



T-ES(2018)ICT-CY-NGO

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

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

Comments on the replies to the thematic questionnaire

CYPRUS

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

2nd thematic monitoring round

"The protection of children against sexual exploitation and
sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication
technologies (ICTs)"

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 10 January 2018

A. Actions/modifications that have been implemented:

We confirm that the actions mentioned by the State have been implemented. We add the following two that are not mentioned:

- Teacher's Manual for the Recognition and Management of Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (December 2017).
- The Council of Ministers adopted the National Strategy for a Safer Internet for Children in CYPRUS 2018-2023 (December 2017).

B. Actions/modifications that have not yet been implemented that derive as obligation by the provisions of Lanzarote Convention, the national legislation and the National Strategies (protection of children from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation/ Safer Internet for Children):

Research, as stated by the State:

- No public authorities or other bodies initiated/supported research on the issues raised by self-generated explicit images and/or videos, or self-generated sexual content.
- No public authorities or other bodies conducted or supported research in particular on the psychological effects on those persons whose self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos as children have been shared online or self-generated sexual content as children has been shared online.

Legislation, as stated by the State:

- National law does not contain any reference to non-pictorial self-generated sexual content produced by children (e.g. sound, text) in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention (Art.18-23).
- National law does not criminalize the production and/or possession of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos when it involves children who have reached the age set in application of Article 18(2) where these images and/or videos are produced and possessed by them with their consent and solely for their own private use.

Prosecution- Specialized units/departments/sections, as stated by the State:

- There are not any specialized units/departments/sections in charge of dealing with ICT facilitated sexual offences against children, such as those referred to the questionnaire in prosecution or in courts. There is a specialized unit in law enforcement.

Training of professionals as stated by the State:

- No training for prosecutors and judges.

The Commissioner considers the following actions, deriving from the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Child Pornography vital. However, these have not yet been implemented by the Ministry of Justice and Public Order/NGOs/Law Office of the Republic.

- Amendment of Article 33 of the Law so as to keep a suspect with possession of pornographic material under custody for a longer period, in order to protect children residing in the same house during investigation of a case of child pornography.
- Signing a protocol for cooperation between NGOs and the Office for Combating CyberCrime for the creation of a website where anonymous referrals can be made relating to child pornography.
- Realization of cooperation of a Cypriot NGO with the Belgian "Child Focus" Foundation for the free of charge internet access to the "StopChildPorno Filter", which can automatically detect and remove child sexual abuse images from the internet while the user is online.

C. Actions/ modifications made with the contribution of the Commissioner:

- The Commissioner is a member of the Monitoring Committee of the National Cybersecurity Strategy for the safe use of the Internet by children.
- Publication of Commissioner's Position Paper on the Rights of Children to Sexuality Education, July 2017.
- Participation of the Commissioner in the Conference for "Internet Security", organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture and CYberSafety (March 2017).
- Participation of the Commissioner's Young Advisors Team in the first Campaign "CYberSafety Youth Panel", a European co-funded project, run by Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus and other partners (April 2017).
- Organization of a workshop by the University of Nicosia, under Commissioner's auspices, on training parents/children how to tackle internet bullying and sexual exploitation of children, in December 2017.
- Commissioner's Intervention/Assessment paper in relation to grooming of a student by his teacher (October 2017).