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Joint EU-Council of Europe project

Strengthening child-friendly justice through effective cooperation and coordination between the different Barnahus-type services in the regions of Spain.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ROADMAPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BARNAHUS MODEL IN SPAIN AND ITS REGIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Technical Support Instrument, and co-financed and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission, Directorate-General for Structural Reforms (DG REFORM).



1. Introduction

This document synthesises the two strategic documents developed in the framework of the joint EU-Council of Europe project "[Strengthening child-friendly justice through effective cooperation and coordination between different Barnahus services in the regions of Spain](#)"¹, implemented during the period 06/07/2022-30/10/2024 by the Council of Europe in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Children and the Government of Spain. These two documents propose a series of key actions to promote the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain and its 19 autonomous communities and cities (autonomous regions), addressed to the public authorities responsible for guaranteeing the rights of child victims of sexual violence, both at national and regional level.

- The document "**National Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain**" includes proposals addressed to public authorities at national level. Among them, the public service of justice takes on a central role.
- Additionally, the document "**Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish autonomous regions and cities**" is a practical action plan, with recommendations for the autonomous communities and cities, in the exercise of their respective competences, and in accordance with their specific reality, can establish the model in their territories.

This executive summary shows how the measures in both documents converge and complement each other strategically to ensure that the implementation of the Barnahus model throughout Spain is done according to the highest quality standards of the model. Therefore, although they were originally in separate documents, they are presented here together in a single document rather than separately, in order to reinforce the coordinated approach needed to achieve the objective.

2. Context of implementation of the State and Autonomous Regional Plans

Dimension of sexual violence against children and adolescents in Spain

In Spain, there are different statistical sources that collect data on sexual violence against children and adolescents, but it is still complicated to have a clear picture of the situation, as each administration collects the data according to different criteria.

- **The police follows the criteria and typology of offences.**
- **The regional Child Protection Agencies collect data on the notifications on violence against children.** However, they do not correspond to the number of child victims, but to the number of communications received by the system.
- **Some resources collect data up to the age of 18, others are limited to 16, and are not always disaggregated by sex.**

However, among the few data available, essentially related to complaints, a trend emerges that, year after year, confirms that sexual violence continues to affect children in particular.

According to data from the Ministry of the Interior², in 2023, there were **21,580 complaints**³ for crimes against sexual freedom, in slightly less than half of the cases (9,185), the victim was under 18 years old.

¹ Barnahus in Spain - Strengthening child-friendly justice through effective cooperation and coordination between different Barnahus services in the regions of Spain - Children's Rights (coe.int)

² [Report on Crimes against Sexual Freedom: 2023 \(interior.gob.es\)](#)

³ Victimisation, according to the definition of the Report on crimes against sexual freedom (Ministry of the Interior, 2023, p. 59), is understood as the "number of events reported by persons in which they claim to be victims or victims of a criminal offence".

In **2018, there were 5,382 complaints⁴** for crimes against sexual freedom in children, and in **2023 there were 9,185**, being an increase of 70.7% compared to 2018, and 10.2% compared to 2022.

The evolution of complaints shows a significant increase in the number of reported facts, especially by adolescent girls and women, who represent 80% of the complaints in 2023⁵.

Another worrying fact is **the rate of crimes against sexual freedom perpetrated by minors⁶**. According to the National Institute of Statistics (hereinafter INE), in recent years, the number of **convicted minors, which had increased by 14.1%** between 2021 (439) and 2022 (501), had 424 convicted persons in 2023, 15.4% less than the previous year, and **97.9% were male and 2.1% female⁷**.

While juveniles convicted of crimes decreased by 21.4% from 2022 to 2023, **those convicted specifically of crimes against sexual freedom decreased by only 10.4%** compared to the previous year.

On the other hand, if we analyse the notifications of suspected sexual violence against children obtained from the Unified Register of Child Abuse, we see that the increase has also been continuous throughout the territory, from **18,801 notifications in 2018 to 29,770 in 2022**, with sexual abuse⁸ being the fourth most reported type of abuse behind neglect, emotional abuse and physical abuse.

The University of Barcelona report "*Sexual victimisation in adolescence: a national study from the perspective of Spanish youth*"⁹ published in March 2024 and based on a survey of boys and girls aged 14-17, confirms these trends and presents the following results:

. **17.8 % of adolescents aged 14-17 have experienced some form of sexual victimisation in the last year**, 24% of girls and 11.2 % of boys.

. **Online sexual violence is the most frequent** (12.1 %) and is reported by 5.9 % of boys and 18.3 % of girls.

. **8.8% report sexual victimisation by peers** (5.9 % of boys and 11 % of girls).

. **Girls report a higher number of situations of sexual violence. But boys suffer a greater extent of the most violent forms**, such as sexual victimisation with penetration or oral sex by an adult person known (1% compared to 0.3% of girls) and unknown (1% compared to 0.4% of girls), as well as sexual exploitation with penetration (1.2% compared to 0.5% of girls).

3. Regulatory context

In recent years, Spain has experienced a significant regulatory development in the area of sexual violence, with special attention to criminal proceedings victims, particularly when it comes to minors.

Law 4/2015 on the Statute of the Victims of Crime (EV) introduced a new vision of the role of the victim in criminal proceedings, providing them with procedural rights and protection, with special attention to avoiding the re-victimisation of minors.

⁴ Note that this figure includes the figures for Catalonia and the Basque Country, which were integrated into the national data in 2021, but were not integrated in 2018.

⁵ Report on Crimes against Sexual Freedom: 2023 (interior.gob.es)

⁶ <https://fad.es/ojos-abiertos/crece-el-numero-de-menores-condenados-por-delitos-contrala-libertad-sexual-los-expertos-apuntan-a-la-falta-de-la-educacion-sexoafectiva/>

⁷ [Press Release: Conviction Statistics: Adults / Minors. Year 2023. \(ine.es\)](#)

⁸ The classification of offences against sexual freedom includes until 2022 the term sexual abuse, which was subsequently modified by LOGILS in the same year, and replaced by the term sexual assault.

⁹ https://web.ub.edu/documents/2710030/7033661/RESUMEN_EJECUTIVO_La_Victimizaci%C3%B3n_Sexual_en_la_Adolescencia.pdf/1f0a8ea3-fd2a-997f-2dd1-0c423c7fe550?t=1710927057884

For its part, **Organic Law 8/2021 Organic Law on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence** (hereinafter LOPIVI)¹⁰ reinforces this approach, establishing the obligation to take recorded statements from children under 14 years old in the pre-trial phase as pre-constituted evidence, and supported by psychosocial teams. Furthermore, the Barnahus model, included in Law 8/2021, establishes the creation of specialised services for minors who are victims of sexual violence, integrating interdisciplinary care.

More recently, the **Organic Law of Integral Guarantee of Sexual Freedom** (hereinafter LOGILS)¹¹ establishes the basis for the implementation of the Barnahus model, guaranteeing comprehensive, specialised and accessible assistance for child victims of sexual violence, with services adapted to their needs. In addition, it reinforces the pre-constitution of evidence for any victim of sexual violence, allowing their statements recorded during the investigation phase to be used in court, without age limits, and with the intervention of experts.

All of this makes the current moment particularly opportune for the promotion of Barnahus in Spain, whose Parliament is processing efficiency measures for the public justice service in both organisational and procedural matters¹², which, together with the digital efficiency measures already in force, represent an opportunity for the model to unfold its full potential.

4. The Barnahus model in Spain

In 2020, the first Barnahus has been opened in Tarragona (Catalonia), and today, several Autonomous Regions have begun to work on its implementation. Due to the territorial organisation of Spain, each region will adapt the model to its resources, varying, among other aspects, the scope of care between sexual violence and other types of violence against children.

However, in order to ensure its quality and sustainability, it is important to define basic principles that should guide the implementation of the model in the different territories. It is important to emphasise that all Barnahus implemented in the Spanish territory should have as a common minimum the support to child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention¹³ and the following criteria:

1. **The best interests of the child** must guide all proceedings from the beginning to the end of the case.
2. It is essential to apply a **child, gender and intersectionality perspective** to tailor solutions to each case.
3. **One door-principle** should be established to refer all cases of child sexual violence to a single coordinated service.
4. Comprehensive specialised care brings together **all resources under one roof**, including pre-constituted evidence and victim support.
5. **The aim is to reduce assessments** and improve their quality through interdisciplinary teams, avoiding secondary victimisation.
6. **Resources must be aligned with the criminal process**, guaranteeing rights and providing elements to assess the victim's situation of vulnerability.
7. Barnahus should offer a **child-friendly environment**, separate from police, judicial or hospital institutions.
8. The Barnahus model follows **high quality standards, with professionals trained** in children's rights and care for victims of sexual violence.

¹⁰ Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence.

¹¹ Organic Law 10/2022 of 6 September on the comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom.

¹² Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de medidas en materia de eficiencia del Servicio Público de Justicia y de acciones colectivas para la protección y defensa de los derechos e intereses de los consumidores y usuarios, BOCG nº 16-1, de 22 de marzo de 2024.

¹³ <https://rm.coe.int/una-herramienta-munidal-para-protger-a-los-ninos-y-ninas-de-la-violen/1680ad1518>

5. Governance, timing and evaluation

Governance

The implementation of the Barnahus model requires a co-governance approach, in accordance with the strategic areas of the **Strategy for the Eradication of Violence against Children and Adolescents** (hereinafter EEVIA)¹⁴, with multilevel and inter-institutional governance involving public administrations, the criminal justice system and the Autonomous Regions.

On the other hand, taking into consideration the right of all children to express their opinion and be heard¹⁵, the State Council for Child and Adolescent Participation (hereinafter CEPIA) should be considered a key actor in the process of implementing the Barnahus model in Spain, both in the initial phase, through the consultation of documents and making contributions, which they did on 2, 6 and 11 September 2024, and in the following phases of implementation and evaluation.

In order to implement the actions of the state and regional roadmaps, **a system of co-governance** has been designed **that assigns responsibilities to the different actors**:

- **The co-leadership** of the action plans lies with the Ministry of Youth and Children and the Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Parliament, in coordination with the project's Advisory Group.
- **Inter-institutional collaboration** includes actors such as the Ministry of the Interior, the General Council of the Judiciary (hereinafter CGPJ) and the Attorney General's Office (hereinafter FGE).
- **The Autonomous Regions** will play a key role in the coordination of services and execution of the implementation of the model at territorial level.
- **The participation of children, through CEPIA**, will be essential in all phases of the project.
- **Experts from civil society, universities and the Ombudsman** will also be involved.

Timing and Financing

The timeframe for the implementation of the measures set out in the documents summarised here is established until 2028 in reference to the framework of the EEVIA.

The financial allocation, essential to the implementation of the measures envisaged in the two Roadmaps, should follow a multilevel logic, in accordance with their governance, with responsibilities shared between different actors, clear leadership and respecting the EEVIA. It would be advisable for each Ministry and Autonomous Region to adopt measures for its development with their corresponding budgets.

6. National and regional measures to promote the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain

The proposals here presented are a summary of the documents "**National Roadmap plan for the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain**" and "**Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Cities**".

Both documents have taken into account the challenges identified in the "**Mapping Study of the Implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain**¹⁶" and the "**Report on training needs for professionals working in Barnahus**", which also served to detect the challenges posed by the implementation of the model. Among others, this document refers to the following challenges:

¹⁴ <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/derechos-sociales/docs/EstrategiaErradicacionViolenciaContraInfancia.pdf>

¹⁵ Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.un.org/es/events/childrenday/pdf/derechos.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://rm.coe.int/resumen-ejecutivo-estudio-de-mapeo/1680ad808e>

- **Challenge 1: The need to guarantee minimum quality standards** in a territory characterised by its regulatory, political and organisational heterogeneity, which has given rise to multiple care systems for child and adolescent victims of sexual violence.
- **Challenge 2: The need to integrate all the services and resources involved in dealing with Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents (hereinafter SVCA), both welfare, police and judicial, into a coherent system that avoids secondary victimisation.**
- **Challenge 3: The shortage of specialised and trained SVCA professionals** in all policy areas.
- **Challenge 4: The necessary concurrence of children's and gender perspectives** in addressing sexual violence.

In order to address these challenges, the summarised documents propose a series of key actions to promote the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain, aimed at the public authorities responsible for guaranteeing the rights of child and adolescent victims of sexual violence, both at national and regional level.

Interagency and multidisciplinary collaboration between public administrations

STRATEGIC LINE OBJECTIVE: To design and organise interagency and multidisciplinary collaboration between the Public Administrations of the State and each Autonomous Region in order to develop a comprehensive and specialised SVCA response model, following the quality standards of the Barnahus model.

The **National Roadmap** proposes the establishment of interagency collaboration mechanisms that integrate the actions of all actors involved in cases of SVCA and incorporate the gender and children's perspective, by the following interventions:

- **1.1.2 To Promote the creation of a Working Group on the Barnahus model in the LOPIVI Follow-up Commission** to coordinate national and regional actions in the process of implementing the model.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Parliament.
Related indicator: Number of sessions held by the Barnahus Model Working Group.
- **1.1.3 To Include the development of the Barnahus model as a matter of priority in the bodies that articulate the system of cooperation between the State and the Regions**, ensuring the participation of all the Regions in the commissions, in order to provide a comprehensive, specialised and inter-institutional response to sexual violence against children and adolescents.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Courts, Ministry of Equality, Ministry of the Interior with its corresponding sectoral commissions.
Related indicator: Proposals worked on/approved in Sectoral Commission meetings on the implementation of the Barnahus model.
- **1.2.1 To Establish mechanisms for collaboration and distribution of resources between the Ministries of Equality and Youth and Children**, including the incorporation of the Barnahus model into the allocation criteria of the State Pact against Gender Violence, at the local level.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of Equality.
Related indicator: Budget allocated to actions related to the Barnahus model in the State Pact against Gender Violence.
- **1.2.3 To Incorporate the regional Barnahus on the Ministry of Equality's website of support and prevention resources in cases of gender-based violence** and designate a Barnahus of reference for each resource for women victims of sexual violence (1.2.4).

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of Equality.

Related indicator: regional Barnahus collected on the website/catalogue of Equality resources.

- **1.2.6 To Include in health care and judicial protocols** the possibility for the child to choose the sex of the person carrying out the examination, as victims of sexual violence may feel repulsed by people of the same sex as the abuser.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Courts, Ministry of Health.

Related indicator: Health care and judicial protocols modified to allow the choice of sex of the person performing the examination of child victims of sexual violence.

At the regional level, the *Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Cities* proposes that the Autonomous Regions intervene in the following aspects:

- **1.1 To Carry out an initial diagnosis of the existing resources and coordination mechanisms at regional level** in terms of SVCA, as a basis for the adaptation of the Barnahus model to the local context.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, Supreme Courts and Prosecutor's Offices of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: Initial Regional diagnosis realised.

- **1.2 To Promote the creation of a multidisciplinary and Interagency Regional Working Group, both at technical and institutional level**, to design the regional adaptation of the Barnahus model and the adapted action guidelines.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, High Courts of Justice and Public Prosecutor's Offices.

Related indicator: Multidisciplinary and interagency working group set up in each Autonomous Region.

- **1.4 To Promote the adoption of an interagency collaboration protocol**, signed by all public authorities involved in comprehensive and specialised care for victims of SVCA, in line with the Barnahus model.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, High Courts of Justice and Public Prosecutor's Offices

Related indicator: Protocols of interagency collaboration for comprehensive and specialised care for child victims of sexual violence signed by all institutions involved.

- **1.6 To Add the reference to Barnahus in the violet points for women**, the webs of resources against Gender Violence and the 24-hour crisis centres and designate a Barnahus of reference to each resource for women victims of sexual violence, for child and adolescent victims, promoting collaboration between services and guaranteeing comprehensive care.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, High Courts of Justice and Public Prosecutor's Offices

Related indicator: Barnahus incorporated in the violet points, Gender Violence resource websites and 24-hour crisis centres, to assess whether the referral should be to a Barnahus or a crisis centre depending on the needs, age and maturity of the underage victims.

- **1.7 To Update the guides and gender-based violence protocols**, including the child perspective and the implementation of the Barnahus model in the territories.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, Supreme Courts and Prosecutor's Offices

Related indicator: Protocols for action against gender-based violence updated, including a children's perspective and the implementation of the Barnahus model in the territories.

- 1.9 In order to prevent secondary victimisation and simplify administrative procedures, **establish mechanisms to recognise the status of child victims of violence** in the event of a change of residence from one Autonomous Region to another, in order to **guarantee continuity of their welfare rights without the need to go through the same process again in the new Region residence.**

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** 17 Regional Governments and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, Governments, Supreme Courts and Prosecutor's Offices

Related indicator: Established mechanisms for the recognition of the status of the child victim of violence coming from another Region.

To incorporate the child perspective for a child-friendly and more effective justice

STRATEGIC LINE OBJECTIVE: To establish action guidelines for the Administration of Justice, respecting the procedural framework established by law and in all cases the independence of judges and prosecutors in the exercise of their functions. To contribute to making it more child-friendly, while improving the effectiveness of the service provided by the courts and tribunals in the criminal approach to SVCA.

The **National Roadmap** proposes actions to the Justice System, so it establishes action guidelines in line with the Barnahus model.

Following some key actions:

- **2.1.2 To Draw up a document presenting the different interviews and tests carried out** within the framework of the Barnahus model, as well as the minimum requirements of the professionals who will perform these tasks.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Parliament in the Autonomous Regions with no competences in Justice.
Related indicator: Prepared document that sets out the criteria for differentiating between interviews, where and when they are conducted and the minimum requirements for the professionals who will conduct them.
- **2.2.1 To Create a working group with all the State and Regional Polices** for the review and adaptation of police action in line with the quality standards of the Barnahus model.
→ **Leading actor in the initiative:** Ministry of the Interior
Related indicator: Working group with all State and Regional Polices is created for the review and adaptation of policing according to the quality standards of the Barnahus model.
- **2.3.1: To Develop documentation to unify criteria in the intervention of child victims of sexual violence and establish common guidelines for prosecutors**, ensuring coordination between the sections of the Prosecutor's Office and other protection operators.
→ **Leading actor in the initiative:** State General Prosecutor Office
Related indicator: The unified criteria establish guidelines for dealing with child victims of sexual violence in line with the Barnahus model.
- **2.4.1 To Set up a working group in the General Council of the Judiciary** to study the development of the Barnahus model in the courts and tribunals, the development of materials on the subject and training in children's rights for judges.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ).
Related indicator: Working group in the CGPJ created to study the development of the Barnahus model in courts and tribunals.

- **2.5 1 To Draw up a document proposing guidelines for common action in cases of sexual violence against children for the Bar Associations**, including the dissemination of criteria for the creation of specialised legal aid offices for child and adolescent victims. In addition, the training of professionals in SVCA will be promoted and the Barnahus project will be publicised at national level.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Consejo General de la Abogacía (General Council of the Legal Profession)
Related indicator: A working document with guidelines for action in cases of SVCA and criteria for the creation of specialised legal aid offices for child victims has been created and disseminated to the Bar Associations in the Autonomous Regions.

At the regional level, the *Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Cities* proposes that the Autonomous Regions intervene in the following aspects:

- **2.1 To Strengthen the Crime Victim Support Offices (OAVD), as well as the rest of the public justice services, with the necessary personal and structural resources** for specialised attention to child and adolescent victims, in line with the Barnahus model, integrating existing resources with criteria of efficiency and rationality.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Autonomous Justice Administrations, Ministry of Justice in the Autonomous Regions with no competence in Justice.
Related indicator: A working document has been drawn up that estimates the necessary resources for the implementation of the Barnahus model by Autonomous Regions. AA.
- **2.2 To Adapt at regional level the National guidelines on the cases in which forensic medical examinations** should be carried out in hospital, and those that could be carried out in the Barnahus, as well as their periodicity in the Barnahus.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Regional health and justice administrations.
Related indicator: Autonomous guidance prepared for conducting forensic medical examinations in the Barnahus area or in hospitals.
- **2.5 To include in the regional police protocols** the principle of the least possible intervention with the child victim, as well as the coordination with other services, within the framework of a common interagency protocol.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Regional police Administrations.
Related indicator: Protocols of the police updated, incorporating the principle of the least possible intervention with the child victim and coordination with the rest of the services.
- **2.7 To Establish as focal points of the Barnahus model the "Protection Victims Sections"** of Prosecutor's Office, in order to ensure action in cases of SVCA, in accordance with the criteria set out by the State Prosecutor General's Office.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Prosecutor's Offices of the Autonomous Regions.
Related indicator: An internal note or circular disseminated, adapted to each territory, which includes the criteria for action with children and adolescents within the framework of the Barnahus model.
- **2.9 To Participate in the drafting of the regional Barnahus interagency protocol** and support its application by an Agreement in the High Courts of Justice, taking into account the CGPJ National guidelines, as well as the guidelines set out in this regard by the State Prosecutor General's Office.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** District Courts and High Courts of Justice.
Related indicator: Involvement of the Provincial Court in the working groups for the elaboration of the interagency agreement.
- **2.10 Establish specialised child victims' duty rosters in the bar associations**, disseminate the Barnahus model among professionals and propose common guidelines for action in cases of SVCA.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Local bar associations

Related indicator: Guidelines for common action in cases of SVCA disseminated by the regional bar association.

Comprehensive, specialised and adapted support services for child victims of SVCA

The actions contemplated in this strategic line are exclusively at regional level as the establishment of care structures is not a national but a decentralised competency. As with all the measures aimed at the Autonomous Regions, the following measures have been discussed and agreed with the Autonomous Administrations during a inter-regional working group meeting, which took place in the Canary Islands in March 2024.

STRATEGIC LINE OBJECTIVE: To define a comprehensive, interagency and specialised support model for SVCA that is common and agreed upon by all the institutions involved in SVCA cases.

- **3.1 To Bring regional legislation into line with LOPIVI to unify the concept of violence against children (vs. maltreatment),** extend the beneficiaries of specialised public services specialized in sexual violence against children to all children and adolescents.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Autonomous Child Protection Agencies.
Related indicator: Created the Focal point or working group in charge of the reform of autonomous legislation in relation to LOPIVI.
- **3.2 To Create specialised, comprehensive and interagency resources at regional level,** such as Barnahus, to attend to child and adolescent victims of sexual violence.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.
Related indicator: At least one specialised, comprehensive and interdepartmental resource for child and adolescent victims of sexual violence created at the regional level
- **3.5 To Guarantee equity and equality for all children and adolescents, both in access to specialised Barnahus resources,** through the provision of satellite or mobile Barnahus teams, and in the care received, paying special attention to children under five years of age and/or with disabilities.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.
Related indicator: Existence of an official document/technical project on the characteristics of the Barnahus model that includes in its scope of action, the care of all children in the territory through a satellite or mobile team and specific groups, such as children under five years of age and/or children with disabilities.
- **3.6 To Ensure the 4-room principle in the Barnahus** by establishing specialised services for: initial assessment and exploratory interview of all potential SIAV cases, pre-constituted evidence, forensic medical examination and trauma-informed psychological care, and ensure the availability of specific rooms for each service.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.
Related indicator: The official document/technical draft on the characteristics of the Barnahus model specifies the availability of specific rooms for each service and the team that performs them.
- **3.7 To Guarantee the holding of regular interagency meetings,** with all the actors involved, especially the areas of health, protection, public prosecution, social services, education, police, courts and forensic psychologist team, with the Barnahus fixed and mobile multidisciplinary team.
→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: Fixed and mobile multidisciplinary team meetings held fortnightly.

- **3.8 To Ensure that the Barnahus is located in neutral areas**, outside judicial, police or hospital buildings, is accessible to all children and adolescents, and that it has child- and adolescent-friendly environments, with private, soundproofed and adapted rooms for forensic interviews, therapeutic care, and medical examinations and for holding inter-institutional meetings.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: The official document/technical draft on the Barnahus model states that the Barnahus is in a space detached from other institutions and access by any child is guaranteed.

Strengthening capacities and mechanisms to guarantee quality services

OBJECTIVE: To guarantee the specialisation of professionals working with child victims of sexual violence and the development of mechanisms to evaluate the intervention with children in the framework of the Barnahus model.

At national level, actions are proposed to promote the initial, continuous and specialised training of the professionals involved in the Barnahus model, including the following:

Some key national actions:

- **3.1.1 To Establish an interdisciplinary training plan**, both initial and ongoing, with basic, specific and complementary modules, for professionals from different areas who could be involved in Barnahus, with the aim of promoting multidisciplinary work and improving knowledge of the complementary functions of the different areas.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** LOPIVI Follow-up Commission.

Related indicator: Barnahus Interdisciplinary and interagency training plan prepared, initial and continuing, with basic, specific and complementary modules.

- **3.2.1 To Promote the creation of a monitoring and evaluation (MEAL) system adapted to Spain and its Autonomous Regions** that guarantees compliance with Barnahus quality standards.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Parliament.

Related indicator: At least one independent external evaluation of the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain carried out every two years.

- **3.2.3 To develop an analysis of the current legal, policy and institutional framework in Spain and its regions on the reporting systems of cases of violence against children**, including indicators, containing recommendations for alignment with the Recommendation CM/ Rec(2023)8 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on strengthening of reporting systems of violence against children

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children.

Related indicator: An analysis of the legal, policy and institutional systems on reporting cases of violence against children, with indicators and recommendations is developed

- **3.3.3 To Involve permanent child participation mechanisms at the national level** to guarantee the participation of children and adolescents in the process of implementing the Barnahus model.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children, in collaboration with CEPIA.

Related indicator: At least one CEPIA session per year dedicated to the Barnahus model.

At the local level, the **Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Cities** proposes that the Autonomous Regions intervene in the following aspects:

- **4.4 To Establish partnerships with professional associations**, universities and civil society to provide standardised training on violence against children, SVCA and the Barnahus model.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: Agreements signed with professional associations, universities and civil society to promote the provision of standardised training on violence against children, SVCA and the Barnahus model.

- **4.5 To Develop for health professionals standardised training in indicators of sexual violence against children**, as well as in the action protocol, in order to improve the detection and notification of cases.

→ **Lead actor of the initiative:** Ministries and/or Departments of Health.

Related indicator: Number of standardised trainings conducted with health professionals on SVCA indicators.

- **4.8 To Design to Child Protection Agencies' professionals a course in exploratory interviewing**, taking into account particularly complex cases.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Child Protection Agencies of the Autonomous Regions and Cities.

Related indicator: Number of Child Protection Agencies' professionals trained in exploratory interviewing in cases of special complexity.

- **4.12 To Create and implement standardised training in evidence-based forensic interviewing protocols** (NICHD and CAC among others).

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministries and/or Departments of Justice, Institutes of Legal and Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice in the Autonomous Regions with no competences in Justice.

Related indicator: Number of standardised trainings conducted in evidence-based forensic interviewing, by type of service/professional profile.

- **4.14 To Include minimum criteria of experience and specialised training in the contracts of professionals directly linked to the Barnahus and in tendering processes.**

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: The technical project of the Barnahus model and/or the public tender for the service specifies the minimum training and experience requirements for professionals linked to the Barnahus.

- **4.16 To Promote the creation of an evaluation and monitoring system** adapted to the territorial context to ensure compliance with quality standards.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Governments of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Related indicator: External and independent evaluation planned or managed after two years of implementation of each Barnahus and public presentation of the evaluation report.

Data collection and awareness raising campaigns on Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents

OBJECTIVE: To Promote prevention and awareness-raising strategies on CSAV focused on the general public, as well as professionals working for and with children and adolescents.

The **National Roadmap Plan for implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain** proposes actions aimed at promoting the shared use of indicators and statistical data on violence against children, and improving knowledge of this reality through data and awareness-raising campaigns.

Some key actions:

- **4.1.1 To Promote the shared use of indicators and common statistical data** between the different public administrations, territories and resources to collect data on violence against children, reaching a consensus on age, sex, origin, types of violence, including sexual violence, and socio-economic variables that reflect the intersectionality of vulnerabilities, etc.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** LOPIVI Follow-up Commission.

Related indicator: Royal Decree approved for the implementation of the central register of information on violence against children and adolescents (art 23 LOPIVI).

- **4.2.1 To Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on sexual violence against children and adolescents** aimed at professionals, children and adolescents, and the general population, to raise awareness of the duty to report, and the Barnahus model.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministry of Youth and Children.

Related indicator: Number of awareness-raising campaigns conducted on SVCA, the duty to report, the reporting process and the Barnahus model, by type of audience and territorial scope (national/AC).

The Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Barnahus model in the Spanish Autonomous Regions and Cities proposes to the Autonomous Regions to intervene in the following aspects:

- **5.3 To Promote the function of collecting, making data visible and carrying out studies on sexual violence against children, including prevalence studies, in the Childhood Observatories** present in the Autonomous Regions.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Regional Child Protection Agencies

Related indicator: At least one study conducted every three years on sexual violence against children, including prevalence studies, by the regional Childhood Observatories.

- **5.5 To Conduct studies to ascertain the rate of dismissals** that occur in examining courts and their causes, as well as the rates of taking pre-constituted evidence and testimony in oral proceedings by child and adolescent victims of violence.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Directorate of Justice, Supreme Court / Government Chambers, Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice in the Autonomous Regions with no competence in Justice.

Related indicator: At least one study conducted on the rates of dismissals and their causes, the rates of taking pre-trial evidence and giving evidence at trial by child victims of violence.

- **5.7 To Introduce** evidence-based tools, modules and pedagogical resources **in sex education programmes in schools** to help children and adolescents develop skills to prevent, protect themselves and know how to act in the face of SVCA, both in the online and offline environment.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Regional Departments of Education, Regional Departments of Health.

Related indicator: Specific lines of work and/or budget incorporated in regional education strategies to develop evidence-based sexual and affective education programmes in schools.

- **5.9 To Establish collaboration between the Child Protection Agencies and regional press associations** to avoid actions that encourage secondary victimisation of children and adolescents related to media coverage of cases of SVCA.

→ **Leading actor of the initiative:** Ministries and/or, Departments of Social Rights, Press Associations, Journalists' Associations.

Related indicator: Encouraged collaboration between Children's Directorates, journalists' associations and territorial press associations to avoid actions that encourage secondary victimisation in media cases of SGBV.