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LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Follow-up given by Parties to the Special Report on “Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”

Compliance report concerning Recommendation 35

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 6 October 2021

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Executive Summary

In March 2016, the Council of Europe's Secretary General called for a series of [priority actions to protect children affected by the refugee crisis](#). In this context, the Lanzarote Committee mandated its Bureau to decide on the need to make urgent requests for information on the basis of [Rule 28 \(Special reports and urgent situations\)](#) of its Rules of Procedure.

On the 3rd of March 2017, the Lanzarote Committee adopted the [Special report Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#), as an outcome of the [urgent monitoring round](#) that had been launched for that purpose. The Special report focused on how Parties to the Lanzarote Convention were protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

To follow-up on the Special report and its recommendations, in 2018, the Committee requested Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide information on the follow-up given to the 5 urgent recommendations. The [evaluation of the follow-up given to the 5 urgent recommendations](#) was adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on the 6th of June 2019.

Subsequently, the Committee asked the Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide information on the follow-up to the 10 recommendations considering that Parties should act. This compiled information (hereafter Compilation information 2020) allowed for a first preliminary individual assessment of the Parties' practices and legislation with respect to the 10 "consider" recommendations, taking into account specific requirements. This first preliminary assessment was presented to the Parties at the 27th plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee in June 2020. The Parties were then given a second opportunity to provide information on the follow-up to the same 10 recommendations (hereafter additional information).

In view of the examination and possible adoption of the 10 Compliance Reports at the Lanzarote Committee's 34th meeting (4-7th of October 2021), International organisations having participatory status with the Lanzarote Committee submitted information of relevance to some of the recommendations in question.

The present compliance report was prepared on the basis of the Compilation of information 2020, as well as the compiled additional information sent by the Parties.¹ It is important to note that the conclusions of compliance/partial compliance/non-compliance have been drawn without the possibility to verify the extent to which legislation and measures are being applied in practice, nor whether children affected by the refugee crisis are actually benefitting from existing services. It has also not been possible to assess the overall impact of the strategies and procedures to effectively deal with the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

¹ The 41 Parties that are concerned by this report are: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

The report covers the situation in the 41 states, which were Parties to the Convention at the time the urgent monitoring round was launched. Parties, which have ratified the Lanzarote Committee at a later stage may take into consideration the recommendations, promising practices and other findings presented in this report for information and subsequent relevant action.

The majority of the Parties to the Convention have implemented one or more measures to address the requirements of Recommendation 35. Specifically, 28 Parties are in partial compliance and 11 Parties are in full compliance with the requirements. 32 of these Parties have in place promising practices that could inform further developments and advances in other Parties. 2 Parties have been considered non-compliant with Recommendation 35, due to insufficient information.

21 Parties fully comply with the **first requirement of Recommendation 35**, which calls for Parties to have available data – or a mechanism to collect and centralise data – on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing. A further 5 Parties reported collecting data only on a specific category of children affected by the refugee crisis who are missing, and are therefore considered partially compliant. 15 Parties were considered to be non-compliant with this requirement. One Party (Italy) stands out as having a promising practice concerning the establishment of a body dedicated to the phenomenon of missing persons, including with an international aspect. This body collects, centralises, and analyse data, in order to identify and propose to the competent authorities possible measures aimed at enhancing the response to this issue.

32 Parties fully comply with the **second requirement of Recommendation 35**, calling on Parties to coordinate with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children. 3 were found to be partially compliant, and 6 were found not to be compliant. A promising practice in this area is the membership of many national authorities to the Police expert network on missing persons (PEN-MP) affiliated to the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) of the Council of the European Union. Only 3 Parties (Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands) explicitly stated that they were members of this network. Yet, it appears that 29 Parties of the 41 monitored are in fact members of this network.² Overall, the Parties could provide more information and/or enhance their coordination for the care of cross-border missing children, so that coordination is not limited to information-sharing and referral of cross-border missing children.

14 Parties fully comply with the **third requirement of Recommendation 35**, aimed at ensuring that Parties have protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. 20 were found to be partially compliant, mainly because they provided examples of preventive or protective measures, but did not demonstrate that they implemented both kinds of measures, and 7 were found not to be compliant. With regard to preventive measures, a noteworthy promising practice is the use of the Miniila application, which helps

² See, the list of national authorities that are members of the PEN-MP at: <https://www.amberalert.eu/police-expert-network/>

children affected by the refugee crisis and their relatives to obtain accurate and child-friendly information on their rights and services they can claim. The application is operating in 7 countries which were assessed in this monitoring round.³ Some Parties have also implemented training programmes for professionals who are likely to come in contact with children affected by the refugee crisis and at risk of going missing:

- in Austria, flight attendants of airlines are trained to identify children who are potential victims of trafficking. The authorities cooperate with an organisation in Athens to transport children aged between 6 months to 11 years on Austrian Airlines and Aegean Airlines flights from Athens to Vienna in order to protect them from potential risks on the route, or the organisation of checks at the SPK Schwechat border checkpoint, in case of suspected abduction and/or sexual exploitation or abuse of a child;
- in Croatia, “Trainings on the Protocol” are attended by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Croatian Red Cross, the Croatian Law Centre, the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the Deputy Ombudsperson for Children. One of the lectures entitled “Identification of unaccompanied children and victims of human trafficking” raises awareness on the issue of trafficking in human beings and the role of border police officers in recognising indicators that a child is a victim or potential victim of trafficking in human beings;
- in Italy, training and evaluation sessions are held for persons working in the reception systems of five prefectures, as part of the European Justice funding for the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors;
- In Portugal, training courses on the early identification of situations related to missing children that may constitute trafficking in human beings are provided to a wide range of professionals in contact with children.

With regard to intervention measures, the most widely used tool, also identified as a promising practice, is the 116 000 hotline for Missing Children. Only 3 Parties (Bulgaria, Croatia, France) mentioned that it was available on their territory, but a total of 29 Parties actually use it. Another promising practice in this area is the implementation of identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) protocols, as is the case in Austria, Turkey and the Netherlands.

³ Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden.

Table 1. Comparative information on fulfilment of Recommendation 35

Country	Data collection exists	Coordination with other countries	Prevention and response protocols
★ Albania	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
★ Andorra	No	Yes	No
★ Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Cyprus	Yes*	Yes	Yes*
★ Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Denmark	Yes*	Yes	No
★ Finland	No	Yes	Yes*
★ France	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Georgia	No	No	Yes*
★ Germany	Yes*	Yes	Yes
★ Greece	No	Yes	Yes*
★ Hungary	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Iceland	Yes	Yes*	No
★ Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Liechtenstein	No	Yes*	No
★ Lithuania	No	Yes	Yes
★ Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Malta	No	Yes	Yes*
★ Republic of Moldova	Yes*	No	Yes*
★ Monaco	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Montenegro	No	No	No
★ Netherlands	No	Yes	Yes*
★ North Macedonia	Yes	Yes	No
★ Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Portugal	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Romania	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Russian Federation	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ San Marino	No	No	No
★ Serbia	No	Yes	Yes*
★ Slovak Republic	No	Yes	Yes*
★ Slovenia	No	Yes	Yes*
★ Spain	Yes	Yes	Yes*
★ Sweden	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Yes
★ Turkey	No	No	Yes*
★ Ukraine	No	No	Yes*

*Yes, to a limited extent.

Recommendation R35

The Lanzarote Committee:

considers that Parties should agree on common strategies/procedures to effectively deal with the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (R35).

Following the adoption of the Special Report and after the assessment of the 5 urge recommendations, the Committee asked Parties involved in the urgent monitoring round to provide follow-up information on the 10 recommendations considering that Parties should act. On a first phase, Parties provided relevant information to assess their compliance with recommendations, which was compiled in the Compilation information 2020. An individual assessment was carried out of the replies of each Party, taking into account specific requirements.

The requirements identified to assess Parties' compliance with Recommendation 35 are as follows:

- 1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*
- 2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*
- 3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Full compliance with Recommendation 35 was determined if the Party had in place: a) available data - or a mechanism to collect and centralise data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing.; b) coordination mechanisms with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.; and c) protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. Where countries have taken measures to adopt more than one of the requirements *or* had applied other relevant measures, these were considered as promising practices.

Based on this assessment, an analytical document was prepared and sent to the Parties. Subsequently, Parties were given the opportunity to submit additional information concerning other measures in place, which showed compliance with the requirements identified for the assessment of Recommendation 35.

The present report takes into account both the Compilation information 2020 and related analytical document, as well as the additional information submitted by Parties. The aim is to assess compliance, whilst providing a comprehensive picture of what national practices and legislation are in place.

For ease of reference, a comparative table summarising the findings of this report has also been prepared.⁴ The table colours have been determined as follows:

- Full compliance (green) – the Party is in conformity with all the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention;
- Partial compliance (yellow) - the Party is in partial conformity with the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention;
- Non-compliance (red) – the Party does not address any of the requirements of the Recommendation, corresponding to fulfilment of obligations under the Convention.
- Promising practice country (star) – the Party fulfils one or more requirements of the Recommendation *or* had applied other relevant measures, in a manner that is considered a promising practice.

⁴ This table can be found at the end of the Executive Summary.

Country results

ALBANIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Albania indicated that the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child is the coordination body responsible for data collection on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (i.e. children at risk to go missing) and for missing Albanian unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) abroad. However, no reference was made to a data collection system centralising data on all children affected by the refugee crisis (CARC) who go missing.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Albania mentioned coordination procedures with other countries on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children at risk to go missing and for missing Albanian UASC abroad but made no reference to specific coordination for information-sharing, referral and care of all cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Albania did not mention any prevention or response measures other than repatriation, return and/or readmission of UASC. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Albania. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

No additional information was provided.

Based on the information received, Albania is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has a promising practice with regard to protocols to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: 1) there is no indication that Albania has data available on all children affected by the refugee crisis and not only on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that go missing; 2) there is no indication that Albania coordinates with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children affected by the

refugee crisis, and not only unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and 3) there is no information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

ANDORRA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation Information 2020, Andorra provided information on child trafficking without giving details on availability of data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Andorra specified that, due to its geographical situation, there is no risk of cross-border child disappearances since a protocol has been signed with the Community of Sant' Egidio in order to host the people affected by the refugee crisis. The professionals of this Community accompany the families from Beirut to Andorra, where they are welcomed by the professionals of the Service of Aid to Refugees (*Service d'Aide aux Réfugiés*). Andorra also mentioned that in case of a cross-border child disappearance, they would use the mechanisms of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Andorra provided information on child trafficking without giving details on coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Andorra specified that it could use letters rogatory in cases of a cross-border child disappearance.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Andorra provided information on child trafficking without mentioning protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Andorra added that it has international relations and mechanisms in case of a cross-border child disappearance, without specifying them.

Based on the information provided, Andorra is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 for the following reasons: 1) it is not clear whether Andorra has a mean to collect data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing, in case this situation happens; and 2) there is no mention of protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children and no details on protocols in place to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. Although it is unlikely that Andorra experience disappearances of children affected by the refugee crisis due to the small number of such children on its territory, it is necessary that Andorra has measures in place to deal with this eventuality, should it occur.

AUSTRIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation Information 2020, Austria mentioned that data is available in its national system (EKIS) and the Schengen information system (SIS). At the date of the submission of information by Austria, no case of missing child affected by the refugee crisis was reported.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation Information 2020, Austria mentioned having common procedures of coordination for information-sharing and referral of cross-border missing children with European police authorities, including through the SIS and Eurodac.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Austria mentioned that the Ministry of Interior can intervene to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children through the Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) process, which qualifies as a promising practice. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Austria. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Austria also mentioned a number of prevention protocols including promising practices, such as the training of Austrian Airlines flight attendants to identify potential child victims of human trafficking, cooperation with a towing organisation in Athens to tow children aged between 6 months and 11 years on AUSTRIAN Airlines and AGEAN Airlines from Athens to Vienna in order to protect them from potential risks on the land route, or the organisation of checks at the border checkpoint SPK Schwechat, in case of suspicion of a child being abducted and/or sexually exploited or abused.

Based on the information provided, Austria is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its protocols aimed at preventing and responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

BELGIUM

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation Information 2020, Belgium did not specifically refer to data collection or to children affected by the refugee crisis. However, it can be partially inferred that data is available on the number affected by the refugee crisis that go missing from the reference to the Directorate for Operational Police Collaboration, which is the national contact point for international police cooperation in the search for missing persons, including with the SIS and Interpol, as well as the Ministerial Directive “Search for Missing Persons”.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Belgium informed that it cooperates with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children via the SIS and Interpol.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Belgium did not mention protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. However, external sources indicate that it uses the [Miniila App](#) developed by the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children (“Missing Children Europe”), which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. External sources also indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Belgium. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

No additional information was provided.

Based on the information received, Belgium is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that data on missing children is available through the NCB Interpol Sarajevo Division.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina informed that cooperation with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children takes place with Interpol member states and beyond. It specified that in the case of a missing child, the State that finds the child immediately informs the Interpol Office that issued the announcement, place the child in the competent institution until repatriation, and immediately inform the nearest diplomatic mission of the country of which the child is a citizen.

In addition, external sources indicate that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information on clear identification and response mechanisms, but no reference was made to protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

No additional information was provided.

Based on the information provided, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has a promising practice with regard to coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2). Partial compliance was determined for the following reason: there is no information on the existence of protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

BULGARIA

- 1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Bulgaria informed of the existence of a Coordination mechanism for referral and care of cases of unaccompanied children and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, it indicated that data on the number of children that go missing in the country are collected and centralised in the Automatic Informational System (AIS). Additional information provided by Bulgaria allow to conclude that every signalled child disappearance, no matter the citizenship of the child, triggers a Nationwide Search and a data update in the AIS (date of birth, sex, citizenship and passport names of the missing child). In addition, the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) collaborates with the State Agency for Refugees, according to a 2016 Agreement for cooperation, interaction and exchange of information. This allows the SACP to maintain a database on unaccompanied foreign children. An overview of children who are currently listed as missing in Bulgaria can be found on the [Lipvsa Twitter account](#) and the [Lipvsa Facebook page](#).

- 2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the additional information provided by Bulgaria on coordination with other countries, it appears that the AIS is directly connected with the Schengen Information System, which allows automatic information in the case where a child is declared missing in another member country.

In addition, external sources indicate that Bulgaria is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

- 3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In both the compilation information 2020 and its additional information on Recommendation 35, Bulgaria provided a number of elements related to protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children, which qualify as promising practices. In the compilation information 2020, Bulgaria indicated that it launched in 2018 the national “AMBER Alert – Missing Child” system. This Alert enables law enforcement agencies to send out a notification with a recent photo and information about a missing child to all Facebook app users within a 200km radius from the place where the child went missing. Further, its Coordination mechanism for referral and care of cases of unaccompanied children and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad is designed to regulate the engagement of the entities involved

in returning children from abroad and in the care of unaccompanied children, as well as child victims of trafficking. In its implementation, the competent institutions are guided by the principles of respect for the best interests of the child, mutual awareness of partners and assistance, multidisciplinary approach at national and local level, flexibility in decision-making and long-term goals, ethics in the care of everyone specific case. The Nadia Center Foundation, which is part of Missing children Europe, operates the hotline 116 000 which provides a free and 24/7 service to children who went missing or are at risk to go missing and their families in cases of cross-border cases of child disappearance. Anyone involved in a case of child disappearance (the child, a peer, a friend, a family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. Finally, the Foundation also operates the free [Minilla app](#), which aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Based on the information received, Bulgaria is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and to its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3).

CROATIA

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, complemented by the additional information, Croatia indicated that data on missing children, including migrant children, are made public on the [website](#). This includes data on the total number of children affected by the refugee crisis, for both accompanied and unaccompanied children. Namely, if the children are placed in open facilities and if the facility reports the disappearance of a child, any such reported disappearance is entered into the system without delay. Unaccompanied children are considered a category at risk to go missing and special attention is paid to them through the exercise of the right to special acceptance and procedural guarantees during the procedure of granting international protection in the Republic of Croatia. All applicants for international protection exercise the right to freedom of movement in the Republic of Croatia, and in cases of wilful abandonment of assigned accommodation, the competent police station is notified and takes further action.

Unaccompanied children - illegal migrants are generally placed in open-type social care institutions, in order to protect their fundamental rights and freedoms and in accordance with the recommendations on the need to avoid placing children in detention. The crime police acts promptly to prevent further abuse and to protect victims in connection with reports or information about children's exposure to sexual abuse / exploitation, physical violence or other

threatening behaviour. By criminal investigation the facts are being established, whereupon victims of criminal offenses, including children, are informed orally and in writing about their rights, associations and organizations that provide assistance to victims and witnesses of criminal offenses and misdemeanours, as well as measures and actions taken to protect them.

Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior, in order to sensitise the public, citizens and victims themselves on the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, as well as other forms of violence against children and family members, has repeatedly issued statements encouraging citizens to report to the police their knowledge of abuse of children and domestic violence.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Croatia informed that it cooperates with Schengen Member States for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children through the SIS. In addition, external sources indicate that Croatia is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, under recommendation 37, Croatia mentioned its Protocol on the Treatment of Unaccompanied Children (“the Protocol”), which highlights several promising practices related to measures in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children in Croatia. Trainings on the Protocol are attended by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR, the ministry competent for social welfare affairs, the Croatian Red Cross, the Croatian Law Centre, the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the deputy ombudsperson for children. One of the lecture entitled “Identification of unaccompanied children and victims of human trafficking” raises awareness on the issue of human trafficking and the role that border police officers play in recognizing indicators that a child is a victim or a possible victim of human trafficking. When these indicators have been identified, the human trafficking coordinator must be immediately informed, or criminal police officers for youth when there is suspicion that a criminal offence has been committed against a child. Border police officers also attend workshops which are part of the project “Preventing sexual and gender-based violence against migrants and strengthening support to victims” organized by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with the support of the Ministry of Demographics, Family, Youth and Social Policy. Two workshops have been organized as part of the project and were attended by border police officers from almost all police administrations. The implementation of the Protocol implies the efficient collaboration of interdepartmental bodies supported by coordination provided by the Interdepartmental

Commission for Protection of Unaccompanied Children, which comprises representatives of the ministry competent for social welfare affairs, Ministry of the Interior, ministry competent for education, ministry competent for health, Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, and international organisations working to protect children and refugee rights, as well as representatives of civil society organisations working to protect children rights, if needed. The Interdepartmental Commission was set up to improve interdepartmental co-operation of government bodies and other actors involved in the protection of unaccompanied children.

Finally, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Croatia. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Croatia provided no additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information received, Croatia is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and to its protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3).

CYPRUS

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Cyprus indicated that when refugees arrive on the territory, a procedure is established at the entry point, where all refugees are registered. During the registering process, people who arrive in Cyprus can report any case of a missing child. The case will be reported to the Police, which has established a protocol of procedures concerning missing persons.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Cyprus mentioned that the organisations responsible for the operation of the European Missing Children Hotline 116 000 in Cyprus, Hope For Children and the Association for Violence in the Family, have signed a protocol of cooperation with the Ministry of Justice which ensures their cooperation for the handling of missing children cases, including cross-border missing children. In this context, the operators of the Hotline may activate the cross-border procedure transferring information of the missing child to other

member states where there is a suspicion that the child might have reached in order for the necessary search process to take place in the given countries.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Cyprus mentioned protocols in place to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children, such as the activation of a national Child Alert, and a reporting procedure through the European Missing Children Hotline 116 000. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information received, Cyprus is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) it is unclear whether data is available on all children affected by the refugee crisis, and not only asylum-seeking children that go missing; and 2) there is no information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Czech Republic did not mention that data was available on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing. However, this can be implied from its belonging to the AMBER Alert Europe foundation.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Czech Republic informed that it is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members.

In September 2019, over 60 police specialists on missing persons from 16 countries attended the second edition of the European Police Expert Network on Missing Children Forum in Prague. The goal of the three-day expert meeting, which was organised by the Czech Police and AMBER Alert Europe, was for law enforcement experts to meet their colleagues in order to exchange best

practices, strengthen police cooperation across borders and learn new techniques to save more missing children in Europe. Such coordination tools qualify as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

This type of one-time event mentioned by the Czech Republic in the Compilation information 2020 can be considered to improve the prevention and response to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in the Czech Republic. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

The Czech Republic did not provide additional information.

Based on the information received, the Czech Republic is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices related to its coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and to its protocol to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reason: the Czech Republic did not mention specific sustainable protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

DENMARK

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation Information 2020, Denmark referred to children who go missing during the asylum procedure as “absconded” children, specifying that their asylum claim would be closed after two weeks. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Denmark specified that, in cases where an asylum-seeking child disappears from the asylum camp and that the police have indicators that he/she has been victim of a crime, they will investigate the disappearance and have the possibility to request an alert in the SIS (Article 32) as well as a yellow (missing persons) or blue notice (collection of information) in Interpol. The Danish police also have a network with the Nordic countries, where it can deploy liaison officers if the police suspect a crime or if a suspected child abduction has taken place. If the police have no indicators that the minor has been victim of a crime, it will close the asylum case with a notification that the minor has disappeared, which will be registered in a national database. The police districts can also

request a pre-emptive alert in the SIS, if there are indicators that point to that a child is in danger of being abducted.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

Based on Denmark's additional information on Recommendation 35, cooperation with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children can be implied by its membership to the Schengen system and its use of the SIS, as well as its use of the notices of Interpol and its above-mentioned network's membership with other Nordic countries. In addition, external sources indicate that the Netherlands is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Denmark did not provide information on this requirement.

Based on the information received, Denmark is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has a promising practice with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) There is information on data available on asylum-seeking children who go missing but not on other children affected by the refugee crisis; and 2) there is no information on protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

FINLAND

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Finland did not provide information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Finland did not provide information on coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border

missing children. However, external sources indicate that Finland is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Finland did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in the Czech Republic. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Finland provided no additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information received, Finland is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) There is no information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) there is no information on protocols in place in Finland aimed at preventing the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

FRANCE

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, France informed that it collects data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing via the SIS, which allows States to automatically disseminate information on missing persons in their respective national files. Thus, the entry of a child's disappearance in France's wanted persons file (FPR) will be automatically implemented in the equivalent files of States using the SIS.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, France mentioned a first coordinating mechanism with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children, through Europol, Interpol and the SIS, via the central contact point (Point de contact central) of the central police operational cooperation section (SCCOPOL) of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police. France also mentioned another cooperation mean, which qualifies as a promising practice: the Central Office for the Repression of Violence against Persons (OCRVP), which is the international contact point for violence against persons, and in particular for disappearances, represents France in the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), affiliated to the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) of the Council of the European Union. Through this network, the Office has privileged contacts with all EU Member States in order to exchange operational and strategic information and best practices.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, France mentioned that law enforcement agencies and the judiciary have many tools to identify missing children and perpetrators of trafficking. It did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. However, external sources indicate that France uses the [Miniila App](#) developed by Missing Children Europe, which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This qualifies as a promising practice.

In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in France. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information received, France is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and to protocols in place aimed at preventing and responding the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

GEORGIA

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, Georgia describes protocols for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in general. It did not make any reference to missing children, nor to children affected by the refugee crisis who would not seek asylum.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

Georgia did not provide information on this requirement in the Compilation information 2020, nor in the additional information on Recommendation 35.

3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Georgia described protocols for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, notably on registration and safety measures. Although not explicit, these may be considered as prevention measures against disappearance of children at risk to go missing.

Georgia did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information received, Georgia is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) There is no mention of data available on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; 2) Georgia did not provide information on coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children; and 3) It did not provide information on protocols to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

GERMANY

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In Compilation information 2020, Germany did not provide specific information on availability of data on missing children, but it underlined strict identification and documentation protocols of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, which include registration of child fingerprints.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In Compilation information 2020, Germany did not refer to coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children. However, external sources indicate that Germany is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In Compilation information 2020, Germany described protocols for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (notably identification and documentation) which may be considered as prevention measures against disappearance of children at risk to go missing. In addition, external sources indicate that Germany uses the [Miniila App](#) developed by Missing Children Europe, which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Finally, external sources also indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Germany. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information received, Germany is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices with regards to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols aimed at preventing and responding to the phenomenon of cross border-missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined as there is no information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing other than unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

GREECE

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

Greece did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

Greece did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35. However, external sources indicate that Greece is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

Greece did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35. However, it appears from external sources that Greece uses the [Miniila App](#) developed by Missing Children Europe, which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This qualifies as a promising practice.

In addition, external sources also indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Greece. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information collected through external sources, Greece is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regards to its coordination mechanisms for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined as there is no information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing (requirement 1).

HUNGARY

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, Hungary informed that it has a police registration system on missing children, HERMON, where data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing is collected and centralised. The registry shall process the data of the missing person for 90 years.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

It appears from the Compilation information 2020 that Hungary has recognised the necessity to cooperate at a national level and to take united action at European level, as it is “becoming increasingly easy to exploit escaped or disappeared children by organised groups”.⁵ It cooperates at European level for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis with Interpol and Missing Children Europe. If it is ascertained that a missing unaccompanied child is abroad, the Hungarian authorities will contact the Hungarian consulate in the foreign state, and the consulate will assist in the search and return of the child in cooperation with the local authorities. In addition, within the Department of Criminal Cooperation of the International Law Enforcement Cooperation Centre (NEBEK), three units participate in assisting the international search for missing persons: the Interpol Hungarian National Unit, the SIRENE (Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries) Bureau, which operates 24 hours a day in each EU country using the SIS and is responsible for any supplementary information exchange and coordination of activities connected to SIS alerts, as well as the International Information Unit.

Hungary also mentioned another means of cooperation, which qualify as promising practices:

- The Kék Vonal Child Crisis Foundation is the Hungarian member organisation of Missing Children Europe. It can be contacted in cases of child abduction, disappearance of children (included unaccompanied migrant minors), lost or missing children. In cross-border situations, Kék Vonal approaches other MCE member organisations. The latest feature of the Kék Vonal is the online photo search for missing children. The Kék Vonal works with childcare professionals and works closely with the Police when searching for missing children, as well as with the family of the missing child.
- If a child victim of human trafficking, who receives child welfare and protection services in Hungary, has been identified by a foreign authority, the Child Protection and Guardianship Department of the Ministry of Human Capacities, acting as a Central Authority appointed under Decision 2031/2005 (III.5) of the Government, will actively assist in the return of the Hungarian child (as prescribed by section 101 (2)f) of the Child Welfare Act and section 167 (4) of the Decree No. 149/1997 (IX.10.) of the Government)

⁵ Report No. 1140/2012 of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights

in cooperation with the Hungarian consulate of the country of residence of the child. This Department has participated in the return of 26 minors and five adults.

- Finally, external sources indicate that Hungary is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Hungary mentioned having protocols in place to prevent and respond to the disappearance of children which include children affected by the refugee crisis. Information on missing persons is considered of public interest, and all the necessary information on the disappearance is published on the official website of the Police. Further, thorough investigations are led by the Police when a child goes missing, without distinguishing between children.

As a general rule, foreign children fall under Child Protection Law. Foreign children who have a humanitarian residence permit, are beneficiaries of international protection or are under asylum procedure on the territory of Hungary without having legal custody are all placed in one single state-run childcare institution (Károlyi István Children's Center) where they are all entitled to the same care services as Hungarian children in state care facilities.

Finally, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Hungary. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information provided, Hungary is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols aimed at preventing and responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance has been determined as it is not clear whether Hungary's protocols to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3) apply to all children affected by the refugee crisis, including those who are not beneficiaries of international protection, humanitarian residence permit or are under an asylum procedure.

ICELAND

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Iceland did not make any reference to availability of data on missing children. However, availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing could be partly assumed from Iceland's cooperation with Interpol and Europol.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Iceland stated that it coordinates with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children through Europol and Interpol.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Iceland does not have protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

Based on the information provided, Iceland is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) it did not explicit the cooperation with other countries, notably when it comes to care of cross-border missing children; and 2) it does not have protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

ITALY

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Italy informed that data on missing children is collected and centralised through the Extraordinary Government Commissioner for Missing Persons. The establishment of such body qualifies as a promising practice. Established in 2007 with a Decree of the President of the Republic, the Extraordinary Government Commissioner for Missing Persons carries out the following tasks:

- it ensures stable and operational coordination between the State Administrations involved in various ways in the phenomenon of missing persons, liaising with the relevant technical structures;
- it monitors the activities of the institutions and subjects involved in the various aspects, both with regard to the number of registered cases and to investigative, welfare and

social actions, with consequent analysis of the relative data, also of an international nature, in order to identify and propose to the competent authorities possible solutions and measures to make administrative action and information in the sector more effective.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Italy mentioned that it participates to the mechanisms of international judicial cooperation within Interpol and Europol. In this area, Italy stated that it also coordinates with other countries through the Missing Children Europe Network. In addition, external sources indicate that Italy is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Italy informed that it has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. In order to prevent the runaway from the reception facilities, human trafficking, enlistment in criminal organizations and various forms of exploitation and illegal work, the Office of the Extraordinary Government Commissioner for Missing Persons undertook policies of law enforcement:

- a permanent observatory on the phenomenon at the Prefecture of Rome
- training and evaluation sessions for those working in reception systems at 5 Prefectures as part of the European Justice funding for the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors;
- disclosure of the rules provided for by Law no. 47/2017, which provides for the strengthening of protection of unaccompanied foreign minors, with the uniform application of the rules for the reception throughout the national territory, uniform standards for age verification and identification, the establishment of the register of voluntary guardians by the Juvenile Courts and a unique code for the identification and monitoring of their presence on the national territory (Minors Information System - SIM) through the attribution of an identification code to each foreign child.

Italy also provided information on actions undertaken to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children, which qualifies as a promising practice. By commissioner's decree of 22 May 2019, the National Council for Missing Persons was established. Chaired by the Commissioner, the Council is made up of representatives of the

National Associations of the family members of missing persons and the institutional and voluntary components interested in the phenomenon and has the task of ensuring a permanent and continuous comparison on the issue in question. The comparison with other countries is also very useful, in order to make known the actions carried out in the management of the phenomenon by Italy. Moreover, there are ongoing discussions with the institutions of the European Union in order to promote the possible role of Italy in this area through the activities carried out by the Commissioner, a unique institution of its kind at European and international level.

In addition, it appears from external sources that Italy uses the [Miniila app](#) developed by Missing Children Europe, which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Finally, external sources also indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Italy. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information provided, Italy is in full compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, and has in place a number of promising practices, related to the collection of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or are at risk to go missing (requirement 1), its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3).

LATVIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Latvia informed that an information system for the support of minors is part of the "Integrated Information System of the Interior". However, no case of sexual exploitation of children affected by the refugee crisis in the countries of destination, transit countries and countries of arrival have been identified so far. In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Latvia added that the information on asylum seekers is collected by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in a specialised information system – The Asylum Seekers' Register – from which statistical selections based on target group of children affected

by the refugee crisis who are victims or presumed victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is possible, indicating that no obstacles of collecting such data have been found.

Data on child migrants and asylum seekers are collected regularly, allowing to monitor the situation on a timely basis about accompanied or unaccompanied children that have entered Latvia. This way, data are available about every child, including escapes or going missing. Since the number of child asylum seekers or illegal migrants is very small, the current procedure allows to follow every child. At the same time, in order to be prepared for a higher number of children, a new regulation “Procedures for Cooperation of the Institutions of the Ministry of the Interior Involved in the Asylum Procedure” is to be adopted this summer. Moreover, in practice this procedure is already introduced.

In 2020, only one person under age of 18 from Germany accompanied by his mother was trying to cross illegally the border of Latvia to enter the Russian Federation. Cases when minors were trying to illegally enter Latvia were not detected in 2020. The statistic on illegal migration is maintained by the State Border Guard.

The information about the children asylum seekers is collected and maintained by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. According to the Asylum seekers register, in 2020 in total 31 asylum seekers under age of 18 were registered in Latvia, out of them only 1 child was unaccompanied.

If an unaccompanied child stays in the Centre for asylum seekers and leaves it without notification, the administration of the Centre must immediately report this to the State Border Guard and the State Police. This requirement is defined in the “Procedures for Cooperation of the Institutions of the Ministry of the Interior Involved in the Asylum Procedure”. The same applies to children support centres (*bērnu aprūpes iestāde*) that are officially designated as the official representatives of unaccompanied children. The situation, whereby unaccompanied children stay without an official representative is not possible according to our legal framework. It is ensured that either the family or a state designated person looks after the child.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Latvia indicated that it coordinates with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children via the SIS and Interpol. It added in its additional information on Recommendation 35, that an agreement exists between the national coordination centres of the border guard services of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and Finland, allowing these countries to carry out immediate exchange of information about all the asylum seekers, including children, for which information has been received from a national asylum centres that they have left the asylum centre without prior notice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Finally, Latvia mentioned that protocols such as automatic police searches are in place to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Latvia. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information provided, Latvia is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has a promising practice with regard to its protocol to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reason: it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

LIECHTENSTEIN

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Liechtenstein mentioned that, due to the very small number of cases of accompanied or unaccompanied children seeking asylum in Liechtenstein, no strategy or procedure for the effective treatment of the phenomenon of missing children has yet been considered in the country.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Liechtenstein informed that it coordinates with Schengen and Interpol, which implies that they have a cooperation strategy for information-sharing and referral of cross-border missing children.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Liechtenstein did not provide information on this requirement and did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Liechtenstein is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) Liechtenstein does not have data available

on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; 2) it did not provide information on coordination with other countries for the care of cross-border missing children; and 3) it did not provide examples of protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. Although it is unlikely that Liechtenstein experience disappearances of children affected by the refugee crisis due to the limited number of such children on its territory, it is necessary that Liechtenstein has measures in place to deal with this eventuality, should it occur.

LITHUANIA

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

Lithuania did not provide information on this requirement.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

Lithuania did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that Lithuania is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Lithuania mentioned that education, adaptation, care and health care measures for children affected by the refugee crisis are implemented in the framework of the Action Plan for the implementation of foreigners' integration policy 2018-2020. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Lithuania. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

From the information provided, Lithuania is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children

affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined as it did not provide information on the availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing (requirement 1).

LUXEMBOURG

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the additional information, Luxembourg indicated that it has data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis who disappear. With regard to unaccompanied minors, the Directorate of Immigration keeps track of children who disappeared between the registration of their application for international protection and the lodging of the application, as well as children who disappeared after the lodging of the application, for whom a decision to close the application is taken. In addition, the foster care units and the field units that have been notified by a foster care or other structures report the disappearance of all children affected by the refugee crisis in their care to the Directorate of International Relations of the Grand-Ducal Police, which is responsible for reporting them to the national data file and the Schengen Information System (SIS).

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

In the additional information, Luxembourg provided information on Amber Alert: The national alert system for suspicious disappearances of minors was launched in Luxembourg in April 2016. Amber Alert Luxembourg involves co-operation between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Security, the General Prosecutor's Office and public prosecution offices, the Grand Ducal Police and Amber Alert Europe. The Amber Alert Luxembourg system is provided free of charge by Amber Alert Europe, the European Child Rescue alert system and the Police Network for Missing Children.

An amber alert is an urgent message issued nationwide when the police believe that the life of an abducted or missing child is in immediate danger. The aim of an amber alert is to get the entire population involved in looking for the missing child. A photo of the child is published immediately on various media, for instance, on television, in railway stations, at the airport, etc.

On signing the co-operation agreement in 2016, Luxembourg obtained the necessary means and tools for reaching the general public quickly by various channels when children are abducted or go missing. The addition of a new Facebook feature will make it possible to disseminate the messages more widely. Alerts are issued by the police solely on the instructions of the prosecutor's office responsible for missing children when the criteria on the following website are met: <https://amberalert.lu/fr/criteres-definitions/>.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

116 000 – European emergency number for missing children – children in distress: The main purpose of the 116 000 missing children service is to listen to and support the families of children who are missing or in distress. It helps families in connection with runaways, parental abductions in Luxembourg or abroad and suspicious disappearances of children and young adults. The 116 000 service also helps young people with psychosocial difficulties. It can offer them assistance if they have run away, as well as support and assistance to prevent them from running away. In Luxembourg, the 116 000 service is run by the National Office for Children (ONE), a public agency of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, in co-operation with the Grand Ducal Police. The 116 000 helpline is available round the clock. Calls are free.

Based on the information received, Luxembourg is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regards to its coordination mechanisms for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

MALTA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

Malta did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

Malta did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that Malta is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Malta informed that the Social Care and Standards Authority is the designated Central Authority in Malta responsible for child abduction, adoption, fostering including cross-border fostering. It also mentioned that it adheres to the governing rules of procedure and strategic plans of the Hague Convention.

Finally, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Malta. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Malta did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information received and collected through external sources, Malta is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) there is no information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) there is no information on protocols in place in Malta aimed at preventing the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

It should be noted that Malta's information with regard to Recommendation 35 - referring to the 1980 Hague Convention - focus on international child abduction. However, when it comes to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis, the problem is mainly related to the risks of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and child trafficking.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, under Recommendation 35, the Republic of Moldova indicated that no cases of undocumented migrant children had been recorded and no measures to identify or repatriate such children had been conducted. In the Compilation information 2020, under Recommendation 13, the Republic of Moldova informed that it has mechanisms for identifying, reporting and managing the cases of unaccompanied foreign minors, confirming that no cases of unaccompanied minors had been addressed by institutions under this mechanism.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

The Republic of Moldova did not provide information on this requirement.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Republic of Moldova mentioned partially relevant measures aimed at preventing the phenomenon of cross-border missing children foreseen in its 2018-2020 Action Plan, under its action no. 29 “Strengthening the capacities to provide assistance to persons seeking international protection from the Republic of Moldova”. However, it seems that this Action Plan has not yet been implemented.

The Republic of Moldova did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, the Republic of Moldova is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35, for the following reasons: It did not provide comprehensive information on 1) the availability of data on all children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing and not only “unaccompanied foreign minors”; 2) on any form of coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children; and 3) on protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

MONACO

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Monaco did not specifically refer to the availability of data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or are at risk to go missing. However, the availability of such data can be inferred from the reference to its close cooperation with France, as well as its cooperation with Europol and Interpol.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Monaco mentioned that it cooperates with Europol and Interpol for information-sharing on cross-border missing children, and with France for referral and care of cross-border missing children.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Monaco explained that it has protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. In the event that an unaccompanied child is found on its territory, he or she is referred at the Public Safety Department at the Principality’s Children’s Home (*Direction de la Sûreté Publique au Foyer de l’Enfance de la Principauté*) to be

taken in charge by the State services, in order to avoid a cross-border disappearance. If the child is accompanied, he or she will be entrusted to the French authorities, responsible for controlling entry into the Schengen area. As seen above, France is in compliance with this requirement when responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

As regards protocols to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children, Monaco can signal any disappearances to Europol and Interpol.

Based on the information provided, Monaco is in full compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35. Although it is unlikely that Monaco experiences disappearances of children affected by the refugee crisis due to its geographical position and limited size, the country has the means to prevent and respond to this eventuality, should it occur.

MONTENEGRO

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

Montenegro did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In its additional information on recommendation 35, Montenegro did not provide information on coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children. It only mentioned that the Directorate for Asylum cooperates with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which organizes assisted voluntary return to the country of origin for all foreigners seeking international protection.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Montenegro did not provide information on this requirement.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, Montenegro is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) It did not provide information on the availability of data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing; 2) on coordination with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children; and 3) on protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

NETHERLANDS

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

The Netherlands did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Netherlands mentioned that it coordinates with other countries on the issue of cross-border missing children through the Police Expert Network of Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBERT Alert Europe foundation, which is composed of police experts coming from around 20 countries, most of which are EU Member States. This coordination tool qualifies as a promising practice. Cooperation can also be implied by the participation of the Netherlands in the EU AMIF SAFE! Project (Safe and Adequate Return, Fair Treatment and Early identification of Victims of Trafficking project) and the EU AMIF STEP-project (focused on the sustainable integration of Trafficked human beings through proactive identification and Enhanced Protection). These coordination mechanisms qualify as good practices.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Netherlands indicated that it has protocols in place to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis, through the use of the Amber Alert investigation and a communication tool. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in the Netherlands. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

As to prevention protocols, it focused its replies on early-warning and response mechanisms for children victims of trafficking.

The Netherlands did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, the Netherlands is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has a promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

Partial compliance has been determined for the following reasons: 1) It did not provide any information on the availability of data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) it is not clear whether the Netherlands has protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis in general, including outside trafficking.

NORTH MACEDONIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, North Macedonia mentioned that the body responsible for collecting data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing is the Sector for International Police Cooperation.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, North Macedonia stated that it exchanges information and cooperates with the police of other countries, including neighbouring countries, on missing children, via the Sector for International Police Cooperation. External sources indicate that North Macedonia is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

North Macedonia did not provide information on this requirement and did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, North Macedonia is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has a promising practice with regard to its coordination mechanisms for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2). Partial compliance was determined as it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

POLAND

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the follow-up to the additional information provided, Poland provided information that from the perspective of Border Guard activities, children who are identified in the course of Border Guard operations are considered in terms of potential human trafficking. However, it should be stressed that, so far, no potential child victims of trafficking in human beings have been identified as part of the ongoing refugee procedures.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

Poland did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that Poland is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Poland referred to its policy “Algorithm of identifying and proceeding with a minor victim of trafficking for the officers of the Police and the Border Guard”, which also includes information on its “Policy of protecting children against harm in the centres for foreigners”. The prevention and response protocols as described by the State in both policies and are relevant for missing children affected by the refugee crisis in general, including outside instances of trafficking.

In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Poland. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Poland did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Poland is in full compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children

(requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

PORTUGAL

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, under recommendation 37, Portugal mentioned that the Immigration and Border Service (SEF) which is the authority responsible for border control procedures and asylum application procedures, cooperates very closely with the European Union and Third Part Countries on the exchange of information concerning cross-border missing children. It also uses the SIS and Interpol databases.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, under recommendation 37, Portugal informed that it cooperates closely with the European Union, Third Part countries, as well as through the SIS and Interpol, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children. In addition, external sources indicate that Portugal is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Portugal submitted information on protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of child trafficking, as well as measures allowing early identification of situations related to the disappearance of children and which may constitute a situation of trafficking in persons. These include training courses on this specific issue for a wide range of professionals in contact with children, which qualify as a promising practice. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Portugal. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Portugal did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Portugal is in partial compliance with the requirements of recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices related to its coordination tools with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols aimed at preventing and responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance has been determined for the following reason: it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of all cross-border missing children, not only focusing on children at risk of trafficking.

ROMANIA

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, Romania mentioned that it uses the yellow notices of Interpol.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Romania informed that it cooperates with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children, through Europol, Eurojust, Interpol (yellow and blue notices) and the International Police Cooperation Center which supports national and foreign law enforcement authorities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including children. In addition, external sources indicate that Romania is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Romania provided examples of protocols of identification and referral of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, notably through consular and diplomatic missions. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Romania. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or

teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Romania did not provide additional information on recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Romania is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reason: it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of all cross-border missing children, not only focusing on children at risk of trafficking.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the additional information, the Russian Federation informed that federal statistics exist on all children going missing, including children affected by the refugee crisis. These statistics are monitored by the Department for the organisation of the federal search for hiding, missing persons and identification work of the Department for the organisation of operational search activities of the Main Directorate of criminal investigation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the additional information, the Russian Federation informed that it coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, to search for and take care of cross-border missing children. Interstate search for missing persons is implemented on the basis of international agreements and regulations. There are special provisions in the [Treaty of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the Interstate Search for Persons](#), (10 December 2010). The search is carried out in accordance with the Regulations of the authorities competent for the implementation of the interstate search for persons, adopted as a development of this Treaty, approved by the Decision of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States (30 October 2015).⁶ These documents specify the procedure of interaction between the competent authorities, with the operation of the international information base, the procedures to submit information from Parties which initiate the search, and the procedures for the identification of the identity and citizenship of missing persons.

⁶ See <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/420389266>

The interstate activities are also conducted on grounds of bilateral international agreements that provide for cooperation in the search for missing children (in the context of child trafficking and illegal migration), for example, the Cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see [Article 1 of the document](#)). The search for missing children also includes interagency cooperation between Russian government bodies, international organisations and Russian NGOs.⁷

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the additional information, the Russian Federation informed that the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has adopted a specific Instruction on the procedure for interaction in organising the search for missing children (order of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation N 111, 11 October 2019). The Instruction aims to increase the efficiency of interaction with federal state bodies, competent authorities of foreign states and international organisations in the course of search for missing children.

As to prevention, the Russian Federation did not refer to a specific protocol but it highlighted that Federal Law N 124-FZ of 24 July 1998 “on the basic rights of the child in the Russian Federation”, provides that working with refugee children is equivalent to working with children in difficult life situations. On the basis of this law, refugee children benefit from special attention and protection, including enhanced legal and socio-economic conditions. The Federal Law N 4528-1 of 19 February 1993 “on refugees” provides specifically that refugees and members of their families, including children, should enjoy state financial, administrative, medical and social support in terms of their placement, residence and integration into the local community. The integration measures foreseen for refugee children within the country are considered as a prevention measure to ensure that such children do not go missing across borders.

Based on the information provided, the Russian Federation is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its specific Instruction on the procedure for interaction in organising the search for missing children (requirement 3).

⁷ See, the example of the NGO Stellit Centre (St. Petersburg); “activities to protect children in the context of combating human trafficking in the Baltic Sea region”, available at: <http://ngostellit.ru/2019/05/17/krugly-stol-torgovlya-detmi-i-zashhita-detej/>, and “measures for interagency protection of children from sexual violence”, available at: <http://ngostellit.ru/2019/10/08/seminar-obedinyaya-usiliya-po-zashchite-detej-ot-seksualnoj-ehkspluatacii/>

SAN MARINO

San Marino did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35.

As there is insufficient information to determine compliance, San Marino is considered non-compliant with the requirements of Recommendation 35.

SERBIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

Serbia did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

Serbia did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35. However, external sources indicate that Serbia is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

Serbia did not provide information on the requirements identified for the fulfilment of Recommendation 35. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Serbia. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information collected through external sources, Serbia is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regards to its coordination mechanisms for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol to respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) There is no information on availability of data on children affected by

the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) there is no information on protocols in place in Serbia aimed at preventing the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Slovak Republic did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Slovak Republic informed that it coordinates with other countries through its National Unit Interpol and Europol, as well as through the National Unit SIRENE (Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries) Bureau, which operates 24 hours a day in each EU country using the SIS and is responsible for any supplementary information exchange and coordination of activities connected to SIS alerts. In addition, external sources indicate that the Slovak Republic is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, the Slovak Republic did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in the Slovak Republic. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

The Slovak Republic did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, the Slovak Republic is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanism with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 2) and its protocol aimed at

responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) it did not provide information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

SLOVENIA

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Slovenia informed that data on missing children affected by the refugee crisis are collected in the national register of missing persons, the SIS and the Interpol systems of missing and wanted persons. Slovenia also has a cooperation agreement with AMBER Alert Europe.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Slovenia informed that it coordinates with other countries through the SIS, Interpol and through the AMBER Alert Europe. In addition, external sources indicate that Slovenia is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Slovenia informed that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are appointed a legal guardian and the authorities aim to discover their identity and that of their parents. It also specified that there are protocols to respond to the phenomenon of missing children. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Slovenia. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information provided, Slovenia is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanism with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) it did not provide information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; and 2) it is not clear whether all children affected by the refugee crisis, and not only unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, benefit from its protocols to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

SPAIN

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, Spain indicated that the International Cooperation Division of the Police receives and disseminates alerts on missing children.

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Spain informed that it coordinates with other countries on cases of cross-border missing children, through its SIRENE Bureau,⁸ Europol, Interpol, the AMBER Alert Europe, as well as with the European Network Missing Children. In September 2019, Spain participated in the second edition of the European Network of Police Experts on Missing Children in Prague. The goal is to gather police experts in order to exchange best practices, strengthen police cooperation across borders and learn new techniques to locate missing children in Europe.

3. The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Spain did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Spain. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This qualifies as a promising practice.

⁸ The SIRENE (Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries) Bureaus operate 24 hours a day and 7 days a week in each EU country using the SIS. It is responsible for any supplementary information exchange and coordination of activities connected to SIS alerts.

Spain did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Spain is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reason: it did not provide information on protocols in place to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

SWEDEN

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In its additional information on Recommendation 35, Sweden indicated that data on missing children is available in the national system for missing persons. When appropriate, the data might also be registered in the SIS and/or the Interpol's ASF system.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Sweden informed that it has a 2018 Police national plan against human trafficking, which foresees further cross-border and international contacts to combat this crime. This includes coordination through the SIS, Europol and Interpol. In addition, external sources indicate that Sweden is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020 and its additional information on Recommendation 35, Sweden demonstrates a promising practice related to its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.

It first mentioned a National mapping of missing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, to which the Children's Ombudsperson and children themselves have participated. The survey has shown a need for coordination and collaboration between authorities and has resulted in, but not limited to, actions such as county-specific plans with a focus on collaboration, clarification of

roles and concrete checklists for each authority. The main purpose is to reduce the minors' exposure to crime, which requires that the authorities act in a correct and timely manner and that information regarding the minors is transferred efficiently between authorities. Sweden acknowledged that this is a continuous long-term development work and that collaboration between authorities is the key to success. One of these reports has been translated into English: [Lost in Migration – A Report on Missing Unaccompanied Minors in Sweden](#).

In addition, external sources indicate that Sweden uses the [Miniila App](#) developed by Missing Children Europe, which is an efficient tool to prevent the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis. The app aims to provide accurate and child-friendly information on the rights of children affected by the refugee crisis, as well as to guide them to services such as shelter, food and health, in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This qualifies as a promising practice.

Finally, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Sweden. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Based on the information provided, Sweden is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

SWITZERLAND

1. Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.

In the Compilation information 2020, Switzerland indicated that the body responsible for collecting data on all missing children is the Missing Persons Coordination Unit (*Unité de coordination des personnes disparues*).

2. The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.

In the Compilation information 2020, Switzerland informed that it coordinates with other countries on cases of cross-border missing children through Interpol, its SIRENE Bureau, the AMBERT Alert and national consulates. It also mentioned that the Federal Office of Police

(Fedpol) ensures a check in the databases at its disposal and informs the reporting country if any of the reported missing children have been granted asylum in Switzerland or are registered. It does not notify the country of origin if the person is in an asylum procedure. In addition, external sources indicate that Switzerland is a member of the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), founded by the AMBER Alert Europe foundation and which goal is to bring together law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons, specifically children. Members can quickly contact and consult each other about missing person cases. The PEN-MP also provides specialist support, advice and training to its members. Such cooperation tool qualifies as a promising practice.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Switzerland indicated that missing children listed in the Schengen database are always registered in "detention", i.e. they must be handed over by the border guard to the cantonal police. The police then identify the person and usually hand him/her over to the competent migration authorities, who take care of their asylum procedure and accommodation in reception centres. Switzerland then informs the reporting country that the missing minor has been found and is in Switzerland. In addition, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Switzerland. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

With regard to prevention, Switzerland indicated in its additional information that unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) are only dependent on the State Secretariat for Migration (SSM) for a short period of time, insofar as the latter's efforts tend to ensure that their stay in the temporary environment of the Centres for Asylum Seekers (CAS) is as short as possible before they are transferred to a canton of attribution. The cantonal authorities are then responsible for compensating for the absence of a parent and for the care, supervision and protection of the children concerned. This impact of Switzerland's federalist organisation is general in scope and, in matters relating to UASCs, means that prevention, protection and repression of harm to which UASCs may be exposed are primarily the responsibility of the cantonal social, police and judicial authorities. The federal authorities mainly concerned by the issues (SEM and FedPol) have competences/responsibilities that are limited in time (stay at the CAS for the SEM) or specific offences (for FedPol).

Therefore, with particular reference to examples of protocols put in place by the SSM during the stay of UASCs in a CAS, it should be pointed out that UASCs benefit from increased protection measures. On the one hand, they are housed in single-sex dormitories separate from those of adults. They also have separate access to sanitary facilities and, as far as possible, to living rooms reserved for them. On the other hand, the UASCs are looked after by a dedicated team of

qualified social pedagogues and social support staff. They have a daytime structure for 8 to 12 hours a day, which includes, in addition to schooling, educational, sports and leisure activities in groups. Each UASC is assigned a reference person with whom he or she has regular meetings. During these interviews, particular attention is paid to the experiences of the UASC and the resulting needs and vulnerabilities. The UASCs sometimes indirectly mention traumatic events that occurred in their country of origin or on the road to exile, or more personal elements (sexual orientation, sexual mutilation, for example). The socio-pedagogue listens, does not pass judgement and encourages the UASC to express any special needs. If the socio-pedagogue considers that the UASC needs care, or psychological or psychiatric support, he/she refers him/her to the medical centre within the CAS (specialised external services may also be called upon). Moreover, the autonomous organisation of free time in general and outings in particular are among the topics discussed during the interviews between the UASC and his or her socio-pedagogue. The social pedagogues may therefore impose a ban on going out, especially when the UASCs are psychologically fragile or have particular vulnerability factors (e.g. victims of human trafficking at risk of re-trafficking). In short, the personalised supervision of UASCs is an important protection factor for UASCs, which, since its introduction in 2020, has reduced the number of disappearances of UASCs from CASs.

Based on the information provided, Switzerland is in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 and has in place promising practices with regard to its coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children (requirement 2), and its protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3).

TURKEY

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Turkey did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Turkey did not provide information on this requirement.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Turkey mentioned examples of identification mechanisms of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children as well as reunification procedures, and informed that asylum-seeking children benefit from institutional care, foster care, social and economic support services.

Turkey did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information provided, Turkey is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, for the following reasons: 1) it did not provide information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing; 2) it did not provide information on coordination mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children; and 3) it is unclear whether the protocols to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children benefit all children and not only asylum-seeking children.

UKRAINE

1. *Data is available - or a mechanism exists to collect and centralize data - on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis that go missing or at risk to go missing.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Ukraine did not provide information on this requirement.

2. *The State party coordinates with other countries, notably neighbouring countries, for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Ukraine did not provide information on this requirement.

3. *The State party has protocols in place to prevent and respond to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children.*

In the Compilation information 2020, Ukraine did not provide information on this requirement. However, external sources indicate that the European missing children hotline 116 000, supported by Missing Children Europe, is active in Ukraine. This service is free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children who have disappeared or are at risk of disappearing, as well as for their families, in cases of cross-border missing children. Anyone involved in a missing child case (the child, a peer, friend, family member, carer or teacher) can call 116 000 and receive immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. This also qualifies as a promising practice.

Ukraine did not provide additional information on Recommendation 35.

Based on the information received and collected through external sources, Ukraine is in partial compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35, and has a promising practice with regard to its protocol aimed at responding to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis (requirement 3). Partial compliance was determined for the following reasons: 1) Ukraine did not provide information on availability of data on children affected by the refugee crisis who go missing; 2) it did not provide information on coordination

mechanisms with other countries for information-sharing, referral and care of cross-border missing children; and 3) it did not provide examples of protocols in place aimed at preventing the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis.

It should also be noted that Ukraine's information on the requirements of Recommendation 35 - referring to the 1980 Hague Convention - focus on international child abduction. However, when it comes to the phenomenon of cross-border missing children affected by the refugee crisis, the problem is mainly related to the risks of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, and child trafficking.

Concluding remarks

This report covers the situation of the 41 Parties which were concerned by the Special Report on Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Of the 41 Parties, 28 are in partial compliance and 11 are in full compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 on strategies and procedures to effectively deal with the phenomenon of cross-border missing children. 2 Parties were considered not to be in compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 35 due to insufficient evidence to determine otherwise.

The information contained in this report provides numerous examples of how Parties have implemented Recommendation 35 and, in some cases, gone beyond, promoting truly promising practices. Key measures reported include the collection of data on the number of children affected by the refugee crisis who go missing, cooperation tools with other countries such as AMBER Alert, INTERPOL notices and the Schengen Information System, as well as a number of mechanisms for preventing and responding to the phenomenon of cross-border disappearances of children affected by the refugee crisis.

It is to be noted that a significant number of Parties have promising practices, identified for example by their membership to the Police expert network on missing persons (PEN-MP) and their use of the 116 000 Missing Children hotline. Fewer use the Minilla application, which is a great tool for preventing the disappearance of children across borders. On the other hand, promising practices are in place in fewer or only one of the Parties, such as in Italy with the Extraordinary Government Commissioner for Missing Persons, Hungary with different ways of coordinating with other Parties, Austria, the Netherlands and Turkey with IDTR protocols, and in Austria, Croatia and Italy with training courses specifically dedicated to preventing cross-border disappearances of children.

Improvements to be implemented by Parties include:

- Ensuring that coordination mechanisms with other countries also cover the care of cross-border missing children and are not only for information-sharing and referral;
- Ensuring that both prevention and protection measures against the disappearance of cross-border children affected by the refugee crisis are implemented.