WHY IS THE NAME OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION BEING ERASED IN CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE?

THE EXCLUSION OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND JUSTICE THROUGH EU GRANTS AND UNICEF CONTRIBUTIONS, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE: A FINDING REPORT IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS

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Why is this report so long?

This text is far more than a request for correction; it deliberately remains detailed because it contains a chronological record of documents from 2010 to 2026. Its purpose is to set down a **"note" (şerh)** for future generations and for history.

SUMMARY

This report documents how the profession universally defined as **"Social Worker" (Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı / Sosyal Çalışmacı)** in the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice (2010), UNICEF's original English texts, and training materials prepared with EU funding has been distorted in Turkish translation through ambiguous expressions such as **"social service personnel" (sosyal hizmetli / Sozialdienstpersonal)**, **"social personnel" (sosyal görevli / Sozialpersonal)**, or **"social work officer."** Presenting a chronological analysis of the 2010 principles, the 2013 training book, and the 2022 reprint, it reveals how children's right to quality services, their human rights, and their social rights have been violated in light of the material contributions and official principles of the Council of Europe and the EU. The report also documents that in the e-library prepared under the Council of Europe's own project (Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts), **Decision 1967(16)** is included, while **Decisions 1991(16), 2002(1), and 2011(12)** are systematically excluded. The aim of this study is to document this systematic distortion, to invite all national and international stakeholders to take responsibility, and to implement a multi-front action plan.

INTRODUCTION: A SYSTEMATIC RIGHTS VIOLATION BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF TRANSLATION

International law and the child rights literature have assigned the protection of the child within the justice system, the preparation of social investigation reports, and case management—among other duties—to the primary responsibility of the **"Social Worker" (Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı / Sosyal Çalışmacı)** profession. This universal profession requires specialised education at undergraduate and postgraduate level, ethical principles, and universal intervention methods. Within the framework of Child-Friendly Justice principles, the social worker/social work expert—including social work expertise and public services—stands by the child as the person who understands the child's developmental language, builds a bridge between the child and the justice system in judicial proceedings, and defends the child's rights.

However, Law No. 5395 on the Protection of Children, adopted in Turkey in 2005, began a new chapter in the protection of children. Because there is no separate criminal code for children and young people in Turkey, **more than one million children** have entered the justice system since 2005 under Article 31 of the Turkish Criminal Code and the Child Protection Law. Since there is no specialised judiciary for these children, **nearly 5,000 children and young people are detained**, and decisions are taken **particularly without social investigation reports (SIR)**.

Moreover, thousands of children and young people are left unprotected by SIRs prepared by unauthorised persons. In the judicial system, young people are exposed to heavy penalties (including life imprisonment under the latest amendments) without these qualified reports.

In this process, the international cooperations and EU-funded projects carried out since 2010 have unfortunately become part of the differentiation and distortion of this universal professional title. In the texts prepared **under the material contribution and supervision of the Council of Europe, UNICEF and the EU**, concepts relating to social workers are systematically distorted. Instead of approaching the EU and maintaining harmonisation, these projects help to move away from EU standards. In this process, the imposition of **"Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" (SÇG)**, an administrative **umbrella title** created by the Child Protection Law, and of **"Adli Destek Görevlisi" (Judicial Support Officer)** within the Ministry of Justice is clearly felt.

UNICEF and the Council of Europe, which share in such a grave and sorrowful picture—including the protection of children who drop out of school every year—also serve as an evaluation point in sincerity, and can become **a means rather than an end for children, with hypocrisy.** The greatest factor here is the professional confusion arising from the exclusion of social services. Furthermore, **the 2018 IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) Ethical Principles have been rendered dysfunctional**, and this is the reflection of an EU project that **renders ineffective the Council of Europe's Decisions No. 1991(16), 2002(1) and 2011(12)** concerning social workers.

Social well-being finds its meaning and value to the extent that human dignity is protected; its purpose can only be achieved by helping the individual **to access justice**. This grave situation, directly related to children's rights, has been taken up by the **SHUDER Children's Commission**. The Commission has prepared this comprehensive **text** in order to document its findings and to set out what must be done for the protection of children's right to quality services, their human rights and their social rights.

PART 1: CONCRETE EVIDENCE AND CHRONOLOGICAL CONTRADICTION (2010-2013-2022)

1.1. Concrete Information: Comparative Analysis of the 8 Instances of Distortion in the Council of Europe Guidelines in the Original Languages

In the English, French and German original texts of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice of 17 November 2010 (*Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice*, CM/Rec(2010)13), the professional title (Social Worker / Travailleurs Sociaux / Sozialarbeiter) has been preserved with great care and **identically in 8 different places**. However, in the **first Turkish edition published in 2013** and in the **reprint published on 15 February 2022 in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Turkish Justice Academy** under the EU and Council of Europe-supported project, the same concept has been systematically distorted.

With the aim of protecting and developing the European Social Charter and the Convention on the Rights of the Child—ratified by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and part of domestic law—the comparative table of the original texts in the relevant articles of this 2010 Guideline and the official Turkish translations **of the first edition of 2013** is presented below:

1. Guideline 17 (Multidisciplinary Approach):

- **English:** *"...lawyers, psychologists, physicians, police, immigration officials, social workers and mediators..."*
- **French:** *"...(avocats, psychologues, médecins, policiers, agents des services d'immigration, travailleurs sociaux et médiateurs)..."*
- **German:** *"...(Rechtsanwälte, Psychologen, Ärzte, Polizei, Einwanderungsbeamte, Sozialarbeiter und Mediatoren)..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...avukatlar, psikologlar, doktorlar, polis, göçmen bürolarında çalışanlar, sosyal hizmetliler ve arabulucular gibi..."*

2. Guideline 60 (Courtroom Setting):

- **English:** *"...the judge should seek advice from other professionals, such as psychologists and social workers..."*
- **French:** *"...le juge devrait demander l'avis d'autres professionnels, tels que des psychologues et des travailleurs sociaux..."*
- **German:** *"...sollte der Richter den Rat anderer Fachleute wie Psychologen und Sozialarbeitern einholen..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...hâkim, psikologlar ve sosyal hizmetliler gibi profesyonel kimselerin görüşlerine başvurmalıdır."*

3. §8 (Drafting Process):

- **English:** *"The group included judges, attorneys, prosecutors, academics, psychologists, police officers, social workers..."*
- **French:** *"Le groupe comprenait des juges, des avocats, des procureurs, des universitaires, des psychologues, des policiers, des travailleurs sociaux..."*
- **German:** *"Der Gruppe gehörten Richter, Rechtsanwälte, Staatsanwälte, Wissenschaftler, Psychologen, Polizeibeamte, Sozialarbeiter an..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...hâkimler, avukatlar, savcılar, akademisyenler, psikologlar, polisler, sosyal hizmetliler, ..."*

4. §35 (Fundamental Principles / Participation):

- **English:** *"...if necessary with the assistance of, for example, an interpreter, lawyer, social worker or friend..."*
- **French:** *"...si nécessaire avec l'aide, par exemple, d'un interprète, d'un avocat, d'un travailleur social ou d'un ami..."*
- **German:** *"...gegebenenfalls mit Hilfe eines Dolmetschers, Rechtsanwalts, Sozialarbeiters oder Freundes..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...gerekirse bu kişi bir tercüman, bir avukat, bir sosyal hizmetli ya da bir arkadaşı gibi..."*

5. §67 (Training of Professionals):

- **English:** *"...with children (police, lawyers, judges, mediators, social workers and other experts)..."*
- **French:** *"...avec des enfants (policiers, avocats, juges, médiateurs, travailleurs sociaux et autres experts)..."*
- **German:** *"...mit Kindern (Polizisten, Rechtsanwälten, Richtern, Mediatoren, Sozialarbeitern und anderen Sachverständigen)..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...(polisler, avukatlar, hâkimler, arabulucular, sosyal hizmetliler ve diğer uzmanların)..."*

6. §123 (Courtroom Setting / Perception of Uniforms):

- **English:** *"...officer and not to a social worker, which has its relevance."*
- **French:** *"...à un agent de police et non à un travailleur social, ce qui a son importance."*
- **German:** *"...Beamten und nicht mit einem Sozialarbeiter spricht, was von Bedeutung ist."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...üniforma çocuğun bir sosyal hizmetliyle değil bir polisle konuştuğunu anlamasını sağlayabilir..."*

7. §124 (Explanation of the Decision):

- **English:** *"...to them, either by their lawyer or another appropriate person (parent, social worker...)..."*
- **French:** *"...soit par leur avocat, soit par une autre personne appropriée (parent, travailleur social...)..."*
- **German:** *"...entweder durch ihren Anwalt oder eine andere geeignete Person (Elternteil, Sozialarbeiter...)..."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...ya bir avukat ya da (ebeveyn, sosyal görevli gibi) uygun başka bir kişi tarafından..."*

8. §125 (Courtroom Setting / Child Sitting Beside):

- **English:** *"...allowed to sit next to his legal representative or social worker."*
- **French:** *"...autorisé à s'asseoir à côté de son représentant légal ou d'un travailleur social."*
- **German:** *"...neben seinem gesetzlichen Vertreter oder einem Sozialarbeiter sitzen darf."*
- **Official Turkish Text (Distortion):** *"...onun yerine avukatının ya da sosyal görevlinin yanında oturması sağlanmalıdır..."*

Comparative Summary Table:

#	English	French	German	Turkish (Official)	Assessment
1	social workers	travailleurs sociaux	Sozialarbeiter	sosyal hizmetliler	❌ Distortion
2	social workers	travailleurs sociaux	Sozialarbeitern	sosyal hizmetliler	❌ Distortion
3	social workers	travailleurs sociaux	Sozialarbeiter	sosyal hizmetliler	❌ Distortion
4	social worker	travailleur social	Sozialarbeiters	sosyal hizmetli	❌ Distortion
5	social workers	travailleurs sociaux	Sozialarbeitern	sosyal hizmetliler	❌ Distortion
6	social worker	travailleur social	Sozialarbeiter	sosyal hizmetli	❌ Distortion
7	social worker	travailleur social	Sozialarbeiter	sosyal görevli	❌ Distortion
8	social worker	travailleur social	Sozialarbeiter	sosyal görevli	❌ Distortion

Finding: The comparative table above proves that a concept expressing an international professional identity has **nowhere** been rendered with its correct equivalent in the Turkish text. Despite the 8/8 consistency in the English, French and German texts, in the Turkish text the concept has been distorted six times as **"Sosyal Hizmetli" (social service personnel)** and twice as **"Sosyal Görevli" (social personnel).** This distortion has persisted from the first edition of 2013 to the reprint of 2022.

Definition of "Social Worker" in the Guidelines: In the original English text of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice, the concept of "social worker" is defined as a profession that performs the functions of protecting the child within the justice system, understanding the child's developmental language, and building a bridge between the child and the justice system in judicial proceedings, requiring specialised university education and ethical principles. The Guidelines stress that judges, when deciding on a child, should seek support from experts such as psychologists and social workers who "know the child better."

1.2. E-Library Example: The Selective Use of Council of Europe Decisions

The e-library prepared within the scope of the **"Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members"** (*Joint Project on Improving the Effectiveness of Family*

Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members)—a joint project carried out by the Council of Europe Ankara Programme Office, co-financed with the EU, and whose beneficiary is the Turkish Ministry of Justice—is a striking example. (The project's e-library output and screenshots are presented in **EK-8**.)

In this e-library, with respect to the social work profession, only **Decision 1967(16)** (Role, Training and Status of Social Workers) is included; in contrast, the following fundamental Council of Europe documents—which deepen the profession's human rights dimension and professional specialisation—are systematically omitted:

- **Recommendation 1991(16)** — provides for the inclusion of the human rights dimension at every stage of social worker training (see EK-3);
- **Recommendation 2002(1)** — emphasises the primary responsibility of social workers in identifying and preventing child abuse (see EK-4);
- **Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)12** — combines children's rights with child-friendly social services, setting out the principles of "professional competence," "interdisciplinary cooperation," and "the child's right to participation."

The title of the project promises **"Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members."** Yet the 1991, 2002 and 2011 documents—which secure the protection of family members' rights, especially children's, by a qualified social worker—have been excluded from the e-library. In other words, there is a direct contradiction between the project's rhetoric and its resource base.

The 2013 Turkish edition of the Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines (Council of Europe Publishing, ISBN 978-92-871-7274-7) and its Turkish reprint published under the project in November 2021 with the same ISBN—both of which serve as reference sources for the projects in question (ÇABA, YÖN, Protective Family)—reveal that this problem is not confined to the field of child justice but recurs in family law as well, demonstrating that it is not an isolated "translation error" but an institutionalised practice at the systemic level.

Bibliographic Evidence: Same ISBN, Two Editions — An Uncorrected Reprint

The fact that the November 2021 Turkish reprint carries the **same ISBN (978-92-871-7274-7)** as the 2013 edition proves that it is not a new edition but an **uncorrected reprint**. In other words, the error was made in 2013 and was **deliberately left uncorrected** in 2021. The ISBN prefix (978-92-871) belongs directly to **Council of Europe Publishing**, confirming that the document is an official Council of Europe publication and invalidating any "civil society translation" defence. This error—made in 2013 and preserved unchanged in 2021—once again demonstrates that this is not an "isolated translation error" but a **deliberate choice at institutional level.**

Furthermore, while Decision 1967(16) defines social work as "a specific professional activity," it foregrounds the profession's human rights dimension and child protection responsibility. **From the standpoint of the administration of justice**, the 1991, 2002 and 2011 documents are precisely the instruments that secure the profession's dimensions of expertise, human rights and child-friendly service. Thus, the e-library appears to preserve the "name" of the profession while quietly pruning its "competence" and its "rights-based framework."

This example brings to the fore the report's findings on **"Escape from Institutional Responsibility"** and **"Localisation and Neutralisation of International Standards."** The selective use of its own decisions in the Council of Europe's own project demonstrates that the critique of **"double standards"** and **"insincerity"** is not merely rhetorical but a documentable fact.

1.3. The Institutional Contradiction in UNICEF Documents (2013)

Two different documents published by UNICEF in 2013 within the framework of the **"Justice for Children Project"** carried out with EU grants prove that the matter is **"a deliberate choice"** rather than an "error":

- **Example of Correct Translation:** In the report entitled *"Report on the Role of Social Work in Juvenile Justice,"* the concept **"social worker"** in the English text has been translated correctly and consistently into Turkish as **"sosyal çalışmacılar"** (see EK-9).

- **Example of Distortion:** In the same year, the title of the training book prepared with the funding and technical support of the same institution (UNICEF) was forcibly adapted to the **"Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi"** definition produced by the Child Protection Law and published in Turkish as **"Sosyal Çalışma Görevlileri İçin Eğitim Kitabı"**; however, the title on the English web catalogue of the book still appears as **"Training Book for Social Workers"** (see EK-10). This reveals the contradiction between the international standard and local practice.

1.4. The "Confession" Footnotes in the Training Book Itself (2013)

The authors of the book (Ministry of Justice, HSYK, Justice Academy and academics) **confess** in the footnotes that they know the international literature very well, but that they made a deliberate choice to adapt a universal reporting standard such as the social investigation report to local legislation:

- **Page 36, Footnote 2 (The Main Confession):** *"Discussions continue in the literature on the concepts of 'sosyal çalışmacı' and 'sosyal hizmet uzmanı', and these two concepts are used interchangeably. In this book, too, these two concepts have been used in a way that fundamentally means the same thing."* (However, the main text consistently uses "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi.")
- **Page 38 Footnote (Confession of Conceptual Chaos):** *"As can be seen,* ***a different terminology is used for employees performing similar duties in different laws, and there is no unity of concept.*** *Throughout this study,* ***the concept of 'sosyal çalışma görevlisi' has been used in a way that covers the duties and responsibilities of all these employees****, although an effort has been made to remain faithful to the legal terminology where appropriate."*

1.5. The Blurring of the Professional Role (Pages 238 and 265)

- **Page 238 (Role Substitution):** While the book explains "Social Work" theories (empowerment approach, holistic intervention, etc.) as the scientific method of working with children, it calls the person who will do this work a "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi." This means taking the profession's knowledge and methodology while disregarding its title and professional boundaries.
- **Page 265 (Reduction to Expert Witness):** The book reduces the person who prepares the Social Investigation Report (SIR) to the position of a mere **"expert witness."** While in the Council of Europe Guidelines the Social Worker is the child's rights advocate and protector, the book reduces them to a technical expert who merely writes reports.

The Beijing Rules (Administration of Juvenile Justice) and the UNICEF Handbook Contradiction: Despite the international standard known as the **UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules)**, which requires that personnel involved in the juvenile justice system consist of **qualified professionals** (in particular **Rule 22** — specialisation of personnel and **Rule 16** — social investigation reports), the report is seen to avoid addressing the question of by whom SIRs shall be prepared. Even more contradictory is that in international sources such as UNICEF's own **"Handbook on the Role of Social Work in Juvenile Justice,"** this task is explicitly defined as **"Social Workers"** (see EK-5). Nevertheless, within the scope of the project in Turkey, with the same UNICEF funding, the localisation of this title as **"Social Work Officer" (Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi)** reveals the profound contradiction between the international standard and local practice. While Turkey should be approaching the EU's principles and values and harmonising with similar practices in other EU countries, this project has offered to children and practitioners in Turkey an information source that **moves away from EU standards**.

PART 2: VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In the process extending from 2005 to the present, within the scope of EU projects financed by EU taxpayers and amounting to millions of euros, this systematic distortion and misrepresentation—particularly the exclusion of social services and justice, corrupted social investigation reports (SIRs), and the exposure of **more than one million children to unprotected and defenceless conditions**—directly violates the following international and constitutional norms:

A. Rendering Ineffective the Decisions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The fundamental decisions of the Council of Europe concerning the role of social workers are rendered ineffective by the **“Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” (SÇG)** and **“Adli Destek Görevlisi”** practices in Turkey:

- **Rec(1991)16 (Training of Social Workers and Human Rights):** This decision recognises that the human rights dimension is indispensable in the training of social workers. Reducing the profession to an ambiguous title such as “social personnel” eliminates this human rights dimension.
- **Rec(2002)1 (Social Workers):** It assigns primary responsibility to social workers in identifying and preventing the abuse of children. The title “officer” dilutes this vital preventive responsibility.
- **CM/Rec(2011)12 (Child Rights and Child-Sensitive Social Services):** It stipulates the principles of “professional competence” and “interdisciplinary cooperation” in services for children. The change of title in the Regulation directly contradicts these principles.

B. IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) 2018 Global Ethical Principles

The Global Statement of Ethical Principles adopted by IFSW in 2018 confirms that social work is a human rights profession. The Statement is built on nine fundamental principles: **recognising the inherent dignity of humanity, promoting human rights, promoting social justice, promoting the right to self-determination, promoting the right to participation, respecting confidentiality and privacy, treating people as whole persons, using technology and social media ethically, and professional integrity.**

The **“Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” (SÇG)** and **“Adli Destek Görevlisi”** practices in Turkey directly or indirectly render all nine of these principles dysfunctional; however, the following four principles are of vital importance in the context of juvenile justice:

- **Principle 2: Promoting Human Rights:** Social workers stand against human rights violations and become the voice of vulnerable groups (especially children). The title “officer” directly usurps the child’s **right to protection by a qualified expert and access to justice** (CRC Art. 40, European Social Charter Art. 17).
- **Principle 3: Promoting Social Justice:** Social workers fight against structural inequalities and discrimination. This report documents how the concept of “Social Worker” has been transformed into “Social Service Personnel / Social Personnel” in texts prepared with EU funds and in partnership with the Council of Europe/UNICEF. This reveals the **“double standard”** (a structural injustice) that causes children in Turkey to be less protected than their peers in Europe; the use of EU funds to legitimise this discriminatory practice violates the principle of social justice.
- **Principle 4: Promoting the Right to Self-Determination:** For the child to participate in decisions concerning them in judicial proceedings, they need a “Social Worker” who will explain their rights and options in a language they understand (Council of Europe Guidelines §124). The “Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” and “Adli Destek Görevlisi” practices, by depriving the child of a professional guide who understands their language and empowers them, effectively eliminate the child’s **right to participation and self-determination.**
- **Principle 9: Professional Integrity:** Social workers know their professional boundaries and do not provide services in areas where they are not competent. The **umbrella titles** “Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” and “Adli Destek Görevlisi” blur **“professional boundaries” and “areas of competence”** by gathering different professional groups (psychologist, sociologist, PDR, teacher, etc.) under a single roof. The “no unity of concept” confession in footnotes 36 and 38 of the training book is the institutional acceptance of this ethical violation. A sociologist or teacher preparing a “social investigation report” without a social work licence both violates the principle of professional integrity and usurps the child’s right to quality services.

C. European Social Charter (Arts. 14 and 17) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Arts. 3, 12, 40)

The European Social Charter (ESC) is the most fundamental human rights convention adopted within the Council of Europe, safeguarding the social and economic rights of individuals. It is regarded as the social counterpart of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The fundamental importance of the European Social Charter and its relationship with the ECHR:

1. **It Elevates Social Rights to the Status of Fundamental Human Rights:** It transforms rights such as work, housing, fair wages, health, social security, and **access to social welfare services (Article 14)** from being the gift of states into legally binding obligations. Article 14 of the Charter, with the aim of ensuring the effective exercise of "the right to benefit from social welfare services," states that the Parties undertake to promote or provide services which, **by using methods of social work**, would contribute to the welfare and development of individuals and groups in the community.
2. **It Provides Concrete Protection for the Socially Excluded and the Powerless/Vulnerable:** The Charter imposes active intervention duties on states within the scope of protecting the powerless and vulnerable in society (**Article 17 – Children and Young Persons**, Article 16 – Family, Article 15 – Persons with Disabilities) and the right to protection against social exclusion (Article 30).
3. **It Guarantees the Scientific Method of the Service:** Article 14 of the Charter defines not only the provision of assistance but directly **"the use of social work methods"** as a right. In this respect, it constitutes the international legal basis of the social work profession and scientific standards.
4. **It Has the Force of Law in Domestic Law:** The Revised European Social Charter, ratified by Turkey, has the force of law under Article 90 of the Constitution and has been enacted into law. As an international treaty relating to fundamental rights, it has a binding force superior to domestic legal norms.

Relationship with the ECHR: The two conventions are linked by the principle of the indivisibility and complementarity of human rights. While the ECHR protects civil and political rights, the European Social Charter creates the social ground necessary for these rights to be genuinely exercised. The ECtHR directly refers to the European Social Charter and the decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights in its case law. **Leaving a child unprotected without a qualified social investigation means the joint violation of both ESC Articles 14 (right to benefit from social welfare services) and 17 (right of children to protection) and ECHR Article 3 (prohibition of ill-treatment) and Article 6 (fair trial).**

The child's right to access quality social services and their best interests are possible only through a licensed professional (Social Worker) who understands the child's language and can descend to their developmental level.

D. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 24) and Misuse of Funds

Article 24 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights specifically regulates children's rights. The original English text of the Article is as follows:

> *"1. Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity. 2. In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration. 3. Every child shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents, unless that is contrary to his or her interests."*

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Misuse of Funds: The EU is uncompromising on the protection and best interests of the child. However, EU taxpayers' funds are being spent on diluting international standards and legitimising a local administrative error (**the umbrella personnel category**). The child's right to protection by **qualified, specialised personnel**, required by the **"best interests"** principle (Article 24/2), is usurped by ambiguous titles such as "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi." This situation raises the suspicion of **"misuse of funds" (maladministration).**

PART 3: THE CONCERNING SITUATION AND DOUBLE STANDARD

In the light of the concrete information and facts above, the following concerning situations emerge:

1. **Violation of the Right to Quality Services:** In judicial proceedings, the child is confronted with an "officer" of uncertain professional formation instead of a licensed expert who can protect them and understand their developmental language. This leads to SIRs being prepared by unauthorised persons and thousands of children being left unprotected.
2. **Double Standard:** The profession that is "Social Worker" in Europe is transformed into "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" in Turkey, opening the way for children in Turkey to be less protected than their peers in Europe. This is contrary to international human rights law.
3. **Escape from Institutional Responsibility:** In footnotes 36 and 38 of the book, the authors accept the distortion by stating "there is no unity of concept," yet continue to disregard the international standard in the main text.
4. **The Scale and Depth of the System (More Than One Million Children):** Since there is no separate criminal code and specialised judiciary for children and young people in Turkey, **more than one million children** have entered the justice system since 2005; approximately **5,000 of them have been detained**, and the notification obligation has not been fulfilled for **300,000 child victims of crime.** A systemic problem of this scale is further deepened by **umbrella titles** such as "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" and "Adli Destek Görevlisi."
5. **Use of EU Funds Outside Their Purpose and Misuse of Funds:** Through the ÇABA (TBB), YÖN (Ministry of Justice), Protective Family (ASHB) and 2022 Justice Academy projects financed by EU taxpayers' money, the concept of "Social Worker" is systematically diluted and a local administrative error (**the umbrella cadre**) is legitimised. This raises the suspicion of **"misuse of funds" (maladministration)** and contradicts the EU's fundamental rights policies.
6. **Localisation and Neutralisation of International Standards:** The task defined as "qualified expert" in the Beijing Rules is explicitly stated as **"Social Workers"** in UNICEF's own "Handbook," yet in projects in Turkey it has been localised as **"Social Work Officer" (Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi).** This means rendering dysfunctional the IFSW 2018 Ethical Principles (particularly Articles 2, 3, 4 and 9) and the Council of Europe's Decisions No. 1991(16), 2002(1) and 2011(12).
7. **Children Not Being Seen as "Ends" but as "Means":** The dilution by international institutions (UNICEF, EU, Council of Europe) in projects in Turkey of the standards they protect in their own countries turns children into **"means rather than ends"** through a **"hypocritical"** approach. This is contrary to the universal and indivisible nature of children's rights.

PART 4: INSTITUTIONAL REPRODUCTION AND FUND FLOWS: THE SPREAD OF DISTORTION THROUGH THE ÇABA, YÖN, JUDICIAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTIVE FAMILY PROJECTS

In the previous parts of this report, it has been documented how the concept of **"Social Worker"** has been systematically transformed into **"Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" (SÇG)** in Council of Europe and UNICEF documents. However, this distortion is not limited to a few documents. Through projects financed with EU funds and carried out by Turkey's largest juvenile justice stakeholders, this erroneous approach is **being reproduced institutionally and directly affects the fate of more than one million children.**

Below, the **official budgets, durations and objectives** of these projects are summarised, so that the "misuse of funds" claim is supported by concrete figures.

4.1. The ÇABA Project (Union of Turkish Bar Associations – TBB): The Erasure of the "Social Worker" in the Training of Lawyers

Project Summary and Budget

- **Project Name:** Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Bar Associations and Lawyers for Children's Access to Justice (ÇABA)

- **Implementer:** Union of Turkish Bar Associations (TBB)
- **Partners:** UNICEF, European Union
- **EU Funding: Approximately EUR 3,200,000**
- **Objective:** To ensure children's equal access to justice; to strengthen lawyers' capacity in the field of child-friendly justice.
- **Source:** UNICEF Türkiye Press Release (09.06.2023); TBB Closing Programme Announcement (25.09.2026). *(See EK-12)*

Within the scope of the ÇABA Project carried out in cooperation with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, UNICEF and the EU, training modules for lawyers in the field of child-friendly justice have been prepared. In the official announcements of the TBB, it is stated that these trainings are given in accordance with "child-friendly justice" principles. However, in these training modules, ambiguous expressions such as "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" or similar have been used instead of the concept of "Social Worker." This **renders uncertain, in the eyes of lawyers, the role of the licensed social worker who should stand by the child in juvenile justice**, and harms the child's right to quality services. Lawyers are left confused as to which expert (a social worker or an officer?) they should seek support from for the protection of the child.

While this project is financed with EUR 3.2 million of EU taxpayers' money, the transformation of the concept of "Social Worker" into "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" raises the suspicion that the funds are being used outside their purpose.

4.2. The YÖN Project (Ministry of Justice) and the Judicial Support Officer: The Standardisation Deficit of Social Investigation Reports

Project Summary and Budget

- **Project Name:** Protective and Restorative Approaches for Children in Judicial Processes (YÖN for Children)
- **Beneficiary:** Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice – Directorate General for Judicial Support and Victim Services
- **Partners:** UNICEF, European Union
- **EU Funding: EUR 4,000,000** (EU contribution) + **EUR 100,000** (UNICEF co-financing)
- **Duration:** 36 months
- **Objective:** Protection of children's fundamental rights and freedoms in accordance with international standards; strengthening protective and restorative approaches.
- **Source:** EU Türkiye Delegation Official Project Page (ab.gov.tr); Ministry of Justice CTE General Directorate Announcements. *(See EK-11)*

The **"Protective and Restorative Approaches for Children in Judicial Processes (YÖN for Children) Project"**, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, has produced training materials on the preparation of social investigation reports (SIR) and care measure processes in the juvenile justice system. In this project too, by using the concept of "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" instead of "Social Worker," the way has been opened for SIRs to be prepared by **unauthorised persons** (sociologists, teachers, PDR, etc. without a social work licence).

Even more gravely, the title of **"Adli Destek Görevlisi" (Judicial Support Officer)** employed in the **Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates** established within the Ministry of Justice in 2020 is a continuation of the same **umbrella cadre** logic. With **Presidential Decree No. 63** (published in the Official

Gazette No. 31151 of 10.06.2020 — see EK-15), the title “judicial support officer” has been defined to cover employees in the **psychologist, pedagogue and social worker** cadres within the Ministry of Justice and the courts. This title, by gathering different professional groups such as social workers, psychologists and pedagogues under a single roof, overshadows the **primary and expert role** of the “Social Worker” in determining the child’s best interests. The resources produced within the scope of the YÖN Project and the practices in the Judicial Support Directorates prepare the ground for thousands of children to be **left unprotected** through reports by persons acting in the capacity of “officer.”

The State of Pedagogy as a Discipline: With the closure of pedagogy departments by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) in 1982 and the graduation of their last students in 1983, **the training of pedagogues in Turkey effectively came to an end** (see EK-14). Nevertheless, with Presidential Decree No. 63, the **pedagogue** cadre was also included within the scope of the “Judicial Support Officer” title. This situation leads to the expansion of the title without a scientific basis and to the further erosion of the principle of professional competence. The fact that, despite nearly 40 years without trained pedagogues, this title has been turned into an employment gateway in a critical field such as juvenile justice exposes the extent to which the “umbrella cadre” practice has reached.

The Title Confusion in Law No. 2828: In Law No. 2828 on Social Services and the Child Protection Institution, dated 24.5.1983, the concept of **“social worker” (sosyal çalışmacı)** was used instead of “social work expert” (see EK-17). This shows that the name of the profession has been handled inconsistently even in legal regulations, and that the ground for ambiguous titles such as “social work officer” dates much further back. Yet in Law No. 5395 on the Protection of Children and in the Family Courts Law, the profession is defined as “social worker.” This legal inconsistency explains why the concept of “Social Worker” could so easily be distorted in translation into Turkish.

While this project is financed with EUR 4 million of EU taxpayers’ money and EUR 100,000 of UNICEF funding, the transformation of the concept of “Social Worker” into “Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” and the opening of the way for SIRs to be prepared by unauthorised persons further strengthen the suspicion that the funds are being used outside their purpose.

4.3. Protective Family and Care Measure (Ministry of Family and Social Services – MoFSS): The Weakening of the Child’s Right to Protection Within the Family

Project Summary and Budget

- **Project Name:** Project for Strengthening the Foster Care System in Turkey
- **Implementer:** Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS)
- **Partners:** UNICEF, European Union
- **EU Funding: EUR 5,180,000** (EU contribution) + **EUR 70,000** (UNICEF co-financing)
- **Duration:** 36 months (March 2023 – March 2026)
- **Objective:** Improving the quality of foster care services; strengthening the protection of children within the family.
- **Source:** EU Türkiye Delegation Official Project Page (ab.gov.tr); MoFSS Announcements; UNICEF Türkiye Press Release. *(See EK-13)*

Within the scope of the **“Project for Strengthening the Foster Care System in Turkey”** carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, UNICEF and the EU, training materials and implementation guides on foster care services have been prepared. In this project too, the concept of “Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” has been adopted; the function of “social investigation and case management,” which is the **primary duty** of social workers in the selection, matching and monitoring of foster families, has been transferred to “officers.” This situation directly harms the **right of children placed with foster families to be monitored and protected by a qualified social worker.**

While this project is financed with EUR 5.18 million of EU taxpayers' money and EUR 70,000 of UNICEF funding, the transformation of the concept of "Social Worker" into "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" raises the suspicion that the funds are being used outside their purpose.

4.4. The "Deeming Worthy" (Reva Görülmesi) of More Than One Million Children: The Holistic Collapse of the System

The three major projects mentioned above (ÇABA, YÖN, Judicial Support and Protective Family) and the training materials they produce are financed with EU funds. These funds are provided **with the money of EU taxpayers.** However, through these projects, **more than one million children** have entered the justice system in Turkey since 2005; approximately **5,000 of them have been detained**, the notification obligation has not been fulfilled for **300,000 child victims of crime**, and **thousands of children have been left unprotected by SIRs prepared by unauthorised persons.**

Concrete Fund Flow:

Project	**EU Funding**	**UNICEF Co-financing**	**Total**
ÇABA	~EUR 3,200,000	—	~EUR 3,200,000
YÖN	EUR 4,000,000	EUR 100,000	EUR 4,100,000
Protective Family	EUR 5,180,000	EUR 70,000	EUR 5,250,000
TOTAL (known)	**~EUR 12,380,000**	**EUR 170,000**	**~EUR 12,550,000**

This table shows that the **umbrella titles** "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" and "Adli Destek Görevlisi" are not merely a terminological problem; they are **a systemic failure that directly threatens children's right to life, right to protection and right of access to justice.** In these projects, of which the EU and the Council of Europe are themselves partners, the insistence on transforming the concept of "Social Worker" into "Officer" means **"deeming worthy" (reva görülmesi)** more than one million children to be left unprotected and defenceless. **At least EUR 12.55 million of EU taxpayers' money has been used to finance this "deeming worthy."**

Finally, Law No. 7593 of 8.8.2026, published in the Official Gazette of 18.08.2026 and entering into force, which disregards the youth stage and exposes young people to heavy penalties including life imprisonment, shows how deeply this systemic failure has deepened (see EK-16).

This reveals the **"double standard"** and **"insincerity"** of international institutions (UNICEF, EU, Council of Europe). For while these institutions protect the title "Social Worker" at the highest level in their own countries, by transforming this title into "Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi" or "Adli Destek Görevlisi" in projects they finance with their own funds in Turkey, they **turn a blind eye to children in Turkey being less protected than their peers in Europe.**

PART 5: ROADMAP AND ACTION PLAN (Proposed Solutions)

Against this concerning situation in terms of children's rights, human rights and social rights, the SHUDER Children's Commission and the **Child Protection Türkiye Initiative Group** propose the implementation of the following roadmap in the context of the duty relating to human rights, children's rights and social rights:

Priority First 3 Steps:

1. **Publication of SHUDER's Institutional Opinion**
2. **Application to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (the strongest mechanism for international pressure)
3. **Application to the European Court of Auditors and OLAF** (to substantiate the misuse-of-funds claim)

A. Short-Term Solutions (At National Level)

1. **Correction of Texts:** The immediate correction and withdrawal of the expressions “social service personnel,” “social personnel” and “social work officer” in all Turkish texts published by the Council of Europe, UNICEF and the Justice Academy (2010 Guidelines, 2013 Training Book, 2022 Edition) to **“Social Worker (Sosyal Çalışmacı / Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı).”**
2. **Review of Project Materials:** The immediate review and correction, with respect to the concept of “Social Worker,” of all training modules and resources produced within the scope of the ÇABA (TBB), YÖN (Ministry of Justice) and Protective Family (MoFSS) projects.
3. **Review of the Title “Adli Destek Görevlisi”:** The regulation of the title “Adli Destek Görevlisi” employed in the Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates within the Ministry of Justice in favour of “Social Worker,” and the guarantee that SIRs are prepared only by licensed social workers.
4. **SHUDER’s Institutional Opinion:** The SHUDER Central Board’s adoption of the matter in the light of this concrete evidence, the publication of an official **“Institutional Opinion,”** and application to national/international authorities.
5. **Application to National Administration:** Sending official letters to the Ministry of Justice, HSYK, the Turkish Justice Academy and the Ministry of Family and Social Services, including the confessions in footnotes 36 and 38, and requesting correction.

B. Medium-Term Solutions (At International Level)

1. **Application to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva:** An official application to the Committee, the supervisory body of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Turkey is a party, on the grounds that the systematic transformation of the concept of “Social Worker” into “Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi” and the preparation of SIRs by unauthorised persons **violate Articles 3 (best interests), 12 (participation) and 40 (fair trial) of the Convention.** Furthermore, taking initiatives to bring this violation onto the Committee’s agenda during Turkey’s periodic reporting process.
2. **Application to the Council of Europe (ECSR and CDENF):** Initiating the European Social Charter Collective Complaints Mechanism; asking how the distortion in the 2022 reprint of the 2010 Guidelines and the project, of which the Council of Europe is itself a partner, rendered ineffective its own principles (1991(16), 2002(1), 2011(12)). Furthermore, officially notifying the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) of the matter and requesting their opinion.
3. **Application to the EU Delegation, EU Commission and EU Member State Embassies:** Sending separate letters to the EU Delegation to Turkey, the relevant units of the EU Commission (DG JUST, DG EMPL) and the Embassies of EU Member States in Ankara (Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, etc.), informing them that the transformation of the concept of “Social Worker” into a local administrative cadre in EU-funded projects is contrary to the EU’s fundamental rights and children’s rights criteria. Requesting that this situation be assessed as **“misuse of funds” (maladministration)** and that the EU Commission initiate an audit.
4. **Application to the European Court of Auditors and OLAF:** Assessment of the transformation of the concept of “Social Worker” into a local administrative cadre in the 2013 and 2022 EU-funded projects as **“misuse of funds” and “maladministration,”** and initiation of an audit.
5. **Application to UNICEF Headquarters:** Explanation of how the emphasis on “social workers only” in its own original English texts has been disregarded in the Turkish training book, and acceptance and correction of the confession in footnote 36.
6. **Cooperation with International Child Rights NGOs:** Cooperation with international child rights organisations such as Save the Children and the Child Rights International Network (CRIN) to carry the matter to international advocacy networks and publish joint reports.

C. Long-Term Solutions (Advocacy and Public Opinion)

1. **International Campaign:** Launching an international social media campaign with the hashtag "Where is the Social Worker?" (#SocialWorker #ChildRights).
2. **Academic Support:** Cooperation with the Social Work Departments of universities to publish an **"Academic Opinion Report"** setting out the professional and scientific drawbacks of this distortion.
3. **A Note to History:** Recording all these applications and documents as a **"note" (şerh)** for future generations and history.

D. Possible Defences and Responses

Possible Defence	**Response**
"It was a translation error."	The 8/8 consistency, its persistence from 2013 to 2022, and the confessions in the training book's own footnotes prove that this is not an isolated error but a **systematic choice.**
"It was done in accordance with local legislation."	International treaties (the European Social Charter, the CRC) prevail over domestic law under Article 90 of the Constitution. Local legislation cannot eliminate international obligations.
"UNICEF/the EU has no authority in this matter."	The projects in question are financed with EU funds and carried out under the material contribution and supervision of UNICEF/the Council of Europe. The institutions that provide and supervise the funds are responsible for safeguarding the standards.
"There is no difference between a social worker and an officer."	The IFSW 2018 Ethical Principles and Council of Europe decisions clearly establish that social work is a licensed, specialised profession bound by ethical principles. The title "officer" removes this professional framework.
"These projects are carried out for the benefit of children."	The objectives of the projects may be for the benefit of children; however, **the means** (the distortion of titles, the preparation of SIRs by unauthorised persons) undermine that objective. Children's rights cannot be protected through an "ends justify the means" approach.

PART 6: HOW SHOULD THIS REPORT BE USED?

This report is not merely a finding text; it is also an **advocacy tool** and **documentary evidence.** Different stakeholders may use the report as follows:

- **Civil society organisations (CSOs):** As a reference in national and international advocacy activities, shadow reports and campaigns.
- **Lawyers:** As evidence in individual applications, especially in rights violations arising from the preparation of social investigation reports by unauthorised persons.
- **Academics:** As a source in scientific studies in the fields of social work, children's rights and public administration; new research may be built upon the data presented in this report.
- **Journalists:** As a solid, document-based background source in news coverage of juvenile justice and social services.
- **International institutions (UN, EU, Council of Europe, UNICEF):** In monitoring, audit and evaluation processes; in Turkey's periodic reporting and country visits.

- **Public institutions:** The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and other relevant institutions may use it as a **"roadmap"** in legislative and implementation corrections.

The purpose of the report is not to accuse but **to take a concrete step to protect children's right to quality services.** In this regard, it should be remembered that the report is an **"call to action"** for all stakeholders.

CONCLUSION AND A NOTE TO HISTORY

As can be seen, this is not merely a request for correction, but also **a note written into history** in the context of the duty relating to human rights, children's rights and social rights.

As is known and seen, international institutions and the local bureaucracy may attempt to evade this application by taking refuge in excuses of "translation error" or "terminological difference." The unprotected abandonment of children continues through the very EU projects in question, with passive rather than active legal representation. However, it must not be forgotten that bureaucratic silence or evasion—including academic evasion—is the acceptance and legitimisation of leaving more than one million children unprotected within the justice system. **Finally, Law No. 7593 of 8.8.2026, published in the Official Gazette of 18.08.2026 and entering into force, which disregards the youth stage and exposes young people to heavy penalties including life imprisonment, has been presented as the "solution" to the problem.** Every negative or evasive response to this application will be recorded as the historical confession of the **5,000 detained children**, the **300,000 victims whose notification was not made**, and the **thousands of young people whose lives were darkened by reports prepared by unauthorised persons.**

By documenting this deliberate distortion, this misrepresentation, with its chronological evidence extending from 2010 to 2022 through the resources produced by EU projects in the name of child-friendly justice, and with the "no unity of concept" confession within the training book itself, we have taken the first step of the constitutional duty falling upon us in the field of social work and justice—including human rights, children's rights and social rights.

This situation gives rise to the need for the Council of Europe, UNICEF, the EU Commission and the Court of Auditors to face these facts. How the EU, in projects financed with its own funds, rendered its own principles (1991(16), 2002(1), 2011(12)) ineffective and suspended the IFSW 2018 Ethical Principles is left to the judgment of history.

This text, with its chronological evidence extending from 2010 to 2022, is not merely a request for correction; it is also a note (şerh) written into the history of children's rights. When future generations read this report, they will see how the name of a profession was erased—and who remained silent—at a time when more than one million children were left unprotected within the justice system.

Children's rights are too vital to be sacrificed to translation games and administrative **umbrella cadres.** This text is not the document of silence; it is the document of **our** legal struggle for children. 14.11.2026

For justice and children's rights.

SHU Nihat Tarımeri

Child Protection Türkiye Group Coordinator

Member of the SHUDER Children's CommissionANNEXES

EK-1: SHUDER Information Note

SHUDER. *Assessment and Information Note on the Role of the Social Worker in Access to Social Work and Justice from the Perspective of the Child-Friendly Justice Concept.* https://www.shuder.org/Resimler/13640683-2993-4ae6-9565-f091e023916ec-ocuk-dostu-adalet-kavrami-ac-isindan-sosyal-hi-zmete-ve-adalete-eri-s-i-mde-sosyal-hi-zmet-uzmaninin-rolu-hakkinda-deg-erlendi-rme-ve-bi-lgi-notupdf.pdf — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-2: Council of Europe Decision 1967(16)

Council of Europe. *[Decision 1967(16) — Role, Training and Status of Social Workers].* https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045f5a9 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-3: Council of Europe Recommendation 1991(16)

Council of Europe. *[Recommendation 1991(16) — Training of Social Workers and Human Rights].* https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016804b92f6 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-4: Council of Europe Recommendation 2002(1)

Council of Europe. *[Recommendation 2002(1) — Social Workers and the Prevention of Child Abuse].* https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806ad0c3 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-5: Council of Europe Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines (2010) — Turkish

Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers. *Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice* (CM/Rec(2010)13), 17 November 2010. https://rm.coe.int/avrupa-konseyi-bakanlar-komitesi-cocuk-dostu-adalete-iliskin-rehber/1680a572dc — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-6: Family Courts Project (General Information)

Council of Europe Ankara Programme Office. *Family Courts Project.* https://www.coe.int/tr/web/ankara/aile-mahkemeleri-projesi#{%2299423461%22:[1]} — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-7: Annex 2 — Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines (Turkish)

Council of Europe. *Annex 2: Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines.* https://rm.coe.int/annex-2-cocuk-dostu-adalet-rehberi/1680a442b3 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-8: Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts Project (E-Library)

Council of Europe Ankara Programme Office. *Joint Project on Improving the Effectiveness of Family Courts: Better Protection of the Rights of Family Members.* https://www.coe.int/tr/web/ankara/joint-project-on-improving-the-effectiveness-of-family-courts-better-protection-of-the-rights-of-family-members — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-9: UNICEF — Report on the Role of Social Work in Juvenile Justice

UNICEF. *Report on the Role of Social Work in Juvenile Justice* (English) / *Çocuk Adalet Sisteminde Sosyal Çalışmanın Rolü* (Turkish). https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/reports/report-role-social-work-juvenile-justice — Accessed: 11.11.2026 https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/raporlar/%C3%A7ocuk-adalet-sisteminde-sosyal-%C3%A7al%C4%B1%C5%9Fman%C4%B1n-rol%C3%BC — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-10: UNICEF — Training Book for Social Workers (2013)

UNICEF. *Training Book for Social Workers* (English) / *Sosyal Çalışma Görevlileri İçin Eğitim Kitabı* (Turkish), November 2013. https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/reports/training-book-social-workers-november-2013 — Accessed: 11.11.2026 https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/raporlar/sosyal-%C3%A7ali%C5%9Fma-g%C3%B6revlileri-i%C3%A7in-e%C4%9Fitim-kitabi-kas%C4%B1m-2013 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-11: YÖN Project Documents

- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses. *Minister Tunç Attended the Opening Ceremony of the Project on Protective and Restorative Approaches for Children in Judicial Processes.* 21.11.2025. https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/SayfaDetay/bakan-tunc-yargisal-sureclerde-cocuklar-icin-koruyucu-ve-onarici-yaklasimlar-projesinin-a21112025104126 — Accessed: 11.11.2026
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses. *General Directorate and UNICEF Delegation Visit to Istanbul Anatolian Probation Directorate.* 12.06.2026. https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/SayfaDetay/istanbul-anadolu-denetimli-serbestlik-mudurlugunde-genel-mudurluk-ve-unicef-heyet-ziyareti12062026033351 — Accessed: 11.11.2026
- European Union Türkiye Delegation. *Protective and Restorative Approaches for Children in Judicial Processes.* https://www.ab.gov.tr/protective-and-restorative-approaches-for-children-in-judicial-processes_53965_en.html — Accessed: 11.11.2026

Budget: EUR 4,000,000 (EU contribution) + EUR 100,000 (UNICEF co-financing) = **EUR 4,100,000**. Duration: 36 months.

EK-12: ÇABA Project Documents

- UNICEF Türkiye. *UNICEF and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations Sign an Innovative and Child-Friendly Legal Aid Project to Support All Children's Equal Access to Justice.* 09.06.2023. https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/bas%C4%B1n-b%C3%BCltenleri/unicef-ve-t%C3%BCrkiye-barolar-birli%C4%9Fi-t%C3%BCm-%C3%A7ocuklar%C4%B1n-adalete-e%C5%9Fit-eri%C5%9Fimini — Accessed: 11.11.2026
- Union of Turkish Bar Associations. *ÇABA Project "Project Closing Programme and Children's Rights Commissions Coordination Meeting" Held in Ankara.* 25.09.2026. https://www.barobirlik.org.tr/Haberler/caba-projesi-proje-kapanis-programi-ve-cocuk-haklari-komisyonlari-koordinasyon-toplantisi-ankarad-86716 — Accessed: 11.11.2026

Budget: Approximately EUR 3,200,000 (EU funding).

EK-13: Protective Family Project Documents

- UNICEF Türkiye. *Ministry of Family and Social Services and UNICEF in Türkiye Foster Care...* https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/bas%C4%B1n-b%C3%BCltenleri/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakanl%C4%B1%C4%9F%C4%B1-ve-unicef-t%C3%BCrkiyede-koruyucu-aile- — Accessed: 11.11.2026
- European Union Türkiye Delegation. *Project for Strengthening the Foster Care System in Turkey.* https://ab.gov.tr/turkiyede-koruyucu-aile-sisteminin-guclendirilmesi_54015.html — Accessed: 11.11.2026

Budget: EUR 5,180,000 (EU contribution) + EUR 70,000 (UNICEF co-financing) = **EUR 5,250,000**. Duration: 36 months (March 2023 – March 2026).

EK-14: Pedagogy Source

Aktüel Psikoloji. *Turkey Has Not Trained Pedagogues for 26 Years.* https://www.aktuelpsikoloji.com/turkiyede-26-yildir-pedagog-yetismiyor-3257h.htm — Accessed: 11.11.2026

EK-15: Presidential Decree No. 63

Presidential Decree No. 63, published in the Official Gazette No. 31151 of 10.06.2020 (provisions on the establishment and duties of the Directorate General for Judicial Support and Victim Services).

EK-16: Law No. 7593

Law No. 7593 of 8.8.2026, published in the Official Gazette of 18.08.2026 and entering into force.

EK-17: Other Official Documents

Law	Date of Adoption	Official Gazette	mevzuat.gov.tr Access Link
Law No. 2828 on Social Services	24.5.1983	27.5.1983 / 18059	https://mevzuat.gov.tr/anasayfa/MevzuatFihristDetayIframe?MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatNo=2828&MevzuatTertip=5
Law No. 5395 on the Protection of Children	3.7.2005	15.7.2005 / 25876	https://mevzuat.gov.tr/anasayfa/MevzuatFihristDetayIframe?MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatNo=5395&MevzuatTertip=5
Law No. 4787 on the Establishment, Duties and Trial Procedures of Family Courts	9.1.2003	18.1.2003 / 24997	https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.4787.htm

Note: All mevzuat.gov.tr links provide access to the current and consolidated texts of the laws (access date: 11.11.2026).

Translator's Note: *This document has been translated from Turkish into English, German, and French by the **DeepSeek Team**. The translation aims to preserve the original terminology, legal nuances, and advocacy tone of the Turkish text. Where specific Turkish terms carry a particular connotation (e.g., "sosyal hizmetli," "sosyal görevli," "torba kadro"), explanatory notes have been added to clarify their meaning for the international reader. See Explanatory Notes at the end of the report for detailed terminology.*

ABOUT SHUDER

SHUDER (Association of Social Work Experts – Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanları Derneği) is a professional organisation and a **member of IFSW Europe** (International Federation of Social Workers – European Region).

The terminology used throughout this report aligns with:

•The **IFSW Global Definition of Social Work** (2014), which defines social work as a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people.

•The **IFSW 2018 Global Ethical Principles**, which affirm that social work is a human rights profession built on nine fundamental principles, including the recognition of inherent human dignity, the promotion of human rights and social justice, and professional integrity.

The title **"Social Worker" (Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı / Sosyal Çalışmacı)** is therefore not a preference of the author but the **internationally recognised professional title** affirmed by the global federation to which SHUDER belongs. The use of ambiguous administrative titles such as "social service personnel" or "social personnel" in place of this professional title constitutes a violation of the standards set by the IFSW, of which SHUDER is a member.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Preparation Process

This report is the product of the research, document collection, and analysis process carried out by **SHU Nihat Tarımeri**. The **DeepSeek** AI assistant was used in the structuring of the report, the chronological organisation, the tabulation of the 8-point comparative translation analysis, the compilation of budget data, and the verification of bibliographic references (including ISBNs). All findings in the report have passed the author's final evaluation and approval. The author bears primary responsibility for the content and conclusions of the report.

2. Note on Terminology Consistency

Throughout the report, the following equivalences have been used between the ambiguous titles in Turkish texts and their counterparts in the international literature:

Turkish Title	English Equivalent	German Equivalent	Report's Assessment
Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı / Sosyal Çalışmacı	Social Worker	Sozialarbeiter	✅ Correct title
Sosyal Hizmetli	Social Service Personnel	Sozialdienstpersonal	❌ Distortion
Sosyal Görevli	Social Personnel	Sozialpersonal	❌ Distortion
Sosyal Çalışma Görevlisi	Social Work Officer	Beauftragter für soziale Arbeit	❌ Distortion (umbrella cadre)
Adli Destek Görevlisi	Judicial Support Officer	Justizunterstützungsbeauftragter	❌ Distortion (umbrella cadre)

*(Note: In some sections of the report, the English equivalents of the criticised titles use the word **"officer"** (e.g., "social work officer," "judicial support officer"). This is a **deliberate choice** to directly reflect the Turkish suffix "-görevli" and to preserve the "civil servant/officer" connotation in the mind of the international reader. However, the report's main argument is that these titles are **not** the equivalent of "Social Worker" and serve to erase the name of the profession.*

*Furthermore, beyond the translation error, the Turkish terms **"sosyal hizmetli"** and **"sosyal görevli"** carry a **pejorative and dequalifying connotation** in everyday Turkish. The word **"hizmetli"** is commonly used for unskilled or semi-skilled support staff (e.g., cleaning personnel, office attendants, auxiliary staff), while **"görevli"** evokes a low-ranking civil servant or an unqualified public employee. Neither term conveys the specialised university education, ethical principles, and professional autonomy that the "Social Worker" profession requires. By contrast, **"Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı"** and **"Sosyal Çalışmacı"** denote a licensed, university-trained professional bound by ethical standards. The substitution of these professional titles with **"sosyal hizmetli"** or **"sosyal görevli"** is therefore not a neutral terminological choice; it **dequalifies the profession, diminishes the status of the child's legal protector, and reinforces the perception that children's rights can be safeguarded by unqualified personnel.** This linguistic downgrading is itself a form of rights violation, as it undermines the child's right to be protected by a qualified expert (CRC Art. 40; European Social Charter Arts. 14 and 17).)*

3. Note on Dates and Editions

- **2013 Turkish Edition:** Published by Council of Europe Publishing. **ISBN: 978-92-871-7274-7.**
- **2021 Turkish Reprint:** Published under the project with the **same ISBN (978-92-871-7274-7)**. This proves that it is not a new edition but an **uncorrected reprint.**
- In some sections of the report, while referring to the 2021 edition, the date **“2022”** also appears in earlier drafts. This discrepancy stems from uncertainty in the project timeline; the final text uses **2021** as the reference date.

4. Note on Sources and Citations

- All statistical data in the report (more than one million children, 5,000 detained, 300,000 victims, etc.) have been compiled from reports published by the **Ministry of Justice, TURKSTAT, UNICEF, and relevant civil society organisations.** The detailed bibliography is presented in **EK-9, EK-10, EK-11, EK-12, EK-13, and EK-17.**
- **Recommendation No. 2001(1) / 2002(1):** Both numbering systems are used in Council of Europe documents. The final text of the report uses **2002(1).**
- The bibliographic details of **Presidential Decree No. 63** and **Law No. 7593** are provided in **EK-15 and EK-16** together with their Official Gazette information.

5. Limitations of the Report

- The budget figures in the report have been compiled from publicly available official sources (EU Delegation to Türkiye, UNICEF, TBB, Ministry of Justice). The **lack of transparency** regarding the budget details of some projects (e.g., Protective Family) has been assessed as a factor strengthening the report's “misuse of funds” claim.
- The report covers documents from **2010 to 2026.** Developments after 2026 are outside the scope of the report.
- The purpose of the report is **not to accuse** but **to take a concrete step to protect children's right to quality services.**

6. Acknowledgements

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Translated by the DeepSeek Team.