



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
**MINISTRSTVO ZA PRAVOSODJE**

# Implementing the Barnahus model in Slovenia

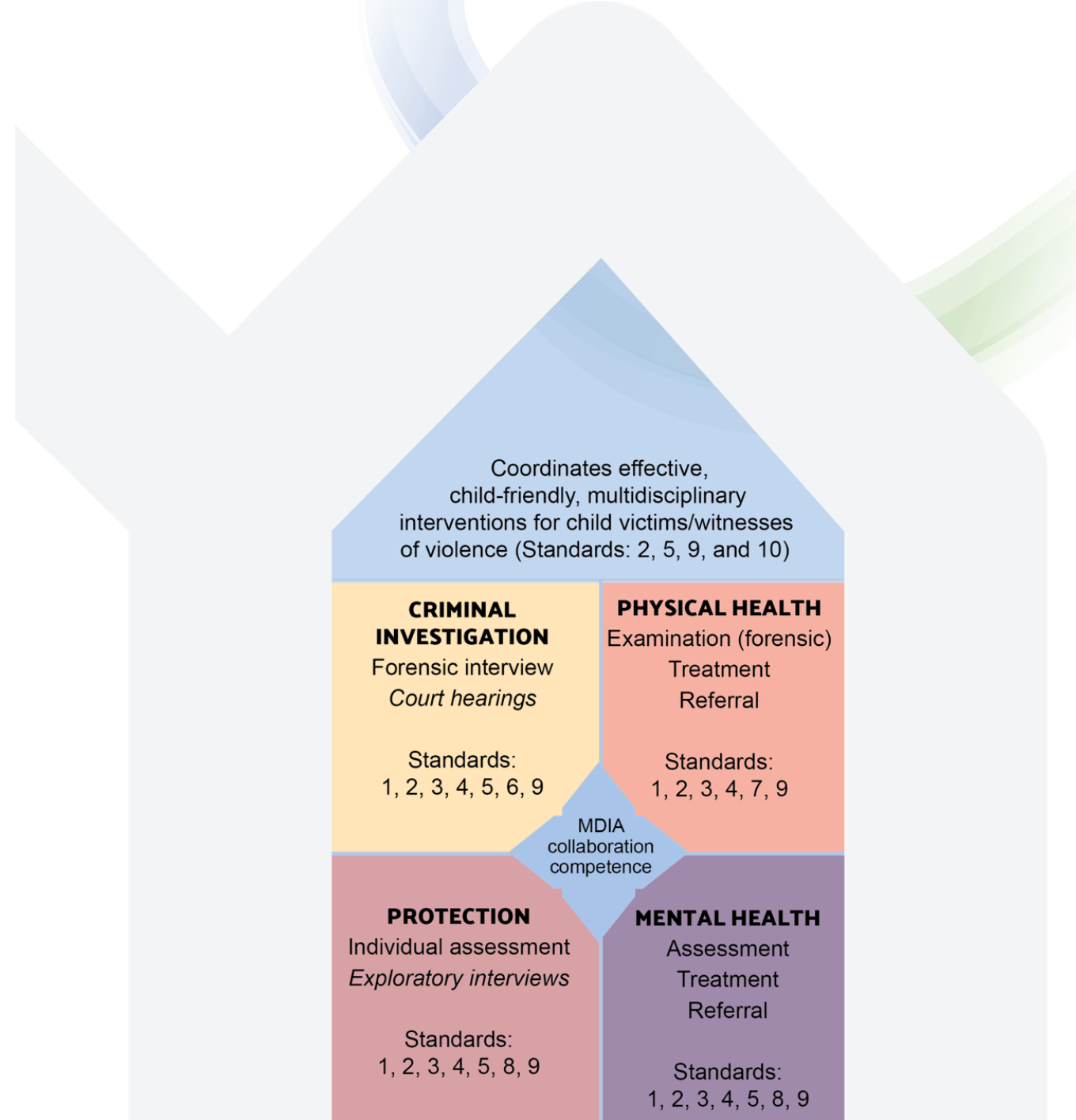
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# The Barnahus Model

- We all know what it is, right? 😊

Picture borrowed from: PROMISE Barnahus Network



# The Situation

- Slovenia - generally a very child-friendly country
- Good results in international comparison especially in the social field, education, health care
- In the field of justice less satisfying
- No initiative for Barnahus from existing organisations
- The initiative from MoJ officials => ,top-down' approach

# The Process

- Government decision
- 2017 – 2023 interagency working party (MoJ, MoLFSAE0, MH, MI-Police, MESS, GP, SC, ACSW (CPS), NGO, Ombudsperson office) – chair MoJ state secretary
- International collaboration:
  - 2018 – 2019 joint EU DG REFORM-CoE project (phase I) - Feasibility Study for setting up Barnahus
  - 2019 – 2022 joint EU DG REFORM-CoE project (phase II) - Supporting the implementation of Barnahus
  - 2020 – 2023 Norway Grants pre-defined project Children's House/Barnahus
  - 2020 – 2023 MoJ partner in PROMISE 3 project (Formalising the European Barnahus Movement through establishing training in Europe and a formal network)

# The Challenges

- Government officials as the driving force – sometimes not strong enough
- Internal MoJ opposition
- A LOT of top management changes (4 ministers and 5 state secretaries since 2017)
- Every change => a few months' delays
- Unfortunate personnel decisions
- Biggest challenge: How to keep the process alive?

# The Law

- CHILD PROTECTION IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE ACT (unanimously adopted in March 2021 – operational start 1. May 2022)
  - Drafted and peer-reviewed with the CoE experts' help
  - Long and open public debate
  - Consultations with children
  - The comprehensive treatment shall be carried out as a public service in the Children's House public institution. Main tasks:
    1. organising the forensic interview, technical and spatial capacities for the interview and professional assistance to the court during the interview
    2. when children are physically examined, organising the examination and providing technical and spatial capacities for the examination
    3. providing the child with the support of a counsellor as part of the crisis support during an interview or physical examination
    4. providing psychological, social and practical support as part of the psychosocial support to the child and their family members
    5. developing and adopting programmes and carrying out the training and assessments of knowledge of professionals
    6. ensuring the uniformity and development of professional methods and procedures of the comprehensive treatment of children and developing and implementing multidisciplinary and interagency training programmes for this purpose
    7. providing spaces for the police and social work centres (CPS) to perform their duties in the proceedings concerning minor victims of and witnesses to criminal offences

# The Result

- Children's House = a special legal entity with the director and the board (financially secured)
- Renewed and refurbished premises in Ljubljana (new locations already discussed)
- A strong and coherent interagency team of experts
- Improved child participation (an ongoing process)
- A deeper understanding of CSEA and search for solutions to improve response on every level everywhere
- Systematic approach to building child-friendly justice (organisational changes in MoJ)
- Good international connections (organisations, experts)

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**Thank you!**