



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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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

SLOVENIA

ASSOCIATION AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

2nd thematic monitoring round

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

1.3. Association against sexual abuse also faces these problems in its work. Therefore, in 2014, we published a leaflet "Web, mobile phone, child abuse", which we distribute regularly through schools, health institutions, kindergartens, relevant faculties, libraries, and with the help of volunteers directly in public streets. The leaflet discusses the dangers that spill over to children on the Internet, discusses the problem of revealing privacy over the Internet or mobile phones, about the forms of abuse through these media and informs children and parents how to protect themselves against such abuses. Association's already traditional two-day training for educators, teachers, health professionals, prosecutors, social workers and other professionals also includes this topic. The training takes place at least three times a year. In the course of our work, we also encounter parents' reports of these abuses. We also work with the organization of the "Spletno oko" and in concrete cases with the police and with the centres for social work.

2.1. As an Association we do not have any special programs, except prevention material – leaflets.

4. At our regular annual courses on the subject of sexual abuse of children that we organise for social workers, teachers, paediatricians, prosecutors, NGOs, educators, pedagogues, we also identify problems concerning Internet abuse. The courses last for two days.

5. We do not know specialized research on Internet abuse by the state or possibly non-governmental organizations. However, we are acquainted with some of the diploma thesis dealing with this topic.

6.1. For all cases of sexual abuse, including in connection with Internet abuse, children and everyone else can contact our free phone number 0802880, mobile phone number 00386 41 73 78 72 and telephone number 00386 1 4313341.

As early as 1994, the Association Against Sexual Abuse started to work in a field of sexual abuse of children in Slovenia, and since the work of our NGO is directed at sexual abuse, we believe that after 24 years of work we can be called a specialized non-governmental organization for these problems. The projects of Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities began to expose the problem of sexual abuse of children only three years ago and then other NGOs started to work on it too.

In 2015 we were also a successful promoter of the European Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. We are also members of the European project "One and Five".

Children who are victims of all forms of sexual assault, as well as Internet abuse and other forms of violence, and kindergartens, schools, other institutions that face the issue of taking action against online abuse may turn to the Association. Our goals are to give victims the opportunity to speak about this, to take action to protect victims, to raise awareness of this

crime, to support victims to identify abuses and to provide further forms of support and assistance that we offer to victims.

6.2. The criminal law of our country now adequately protects victims of these forms of abuse. In addition to criminal legislation, we also have a Domestic Violence Prevention Act, which also discusses sexual violence, but the Domestic Violence Prevention Act does not provide children with the necessary support, assistance and psychological help. It is mostly dependent, unfortunately, on the responsiveness of individual professionals in the Centres for Social Work, who have too much of an arbitrary role in doing so. In this way, the state also satisfies, in principle, compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as anticipated in Article 39 of the Convention.

7. The participation of civil society with government organizations is not satisfactory, and above all there is a lack of partnership that is necessary for successful work.

8. All such actions are properly incriminated.

8.2. Our criminal law criminalises the actions they commit, including among those over the age of 14. Until this age, children are not criminally responsible. A sexual assault on a child, which includes Internet abuse, is an act that is incriminated by the age of 15. So, if the act of showing, producing, possessing, and distributing pornographic material would be committed against a person under the age of 15, it is punishable even if it is done by over 14 years old child, that means also a 15 year old child.

9.1. a. Yes, the possession of these materials is also punishable and sanctioned in criminal law.

9.1. b., c. It is also a crime to distribute these materials. If they are distributed by children aged over 14 who are already criminally responsible.

9.2. No.

9.3. As this is a violation of the law, the consequences can be imposed as sanctions in relation to a violation of the relevant legislation. In the cases of minors, it can also be in a form of various actions (notice, reprimand, etc.).

9.4. Yes, if the content and conduct comply with the content of Article 176 of the Criminal Code.

9.5. No.

9.6. As this is a violation of the law, the consequences can be imposed as sanctions in relation to a violation of the relevant legislation. In the cases of minors, it can also be in a form of various actions (notice, reprimand, etc.).

9.7. No, when it comes to children under the age of 14 who are criminally irresponsible, but the centre for social work is notified. There are no criminal sanctions.

9.8 No, except for children under the age of 14.

10. No, unless the material is produced under the conditions defined in Article 176/3 of the Criminal Code. We do not have a defined age to which sexual activities of children are not allowed. But it is certain that mutual, consensual activities among minors would not be prosecuted. But, in case of disclosure, centre for social work would be notified.

11. Yes, in accordance with Article 173 and Article 176 of the Criminal Code.

12. In all cases acts under the Lanzarote Convention, which are committed to the detriment of children, are sanctioned whether they are committed in a State Party or outside of it, in case the disclosure of an act occurs (Article 13 of the Criminal Code: The validity of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia for aliens committing a criminal offense abroad).

13. We have a specialized police service that manages the control of online abuse, but Specialized Groups for Juvenile Criminal Officers are working with victims and investigating suspicions. We also have specialized courts for juvenile crime, but we do not have specialized courts. But there are no specialized units in the police, as well as in the prosecutor's offices regarding internet abuse.

14. In our opinion, with a lack of specialized staff.

15. We cannot answer this because we do not have this information. We know that this is a shorter course or consultation.

16. We do not know these forms of cooperation, but we know that the police are gaining a lot of information through Europol, or other international police institutions (e.g. Interpol).