

IV CONFERENZA INTERNAZIONALE OIJJ

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ROMA - 9 e 10 NOVEMBRE 2010 ROMA - 9 y 10 NOVIEMBRE 2010



SVILUPPO DEI SISTEMI DI GIUSTIZIA GIOVANILE INTEGRATORI: APPROCCI E METODOLOGIE DEI DISTURBI MENTALI E DELL'ABUSO DI DROGHE

DESARROLLO DE SISTEMAS DE JUSTICIA JUVENIL INTEGRADORES: ENFOQUES Y METODOLOGÍAS EN TRASTORNOS MENTALES Y ABUSO DE DROGAS



ORGANIZZARE ORGANIZA

ALL'INTERNO DI EN EL MARCO DE



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FOURTH IJJO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Building integrative juvenile justice systems:

Approaches and methodologies regarding
mental disorders and drugs misuse

9th - 10th November 2010 - Rome (Italy)



PRESENTATION

The Fourth IJJO International Conference aims to encourage debate and analysis centred on the intervention policies and programmes that are applicable to young offenders suffering from behavioural disorders, and is directed mainly at professionals and organizations involved in the field of juvenile justice and mental health.

This year's IJJO International Conference will allow the exchange of knowledge and good practices between the different actors from the legal, social, educational and healthcare professions, thereby contributing to the drawing-up of proposals and recommendations designed to encourage the comprehensive treatment of the minors concerned, as well as to provide possible responses to the main issues brought up from a legal and intervention perspective.

On 9 and 10 November 2010 the **International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)** will hold the fourth edition of its International Conference in the city of Rome, Italy, in partnership with the [Istituto Don Calabria](#).

The IJJO organizes a biannual International Conference with the objective of enabling professionals, public bodies, institutions and universities to meet under a common interest: the development of a Global Juvenile Justice without Borders. Previous IJJO international conferences were therefore held with focus on the following subject areas: "Juvenile Justice and the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in a Globalized World" – Salamanca (Spain), 2004, "Juvenile Justice in Europe: A framework for integration" – Brussels (Belgium), 2006, "Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices" –Valencia (Spain), 2008.

The **Fourth IJJO International Conference** will take place under the title "*Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse*", taking as its central theme the study of the treatment of minors who are in conflict with the law and who suffer from mental disorders or some kind of addiction to drugs or toxic substances.

The IJJO is expert in the important matters and problems that arise in an international context when it comes to tackling intervention with minors and young offenders in especially vulnerable situations due to mental disorders and/or drug abuse.

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In this context, the European Commission has, as part of the Daphne III and the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programmes, supported the IJJO in developing an analysis and comparison project together with European organizations and institutions that share its interests and concerns over the current situation of young offenders with mental difficulties in Europe. they arise as fundamental objectives for this research, the promotion of a specialized training for the involved professionals, and also the exchange of good practices within the european context.

The IJJO therefore wishes that the Fourth International Conference be a point of encounter between all those professionals, experts and officials from the areas of juvenile justice, health, education etc, who are interested in the promotion of an effective global approach aimed at the overall development of minors and young offenders who are affected by drug abuse or who suffer from a form of mental illness.

The Fourth International Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory will focus its activities on the importance of integration as the objective of any intervention, and in particular according to the two following central themes:

1. **Mental disorders and drugs misuse: Analysis of the situation of minors in conflict with the law.**
2. **Juvenile justice and health systems: A necessary multidisciplinary and integrative collaboration.**

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TOPICS

The **Fourth International Conference** of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory will take place with a focus on two main **central themes**:

1. [Mental disorders and drugs misuse: Analysis of the situation of minors in conflict with the law.](#)
2. [Juvenile justice and health systems: A necessary multidisciplinary and integrative collaboration.](#)

The conference will investigate how the needs of young people with mental-health problems can be managed in the juvenile-justice system through a coordinated, integrated multi-agency response, identifying the support required for such an approach and for achieving successful cooperation.

I. Mental disorders and drugs misuse: Analysis of the situation of minors in conflict with the law.

- **Study of the situation of young offenders with mental disorders or disorders related to drugs misuse: the basics for intervention.**

Objective: Analysis of the young offender's profile and psychosocial context.

A wide range of international reports and research studies are in agreement in underlining the high percentage of minors and young offenders who suffer from some kind of mental disorder or addiction to toxic substances.

Through this workshop, we aim to achieve a better understanding of this reality in the context of a comparative analysis from a global perspective. It will therefore become possible to determine the social, family and personal circumstances of these minors, which must guide prevention and intervention policies on their behalf, with the principle of the minors' best interest taking precedence at all times.

Gaining a deeper knowledge of the psychosocial circumstances of these minors and young people will also lead to knowing the current responses to which the latter are subjected, both by the juvenile justice and healthcare systems.

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- **The response of juvenile justice systems to offences committed by minors and young people suffering from mental disorders.**

Objective: Definition of integrative interventions for young offenders with mental disorders.

The special situation of minors and young people in conflict with the law who are suffering from some kind of mental disorder makes it necessary to understand which responses are given by juvenile-justice systems in an international context.

The analysis of policies adopted in this field and their relationship with the health services will necessarily lead us to knowing which are the integrative responses chiefly established by countries and whether they are adapted appropriately to the reality of these minors.

In this sense, the following questions may be posed: What are the measures adopted in partnership between the health and justice services? Which specialized resources take the minor's context into account?

- **Juvenile delinquency connected to the misuse of drugs: profile of young offenders and analysis of resources employed towards their social reintegration.**

Objective: Definition of integrative interventions for young offenders with addictive behaviour.

Study of the existing relationship between juvenile delinquency and drugs misuse makes it necessary to take into account the profile of these minors and the family and social circumstances in which they find themselves.

Reference will be made to the crimes most commonly committed by these minors, and to the specific responses given in dealing with this phenomenon from the level of an international perspective on juvenile justice.

This raises questions such as: What kind of punitive and/or therapeutic measures do juvenile justice systems apply to young offenders who use or abuse addictive substances? Are juvenile justice systems equipped with specific resources for managing and reintegrating these minors? What kind of resources, tools and techniques are used?

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II. Juvenile justice and health systems: A necessary multidisciplinary and integrative collaboration.

- **Mental disorders, drugs misuse and juvenile justice: ethical aspects and good practices.**

Objective: To encourage and coordinate communication between sectors.

A paradoxical situation can arise for young offenders who suffer from a mental disorder or some kind of addiction to toxic substances: the juvenile justice system considers them responsible, and the health system recognizes them as the victims of their own mental disorder.

This dual circumstance can create certain ethical questions, such as: What might be the impact of the duty of professional secrecy in the relationship between the two systems? How can coordination be encouraged so as to ensure that the minor's best interests are protected? How can restorative mediation measures, between the young offender and the victim, be set in motion?

- **The relationship between juvenile justice systems and health services: the need to encourage specialized resources.**

Objective: Development of common intervention tools.

An individualized response to minors and young offenders suffering from some kind of mental disorder or addiction to toxic substances requires necessary coordination between all the agents and organizations involved, mainly those connected to the public-health or therapeutic services, and those belonging to the juvenile justice system.

In this sense, it is worth asking: What level of cooperation exists between juvenile-justice and healthcare professionals in the treatment of these minors? In what way are specific and adapted resources promoted for this purpose? How should an appropriate partnership between the services be considered? How can specialized intervention and the professionalization of these resources be guaranteed?

- **Encouraging policies and regulation: interface between systems.**

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Objective: To promote and establish common links between the systems.

Heeding the international rules and guidelines on the subject of juvenile justice, it is essential to promote and develop policies and programmes designed to strengthen the specialized coordination of all the professionals who work with minors and young offenders on a daily basis.

Due to its special characteristics and circumstances, this coordination has to be specially reinforced in cases of intervention with young offenders who have mental-health or drug-addiction problems. It is necessary to provide a common structure to health and juvenile-justice professionals, which allows them to get to know and understand the particular problems (health, psychological, personality, social, cultural, socio-economic, etc.) of these young people, and the most efficient way of dealing with their situation and contributing towards their social reintegration.