



T-ES(2018)ICT-PL-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

POLAND

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN

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 2 February 2018



THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Ombudsman for Children

Marek Michalak

Re. Question 1 (Awareness-raising), the Ombudsman for Children adds the following information:

- The Ombudsman for Children established in 2008 and operates to this date the telephone help line 800 12 12 12 – for children and other persons in need of advice, support or information, or to file a complaint regarding protection of children's rights¹. This line operates Monday - Friday 8.15-20.00. If the call comes in outside operating hours, the caller may leave contact details and the call will be returned.
- The Ombudsman gave patronage to the social campaign – Our Children in the Net in 2010.

Re. Question 2 (Civil society involvement), the Ombudsman for Children adds the following information:

- The Ombudsman for Children addressed the Prime Minister several times (April 2016, September 2017, December 2017) to adopt a National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Children – a uniform comprehensive program including methods of prevention and combating of all forms of violence against children. The Ombudsman pointed out - in line with the recommendations of Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children, that such strategy is necessary, because Poland needs a coherent system coordinating the cooperation of all actors².

Re. Question 5 (Research), the Ombudsman for Children adds the following information:

- The Ombudsman for Children and NASK (National Research Institute subordinate to the Ministry of Digital Affairs) commissioned a study in 2014 "Teenagers and the Internet". The study was conducted by PEDAGOGIUM Higher School of Social Sciences. Several questions (questions 24-30) referred to issues being subject of this monitoring round. The study showed that it is necessary to take steps to prevent the hazards connected with Internet usage by children and youth. These steps should involve areas of education, technology, legislation.

¹ <http://brpd.gov.pl/telefon-zaufania>

² http://brpd.gov.pl/sites/default/files/2017_12_15_premier.pdf

The study was conducted in May-June 2014 on the group of 1235 students from 50 junior high schools all over the country. It was the first Polish study regarding safety of children and youth in digital world³.

- The Ombudsman addressed the Minister of Education in March 2017 (also twice in 2010) to propose that data regarding the number of attempts of self-mutilation and suicide among minors (the reason of which is often self-generated Internet content) should be collected as a foundation of developing prevention mechanisms.

Re. Question 6 (Assistance to victims), the Ombudsman for Children adds the following information:

- Re. 6.2
The Ombudsman for Children supports the PROMISE Project promoting the BARNAHUS model. In Poland the Ombudsman gave patronage to the project of the Foundation We Empower Children – creation of 4 Children Support Centres until 2019 (one already operates).



³ http://brpd.gov.pl/sites/default/files/raport_z_badania_nastolatki_wobec_internetu_-_po_poprawkach_edytorskich.pdf