



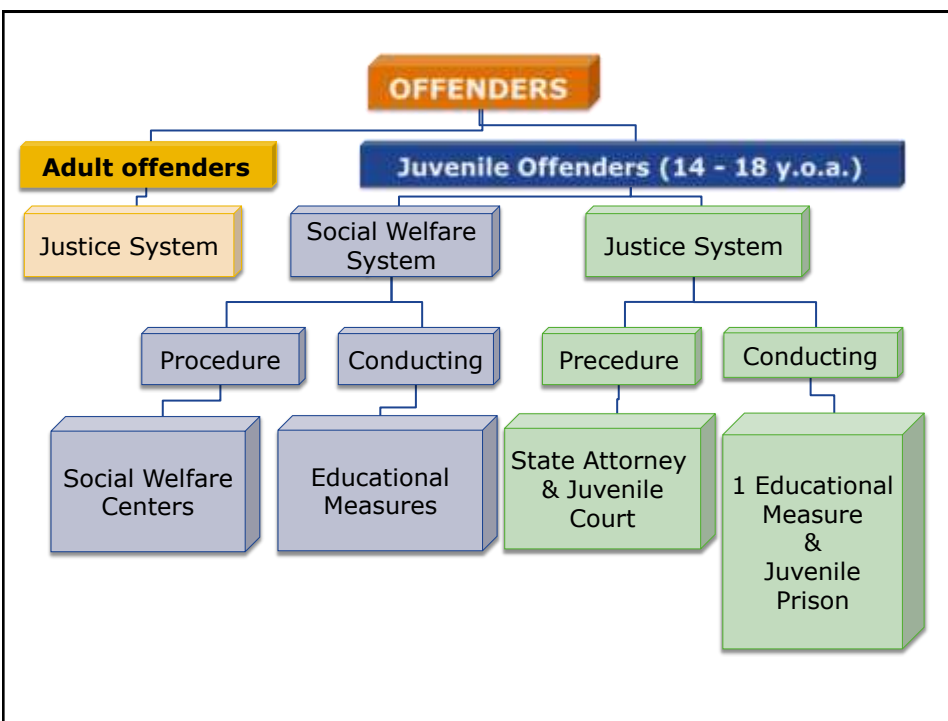
## Introduction

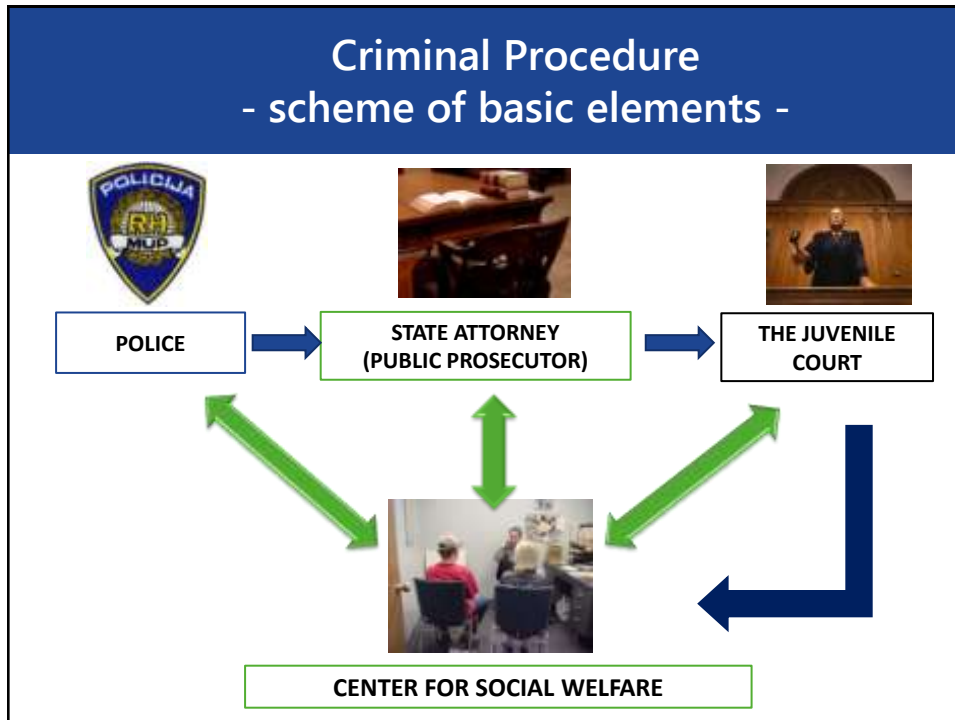
- this study was conducted within the **Committee for monitoring and improving the work of criminal proceedings and the execution of juvenile sanctions** in the Croatian Ministry of Justice



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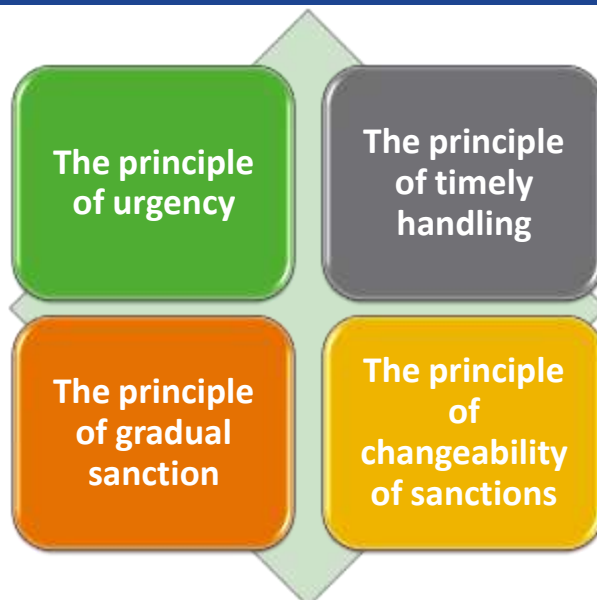




### Most important laws/acts in juvenile justice system

- 1. Penal Code / Criminal Code**
  - defines criminal offense, types of offences, types of sanctions etc.
- 2. Juvenile Courts Act**
  - *lex specialis* for juvenile offenders
- 3. Criminal Procedure Act**
  - defines criminal procedure for sanctioning
- 4. Law on Execution of Sanctions Imposed to Juvenile Offenders**
  - defines execution of juvenile sanctions in more details

## Four Basic Principles of Croatian Juvenile Justice System



## Aim of the study

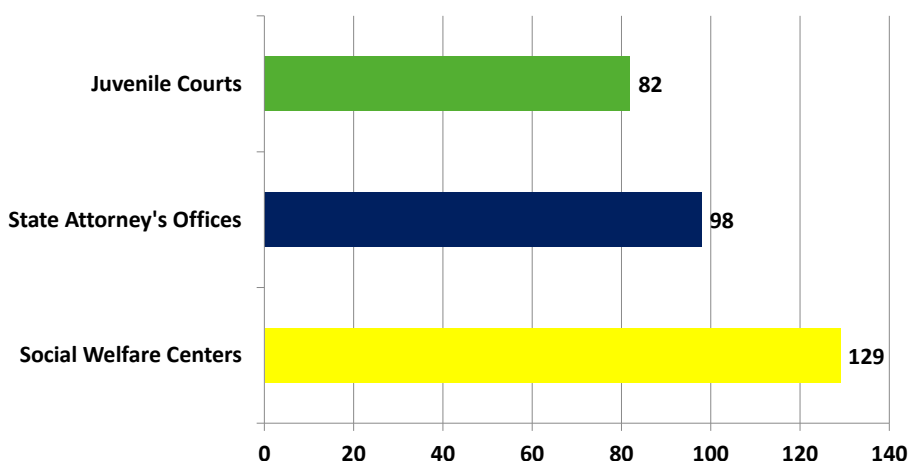
- In general, the research provides an insight into the **perception of judiciary and interdepartmental cooperation** between professionals working within
  - Social Welfare Centers,
  - State Attorney's Offices, and
  - Juvenile Courts.

## Two main objectives of this presentation

1. to describe **to what degree are** the employees of Social Welfare Centers, State Attorney's Offices and Juvenile Courts **satisfied with the main elements and principles of juvenile justice system in Croatia**, mostly proscribed in the Juvenile Courts Act
2. to **explore eventual differences** in their perceptions/satisfaction.

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## Sample (N=309, from all 21 counties)



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## Instrument and procedure

- ✓ perception of our Juvenile Justice System
  - ✓ satisfaction with legal definitions/possibilities
  - ✓ satisfaction with the implementation of different legal elements (principles)
  - ✓ satisfaction with implementation/execution of juvenile sanctions
  - ✓ satisfaction with mutual cooperation
- The data were gathered during November and December 2015 via an online survey (LimeSurvey).

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### ERFCON 2017

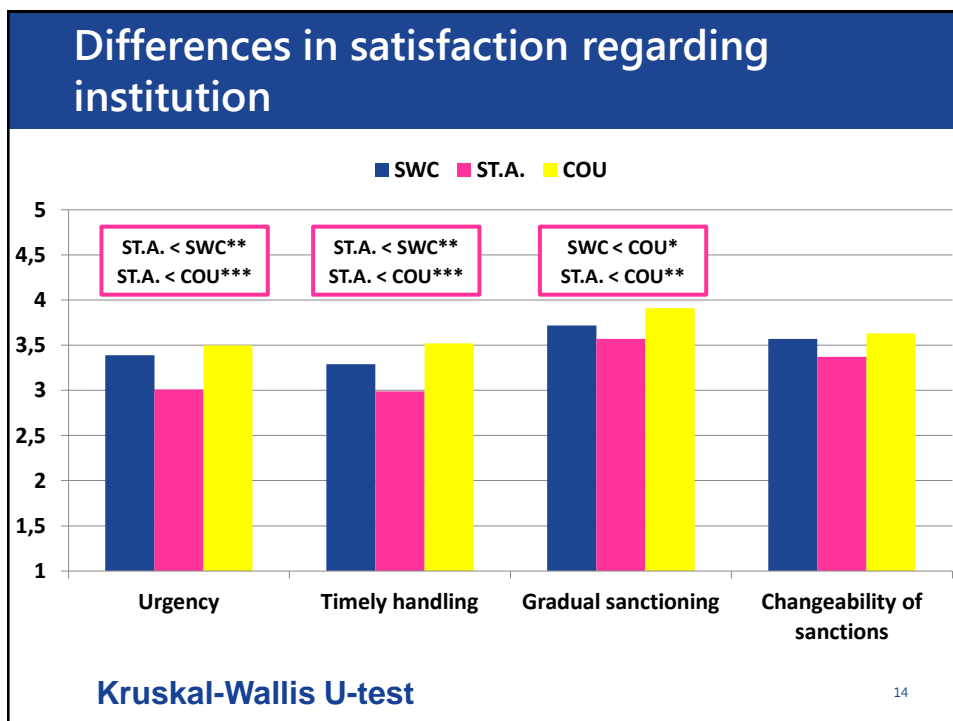
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## RESULTS



How satisfied are you with the implementation of these principles....					
	1	2	3	4	5
Urgency	4.5	18.1	24.9	47.9	4.5
Timely handling	3.2	19.1	31.1	41.7	4.9
Gradual sanctioning	0.6	4.2	27.2	57.9	10.0
Changeability of sanctions	1.6	10.7	31.1	47.2	9.4
1 = completely unsatisfied; 5 = completely satisfied					

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## Analysis of qualitative comments I.

### IF SATISFIED....

- satisfaction depends on cooperation on the local level
- some local communities inform about good cooperation that contributes to ensuring all the legal principles in practice

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## Analysis of qualitative comments II.

### IF NOT SATISFIED....

- **tendency to blame each other** - every institution blames other for delays
- not satisfied with the fact that **SWC don't have specialized teams** for juvenile delinquency and behavioral disorders any more
- **contradictory findings** with regards to the urgency on more complicated legal cases:
  - they are handled urgently
  - they are left aside
- problems with **young adults** in urgency and timely handling

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## Analysis of qualitative comments III.

- **with regards to gradual sanctioning** - participants are mostly satisfied
- if not, they are concerned with the "heavy cases/clients" where judges don't respect their professional opinion for more strict sanction
- **with regards to changeability** of sanctions comments are focused on criticism to the juvenile courts:
  - they do not tend to apply this principle unless recidivism,
  - or vice-versa - they change sanctions based on behavior, and for recidivism they insist on new procedure
  - length of the process is counter-productive for this principle
  - problems with young adults

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## Counclusions

- research confirms many known facts from our professional collaboration with practice
- results indicate much stronger need for establishing local collaborations and principles/procedures of handling juvenile justice cases in communities (not all sanctions are possible)
- results indicate satisfaction with legal regulations, but good practice is a "human factor"
- state attorneys are mostly pressured by dead-lines and results, that could contribute to their least satisfaction with the system
- young adults are especially questionable group in situations where they have community sanctions and they do not conduct it properly - what are the possibilities?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION 😊

