



Building a Europe  
for and with children  
Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## **Council of Europe project**

### **Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova**

*Under the framework of  
the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova (2017-2021)*

#### **Concept note**

**National Conference on strengthening the capacities  
of social workers on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention  
in the Republic of Moldova**

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **National Conference on strengthening the capacities of social workers on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the Republic of Moldova**

## Context

The Council of Europe project **Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova** aims at supporting the Republic of Moldova to effectively implement the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (the Lanzarote Convention<sup>1</sup>) and strengthen the state response towards child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The project is implemented in the framework of the [Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova \(2017-2020\)](#), anchored firmly in the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) and part of the Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”. The project is implemented in the period of 15 October 2018-31 March 2020.

## Objectives of the conference

The project envisages organising a one-day National Conference on strengthening the capacities of social workers in implementing the Lanzarote Convention in the Republic of Moldova. This project activity is covered by the intermediate outcome 1.2 of the project “*improve skills and knowledge to respond to cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse*” of the project. A mapping study by the project on systemic issues affecting the child protection system’s response to child sexual exploitation and abuse (2019, Council of Europe)<sup>2</sup> identified social workers as a key group of professionals that require further training and capacity building for the protection of the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including in identification, reporting and management of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CSEA) cases.

The Conference will address and discuss identification of CSEA, reporting obligations and case management from the perspective of social workers. It aims to sensitize social workers on CSEA by providing targeted and user-friendly information, materials and carrying out exercises on relevant national and international legal and policy contexts, presenting and exploring the phenomenon of CSEA, how to identify child victims of sexual abuse, and measures to assist child victims, including the referral mechanism in place in the Republic of Moldova, as well as challenges and obstacles faced in the referral process.

The objective is in the first place to sensitise and train a selected group of social workers on the Lanzarote Convention and CSEA, but also to collect feedback and information for the planning and development of training at local level in collaboration with relevant national partners.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Lanzarote Convention entered into force in the Republic of Moldova in 2012.

<sup>2</sup> The project shared a draft *Mapping study on systemic issues affecting the child protection’s system response to child sexual exploitation and abuse and the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention* with stakeholders in October 2019. It will be finalized in early 2020.

**Date:** 26 February 2020

**Format:** The one-day Conference will have the following structure:

I. Plenary session:

Key aspects of the national and international legal and policy context, including available data and information on CSEA in the Republic of Moldova will be presented and discussed.

II. Discussions/Working groups:

The phenomenon and different types of CSEA will be presented and how to detect CSEA further explored. A case study which will imply the main challenges faced by social workers during their activity on CSEA cases will be discussed by participants in groups.

III. Final plenary session:

The main conclusions on the discussed topics will be presented and recommendations for follow-up activities agreed upon.

**Target audience:**

The conference will bring together approximately 80 participants, including:

- 60 (TBC) social workers, which will be selected in coordination with competent authorities from all over the country;
- Representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, international organisations, NGOs;
- Council of Europe experts and staff.

**Working languages:**

English, Romanian, Russian (TBC).