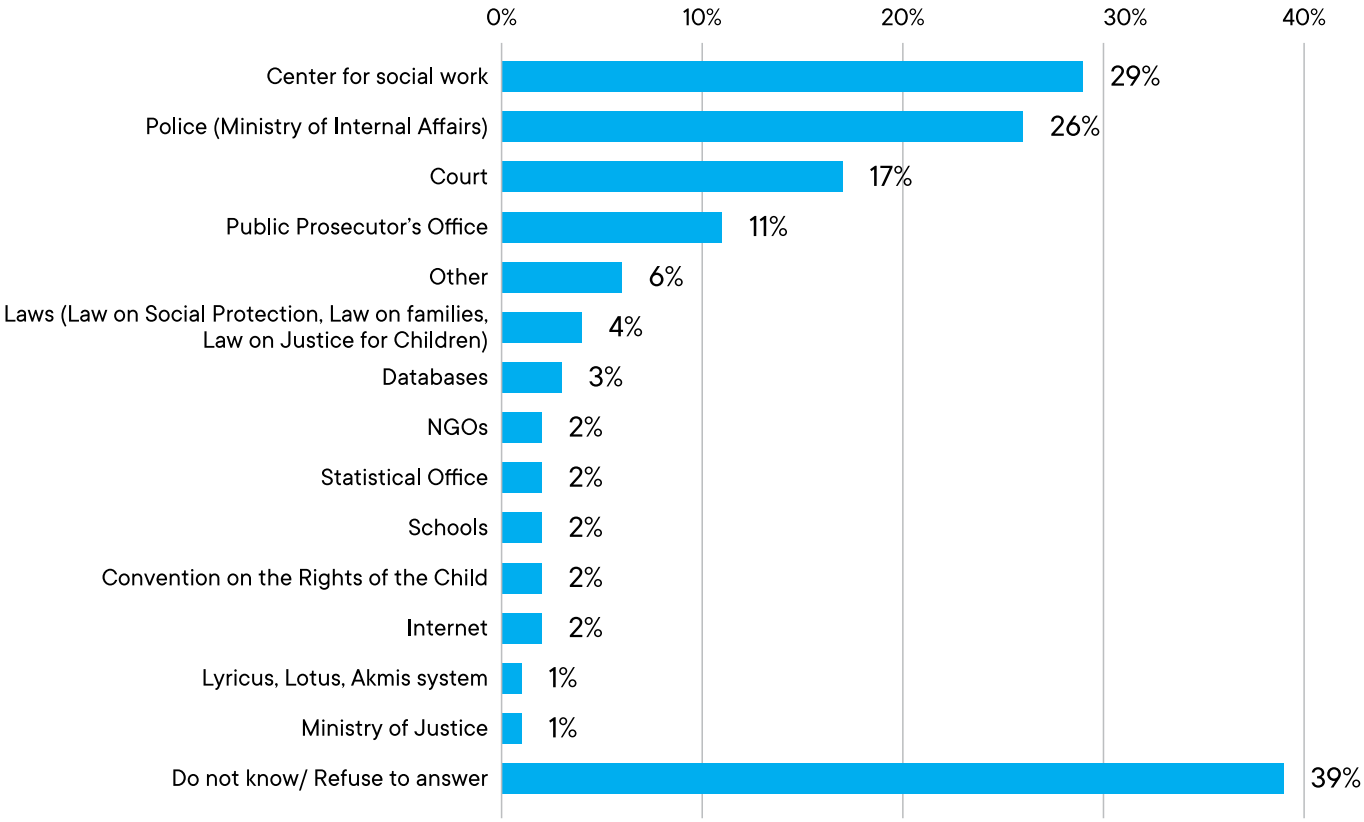
B.13 Is there data specifying the number of children in contact with the law that have been reported to the responsible institutions?	
Measure	**% of Professionals that have referenced the measure**
Yes, such data exist and its accurate	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (68%) compared to other professionals (police officers– 48% and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children – 27%) • Female professionals (61%) compared to male professionals (41%).
Yes, such data exist, but it's not accurate	• Police officers (23%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (43%) compared to Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (8%)

Table 9

Respondents who believe that this type of data exists (whether they believe it to be accurate or not) were asked what are the key available sources of official data (databases, publications, etc.) on children in contact with the law. According to chart 14, expectedly, the Centres for Social Work (29%), Police (Ministry of Internal Affairs) – 26%, Court – 17% and Public Prosecutors Office – 11% are the are the key sources of official data on children in contact with the law available to professionals who work in the justice for children system. 39% of the respondents, which is also the highest share of respondents have said that they do not know/refuse to answer what are the key sources available.

Chart 14

B14. What are the key sources of official data (databases, publications, etc.) on children in contact with the law available to professionals who work in the system on justice for children?

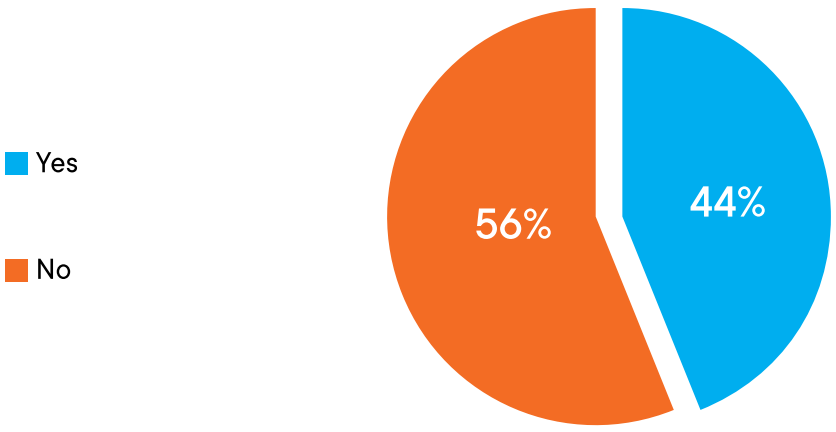


3.1.7. Required training for working with children in the justice for children system

According to the Justice for children law, all professionals in the justice for children system have to attend tailored trainings on working with children. In these regards, 44% of the respondents have responded that they are required to attend a special training compared to 56% who have said that they are not required to attend special training *(see Chart 15)*.

Chart 15

B15. Are you required to attend any specialized training on justice for children?



Analysed by different professional groups, *Table 10* includes statistically significant differences that were noted with regard to the requirement to attend training related to justice for children.

Question	Answers	
	Yes	№
Are you required to attend any specialized training on justice for children?	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (71%) compared to police officers– 31%. • Professionals older than 35 years old (35–44 years – 50%; 45–54 years – 48%; Over 55 years – 68%) compared to professionals aged 25–34 years old –26% • Professionals with College/University (46%) and post graduate degree (54%) compared to professionals with Secondary/High school education – 28% • Professionals who have 11 or more years of experience in working with children (66%) compared to professionals with Up to 2 years (39%), and professionals with experience from 6–10 years (39%)	• Police officers– 69% compared to other professionals (Professionals working in Centres for Social Work – 29%; and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children – 33% • Professionals aged 25–34 years old (74%) compared with older respondents 35+ years old (35–44 years – 50%; 45–54 years – 52% and over 55 years –32%) • Professionals with completed Secondary/High school (72%) compared to professionals with College/University (54%) and Post graduate degree (46%)

Table 10

3.2 Attitudes

This thematic part of the questionnaire aimed to gather information on professionals' views toward justice for children and how they perceive children in contact with the law.

The attitudes of the respondents were evaluated through their agreement or disagreement with statements that can be grouped into several categories: 1) how professionals perceive children in conflict with the law, 2) attitudes towards rehabilitation and restorative justice vs. punishment, 3) attitudes towards the protection of children victims and witnesses of crime, 4) stereotypical attitudes, 5) attitudes towards trauma and provision of the support, 6) attitudes towards children' rights, 7) behavioural attitude of professionals towards children in conflict with the law 8) attitudes towards the importance of cooperation between the institutions in the system of justice for children, 9) attitudes towards ethnicity of a child and crime and 10) attitudes towards the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law.

3.2.1. How professionals perceive children in conflict with the law

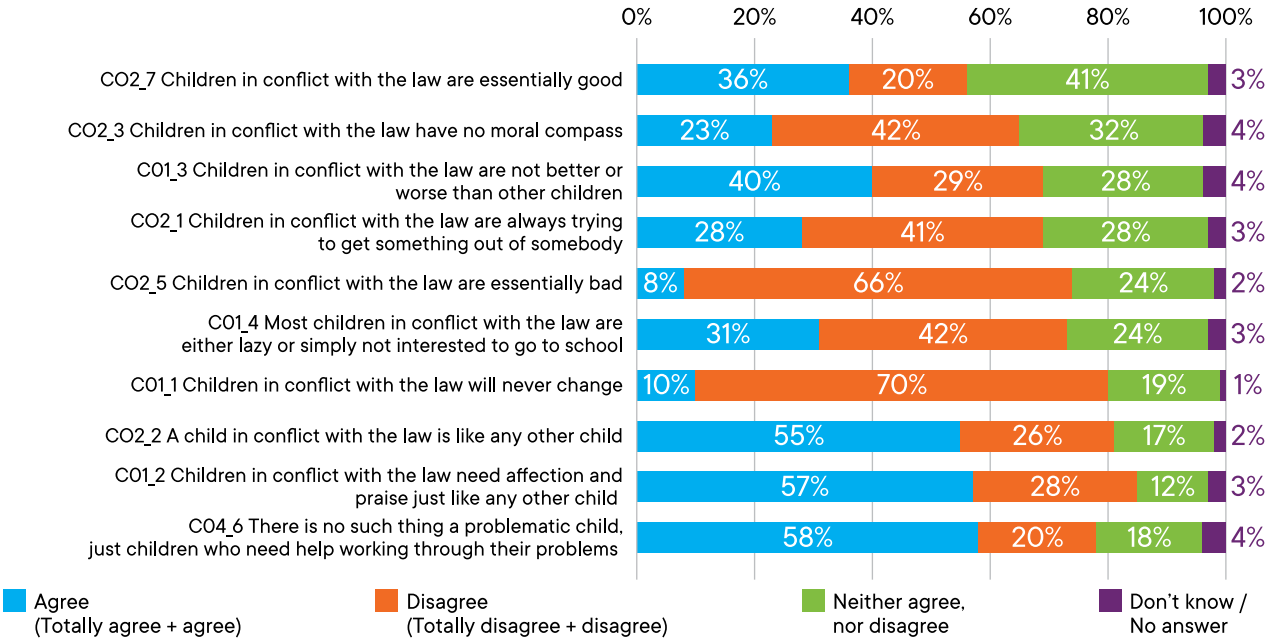
A majority (70%) of the surveyed respondents disagree that children in conflict with the law will never change. About a fifth are neutral, i.e., neither agree nor disagree with the statement, while 10% agree that children in conflict with the law will never change (see Chart 16). Further, two thirds (66%) disagree that children in conflict with the law are essentially bad, and 24% are neutral.

While a larger number of the professionals (57%) are of the same opinion (agree) that there is no such thing as a problematic child, just children who need help working through their problems, still 20% are of the opposite opinion.

A larger proportion of professionals do not agree that children in conflict with the law are either lazy or simply not interested in going to school (42%), have no moral compass (42%), and are always trying to get something out of somebody (41%). Furthermore, more than half of the professionals (57%) agree that children in conflict with the law need affection and praise just like any other child, as opposed to 28% who disagreed. Likewise, 55% agree with the statement that a child in conflict with the law is like any other child *(see Chart 16).* Two in five professionals neither agree nor disagree (41%) that children in conflict with the law are essentially good, 36% agree with that statement, and 20% disagree.

Chart 16

Please tell me whether you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statements and how strongly you feel about each of them.



Additional demographic data analysis shows the following statistically significant different attitudes related to the respondents' agreement or disagreement about 5 (five) attitudes related to how professionals perceive children in conflict with the law *(see Table 11)*:

Statement	Agree (Totally agree + agree)	Disagree (Totally disagree + disagree)
Children in conflict with the law will never change	• No statistically significant differences	• Professionals that have been working in the same position 11 or more years (82%) compared to professionals with less working experience in the same position - up to 2 years – (66%) 3–5 years (57%), and 6–10 years (68%)
Children in conflict with the law are not better or worse than other children	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (55%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (57%) compared to Police officers (32%)	• Professionals that have been working in the same position 11 or more years (36%) compared to professionals with less working experience in the same position - up to 2 years – (17%) and 3–5 years (21%),
A child in conflict with the law is like any other child	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (79%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (90%) compared to Police officers (43%) • Professionals aged over 55 years (81%) compared to those at the age 25 – 34 (49%) and 35 –44 (53%)	• No statistically significant differences
Children in conflict with the law are essentially bad	• No statistically significant differences	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (82%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (80%) compared to Police officers (58%)
Children in conflict with the law are essentially good	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (55%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (57%) compared to Police officers (28%) • Professionals aged over 55 years (58%) compared to those at the age 25 – 34 (25%) and 45–54 years (35%)	• No statistically significant differences

Table 11

3.2.2. Professionals' attitudes towards rehabilitation and restorative justice vs. punishment

Data suggests that a large percentage of the respondents have the following positive attitudes towards rehabilitation and restorative justice statements:

- When a child does something wrong, they should come up with a solution on how to repair or compensate for the damage or suffering they caused - 70%,
- Most children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated - 67% (see Chart 17).

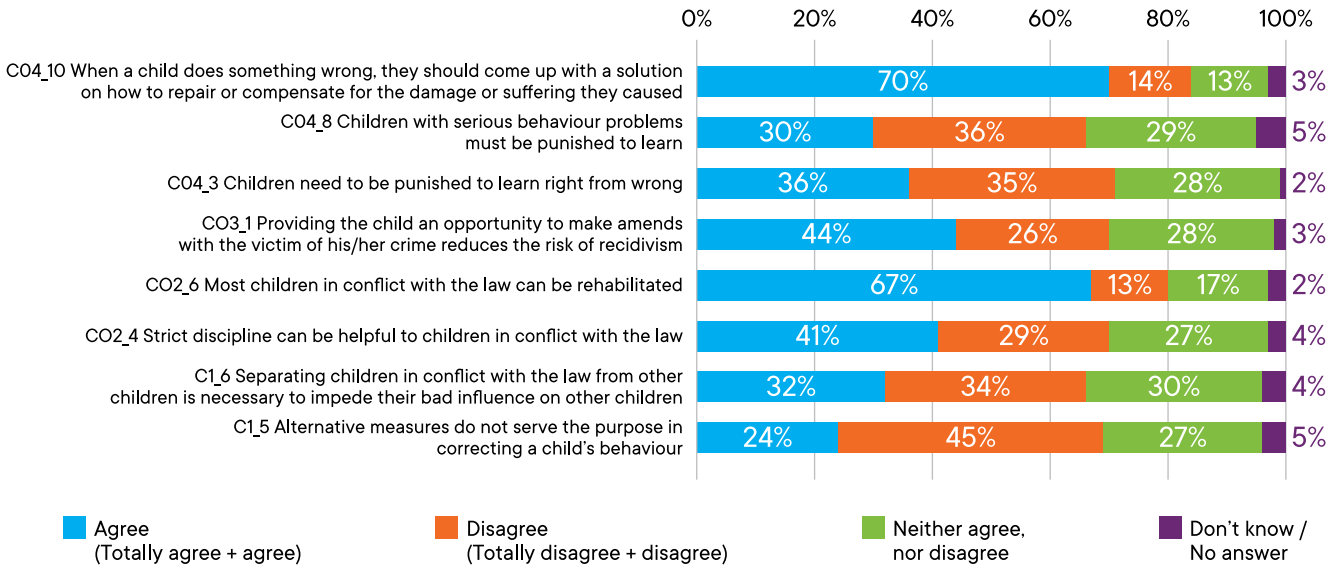
Less than half (44%) professionals agree that providing the child with an opportunity to make amends with the victim of his/her crime reduces the risk of recidivism. In addition, 45% of the respondents disagree that alternative measures do not serve the purpose of correcting a child's behaviour.

On the other hand, 41% of professionals agree that children should be punished, i.e., that strict discipline can be helpful to children in conflict with the law, while 23% disagree and 27% are neutral.

Professionals' attitude is generally divided to those who agree (30%) that children with serious behaviour problems must be punished to learn, while a slightly higher percentage (36%) disagree, and 39% are neutral and neither agree nor disagree with this statement *(see Chart 17)*. Children need to be punished to learn right from wrong is one more statement where the professionals' attitude is generally divided –36% agree that children need to be punished to learn right from wrong while 35% disagree.

Chart 17

Please tell me whether you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statements and how strongly you feel about each of them



Analysis of statistically significant differences by respondents' demographic characteristics related to their agreement, i.e., disagreement regarding attitudes towards rehabilitation and restoration vs. punishment are noted in the responses of 5 (five) statements (*see Table 12)*:

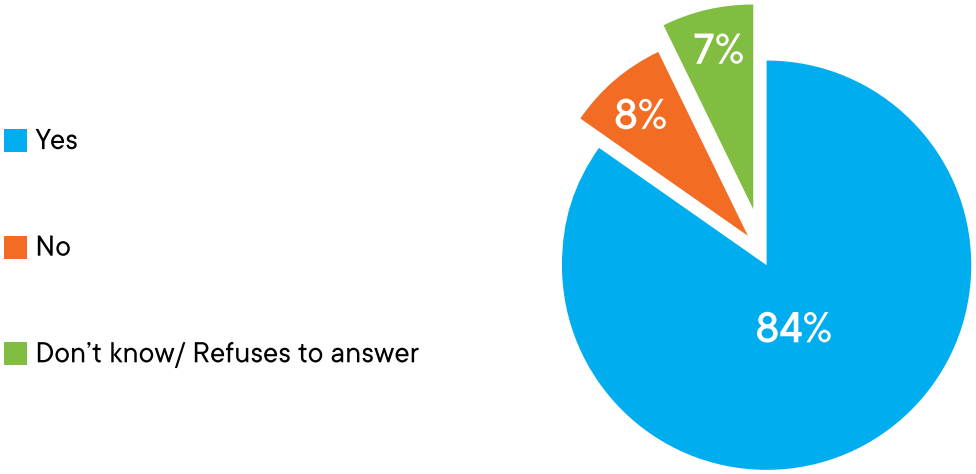
Statement	Agree (Totally agree + agree)	Disagree (Totally disagree + disagree)
When a child does something wrong, they should come up with a solution on how to repair or compensate for the damage or suffering they caused	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (87%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (83%) compared to Police officers(62%)	• No statistically significant differences
Providing the child with an opportunity to make amends with the victim of his/ her crime reduces the risk of recidivism	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) compared to professionals in Centres for Social Work (53%) and Police officers(32%)	• No statistically significant differences
Most children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (84%) and Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (87%) compared to Police officers(58%)	• No statistically significant differences
Strict discipline can be helpful to children in conflict with the law	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (70%) compared to professionals in Centres for Social Work (24%) and police officers(42%)	• No statistically significant differences
Alternative measures do not serve the purpose in correcting a child's behaviour	• No statistically significant differences	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (58%)) compared to Police officers (37%) • Professionals aged over 55 years (68%) compared to those at the age 25 – 34 (34%), 35–44 (48%) and 45–54 years (45%)

Table 12

A majority (84%) of the surveyed respondents agree that it is possible to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society, compared to 8% of the professionals who believe in the opposite. 7% of the respondents didn't know/refused to answer this question *(see Chart 18)*.

Chart 18

C09. Do you think it is possible to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society?

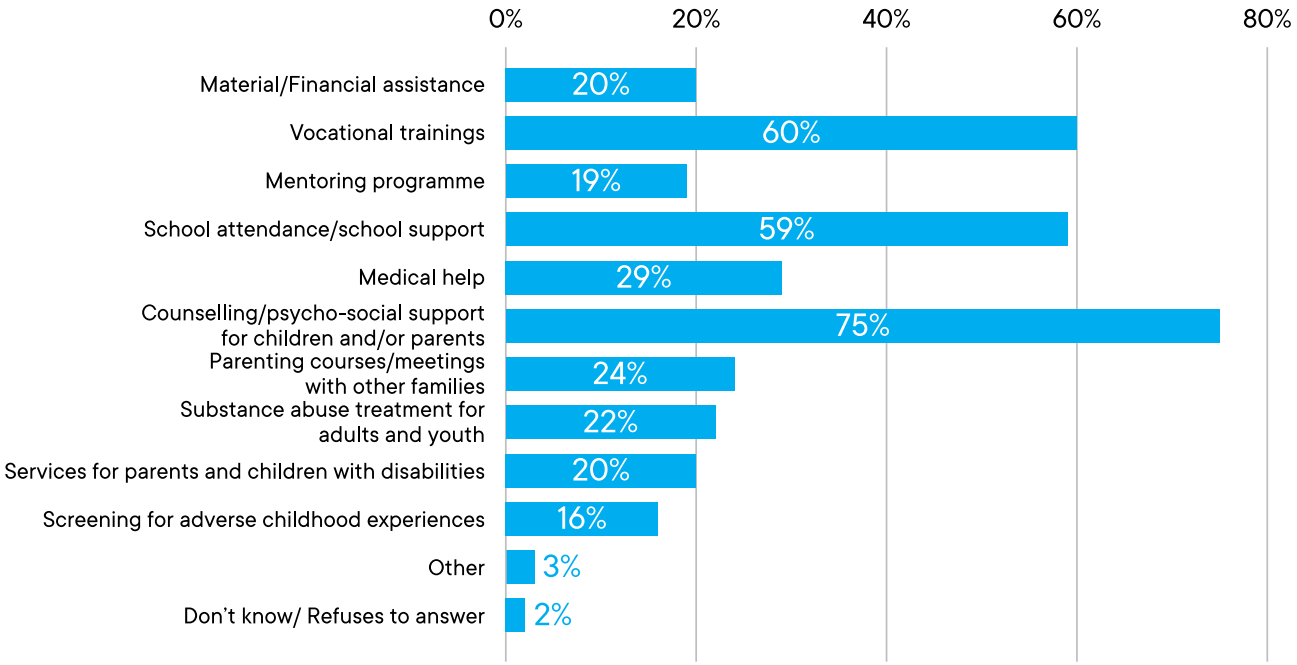


No statistically significant difference was noted when analysing disaggregated data by respondents' demographic variables.

Of those professionals who believe that it is possible to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society, 75% consider counselling/psycho-social support for children and/or parents would be helpful. Moreover, vocational training (60%) and school attendance/school support (59%) are perceived as types of services that would help these children to more easily rehabilitate and reintegrate into society. The type of service that is seen as less helpful compared to other services for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in society is screening for adverse childhood experiences (16%) *(see Chart 19)*.

Chart 19

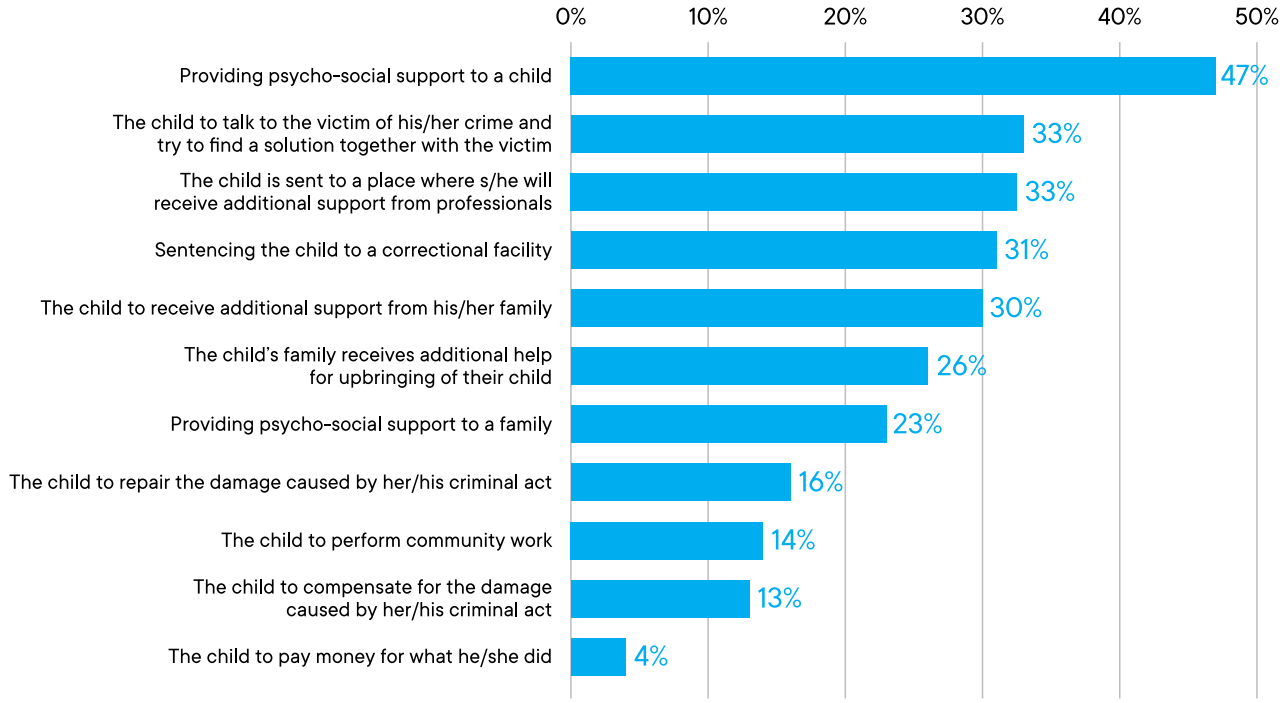
C10. What types of services would help these children (children who have committed a crime) rehabilitate and reintegrate in the society?



When prompted, less than half of the respondents (47%) agree that providing psycho-social support to a child is one of the effective measures that can prevent a child who has already committed a crime from committing a crime again. Likewise, one third (33%) of the professionals consider the following as the most effective ways to prevent recidivism: "the child to talk to the victim of his/her crime and try to find a solution together with the victim" and "the child to be sent to a place where s/he will receive additional support from professionals". On the other hand, the measures that are considered least effective in preventing a child from committing a crime again are: child to perform community work (14%), child to compensate for the damage caused by her/his criminal act (13%), and child to pay money for what he/she did - 4% *(see Chart 20)*.

Chart 20

C06. According to you, if a child has committed a crime, what are the most effective ways to prevent that child to commit a crime again?



No statistically significant differences were identified when analysing disaggregated data by respondents' demographic variables.

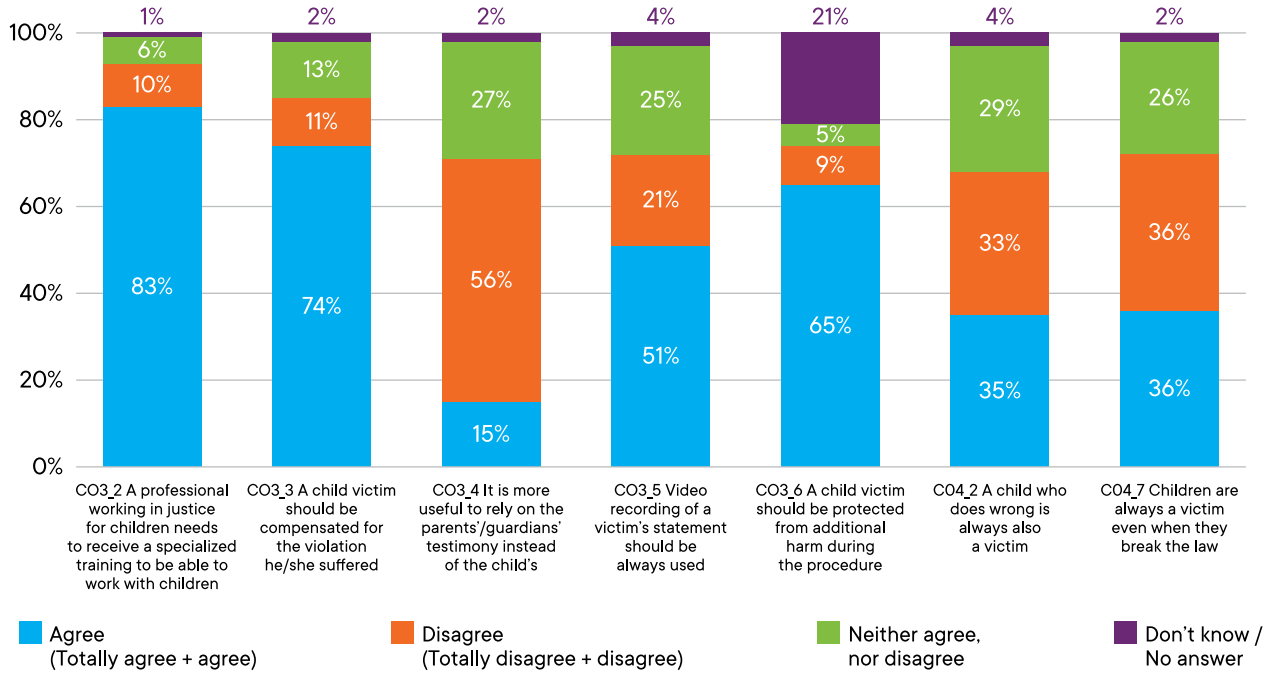
3.2.3. Professionals' attitudes towards protection of children victims and witnesses of crime

Regarding professional's attitudes towards the protection of children victims, the data indicates that 74% agree that a child victim should be compensated for the violation he/she suffered. More than half (56%) of the surveyed professionals disagree that it is more useful to rely on the parents'/guardians' testimony instead of the child's, while 27% are hesitant and neither agree nor disagree with it (see Chart 21). Furthermore, 51% of the professionals consider (agree) that video recording of a victim's statement should be always used. Additionally, nearly two thirds (65%) of the professionals agree that a child victim should be protected from additional harm during the procedure. However, a notable number (21%) do not know or refuse to answer whether a child victim should be protected from additional harm during the procedure.

Professionals' attitude is generally divided to those who agree (35%) that child who does wrong is always also a victim and to those who do not share this belief (33%), while 29% are neutral and neither agree nor disagree with this statement *(see Chart 21)*. The same goes for the statement that the children are always victims even when they break the law i.e., same percentage (36%) agree and disagree with the statement while 26% are neutral.

Chart 21

Again, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and how strongly you feel about each of them.



Statistically significant differences related to the respondents' agreement, i.e., disagreement about these four (4) attitudes related to the protection of children victims of crime (see Table 13), are noted in the responses of:

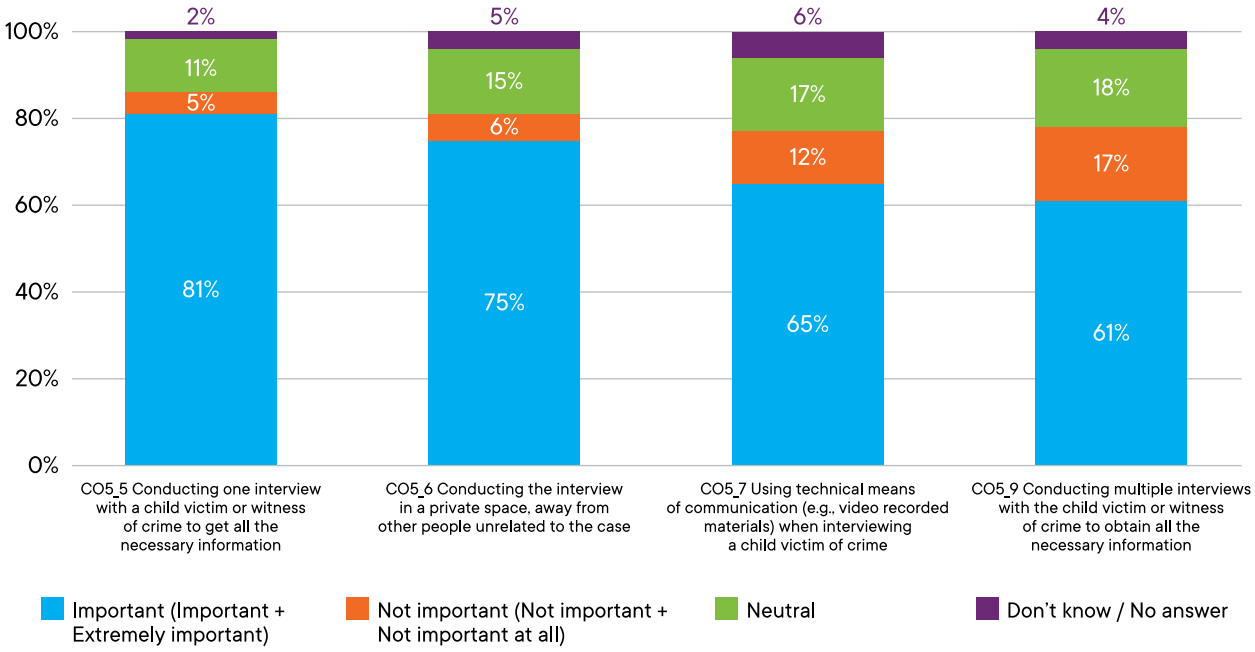
Statement	Agree (Totally agree + agree)	Disagree (Totally disagree + disagree)
A child victim should be compensated for the violation he/she suffered	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (87%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (93%) compared to police officers(66%) • Respondents aged over 55 years (94%) compared to younger age groups (25–34 years –71%; 35–44 years –74%; and 45–54 years – 70%).	• No statistically significant differences
It is more useful to rely on the parents'/guardians' testimony instead of the child's	• No statistically significant differences	• Professionals who have 6 –10 years of experience in working with children (73%) compared to respondents with up to 2 years of experience in working with children (47%)
Video recording of a victim's statement should be always used.	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (39%) and Police officers (45%)	• Professionals who have 6 –10 years of experience in working with children (36%) compared to 3–5 years (16% and 11 or more years (17%) of experience in working with children
A child victim should be protected from additional harm during the procedure	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (89%) and lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (93%) compared to police officers (51%)	• No statistically significant differences

Table 13

The vast majority (81%) of professionals stated that it is important to conduct one interview with a child victim or witness, **while close to two thirds (61%) of professionals stated that it is important to conduct multiple interviews with a child victim or witness of crime to get all the necessary information**. Three in four respondents (75%) consider it important for the interview to be conducted in a private space, away from other people unrelated to the case. Additionally, 65% of professionals agree that it is important to use technical means of communication when interviewing a child victim of crime (see Chart 22).

Chart 22

CO5. In the context of your work, how would you assess the importance of each of the following aspects on a scale from 1 which means "not important at all" to 5 "extremely important"?



Additional demographic data analysis shows the following statistically significant different attitudes related to the respondents' agreement about these four (4) attitudes related to protection of children victims and witnesses of crime (see Table 14):

Statement	Important (Important + Extremely important)
Conducting one interview with a child victim or witness of crime to get all the necessary information	• Respondents aged over 55 years (97%) compared to those at the age 25 – 34 (77%) and 45–54 (83%) • Professionals who have 11 or more years of experience working with children (95%) compared to professionals with less experience in working with children (Up to 2 years –83%; 3–5 years – 82%; and 6–10 years – 70%)
Conducting the interview in a private space, away from other people unrelated to the case	• Professionals that have been working in the same position up to 2 years (91%) compared to professionals with bigger working experience in the same position - 3–5 years (71%), 6–10 years (72%), and 11 or more years (75%)
Using technical means of communication (e.g., video recorded materials) when interviewing a child victim of crime	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (87%) compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (66%) and Police officers (57%) • Respondents aged over 55 years (90%) compared to younger age groups (25–34 years –77%; 35–44 years –71%; and 45–54 years – 59%).
Conducting multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime to obtain all the necessary information	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (83%) compared to police officers (56%) • Respondents aged over 55 years (84%) compared to those at the age 25 – 34 (58%) 35 –44 (60%) and 45–54 (58%)

Table 14

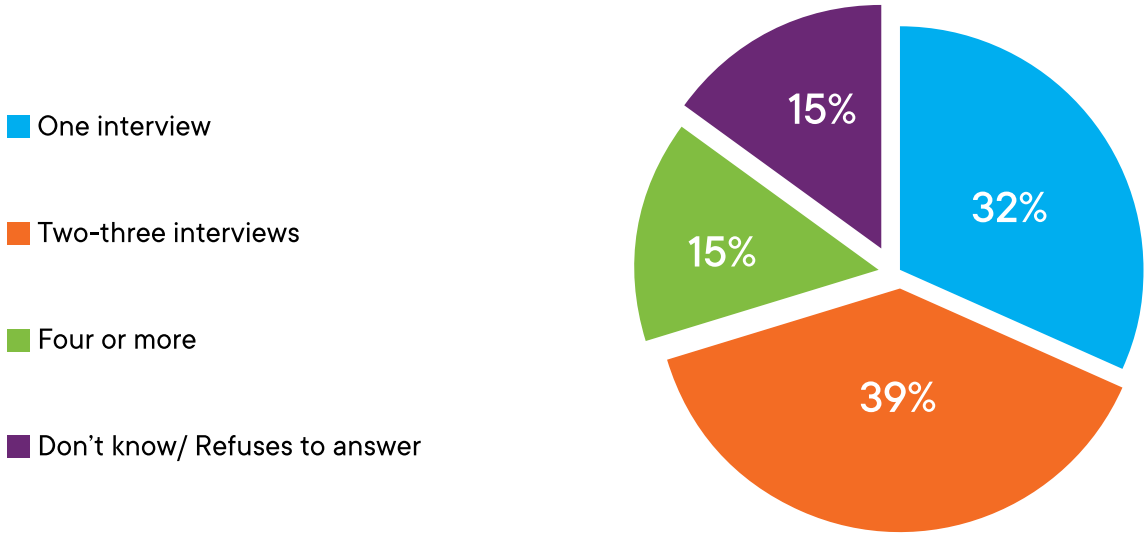
No statistically significant differences are noted related to respondents' disagreement with the statements based on their demographic characteristics.

Opinions are divided on how many interviews should be conducted with a child victim or witness of a crimeto obtain all the necessary information. Almost one third (32%) of the professionals reply that the child should have one interview, contrary to 39% of the professionals who believe that the child should have two-three interviews in order to obtain all necessary information. It should be noted that a significant number of the respondents (15%) do not know or refuse to answer this question, along with 15% of the respondents who believe that the child should have four or more interviews *(see Chart 23)*.

The only statistically significant difference noted related to different professional groups is that the professionals working in Centres for Social Work (61%) believe that the child should have two-three interviews to obtain all necessary information compared to Police officers (32%).

Chart 23

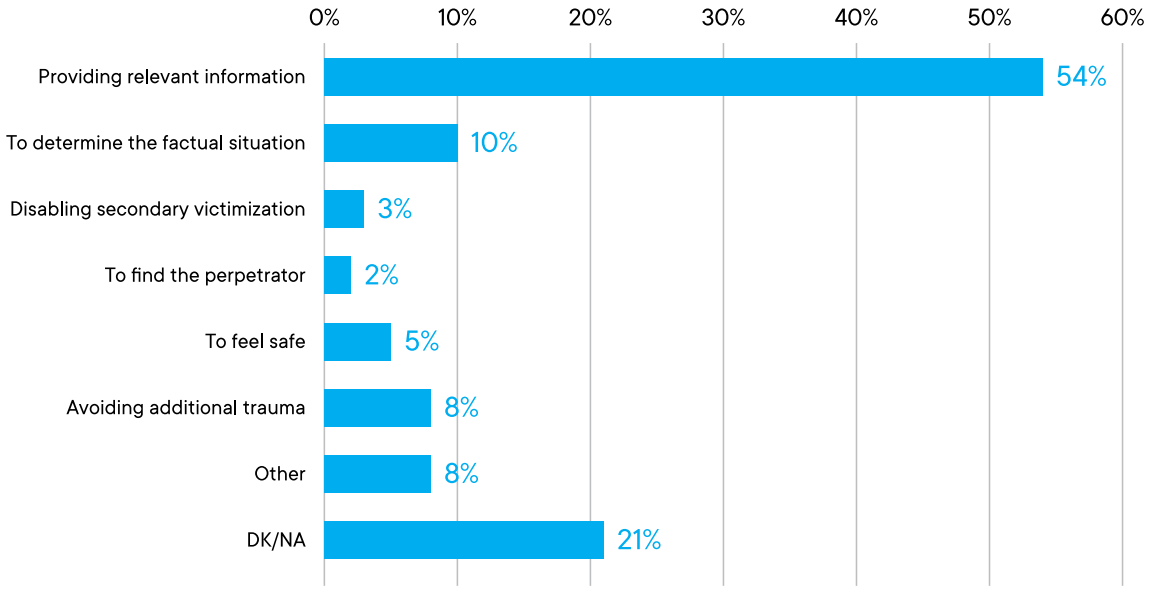
C07. How many interviews should a child victim or witness of crime have to obtain all necessary information?



Furthermore, more than half (54%) of the professionals believe that interviewing a child victim or witness of a crime will provide relevant information; 10% consider that the interview will help determine the factual situation, while 8% think that the interview will help avoid additional traumas. It is worth noting that a fifth of the professionals (21%) do not provide a reason why it is necessary to interview the child victim or witness of crime (see Chart 24).

Chart 24

C08. Why do you think it is necessary to interview the child victim or witness of crime?

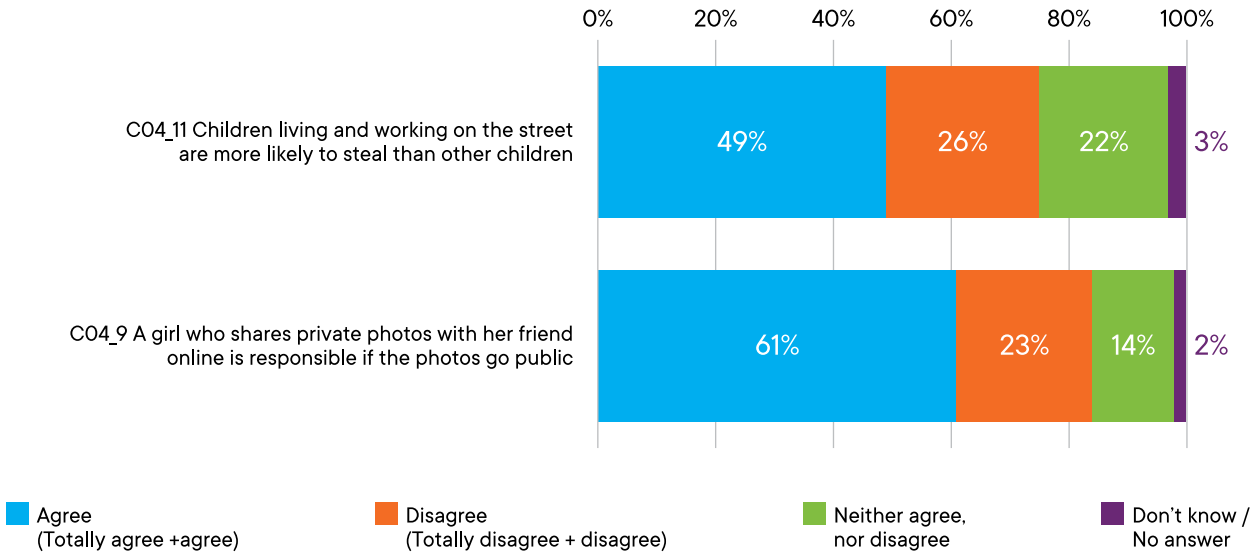


3.2.4. Professionals' stereotypical attitudes

Close to two-thirds (61%) of the professionals agree that a girl who shares private photos with her friend online is responsible if the photos go public, while 23% disagree and 14% are neutral *(see Chart 25).* **Moreover, nearly half of the professionals (49%) agree that children living and working on the street are more likely to steal than other children opposed to 26% who disagree with this statement.** A fifth of the professionals neither agrees nor disagrees.

Chart 25

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and how strongly you feel about each of them.



Statistically significant differences, by disaggregated demographic data, related to respondents' agreement or disagreement regarding these 2 (two) statements are not identified.

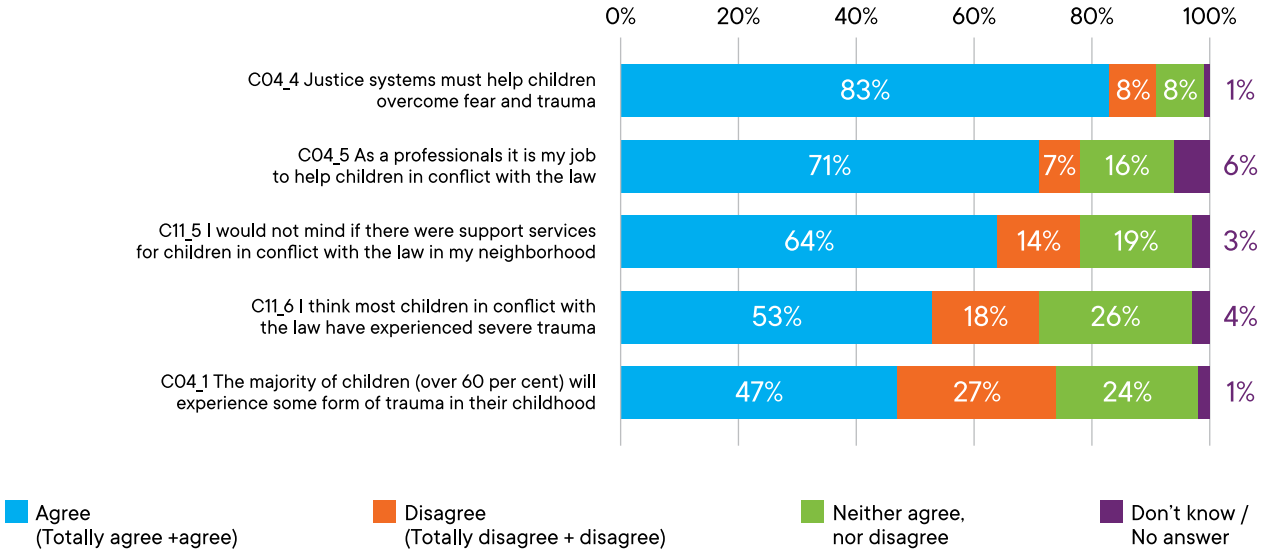
3.2.5. Professionals' attitudes towards childhood trauma and provision of support

More than four in five professionals agree that the justice systems must help children overcome fear and trauma. While 71% agree that their job is to help child offenders as professionals, 7% disagree, and 16% are neutral, i.e., neither agree nor disagree with the statement (see Chart 26). On the other hand, 27% of respondents disagree that the majority of children (over 60 percent) will experience some form of trauma in their childhood. 41% agree with this, while 24% are neutral.

Concerning the support of children in conflict with the law, over half of the professionals think that most children in conflict with the law have experienced severe trauma. 18% of them disagree and 26% neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Additionally, about two in three professionals (64%) agree that they would not mind if there were support services for children in conflict with the law in their neighbourhood.

Chart 26

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and how strongly you feel about each of them.

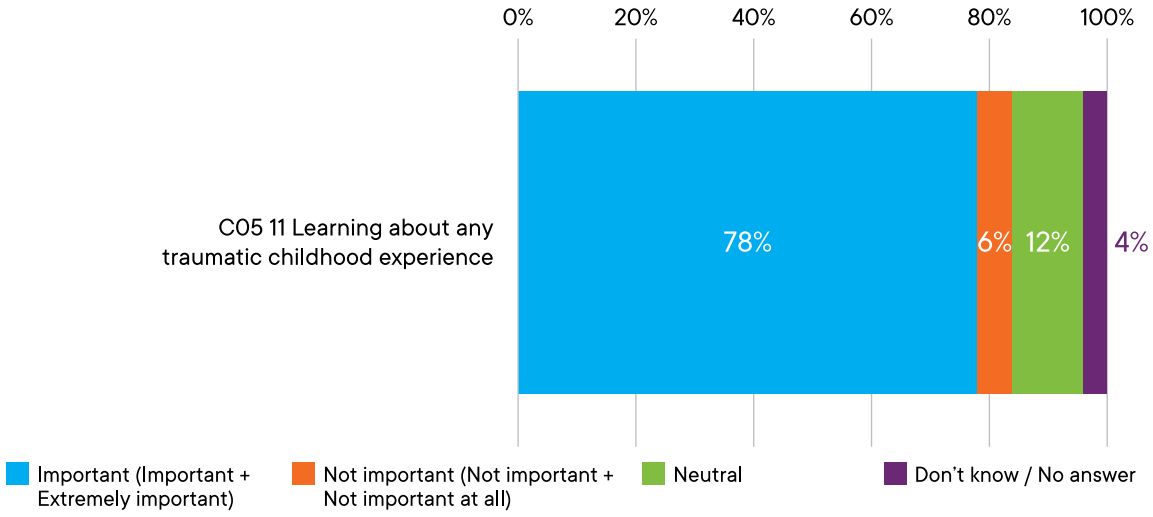


Respondents' demography has no influence and no statistically significant differences are identified regarding childhood trauma and provision of support in relation to these five (5) statements. The only exception is professionals working in Centres for Social Work (89%) and lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children (90%) are more likely to think that as a profession their job is to help child in conflict with the law compared to police officers (63%). Also, professionals who have worked with children for 6 to 10 years (42%) are more likely to disagree that majority of children (over 60 percent) will experience some form of trauma in their childhood compared to professionals who have less experience in working with children (up to 2 years –21% and 3–5 years - 18).

The professionals were asked whether learning about any traumatic childhood experience is important or not in the context of their work. High 78% of the respondents stated that learning about any traumatic childhood experience is important, while 6% disagree, and 12% are neutral (see Chart 27).

Chart 27

In the context of your work, how would you assess the importance of each of the following aspects on a scale from 1 which means "not important at all" to 5 "extremely important"?



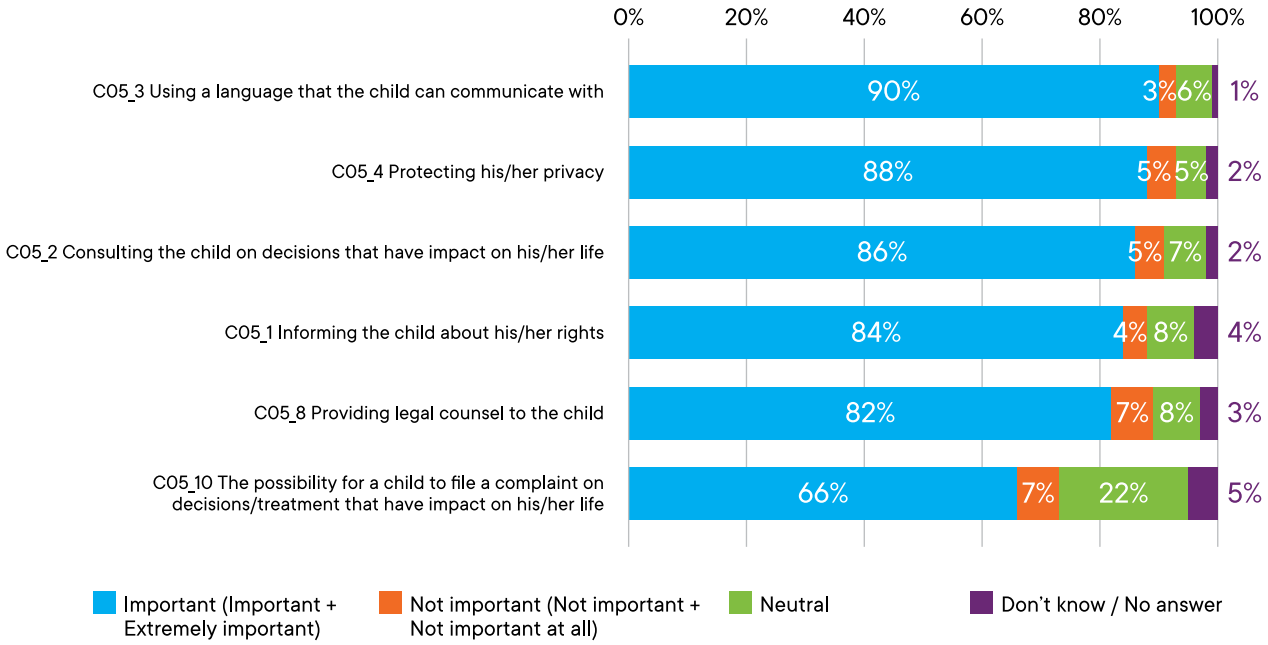
3.2.6. Professionals' attitudes towards respect of child rights

The results show that professionals who work with children, consider respecting the rights of the child to be of high importance. 90% stated that it is important to use a language in which the child can communicate. There is a high percentage of professionals who believe that children's rights are important in terms of protecting children's (his/her) privacy (88%), consulting the child on decisions that have an impact on his/her life (86%), informing the child about his/her rights – 84% and providing legal counsel to the child - 82% *(see Chart 28).*

Two thirds of professionals agree that it is important for a child to have the possibility to file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have an impact on his/her life, and 22% are neutral.

Chart 28

In the context of your work, how would you assess the importance of each of the following aspects on a scale from 1 which means "not important at all" to 5 "extremely important"?



Statistically significant differences related to the respondents' agreement, i.e., disagreement about these five (5) attitudes related to respect of children rights (see Table 15), are noted in the responses of:

Statement	Important (Important + Extremely important)
Informing the child about his/her rights	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (97%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (97%) compared and police officers (78%)
Using a language that the child can communicate with	• Professionals with post graduate degree (97%) compared to professionals with completed high school (80%)
Protecting his/her privacy	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (97%) compared and Police officers (83%)
Providing legal counsel to the child	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (97%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (95%) compared and police officers (75%) • Respondents aged over 55 years (97%) compared to younger age groups (25–34 years –77%; and 45–54 years – 76%).
The possibility for a child to file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have impact on his/her life	• Professionals with post graduate degree (83%) compared to professionals with completed high school (44%) and College/University (68%)

Table 15

Statistically significant differences, by disaggregated demographic data, related to respondents' agreement or disagreement regarding the statement that are not in the Table13 are not identified.

3.2.7. Behavioural attitude of professionals towards children in conflict with the law

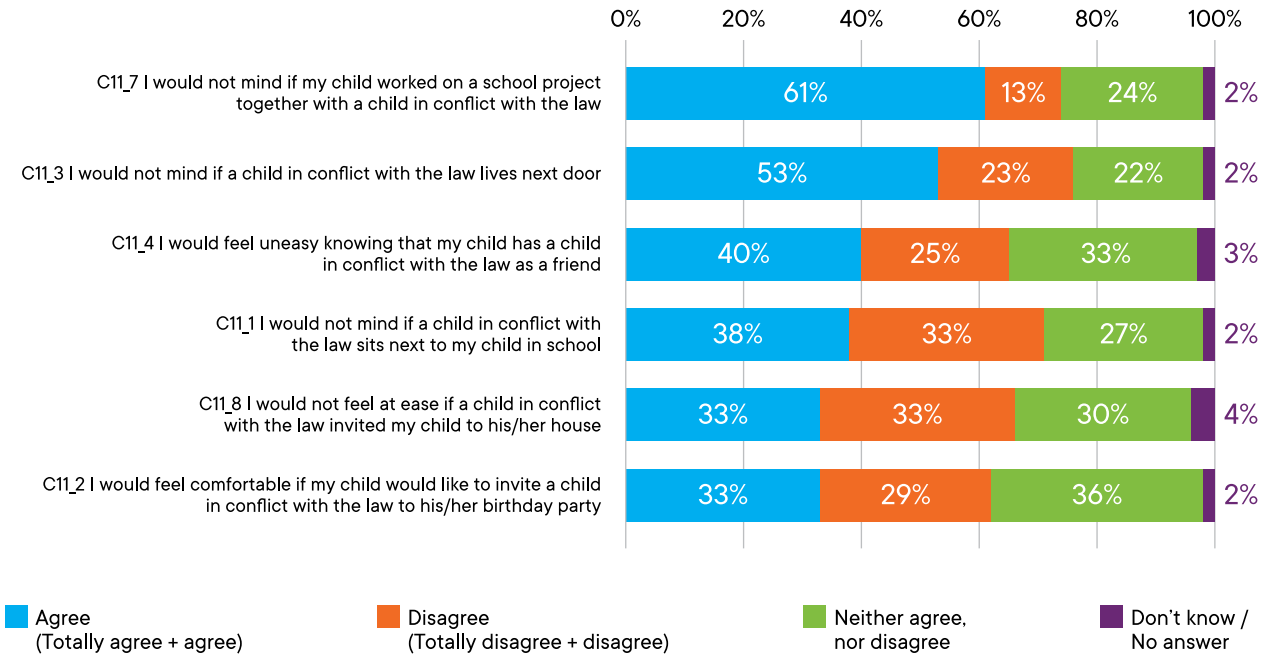
61% respondents agree that they would not mind if their child worked on a school project with a child in conflict with the law, and 53% stated that they would not mind if a child in conflict with the law lives next door (see Chart 29). Still, close to a quarter of them are neutral about the same situations.

Further, the survey results on the Chart 29 show that the professionals are divided in their opinions related to the following statements:

- **"I would feel uneasy knowing that my child has a child in conflict with the law as a friend" - 40% agree compared to 25% of the professionals who disagree and 33% who are neutral to this statement.**
- "I would not mind if a child in conflict with the law sits next to my child in school" – 38% agree, 33% disagree and 27% neither agree, nor disagree.
- "I would not feel at ease if a child in conflict with the law invited my child to his/her house" – one third of professionals agree, one third disagree with the statement and 30% are neutral.
- "I would feel comfortable if my child would like to invite a child in conflict with the law to his/her birthday party" – 33% agree while 36% are neutral and neither agree nor disagree with this statement.

Chart 29

C11. I am going to read you some statements about things you, as a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, would or would not do relating to children in conflict with the law. Using the scale from 1 to 5 where 1 = totally disagree, 5 = totally agree, please



Additional demographic data analysis shows the following statistically significant different attitudes related to the respondents' agreement or disagreement about 4 (four) statements (see Table 16):

Statement	Agree (Totally agree + agree)	Disagree (Totally disagree + disagree)
I would not mind if a child in conflict with the law sits next to my child in school	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (63%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (53%) compared to (39%) and Police officers (28%)	• Respondents aged 25–34 years (48%) compared to; 35–44 years –27%; and 45–54 years – 27%.
I would feel comfortable if my child would like to invite a child in conflict with the law to his/her birthday party	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (57%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (42%) compared to and Police officers (24%)	• No statistically significant differences
I would not mind if a child in conflict with the law lives next door	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (73%) and professionals working in Centres for Social Work (76%) compared to and Police officers (43%)	• Professionals who have 6–10 years of experience in working with children (36%) compared to professionals who have up to 2 years –15%; more than 11 years 16% of experience in working with children
I would feel uneasy knowing that my child has a child in conflict with the law as a friend.	• Professionals that have been working in the same position 6 –10 years (53%) compared to professionals who worked in same position - 3–5 years (35%), and 11 or more years (36%)	• No statistically significant differences

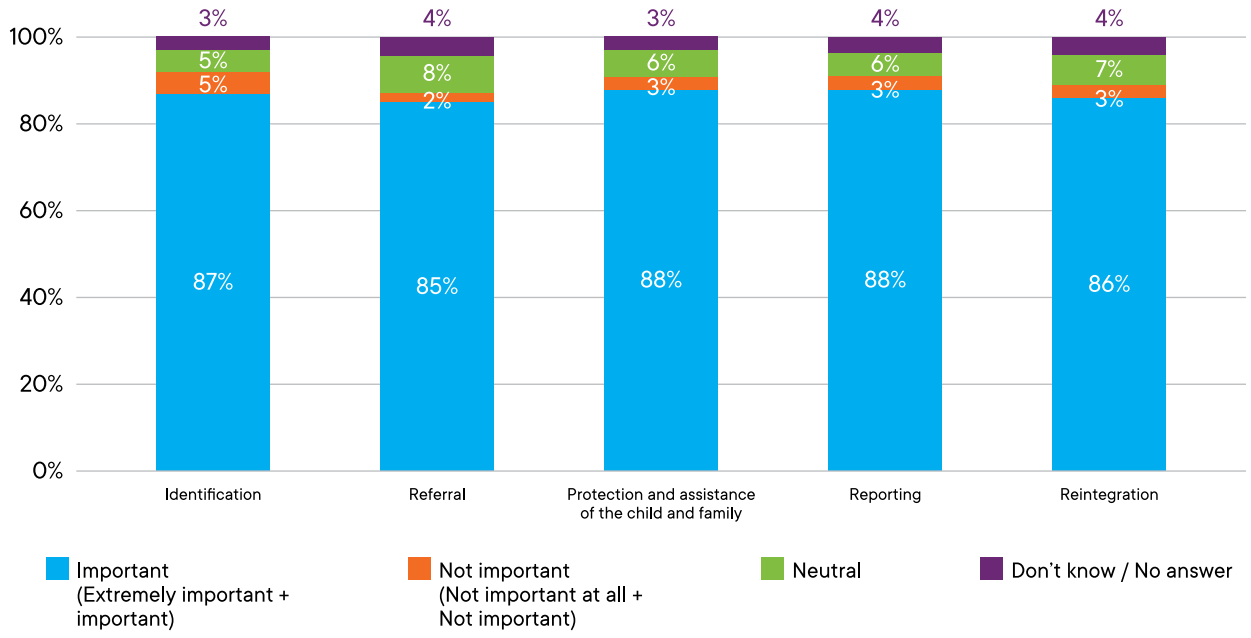
Table 16

3.2.8. Professionals' attitudes towards the importance of cooperation between the institutions in the justice for children system

A large majority of respondents (88%) consider protection and assistance of the child and family as well as reporting to be important phases in cooperation between institutions in the justice for children system (see Chart 30), followed by identification (87%), reintegration (86%) and referral (85%).

Chart 30

C12. According to you, when a child is in contact with the law, how important is the cooperation between your institution and other institutions in the system of justice for children (police, CSW, prosecutor's office) in the following phases:



Analysed by different professional groups, Table 17 includes statistically significant differences regarding the importance of the phases. Namely, lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children and professionals working in Centres for Social Work are statistically more likely to believe that all phases are extremely important in cooperation between institutions when a child is in contact with the law compared to the police officers.

Answer – Extremely important	
Identification	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) and CSW professionals (74%) compared to Police officers (38%)
Referral	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (63%) and CSW professionals (63%) compared to Police officers (34%)
Protection and assistance of the child and family	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (83%) and CSW professionals (71%) compared to Police officers (42%)
Reporting	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (77%) and CSW professionals (74%) compared to Police officers (34%)
Reintegration	• Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children (73%) and CSW professionals (68%) compared to Police officers (39%)

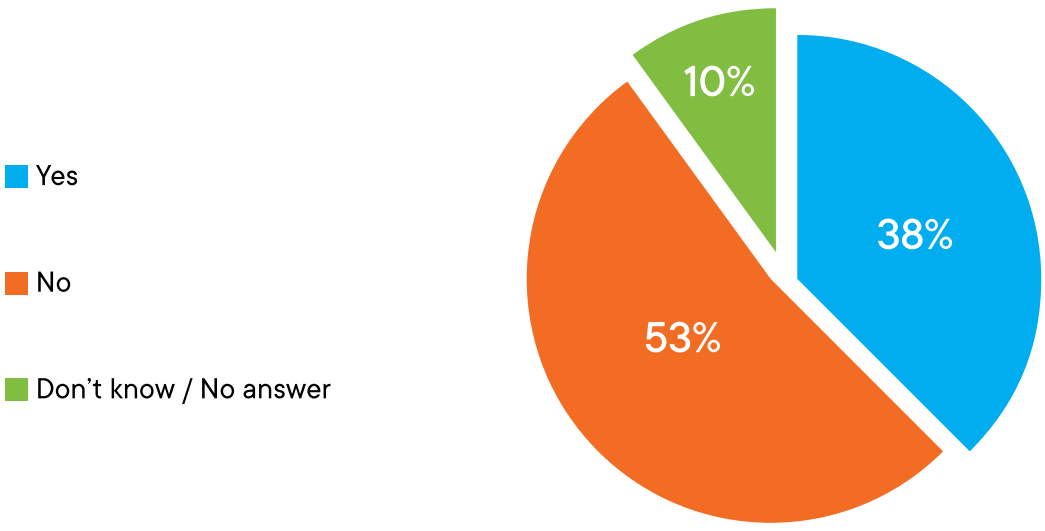
Table 17

3.2.9. Professionals' attitudes towards the ethnicity of a child and crime

Data suggests that although half (53%) of the surveyed respondents believe that children from certain ethnic communities are not more inclined to commit crimes than others, more than one third (38%) do not share this attitude *(see Chart 31)* and 10% do not know or refuse to answer.

Chart 31

C13. Do you think that children from certain ethnic communities are more inclined to committing crimes than others?



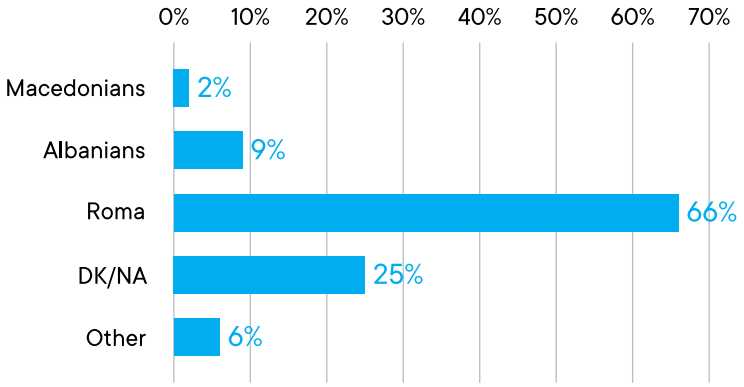
Statistically significant differences, by disaggregated demographic data, related to respondents' agreement or disagreement regarding this question are not identified.

38% of the respondents that consider children from certain ethnic communities to be more inclined to commit crimes than others *(Chart 31)* were asked to specify their answer by indicating an ethnicity and providing a reason for their answer. **Two thirds (66%) of the professionals believe that Roma children are more inclined to committing crimes than others, followed by Albanians**

(9%) – *Chart 32.* As for the reasons why children from certain ethnic communities are more inclined to commit crimes than others, 18% state that material status/poor social situation is the reason why children from certain ethnic communities are more inclined to commit crimes than others *(for other mentions, see Table 18).* To be more specific, respondents think that some of the reasons why Roma children are more inclined to commit crimes than others are material status/poor social situation and insufficient education.

Chart 32

C14. If yes, which ethnicities do you have in mind and why?



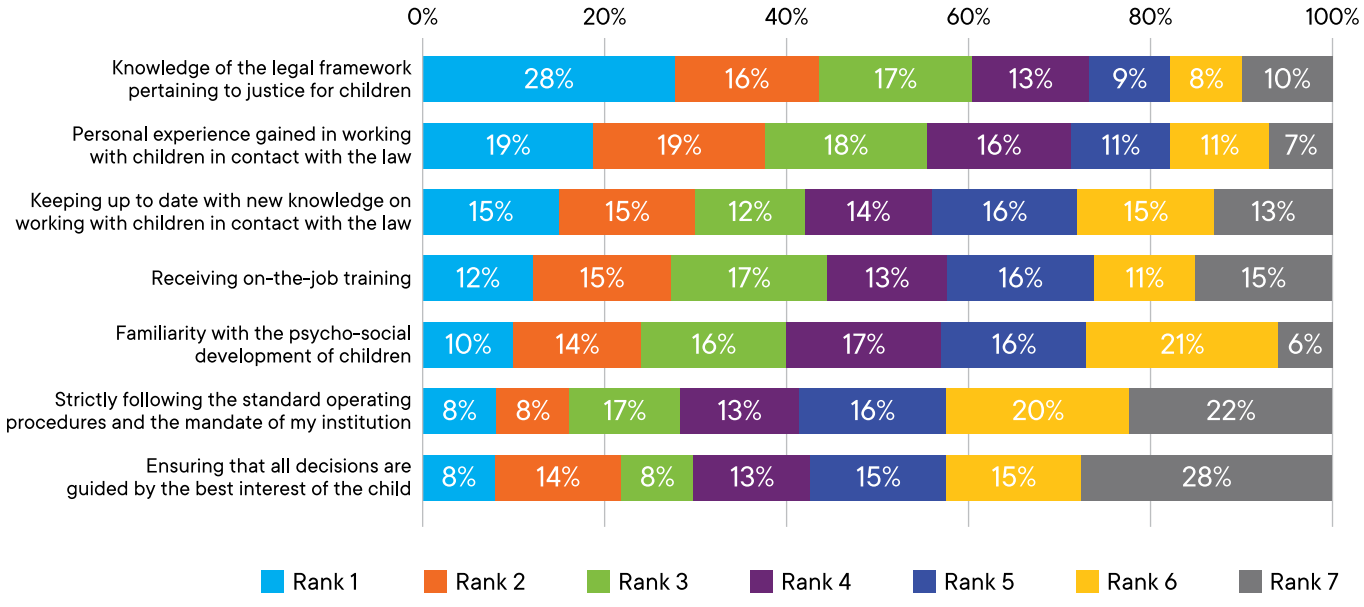
Reasons (C14. If yes, which ethnicities do you have in mind and why?) – Table 18	
Material status / Poor social situation	**18%**
Insufficient education	5%
Insufficient care by parents	4%
Lifestyle	3%
Street children / rude	2%

3.2.10. Professionals' attitudes towards most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law

In order to obtain the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law, the professionals were asked to rank seven (7) aspects where one (1) is the most important and seven (7) is the least important. In accordance with results shown in Chart 32, **knowledge of the legal framework pertaining to justice for children** is the first rank aspect by 28% of the professionals, followed by **personal experience gained in working with children in contact with the law** (19%), and **keeping up to date with new knowledge on working with children in contact with the law** (15%), *(see Chart 33 for other specific mentions).*

Chart 33

C15. Using a ranking scale from 1 to 7 where 1 is the most important and 7 is the least important, please indicate what are the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law:



3.3 Practices

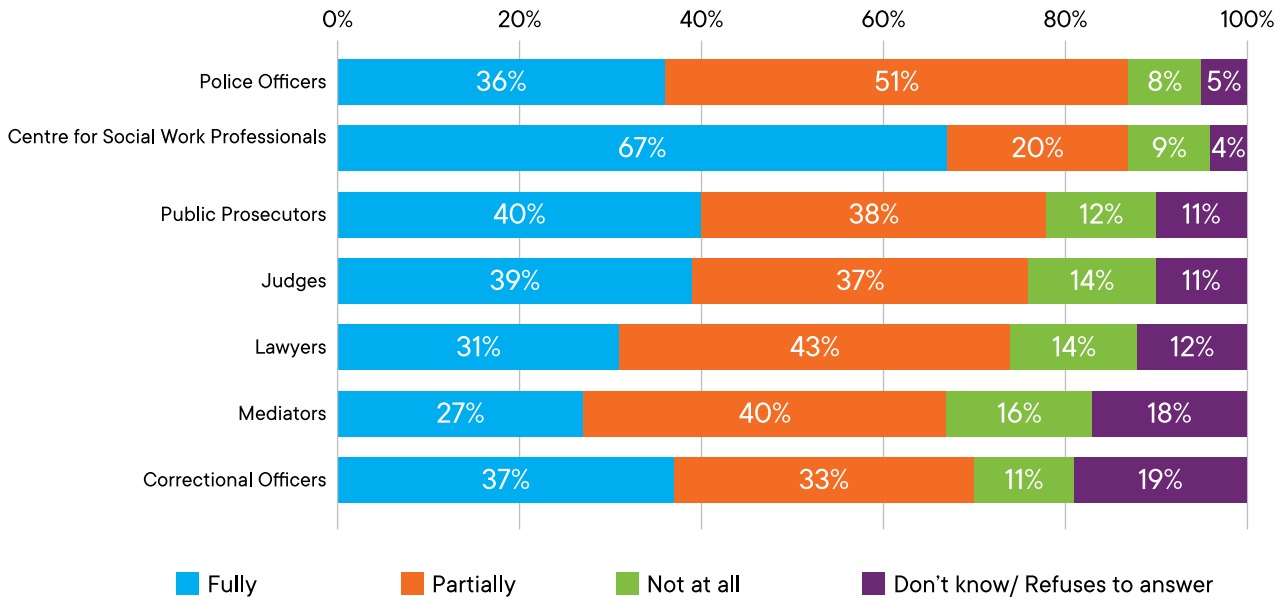
The third thematic section of the questionnaire was focused on obtaining information about the extent and types of practices used in relation to justice for children by professionals looking at the cooperation between institutions, reasons for good/lack of cooperation between professionals, what data they have when working on a case involving a child in contact with the law, etc.

3.3.1. The principle of the best interests of the child and the extent of protection guaranteed by national law

As outlined in Chart 34, the professionals that were part of this survey stated that 67% of the professionals working in Centres for Social Work are fully guided by the principle of the best interest of the child while performing their work compared to other professional groups like police officers, public prosecutors, Judges, etc. (for mentions see chart 34). Furthermore, the respondents believe that half of the police officers (51%) are partially guided by the principle of the best interest of the child, followed by lawyers (43%) and Mediators (40%).

Chart 34

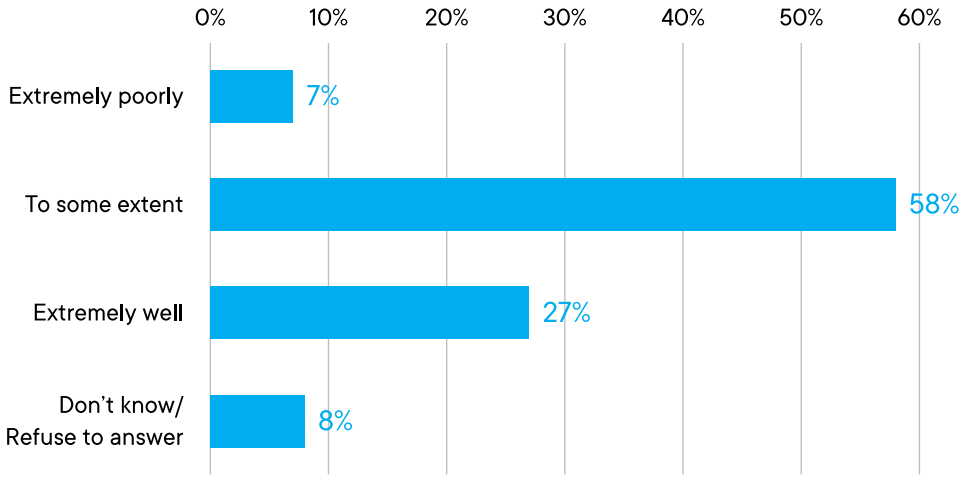
D01. Overall, to what extent would you say that the principle of the best interest of a child is guiding the work of the following professionals:



58% of the professionals consider the national legislation to allow them 'to some extent' to protect children in conflict with the law in their day-to-day practice *(see Chart 35)*. Only 27% think that the national legislation allows them extremely well to protect children in conflict with the law in their everyday practice. 7% of the professionals, characterize the enabling aspect of the national legislation as 'extremely poorly'.

Chart 35

DO2. To what extent is the national legislation enabling you to protect children in conflict with the law in your everyday practice?

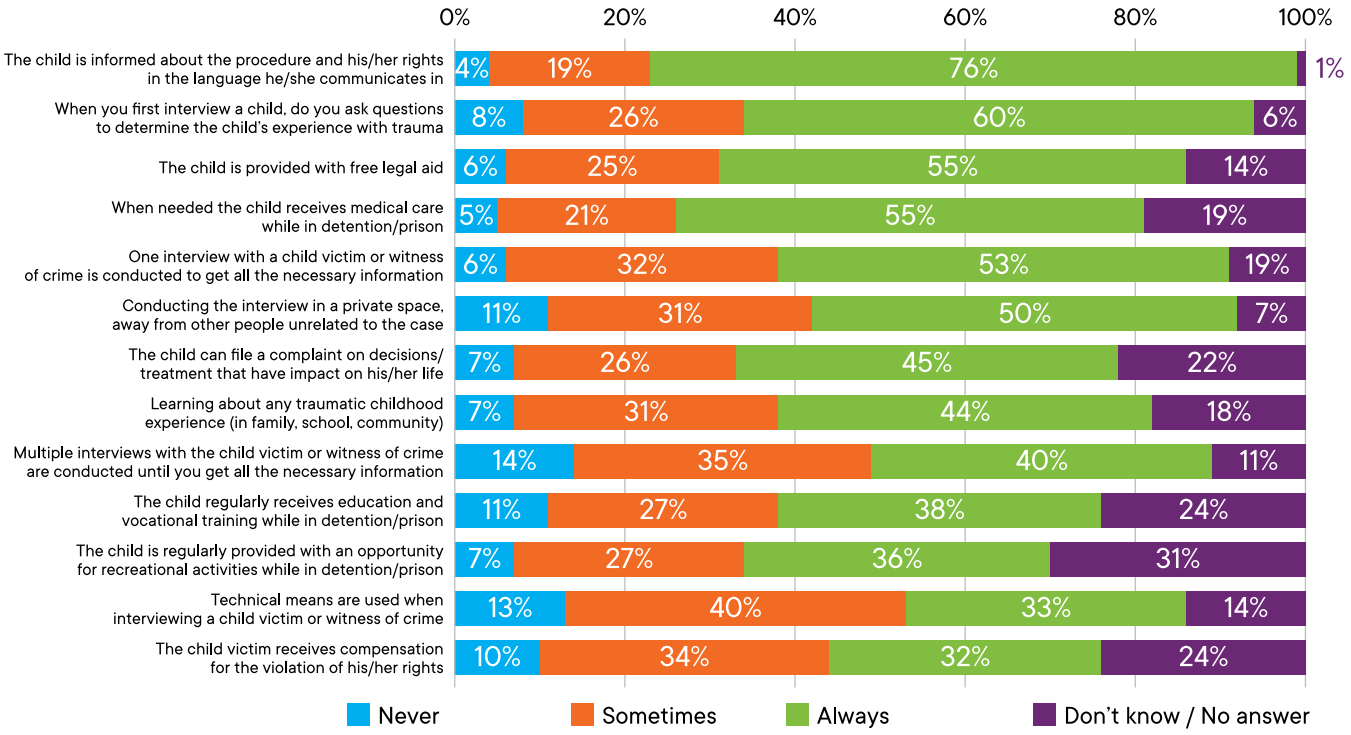


Based on their experience, 76% of the respondents state that the child is always informed about the procedure and his/her rights in the language in which he/she communicates. 60% of the professionals state that during the first interview with a child, questions to determine the child's experience with trauma are always asked; 55% state that when needed the child always receives medical care while in detention/prison; and 55% state that one interview with a child victim or witness of a crime is conducted to get all the necessary information *(see Chart 36)*.

On the other hand, 14% of respondents answered that multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime are never conducted; 13% stated that Technical means when interviewing a child victim or witness of crime are never used; while 11% stated that based on their experience the interview is never conducted in a private space, away from other people unrelated to the case and the child never receives regularly education and vocational training while in detention/prison *(see Chart 36)*.

Chart 36

DO3. Based on your work experience please tell me how often the following happens...

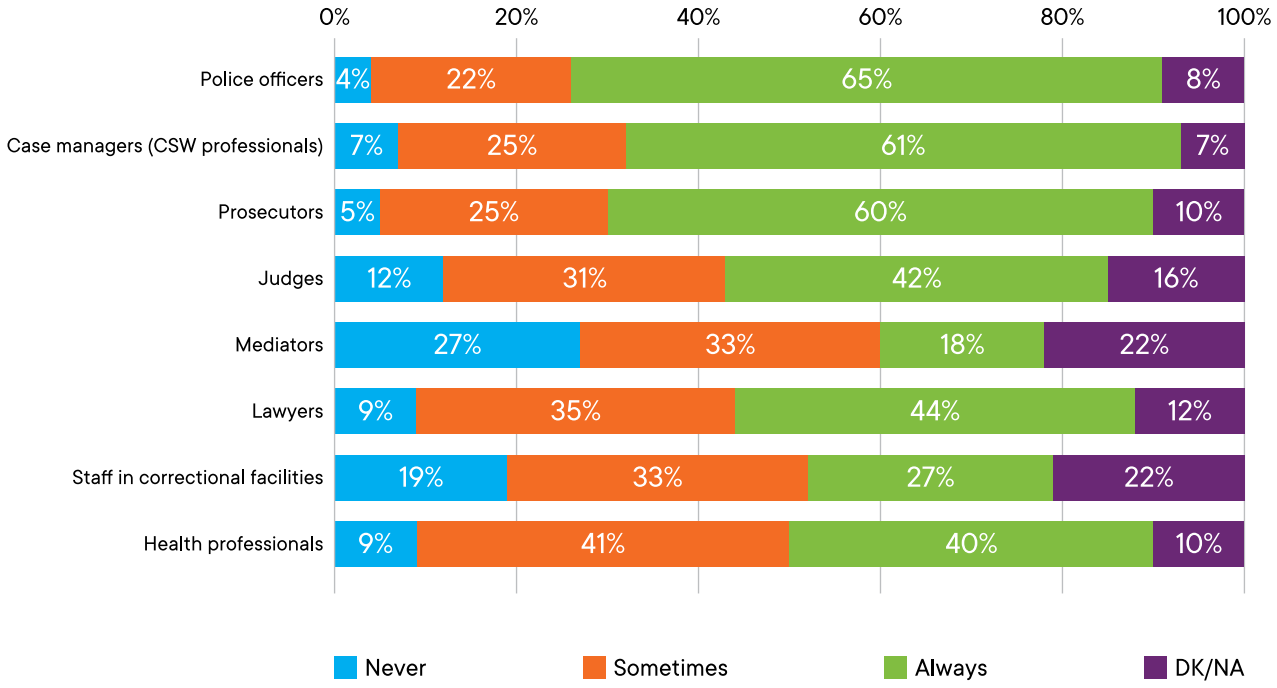


3.3.2. Cooperation between professional groups

When working on a case with a child in contact with the law, almost two thirds (65%) of the respondents stated that they always cooperate with police officers, 61% with Centres for Social Work professionals and 60% with Prosecutors. Contrarily, nearly one third of the professionals never cooperate with Mediators, 19% stated that never cooperate with Staff in correctional facilities and 12% with Judges *(see Chart 37)*.

Chart 37

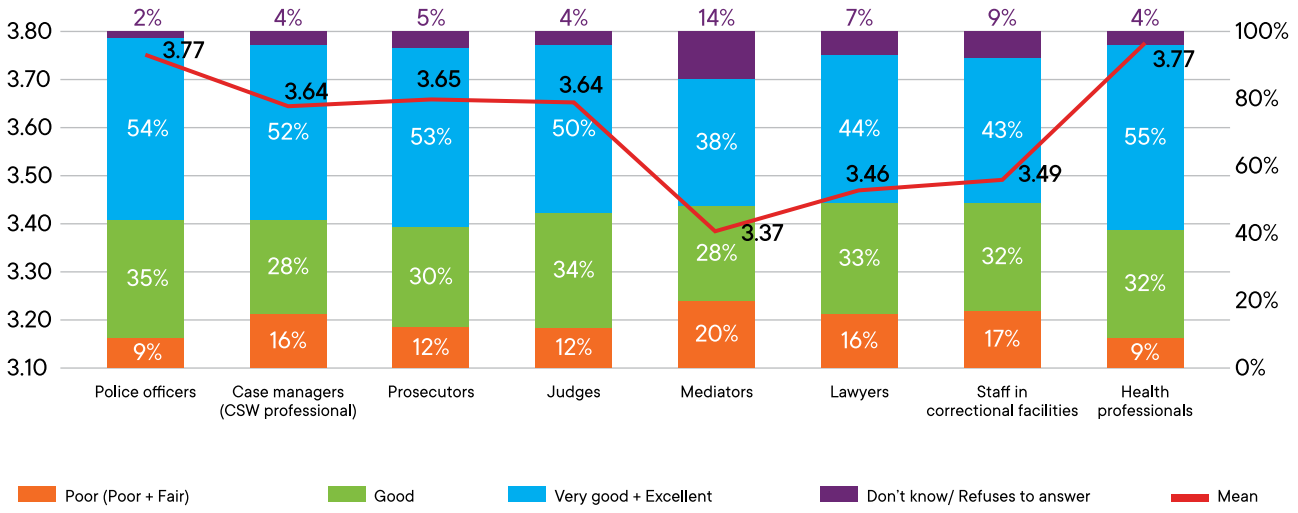
DO4. When working on a case with child in contact with the law, how often do you cooperate with the following professionals?



Respondents who answered that they always or sometimes cooperate with other professionals were asked how they would evaluate that cooperation. From the Chart 38 below we can conclude that more than half of the respondents say that they have solid cooperation (very good + excellent) with police officers (54%) and Health professionals (55%), followed by Prosecutors (53%), Centres for Social Work professionals (52%) and Judges (50%). On the other side, cooperation with Mediators - 20% and Staff in correctional facilities - 17% should be improved.

Chart 38

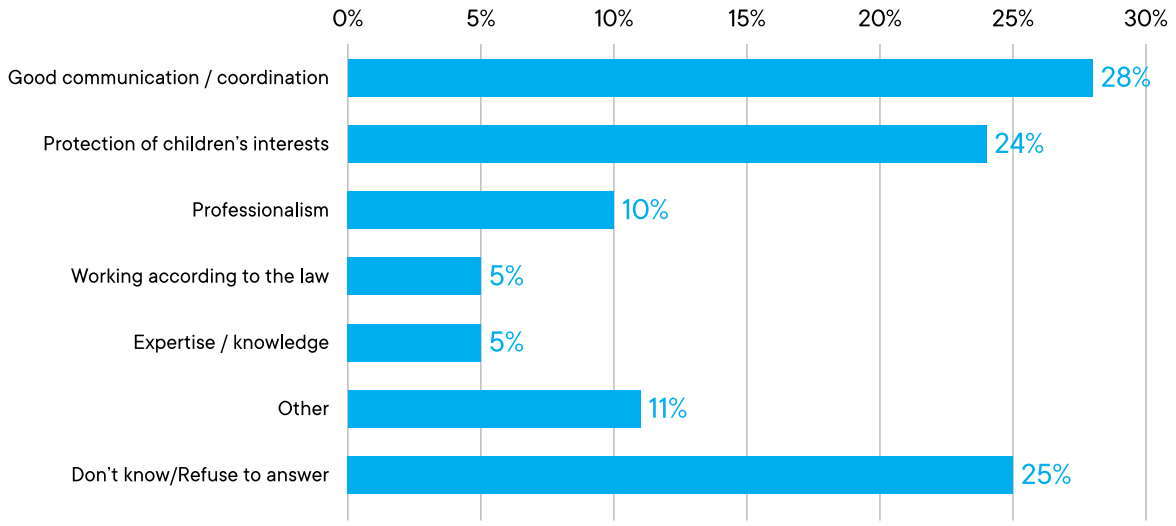
DO5. How would you evaluate your cooperation with other professionals?



Reasons for evaluating the cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors are good communication/ coordination – 28%, protection of children's interests – 24%, and professionalism – 10%. Worth noting is that a significant number of the respondents that evaluated the cooperation between professional sectors as very good or excellent do not know or refuse to state a reason – 25% *(see Chart 39)*.

Chart 39

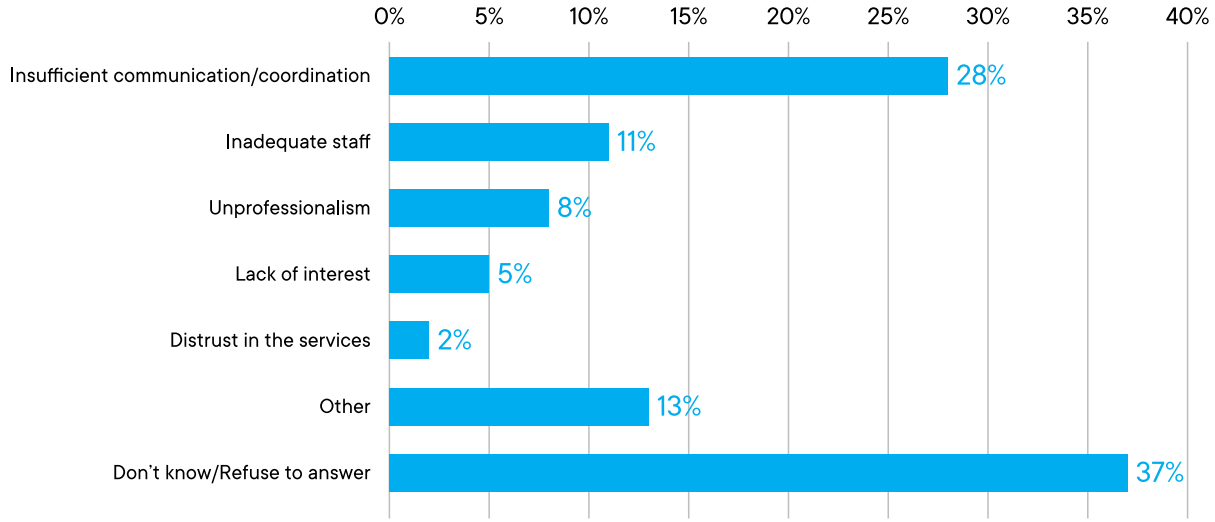
DO6. What are the main reasons for the good cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors?



The respondents who evaluated the cooperation between professional sectors as poor or fair were asked to state reasons for their evaluation. Consequently, nearly one-third (28%) of the respondents believe that insufficient communication/coordination is a reason for the lack of cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors, followed by inadequate staff - 11% *(see Chart 40)*. Significant number (37%) do not know or refuse to answer why there is a lack of cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors.

Chart 40

DO6a. What are the main reasons for the lack of cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors?

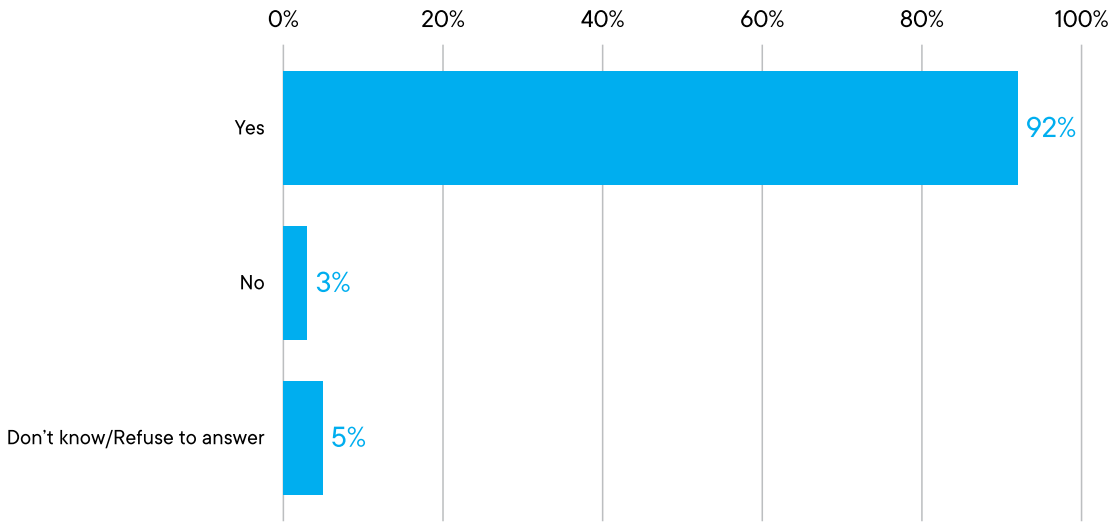


3.3.3. Data about children in contact with the law

The vast majority of professional groups (92%) that were part of this survey confirm that they collect data when working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law compared to 3% who stated they do not collect data while 5% do not know or refuse to answer the question *(see Chart 41)*.

Chart 41

D7. When working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, do you collect data about the case?



Analysed by different professional groups, Table 19 includes noted statistically significant differences with regards to collecting data while working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law.

	Yes
D7. When working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, do you collect data about the case?	• Respondents with completed College/University (95%) and post graduate degree respondents (93%) compared to respondents with completed Secondary/High school 80%

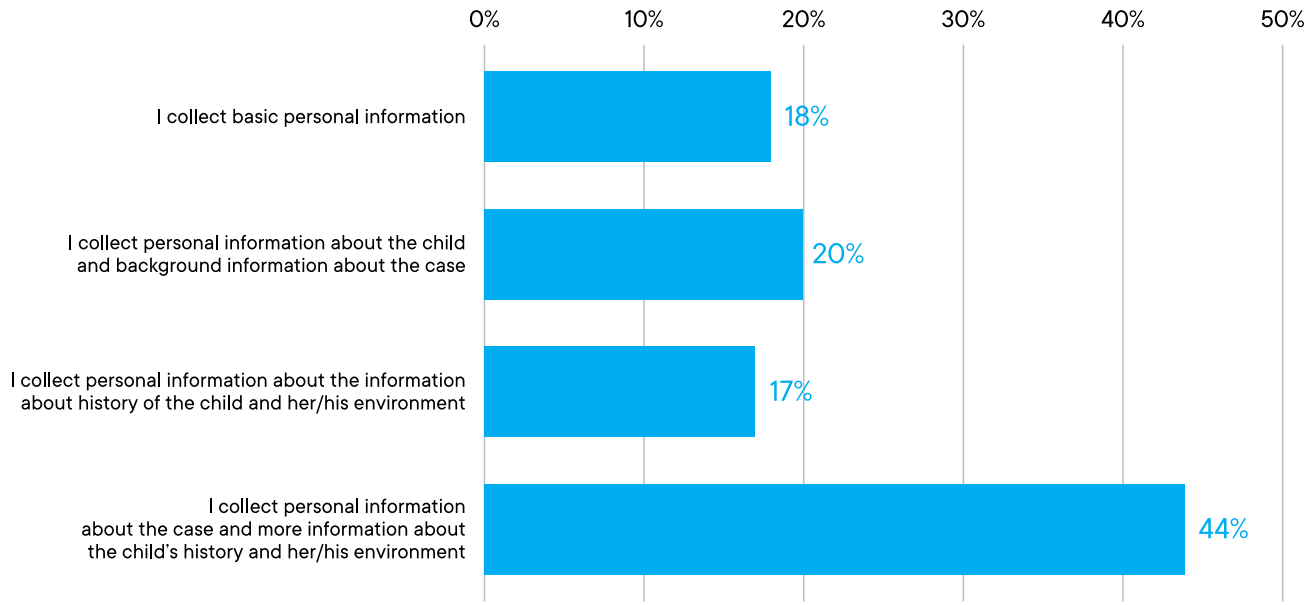
Table 19

Less than half (44%) from the respondents that collect data while working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law describe their data collection as "I collect personal information, background information about the case and more information about the child's history and her/his environment (for example, family history of violence, presence of a mental illness in the family, presence of substance abuse by any member of the family, etc.)", followed by 20% of respondents who collect personal information about the child and background information about the case *(see Chart 42)*.

The only statistically significant differences noted, related to approach to data collection is in highest level of completed education i.e., respondents with completed College/University (47%) collect more personal information about the case and more information about the child's history and her/his environment compared to respondents with completed Secondary/High school education.

Chart 42

D8. What best describes your approach to data collection?



While working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, there is a lot of information about the case and flow of information between institutions in justice for children system. The respondents were asked to characterize the flow of information between institutions as outlined in the Chart 43, and 40% only receive and redirect information upon request only; 31% receive and redirect information daily; 17% state that within their duties and responsibilities, there is no need for information sharing and 11% receive and redirect information, when time allows.

Chart 43

D9. When working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, how would you characterize the flow of information between institutions in justice for children system about the case and the child?

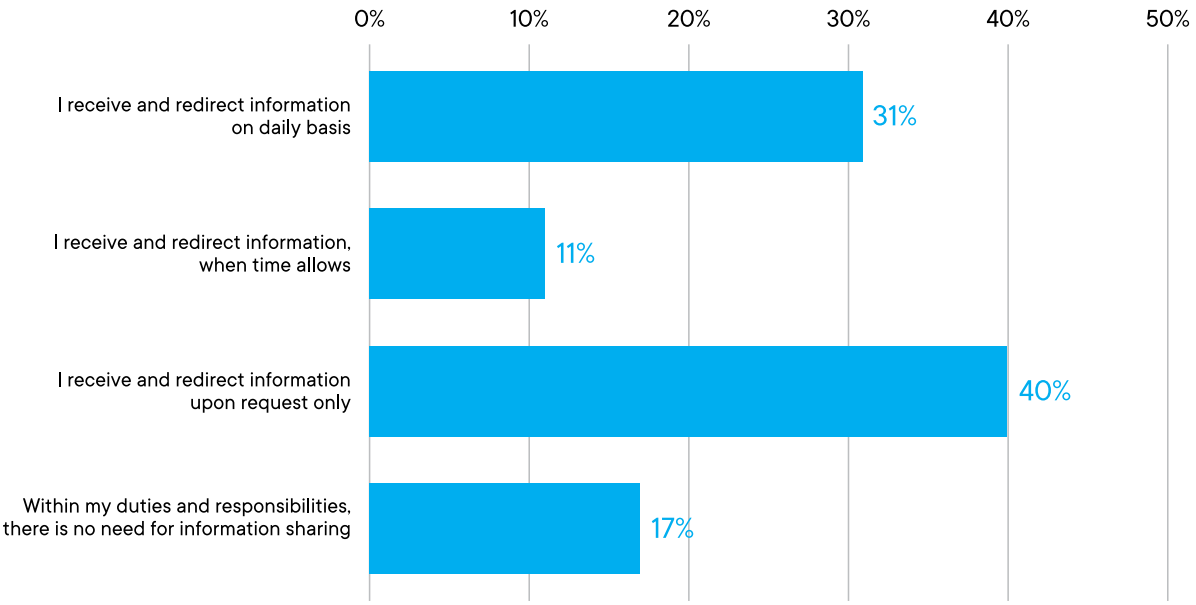


Table 20 includes data on noted statistically significant differences in relation the categorization of the flow of information between institutions in justice for children system.

I receive and redirect information upon request only	• Professionals working in Centres for Social Work (74%) receive and redirect information upon request only compared to other professionals (police officers – 30%; and Judges 42%)
Within my duties and responsibilities, there is no need for information sharing	• Respondents aged 25–34 years old (25%) compared to respondents aged 35–44 years old (12%)

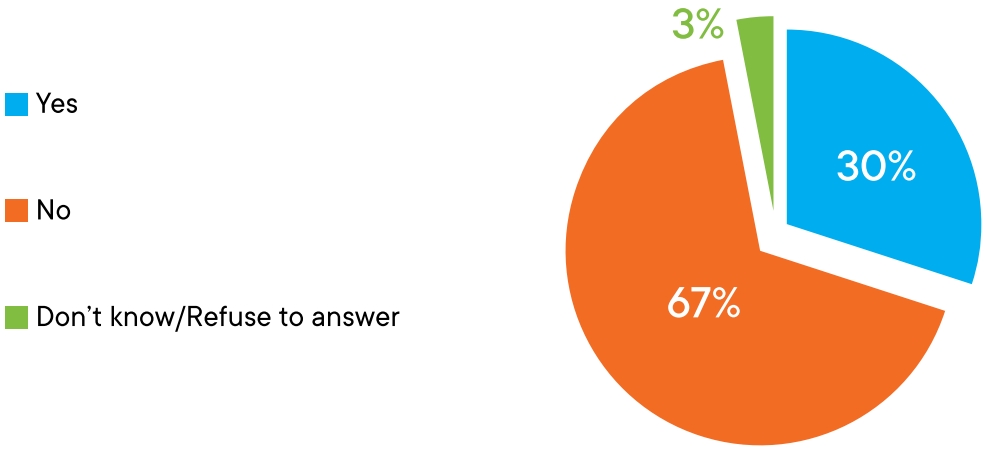
Table 20

3.3.4. Training on how to work with children who are in contact with the law and way of working

Two of three professionals have not received any training on how to work with children in contact with the law compared to nearly one third (30%) of the respondents who stated that they received such training (see Chart 44).

Chart 44

D10. Have you personally received any training on how to work with chidren in contact with the law?

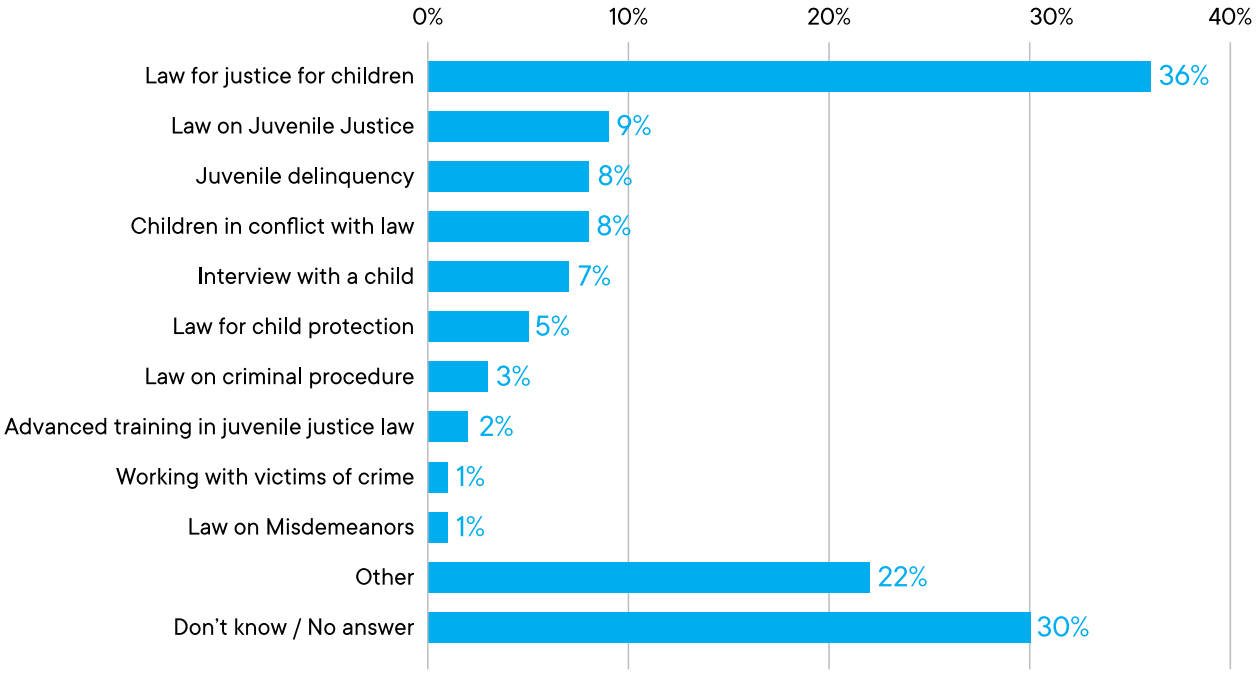


Looking by demographic characteristics of the respondents related to training on how to work with children in contact with the law can be noted a significantly higher percentage of police officers (81%) did not attend this type of training compared to professionals working in Centres for Social Work (47%) and lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children (23%) where the percentage is significantly lower. In other words, as expected the Lawyers who have had specialized training to work with children have received significantly more training (77%) on how to work with children in contact with the law compared to other professional groups (professionals working in Centres for Social Work – 53%; police officers– 15%; and judges – 42%).

Respondents who answered positively to the previous question, i.e., those who received training were asked to specify the topics of the training they have received. The results show that more than one third (36%) of the respondents received training about the Law on justice for children; 9% about Law on Juvenile Justice; 8% about Children in Conflict with Law and 7% about Interview with a child. A notable percentage of the respondents (30%) could not specify the topics of the training they received *(see Chart 45)*.

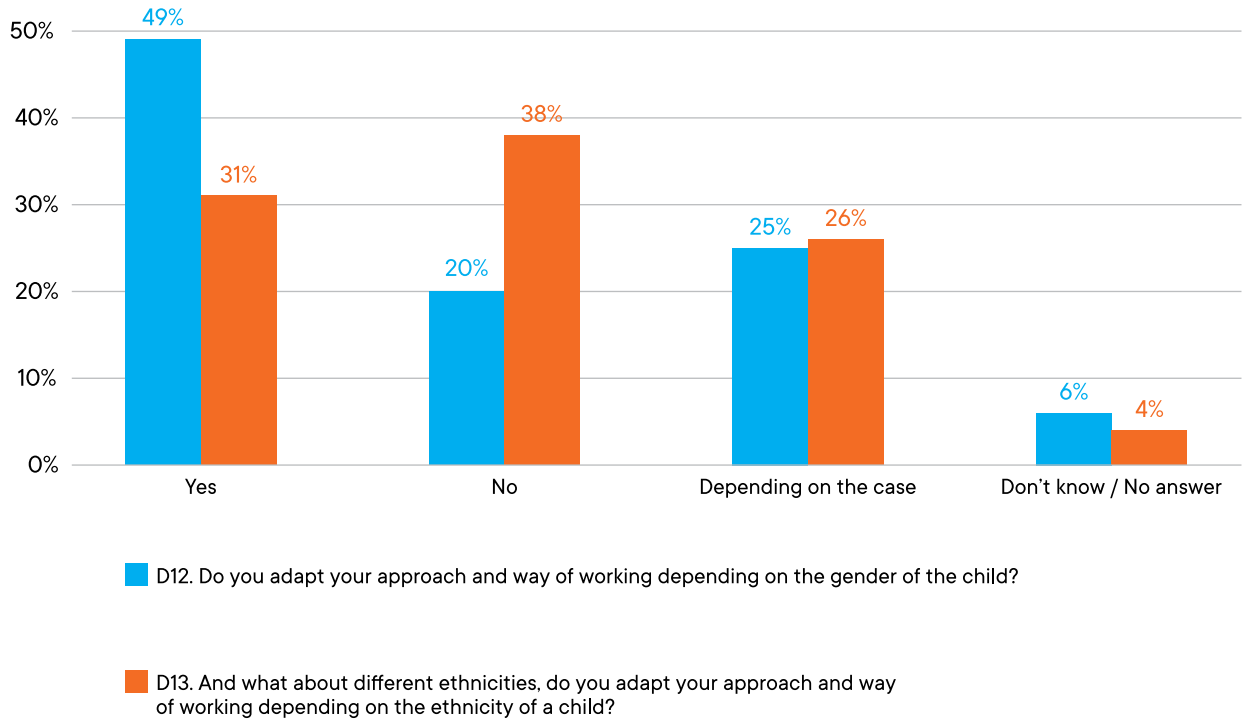
Chart 45

D11. Could you please specify the topics of the trainings you have received



Survey's results outlined in Chart 46 show that nearly half of the professionals (49%) of the respondents adapt their approach and way of working depending on the gender of the child, while additionally 31% adapt their approach and way of working depending on the ethnicity of a child. Approximately the same percentage answered that depending on the case they adjust the approach and way of working depending on gender – 25% and ethnicity of the child – 26% *(see Chart 46)*.

Chart 46


50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
49%
31%
20%
38%
25%
26%
6%
4%
Yes
No
Depending on the case
Don't know / No answer
D12. Do you adapt your approach and way of working depending on the gender of the child?
D13. And what about different ethnicities, do you adapt your approach and way of working depending on the ethnicity of a child?

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology that was used for administering the questionnaire were face-to-face interviews, by CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) technique of data collection.

The following are the key aspects of face-to-face methodology of interviewing and data collection:

- It enables longer and more complex interviewing process as well as the use of supporting materials (e.g., photos, product samples, and similar) and additional explanations/clarifications, if necessary.
- It minimizes possibility of misunderstanding or wrong interpretation of questions/needed answers.
- It is conducted by already experienced interviewers who have all the characteristics, both personal and professional, to collect highly accurate data.
- Interviewers' work is constantly monitored and controlled at several levels, which results in high data collection quality.
- A whole team of people working on the project, such as fieldwork supervisors, programmers, logical, telephone and field control, also guarantee high quality of data.
- It can be conducted in households, respondent's place of work, on the street, at the central location, and at other locations.

As part of the quantitative research, Indago undertook the following activities:

- Questionnaires design and translation
- Sample design
- Programming of questionnaire into CAPI software
- Questionnaire pre-testing
- Training of interviewers
- Ensuring good response rate
- Data collection and fieldwork supervision
- Logical control of data, analysis and reporting.

4.1 Demography - Sample Structure

The following is a sample structure of the respondents interviewed during this survey, shown in percentages.

		Count	Percent
Professional group	Professionals working in Centers for Social Work	38	13%
	Police officers - juvenile delinquency inspectors and police officers	185	65%
	Judges	24	8%
	Public Prosecutors	6	2%
	Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children	30	11%
		Count	**Percent**
Place of work	Urban	274	97%
	Rural	9	3%
		Count	**Percent**
Years of working experience	Up to 2 years	35	12%
	3–5 years	72	25%
	6–10 years	53	19%
	11 and more years	107	38%
	Refuse to answer	16	6%
		Count	**Percent**
Years of working experience with children	Up to 2 years	66	23%
	3–5 years	57	20%
	6–10 years	33	12%
	11 or more years	64	23%
	Refuse to answer	63	22%
		Count	**Percent**
Gender	Male	174	61%
	Female	109	39%
		Count	**Percent**
Ethnicity	Macedonian	238	84%
	Albanian	24	8%
	Other	7	2%
	Refuse to answer	14	5%
		Count	**Percent**
Age	Less than 24 years	3	1%
	25–34 years	77	27%
	35–44 years	101	36%
	45–54 years	66	23%
	Over 55 years	31	11%
	I prefer not to answer	5	2%
		Count	**Percent**
Education	Primary school completed	1	0%
	Secondary/High school completed	50	18%
	College/University completed	164	58%
	Post graduate degree	59	21%
	Refuse to answer	9	3%

4.2 Questionnaire

Master Questionnaire
KAP Survey Justice for Children
(Professional groups)
2021.009

(Basic survey information): This Survey is aimed at obtaining information on Justice for children. More specifically, the survey is designed to explore aspects related to the concept of "Justice for Children" which covers children in conflict with the law (i.e. alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law), children who are victims or witnesses of crime, and children who may be at risk of entering in the justice system (either due to their social circumstance or because they have committed an act that would be considered criminal if they were of age of criminal responsibility). It can be seen as an overarching concept that works for the benefit and best interests of all children who come into contact with the law. It includes aspects such as prevention, diversion, rehabilitation, assistance services and protection measures.

The findings of the survey will be used as baseline information for two key results of "System Reform for Child-friendly Justice," a two-year action, supported by the European Union. More specifically, it will generate insights that will inform and guide interventions to strengthen the professionals of the justice system to adhere to national and international standards for the treatment and protection of children rights, as well as interventions targeting the access to services, facilities and information in the justice system.

Length of interview: around 40 minutes
Start fieldwork: TBD
End fieldwork: TBD

I. SAMPLE VARIABLES

- *Respondent number (unique) (label RESPID) [Q]*
- *Professional group (label S01) [S]*
- *Place of working (urban/rural) (label A01) [S]*

II. QUOTA CHECK BASED ON SAMPLE VARIABLES

Total net - n=283

III. INTRODUCTION

Good morning/Good afternoon/Good evening. My name is..... and I work for Indago, an independent market research and public opinion polling agency. We are conducting research about knowledge, attitudes and practices towards justice for children among different professional groups, including police officers, social workers, judges, prosecutors and lawyers working with children in the justice system. Please have in mind that this survey is not about your institution, but about your and your colleagues' knowledge, attitudes and practices related to justice for children. Do you have about 40 minutes to spare to answer several questions? Your answers are very important to us. All the answers are anonymous, and the data will be used for statistical analysis only. Can we begin with the questions?

IV. SCREENER

S01 [S]
Which of the following professional groups do you belong to?

1) Professionals working in Centres for Social Work – *case managers*
2) Police officers – juvenile delinquency inspectors and police officers
3) Judges
4) Public Prosecutors
5) Lawyers who have had a specialized training to work with children,
6) Other, specify _____

V. MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

B SECTION - KNOWLEDGE

Base: all respondents

B01 [O]
How would you define the best interest of a child?

INT. write down the respondent's response in full

Base: all respondents

B02 [S]
Is the best interest of a child defined in the national legislation?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Don't know [INT. Don't read]

INT. Read answers.
There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

B03
How do you describe—what terminology do you use—a person under the age of 18 who comes in conflict with the law?

Base: all respondents

B04 [M]
Which laws protect and regulate the rights of children in contact with the law?

1. Law on Justice for Children
2. Law on Social Protection
3. Criminal Procedure Code
4. Family Law
5. Law on Prevention, Combat and Protection from Domestic Violence
6. Law on Probation
7. Law on Execution of Sanctions
8. Law on Police
9. Cannot name a specific act
10. Other (please specify)

INT. Do not read answers.

Base: all respondents

B05 [S per row]:
Are any of these factors likely to determine whether a child is at risk of coming in conflict with the law? Very likely to unlikely

SCRIPTER: Randomize ACEs

	Not likely at all (1)	2	3	4	Very likely (5)	DK/NA *[INT. Don't read*
Physical abuse	1	2	3	4	5	9
Sexual abuse	1	2	3	4	5	9
Verbal abuse	1	2	3	4	5	9
Physical neglect	1	2	3	4	5	9
Emotional neglect	1	2	3	4	5	9
A family member who is depressed or diagnosed with other mental illness	1	2	3	4	5	9
A family member who is addicted to alcohol or another substance	1	2	3	4	5	9
A family member who is in prison	1	2	3	4	5	9
Witnessing a mother being abused	1	2	3	4	5	9
Losing a parent to separation, divorce or death	1	2	3	4	5	9

Base: all respondents

B06 [S per row]
Based on your knowledge and work experience, what are the fundamental rights of child-friendly justice?

SCRIPTER: Randomize principles

Fundamental Rights	Yes	No	DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Participation (Right to be heard in all matters that affect children)	1	2	9
2) Best interest of the child	1	2	9
3) Dignity	1	2	9
4) Protection from discrimination (Right for non-discrimination of any kind)	1	2	9
5) Presumption of innocence	1	2	9
6) Right to restorative justice measures	1	2	9
7) Right to have their privacy protected	1	2	9
8) Right to legal counsel	1	2	9
9) Right to free legal aid	1	2	9
10) Right to fair and just trial	1	2	9
11) Right to education and vocational training while in detention/prison	1	2	9
12) Right to recreational activities while in detention/prison	1	2	9
13) Right to medical care while in detention/prison	1	2	9
14) Right to complaint on decisions that have impact on his/her life	1	2	9

INT. Read each principles and answers.

Base: all respondents

B07 [S per row]
Based on your knowledge, are the following aspects regulated in the national legislation?

SCRIPTER: Randomize aspects

Aspects	Yes	No	DK./NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Informing the child about his/her rights	1	2	9
2) Consulting the child on decisions that have impact on his/her life	1	2	9
3) Using a language that the child can communicate with	1	2	9
4) Protecting his/her privacy	1	2	9
5) No specific premises are required for interviewing a child as long as a psychologist and a social worker are present	1	2	9
6) Conducting one interview with a child victim or witness of crime to get all the necessary information	1	2	9
7) Conducting the interview with the child in a child-friendly room, away from other people unrelated to the case	1	2	9
8) Using technical means of communication (e.g. video recorded materials) when interviewing a child victim of crime	1	2	9
9) Provision of legal counsel to the child	1	2	9
10) Conducting multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime until you get all the necessary information	1	2	9
11) The child can file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have impact on his/her life	1	2	9
12) Being guided by the best interest of the child when making any decisions related to the child.	1	2	9

INT. Read each aspect and answers.

Base: all respondents

B08 [M]
Based on your knowledge, which correctional measures are available according to the national legislation?

1) Reprimand
2) Referral to a Centre for children
3) Increased supervision: by the parent/s or the guardian/s; the foster family, or by the centre for social work; and
4) Referral to an educational institution
5) Referral to a correctional-educational institution.
6) Other, specify _____
7) Don't know *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Don't read answers. Record all answers that the respondent mentions.
Multiple answers are possible.

Base: all respondents

B09 [O]
What is the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the country? *[INT. write down the age]*
_____ years

Base: all respondents

B10 [M]
What kind of restorative justice measures are available according to the legislation in the country?
(Diversion measures from 2 to 4; Alternative measures from 5 to 7)

1) Mediation
2) Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure,
3) Public prosecutor postpones the initiation of a procedure,
4) Public prosecutor does not initiate a procedure due to an agreement based on a report from the center
5) Probation with protective supervision,
6) Conditional termination of proceedings against the child
7) Community service
8) Other (specify) _____
9) Don't know *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Don't read answers. Record all answers that the respondent mentions.
Multiple answers are possible.

Base: all respondents

B11 [M]
What kind of sanctions are available according to the legislation in the country?

1) Imprisonment for children;
2) Fine;
3) Disqualification from driving a motor vehicle from a specific type or category;
4) Deportation of a foreigner out of the country
5) Other (specify) _____
6) Don't know *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Don't read answers. Record all answers that the respondent mentions.
Multiple answers are possible.

Base: all respondents

B12 [M]
What kind of safety measures are available according to the legislation in the country?

1) Compulsory psychiatric treatment inside a health facility;
2) Compulsory psychiatric treatment out on freedom,
3) Compulsory treatment of children to treat addictions Other (specify) _____
4) Don't know *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Don't read answers. Record all answers that the respondent mentions.
Multiple answers are possible.

Base: all respondents

B13 [S]

Is there data specifying number of cases of children in contact with law that actually occur in North Macedonia that are reported to the official agencies responsible?

1) Yes, such data exist and its accurate
2) Yes, such data exist, but its not accurate
3) No, there is no such data
4) Don't know *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read the answers
There is only one answer possible.

Base: respondents who respond code 1 and 2 on B13

B14 [O]

What are the key sources of official data (databases, publications, etc.) on children in contact with the law available to professionals who work in the system on justice for children?"

INT. write down the respondent's response in full

Base: all respondents

B15 [S]

Are you required to attend any specialized training on justice for children?

1) Yes
2) No

INT. Read the answers
There is only one answer possible.

C SECTION – ATTITUDES

Base: all respondents

C01 [S per statement]
Please tell me whether you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statements and how strongly you feel about each of them.

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Statement	1) Totally disagree	2) Disagree	3) Neither agree, nor disagree	4) Agree	5) Totally agree	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Children in conflict with the law will never change	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) Children in conflict with the law need affection and praise just like any other child	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Children in conflict with the law are not better or worse than other children	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Most children in conflict with the law are either lazy or simply not interested to go to school	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Alternative measures do not serve the purpose in correcting a child's behaviour	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) Separating children in conflict with the law from other children is necessary to impede their bad influence on other children	1	2	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

C02 [S per statement]
I will again read you several statements. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree and how strongly you feel about each of them.

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Statement	1) Totally disagree	2) Disagree	3) Neither agree, nor disagree	4) Agree	5) Totally agree	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Children in conflict with the law are always trying to get something out of somebody	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) A child in conflict with the law is like any other child	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Children in conflict with the law have no moral compass	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Strict discipline can be helpful to children in conflict with the law	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Children in conflict with the law are essentially bad	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) Most children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated.	1	2	3	4	5	9
7) Children in conflict with the law are essentially good	1	2	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

C03 [S per statement]
Again, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and how strongly you feel about each of them.

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Statement	1) Totally disagree	2) Disagree	3) Neither agree, nor disagree	4) Agree	5) Totally agree	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Providing the child an opportunity to make amends with the victim of his/her crime reduces the risk of recidivism	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) A professional working in justice for children needs to receive a specialized training to be able to work with children.	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) A child victim should be compensated for the violation he/she suffered	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) It is more useful to rely on the parents'/ guardians' testimony instead of the child's	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Video recording of a victim's statement should be always used.	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) A child victim should be protected from additional harm during the procedure	1	2	3	4	5	9

Base: all respondents

C04 [S per statement]
Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and how strongly you feel about each of them.

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Statement	1) Totally disagree	2) Disagree	3) Neither agree, nor disagree	4) Agree	5) Totally agree	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) The majority of children (over 60 per cent) will experience some form of trauma in their childhood	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) A child who does wrong is always also a victim	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Children need to be punished to learn right from wrong	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Justice systems must help children overcome fear and trauma	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) As a [insert profession] it's my job to help child offenders	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) There is no such thing a problematic child, just children who need help working through their problems	1	2	3	4	5	9
7) Children are always a victim even when they break the law	1	2	3	4	5	9
8) Children with serious behaviour problems must be punished to learn	1	2	3	4	5	9
9) A girl who shares private photos with her friend online is responsible if the photos go public	1	2	3	4	5	9
10) When a child does something wrong, they should come up with a solution on how to repair or compensate for the damage or suffering they caused	1	2	3	4	5	9
11) Children living and working on the street are more likely to steal than other children	1	2	3	4	5	9
12) Children need to be punished to learn right from wrong	1	2	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

C05 [S per row]
In the context of your work, how would you assess the importance of each of the following aspects on a scale from 1 which means "not important at all" to 5 "extremely important"?

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

	1) Not important at all	2) Not important	3) Neutral	4) Important	5) Extremely important	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Informing the child about his/her rights	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) Consulting the child on decisions that have impact on his/her life	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Using a language that the child can communicate with	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Protecting his/her privacy	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Conducting one interview with a child victim or witness of crime to get all the necessary information	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) Conducting the interview in a private space, away from other people unrelated to the case	1	2	3	4	5	9
7) Using technical means of communication (e.g., video recorded materials) when interviewing a child victim of crime	1	2	3	4	5	9
8) Providing legal counsel to the child	1	2	3	4	5	9
9) Conducting multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime to obtain all the necessary information	1	2	3	4	5	9
10) The possibility for a child to file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have impact on his/her life	1	2	3	4	5	9
11) Learning about any traumatic childhood experience (in the family, at school, in the community)						

INT. Read each aspect separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

C06 [M up to 3]
According to you, if a child has committed a crime, what are the most effective ways to prevent that child to commit a crime again?
SELECT UP TO 3 (THREE) MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES

1) Sentencing the child to a correctional facility
2) The child to pay money for what he/she did
3) The child to talk to the victim of his/her crime and try to find a solution together with the victim (mediation and conflict resolution),
4) The child to perform community work,
5) The child to repair the damage caused by her/his criminal act,
6) The child to compensate for the damage caused by her/his criminal act
7) The child to receive additional support from his/her family

8) The child's family receives additional help for upbringing of their child
9) The child is sent to a place where s/he will receive additional support from professionals
10) Providing psycho-social support to a child
11) Providing psycho-social support to a family

INT. Read answers. Up to 3 (three) answers are possible

Base: all respondents

C07 [S]

How many interviews should a child victim or witness of crime have to obtain all necessary information?

1) One interview
2) Two-three interviews
3) Four or more
4) Don't know/ Refuses to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read answers

There is only one answer possible

Base: all respondents

C08 [O]

Why do you think it is necessary to interview the child victim or witness of crime? *[SCRIPTER: X TIME FROM C07]*

_____

INT. write down the respondent's response in full

Base: all respondents

C09 [S]

Do you think it is possible to reintegrate children who have committed a crime into society?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know/ Refuses to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read answers

There is only one answer possible

Base: respondents who respond YES on C09

C10 [M]

What types of services would help these children (children who have committed a crime) rehabilitate and reintegrate in the society?

1) Material/Financial assistance
2) Vocational trainings
3) Mentoring programme
4) School attendance/school support
5) Medical help
6) Counselling/psycho-social support for children and/or parents
7) Parenting courses/meetings with other families
8) Substance abuse treatment for adults and youth
9) Services for parents and children with disabilities
10) Screening for adverse childhood experiences
11) Other(specify)_____
12) Don't know/ Refuses to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Do not read answers. Circle all that are mentioned. Probe once: "Anything else?"

Base: all respondents

C11 [S per statement]

I am going to read you some statements about things you, as a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, would or would not do relating to children in conflict with the law. Using the scale from 1 to 5 where 1 = totally disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, 5 = totally agree, please state to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements.

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Statement	1) Totally disagree	2) Disagree	3) Neither agree, nor disagree	4) Agree	5) Totally agree	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) I would not mind if a child in conflict with the law sits next to my child in school.	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) I would feel comfortable if my child would like to invite a child in conflict with the law to his/her birthday party.	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) I would not mind if a child in conflict with the law lives next door.	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) I would feel uneasy knowing that my child has a child in conflict with the law as a friend.	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) I would not mind if there were support services for children in conflict with the law in my neighborhood.	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) I think most children in conflict with the law have experienced severe trauma	1	2	3	4	5	9
7) I would not mind if my child worked on a school project together with a child in conflict with the law						
8) I would not feel at ease if a child in conflict with the law invited my child to his/her house	1	2	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible

Base: all respondents

C12 [S per row]

According to you, when a child is in contact with the law, how important is the cooperation between your institution and other institutions in the system of justice for children (police, CSW, prosecutor's office) in the following phases:

Phases	1) Not important at all	2) Not important	3) Neutral	4) Important	5) Extremely important	9) DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Identification	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) Referral	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Protection and assistance of the child and family	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Reporting	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Reintegration	1	2	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each phase separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible

Base: all respondents

C13 [S]

Do you think that children from certain ethnic communities are more inclined to committing crimes than others?

1. Yes
2. No
9. DK/NA

Base: those that responded yes to C13

C14 [O]

If yes, which ethnicities do you have in mind and why?

_____

Base: all respondents

C15

Using a ranking scale from 1 to 7 where 1 is the most important and 7 is the least important, please indicate what are the most important aspects when working with children in contact with the law:

	RANK
1) Knowledge of the legal framework pertaining to justice for children	
2) Personal experience gained in working with children in contact with the law	
3) Keeping up to date with new knowledge on working with children in contact with the law	
4) Receiving on-the-job training	
5) Strictly following the standard operating procedures and the mandate of my institution	
6) Familiarity with the psycho-social development of children	
7) Ensuring that all decisions are guided by the best interest of the child	

D SECTION – PRACTICES

Base: all respondents

D01 [S per row]

Overall, to what extent would you say that the principle of the best interest of a child is guiding the work of the following professionals:

	1) Fully	2) Partially	3) Not at all	9) Don't know/ Refuses to answer *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Police Officers	1	2	3	9
2) Centre for Social Work Professionals	1	2	3	9
3) Public Prosecutors	1	2	3	9
4) Judges	1	2	3	9
5) Lawyers	1	2	3	9
6) Mediators	1	2	3	9
7) Correctional Officers	1	2	3	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

D02 [S]

To what extent is the national legislation enabling you to protect children in conflict with the law in your everyday practice?

1) Extremely well
2) To some extent
3) Extremely poorly
4) Don't know/Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read the answers
There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

D03 [S per row]

Based on your work experience please tell me how often the following happens…

SCRIPTER: Randomize statements

Situations	Never	Sometimes	Always	DK/NA *[INT. Don't read]*
1) The child is informed about the procedure and his/her rights in the language he/she communicates in	1	2	3	9
2) When you first interview a child, do you ask questions to determine the child's experience with trauma	1	2	3	9
3) Conducting the interview in a private space, away from other people unrelated to the case	1	2	3	9
4) The child regularly receives education and vocational training while in detention/prison	1	2	3	9

5) The child is regularly provided with an opportunity for recreational activities while in detention/prison	1	2	3	9
6) When needed the child receives medical care while in detention/ prison	1	2	3	9
7) The child can file a complaint on decisions/treatment that have impact on his/her life	1	2	3	9
8) Technical means are used when interviewing a child victim or witness of crime	1	2	3	9
9) One interview with a child victim or witness of crime is conducted to get all the necessary information	1	2	3	9
10) Multiple interviews with the child victim or witness of crime are conducted until you get all the necessary information.	1	2	3	9
11) The child is provided with free legal aid				
12) The child victim receives compensation for the violation of his/her rights	1	2	3	9
13) Learning about any traumatic childhood experience (in family, school, community)	1	2	3	9

INT. Read each statement separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: all respondents

D04 [S per row]
When working on a case with child in contact with the law, how often do you cooperate with the following professionals?

	Never	**Sometimes**	**Always**	**Don't know/ Refuses to answer** *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Police officers	1	2	3	9
2) Case managers (CSW professionals)	1	2	3	9
3) Prosecutors	1	2	3	9
4) Judges	1	2	3	9
5) Mediators	1	2	3	9
6) Lawyers	1	2	3	9
7) Staff in correctional facilities	1	2	3	9
8) Health professionals	1	2	3	9
9) Other	1	2	3	9

INT. Read each group of professionals separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible.

Base: respondents with answer 2 or 3 on D04

D05 [S per row]
How would you evaluate your cooperation with other professionals?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Don't know/ Refuses to answer *[INT. Don't read]*
1) Police officers	1	2	3	4	5	9
2) Case managers (CSW professional)	1	2	3	4	5	9
3) Prosecutors	1	2	3	4	5	9
4) Judges	1	2	3	4	5	9
5) Mediators	1	2	3	4	5	9
6) Lawyers	1	2	3	4	5	9
7) Staff in correctional facilities	1	2	3	4	5	9
8) Health professionals	1	2	3	4	5	9
9) Other	**1**	**2**	3	4	5	9

INT. Read each group of professionals separately together with scale
There is only one answer per row possible

Base: all respondents with answers 4 or 5 at B05

D06 [O]
What are the main reasons for the good cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors?

INT. Write down respondent's answer in full

Base: all respondents with answers 1 or 2 at B05

D06a.
What are the main reasons for the lack of cooperation with the respective professionals from other sectors?

INT. Write down respondent's answer in full

Base: all respondents

D7 [S]
When working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, do you collect data about the case?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Don't know/Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read the answers

Base: respondents with answer 1 on D7

D8 [S]

What best describes your approach to data collection?

1) I collect basic personal information (name and surname, age and unique identification personal number)
2) I collect personal information about the child and background information about the case (for example, time, location, parties involved, and or reasons for the incident)
3) I collect personal information, background information about the case and some information about the relevant history of the child and her/his environment (for example, education background of the child and family members and socio-economic characteristics of the household)
4) I collect personal information, background information about the case and more information about the child's history and her/his environment (for example, family history of violence, presence of a mental illness in the family, presence of substance abuse by any member of the family, etc.)

INT. Read the answers

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

D9 [S]

When working on a case that involves a child in contact with the law, how would you characterize the flow of information between institutions in justice for children system about the case and the child?

1) I receive and redirect information on daily basis
2) I receive and redirect information, when time allows
3) I receive and redirect information upon request only
4) Within my duties and responsibilities, there is no need for information sharing

INT. Read the answers

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

D10 [S]

Have you personally received any training on how to work with chidren in contact with the law?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Don't know/Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

INT. Read the answers

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents with answer 1 at D10

D11 [O]

Could you please specify the topics of the trainings you have received?

1) Training 1 _____
2) Training 2 _____
3) Training 3 _____
4) Training 4 _____

INT: Write down respondent's answer in full

Base: all respondents

D12 [S]

Do you adapt your approach and way of working depending on the gender of the child?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Depending on the case
4) DK/NA

Base: all respondents

D13 [S]

And what about different ethnicities, do you adapt your approach and way of working depending on the ethnicity of a child?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Depending on the case
4) DK/NA

A SECTION – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHY

Base: all respondents

A01 [S]
Place of work (urban/rural)
1) Urban
2) Rural

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A02 [S]
How old are you?
1) Less than 24 years
2) 25–34 years
3) 35–44 years
4) 45–54 years
5) Over 55 years
6) I prefer not to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A03 [S]
Respondents' gender
1) Male
2) Female

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A04 [S]
What is your ethnicity?
1) Macedonian
2) Albanian
3) Other, please specify [O]_____
4) Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A05 [O]
Municipality_____
INT. Write down the municipality.

Base: all respondents

A06 [S]

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

1) Primary school completed
2) Secondary/High school completed
3) College/University completed
4) Post graduate degree
5) Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A07 [S]

How long have you been working at this position?

1. Up to 2 years
2. 3–5 years
3. 6–10 years
4. 11 or more years
5. Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

There is only one answer possible.

Base: all respondents

A08 [S]

How many years of experience in working with children do you have?

1. Up to 2 years
2. 3–5 years
3. 6–10 years
4. 11 or more years
5. Refuse to answer *[INT. Don't read]*

There is only one answer possible.

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you very much for participating in the survey