



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## **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**

### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINIA**

**(Replies sent by ENOC)**

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 13 September 2016

### **DATA** (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter III)

- 1) How many migrant and asylum-seeking children (accompanied and unaccompanied)<sup>1</sup> are in your country as a result of the refugee crisis?
  - a) Please provide estimates, if exact data is not available, for the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016,<sup>2</sup> and specify how many of these children are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and 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;
  - 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;
  - d) Identify the institution(s) responsible for the collection of above data.

According to the official reports from the state and entity's agencies there was no crossing of bigger groups of migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **PREVENTION** (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter II)

- 2) What are the specific measures taken to prevent that children affected by the refugee crisis fall victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?
  - a) Highlight in particular the measures (e.g. awareness raising material, specialised training, screening of professionals, etc.) which have proven to be effective;
  - 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?
  - 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;
  - 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

(please highlight any differences between Groups 1 and 2 of children as outlined above);

- 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.

As far as our legislation stipulates, all the children who are in the our territory have the right to same protection and treatment regardless their citizenship.

#### **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.

The Council of Ministers of the BiH adopted the Information on evaluation of capabilities of Bosnia and Hercegovina in light of the refugee crisis in the region and the EU. The Information was adopted on 8 September 2015. All institutions and agencies have been obliged to implement the measures defined by the Plan of urgent measures for provision of additional capacities, control and management for potential migration through the territory of BiH. The Ministry of Security and Coordination body for migrations have been obliged to cooperate with other relevant instruction regarding implementation of the Plan of urgent measures, to regularly update it and report to the Council of Ministers of BiH.

„The Plan of urgent measures ensure human treatment of the refugees and migrants in accordance to the legislation that treat migrations and asylum and in accordance to the international legislation providing, at the same time, for the maximum security in given circumstances“/

The State institutions that deal with the issues of migrations are: Ministry of Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Coordination body for migration issues.

In additional to the above mentioned state level institutions, the Federal Ministry of Interior, the RS Ministry of Interior, cantonal ministries of interior, and the Brcko District Police are authorized to support the Department for dealing with foreign citizens and provide information relevant for migrations, such as reporting the foreign citizens staying in the country or support extraditions if required.

#### **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.

Within the framework of the mandate regulated by the law, the Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Srpska/BiH regularly monitor and address issues related to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. The Institution issued a special report on this topic that could be found on <http://www.djeca.rs.ba/uploaded/sexexplengl.pdf>