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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration
and Digital Transformation

Building a Europe
for and with children



Certification ceremony and re-launch event of the HELP course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Agenda and list of participants

4 February 2026

Venue: House of Europe, Ulica Augusta Cesarca 4, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia.

And online:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88626580833?pwd=5PcitZaNvVWtthWXZDlnBb7vmSFSPW.1>

Meeting ID: 886 2658 0833

Passcode: 584701

Joint EU-Council of Europe project “Implementing the Barnahus Model in Croatia” 23HR02

The project is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission, the Reform and Investment Task Force (SG REFORM).

Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project “[Implementing the Barnahus Model in Croatia](#)” aims to improve the access and quality of the justice system for child victims of violence in Croatia, to ensure that undue delays in the treatment of such cases is diminished, and that all children who are victims of sexual violence benefit from a child-friendly access to justice.

Building on the work already carried out by Croatia, the project aims to support the Croatian authorities in its first steps towards the establishment of a Barnahus in the country. The Barnahus Model is a child-friendly response model for the coordination of criminal and child welfare investigations of child abuse cases and providing support services for child victims and their families under one roof. The Barnahus model was recognised as a promising practice by the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) in 2015. The model has been replicated in Finland, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division in close co-operation with the Croatian Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation and the European Commission, the Reform and Investment Task Force (SG REFORM) from 1 September 2023 and recently extended to 30 June 2026.

The project is divided into three components, leading to the following outcomes:

1. Legal, policy and institutional framework is established for the sustainable operation of Barnahus model in Croatia
2. Enhanced knowledge and capacities of professionals working with and for children to respond to child sexual abuse
3. Awareness of professionals and the wider public on the situation of child sexual abuse in Croatia is enhanced

State of play of the Project

Following the inception phase from September to December 2023 and the [launch conference](#) on 30 January 2024, the project entered into a more analytical phase with the preparation and presentation of two assessment reports at a first [Roundtable](#) on 8 October 2024 :

- An analysis of the legislative, policy and institutional framework regarding protection of children and procedures for cases on violence against children, including sexual violence in Croatia (in [Croatian](#) and in [English](#)) with a Mapping and desk research review of the international standards and principles as well as the existing Croatian legislation relevant for professionals handling cases of children victims of sexual violence and abuse ([Full version in Croatian](#) / [Summary in English](#))
- a training gap analysis for professionals working with and for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation (in [Croatian](#) and in [English](#)).

In addition, a [study visit](#) was organised on 5 and 6 November 2024 in Helsinki with the support of the Finnish authorities to exchange information with Croatian professionals working with and for children (all of them were members of the Advisory Group. The visit provided an opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities encountered in the implementation of the Barnahus model in Finland and to strengthen international relations between Council of Europe member states. A lessons-learned report was prepared by the Croatian participants under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation.

Following the above-mentioned activities and deliverables, three strategic documents were developed by national and international experts and presented at a second [Roundtable](#) on 27 May 2025 :

- A Roadmap including a Cost Structure Analysis for the implementation of the Barnahus Model in Croatia by Liisa Järvillehto and Tom Pakkanen (in [English](#) and [Croatian](#))
- A Report on procedures and protocols supporting an inter-agency agreement between ministries and other stakeholders which includes a Memorandum of Understanding on implementing the Barnahus model in Croatia by Ivana Celio Cega (in [English](#) and [Croatian](#))
- A Survey on perceptions of child sexual abuse in Croatia by IPSOS d.o.o.(in [English](#) and [Croatian](#))

The component of the project on capacity building and training of trainers has started in summer 2025 with the translation into Croatian of the new HELP course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse that was unveiled during the 44th [plenary meeting](#) of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe [Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (Lanzarote Committee). This new training course aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of legal, justice and other non-legal professionals to enable them to detect, respond to, and prevent child sexual abuse in a way that is child-friendly, gender-sensitive, and rights-based. It also seeks to promote better coordination across sectors involved in child protection — ensuring that legal, medical, and social responses are aligned and mutually reinforcing. Furthermore, it encourages the consistent and effective application of national and international standards, in particular those set out in the Lanzarote Convention, across all relevant institutions in Croatia. Finally, it fosters a professional culture that recognises children not as passive recipients of protection, but as rights-holders whose voices and best interests must be at the heart of every decision and intervention

A first group of 22 professionals already completed the tutored course which was launched on 8 October 2025. They will receive their certification and will be invited to share their experience and feedback with the second group of professionals who will undertake the second tutored course launched at today’s event.

The joint EC/CoE project on implementing the Barnahus model in Croatia supported the translation but also the adaptation of the HELP course to the national context for professionals working for and with children.

During the meeting:

- **All microphones should be turned off during the event.** The microphone could be turned on only when you want to address a question/comment. Please remember to mute your microphone when you have finished speaking.
- **Simultaneous interpretation in Croatian and English will be provided** during the event.
- **Technical problems:** In case of any technical issues during the event, participants should inform the organisers through the chat option and the project staff will try to fix them.

Draft Agenda	
9:30-10:00	Registration of participants
10:00-10:30	Welcoming remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ana Kordej, Acting Director, Directorate for Criminal Law, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of Croatia</i> • <i>Tomislav Briški, General Secretary of the Croatian Judicial Academy</i> • <i>Rima Joujou-Deljic, Resident Country Coordinator, SG REFORM, European Commission</i> • <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of Cooperation and Capacity Building Unit, Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe (online)</i>

10:30-11:00	Certification ceremony
	<i>Award of course completion certificates to the first cohort of participants of the HELP tutored course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse launched in 2025</i>
11:00-11:30	Exchange of views and feedback from the certified participants on the HELP course on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse
	<p><i>Moderated by Lara Barberic, lawyer and main tutor of the HELP course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you name one concrete change you intend to make in your professional practice as a result of this training? • In one word or short sentence, how would you describe your experience of this course? • Do you, and if yes how, plan to share the content of the course with your colleagues? <p>Tour de table and Q&A session</p>
11:30-11:45	<i>Group photo</i>
11:45-12:15	Keynote speech on the Lanzarote convention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Marlena Jukić, Croatian representative to the Lanzarote Committee and Acting Head of Sector for Criminal Law Regulations, Directorate for criminal law, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of Croatia</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
12:15-12:30	Introduction to the EU/CoE project on “Implementing the Barnahus model in Croatia”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior Project Officer, Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
12:30-12:45	HELP Course Platform presentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ana-Maria Telbis, Head of the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme, Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Directorate General of Human Rights & Rule of Law, Council of Europe (online)</i> <p>Q&A session</p>
12:45-13:30	HELP Course on the protection of Children against sexual exploitation and abuse
	<p><i>Group Tutor session.</i></p> <p><i>Introduction by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lara Barberic, lawyer and main tutor of the HELP course</i> - <i>Dijana Rizvić, Judge at the County Court in Zagreb</i> <p><i>Presentation of the participants.</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of the tutor’s role, learning objectives, assessment criteria, practical aspects, the programme and the timeline of the tutoring.</i></p> <p>Q&A session</p>
13:30-14:30	<i>Lunch at Restaurant ‘Kaptloska Klet’ Kaptol 5, 1000, Zagreb, Croatia</i>

List of Participants

No	Name	Institution	Participation
Professionals who passed the first tutored course			
1	BILUŠIĆ Ivana	County Court of VELIKA GORICA	
2	BODRUZIC Edita	County Court of VELIKA GORICA	yes
3	DELIĆ JANKOVIĆ Jasna	Municipal Court of VIROVITICA	yes
4	GRANCARIĆ Dijana	County Court of ZADAR	yes
5	KALLAY BLAŽEKOVIĆ Kornelija	County Court of VELIKA GORICA	
6	KNOK ČANIĆ Sandra	County Prosecutors Office of BJELOVAR	yes
7	KOCIJAN-PUTAREK Sunčica	County Prosecutors Office of VARAŽDIN	
8	KOŠČEC Ivana	Municipal Prosecutors Office of RIJEKA	
9	LALIĆ Petar	Municipal Court of VUKOVAR	Online
10	LECHNER Saša	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	Online
11	MAKARUN Nataša	Municipal Court of RIJEKA	Online
12	MARKANOVIĆ Sanja	County Prosecutors Office of ZAGREB	
13	MIOČIĆ Antonia	Municipal Court of ZADAR	Online
14	PERANOVIĆ Ika	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	
15	PRIMC Petra	Municipal Court of RIJEKA	yes
16	RONKO Damir	County Court of SLAVONSKI BROD	yes
17	SARAČEVIĆ Alida	Municipal Prosecutors Office of VIROVITICA	yes
18	SEKOVANIĆ Ana	Municipal Criminal Prosecutors Office of ZAGREB	Online
19	ŠIPEK SAULIĆ Dragana	Municipal Criminal Prosecutors Office of ZAGREB	yes
20	SKOKO Ana	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	
21	VUGIĆ-SAKAL Matija	Municipal Court of VELIKA GORICA	Online
22	WALASZEK Stanislav	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	
Professionals who will undertake the second tutored course			
1	BENAKOVIC Tena	Ministry of Science and Education	yes
2	CRLENJAK Željka	Municipal State Attorney's Office BJELOVAR	online
3	CRNKOVIĆ Ljuba	Municipal Court of SISAK	
4	ČILIĆ Emira	Municipal State Attorney's Office of VIROVITICA	yes
5	ČUČKOVIĆ Suzana	County State Attorney's Office of VUKOVAR	yes
6	DAJAK Irena	Municipal Court of KARLOVAC	
7	DUŠEVIĆ Daria	County Court RIJEKA	online
8	GREGORIC Aleksandra	Municipal Court KOPRIVNICA	online
9	HORVAT Mirjana	County Court ZAGREB	yes
10	IVANUSIC Kornelija	Municipal Court of VELIKA GORICA	yes
11	JAGODIC Mia	Municipal State Attorney's Office SLAVONSKI BROD	online
12	KNEŽEVIĆ Danijela	Municipal Court in VELIKA GORICA	yes
13	KOVACEVIC Irena	Social Worker	Yes
14	LEEPPEE PAŽANIN Daška	Office of the Ombudsperson for Children	Yes
15	LIPOVAC Sandra	County Court of RIJEKA	online
16	LOKAS Darijo	County Court of VARAŽDIN	online
17	LOVRIC Domagoj	Municipal Court of SISAK	online
18	LUGAR VLADIĆ Blaženka	Municipal Court of KARLOVAC	Yes
19	MAJSAN Tea	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	Yes
20	MAKEK Patrizia	County Court of RIJEKA	Yes
21	MARKUŠIĆ Ljerka	Municipal State Attorney's Office of SISAK	online
22	MIOČIĆ VATAVUK Marina	Municipal State Attorney's Office of ZADAR	Yes
23	MIŠKULIN Sanja	Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia	Yes

24	MOROSINI TURČINOVIĆ Sabina	Municipal Court of PULA	Yes
25	NOLA Sanja	County Court of ZAGREB	Yes
26	PETRIĆ Igor	County Court of SISAK	Yes
27	PIŠKOREC Ana	Municipal State Attorney's Office of BJELOVAR	Yes
28	PIŠKOREC KUZMIĆ Vesna	Municipal Court of KOPRIVNICA	online
29	PIVČEVIĆ Daniela	County Court of SPLIT	Yes
30	PRIBISALIĆ Marko	County Court of SPLIT	Yes
31	RAZNJEVIĆ Marija	Social Worker	Yes
32	REMENAR Karla	Municipal Court in VARAŽDIN	online
33	SLADIĆ Mirela	County Court of SISAK	Yes
34	STJEPOVIĆ SIMONI Maris	County State Attorney's Office of DUBROVNIK	online
35	ŠIPRAK FADLJEVIĆ Barbara	Municipal Criminal Court of ZAGREB	Yes
36	ŠTEFAN KUZMIĆ Iva	Municipal Court of SISAK	online
37	ŠTRUCELJ Jasmina	County Court of KARLOVAC	Yes
38	SMIRČIĆ Jelena	Social Worker	
39	TONKOVIĆ PIGAC Katarina	Municipal Court in VARAŽDIN	
40	VESELIČIĆ Josipa	Social Worker	
Speakers			
1	JUKIĆ Marlena	Croatian Member of the Lanzarote Committee	Yes
2	GASPARYAN Zaruhi	Council of Europe	online
3	TELBIS Ana-Maria	Council of Europe	online
4	BARBERIC Lara	Lawyer and main tutor of the HELP course	Yes
5	RIZVIĆ Dijana	Judge and main tutor of the HELP course	Yes
6	BRIŠKI Tomislav	Croatian Judicial Academy	Yes
Observers			
1	DEL FABRO Andrej	Ministry of Justice of Slovenia	Yes
2	ŠUTAR Ana	Barnahus Slovenia	Yes
3	DERMASTJA Špela	Barnahus Slovenia	Yes
Implementing partners			
1	KORDEJ Ana	Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation	Yes
2	BILIĆ Mirela	Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation	Yes
3	KATAVIĆ Antonio	Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation	Yes
4	MARGETIĆ Nataša	Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation	Yes
6	PAVIČIĆ Tamara	Croatian Judicial Academy	Yes
7	KORUŽNJAK Matija	Croatian Judicial Academy	Yes
8	JOUJOU-DELJKIC Rima	SG REFORM, European Commission	Yes
9	PRIVAT DE FORTUNIE Frederique	Council of Europe	Yes
10	SAVONITTO Carolina	Council of Europe	Yes