



# SAFE IN TOWN

STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION IN SELECTED EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVATION OF COMPREHENSIVE CITY CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

**WEBINAR**

MONDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 | 11:00 - 12:30 CET

## INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND THE ROLE OF CITIES IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

While the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes a legal obligation to protect children from all forms of violence, many contexts still face challenges in implementing comprehensive, coordinated and effective child protection systems. Municipalities – the level of government closest to children's daily lives – play a pivotal role in turning these rights into tangible protections and safe environments for children.

The Safe in Town project, funded by the European Union and led by Defence for Children Italy in partnership with Defence for Children Greece, Hope for Children, and CESIS, promotes the realisation of integrated child protection systems at the municipal level. Implemented in Ferrara (Italy), Chania (Greece), Strovolos (Cyprus), and Matosinhos (Portugal), the project pilots coordinated, multi-sectoral safeguarding and wellbeing policies designed to strengthen the role of cities in preventing violence and creating safe, inclusive, and child-friendly communities.

The 2nd International Webinar of the Safe in Town project will focus on “Integrated Child Protection Systems and the Role of Cities in Safeguarding Children”. The session will bring together European institutions, international experts and municipal representatives to explore how cities can effectively support and strengthen integrated child protection systems, drawing on internationally recognised standards and the Safe in Town methodology.

The discussion will consider how safeguarding can be embedded across municipal services — from education and health to social welfare, justice, and community structures — to ensure early identification of risks, timely responses, and proactive, rights-based protection for every child.

Key contributions will include **Chrisoula Arcoudis**, Policy Officer at the European Commission, who will present the **European Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems** and its relevance for local governance, and **Daja Wenke**, independent child rights expert, who will reflect on the practical implications of integration and coordination across sectors.

## WEBINAR OBJECTIVES:

- Present the EU Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems and its relevance for municipalities.
- Explore what key components may enable cities to strengthen integrated child protection systems.
- Discuss practical approaches for embedding safeguarding across municipal services.

This webinar offers a platform for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to reflect on the pivotal role of cities in safeguarding children and to share insights on how local action can strengthen protection systems and ensure the realisation of children's rights in practice.

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## PRELIMINARY AGENDA:

### **Welcoming remarks and objectives of the webinar**

11:00 - 11:10 Pippo Costella, Director, Defence for Children International Italia

### **The European Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems**

11:10 - 11:30 *Chrisoula Arcoudis, Policy Officer, DG Justice, European Commission*

### **From Policy to practice: key components and pathways supporting cities to build integrated child safeguarding systems**

11:30 - 11:50 Pippo Costella, Director, Defence for Children International Italia

### **Placing wellbeing and rights at the core of protection systems**

11:50 - 12:10 *Daja Wenke, Independent Expert on Children's Rights*

### **Open discussion and closing reflections**

12:10 - 12:30 *Moderated by Pippo Costella*