



LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Adopted by
the Lanzarote Committee
on 6 March 2024

8th activity report of the Lanzarote Committee

(covering the period
3 February 2023-15 February 2024)

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French edition:
*8e rapport d'activités
du Comité de Lanzarote*

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Contents

Foreword: Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee.....	5
8 th activity report of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee).....	7
I. Composition of the Lanzarote Committee	8
II. Functions of the Lanzarote Committee	11
A. Monitoring the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.....	11
i. Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust.....	12
ii. Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos	14
iii. Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as a consequence of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine	16
iv. Survey on data collection on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	17
B. Exchange of information, experiences and good practice.....	18
i. Statute of limitations and legal age for sexual activities	18
ii. Country Overviews	22
iii. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse 2023	24
Thematic focus: engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse to inspire policy change	26
iv. Tour de table: updates on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in member States throughout the year	29
v. Council of Europe co-operation projects on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	31
vi. Participation of Lanzarote Committee members and Secretariat in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee.....	34
vii. Co-operation with civil society: civil society organisation updates throughout the year	36
viii. Automated detection of child sexual abuse materials.....	39
ix. Development of HELP module	40
Appendix I – List of meetings of the Lanzarote Committee	41
Appendix II – Composition of the Lanzarote Committee	42
Appendix III – Composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee and list of representatives of the Lanzarote Committee to other entities	50
Appendix IV – Participation of the Lanzarote Committee and of the Council of Europe Secretariat in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee	52
Appendix V – Presentations.....	55

Foreword: Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee

It is my pleasure to introduce the Committee's 8th activity report covering the period between 3 February 2023 and 15 February 2024.

Firstly, I would like to warmly thank the former and current members of the Bureau and the members, participants and observers of the whole Committee for their commitment and energy in working to strengthen the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse throughout this past year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Global Collaborative who have joined the Committee as observers.

Several major achievements have marked this past year including: the launching of a new monitoring round on sexual abuse in the circle of trust, the publication of country and thematic factsheets to raise awareness and facilitate the implementation of the Committee's monitoring findings to support Parties in addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos", the decision to address urgent questions to the Russian Federation on the situation of Ukrainian children unlawfully transferred or deported to its territory or to areas temporarily controlled or occupied by it and the adoption of a survey to gather information about data collection mechanisms on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The Committee also held a very interesting seminar on the statute of limitations in respect of sexual offences against children and questions related to the legal age for sexual activities. This led to a rich exchange among State Parties on the practices and solutions found to address these challenges and the Committee decided to prepare two opinions to provide guidance to States. I look forward to continuing our work on these issues.

On the occasion of the European Day to end child sexual abuse we held an extremely rich exchange with victim and survivor advocates on engaging with victims/survivors of child sexual abuse to inspire policy change. This led to an in-depth discussion about the ways that Governments can contribute to the healing of victims and survivors even when there is no criminal justice response. I am pleased that we will continue to engage with victims and survivors through our observers in the course of the Committee's work.

During this period the Committee introduced a new practice of a *tour de table* for members to inform the Committee about any recent changes in legislation, policies or practices linked to the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This has been a very useful way for the Committee to more regularly keep track of the impact of its recommendations and decisions in State Parties.

2024 promises to be a very busy year as the Committee continues its work monitoring the implementation of the Convention and delves into emerging challenges, including in the context of emerging technologies. The Committee decided to focus its capacity building work and the theme of the 2024 edition of the European Day on the threats and opportunities for the prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse arising from emerging technologies including artificial intelligence and extended realities.

The Committee will continue to follow international developments linked to its work, including the UN Ad Hoc Committee negotiations to elaborate a comprehensive international Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, and the ongoing reform process of the legal framework to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the European Union.

The Committee continues also to stand ready to welcome States who wish to become Parties to the Convention and to continue to strengthen international co-operation to better protect children globally.

8th activity report of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee)¹

(covering the period 3 February 2023 to 15 February 2024)

Main highlights

Launch of 3rd monitoring round “Protection of Children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust” and preliminary analysis of replies received to selected questions.

Publication of thematic and country factsheets on the Committee’s findings of the 2nd monitoring round on “the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs) with a focus on the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos (CSGSIV)”.

Adoption of urgent questions to the Russian Federation on the situation of Ukrainian children unlawfully transferred or deported to the Russian Federation or to areas temporarily controlled or occupied by it and adoption of a statement deploring the lack of co-operation by the Russian Federation in this matter of urgency.

Capacity building seminar and thematic exchange on the statute of limitations in respect of sexual offences against children and progress in the preparation of an opinion on the implementation of Article 33 of the Convention.

Capacity building seminar and thematic exchange on the legal age for sexual activities and identification of follow-up actions to be taken by the Committee in 2024.

Panel exchange with victim and survivor advocates on engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to inspire policy change in the context of the 2023 edition of the European Day on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

¹ Article 39 of the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the “[Lanzarote Convention](#)”) provides for the creation of a Committee of Parties to the Convention (the “Lanzarote Committee”).



1. This activity report covers the period from 3 February 2023 to 15 February 2024 (see Appendix I – list of the meetings of the Lanzarote Committee).²
2. The 38th to 40th meetings were held in hybrid format in Strasbourg and online (either via KUDO or ZOOM platforms). The 41st meeting was held in person in Strasbourg.

I. Composition of the Lanzarote Committee

3. In accordance with Rule 2 of the [Rules of Procedure](#) (as amended), the Committee is composed of:
 - [Members](#): State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention³
 - [Participants](#): These include observer States to the Council of Europe which are not yet Parties to the Convention, the United Nations, the European Union and other intergovernmental organisations, together with Council of Europe institutions and bodies.
 - [Observers](#): including representatives of civil society who have been granted observer status by the Committee.

² It follows on from the Committee's first seven activity reports, adopted on [11 September 2014](#), [17 March 2016](#), [12 May 2017](#), [22 June 2018](#), [18 October 2019](#), [30 June 2021](#), and [2 February 2023](#) respectively.

³ The map shows the countries which have ratified/acceded to the Lanzarote Convention. Under Article 46 of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has invited Morocco to accede to the Convention. The relevant accession instruments of this state, however, have not been deposited at the date of adoption of this activity report.

4. At the date of adoption of this report, the Lanzarote Committee was composed of 48 members (46 Council of Europe member states, the Russian Federation and Tunisia).



State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention as at the date of adoption of this report

5. The Lanzarote Convention is open for accession to States that are not members of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 46 of the Convention.⁴ Parties to the Convention benefit from all the activities of the Lanzarote Committee including opportunities to share information and experiences, participate in peer review of the implementation of the Convention through thematic monitoring rounds and the interpretation of the Convention through the statements and opinions of the Committee. The Convention can also be used as a legal basis for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters or extradition in respect of offences falling within its scope, without the need to sign bilateral agreements.

6. The current composition of the Lanzarote Committee appears in Appendix II.

7. Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO continued to chair the Committee. On 2 June 2023 the Committee elected Anna DOSZPOTH (Hungary) as a member of the Bureau. On 15 February 2024 the Committee elected Philippe OLIVIER (France) as Vice Chair of the Committee. The composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee and the list of the representatives of the Committee to other bodies appear in Appendix III.

8. At the Committee's 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023), the [Global Collaborative](#) was granted observer status. The Committee also welcomed the approval of the Council of Europe becoming a member of the [WeProtect Global Alliance](#).

⁴ Non-member States which have participated in the elaboration of the Lanzarote Convention (i.e. Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico and the United States) can also sign and ratify the Lanzarote Convention (see Article 45§1 of the Convention).



The WeProtect Global Alliance (WPGA) is a global movement including Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Organisations. Members work together to strengthen the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

The WPGA has been an observer to the Lanzarote Committee since its 28th meeting (21-25 September 2020).



II. Functions of the Lanzarote Committee

9. The functions of the Lanzarote Committee are set out in Article 41 of the Convention. The Committee has two main functions namely:

- monitoring the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties and
- facilitating the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experiences and good practices in order to build capacity to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

10. In addition, the Committee may also facilitate the effective use and implementation of the Convention, express an opinion on any question concerning the application of the Convention and facilitate the exchange of information on significant legal, policy or technology developments.

A. Monitoring the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

11. As outlined in previous [activity reports](#), the Lanzarote Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention through thematic monitoring rounds where all State Parties are monitored at the same time. This allows the Committee to create a momentum around specific topics with a view to identifying and promoting promising practices and making recommendations to address common challenges faced by State Parties. This also empowers the Committee to be reactive in addressing particular trends and emerging challenges in the course of its work.



i. Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust

12. At its 38th meeting (30 May-2 June 2023), the Committee adopted a new thematic questionnaire “[Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks](#)”. The questionnaire was designed to evaluate the situation in the 22 Parties that had not been examined in the [first monitoring round](#) and assess the follow-up given to the Committee’s recommendations by the 26 Parties that had taken part in that monitoring round.

13. The questionnaire was published on 20 June 2023. Parties were invited to submit replies by 20 September 2023, this deadline was extended to 10 October 2023 by [decision](#) of the Committee at its 39th meeting (26-28 September 2023). Civil society representatives were also invited to provide information and to comment on Parties’ replies by 2 January 2024. The Lanzarote Committee also encourages children to participate in its work as far as possible and the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee has prepared [guidelines](#) for facilitators to implement child consultations in this context. Contributions from child consultations should be received by 29 March 2024.

14. 44 States had responded⁵ to the thematic questionnaire at the date of adoption of this report, and four [civil society organisations / NHRIs had provided additional information](#).

15. At its 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023) the Committee entrusted the Secretariat to prepare an overview of the main trends arising from a preliminary analysis of replies to

⁵ Parties not having replied yet at the date of adoption of this report are: Greece, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Sweden.

selected questions. The Committee took note of the members and observers who would act as rapporteurs:

- Question 1: Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia);
- Questions 2 and 3: Anna DOSZPOTH (Hungary);
- Question 4: Theresa RYAN-ROUGER (Missing Children Europe);
- Questions 5 and 6: Maria-José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal);
- Question 10 Lorna MUSCAT (Malta).

16. At its 41st meeting (13-15 February 2024) the Committee held a preliminary examination of the replies received in response to questions 1-6 and 10 of the thematic questionnaire. The Committee also agreed upon the next steps to be taken in the monitoring round and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a second questionnaire to complement the first questionnaire on legal frameworks. The Committee will continue to examine the replies received in response to the legal frameworks' questionnaire throughout 2024 with a view to adopting a report in 2025. It will consider a draft of the next questionnaire at its meeting in June 2024 and if this is adopted before the summer will start examining the replies and other information submitted in this context in the course of 2025.



ii. Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos

17. As discussed in the [7th activity report](#), the Committee adopted the implementation report on [the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies \(ICTs\) – Addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos](#), at its 36th meeting (7-10 March 2022). Since the adoption of the report the Committee and Secretariat have been working to support State Parties to implement the findings and recommendations made in the report.

18. To this end the Secretariat has developed two comprehensive sets of [factsheets](#) to raise awareness on the key findings of the Committee made during its 2nd monitoring round. They summarise the Committee’s reasoning and contain the recommendations addressed to State Parties. They also flag key messages from children who participated in the monitoring round along with some examples of promising practice that have been identified by the Committee.

19. The thematic factsheets have been developed to highlight findings and recommendations in relation to **legal frameworks, investigation and prosecution, jurisdiction rules, civil society participation, awareness-raising activities, education of children, training of professionals, and research.**

20. Country specific factsheets have also been developed for each of the 43 State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention, which were assessed as part of the 2nd monitoring round. These compile the analysis and recommendations addressed specifically to each State Party and can be used by States and relevant stakeholders to improve and strengthen the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse at national level.

21. The Committee intends to start examining the actions taken by State Parties to comply with the recommendations of its 2nd monitoring round in the course of 2025. It agreed to do so using the existing [country factsheets](#) as a tool to gather information on progress made and measures adopted to follow-up on the Committee's recommendations



iii. Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as a consequence of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

22. At its 38th meeting (30 May-2 June 2023), the Committee took note of the Declaration on the situation of the children of Ukraine as adopted in appendix II of the [Reykjavik Declaration](#) of the 4th Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023). In view of the fact that the Council of Europe would set up a Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine ([CGU](#)) to facilitate co-operation between member States regarding these children, the Committee decided to appoint a representative to follow the work of the CGU. Given that the CGU would not address the situation of children that have been unlawfully transferred or deported to the Russian Federation, the Committee decided to submit [questions](#) to the Russian Federation under Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure on Special reports and urgent situations. The questions concern the protection against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of Ukrainian children unlawfully transferred or deported to the Russian Federation or to the areas temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation.

23. The deadline for the Russian Federation to submit a special report in response to the questions was 10 July 2023. Several documents were received by the Committee after expiry of this deadline.

24. At its 39th meeting, the Committee adopted a [Statement](#) deploring the lack of an appropriate response from the Russian Federation and urging it to co-operate fully in conformity with its obligations as a Party to the Lanzarote Convention. This statement complements and enhances the statement previously made by the Committee on [protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse resulting from the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#) which was adopted by the Committee at its 36th plenary meeting (7-10 March 2022).

iv. Survey on data collection on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

25. In December 2022, the Committee decided to examine the possibility of collecting updated data on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in State Parties. At its 39th and 40th meetings (26-28 September 2023 and 28-30 November 2023 respectively), the Committee considered the scope and content of the potential survey. The Lanzarote Convention requires State Parties to set up or designate mechanisms for data collection or focal points for the purposes of observing and evaluating the phenomenon of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children (see Article 10 paragraph 2 of the Convention). In the context of the general overview questionnaire and previous monitoring work the Committee had received some partial information from State Parties about data collection. The incomplete nature of the information received had not allowed for a comprehensive examination of this issue.

26. The Committee noted the challenges posed to data collection including the lack of agreed common definitions or indicators for data collection and issues of underreporting of abuse which led to data being inaccurate. Furthermore, the complex nature and consequences of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse means that multiple services and agencies may be responsible for collective elements of data in order to provide a holistic understanding of the nature and phenomenon of this crime. The Committee has made progress identifying existing international indicators that may be of use when collecting data and will continue to examine this issue in 2024.

27. In view of these considerations, the Committee decided to first map out the mechanisms for data collection that exist in State Parties before seeking to gather statistical data. During its 41st meeting (13-15 February 2024), the Committee adopted a mapping survey of data collection mechanisms in State Parties to obtain a clear picture of the types of data available. The Committee will then consider collecting statistical data from State Parties. The Committee plans to examine the responses received in the course of 2024 with a view to deciding on any further data collection exercise in 2025.



B. Exchange of information, experiences and good practice

28. The Lanzarote Committee is also tasked with facilitating the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experience and good practices among States to enhance their capacity to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. Accordingly, the Committee can organise capacity-building activities, information exchanges, hearings on specific issues raised by the implementation of the Convention or any other activity it deems useful.

i. Statute of limitations and legal age for sexual activities

29. On 31 May 2023, the Lanzarote Committee together with the Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe held a [public seminar](#) on the statute of limitations in respect of sexual offences against children and the legal age for sexual activities. The seminar was organised in the context of on-going work by the Committee on these topics to follow up on information received in response to two surveys that were launched by the Committee in 2021.

30. **As regards statutes of limitations**, the seminar included discussions of the challenges faced by State Parties when implementing Article 33 of the Convention and showcased solutions and promising practices that have been implemented at national level. Speakers included survivors and practitioners from across State Parties, including representatives from State Parties. Following the seminar, a comparative study of the [statutes of limitations in respect of sexual offences against children in State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention](#) was published which reviews the situation of 43 State Parties.

Key findings of the comparative study on statutes of limitations in State Parties

States can be broadly divided into three categories:

- States without any limitation period for any sexual offences against children
- States without limitation periods for some sexual offences against children
- States with limitation periods applicable to all sexual offences against children

In the majority of States where limitation periods apply to some or all sexual offences against children the length of the limitation period tends to be determined by or linked to the severity of the offence and the applicable sanction (for example longer limitation periods apply to offences subject to longer terms of imprisonment).

Limitation periods start to run either from the date of commission of the offence, the date of majority of the child or a later specified date (for example when the child victim reaches a specified age), in some States a provision has been introduced to prevent the limitation period from expiring before the victim reaches a specified age (in practice extending the duration of the limitation period for these crimes).

There appears to be a broad trend towards abolishing limitation periods as regards the most serious sexual offences against children and extending the duration of limitation periods for other offences.

Remaining challenges: in a minority of States the limitation period starts to run from the date of commission of the offence, in six of the 43 States it is still possible for the limitation period to expire before the child reaches the age of majority for certain crimes. This raises particular challenges where the limitation period is relatively short and does not therefore allow the victim sufficient time to disclose the sexual abuse.

Case study: abolition of statute of limitations in Belgium

31. At its 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023) the Committee held an exchange with Dr David Keyaerts, Legal Secretary to the Belgian Constitutional Court: he presented the Constitutional Court judgment 76/2022 "*League des droits humains*" and "*Association Syndicale des Magistrats*".

32. This case concerned legal challenges to legislative reforms which abolished limitation periods for sexual crimes when committed against children, including: rape, sexual assault, voyeurism, grooming and cyber enticement.

33. The Belgian Constitutional Court held that:

- the removal of limitation periods for sexual offences against children gave rise to difference in treatment between sexual offenders committing sexual offences against minors and adults and also the distinctions between victims of sexual offences who were minors or adults at the time of commission of the offences, but that this did not violate the principles of equality and non-discrimination

because the difference in treatment was justified in view of the objective criteria used (sexual nature of the offence and minority of the victim)

- there is no general principle (either in Belgian constitutional law or International Human Rights Law) guaranteeing a time limitation on criminal prosecutions.
- the legislature has a wide margin of appreciation when establishing matters of criminal policy and accepted the justifications of the legislator for removing the limitation period in respect of these crimes namely to: combat impunity of perpetrators of sexual offences against children, to protect children by allowing them sufficient time to report sexual offences and to deter offenders from commission or repetition of sexual offences against children.
- children who are victims of sexual offences have unique vulnerabilities and that their “silence” is often linked to the severe trauma suffered and the fact that the perpetrator often has a familial or authoritative relationship with the child which can hinder early disclosure of these crimes.
- the removal of limitation periods for these crimes did not violate the right to a fair trial or the principle of legal certainty given that all of the guarantees inherent to a fair trial remain effective, notably the obligation for Court to declare proceedings inadmissible where the long passage of time or lack of evidence would impair the defendant’s right to a fair trial.

34. In view of complex legal questions raised by this topic, at its 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023), the Committee decided to begin work on an opinion to clarify the interpretation of Article 33 of the Convention. During its 41st meeting, (13-15 February 2024), the Lanzarote Committee considered the draft opinion and decided to continue examination of the draft opinion at its 42nd meeting (11-13 June 2024).

35. **As regards the legal age for sexual activities** the seminar included discussions focused on the legal, moral and cultural issues surrounding the legal age for sexual activities including why a common legal age has not been agreed upon, issues related to consensual sexual activities among children and challenges arising from differences in the legal age of consent and the legal age for sexual activities. Following the seminar, a comparative study of the [legal age for sexual activities in State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention](#) was published which reviews the situation with regard to 47 State Parties.

Key findings of the comparative study on the legal age for sexual activities

In 43 out of 47 State Parties the legal age for sexual activities varies from 14 to 16 years old and three State Parties set the legal age at 17 or 18. One State Party does not set out a legal age for sexual activities in legislation and an age range has emerged in case law varying from 14 to 16.

In some State Parties the legal age for sexual activities is below the legal age for marriage. This gives rise to questions of protection of married children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by their spouse. This also raises concerns due to the contradictions between civil and criminal law regarding a child's ability to consent.

In the majority of State Parties, the legal age does not vary according to the type of sexual activity, however in some Parties there is variation which can give rise to a lack of legal certainty.

Some State Parties have introduced age differentiation clauses to avoid criminalising adolescents for engaging in consensual sexual experiences in the framework of their normal sexual development. Such solutions are in line with the Lanzarote Committee [opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children](#) which recommends that in this context the criminal prosecution of children should be a last resort. In some State Parties these age differentiation clauses also apply to young adults.

In some State Parties the child's consent may be raised as a defence against prosecution for sexual activities with a child below the legal age for sexual activities. However, this has given rise to a concerning situation in States where there is no minimum age below which a child is deemed never to be able to consent, which can lead to absurdities whereby a court must determine whether a very young child can be deemed to have consented to the sexual abuse.

36. In view of complex legal questions raised by this topic, at its 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023), the Committee decided to begin work on an opinion. The draft opinion will be examined by the Committee in the course of 2024/2025.



ii. Country Overviews

37. As described in the 7th activity report, the Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare several pilot [country overviews](#) to present information concerning the implementation of the Convention in selected State Parties. During the reporting period three such pilot overviews were published. The Overviews have been prepared jointly by the Council of Europe and [ECPAT International](#) and aim to shed light on the scale, scope and context of the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and suggest concrete action to better protect children across states. They were prepared in collaboration with the national authorities and are based on the information submitted to the Committee via the general overview questionnaire, the Committee's monitoring findings and recommendations, as well as desk-based research to take into account the recent progress made. Country overviews have been prepared in respect of the following countries:



A country overview for [Finland](#) was launched in Helsinki on 13 April 2023. In 2022, Finland adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention which identifies measures to prevent and protect children from violence as well as the promotion of national and international collaboration to combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It includes measures to strengthen awareness raising, sexuality education and support research on treatment programmes. The plan also includes implementation of the Barnahus model. Finland is currently receiving support to expand the availability of Barnahus units across the country in the context of a joint European Union/Council of Europe [co-operation project](#) (more details on this can be found in the co-operation section of this report). The country overview acknowledged that Finland has above-average standards for protecting children against violence and guaranteeing their well-being but also highlighted some gaps and potential issues for action by the authorities. Key challenges identified include: sexual

exploitation of children in the context of transactional sex, increases in sexual abuse and exploitation facilitated by technology, and a significant lack of data on the sexual exploitation and abuse of boys. National research shows that children in vulnerable situations are more likely to suffer from violence including sexual abuse.



A country overview for the [Republic of Moldova](#) was launched in Chisinau on 4 May 2023. In May 2022 the Government of the Republic of Moldova created a “Specialised Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”. This is a multi-disciplinary commission including representatives from relevant ministries. The country overview underlines that the Republic of Moldova faces significant challenges in combatting child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse due to persisting gaps in the criminalisation of sexual abuse, and that sexual exploitation in prostitution and trafficking is a serious risk for children in particular boys living in street situations. The sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children facilitated by technologies was also recognised as an increasing problem in the country along with the sexual exploitation of boys who appear to be less likely to seek support or redress following abuse. Many of these risks are exacerbated among Ukrainian refugee children who are being hosted in the Republic of Moldova. Since 2020 a series of legislative amendments have been introduced to strengthen definitions, criminal offences and sentencing to better protect children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The development of tools and training materials for professionals to better protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as well as other actions to strengthen the child-friendly justice are being developed in the context of the Council of Europe co-operation project.



A country overview was also prepared with regard to [Italy](#). It was published online on 15 February 2024. Whilst acknowledging the comprehensive nature of the National Plan for Preventing and Combating Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of 2022-2023, which foresaw the adoption of multiple educational initiatives to disseminate knowledge and skills to children, caregivers, and professionals on the issue of child sexual abuse, the country overview also identifies some areas within the services provided to child victims that require increased attention. These concern in particular child sexual abuse and exploitation within the "circle of trust" (in particular in the family). In order to strengthen the fight against transnational child sexual abuse and exploitation facilitated by ICTs, the country overview highlights that the Lanzarote Committee has requested Italy to establish jurisdiction over all cases where one of the constituent elements of the offence takes place on its territory as well as when the offence is committed by persons whose habitual residence is in Italy. A need to ensure that all children, including non-Italian, are aware of the availability of reporting and support mechanisms with regard to child sexual violence is also underlined by the country overview. Indeed, as a result of the various international migration fluxes, Italy hosts a large refugee population and the number of child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, especially unaccompanied children, is increasing. Training materials including specific modules on the contextual needs of children affected by migration, should therefore be made available to all professionals in contact with these children.



iii. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse 2023

38. The 9th edition of the European Day (18 November 2023) focused on “[Learning from victims and survivors of childhood sexual violence to inspire policy change](#)”. During its 40th meeting (28-30 November 2023), the Committee held a panel discussion with victim and survivor advocates from across the globe.

39. The panel also included an exchange with Professor S. Caroline TAYLOR and Sophie OTIENDE, independent experts, regarding the development of guidelines for policy makers on engaging with victims and survivors in the context of policy making. By using the guidelines, policy makers can ensure that engagement is trauma informed and respects victims and survivors’ rights to self-determination, empowerment, equality and equity.

40. An awareness raising [paper](#) on the Council of Europe's engagement with victims and survivors, the different forms of engagement in different States and how to better engage with victims and survivors has been published online.

41. Ahead of the Day, Secretary General Marja PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ [called](#) on Council of Europe member States to step up their engagement with victims and survivors of childhood sexual violence to help lift taboos surrounding reporting of sexual violence to better protect children. On the occasion of the day, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Tiny COX, [called](#) on policy makers everywhere to listen to, and learn from, the victims and survivors of childhood sexual violence when developing laws and policies to combat this terrible crime.

42. On the occasion of the Day, six Council of Europe member States⁶ also issued a [joint statement](#) recognising the importance of giving a voice to victims and survivors of childhood sexual violence to learn from their experiences and inspire policy change. The statement was endorsed by 37 other Council of Europe member States⁷ and the European Union.

⁶ Andorra, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino and Slovenia

⁷ Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

43. Throughout the reporting period, the Committee heard information and presentations about the pressing need for action to protect children from the threats posed by emerging technologies which include artificial intelligence and extended reality or immersive technologies. These included a presentation of a [Research paper](#) by Katarzyna STACIWA on the challenges raised by the Metaverse for the protection of children against online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as well as various updates from EUROPOL, Missing Children Europe, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, INHOPE, Internet Watch Foundation, and WeProtect Global Alliance.

44. At its 39th meeting (26-28 September 2023) the Committee decided to dedicate the theme of the 2024 edition of the European Day to the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in light of threats and opportunities posed by emerging technologies including artificial intelligence and extended reality. This will also be the theme of the 2024 capacity building event.



Thematic focus: engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse to inspire policy change

45. Engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the context of policy making is an essential way of ensuring that policies are evidence based and that policy makers can learn from the lived experience of those most affected by these crimes. This can provide support to strengthen national response to better react and support child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and increase reporting of these crimes.

46. Victims and survivors can engage in the design of national action plans to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This sort of co-creation can contribute to ensure that priorities and actions are aligned to the needs and challenges faced by children.

47. Engagement can take many different forms from ad hoc consultation groups to involvement in decision making at the highest levels. A discussion on the continuum of engagement is included in the guidelines for policy makers on survivor engagement.

48. One aspect of the European Day panel discussion with the Committee centred on questions about what governments can do to contribute to the healing of victims and survivors. It was underlined that not all victims and survivors can access justice through the criminal justice system for a variety of reasons including in some cases the expiration of the limitation period to bring proceedings. Survivor advocates⁸ indicated that recognition of the harm and trauma they have suffered, even without a criminal conviction of the person that abused them, can contribute towards healing. This can be achieved by someone in a position of authority acknowledging and believing them about what has happened. This can also be achieved by involvement in a hearing, inquiry or advisory board.

49. Media discourse and narrative was also identified as a key area in which policy makers could take meaningful action to provide guidance and regulation to protect victims and survivors from harmful and invasive media coverage of their suffering. Some of the survivor

⁸ This term is used to include victims and survivors acting as advocates in the context of policy making.

advocates present testified about the severe attacks and insensitive media coverage they have suffered since openly acknowledging the abuse they suffered as children and advocating for policy change. The Convention requires States to encourage the media to provide appropriate information about child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 9, paragraph 3) and also to protect the privacy, identity and image of child victims (Article 31, paragraph 1.e.). Policy makers must take the lead to counter misinformation and raise awareness about these issues in line with the provisions of the Convention.

50. One of the greatest impediments to addressing child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse was identified as delayed or lack of disclosure, due to feelings of shame and isolation that result from manipulation by the child's abuser. Survivor advocates indicated that one way to address this and to prevent victimisation was to improve peer education and disclosure training for children. They underlined that many victims disclose their abuse to their friends and peers rather than to a trusted adult or the police.

51. Survivor advocates also identified issues relating to parental responsibility and contact rights as well as lack of long-term support as key challenges that policy makers need to address to better protect children.

52. It is important to recognise that in addition to their lived experience, victims and survivors can also contribute their professional skills and expertise. Nevertheless, engaging with people with lived experience involves a number of ethical and safeguarding considerations. Policy makers need to clearly define the goals and expected outcomes of engagement, including information on how the contribution of victims and survivors will be taken into account. Given the very sensitive nature of this topic, a risk assessment should be undertaken to clearly identify any safety and privacy concerns. Engagement must be trauma informed to avoid re-victimisation and re-traumatisation.

53. Some examples of promising practices of engagement with victims and survivors are included below:



The Office of the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues (Germany) ([UBSKM](#)) was established by the Federal Government in 2010 to improve protection against child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It was declared a permanent institution in 2018.

A Survivors' Board was established in 2015. Survivors are appointed by the Commissioner and support her in all aspects of her work on a voluntary basis.



The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (England and Wales) ([IICSA](#)) was established by the Government in 2015 and published its [final report](#) in 2022. Victims and survivors participated in the work of the inquiry through various mechanisms including the victims and survivors consultative panel which provided advice and guidance across all areas of the inquiry, as well as the truth project and the victims and survivors forum.



Independent Commission on incest and sexual violence against children (France) ([CIIVISE](#)) was established by the President of France in 2021. The initial mandate was for two years, in December 2023 the mandate of the Commission was extended following the publication of a [report](#) “Sexual violence against children: we believe you”. The Commission is led by two co-chairpersons and formed of 27 experts including diverse professionals, victims and representatives of victims associations.



The [Global Collaborative](#) is an all-volunteer, survivor-led network of child advocacy organisations, academic institutions, survivors networks, NGOs and faith actors. The Global Collaborative works to raise awareness, educate the public to better protect children and promote solutions to prevent intergenerational trauma and protect children. Founded in 2019, it has worked with the UN General Assembly to recognise the 18 November as an international day for the prevention of and healing from child sexual exploitation and abuse.



The [Brave Movement](#) is a global, inclusive, survivor-led advocacy movement. With three key pillars: ‘Prevention, Healing and Justice’, Brave is mobilising a powerful global movement of survivors and allies to end sexual violence against children. The Movement is formed of a survivors advisory board, ‘Survivor Advocates Globally Empowered’ (SAGE), a global steering committee of seven international organisations, and a global action team dispersed across three continents.



[ECPAT Sweden](#) run a helpline and a hotline for victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Sweden as well as holding focus groups and running a yearly survey. In 2022, over 13,000 children participated in their survey on a range of topics related to OCSEA. Results from this survey were included in government reports and have been used in the context of developing a national strategy to combat and prevent violence against children.



iv. Tour de table: updates on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in member States throughout the year

54. At its 39th meeting (26-28 September 2023), the Committee held a brief *tour de table* with members updating the Committee about recent changes at national level prompted by Lanzarote Committee monitoring findings or its identification of promising practices to enhance protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The exchange was very well received and the Committee decided to maintain this practice at future plenary meetings. The table below summarises some of the updates that were shared with the Committee during the 39th and 40th meetings (26-28 September 2023 and 28-30 November 2023) (see the meeting reports for more details).

Type of change	Countries concerned
Constitutional reforms to better protect children's rights	Luxembourg
Amendments to substantive and procedural criminal law with regard to offences related to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Spain
Amendments to family law to better protect child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the circle of trust	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Legislative amendments and policy measures related to child-friendly justice standards	Azerbaijan, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal
Barnahus and other multidisciplinary and interagency responses to child sexual abuse	Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Ukraine

Awareness raising measures among children, parents and/or society	Azerbaijan, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovak Republic, Poland
Introduction of comprehensive sexuality education into national curriculum in line with Lanzarote Convention	Belgium
Adoption of new substantive legislation to protect children online	United Kingdom
Hotlines and safer internet centre	Slovak Republic
National strategies or action plans including the protection of children against violence and specifically sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	Bulgaria, Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal
New government structures and human rights institutions dealing with the protection of children against sexual abuse	Germany
Initiatives to gather data on children's rights	Iceland, Italy
Increasing training and qualification requirements for judges working with child victims of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	Germany, Poland
Improving co-operation between national authorities and international organisations	Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Luxembourg

55. It is worth highlighting that amendments to laws specifically relating to the statute of limitations were reported in the following States: Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico⁹, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. Furthermore, Cyprus and Luxembourg informed the Committee of legislative amendments concerning the legal age for sexual activities which were introduced following the Committee's capacity building event on 31 May 2023.

56. The Committee was informed that an agreement had been reached in Mexico to ratify the Lanzarote Convention and become a state Party in the course of 2024.

⁹ As one of the States having participated in the drafting of the convention, Mexico participates in the Lanzarote Committee meetings despite not yet having become a State Party to the Convention.



v. Council of Europe co-operation projects on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

57. Through national and regional [co-operation projects](#), the Co-operation Unit of the Council of Europe Children’s Rights Division has continued to support States to strengthen the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through the implementation of the provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and relevant recommendations made by the Lanzarote Committee to participating State Parties. The [Technical Co-operation Strategy 2022-2027: Supporting the implementation of children’s rights at regional and national level](#) provides further details of the technical support that is available for States.

Preventing and combatting violence against children

58. The [Republic of Moldova Phase III](#) project aims to strengthen responses to violence against children, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The project began in January 2022 and will run until December 2024. During the reporting period a video was launched to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, which was linked to the publication of the Country Overview. In addition, a two and a half day training session was held for 240 social assistants and child protection specialists to improve multidisciplinary and inter-agency co-operation and raise awareness of Council of Europe standards to improve responses to protect children against violence, including sexual abuse. A number of teachers and managers also took part in initial and on-going training linked to working with children, parents and teachers to implement the “Kiko and the hand” programme to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Supporting the implementation of Barnahus

59. In [Croatia](#) a new joint Council of Europe and European Union project was launched on 1 September 2023 to support the implementation of the Barnahus model in Croatia, enhance knowledge and skills of relevant professionals and raise awareness of child sexual abuse. During the reporting period a fact-finding mission and [launch meeting](#) took place on 30 January 2024.

60. In 2019, the Finnish authorities launched a nationwide Barnahus project centred around five university hospitals. The joint Council of Europe and European Union project in [Finland](#) began in September 2021 to support the Finnish authorities to address challenges in

the implementation of the Barnahus model, including the issue of delays in pre-trial and judicial proceedings involving children. During the reporting period a training session for Finnish prosecutors, judges and investigators was held to raise awareness and improve capacities in relation to online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Work also began on a study on the average duration of judicial proceedings involving children and the development of a communication strategy and action plan.

61. The Irish authorities began developing a pilot Barnahus project in Galway in 2019. Since August 2022 the joint Council of Europe and European Union project has been supporting [Ireland](#) to address challenges encountered during the pilot project and to open two additional centres. During the reporting period two studies were launched at a [roundtable](#) related to analysis of training needs and legal, regulatory and policy frameworks concerning child sexual abuse in Ireland.

62. In June 2021, [Spain](#) adopted a law on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence. The joint Council of Europe and European Union Barnahus project started in July 2022 and will contribute to the implementation of this law including the introduction and development of the Barnahus model in three different regions in Spain. During the reporting period a study visit to the Barnahus in Tarragona, Spain was held including representatives from 14 out of the 19 autonomous territories in Spain, and a national [mapping study](#) and [training needs analysis](#) were launched (available in Spanish).

Child-friendly justice

63. The Council of Europe provided support to the authorities in [Georgia](#) to implement the Code on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations made during the 2nd monitoring round by the Lanzarote Committee. During the reporting period: a gap analysis report on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse was published; an international conference on best practices in the child-friendly justice system was held in Tbilisi on the occasion of the European Day to end child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; and a training of trainers and several in-depth training sessions on the psychological aspects of interviewing child victims and witnesses of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were held. These were attended by judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers and based on a [manual](#) developed in the context of the project (available in Georgian).

64. During the reporting period, two projects were underway in Slovenia. One aiming at reforming the [penitentiary system and human resources of penitentiary staff](#), concluded in December 2023, this project included considerations related to protecting children from sexual abuse in the context of juvenile detention centres. A new project on [ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings](#) began in September 2023. This project includes a component aimed at addressing the specific safeguards applicable in divorce proceedings where the child has been a victim of sexual abuse by one of the parents.

65. In follow up to two previous projects on combatting violence against children in Ukraine, the Council of Europe is currently implementing a project to strengthen responses to violence against children, including sexual violence, in [Ukraine](#). The project focuses on

enhancing the effectiveness of frameworks to protect children from violence in the context of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. During the reporting period several training sessions were held to strengthen interagency co-operation and a [review](#) of the draft regulatory legal acts on child-friendly justice was published (available in Ukrainian).

Child Participation

66. In June 2023, the regional joint Council of Europe and European Union [CP4Europe](#) project involving Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Portugal, and Slovenia came to a close. The project sought to strengthen national child participation frameworks and actions in Europe. A [web-platform](#) has been launched containing a wide range of tools and materials for professionals interested in engaging with or implementing child participation. These will also be of use in the context of child participation contributions to the Lanzarote Committee's work or in relation to the activities organised on the occasion of the European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee has also prepared [Guidelines for the Implementation of Child Participation](#) to help facilitators engage with children in a meaningful and respectful manner.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies

67. In September 2023, the End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse@Europe Plus ([EndOCSEA@Europe+](#)) regional project was launched. This project will provide support to Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Montenegro to better protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse online. A steering group was held in December 2023.



vi. Participation of Lanzarote Committee members and Secretariat in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

68. Representatives of the Committee and Secretariat regularly participate in meetings and events on behalf of the Committee in order to exchange views with relevant partners, feed into the development of new standards and research and to contribute to better co-ordination and co-operation among stakeholders to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (see Appendix IV).

69. Out of the large number of events and meetings that took place during the reporting period, the following are particularly worth highlighting:

- On 19 September 2023, the Secretariat participated online in a UN General Assembly side event, to promote the Lanzarote Convention as a global tool and calling on States to consider acceding to the Convention.
- On 28 September 2023, the Lanzarote Committee held a joint event with the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) to promote the Barnahus and other multidisciplinary and interagency models to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. A [mapping study](#) on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children in Council of Europe member states was published following this event.
- On 24 and 25 October 2023, Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO took part in two seminars in Morocco to promote the Lanzarote Convention as a global tool to protect and prevent child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
- On 29 November 2023, Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO presented the most recent activities of the Lanzarote Committee to the Committee of Ministers' Deputies.

- On 13 December 2023, during the Cybercrime OCTOPUS conference, the Secretariat participated in a workshop on [Synergies between Budapest, Lanzarote, Istanbul and Trafficking conventions for a safer cyberspace](#). This was an opportunity to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention among a wide audience including non-State Parties.
- On 15 December 2023, on the margins of the Cybercrime OCTOPUS conference, the Secretariat also held a closed workshop for seven countries to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention and discuss the practical implications of accession to the Convention including the concrete ways that joining the Convention can help to prevent and protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

70. A full list of meetings and events is included in Appendix IV.



vii. Co-operation with civil society: civil society organisation updates throughout the year

71. The Lanzarote Committee holds regular exchanges with relevant stakeholders including international and civil society organisations that hold observer status with the Committee. The Committee also maintained its practice of holding an annual panel to showcase recent work of the Participants and Observers of the Committee to enrich and inform its work. This panel took place during the 40th meeting of the Committee (28-30 November 2023).

72. **Internet Watch Foundation** shared information about a [Report](#) on how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The report found that there is an increased presence of AI generated CSAM which raises difficulties for analysts to detect CSAM that is relating to a real child versus AI generated CSAM due to the realism of the images generated. Another challenge stems from image generation using text to image technologies that have been trained using tagged datasets of real images which can then be further edited using image editing software. The possibility to build safeguards into AI generation technologies was also discussed along with the need for clarify about the legality or illegality of images and more law enforcement training on AI images. The report concludes that there is a need for regulatory oversight of technologies, data sets and engagement with academic and open-source communities. There is an urgent need to criminalise written materials such as offender manuals and exchanges of advice on the creation of AI generated CSAM.

73. **End Violence Against Children fund** informed the Committee that they launched new branding and are now known as **Safe Online**, which is still part of the End Violence partnership. [Safe Online](#) launched a new funding round in 2023 which is currently being assessed, the Council of Europe is currently implementing a project funded by Safe Online (End OCSEA@Europe +). The [Disrupting Harm](#) studies which include questionnaire and survey data with children and parents, desk reviews of legislation as well as law enforcement data are on-going. To date 13 countries have been analysed and a second phase has been launched which will include analysis of the situation in 11 countries including 4 in Eastern Europe. Throughout the reporting period Safe Online have continued with the [Safe digital](#)

[futures for children : data for change](#) workshops, which seek to improve the evidence base to support legislation and policies to respond to emerging risks and trends. A workshop took place in Paris in November 2023, one of the conclusions was that there is a need for co-operation and collaboration on data. The Lanzarote Committee Secretariat regularly participates in these workshops.

74. **INHOPE** updated the Committee about the [Universal Classification Schema](#) for the classification of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse material. This is a tool to enhance the detection and prompt removal of CSAM by overcoming national legislative differences and data-sharing barriers across jurisdictions. INHOPE invites stakeholders interested in contributing to the development of training materials to enhance use of the schema or in receiving more information to contact them. INHOPE also updated the Committee about the [Data exchange and Intelligence Forum](#) which is used to identify victims and secure the takedown and removal of CSAM. In this context, INHOPE underlined that differences in legislation must be overcome to allow for better sharing of data to facilitate victim identification and effective use of law enforcement resources and including sharing of data regarding already identified and classified CSAM.

75. **WeProtect Global Alliance** updated the Committee about its [2023-2027 Strategy](#), meetings of its [Global Taskforce on Child Sexual Abuse Online](#) and key findings of its [Global Threat Assessment 2023](#). The latter include: increase in amount of CSAM circulating, extremely short time frames needed by perpetrators to move children from online gaming platforms into private spaces where they can be groomed and abused, severe increase in financial extortion of children using their intimate images, creation of CSAM by Artificial Intelligence used for financial extortion, abuse within immersive environments making responses more complex. The key gap identified was that children's perception of risk is different to reality notably in that many children still perceive risk as coming from strangers rather than people within their circle of trust. A different appreciation of risk between boys and girls was also highlighted. Key recommendations included: shift to a public health and prevention response, increase involvement of children and survivors in responses, implement baseline legislation.

76. **ECPAT International** updated the Committee about the ongoing review of the [Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines](#) which aims to ensure that terms used take into account new technologies and new crime types. ECPAT International has also been instrumental in organising workshops regarding the proposal for an EU Regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse, the [outcomes report](#) on technology aspects of the regulation, and presentation of [ECPAT polling](#) of EU Citizens views of child protection online and data privacy are now available online. Key findings from the polling indicate that the majority of participants agree that children are at risk and that online service providers should do more to tackle this. 95% agreed that regulation of service providers to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is necessary. Over 80% indicated support for the use of automated tools to detect, report and remove CSAM and or grooming materials. The Lanzarote Committee also participated online in the [behind the screens, early findings from the VOICE research](#) event which took place on 29 November 2023 during its plenary meeting.

77. **EUROPOL** shared key findings from its [Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment \(IOCTA\)](#) which identified increases in the quantity and severity of CSAM circulating online, increased use of social media to groom children, increased instances of offenders encouraging other offenders to abuse the same victim and sharing information among themselves to avoid detection. Explicit self-generated material is an increasing concern and is distributed for profit. EUROPOL stressed that the sophistication of technologies being used to extort money and CSAM from victims has also increased, as well as use of extended realities and immersive technologies to abuse children. Cases of live streaming sexual abuses of children are of big concern. EUROPOL has also created [Guidelines for law enforcement first responders in CSEA cases](#), which are available in 11 languages (at the time of writing).

78. **Missing Children Europe** informed the Committee about the [CESAGRAM Project](#) which is developing technologies to prevent and facilitate detection of grooming content online, along with awareness raising materials for young people and training tools for professionals to better identify and respond to instances of online grooming.

79. **Brave Movement** updated the Committee about key challenges and achievements of 2023, including the organisation of the global action summit to engage with the G7 and changes to the management structure of the organisation to facilitate regional and thematic campaigns. The Brave Movement also informed that it has established international taskforces on online safety and for the abolition of statute of limitations.



viii. Automated detection of child sexual abuse materials

80. The Committee continued to closely follow and engage with relevant stakeholders in the context of the automated detection of child sexual abuse materials.

81. Throughout the reporting period the Committee held regular exchanges with the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders regarding the ongoing reform process of the legal framework to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the European Union. This reform process includes the consideration of the proposal for an EU Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse, the review of Directive 2011/93 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography and Directive 2012/29 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

82. The Committee also continued to be informed by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Convention about progress in the UN Ad Hoc Committee negotiations to elaborate a comprehensive international Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

83. During the 2023 Cybercrime OCTOPUS Conference¹⁰ the Secretariat organised a workshop on the [automatic detection of child sexual exploitation and abuse materials](#), which was moderated by Maria-José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee). The key conclusions of the workshop include the need for robust legal frameworks, international and national co-operation between public and private stakeholders as well as the need to improve international sharing of relevant data among relevant stakeholders to improve the identification and protection of victims.

84. At its 41st meeting (12-15 February 2024) the Committee held a Thematic exchange on protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the context of emerging technologies including presentations concerning the state-of-play of the negotiations on the Council of Europe framework convention on artificial intelligence, the report “the Metaverse

¹⁰ The Octopus Conference, held every 12 to 18 months by the Council of Europe, constitutes one of the biggest and finest platforms of exchange in cybercrime gathering experts from more than 100 countries, international organisations, private sector and academia.

and its impact on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy” ([abridged report](#)), and updates from the Internet Watch Foundation and INHOPE.

ix. Development of HELP module

85. In January 2024, the Lanzarote Committee Secretariat began work on an e-learning module, in the context of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals ([HELP](#)), on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The module will be developed by independent experts in the course of 2024 with a view to it being launched in English and French in 2025.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – List of meetings of the Lanzarote Committee

Plenary meetings

- 38th meeting: Hybrid meeting, 30 May-2 June 2023
- 39th meeting: Hybrid meeting, 26-28 September 2023
- 40th meeting: Hybrid meeting, 28-30 November 2023
- 41st meeting: in person only meeting, 13-15 February 2024

Appendix II – Composition of the Lanzarote Committee

(as at 9 January 2024)

MEMBERS

State Parties to the Convention

ALBANIA

Alma TANDILI
Chairperson of the
State Agency for the Rights and Protection
of the Child
Ministry of Health and Social Protection

ANDORRA

Lara FORTÓ RIBERA
Psychologue
Unité « Enfance et Adolescence »
Ministère des Affaires sociales, de la
Jeunesse et de l'Égalité

ARMENIA

Gayane HOVAKIMYAN
Consultant to the Director
Center for Implementation of Legal
Education and Rehabilitation Programs
Ministry of Justice

AUSTRIA

Madalena PAMPALK-LORBEER
Public Prosecutor / Consultant
Section IV - Criminal Law
Division IV 1 - Substantive Criminal Law
Federal Ministry for Justice

AZERBAIJAN

Samir GARAYEV
Head of Division
Main Department on Combatting
Trafficking in Human Beings
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Jeyran RAHMATULLAYEVA
Head of the Administrative Office
State Committee for Family, Women and
Children Affairs

BELGIUM

Christel DE CRAIM
Head of Service
Service for Criminal Policy
FPS Justice

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ajla NANIĆ
Expert Advisor
Human Rights Sector
Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees

BULGARIA

Yanko KOVACHEV
State Expert
“Child Policies and Programs, Strategic
Development and Coordination”
Directorate
State Agency for Child Protection

CROATIA

Marlena JUKIĆ
Head of Service
Service for criminal substantive law
regulations
Sector for criminal law regulations
Directorate for criminal law
Ministry of Justice and Public
Administration

CYPRUS

Panayiota TRIFILLI
Social Services Officer
Social Welfare Services
Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare

CZECHIA

Šimon PEPŘÍK
Criminal Law Unit
Legislative Department
Ministry of Justice

DENMARK

Mie HEDENGRAN HELANDER
Criminal Law Division
Ministry of Justice

ESTONIA

Tuuli LEPP
Adviser
Department of Criminal Policy
Ministry of Justice

FINLAND

Satu SISTONEN
Deputy Director, Legal Officer
Unit for Human Rights Courts and
Conventions
Legal Service
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

FRANCE

Philippe OLIVIER
Magistrat - Rédacteur
Bureau de la négociation pénale
européenne et internationale
Direction des affaires criminelles et des
graces
Ministère de la Justice

GEORGIA

Ketevani TATUASHVILI
Adviser
Human Rights Secretariat
Administration of the Government

GERMANY

Awaiting nomination

GREECE

George NIKOLAIDIS
Director
Department of Mental Health and Social
Welfare
Centre for the Study and Prevention of
Child Abuse and Neglect
Institute of Child Health

HUNGARY

Anna DOSZPOTH
Legal Adviser
Deputy State Secretariat for Criminal Law
Codification
Ministry of Justice

András GYÖRE
Child Protection Specialist
Department for Child Protection and
Guardianship Affairs
Deputy State Secretariat for Social Affairs
Ministry of Interior

ICELAND

Páll MAGNÚSSON
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Iceland in Geneva

Hlín SÆPÓRSDÓTTIR

Senior Adviser
Ministry of Education and Children

IRELAND

Corah CAPLES
Assistant Principal Officer
Criminal Justice Policy
Department of Justice

ITALY

Alfredo FERRANTE
Department for family policies
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Alessandra BERNARDON
Department for family policies
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

LATVIA

Indra AIZUPE
Director
Department of Criminal Law
Ministry of Justice

LIECHTENSTEIN

Claudio NARDI
Counsellor
Division for Economic Affairs and
Development
Division for Security and Human Rights
Office for Foreign Affairs

Sarah FRICK
Psychologist
Children and Youth Service Division
Office of Social Services

LITHUANIA

Kristina STEPANOVA
Head of the
Family and Child Rights Protection Group
Ministry of Social Security and Labour

LUXEMBOURG

Marguerite KRIER,
Conseiller de Gouvernement 1^{ère} classe
Service des droits de l'enfant, chef de
service
Direction générale de l'aide à l'enfance et
à la famille
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de
l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

MALTA

Lorna MUSCAT
Head of Office
Office of the Commissioner for Children

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Artur DEGTEARIOV
Head of the Child Pornography
Investigation Section
Cybercrime Investigation Directorate
National Investigation Inspectorate
General Police Inspectorate
Ministry of Internal Affairs

MONACO

Cécile VACARIE-BERNARD
Adjointe au Directeur de l'Action et de
l'Aide Sociales
Direction de l'Action et de l'Aide Sociales

MONTENEGRO

Jelena GRDINIĆ
General Director
Directorate for Criminal and Civil
Legislation
Ministry of Justice

NETHERLANDS

Eugenia POZO MORILLAS
Senior policy officer (sexual violence
crimes)
Ministry of Justice and Security

NORTH MACEDONIA

Dušan TOMŠIĆ
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

NORWAY

Maria Brit ESPINOZA
Special Adviser International Affairs
Department of Childhood, Youth and
Family Affairs
Ministry of Children and Families

POLAND

Agnieszka MATYSEK
Chief Specialist – Judge
Victims' Assistance Unit
Department of Family and Juvenile
Matters
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Awaiting nomination

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Awaiting nomination

MEXICO

Awaiting nomination

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Awaiting nomination

**State invited by the Committee of
Ministers to accede to the Convention****MOROCCO**

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International organisations**COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES**

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**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF NATIONAL
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Permanent Secretariat

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF OMBUDSMANS
FOR CHILDREN**

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EUROPEAN UNION

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UNHCR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SALE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Mama Fatima SINGHATEH
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and any other child sexual abuse material

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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Regional Office for Europe

Council of Europe Institutions and Bodies**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH**

Awaiting nomination

CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Awaiting nomination

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Brigitte van den BERG
Rapporteur for Children's Rights
Netherlands

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Dunja MIJATOVIĆ
Commissioner for Human Rights

CYBERCRIME CONVENTION COMMITTEE (T-CY)

Awaiting nomination

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

Awaiting nomination

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL COOPERATION (CDCJ)

Awaiting nomination

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER AND THE EUROPEAN CODE OF SOCIAL SECURITY (T-SG)

Awaiting nomination

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Sevinj FATALIYEVA
Chairperson of the
Sub-Committee on Children
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and
Sustainable Development

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

Awaiting nomination

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GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE

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Co-founder and Vice-chairman

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Katerina MELISSARI
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**INHOPE (International Association of
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Denton HOWARD
Executive Director

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
YOUTH AND FAMILY JUDGES AND
MAGISTRATES (IAYFJM)**

Daniel PICAL
Magistrat honoraire représentant l'AIMJF
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION

Michael TUNKS
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SAFE ONLINE

Marija MANOJLOVIC
Safe Online Director

SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Tiina-Maria LEVAMO
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THE BRAVE MOVEMENT

Matthew McVARISH
Co-Founder

WEPROTECT GLOBAL ALLIANCE

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Executive Director

SECRETARIAT

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Corinne CHRISTOPHEL
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Kübra Begüm ŞİMŞEK
Assistant

Appendix III – Composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee and list of representatives of the Lanzarote Committee to other entities

Composition of the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee

- Chairperson: Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal)
- Vice-Chairperson: Svitlana ILCHUK (Ukraine) until 15/12/23; Philippe OLIVIER (France) as of 15/02/24
- Members:
 - Bertille DOURTHE (France) until 17/04/23; Anna DOSZPOTH (Hungary) as of 02/06/23
 - George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece)
 - Páll MAGNÚSSON (Iceland)
 - Lorna MUSCAT (Malta)
 - Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia)

List of representatives of the Lanzarote Committee to other entities

Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece), representative

Committee of Experts on Combatting technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal), representative

Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia), substitute

Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece), representative

Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)

Tijana BOROVIČANIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina), representative until 01/12/23

Consultation Group of Children of Ukraine (CGU)

Artur DEGTEARIOV (Republic of Moldova), representative

Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)

Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal), representative

European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

Agnieszka MATYSEK (Poland), representative

Páll MAGNÚSSON (Iceland), substitute

European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS)

Svitlana ILCHUK (Ukraine) until 15/12/23

Lorna MUSCAT (Malta), substitute and representative as of 15/12/23

Gender Equality Rapporteur
Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal)

Appendix IV – Participation of the Lanzarote Committee and of the Council of Europe Secretariat in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

- 29th meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), 6-9 February 2023, Strasbourg.
- 7th meeting of Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings, 6-8 March, Strasbourg.
- National Emergency Response Mechanism for the protection of unaccompanied children in precarious living conditions: from needs assessment to response, 7 March 2023, Athens, Greece.
- Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean (South Programme V) launching event: 13-14 March 2023, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Meeting organised by Argentinian ONG Adultxs por los Derechos de la Infancia, 15 March, online.
- Visit to Hungary: participation in [fact-finding mission to Hungary](#) of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, 21-23 March 2023, Hungary. focusing on the situation of persons in vulnerable situations who continue to flee Ukraine.
- INHOPE: Event “Exploitation is abuse”, European Virtual Forum INHOPE, 22-23 March, online.
- 7th plenary meeting of the Steering Committee for the rights of the child, 28-29 March 2023, in Reykjavik, Iceland.
- ICMEC, the Internet Watch Foundation, INHOPE, and Child Helpline: Event “Preventing and Reporting Harm, the role of portals – helplines, and hotlines in the fight against (O)CSEA”, 19 April, online.
- INHOPE Hotline training meeting, 26-27 April 2023, Valetta, Malta.
- Meeting of Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), 16-17 May, Strasbourg.
- Children’s Forum organised by Themis with the French Ombusman for children, Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, 5 June, Strasbourg.
- Meeting with the office in Georgia on the legal age for sexual activities, unregistered child marriages, and other current challenges in protecting children from sexual violence in Georgia, 23 June, online.

- UNODC Expert working group on removal of child sexual exploitation and abuse material from the internet, 26-27 June 2023, Vienna, Austria.
- Asociación Afecto of Colombia (<https://afecto.org.co/>) Congress against child abuse, 28-30 August 2023, Colombia and online.
- Visit to Bulgaria: participation in the [fact-finding mission to Bulgaria](#) of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, 11-15 September 2023, Bulgaria focusing on the situation of persons in vulnerable situations, in particular unaccompanied and separated children.
- UN General Assembly side event on lifting the voices of survivors, 19 September 2023, New York, USA and online.
- Zero meeting of the Consultation Group on Children of Ukraine, 4 October 2023, online.
- 8th meeting Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings 4 to 6 October, Strasbourg.
- Meeting of Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), 11-12 October 2023, Strasbourg. ECPAT International: event “Protecting children in travel and tourism”, 12 October, online.
- Mouv’Enfants stakeholder debate, 20 October 2023, Strasbourg.
- Two workshops on sexual violence against children and mechanisms for caring for child victims of sexual assault in the light of national legal action and the principles of the Lanzarote Convention, 24-25 October 2023, Rabat, Morocco. Safe Digital Futures for children: Data for change workshop, 8-9 November 2023, Paris, France.
- SOS France victimes 67 – Event « Enfance et résilience, regards croisés sur l’accompagnement des victimes mineures de violences sexuelles et intrafamiliales », 10 November, Strasbourg.
- Webinar organised by UNICEF and WeProtect Global Alliance on “Driving national action against child sexual abuse online using the Model National Response - the experiences of Albania, Bulgaria and Serbia”, 13 November, Zoom.
- 8th plenary meeting of Steering Committee for the rights of the child, 14-16 November 2023 in Strasbourg.
- International conference “A child-friendly justice system and child rights, the best European and American experience”, 20 November 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- International symposium “Protection of children from abuse and exploitation in the virtual world”, 24-25 November 2023, Ankara, Turkey and online.

- Event on Council of Europe cooperation with ENNHRI and NHRIs organised in the framework of the 99th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights, 1 December 2023, Strasbourg.
- 1st meeting of Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE), 30 November-1 December 2023, Strasbourg.
- [End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse@Europe Plus \(EndOCSEA@Europe+\)](#) project Steering Committee 1st meeting, 5 December 2023, online.
- Visit at the Maison de protection des familles du Bas-Rhin, Strasbourg gendarmerie, 11 December, Strasbourg.
- OCTOPUS Cybercrime Conference: 13-15 December 2023, Bucharest, Romania.
- Online workshops with ECPAT International in the context of the revision of the Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines review, multiple online workshops December 2023 and January-February 2024.

Appendix V – Presentations

38th meeting (30 May-2 June 2023)

- Irena GUIDIKOVA (Head of Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department, Council of Europe) presented the Declaration on the situation of the children of Ukraine ([Reykjavík Declaration “United around our values”](#));
- Abby ROBERTS (Project Manager, INHOPE) presented INHOPE’s [Universal Classification Schema for the classification of child sexual exploitation and abuse material \(CSAM\)](#);
- Katarzyna STACIWA (Independent Expert, Department for Reacting to Illegal Content on the Internet Dyżurnet.pl) presented her research paper on the challenges raised by the Metaverse for the protection of children against online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;
- Amy CROCKER (Head of Child Protection and Technology, ECPAT International) presented the outcomes of the 2nd Experts’ workshop exploring the technology dimensions of the proposal for an EU Regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse;
- Annette CASSAR (Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission) presented the outcomes of the independent study to evaluate EU Directive 2011/93 and an update on the next steps concerning the review of this directive;
- Eleanor LINSSELL (Advocacy Manager, WeProtect Global Alliance) presented the WeProtect Global Alliance [2023-2027 Strategy](#) and informed the Committee about recent research findings on self-generated content and experiences of online sexual harms;
- Yves ROLLAND (Programme Advisor on Police Matters, Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe) presented the new Council of Europe Network of national police correspondents.

39th meeting (26-28 September 2023)

- Sevinj FATALIYEVA (member of PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on children) presented the relevant developments at Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Manveen KOHLI (End Violence Against Children Fund) presented the latest [Safe Online](#) funding round;

- Andrea VARRELLA (ECPAT International) presented the work commenced to update the Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (Luxembourg Guidelines);
- Anton Toni KLANČNIK (EUROPOL) presented the most recent and relevant developments observed in the crime area of children protection against sexual abuse and exploitation under the mandate of EUROPOL;
- Theresa RYAN-ROUGER (Missing Children Europe) presented the CESAGRAM project which aims to enhance the understanding of the grooming process and in particular how this is facilitated by technology.

Public Event on the Mapping Study on multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice models responding to violence against children in Council of Europe member states, hosted by the Lanzarote Committee and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (28 September 2023)

- Susanna GREIJER and Daja WENKE (International Consultants) presented the main findings and recommendations of the Mapping Study on multidisciplinary and interagency response models to violence against children;
- Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee) presented the work of the Lanzarote Committee;
- Rosário FARMHOUSE (Chairperson of the CDEF) presented the work of the CDEF;
- Oleksandr BARANOV (Director of the Coordination Center of Free legal Aid, Ukraine), Taina LAAJASALO (Chief Researcher at National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Forensic Psychologist, Finland), Ninel Jasmine SADJADI (Management Centre for Victim Assistance, Austria), Daniela SIMBOTEANU (Head of NCCAP, Republic of Moldova), and Laura KORHONEN (Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Head, National Competence Centre Barnafid, Linköping University, Sweden) presented the developments in their specific countries regarding multidisciplinary and interagency response models to violence against children.

40th meeting (28-30 November 2023)

- Iain DRENNAN (Executive Director of WeProtect Global Alliance) presented the findings of the [Global Threat Assessment 2023](#);
- Serena TOMMASINO (Knowledge and Advocacy Specialist at End Violence) presented the work on the Data for Change initiative;

- Michael TUNKS (Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Internet Watch Foundation) presented the work on tackling Child Sexual Abuse Material that has been generated using Generative Artificial Intelligence;
- Dushica NAUMOVSKA (Chief Operating Officer at INHOPE) presented the work on Effective data exchange to fight online CSAM;
- Matthew McVARISH (Co-founder of Brave Movement) presented the “Brave Movement - year 2”;
- Isaline WITTORSKI (Regional Coordinator (EU) at ECPAT) presented the findings of an EU poll carried out on [“What do the EU citizens really think about data privacy and child protection online?”](#).

European Day Panel: Learning from victims/survivors of childhood sexual violence to inspire policy change (30 November 2023)

- Kerstin CLAUS (Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues and Survivors Advisory Board, Germany) and Wibke MÜLLER (Independent Commissioner’s Survivors Board Member presented the examples of victim/survivor engagement in the work of the Office of the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues (Germany).
- Chris TUCK and Fay MAXTED (Members of Victims and Survivors Consultative Panel) presented the examples of victim/survivor engagement in the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (England and Wales).
- Edouard DURAND (Co-Chair of the CIIVISE), Nathalie MATHIEU (Co-Chair of the CIIVISE), and Arnaud GALLAIS (Member of the CIIVISE) presented the examples of victim/survivor engagement in the work of the Independent Commission on incest and sexual violence against children (France).
- Mié KOHIYAMA (Co-chair Brave Movement Europe working group), Jennifer WORTHAM (Co-founder of the Global Collaborative), Sara DEKKER (Member of the Global Collaborative), Madelaine FORSBERG and Mamadou DIALLO (Counsellors at ECPAT Sweden) presented the examples of victim/survivor engagement led by civil society.
- Caroline TAYLOR and Sophie OTIENDE (Independent experts for the Council of Europe) presented the draft Guidelines for victim/survivor engagement in policy making.

41st meeting (13-15 February 2024)

- Roberto OLLA, Head of Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department, Council of Europe, updated the Committee about the new organisation of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department at the Council of Europe.

- Pierre-Alain FRIDEZ, Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, among other things, informed the Committee about the recently adopted report on “Child abuse in institutions in Europe” resulting in the adoption of PACE Resolution 2533(2024) and Recommendation 2269 (2024). He also updated the Committee about recent PACE activities in relation to the children of Ukraine.
- Corinne DETTMEIJER, Chair of the Supervisory Board Stichting Misbruikt!, and Miranda Freriks, Director Stichting Misbruikt!, informed the Committee about intergenerational, organised, sadistic sexual violence against children.
- Vadim PAK, Secretariat of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, and Advisor, Digital Development Unit, Council of Europe, informed the Committee about the state-of-play of the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence
- Rodica CIOCHINA, Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI, Council of Europe, presented key findings from the report “the Metaverse and its impact on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy”
- Mike TUNKS, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Internet Watch Foundation, updated the Committee about the work of the Internet Watch Foundation in the area of emerging technologies and tackling child sexual abuse material.
- Samantha WOOLFE, Head of Global Partnerships and Network Expansion, INHOPE, updated the Committee about the work of INHOPE and upcoming research into the ways legal frameworks address child sexual abuse material.
- Jan KRALIK, Policy Advisor, Cybercrime Division, Council of Europe, updated the Committee on progress in the negotiations of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee (UN AHC) to elaborate a comprehensive international Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.
- Anton Toni KLANČNIK, EUROPOL, presented: GRACE project Stakeholder and policy recommendation for addressing online CSEM; GRACE project Guidelines for Law Enforcement First Responders in CSAE Cases (updates); Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) Transnational Child Sex Offenders: A Model Response; The study: Child Sex Dolls and Robots Phenomenon: Historical, Social, Criminogenic and Legal Overview and Beyond - Challenges to Protect Children?

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

