

From principles to positive change

How the **European Youth Diversion Network** strengthens diversion across Europe



OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

Children's Rights

Children are rights holders; their best interests, participation and safeguards remain central

Meaningful Participation

Young people help shape policy, research and practice

Minimum Intervention & Proportionality

Avoid unnecessary criminalisation, stigmatisation and net-widening

Safeguarding & Do No Harm

We protect physical, emotional and digital safety and protect from re-traumatisation or stigma

Respect for National Diversity

Shared principles support national adaptation and innovation

Equity & Inclusion

Diversion should be accessible to all children who stand to benefit from it

Child-Centered Development

Responses reflect each child's circumstances, strengths and developmental needs

Evidence-Informed Practice

We learn from research, comparison, evaluation and professional experience

Youth Work & Positive Development

Youth work is an important partner in diversion. Support, empowerment and voluntary participation are crucial.

Collaboration

We share knowledge across sectors, professions and countries and learn from each other

Respect for National Diversity

Shared principles support national adaptation and innovation

Restorative Justice

Diversion can provide opportunities for accepting responsibility, repairing harm, and strengthening relationships

THE EUROPEAN YOUTH DIVERSION NETWORK



Partnership and innovation

Exchange and learning

Research and evidence

A European network of practitioners, researchers, politicians and young people.

Youth participation in action

Training and capacity-building

Policy and advocacy

What we do:

- Map & compare diversion systems
- Share knowledge and resources
- Build capacity through learning and training
- Influence policy through strategic advocacy
- Sustain cooperation and innovative projects on youth diversion

STRONGER DIVERSION ACROSS EUROPE

Children's Rights Realised

Diversion protects rights, dignity and the best interests of the child

Positive Development & Reintegration

Diversion helps children build skills, social resilience and opportunities for a positive future

Appropriate Responses

Children receive proportionate, supportive responses tailored to their unique needs and circumstances

Stronger Systems & Professionals

Practice is better coordinated, evidence-informed with specialized professionals responsive to children's needs

Reduced Criminalisation

Fewer children enter formal justice systems and unnecessary net-widening is prevented

More Equal & Inclusive Access

All children in conflict with the law, including those most at risk of exclusion, can access diversion

Reparation & Accountability

Diversion is paired with voluntary and constructive restorative practices where appropriate

Lasting European Cooperation

A permanent platform sustains innovation, learning and joint action on diversion across countries



Our collective impact

Through shared learning, strategic collaboration and sustained policy dialogue, the network advances high-quality, rights-based and developmentally-oriented diversion for children in conflict with the law across Europe.