

## LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

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Replies to the thematic questionnaire

“Screening of professionals, volunteers and other  
persons in contact with children”

CROATIA

Replies received by the Secretariat on 20 July 2026

## **Main relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and previous recommendations**

Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with their internal law, to ensure that the conditions to accede to those professions established exercise regular contacts with children ensure that the parties to these professions have not been adopted acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children. The Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention documented that this obligation can be also applied to voluntary activities (see paragraph 57).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> implementation report of the 1<sup>st</sup> monitoring round (2018), the Lanzarote Committee discussed those Parties that limited screening to certain professionals to extend it to the recruitment of all professionals (public or private) in regular contact with children (R19) and encouraged Parties to encourage continuous screening of all professionals (R20) and included (R21) in regular contact with children.

Article 27 paragraph 3.b of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to deny the perpetrator, Note or conclusions, the exercise of professional or voluntary activity involving contact with children in the course of which the offence was committed.

Article 37, paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the information related to in paragraph 1 (i.e. data related to the identity and to the genetic profile (DNA) of persons concerned of the relevant aspects in accordance with the Convention) can be addressed to the competent authority of another Party, in conformity with the conditions regarding in its internal law and the relevant international instruments.

**Whenever the term “screening” is used in this questionnaire, this should be read as “verification of criminal convictions for sexual crimes against children”.**

**In all your answers, please provide details to the extent possible and refer to specific laws, policies, programmes, measures, etc.**

**Please describe the legislation, policy and practice which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the date of entry into force).**

**Please indicate:**

- a. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted
- b. Entities and bodies that have been involved in responding to this questionnaire

**Persons concerned by screening requirements**

1. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required as a pre-condition in order to accede to professions, employment or volunteer employed exercises regular contacts with children? Please specify what such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer fields in the following areas or areas of activities (additional details to be inserted below the table):

|                                                     | Criminal conviction check for employment in the public sector? | Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity? | Criminal conviction check for employment in the private sector? | Criminal conviction check for self-employed professionals? | Please specify the professionals to whom this requirement should be |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Education – pre-school                              | YES                                                            | YES                                               | YES                                                             |                                                            | Art. 25 of the Preschool Education Act                              |
| Education – Primary                                 | YES                                                            | YES                                               | YES                                                             |                                                            | Art. 106 of the Primary and Secondary School Education Act          |
| Education - Secondary                               | YES                                                            | YES                                               | YES                                                             |                                                            | Art. 106 of the Primary and Secondary School Education Act          |
| Education – Tertiary                                |                                                                |                                                   |                                                                 |                                                            |                                                                     |
| Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools) |                                                                |                                                   |                                                                 |                                                            |                                                                     |

|                                                                                                  |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)                                            | YES | YES | YES | YES | Art. 25 of the<br>Preschool<br>Education Act<br>Art. 8 of the<br>Childminders Act                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities) | YES | YES | YES |     | Art. 261 of the<br>Social Welfare<br>Act                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Detention                                                                                        | YES |     |     |     | Art. 54 of the<br>Civil Servants Act                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)                                                    |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Sport                                                                                            | YES | YES | YES | YES | In the field of<br>sport, this<br>requirement<br>applies to<br>persons who<br>perform activities<br>or hold positions<br>in the sports<br>system that are<br>subject to the<br>restrictions<br>provided for<br>under the<br>Croatian Sports<br>Act, in particular:<br>• persons<br>performing<br>professional<br>activities in sport<br>(including<br>persons<br>performing<br>professional<br>sports-related<br>duties); |

|                                                               |     |     |     |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                               |     |     |     |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• persons organising and managing sports competitions;</li> <li>• persons participating in the bodies of sports associations or companies engaged in sports activities;</li> <li>• persons authorised to represent sports legal entities;</li> <li>• persons performing other activities within the sports system where the statutory restrictions under the Croatian Sports Act apply. The requirement applies regardless of whether such activities are performed within public or private sports organisations.</li> </ul> |
| Culture and leisure activities                                |     |     |     |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Entertainment sector                                          |     |     |     |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Faith and religion                                            |     |     |     |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services) | YES | YES | YES |  | Art. 156 of the Healthcare Act                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                                                                  |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social protection services                                       | YES | YES | YES | YES | Art. 261 of the Social Welfare Act                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Law enforcement                                                  | YES |     |     |     | Art. 54 of the Civil Servants Act                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Judicial                                                         | YES | NO  |     |     | Judges, state attorneys, lawyers, public notaries                                                                                                                                                       |
| Civil society organisations                                      |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services) |     |     |     |     | Please be noted that the Act on Barnahus has still been drafting and that screening of its employees shall be established by the aforesaid Act or by the special legislation of the Republic of Croatia |
| Any other areas (please specify)                                 |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Here you can insert additional details or specify any exceptions.

As explained in more detail under Questions 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16, in the context of the public call for proposals “Financing Projects of Associations Providing Support to the Implementation of the Individual Programme of the Enforcement of Sentences”, administered by the Directorate for the Prison System and Probation of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, organisations applying for funding may engage both their employees and volunteers in project activities involving children. Where children are direct or indirect beneficiaries of the project, including children of prisoners and juveniles in conflict with the law, all volunteers who will have contact with children are subject to a screening procedure. The applicant organisation must provide the necessary consent enabling the Ministry to obtain information from the competent authorities regarding relevant criminal convictions, misdemeanour sanctions and applicable security or protective measures. Compliance with these requirements is a condition for participation in project activities involving children and for eligibility for funding under this specific funding scheme.

In addition, in accordance with the provisions of the Lawyers Act (Official Gazette, No. 9/94, 117/08, 50/09, 75/09, 18/11, 126/21, 98/25 and 59/26), the right to be entered in the register of lawyers has a person against whom no investigation has been initiated or criminal proceedings are not pending for a criminal offense prosecuted ex officio, and who is deemed worthy of practicing law. Among others, a person is deemed unworthy of practicing law if they have been convicted of a criminal offense against the Republic of Croatia, a criminal offense against official

duty, a criminal offense committed for personal gain or another criminal offense committed out of dishonourable motives or one that renders them morally unfit to practice law.

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Notary Act (Official Gazette, No. 78/93, 29/94, 162/98, 16/07, 75/09, 120/16 and 57/22), a person may be appointed as a public notary if they are worthy of the public trust required to perform the duties of the profession. A person is deemed unworthy if, among others, criminal proceedings have been initiated against them for offenses prosecuted ex officio, or if they have been convicted of a crime committed for profit or a crime prosecuted ex officio, for as long as the legal consequences of the conviction remain in effect.

In accordance with the provisions of the State Judicial Council Act (Official Gazette, No. 116/10, 57/11, 130/11, 13/13, 28/13, 82/15, 67/18, 126/19, 80/22, 16/23, 83/23 and 155/23) the appointment process for judges includes a check to determine whether criminal proceedings are pending against a candidate for a criminal offense prosecuted ex officio, or whether the candidate has been convicted of a criminal offense rendering them unworthy of performing judicial duties. The Council shall annul the decision on the appointment of a judge if, among other reasons, it establishes that the appointment resulted from a criminal offense committed by the candidate, as determined by a final court decision establishing the existence of the criminal offense and criminal liability.

Criminal proceedings or a conviction for a criminal offense that renders a judge unworthy of performing judicial duties is one of the grounds for suspension from duty or dismissal.

A judge shall be suspended from duty:

- if criminal proceedings have been initiated against them for a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment of five years or more, or while they are in detention or pre-trial detention,
- due to a conviction for a criminal offense that renders them unworthy of performing judicial duties.

A judge may be suspended from duty:

- if criminal proceedings have been initiated against them for a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment of up to five years.

The Council shall dismiss a judge, among others if they are convicted of a criminal offense that renders them unworthy of performing judicial duties.

The same is regulated by the provisions of the State Attorneys' Council Act (Official Gazette, No. 67/18, 126/19, 80/22 and 155/23) in relation to state attorney officials.

Under the Croatian Sports Act, persons who have been finally convicted of criminal offences constituting a legal obstacle, including criminal offences against sexual freedom and criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, may not perform professional activities in sport or other activities prescribed by the Act. Legal entities in the sports system are obliged to remove such persons from performing sports activities and terminate their engagement. Furthermore, where criminal proceedings are initiated for an offence committed against a child or a minor, the person must be suspended from activities involving contact with children until the proceedings are discontinued or a final court judgment is delivered.

The same legal restrictions apply to volunteers performing sports activities involving regular contact with children. The same legal requirements apply to sports clubs and other legal entities in the sports system, irrespective of their legal form. Self-employed sports professionals are also

subject to the statutory restrictions where they perform sports activities involving regular contact with children.

2. In requiring the verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in order to accede to the positions listed in question 1, does your State:

- a. define the level or threshold of contact with children (one-off, regular, etc.) which necessitates such a verification: **YES**

In the field of sport, the relevant legal requirements apply to persons whose professional or voluntary activities involve regular and direct contact with children. The purpose of these requirements is to ensure the protection and safety of children participating in sports activities.

- b. distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children? **NO**

The Croatian Sports Act does not explicitly distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children. The relevant provisions are linked to activities involving contact with children in the context of sports activities.

If yes, please provide details.

3. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become:

- a. an adoptive parent: **YES**  
b. a foster parent: **YES**  
c. a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)? **YES**

Please provide details.

- A. Adoption of a child - Art. 7(2) point 3. of the Rules on the elements relating to eligibility and suitability for adoption, states that applicants must attach the proof that no criminal proceedings are pending against the applicant or members of their household for any of the criminal offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of children (Chapter XVII) of the Criminal Code to the request for an opinion on their suitability and eligibility for adoption
- B. Provision of foster care – Article 11(1)(l) of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Conviction, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation, which stipulates that the Ministry shall provide a general criminal record certificate at the request of the authority competent for issuing permits for the provision of foster care, the appointment of a guardian or a special guardian and in the area of family-legal protection of children in relation to the protection of the rights and interests of children

4. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required for the household members of:
  - a. persons carrying out professional activity in their home who are in contact with children
  - b. persons carrying out volunteering activities in their home who are in contact with children
  - c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?

Please provide details.

5. Does the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children also apply to:
  - a. children applying for professional or volunteer applicants  
Not specifically regulated by the Croatian Sports Act.  
The Croatian Sports Act does not contain specific provisions regarding criminal conviction checks for minors applying for professional or voluntary positions in the field of sport.
  - b. adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18? **YES**

Please provide details.

- A. The final conviction of the person who is criminally liable in accordance with the Criminal Code.
- B. Same as under a.

6. If a person changes their name, how does your State ensure that their criminal record remains linked to their new name?

Please provide details.

The procedure for determining and changing a person's name in the Republic of Croatia is governed by the Personal Name Act (Official Gazette, No 118/12, 70/17 and 98/19). In the process of changing the personal name, the authority handling the application is required to check whether the applicant is in the criminal record. Once the change of personal name is approved, the registrar enters a change note in the birth register and submits a notification to the other official records. If a change of personal name to a person in the criminal record is approved, the registrar shall also submit the notification of the change to the criminal record.

In the administrative procedure for the change of personal name, a final conviction in the criminal record is checked and matched with the corresponding change of name.

7. Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects? **YES**

Please provide details.

Within the public call for proposals “Financing Projects of Associations Providing Support to the Implementation of the Individual Programmes of the Enforcement of Sentences”, administered by the Directorate for the Prison System and Probation of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation and financed from revenues from games of chance allocated to the Ministry, access to public funding for projects and programmes involving contact with children is subject to specific safeguarding requirements. Where a project includes children as direct or indirect beneficiaries, including children of prisoners and juveniles in conflict with the law, the legal representative of the applicant organisation who is in direct contact with children must submit a notarised declaration confirming that he or she has not been finally convicted of any criminal offence involving the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children. Accordingly, within this funding scheme, access to public funds for projects involving contact with children is conditional upon the absence of relevant criminal convictions and other legal impediments for all persons who will have contact with children during project implementation.

In the field of sport, beneficiaries of public funds allocated for projects and programmes involving contact with children are required to comply with the applicable legal framework concerning the protection of children.

As part of the application procedure for public calls for funding, beneficiaries are required to submit a written statement confirming that they are aware of the legal requirements concerning the protection of children and that persons engaged in the implementation of the project, including employees and volunteers who have regular and direct contact with children, have not been convicted of criminal offences that constitute a legal obstacle to working with children in accordance with the Croatian Sports Act.

Sports organisations receiving public funding are responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable legal requirements when engaging persons who work with children.

### **Information included in screening**

8. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:
- a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**
  - b. sexual exploitation of a child (“child prostitution” Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**
  - c. acts adopted child sexual abuse material (“child pornography” Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**
  - d. opposite related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**
  - e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**
  - f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes (‘grooming’), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**

g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above mentioned (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention): **YES**

h. any other convictions (please specify)?

Please provide details.

In addition, the screening covers convictions for terrorist financing, money laundering, abuse of trust in business operations, fraud in business operations, causing bankruptcy, favouring creditors, violation of the obligation to keep commercial and business records, as well as corresponding offences committed abroad. The Ministry also verifies relevant misdemeanour sanctions and applicable security or protective measures where required under the funding scheme.

The legal restrictions applicable in the field of sport include convictions for criminal offences of sexual abuse of children, where such convictions constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities involving regular and direct contact with children. Convictions for criminal offences related to sexual exploitation of children constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children. Convictions for criminal offences involving child sexual abuse material constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children. Convictions for criminal offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children. Convictions for criminal offences involving the corruption of children constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children. Convictions for criminal offences involving solicitation of children for sexual purposes constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children. Participation in, aiding and abetting, or attempting the above-mentioned criminal offences is covered in accordance with the general provisions of Croatian criminal legislation and may constitute a legal obstacle to working with children in sport. Other criminal offences prescribed by Croatian legislation which constitute a legal obstacle to performing activities involving regular and direct contact with children are also taken into account.

In the field of sport, the Croatian Sports Act provides that persons who have been finally convicted of criminal offences that constitute a legal obstacle to working with children, including sexual offences against children, may not perform professional or other activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children.

9. Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 above extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual crimes against children to:
- a. relevant administrative or regulated sanctions
  - b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Please provide details.

10. If restrictions on the exercise of the relevant activities apply as a result of a criminal conviction for sexual offences against children, in line with Article 27 paragraph 3.b:
- a. are they life-long? **NO**
  - b. if they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable

c. are they applied only to activities in the public sector? **NO**

The restrictions apply throughout the Croatian sports system, irrespective of whether activities are performed within public or private sports organisations.

Please provide details.

B. Art. 19(4) The Act on the Legal Consequences of Conviction, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation stipulates that provided that the perpetrator of the criminal offense has not been convicted again for a new criminal offense, rehabilitation occurs by force of law when the following deadlines have passed:

- twenty years from the date on which the sentence was served, obsolete or pardoned when sentenced to long-term imprisonment;
- 15 years from the date on which the sentence was served, obsolete or remitted when sentenced to a 10-year custodial sentence or a more severe sentence;
- ten years from the date of the served, obsolete or pardoned sentence when sentenced to a custodial sentence of three years or a more severe sentence;
- five years from the date of the served, obsolete or pardoned sentence when sentenced to one year's imprisonment or a more severe sentence and a juvenile prison sentence;
- three years from the date of the served, obsolete or pardoned sentence in the case of conviction to a custodial sentence or to a juvenile custodial sentence of less than one year, from the date of payment of the fine, from the date of expiry of the probation period in the case of a suspended sentence and from the date of performance of community service;
- one year from the date of the finality of the leniency decision.

Article 19(5) provides that where a fine has been imposed as an ancillary penalty, rehabilitation shall take place on expiry of the time limits for the main penalty laid down in paragraphs 4 and 6 of this Article and provided that the ancillary fine has been paid.

Article 19(6) stipulates that if a partial suspended sentence has been imposed, rehabilitation takes place after the prison sentence has been served and three years have elapsed since the expiry of the probation period since the suspended sentence.

Article 19(8) provides that, for offences of a sexual nature committed to the detriment of children, rehabilitation shall be effected by operation of law on expiry of the double time limits referred to in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of this Article.

11. Does the criminal record check verify the existence of an expunged or punished criminal conviction for sexual offences against children for persons applying for roles or motivated reasons in questions 1 and 3? **NO**

Please provide details.

### **Screening procedure**

12. How is the screening procedure set out in your legal framework (in a single piece of legislation, sector-specific legislation, or others)?

Please provide details.

The verification procedure is governed by a single law, namely the Act on the Legal Consequences of Conviction, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation ('NN' 143/12, 105/15, 32/17, 53/22).

In the field of sport, the relevant requirements are regulated through sector-specific legislation, primarily by the Croatian Sports Act and the Sports Inspection Act.

The Croatian Sports Act establishes requirements and restrictions applicable to persons performing activities in sport involving regular and direct contact with children, including restrictions related to criminal convictions that constitute a legal obstacle to working with children.

The Sports Inspection Act regulates the supervision of the implementation of regulations in the field of sport, including the control of compliance with obligations prescribed for sports organisations and other entities within the sports system.

13. If screening is required, who is required to act?

- a. the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority is expected to obtain the necessary information directly from the authorities: **YES**

The employer or sports organisation.

Sports organisations are responsible for ensuring that persons engaged in activities involving regular and direct contact with children fulfil the statutory requirements for working with children.

- b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions: **NO**

- c. another scenario. Please specify

Please provide details.

For every person who will have contact with children during project/programme implementation, regardless of whether the person is employed staff of the association or a volunteer, the applicant must provide a signed consent authorising access to criminal and misdemeanour records.

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

Please provide details.

**There are no costs.**

15. How does your State monitor that recruiters, volunteer recruiters or child protection authorities comply with the relevant regulations on screening?

Please provide details.

Applicants and project partners are responsible for ensuring the safety of child beneficiaries throughout project implementation and must ensure that all project activities involving children are conducted in the presence of appropriately vetted project personnel.

Compliance with the relevant regulations in the field of sport is monitored by the Sports Inspectorate, in accordance with the Sports Inspection Act.

16. If screening is required, are there consequences for failure to comply with it? If yes, what type of penalties?

Please provide details.

Within the framework of the public call for proposals "Financing Projects of Associations Providing Support to the Implementation of the Individual Programmes of the Enforcement of Sentences", compliance with the prescribed child safeguarding requirements constitutes a condition for eligibility for funding. Consequently, applicants that fail to meet these requirements cannot be awarded funding under the call.

The Croatian Sports Act provides for legal consequences where sports organisations fail to comply with statutory obligations concerning persons who perform activities involving children.

17. Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required, for:
- professionals in contact with children
  - powers in contact with children
  - foster parents and legal guardians?

If regular screening is required, please specify its frequency and provide other details.

The Croatian Sports Act does not provide for periodic criminal record screening after the initial engagement. However, where criminal proceedings are initiated for offences committed against children, the relevant statutory measures apply.

18. Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence?

Please provide details.

Where criminal proceedings are initiated against a person for a criminal offence committed against a child or a minor, the Croatian Sports Act provides that the person must be suspended from activities involving contact with children until the proceedings are discontinued or a final judicial decision is delivered.

### **Cross-border screening**

19. If the candidate for roles or positions stated in questions 1 and 3 has resided or worked in different countries, it is necessary to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual crimes against children in each of those countries in respect of:
- professionals: **YES**
  - Although: **YES**

- c. persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent or a child's legal guardian? **YES**

Please provide details.

Art. 4(1) and (2) The Act on the Legal Consequences of Conviction, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation provides that criminal records are kept for natural and legal persons (hereinafter: persons) who have been convicted of criminal offences by a final judgment in the Republic of Croatia.

Criminal records are kept both for citizens of the Republic of Croatia and for legal persons having their registered office in the Republic of Croatia who have been convicted of criminal offences by a final judgment outside the Republic of Croatia, if these data have been submitted to the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digitalization.

20. Is there a mechanism to:

- a. request data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children from the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings<sup>1</sup> (please specify) **YES**
- b. provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings (please specify)? **YES**

Please provide details.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)

21. Is there an obligation to provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children at the request of the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings? **YES**

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.

Please provide details.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)

**Additional details and reflections**

22. Please add any further details regarding the details of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.

Please provide details.

The Croatian sports system places particular emphasis on safeguarding children through statutory restrictions on persons working with children and obligations imposed on sports organisations under the Croatian Sports Act.

23. What challenges related to the screening for criminal convictions for sexual offences against children of professionals, persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or a child's legal guardian exist in your State in practice (e.g. administrative costs, authorised, cross-border co-operation)?

Please provide details.

From the perspective of the sports sector, challenges may include ensuring consistent implementation of safeguarding requirements across a large number of sports organisations of different sizes and capacities, as well as raising awareness of legal obligations among volunteers and amateur sports organisations.

24. What practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, doctors and other persons in contact with children?

Please provide details.

Croatia promotes the protection of children in sport through the legal framework established by the Croatian Sports Act, cooperation between competent public authorities and sports organisations, and activities aimed at strengthening awareness of child safeguarding and safe sport environments.