



T-ES(2016)RFG-CZE

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

CZECH REPUBLIC

(Replies sent by the State)

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 19 October 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?
 - 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;
 - 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.

General migration crisis almost has not influenced the Czech Republic yet, since the Czech Republic has not been considered as a suitable transit country by migrants (those related to the crisis) as well as country of destination. In 2015 there were 269 minors among asylum seekers in the Czech Republic. From them only 14 were unaccompanied minors. As regards the first half of 2016 (January – June) there were only 131 accompanied minors as asylum seekers.

No case of the above mentioned accompanied or unaccompanied minors was assessed as a presumed victim of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse.

There was no identification of such cases during 2015 and 2016. Czech Republic has a stable system for the purpose of detection of presumed victims (including victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) among asylum seekers and illegal migrants in general. This system is also based on cooperation with NGO's. Some of these NGO's are focused on minors (especially unaccompanied ones) and its assistance and support.

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.

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.

As it is mentioned above, the Czech Republic has felt limited consequences of migration crisis. For that reason there was not necessary to apply any additional special measures in the field of detection, support and protection of presumed minor victims of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse. Standard measures works well and it is continuously upgraded.

The main working measures are focused on referral mechanism, informational support of national actors and building of specialized facilities. Fundamental referral mechanism is described in National Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings. Specialized manual on detection and dealing with minor victims of sexual exploitation was elaborated and is used by different actors, like Police, NGO's, Courts and local Departments of Social and Legal Protection of Minors. Another working preventive measure is emergency hotline (116 111) which is operated by highly skilled NGO. Moreover specialized rooms in which minor victims should be interviewed where established and equipped.

Moreover the regular information campaigns are carried out and possibility of help is promoted.

The main current challenge is to ensure possibility of detection in facilities for asylum seekers and detention centers revealed illegal migrants. This topic is in consideration of social workers and NGO's working in such facilities.

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 (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.

Frontline detection of minor victims is ensured by NGO's, in particular by those that work in facilities for asylum seekers and detention centers, social workers in these facilities and by local Departments of Social and Legal Protection of Minors (these departments are the main responsible body for subsequent social and legal protection of minor victims and other detecting subject should refer minor victims to these departments). The Departments provide protection of minors against perpetrators as well as protection of minor victims' rights during all of the prosecuting process and represent minor victims during criminal proceedings as an injured party.

The second line is represented by special facilities for save accommodation of unaccompanied minors or minor victims. Current total number of such facilities is 4. These facilities work under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

Prosecuting line is represented by Police, Prosecutors and Courts. Especially police uses specialized manuals focused on the detection of minor victims and dealing with them. Police also operates specially equipped interview rooms.

For the data collection are responsible especially Departments of Social and Legal Protection of Minors and Police.

From the perspective of policy making process, the topic of minor victims – detection and protection of them – is the subject especially of Ministry of Labor and Social Affaires. The Ministry of the Interior is cooperating.

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.

As regards the Lanzarote Convention, the Czech Republic is in the entering process. Due to such stage of affaires, the Czech Republic has no examples of cooperation with other Parties of the Convention yet.

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.

No other comments.