Member state responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse

Baseline Mapping
Second Edition

Building a Europe
for and with children

End Violence
Against Children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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Second Edition

Report Prepared by Victoria Baines

Council of Europe

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Acknowledgments

About the Author

Dr Victoria Baines is a Visiting Fellow at Bournemouth University in the UK, where her areas of research include online child protection policy, internet regulation and cyber-diplomacy. She has held visiting research fellowships at the Oxford Internet Institute and Oxford Department for International Development. She has previously served as Principal Analyst for the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command, Head of Strategy and Outreach for EUROPOL's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), and Facebook's Trust & Safety Manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. She is a trustee of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and a member of the INHOPE Advisory Board.

Foreword

The digital environment is an integral part of today's society. While we must recognise and celebrate the ways in which it strengthens children's access to their rights, we cannot ignore the increased risks it may represent for the child's rights to privacy, health and to a life free from violence. The COVID–19 pandemic and some of the measures taken to contain its spread (in particular the lockdowns) have exacerbated those risks. Social interactions that are so important for children (at school, in their leisure activities, with their extended family) were suddenly lost. Both children and adults had to rely heavily on screens and the Internet to remain connected. As a result, children were more exposed to online violence and took more risks online at a time where child protection services and support usually available to children were more difficult to reach.

Where sexual violence has been facilitated or perpetrated through the use of information and communication technologies, the devastating consequences can have a long-lasting impact, often spreading across borders and rippling across the world wide web.

Through its case law, the European Court of Human Rights has recalled that member states are under a positive obligation to adopt effective criminal law provisions to repress child abuse and to ensure adequate law enforcement machinery to prevent, suppress and punish such acts. The management of the COVID-19 crisis was an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of upholding children's rights in line with the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention and the Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ("Lanzarote Convention"), which requires states to take specific measures to protect all children and to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation at all times, everywhere.

In their statement on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lanzarote Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson stressed the importance of assessing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis management measures and adapting the responses of the child protection systems to the new situation.

This updated version of the 2019 Baseline mapping report of *Member states' responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse* makes an important contribution to this assessment. It presents the most recent information on promising practices and common challenges, including the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in member states. Knowledge sharing and research are instrumental to sound policy making. The list of concrete recommendations and orientations formulated at the end this report is not exhaustive, but addresses the most pressing needs in light of the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions and the recommended capabilities in the WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response. The Council of Europe remains committed to continuing mobilising all actors to collect reliable information regularly as part of its unwavering commitment to further children's rights.

Jeroen Schokkenbroek
Director of Anti-Discrimination

Executive Summary

Research has been conducted as part of a baseline mapping of Council of Europe member states responses to OCSEA. This mapping provides an analysis of the situation in member states against the benchmark set by the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), as well as selected capabilities identified in the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR).[1]

Particular attention is paid to the following topics:

- Governance structures and multi-stakeholder co-operation in member states (Article 10 Lanzarote Convention and capability 1 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Capacities to research, analyse and monitor current threats of OCSEA at national level (Article 37 Lanzarote Convention and capability 2 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Specific legislative and policy frameworks to criminalise OCSEA, identify perpetrators and uphold the rights of the child-victim (Articles 18-29 Lanzarote Convention, Article 9 Budapest Convention and capability 3 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Law enforcement capacities to investigate cases of OCSEA, including the existence of dedicated law enforcement units (Articles 30-35 Lanzarote Convention, Articles 14 to 22 of the Budapest Convention, along with provisions relative to international co-operation, set down the procedural law standards applicable to cybercrime investigations and electronic evidence, and capability 4 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Child-friendly procedures for judges and prosecutors to uphold and protect the rights of child-victims of OCSEA during criminal proceedings (Articles 30-36 Lanzarote Convention and capability 5 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Mechanisms to provide end-to-end support to child-victims of OCSEA (Articles 11-14 Lanzarote Convention and capability 8 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Education and awareness raising initiatives to prevent OCSEA in member states (Articles 6-8 Lanzarote Convention and capability 13 of the WePROTECT Model National Response);

- Child participation in the development of policies and practices to prevent and combat OCSEA (Article 9 Lanzarote Convention and capability 14 of the WePROTECT Model National Response).

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[1] Available at: https://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response/

Thematic areas examined include: hotlines, helplines, awareness raising activities, specialised law enforcement responses, legislation and policy/governance, specialised judges and prosecutors, child-friendly procedures and end-to-end victim support. This mapping report includes case studies to illustrate and identify promising practices and highlight common challenges against which member states can examine and strengthen their own policies and practices. In this updated report, attention is drawn to the particular challenges of providing an effective OCSEA response during the COVID-19 pandemic; likewise to the promising practices that have quickly arisen in member states and international organisations alike to overcome operational constraints and meet increased demand from children, caregivers and other stakeholders.

Introduction to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) afford adults and children alike a multitude of opportunities to create and share content, make and maintain friendships, and communicate with people all over the world. Just as many aspects of our everyday lives have moved online, so too have the threats from serious criminality, including child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). At a very general level, online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) consists of offences concerning Child Sexual Abuse Material (referred to in some legislative instruments as "Child Pornography") and offences or behaviours concerning sexual contact with children facilitated by using ICTs, often referred to as "grooming" or "online solicitation". [2]

For the last two decades, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) produced offline by abusers has been shared online with like-minded individuals. When online chat rooms, social media and games first became popular, some adults began to use these to contact children and young people, arranging to meet for sexual activity. While these offences persist in large numbers, more recently law enforcement and civil society first responders have reported an increasing trend for solicitation of images and videos directly from children, often using aggression or coercion. The global child protection community has also seen the emergence of "live streamed" sexual abuse, in which offenders pay to watch live offline, contact abuse via the medium of video chat platforms.

The platforms and methods may change, but the impact on child victims is a constant. As this report goes on to discuss, victims of OCSEA require immediate safeguarding from ongoing abuse, but may also need many years of therapeutic assistance to recover. With regard specifically to the online element of exploitation and abuse, victims' knowledge or belief that material depicting their abuse continues to be in circulation can cause lasting damage. Victims of grooming and sexual extortion may require special assistance as they get older to establish personal relationships of trust and intimacy. To meet this need, and to deliver successful prevention, awareness raising and criminal justice measures, countries are finding that extensive collaboration is required not only across different government authorities, but also with stakeholders in other sectors, including civil society organisations and ICTs. Accordingly, international legislative instruments such as the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse CETS 201 (Lanzarote Convention)[3] and the Convention on Cybercrime ETS 185 (Budapest Convention),[4] as well as global policy initiatives such as the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online[5], highlight the importance of multi-sectoral responses and effective co-ordination of resources to combat OCSEA. While coordinating the responses of a large number of actors across a range of organisations and sectors can be challenging, the safety of children demands it.

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[2] For a fuller discussion on the use of terminology in relation to OCSEA, see ECPAT (2016).

[3] Available at: https://rm.coe.int/protection-of-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-sexual-abuse/1680794e97

[4] Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/0900001680081561

[5] Available at: https://www.weprotect.org/

Methodology

Analysis has drawn primarily on desk review of open source material, including official member state responses to Lanzarote Convention questionnaires, literature produced by non-governmental and international organisations, and public web listings. This was complemented by oral contributions from the focus countries to the Regional EndOCSEA meeting in Strasbourg on 16-17 May 2019. A number of follow-up interviews were held, to further explore potentially promising practices.

Where complete data sets were available for all 47 Council of Europe member states, this was collated in several matrices for the purposes of regional and international comparison. Excerpts from a number of these spreadsheets are presented below. The presence or absence of a particular function or piece of information should not be interpreted as an absolute measure of a country's progress against a set of objectives in the fight against OCSEA. Rather, in many cases it reflects an understanding that different countries may approach the problem in different ways.

This baseline mapping report has been revised in 2021, with a specific focus on updating the following data sets:

- international legal and political commitments (Figure 1);

- review of national legislative provisions on OCSEA (Figure 3);

- child access to justice, criminal responsibility and age of consent (now Figure 5);

- activities for Safer Internet Day (now Figure 7).

Figures 2 (ombudspersons) and 6 (hotlines and helplines) were based partially on manual data collection from external stakeholders and Lanzarote Committee 2nd monitoring round responses, and are therefore only partially updated. New additions include:

- data on reports to the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) pertaining to suspected child exploitation in Council of Europe member states (Figure 4);

- relevant updates from member states in response to an in-country questionnaire to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices;

- dedicated text on the 2019 Lanzarote Committee Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children;

- an epilogue responding to changes in the operating environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- recommendations for member state capacity building.

The update did not benefit from a further systematic data collection on member state responses to OCSEA. As a result, some of the text on promising practices reflects earlier contributions. All web links presented have been verified as correct at the time of writing (April 2021).

Mapping, Discussion and Promising Practices

The chart below provides an overview of select international commitments relevant to combatting OCSEA, made by Council of Europe member states:

Country	State Party to UNCRC[6]	State Party to UNCRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography[7]	State Party to Lanzarote Convention[8]	State Party to Convention on Cybercrime[9]	WeProtect Global Alliance Member Country[10]
ALBANIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ANDORRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ARMENIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUSTRIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AZERBAIJAN	✓	✓	✓	✓	
BELGIUM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BULGARIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CROATIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CYPRUS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CZECH REPUBLIC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DENMARK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ESTONIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FINLAND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

[6] http://indicators.ohchr.org/
[7] http://indicators.ohchr.org/
[8] https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/201/signatures
[9] https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/185/signatures?p_auth=5HbHxMwK
[10] https://www.weprotect.org/member-countries

FRANCE	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
GEORGIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
GERMANY	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
GREECE	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
HUNGARY	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
ICELAND	✔	✔	✔	✔	
IRELAND	✔	SIGNED	✔	SIGNED	✔
ITALY	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
LATVIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
LIECHTENSTEIN	✔	✔	✔	✔	
LITHUANIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
LUXEMBOURG	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
MALTA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
MONACO	✔	✔	✔	✔	
MONTENEGRO	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
NETHERLANDS	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
NORTH MACEDONIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
NORWAY	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
POLAND	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
PORTUGAL	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
ROMANIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	✔	✔	✔		
SAN MARINO	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SERBIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SLOVENIA	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SPAIN	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SWEDEN	✔	✔	✔	SIGNED	✔
SWITZERLAND	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
TURKEY	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
UKRAINE	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
UNITED KINGDOM	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Fig. 1 Select international commitments relevant to combatting OCSEA, by Council of Europe member state

The following sections of the report discuss how these commitments are being translated into concrete responses.

1. Governance structures and multi-stakeholder co-operation in member states

Responding to OCSEA requires the active collaboration of a number of different government entities, such as those responsible for education, health and social care, law enforcement and criminal justice, and digital services; and the co-operation of stakeholders from different sectors, including government, civil society, and the technology industry. Mechanisms are therefore required to formalise these relationships, enable information sharing between partners and facilitate collaborative delivery of responses, whether these are measures aimed at preventing victimisation of children, safeguarding children who have been victimised, or bringing offenders to justice.

Accordingly, Article 10 of the Lanzarote Convention requires each party to establish or designate an independent competent national or local institution for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, ensuring that they are provided with specific resources. This institution should be responsible for establishing and maintaining mechanisms for data collection at the national or local levels and in collaboration with civil society, for the purpose of observing and evaluating CSEA, with due respect for the requirements of personal data protection. The Convention also requires states parties to encourage co-operation between the relevant stakeholders, in order to better prevent and combat the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

Some countries such as Albania have introduced laws,[11] while others including the Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Turkey, have produced child rights or child protection strategies and action plans setting out the necessary response and Co-ordination measures to combat violence against children.[12] In some countries, protection from OCSEA falls under more general child rights and child protection strategies at national level. Others have chosen to develop and adopt plans specifically designed to address online exploitation and abuse.

In Albania on Safer Internet Day 2018, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Interior jointly signed the National Action Plan of Child Online Safety (2018-2020). The plan, prepared with the support of the Child Rights Centre Albania,[13] aims to strengthen:

- ▪ Capacity of national and local institutions;
- ▪ Partnership among government institutions with NGOs and the private sector;
- ▪ The legal framework;
- ▪ Child online protection and awareness policies.

In 2021, child online protection was also incorporated into Albania's National Cybersecurity Strategy (2020-2025), with the policy goal of "developing mechanisms required for child safety in cyberspace, while preparing the younger generation to benefit from the advantages of technology and overcome development challenges", and three specific objectives:

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[11] https://rm.coe.int/report-on-the-visit-to-albania-from-21-to-25-may-2018-by-dunja-mijatov/16808d2e22
[12] Contributions to Regional EndOCSEA meeting, 16-17 May 2019
[13] https://www.crca.al/sq/news/albania-approves-national-action-plan-child-online-protection

- Strengthening the legal framework to improve child online safety;

- Preventing child online sexual abuse through awareness-raising and the creation of a safe online browsing space;

- Strengthening cross-sector cooperation for the protection of children online.[14]

The WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR) recommends the related capability of Leadership:

„

Good governance brings together those with a responsibility to protect children from online sexual exploitation and is a multi-stakeholder, cross-sector national body or bodies **„** (Capability 1, p.3).

As the MNR notes, there is no one model that the multi-stakeholder body should adopt. Azerbaijan has a state committee for minors, and reports that for cases specifically of OCSEA, the Ministry of Interior and its local branches coordinate the response; Serbia meanwhile, has a Co-ordination body for children's safety and protection using ICT, which focuses on data sharing and monitoring, and stakeholder co-operation.[15] The last of these is particularly important, since OCSEA is a crime that cannot be tackled effectively by governments or any one sector alone.[16]

Translating aims into action is no small task, especially when a number of different bodies or sectors need to work together to deliver an effective response. In Council of Europe member states there are a number of examples of good practice in the area of multi-sector co-operation.

Case Study: Safer Internet Consortia

The Belgian Better Internet Consortium (B-BICO) brings together relevant stakeholders and experts on online safety and digital literacy, to work on joint initiatives, including the creation of a "one-stop shop" for the general public.[17] The members of the Consortium are:

- Infojeunes youth information centres;

- IMEC media literacy centre;

- Helpline and child safety NGO Child Focus;

- Center for Cybersecurity Belgium;

- Youth media education organisation Action Médias Jeunes;

- Technical competence centre Technofutur TIC;

- Equal opportunities service Unia;

- The Belgian Privacy Commission;

- Media education association Média Animation;

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[14] Contributions to Regional EndOCSEA meeting, 16-17 May 2019
[15] See for example WeProtect's Model National Response, and Baines (2018) for the different stakeholders required to combat OCSEA effectively.
[16] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round report from Belgium.
[17] Available at: https://b-bico.be/IMG/pdf/2019-02-05_memorandum_for_the_belgian_safer_internet_day_2019_en.pdf

- Department of Education and Training of the Flemish Government;
- CSEM, the Higher Council for Media Literacy.

On Safer Internet Day 2019, B-BICO members and supporting civil society organisations drafted a memorandum on the digital rights of children and young people.[18] Based on the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment (CM/Rec(2018)7),[19] this memorandum contains a number of recommendations and concrete examples of measures to combat OCSEA, including:

- Supporting schools and educational and care facilities to address cyberbullying and online harassment, incitement to hatred and violence and the sharing of sexual photographs without consent;
- Providing clear information on where young people can get counselling and help;
- Making clear legal requirements for internet service providers and platforms on the way they should collect data and co-operate with authorities and stakeholders to tackle online sexual abuse and material, cyberbullying and cyber hate;
- Enhancing the capacity of the police to tackle online abuse and invest in the identification of victims of sexual exploitation, in particular, in relation to child sexual abuse material;
- Investing in the development and co-ordination of help and hotline services to provide help and counselling for online abuse;
- Examining the possibility of making consensual sexting between minors lawful within the framework of the exceptions of the relevant treaty of the Council of Europe and clarify the way youth magistrates should interpret the severity of sexting incidents;
- Using web crawling technology like Project Arachnid to discover and remove child sexual abuse materials and provide a helpline for sex offenders.

In Portugal, the Safer Internet Consortium is a partnership of five bodies:

- The Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., the chief funding agency for research in Portugal;
- The Ministry of Education;
- The Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth, coordinating the Youth Information Points Network and Helplines;
- Portugal Telecom Foundation, a non-profit organisation, created by Portugal Telecom;
- Microsoft Portugal.

It aims to promote safe internet use, raise awareness of the associated risks, and to both provide for the reporting of illegal content, and minimise its effects. It does this by means of a Safer Internet Centre (Centro Internet Segura), a dedicated school awareness node (SeguraNet), and provision of the Linha ALERTA hotline.[20]

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[18] Available at: https://b-bico.be/IMG/pdf/2019-02-05_memorandum_for_the_belgian_safer_internet_day_2019_en.pdf
[19] Available at: https://rm.coe.int/guidelines-to-respect-protect-and-fulfil-the-rights-of-the-child-in-th/16808d881a
[20] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round report from Portugal.

Preventing distribution of and access to CSAM; good practice in blocking and filtering

The Lanzarote Convention specifically provides for co-operation between state and non-state actors (10.3). Furthermore, recognising the key role of industry in combating CSEA, Article 9.2 requires that,

Each Party shall encourage the private sector, in particular the information and communication technology sector, the tourism and travel industry and the banking and finance sectors, as well as civil society, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies to prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and to implement internal norms through self-regulation or co-regulation.

Active partnership with the ICT sector in particular, is crucial to effective responses to OCSEA. Removing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is a key component of this work. While hotlines receive and action reports of illegal material from members of the public, industry also has an important part to play in restricting access to CSAM. Online platforms take hash lists of known CSAM from authorities such as the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the US and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) in the UK. Using PhotoDNA technology, they compare images and videos uploaded to their platforms pixel by pixel, and prevent distribution of known CSAM. In accordance with federal legislation, US based platforms report uploads or attempted uploads of CSAM to NCMEC, for referral to law enforcement around the world.[21] In many other jurisdictions, the preservation and production of CSAM as electronic evidence by online service providers may require the service of a valid legal order. Outside of the US, production of this data across national borders has proved challenging.[22]

At a national level, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can subscribe to INTERPOL's Worst of List (IWOL) and the IWF's list of URLs known to host CSAM; subscription is not mandatory, but is clearly a matter of good practice for ISPs. In Denmark, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Sweden, ISP Telenor has partnered with INTERPOL and GSMA's Mobile Alliance against child sexual abuse content to prevent access to CSAM through its home and mobile broadband services.[23] In Albania, Tirana is in the process of becoming the first city in the Western Balkans to deploy Friendly Wi-fi. This is a certification service that applies the same URL blocking approach to public Wi-fi. UNICEF, with the support from the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, has partnered with the Tirana Municipality to certify locations in the city that can guarantee Wi-fi that prevents access to known CSAM URLs.[24]

As with hashing, preventing access at network level to URLs hosting CSAM reduces the number of times the material is viewed, and therefore the extent to which the children shown in those images or videos are re-victimised. It also reduces the risk of children coming into contact with this material, helping them to enjoy a safer internet.

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[21] U.S.C. §2258A

[22] More information on law enforcement access to data across borders can be found in Council of Europe (2016) and the resources of the Cybercrime Committee Cloud Evidence Group - https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/ceg; see also the European Commission's programme on Electronic Evidence - https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/criminal-justice/e-evidence-cross-border-access-electronic-evidence_en

[23] https://www.nord.no/no/om-oss/fakulteter-og-avdelinger/handelshogskolen/Documents/John_Skaar_Foredraget_2011_Mai_Oldgard.pdf

[24] https://www.unicef.org/albania/press-releases/tirana-will-be-first-city-western-balkan-region-become-child-and-family-friendly

Independent Oversight & Monitoring – the case for Ombudspersons

Independent institutions are in a strong position to monitor progress against political commitments to children's rights and protection. A number of Council of Europe member states have appointed Ombudspersons or Commissioners for Children's Rights, or Ombudspersons for Human Rights whose remit includes children. The following table shows countries with members of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), or who have otherwise reported having Ombudspersons for Children in response to the Lanzarote Committee's second monitoring round:

Country	Member, European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)[25]	Other Reported Ombudspersons for Children (Lanzarote Committee questionnaire second round)[26]
ALBANIA	Full	
ANDORRA		
ARMENIA	Full	
AUSTRIA		✔
AZERBAIJAN	Associate	
BELGIUM	Full	
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Full	
BULGARIA	Associate	
CROATIA	Full	
CYPRUS	Full	
CZECH REPUBLIC		
DENMARK	Full	
ESTONIA	Full	
FINLAND	Full	
FRANCE	Full	
GEORGIA	Full	
GERMANY		
GREECE	Full	
HUNGARY	Associate	
ICELAND	Full	
IRELAND	Full	

[25] http://enoc.eu/?page_id=2469 . Since countries can have more than one ENOC member, some countries are listed here as both full members and associates.

[26] https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680470e66 . Countries are only listed in this column if i) they specifically referred to ombudspersons in response to this question from the Lanzarote Committee and ii) they are not already listed as having ENOC members.

ITALY	Full	
LATVIA	Full	
LIECHTENSTEIN		
LITHUANIA	Full	
LUXEMBOURG	Full	
MALTA	Full	
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	Full	
MONACO		
MONTENEGRO	Full	
NETHERLANDS	Full	
NORTH MACEDONIA		
NORWAY	Full	
POLAND	Full	
PORTUGAL		
ROMANIA		✓
RUSSIAN FEDERATION		
SAN MARINO		
SERBIA	Full	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Full / Associate	
SLOVENIA	Associate	
SPAIN	Full / Associate	
SWEDEN	Full	
SWITZERLAND		
TURKEY		
UKRAINE	Associate	
UNITED KINGDOM	Full	

Fig. 2 ENOC and Lanzarote Committee Data on Ombudspersons for Children in Council of Europe member states

In 2018, Armenia's Human Rights Defender was supported by UNICEF in producing an ad hoc public report on the status of the country's commitments to the UNCRC and its optional protocols.[27] A dedicated section of this report focuses on national progress in respect to the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, specifically:

- Compliance of the domestic criminal law with the Protocol and creation of a unified data collection system;

- Extraterritorial jurisdiction and extradition;

- Co-ordination and evaluation;

- Dissemination and awareness-raising;

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[27] http://www.ombuds.am/resources/ombudsman/uploads/files/publications/ea776edf03d86e7c680c7f5e75352ade.pdf

- Measures adopted to prevent offences prohibited under the Protocol;
- Measures adopted to protect the rights of child victims;
- Recovery and reintegration of victims.

2. Capacities to research, analyse and monitor current threats of OCSEA at national level

Research, analysis and monitoring are key elements of the governance response required in Article 10 of the Lanzarote Convention. This aligns with Capability 2 of the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response. Countries need to know the prevalence and level of threat from OCSEA in order to develop an effective and proportionate response to it. Relevant national legislation can enable law enforcement and judicial authorities to collect crime data on recorded illegal activities. This can be used by policy makers to justify the allocation of financial and human resources, and assist law enforcement, judicial authorities, child support workers, educators and other specialists to remain current in their operations and training. Hotlines can provide analysis on the volume and nature of CSAM reported by citizens. Helplines can monitor contact received from children, young people and their parents/guardians concerning potential victimisation or other sexual contact online. Academic research can draw on these data sources, to present a picture of OCSEA: what kind of activity, where, when, how, to whom, by whom and why it happens. The Guide for Criminal Justice Statistics on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence, produced jointly by INTERPOL and the Council of Europe, provides practical recommendations for the systematic collection of national statistics for online crimes, including OCSEA.[28]

In the law enforcement environment, a number of Council of Europe member states produce national threat assessments of OCSEA. All 27 European Union member states contribute to analytical reports on the subject produced by EUROPOL, including the Internet-facilitated Organised Crime Threat Assessment (iOCTA) and the Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA). The SOCTA drives activity by EU member states and their operational partners by means of the EU policy cycle.

The EU policy cycle is operationalised through the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) over a four-year cycle. This was established in 2010 to create a greater measure of continuity in the fight against serious and organised crime. The policy calls for effective co-operation among law enforcement agencies, other EU agencies, EU institutions and relevant third parties, also for robust action to target the most pressing criminal threats facing the EU. By synthesising contributions from member states and partners, EUROPOL is able to identify changes in criminal activities including OCSEA. Its threat assessments assist EU institutions and national authorities to prioritise responses to certain crime types, while international co-ordination enables countries to share resources and minimise duplication of effort. In the EMPACT policy cycle, cybercrime, and OCSEA specifically, has been a priority since 2010 and is included in those for 2018-2021.[29] Since all internet-facilitated crime evolves rapidly in line with technological developments, EUROPOL analyses strategic intelligence contributions on cybercrime every year.

Seventeen countries outside the EU have operational agreements with EUROPOL, among them Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. This entitles these countries both to receive intelligence and analysis from EUROPOL, and to contribute to EUROPOL's analysis. Serbia and the Republic of Moldova report that they produce national assessments on organised crime or

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[28] https://rm.coe.int/3148-3-1-12-guide-for-criminal-justice-statistics-on-cybercrime-and-ee/1680a0250a
[29] https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact . EUROPOL also produces more specific assessments on OCSEA phenomena based on national research, analysis and monitoring, among them a recent report on sexual extortion - https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/online-sexual-coercion-and-extortion-form-of-crime-affecting-children-law-enforcement-perspective

cybercrime that include OCSEA.[30] This enables them to contribute to the wider European overview of the threat, to benefit from the reported experience of other contributing countries, and to monitor trends at a national level that may require changes to response measures.

Relevant research in focus countries has also been conducted by NGOs and international organisations. For example, a 2014 regional report by ECPAT International on commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Commonwealth of Independent States includes discussion of progress to combat OCSEA in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.[31] ChildPact's Child Protection Index assesses progress against Article 34 of the UNCRC (protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) in countries including: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Serbia.[32] National chapters of La Strada have also produced monitoring reports on efforts in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.[33] As will be discussed in more detail in section 3.8, UNICEF Innocenti's Global Kids Online project presents research on children's online experiences in: Albania, Montenegro and Serbia. Its sister project, EU Kids Online provides similar insight for the following 34 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Research of this kind is helpful to understand trends in OCSEA in a state or region, and can be a useful tool to advocate for change and allocation of resources, particularly when based on reporting of CSEA offences to hotlines or helplines. It should be viewed as complementary to government-sponsored efforts to ensure adequately resourced national information gathering and monitoring systems, because the latter can draw on additional, privileged data sources, such as crime records and intelligence.

Case Study: A Multi-sector Research and Monitoring Model

In Italy, the Ministerial Decree of 30 August 2016 (supplemented 12 September 2016) provides for the Observatory for the Fight against Paedophilia and Child Pornography, hosted by the Department for Equal Opportunities. This organisation brings together government authorities, the Child and Adolescent Ombudsman and civil society organisations Telefono Azzurro, Save the Children Italia, Terre des Hommes Italia and Meter, to combat OCSEA.

The National Centre for the Fight against Child Pornography on the Internet (CNCPO) in the Postal and Communications Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs share data on reported offences with the Observatory for the analysis and prevention of child abuse. This enables government and civil society stakeholders alike to monitor trends in the volume and nature of offences against children, and to use this data to inform preventative initiatives.[34]

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[30] Contributions to Regional EndOCSEA meeting, 16-17 May 2019
[31] https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CSEC-Overview_CIS.pdf
[32] http://www.childprotectionindex.org/dashboard
[33] http://lastrada.md/eng/resources; http://www.la-strada.org.ua/ucp_mod_library_showcategory_34.html
[34] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round report from Italy.

The Case for Registering and Managing Convicted Sex Offenders

CSEA is often by its very nature a transnational phenomenon. Persons with a sexual interest in children may travel to abuse, while online offenders can target children in another country. Accordingly, Article 37 of the Lanzarote Convention requires state parties to designate a single national authority in charge of the collection and storage of data on individuals convicted of sexual offences against children, and to ensure that this data can be transmitted to competent authorities in other state parties.

Keeping a register of persons convicted for sexual offences, including OCSEA, also enables authorities to manage those offenders effectively, and in particular to reduce the risk of reoffending, thereby reducing the risk to victims and potential victims. This maps to Capability 6 – "Offender Management Process" – of the WePROTECT Model National Response:

> *A national sex offender register ensures that relevant, accurate and up-to-date information is easily available to all authorised personnel. This enhances the ability of law enforcement and other appropriate organisations to monitor offenders' activities effectively and share information efficiently and securely.*

A number of countries have some form of sex offender registration or management, of which the United Kingdom's and Ireland's are two of the most comprehensive. Subject to the requisite personal data protections and human rights safeguards, these arrangements assist in the management of convicted OCSEA offenders. Both the United Kingdom and Irish procedures require convicted offenders to:

- Notify authorities of their name, home address and any changes to these within a specified time frame;

- Notify said authorities of an intention to travel overseas. In the United Kingdom, this applies to any foreign travel. In Ireland it applies to travel for more than seven days.[35]

Under Section 82 of the United Kingdom Sexual Offences Act 2003, the term for which an offender may be registered varies according to the sentence received for the offence or offences. Sex offender registers are also used during specific criminal records bureau checks as part of mandatory screening during recruitment procedures of certain professions. Access to up to date information on the whereabouts of a convicted offender can help government authorities and community support providers to reduce the risk of reoffending. This is particularly useful where more than one agency is responsible for monitoring and managing offenders.

In the Republic of Cyprus, legislation introduced in 2014 provides for the surveillance of persons convicted of sexual offences against children.[36] France has arrangements requiring notification of offenders' personal details, address and any changes, but not the intention to travel.[37] Germany has no nationwide register, but some states (länder) keep files on sex offenders released from prison (known as Haft-Entlassenen-Auskunfts-Datei-Sexualstraftäter, or "HEADS").[38] In 2015, the Dutch Senate passed a bill enabling courts to

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[35] https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/our-departments/office-of-corporate-communications/press-releases/2010/august/management-of-convicted-sex-offenders.html

[36] http://www.mjpo.gov.cy/mjpo/mjpo.nsf/All/4700A8B8507D236EC225863100355CDD?OpenDocument

[37] CODE DE PROCÉDURE PÉNALE [CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE] 706-53-1, et. seq.

impose long term supervision orders on convicted sexual offenders.[39] In 2018, Polish authorities launched a public register of 800 sex offenders, displaying names and photos of convicted individuals based on the US model.[40] Portugal introduced a register in 2015 for those convicted of sex offences against children, requiring notification of changes in personal details and of international travel.[41]

In conjunction with pre-employment criminal records checks, registration arrangements can also help to restrict contact with children for those convicted of CSEA offences, including those committed online. Among countries with this restriction, Spain holds a register of convicted sex offenders against which applications to work with children are checked.[42] In The Netherlands, those convicted of sexual offences against children may be excluded from obtaining a good conduct certificate ("Verklaring omtrent Gedrag" or "VoG") issued by the Department of Justice and required for certain occupations.[43] In Georgia, the government is working on legislative improvements that would ban individuals convicted of CSEA offences from being employed as teachers, while the Ministry of Justice is developing a Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) mechanism for managing convicted offenders in the community.[44]

Monitoring the travel of convicted sex offenders enables the government in one country to notify authorities in another of potential risk to children. Some countries such as The Netherlands ban travel altogether. European Union member states also have the possibility to use the EUROPOL Information System (EIS) to make intelligence available to other member states about the travel of individuals known for or suspected of sexual offences against children.[45] Police in Ukraine have memoranda of understanding with the United Kingdom and Ireland that allow them to receive notifications of convicted sex offender travel from those countries. Ukraine has also introduced a certification process for foreign nationals wishing to volunteer in the country. [46] Where restrictions on travel and possibilities for intelligence sharing are provided for in national law, these arrangements can contribute to reducing the risk of foreign nationals traveling to other countries to commit CSEA offences. In as much as contact sexual abuse by travelling offenders is often recorded for online distribution as CSAM, travel restrictions and notification can also assist in combating OCSEA specifically.

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[38] For further information, see the US Department of Justice's 2014 and 2016 global overviews - https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/global-overview-sex-offender-registration-and-notification-systems and https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/global-survey-sex-offender-registration-and-notification-systems

[39] https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2015/11/24/dutch-senate-passes-bill-on-the-long-term-supervision-of-sex-offenders-and-persons-convicted-of-serious-violent-offences

[40] https://www.dw.com/en/poland-launches-online-register-of-sex-offenders/a-42005208

[41] https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=6486&file=EnglishTranslation

[42] https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/en/ciudadanos/tramites/certificado-delitos

[43] http://www.sexual-offender-treatment.org/173.html

[44] Contribution to Regional EndOCSEA meeting, 16-17 May 2019

[45] Contribution from Europol, October 2019

[46] Contribution to Regional EndOCSEA meeting, 16-17 May 2019

3. Specific legislative and policy frameworks to criminalise OCSEA,
identify perpetrators and uphold the rights of the child-victim

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3. Specific legislative and policy frameworks to criminalise OCSEA, identify perpetrators and uphold the rights of the child-victim

The Council of Europe Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions provide comprehensive benchmarks for both criminal law and procedural law standards to prevent and combat OCSEA. They build on international standards concerning the protection of children, including the UNCRC and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Articles 18 to 29 of the Lanzarote Convention and Article 9 of the Budapest Convention set out the substantive criminal law and definitions of offences required to be transposed into national law. Articles 20 to 23 of the Lanzarote Convention focus specifically on criminalising the production, distribution and possession of, and knowing access to CSAM ("child pornography", 20), offences concerning the participation of a child in pornographic performances (21), the corruption of children through intentional exposure to sexual activities (22) and the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (23).

The International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) conducts regular analysis of national legal provision for OCSEA offences. Its global review of legislation in relation specifically to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) considers the following five criteria[47]:

1. Exists with specific regard to CSAM;

2. Provides a definition of CSAM;

3. Criminalises technology-facilitated CSAM related offenses;

4. Criminalises the knowing possession of CSAM, regardless of the intent to distribute;

5. Requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to report suspected CSAM to law enforcement or to some other mandated agency.

For legislation specific to online grooming of children for sexual purposes, the core criteria are as follows:[48]

1. Exists with regard to the online grooming of children for sexual purposes;

2. Provides a definition of (or describes) grooming, including online grooming, and utilizes computer- and Internet-specific terminology;

3. Criminalises online grooming, with the intent to meet the child offline;

4. Criminalises online grooming, regardless of the intent to meet the child offline;

5. Criminalises showing pornography to a child.

Ratings reflect the count of criteria met by each country, to a maximum of 5. At the time of writing (April 2021), ratings for Council of Europe member states are as follows:

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[47] https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CSAM-Model-Law-9th-Ed-FINAL-12-3-18.pdf
[48] https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Online-Grooming-of-Children_FINAL_9-18-17.pdf

Country	ICMEC Model Legislation CSAM Score (/5)	ICMEC Model Legislation Grooming Score (/5)
ALBANIA	4	1
ANDORRA	4	1
ARMENIA	2	0
AUSTRIA	4	4
AZERBAIJAN	3	0
BELGIUM	5	4
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	3	1
BULGARIA	4	4
CROATIA	4	4
CYPRUS	4	4
CZECH REPUBLIC	3	3
DENMARK	4	1
ESTONIA	4	3
FINLAND	4	4
FRANCE	5	5
GEORGIA	4	0
GERMANY	4	5
GREECE	4	4
HUNGARY	4	4
ICELAND	4	4
IRELAND	4	5
ITALY	5	5
LATVIA	4	5
LIECHTENSTEIN	4	4
LITHUANIA	2	3
LUXEMBOURG	3	5
MALTA	4	4
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	4	0
MONACO	4	4
MONTENEGRO	3	1
NETHERLANDS	4	4
NORTH MACEDONIA	4	4
NORWAY	4	3
POLAND	3	5

3. Specific legislative and policy frameworks to criminalise OCSEA,
identify perpetrators and uphold the rights of the child-victim

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PORTUGAL	3	5
ROMANIA	4	4
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	3	1
SAN MARINO	3	0
SERBIA	4	4
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	4	5
SLOVENIA	3	4
SPAIN	4	5
SWEDEN	4	4
SWITZERLAND	4	1
TURKEY	3	1
UKRAINE	2	1
UNITED KINGDOM	4	5

Fig.3 ICMEC Ratings for CSAM and Grooming Legislation, Global Review Report 2019[49]

With regard to CSAM legislation, the majority of member states receive a score of 4. This reflects the fact that most countries around the world do not mandate ISP reporting of identified CSAM. Generally speaking, countries listed above with a rating of 3 or lower are those that have not yet criminalised knowing possession of CSAM, regardless of the intent to distribute, or those who have not specifically provided for technology-facilitated offences. At least some of the countries in focus for this baseline mapping exercise are deemed also to lack a definition of CSAM in national legislation.

With regard to online grooming of children for sexual purposes, ratings are less consistent. Globally, there is evidently considerable work still to be done to ensure that children in all countries are adequately protected from offences of this kind. In particular, legislation in a large number of countries requires there to be an intent to meet offline for sexual activity. In this respect, legislative responses have not kept pace with the changing threat from OCSEA, in which children are increasingly targeted online for self-produced CSAM, with no subsequent offline meeting.[50] In the European Union, Article 6.2 of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and Council on Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography requires EU Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that attempts to solicit a child to provide CSAM are punishable.[51]

Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention requires states parties to criminalise the intentional proposal of an adult to meet a child for the purpose of unlawful sexual activity. The 2015 Opinion of the Lanzarote Committee on Article 23 of the Convention notes that "the requirements inherent to Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention may not meet today's and, more importantly, tomorrow's challenges with regard to online grooming". Consequently, the Committee recommends extending criminalisation "also to cases when the sexual abuse is not the result of a meeting in person, but is committed online".[52] Several member states report that their national criminal legislation provides for situations in which children are groomed specifically for online sexual exploitation or abuse, for example to produce and/or share CSAM.[53]

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[49] https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CSAM-Model-Law-9th-Ed-FINAL-12-3-18.pdf; https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Online-Grooming-of-Children_FINAL_9-18-17.pdf
[50] For more on this, see Europol (2017a) p.35ff.
[51] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011L0093
[52] https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168064de98

According to ICMEC's ratings, a number of countries are deemed to be entirely lacking in appropriate legislation to criminalise grooming. These are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and San Marino. Focus countries with a 1 rating (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, and Ukraine) are those in which showing pornography to a child is a criminal offence, but there is no additional provision for criminalising online grooming. Of note, Serbia's legislation is deemed to be more robust than several EU member states and near neighbours.

A Legal Duty to Report

A number of Council of Europe member states have introduced legal duties to report child sexual abuse or child endangerment. In some states, such as Croatia and Liechtenstein, citizens have a legal duty to report any criminal offence which has come to their attention. In Denmark, Estonia and Iceland this duty is confined to incidents of violence against children, child endangerment, and child sexual abuse respectively. In other states including Cyprus, Finland, Hungary and Romania, there is a more focused obligation on professionals – particularly those who come into contact with children in the course of their work – to report any concerns or suspected abuse to the relevant authority. In The Netherlands, schools are obliged to report criminal offences.[54]

The failure to report has itself become a criminal offence in some states.[55] In general terms, a duty to report suspected or identified child sexual abuse helps to ensure that victims are safeguarded and supported, and offenders are brought to justice. By bringing more concerns to light and generating more accurate data, it also improves states' monitoring and analysis of CSEA and sensitises citizens to the problem.

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[53] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, responses from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, United Kingdom.
[54] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Romania.
[55] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Croatia and Cyprus

4. Law enforcement capacities to investigate cases of OCSEA, including the existence of dedicated law enforcement units

Articles 30 to 35 of the Lanzarote Convention describe the investigative capability and procedures required to ensure that victims of CSEA receive justice. As regards law enforcement capacity, Article 34.1 states:

> *Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure that persons, units or services in charge of investigations are specialised in the field of combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children or that persons are trained for this purpose. Such units or services shall have adequate financial resources.*

Articles 14 to 22 of the Budapest Convention, along with provisions relative to international co-operation, set down the procedural law standards applicable to cybercrime investigations and electronic evidence. Capability 4 of the WePROTECT MNR goes further, recommending

> *law enforcement capability with an explicit remit to lead, support and coordinate investigations into child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) - both online and offline", and explaining that a dedicated capability is needed to "ensure that a country's law enforcement is able to respond effectively to reports of CSEA, securing an increased number of successful prosecutions, an increase in the number of victims protected and greater disruption of offending.*

When legislation is in place to criminalise OCSEA, law enforcement can investigate and judicial authorities can prosecute offenders. With regard to specialist law enforcement capacity, 40 out of 43 state parties responded to the Lanzarote Committee's second monitoring round that they had some specialist capacity to investigate OCSEA; of these, 16 responded that there was a dedicated team working solely on OCSEA. In the remaining 24 state parties, law enforcement capacity to investigate OCSEA was described as located within unites responsible for: cybercrime, crimes against children, crimes against persons, or sub-units.[56]

With specialist capacity comes access to specialist tools and data. Access to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database enables national specialist units to check whether CSAM seized in the course of an investigation is already known to international law enforcement and, crucially, whether the children in the images have already been identified. If material is known and the child subjects identified, officers can reduce time spent examining the content, and can focus instead on identifying the victims in new material, including child-victims who may yet to be identified and rescued. The INTERPOL network also provides an opportunity for specialists in different countries to work together to identify the possible geographical location of victims, so that relevant law enforcement agencies can work to recover them from abuse and apprehend the offenders. In turn, countries contributing known CSAM with identified children to INTERPOL's ICSE database can reduce the exposure to the content of the images of law enforcement officers in other countries who may seize this material in future.

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[56] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round replies to Question 13 - https://rm.coe.int/compilation-of-replies-to-question-13-specialised-units-departments-se/16808c2729

Some of the world's largest technology companies, including Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter, report CSAM identified on their platforms to the US NCMEC. US legislation requires these companies to work with NCMEC as the statutory NGO for processing reports of identified child sexual exploitation. In 2020, NCMEC received 21.75 million reports of child sexual exploitation, most of these from electronic service providers. Given the global popularity of US-based online platforms, a large proportion of these reports concern offenders or victims outside of the US. Typically they contain subscriber and access (IP log data) to assist law enforcement in identifying and locating an offender, plus the CSAM itself as evidence of the offence. NCMEC has a number of options available for national law enforcement authorities to access reports. They may have direct access to reports, downloading them via a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). In some countries, US authorities working in embassies may have access to reports that can be shared with local law enforcement. In others, the INTERPOL National Central Bureau for the US in Washington DC can facilitate the exchange of information.

EUROPOL distributes these reports to member states of the European Union, and works to enrich priority reports with additional information from their databases. This dataflow, enabled through the efforts of US Homeland Security Investigations, has ensured the secure transmission of more than half a million reports between 2014 and 2019. A growing number of focus countries are also now working with NCMEC to gain access to reporting from US companies, but by no means all. Several Council of Europe member states report that NCMEC CyberTip referrals have led to successful offender and victim identification, and the safeguarding of children from ongoing sexual exploitation and abuse.[58] A number of member states also report that their OCSEA investigators have direct access to large US technology companies via dedicated data request channels for the obtaining of electronic evidence in the form of subscriber and traffic metadata.[59]

Country	2019 Reports	% of 2019 Global Total	2020 Reports	% of 2020 Global Total	% Change 2019 - 2020
ALBANIA	17,545	0.10%	23,426	0.11%	33.52%
ANDORRA	92	0.00%	126	0.00%	36.96%
ARMENIA	4,793	0.03%	4,594	0.02%	-4.15%
AUSTRIA	10,217	0.06%	10,363	0.05%	1.43%
AZERBAIJAN	11,445	0.07%	10,462	0.05%	-8.59%
BELGIUM	21,448	0.13%	22,154	0.10%	3.29%
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	15,675	0.09%	21,263	0.10%	35.65%
BULGARIA	16,892	0.10%	16,962	0.08%	0.41%
CROATIA	13,068	0.08%	12,582	0.06%	-3.72%
CYPRUS	2,502	0.01%	3,302	0.02%	31.97%
CZECH REPUBLIC	14,448	0.09%	11,044	0.05%	-23.56%
DENMARK	6,148	0.04%	6,504	0.03%	5.79%

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[57] Contribution from Europol, October 2019
[58] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, responses from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, United Kingdom
[59] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, responses from Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia

ESTONIA	1,951	0.01%	4,695	0.02%	140.65%
FINLAND	4,850	0.03%	4,419	0.02%	-8.89%
FRANCE	71,422	0.42%	89,871	0.41%	25.83%
GEORGIA	6,157	0.04%	6,913	0.03%	12.28%
GERMANY	87,895	0.52%	92,768	0.43%	5.54%
GREECE	18,911	0.11%	28,722	0.13%	51.88%
HUNGARY	57,500	0.34%	66,123	0.30%	15.00%
ICELAND	550	0.00%	632	0.00%	14.91%
IRELAND	6,653	0.04%	6,959	0.03%	4.60%
ITALY	57,113	0.34%	62,399	0.29%	9.26%
LATVIA	1,347	0.01%	1,418	0.01%	5.27%
LIECHTENSTEIN	16	0.00%	26	0.00%	62.50%
LITHUANIA	11,857	0.07%	7,624	0.04%	-35.70%
LUXEMBOURG	1,506	0.01%	1,488	0.01%	-1.20%
MALTA	1,978	0.01%	1,649	0.01%	-16.63%
MOLDOVA	10,516	0.06%	5,993	0.03%	-43.01%
MONACO	340	0.00%	886	0.00%	160.59%
MONTENEGRO	3,720	0.02%	6,784	0.03%	82.37%
NETHERLANDS	25,753	0.15%	25,704	0.12%	-0.19%
NORTH MACEDONIA	8,092	0.05%	8,939	0.04%	10.47%
NORWAY	8,031	0.05%	6,979	0.03%	-13.10%
POLAND	77,741	0.46%	381,254	1.75%	390.42%
PORTUGAL	30,369	0.18%	26,982	0.12%	-11.15%
ROMANIA	106,764	0.63%	59,324	0.27%	-44.43%
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	72,037	0.42%	64,580	0.30%	-10.35%
SAN MARINO	7	0.00%	12	0.00%	71.43%
SERBIA	32,473	0.19%	45,737	0.21%	40.85%
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	6,769	0.04%	6,554	0.03%	-3.18%
SLOVENIA	6,890	0.04%	5,242	0.02%	-23.92%
SPAIN	46,836	0.28%	70,544	0.32%	50.62%
SWEDEN	16,404	0.10%	19,699	0.09%	20.09%
SWITZERLAND	8,567	0.05%	7,959	0.04%	-7.10%
TURKEY	222,881	1.31%	225,126	1.04%	1.01%
UKRAINE	24,460	0.14%	41,904	0.19%	71.32%
UNITED KINGDOM	74,330	0.44%	75,578	0.35%	1.68%
GLOBAL TOTAL	16,987,361		21,751,085		28.04%
COE MEMBER STATES TOTAL	1,246,959	7.34%	1,604,268	7.38%	28.65%

Fig.4 NCMEC CyberTip reports for Council of Europe member states, 2019 and 2020[60]

In addition to dedicated resourcing, and as emphasised in Article 5 of the Lanzarote Convention, the investigation of OCSEA requires specialised training. This is particularly the case for Victim Identification, which uses techniques not common to cybercrime or offline crimes against children. As Capability 4 of the WePROTECT MNR states:

> *With dedicated law enforcement officers who have the required knowledge, skills, systems and tools, a country will be able to lead and coordinate complex CSEA investigations and liaise effectively with international law enforcement to progress investigations that cross borders.*

ICMEC provides bespoke training to national law enforcement authorities on topics such as:

- Essentials of Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children;
- Advanced Online Exploitation Investigations;
- Advanced Technologies;
- Fundamentals of Responding to Missing Children.

To date, the organisation has trained more than 16,000 individuals from 128 countries.[61] In addition, EUROPOL's Combating the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet (COSEC) training course is aimed at increasing the number of specialist investigators of CSAM. The agency reported that more than 1,000 officers had taken the course by 2018, including officers from a number of countries outside the EU, such as Albania, Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, New Zealand, Serbia, and Ukraine.[62]

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[60] https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline

[61] https://www.icmec.org/train/law-enforcement/

[62] https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/241-victims-of-child-sexual-abuse-safeguarded-thanks-to-global-law-enforcement-efforts; contribution from EUROPOL, October 2019

Victim Identification through Specialist Image/Video Analysis

Of the 43 Council of Europe member states responding to the Lanzarote Committee's second monitoring round, 31 report having some capacity for specialist victim identification through image and video analysis, and 19 of these report having a dedicated Victim ID function.[63] INTERPOL can provide specialist training in Victim ID.[64] In addition, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and the European Police College (CEPOL) jointly provide training in advanced Victim ID techniques.[65]

EUROPOL's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) also supports efforts to identify victims of CSEA by hosting a Victim Identification Task Force (VIDTF). In May 2019, the sixth task force meeting saw 34 experts in victim identification from 24 countries and 29 agencies collaborate on image and video analysis at EUROPOL's headquarters for 12 days. Participants for the 2019 action hailed from Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and INTERPOL.

The uploading of groups of linked image and video files to the ICSE database, hosted at INTERPOL, is an integral part of the VIDTF model. By 2019, 3,011 series of material had been added to the ICSE database, 330 children had been safeguarded, 137 offenders had been prosecuted and almost 600 investigations had been initiated using the VIDTF model.[66]

One Victim ID project takes the innovative approach of crowdsourcing the local knowledge of citizens to trace objects shown in CSAM, thereby identifying locations of abuse. Launched in 2017, "Stop Child Abuse - Trace an Object" is hosted on EUROPOL's website. Members of the public are invited to submit tips to the agency when they recognise locations, logos on clothing and other identifiers.[67] By 2019, 186 objects had been circulated on the site, resulting in 24,000 tips from members of the public. These have enabled the identification of 9 victims, and the prosecution of 2 offenders.[68]

Case Studies - Digital Investigation & Specialist CSEA Training

With support from the End Violence Fund and in the framework of the EndOCSEA@Europe project, the Council of Europe has developed a pilot training module on OCSEA for law enforcement, judges and prosecutors, which can be adapted and deployed at country level. The objective is to combine efficient investigation techniques and child-friendly principles and procedures according to the Council of Europe standards, in particular the Lanzarote Convention and its substantive criminal law provisions, and Article 9 of the Budapest Convention's provision of standards to criminalise conduct related to OCSEA.

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[63] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round replies to Question 13 - https://rm.coe.int/compilation-of-replies-to-question-13-specialised-units-departments-se/16808c2729

[64] https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Crimes-against-children/Our-response-to-crimes-against-children

[65] Contribution from EUROPOL, October 2019

[66] Contribution from Europol, October 2019

[67] https://www.europol.europa.eu/stopchildabuse

[68] Contribution from Europol, October 2019

The pilot module was used in online training sessions for practitioners and candidate magistrates in Ukraine, Turkey and the Republic of Moldova in the course of 2020 and 2021. By June 2021, the training package will be available in the project languages for further deployment in Council of Europe member states upon request. This module can be implemented in conjunction with ongoing in-depth training inputs on child-friendly justice and electronic evidence; the length and detail of the course are adapted to reflect this. It currently contains four chapters, concerning:

- substantive and procedural criminal legislation to tackle OCSEA;

- proactive investigations;

- reactive investigations;

- protecting the child victim throughout criminal proceedings.

This training module is a unique tool which should contribute to improving the efficiency and quality of criminal law measures taken by the police and the judiciary in cases of OCSEA. In addition, the Council of Europe Octopus Cybercrime Community provides access to a number of tools and materials to strengthen co-operation and capacities including:

- the Electronic Evidence Guide, which contains guidance and good practice on the handling of electronic evidence;

- the First Responder Training Pack, which trains first responders to handle electronic evidence at crime scenes;

- the Basic Judicial Training Manual, which provides judges and prosecutors with an introductory level of knowledge on cybercrime and electronic evidence;

- Advanced Judicial Training material, which provides judges and prosecutors with an additional level of knowledge on cybercrime and electronic evidence.[69]

Promising practices are in evidence also at national level. In 2015, the Danish National Police, Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police Academy launched a partnership to develop a new national cybercrime education programme, consisting of two courses aimed to strengthen the basic knowledge of IT and IT-related crime among police staff and the prosecutors. "Cyber Crime I" is an e-learning course and is mandatory for all prosecutors and front desk police officers. Launched in early 2017, "Cyber Crime II" aims at enhancing the knowledge of investigators and the prosecution service.[70]

In France, the Gendarmerie has trained 3,500 digital investigators. These officers have taken part in a voluntary 5-day training course, with the aim of deploying trained investigators in all territorial units across the country. The goal is for the Gendarmerie to have 6,000 trained digital investigators by 2022. Since 2018, an introductory module on cybercrime has been incorporated in training at the Gendarmerie academy. In the judicial police, officers working on CSEA receive specialist training comprising seven modules. These focus in particular on the psychological aspects of this crime type, and on techniques for interviewing young victims.[71]

A number of states also report specialist training for prosecutors. In Denmark, the Director of Public Prosecutions every year provides a 3-day course on cases involving crimes against children. The course covers criminal procedure on video interrogation, witness psychology, and the basic theory of OCSEA. In Serbia, financial support from Save the Children has enabled the development of a course for judges and public prosecutors on cybercrime and protection of juveniles on the Internet. This has been incorporated into the standard curriculum of the Judicial Academy. Meanwhile in Spain, training on the investigation of crimes against children and specifically those related to OCSEA is part of prosecutors' basic training and continuous development.

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[69] https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/home
[70] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round report from Denmark
[71] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round report from France
[72] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Denmark, Serbia, Spain

Case study – community policing for online safety

A number of states have added Web Constables to their law enforcement contingents: these include Albania, Estonia, Finland, and Norway.[73] As described in materials presented by Estonia to the EU Crime Prevention Network, Web Constables are serving police officers who set up accounts in social media in their real names. This enables them to have direct contact with members of the public on internet safety issues. In addition, they:

- are the main spokespeople and give training on online safety;

- give advice by answering questions related to crime and law enforcement;

- share information with the public on police work, including messages and warnings;

- monitor publicly accessible online environments;

- receive information, tips or notifications from people, including suspicions of sites with illegal content and Internet-users whose action may be directed towards sexual abuse of children;

- forward information, tips or notifications to police investigators;

- search for information on the web in order to help colleagues in their investigations.[74]

According to a 2014 study, 61% (n=1707) of school pupils surveyed in Estonia had heard of the Web Constables and of these 8% (n=125) had contacted a Web Constable directly.[75] Crucially, states with web constables report that issues reported to them are often resolved informally by giving advice, rather than resulting in official law enforcement action. For instance, Norway's Nettpatruljer (online police patrols) provide crime prevention advice, offer guidance on particular issues and foster dialogue. Advice concerning the sharing of sexually explicit content online is one of the topics addressed, as well as children's rights online, and online blackmail.[76]

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[73] http://www.cp-project.al/web/en/portfolio-item/web-constable/; Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Estonia, Finland, Norway

[74] https://eucpn.org/document/web-constables

[75] https://www.tartu.ee/sites/default/files/uploads/Sotsiaalabi-ja-tervishoid/Terviseedendus/Riskik%C3%A4itumise%20teadlikkuse%20uuring.%20EMOR%202014.pdf; data reported in English to the Global Alliance in 2014 - https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse/docs/reports-2014/ga_report_2014_-_estonia_en.pdf

[76] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round report from Norway

5. Child-friendly procedures for judges and prosecutors to uphold and protect the rights of child-victims of OCSEA during criminal proceedings

The Lanzarote Convention provisions for child-friendly justice are set out in Articles 30-36. Article 30 contains the guiding principles, namely that investigations and criminal proceedings should be carried out in the best interests and respecting the rights of the child. Furthermore, investigations should not aggravate a child's trauma, and should be prioritised and expedited, while respecting the right of the defendant to a fair trial. Common to the principles outlined is the assumption that the rights and welfare of the child should be a primary consideration in all matters affecting them.

The Child Rights International Network (CRIN) has analysed and scored children's access to justice around the world.[77] Their assessment is based on national legal status of the UNCRC, legal status of the child, mechanisms to challenge children's rights violations, and related practical considerations.[78] While not strictly focused on CSEA, this information may be a useful indicator of progress towards the implementation of child-friendly justice procedures in line with the requirements of the Lanzarote Convention. CRIN also produces analysis of child rights considerations in relation to the criminal age of responsibility. This is relevant particularly to discussion of the potential for criminalisation of children who may have shared self-generated sexual imagery (for which see the dedicated section below).

The combined headline statistics from both analyses are reproduced below for all Council of Europe member states:[79]

Country	CRIN Access to Justice Score /261	%	Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility	Age of Consent to Sexual Activity
ALBANIA	155	59.4	14	14
ANDORRA	184.5	70.7	12	14
ARMENIA	133	51.0	14	16
AUSTRIA	151.5	58.0	14	14
AZERBAIJAN	139.5	53.4	14	16
BELGIUM	213	81.6	12	16
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	154.5	59.2	14	14
BULGARIA	173.5	66.5	14	14
CROATIA	177	67.8	14	15

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[77] https://home.crin.org/
[78] For more information on the scoring system, see https://archive.crin.org/sites/default/files/access_to_justice_scorecard.pdf
[79] https://archive.crin.org/justicemap/index.html; https://home.crin.org/issues/deprivation-of-liberty/minimum-age-of-criminal-responsibility

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CYPRUS	162.5	62.3	14	17
CZECH REPUBLIC	160	61.3	15	15
DENMARK	164	62.8	14	15
ESTONIA	176	67.4	14	14
FINLAND	199.5	76.4	15	16
FRANCE	180	69.0	13	15
GEORGIA	155	59.4	14	16
GERMANY	153.5	58.8	14	14
GREECE	173.5	66.5	13	15
HUNGARY	169	64.8	12	14
ICELAND	194	74.3	15	15
IRELAND	162.5	62.3	10	17
ITALY	163.5	62.6	14	14
LATVIA	191.5	73.4	14	16
LIECHTENSTEIN	115.5	44.3	14	14
LITHUANIA	177	67.8	14	16
LUXEMBOURG	197.5	75.7	0	16
MALTA	119	45.6	14	16
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	155	59.4	14	16
MONACO	122	46.7	13	15
MONTENEGRO	142	54.4	14	14
NETHERLANDS	198.5	76.1	12	16
NORTH MACEDONIA	150.5	57.7	14	14
NORWAY	187	71.6	15	16
POLAND	177.5	68.0	15	15
PORTUGAL	201.5	77.2	12	14
ROMANIA	170.5	65.3	14	15
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	148	56.7	14	16
SAN MARINO	130	49.8	12	14
SERBIA	153.5	58.8	14	14
SLOVAKIA	164.5	63.0	14	15
SLOVENIA	181	69.3	14	15
SPAIN	201	77.0	14	16
SWEDEN	159.5	61.1	15	15
SWITZERLAND	173	66.3	10	16
TURKEY	159.5	61.1	12	18
UKRAINE	144.5	55.4	14	16
UNITED KINGDOM	182.2[80]	69.8	10[81]	16

Fig.5 Access to Justice and Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility by Council of Europe member state

[80] This score for the UK is a manual average of the CRIN scores for England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
[81] The minimum criminal age of responsibility has been raised to 12 in Scotland, by means of the Age of

With regard to access to justice, the majority of Council of Europe member states exceed the global average score of 129.9 out of 261 (49.8%). Accordingly, the Council of Europe average score is 166.7 out of 261 (63.9%). None of the countries in focus for the present baseline mapping exercise exceed that average.

In both the Lanzarote Convention and the WePROTECT MNR, specialist training of criminal justice professionals is key to the success of the child-friendly approach to justice. Capability 5 of the MNR recommends that:

- Judiciary and prosecutors have the specialist knowledge and skills required to enable positive judicial outcomes for CSEA victims;

- The needs of the victim are paramount during the judicial process and appropriate support is provided throughout;

- Judiciary and prosecutors dealing with CSEA cases have a clear awareness and understanding of the context and circumstances in which CSEA cases can take place, the potential vulnerability of victims/witnesses, and the methodologies and profiles of offenders;

- Victims and witnesses are given access to emotional and psychological support;

- Judiciary understand the risk posed by child sexual offenders and the gravity of the crime and sentence accordingly within the parameters established by relevant national legislation.

A number of Council of Europe member states report that they are working to improve children's access to justice, and to make judicial proceedings more child friendly. Promising practices include:

- provision of non-threatening interview spaces, often known as 'blue rooms' or 'green rooms';

- minimising contact between victims and offenders throughout the process, facilitated by the giving of children's evidence by video link or recording;

- the mandatory presence of parents, caregivers, teachers or psychologists throughout the interview process;

- provision of psychosocial and legal support throughout criminal proceedings;

- closed room hearings from which the media and general public are excluded, and the provision of anonymity to child victims and witnesses;

- prohibiting the wearing of uniforms by law enforcement and wigs and gowns by judges and prosecutors when questioning children;

- the bestowal of special information rights to child victims[82].

The Portuguese Association for Victim Support is a private charitable organisation, recognised by law with a statutory objective to inform, protect and support citizens who have been victims of crime. It has launched a website in Portuguese and English, "ABC Justice",[83] which aims to inform children and young people of their rights as victims of crime and what to expect from the criminal justice process. The site explains the different roles of criminal justice professionals in an accessible and youth friendly format. It provides useful links to support services, a glossary of terminology, and an interactive quiz for young people to test their knowledge. The Estonian Ministry of Justice has worked with partners to build a similar site, with dedicated resources for children, their parents and guardians, and online training modules for practitioners.[84]

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[82] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, responses from Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, United Kingdom
[83] http://www.abcjustica.pt/

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In the framework of the European Commission funded project "Fundamental rights of the child in practice: furthering child-friendly justice within the EU legal framework", authorities in Croatia, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain have partnered with the European Law Academy (ERA), the Council of Europe, CRIN and other organisations to develop training for delivery to judges at national level. Online resources include a library of relevant legal instruments, EU and Council of Europe documentation, and jurisprudence; also training materials and audio and video clips in the relevant languages. In 2015 and 2016 seminars in participating states reached nearly 300 judges and other legal professionals.[85]

Responding to self-generation by children of sexually suggestive or explicit images and videos

Criminalisation in national and international legal instruments of sexually suggestive or explicit images and videos of children and young people as "child pornography" or "child sexual abuse material" regardless of the context of their production and distribution has presented challenges concerning the appropriate response to children and young people who have been coerced or solicited into producing such content, or who have engaged in production of images and videos for private use (often popularly referred to as "sexting"). At worst, lack of nuance or focus on the best interests of the child can result in the inappropriate criminalisation of children and young people engaged in exploration of their sexuality with peers, and even of children who have been sexually exploited.

A country's age of criminal responsibility is just one limiter of prosecutions of children for CSAM offences. Some member states report that the age of consent to sexual activity is also relevant to young people's exemption from liability for CSAM offences. In Austria, for example, a person is not liable or punishable for CSAM production or possession if the image is of a young person aged 14 or over, and it has been produced or shared with their consent.[86]

In other member states including Cyprus and Slovenia, a proximity in age exemption for young people engaged in consensual sexual activity applies to online as well as offline behaviour.[87]

At the same time, it is important to retain the capacity to investigate and address activities by children and young people that may be identified as exploitative, predatory, or otherwise problematic in relation to other children. While the discretionary approach to self-generated sexual images and videos of children and young people reported by a number of states allows for further investigation to identify more problematic patterns of behaviour, an absence of specific safeguards for children and young people who may be victims of exploitation, or who may be engaged in consensual activity with peers, in turn increases the importance of up to date information for law enforcement and the judiciary on trends in young people's behaviour online.

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[84] https://lapsesobralikmenetlus.just.ee

[85] http://www.era-comm.eu/child_friendly_justice/

[86] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, response from Austria

[87] Council of Europe, In-country questionnaires to improve a pilot training module on End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe with national good practices, responses from Cyprus and Slovenia

Accordingly, in 2019 the Lanzarote Committee published its Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children.[88] In addition to stating the Committee's determination "to ensure that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration in all decisions concerning child self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos", the objective of the Opinion is "to guide Parties in the implementation of Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention with respect to child self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos by identifying situations which do not constitute criminal offences and those which call for criminal prosecution as a last resort." Of particular note, it is the opinion of the Lanzarote Committee that "children whose self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos are exploited (offered or made available, distributed or transmitted to others) should be addressed to victim support and not subject to criminal prosecution"; also, that "the self-generation of sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos by children does not amount to "the production of child pornography" when it is intended solely for their own private use."

Case Study – HELP Training for Criminal Justice Professionals

The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) is a network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It provides an e-learning platform with free on-line courses on human rights, and a human rights training methodology for legal professionals. The aim of the free online course on child-friendly justice is to strengthen and harmonise knowledge of the relevant ECHR and other international standards for the target group of legal and other professionals working with children. Albania, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine have all participated.

The course was launched in Republic of Moldova in April 2019, in co-operation with the National Institute of Justice, the State University of Moldova and the National Institute of Magistracy of Romania.[89] It is now being piloted with a group of 30 judges and prosecutors, 4 representatives of the People's Advocate Office of the Republic of Moldova, 2 representatives of the Governmental Agent of the Republic of Moldova and 15 students of the Faculty of Law of the State University. Collaboration with the Romanian Institute of Magistrates is ensured in order to encourage cross-border co-operation between the national training institutions and legal professionals in the two countries.

In Ukraine, the HELP course has been included in the official training curriculum for judges and prosecutors as set in the Human Rights Action Plan. Following training of trainers in September 2017, the course on child-friendly justice was launched in January 2018. The pool of master trainers includes experts representing the Office of the Human Rights Commission for the President of Ukraine, lawyers and academia, with a view to ensuring a wider application of the course in future.[90] In March 2019, the first cohort of legal professionals in Georgia completed the HELP course on child-friendly justice. A pool of 20 prosecutors and 17 lawyers were awarded certificates by the Council of Europe, the General Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and the Georgian Bar Association in an official ceremony.[91]

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[88] https://rm.coe.int/opinion-of-the-lanzarote-committee-on-child-sexually-suggestive-or-exp/168094e72c
[89] https://www.coe.int/en/web/chisinau/-/help-course-on-child-friendly-justice-launched-in-the-republic-of-moldova
[90] https://www.coe.int/en/web/chisinau/-/help-course-on-child-friendly-justice-launched-in-the-republic-of-moldova
PMM ID 1328 final report
[91] https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/-/georgia-launches-the-council-of-europe-help-course-on-child-friendly-justice

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Case Study - Child Rights in Investigation and Prosecution

In Turkey, pre-service training courses for judges and prosecutors include an eight-hour session on child protection law and its implementation, and a visit to a monitoring centre for child victims of violence. The session covers topics such as offences committed through the Internet and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). In-service training courses include a specialist module on OCSEA for prosecutors and judges[92]. As of April 2017, Turkey also has 30 forensic interview rooms across the country which provide services to ensure that courthouses implement child-friendly criminal proceedings in line with the best interests of the child. Victims, witnesses and children are interviewed in an appropriate environment. Secondary victimisation is reduced, protection needs identified and referrals made to the required services. Efforts are underway to expand this approach and deliver more interview rooms in other provinces and courthouses[93].

As will be evident from the examples above, criminal justice and victim support are closely related throughout the disclosure, investigative and judicial processes.

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[92] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2018b) 12
[93] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2018b) 13

6. Mechanisms to provide end-to-end support to child-victims of OCSEA

Articles 11 to 14 of the Lanzarote Convention set out the required support mechanisms for victims of CSEA. Articles 11 to 13 detail the necessary arrangements for first response, including the provision of hotlines for reporting illegal material (12), and helplines for children and their parents or carers (13). The table below shows the current provision of hotlines and helplines in Council of Europe member states:

Country	INHOPE Member Hotline [94]	Other Hotline	Child Helpline International (CHI) Member Helpline [95]
ALBANIA		✔ [96]	✔
ANDORRA			
ARMENIA		✔ [97]	✔
AUSTRIA	✔		✔
AZERBAIJAN	✔		✔
BELGIUM	✔		✔
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	✔		
BULGARIA	✔		✔
CROATIA	✔		✔
CYPRUS	✔		✔
CZECH REPUBLIC	✔		✔
DENMARK	✔		✔
ESTONIA	✔		✔
FINLAND	✔		✔
FRANCE	✔		✔
GEORGIA			✔
GERMANY	✔		✔
GREECE	✔		✔
HUNGARY	✔		✔
ICELAND	✔		✔

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[94] https://www.inhope.org
[95] https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/child-helpline-network/
[96] Global Alliance 2014 progress report from Albania
[97] Global Alliance 2014 progress report from Armenia

Country			
IRELAND	✓		✓
ITALY	✓		✓
LATVIA	✓		✓
LIECHTENSTEIN			✓
LITHUANIA	✓		✓
LUXEMBOURG	✓		✓
MALTA	✓		✓
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA			✓
MONACO			
MONTENEGRO			✓
NETHERLANDS	✓		✓
NORTH MACEDONIA			✓
NORWAY			✓
POLAND	✓		✓
PORTUGAL	✓		✓
ROMANIA	✓		✓
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	✓		
SAN MARINO			
SERBIA		✓ [98]	✓
SLOVAK REPUBLIC			✓
SLOVENIA	✓		✓
SPAIN	✓		✓
SWEDEN	✓		✓
SWITZERLAND			✓
TURKEY	✓		✓
UKRAINE	(REPORTING PORTAL)	✓ [99]	✓
UNITED KINGDOM	✓		✓

Fig.6 Hotlines and helplines by Council of Europe member state

The vast majority of member states have some form of CSAM reporting hotline, and a helpline for supporting children, young people and their families. Together hotlines, helplines and awareness centres perform the function of Safer Internet Centres throughout the European Union and beyond.[100]

[98] http://www.pametnoibezbedno.gov.rs; contribution to EndOCSEA regional meeting, 16-17 May 2019
[99] Lanzarote Committee 2nd monitoring round report from Ukraine
[100] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/safer-internet-centres

Case Study – Supporting Victims through Hotlines and Helplines

National hotlines for reporting and removing CSAM not only minimise access to illegal material and its distribution. They also uphold young victims' rights by reducing the recirculation of material depicting their sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition to all EU member states, the majority of focus countries report that they have a hotline for matters related to OCSEA. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey are members of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE) – indeed, Bosnia and Herzegovina chaired the association in recent years. INHOPE membership enables hotlines to benefit from training on issues such as trends in OCSEA offending and victimisation, wellbeing and resilience, and use of the ICCAM platform, which enables hotlines to share CSAM reports securely with each other and with INTERPOL.[101] Full membership also assures policy makers that the hotline adheres to certain standards as set out in INHOPE's Code of Practice.[102] As of December 2020, INHOPE has 47 members in 43 countries.

The UK's Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) also operates a number of international reporting portals for countries that do not have a national hotline.[103] These portals enable reports from benefiting countries to be routed to IWF analysts for assessment and removal.

While there are certain international standards, there is no single "right" way to establish and manage a hotline. Some hotlines are government sponsored and run. Others are operated by industry such as national ISPs. Yet others are NGOs that are sponsored by industry. Some hotlines are run by the same organisation as that which operates the national helpline for children and young people. Of note, all but one of the focus countries have helplines that are members of Child Helpline International (CHI). CHI provides tools and training to helplines on the issue of child online protection.[104]

In Albania, the National Child Helpline (ALO 116) is an integral part of the reporting system for protecting children from online exploitation. Staff are specifically trained to meet necessary reporting and follow-up requirements. This has been achieved through four training sessions and a needs assessment conducted by INHOPE, in collaboration with the Bulgarian Safer Internet Centre, as well as one training session on child-friendly communication and how to address the cases of violence in line with the new child protection legislation in place. During the October 2017 – May 2018 period, 38 online violence survivors (100 per cent of the reported cases that required psycho-social counselling) received psycho-social counselling by ALO 116. In addition, 807 children were provided with information and guidance on specific topics such as cyber bulling, online trolling, messages and offending posts, and child sexual abuse material.[105]

Assistance to victims

Article 14 of the Lanzarote Convention focuses on support for the recovery of victims of CSEA. Under the terms of the Convention, states parties are required to provide measures to assist in victims' physical and psycho-social recovery in the short and long term, cooperating with civil society in their delivery and taking steps to remove the victim from ongoing harm, where necessary.

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[101] For more on the ICCAM system, see https://www.inhope.org/EN/articles/iccam-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-important
[102] https://inhope.org/media/pages/our-story/governance/8f553caf80-1605692304/inhope_codeofpractice.pdf
[103] https://www.iwf.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-assess-and-remove-content/our-international-reporting-portals
[104] https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/child-helplines/tools/
[105] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2018b) 13

Some Council of Europe member states have established a legal duty to provide support to victims of CSEA. In the Czech Republic, Act no. 45/2013 Coll. on Victims of Crime stipulates that children must be provided on request with psychological assistance, social assistance, legal information, restorative programs or legal aid. Such assistance is to be provided before, during and after criminal proceedings. The Danish Act on Social Services obliges municipalities in Denmark to offer support, assistance and psychological help to victims of CSEA free of charge. In Latvia, the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance and the Law on the Protection of the Children's Rights require that children who are victims of violence are provided with social rehabilitation. Recognising that long term recovery from sexual abuse can be resource intensive and costly, some states report that they provide financial compensation to victims of CSEA.[106]

Multidisciplinary and Interagency (MDIA) services for child victims

As highlighted in Article 11.1 of the Lanzarote Convention, structures for responding to child victimisation need to be multidisciplinary in order to be truly effective. Capability 8 of the WePROTECT Model National Response elaborates on this:

> *"Close collaboration between law enforcement and those statutory agencies or NGOs whose primary remit is the care and welfare of children is fundamental to ensuring a comprehensive response for victims that is respectful of the full range of children's rights. This collaboration will assist with information-sharing, as well as access to specialist alternative care and the development of an end-to-end support plan. The type of specialist support services required could include medical support, emergency accommodation, financial assistance, education, therapeutic care and potentially longer-term assistance in moving to a different location. A support plan should consider and research the availability of these services from the outset."*

Physically co-locating these services in a single response centre is one way to ensure that different services co-operate effectively. The Barnahus ("Children's House") model for multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) services has at its core the assumption that "the child's disclosure is key both to identify and investigate child abuse for criminal and for protective and therapeutic purposes". [107] As research for the PROMISE project identifies, Barnahus style arrangements perform both functions of providing child-friendly justice, and multi-agency support to victims of CSEA.[108]

The Barnahus concept[109] was developed in Iceland in the 1990s, and has assumed a key role in the criminal justice and child protection systems of Nordic countries. By 2015, Iceland's Government Agency for Child Protection estimated that there were 50 such houses in Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe-islands, employing hundreds of professionals full time and part time, and providing multiple

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[106] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia.

[107] https://www.barnahus.eu/en/the-barnahus-quality-standards/

[108] https://www.barnahus.eu/en/publication/enabling-child-sensitive-justice-the-success-story-of-barnahus-in-europe-2017/

[109] The Lanzarote Committee considers this concept as a promising practice in Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust, adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 4 December 2015 and available at: https://rm.coe.int/1st-implementation-report-protection-of-children-against-sexual-abuse-/16808ae53f

services for tens of thousands of children suspected of being subjected to maltreatment and abuse.[110] In Iceland, all child victims of CSEA, including OCSEA, have the right to therapy provided by the Barnahus free of charge.[111]

Although there is currently no comprehensive data on MDIA responses in Council of Europe member states, it has been possible to identify that the majority of countries have implemented or are developing some form of Barnahus-style MDIA service. A number of these are building their capacity in partnership or consultation with the PROMISE Barnahus Network.[113] While countries may operationalise the MDIA response in different ways according to their national legal frameworks and political, legal, judicial, socio-economic and cultural contexts, the European Barnahus Quality Standards are helpful in ensuring that children everywhere can benefit from the same level of support should they become victims of CSEA.[114]

Case Study – Parent and Child Centres

In Azerbaijan, dedicated Parent and Child Centres bring together social workers, psychologists and educators, with a mandate to protect children and women victims of violence. There are 11 regional centres, one in each administrative region. Children and families are referred to the centres by school or police authorities, and the centres can also do 'on the spot visits' to families upon receiving information of concern. The centres implement multi-disciplinary case management and risk assessments. Regular monitoring group meetings enable staff from the centre to exchange information with representatives of central authorities, including education, civil status, youth workers, local police child protection officers, and health care providers. The legal department of the central State Committee provides support and advice to these regional centres. Centres are also equipped with bedrooms to provide crisis shelter on a short term basis until accommodation can be provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

As both the Lanzarote Convention at Article 14.1 and the WePROTECT MNR emphasise, victims of CSEA may require long term assistance: "Longer-term support is essential as mental health issues can often follow, with the effects of abuse remaining with victims for many years beyond offending". [115] While this can be resource intensive, it can be essential to victims' successful and sustained recovery. Specialist therapeutic workforces are therefore required to provide this continued support to victims of CSEA, potentially throughout their lives.

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[110] Barnaverndarstofa, "Barnahus as implemented in Iceland", presentation to the Council of the Baltic Sea States and Council of Europe conference, Tallinn 19.-20. February 2015 - https://rm.coe.int/1680700233
[111] Lanzarote Committee, 2nd monitoring round report from Iceland
[112] The following countries have either reported having some form of provision, or are identified as participants in the PROMISE project in some way (including as consultation countries): Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.
[113] https://www.barnahus.eu
[114] https://www.barnahus.eu/en/the-barnahus-quality-standards/
[115] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2015) 16

Case Study – Capacity Building for Long-Term Support of Child Victims

The Marie Collins Foundation (MCF)[116] is a UK-based NGO that provides specialist training for professionals working with victims of CSEA where abuse has involved online activity. Starting from its findings that recovery starts at the point of discovery, and that the impacts on victims and families are different where CSEA has an online element, MCF has developed the Click: Path to Protection model of how to carry out interventions in a way that is supportive of the needs of the children and their families. The stated vision of the model is that all children who suffer sexual abuse via the internet and mobile technologies are enabled to recover and live safe and fulfilling lives, and its aim is to ensure that the response is based on sound, evidence based practice. An important feature of the model is the identification of future support needs including reparation, compensation, therapy, reconciliation and future harm reduction.

The Click: Path to Protection programme is open to professionals from any country.[117] On successful completion of training and online evaluation, professionals have access to an online forum for continuing development, and downloadable materials. Assisted by a grant from the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, MCF has rolled out the Global Protection Online Network (GPN).[118] This is a ground-breaking network dedicated to building the capacity of all professionals across the globe to better respond when working with children who have been sexually abused or exploited online.

[115] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2015) 16
[116] https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/
[117] https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/cpp
[118] https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/gpn

7. Education and awareness raising initiatives to prevent OCSEA in member states

Articles 6 to 8 of the Lanzarote Convention set out the requirements for education and awareness raising to prevent OCSEA. States parties should ensure children in primary and secondary education receive information on the risk of CSEA, and on the means to protect themselves, especially when using online communication technologies (Article 6). States parties should also provide access to intervention and prevention programmes for persons who fear they may be at risk of committing CSEA (Article 7), and should also work to improve awareness of the phenomenon among the general public (Article 8).

In line with the public health approach to combatting OCSEA,[119] education and awareness has several targets. Capability 13 of the WePROTECT MNR recommends

> *A national education programme to raise awareness of CSEA (both offline and online) empowering children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers and practitioners with information about CSEA; their rights to protection; where to find help and support, and report sexual exploitation and abuse.*

Good practice cited includes the use of media opportunities such as Safer Internet Day (SID), and the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, celebrated on 18th November each year.[120] According to information at www.betterinternetforkids.eu, SID was celebrated as follows in Council of Europe member states in 2020 and 2021:

Country	Safer Internet Centre[121]	Safer Internet Day 2020[122]	Safer Internet Day 2021 (planned)[123]
ALBANIA	✔ [124]	✔	✔
ANDORRA			
ARMENIA	✔ [125]	✔	✔
AUSTRIA	✔	✔	✔
AZERBAIJAN		✔	✔
BELGIUM	✔	✔	✔
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	✔	✔	✔
BULGARIA	✔	✔	✔

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[119] For more on this, see Baines (2018).
[120] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2015) 24; for more information on the European Day, see and https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/2020-edition
[121] https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/portal/saferinternet4eu/sics
[122] https://www.saferinternetday.org/in-your-country, accessed 16/11/2020
[123] https://www.saferinternetday.org/in-your-country, accessed 22/02/2021, confirmed 20/04/2021
[124] https://www.crca.al/en/vepro-per-femijet-news-press-release-child-protection-violence/national-safe-internet-centre-opened
[125] Global Alliance 2014 Report from Armenia; http://safe.am/indexeng.html

CROATIA	✔	✔	✔
CYPRUS	✔	✔	✔
CZECH REPUBLIC	✔	✔	✔
DENMARK	✔	✔	✔
ESTONIA	✔	✔	✔
FINLAND	✔	✔	✔
FRANCE	✔	✔	✔
GEORGIA		✔	✔
GERMANY	✔	✔	✔
GREECE	✔	✔	✔
HUNGARY	✔	No report at www.saferinternetday.org	✔
ICELAND	✔	✔	✔
IRELAND	✔	✔	✔
ITALY	✔	✔	✔
LATVIA	✔	✔	✔
LIECHTENSTEIN		No report at www.saferinternetday.org	✔
LITHUANIA	✔	✔	✔
LUXEMBOURG	✔	✔	✔
MALTA	✔	✔	✔
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	✔	✔	✔
MONACO			
MONTENEGRO		✔	Awaiting update (at 20/04/2021)
NETHERLANDS	✔	✔	✔
NORTH MACEDONIA		✔	Awaiting update (at 20/04/2021)
NORWAY	✔	✔	✔
POLAND	✔	No report at www.saferinternetday.org	✔
PORTUGAL	✔	✔	✔
ROMANIA	✔	✔	✔
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	✔	✔	✔
SAN MARINO			
SERBIA	✔	✔	Awaiting update (at 20/04/2021)
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	✔	✔	✔
SLOVENIA	✔	✔	✔
SPAIN	✔	✔	Awaiting update (at 20/04/2021)

SWEDEN	✔	✔	✔
SWITZERLAND		✔	✔
TURKEY	✔	✔	✔
UKRAINE		✔	✔
UNITED KINGDOM	✔	✔	✔

Fig.7 Safer Internet Centres and Safer Internet Day 2020 & 2021 celebrations by Council of Europe member state

The WePROTECT MNR also cites the Insafe network of Safer Internet Centres as good practice in promoting safer internet use.[126] The chart above therefore also lists the centres in Council of Europe member states.

Case study – using technology to reach children and families

A number of Council of Europe member states are using popular technologies to engage with children and young people. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Families and Youth has complemented its workshops for young adults on sexuality and digital media (www.sextalks.at) with broadcasts on WhatsApp, and a chat tool with weekly advice from its experts. In Spain, since October 2015 a special WhatsApp channel, "Canal Joven" provides information and guidance on issues relating to the privacy of minors in response to questions raised by children and their parents, guardians, teachers and schools. In Denmark, the Ministry of Education launched a youth-to-youth campaign on YouTube in November 2016. In ten videos, well-known YouTubers addressed the problems associated with sharing images and online communication. The campaign was developed in co-operation with Save the Children Denmark, the Danish Family Planning Association and Children's Welfare in Denmark.[127]

Some countries report that they have developed apps to help children and families use the internet safely in real time. In Azerbaijan, the Kidsafe app enables families to apply parental controls to children's online activities. In Montenegro, UNICEF has launched NET Prijatelji (NET Friends).[128] This is a game based app, aimed at preventing online violence against children and cyberbullying. Intended for children aged 9 to 11, it is formatted as a quiz with multiple choice answers. Through ten scenarios, it introduces a variety of potential situations showing children using the Internet on a daily basis. Virtual characters are the heroes of each story, as they deal with everyday situations. In Serbia, the Safer Internet Centre's Net Patrola app enables members of the public to report suspected CSAM to the national hotline.

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[126] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2015) 25
[127] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Austria, Denmark and Spain
[128] https://www.fleka.me/en/portfolio/net-friends

Case Study – A single national centre for CSAM reporting, a child helpline and awareness

Since its launch by 11 European countries in 2004, the Insafe network has grown to encompass national awareness centres, helplines and youth panels in 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United Kingdom.[129] Under the framework of the European Commission's Safer Internet Programme, INHOPE and Insafe have worked together for the last fifteen years to ensure a better and safer internet for young people. These combined strands are commonly referred to as Safer Internet Centres (SICs), operating in 31 European countries.[130]

Bosnia and Herzegovina's IFS-Emmaus established a national CSAM hotline in 2010 with support from Save the Children and the Oak Foundation. In 2012, the hotline became a permanent member of the INHOPE network. By 2013, the hotline manager had become an INHOPE Board Member, serving as President of the association from 2014 to 2016. From the outset, the hotline was also involved in delivering education workshops to children, parents, and teachers. Incorporating the hotline, helpline and Safer Internet Centre into a single organisation brings a number of benefits. Costs are reduced, since the three functions can rely on the same infrastructure. Information can be shared easily between functions. For example, a call from a child or family to the helpline can result in the hotline acting to review and remove CSAM. Trends identified in reports to the hotline and calls to the helpline can be fed into educational materials and events, while information gained in the course of awareness raising can improve the knowledge and operating procedures of the hotline and helpline. The Safer Internet Centre provides a dedicated platform with vetted access for teachers and educators, from where they can download resources and materials.

Case Study – National And International Awareness and Education Campaigns

Both Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova have used existing video materials from EUROPOL's "Say No" sexual extortion prevention campaign, translating the content into their respective languages.[131] Both countries also made use of mainstream media, Ukraine working with morning TV shows and ensuring video material was broadcast during prime time, the Republic of Moldova securing both TV and cinema broadcasts, and display of awareness material on public transport. In this way, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine sensitised the general public, as well as engaging in prevention activities with the target group of children and young people.

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[129] https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/documents/167024/184597/Joint+Insafe-INHOPE+Annual+Report+2014/c8be5b66-fedb-46e4-8b39-a0cadf401089; https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/documents/167024/184597/Better+Internet+for+Kids+%28BIK%29%20project+-+2015-16+in+review/8d07bb3f-ad62-4c3f-b68c-3c75264e2cdb;

[130] https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/portal/policy/insafe-inhope

[131] The materials are also available in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, and Spanish - https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/online-sexual-coercion-and-extortion-crime

In the Republic of Moldova, internet safety is a mandatory part of the national school curriculum, with dedicated classes on protection of personal data and personal security. In Ukraine, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights for the President of Ukraine has launched the #stop_sexting information campaign. This campaign includes a step by step lesson and discussion plan for teachers of young people aged 13 to 18. Internet service providers and mobile operators Kyivstar, Vodafone and Datagroup.

Securing community engagement in awareness raising can be challenging. For the #stop_sexting campaign, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights for the President of Ukraine worked with the Ministry of Education to involve teachers throughout the country. The Ministry of Education in turn sent letters to the regional Departments of Education, urging them to use the materials developed in lessons. The Commissioner's Office also sent letters to the heads of regions, stressing the campaign's importance. Schools were incentivised to submit feedback on the programme: among the 700 items received were requests to develop materials for smaller children, children with disabilities, and parents. Some teachers reported that the programme had increased the level of trust between them and their students.

21,000 children were reached in the first round of training, and there were 300,000 views of the "Say No" video. A second set of materials includes a multi-media quest on grooming, sexting and sexual extortion for young people aged 13-14 and 15-18. An English version has been produced for volunteers who teach English in schools, and there are plans to share the materials in all summer camps in Ukraine.

A number of Council of Europe member states have delivered education programmes that specifically target young people's sharing of images produced by others. In 2017, the Danish Family Planning Association launched a campaign targeting schools with the theme "Rights offline-online", raising awareness about the issues raised by self-generated sexually explicit images and promoting the message "Ask before you share". In Latvia, The State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights created a video campaign, "It's not funny if it hurts another",[132] while the NGO Centrs Dardedze organised a campaign named "I only forwarded it", to raise awareness among young people about the impact of sharing nude pictures of others on their mobile devices. In Norway, the Police's education programme for 13 to 16 year olds is called "Delbart?" ("Shareable?"). Its goal is to provide youth with knowledge about both the legal aspects and the personal consequences of sharing sexually explicit images, videos or content, and to improve their ability to make informed choices for themselves and others. Delbart also aims to teach youth how to help a friend by giving good advice concerning what to do in scenarios involving the sharing of sexually explicit images, videos or content.[133]

Based on information supplied in response to the second monitoring round of the Lanzarote Committee, it would appear that the majority of states parties have education and awareness raising campaigns aimed at parents and carers. Of note, programmes in Latvia and Norway seek to help parents explore internet safety with their children. The State Police in Latvia have issued an interactive workbook for parents that contains tips for explaining safety issues, and probing questions they can ask when talking to their children.[134] As part of its Delbart initiative, the Norwegian Police has produced an interactive game – "Snakke", meaning "Talk" – in which parents can practice talking about sensitive issues with children.[135]

In 2017, to celebrate the annual European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Council of Europe published a series of video tutorials for parents on subjects such as the online protection of children, sexual extortion, self-generated sexually explicit images, grooming, and sexualised images used in revenge; a brochure on parenting in the digital age was also published.[136]

132 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-WedRyhcEw
133 Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Denmark, Latvia, Norway
134 https://www.vp.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/sacies-ilgi-gaiditais-vasaras-brivlaiks-valsts-policija-aicina-vecakus-atgadinat-berniem-par-drosibu
135 Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round reports from Latvia and Norway
136 https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/2017-edition

Prevention for Offenders and Potential Offenders

Although specified in Article 7 of the Lanzarote Convention, and reinforced in the WePROTECT MNR as Capability 15 (Offender Support Systems), there are few preventative intervention programmes for people with a sexual interest in children. In response to the Lanzarote Committee's first monitoring round, Austria reported that its Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth provides funding for "Men counselling centres", offering advice and therapy to any man who fears that he might commit one of the offences mentioned in the Convention. In Finland, Save the Children has partnered with the Criminal Sanctions Agency and the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS) to create the otanvastuun.fi ("I take responsibility") self-help programme for adolescents and adults who are concerned about their sexual interest in children.[138]

In Germany, Jugendschutz.net and Google have worked together to deliver a preventative response to web searches that indicate an affinity for CSEA. These trigger a notice to the user of the possibility of offences being reported to the authorities, while also signposting the therapeutic offer available from the prevention network "Kein Täter werden" ("Don't become a perpetrator").[139] Also in Germany, Project Dunkelfeld provides free and confidential outpatient preventative therapy to self-presenting paedophiles and hebephiles in twelve locations, as well as an online programme of self-management sessions in a number of member state languages.[140] In The Netherlands, forensic psychiatry centre De Waag provides a similar service.[141]

In the UK, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation provides this type of programme, and also operates the StopItNow! helpline for adult abusers and those at risk of abusing;[142] family and friends concerned about an adult displaying worrying sexual thoughts or behaviour towards a child; and parents and carers concerned about a child or young person with worrying sexual behaviour. The aims of the service are to:

- Assist callers to identify the nature and seriousness of their concerns;
- Provide information and support to callers to help them clarify their thinking;
- Explore options available, including referral to the Foundation's follow-up service or to another agency;
- Advise callers about further actions to consider;
- Agree one or more protective actions the caller will take.[143]

Research evaluations have demonstrated both the value of and demand for these resources.[144] Furthermore, economic analysis has estimated that the UK helpline generates benefits in savings to the taxpayer of at least £425k per annum in terms of CSEA offences prevented.[145] The Lucy Faithfull Foundation can provide advice and assistance to countries looking to establish this capability. StopItNow! helplines and online resources have been established also in Belgium (Flemish community) and The Netherlands.[146]

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[138] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round report from Finland; https://www.pelastakaalapset.fi/en/our-work-in-finland/child-protection-and-finnish-hotline/otanvastuun/
[139] Lanzarote Committee: 2nd monitoring round report from Germany
[140] https://troubled-desire.com, available in English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Czech, Italian, Russian, Turkish, Hindi and Marathi at the time of writing (April 2021).
[141] https://dewaagnederland.nl/nieuws/de-waag/stop-it-now-evaluatie/
[142] https://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/
[143] https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/how-the-helpline-works.htm
[144] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269185136_The_German_Dunkelfeld_Project_A_Pilot_Study_to_Prevent_Child_Sexual_Abuse_and_the_Use_of_Child_Abusive_Images; https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/our-impact/helpline-evaluation/
[145] http://natcen.ac.uk/media/338803/stop-it-now-economic-analysis.pdf
[146] https://stopitnow.be/; https://downloaders.stopitnow.nl/

8. Child participation in the development of policies and practices to prevent and combat OCSEA

Article 9.1 of the Lanzarote Convention states that

> *Each Party shall encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and the implementation of state policies, programmes or others initiatives concerning the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.*

This requirement aligns with Capability 14 of the WePROTECT Model National Response (MNR). As the MNR's explanatory guide notes,

> *The requirement to ensure the ethical and effective involvement of young people flows from a country's international legal obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). All states parties to the Convention have committed to ensuring that children's views will be sought and given due consideration in all matters affecting them, in accordance with the children's age and maturity (see Article 12 of the UNCRC). This acknowledges and respects children's dignity and agency.*

The Council of Europe's Child Participation Assessment Tool provides indicators for measuring progress in promoting the right of children and young people to participate in matters of concern to them.[147]

The Council of Europe Recommendation on participation of children and young people under the age of 18 (CM/Rec (2012)2) recognises respect for the views of the child (Article 12) both as a fundamental right and as a general principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.[148] The recommendation covers the rights of children and young people to be heard in all settings, including in schools, in communities and in the family as well as at the national and European level. It also contains guidelines for member states to follow in implementing the Recommendation such as protecting children and young people's right to participate, promoting and informing children and young people about participation, and creating spaces for participation. The Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool provides specific and measurable indicators to measure progress in implementing the Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18.

Children participated in the drafting process of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment (CM/Rec(2018)7). The findings and opinions of the children were taken into consideration by the expert drafting group, and in some instances resulted in the wording of the recommendation being strengthened to better protect and uphold the rights of the child in the digital environment in line with the opinions and needs of the children who had participated in consultations.[149]

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[147] https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806482d9
[148] https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805cb0ca

The right to be heard drives child participation in some research on OCSEA, most notably the Global Kids Online initiative. Originating at the London School of Economics (LSE) as EU Kids Online, the research "gathers global evidence on children's online rights, opportunities and risks". Global Kids Online (GKO) is now led jointly by LSE and UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Specifically, seeks to answer the following questions:

- When and how is internet and mobile use problematic in children's lives – amplifying a range of risks of harm that undermine their well-being and infringe their rights if they are not protected?

- When and how does internet and mobile use benefit children's lives – providing opportunities to learn, communicate and participate in ways that enhance their well-being and rights?[150]

It does so by asking children themselves about their online experiences, as well as parents and educators. Albania, Montenegro and Serbia participate. Research findings from the project help us understand that, for instance, in 2016 7% of Montenegrin children surveyed had received sexual messages online in the last twelve months,[151] and that girls in Serbia reported being more upset than boys by sexual content.[152]

In the context of the Lanzarote Committee's second thematic monitoring round on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies, guidelines for the implementation of child participation workshops were developed to encourage child and youth participation in the responses from Council of Europe member states.[153] Organisations from ten states parties contributed child participation reports to be taken into consideration during the second monitoring round. The 2019 edition of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse was dedicated to child participation.[154]

Child and youth participation can therefore lead to more effective responses to OCSEA. As reported by the WePROTECT Global Alliance:

> *In Albania, findings of a national research study on children's online experiences have reaffirmed that children tend to rely on the views, counsel and advice of their peers over other influencers when it comes to their online experiences. A manual for peer educators is being prepared in collaboration with National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (AKCESK). Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and UNICEF, and about 200 peer educators will be trained to educate over 10,000 children through information sessions across seven regions in Albania on online threats and on how to identify and prevent online violence. Moreover, the findings of the National Survey on Children's Experiences Online will inform the scope, key knowledge gaps, attitudes and practices that will be addressed through education and awareness-raising activities for children including through peer educators. [155]*

[149] https://rm.coe.int/it-s-our-world-children-s-views-on-how-to-protect-their-rights-in-the-/1680765dff
[150] http://globalkidsonline.net/about/why-global-kids-online/
[151] globalkidsonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ida-presentation-for-website-final.pptx
[152] http://globalkidsonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Country-report_Serbia-final-26-Oct-2016.pdf
[153] https://rm.coe.int/guidelines-for-implementation-of-child-participation-in-the-2nd-monito/16808a3956
[154] https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/2019-edition
[155] WePROTECT Global Alliance (2018b) p.14

Case Study: Youth Councils

A number of focus countries have established youth councils or advisory panels, to ensure that children's views inform policy making and response delivery. The National Council of Children and Youth of Ukraine (NCCY) is a non-governmental organisation, founded with the support of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights for the President of Ukraine on the vision that children and youth are agents of change who participate on an equal basis with adults. It aims to help children and young people realise the right to participate, and creates a platform for them to develop the necessary competencies and gain practical experience. There are currently 60 members, including leaders of school councils and young people who have been through the institutional care system from all 25 regions. In December 2018, the council held its first national forum to create its strategic plan. The four strategic areas of activity are bullying and violence prevention, volunteering, reform of institutions for children and inclusion. The council is actively supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Science.

In Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Safer Internet Centre's Youth Panel participate in developing the awareness materials produced by the centre, and take part in public events to promote child online safety. In June 2019, Youth Panel members developed and led a workshop during a press conference to promote the activities of the Safer Internet Centre.[156] The centre has drafted terms of reference for children and teachers, so that everyone involved knows what is expected of them, and what they can expect.

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[156] https://www.facebook.com/sigurnodijete/videos/1060039874384584

Epilogue: Responding to OCSEA in a Global Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world have enforced a range of measures designed to curb the spread of the virus, including school and workplace closures, travel bans, and restrictions on social contact outside the household.[157] Legitimate concerns have been raised by child protection and internet safety practitioners over the impact of these measures on the prevalence of and response to OCSEA. One indicator of prevalence, technology company reports to the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), presents a mixed picture of CSAM offending in Council of Europe member states (see Fig.4 above): while there have indeed been notable annual increases in reports of suspected offences in some countries, others have seen stable numbers or reductions. In this respect at least, it would appear that the impact of the pandemic has not been uniform across the state membership.

At the time of writing (April 2021), it is not yet possible to determine comprehensively the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the scale and nature of OCSEA in member states. Comparative analysis of partial data from a number of different stakeholders provides some insight. For example, EUROPOL reported a clear increase in NCMEC referrals to the EU 27 Member States in the first three months of the pandemic (March-May 2020) compared with the same period in 2019, following which "the situation seemed to have nearly returned to that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic".[158] A similar pattern was observed by UK hotline the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): while the number of reports received from members of the public between March 23 and July 9, 2020 represents a 51% increase on the same period in 2019, total reports for the calendar year 2020 were 15% higher than in 2019.[159]

Meanwhile, a study of contacts to Child Helpline International member helplines found that COVID-19-related contacts "drastically increased from the start of 2020 until April, and then seemed to decrease between May and June". [160] While the helpline data did not allow for analysis by month of contacts concerning violence or OCSEA specifically, the appearance of initial 'lockdown' surges and subsequent stabilisation of detection, reporting and help-seeking in data held by different stakeholders may suggest something of a trend. Data on help-seeking in relation to behaviour of concern appears to tell another story. The UK's StopItNow! helpline saw an 11% reduction in contact in the first three months of the national lockdown (March – May, 2020) compared with the previous year, with a subsequent surge in contacts (+47%) between June and August following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, and a doubling in calls from parents or carers worried about the behaviour of a child or young person.[161] This in turn suggests that other factors may contribute to reports related to CSEA beyond simple prevalence. For its part, international law enforcement has reported increased activity in CSEA related forums on the Dark Web, but no significant change in levels of CSAM distribution or behaviours related to grooming/online solicitation in these environments.[162]

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[157] The University of Oxford's Coronavirus Government Response Tracker provides a systematic mapping of national restrictions - https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/coronavirus-government-response-tracker

[158] EUROPOL (2020) p.6

[159] https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/%E2%80%98definite-jump%E2%80%99-as-hotline-sees-50-increase-public-reports-of-online-child-sexual-abuse-during; https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/%E2%80%98grave-threat%E2%80%99-children-predatory-internet-groomers-online-child-sexual-abuse-material-soars.

[160] Nicole Petrowski, Claudia Cappa, Andrea Pereira, Helen Mason, and Rocio Aznar Daban (2020) "Violence against children during COVID-19: Assessing and understanding change in use of helplines", Child Abuse & Neglect - https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/

[161] https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/home/media-centre/news/surge-in-calls-to-child-sexual-abuse-prevention-helpline-since-lockdown-first-eased/

[162] EUROPOL (2020) p.9; INTERPOL (2020a) p.10.

While the impact of pandemic restrictions on absolute numbers of OCSEA incidents remains to be seen, evident public concern around the issue highlights the need for timely monitoring and analysis of OCSEA offending and victimisation, and for the provision of consistent educational and preventative services, especially during periods assessed to pose an increased risk. The assumption that children are at greater risk the more time they spend online demands that member states provide a greater level of support to children, parents and caregivers in such conditions. Equally, an assumption that people with a sexual interest in children have greater potential to commit OCSEA offences the more time they spend online requires renewed and consistent prioritisation of services to divert them and assist them in managing their urges to offend. In this context, OCSEA response capacity becomes more, not less, important. As emphasised in a 2020 Statement by the Lanzarote Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining reporting and first response capabilities has proved even more crucial, in the face of operational constraints and identified potential for children to require additional support during periods of confinement.[163]

Stakeholders in several member states have risen to that challenge. INHOPE reports that among these, CSAM hotlines Drossinternets in Latvia and Spletno Oko in Slovenia provided tips for parents; Telefono Azzuro in Italy provided advice on recognising and dealing with fear; Red Barnet in Denmark and the UK's IWF addressed the topic of the increased risk of sexual abuse; jugendschutz.net in Germany published a directory of help and advice resources, and Ora de Net in Romania also shared additional resources online.[164] With the support of UNICEF, the government of Georgia launched the 111 hotline to respond to the immediate needs of children during the pandemic.[165] At the legislative and policy-making level, Armenia and Ireland ratified the Lanzarote Convention in 2020, a not inconsiderable achievement while in the throes of a public health emergency.

The pandemic has also demonstrated the key role of technology in maintaining response capacity. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (EVAC) developed a social media kit to assist child protection stakeholders in sharing their messaging with the public.[166] Child Helpline International (CHI) and the IWF launched new online learning modules on OCSEA for helpline staff.[167] The Council of Europe EndOCSEA@ Europe project delivered a number of training webinars to criminal justice representatives in Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey, and launched "Kiko and the Manymes", a new instalment of the Kiko guides for children, parents and caregivers, focused on digital safety.[168]

Despite these concerted efforts, a number of stakeholders report that the pandemic has impacted on their operations to combat OCSEA. A survey of UNICEF country offices found that 86% of those in Eastern Europe and Central Asia reported a disruption to services related to violence against children.[169] With regard to law enforcement capacity, INTERPOL reports that "online investigators in some countries have faced some challenges in being fully operational when working from home, especially in the early lockdown stages of COVID-19": accordingly, INTERPOL also detected a reduction in use of the ICSE database.[170] In addition, some countries reported that COVID-19 measures had resulted in court closures and delays, and reductions in law enforcement staffing that had impacted both on the effectiveness of investigations and the level of emotional and physical stress experienced by investigators.[171]

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[163] https://rm.coe.int/covid-19-lc-statement-en-final/16809e17ae

[164] INHOPE (2020) COVID-19 and INHOPE member hotlines - https://www.inhope.org/media/pages/articles/covid-19-and-inhope-member-hotlines/3063468942-1594211050/covid19-inhope-member-hotlines-article.pdf

[165] https://www.unicef.org/georgia/press-releases/special-hotline-launched-support-children-and-families-amid-covid-19-pandemic

[166] EVAC (2020) Coronavirus: COVID 19 Rolling Social Media Kit - https://www.end-violence.org/protecting-children-during-covid-19-outbreak

[167] https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/our-work/launch-new-elearning-ocsea-hotlines-and-reporting-portals-with-iwf/

[168] https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/kiko-s-exciting-adventures-continue-in-the-digital-age

[169] UNICEF (2020) Protecting Children from Violence in the Time of COVID-19: Disruptions in prevention and response services, New York - https://www.unicef.org/reports/protecting-children-from-violence-covid-19-disruptions-in-prevention-and-response-services-2020

[170] INTERPOL (2020a) p.6f. This challenge was noted also by law enforcement officers interviewed for Netclean's COVID-19 Impact 2020 report (p.41) - https://www.netclean.com/netclean-report-2020/

[171] INTERPOL (2020a) p.8f. See also NetClean (2021) p.44.

While virtualisation of services through the use of technological solutions goes some way to addressing these challenges, some activities are necessarily more difficult when conducted remotely. For example, the move of training and capacity building online raises the problem of how to measure participant engagement, attainment and retention levels at a distance. Moreover, the requirement for many stakeholders involved in countering OCSEA to access illegal material or otherwise sensitive data or interactions has created an additional obstacle to the maintenance of 'business as usual'. With human reviewers working from home, online platforms have relied more heavily on automated review of suspected CSAM, resulting in suboptimal removal rates – a fact which reportedly did not go unnoticed by offenders.[172] Workarounds have included the recognition of hotline analysts as essential workers in order for them to have permission to travel to a secure environment, staggering in-office time by means of shift patterns, and physical distancing measures for face-to-face client contact.[173]

At the same time, there has been increasing awareness of the impact on staff welfare of the 'always on' culture of remote working. In addition to concerns over increased workloads expressed by law enforcement above, some stakeholders – the Polish hotline Dyzurnet.pl among them – organised structured office duties in order to protect their staff from having to process CSAM reports at home.[174] Effective mechanisms for triaging and prioritising cases have therefore gained in importance, as has international coordination. For example, INHOPE coordinated the activities of hotlines via a real-time shared database in which all members could share updates on their operational status and see the status of other members. This enabled analysts in other countries to pick up additional workload from hotlines unable to review CSAM reports, with a view to minimising notice and takedown times.[175] INTERPOL, meanwhile, issued COVID-19 guidelines for law enforcement, that included specific recommendations on combating OCSEA during the pandemic.[176]

In light of increased demand on OCSEA first responders, reported reprioritisation including redeployment of specialist law enforcement officers to public order and public health operations, and evident budgetary impact in many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the importance of dedicated human resources and ring-fenced funding for combating OCSEA.

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[172] Facebook, Community Standards Enforcement Report, August 2020 - https://about.fb.com/news/2020/08/community-standards-enforcement-report-aug-2020/; INTERPOL (2020a) p.8: "It has been noticed that Darknet offenders have highlighted apparent decreases in platform response times on several social media platforms in removing publicly available CSEA material."

[173] INHOPE (2020); Lucy Faithfull Foundation, LFF's Response to COVID-19 - https://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/coronavirus.htm

[174] INHOPE (2020)

[175] INHOPE (2020)

[176] INTERPOL (2020b) COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidelines for Law Enforcement, Second Edition - https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/COVID-19-crime-INTERPOL-issues-new-guidelines-for-law-enforcement

Concluding Remarks

The task of this exercise has been to identify promising practices and common challenges. Across the Council of Europe member states, challenges are evident in the provision of legislation to combat online grooming that keeps pace with changing trends in OCSEA. Legislation that requires there to be an intention to meet for offline sexual activity does not provide for the increasingly common scenario in which a child is groomed entirely online to produce and send CSAM, without any offline contact.

At the same time, few States have established national research and analysis capabilities, management regimes for OCSEA offenders or support services for offenders and potential offenders that can prevent OCSEA. In a number of the ten focus countries, there appears to be an additional challenge in relation to law enforcement capacity and expertise. With the scale of OCSEA challenging even the best resourced law enforcement agencies around the world, the absence in some countries of teams dedicated full-time to OCSEA and with access to the requisite tools and information, hinders law enforcement's ability to safeguard children in a timely manner. There is therefore an opportunity for law enforcement in these countries to avail themselves of the assistance on offer from the international organisations identified.

At the same time, promising practices abound. It is clear that engagement in multi-disciplinary and interagency (MDIA) services for child victims is increasing in Council of Europe member states, as evidenced in levels of participation in the PROMISE project. In the ten focus countries, stakeholders have assumed global leadership roles in the provision of CSAM reporting and removal mechanisms, have successfully incentivised the education sector to contribute to awareness raising campaigns, and have optimised collaboration between hotlines, helplines and Safer Internet Centres. They are working to systematically improve justice professionals' expertise in relation to OCSEA and to make justice more child friendly. They use cutting edge application development to deliver assistance to children and families within the technology they use, and they are leading the way in youth participation in policy and operational responses.

The challenge of resourcing a comprehensive multi-stakeholder response to OCSEA remains, and is a cross-cutting issue that affects all Council of Europe member states. While there is much about which to be hopeful, the operational constraints and increased demands of the COVID-19 pandemic have demonstrated the importance of ensuring that there is sustained investment in national responses to OCSEA that remain effective even under circumstances in which 'business as usual' is thwarted. It is therefore recommended that member states continue to strengthen holistic, multi-disciplinary responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse at national level and by strengthening co-operation with the international mechanisms available.

Recommendations

Political and legislative commitments are only the start of the journey to combat OCSEA. To meet these commitments, countries should implement and sustain the required operational capabilities, and dedicate sustained human and financial resources to these response functions, in line with both the Lanzarote Convention and the WePROTECT Model National Response. OCSEA is very often experienced not as an isolated, one-off incident, but as a process of ongoing victimisation that accompanies young people into adulthood, and requires long-term victim support from a specialist workforce. Likewise, people with a sexual interest in children may find that they need consistent support to desist from offending.

Moreover, the public health approach to countering OCSEA aims to address all identified vulnerabilities. Effective prevention demands engagement with all members of society, including – but not limited to – children and young people, parents and caregivers, educators, convicted offenders, and those at risk of offending against children.

Particularly in light of the additional risks and operational constraints presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, all member states should ensure that there are effective mechanisms for reporting OCSEA and timely removal of CSAM, and sufficient resourcing for both the support of children and young people who experience OCSEA, and for the investigation of reported criminal offences. Human and financial resources should be dedicated and ring-fenced to prevent deprioritisation of efforts to combat OCSEA and its impacts.

OCSEA is a constantly evolving phenomenon, changing in line with technological and socio-cultural developments. As a result, workforces responsible for protecting children, whether in law enforcement and criminal justice, social services, education, healthcare, industry or the third sector, require a continuous programme of training and skills development.

The following recommendations are not exhaustive. They are intended to address the most pressing needs identified in the baseline mapping exercise and its update, according to the requirements of the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions and the recommended capabilities in the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR):

Prevention

Education for Children (Article 6, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 13)

Reporting on activities for Safer Internet Day indicates that there is considerable disparity in levels of member state engagement in awareness raising and education concerning OCSEA. In some countries, child internet safety is the subject of inconsistent effort and attention. Where not already the case, countries are encouraged to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activity that goes beyond annual celebrations. In line with the requirement for youth participation (Article 9, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 14), children and young people should be consistently involved in the development of this programme, its materials and messaging. Particular focus should be placed on clearly signposting where children and their caregivers can get help in relation to OCSEA. Promising practices from member states demonstrate the value also of engaging parents, caregivers and educators in awareness raising and training.

Measures for the general public (Article 8, Lanzarote Convention)

Countries should make concerted efforts to raise public awareness concerning the illegality of CSAM possession and distribution. Large numbers of reports from global technology companies indicate a lack of knowledge in this regard. Improving general public awareness therefore has the potential to reduce the number of offences to be processed by hotlines and investigated by law enforcement. While there is some evidence of promising practices in member states, awareness raising on OCSEA is much less apparent for the general public than it is for children.

Recording and storing of national data on convicted sexual offenders (Article 37, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 6)

Countries should establish mechanisms for identifying and managing individuals convicted of sexual offences against children. It is strongly encouraged to maintain a national sex offender register, subject to the requisite data protection and human rights safeguards, and should be used to exclude individuals who present an ongoing risk to children from settings in which they may come into regular contact with them.

Preventive intervention programmes or measures (Article 7, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 6 & 15)

Countries should make support services available to individuals convicted of sexual offences against children, with the aim of reducing re-offending. These may take the form of community offender management arrangements, or a staffed helpline. Phone and online helplines may also serve people worried about their own or another's behaviour, including in online environments.

Participation of the private sector (Article 9, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 16)

Countries should work to ensure that domestic Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and platforms prevent access to identified CSAM and known CSAM websites.

Detection

Reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse (Article 12, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 12)

Countries are encouraged to support the establishment of a national hotline for reporting CSAM. CSAM hotlines require adequate and sustained funding and human resource allocation, and need to be able to benefit from international initiatives to improve the detection and removal of CSAM, such as those provided by INHOPE.

Countries are also encouraged to consider imposing a legal (statutory or common law) duty for professionals who work with children to report suspected or identified CSEA to the relevant authority. Countries are encouraged to apply this duty also to online offences, and to promote reporting in good faith by members of the public of suspected CSEA.

Electronic evidence collection and international cooperation (Articles 16-21 and Chapter III of the Budapest Convention; Article 38, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 4)

Countries should ensure that law enforcement investigators and prosecutors are able to request evidential data from ICT providers. Investigators and prosecutors are encouraged to make full use of existing opportunities to request subscriber information directly from overseas providers, subject to national and international legislation and as per the promising practices reported by a number of member states.

As regards content data, member states should make the widest possible use of mutual legal assistance (MLA) and other measures for international cooperation in the detection of and enforcement against OCSEA, as well as of measures for the disclosure of stored computer data (including content) in an emergency. Specifically in relation to procedures for gathering electronic evidence, countries are encouraged to take particular note of the Council of Europe's Electronic Evidence Guidelines. Countries may also pay attention to the preparation of a Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention that provides additional tools for cooperation in emergencies and for direct cooperation with service providers.

Helplines (Article 13, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 11)

Countries should ensure that there is a publicly available helpline for children and young people. To best support children, helplines require adequate and sustained funding and human resource allocation and staff trained in responding to OCSEA, and should be in a position to refer complaints of OCSEA to law enforcement as appropriate.

Research, analysis and monitoring (Article 10, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 2)

The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the importance of verifiable and timely information on the scale and nature of OCSEA. Where not already in existence, countries should support the establishment of national co-ordination centres or observatories to gather and analyse data on OCSEA offending and victimisation. These should bring together data from all relevant stakeholders with a view to tracking live changes and providing an evidence base for effective policy-making and operational responses.

Response

Substantive criminal law (Articles 20 & 23, Lanzarote Convention; Article 9, Budapest Convention; WePROTECT MNR 3)

Countries should address legislative gaps concerning the criminalisation of CSAM and online solicitation/ grooming as a matter of urgency, especially in relation to CSAM possession and knowing access, and online solicitation that does not result in an offline meeting. In relation to solicitation for exploitation and abuse that remains online, countries should take particular note of the Lanzarote Committee's Opinion on Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention and its explanatory note.[178]

In relation specifically to child self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images or videos, countries are encouraged to follow the Lanzarote Committee's guidance on the implementation of Article 20 outlined in the Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children.[179]

Law enforcement investigations (Articles 30-35, Lanzarote Convention; Articles 14-22, Budapest Convention; WePROTECT MNR 4 & 7)

Countries should ensure that there are specialised and dedicated resources in law enforcement for countering OCSEA. Human resources capacity in victim identification, covert investigation and digital forensics should be matched by sustained investment in facilities, hardware and software. Countries are encouraged to place particular emphasis on the establishment and maintenance of a national Child Abuse Image Database, active use of INTERPOL's ICSE database, and timely response to NCMEC CyberTip reports.

[178] https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168064de98
[179] https://rm.coe.int/opinion-of-the-lanzarote-committee-on-child-sexually-suggestive-or-exp/168094e72c

Child friendly criminal justice procedures (Articles 30-36, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 5)

In light of reported delays to court proceedings as a result of pandemic restrictions, there is an urgent need for countries to address any investigative backlogs and outstanding prosecutions, with a view to minimising exposure of child victims to additional stress through further delay. Countries are encouraged to ensure that they continue to put the needs of child victims first, even where there may be increased backlogs.

End-to-end support for child victims of OCSEA (Articles 11-14 Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 8)

While a number of member states report promising practices in the provision of psychosocial support for child victims during criminal justice proceedings, sustained aftercare is less frequently reported. In accordance with the Lanzarote Convention's requirement that "Each Party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to assist victims, in the short and long term, in their physical and psycho-social recovery" (Article 14), countries should ensure that relevant support is available to victims also in the long term.

Training and continuous development (Articles 5, 11-14, 34 & 36, Lanzarote Convention; WePROTECT MNR 4, 5, 8, 9, 11-13)

A specialist child protection workforce requires ongoing training and development. Countries should ensure that their law enforcement and judiciary, hotline and helpline staff, social workers, healthcare professionals and educators have access to regular training, development and support in relation to countering OCSEA. Maximum use should be made of opportunities to join existing internationally recognised initiatives, such as those provided by the Council of Europe, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and INHOPE.

Innovative solution development (WePROTECT MNR 18)

Countries are encouraged to permit – and if necessary create the necessary legal and procedural framework for – the use of innovative technologies that assist in countering OCSEA, with due consideration for data protection and human rights law and rule of law requirements . Specialist solutions already available or in development can assist in, for instance, reducing the burden of manual CSAM review and analysis for hotlines and law enforcement, detecting and classifying previously unseen material, and providing automated support and interventions to children, young people and potential offenders. Off-the-shelf data analysis software can be used to query and interpret data on the scale and nature of OCSEA.[180]

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[180] Examples of innovative technological solutions include those supported by the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (EVAC) - https://www.end-violence.org/articles/end-violence-invests-additional-10-million-keep-children-safe-online

Research Limitations

This report is largely the result of a rapid baseline mapping exercise in 2019 that drew for the most part on publicly available information. Unless otherwise stated in the text, it does not include sensitive data or proprietary data from privileged sources. Equally, an open source data collection cannot hope to uncover all promising practices in the focus countries, let alone across forty-seven Council of Europe member states. It can therefore be assumed that accuracy and completeness would be improved with more comprehensive data collection, including regular monitoring of developments at national level and direct access to all relevant stakeholders. Wherever possible, data obtained has been checked for accuracy. Given the limited data collection period, some data may be incomplete, particularly for those Council of Europe member states that were not among the ten focus countries for this exercise. Data obtained was also subject to manual collation and cleansing in a number of cases. As stated in the Methodology section of this revised report, in the absence of a further systematic collection from Council of Europe member states data has been subject to a partial update for the second edition. The author will gratefully receive any suggested corrections to the data presented.

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Appendix 2 - The WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response

Enablers	Capabilities			Outcomes	
Cross sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration	**Policy and Governance**	1	**Leadership:** An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee	Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response	Comprehensive understanding of CSEA within the highest levels of government and law enforcement. Willingness to work with, and co-ordinate the efforts of, multiple stakeholders to ensure the enhanced protection of victims and an enhanced response to CSEA offending.
		2	**Research, Analysis and Monitoring** National situational analysis of CSEA risk and response; measurements/indicators		
Willingness to prosecute, functioning justice system and rule of law		3	**Legislation** Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims		
	Criminal Justice	4	**Dedicated Law Enforcement:** National remit, trained officers, proactive and reactive investigators, victim-focused, international cooperation	Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions and offender management	Law Enforcement and judiciary have the knowledge, skills, systems and tools required to enable them to perform victim-focused investigations and secure positive judicial outcomes. CSEA offenders are managed and reoffending prevented.
		5	**Judiciary and Prosecutors:** Trained, victim focused		
Supportive reporting environment		6	**Offender Management Process:** Prevent re-offending of those in the criminal justice system nationally and internationally		
		7	**Access to Image Databases:** National database, link to Interpol database		
	Victim	8	**End to End Support:** Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution and after-care	Appropriate support services for children and young people	Children and young people have access to services that support them through the investigation and prosecution of crimes against them. They have access to shelter; specialised medical and psychological services; and rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization services.
Aware and supportive public and professionals, working with and for children		9	**Child Protection Workforce:** Trained, coordinated and available to provide victim support		
		10	**Compensation, remedies and complaints arrangement:** Accessible procedures		
		11	**Child Helpline:** Victim reporting and support, referrals to services for ongoing assistance		
	Societal	12	**CSEA Hotline:** Mechanism for reporting online CSEA content, link to law enforcement and Internet Service providers	CSEA prevented	Children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA. Parents, carers, teachers and childcare professionals are better prepared to keep children safe from CSEA, including addressing taboos surrounding sexual violence.
Sufficient financial and human resources		13	**Education Programme:** For children/young people, parents/carers, teachers, practitioners, faith representatives		
		14	**Child Participation:** Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice		
		15	**Offender Support Systems:** Medical, psychological, self-help, awareness		
National legal and policy frameworks in accordance with the UNCRC and other international and regional standars	**Industry**	16	**Takedown Procedures:** Local removal and blocking of online CSEA content	Industry engaged in developing solutions to prevent and tackle CSEA	Industry has the power and willingness to block and remove online CSEA content and proactively address local CSEA issues. Industry proactively reports online CSEA.
		17	**CSEA Reporting:** Statutory protections that would allow industry to fully and effectively report CSEA, including the transmission of content to law enforcement and another designated agency		
		18	**Innovative Solution Development:** Industry engagement to help address local CSEA issues		
		19	**Corporate Social Responsibility:** Effective child focused programme		
Data and evidence on CSEA	**Media and Communications**	20	**Ethical and Informed Media Reporting** Enable awareness and accurate understanding of problem	Awareness raised among the public, professionals and policy makers	Potential future offenders are deterred. CSEA offending and reoffending is reduced.
		21	**Universal Terminology** Guidelines and application		

Appendix 3 – Safer Internet Day 2021 planned activities in Member States

Country	2021 planned activities & date updated
ALBANIA	(23/01/2021) Safer Internet Day (SID) Albania major activities for the year 2021 are as follows: Launch of the Campaign "Online child sexual abuse is a crime! REPORT IT!". Publication of the Annual Report "Child and Youth Internet Safety in Albania 2020". Teachers and child protection officers will hold online discussions with children and young people on "How to be safe when navigating online?".
ANDORRA	
ARMENIA	(25/01/2021) Safer Internet Armenia's 2021 programme will be launched on Tuesday, 9 February 2021, Safer Internet Day (SID). February – March: Schools in the capital city and regions of Armenia, as well as colleges, will host lessons in internet safety and media and information literacy (MIL), as well as meetings with parents, during which ethical issues related to safe and responsible usage of the internet and digital technologies will be discussed. The Safer Internet Armenia 2021 programme will also have an educational component for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) teachers.
AUSTRIA	(03/12/2020) Like in previous years, Austrian schools and youth centres are invited to celebrate Safer Internet Day with various self-designed activities throughout the month of February. Registered schools and youth centres will receive a digital Safer Internet Kit containing useful materials, including the SID Best Practice Compendium for inspiration. The Best Practices of 2021 will be published and three entries will be awarded. The campaign is supported by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. Furthermore, we will publish the results of a survey on the topic "self presentation on the internet" conducted among adolescents (11 to 17 years) in Austria. In order to maximise media attention, we will give our traditional big annual Saferinternet.at press conference some days before SID, to present the initiative Saferinternet.at as well as the results of our survey. In March 2021, again current data on social media use of adolescents will be presented with the Austrian Youth Internet Monitor 2021 (www.jugendinternetmonitor.at).

[181] Verbatim (uncorrected) updates as published on the Safer Internet Day website: https://www.saferinternetday.org/in-your-country

AZERBAIJAN	15/01/2021) The Azerbaijan Teacher Development Centre (ATDC) has started working with teachers and students all over the country to help them understand safe internet concepts. We are preparing resources in the Azerbaijan language for teachers and students. This year we have held workshops and open lessons in different schools over the country. We also have organised an online poster competition among students on the topic "Together for a better internet". We are also working on involving different parts of the social community in the project.
BELGIUM	(25/01/2021) On Tuesday, 9 February 2021, Child Focus invite civil society to a day of inspiration dedicated to a better internet for children and young people. The name of this event is "#Betternet Inspiration Day". Experts will introduce themes that are at the heart of our concerns. Actors from the field will present their pedagogical tools to encourage a better internet for children and young people. This day is intended to be a real source of inspiration to enrich your work with children and young people.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	(29/01/2021) For Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, IFS-EMMAUS plans to continue working on raising awareness on internet safety and the importance of protecting yourself online, as well as reporting cases of online violence. SID celebration target groups are primarily children and teenagers, since virtual reality has become a significant part of their lives, which makes internet safety one of the top priorities among youngsters in the modern age. On 9 February 2021, IFS-EMMAUS will once again launch an online quiz on online safety, which has been designed in cooperation with colleagues from Croatia's Center for Missing and Exploited Children (CZND). The quiz will be organised in coordination with BiH SID committee members and supported by our sponsors and partners that will provide valuable awards for children who score 80 per cent or more in the online quiz. All the questions are updated each year and are designed to follow the emergence of new online trends. The questions are related to internet safety and mechanisms of protection from harmful content, as well as practical ways of combating online violence and illegal content. Prior to Safer Internet day itself, we will launch campaign on social media outlets and our website www.sigurnodijete.ba in order to engage as many children as we can to take part in the quiz and spread the word about Safer Internet Day and our mission. IFS-EMMAUS will use recommended tips and ideas for a social media campaign, which includes badges, messages, hashtags and other online promotional tools. Our sponsors and partners will also take part in promotion of Safer Internet Day. Following the example of previous years, we will also contact schools and ministries of education, and ask them to spread the word among children in schools, in order to reach as many children as possible.
BULGARIA	(28/01/2021) As a tradition, the central Safer Intrnet Day (SID) event will be designed and moderated by the Safer Inteernet Centre (SIC) Youth Panel. In 2021, a challenging year in many aspects, the issue of fake news was considered to be central in the light of the motto "Together for a better internet". It will be addressed in the form of debates between a couple of youth panellists, one formulating a fake belief, and the other debunking it. The event will be held online and others will participate in an open discussion about media and digital literacy.
CROATIA	15/01/2021) This year, the Croatian Safer Internet Centre (SIC) is preparing educational packs for schools and organisations who are planning to be involved in the celebration of Safer Internet Day (SID), just as we did in previous years. We are going to organise an online quiz for children and youth about online safety, and we are preparing valuable prizes for the most successful contestants. Also, we are planning to reward teachers and experts who show the most effort and creativity in making Safer Internet Day most memorable. We are also preparing Fairy Tales in the digital environment for parents to provide them with innovative tools for discussing online safety with their children. We will develop new checklists and flyers about social networks. We will organise the whole celebration in an online environment and we are preparing a public forum for children and youth with famous influencers from Croatia and experts in the field of online safety. Furthermore, we are preparing online workshops for experts

CYPRUS	(08/12/2020) The Safer Internet Day (SID) campaign in Cyprus includes activities that will last for the whole month of February with the SID conference as its pinnacle. The conference on Safer Internet Day aims, primarily, at students and teachers. Students and teachers from all schools in Cyprus are expected to participate in the conference - due to the COVID pandemic the conference will be held online. During the conference, speakers will discuss safe internet usage with reference to its potential and risk. A students' short video competition with the motto "Together for a better internet" will be organised prior to the event, with the winning videos presented during the SID conference. Clips from the videos, together with the promotional video of helpline and hotline services, will be broadcast from all Cypriot TV channels during the whole month of February. During that month, schools are encouraged to organise school-based activities for Safer Internet Day.Partners and associates of the Cyprus Safer Internet Centre, students and teachers of eSafeSchool, Young Coaches for the Internet and CYberSafety Youth Panel will be hosted on TV shows and will talk about SID. In addition, they will talk about the opportunities and dangers of the internet and the operation of the 1480 helpline and hotline.
CZECH REPUBLIC	(25/01/2021) This year's Safer Internet Day (SID) will be purely online. In 2020, over a hundred organisations, institutions or schools took part in the Czech Republic,and this year we expect even higher participation. We plan to publish a set of recommendations in the form of instaspots, which we will gradually place on social networks. We would like to draw the audience's attention to selected facts, including the alarming statistics of the hotline (STOPonline.cz), our service mojeID, thanks to which it is possible to securely log in to public administration services or communicate current knowledge and facts. We will issue a press release, distribute a number of materials and recall existing resources, which are freely available at www.bezpecnenanetu.cz. At the same time, we plan to give a large space to our partners from the public, private and non-profit sectors to present their mutual activities and campaigns. Communication will be directed to individual target groups and we will not forget even our smallest ones. For example, we will introduce the methodology for the book ON-LINE ZOO to the teachers of lower secondary schools. Last but not least, we want to present selected activities and resources of the centre for 2021: production/distribution of school boards and printed materials for schools on cyber security (4,200 pieces); production of online courses on media literacy; research on the prevalence of online risk phenomena among children in institutional care; provision of security analysis of school domains; or deployment of a new tool for hotline operators.
DENMARK	(07/01/2021) The Danish theme for Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021 is gaming. Gaming is a part of many children and young people's digital lives, whether it is time spent on free-to-play mobile games or with a group of friends in a thoroughly coordinated online battle. The world of gaming comes with many fun possibilities, but it also poses a series of problems, which are important to address. With this project, we therefore aim to promote and support a positive gaming culture among children and young people. The project is a collaboration between the Media Council for Children and Young People, Save the Children Denmark and Center for Digital Youth Care. To address this subject, a series of materials will be published in cooperation with professionals and children. These materials will be published online and support parents and people who work directly with children. It has a specific focus on children aged 10-12. Furthermore, one of the goals of the project will be to provide parents with knowledge and understanding of their child's interest in gaming. On 9 February 2021, we will therefore also coordinate a live webinar for parents, where the audience will be able to post their questions to a group of experts on gaming. As a part of SID, we will also publish a national survey on the gaming-habits of 1-15 year olds in Denmark. We hope that the results will provide crucial knowledge that can support parents or professionals when engaging in children and young people's digital lives.

ESTONIA	(07/01/2021) Like in recent years, we have extended the Safer Internet Day campaign to a month. In the last week of January, we are sending an online invitation to celebrate SID with the package of the informative materials to all pre-schools, schools and youth centres. For compiling the package, we ask in the beginning of January from pre-schools, schools and youth centres which have participated in the previous years, to share their success stories with us so that we can include these stories in to the package to motivate and encourage all to participate. To show the extent of participation we will create a map and include information about the planned/organised events as well. This year we will focus on fake information online. On 25 January 2021 we will launch an online event for children and youngsters and ask them to create memes about the fake information distributed online. The period to participate is 25 January - 25 February 2021. On Safer Internet Day, 9 February 2021 we will hold a conference for teachers. The focus of the conference is on cyber ethics and how fake information is distributed online, including social manipulation. The conference will take place online. Also on Safer Internet Day, we will publish a thematic edition of the web-magazine "Notice the Child". The thematic edition focuses on values which drives our behaviour including online, as well as on cyber ethics issues.
FINLAND	(04/12/2020) The Finnish Safer Internet Day has been realised as a week-long media literacy event since 2013 and it is known as Mediataitoviikko or "Media Literacy Week". We have around 40 partner organisations providing events, educational materials, campaigns or communication support for promotion of media skills development. We at KAVI function as the organising party coordinating and providing curated information on available material and events for all professionals working in schools, early education, libraries, youth centres, museums, companies and NGOs who want to take part. This year we will have over 1,500 registered professionals attending the 2020 event week. They will take part in a manner of their own choosing, but they will have a vast variety of material to use. On Media Literacy Week 2021 we are partly in a very different situation as we were last year: several people are studying or working from home and some of the common areas where people have used to meet each other are closed. Nevertheless, we have been planning yet again a comprehensive and interesting theme week of media skills. It is a tradition that we don't have a specific theme for the MLW, but every year we take a closer look at one target group. This time the group is adults as media users. We have a bit more partner organizations designing campaigns and events for e.g. elderly citizens, or targeting materials for people still in the working life and outside formal education. Children and young people will also have numerous resources created, and our vast pool of partnering organizations will take care that many target audiences will be reached.

FRANCE	(04/02/2021) This SID edition must reach young people through multi-channel actions. Internet Sans Crainte and its partners NetEcoute and Point de Contact are therefore giving parents and grandparents, educators and educational mediators in schools, as well as professional stakeholders involved through targeted actions the keys to raising awareness at #SID2021. 08/02 from 6:30pm: about 4,000 parents and educators have registered to attend a web-conference hosted by Internet Sans Crainte in cooperation with AXA Insurance and the French Ministry of Education. NetEcoute and relevant partners will provide advice and positive awareness key messages to spread the word inside families. On 09/02 from 5pm: a webinar presenting the daily work of content analysts organised by the French hotline Point de Contact to highlight the importance of this behind-the-scenes profession «Analystes de contenus en ligne: lumière sur ces héros de l'ombre». From 09/02: with the official support of the French Ministry of Education, hundreds of awareness workshops have been planned by teachers and educators all over the country. Focusing on three main topics: cyberbullying, online reputation and privacy, and fake news, thousands of pupils (from 8 to 16) are going to be trained to get to know the basics of media literacy and critical thinking, based on their empowerment education. Hyperconnection: how to support digital autonomy? Social networks: how to prevent cyberbullying? Fake news: how to learn how to decrypt information? Publication of a special leaflet for parents created together with Bayard Media Group about kid's digital uses.
GEORGIA	(15/01/2021) ISOC-Georgia is organising a Safer Internet Day 2021 event that will take place on 9 February 2021. Several Georgian governmental, educational and NGO organisations will run events in parallel. A detailed list of the events will be available in early February 2021. We will be updating the list of events and providing other news on our Facebook page.
GERMANY	(08/12/2020) klicksafe and the German Safer Internet Centre (SIC) promote Safer Internet Day (SID) in Germany and encourage all schools, partners, institutions, companies, libraries, and so on to participate in SID with their own activities. All those actively engaged can register their support via the klicksafe website; all events and activities are then published in the list of events and a map of events (see https://www.klicksafe.de/ueber-klicksafe/safer-internet-day/sid-2021/sid-veranstaltungen-2021). klicksafe's focus topic for Safer Internet Day 2021 is "Who do I believe? Opinion making between fact and fake" with a variety of activities and offerings around this topic for different target groups. Due to the ongoing corona pandemic, a broad range of online events, virtual workshops and other materials are being planned. On Safer Internet Day, the new teaching material "Click E for Ethics. Opinion Making in the Digital World" will be published, a shortened preliminary version will allow educators to plan projects for SID. In its social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, klicksafe not only promotes SID and its own activities, but also showcases the broad variety of events and activities organised all over the country. Follow the hashtags #WerMachtMeineMeinMeinung and #SID2021 for further actions.

GREECE	07/01/2021) For Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, emphasis will be placed on the changes that COVID-19 has brought to kid's digital life. There will be an online event in cooperation with the Panhellenic School network and the goal is that it be attended by as many schools is possible across the country. At the same time, the Greek Safer Internet Centre (SIC) will provide material to schools of all levels of education to organise their own event. The winners of the Pan-Hellenic student competitions held under the auspices of the Ministry will be announced during the online event. All activities in Greece will be dedicated to Safer Internet Day (SID) during the SID month. Lots of school trainings and parents evenings will also promote the day. What we are doing to support the SID 2021 slogan of "Together for a better internet"… Through the contest, students collaborate with each other and their educators in order to create material that promotes the idea of a better internet. The material created by young people can be used for the education of smaller children. The SID event attracts great interest on social media and this helps to spread the message of SID to every corner of Greece. SaferInternet4Kids.gr aims at strengthening children and young people to benefit from the online world with its multiple possibilities and empower them to become responsible cyber citizens.

HUNGARY	(02/02/2021) Safer Internet Day (SID) will be held online on 9 February, 2021. As the Hungarian consortium leader of Safer Internet Program, the International Children's Safety Service (NGYSZ) has also announced three tenders with internet topics for elementary and secondary school students. 438 applications were received by the deadline nationwide, 160 from Budapest and 278 from the countryside. The list of winners will be published on the event. The submitted projects will be used by the Hungarian SIC for educational purposes in its awareness-raising campaigns. The winners will receive nearly HUF 950,000 in total prize money. This year's SID event in Hungary is supported by the following organisations and institutions: Microsoft Hungary, The National Police Headquarters and the National Cyber Defense Institute of the National Security Service (NCSC).

Safer Internet Day (SID) in Hungary 2021

The Hungarian Safer Internet Centre (HU SIC) is organising an awareness-raising online event for professionals, decision-makers, educators, children, the press and those who are interested in the topic which can be followed on the HU SIC Hungary's Facebook page (@SaferinternetMagyarország) and the HU SIC's website: www.saferinternet.hu.
A joint online press conference will open the online event with the participation of the National Cyber Defense Institute of the National Security Service (NBSZ NKI) and with the National Police Headquarters (ORFK): "Think before clicking".
Thereafter, between 11.30 and 13.30, Zsuzsánna Kurkó-György, project coordinator of the Safer Internet Program, will give a short report on the educational and research results of 2020; Csanak Gabriella, Marketing and Operations Director of Microsoft Hungary, will present the research results of the Microsoft Digital Civility Index; and Levente Juhász, Google's Central and Eastern European Public Relations Manager, will give a short presentation on Family Link. There will also be a roundtable discussion with professionals about the experiences of 2020 and the plans for 2021 – what can we do together for a better internet. As part of the event, the results of the three announced competitions (meme making; design and build your Internet Hero; create a comic-book) for elementary and secondary school students will also be published. At the end of the online event, organisers will hold three online interactive internet safety sessions with the involvement of Microsoft Hungary's and with its own trainers for children. |
| **ICELAND** | (23/01/2021) For Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, the Icelandic Safer Internet Centre (SIC) is planning multiple activities as follows:

New educational models sent to all schools and schools encouraged to participate in SID.
Media campaign concerning the SID message.
Online educational course open to all schools in Iceland.
Over 10 new educational videos promoted over the day, followed by an online panel session discussing the new educational material and videos.
Promote new survey results on digital citizenship among parents and students. |

IRELAND	(07/01/2021) Safer Internet Day 2021 will take place on Tuesday, 9 February, with celebrations taking place across the world to mark the event. The day encourages people to take action to help make the internet a safer and better place for all, especially for children and young people. Webwise is responsible for the coordination of Safer Internet Day (SID) in Ireland, and we are asking stakeholders to support the #SID2021 campaign and help to encourage people to get involved on 9 February. Here are some of the resources you can use to support #SID2021, and play a part in promoting the importance of online safety. 1. #BeKindOnline This year for Safer Internet Day in Ireland, Webwise is calling on people to #BeKindOnline. The campaign encourages people be responsible and empathic in how they behave in the online world. This year we have spent more time than ever online. While it has provided us with many benefits, it also has highlighted the importance of managing our online wellbeing, being respectful and kind online. We shape the internet everyday with our interactions – how we connect and communicate online. The #BeKindOnline campaign encourages people to reflect on how their actions matter and the impact it can have on others. The campaign will be promoted on social media and will also point to useful advice and supports that are available to people. 2. Sign up for Safer Internet Day 2021 Webwise send free online safety packs to any school, organisation, club, or community groups taking part in Safer Internet Day. If you are planning to do something to mark #SID2021, share your plans with us and we will send you out free wristbands for your participants. Support #SID2021 by encouraging schools, parent groups, organisations, and the wider community to get involved and sign-up at www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/. 3. Help spread the word Your voice can have a huge impact, and can help us to reach more children, families and schools in Ireland with this very important initiative. Support the campaign by highlighting #SID2021 on your website and social media channels. Webwise has developed a dedicated Safer Internet Day Hub to help anyone who is planning a SID event. It contains ideas, activities, videos, resources, and many more useful suggestions and tools to help people to get involved. At this link you will find relevant imagery for use in promotional activities. Relevant tags: @WebwiseIreland // #SaferInternetDay // #SID2021 // #BeKindOnline // #TheFullPicture. 4. Socially distanced Safer Internet Day ideas Safer Internet Day 2021 may look a little different this year because of COVID-19 guidelines, but it can still be a very vibrant and engaging celebration! Getting involved is easier than ever, and Webwise has created a list of socially distanced Safer Internet Day activities that people can use to help to do their bit to create a better online world. Along with ideas for #SID2021, this resource includes templates and presentations that individuals, schools and organisations can tailor to their specific needs. 5. Free education resources, lessons and videos Webwise provide FREE curriculum aligned education resources, lessons, activities and videos addressing a range of online safety and digital media literacy topics including cyberbullying, image-sharing, privacy, online wellbeing and more. For Safer Internet Day, we encourage all schools in Ireland to engage in online safety lessons and activities. Why not introduce internet safety to younger students with the HTML Heroes, start a conversation about consent using the Lockers programme, or explore digital media literacy topics such as big data and rights online using the Connected programme. These resources can be accessed for free on webwise.ie and we also send out hard copies to schools.

	6. The Full Picture The Webwise short film The Full Picture explores the influences and pressures young people face online and encourages them to reflect on the impact it can have, and how they can respond. The film can be viewed here, and the supporting information and advice can be accessed here. We would encourage you to share the short film on your online platforms, as this year, more than ever, it is important to manage our online wellbeing. 7. Parents Parents have an important role to play when it comes to online safety, and Safer Internet Day is a great time for parents to have a chat with their child about internet safety. The webwise.ie/parents Hub is a great resource for parents, with practical, jargon free advice on a range of topics including screen time, image-sharing and social media. There are lots of useful explainers to popular apps their children may be using for example TikTok, Snapchat or Houseparty, along with with helpful videos from psychologists, education, and online safety experts on topics such as consent and respect online or managing technology in the home. 8. SID Ambassador Training Programme The SID Ambassador Training Programme will take place online this year across five webinars with a focus on online wellbeing. The centre-piece of the training programme will be an exclusive guest panel discussion involving broadcasters, psychologists, sports people and industry. Over 130 students will take part in the programme this year. 9. Safer Internet Day presentations Webwise has developed free, scripted presentations for primary and post-primary schools to host a Safer Internet Day webinar - see
ITALY	(20/01/2021) The Safer Internet Day (SID) main event will be held worldwide on Tuesday, 9 February 2021, and the Italian Safer Internet Centre will organise it entirely online. The key focus of the meeting will be the Minister of Education, along with the presence of the institutions, speakers, students and many more guests connected remotely. The meeting will be live-streamed on the social channel of Generazioni Connesse, the Italian Safer Internet Centre, and will be highlighted by our influencers that will share the event on their social media pages. Social media will play a much larger role than ever this year because of the interactions with the stakeholders, but also from our main speakers: the students. Every target group will have their own content created ad hoc. For teachers and adults, the consortium members will organise online information webinars to be held through the month of February, dedicated to internet safety. Along with the event, we will start the communication campaign for the Safer Internet Month, launching the second season of #WeAreFearless, the mini-series to walk the teenagers through the best practice on the use of social media platforms. You can follow us on our social media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
LATVIA	(08/12/2020) For Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, the Latvian Safer Internet Centre (SIC) will focus on online activities: A SID safety kit for schools will be developed with online materials and tools that teachers can give to children in February to celebrate SID during remote schooling. A nationwide quiz will be organised with the most popular quiz organisers in Latvia, www.viktorina.lv. Participation in the quiz will be organised in two parts: the first part will be a live quiz for different age groups on SID, 9 February 2021; the second part will provide an opportunity for everyone to take part in an online quiz about internet safety throughout the month of February. Information on internet safety topics will be disseminated to the media.
CROATIA	Among children in schools, in order to reach as many children as possible.

LIECHTENSTEIN	25/01/2021) The Media Literacy Expert Group is running an online campaign for this year's Safer Internet Day (SID). In this campaign, ten different banners with reflection questions about one's own behavior on the Internet will be posted and advertised in a two-day rhythm via social media (Facebook and Instagram) and Google Ads. The campaign is designed to appeal to people from a wide range of age groups (16 to 60+ years) and direct them to the website of the Media Literacy Expert Group. The website provides information on the topics addressed in the banners. The Media Literacy Expert Group raise awareness among the population of Liechtenstein about the responsible use of digital media. This year's campaign on the occasion of Safer Internet Day focuses on social media. In addition to the campaigns for Safer Internet Day, the expert group is available throughout the year, to answer questions about digital media and raises awareness - for example, at parents' evenings. In 2021, an expert lecture with an external speaker will be organised to address the benefits of digital media for the emotional and intellectual development of adolescents, as well as the risks of high media consumption.
LITHUANIA	(23/01/2021) The main event on 9 February is dedicated to Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021 slogan "Together for a better internet". The event will take place on an open online platform and will be accessible to a wide audience. During the event, there will be discussions with well-known public figures on the topic of safe internet, demonstrative youth debates will be held, and the event will be enlivened by a musical performance. The hotline "Clean Internet" will organise dissemination of educational videos "children-for-children" in schools, social networks, and via other communication tools. In these videos, children (8-10 years old) share their online experiences, and tips on the following topics: "What is the internet and am I safe with it", "What is harmful content?", "Who and how to communicate online?". The helpline is organising a social campaign for SID 2021. This campaign is addressed to safer internet and e-bullying topics. Four Lithuanian teenagers' celebrities are joining this initiative and will invite children and adolescents to stop spreading unwanted behavior on the internet (such as ignoring, cyberbullying and hate speech, sexting, cheating in online games). The helpline created and will disseminate educational videos for teenagers, visuals for the Child line website and Facebook, stickers, banners for social networks, and a special jingle of the campaign. Association "Langas į Ateitį" will organise educational lessons for schools - five online lessons on various internet safety topics will be broadcast throughout whole week (Monday to Friday); educational lessons will cover the subjects of online gaming, online friends, harmful content and cyberbullying, and personal data protection. Also, a national quiz will take place – internet safety quiz for teams of 4-6 grade pupils. Safer Internet Week will also be active in public libraries, with various educational online activities throughout whole week. What we are doing to support the SID 2021 slogan of "Together for a better internet"… For Safer internet Day, various audiences join together to spread the importance of online safety – schools, public libraries, parents, private and public institutions throughout the country. The helpline, Child line, is going to increase the publicity of better internet by: Implementing a social campaign, Cut the Crap, addressed to stop spreading unwanted behavior on the internet (such as ignoring, cyberbullying and hate speech, sexting, and cheating in online games). Publication of information on the website of the helpline and Facebook profile; the Child Line campaign's Without bullying website and Facebook profile.
LUXEMBOURG	(07/01/2021) All activities in Luxembourg will be dedicated to Safer Internet Day (SID) during the SID week. With many partners, BEE SECURE will organise school trainings, webinars such as parents evenings, and many more activities to promote the day.

MALTA	(23/01/2021) For Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, on Tuesday 9 February, the BeSmartOnline! team will be participating in different activities. It will be present on different TV stations to promote the day and the safe and positive use of digital technology. Due to the pandemic, the team will celebrate in a different way due to social distancing and instead of disseminating resources by hand, all schools will be participating by making use of digital resources that have been created for the day. More toolkits have been created to help educators to deliver practical and impactful activities for Safer Internet Day among secondary students. A video has also been created revolving around the theme "Together for a better internet" to be used on social media.
MOLDOVA	(29/01/2021) The Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021 campaign in Moldova aims to raise awareness about online child sexual abuse and reduce vulnerability of children online, by promoting safe online behaviours. In order to raise awareness of 14–16-year-old teenagers regarding the risks of sharing sexually explicit materials and consent in online relationships, La Strada is going to launch an animation. The animated video presents a typical case of online child sexual abuse and its consequences for the child. It promotes the specialised safe reporting mechanism of online abuses, www.siguronline.md. The video will be widely promoted online among youngsters on Instagram, YouTube and Tik Tok. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research a contest will be organised for teachers to encourage the participation of children in promoting online safety among peers. Afterward, teachers from all over the country will gather at a national workshop to share best SID practices undertaken in their schools, engaging children. In addition, two webinars for teachers will be organised in order to present and promote two new didactic materials that aim at guiding the teacher during a meeting with parents about child safety online. Moreover, parents will be targeted through an online video aiming at raising awareness about the first signs of child sexual online abuses. Several webinars for parents focused on the risk of online child sexual abuse will be conducted. Promotional materials will be distributed to children, parents and teachers.
MONACO	
MONTENEGRO	"We are awaiting an update on this SID Committee's plans for Safer Internet Day 2021." (Last checked 20/04/2021)
NETHERLANDS	29/01/2021) On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, we will celebrate the 18th edition of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place all over the world. With the theme "Together for a better internet", we call on all stakeholders on this day to work together to make the internet a safer and better place for everyone, especially children and young people. On this day, the Dutch Safer Internet Centre (SIC) will be publishing research results on the theme of online wellbeing of children in times of corona and the theme of love and sexuality. After the challenges of the past year, we also want to reflect on the people who have meant something to you this year for your online life - your online heroes. VeiligInternetten and Safer Internet Centre, in collaboration with Google, Vodafone-Ziggo and Bureau Jeugd en Media, are launching a campaign on this day in which you can thank someone from whom you have learned new online skills that have helped you get through the pandemic a lot happier and safer. De Internethelden, a programme of the SIC, Bureau Jeugd & Media and Google, makes these maps available in print. Keep an eye on our website for details! It is our common goal to reach 1,000 cards together. As part of Safer Internet Day, ECP	Platform for the Information Society and Safer Internet Centre, in collaboration with Bureau Jeugd en Media (BJM), will host on Tuesday, 9 February an online parents' evening about the (online) wellbeing of young people in times of corona. Because how do you set limits to gaming or to social media? What do you teach about online boundaries in love and sex? How do you motivate your children to learn?

	Freek Zwanenberg (BJM) has a live conversation with two experts about what parents can do to better guide their teenagers in these difficult times. Nienke Luijckx, a young person herself and chairman of the LAKS, paints a picture of how Dutch young people feel at the moment. With Jacqueline Kleijer (BJM), the challenges of media education are addressed and extra attention is paid to the theme "love and sexuality online". During the parents' evening, a lot of attention is paid to the questions of parents that can be asked via chat.
NORTH MACEDONIA	"We are awaiting an update on this SID Committee's plans for Safer Internet Day 2021." (Last checked 20/04/2021)
NORWAY	(23/01/2021) The Norwegian Media Authority and the Department for Media and Communication at the University of Oslo will be hosting aseminar to shine light on parents and their children's digital media life. Safer Interet Day (SID) will start off with a message from several Heads of ministries of Norway, including the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, the Ministry of Children and Family, and the Ministry of Education and Research. The Department for Media and Communication will host the next session, inluding several researchers working in the field of parents and digital media use by children. Finally, The Norwegian Media Authority will present a new research report concerning preschool children's use of digital media. Stakeholders have been invited to comment on the report and the situation on the topic from their viewpoint. An updated guide to screen use for parents of preschool children will be presented, and the digital family online game "Stjernekolonien" (The Star Colony) will have a second launch as we have added more content to the game since the first launch in September 2020. There will also be a short film about how the Norwegian Safer Internet Centre works. Several other Safer Internet Day events will happen on the day and during the week from various organisations and in different places in Norway. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the events are mostly digital and easily available for interested parties.
POLAND	(02/02/2021) On 9 Febuary 2021 at 17.00, the Polish Safer Internet Day Conference with leading speakers will be transmitted live on the Polish SID website (www.dbi.pl), PSIC YouTube and Facebook channels.Schools, libraries and other educational institution are invited to prepare awareness-raising campaings, online classes and other activities throughout February and March. The best initiatives can take part in contest. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all local events are asked to observe governmental restrictions. In the 2021 edition, the Polish Safer Internet Centre has provided digital educational materials. In addition, a special cycle of webinars for professionals has been prepared, taking place every Tuesday and Thursday of Febuary and March at 5pm.
PORTUGAL	(09/02/2021) The Portuguese Safer Internet Centre Consortium (PT SIC) develops a set of activities within the month of February as a way to raise awareness on safety use of the internet. February is not only about SID day, it's a month full of initiatives that are the perfect platform to display the work annually developed, with input of its national partners and network of organisations, from the public and private sector, and from the members of its Advisory Board. To celebrate the Safer Internet Month: PT SIC will organise a SID Seminar on 9 February 2021, taking place in Lisbon. This event will be webcast by the Zoom platform and is aimed at media, political stakeholders, teachers and parents. The seminar "Sexualidade e Comportamentos de risco online" will have an educational and health background, the active participation of youngsters and the perspective of several national experts on digital citizenship, criminal and law and wellbeing. The public will be invited to interact with the experts and participate on a Q&A basis. During all day the exhibition of the theatre play "ID 2.0 – A Tua Marca na Net" will be available on the social media pages via www.internetsegura.pt/SID2021. Other events: SeguraNet, will launch the Portuguese Schools' campaign supported on a website where schools can georeference their activities.

	The Portuguese ICT Competence Centres have planned online awareness sessions and online teachers training workshops within the support of schools and municipalities. SeguraNet will launch the February challenges in the framework of the annual "Desafios SeguraNet" contest, involving around 40,000 participants among students, parents and teachers. SeguraNet will launch a board game aimed at primary school students. To promote the National Plan to prevent and combat Bullying and Cyberbullying "School Without Bullying. School Without Violence", SeguraNet will launch a campaign to mark the "School Day of Nonviolence and Peace". Digital Leaders initiative will hold online sessions where schools will be able to share their best practices about digital citizenship. IPDJ will launch an online contest about online relationships "Sexo, Riscos e Internet", targeting 12/30-year-old students. IPDJ will launch the training sessions "N@vegas 2021" on digital literacy, targeting youth workers and youth information workers. IPDJ will launch a spot about hate speech and fake news. Fundação Altice, through its voluntary scheme, will develop awareness online sessions in schools. Fundação Altice will continue to launch booklets about different e-safety topics. APAV will launch an Linha Internet Segura (LIS) infographic with statistical data from 2020. APAV will launch the DATA DETOX KIT. The Regional Directorate of Education of Madeira, in collaboration with the DGE, will promote, between 8-12 February 2021, the IV SeguraNet Regional Meeting: "Together for a Better Internet". The event, composed of several webinars, will be broadcast on YouTube.
ROMANIA	(06/01/2021) The Romanian Safer Internet Centre (SIC) will celebrate Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021 by organising a press conference on 9 February 2021 in Bucharest, on the theme of child sexual abuse images online. The event will focus on presenting the 2020 report of the national hotline, more exactly the latest data on the illegal content found on the Romanian web pages, obtained within the esc_ABUZ reporting line. The conference will feature speakers ranging from Save the Children specialists to government authorities and educational experts, and it will gather representatives from public institutions, journalists, social workers and other relevant stakeholders. As part of the Romanian Safer Internet Centre's tradition of marking February as Internet Safety Month, we will be launching a national contest in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The national competition will encourage teachers and students to implement educational activities in schools and send us of a short video of the results. The winners will be announced at a public event held in May 2021.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	25/01/2021) The traditional form of Safer Internet Day (SID) activities in Russia is Safe Runet Week which will be held this year sfrom 2-9 February, covering over 60 regions. This year most of the activities will be held online or in the combined online+offline format. Safe Runet Week will finish with the Digital Safety Forum CSD-2021 which will be held on Safer Internet Day itself.
SAN MARINO	
SERBIA	"We are awaiting an update on this SID Committee's plans for Safer Internet Day 2021." (Last checked 20/04/2021)
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	(27/01/2021) The Slovak Safer Internet Centre (SK SIC) strives to produce and disseminate the highest-quality tools while involving professionals representing key players from the public and private sector as part of a national Advisory Board. Besides these, we have always involved children, youth, teachers, parents and other target groups, while bringing on board also ambassadors, such as well-known public personalities from various industries and having particular experience with the topics and threats to help to create a better internet for everybody.

SLOVENIA	22/01/2021) Within Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021 celebrations the central focus will be given to the topic on how the internet influences youth's mental and physical health. Slovenia's main SID event will take place on Tuesday, 9 February 2021. An interactive online show titled "Well-being and the internet" will be performed by improvisers from the IGLU Theatre. For SID 2021 we will continue with our tradition of extending Safer Internet Day into Safer Internet Month offering schools in Slovenia the chance to register to take part in SID celebrations. Upon registration, teachers and schools will receive a toolkit with classroom activities and a badge to put on their school website announcing them as SID celebrators. In addition, various online and offline materials on the internet and its impact on health will be prepared and launched. On SID 2021 we will launch an Award Contest for families focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle. In collaboration with a Slovenian athlete and a mother of two children, we will prepare a video of about 15 minutes that will serve as an introduction to the contest. It will show examples of useful exercises that can be done during digital breaks after long hours on digital devices, along with an invitation to young people and their parents to make their own short video with their own exercises. The competition will run until the end of February. An expert jury will then select and award prizes to the best videos. Besides this, we will launch different Facebook/Twitter/Instagram campaigns, encouraging our fans and followers to be actively involved in discussions and exchange of their views and opinions. In addition, a number of trainings for parents/teachers and workshops for pupils will be carried out.
SPAIN	"We are awaiting an update on this SID Committee's plans for Safer Internet Day 2021." (Last checked 20/04/2021)
SWEDEN	(25/01/2021) On Safer Internet Day (SID) 2021, The Media Council will arrange a national webinar about online safety for children. We will also release a research overview on cyberbullying. More information will follow shortly.
SWITZERLAND	(04/12/2020) For Safer Internet Day 2021, we will be sharing the material provided by the SID team with our followers on social media and on our website and we'll gladly support organisations or schools which approach us with ideas for SID actions with expertise.
TURKEY	(01/02/2021) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are merely organising online meetings this year. The Safer Internet Center of Turkey will organise the training of trainers for some 1,000 educators on the following topics: Digital Health and Wellness, Digital Safety, and Digital Rights and Responsibilities.
UKRAINE	(23/01/2021) Most of the Safer Internet Day (SID) activities are planned in the educational institutions, libraries, youth clubs and centres. The registration of support for SID 2021 in Ukraine is here: https://bit.ly/2OAHJXB. The activities of SID 2021 will be conducted with the traditional support by the Institute of Modernisation of Educational Content of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. On the country level, in addition to the hashtags #SID2021 and #SaferInternetDay2021, we will use a Ukrainian version #ДеньБезпечногоІнтернету2021. We plan to use the Open Badges system for participants of activities of SID 2021 in Ukraine. Due to the Open Badges system, SID 2021in Ukraine can become more visible and recognisable among different stakeholders
UNITED KINGDOM	25/01/2021) Our Safer Internet Day (SID) activities are focused on ensuring that young people's voices are at the heart of our campaign to reach as many young people in the UK as possible. Teaching and learning resources: we have created education materials for educators, parents and carers, and young people to support the day and our theme of reliability online. There are resources and film content for all age groups aged 3-18 designed to support teachers, and we have adapted them and made suggestions for schools that are using remote teaching during national lockdown, including creating recordings of our assemblies, working with other organisations and doing livestreamed events on the day. These include:

	A Guinness World Record attempt in partnership with 2Simple, aiming to set a record for the largest number of online pledges for a better internet by young people on Safer Internet Day.
	A BBC Live Lesson launched on Safer Internet Day. livestreamed assembly and learning session in partnership with Liverpool Football Club. An after-school 'surgery' session with the Professionals Online Safety Helpline aimed at teachers and educators to seek support with online safety issues. Social media: as ever we are reaching out to organisations across the UK to support our social campaign, to share what they are doing and show their support for the Day, as well as using our own channels to drive up engagement and to disseminate our films and key messages. We have produced a social media guide with click-to-tweet content to make it easy for supporters to schedule their communications in advance, and we will communicate our research findings, what supporters are doing, and more activity on the day. We are working with social media companies to support the campaign on their platforms, particularly around engaging and fun ways to encourage young people to show their support for the day, disseminating our films and content, promoting the opportunity to register as a supporter and more. Events: we are holding a live-streamed event for policy makers and decision-makers on 9 February, in partnership with BT (telecommunications company) hosted by a high-profile presenter, and featuring young people both on a discussion panel and discussing their views on aspects of trust and reliability online, and the strategies they use to navigate an online world in which not everything is always as it seems. The event will also welcome speakers and input from government, industry and the UK Safer Internet Centre. We will hold a separate event with parliamentarians. Supporters and stakeholders: the success of the campaign absolutely relies on hte fantastic support from 100s of organisations across the UK. We have run five meetings to bring together supporters and stakeholders from internet industry, government, charities, police and wider to inform them about Safer Internet Day, provide opportunities for them to share their plans and give them the tools and inspiration they need to get involved. Several key stakeholders such as the BBC, Twinkl and Premier League are creating their own content in support of the day, hosting our learning resources, or taking action to engage their networks. Organisations can sign up to become official supporters of the day through our website.

This report provides an overview of responses to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse in member states. Analysis is based on the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), as well as selected capabilities identified in the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response.

The report provides useful insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by member states to protect children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Offering concrete examples of promising practices to inspire stakeholders and professionals to strengthen mechanisms to identify, rescue and support child victims; ensuring that harmful content is removed from the world wide web without delay and that electronic evidence is secured to ensure that perpetrators are apprehended and prosecuted.

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