



T-ES(2016)RFG-ROM

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

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

FOCUSED QUESTIONNAIRE

Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

ROMANIA

(Replies sent by the State)

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 15 September 2016

DATA (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter III)

- 1) How many migrant and asylum-seeking children (accompanied and unaccompanied)¹ are in your country as a result of the refugee crisis?
 - a) Please provide estimates, if exact data is not available, for the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016,² and specify how many of these children are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;

215 asylum applications from children were registered by the Romanian Immigration Inspectorate (the period between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016); among them 29 children were unaccompanied.

No data on children who are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

- b) Describe how the victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were identified or describe the challenges faced to identify them. Specify whether a distinction is made between victims of sexual exploitation/abuse prior to the entry on your territory (Group 1) and after entry (Group 2) and provide data/estimates of the two groups of victims. Please also explain how the age is determined in case of doubt;

Pursuant to Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, as further amended and supplemented, the category of vulnerable persons or persons with special needs includes minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with mental disorders, persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, mental or sexual violence or persons in other special situations, similar to the ones mentioned above. In the asylum procedure benefit of doubt is a guiding principle for cases where is a doubt regarding the age of the applicant.

- c) Indicate also how the data collected is used to offer a coordinated response between the different agencies in charge of the protection from, the prevention of and the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children;

A mechanism for the identification of vulnerable persons among asylum seekers is implemented. There are the observation sheet forms that contain columns to be filled in with possible indications as to the possibility that the asylum seeker in question is part of a vulnerable category.

- d) Identify the institution(s) responsible for the collection of above data.

The identification mechanism mentioned above is implemented by the Romanian Immigration Inspectorate together with the UNHCR, the NGOs, and other institutions as the authority for child protection.

¹ Please provide the definition of accompanied/unaccompanied children in your country and, if available, provide separate figures for accompanied and unaccompanied children. If such data is not available, please provide data on migrant and asylum-seeking children.

² If figures for this period are not available, please provide the most recent annual data.

PREVENTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter II)

- 2) What are the specific measures taken to prevent that children affected by the refugee crisis fall victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?
 - a) Highlight in particular the measures (e.g. awareness raising material, specialised training, screening of professionals, etc.) which have proven to be effective;

There is information and cultural orientation activities conducted by immigration staff and NGOs in the reception centres.

- b) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (e.g. in raising awareness on sexual violence amidst other urgent priorities, etc.) that had to be faced to improve prevention.

The involvement of refugee community is essential for an effective prevention.

PROTECTION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IV)

- 3) Has a coordinated child protection approach been put in place to cater for the specific needs of migrant and asylum-seeking children victims of sexual exploitation and/or sexual abuse?
 - a) Describe the measures taken to address the situation and cater for the children's specific needs (multiple traumas, language/cultural differences, etc.), including with respect to guardianship/placement;
 - b) Indicate also what measures have been taken to protect the children concerned from further exploitation/abuse and to assist the victims in seeking redress (please highlight any differences between Groups 1 and 2 of children as outlined above);
 - c) Underline any lessons learnt from specific challenges (in reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation and abuse, in tailoring assistance to the victims, etc.) that had to be faced to improve protection.

There is a specific procedure based on a Protocol on the Sexual and Gender Based Violence - SGBV between the Romanian Immigration Inspectorate, the UNHCR and the NGOs with duties in the refugee area.

COOPERATION (Lanzarote Convention, Chapter IX)

- 4) Provide examples of successful cooperation with other Parties to the Lanzarote Convention for the purpose of:
 - a) Preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children affected by the refugee crisis;
 - b) Protecting and providing assistance to victims;
 - c) Investigations or proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention.

ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 5) Please provide any other additional information which may be useful to identify areas for targeted cooperation aimed at ensuring that children affected by the refugee crisis are effectively protected from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and in guaranteeing their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity.