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## **LANZAROTE COMMITTEE**

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

**Follow-up given by Parties to the Special Report on “Protecting children  
affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual  
abuse”**

**Compliance report concerning Recommendation 15**

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 2 December 2021

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## Executive Summary

In March 2016, the Council of Europe's Secretary General called for a series of [priority actions to protect children affected by the refugee crisis](#). In this context, the Lanzarote Committee mandated its Bureau to decide on the need to make urgent requests for information on the basis of [Rule 28 \(Special reports and urgent situations\)](#) of its Rules of Procedure.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017, the Lanzarote Committee adopted the [Special report Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#), as an outcome of the [urgent monitoring round](#) that had been launched for that purpose. The Special report focused on how Parties to the Lanzarote Convention were protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

To follow-up on the Special report and its recommendations, in 2018, the Committee requested Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide information on the follow-up given to the 5 urge recommendations. The [evaluation of the follow-up given to the 5 urge recommendations](#) was adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

Subsequently, the Committee asked the Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide information on the follow-up to the 10 recommendations considering that Parties should act. This compiled information (hereafter Compilation information 2020) allowed for a first preliminary individual assessment of the Parties' practices and legislation with respect to the 10 "consider" recommendations, taking into account specific requirements. This first preliminary assessment was presented to the Parties at the 27<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee in June 2020. The Parties were then given a second opportunity to provide information on the follow-up to the same 10 recommendations (hereafter additional information).

In view of the examination and possible adoption of the 10 Compliance Reports at the Lanzarote Committee's 34<sup>th</sup> meeting (4-7<sup>th</sup> of October 2021), international organisations having participatory status with the Lanzarote Committee submitted information of relevance to some of the recommendations in question.

The present draft compliance report was prepared on the basis of the Compilation of information 2020, the compiled additional information sent by the Parties, as well as, the complementary information submitted by international organisations.<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that the conclusions of compliance/partial compliance/non-compliance have been drawn without the possibility to verify the extent to which legislation and measures are being applied in practice, nor whether children affected by

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<sup>1</sup> The 41 Parties that are concerned by this report are: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

the refugee crisis are actually benefitting from existing services. It has also not been possible to assess the overall impact of the prevention and protection initiatives concerning sexual exploitation and sexual abuse against this particular group of children.

The report covers the situation in the 41 states, which were Parties to the Convention at the time the urgent monitoring round was launched. Parties, which have ratified the Lanzarote Convention at a later stage may take into consideration the recommendations, promising practices and other findings presented in this report for information and subsequent relevant action.

The majority of the Parties to the Convention have implemented one or more measures to address the requirements of Recommendation 15. Specifically, 19 Parties are in partial compliance and 15 Parties are in full compliance with the requirements. The majority of these Parties have in place promising practices that could inform further developments and advances in other Parties.

The main measures implemented include the adoption of prevention information on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse *and* specific information and advice targeting children affected by the refugee crisis. Some promising practices include providing information and advice to different groups of refugee children, the availability of materials in relevant languages and the adoption of different methodologies, such as peer-to-peer training and *ad hoc* workshops.

In some Parties, authorities have gone beyond and addressed specific cultural aspects that may have an impact on children's sexual exploitation and abuse, which is particularly promising.

Gaps remain in ensuring that all groups of children affected by the refugee crisis receive appropriate prevention and protection information and advice concerning sexual exploitation and abuse, including those who are accompanied or unaccompanied and living in different accommodation situations, such as reception centres, refugee camps or other. Further efforts must also be carried out concerning the adaptation of existing information, particularly to children's age and maturity, and ensuring that it is sensitive to gender and culture.

7 Parties have been considered non-compliant with Recommendation 15, due to insufficient evidence.

**Table 1. Comparative information on fulfilment of Recommendation 15**

Country	Prevention information exists	Information targets children affected	Information is adapted to age, maturity and other
Albania	No	No	No
Andorra	Yes	Yes*	No
★ Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Belgium	Yes	Yes*	Yes
★ Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Cyprus	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Czech Republic	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
★ Denmark	Yes	Yes*	Yes
★ Finland	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ France	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	No	No	No
★ Germany	Yes	Yes*	Yes
Greece	No	No	No
Hungary	Yes	Yes*	No
★ Iceland	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Latvia	Yes*	Yes	Yes*
★ Liechtenstein	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Lithuania	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malta	Yes	No	Yes*
Republic of Moldova	No	No	No
Monaco	No	No	No
★ Montenegro	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Netherlands	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
North Macedonia	No	No	No
★ Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Portugal	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
★ Romania	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Russian Federation	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Marino	No	No	No
Serbia	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Slovak Republic	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Slovenia	No	Yes*	Yes*
Spain	No	Yes*	Yes*
★ Sweden	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Turkey	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*

<b>Ukraine</b>	Yes	No	Yes*
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\*Yes, to a limited extent.

### Recommendation R15

The Lanzarote Committee:

considers that information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse should be provided to children affected by the refugee crisis in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture (reiteration of 1<sup>st</sup> implementation report, Recommendation R23) (R15).

Following the adoption of the Special Report and after the assessment of the 5 urge recommendations, the Committee asked Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide follow-up information on the 10 recommendations considering that Parties should act. On a first phase, Parties provided relevant information to assess their compliance with recommendations, which was compiled in the Compilation information 2020. An individual assessment was carried out of the replies of each Party, taking into account specific requirements.

The requirements identified to assess Parties' compliance with Recommendation 15 are as follows:

- 1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*
- 2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*
- 3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Full compliance with Recommendation 15 was determined if the Party had in place: a) Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, in general, or targeting refugee children, in particular; b) if this information and advice was provided by Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis; and c) if the information and advice was provided in a manner that is adapted to children's age and maturity, in a language they understand. Where countries have taken measures to adopt more than one of the requirements *or* had also applied the principles of information and advice being sensitive to gender and culture, these were considered as promising practices.

Based on this assessment, an analytical document was prepared and sent to the Parties. Subsequently, Parties were given the opportunity to submit additional information concerning other measures in place, which showed compliance with the requirements identified for the assessment of Recommendation 15.



The present report takes into account both the Compilation information 2020 and related analytical document, as well as the additional information submitted by Parties. The aim is to assess compliance, whilst providing a comprehensive picture of what national practices and legislation are in place.

For ease of reference, a comparative table summarising the findings of this report has also been prepared.<sup>2</sup> The table colours have been determined as follows:

- Full compliance (green) – the Party is in conformity with all the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention;
- Partial compliance (yellow) - the Party is in partial conformity with the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention;
- Non-compliance (red) – the Party does not address any of the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention.
- Promising practice country (star) – the Party fulfils one or more requirements of the Recommendation *or* has applied the principles of information and advice being sensitive to gender and culture, in a manner that is considered a promising practice.

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<sup>2</sup> This table can be found at the end of the Executive Summary.

## Country results

### **ALBANIA**

In Compilation information 2020, in reference to the Special report on Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, Albania provided information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The information provided refers to provisions, safeguards and guarantees for victims, including the rights of a child victim and sexually abused or trafficked victims. However, in this information nothing is specified concerning whether information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists (requirement 1), whether this information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 2) or whether this information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture (requirement 3).

Therefore, from the information provided, there is no evidence that Albania provides any information and advice concerning the prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse specifically to children affected by the refugee crisis nor that they provide any information that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

No additional information was provided.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, Albania is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.

### **ANDORRA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Andorra referred to Law 14/2019 of the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, Article 26 on the Right to Information, which provides that children and adolescents have the right to seek, access, receive and use information appropriate to their age and maturity in different formats, to the benefit of their full physical, mental, spiritual and social development. Art 46 refers to the specific provision of *information and advice regarding prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse*.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Andorra referred to Law 4/2018 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March on the temporary and transitory protection for humanitarian reasons, which foresees that refugees have the right to use a language, which they understand with the aid of

an interpreter. In the additional reply to Recommendation 15, Andorra provided information that no specific information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse exists nor is it provided to children affected by the refugee crisis. Andorra also provided information that at school there are different actions aimed to inform and raise awareness of students, which include children affected by the refugee crisis, but target the collective of students.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In the additional reply to Recommendation 15, Andorra provided information concerning the renovation and updating of the Protocol concerning children at risk and that it will carry out awareness raising, including to children and adolescents. However, it did not specify whether this will include specific information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, whether it will target children affected by the refugee crisis and whether the information will be provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Andorra is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the special report. Partial compliance as been determined for the following reason: the information provided is not adapted specifically to children affected by the refugee crisis.

## **AUSTRIA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Austria provided a number of specific examples of measures and programmes in place, which address information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These include, *inter alia*, information generated through the project "*Courageous Girls -Violence Prevention Workshops for Girls and Young Women 2019*" of the association "*Wendepunkt -Women for Women and Children*", which aims amongst other things at the sustainable anchoring of a "strong" image of women among girls and young women as well as on the examination of gender stereotypes and partnership models; and the projects "*Transcultural Violence Prevention and Health Promotion*" and "*Violence Prevention in the Transcultural Classroom*" by the "*samara - Association for the Prevention of Sexual Violence*", which develop and implement specific concepts for the prevention of violence for teachers, girls and boys and their parents with a migration background, funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Austria provided information about the work by the Vienna Child and Youth Welfare Service targeting children affected by the refugee crisis. The service informs refugee children (in particular unaccompanied refugee minors) and provides advice and support services in a manner that is adapted to their age and sensitive to culture. The service also provides necessary therapy for children affected by the refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Austria provided a number of specific examples of measures and programmes in place, which respect the principle that information and advice provided to children affected by the refugee crisis should be adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture. This includes, *inter alia*, promising practices such as young people and women's peer training and peer mentoring and different several intercultural and socio-medical advice centres, by the City of Vienna.

Based on the information received, Austria is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **BELGIUM**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Belgium provided information of measures targeting specifically girls, concerning information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including a specific booklet entitled "[Women, Young women and asylum in Belgium](#)", by the General Commissariat for refugees and stateless persons. The booklet is very detailed and includes information on different aspects of sexual violence. It is important to emphasise, however, that the booklet only targets women and girls. Additionally, the Protection Service carries out an initial interview to inform children, including their rights. However, it is not specified whether this interview covers information and advice on prevention and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

As mentioned in the paragraph above, Belgium provides specific prevention information and advice on sexual exploitation and abuse to children affected by the refugee crisis, specifically girls.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The examples provided by Belgium in Compilation information 2020 respect the principle that information and advice provided to children affected should be adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Belgium is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) there is no information as to whether the individual interviews carried out cover aspects of sexual exploitation and abuse; and b) it is not clear whether there is information available targeting boys affected by the refugee crisis, in addition to girls.

## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information on the work of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI), an NGO that is partner to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and which offers a range of services for asylum seekers and refugees. Regular activities by BHWI include continuously ensuring that children receive information about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the risks of everyday life and in the context of migration, as well as, how to protect themselves, tailored to their age and assists victims in physical and psychosocial recovery.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information that translators and cultural mediators convey information in a manner appropriate to the

child's age, cognitive, social and emotional maturity, with sensitivity to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **BULGARIA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Bulgaria provided information that it had prepared three films against Trafficking in Human Beings and for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, which were translated into several languages.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In the additional information provided, Bulgaria provided information that, having in mind the difficulties which occur during the provision of interpreters in cases of “Police protection” urgent protection measures, the placement in Homes for Temporary Accommodation of Minors and police detention; leaflets and audio files for child victims, searching or receiving international protection have been developed in Bulgarian, English, French, Turkish, Urdu, Pashtu, Farcy and Arabian, by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with UNHCR. Bulgaria provided further information that during the pandemic situation in the country due to the spread of COVID-19, the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) suspended face-to-face information sessions and transformed these into online sessions related to the prevention of trafficking in human beings, organised by various institutions and NGOs.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

According to the additional information submitted by Bulgaria, there are leaflets and audio-files, which target children specifically and which are also available in a number of relevant languages. There is no information to assess whether the information is adapted to children’s age and maturity and is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Bulgaria is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: as it is not clear whether the information available is being adapted to children’s age and maturity.

## CROATIA

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

According to the additional information submitted by Croatia, information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is provided to unaccompanied and accompanied children, on an individual basis.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

As reported in the paragraph above, information and advice is provided on a case-by-case to unaccompanied and accompanied children, who are followed by the Centre for Social Care.

The Ministry of Interior further provided that the children receive the abovementioned advice and information from the employees of the Croatian Red Cross through initial and individual interviews during their stay in the shelter. The aim is to point out to children the potential dangers and ways of exploiting children. In this regard, the activities of the Croatian Red Cross are based on a conversation related to potential dangers during their trip, but also in the destination country. Equally, during conversation the attention is drawn to the potential abuse of children via the Internet, as children make extensive use of social networks and Internet browsers, often without control and supervision.

Furthermore, in order to strengthen the protection of children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, if during the contact of the border police with children, there are suspicions of sexual exploitation and abuse, police officers of crime who are specially trained to work with children shall be included in the contact/treatment. In this regard, all children in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, including illegal migrants and applicants of international protection are protected in the same way, as children who are citizens of the Republic of Croatia, i.e. the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the Republic of Croatia is a signatory, shall apply to all of them.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The Party provided information that experts of the Centre for Social Care expert communicate with children, with the support of an interpreter, and allowing him/her to express his/her current needs. The expert informs the child about all the facts and circumstances concerning his/her case, in an appropriate manner as regards his/her age, maturity and understanding of the child (especially on rights, obligations, services as well as on access to international protection) and gives him/her the right to express his/her opinions and needs. Also, the expert actively participates in the identification process and provides the child with all the support needed, informs the child about the rights and obligations during and after the procedure of identification, the right to a

special guardian, as well as access to all other rights (i.e. information on the procedure for granting international protection if from a behaviour of a child it can be concluded that he/she would like to file a motion for granting international protection or he/she needs one). Croatia further informed that unaccompanied children are being recognised as a particularly vulnerable group, exposed to numerous risks including risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Therefore, special attention is given to those children through special help, support and advice provided by experts.

Based on the information received, Croatia is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **CYPRUS**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In accordance with the additional information submitted by Cyprus, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, through their curriculum concerning issues of sexual education, is promoting various experiential workshops, conducted by NGOs. The Kiko and the Hand booklet is used to younger ages of children, in the manner mentioned above.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Cyprus informed that at the point of entry of people affected by the refugee crisis, as well as, in the first reception point, all the relevant Services cooperate in order to provide the necessary services to refugees and the necessary information on the services provided, especially concerning vulnerable groups. Furthermore, at the point of entry, persons in need of protection are provided with the essentials, a registration takes place and an initial screening is undertaken, aiming towards the identification of persons that possibly belong to vulnerable groups, so that any special needs are taken into consideration during later procedures.

In the additional information submitted, the Party further informed that children affected by the refugee crisis are placed in the mainstream school classes. At the same time they are provided with Greek language introduction classes and support. Kiko and the Hand reaches all children in schools, including children affected by the refugee crisis. It is presented both in oral and in written form.



*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Cyprus informed that each case of sexual abuse of children is handled according to the specific circumstances of the case and the needs of the child. The services provided in the Children's House are done so in a child-friendly manner, taking into account the best interest of the child. Therefore, all the aspects and needs of the child, such as gender, age, cultural background, language, and other, are taken in due consideration when handling a case. Every child referred to the Children's House receives information on the procedures to be followed. For younger children (3–7-year-olds) a story book is used to explain the procedure and the role of each professional in the House. Furthermore, through the use of books, play, etc., the children are provided with information and knowledge concerning sexual abuse aiming at preventing any possible further victimisation. When the cooperation of the child ends at the Children's House, the multidisciplinary team ensures that the child is provided with further services, if deemed necessary, within the framework of prevention and protection.

In accordance to the additional information submitted by Cyprus, the information, guidance and support in the specific shelters are given in a manner adapted to children's age and maturity and in a language they understand (using interpreters whenever needed) (but without it being in print or online material, as abovementioned). No information has been submitted concerning information that is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Cyprus is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15 and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, the Czech Republic informed of the E-Security project, which is focused on prevention, education, research, intervention, and awareness of risk behaviour on the internet and related phenomena. The project is not limited in time and focuses on dangerous internet phenomena that endanger both children and adult internet users. It focuses mainly on cyber bullying and sexting, cyber grooming, cyber stalking and stalking, risks of social networks, hoax and spam messages, and misuse of personal data in the environment of electronic media.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, the Czech Republic informed that the Facility for minor foreigners based in Prague is important for the institutionalised support for unaccompanied minors. The activity of the facility is regulated by the Act on the exercise of institutional or protective education and a related decree. The facility provides care to children who are not citizens of the Czech Republic and are in the care of the state on the basis of a preliminary measure of the court or a court decision on institutional care. Information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is provided in cooperation with NGOs in the form of workshops where both theoretical information and practical demonstrations on how to act in situations at risk are provided. The prevention is mainly targeted to trafficking in human beings as children affected by the refugee crisis might often be victims of it.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, the Czech Republic informed that the Facility for Minor Foreigners often works with the NGO Children Crisis Centre, which produces prevention materials in the form of short comic books adapted to children's age and maturity.

Based on the information received, the Czech Republic is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined by the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether groups of children affected by the refugee crisis, other than unaccompanied children receive information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; and b) it is not clear if the information is available in languages children affected by the refugee crisis understand.

## **DENMARK**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In accordance to the additional information provided by Denmark (information by the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration to the Ministry of Justice), when an unaccompanied minor asylum seeker is considered a potential victim of trafficking of human beings, this will be examined and a decision will be made as soon as possible due to the minor's vulnerability. If a minor is formally considered a victim of trafficking in human beings, he/she will receive a written decision by the Asylum Unit of the Danish Immigration Service (DIS). In the decision, information will be provided to the victim that the DIS can offer him/her access to a wide range of psychological, legal and socio-educational facilities and to health-promoting treatment. It is also noted, that he/she

may contact the staff at his/her asylum centre, if assistance is needed and that he/she has the opportunity to be accommodated at a crisis centre, if this is his/her wish. Finally, it is relevant to mention that the Party also provided information that in the decision that a contact person will be appointed to the victim and that this person will guide and support the victim. The contact person is from the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking (CMM).

At the same time, the decision that a minor is formally considered a victim of trafficking in human beings is provided to the minor's personal representative appointed by the Agency of Family Law, so that it will be assured that the minor receives all necessary information and guidance. Information about the decision is also provided to the Accommodation and Assistance Division Unit of the DIS, who contacts CMM who then appoints the contact person. From this stage, the Accommodation and Assistance Unit and CMM are in charge of the different initiatives to ensure the proper care for the victim.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

As provided above, the necessary information and advice seems to be available to unaccompanied minors who are asylum seekers and considered a potential victim of trafficking of human beings.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Denmark provided information that, as a main rule when talking to all minors, the Danish Immigration Service always try to communicate in a manner adapted to the minors' personal circumstances. Should a minor have special needs due to the experienced sexual trauma e.g. gender of the caseworker or interpreter, the Danish Immigration Service will try to meet these needs if applicable.

Based on the information received, Denmark is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined by the following reason: it is not clear whether groups of children affected by the refugee crisis, other than unaccompanied children receive information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

## FINLAND

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In accordance to the additional information submitted by Finland, the social welfare and healthcare authorities give information proportionate to a child's age and level of development, and the interpreters are used when necessary. General information on child sexual abuse related topics is available on several internet- pages, among others, of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, of hospital districts, from the social welfare and healthcare staff, including from the units of the forensic psychology of children and adolescents. The information produced by the NGO's supplements the information given by public authorities.

Among others, the Victim Support Finland (RIKU) supported by the Ministry of Justice is a central actor and giver of the information to children and their families. Their internet-page has information and instructions concerning children and young people as victims of crime. Victim Support Finland Helpline is open on weekdays in Finnish and in Swedish. It offers victims of crime the possibility to talk to someone, who understands what it can mean to become a victim of crime. RIKUchat is a quick and easy online service, where one can ask, talk about and obtain advice in regard to criminal cases. Support and advice can be requested by the victim of crime, the victim's relative, a witness of the criminal case or anyone who has been affected something that has happened. RIKUchat also operates as a consulting service for professionals, who encounter victims of crime or their relatives in their work. Questions can also be asked and discussed anonymously. The chat is open on weekdays.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In accordance to the additional information submitted by Finland, the Finnish Police has no specific program aimed for children affected by the refugee crisis. However, in accordance with Finland's Strategy on Preventive Police Work 2019-2023, the police is giving a high priority to children, young people and their parents in the context of its work. Furthermore, the police upholds and has increased the interaction with minority groups. The interaction makes it easier for the police to obtain information about the concerns and security problems of the minority groups and of the factors that impact safety and security and the sense of insecurity among different minority groups. This work is done through cooperation with organisations and religious communities representing different minorities as well as directly with individuals belonging to these groups. Through this work the police also reaches children affected by the refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In accordance to the additional information submitted by Finland, according to the Aliens Act, in any decisions issued under the Act that concern a child under eighteen

years of age, special attention shall be paid to the best interest of the child and to circumstances related to the child's development and health.

Concerning the reception of children, a national project called "*Lapset puheeksi vastaanottopalvelussa*" ("*Talking about children within the reception services*") was launched. The project aims to take better into consideration in everyday life the strengths and vulnerabilities of the child through discussions held with the child, the parents and other relevant parties.

In reception centres, information and advice are provided to children in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a form of a society course given to all children after. The course considers many aspects, one of which is sexuality, sexual health and self-determination, also from a juridical point of view. For minors, there is an interpreter present to make sure information is given in a language the child understands, provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Finland is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **FRANCE**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In accordance with the additional information submitted by France, the interministerial plan on the fight concerning violence against children, adopted in 2019, foresees for specific information, adapted to the age of children, in the context of the action aimed at enhancing the prevention of sexual violence at school. France also provided information about the national helpline 119, which provides free advice to children in danger. The helpline has been reinforced in the context of the health emergency and calls have increased significantly since the beginning of April 2020. On the week of 13-19 of April 2020, the helpline received 14.531 calls against 7.674 in the same period the previous year, which is an increase of 89,35%.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, France had provided information on the second national plan of action against trafficking of human beings 2019-2021. One of its priorities is the protection of people vulnerable to human trafficking, particularly children and migrants. The plan foresees awareness raising of these groups on the risks of exploitation which they may face upon arrival and the rights, which they hold. Specific

actions include campaigns, distribution of flyers and information on the internet and social networks.

The second action plan is consistent with other government actions currently underway, such as the National Strategy for the Reception and Integration of Refugees (2018-2021). As measure 7 of the 2018-2021 action plan against trafficking in human beings, entitled "Raising the awareness of migrant populations on the risks of exploitation", provides: "Migrants are particularly exposed to trafficking because of their vulnerability. It is therefore necessary to inform them of the risks of exploitation they run upon their arrival in France and of the rights they have. This information will be disseminated on social networks and through the distribution of posters and flyers in places welcoming migrants (administration, associations, etc.). Prevention also involves information upstream in the countries of origin, before migrants leave for Europe. Communication tools such as poster campaigns, flyer distribution, and messages on websites and social networks will be set up in French embassies and consulates abroad, as well as within companies. service providers." Among the partners in the development of this measure are the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (Ofpra) and the French Office for Immigration and Integration (Ofii). The plan includes measures on information concerning sexual exploitation.

Additionally, as per Recommendation 32, France has put in place an online platform for in the integration of refugees, which includes relevant information and is available in seven languages.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

As described in the paragraph pertaining indicator 1, France provided information that the information available is adapted to children's age.

Information tools designed for child victims of trafficking have been developed in collaboration with groups of young people to inform children of their rights as children and their rights as victims of trafficking, in the context of part of the international project ReACT ("Reinforcing Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking"), led by ECPAT International, in association with its national partners in Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. These tools, which include a brochure for each of the five countries participating in the project and a video, exist in the following languages: German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Dari and Farsi, French, Dutch, Pashto, English Pidgin, Romanian, Serbian, Tigrigna and Vietnamese.

The diversity of the tools used (poster campaigns, distribution of flyers, and messages on websites and social networks) is precisely intended to reach all age groups of children affected by the refugee crisis.

Based on the information received, France is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing

to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **GEORGIA**

In Compilation information 2020, Georgia provided detailed information about services available to victims of trafficking in human beings and/or domestic violence including legal assistance and translation services. It also highlighted that it provides victims of sexual abuse several services within the “Shelters and Crisis Centres”, including psychological assistance, legal assistance, translation services.

While it is laudable that such centres exist, it is however outside the scope of Recommendation 15, which focuses on information and advice provided to children affected by the refugee crisis. Therefore, from the information provided, there is no evidence that Georgia provides any information and advice concerning the prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse specifically to children affected by the refugee crisis nor that they provide any information that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

No additional information was provided.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, Georgia is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.

## **GERMANY**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Germany provided information about the National Initiative for the protection of refugees and migrants living in refugee accommodation centres, in particular the publication of the [Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centres](#). Under “Minimum Standard 3. Internal structures and external cooperation”, there is information about “Availability of a basic package of courses and counselling services”. These services should include “Courses and other event formats for residents that cover a range of topics – such as forms of violence and exploitation, counselling in case of problems with violence and the consequences of violence, legal information, women’s rights, equality of women and men, health and access to the health system, specialised, psycho-social care, women’s health, non-violent methods for children’s upbringing, preventive work with parents, German culture and the cultures of other groups of residents, the German regulatory, assistance and social system, children’s rights, the work and services of the youth welfare office, sexual and gender diversity, and the rights of persons with disabilities –

will take place regularly and are open for all residents. Failing that, residents will be referred to appropriate external offers”.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

The Minimum standards described above are applicable to all children up to 18 years of age, who live in Refugee Accommodation Centres.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Germany highlighted that Minimum Standard 3 provides that: “Information about rights, confidentiality, counselling options and further assistance must be communicated in a way that is easily accessible, comprehensible, age-appropriate and gender-specific, and available in all necessary languages as well as in plain language and in pictograms. Sex and gender-specific information directed to residents are to be displayed in safe locations. Information about helplines, flyers, brochures and addresses of women’s counselling services should for example be posted in women’s restrooms, and appropriate information for children should be accessible in rooms reserved for childcare or in other places created for children.”

Based on the information received, Germany is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined by the following reasons: a) the Minimum standards apply only to refugee children living in Refugee Accommodation Centres; and b) no additional information has been provided by Germany on the situation of unaccompanied and separated children, who are taken into the care of child and youth welfare services.

## **GREECE**

Greece has provided no information concerning the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 15.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, Greece is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.



## HUNGARY

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Hungary provided information that according to the Child Welfare Act, unaccompanied minors enjoy the same care and possibilities as part of the specialised child welfare service. As part of the service provided by the child welfare and child protection institutions, the professionals must inform the children placed there about the tools and means to be used against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Hungary further provided extensive information about services available for child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, which however, is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

In the additional information submitted, Hungary provided information about Decree No. 1046/2020. (II. 18.) of the Government, which adopted an action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2020–2023 for the period 2020–2021, which includes, in point I.1.1., the development and implementation of prevention programs in foster care networks, children’s homes (including children’s homes for unaccompanied minors), residential homes and reformatories to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking. Preparations for the development of prevention programs are currently underway and are expected to be completed by 31 December 2020. The prevention programs are planned to be held from 2021 to 2027.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

Hungary has provided information concerning unaccompanied minors, as explained under indicator 1. However, it has not provided information concerning other groups of children who may be affected by the refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Concerning the information provided in the context of the Child Welfare Act, no information has been provided as to whether the relevant information is provided in a manner that is adapted to children’s age and maturity, in a language they understand.

Based on the information received, Hungary is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined by the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether other groups of children affected by the refugee crisis, other than unaccompanied children, receive information on sexual exploitation and abuse; and b) it is not clear whether relevant information is provided

in a manner that is adapted to children's age and maturity and in a language they understand.

## ICELAND

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Iceland provided information that, in recent years, it has put special efforts in awareness raising, prevention and protection of children against all forms of violence. Even though these activities are general and aimed at reaching the whole society, a part of the actions taken have targeted specifically vulnerable groups, including children affected by the refugee crisis, as can be seen from the increased emphasis on distributing the material in several languages.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Spring 2020, a special awareness raising campaign on violence against children was launched, under the slogan "We are all children's protective services". The campaign was specifically tasked at reaching refugee children and families with different backgrounds so the videos were distributed in English, Polish, Spanish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Russian, Farsi, Thai, Kurdish, as well as in Icelandic.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice ensured the flow of information and produced information videos in Icelandic and several other languages on child safety and helplines, through its YouTube Channel and on national television. Another campaign was promoted as part of sports and leisure activities, which are considered to play a valuable role in preventive measures as well as promoting physical and mental well-being of children. These [videos](#) were distributed in English, Polish, Spanish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Romanian, Farsi, Thai, Kurdish, Vietnamese, as well as in Icelandic.

These activities were aimed at raising awareness on all forms of violence against children, including but not exclusively with respect to sexual abuse.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In addition to the information reported under requirement 1, Iceland provided information that existing information includes age-appropriate materials for children and efforts to provide information in different languages.

Based on the information received, Iceland is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## ITALY

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

Concerning the legislative framework relevant for children affected by the refugee crisis, it is important to recall law 47/2017 "Provisions on measures for the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors". Article 15 provides for the right to listen to unaccompanied minors in all proceedings concerning them, by appropriate persons indicated by the minor himself.

The **Anti-trafficking toll-free number** (800-290-290) - active every day for 24 hours a day, free of charge and anonymous - allows users to receive information with multilingual specialised personnel. It provides detailed information on legislation and services guaranteed to trafficked/exploited persons in Italy and, upon request, directs the latter to the social and welfare services available.

Moreover, a number of associations and NGOs have enacted projects on child sexual abuse and exploitation with a specific focus on migrant children. The **Italian network of anti-violence centres** (D.i.Re – Donne in rete contro la violenza) together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has launched the project "[Leaving violence. Living safe](#)" in order to facilitate access to the shelters of the D.i.Re network for migrant, refugee, or asylum-seeking women and girls that escaped any form of gender-based violence. The project is based on research carried out in 2016 and a pilot project implemented in partnership with UNHCR in 2017 and 2018 under the title "Ensuring meaningful access to service to asylum seeking and refugee women and girls". The project was created taking into account the situation of migrant asylum seeking and refugee women and girls, in particular those who arrive in Italy through the Mediterranean Sea after a period spent in Libya, who have experienced multiple forms of violence. The project aims to support D.i.Re centers in strengthening their capacities to support asylum seeking and refugee women and girls while at the same time adapting D.i.Re's methodology to their specific needs.

The project includes the following typology of actions: outreach towards asylum-seeking and refugee women and girls in both organised and informal contexts by the operators and cultural mediators of the anti-violence centres involved in the project, to spread knowledge about the support offered and facilitate contact by women who have suffered or are in situations of violence; production of an adapted version of D.i.Re' methodology to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to the specific needs of asylum seeking and refugee women and girls; training of cultural mediator and case workers on SGBV; local networking to connect D.i.Re centers, other local stakeholders active in SGBV prevention and treatment and the asylum reception system; advocacy towards international, national and local institutions, with the aim of

highlighting the specific condition of migrant women and girls asylum seekers and refugees.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The association Save the Children Italy has activated since 2016 the **Children on the move Helpline** A free multilingual number for migrant children in different languages (Italian, Arabic, English, French, Tigrinya, Somali and Francophone sub-Saharan dialects) which offers a direct assistance (without intermediators) to migrant children in relation to their rights and to services available for them. The services include legal counselling; psychological counselling (including about abuses suffered); link with local services and institutions that can support the migrant child based on his/her needs.

**UNICEF** supports interventions to improve the supply and accessibility of services for and response to gender-based violence for refugee and migrant children in Italy, particularly for adolescent girls and adolescent boys. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have adapted the 'Boys on the Move' (<https://eeca.unfpa.org/en/publications/boys-move-brochure>) initiative with content related to life skills also with the aim of preventing violence and supporting access to support. In the Italian context the programme has trained professionals working with children and has supported migrant children. Through the platform U-Report (a digital platform that allows young migrants and refugees to speak out on the issues they care about) more than 3,000 users have received information on sexual violence.

Currently (November 2021) the **Observatory for the fight against paedophilia and child pornography**, as part of the construction of the new plan to prevent and combat paedophilia and child pornography, has proposed to realise multilingual information material, addressed to different age groups, and centred on the theme of sexual abuse and exploitation to be distributed to children involved in the refugee crisis.

Based on the information received, Italy is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **LATVIA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Latvia provided detailed information on support services for child victims. The Party specified that criminal proceedings must be directed in such a way that they take into consideration the age, maturity and any special needs of the children, in accordance with Paragraph 3 Section 12 of the Criminal Procedure

Law. Latvia provided information that these provisions apply to children affected by the refugee crisis who are identified as victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Latvia provided additional information, namely that within the framework of the *State Police Preventive Action Plan for Reducing Violence for 2019-2020*, general prevention standards and an interactive presentation have been developed for educating minors about the consequences of violence and the responsibility.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In the additional information submitted, Latvia provided information that as regards to children in asylum procedures, it should be noted that the professionals working with children affected by refugee crisis (state border guard, migration authorities, social service providers and child protection agencies) all have to attend the compulsory training program for professionals working with children. The training programme includes a separate section on the communication skills for talking to a child. The training program also includes separate section on the detection of possible abuse and exploitation of the child. This is also provided information in the handouts which are distributed during asylum procedure.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

As reported above, efforts have been taken to ensure that professionals have the necessary skills to communicate with children. No additional information has been submitted.

Based on the information received, Latvia is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined by the following reasons: a) Latvia did not explain whether the awareness raising activities carried out in the context of the *State Police Preventive Action Plan for Reducing Violence for 2019-2020* include sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (the same is applicable to the handouts distributed during asylum procedures); and b) it is not clear whether the relevant information is available in a language children understand.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Liechtenstein provided information that the Expert Group against the Sexual Abuse of Children and Young People is dedicated to topic-specific public outreach, including raising the public's awareness on the sexual

exploitation and sexual abuse of children and young people. The measures taken by the Expert Group include publishing newspaper articles and activity reports, inviting the media to continuing education events, distributing flyers, and maintaining a website ([www.stoppkindsmissbrauch.li](http://www.stoppkindsmissbrauch.li)). In recent years, the Office of Social Services has likewise addressed the danger of sexual abuse of children and young people as well as child pornography as part of its projects dealing with new media. The brochures published by the Office of Social Services, "[Talking to children about digital media!](#)" and "[Talking to young people about social media!](#)" give parents tips and information on how children and young people can engage in responsible media use. The brochures discuss topics such as sexting, cybergrooming, and the treatment of personal data. The "[freelance](#)" prevention programme under the aegis of the specialised prevention offices of nine Swiss cantons and Liechtenstein offers teaching materials for secondary schools. Its digital media package includes materials for teaching units on cybergrooming and sexting. The learning objectives are to provide information and to raise awareness about these issues.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Liechtenstein provided information that it provides information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse to children affected by the refugee crisis via interpreters. Liechtenstein provided further information that due to the very limited number of children affected by the refugee crisis, no standardised information campaign has been set up, information and advice is provided in each individual case by the competent authorities.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Liechtenstein provided information that the information is provided by an interpreter, which respects the requirements of language. No additional information has been submitted by Liechtenstein to assess whether the information provided is adapted to children's age and maturity, and which is sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Liechtenstein is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: it is not clear whether the information and advice provided is adapted to children's age and maturity.

## LITHUANIA

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the follow-up to the additional information, Lithuania provided information that the about Help Centre for Children Victims of Sexual Abuse provides awareness raising activities about sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, in general.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Lithuania provided information that children in the Refugee centres are attending school, where there is a curriculum about sexual abuse and protection. In the Refugee centre the psychologist carries out group activities adapted to their needs (age, language, etc.) about protection from sexual abuse against children. The Party also provided information that in the refugee centre all specialists are trained to notice the possible abuse of children, they are trained how to react on that, how to deal with that in child friendly manner.

In the follow-up to the additional information, Lithuania also provided information that he Help Centre for Children Victims of Sexual Abuse had plans to do some activities in the Refugee Centre, however because of the COVID-19-related pandemic, it was postponed. The aim had been to raise awareness about the general risk for children about sexual exploitation and abuse. Currently, the Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, is trying to establish the educational centre for children, which would be focused on prevention measures, where children would be taught the main information about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves through play-based methodologies. These activities will include children affected by refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

As reported above, the prevention activities are adapted to children's age, maturity and language.

Based on the information received, Lithuania is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## LUXEMBOURG

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, complemented by the additional information, Luxembourg provided information that With regard to the criminal laws and regulations in force, the law of 28 February 2018 reinforcing action against exploitation of prostitution, pimping and trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes provided for the institutionalisation of the “Prostitution” platform as a standing committee and proposed establishing as an offence “the act of soliciting, accepting or obtaining, in exchange for remuneration or a promise thereof, relations of a sexual nature from a minor”, thereby protecting minors.

A long-term information campaign on trafficking in human beings was launched in December 2016 with a universal message and dual objective: raising awareness among the general public and informing them about the different forms which trafficking in human beings can take (including forced begging) so as to change their attitudes and increase awareness of trafficking in people’s daily lives.

In October 2019, Luxembourg decided to join the EUCPN (European Crime Prevention Network) initiative to launch a campaign to prevent trafficking in human beings, the aim of which is to inform victims or potential victims about their rights at European level and where to obtain assistance, protection and information.

Set up on the initiative of ECPAT Luxembourg, the [www.childprotection.lu](http://www.childprotection.lu) website is the result of collaboration with five Luxembourg government ministries, with key support from the public prosecutor’s office and the police at national level and EUROPOL and INTERPOL at international level. The site enables all Luxembourg citizens or residents to report situations which they have witnessed or become aware of – whether online or offline. In practice, the site addresses three specific circumstances which can give rise to reporting of threats to the integrity of children, namely child sex tourism, grooming and websites with illegal content (child sex abuse images).

Lastly, it should be noted that information on prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is also provided via Facebook and the “stoptraite.lu” website launched several years ago as part of the first public awareness-raising campaign.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

A brochure for potential victims has been finalised and widely distributed. It contains information about the possibilities of help in several languages (including Arabic,



Chinese, Croatian, French, Portuguese, Tigrigna, Russian, Roman, Albanian Spanish etc.) and is also presented in the form of pictograms.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The examples cited by Luxembourg respect the principle that information and advice should be communicated to affected children in a manner appropriate to their age and maturity and in language they can understand.

Based on the information received, Luxembourg is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **MALTA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Malta provided information that Kiko and the Hand is disseminated on a yearly basis among all school children in early years as part of an ongoing awareness-raising campaign to inform as well as educate children, educators and parents. Together with Kiko and the Hand, an information sheet on how it should be read to children is given, to ensure that it is read to all children in a manner which they would understand.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

No information has been provided by the Party concerning this requirement, including in the context of requirement 1. Based on information submitted by FRA, it should be noted that “in Malta, lack of access to information in languages that asylum applicants can understand remain a challenge, according to IOM and the African Media Association Malta.”<sup>3</sup>

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Kiko and the Hand is an appropriate and relevant tool for young children (aged 3 to 7). Other tools would be more adapted to talk about sexual exploitation and sexual abuse with older children, specifically adolescents.

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<sup>3</sup> FRA (2020) *Migration: [Key fundamental rights concerns – Bulletin 1 – 2020](#)*. published 18/02/2020. Page 14

No additional information has been provided as to whether information and advice is available for other groups of children, especially children affected by the refugee crisis.

Based on the information received, Malta is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether information is made available to children affected by the refugee crisis; and b) no additional information has been submitted concerning whether information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to other age groups of children and maturity and in a language they understand.

## **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

In Compilation information 2020, the Republic of Moldova provided information that migrant and refugee children receive treatment and assistance according to their needs and age: such as visits to theatres, museums, schooling, sports activities, etc. These measures are important, but are outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

The Republic of Moldova provided no additional information.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, the Republic of Moldova is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.

## **MONACO**

In Compilation information 2020, Monaco provided general information about the protection of children during identification procedures, whether they are unaccompanied or accompanied. These are important measures, but they are outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

Monaco provided no additional information.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, Monaco is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.

## MONTENEGRO

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Montenegro provided information that it encourages a child-friendly environment and focuses on building relationships of trust between staff and children in the reception centres to help children to communicate openly if they are victims of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse.

In the additional information provided, Montenegro provided information that the Directorate for asylum through individual interviews with foreigners seeking protection provides the information necessary for protection from all forms of violence. Professionals working in the Directorate for asylum (social workers, psychologist, educator, health workers) from their professional aspects and in a child-friendly way explain the importance of preventive measures and give advice to whom they can turn to. On a daily basis, in the Reception centre for foreigners seeking international protection there are social workers from the Red Cross, the International Organisation for migration (IOM), and UNHCR representatives who conduct the system monitoring, and they visit all the foreigners seeking international protection. Adequately equipped playroom in the Reception centre for foreigners seeking international protection provides a suitable space for play and conversation with younger minors with whom the conversation must be conducted in a way that is understandable and also age appropriate.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Based on the information provided by Montenegro, there seems to be attention to child-friendly communication procedures and spaces for children affected by the refugee crisis.

Based on the information received, Montenegro is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **NETHERLANDS**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, the Netherlands provided information concerning the use of resources developed by ECPAT International in the context of the ReAct Project against trafficking in human beings, which is available in multiple languages.

When there are signs of exploitation with unaccompanied children under 15, they are housed in protected shelters and receive dedicated assistance.

The Netherlands further provided that, at the time, it was looking into the possibility of using the awareness raising material developed by the Council of Europe, in the context of “The one in five campaign.”

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

No additional information has been provided by the Netherlands, particular on whether information is currently provided to children outside the scope of trafficking.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The [ReAct brochure](#) is done in a child-friendly way and is available in 11 languages, including Farsi and Arabic.

Based on the information received, the Netherlands is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: it is not clear whether information is made available to children affected by the refugee crisis, other than those affected by trafficking in human beings.

## **NORTH MACEDONIA**

In Compilation information 2020, Macedonia provided information concerning a training programme carried out in 2017 and 2018, in cooperation with UNICEF, to train professionals in contact with children affected by the refugee crisis. The programme included training about protection of children against violence, including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Professionals trained included social workers, police, public prosecutor’s office, education, health and civil society organisations. Whilst this is an important measure, training of professionals is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

No additional information has been provided.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, North Macedonia is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.

## **POLAND**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Poland provided information about the *Policy of protecting children against harm in the centres for foreigners*, which provides information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Each centre for foreigners provides educational materials (leaflets, brochures, books, audiovisual materials) for parents concerning the rights of the child, upbringing without violence, protection of children against violence and exploitation, protection of children against peer violence and, as far as possible, educational activities for parents in this area are offered. Similar sessions are regularly provided for children, who are informed (using the language that the child understands well) whom they should contact for help and advice in case of harm or exploitation. The sessions are carried out by experts prepared to convey knowledge on the prevention of harm to children.

Additionally, in accordance with the procedure applicable to the cases of marriage entered into by a minor, such minor has access to psychological support as part of which relevant information on exploitation may be provided.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

As per the information reported above, information is available in other languages and seems to be communicated in a child-friendly manner.

Poland provided other important information concerning the training of professionals which, however, is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

Based on the information received, Poland is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## PORTUGAL

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Portugal provided information that the Security Forces and Services conduct awareness raising activities. Taking heed of the important nature of this recommendation, the Immigration and Border Service (SEF) developed a national campaign to raise awareness about trafficking in human beings, which was launched in October 2019 at an international conference organised by SEF in collaboration with Europol.

In the context of the work by the Public Security Police (PSP) between the 18th and 22nd of November 2019, 417 sessions were carried out for primary and secondary school children, aimed at promoting children's rights and preventing maltreatment and sexual exploitation of children. 11,969 children from 326 different schools attended these sessions. The Party provided further information by the work of this police force, namely in the context of the team responsible for the work with schools (EPES). In the academic year 2019/2020, EPES teams carried out 7,412 awareness raising group actions, which included presentations on "sexual offences", with 218 more presentations in comparison to the previous school year (+726,7%).

Finally, in the same academic year, EPES collaborated with the Altice Foundation in the context of awareness raising actions and other initiatives related with the safe use of information and communication technologies. Since the beginning of this programme and until the end of the 2019/2020 school year, the EPES teams had already carried out 8,573 awareness-raising group actions subordinated to the prevention of online crime and the safe use of information and communication technologies, attended by 213,950 students. In the school year 2019/2020, the police counted 1,525 awareness-raising group actions (14 more actions than in the previous school year) on the topic in question and attended by 35,109 students (2,807 students less than in the previous school year).

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In the additional information provided, the Party provided information on [legal, policy and programmes documents](#) on the specific integration of children affected by the refugee crisis in the national school system; and emphasise that the initiatives mentioned under requirement 1 would be applicable to this group of children.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Portugal shared different legislation, including guidelines for health professionals' interventions, regarding the adaptation of their intervention to children's age, maturity and special needs. The programme developed between the PSP police force and the Altice Foundation included brochures in a format

adapted to children. However, these have not been made available in other languages, nor are they sensitive to gender and culture.

Based on the information received, Portugal is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: the information provided is not adapted specifically to children affected by the refugee crisis.

## **ROMANIA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Romania provided relevant available information on mandatory national curricula for pre-college education, including “*Orientation and counselling*” curriculum in which the management of risk situations, including sexual abuse, is studied in a specific chapter.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Romania provided information that children affected by the refugee crisis are integrated into the national education system and should therefore benefit from the classes organised as reported above. No additional information has been provided on whether information and advice on the risks of sexual exploitation is provided to children affected by the refugee crisis *before* they integrate the national education system.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

No additional information has been submitted as to whether the school curricula reported above is adapted to age and maturity and in a language that children affected by the refugee crisis understand.

Based on the information received, Romania is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether information and advice is being provided to children affected by the refugee crisis, before they enter the school system; and b) it is not clear whether information and advice is provided in a language that refugee children understand.

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the additional information provided, the Russian Federation provided information that educational, medical, social institutions and NGOs are engaged in awareness-raising activities. Particular attention is paid to reproductive health issues, including counteracting sexually transmitted diseases.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

The specialists of the centres for migrants and refugees use the resources of the Council of Europe in foreign languages for oral conversations with children to raise their awareness of how to counter possible sexual violence, especially for those who do not speak Russian.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The provision of information to children in order to protect them against sexual violence and exploitation takes into account age and gender specifics (educational and healthcare activities are carried out separately for girls and boys). For children of different ages, a different format of educational and awareness raising materials is underway.

Based on the information received, the Russian Federation is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **SAN MARINO**

San Marino provided no information on either round. As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, San Marino is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15.



## **SERBIA**

- 1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*
- 2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*
- 3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In Compilation information 2020, Serbia provided information that information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse should be provided to children affected by the refugee crisis in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand.

The remainder of the information submitted by Serbia is important, in particular for the protection of child victims, however it is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

Based on the information received, Serbia is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether there are clear protocols or procedures for providing information and advice to refugee children; and b) it is not clear if this information is provided to all groups of children affected by the refugee crisis.

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

- 1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*
- 2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, the Slovak Republic provided information that the Centre for Children and Family Medzilaborce provides unaccompanied minors with social and psychological counselling and support in a language they understand and if necessary, legal aid is provided. The unaccompanied minor is given a telephone contact to child help lines and when needed the advice is translated into a language they understand. The Centre also has Wi-Fi connections that all unaccompanied minors have access to and can search for the necessary information in different languages. No additional information has been submitted concerning other groups of children affected by the refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

No additional information has been submitted other than the one reported under indicator 2.

Based on the information received, the Slovak Republic is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: it is not clear whether information and advice is provided to groups of children affected by the refugee crisis, other than unaccompanied children.

## **SLOVENIA**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the additional information, Slovenia provided information about the international partner NGO [Slovenska filantropija](#), which is addressing migrants and provides, among other, information about violence protection. However, this information covers, *inter alia*, domestic violence, but does not cover specifically prevention information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In accordance to information published by FRA, the “authorities in Slovenia contracted the Institute for African Studies to implement a project on better informing asylum applicants about trafficking in human beings, sexual violence and gender-based violence and how to avoid such risks. The project also aims to identify victims of trafficking and ensure their access to appropriate assistance.”<sup>4</sup>

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

The Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants reported that because of the relatively low number of migrant children the expert workers in the asylum centre have enough time and data to develop a strong relationship with each child and therefore talk to them a lot, about sexual abuse and other relevant topics also. The information is provided in a way the child’s personality and stage of personal development are considered. The interpreters are included to provide information in different languages. They carry out the talks in a safe environment.

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<sup>4</sup> FRA Migration Bulletin. [Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns- bulletin 2- 2021](#), published 24/09/2021. Page 20

Based on the information received, Slovenia is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether there are clear protocols or procedures for providing information and advice to refugee children; and b) it is not clear if this information is provided to all groups of children affected by the refugee crisis.

## **SPAIN**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

No information has been submitted concerning this requirement.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Spain provided information that the Child Protection Services shall inform the minor in an understandable language about the basic content of the right to international protection and about the procedure provided for the application, as well as the regulations in force regarding the protection of minors and human trafficking. This action will be recorded in writing.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In the additional information submitted, Spain provided information that information and advice given to children victims of sexual abuse is provided in a way adapted to their age, maturity and the rest of their personal and social circumstances, in an understandable and accessible language.

No information has been submitted as to whether prevention information and advice provided to other groups of children affected by the refugee crisis takes into account the dimensions highlighted.

Other important information for the protection of children affected by the refugee crisis has been provided by Spain, which however is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

Based on the information received, Spain is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) it is not clear whether information and advice on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse is available in general; and b)

it is not clear whether information is provided to all groups of children affected by the refugee crisis, in addition to those who fall victim of sexual exploitation and abuse.

## **SWEDEN**

### *1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the additional information, Sweden provided several relevant examples of the availability of information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, as below.

Sweden has several websites with information to children and young people on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and the right to integrity of his or her own body. Children can also receive information in their own language on what type of behaviour is appropriate or not according to Swedish law, e.g. that it is a criminal offence to touch a child in a sexual manner or to sexually abuse a child or in other ways sexually exploit a child. If the offence has already happened, the child can learn more on where to get help. Moreover, Sweden also offers information on what it means to report a crime and the proceedings in court, including financial compensation.

The approach Sweden has chosen in this context, is not to give too much specific advice on how the child itself can prevent being sexual exploited or sexually abused. An already abused child can easily interpret that kind of advice, as if he or she is responsible for his or her own victimization (sometimes referred to as victim blaming). It can also be added that another problem is to determine which advice is better than another. Each case of sexually abuse of a child is unique. Therefore, the Swedish approach is to inform children in general about the legislation (in a child-friendly manner) and on bodily integrity.

The websites [jagvillveta.se](http://jagvillveta.se), [frivilligtsex.se](http://frivilligtsex.se) and [youmo.se](http://youmo.se) contain information to children in several languages on the topics referred to above.

Furthermore, the organisation Save the Children Sweden, has developed a material for adults on how they can talk to small children about bodily integrity ([Stopp! Min kropp! /'Stop! My body!'](#)). The information also includes material concerning protection on the Internet for children *Surfa säkert på nätet* ('Surf safe on the Internet'). The websites can provide support and advice to children affected by the refugee crisis, even though the information is not specifically targeted towards this group of children.

The government has funded an information campaign, conducted by Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden, which is based on the One in Five Campaign translated into Swedish and launched as a website for all children below 18, [dagsattprataom.se](http://dagsattprataom.se). The website which contains information about sexual abuse was produced in cooperation with children, some of them with personal experience of being victims of sexual abuse. The target group is children, parents and professionals who work with children and other adults. The material on the website is translated into English, Somali, Arabic, Dari and

Tigrinya. Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden has also produced a special guide to provide support to teaching staff to disseminate the material. It has been sent out to all compulsory schools, upper secondary schools and education boards, special education schools and the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In Compilation information 2020, Sweden provided several relevant examples of how information and advice is provided to children affected by the refugee crisis, as below.

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) was commissioned in 2016 to implement information initiatives on health and gender equality for newly arrived and asylum-seeking children and young people. In 2017 the digital platform youmo.se was launched, which is a site for young persons from 13 to 20 years of age and professionals working with youth with information about the body, sex, health, equality, rights and well-being. Youmo offers information in Arabic, Dari, Somali, Swedish, English, and Tigrinya and contains information on how to contact all the youth guidance centres in Sweden. The assignment also encompasses educational efforts around topics such as sexual violence, sexual harassment and legislation in the field, including the legislation on the purchase of sexual services. Youmo.se had on average 54,000 visitors a month in 2018. The visitors came from all over the world. Sweden continues to be the biggest country visiting the site, but around 80 percent of the visitors come from other countries; Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the USA. Those who are responsible for Youmo are county councils and regions in collaboration with MUCF. A guide on how to use Youmo as a tool in the work against sexual violence and harassment, directed towards teachers, social workers, youth centres, civil society actors and other professionals working with youth has been developed by MUCF and serves to spread information and good practices to those working with the target group. MUCF has produced a guidance material, with a starting point in the Youmo platform, in order to support how professionals can talk to newly arrived and asylum-seeking children and young people about issues such as health, sexuality and gender equality. The Authority, in collaboration with regional actors, has organized training days across the country and a national conference. In total over 1,300 adults who meet this group have been reached by educational efforts in 2018. As part of this action the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society launched an online training, Right to know! (Rätt att veta!), in 2020. The online training is directed towards actors who meet young people in their professional practice and provides tools and knowledge in talking to young people about issues such as sexuality, relationships, and gender equality.

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU) received between 2016 and 2018 a government grant to conduct co-ordination projects that aimed at strengthening youth organisations that work with newly arrived and asylum-seeking children and youth. The projects ranged from legal counsel to social and language activities. Some projects also aimed at providing knowledge and skills in order to motivate young newly arrived to organise themselves.

In order for children to be able to participate they need to have knowledge about their rights. In 2015 the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden were assigned to develop a web portal, with information about the UNCRC for children, through teachers. In 2018, the [portal my rights](#) was launched. It contains information directed to children on children's rights, but also lessons for teachers to use in all subjects for all classes on how they can teach children about their rights.

The County Administrative Board in Östergötland shall contribute to strengthening the capacity and operations of state and municipal actors in order to prevent and combat honour-related violence and oppression, child marriage, forced marriage and genital mutilation of women and girls. The assignment also includes informing asylum-seeking children about their rights and strengthening organisations that promote children's right to a life free of honour-related violence and oppression.

The Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority has since 2018 a governmental assignment to raise awareness of sex crime. A campaign, [frivilligtsex.se](#), has been conducted aimed at young persons. Among other things, young persons can learn more about what is okay and not and where support and help can be obtained. The main message is that sex is always consensual, otherwise it is a crime. The information has also been adapted in languages so it can be used by the target group of young new arrivals. The website is translated into a total of 15 different languages. Banners and videos have been translated into five of the most widely spoken languages among new arrivals in Sweden. The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority has in a government mandate also developed information for children and young people aged 4-17 who are victims of crime. The concept is called *Jag vill veta* ('I want to know') and the materials (e.g. a children's book and the [website](#)) are tailored to enable children to seek information and learn about where to get help.

The National Board of Health and Welfare has several ongoing assignments to develop easily accessible knowledge support regarding violence for social services, healthcare and student health professionals. This enables a more systematic, comprehensive and equal work across the country, including prevention, identification and support. Most of the boards assignments in this field will be reported to the government in the year 2020-2021.

A compulsory introduction for asylum-seekers to Swedish society and civics has been established by the Migration Agency as from 1 October 2021. Adults and children over the age of 15 receive this introduction early in the asylum process, preferably within 14 days from registration of application. The introduction is carried out in group sessions during two half days. Gender equality, LGBTQI-rights, children's rights, consent, domestic violence and violence against women, honour-related crime and abuse, prohibition against FGM, child-marriage and polygamy are some of the topics addressed. Children up to 15 years of age will receive digital information (in five languages) about children's rights, gender equality honour related violence and oppression, FGM, child marriages, trafficking and support measures for children exposed to violence. Written child-friendly information, corresponding to the content of the oral introduction for asylum-seekers over 15, will also be available.

Unaccompanied minors will be given corresponding oral and written information by the Migration Agency.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Taking into account the evidence provided, and reported above, Sweden is acting in such a way that actively takes into account the different dimensions of child-friendly information.

Based on the information received, Sweden is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15 and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In the additional information provided, Switzerland provided information that in addition to printed information available in more than ten languages which has been available for many years, the current approach has strengthened personalised legal and educational support available to minors, as this allows for relationships of trust in which sensitive matters such as sexual violence can be discussed, threats to sexual integrity or sexual exploitation can be revealed, and child protection measures can be taken.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In accordance to Compilation information 2020, reinforced in the additional information submitted, Switzerland provided information that from 1 January 2020, all federal reception centres employ social educators and specially trained support staff to offer personalised support to unaccompanied minors. Each minor is assigned a reference person amongst the social educators whose role is to provide personalised information, guidance and support to answer any question the child or adolescent may have. In addition to tailor-made individual support, group activities are organized for unaccompanied minors seven days per week, including workshops on violence prevention (including prevention of gender-based and sexual violence). The same information and care are provided to accompanied children.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Taking into account the information submitted by Switzerland in both rounds, the information and other methodologies available for providing information and advice take into account all dimensions included in the third requirement.

Based on the information received, Switzerland is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report.

## **TURKEY**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

In the additional information submitted, Turkey provided information on the Social Cohesion Programme, which has been carried out by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNICEF Turkey since 2015 in order to provide social integration of Syrian children living outside the camps with the help of Committees on Child Rights and mutual dialog and information exchange between Syrian and Turkish children. The programme aims to minimise children's social adaptation problems, increase their awareness of the existing risks and resources in society, ensure that they live in line with their rights, and at the same time develop mutual understanding and tolerance among cultures. The program is conducted through trainings with peer-teaching technique and sociocultural activities by Turkish and Syrian children registered in Provincial Children Committees on the Rights of the Child. The Social Cohesion Training Module prepared by trainers and on the basis of empowerment approach contains issues and trainings in Turkish and Arabic such as:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The society we live in;
- Safety, Prevention of Violence-Abuse, Discrimination, Child Labour and Early Marriage;
- Culture-Tolerance-Cooperation;
- Understanding each other and expressing;
- Crucial institutions servicing.

The Psycho-Social Support Programme, which is constituted according to the needs of children, is implemented in all Child Support Centres under the Ministry providing services for unaccompanied asylum seeker children who are victims of crime, pushed to crime and living on the streets. Activities on adapting the program to unaccompanied



children were completed in 2018 and personnel in Child Support Centres servicing for unaccompanied minors were trained.

No information has been submitted concerning children affected by the refugee crisis who are specifically living in refugee camps.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

Information has been provided concerning the use of peer-teaching techniques and language adaptation, as per the text described above.

Based on the information received, Turkey is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: it is not clear whether groups of children living in refugee camps receive relevant information and advice.

## **UKRAINE**

*1. Information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse exists.*

In Compilation information 2020, Ukraine provided information that the curriculum for “health basics” course in 1-9 grades, aims at educating about protection and improvement of health. The risk of sexual abuse and how to prevent it is discussed under the “social aspects of health” in different grades in a manner adapted to the evolving capacities of the children.

*2. This information and advice is provided by State Parties to children affected by the refugee crisis.*

Ukraine has provided no information about whether information and advice available is provided to children affected by the refugee crisis.

*3. This information and advice is provided in a manner that is adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is sensitive to gender and culture.*

In accordance to the information provided concerning indicator 1, information and advice available are adapted to children’s evolving capacity, which should include age and maturity. No additional information has been submitted concerning whether information and advice is adapted to language, and sensitive to gender and culture.

Ukraine provided additional information on the Law of Ukraine on Free Legal Aid which, however is outside the scope of Recommendation 15.

Based on the information received, Ukraine is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15, and has in place a number of promising practices contributing to prevention measures, as per the obligations of the Convention and the issues highlighted in the Special Report. Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: a) no information has been submitted concerning whether information and advice regarding prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is provided to refugee children; and b) it is not clear whether information provided is adapted to language.

## Concluding remarks

This report covered the situation of 41 Parties, which were concerned by the Special Report Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Out of the 41 Parties, 19 are in partial compliance and 15 are in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 15 on information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse provided to children affected by the refugee crisis. 7 Parties have been considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 15 due to insufficient evidence to determine otherwise.

The information contained in this report provides many examples of how Parties have implemented Recommendation 15 and, in some cases, have gone beyond it, promoting truly promising practices.

The main measures reported here include the adoption of prevention information on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse *and* specific information targeting children affected by the refugee crisis. Different relevant groups of children have also been targeted specifically, namely unaccompanied children, children who may have been a victim of trafficking in human beings, girls affected by the refugee crisis, children housed in temporary accommodation and children living in refugee accommodation centres.

Some promising practices include providing information and advice to different groups of refugee children, the availability of materials in relevant languages and the adoption of different methodologies, such as peer-to-peer training and *ad hoc* workshops. For example, in Austria, the projects "*Transcultural Violence Prevention and Health Promotion*" and "*Violence Prevention in the Transcultural Classroom*" by the "*samara - Association for the Prevention of Sexual Violence*", develop and implement specific concepts for the prevention of violence for teachers, girls and boys and their parents with a migration background, funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

Belgium has in place programmes addressing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse that target women and girls in asylum specifically. In the Czech Republic, the Facility for Minor Foreigners often works with the NGO Crisis Centre, which produces prevention materials in the form of short comic books, adapted to children's age and maturity.

Some Parties have also paid particular attention to the adaptation of information to the needs and characteristics of refugee children. In Germany, Standard 3 of the [Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centres](#) provides detailed information about the standards and principles used in the information and advice provided, including easily accessible, comprehensible, age-appropriate and gender-specific, and available in all necessary languages as well as in plain language and in pictograms. Attention has also been given to ensure the information is displayed in areas that are used and accessed by the target groups.

In Latvia, relevant professionals, such as state border guards, migration authorities, social service providers and child protection agencies attend compulsory training, which includes communication with children.

Other promising practices include developing relevant prevention and protection information and advice targeting adults. For example, in Sweden, the organisation Save the Children, has developed a material for adults on how they can talk to small children about bodily integrity ([Stopp! Min kropp! /'Stop! My body!'](#)). In Germany, in the context of the Minimum Standards adopted, there is a basic package of courses and counselling services, which includes courses for parents. In Liechtenstein, the brochures published by the Office of Social Services, "[Talking to children about digital media!](#)" and "[Talking to young people about social media!](#)" give parents tips and information on how children and young people can engage in responsible media use. The brochures discuss topics such as sexting, cybergrooming, and the treatment of personal data.

In Poland, the centres for foreigners provide educational materials targeting parents, which include awareness raising on upbringing without violence and protection against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Improvements to be implemented by Parties include:

- √ Dissemination of information to *all* groups of children affected by the refugee crisis;
- √ Ensuring that clear protocols and procedures are in place, when advice is provided by professionals on an individual, case-by-case basis;
- √ Further adaptation of prevention and protection information and advice, taking into account children's age and maturity, the languages understood by children affected by the refugee crisis, and the availability of gender and culture sensitive information.