



T-ES(2016)RFG-SLO

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

FOCUSED QUESTIONNAIRE

Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

SLOVENIA

(Replies sent by the State)

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 19 September 2016

DATA (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter III)

- 1) How many migrant and asylum-seeking children (accompanied and unaccompanied)¹ are in your country as a result of the refugee crisis?

At the moment, there are 79 child applicants for international protection, out of these 79, 16 are unaccompanied children.

- a) Please provide estimates, if exact data is not available, for the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016,² and specify how many of these children are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;

In the period from 1. 7. 2015 to 30. 6. 2016 there were 250 child applicants for international protection, among them 106 unaccompanied minors. None among them was identified as a victim of sexual abuse.

- b) Describe how the victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were identified or describe the challenges faced to identify them. Specify whether a distinction is made between victims of sexual exploitation/abuse prior to the entry on your territory (Group 1) and after entry (Group 2) and provide data/estimates of the two groups of victims. Please also explain how the age is determined in case of doubt;

None among the child applicants for international protection was identified as a victim of sexual abuse.

- c) Indicate also how the data collected is used to offer a coordinated response between the different agencies in charge of the protection from, the prevention of and the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children;

If an child applicant for international protection is identified as a victim of sexual abuse, an expert action programme is designed, comprising of an estimate of a further risk of endangerment, a safety plan, options for safety lodging, a plan of advocacy, legal aid and other forms of help, such as psychotherapeutic help, expert psychosocial counseling, inclusion in workshops for personal growth, keeping company and free time activities, individual help and directing the victim to adequate institution in order to receive help and support. If needed, taking into account circumstances of individual case, experts from the Asylum center, Social work center, Police as well as experts from the field of education and health service, can take part in the treatment of a sexual abuse victim.

- d) Identify the institution(s) responsible for the collection of above data.

PREVENTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter II)

¹ Please provide the definition of accompanied/unaccompanied children in your country and, if available, provide separate figures for accompanied and unaccompanied children. If such data is not available, please provide data on migrant and asylum-seeking children.

² If figures for this period are not available, please provide the most recent annual data.

- 2) What are the specific measures taken to prevent that children affected by the refugee crisis fall victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?

In general children as the most vulnerable group are treated with highest sensitivity measures to protect them from any harm.

- a) Highlight in particular the measures (e.g. awareness raising material, specialised training, screening of professionals, etc.) which have proven to be effective;

Specialized trainings for social workers, dealing with children at risk are conducted.

Employees in the Asylum Centre regularly attend trainings for recognition of victims of violence and victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as for further treatment of victims.

Police has issued Directions for work with minors in migration wave. Directions are obligatory for all police officers. Directions include review of migration trends, status of children in migration wave, protocol for notifications, identification of THB/terrorism/extremism as well as information on fundamental principles of Convention on Rights of the Child (article 2, 3, 6 and 12). Directions were issued on the basis of conclusions adopted on an expert meeting attended by the head of police units from the areas with massive migrations or where police activities are conducted in this regard. Directions were issued in 2015.

- b) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (e.g. in raising awareness on sexual violence amidst other urgent priorities, etc.) that had to be faced to improve prevention.

PROTECTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IV)

- 3) Has a coordinated child protection approach been put in place to cater for the specific needs of migrant and asylum-seeking children victims of sexual exploitation and/or sexual abuse?

In the Asylum Centre the project PATS (recognition, help and protection of victims of THB, sexual violence and gender violence) is conducted in connection with admittance of applicants for international protection. The purpose of the project PATS is to disseminate information on THB and to facilitate identification of vulnerable groups, in need of specialized treatment. Special attention is given to informing vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied minors and women.

As for social workers in general, the protocols of Ministry of labour, family and social affairs provide that children are treated with highest sensitivity.

- a) Describe the measures taken to address the situation and cater for the children's specific needs (multiple traumas, language/cultural differences, etc.), including with respect to guardianship/placement;

Unaccompanied minors, older than 15 years who are victims of sexual abuse are accommodated in an Asylum center for a short period of time (two weeks), in the department for the unaccompanied minors. Their legal representative and the competent center for social work must be immediately informed. Both Center and legal representative must be included in the help planning. After two weeks, unaccompanied minors are transferred to high school dormitory, where they have 24-hour care. Unaccompanied minors under the age of 15, are immediately housed in the dormitory, without the above said transitional period in the Asylum center.

It is essential to provide comprehensive assistance based on the principle of the best interests of the child, taking into account child's personal circumstances. The Center for Social Work together with other relevant institutions and in cooperation with the child's legal representatives proposes an adequate accommodation, which may be temporary or permanent.

Upon detection of sexual abuse, in addition to the statutory forms of possible accommodation, the following additional forms of accommodation are possible: a crisis center for children and young people (a temporary form of accommodation), exceptionally educational institutions, group homes, high school dormitories, foster families.

- b) Indicate also what measures have been taken to protect the children concerned from further exploitation/abuse and to assist the victims in seeking redress (please highlight any differences between Groups 1 and 2 of children as outlined above);

All victims of sexual abuse are ensured safe placement and social, legal, psychological and medical assistance. Specific programs, activities and actions aimed at empowering vulnerable groups are provided. Activities provided by NGO's, aimed at empowering vulnerable groups, are also available, both inside as well as outside of Asylum center.

Police treats children as the most vulnerable group as well. Its procedures are aimed at reunification of family members / relatives / dependents as well as at their care or protection.

- c) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (in reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation and abuse, in tailoring assistance to the victims, etc.) that had to be faced to improve protection.

COOPERATION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IX)

- 4) Provide examples of successful cooperation with other Parties to the Lanzarote Convention for the purpose of:
 - a) Preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children affected by the refugee crisis;
 - b) Protecting and providing assistance to victims;
 - c) Investigations or proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention.

ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 5) Please provide any other additional information which may be useful to identify areas for targeted cooperation aimed at ensuring that children affected by the refugee crisis are effectively protected from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and in guaranteeing their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity.

Police investigated 1 criminal offence from the Article 176, paragraph 3 of Penal Code (Presentation, manufacture, possession and distribution of pornographic material). A suspect was a migrant from the last migrant wave. The suspect was presenting images of sexually abused children on his mobile phone. Police carried out the prescribed procedure (seizure of the phone, report to the competent State prosecutor, the suspect appeared for questioning in front of an investigating judge. Victims of sexual abuse on the photographs were not identified. The criminal offence was committed in 2016.