



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA PRAVOSODJE

Building a Europe  
for and with children



## WEBINAR

**Friday 6 November 2020**

**At 10:00-13:00**

### **Draft Law on Barnahus in Slovenia:**

**Taking stock of the results of the public consultation process of  
the draft Child Protection in Criminal Proceedings and Comprehensive  
Treatment of Children in the Children's House Act**

Simultaneous translation provided  
(Slovenian-English-Slovenian)

**Livestreamed**

Organised in the framework the joint EU DG Reform -Council of Europe project to  
[Support the implementation of Barnahus in Slovenia, phase II](#)

## Context

Barnahus (Children's House) is a leading European response model for child sexual abuse. Its unique interagency approach brings together all relevant services under one roof to avoid secondary victimisation of the child and provide every child with a coordinated and effective response that has a legal standing. The core purpose of Barnahus is to **coordinate parallel criminal and child welfare investigations and provide support services for child victims and witnesses of violence in a child-friendly and safe environment.**

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia launched a public consultation on the [draft Child Protection in Criminal Proceedings and Comprehensive Treatment of Children in the Children's House Act](#) (the draft Barnahus law) on 4 June 2020. The draft law defines the scope and purpose of Barnahus in Slovenia, its operational and institutional structures and introduces a comprehensive treatment procedure, including procedures for hearing, physical examination as well as crisis support and psychosocial assistance of child victims of sexual abuse.

The draft law is the result of a long-term commitment and joint action by stakeholders across sectors in Slovenia since 2017. It presents a major step towards the establishment of a first Barnahus in Slovenia by 2021. At international level, the draft Barnahus law in Slovenia is one of the first initiatives attempting to comprehensively regulate Barnahus in a single legal act.

In the framework of the joint [EU DG Reform-Council of Europe project to Support the implementation of Barnahus in Slovenia, phase II](#), legal and peer reviews by independent experts and practitioners from Barnahus in Nordic countries were commissioned to assess the compliance of the draft law with European and international standards and to review it based on lessons learnt and promising practices from other European countries. What is more, during the period of July-September 2020 a total of 104 children aged 13-17 years were consulted on the draft law to collect their expectations, feedback and recommendations for the draft law and the first Barnahus in Slovenia.

## Objectives and structure of the webinar

The objective of the webinar is to close the public consultation process of the draft law by taking stock on feedback and key recommendations received from different stakeholders, including notably Slovenian children as well as international legal experts and peer practitioners.

The webinar is divided into four parts. After welcoming remarks, the **first session** reviews the needs and priorities for the draft law and introduces the Barnahus model. The **second session** explores the content of the draft law more in detail with a focus on the comprehensive treatment procedure and explores main recommendations in this regard. The concluding session sums up key recommendations, discussion points and main steps in the law adoption process ahead.

The main target audience of the webinar are **Slovenian authorities and professionals** who will be impacted by this law as well as parliamentarians. Livestreaming and simultaneous interpretation into English enables a wider participation, including by the international community.

# AGENDA

Friday, 6 November 2020

<b>OPENING SESSION</b> <b>10.00-10.40</b>	
9:45 – 10:00	<i>Online registration and guidance on technical aspects</i>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><i>Online moderator: Mag. Andrej del Fabro, Ministry of Justice</i></p> <p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mag. Lilijana Kozlovič</b>, Minister of Justice</li> <li>• <b>Sebastien Renaud</b>, Deputy Head of Unit for Governance and Public Administration, European Commission DG Reform</li> <li>• <b>Regina Jensdottir</b>, Council of Europe Coordinator for the rights of the child, Head of the Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe</li> </ul> <p><b>Online group photo</b></p>
<b>SESSION I</b> <b>Why is the draft Law on Barnahus needed?</b> <b>10:30-11.35</b>	
10:30-10.50	<p><i>Online moderator: Dr Mojca Plesničar, Council of Europe independent expert</i></p> <p><b>Child sexual abuse in Slovenia: statistics, perceptions and current gaps in law and practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mag. Andrej del Fabro, Ministry of Justice</i></li> <li>• <i>Mirjam Kline, Supreme State Prosecutor</i></li> <li>• <i>Dr Mateja Hudoklin, Ph.D Clinical psychologist</i></li> </ul>
10:50-11.00	<p><b>The Barnahus model as a tool to ensure implementation of Slovenia’s legal obligations and international standards on the rights of the child</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mirka Honko, Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul>
11:00-11.10	<p><b>What do children say? Child consultations of the draft Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mitja Svete, Združenje za MOČ</i></li> <li>• <i>Children’s message: Video prepared by children who were consulted on the draft Law</i></li> </ul>
11.10-11.25	<b>Q&amp;A via chat</b> ( <i>chat moderator: Mija Cankar</i> )

<b>SESSION II</b> <b>The draft Law on Barnahus in a nutshell: scope, purpose, key provisions</b> <b>11:25-12:50</b>	
11:25 - 12.25	<p><i>Online moderator: Dr Mojca Plesničar, Council of Europe independent expert</i></p> <p><b>Introduction to the draft Law, the and lessons learnt from other countries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General provisions, organizational and operational set-up of Barnahus, training and cooperation</b> (Chapters I, II and IV of the draft Law) <i>Dr Simona Drenik Bavdek, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> <li>• <b>The comprehensive treatment procedure</b> (Chapter III), including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Hearing and physical examinations of a child</b> (Arts. 14-32)</li> <li>○ <b>Crisis support and short- and medium-term psychosocial assistance for child victims of violence</b> (Arts 33-37)</li> </ul> <i>Prof. Dr. Primož Gorkič, Council of Europe independent expert</i> </li> <li>• <b>Recommendations based on lessons learnt and good practices from other European countries</b> <i>Bragi Gudbrandsson, Member of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, “founding father” of the Icelandic Barnahus model, Council of Europe independent expert</i> <i>Prof. Anna Kaldal, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> <li>• <b>Recommendations from children</b> <i>Dr. Zsuzsanna Rutai, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> </ul>
12:25 – 12:50	<b>Q&amp;A via chat</b> ( <i>chat moderator: Mija Cankar</i> )
<b>CONCLUDING SESSION</b> <b>12:50 – 13:00</b>	
12:50 – 13:00	<p><i>Online moderator: Mag. Andrej del Fabro, Ministry of Justice</i></p> <p><b>The process ahead: next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matic Zupan, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice</b></li> </ul>