



## **Objectives**

According to data from the European Commission, approximately 1 million children and young people face criminal justice processes in EU every year (about 12% of the total).

It is a matter of concern to societies in general, but it is of particular concern to the well-being and interest of the children, since delinquent behaviour is manifestation of insufficient and inadequate development and socialization.

Intervening to prevent such behaviour and relapse itself, require, moreover, a sustained treatment in the respect of children Rights.

It is no coincidence that the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes a set of specific rights for children and young people who are in conflict with the law. These rights include the access to justice (judicial or extrajudicial process), the right to representation and defence by a lawyer, the right to presumption of innocence and the right to effective participation (to be heard).

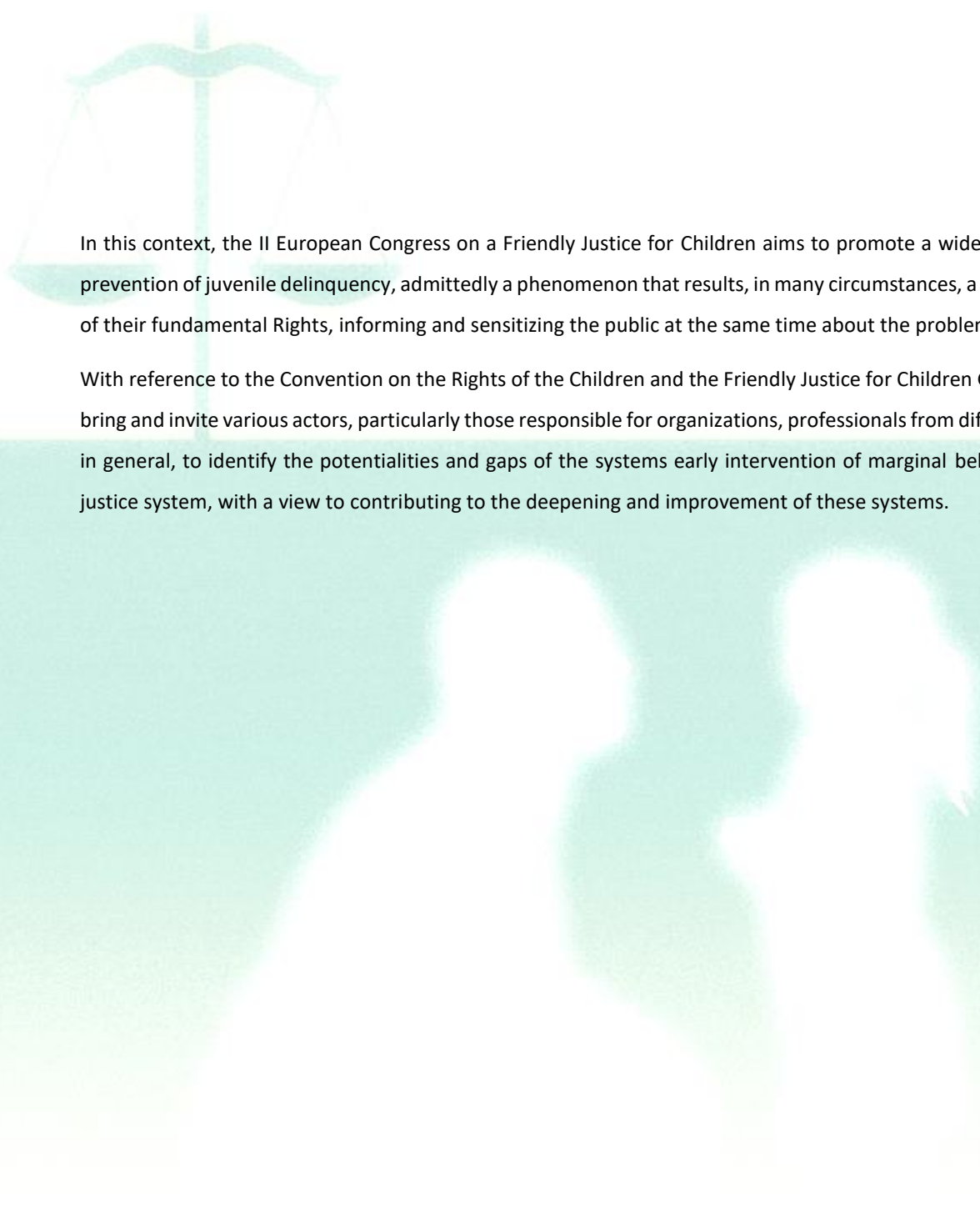
To fulfil these rights, states the Convention, States should implement or improve specific justice systems, appropriate to the child and his special needs, maturity and levels of understanding, based on a treatment capable of fostering a sense of dignity and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The normative and the inner ideology of the Convention are extensively developed and reinforced in the Council of Europe Guidelines on a Friendly Justice for Children

In a different perspective of the problem of juvenile delinquency, several studies identify a set of risk factors that predispose or tend to favour marginal and criminal behaviour - (this is the delinquency of survival or precariousness and marginalities) that are more worrisome the earlier they manifest themselves .

That's the reason, conclude the students of the phenomenon, "the sooner the individual begins criminal activity and delinquency, the sooner is engaged in a routine of crime, the shorter is the gap between the practice of one offense and the next one, and the possibilities of effective reparation become shorter", Thorsten Sellin and Robert Cario.

These same studies, however, conclude that there are actions that can be taken to minimize risk by identifying strategies for early prevention and prevention of delinquency, inspired by decades of experience in United States and Canada. Such strategies, embodied in specific programs of action, are no more than forms of recognition and effective exercise of the Rights of the children, who are in those real conditions.



In this context, the II European Congress on a Friendly Justice for Children aims to promote a wide debate on the forms of prevention of juvenile delinquency, admittedly a phenomenon that results, in many circumstances, a lack of effective exercise of their fundamental Rights, informing and sensitizing the public at the same time about the problem.

With reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Children and the Friendly Justice for Children Guidelines, Congress will bring and invite various actors, particularly those responsible for organizations, professionals from different areas and citizens in general, to identify the potentialities and gaps of the systems early intervention of marginal behaviour and the juvenile justice system, with a view to contributing to the deepening and improvement of these systems.