COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Replies to the thematic questionnaire
"Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children"

CROATIA

Replies received by the Secretariat on 11 September 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 nd implementation report of the 1 st 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. Your name and position

b. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted

c. 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 Preschool Education Act Art. 8 of the Childminders Act
Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)	YES	YES	YES		Art. 261 of the Social Welfare Act
Detention	YES				Art. 54 of the Civil Servants Act
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)					
Sport	YES	YES	YES	YES	In the field of sport, this requirement

					applies to persons who perform activities or hold positions in the sports system that are subject to the restrictions provided for under the Croatian Sports Act, in particular: • persons performing professional activities in sport (including persons performing professional sports-related duties); • persons organising and managing sports competitions; • persons participating in the bodies of sports associations or companies engaged in sports activities; • persons authorised to represent sports legal entities; • 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.
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 dishonorable 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.

Yes.

In the field of regulated professions in social welfare, the absence of criminal convictions for offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children is a statutory condition for recognition of the right to practise the following regulated professions:

Social workers, pursuant to Article 7 paragraph 1 items 4-6 of the Social Work Act (Official Gazette No. 16/19, 18/22 and 46/22);
Social pedagogues, pursuant to Article 7 paragraph 1 items 4-6 of the Social Pedagogical Activity Act (Official Gazette No. 98/19 and 18/22);

Psychologists, pursuant to Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4-6 of the Psychological Activity Act (Official Gazette No. 98/19 and 18/22);
Educational rehabilitators, pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 1 items 4-6 of the Educational Rehabilitation Activity Act (Official Gazette No. 124/11, 16/19 and 18/22);
Psychotherapists, pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 1 items 3-5 of the Psychotherapy Activity Act (Official Gazette No. 18/22 and 46/22);
Counselling therapists, pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 2 items 4-6 of the Psychotherapy Activity Act (Official Gazette No. 18/22 and 46/22). The right to practise cannot be granted to a person against whom criminal proceedings are pending for offences involving the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children.

For social care services, criminal conviction checks apply to employment in both the public and private sectors, as well as to self-employed professionals. This requirement applies to social workers, social pedagogues, psychologists, educational rehabilitators, psychotherapists and counselling therapists.
In the field of foster care, a person may not be granted a foster care licence if any of the statutory impediments provided in Article 18 of the Foster Care Act (Official Gazette No. 115/18 and 18/22) apply. Such impediments include final convictions for criminal offences against sexual freedom, criminal offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of a child, and pending criminal proceedings for such offences. Screening applies to applicants for traditional foster care, standard foster care as an occupation, specialised foster care for children as an occupation, kinship foster care and family members living with the applicant.
For residential social welfare institutions founded by the Republic of Croatia, annual criminal record checks are carried out for all employees by the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Youth is aware of its social responsibility with regard to the prevention of all forms of violence, including sexual violence. All laws and secondary legislation governing the field of education are directed towards this objective. Our goal is to empower children and young people to avoid all risky situations that may lead to sexual violence, to develop self-respect and self-confidence, and to behave responsibly towards themselves and others.

The Act on Primary and Secondary School Education (Official Gazette, No. 87/08, 86/09, 92/10, 105/10, 90/11, 5/12, 16/12, 86/12, 126/12, 94/13, 152/14, 07/17, 68/18, 98/19, 64/20, 151/22 and
156/23) and the Preschool Education Act (Official Gazette, No. 10/97, 107/07, 94/13, 98/19, 57/22, 101/23 and 22/26) prescribe restrictions on the employment of all staff in educational institutions, including teachers, subject teachers, professional associates and principals, as well as cooks, cleaners, administrative staff, caretakers and other auxiliary technical personnel.
Restrictions on Employment in School Institutions pursuant to the Act on Primary and Secondary School Education:
Article 106
1) A person who has been finally convicted of any criminal offence against life and limb; against the freedoms and rights of persons and citizens; against the Republic of Croatia; against

values protected under international law; against sexual freedom and sexual morality; against marriage, the family and youth; against property; against the security of legal transactions and business operations; against the judiciary; against the authenticity of documents; against public order; or against official duty, as prescribed by the Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 1 10/97, 27/98 — corrigendum, 50/00 — Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, 129/00, 51/01, 1 11/03, 190/03 — Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, 105/04, 84/05 corrigendum, 71/06, 110/07, 152/08 and 57/11), may not establish an employment relationship in a school institution.

2) A person who has been finally convicted of any criminal offence against life and limb; against the Republic of Croatia; against the judiciary; against public order; against property; against official duty; against humanity and human dignity; against personal liberty; against sexual freedom; against the sexual abuse and exploitation of a child; against marriage, the family and children; against public health; against public safety; or against counterfeiting, as prescribed by the Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 125/11 and 144/12), may not establish an employment relationship in a school institution.

3) A person against whom criminal proceedings are pending for any of the criminal offences referred to in paragraphs (l) and (2) of this Article may likewise not establish an employment relationship in a school institution.

4) If a school institution, as the employer, becomes aware that a criminal complaint has been filed against an employee of the school institution for any criminal offence involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child, the principal shall be obliged to temporarily remove that person from performing their duties, while retaining the right to salary compensation in the amount of the full monthly salary earned by the employee during the three months preceding the removal from duty, until evidence is received that criminal proceedings have been instituted against the person or that the criminal complaint has been dismissed.

5) If a school institution, as the employer, receives evidence that criminal proceedings have been instituted and are being conducted against an employee of the school institution for any of the criminal offences referred to in paragraphs (l) and (2) of this Article, the employee shall be removed from performing their duties until the criminal proceedings are discontinued, or, at the latest, until the court judgment becomes final, while retaining the right to salary compensation in the amount of two-thirds of the average monthly salary earned during the three months preceding the removal from duty.

6) If an employee of a school institution is finally convicted of any of the criminal offences referred to in paragraphs (l) and (2) of this Article, the school institution, as the employer, shall terminate the employment contract by extraordinary dismissal, without the obligation to observe the prescribed or contractually agreed notice period, within 1 5 days of becoming aware of the final conviction. Upon expiry of that period, the employer shall terminate the employment contract by ordinary dismissal due to the employee's culpable conduct. In such a case, simultaneously with serving the notice of termination, the employer shall require the employee to cease work immediately during the notice period.

7) If criminal proceedings instituted against the employee are discontinued by a final decision, or if the employee is acquitted by a final judgment, the suspended portion of the employee's salary shall be reimbursed from the first day of removal from duty.

The verification of bus drivers transporting pupils falls within the competence of the founders of educational institutions, as the founders conclude contracts with transport providers and the drivers are not employees of the educational institutions. In the special case where the vehicle is owned by the school and the driver is employed by the school, the employment restrictions also apply to the person transporting the pupils.

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.

No.
For regulated professions, the absence of criminal convictions for offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children is prescribed as a general statutory condition for recognition of the right to practise a profession. The legislation does not define different levels or thresholds of contact with children. Relevant provisions include Article 7 of the Social Work Act, Article 7 of the Social Pedagogical Activity Act, Article 8 of the Psychological Activity Act, Article 6 of the Educational Rehabilitation Activity Act and Article 6 of the Psychotherapy Activity Act.
Similarly, the Foster Care Act does not establish a specific level of contact with children. Screening is linked to obtaining a foster care licence rather than the frequency of contact. Foster care by its nature involves direct, daily and long-term contact with children.

    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.

No.
The statutory requirements applicable to regulated professions apply equally to all applicants and do not distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children.
Likewise, the Foster Care Act does not distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children. Screening is linked to obtaining and maintaining foster parent status and ensuring the safety of the family environment. Criminal offences committed through information and communication technologies may constitute a statutory impediment if they

fall within the categories of offences referred to in Article 18 paragraph 2 point 1 of the Foster Care Act.

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

   a. an adoptive parent YES

   Yes.
   A general legal requirement is that a person whose personal characteristics and behaviour indicate that it would not be appropriate to entrust them with parental care of a child cannot adopt a child. This circumstance is assessed during the procedure for determining the **e**ligibility and suitability for adoption, whereby one of the key legal requirements is that the person is not subject to criminal proceedings and has not been finally convicted of criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.
   The relevant secondary legislation expressly provides that the competent authority shall, ex officio, verify data on final criminal convictions, while the applicant is required to provide evidence that no criminal proceedings are pending against them for the above-mentioned criminal offences.
   This requirement also applies to foreign nationals, who are required to submit an appropriate document issued in accordance with the law of the State in which they had their residence or habitual residence before submitting the application for the assessment of eligibility and suitability for adoption.
   The relevant provisions are contained in Article 187 of the Family Act and Article 7 of the Ordinance on Elements Related to Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption.

   b. a foster parent YES

   Yes.
   One of the general requirements for providing foster care is that none of the statutory impediments set out in Article 18 of the Foster Care Act apply to the applicant. The competent authority obtains, ex officio, evidence confirming that the applicant has not been finally convicted of, and is not the subject of pending criminal proceedings for, the prescribed criminal offences. Relevant provisions are Article 14 paragraph 1 point 7 and Article 18 paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the Foster Care Act (Official Gazette No. 115/18 and 18/22).

   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

One of the general requirements for providing foster care is that none of the statutory impediments set out in Article 18 of the Foster Care Act apply to the applicant. The competent authority obtains, ex officio, evidence confirming that the applicant has not been finally convicted of, and is not the subject of pending criminal proceedings for, the prescribed criminal offences. Relevant provisions are Article 14 paragraph 1 point 7 and Article 18 paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the Foster Care Act (Official Gazette No. 115/18 and 18/22).

c) A child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)?
Yes.

Unsuitable behaviour and personal characteristics due to which it cannot be expected that a person will properly perform the duties of a guardian constitute an absolute legal impediment to appointment as a guardian. In the procedure for appointing a guardian, all circumstances relevant to the protection of the rights and interests of the child are assessed, including the personal characteristics and previous conduct of the person being considered for appointment as guardian.

A final conviction for criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation committed against a child constitutes a particularly serious circumstance indicating that the person is unsuitable to perform the duties of a guardian and is incompatible with the protection of the best interests of the child.

The relevant provisions are contained in Articles 247(1) and 248 of the Family Act.

Additionally, in relation to unaccompanied minors, Article 17(11) of the Act on International and Temporary Protection expressly provides that a special guardian, as well as other persons working with unaccompanied minors, must not have been finally convicted of criminal offences against sexual freedom, criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, or criminal offences against marriage, family and children. Such persons also may not be persons against whom criminal proceedings are pending for the above-mentioned criminal offences. Accordingly, for special guardians of unaccompanied minors, the law expressly establishes a prohibition against appointing persons who have been finally convicted of sexual offences against children. This is in line with the requirements of European Union law in the area of protection of unaccompanied minors, including the standards established under the legislative framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which emphasises the obligation of Member States to ensure appropriate protection for unaccompanied minors and the persons representing them in international protection procedures.

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.

Yes, for foster care.
The statutory impediments to providing foster care also apply to family members living with the applicant. Screening covers final convictions, pending criminal proceedings, misdemeanour sanctions and proceedings relating to domestic violence, addictions, child protection measures and other impediments referred to in Article 18 of the Foster Care Act. Relevant provisions include Article 9 point 3, Article 14 paragraphs 1-3 and Article 18 paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Foster Care Act.

Yes, the same applies in the case of adoption.

In the procedure for assessing eligibility and suitability for adoption, not only the prospective adoptive parents but also the adult members of their household are subject to assessment. It is verified whether criminal proceedings are pending against them and whether they have final convictions for the criminal offences prescribed by the Family Act and the Ordinance, including criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. These circumstances constitute an important element of the assessment of eligibility and suitability for adoption, given the need to ensure a safe and supportive family environment for the child.

Guardianship

In the procedure for appointing a guardian, there is no explicit legal obligation to verify the criminal convictions of members of the household of the person proposed for appointment as guardian. However, the competent authority is required to assess all circumstances relevant to the protection of the rights and interests of the child. Therefore, where necessary for the purpose of determining the best interests of the child, circumstances relating to household members may also be taken into consideration, particularly if they could affect the safety and well-being of the child placed under guardianship.

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.

Under the Croatian Act on Volunteering, the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children applies to minor applicants when volunteering with children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable persons. For minors aged 14 to 17, who can be held criminally responsible, this check is mandatory and requires the written consent of a parent or legal guardian. For children under 14, no criminal records can legally exist under the Criminal Code; therefore, the Act protects vulnerable groups by requiring continuous and direct supervision of these young volunteers by a vetted adult volunteer coordinator.

b. adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18? YES

Please provide details.

The Foster Care Act does not distinguish between convictions according to whether the offence was committed before or after the age of majority. The decisive factors are whether there is a legally relevant final conviction and whether rehabilitation has taken place. If rehabilitation has occurred, the statutory impediment no longer applies. Article 18 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Foster Care Act apply.

Upon the expiry of the statutory rehabilitation periods, a person convicted of a criminal offence is deemed not to have been convicted, and information relating to the previous conviction may neither be used nor produce legal effects. In such cases, the person's legal status is equivalent to that of a person who has not been convicted, and their rights may not be restricted on account of the previous conviction. The relevant provisions are contained in Articles 18 and 19 of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation

A. The final conviction of the person who is criminally liable in accordance with the Criminal Code.
B.
C. 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.

The Ministry of Science and Education co-finances, through the Call for Proposals for the

Award of Non-Repayable Grants to Association Projects in the Field of Out-of-Institution Education of Children and Young People, projects implemented by associations in the area of out-of-institution education of children and young people during the school year. When applying for financial support under the Call, associations are required to submit, as part of the mandatory documentation, certificates of no criminal record (not older than 60 days) for the authorised representative of the association who is empowered to sign the financial support agreement with the Ministry, as well as for the project manager. Furthermore, if a project is included on the Provisional List for Funding, certificates of no criminal record must also be submitted for all project implementers directly involved in working with children and young people. These certificates must be submitted within eight (8) days of notification that the project has been included on the Provisional List. In addition, where a project is included on the Provisional List, signed EUROPASS curriculum vitae must also be submitted for all project implementers who are directly involved in working with children and young people through the project. The EUROPASS CVs must likewise be submitted within eight (8) days of notification of inclusion on the Provisional List.

<u>Information included in screening</u>

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.

Yes.
In relation to regulated professions, legislation requires assessment not only of offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children but also other criminal offences prescribed by sector-specific legislation. Relevant provisions include:

Article 7 paragraph 1 item 4 of the Social Work Act;
Article 7 paragraph 1 item 4 of the Social Pedagogical Activity Act;
Article 8 paragraph 1 item 4 of the Psychological Activity Act;
Article 6 paragraph 1 item 4 of the Educational Rehabilitation Activity Act;
Article 6 paragraph 1 item 3 and Article 6 paragraph 2 item 4 of the Psychotherapy Activity Act.

For foster care, Article 18 paragraph 2 point 1 of the Foster Care Act refers to categories of criminal offences under the Croatian Criminal Code, including criminal offences against sexual freedom and criminal offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of a child. Screening therefore covers all relevant final convictions and pending criminal proceedings for such offences.

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

a) Relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions

a. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Please provide details.

Yes.
Assessment of suitability for foster care extends beyond verification of criminal convictions. It includes final criminal convictions, pending proceedings, misdemeanour sanctions and proceedings relating to domestic violence, addictions, child protection measures, dysfunctional family relationships, health conditions, motives, capacities, risks, psychological assessment

and other facts relevant to the best interests of the beneficiary. Relevant provisions include Article 14 paragraph 3 and Article 18 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Foster Care Act.

The assessment of eligibility and suitability for adoption is not limited to verifying final criminal convictions but also encompasses other circumstances relevant to assessing a person's ability to assume parental responsibility. In this procedure, account is taken, inter alia, of pending criminal proceedings for the criminal offences prescribed by law, misdemeanour sanctions imposed for domestic violence, the exercise of parental responsibility in respect of the person's own children, legal capacity, health status, and other personal and family circumstances relevant to the assessment of the child's best interests. The relevant provisions are contained in Article 7 of the *Ordinance on the Elements Relating to Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, the Content of the Professional Opinion on Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, Methods for Assessing Eligibility and Suitability, the Content of the Child Report, the Register of Prospective Adoptive Parents and the Maintenance of the Register of Adoptions*

When appointing a guardian, an assessment is carried out of the personal characteristics, abilities and circumstances relevant to the protection of the rights and interests of the ward. This assessment is not limited to information on final criminal convictions but may also include other information relevant to assessing the person's suitability to perform the duties of a guardian, including their conduct, relationship with the ward, living circumstances and other facts relevant to ensuring the best protection of the ward's rights and interests. The relevant provisions are contained in Article 247(1) and Article 248 of the Family Act.

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

The legislation governing regulated professions does not explicitly establish a lifetime ban. However, a person convicted of offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children does not fulfil the statutory conditions necessary for recognition of the right to practise the regulated profession.

b. if they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable

The legislation governing regulated professions does not prescribe specific time limits. The decisive criterion is fulfilment of the statutory conditions for practising the profession.

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.

No.

The restrictions concern the legal right to practise a regulated profession and apply irrespective of whether the profession is practised in the public sector, private sector or through self-employed professional practice.

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.

No.
For foster care, where rehabilitation has taken place, the statutory impediment arising from a final criminal conviction no longer applies. Article 18 paragraph 3 of the Foster Care Act applies.
Criminal record checks do not include convictions that have been expunged or are subject to rehabilitation. A rehabilitated person is deemed not to have been convicted, and the use of information relating to their previous conviction is prohibited. Upon the expiry of the statutory rehabilitation periods, the relevant data are removed from the criminal records, and rehabilitated or expunged convictions are therefore not disclosed in criminal record certificates and are not included in routine criminal record checks. The relevant provisions are contained in Articles 18 and 19 of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation.

Screening procedures

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.

In the field of social welfare services, the verification procedure is prescribed by Article 261 of the Social Welfare Act (Official Gazette No. 18/22, 46/22, 119/22, 71/23, 156/23 and 61/25).
For regulated professions, the screening system is regulated through sector-specific legislation governing individual professions rather than through a single piece of legislation. Relevant provisions include the Social Work Act, Social Pedagogical Activity Act, Psychological Activity Act, Educational Rehabilitation Activity Act and Psychotherapy Activity Act. Professional chambers are responsible for recognition of the right to practise and for maintaining professional registers.
For foster care, screening is regulated by the Foster Care Act and forms part of the licensing procedure, licence renewal procedure, changed-circumstances procedure and family assessment process. Relevant provisions include Articles 14, 18, 34 and 40 of the Foster Care Act.

In adoption-related proceedings, the screening procedure is regulated by the *Ordinance on the Elements Relating to Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, the Content of the Professional Opinion on Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, the Methods for Assessing Eligibility and Suitability, the Content of the Child Report, the Keeping of the Register of Prospective Adoptive Parents and the Manner of Keeping the Register of Adoptions*, as a secondary legislative act.

There is no specific screening system prescribed for the appointment of a guardian; rather, in each individual case, it is assessed whether the person meets the conditions prescribed by the Family Act and whether they are able to adequately protect the rights and interests of the ward.

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.

Pursuant to Article 261 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Social Welfare Act, employers must obtain, ex officio, proof that a person being employed has not been convicted of criminal offences involving the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of a child. Employers must also obtain
In foster care proceedings, the competent authority is required to obtain such information ex officio pursuant to Article 18 paragraph 5 of the Foster Care Act.
In adoption and guardianship appointment proceedings, the competent authority obtains, ex officio, data from the criminal records regarding final convictions relevant to the protection of children, including convictions for criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, pursuant to Article 14(1) of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation, which provides that no person has the right to require citizens to submit evidence of their conviction status or non-conviction status.

    b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions NO

    In the social welfare sector, candidates are required to submit a criminal record certificate when applying for employment.
    In foster care proceedings, the applicant is not required to provide criminal record evidence covered by Article 18 paragraph 5 because it is obtained by the competent authority ex officio. The applicant must nevertheless cooperate in the procedure and provide required information and documentation.
    In adoption proceedings, prospective adoptive parents are required to submit evidence that no criminal proceedings are pending against them or the members of their household for criminal offences, including the criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The relevant provision is contained in Article 7(1), point 7 of the *Ordinance on the Elements Relating to Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, the Content of the Professional Opinion on Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption, the Methods for Assessing Eligibility and Suitability, the Content of the Child Report, the*

Keeping of the Register of Prospective Adoptive Parents and the Manner of Keeping the Register of Adoptions.

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.

The Foster Care Act does not require applicants to bear the costs of obtaining information that the competent authority is required to obtain ex officio. Applicants do not directly bear the costs of certificates obtained through official channels. Article 18 paragraph 5 of the Foster Care Act applies.
Croatian legislation does not allow citizens to be required to submit evidence of their conviction status or non-conviction status. The competent authorities conducting adoption and guardianship appointment proceedings obtain the necessary criminal record information ex officio from the relevant authorities; consequently, the costs of such checks are not borne by the applicant. The provision of Article 47(2) of the General Administrative Procedure Act applies.

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.

For residential social welfare institutions founded by the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy requests, once a year, that the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation carry out criminal record checks of all employees.

In foster care, compliance is ensured through the licensing procedure, family assessment, three-year validity period of licences, renewal procedures, reporting of changed circumstances, professional supervision, inspection supervision and the possibility of terminating or prohibiting foster care activities. Relevant provisions include Articles 34, 40 and 46 of the Foster Care Act.
Obtaining data from criminal records and other prescribed checks form an integral part of the official case documentation and are recorded in the case file. The legality and correctness of the proceedings are subject to internal and administrative supervision, as well as review in the context of legal remedies. The relevant provisions are contained in Articles 266, 268 and 282 of the Social Welfare Act and Articles 105 and 107 of the General Administrative Procedure 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.

Under Article 261 paragraph 4 of the Social Welfare Act, the employer shall terminate the employment contract of an employee who no longer fulfils the required conditions.
The Foster Care Act does not provide a specific fine for failure to carry out screening. However, a foster care licence cannot be granted unless statutory requirements are fulfilled. If conditions cease to be met after the licence has been issued, the licence will be terminated and foster care activities may be prohibited by inspection measures.
Failure to comply with the obligation to carry out the required checks constitutes a violation of procedural rules and may call into question the legality of the decision adopted. In such cases, the relevant provisions of Article 117 of the General Administrative Procedure Act apply. If illegality or irregularities in the work are established through administrative supervision, the provisions of Article 286 of the Social Welfare Act apply.

17. Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required, for:
    a. professionals in contact with children

    For employees in social welfare, employers are required to obtain a criminal record certificate at least once a year pursuant to Article 261 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Social Welfare Act.

For regulated professions, no periodic criminal record screening is prescribed after recognition of the right to practise. However, professionals must continuously fulfil all statutory conditions for practising the profession.

b. powers in contact with children

According to the Act on Volunteering, a special criminal record certificate is obtained only once - before starting long-term volunteering with children. The Act does not require periodic criminal record screening. In the case of short-term volunteering with children, prior procurement of this certificate is not mandatory; instead, the volunteer signs a declaration stating that no legal obstacles to volunteering exist. In such instances, the volunteer organizer is obliged to ensure continuous professional supervision and guarantee that the volunteer never comes into unsupervised contact with the children for the entire duration of the volunteering.

c. foster parents and legal guardians?

For foster care, regular screening exists through the renewal procedure. A foster care licence is valid for three years, after which the competent authority must again establish whether all statutory requirements are fulfilled, including the absence of impediments referred to in Article 18 of the Foster Care Act. Screening may also be triggered by changed circumstances during the licence validity period.
For legal guardians, no statutory obligation for periodic criminal record screening after appointment is prescribed. However, the competent authority continuously supervises the exercise of guardianship in accordance with the Family Act. If circumstances arise that affect the guardian's suitability or ability to perform guardianship duties, the competent authority may initiate proceedings to remove the guardian and appoint another person.

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.

Pursuant to Article 261 paragraph 5 of the Social Welfare Act, where an employer learns that criminal proceedings have been initiated and are being conducted against an employee in the social welfare sector, the employer shall remove that person from performing duties until the criminal proceedings are discontinued or, at the latest, until a final court judgment has been delivered.

Cross-border screening

19. If the candidate for roles or positions stated in questions 1 and 3 has resided 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:

    a. professionals YES

    b. 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.

The FosterCare Act does not expressly require criminal record checks to be carried out in every State in which the applicant previously lived or worked.
It does not regulate the relevant period of prior residence, an obligation to obtain a certificate fro m each State, the procedure where a foreign State does not provide information, or an obligation on the applicant to submit a foreign certificate.
If additional documentation is required in practice, such action must be based on another regulat ion, international instrument or rules of administrative procedure.
Legal basis: Foster Care Act (Official Gazette, No. 115/18, 18/22): Article 18, paragraph 5.

In the procedure for assessing a person's eligibility and suitability to adopt, all information relevant to the protection of the rights and best interests of the child is taken into account, including information on any criminal convictions. Foreign nationals who resided in another country before submitting their application are required to provide appropriate evidence that neither they nor members of their household are subject to criminal proceedings for criminal offences committed against children, including the criminal offences of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, as well as evidence that they have not been finally convicted of such offences. The relevant provisions are contained in Article 7(1), (2) and (3) of the Ordinance on the Elements Relating to Eligibility and Suitability for Adoption.
In the procedure for appointing a guardian, the personal characteristics and previous conduct of the person being considered for appointment, as well as all other circumstances relevant to

the protection of the rights and best interests of the child, are assessed. A final conviction for criminal offences involving the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child constitutes a particularly serious circumstance indicating that the person is unsuitable to perform the duties of a guardian and is incompatible with safeguarding the best interests of the child. Where the person being considered for appointment as a guardian has previously resided in another country, information on criminal convictions from other jurisdictions may be obtained through judicial cooperation mechanisms and the exchange of criminal records information via the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). The relevant provisions are contained in Article 11, point (l), Article 13(4), and Articles 23 and 24 of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, the Criminal Records Register and Rehabilitation.

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[1] (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)

The Foster Care Act does not regulate a specific international mechanism for requesting information on criminal convictions from the competent authority of another State outside criminal proceedings.
The Foster Care Act does not contain a specific provision, Article 18, paragraph 5, prescribes the obligation to obtain data, but does not regulate the international exchange channel.

The Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, the Criminal Records Register and Rehabilitation expressly provides for the international exchange of criminal records information for purposes other than criminal proceedings.
With regard to the exchange of criminal records information between the Member States of the European Union, particular relevance is attached to Article 11, point (l), Article 13(4), and Articles 23 and 24, which provide for the obtaining and exchange of such information for the purpose of protecting the rights and best interests of children, including in guardianship, foster care and other child protection proceedings under family law.
The transmission of criminal records information to countries outside the European Union is carried out in accordance with the applicable international treaties or, in the absence of such treaties, in accordance with the Act on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. The relevant provision is contained in Article 22 of the Act on the Legal Consequences of Convictions, the Criminal Records Register and Rehabilitation.

[1] For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.

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

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.