



T-ES(2016)RFG-LIE

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

PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

(Replies sent by the Principality)

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 13 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;

34 migrant and asylum-seeking children have applied for asylum between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. Out of these 34 children, 6 were unaccompanied.

According to the definition by the competent authorities in Liechtenstein, children are considered as unaccompanied if they travel without persons who are closely related to the child (parents, adult brother/sister, grandparents, uncles or aunts) and who are responsible for the child.

In addition, the Dublin regulation (Regulation (EU) No 604/2013) is binding for Liechtenstein.

In article 2 (j), the regulation contains a definition of accompanied/unaccompanied children which fully applies to Liechtenstein. The article reads as follows:

“‘Unaccompanied minor’ minor means a minor who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her, whether by law or by the practice of the Member State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such an adult; it includes a minor who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of Member States; [...]”.

So far, there is no indication that any of these children 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;

See answer to 1a)

In case of doubt, the age may be determined with scientific tests, psychological assessment as well as interviews by the Asylum Division of the Migration and Passport Office.

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.

- 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;

The data is collected by the Asylum Division of the Migration and Passport Office, if necessary in cooperation with the "Institut für Rechtsmedizin" (Institute for Forensic Medicine) in St. Gallen, Switzerland. The data is shared with the responsible authorities for the care of migrant and asylum-seeking children, the Flüchtlingshilfe Liechtenstein (refugee assistance), the Children and Youth Service Division of the Office for Social Services as well as the Court of Justice which appoints a legal curator for unaccompanied minors.

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

The Asylum Division of the Migration and Passport Office is responsible for the collection of the above data. If there is no asylum application, the Legal Division will collect the data in cooperation with the National Police.

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;
 - 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.

So far, there are no cases of children affected by the refugee crisis that became victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Liechtenstein. Nevertheless, as the absolute number of asylum seekers is comparatively small in Liechtenstein (154 in 2015), the authorities have a good overview of each case. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the reception centre for asylum-seekers is situated next to the headquarters of the National Police, which reduces the risk of exploitation and abuse significantly. Every single case is dealt with individually and in depth, both during the asylum procedure and in the context of the accommodation and assistance through the responsible authorities.

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.

As mentioned in answer 1a), no cases have been recorded in Liechtenstein so far. Therefore, there has not been a need for a specific programme.

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.

There are no examples of specific cooperation in this area.

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.