

IDEA Project (2017-2019)

Improving Decisions through Empowerment and Advocacy (IDEA):
Building Children's Rights Capacity in Child Protection Systems



UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPERE

The **IDEA** project aims to **Improve Decisions** for children by building capacity of professionals who represent children's interests in the child protection system to **Empower** children and **Advocate** for the advancement of children's rights in five partner countries (Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Hungary). The project will:

- Establish the training needs of professionals representing children's interests in the child protection system through a literature review and consultation exercise.
- Develop networks of professionals to facilitate consultation, delivery of training and ongoing learning through collaboration, mutual support and information exchange.
- Deliver interdisciplinary training on legal developments, child participation, child development and welfare and staff welfare.
- Engage in ongoing dissemination activities that will allow the benefits of the training events to continue after the conclusion of the project.

Lawyers representing children or children's interests will be the primary target group. Other professionals who work to represent children and children's interests in the child protection system, such as guardians *ad litem* and social workers, will be included as appropriate. There will be an emphasis on inter-disciplinary training and skills; to this end, the project team includes experts in both Law and Social Work from each of the five partner countries.

Training modules will be developed and delivered in each country on the following topics:

- A. Legal Knowledge**
 - a. Recent reforms
 - b. Strategic litigation
 - c. European Convention on Human Rights
 - d. European Social Charter
 - e. Optional Protocol 3 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- B. Theories of Child Development**
- C. Communication Skills**
 - a. Models of child participation
 - b. Child representation and communication
- D. Staff Welfare**

Visit our [website](#) to register for training, to review archived videos and download practice resources (from late 2017)

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