

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT



End Online Child Sexual Exploitation
and Abuse @Europe Project
(Phases I and II)

Building a Europe
for and with children
www.coe.int/children



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The evaluation was managed by a external evaluators under the supervision of the Children's Rights Division and the Directorate of Internal Oversight and implemented by CEval GmbH. The views expressed in this report are those of the evaluation team members from CEval GmbH.

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Acronyms

ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
Logframe	Logical Framework
OCSEA	Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
KII	Key Informant Interviews
NAB	National Advisory Board
SC	Steering Committee
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers

1. Executive Summary

Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) has intensified with rapid digitalisation, leaving children increasingly vulnerable and outpacing the capacity of law enforcement and child protection systems. In response, the Council of Europe prioritised action against OCSEA in its Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027) and launched the **EndOCSEA@Europe project**, funded by Safe Online. Implemented in two phases, the project aimed to strengthen legislative and institutional responses, improve multi-stakeholder coordination, and raise public awareness. Phase I (2018–2021) supported ten countries, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine as pilot sites. Phase II (2023–2025) builds on these outcomes in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro. The project leveraged a wide network of national and international partners, aligned with Council of Europe conventions and global frameworks, and applied an integrated strategy to address evolving OCSEA threats. It supported implementation of the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions, applied the Model National Response and worked closely with the WePROTECT Global Alliance. Through coordinated, systemic efforts, the project addressed both the complexity of OCSEA and persistent national implementation challenges.

The evaluation assessed the **relevance, effectiveness, impact, efficiency**, and **sustainability** of the EndOCSEA@Europe project, offering strategic recommendations for future action. It covered both phases of the project, focusing on legislative reform, capacity-building, public awareness, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The evaluation examined the project's support for national and regional responses and its contribution to systemic change. It also explored the replicability and scalability of successful approaches, drawing on case studies from Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Ukraine, alongside broader data from participating countries. Key findings identified good practices and lessons learned to inform future programming, policy, and strategic planning.

Guided by **OECD-DAC criteria**, the evaluation examined effectiveness in promoting vigilance and resilience against OCSEA among children, parents, and educators, along with improvements in law enforcement and judicial responses—particularly through capacity-building in Phase II. It also explored unintended outcomes from Phase I and the role of gender and human rights approaches. In terms of impact, the project's contributions to child protection through legal and policy reforms and strengthened regional dialogue were analysed. Efficiency was assessed through analysis of collaborative and innovative practices, with attention to challenges such as health crises and political instability. Finally, the evaluation considered the sustainability of reforms and capacity-building efforts, emphasising long-term integration into national systems and the potential to scale successful strategies across other Council of Europe member states. The evaluation also assessed **replicability** at four levels: political (adaptability of legal reforms and alignment with international standards), institutional (reusability and dissemination of training materials), community (sustained stakeholder engagement), and individual (customised awareness efforts, including social media outreach).

The evaluation applied a **mixed-methods case study design**, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data were gathered through document reviews, 37 key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with 49 stakeholders, and country case studies—conducted onsite in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, and virtually in Armenia and Ukraine. Quantitative data were gathered via an online survey completed by 71 stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Ukraine, along with pre- and post-training assessments. Child perspectives were captured through child-friendly surveys and workshop feedback in both Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova.

When evaluating the **effectiveness** of the EndOCSEA@Europe project, capacity-building activities have proven to be one of the most impactful and robust components. These initiatives significantly

enhanced awareness and prevention efforts among key professionals, children, and parents across diverse settings and contexts, demonstrating strong adaptability and sustained value in addressing OCSEA. Safeguarding training sessions in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro notably improved frontline professionals' knowledge and confidence on OCSEA issues. Participants not only enhanced their skills but also shared their learning within their institutions, fostering integration of child protection practices. In parallel, awareness-raising initiatives led by local NGOs in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro effectively increased public understanding of online safety and encouraged open dialogue and protective behaviours among children, parents, and frontline professionals. Legal training sessions in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro further developed participants' skills in investigation techniques, victim support, and referral mechanisms, enhancing confidence in the use of legal tools and strengthening law enforcement and judicial responses to OCSEA. Additionally, the project demonstrated gender sensitivity and incorporated gender considerations in several areas. However, since these efforts were not consistently integrated throughout the project lifecycle and a clearly defined gender component was missing, the project cannot be considered fully gender-mainstreamed. At the same time, the project grounded in a robust human rights framework that was visible in the project's prioritisation of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Nevertheless, data gaps limited the assessment of its overall inclusiveness and whether all vulnerable groups were adequately supported.

In terms of **impact**, the project contributed to reforms in national legal frameworks and policies addressing OCSEA by providing targeted recommendations, legal reform support, and fostering ongoing dialogue and knowledge sharing among member states through the Steering Committee and regional workshops. In this context, Phase I laid a strong foundation for Phase II by engaging key stakeholders from the outset, developing professional training resources, and addressing data gaps that identified systemic weaknesses across participating countries. This approach created a robust evidence base that informed targeted, country-specific strategies and aligned national efforts with Council of Europe standards, making project activities adaptable across diverse contexts. These advancements occurred alongside a broader multi-actor effort, with initiatives by UNICEF, WeProtect Global Alliance, ECPAT, the EU, and INHOPE complementing the project's work through child protection programming, evidence-based advocacy, and operational hotlines, leading to notable changes such as Moldova's new action plan on online safety and Montenegro's updated national strategy on violence against children.

The project's collaborative approach, strategic partnerships, and adaptability were key factors contributing to its overall **efficiency**. Innovative elements, such as a training-of-trainers (ToT) model, and multidisciplinary and hybrid training formats, enabled an effective response to challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability. Despite these disruptions, the project remained flexible and continued to deliver on its objectives. Additional challenges, such as thematic sensitivities, limited training availability, and language barriers, were addressed through targeted measures, including shifting to online formats, closely monitoring political contexts, and building trust with stakeholders.

The **sustainability** of the project's interventions varied across countries, largely depending on political will, institutional ownership, and the availability of financial, human, and technical resources. In several cases, project tools and training were successfully integrated into national systems, reflecting institutional uptake. However, sustaining these efforts remained a challenge in the absence of long-term funding, adequate staffing, and stable political environments. To enhance sustainability and scale up successful approaches, the project promoted strategies aimed at institutionalising training, encouraging multilateral cooperation, providing targeted technical assistance, and fostering continuous stakeholder engagement. These efforts were complemented by ongoing monitoring to support long-term impact.

To enhance the impact and sustainability of the EndOCSEA@Europe project, several key **recommendations** were proposed. Training should be further integrated into national institutions, to ensure long-term capacity building, with training materials regularly being updated and regular refresher sessions being conducted. The project should continue building on hybrid and participatory training formats, expanding stakeholder inclusion to reach a broader audience. Evidence-driven planning and monitoring systems should be further institutionalised, with regular follow-up surveys and needs assessments to ensure ongoing relevance and adaptability to the evolving nature of OCSEA. Building on existing gender- and location-based data collection, data disaggregated by age, disability, socio-economic background, and other relevant social factors should be collected to support targeted interventions, and strengthen the ability to demonstrate GEDSI outcomes. Multilateral cooperation should remain a priority, with tools continuously adapted to national contexts and strengthened cross-border collaboration through regional platforms like the Lanzarote Committee. Sub-grants for local NGOs have proven effective in grassroots outreach and should continue, enabling tailored, community-specific awareness and prevention efforts. Interagency coordination should be further enhanced through joint multidisciplinary training, bringing together law enforcement, legal professionals, and frontline staff to foster shared understanding and strengthen collaborative responses. At the national level, the inclusion of additional stakeholders in trainings, such as legal assistants and professionals working in youth homes, should be considered to broaden training reach. Lastly, innovative approaches, such as cross-sectoral collaboration and training-of-trainers models, should further be encouraged to maximise impact, scalability, and sustainability, with continued support from donors and strategic partners to ensure long-term success.

2. Introduction

2.1 Context of the Evaluation

The current landscape of **Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)** is alarming, as advanced digital technologies and the rise of digital platforms facilitate the exploitation of vulnerable children. Online offenders exploit children's trust and lack of awareness, while law enforcement and child protection agencies struggle to keep pace with rapidly evolving communication methods, threatening children's well-being and rights. This situation highlights the urgent need for robust legislative frameworks and effective awareness initiatives. Recognising this, the **Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)** and the **Lanzarote Convention** prioritise protection against OCSEA. In response, the **EndOCSEA@Europe project**, implemented by the **Council of Europe**, has been essential for driving transformative changes to combat OCSEA in targeted member states.

Implemented in **two phases** with funding from **Safe Online**, the project had a total budget of 805,607.37 Euro (Phase I) and 626,644.92 Euro (Phase II) and involved a range of human and institutional resources. The Council of Europe established a Project Unit within its Children's Rights Division, staffed by a team based in Strasbourg and Bucharest, and overseen by the Heads of the Children's Rights Division and C-PROC. Beneficiary countries appointed national focal points and experts, while a Steering Group brought together representatives from key ministries and human rights bodies. Key implementing partners included ministries and justice agencies from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Ukraine, as well as legal, law enforcement, and social service professionals. The project engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including criminal justice authorities, policymakers, CSOs, children, parents, teachers, and communities. It leveraged the Council of Europe's intergovernmental mechanisms and supported the implementation of the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions, while also applying the Model National Response and working closely with the WePROTECT Global Alliance.

In **Phase I** (July 2018 – June 2021), the project facilitated a Baseline Mapping of legislation, policies, and practices concerning OCSEA, identifying critical recommendations aligned with Council of Europe standards. The project aimed to strengthen legislation, enhance the capacities of law enforcement, judges and prosecutors, and raise public awareness about OCSEA. It benefited Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine designated as pilot countries.

In **Phase II** (September 2023 – December 2025), the **EndOCSEA@Europe Plus** project built on the first phase's outcomes to promote efforts against OCSEA in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro. As part of the Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme, these countries benefited from ongoing technical assistance in cybercrime abatement and synergies with related initiatives. This phase aimed to further enhance legal and policy frameworks, strengthen multi-disciplinary responses, and scale up public awareness and capacity-building. By integrating recommendations from Phase I, it focused on institutionalising progress and on expanding support to more countries and stakeholders.

Table 1: Focus countries of Phase I and II

Phase I (10 countries)	Phase II (3 countries)
Albania	Georgia
Armenia (pilot country)	The Republic of Moldova
Azerbaijan (pilot country)	Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Georgia	
The Republic of Moldova	

Montenegro	
Serbia	
Türkiye	
Ukraine (pilot country)	

The project introduced strategies to address the complex, evolving nature of OCSEA with a unified response that integrates legislative reform, policy development, multi-stakeholder collaboration, capacity-building, and awareness campaigns to protect children from digital exploitation. Its **Theory of Change** (see 8.6) underscored the necessity for co-ordinated, multinational action to address the OCSEA risks heightened by digital advancements, acknowledging challenges such as slow policy adoption, political changes, and limited OCSEA-specific commitment – issues the project sought to mitigate through active stakeholder engagement and Council of Europe networks.

2.2 Purpose and Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation of the EndOCSEA@Europe project aimed to assess its **impact**, identify areas for improvement, and provide recommendations to enhance future interventions in the targeted member states of the Council of Europe. It examined **effectiveness, impact, efficiency** and **sustainability** and had the goal to determine the **scalability** and **replicability** of project activities, while identifying pathways for change and contributing to the global evidence base on effective strategies against OCSEA. Incorporating **lessons learned and good practices** from **both phases**, the purpose of the evaluation was to inform the Council of Europe, Safe Online, and other relevant **key stakeholders**, about the outcomes and impacts achieved to guide policy development and strategic planning for online child safety. The **evaluation objectives** focused on several key areas to inform future programming:

First, the evaluation **assessed the extent to which the project has addressed OCSEA** in both the target countries and the wider European region. This included analysing the specific contributions of each project component: Legislative Strengthening and Policy Development, Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration, Capacity-Building and Training, and Awareness-Raising and Prevention. Additionally, the evaluation examined how the **project's efforts have strengthened national responses** to OCSEA. This included evaluating improvements in legislative frameworks, law enforcement capabilities, and child protection systems in response to OCSEA. Another objective involved **documenting challenges faced during project implementation**. Political, operational, or social barriers were identified, along with the strategies used to mitigate these challenges and their impact on the project's outcomes. The evaluation also explored how **frameworks, models, and approaches** used in the project, such as the Lanzarote Convention and the WeProtect Model National Response, contributed to its effectiveness. It assessed how these models were employed or adapted across different project components to enhance impact. Assessing the **long-term sustainability** of the project's interventions was another objective, specifically evaluating whether these strategies could be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states for broader impact. Finally, the evaluation provided **actionable insights and recommendations**. This included guidance for future programming, suggestions to strengthen the Council of Europe's initiatives against OCSEA, and refining the project's Theory of Change (see 8.6).

The evaluation encompassed **both phases of the project**, focusing on the immediate outcomes, outputs, and activities of Phase II, alongside the intermediate outcomes and impacts from Phase I. **Geographically**, Phase I primarily targeted Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine, while Phase II concentrated on Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro. The evaluation covered all the target countries, with case studies focusing on Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Ukraine (see 3.1).

2.3 Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

The evaluation was guided by **evaluation questions** which were derived from and structured by the **OECD-DAC criteria Effectiveness, Impact, Efficiency, and Sustainability** as specified in the Terms of Reference (ToR)¹:

Table 2: Evaluation criteria and key questions

Criterion	Evaluation questions
1. Effectiveness	1.1 How effective have the awareness raising and prevention activities been in fostering a culture of vigilance and resilience against OCSEA, especially among children, parents, and educators?
	1.2 What measurable improvements have been made in law enforcement and judicial systems in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting OCSEA cases? (For Phase II, only improvement in capacities will be measurable)
	1.3 Are there any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) that have emerged as a result of the project? (more relevant for Phase I)
	1.4 To what extent the Council of Europe's gender mainstreaming and human rights approach contributed to the success of the project? (Phases I&II)
2. Impact	2.1 What impact has the Phase 1 of the project had on the protection of children from OCSEA in the focus countries?
	2.2 How have the legislative reforms and policy recommendations supported by the project influenced national legal frameworks and policies related to OCSEA?
	2.3 How has the project contributed to improving cross border co-operation and co-ordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA?
3. Efficiency	3.1 Have there been any innovative approaches or ways of working (including partnerships with other organisations and multi stakeholder collaborations) that enhanced efficiency? (Phases I&II)
	3.2 What challenges (e.g. health crisis, political instability, limited resources, sensitivity of discussions) have been encountered during the project's implementation and how have these affected progress toward project goals? How were the challenges mitigated, and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences for future programming?
4. Sustainability	4.1 To what extent are the project's interventions likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion? Are the legislative reforms and capacity building efforts embedded within national systems for long term impact? (traditional sustainability for Phase 1, ex ante sustainability for Phase II)
	4.2 How can the successful approaches and lessons learned from this project be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states facing similar challenges with OCSEA? (Phases I&II)

¹ For further details on data sources, indicators, data collection instruments, and analysis methods for each evaluation question, please refer to the Evaluation Matrix in the annexes.

In terms of **effectiveness**, the evaluation assessed the impact of awareness-raising and prevention activities on promoting a culture of vigilance and resilience against online CSEA, especially among children, parents, and educators. Second, the evaluation identified measurable improvements within law enforcement and judicial systems regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of OCSEA cases. For Phase II, this assessment focused specifically on capacity improvements. Additionally, the evaluation explored any unintended outcomes, both positive and negative, that may have emerged from the project, with particular relevance to Phase I. Finally, the evaluation examined the extent to which the Council of Europe's approaches to gender mainstreaming and human rights have contributed to the project's overall success, considering both phases of the project.

Regarding the project's **impact**, the evaluation examined how effectively Phase I had contributed to safeguarding children from OCSEA within the focus countries. This involved examining the influence of legislative reforms and policy recommendations promoted by the project, particularly their effect on national frameworks and policies related to OCSEA. Furthermore, the evaluation considered the project's role in enhancing cross-border co-operation and co-ordination among Council of Europe member states, evaluating the extent to which these efforts have reinforced regional responses to combat OCSEA.

In the area of **efficiency**, the evaluation investigated whether any innovative approaches or collaborative efforts, including partnerships with other organisations, have contributed to enhancing the project's overall efficiency across both phases. Additionally, the evaluation identified the challenges encountered during implementation, such as health crises, political instability, limited resources, and sensitive discussions, and assessed how these obstacles have impacted progress toward the project's goals. Furthermore, it examined the strategies employed to address these challenges and what lessons could be learned to inform future programming efforts.

With regards to **sustainability**, the evaluation assessed the likelihood that the project's interventions would be sustained beyond its completion, focusing on whether legislative reforms and capacity-building efforts had been effectively integrated into national systems to ensure long-term impact, with traditional sustainability considered for Phase I and ex-ante sustainability for Phase II. Additionally, the evaluation explored how the successful approaches and lessons learned from this project could be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states that face similar challenges related to OCSEA, having aimed to identify strategies for broader application and impact.

The evaluation process adhered to the Council of Europe Evaluation Policy and Guidelines, integrating principles of **human rights** and **gender equality**, and ensuring **child safeguarding**.

3. Methodology

3.1 Evaluation Design

The evaluation followed a **non-experimental, theory-based approach**, integrating **extensive stakeholder participation** through individual consultations, workshops, and collaborative sessions with the Council of Europe partner organisations, and local stakeholders, with the goal to assess the projects' achievements.

A **reconstructed Theory of Change** (see 8.6) guided the evaluation. Employing **contribution analysis** (Mayne, 1999, 2001, 2012), the evaluation team examined the plausibility of the causal links between project activities and observed outcomes. This method proved particularly valuable in contexts where direct causality could not be established, enabling a clearer understanding of the project's overall contribution. Evidence was drawn from different sources, including project documentation, pre- and

post-training questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, country case studies, and an online survey.

The evaluation also examined the **scalability**, **replicability** and **sustainability** of project interventions at four levels:

- ✓ **Political**: Adaptability of legislative improvements to national or regional contexts and alignment with international standards.
- ✓ **Institutional**: Reusability of training materials, dissemination capacity, and cascading effects within institutions.
- ✓ **Community**: Sustainability of engagement strategies for local stakeholders.
- ✓ **Individual**: Customisation and outreach of awareness campaigns, especially via social media.

Throughout the evaluation process, **triangulation of data and methods**, along with **internal peer review** ('four-eyes principle'), was applied to enhance validity and minimise bias, while a **gender and age-sensitive approach** ensured inclusive representation.

3.2 Data Collection and Analysis

Using a **mixed-methods case study design**, the evaluation combined both **qualitative and quantitative data** (see 8.3 und 8.4 for a list of reviewed documents and interview partners).

Qualitative data were collected through:

- Document reviews
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)
- Country case studies conducted onsite in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, and virtually in Armenia and Ukraine

A total of **37 KIIs** and **FGDs** were carried out, engaging **49 stakeholders** (42 female, 7 men) (see Table 3). Participants were selected based on their involvement in the project, availability, and diversity - particularly with respect to gender, using mailing lists provided by the Council of Europe and in coordination with local implementing partner organisations. The KIIs and FGDs followed a flexible, guided format to explore project effectiveness, implementation challenges, sustainability, and feedback on awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

Table 3: Number of interview participants by country and gender

Country	Female	Male	Interview partners
Montenegro	20	1	21
Moldova	11	2	13
International	6	1	7
France	3	2	5
Armenia	2	1	3
Total	42	7	49

Participants included:

- Council of Europe project staff
- Safe Online representatives
- National and international experts
- Steering Committee and National Advisory Board members

- Civil society and international organisation representatives
- Trainers and trainees involved in project activities
- Parents involved in awareness-raising activities
- Professionals working with children (e.g. educators, social workers, psychologists)

Direct interviews with children were not feasible (see 3.3). Instead, their perspectives were gathered through a **child-friendly online survey** and **post-workshop questionnaires**. Feedback was available only from Republic of Moldova and Montenegro. In Republic of Moldova, the evaluation team developed a child-focused survey distributed by the NGO Child Rights Information Center (CRIC). In Montenegro, data came from post-workshop questionnaires by the NGO Juventas.

Quantitative data were collected through:

- A semi-standardised online survey targeting stakeholders from all project countries, including those not visited onsite
- Review of pre-/post-training assessments and feedback surveys

Pre- and post-training assessments, conducted by the Council of Europe, complemented the evaluation team's data collection and were analysed to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding trainings in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro, and legal trainings in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro (see 4.1.1. and 4.1.2.).

The evaluation team, in collaboration with the Council of Europe project team, developed and conducted an **online survey** using **SoSci Survey**. The survey was translated into local languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Montenegrin, Romanian, and Ukrainian) and distributed to approximately 500 stakeholders to capture a broader range of perspectives beyond the case study countries. A total of **71 individuals** completed the survey. Response rates varied across questions due to the non-mandatory nature of some items (see Table 4).

Table 4: Number of online survey respondents by country

Country	Respondents
Montenegro	27
Georgia	25
Republic of Moldova	11
Ukraine	6
Armenia	1
Azerbaijan	1
Total	71

Data analysis was conducted in MaxQDA, using content analysis for qualitative data, while quantitative data underwent descriptive analysis. Results were disaggregated by key variables, such as country, gender, and profession, where applicable.

3.3 Challenges encountered during the Evaluation

During implementation, the evaluation team dealt with some practical challenges that may affect the explanatory power of the results discussed in the following and which therefore should be kept in mind when reading this report and drawing conclusions:

- ✓ **Low stakeholder participation for KIIs and FGDs from Armenia and Ukraine:** Despite repeated follow-up efforts, stakeholder engagement in Armenia and Ukraine for KIIs and FGDs remained low. Only three interviews were conducted for Armenia and none for Ukraine, limiting the diversity

and depth of input from these countries and impacted the representativeness of the country-level findings. A likely contributing factor was the four-year gap since the conclusion of Phase I, which may have resulted in staff turnover or diminished familiarity with the project among relevant professionals.

- ✓ **Limited engagement from training participants in the Republic of Moldova:** Another challenge involved obtaining input from participants who had attended legal and safeguarding trainings in the Republic of Moldova. Despite multiple invitations and reminders, participation in KIIs and FGDs remained low. Thus, only 13 individuals were interviewed in the Republic of Moldova, compared to 21 in Montenegro. This gap was partially mitigated by responses gathered through the online survey, which provided additional qualitative insights.
- ✓ **Uneven distribution of responses across countries in the online survey:** Although 71 stakeholders completed the survey, the distribution of responses was uneven. The majority of responses came from Montenegro (27), Georgia (25) and the Republic of Moldova (11). Other countries were minimally represented, with 6 responses from Ukraine, and only one response each from Armenia and Azerbaijan. As mentioned above, this may be due to the fact that Phase I ended four years ago, and many professionals may have since changed positions or no longer recall the details of this particular project.
- ✓ **Limitations in including children and parents in KIIs:** Due to logistical and organisational constraints with regards conducting onsite interviews with children and parents, alternative data collection methods were employed. In Montenegro, post-training questionnaires facilitated by the implementing partner were used, and one online FGD with parents was held. In the Republic of Moldova, a child-friendly online survey was developed and distributed to children in collaboration with the implementing NGO.
- ✓ **Complications arising from project phasing:** Evaluating the project's impact was complicated by the differences between its two phases. For Phase II, the focus was on assessing whether anticipated outcomes had begun to materialise, while for Phase I, evaluators needed to determine the extent to which outcomes had been sustained and disseminated. This posed risks of under- or overestimating the project's overall effectiveness. The project team supported the evaluators by helping to set realistic expectations and by facilitating access to key stakeholders.
- ✓ **Limitations of the evaluation report:** The period of data collection for this evaluation concluded on 16 May 2025. Consequently, any activities, reports, or participant feedback received after this date were not included in the analysis. As Phase II of the project was not completed by the time of this evaluation, the findings may not fully capture the overall reach, effectiveness, and impact of the entire project. This limitation should be taken into account when interpreting the results.

Despite these challenges, mitigation strategies - such as close collaboration with the project team, language support, and the adaptive use of context-sensitive methodologies - helped to ensure the evaluation remained robust and comprehensive. Any limitations in the validity or informative value of the findings for individual questions are pointed out in the results presentation.

4. Findings

In this chapter we present the key findings according to the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria Effectiveness, Impact, Efficiency, and Sustainability.

4.1 Effectiveness

The assessment of the EndOCSEA@Europe project's effectiveness bases on several key areas: the degree to which it has **increased awareness of OCSEA among children, parents, and educators** (4.1.1); **improvements within legal and judicial systems** (4.1.2); the emergence of **unintended outcomes** (4.1.3); and the role of **gender mainstreaming and a human rights approach** in contributing to the project's success (4.1.4).

4.1.1 *How effective have the awareness raising and prevention activities been in fostering a culture of vigilance and resilience against OCSEA, especially among children, parents and educators?*

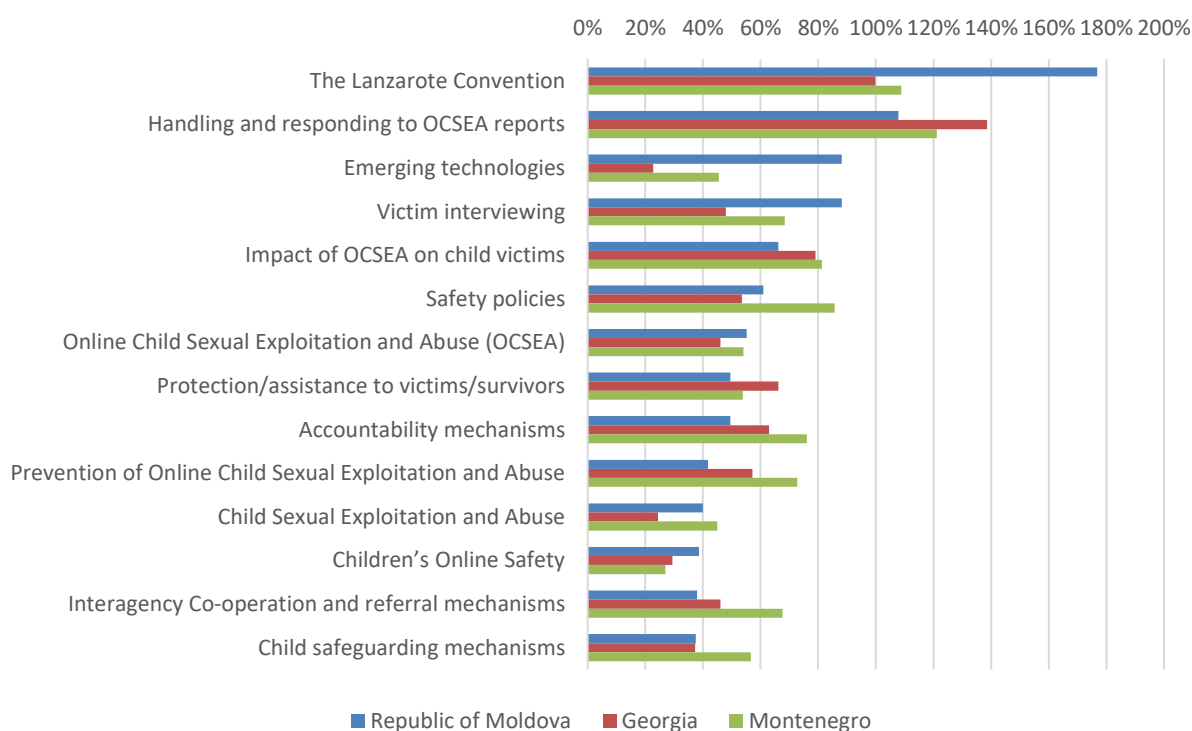
(1) Awareness-raising and prevention among frontline professionals

A central component of the project's prevention strategy focused on increasing awareness among professionals working with children (including educators). To this end, the project implemented targeted **Training of Trainers** (ToT) sessions on **safeguarding** and child protection for teachers, social workers, psychologists, and healthcare personnel. These sessions were conducted in the **Republic of Moldova** (October 2024) with 43 participants (41 female, 2 male), **Georgia** (November 2024) with 32 participants (29 female, 3 male), and **Montenegro** (February 2025) with 36 participants (30 female, 6 male) (DOC_133, DOC_139, DOC_146) (see 4.1.4. for more detailed information). Participants were selected through nomination by relevant ministries and institutions.

To evaluate the effectiveness of these trainings, participant feedback was collected through a combination of pre- and post-training questionnaires, an online survey, and interviews. Data from all three sources consistently indicate that the trainings led to measurable **improvements** in participants' **awareness** and **understanding of OCSEA-related issues**.

In the **pre- and post-training surveys**, conducted two weeks before and two weeks after the training, participants self-assessed their knowledge across 14 OCSEA-related topics using a scale from 0 ("no knowledge") to 5 ("very good knowledge"). To illustrate the relative increase in knowledge, the difference between the pre- and post-training scores was converted into percentage (see Figure 1).

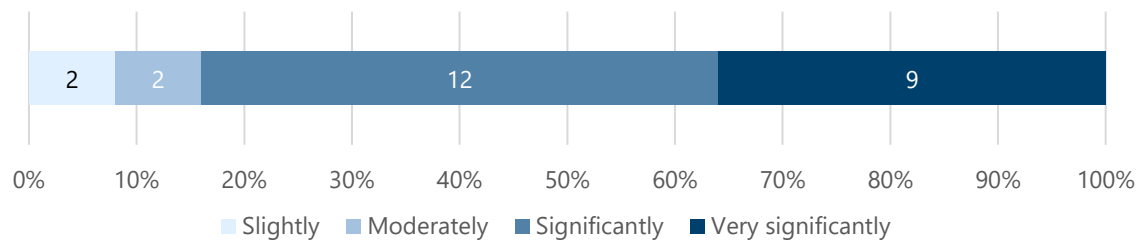
Figure 1: Increase in Safeguarding Knowledge Post-Training: Republic of Moldova, Georgia & Montenegro



Consistent knowledge gains were reported **across all topics**. The most significant increases occurred in areas where participants initially reported lower baseline knowledge - such as *the Lanzarote Convention* and *OCSEA reporting procedures* - highlighting the effectiveness of targeted training. In contrast, more modest improvements were seen in areas like *Online Safety* and *Child Safeguarding*, where participants started with higher levels of understanding, leaving less room for percentage growth. For example, knowledge of *Emerging Technologies* increased by 88% in Republic of Moldova (from 2.27 to 4.28), compared to 23% in Georgia (from 3.09 to 3.79), demonstrating how lower starting points allowed for greater relative progress. Smaller gains may also be attributed to the nature of the training, which was delivered as a ToT. As participants were already expected to possess a relatively high level of baseline knowledge, the more modest increases likely reflect the reinforcement of existing understanding rather than a lack of impact, and suggest that the training successfully targeted the appropriate professionals (see Annex 8.2.1 for detailed data).

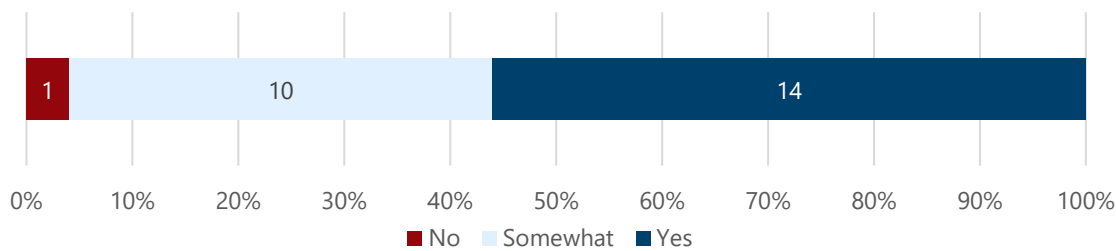
Online survey results support the positive findings from questionnaires. When asked whether their **knowledge of OCSEA** had improved as a result of the safeguarding training - rated on a scale from 1 ("Not at all") to 5 ("Very significantly") - 84% (21 out of 25) reported significant or very significant improvement. The remaining 16% reported moderate or slight improvement, and no respondents reported no improvement. These more moderate gains reported may also be attributed to participants' already relatively high baseline knowledge levels.

Figure 2: Improved knowledge on OCSEA (n=25)



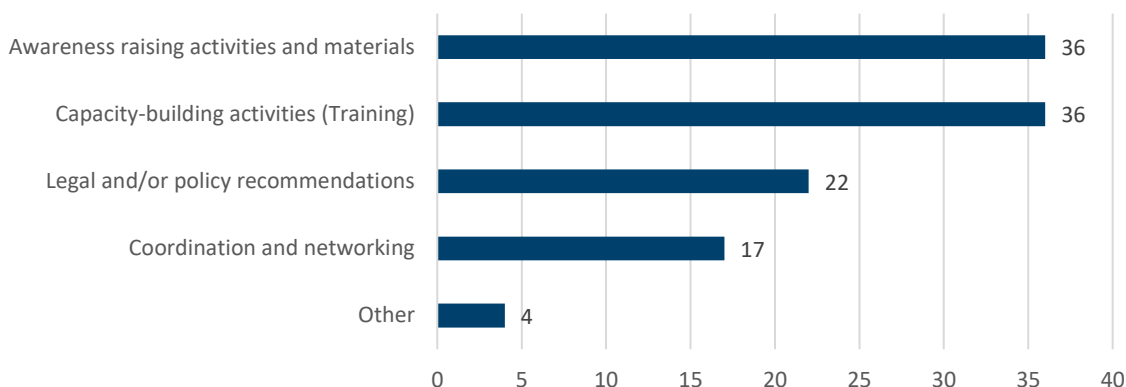
When asked whether the training improved their **confidence in identifying or responding to OCSEA cases**, 56% (14 out of 25) said “Yes,” 40% (10 out of 25) said “Somewhat,” and only 4% (1 out of 25) responded “No.” This indicates that 96% felt at least somewhat more confident as a result of the training. Participants from Georgia, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova reported that the training provided a clearer understanding of how online sexual exploitation manifests and particularly emphasised the value of acquiring practical knowledge on recognising signs and indicators of OCSEA, as well as learning about tools to identify and remove compromising content from online spaces. For instance, one participant from Georgia reflected: “When I have to work on similar cases, I now know certain mechanisms both for prevention and response. I received information about websites and organisations working in this field, learnt about prevention tools, and through concrete examples I deepened my knowledge.” In Montenegro, participants also stressed the importance of practical tools, as for instance links where unauthorised sharing of photos can be reported and stopped. Further feedbacks indicate increased confidence using the internet and a better understanding of the forms and signs of OCSEA, as well as a clearer insight into reporting and response mechanisms. Eventually, from the Republic of Moldova, a participant underlined the usefulness of the content, noting that “learning about recognising different OCSEA forms, as well as the offender profile, was really helpful.”

Figure 3: Increased confidence in identifying and responding to OCSEA (n=25)



Regarding the **most useful project components**, survey respondents could select multiple options. Capacity-building trainings and awareness-raising materials stood out as the most useful, each receiving 36 mentions. These practical tools were followed by legal and policy recommendations (22 mentions) and coordination/networking efforts (17 mentions). This pattern underscores that, while strategic frameworks are appreciated, practical implementation tools have the most direct impact.

Figure 4: Most useful project activities for your institution (n=57)



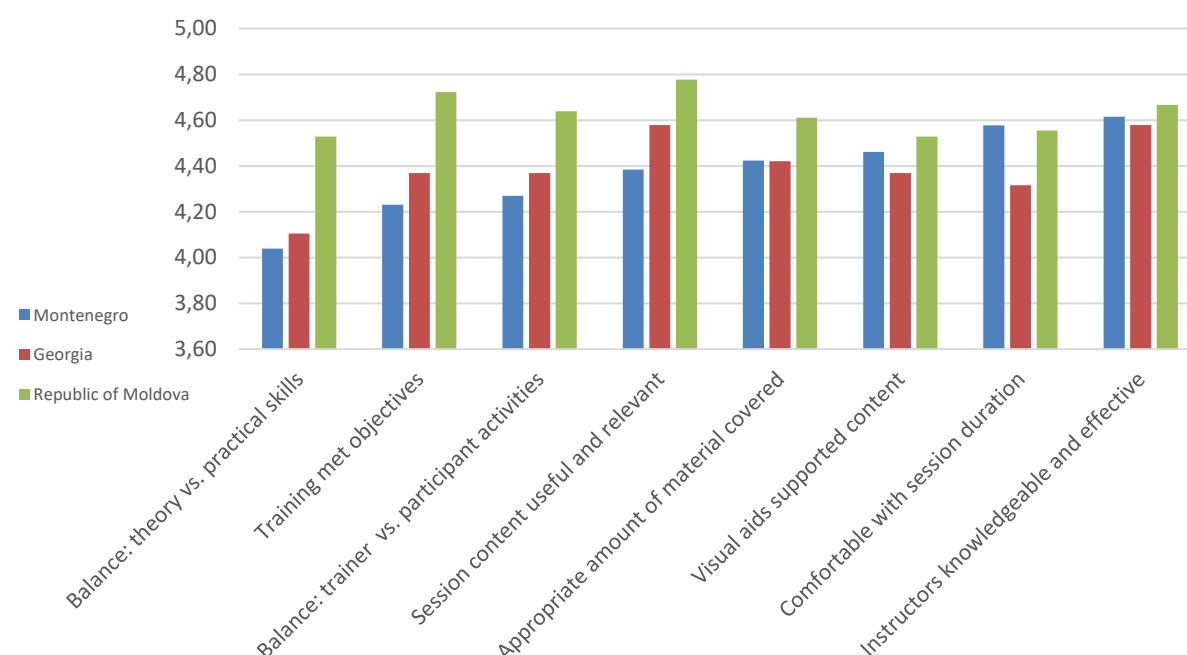
Feedback from participants - both from the online survey and the interviews - highlighted the training's strong **practical relevance**, noting increased awareness and clearer understanding of OCSEA forms, indicators, reporting channels, and response mechanisms. Practical tools - such as resources for reporting unauthorised photo sharing - were especially valued for supporting case identification and timely intervention (Online survey; INT_01, INT_06, INT_26).

Additionally, the Council of Europe developed and shared **practical factsheets for frontline professionals** as part of the safeguarding training in each country. These specific factsheets provide clear guidance on recognising signs of sexual abuse, whether physical, psychological, or behavioural, as well as on reporting procedures and appropriate responses to affected children. In the Republic of Moldova, these factsheets, along with the safeguarding training module, have been made publicly available on the Ministry of Education and Research website².

While all training participants appreciated the **practical relevance and interactive delivery** of the sessions, some interviewees suggested that incorporating more real-life scenarios, specific case studies, and clearer guidance on responding to concrete situations would have further improved practical applicability (Online survey; INT_01, INT_05, INT_19, INT_27). Including more examples of positive outcomes could also reinforce key messages and build practitioner confidence (INT_01). One interviewee in Republic of Moldova noted that having a large group made it difficult to maintain engagement and cover all material effectively, and suggested that more small group activities with tailored, hands-on case studies or interactive exercises, such as roleplays, could have improved participant engagement and active participation (INT_21). Additionally, three interviewees highlighted that site visits or peer exchanges, particularly in countries with well-established practices in addressing child sexual exploitation and abuse, would help participants see how theory is applied in real-world contexts (INT_01, INT_21, INT_22). This is also reflected in the pre- and post-training questionnaires, where participants rated their satisfaction with training content and delivery on a scale of 1 to 5. While overall ratings were very high, the balance between theory and practice received the lowest satisfaction scores across all three countries (Figure 4; see Annex 9.2.3 for detailed data).

² For further information, see: <https://mecc.gov.md/ro/content/siguranta-copiilor-internet>

Figure 4: Satisfaction with training content and delivery



Many participants also noted that the training helped **reduce stigma** surrounding OCSEA, encouraged **more open dialogue** about online risks among professionals, parents, and children, and strengthened their **ability to recognise and respond to incidents**. In that vein, one participant from Montenegro stated: “People are more open and aware. There is no longer stigma around these topics, and transparency has increased. People are now more willing to openly discuss these issues, which is a significant positive change. Awareness is key, and it’s important that this process continues” (INT_26). Another interviewee from Georgia concluded that the training enabled a professional debate on the topic that supports awareness-raising and building the capacity of professionals, agencies, authorities, [and] the people within these agencies (INT_16). These qualitative insights underline the training’s effectiveness not only in building knowledge but also in shifting attitudes and improving practical response capacities (INT_01, INT_05, INT_06, INT_19, INT_26, INT_28).

Trainers and participants alike highlighted the value of the training in bringing together professionals from different sectors to **foster intersectoral dialogue** and **enhance collaboration** and response efforts. All training participants acknowledged the importance of these connections, as hardly any of them had interacted with professionals from other sectors before (Online survey; INT_05, INT_9, INT_10, INT_18, INT_19, INT_21, INT_25-27, INT_30, INT_34, INT_37). In that regard an interview partner noted: “[...] In the training for frontline professionals, people were raising the fact that they are never gathered together. In particular, social workers and teachers, although working in the same field, [...] realised it was the first time they had the opportunity to speak with their counterparts, and they discovered information that they should have already known from them” (INT_10). By fostering a collective sense of shared responsibility, emphasising that everyone has a role in noticing and reporting suspicious behaviour, joint multidisciplinary training sessions have contributed to fostering a culture of vigilance.

Several participants reported that they had already **shared their knowledge** with peers and applied their knowledge by conducting additional workshops and sessions for other professionals and children, highlighting the training’s wider impact beyond individual learning (Online survey; INT_01, INT_05, INT_06, INT_26). Highlighting a positive example, one interview participant from the Republic of Moldova stated: “[...] Yesterday we saw a post from a teacher who had attended our training. She conducted an activity with her students and thanked us for our support [...]. It’s great to see these

kinds of results” (INT_23). Notable outcomes also included the formation of protection teams in children’s homes and the integration of OCSEA topics into school curricula in Montenegro (INT_01, INT_07, INT_28). In this context, one training participant from Montenegro stated that she had shared the results and knowledge from the training with her colleagues and also organised a seminar for 15 secondary school students, mostly from rural areas. The seminar focused on avoiding the sharing of sensitive content online, recognising early signs of online violence, and using free online services to stop the distribution of nude or sexually explicit images of minors while remaining anonymous (INT_01). When asked whether peers and children are aware of these websites and platforms and whether they have already used them, she stated: “[...] Both sides are very much aware of platform, which they use to protect themselves” (INT_01), demonstrating a proactive and practical approach to online safety in applying knowledge gained into practice.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that joint training sessions in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro contributed to creating a culture of vigilance and resilience among professionals by fostering a collective sense of shared responsibility and knowledge, making participants more aware of, and more alert to, early signs of grooming, manipulation, or online abuse, while emphasising that vigilance is a responsibility shared by all. This translated into practical actions, such as the safe use of digital platforms and routine conversations with children about online interactions. The training improved frontline professionals’ expertise and confidence in responding to and reporting OCSEA cases, promoted institutional knowledge-sharing, and laid the foundation for strengthened intersectoral collaboration. Collectively, these outputs contributed to **Intermediate Outcomes 2 and 3 of Phase I**, as well as **Output 4.1.1** and **Immediate Outcome 4.1 of Phase II** (see 5.5).

(2) Awareness raising and prevention among children and parents

Alongside Council of Europe-led training, the project supported awareness-raising initiatives through a **grant scheme** in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro implemented by local NGOs. Due to data availability, participant feedback was analysed only from the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro. Overall, the findings suggest that the workshops not only increased knowledge but also encouraged **dialogue, critical thinking**, and **proactive behaviour** among adolescents.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the Child Rights Information Center (CRIC) conducted awareness activities with 155 professionals (152 female, 3 male) and 153 parents (149 female, 4 men), and held a 2.5-day training for 21 adolescents (15 female, 6 male) on topics such as abuse myths, consent, and online safety. Initially planned for a national audience, the training expanded to include Calarasi’s educational community and parents after a teenage pregnancy case prompted a request from the District Department of Education (DDE). CRIC’s workshops built on an existing prevention program, and the DDE appointed a liaison to coordinate with the project and local schools. The project adopted a holistic approach targeting teachers, parents, and children. Adults were trained to recognise online sexual exploitation, prevent risks, communicate sensitively with children, and report cases. Children learned about online abuse, risk prevention, reporting mechanisms, and self-defence skills. The project concluded with an online campaign for teenagers, developed with adolescent input to address their needs and challenges within the education system. Although aimed at youth, the campaign materials are also suitable for adult education in child-friendly formats. To raise awareness, CRIC shared posts on Facebook and Instagram featuring project activities, participant quotes, and partner logos to ensure visibility and acknowledge collaborations (DOC_163).

To gather feedback from children, a child-tailored survey was distributed via CRIC and completed by 15 participants in the Republic of Moldova. Responses showed strong results: 73% felt much more informed on how to recognise and respond to OCSEA, and 86% knew where to seek help and had shared what they learned with friends and family. Participants valued learning about consent, recognising abuse, the subtle nature of online harm, and the importance of speaking up. For example, one participant emphasised: “The most useful thing I learned was that no matter what happens, I must not stay silent! I must speak up and report cases of abuse, whether in society or if I am the victim, the case must be reported!” Many participants highlighted that the most interesting part of the workshop

was understanding different forms of abuse and early detecting behaviours that indicate sexual abuse, distinguishing between flirting and sexual abuse, and learning what consent means. One participant noted that this was interesting because (s)he actually did not know what it meant. Another reflected: “I learned that it’s very important to pay attention to how people treat me, both online and in real life, and that if someone does something I don’t like or that scares me, I must immediately tell a trusted adult.” Others described the differences, categories and subtleties of abuse, such as abuse of power (financial power, manipulation stemming from intellectual power and the victim’s vulnerability, etc.). Another participant highlighted that (s)he learned to distinguish between flirting and harassment, and in general, how consent works, when it can be given and when it does not apply. Real-life stories shared during the workshop were especially impactful, helping them feel better prepared to stay safe both online and offline. As one participant commented: “The most interesting things were the stories shared by other people and [...] abuse prevention information”.

In interviews, several professionals working with children confirmed that educational sessions led by former safeguarding training participants helped increase children’s awareness of online threats and available support services for online abuse (INT_01, INT_19). In that sense, one safeguarding professional from the Republic of Moldova stated that children would be more aware of the available services and know where to turn for help. While it would be hard to say if the number of cases has increased, it would be obvious that children are better informed and more prepared to ask for help when needed (INT_19). A notable example is a competition organised by La Strada Moldova, which encouraged creative exploration of online safety ideas and proactive behaviour among adolescents (INT_07, INT_23). One interview respondent highlighted: “This initiative also helped strengthen partnerships, not only between professionals but also with the students themselves. It demonstrated how children can be meaningfully included in these projects. It wasn’t just about professionals supporting the initiative; it was about empowering young people to actively contribute to online safety in a real and impactful way” (INT_23). These initiatives enhanced children’s understanding of online risks and protective behaviours through active engagement.

In **Montenegro**, the NGO Juventas, conducted two workshops with 40 children and youth, of which one was attended by 16 primary school students (5 female, 11 male) and the other by 24 high school students (13 female, 11 male) from a local youth centre, as well as sessions for 13 professionals (10 female, 3 male) and 18 parents (17 female, 1 male).³ The project team collaborated with two trainers specialised in IT science who have significant experience working with children and youth. Together, they developed a workshop program tailored for elementary and high school students, parents, and professionals working with children. Participants were selected through an open online call, with invitations and communication shared via Juventas’ social media channels. Additionally, visuals promoting the workshops were published on various web portals and parenting or school groups to maximise outreach and encourage broad participation. Furthermore, the project created brochures on online safety for both children and parents, as well as two storytelling videos to promote the project and raise awareness about online safety. All materials were distributed and promoted through Juventas’ and the Council of Europe website, social networks, and school groups. Additionally, the project gained visibility through media appearances on national TV stations (DOC_171).

When asked to provide feedback on the workshop, all primary school students reported 100% satisfaction, highlighting social media safety, data privacy, and practical examples. Furthermore, nearly 80% of high school students rated the sessions as excellent or very good, valuing discussions on social media influencers, group work, and online safety strategies, and expressing strong interest in further workshops. Responses from both, primary and high school students, indicated that they found the practical, real-life advice for instance about the use of personal data by Instagram and other social media very helpful. Eventually, most students highlighted the importance of the training in providing

³ Note: Minor inaccuracies may have occurred, as gender information was transcribed from handwritten participant lists.

information on how to use social media, the impact of influencers on their audience and how to protect oneself in online spaces.

Parents reported greater awareness and interest in digital parenting, particularly regarding monitoring online activity, using privacy settings, and applying parental controls. Similar to the students, they emphasised the importance of discussing how personal data is used on social media platforms such as Instagram, ways to protect themselves and their children online, and new information on identity theft and data protection. Some parents shared brochures in communication groups such as Viber, where additional parents expressed strong interest (10 to 15 requested training). One participant also reported that she had provided consultations and facilitated a workshop at a children's home to raise awareness about online risks, thereby amplifying the impact of the sessions (INT_06, INT_07, INT_30). All interviewed parents noted that they had not been aware of these topics before the training but had since discussed them with their children. Many also expressed a need for more frequent and practical workshops.

However, in addition to these positive findings, respondents also mentioned various **challenges** regarding middle- and long-term effectiveness.

- ✓ Despite the reported progress, many initiatives lacked continuity and institutional anchoring, limiting long-term impact (INT_05, INT_06, INT_22, INT_28). Activities were often short-term or one-off, without follow-up or integration into systems. Awareness gaps persist, particularly among parents, some educators, and rural or marginalised groups (INT_01, INT_02, INT_07, INT_22, INT_27, INT_28), while the perception that online risks are less serious than offline threats further undermine prevention (INT_23).
- ✓ Efforts largely targeted professionals, with less consistent engagement of children and parents (INT_08, INT_09, INT_10). Innovative tools like chatbots and digital platforms were introduced but not widely adopted (INT_08).
- ✓ Reporting and response systems remain weak. Institutional readiness is limited, and inadequate police responses risk discouraging victims (INT_07, INT_23). Broader scale-up is constrained by fragmented coordination, resource gaps, and reliance on external funding (INT_06, INT_22, INT_76, INT_99).
- ✓ Most activities focused on awareness-raising without sufficient investment in long-term prevention or resilience. While professionals report increased awareness, many still struggle to respond effectively to OCSEA cases (INT_01, INT_02, INT_04, INT_06, INT_26, INT_27).
- ✓ A co-ordinated, systemic approach, supported by national institutions and tailored to reach vulnerable groups, is essential for building lasting protection and resilience (INT_06, INT_22, INT_32).

In terms of creating a culture of vigilance and resilience, the findings indicate that the ToT conducted for safeguarding professionals by the Council of Europe, together with workshops delivered by local NGOs, has fostered awareness among teachers, caretakers, social workers, psychologists, parents, and children. This has made participants more alert to early signs of grooming, manipulation, and online abuse, and has been reflected in the adoption of practical measures such as the use of digital platforms, routine conversations with children about online interactions, and fostering early detection and prevention. Parents and safeguarding professionals reported increased confidence in using internet platforms, greater awareness of risks associated with social media, and a stronger capacity to talk to children about these issues, creating a safe environment where children feel comfortable disclosing sensitive experiences. Children similarly reported feeling more confident in distinguishing between flirting and harmful behaviour, understanding boundaries and the concept of consent, using reporting mechanisms and blocking tools, and knowing where to seek help. They also highlighted the importance of speaking up and turning to responsible adults when facing threats. This highlights that workshops and approaches that addressed the issue in a child-friendly way for children, youth, and parents serve

as important preventive measures and should continue to be implemented at the local level, in schools and communities.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that awareness-raising efforts by local NGOs in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro successfully enhanced knowledge and awareness, fostered dialogue, and encouraged proactive online safety behaviours among children, parents and frontline professionals, contributing to **Output 4.1.2** and **Immediate Outcome 4.1** of **Phase II** (see 5.5).

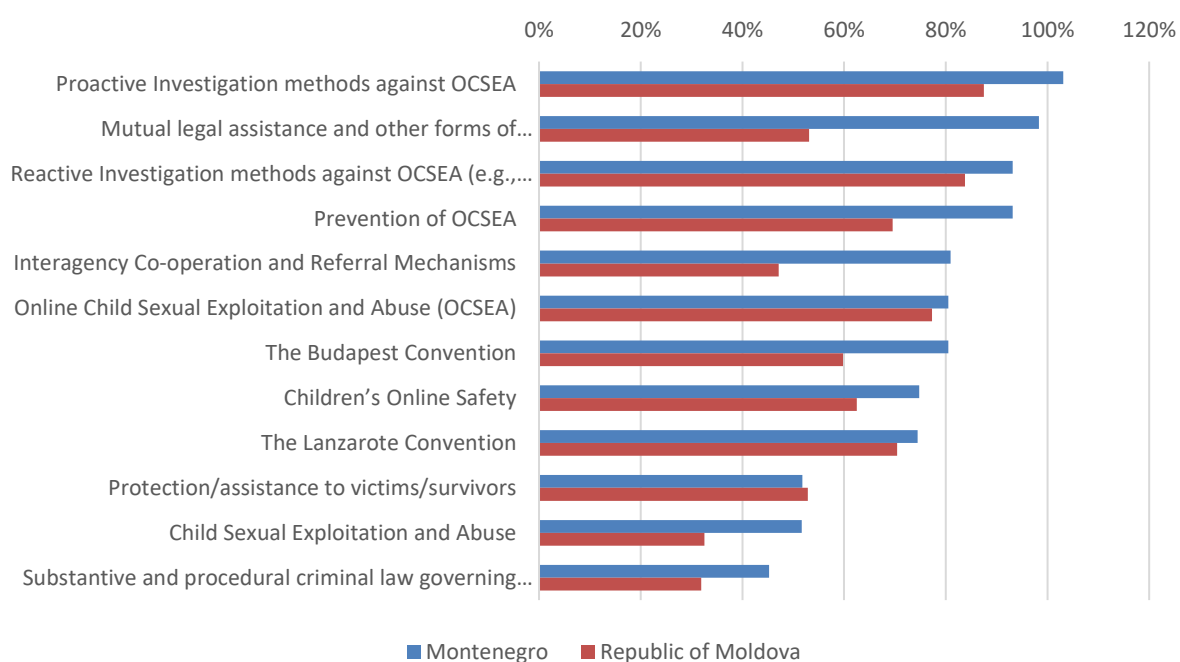
4.1.2 *What measurable improvements have been made in law enforcement and judicial systems in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting OCSEA cases?*

To strengthen institutional capacities within law enforcement and judicial systems, **legal trainings** were piloted by one international and national consultant (all female) in the **Republic of Moldova** (October 2024) with 46 participants (29 female, 17 male), including 19 police officers, judges, 10 prosecutors, 7 staff members of the Child Protection Agency, 1 Government Official and 1 lawyer, and in **Montenegro** (December 2024) with 30 participants (16 female, 14 male), including 16 police officers, 2 judges, 8 prosecutors and 4 government officials. These sessions targeted judges, prosecutors, police officers, child protection officers, and lawyers, equipping key stakeholders with knowledge on investigation methods, victim support, and referral mechanisms related to OCSEA (DOC_111, DOC_119) (see 4.1.4. for more detailed information). For this purpose, training materials for legal professionals were developed, consisting of modules on: substantive and procedural criminal law, proactive investigation, reactive investigation, and the protection of child victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings. Participants were selected through nominations by relevant ministries and institutions.

Similar to the safeguarding training, the effectiveness of these legal trainings was assessed through pre- and post-training questionnaires, an online survey, and interviews. All sources reported a clear **educational impact**, with participants demonstrating improved knowledge in the **identification**, **investigation**, and **prosecution** of OCSEA cases.

In the **pre- and post-training surveys**, conducted two weeks before and two weeks after the training, participants self-assessed their knowledge across 12 OCSEA-related topics using a scale from 0 (“no knowledge”) to 5 (“very good knowledge”). In line with Figure 1, the difference between pre- and post-training scores was converted into a percentage to illustrate the gains in knowledge (Figure 4).

Figure 5: Increase in Legal Knowledge Post-Training: Montenegro and Republic of Moldova

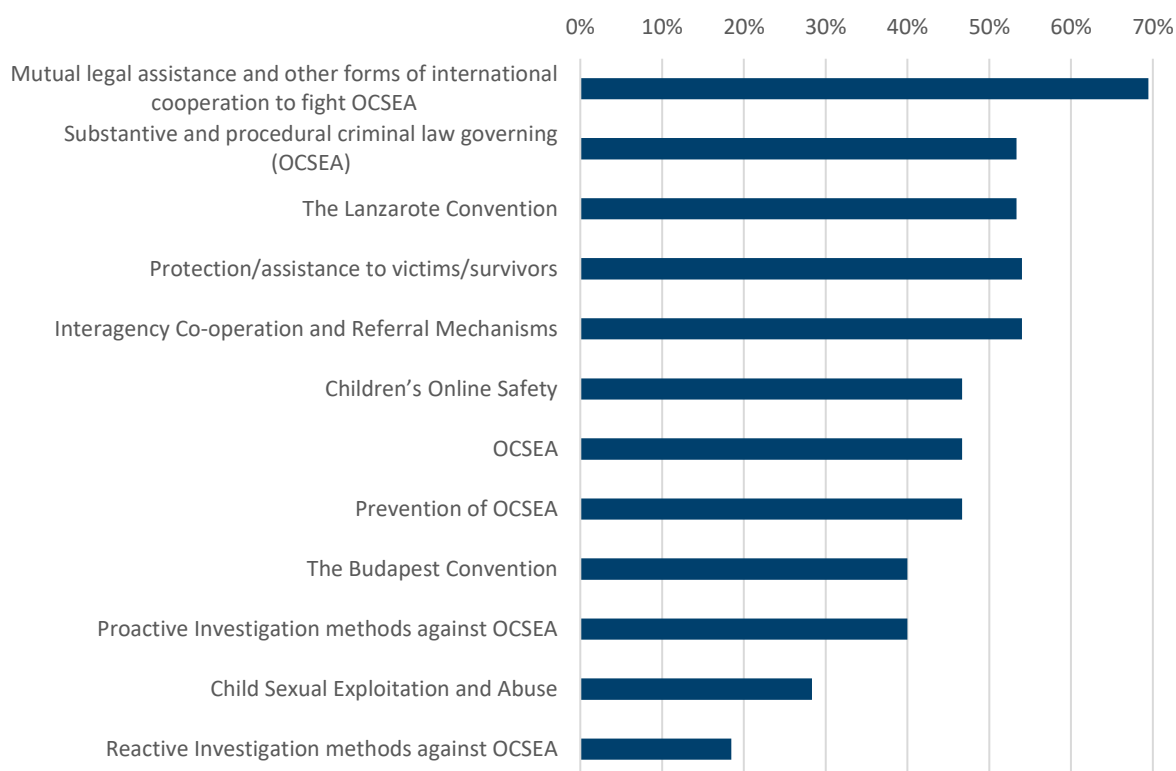


As with the safeguarding training, legal participants also demonstrated **consistent knowledge gains across all topics**. Similarly, the most significant increases were observed in areas where participants initially reported lower baseline understanding - specifically, in *proactive and reactive investigation methods* related to OCSEA in both countries, as well as in *mutual legal assistance* and other forms of *international cooperation* to combat OCSEA in Montenegro. In contrast, the smallest gains were noted in areas where baseline knowledge was already high, such as *substantive and procedural criminal law* governing OCSEA and *child sexual exploitation and abuse* (See 8.2 for detailed information).

The legal trainings conducted in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro demonstrated strong effectiveness across multiple dimensions, significantly enhancing **participants' knowledge, professional expertise**, and readiness to address OCSEA in a **multidisciplinary, victim-centered manner**. In both countries, all participants confirmed that the training contributed to gaining new insights, while the vast majority reported it also helped them refresh previously acquired knowledge and develop techniques or responsibilities for future roles - highlighting the relevance and quality of the content and delivery.

Participants frequently identified **key takeaways** such as *victim protection, prevention of online child sexual abuse, digital evidence collection, and international and inter-institutional cooperation*, including familiarity with frameworks such as the *Budapest and Lanzarote Conventions*. The emphasis on practical application, including investigation methods, collaboration with information providers, and victim rehabilitation, was particularly impactful. Interactive sessions allowed participants to engage actively, contextualise learning within their national frameworks, and expand professional networks.

Figure 6: Knowledge gain of trainers after ToT- legal training in Montenegro



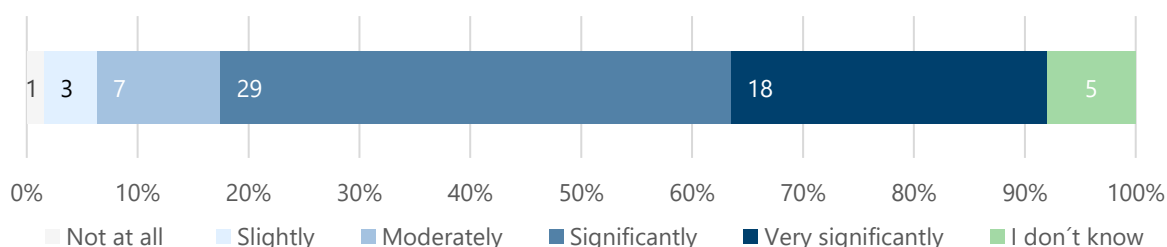
Additionally, a **legal ToT** session was held in **Montenegro** (May 2025) with 17 participants (10 female, 7 male) bringing together three prosecutors (1 female, 2 male) and three judges (2 female, 1 male) from the Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution; nine law enforcement personnel (7 female, 2 male) from the Ministry of Interior, and two court-appointed forensic examiners (both male) who recently founded the NGO *Zastiti.me*, intended to serve as the national hotline (DOC_215). With

the goal of equipping trainers with a comprehensive understanding of substantive and procedural criminal law provisions, proactive and reactive investigation methods, victim support procedures and services, and interagency cooperation, participants received training in online investigative techniques, digital evidence collection, and trauma-informed approaches to interviewing child victims (INT_36, INT_35, DOC_119, DOC_111). The training achieved its objectives, with participants giving **highly positive feedback**, particularly valuing its practical approach, and reported gaining new knowledge, refreshing existing expertise, and expanding their professional networks (DOC_215). All respondents planned to use the training materials to **teach others** and felt well prepared to do so, indicating strong potential for **broader institutional impact**. One participant noted: “We received a lot of information, both criminal and material important for the subject area, as well as very high-quality guidelines for acting as a coach.” Two additional ToT sessions took place in Republic of Moldova on 24–25 June 2025 and in Georgia on 16–17 July 2025. However, findings from these sessions are not included in the evaluation, as the data collection phase had already finalised when the ToT sessions took place. By **strengthening of law enforcement and judicial professionals’ capacities** to transfer their knowledge to colleagues, this train-the-trainer model has supported sustainability, while the involvement of national experts has ensured contextual relevance (INT_36, INT_35).

This positive feedback is further supported by data from the **online survey** conducted with institutional stakeholders across six participating countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine). But as mentioned in chapter 3.2. response rates varied across questions due to the non-mandatory nature of some items.

When asked about the **project’s contribution to strengthening national capacities**, 75% of the 63 survey respondents rated it as significant (29) or very significant (18). The strongest endorsements came from Georgia and Montenegro, where legal professionals, educators, and law enforcement representatives reported deep engagement with project activities. In contrast, only one respondent from Azerbaijan perceived no impact, and no data was provided for this question by Armenia.

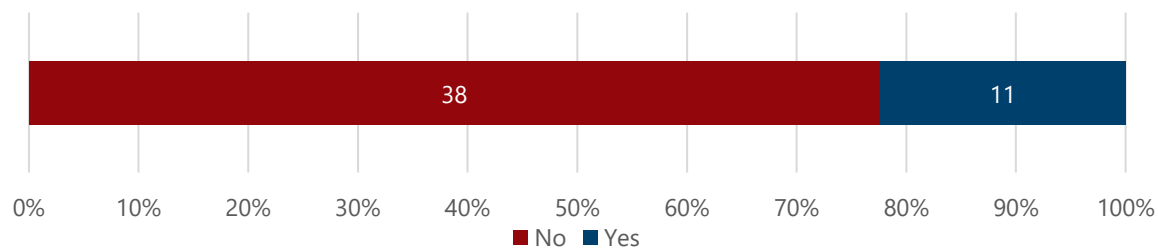
Figure 7: Project activities’ contribution to strengthening national capacities (n=63)



When asked about **concrete institutional or policy-level changes**, the majority of respondents (38 out of 49) had not yet observed systemic transformation. However, 11 respondents (22%) reported changes that they attributed directly to the project, offering compelling examples:

- ✓ In **Georgia**, a regional office disseminated training knowledge internally, reinforcing inter-professional cooperation among social workers, legal professionals, and psychologists.
- ✓ In **Montenegro**, project brochures were distributed in schools as part of awareness efforts.
- ✓ In the **Republic of Moldova**, multiple developments were noted, including digital education initiatives, increased public awareness, and improved coordination between law enforcement and child protection (Online Survey).
- ✓ In **Ukraine**, the project contributed to a shift in public discourse around OCSEA and supported tailored law enforcement training, an especially relevant achievement given the context of wartime disruption.

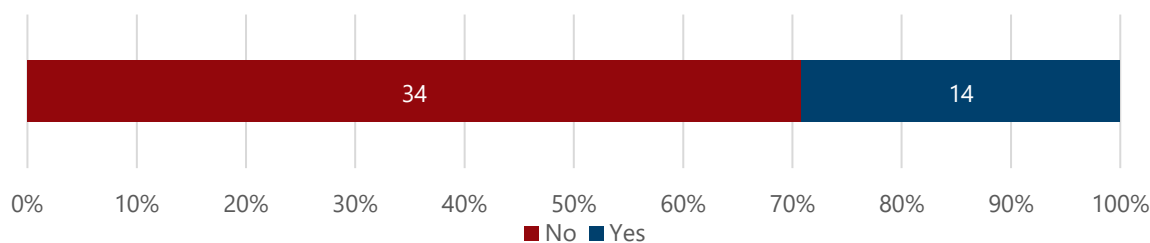
Figure 8: Institutional or policy changes (n=49)



When asked about emerging **best practices in OCSEA response**, such as notable successes in prosecution, prevention, or victim support that could inform initiatives like EndOCSEA@Europe, 14 out of 49 respondents (29%) identified relevant examples:

- ✓ In **Georgia**, child victims accessed legal and psychological aid through NGO referrals, leading to successful criminal proceedings. Among others it was reported that one minor, subjected to a serious OCSEA-related crime, sought assistance from the organisation, which supported the initiation of prosecution against the perpetrator. The victim was formally recognised and now receives both legal and psychological services. The local NGO Partnership for Human Rights has played a key role in enabling access to justice and is currently involved in a case where four children have been formally recognised as victims, highlighting civil society’s role in enabling access to justice.
- ✓ In **Montenegro**, initiatives such as blocking pornographic websites and deploying interactive multimedia content exemplify proactive, culturally adapted prevention strategies. Workshops for children and peers have provided access to platforms for anonymously reporting and removing sensitive content, which colleagues have already applied (INT_01). Additionally, launching school campaigns targeting children and parents (e.g., the campaign “Be Safe Online”), that use simple language, practical examples, and multimedia content (videos, social media, interactive workshops) have proven effective in raising awareness among children and young people. Another example given by a respondent is that in national practice, state prosecutors in Montenegro often exceed their working limitations through dedication, supporting victims, encouraging persistence in legal processes, and fostering confidence in reporting OCSEA cases.
- ✓ In the **Republic of Moldova**, stakeholders recommended adopting the Barnahus approach and dedicated digital investigation units, suggesting a strategic vision for long-term systemic transformation. As a result, the government approved in June 2024, for the first time, standards for hearing rooms under special conditions for children.

Figure 9: Notable successes in OCSEA prosecution, prevention, or victim support for best practices (n=48)



Evidence from project documents and interviews indicates that significant strides have been made across various countries in strengthening law enforcement and judicial systems to better address OCSEA, with improvements evident in **legislative reforms, capacity building, inter-agency coordination, victim-centered approaches, and data systems**.

Countries such as Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, and Ukraine have shown important developments to adapt their national legislation, policy and practice to be aligned with the

Lanzarote Convention and have enacted **substantial legislative changes** aimed at closing legal gaps in OCSEA-related offenses. These include the introduction of new criminal code provisions addressing grooming, online sexual abuse, and the production and dissemination of child sexual abuse material (DOC_198, INT_17, INT_23, INT_36).

- ✓ For instance, in the **Republic of Moldova**, the government approved standards for hearing rooms under special conditions for children who are victims or perpetrators of crimes in June 2024, and adopted an action plan to ensure the protection of children from online risks and promote a safe digital environment in October 2024. Additionally, the SigurOnline hotline joined the INHOPE network in 2023 and became a full member in 2024 (DOC_198, INT_23).

Figure 10: Council of Europe Input and Policy Developments in the Republic of Moldova



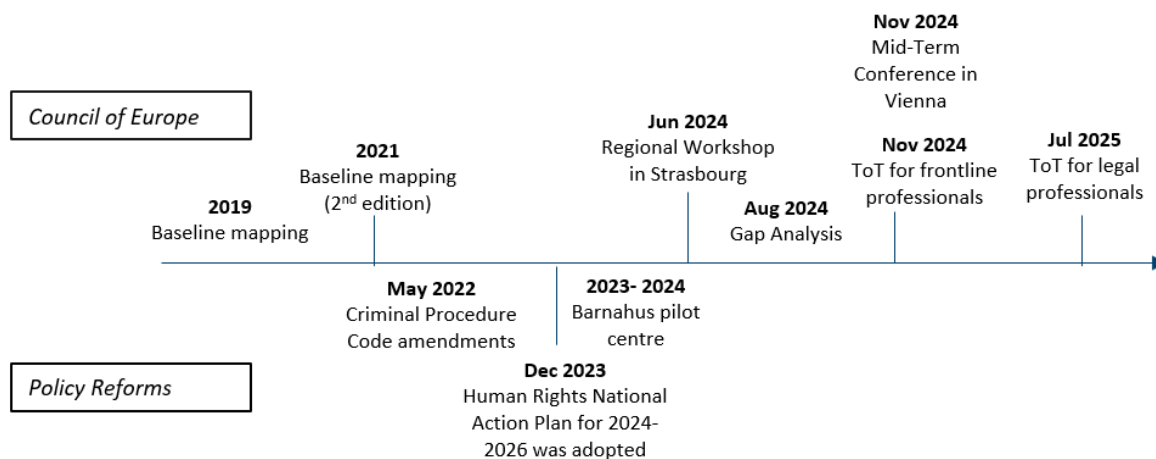
- ✓ **Montenegro** has aligned its legal framework with the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions. Amendments to the Criminal Code in December 2023 introduced a new offence, violation of special surveillance measures (Article 211d), punishable by a fine or up to one year of imprisonment, aligning with international standards on sex offender registration and management. In April 2024, the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Interior established a Task Force composed of prosecutors, police, and ministry representatives, with an expanded mandate to combat human trafficking and people smuggling. That same month, the Deputy Prime Minister announced the introduction of the Barnahus Model with support from the Council of Europe, UNICEF, and the EU. In May 2024, the judiciary, government institutions, child support centres, and NGOs signed an Agreement on mutual cooperation to strengthen the protection of women and children from human trafficking. Additionally, the project team coordinated with the Disrupting Harm initiative to ensure coherence, as both projects conducted gap analyses for Montenegro. Further progress followed in December 2024, when the government adopted the Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2025–2029, and a new NGO *Zastiti.me* was established to operate the national hotline for CSEA cases and join the INHOPE network (DOC_198, INT_04, INT_02, INT_29).

Figure 11: Council of Europe Input and Policy Developments in Montenegro



- ✓ In **Georgia**, the Government of Georgia adopted the Human Rights National Action Plan for 2024–2026 in December 2023, setting a goal to strengthen timely and effective responses and prevention mechanisms against violence toward children, particularly in caregiving and educational settings, to ensure violence-free spaces.

Figure 12: Council of Europe Input and Policy Developments in Georgia



- ✓ In **Ukraine**, the government adopted Law No. 1256-IX in 2021, which strengthened Ukraine's child protection framework by criminalising the sexual exploitation of children in accordance with the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Convention.
- ✓ In **Armenia** the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse was signed in May 2020 and entered into force in January 2021. Furthermore, the country implemented comprehensive reforms to its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, with the aim to strengthen the legal framework for protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including online offenses.

Efforts to improve **inter-agency coordination and cooperation** between law enforcement, prosecutors, and child protection agencies have been initiated in several countries. The Republic of Moldova has established a state-level coordination committee for implementing the Lanzarote Convention (INT_ 33). Multidisciplinary approaches are increasingly recognised as necessary, though institutional fragmentation still poses challenges (INT_ 30, INT_ 21, INT_ 20).

Furthermore, measurable progress has been made in implementing **victim-centred procedures and child protection measures**, including child-friendly approaches during investigations and prosecutions. Republic of Moldova and Montenegro have introduced special interview rooms in courts and police stations to reduce trauma (INT_ 30, INT_ 28), and first-interview protocols aim to minimise repeated

testimony (INT_ 30). The Barnahus model⁴, which offers integrated services in a safe setting for child victims, is under exploration or early implementation in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro (INT_ 14, INT_ 15, INT_ 28). Moreover, professionals such as psychologists and social workers have received specialised training to enhance support for victims (INT_ 19, INT_ 24).

Initiatives to improve **data collection and offender monitoring** have started to emerge, including the establishment of OCSEA offender registries in Montenegro (INT_ 28, INT_ 04). Despite these efforts, many interviewees cited continued data management gaps, which hinder effective monitoring and policy development (INT_ 03, INT_ 21).

While these developments mark substantial progress, **challenges** persist:

- ✓ Fragmentation and limited coordination among institutions (INT_ 30),
- ✓ Insufficient funding and lack of sustainable capacity-building structures (INT_ 02),
- ✓ Limited data systems for tracking trends and measuring intervention success (INT_ 03, INT_ 21),
- ✓ The rapidly evolving nature of digital technologies, which necessitates continual adaptation in law enforcement practices.

The project led to measurable knowledge gains and reported improvements in awareness among law enforcement and judicial professionals in Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, through targeted legal trainings on OCSEA-related topics such as investigation, victim-sensitive practices, and international cooperation. The project's baseline assessments, gap analyses, and technical assistance, helped identify legal and procedural gaps, inform legislative drafting, and align national frameworks with the Lanzarote and Cybercrime Conventions. Complementary other initiatives influenced these reforms. While feedback from the interviews and the online survey indicate that the project contributed to legislative and policy reforms in the focus countries, these changes were also informed by initiatives of other international and regional actors. For example, UNICEF published the report "Ending online child sexual exploitation and abuse" in 2021, highlighting lessons learned and promising practices in tackling OCSEA.⁵ The Safe Online funding mechanism generated evidence for legislative and operational changes⁶ and together with the Tech Coalition has supported projects related to online child grooming, detection, and caregiver awareness through the Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund launched since 2020.⁷ ECPAT International together with La Strada and the WeProtect Alliance published a national report and briefing paper on including OCSEA survivor's perspectives in Moldova in 2021.⁸ Furthermore, the OSCE, together with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) and in partnership with the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior and the Police Directorate organised a two-day regional conference "Countering online Child Exploitation in Southeast Europe" in 2022.⁹ Additionally, INHOPE and national hotlines such as Moldova's SigurOnline and Montenegro's Zastiti.me have begun to operationalise reporting mechanisms. In 2020, the EU launched a comprehensive EU framework addressing online and offline child sexual abuse EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse (2020–2025).¹⁰

⁴ **Barnahus** ("Children's House") is a child-friendly, multidisciplinary model for responding to child sexual abuse, providing co-ordinated services—investigation, protection, medical care, and therapy—under one roof to minimise trauma and support prosecution. (Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), "The Barnahus model," <https://www.barnahus.eu/en/the-barnahus-model/>)

⁵ UNICEF, *Ending Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children* (2021), <https://www.unicef.org/media/113731/file/Ending-Online-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Abuse.pdf>

⁶ Safe Online, *Annual Report 2023* (2023), <https://safeonline.global/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Annual-report-Safe-Online-2023-V5.pdf>

⁷ For more information, see: <https://safeonline.global/tc-safe-online-research-fund-2/>

⁸ ECPAT International. *Moldova: National Report*. (2021), <https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/04-11-2021Moldova-National-Report-EN-FINAL.pdf>

⁹ For more information, see: <https://www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro/525234>

¹⁰ For more information, see: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/spotlight-JD%2023-24/file-eu-strategy-to-fight-child-sexual-abuse?utm_source=chatgpt.com

4.1.3 *Are there any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) that have emerged as a result of the project?*

Beyond the project's primary objectives, interviewees noted a range of **unintended but only positive outcomes**:

- ✓ The project played a key role in fostering **more open discussions** around the previously taboo topic of OCSEA. In countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, stakeholders reported a shift toward greater willingness to engage in dialogue on this sensitive issue with stakeholders being candid about the challenges they face (INT_31, INT_34).
- ✓ This openness coincided with **increased stakeholder commitment and ownership**, as national consultants and civil society organisations voluntarily contributed time and resources beyond the project budget, driven by their strong belief in the initiative's importance (INT_10).
- ✓ While establishing trust was initially challenging, the project succeeded in **building strong relationships with its national/local counterparts** over time. This growing trust significantly enhanced cooperation and the quality of engagement throughout the project lifecycle (INT_13).
- ✓ An important yet unintended achievement was the successful **engagement of local internet and mobile service providers** in the Republic of Moldova. These entities were brought into the broader movement against online violence during the early phase of the project, which helped raise awareness and foster their involvement in prevention efforts (INT_14).
- ✓ As the project progressed, increased demand for specialised OCSEA expertise led national counterparts to request that the Council of Europe recommends additional experts for various sessions, demonstrating the project's role in **expanding the expert network** and elevating national interest and capacity in this field (INT_13).
- ✓ Training materials have been used in **other Council of Europe initiatives** beyond those funded by Safe Online and are being adapted for use in additional countries, including Morocco and Tunisia, as well as in ongoing Council of Europe projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Council of Europe, personal communication, May 30, 2025). Notable examples include a ToT session for 21 social workers and resource officers from various regions of Georgia under the project "Combating Violence Against Children in Georgia"¹¹, and a training delivered in Mauritius under the project "Global Action on Cybercrime Enhanced (GLACY-e)"¹².

4.1.4 *To what extent the Council of Europe's gender mainstreaming and human rights approach contributed to the success of the Project?*

The Council of Europe demonstrated a strong commitment to gender inclusion, e.g., by adopting practical tools, such as gender-sensitive language in materials and communications (INT_12, INT_33), and tailoring training content to reflect the distinct vulnerabilities and risks faced by both girls and boys in the context of OCSEA (DOC_63, DOC_198). Furthermore, female participation was consistently high across both phases of the project, including activities such as baseline mapping, gap analysis, and training module development, where women played key roles. High levels of female engagement were also evident in events such as conferences and steering committee meetings and during interviews, where over 85% of participating stakeholders were women. Furthermore, regional gender advisors supported the teams during planning and implementation (INT_20).

Additionally, efforts were made to encourage gender balance among training participants, and gender-disaggregated data was systematically collected during all trainings conducted by the Council of Europe (INT_12, INT_33). However, while the project made explicit efforts to encourage gender-balanced participation, existing gender disparities were evident in certain professional fields. For instance, women were overrepresented in trainings related to social work and education, whereas law

¹¹ For more information, see: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi/combating-violence-against-children-in-georgia>

¹² For more information, see: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/glacy-e>

enforcement and judiciary sessions tended to be more balanced (INT_12, DOC_198). Figures 10, 11 and 12 illustrate the gender distribution of participants by professional category: safeguarding training participants in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro (Figure 10), legal training participants in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro (Figure 11) and training participants of legal ToT training in Montenegro (Figure 12).

Figure 13: Gender distribution of Safeguarding training participants

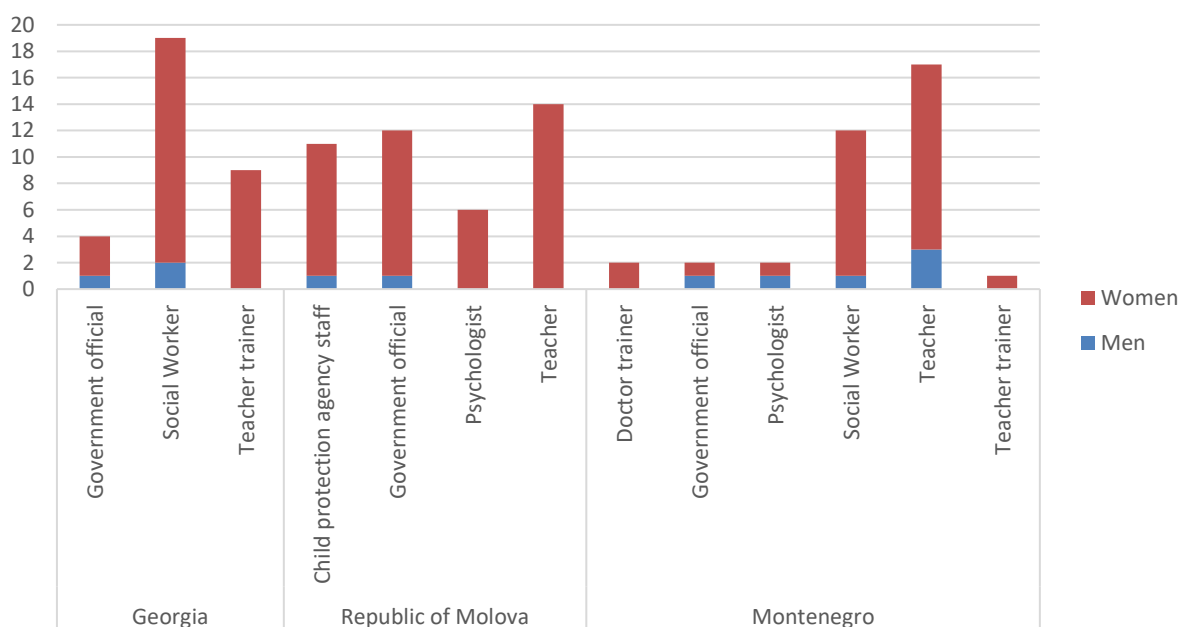


Figure 14: Gender distribution of Legal training participants

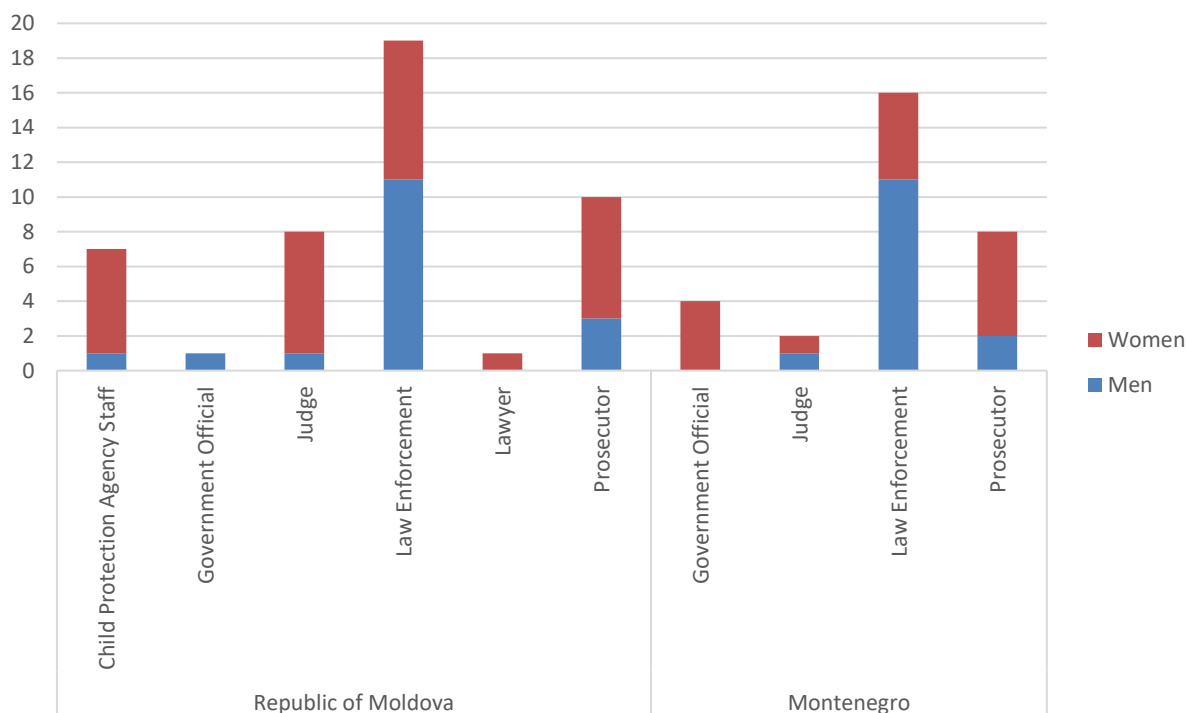
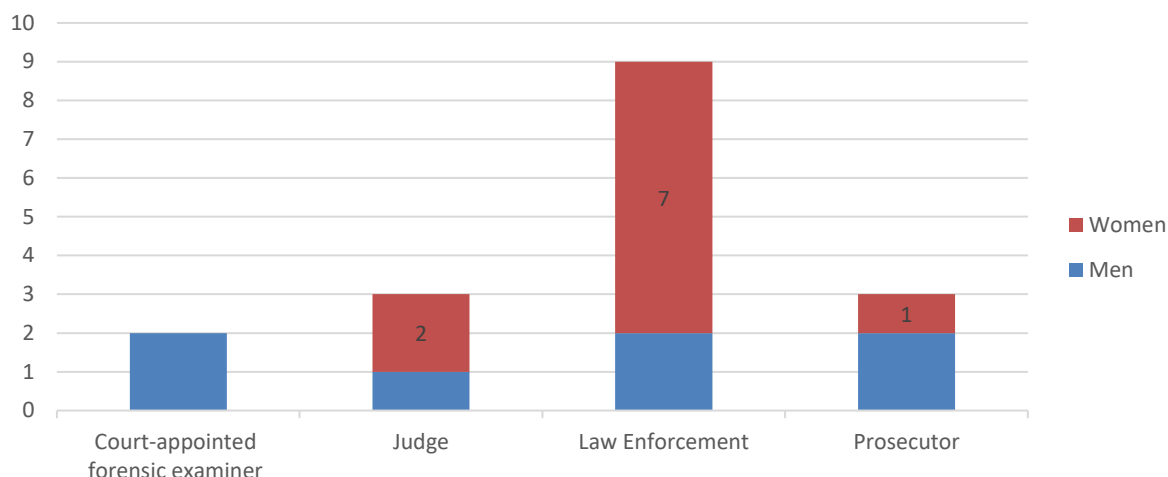


Figure 15: Gender distribution for legal ToT training in Montenegro



However, while gender considerations were integrated in certain areas, such as tailoring training content, systematically collecting gender-disaggregated data, and ensuring strong representation of women participants, these efforts were not fully embedded across all stages of the project. Mainstreaming is evidenced by analysis-informed design, adapted delivery, and gender-responsive M&E; high female participation is supportive but not sufficient on its own. At the design stage, a formal gender analysis was not conducted, and no gender-related outcomes/lessons were systematically captured or used to inform adaptive measures. So, while the project demonstrated gender sensitivity it lacked a clearly defined gender component [INT_12] and therefore cannot be considered fully gender-mainstreamed.

In parallel with its gender efforts, the project was grounded in a robust **human rights framework**. This approach was visible in the prioritisation of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, particularly toward children as rights-holders. Activities such as workshops with parents of children with disabilities (DOC_189, INT_32) and the development of accessible, child-friendly educational materials (DOC_198) **demonstrate the practical application of the Council of Europe’s human rights commitments. Vulnerable groups were consistently engaged**, and mechanisms for feedback and civil society participation were established to strengthen responsiveness and trust (INT_12, DOC_198). These elements helped build trust and ensured that the project remained responsive to the needs of these groups. However, while the approach aimed to be inclusive and non-discriminatory, the lack of disaggregated data on disability and social inclusion made it difficult to fully assess whether the project reached all groups equally or addressed diverse needs effectively. This gap in data limited the ability to evaluate the full scope of inclusion and whether all vulnerable groups received the support they required.

4.2 Impact

The impact of the EndOCSEA@Europe project is assessed on the basis of the **impact that Phase I of the project had on child protection against OCSEA** (4.2.1.), how **legislative reforms and policy recommendations have influence on national legal frameworks and policies related to OCSEA** (4.2.2.) and to what **extent cross border co-operation and co-ordination among the Council of Europe member states** have been improved (4.2.3).

4.2.1 What impact has the Phase 1 of the project had on the protection of children from OCSEA in the focus countries?

While the full impact of Phase I (2018–2021) varies across countries and remains difficult to quantify, available evidence suggests it laid a strong foundation for more effective responses to OCSEA. The phase successfully **identified critical gaps, aligned national efforts** with Council of Europe standards, and addressed **legal, policy, and institutional shortcomings**. It also developed **foundational training**

resources and laid the foundation for **multi-stakeholder collaboration**. These efforts created an enabling environment that positioned participating countries for more co-ordinated, impactful, and sustainable interventions in Phase II (for further discussion on policy and legislative changes, please see chapter 4.2.2).

Key results of Phase I include:

- ✓ A key achievement of Phase I was the development of a strong evidence base to better understand and respond to OCSEA, addressing the long-standing challenge of limited and fragmented data on this issue. Through comprehensive baseline mapping conducted across 47 Council of Europe member states, the project provided an extensive overview of existing responses, institutional capacities, and systemic gaps in tackling OCSEA. This was further strengthened by detailed gap analyses in three focus countries and comparative reviews in all CoE member states, which allowed for a nuanced understanding of national contexts and informed the tailoring of interventions. These assessments served as a **foundation for evidence-based planning** and **guided the design and implementation of Phase II activities** (DOC 3, DOC 17, DOC 49, DOC 62, DOC 63, DOC 86).
- ✓ Member states were supported in **aligning their national legislation and policy frameworks with international standards**, particularly the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions. Using findings from the analyses, country-specific recommendations were developed based on Council of Europe standards and the WeProtect framework (DOC_192). This approach facilitated **targeted support** for legal and policy reforms, which combined with the efforts of other regional and international initiatives, led to tangible institutional changes in several countries. For instance, the Republic of Moldova adopted a new online safety action plan, while Montenegro updated its national strategy on violence against children (INT_10, INT_12).
- ✓ Country-specific recommendations, based on Council of Europe standards and the WeProtect Model National Response, guided targeted reforms. These efforts were reinforced by complementary initiatives from UNICEF, the EU, ECPAT, and other partners promoting child-friendly justice, digital safety, and coordinated responses. As a result, the Republic of Moldova adopted a new online safety action plan, and Montenegro updated its national strategy on violence against children.
- ✓ **Capacity building** was prioritised through the development and piloting of specialised training modules and materials for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other frontline professionals (INT_31, INT_10; DOC_6, DOC_63). These formed the basis for training sessions in countries such as Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro, which were well received and, in some cases, integrated into national institutions to support sustainability (INT_12, INT_10, INT_31, INT_34). The materials have also been used in other Council of Europe initiatives beyond Safe Online-funded activities, including a ToT in Georgia under the project “Combating Violence Against Children in Georgia” and a training in Mauritius under the “Cybercrime- GLACY-e” project, and are being adapted for use in countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, **extending the project's reach** beyond its initial focus (see 4.1.3).
- ✓ In order to **raise awareness** of OCSEA user-friendly educational tools and materials, such as the “So, this is sexual abuse?” booklet and Kiko resources, were developed and widely disseminated reaching children, parents, and professionals (DOC_62, DOC_192). Sub-grants to local CSOs expanded outreach, contributing to increased use of national reporting hotlines linked to the INHOPE network (INT_10, INT_37). These efforts strengthened societal understanding, promoted safe online behaviour, and supported early identification of OCSEA cases (DOC_198, INT_8).
- ✓ Phase 1 laid the foundation for stronger **transnational cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration** by engaging key stakeholders right from the beginning of the project, through a regional launching conference, steering committee meetings, and a series of comparative reviews and validation workshops. These platforms facilitated the development of national protocols, strategies, and risk assessments, fostering a **shared understanding of OCSEA-related threats** and the exchange of best practices (DOC_63, DOC_73, DOC_198). Engagement with bodies like the Lanzarote and Cybercrime Convention Committees aligned efforts with **broader European**

responses (DOC_198, INT_34), enhancing interagency communication, strengthening cross-border ties through **networks** like INHOPE and WeProtect, and contributing to more coherent and coordinated national policy development in the fight against OCSEA (DOC_198, INT_34, INT_33, INT_37; DOC_62).

4.2.2 *How have the legislative reforms and policy recommendations supported by the project influenced national legal frameworks and policies related to OCSEA?*

The **gap analyses** identified deficiencies in areas such as substantive and procedural criminal law, victim support, offender management, and public awareness (DOC_17, DOC_19, DOC_20), and directly informed legal amendments and national policy planning to align with international commitments.

- ✓ In **Ukraine**, the analysis (2019) identified the absence of offenses such as grooming and accessing child sexual abuse material, along with weak proactive policing of online spaces. These findings were reflected in the Council of Europe's draft Law No. 3055, published on 30 September 2020 and adopted on 18 February 2021, which criminalised grooming and related offenses, thereby closing key legal loopholes (DOC_20; INT_36).
- ✓ In **Azerbaijan** and **Armenia**, the analyses (2019) encouraged comprehensive legislative reviews leading to the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention in December 2019 in Azerbaijan¹³ and in May 2020 in Armenia¹⁴ (DOC_17, DOC_19, DOC_73).

For **Montenegro**, while the legal framework was comparatively advanced, the project identified institutional weaknesses, particularly in strategic coordination and victim support services. Recommendations included adopting the Barnahus model, the introduction of which was announced in April 2024 with support from the Council of Europe, UNICEF, and the European Union (DOC_198). Complementary initiatives, such as the WeProtect Model National Response framework, reinforced the project's recommendations by promoting multidisciplinary cooperation and child-friendly procedures. While the general elements of the offences in the Criminal Code of Montenegro are broadly consistent with the definitions set out in the Lanzarote Convention, an amendment in December 2023 introduced a new criminal offence (violation of special surveillance measures, Article 211d), with the proposed measures aligning with international standards on sex offender registration and management (DOC_198). According to several interview partners from Montenegro, these developments were driven by efforts increasingly directed at strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing readiness, and fostering multidisciplinary cooperation (INT_2; INT_28; INT_30; INT_32). In the **Republic of Moldova**, the gap analysis (2024) informed the development of the National Child Protection Plan 2022–2026¹⁵, approved in October 2024, which strengthens child online safety and demonstrates the recommendations' influence on policy planning (INT_12). Additionally, in terms of policy changes, the project has encouraged the participating countries to start **collecting performance data** on victim support for child victims and witnesses of OCSEA-related crimes (INT_34). This is an important step in ensuring that the support services for these vulnerable children are effective and responsive to their needs.

Beyond legislative reform, the project played a central role in **institutional capacity building** by developing and delivering training modules on OCSEA, interagency cooperation, and electronic evidence handling (DOC_198, DOC_111, DOC_43, DOC_73) for legal professionals, law enforcement, and judicial actors. It also facilitated national reviews of training programs in countries such as Armenia

¹³ Council of Europe, "Azerbaijan Ratifies Convention to Protect Children against Sexual Violence," 19 December 2019, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/baku/-/azerbaijan-ratifies-convention-to-protect-children-against-sexual-violence>

¹⁴ Council of Europe, "Armenia Completes Ratification of Lanzarote Convention," 7 September 2020, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/armenia-completes-ratification-of-lanzarote-convention>

¹⁵ INHOPE, "Moldova Strengthens Child Online Safety with New National Protection Plan," 2 October 2024, <https://www.inhope.org/EN/articles/moldova-strengthens-child-online-safety-with-new-national-protection-plan>

and Ukraine. These assessments highlighted gaps in existing resources and informed the development of adaptable, scalable training materials aligned with international standards for broader use across Council of Europe member states (INT_12):

- ✓ In **Ukraine**, national training strategies and materials for prosecutors and the judiciary were reviewed and improved (DOC_28).
- ✓ In **Armenia**, the review of law enforcement training programs led to the development of new resources on OCSEA and electronic evidence (DOC_25).
- ✓ At the **regional level**, pilot modules were developed and tested, along with guidance notes and factsheets to support professionals in applying the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions (DOC_1, DOC_48).

A key strength of the project was its **inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach**, engaging government authorities, law enforcement, judiciary, social services, and civil society throughout all phases - from gap analysis to training and policy development. The active participation of national stakeholders ensured that legislative and policy reforms were **context-specific, comprehensive, and aligned with national priorities**, and that recommendations were not only adopted but also owned and sustained by national actors (INT_12, INT_29, INT_36):

- ✓ In **Republic of Moldova**, broad stakeholder engagement ensured that recommendations from the gap analysis were reflected in the new national action plan on online safety (INT_12).
- ✓ In **Ukraine**, close collaboration with legislative and institutional actors supported the adoption of new OCSEA-related laws (INT_36).
- ✓ In **Montenegro**, inclusive engagement strengthened institutional readiness and informed strategic-level reforms, including efforts to adopt the Barnahus model (INT_2, INT_29, INT_30, INT_32).

In conclusion, the findings indicate that the project strengthened national responses to OCSEA by identifying systemic gaps, building an evidence base, aligning national frameworks with Council of Europe standards, supporting legal and policy reforms and laying the foundation for sustainable institutional change in Phase II. These efforts contributed to **Intermediate Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 of Phase I**, as well as to **Outputs 4.1.3, 5.2.1, and 5.2.2 of Phase II** (see 5.5).

4.2.3 How has the project contributed to improving cross border co-operation and co-ordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA?

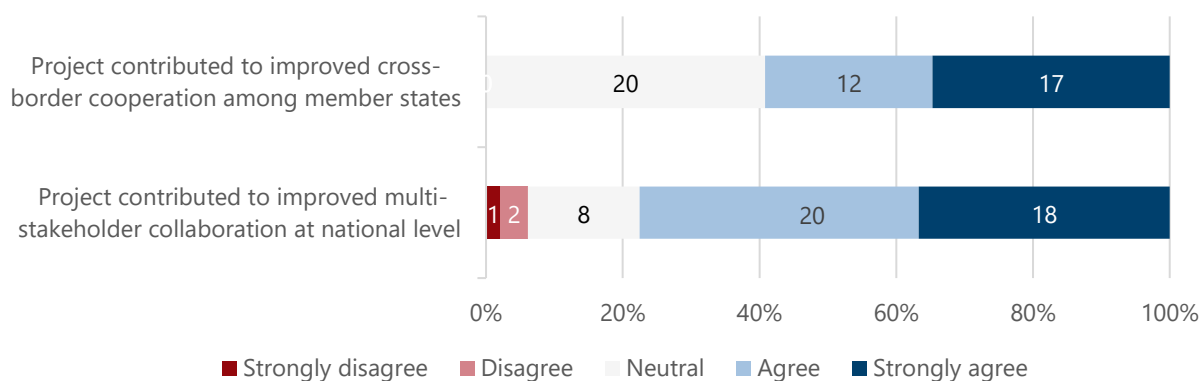
One of the project's central mechanisms for fostering **regional collaboration** has been the **Steering Committee**, which brings together national coordinators from the different focus countries. This forum has enabled continuous exchange of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned, thereby promoting mutual learning and network building (DOC_8). At the national level, **National Advisory Boards** formalised multi-stakeholder collaboration and played a key role in adapting project activities to local contexts (DOC_198), while also participating in key regional events such as the Lanzarote Committee's capacity-building session on emerging technologies held in Vienna on 5 November 2024. Additionally, the project also organised **regional workshops and conferences** that convened stakeholders from across member states to jointly address challenges, share successes, and exchange methodologies for combatting OCSEA, ensuring the inclusion of relevant key stakeholders throughout all phases from the outset (INT_10, INT_12, INT_32, INT_34). In addition, direct bilateral exchanges - such as between Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova - further supported cross-national learning and enhanced cross-border coordination (INT_28). However, while regional engagement and indirect cross-border impacts were evident, direct cross-border collaboration within the project activities was limited (INT_34), and this is a potential area for future enhancement, such as facilitating joint investigations, formalised bilateral cooperation, or real-time information-sharing systems.

The project promoted **multi-agency collaboration**, involving professionals across sectors such as law enforcement, judiciary, education, social work, and civil society (DOC_63, DOC_189). These collaborations not only improved **national coordination** but also laid the groundwork for **cross-border cooperation** by connecting institutions and professionals from different countries (INT_2, INT_20, INT_31). As noted in an interview, such cooperation was fundamental in building trust and mutual understanding necessary for effective international efforts (INT_29).

The project developed and implemented **training modules** for law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors in the focus countries, with a particular focus on electronic evidence, OCSEA investigations, and interagency cooperation (DOC_73). By providing these shared learning opportunities, the project helped build a **common understanding and response framework** (INT_12, INT_34, INT_36). Moreover, the training materials and resources have been shared more broadly within the Council of Europe, supporting **knowledge diffusion and policy consistency** beyond the core project countries (INT_12, INT_33). While legal training materials will remain unpublished due to their sensitive nature, safeguarding materials are available on the project website¹⁶ in English and Romanian, with Montenegrin and Georgian versions to follow. Although the multistakeholder training approach was highly appreciated by participants for both legal and safeguarding sessions individually, one focus group recommended organising a joint session that brings together frontline, legal, and law enforcement professionals from both streams to further strengthen cross-sector understanding and collaboration (INT_05).

Stakeholder feedback from the online survey supports these positive findings, indicating that the project **contributed to both national coordination and cross-border collaboration**, although some respondents did not agree or may not have had direct experience in these areas. Out of 49 respondents 29 (59%) agreed or strongly agreed that the project improved cross-border cooperation among member states, while 20 (41%) were neutral and none disagreed. Regarding the project's contribution to improving national-level multi-stakeholder collaboration, 28 respondents (57%) agreed or strongly agreed, 8 (16%) were neutral, and 3 (6%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Figure 16: Project contribution to cross-border cooperation and multistakeholder collaboration (n=49)

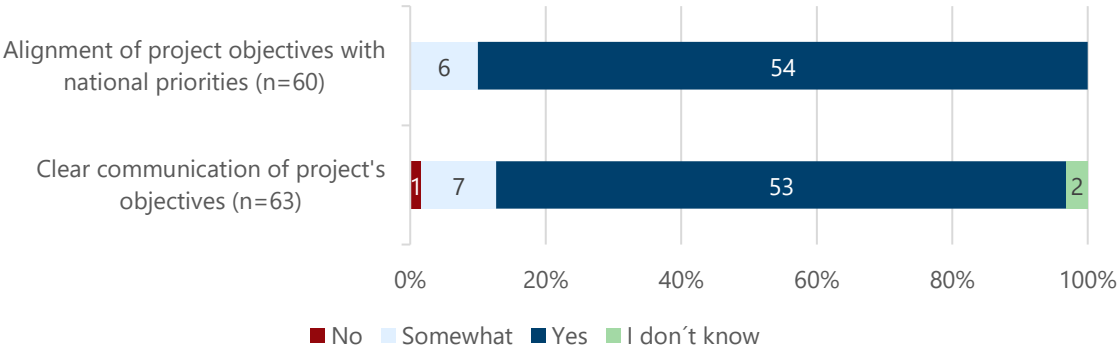


A critical foundation for effective cross-border cooperation lies in the **alignment of legal and procedural frameworks**. The project supported this through technical support and gap analyses aligned with international conventions such as the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions (DOC_192). By promoting legal harmonisation, the project helped to remove barriers to cross-border investigations and prosecutions, strengthened implementation of shared legal standards, and enabled better coordination and priority alignment through regional mechanisms such as Europol and Eurojust (DOC_1, INT_33).

¹⁶ For more information, see: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/endocsea-europe>

Reflecting this, out of 60 respondents to the online survey, 54 (90%) confirmed that the project objectives were aligned with national priorities, and 53 out of 63 respondents (84%) agreed that the project objectives were clearly communicated.

Figure 17: Alignment of project objectives with national priorities and communication



In conclusion, the findings indicate that the project fostered dialogue and cooperation at the European level through the Steering Committee and regional workshops and conferences, enabling cross-country exchange and network building, while National Advisory Boards strengthened national coordination and engaged in key regional events, such as the Lanzarote Committee’s capacity-building session—contributing to **Intermediate Outcomes 1, 2, and 3** of **Phase I** and **Output 5.2.2** and **Immediate Outcome 5.2 of Phase II** (see 5.5).

4.3 Efficiency

For assessing the efficiency of the EndOCSEA@Europe project, the evaluation team explored if there had been any **innovative approaches or ways of working that enhanced efficiency** (4.3.1.), and **challenges encountered during project implementation and mitigation strategies** (4.3.2.).

4.3.1 Have there been any innovative approaches or ways of working (including partnerships with other organisations and multi stakeholder collaborations) that enhanced efficiency?

A core innovation of the project was its emphasis on **cross-sector collaboration** among government agencies, NGOs, international organisations, and the private sector, enabling aligned efforts, resource-sharing, and reduced duplication (INT_12, INT_14, INT_33). Multidisciplinary training sessions brought together previously unconnected professionals from social and healthcare services, educational sector, as well as legal and law enforcement, to foster mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities (INT_34), while also promoting cooperation among ministries and organisations that had not previously collaborated (INT_12, DOC_1). Two notable examples from Montenegro illustrate this approach: first, an unexpected partnership emerged between the CEO of the UK Safer Internet Centre and a representative of a Montenegrin NGO, which is now being established as the Montenegrin Safer Internet Centre. Second, following a June 2024 Regional Workshop presentation by an INHOPE representative, the project encouraged Montenegro to establish the national OCSEA hotline. Later in 2024, the NGO *Zastiti.me* was set up, and the project supported its membership in INHOPE, and facilitated connections with other INHOPE member hotlines across Council of Europe states, integrating Montenegro into the broader international response network (INT_12) (see 4.2.1). Collaborations with organisations such as UNICEF, ECPAT International, ChildPact, and La Strada also added value by connecting national actors to global standards and research (DOC_1). While an inclusive and participatory approach was fostered and key stakeholders were engaged throughout the process, two stakeholders, despite being consulted at the beginning of the project, expressed a desire for more regular updates on the implementation of project activities (INT_28, INT_30). Additionally, one peer organisation working in the same field expressed regret that there was limited

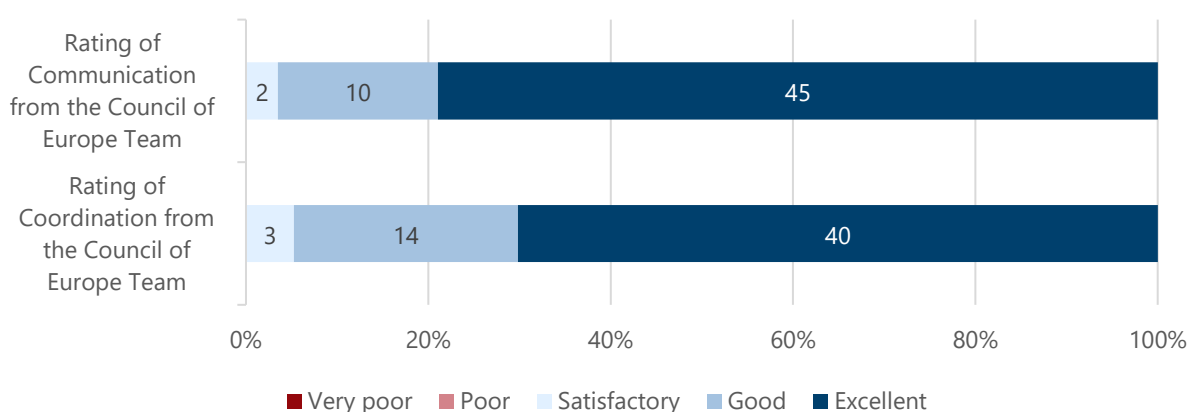
communication and noted that greater involvement would have helped avoid missed opportunities for synergy and enhanced knowledge sharing (INT_03).

The project adopted a **Training of Trainers (ToT)** approach, designed to enhance the project's efficiency and sustainability. By equipping selected professionals with specialised knowledge and facilitation skills, the ToT model empowered these individuals to become multipliers within their own organisations and networks (DOC_73, INT_01, INT_19, INT_26). This cascading effect enabled the wider dissemination of training content without requiring continuous direct involvement from the core project team, thereby maximising resource use and reach. Moreover, the ToT approach fostered local ownership and adaptability, as trainers could tailor sessions to specific contexts and emerging needs, ensuring that capacity-building efforts remained relevant and impactful beyond the project's duration.

The project adopted a **hybrid training design**, where international experts developed core content, which was then adapted by national consultants to fit the legal, cultural, and institutional contexts of each country (INT_10, INT_12). This ensured greater relevance and uptake of knowledge at the national level. Additionally, interactive training methodologies, including practical exercises and case studies, were integrated to engage diverse professional audiences and promote cross-sectoral learning (INT_9, INT_10).

Another strength was the **flexibility and responsiveness** demonstrated by the Council of Europe in adapting project timelines and activities in response to emerging challenges, notably the COVID-19 pandemic. In several interviews this adaptability was highlighted as critical to maintaining momentum and efficiency during periods of disruption (INT_12, INT_14, INT_33). Stakeholder feedback from the online survey reinforced this view: 45 out of 57 respondents rated communication from the Council of Europe team as excellent, 10 as good, and 2 as satisfactory, with no negative ratings. Coordination was also rated highly, with 40 respondents rating it excellent, 14 good, and 3 satisfactory (Figure 12).

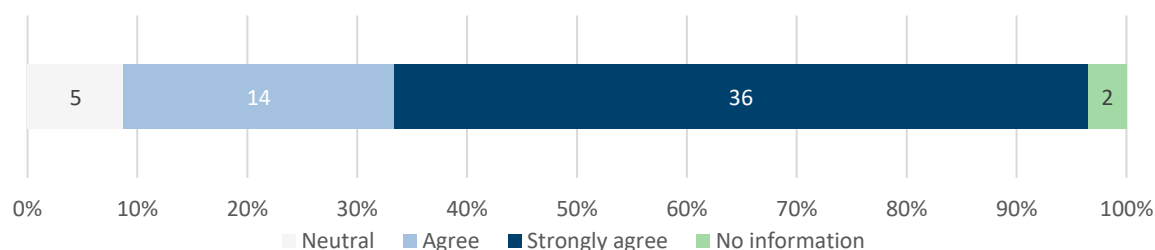
Figure 18: Collaboration with Council of Europe (n=57)



Furthermore, the majority of respondents felt that project resources - including time, expertise, and tools - were used efficiently and in a timely manner. Out of 57 respondents, 36 (63%) strongly agreed and 14 (25%) agreed with this statement. Only 5 respondents (9%) were neutral, and none disagreed,

reflecting a high level of confidence in the **project's resource management and operational efficiency** (Figure 13).

Figure 19: Efficient and timely use of project resources (n=57)



4.3.2 What challenges (e.g. health crisis, political instability, limited resources, sensitivity of discussions) have been encountered during the project's implementation and how have these affected progress toward project goals? How were the challenges mitigated, and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences for future programming?

The EndOCSEA@Europe project has faced a **range of complex challenges** - including global health crises, political instability, thematic sensitivities- that have affected the pace and effectiveness of implementation. Through adaptive strategies and local partnerships, the project continued to advance its objectives.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** posed significant logistical and operational challenges. Lockdowns and travel restrictions disrupted coordination, delayed in-person activities - including planned training sessions - and required a swift transition to online formats (INT_36; doc_73). This shift necessitated methodological adjustments to ensure continued engagement and effective delivery in the new virtual setting. Mitigation strategies included revising training content and delivery methods to suit virtual platforms, effectively enabling a shift to online formats. These adaptations helped maintain implementation momentum during lockdown periods (doc_73).

Political instability, such as the war in Ukraine, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and protests in Georgia, posed significant barriers by causing delays in approving key deliverables such as the gap analysis and implementing training activities. These shifts led to changing priorities and reduced receptivity to the project's goals, necessitating ongoing re-engagement efforts (INT_10, INT_11, INT_12; doc_91, doc_198). In contrast, countries like Republic of Moldova and Montenegro experienced fewer delays and greater institutional support (INT_11). Mitigation strategies included closely monitoring political contexts to adjust plans and timelines as needed, with national consultants playing a crucial role in maintaining institutional relationships and ensuring continuity amid political shifts (doc_198; INT_12, INT_33).

OCSEA is a deeply **sensitive issue**, often met with denial or discomfort in some countries, particularly among stakeholders in sectors like health who showed reluctance to acknowledge or engage with the topic (INT_10, INT_12, INT_32; doc_73, doc_77). Societal stigma and limited awareness further complicated stakeholder involvement. Mitigation strategies included tailored awareness-raising, contextualised communication, and practical recommendations to gradually create space for dialogue, reduce stigma, and foster engagement (doc_73, doc_77). Importantly, the project prioritised trust-building with key stakeholders and frontline professionals at the operational level, rather than focusing solely on high-level political advocacy (INT_12). This emphasis on trust and engagement was positively highlighted in interviews, exemplified by decisions such as not publishing the sensitive gap analysis (INT_28, INT_34).

Limited availability for trainings was reported by several interviewees, who cited low response rates to invitations and open calls - likely due to heavy workloads, particularly within the legal sector

(INT_18, INT_21, INT_02, INT_05). To address this, trainings were kept short (2–3 days) and supplemented with online materials to accommodate participants' time constraints.

Language and translation challenges created operational hurdles in all project countries, as training materials and discussions required adaptation into local languages (INT_9, INT_10, INT_12). To address this, local experts and interpreters were engaged throughout the training and implementation processes to revise materials and provide translation and interpretation support (INT_12, INT_33). While this approach successfully tailored training to country-specific needs, one interviewee mentioned that greater opportunities for involvement and input for local experts would have been appreciated (INT_37).

In conclusion, the findings highlight that the project's collaborative approach, strategic partnerships, and adaptability were key factors contributing to its overall **efficiency**. Innovative elements, such as a training-of-trainers (ToT) model, multidisciplinary and hybrid training formats, close monitoring of political developments, and strong stakeholder engagement, enabled the project to effectively navigate challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability, while remaining agile and consistently meeting its objectives despite ongoing disruptions.

4.4 Sustainability

The evaluation team assessed the sustainability of the project by examining the **likelihood that its interventions will be maintained beyond completion** and the **extent to which legislative reforms and capacity-building efforts are embedded within national systems** (4.4.1), and **how successful approaches and lessons learned can be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states** facing similar challenges with OCSEA (4.4.2).

4.4.1 To what extent are the project's interventions likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion? Are the legislative reforms and capacity building efforts embedded within national systems for long term impact?

The project has supported substantive **legislative changes** in the partner countries, aligning national criminal codes with international standards on OCSEA (INT_4; doc_2). These reforms demonstrate a foundational step toward sustainability. However, concerns remain around the **implementation and practical application** of the revised laws. Interviewees stressed that updated legal frameworks do not automatically translate into improved enforcement or judicial outcomes (INT_2, INT_29). Ensuring that legal reforms are operationalised through practice, training, and resource allocation remains a crucial area for future support.

Several positive examples of institutional uptake were highlighted, contributing to **Intermediate Outcome 1** of **Phase I**, as well as **Immediate Outcome 4.1** and **5.2** of **Phase II** (see 5.5):

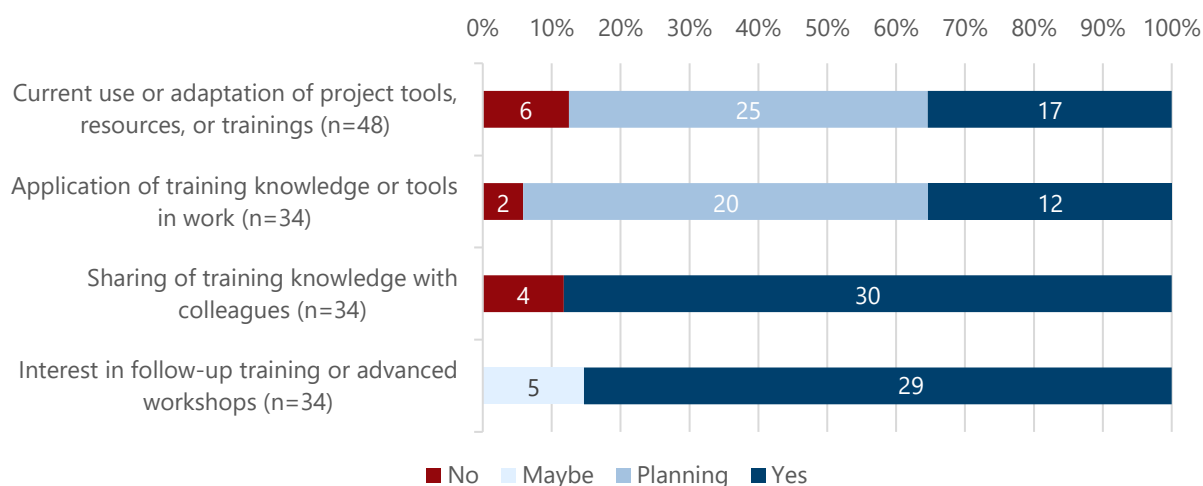
- ✓ **Republic of Moldova and Armenia** have incorporated regional project tools - such as investigation checklists and victim interview protocols - into their standard operating procedures, reflecting the adaptability and relevance of project resources at national level (INT_22, DOC_2, INT_33).
- ✓ In the **Republic of Moldova**, the government has actively institutionalised child protection tools through inter-agency protocols and routine procedures for prosecutors and social workers, reflecting deep structural integration of project outputs (INT_13, INT_27).

Capacity-building activities have been a cornerstone of the project and proved to be among its most **effective** and impactful components demonstrating adaptability and scalability, reinforcing their long-term value in addressing and combating OCSEA. Training initiatives and ToT sessions for professionals received strong positive feedback (INT_22, INT_33, INT_35; DOC_1, DOC_2), with early signs of institutionalisation and spillover effects emerging across several contexts, contributing to **Immediate Outcome 5.1** of **Phase II** (see 5.5):

- ✓ In **Armenia**, the project's training modules have been formally integrated into the curriculum of the Justice Academy, ensuring that future legal professionals receive systematic training on OCSEA and child protection (INT_16). In addition, legal training materials will be used by the CyberEast+ project during a training on OCSEA investigations and open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools, scheduled to take place in Yerevan from 18 to 20 June 2025 (Council of Europe, personal communication, May 30, 2025).
- ✓ In **Montenegro**, police and judicial professionals continue to utilise the project-developed training materials and case-based exercises. National institutions have shown interest in embedding these resources into standard professional education programmes (INT_12, INT_31).
- ✓ In **Georgia**, ongoing discussions about formal integration suggest a strong potential for future adoption within police education frameworks (INT_11, INT_36). Additionally, at the request of Georgian authorities, a further training session for the School of Resource Officers took place in June 2025. This session, using the project's safeguarding training materials, was organised by another Council of Europe initiative (Council of Europe, personal communication, May 30, 2025).
- ✓ In **Azerbaijan**, safeguarding training materials for frontline professionals have been translated into Azerbaijani by another Council of Europe project, with in-person training sessions planned for later this year.
- ✓ Several **other countries** with established national training institutes have expressed interest in formally adopting the project's training modules (INT_12, INT_31, INT_33, INT_36).
- ✓ In **Republic of Moldova** and **Montenegro**, several participants of the project activities, such as the ToT training and NGO-led workshops, have already shared their knowledge with peers or applied it by conducting additional workshops and sessions for other professionals and children (Online survey; INT_01, INT_06, INT_19, INT_26). This multiplier effect, which is particularly central to the project's ToT approach, empowers local professionals to independently replicate and adapt trainings, embedding capacity-building within national systems.

Survey results indicate **strong uptake and relevance of the project's tools and training**. Of 48 respondents, 35% already reported active use within their institutions, while further 25% plan to adopt them. Among 34 respondents, 35% had already applied the training in their work, and 59% intended to do so, with only 6% reporting no use — these findings demonstrate the high applicability of the project's tools and resources. Knowledge sharing was also notable, with 88% of participants having already shared what they learned with colleagues, suggesting broad impact. In addition, the interest in continued learning was high, with 85% expressing a desire for follow-up training and 15% possibly interested (Figure 16).

Figure 20: Rate on sustainability



In sum, several project tools and approaches have already been integrated into institutional mechanisms such as SOPs, training curricula, and interagency protocols, which increases the likelihood of sustained application and long-term impact beyond the project cycle.

Despite encouraging progress toward institutionalisation, several **challenges** remain that may hinder the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes:

- ✓ A recurring theme in interviews was the **lack of sustained financial resources and limited project timeline**. The withdrawal of external donor funding, such as USAID, coupled with limited national budgets, and challenges in acquiring digital investigation tools poses a risk to the continued institutionalisation of project achievements, such as the implementation of regular training sessions (INT_23, INT_31, INT_34, INT_36).
- ✓ Limited human resources pose a significant risk to sustainability, with several interviewees reporting a **shortage of trained professionals** - such as judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers - capable of effectively handling OCSEA cases (INT_4, INT_20, INT_24, INT_29). In the Republic of Moldova, high staff turnover due to low pay and heavy workloads was highlighted as a key barrier, undermining the long-term impact of training efforts (INT_18, INT_21, INT_24). To address these gaps, temporary staff and national experts were recruited, and a pool of national and international experts was established to ensure continuity (DOC_73, DOC_82). Collaboration with international partners further helped offset resource and expertise shortages (DOC_82, INT_25, INT_7). Additionally, several countries began incorporating OCSEA-related content into regular professional training programmes to support long-term capacity building (INT_28, INT_29).
- ✓ **Limited technical resources**, such as fragmented data systems resulting from separate institutional databases, and poor interagency coordination limit case tracking and trend monitoring (INT_25, INT_28, INT_30). Legal inconsistencies and gaps, particularly regarding digital crimes, child offenders, and livestreamed abuse, further impeded enforcement efforts (INT_18, INT_24). To address these challenges, the project supported legislative harmonisation, the creation of centralised monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and the establishment of National Advisory Boards (DOC_198, INT_18). It also facilitated the development of online tools and training platforms aimed at strengthening consistency and communication across institutions (DOC_24).
- ✓ **Political uncertainty** in Georgia and Ukraine disrupt the continuity of child protection policies. Interviewees noted that shifting national priorities can derail efforts to institutionalise practices introduced by the project (INT_34, INT_36). Through continuous monitoring, flexibility, and

adaptability of activities, the project has mitigated these risks and created a solid foundation for further institutionalisation.

4.4.2 How can the successful approaches and lessons learned from this project be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states facing similar challenges with OCSEA?

To enable broader impact and sustainability in and beyond the initial implementation countries, several key strategies emerge from the experiences during Phases I and II of the project, that could potentially guide replication of successful interventions in other Council of Europe member states:

- ✓ **Institutionalisation of Training and Practices:** A fundamental pillar for sustainability and replicability in project countries lies in embedding the project's outputs—particularly training materials and curricula—into national institutions. Successful integration into official training programmes for police academies, prosecutors, and judicial training centres in participating countries should be expanded (INT_10, INT_33, INT_36). Good examples include Armenia and Ukraine, where national reviews of training programmes highlighted gaps in existing resources and informed the development of adaptable, scalable training materials aligned with international standards. These materials are now enabling broader use across Council of Europe member states as well as in other global regions, such as Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritius (INT_12). Additionally, developing a national pool of trainers and experts has also helped ensure continuity despite staff turnover and reduced the dependence on external consultants (INT_33, INT_36). Ensuring stable financial and institutional backing is essential for replication. To maintain momentum after project funding ends, national governments must allocate domestic resources and demonstrate institutional ownership to support the continued implementation of recommendations from the analyses (INT_23, INT_34, INT_36). Regarding institutionalising safeguarding training accredited training programs that can be integrated into formal teacher education and professional development pathways must be offered. This approach supports sustainability and promotes system-wide adoption (INT_05).
- ✓ **Multilateral Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange:** Scaling efforts beyond the initial implementation countries should emphasise cooperation and shared learning among Council of Europe member states. Regional platforms and networks can facilitate peer exchange on good practices and implementation challenges (INT_33, DOC_192). The adaptation and translation of training materials into national languages and legal contexts, which is already in practice, remain necessary steps to ensure broader applicability (INT_12, DOC_192). Existing Council of Europe structures, such as the Lanzarote Committee and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, can be leveraged as dissemination channels to encourage the adoption of project resources in other member states (INT_12, DOC_192). These bodies are well-placed to co-ordinate the transfer of knowledge and reinforce shared commitments. Furthermore, international exchanges and peer learning visits between individuals from different countries were described by interview partners as highly beneficial and transformative experiences, and should therefore be promoted (INT_01, INT_19, INT_22).
- ✓ **Continuous Monitoring and Updating:** Given the evolving nature of OCSEA, several interview partners emphasised the importance of regular monitoring and updates to tools and guidance materials. Mechanisms to assess the implementation of project recommendations across member states were seen as essential to ensure that training and guidance remain aligned with ongoing technological and legal developments (INT_28, INT_30, INT_36). An interactive feedback loop - allowing member states to refine tools and share field experiences - was identified as a valuable component to enhance the adaptability and quality of resources (INT_36). To support the sustained implementation and long-term impact of project outcomes, the Council of Europe was

encouraged to retain an oversight and support role beyond the official project duration (INT_13, INT_12, INT_36). In the absence of such mechanisms, there is a risk that the relevance and effectiveness of the materials will decline over time (INT_05, INT_18, INT_36).

- ✓ **Targeted Technical Assistance and Capacity Building:** Replication must consider contextual differences across countries. Tailored technical support and capacity building should be provided based on individual member state needs (INT_27, INT_36). Specialised support is especially important in complex areas like interagency cooperation, electronic evidence, and victim identification (INT_31). To ensure context-specific implementation at the national level, collaboration with national and local experts as well as, funding mechanisms, such as sub-granting schemes, are already in place and should be expanded to support local partner organisations conducting OCSEA-related capacity building. (INT_10, INT_12).
- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement and National Ownership:** Strong national ownership is essential for successful replication and requires the active involvement of key stakeholders - government agencies, law enforcement, the judiciary, and civil society - from the outset (INT_8, INT_27, INT_30, INT_35). Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at the national level are critical for joint planning and implementation (INT_4, INT_27), while high-level political commitment greatly supports the institutional uptake of reforms (INT_34, INT_46). Although the project made clear efforts and progress to integrate project outputs into national structures several interviewees emphasised the need for stronger formal mechanisms and deeper national ownership (INT_10, INT_12, INT_13, INT_27).
- ✓ **Enhanced Collaboration with Equivalent Stakeholders:** While initial communication between the Council of Europe and equivalent stakeholders working in the same field was established at the outset, interviewees noted a lack of sustained engagement throughout the project (INT_03, INT_24). Several stakeholders expressed that they were not adequately consulted or kept informed as the project progressed. They highlighted missed opportunities for synergy and emphasised a desire for deeper, ongoing collaboration to strengthen alignment and impact.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Effectiveness

- ✓ **Awareness raising and prevention activities** have proven to be among the most impactful and robust aspects of the project, significantly enhancing the knowledge and confidence of key professionals, children, and parents across diverse settings, while demonstrating strong adaptability regarding external factors in addressing OCSEA.
- ✓ **Safeguarding training sessions** in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro significantly improved frontline professionals' knowledge and confidence on OCSEA issues. Participants not only enhanced their skills but also shared their learning within their institutions, fostering integration of child protection practices.
- ✓ **Awareness-raising efforts** by local NGOs in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro effectively promoted knowledge, dialogue, and proactive behaviour around online safety among children and parents and received very positive feedback.
- ✓ While overall participant **satisfaction with the training content and delivery** was very high, several participants highlighted the need for more specific examples, and clearer guidance on responding effectively in real-world scenarios.

- ✓ Due to the evolving nature of OCSEA, training participants have highlighted the need for **follow-up and regular training**, along with continuous updates to training content and materials to ensure their relevance and effectiveness over time.
- ✓ Despite substantial progress, **challenges** persist. These include limited funding, lack of continuity, and insufficient institutional support, which restrict both the reach and long-term impact of project activities - despite strong participant demand for more workshops. Additional obstacles such as uneven engagement with children and parents, persistent awareness gaps in vulnerable communities, weak reporting systems, and fragmented coordination further hinder comprehensive prevention efforts.
- ✓ The project contributed to measurable **improvements in law enforcement and judicial responses** to OCSEA, particularly through targeted legal trainings in Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, which enhanced participants' knowledge of investigation techniques, victim-sensitive practices, and international cooperation.
- ✓ Broader systemic progress was observed in areas such as **legislative alignment** and the adoption of **child-friendly procedures** - indicating growing institutional capacity to address OCSEA cases more effectively.
- ✓ The initiative also yielded several **unintended positive outcomes**, including increased stakeholder openness, stronger private sector engagement, enhanced trust-building, the broader use of training materials, and the expansion of the project's professional network.
- ✓ Gender considerations and a **human rights-based approach** were integrated in both project phases, aligning with international standards and addressing the differentiated needs of children. However, as no formal gender analysis was conducted at the design stage and no gender-related outcomes or lessons were documented to inform adaptive measures, the project lacked a clearly defined gender orientation and can thus not be considered fully gender-mainstreamed.

5.2 Impact

- ✓ **Phase I** of the project has made significant strides in **strengthening the national capacities** and responses to protect children from OCSEA in the focus countries, by identifying systemic gaps, building an evidence base on OCSEA, aligning national frameworks with Council of Europe standards. It enabled the development of tailored interventions, guided legal and policy reforms, and built momentum for institutional change - positioning countries for more sustainable impact in Phase II.
- ✓ One of the key factors contributing to the project's impact was its focus on addressing gaps in data on OCSEA and identifying systemic weaknesses across different countries. This approach helped create a robust evidence base, which informed a targeted, country-specific strategy. It also aligned national efforts with Council of Europe standards, making the approach adaptable and effective across diverse contexts and settings. The development and piloting of specialised training modules and materials for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other frontline professionals laid the foundation for trainings, which were implemented in countries such as Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro, and were positively received for **enhancing professional capacities**, with some integrated into national institutions to support long-term sustainability.
- ✓ While the multistakeholder training approach was highly valued for **improving interagency cooperation** by both legal and safeguarding training participants, it was recommended to organise a joint session bringing together frontline, legal, and law enforcement professionals to further strengthen cross-sector understanding and collaboration.

- ✓ The project contributed to reforms in **national legal frameworks and policies** addressing OCSEA by providing targeted recommendations, legal reform support, and engaging key stakeholders. Through in-depth gap analyses in countries such as Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro, it identified critical weaknesses in criminal law, procedural mechanisms, victim support, offender management, and public awareness. These findings directly informed country-specific recommendations aligned with international standards, including the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions. These advancements occurred alongside a broader multi-actor effort, with initiatives by UNICEF, WeProtect Global Alliance, ECPAT, the EU, and INHOPE complementing the project's work through child protection programming, evidence-based advocacy, and operational hotlines. Together, these actions helped drive comprehensive legislative reforms and strengthen national responses to OCSEA.
- ✓ Through its participative and inclusive approach, the project has significantly contributed to enhancing **cross-border cooperation and coordination** among Council of Europe member states. While some aspects of direct international collaboration could be further strengthened, the project has advanced a more unified regional stance against OCSEA, by engaging stakeholders from the early stages, fostering shared learning and experience exchange, and promoting integrated multi-agency responses.
- ✓ While regional engagement and indirect cross-border impacts were evident, **direct cross-border collaboration** within the project activities was limited, and could further be promoted, such as facilitating joint investigations, formalised bilateral cooperation, or real-time information-sharing systems.

5.3 Efficiency

- ✓ The project's innovative ways of working - characterised by its **collaborative ethos, strategic partnerships, context-sensitive adaptations and agile implementation** - played a key role in enhancing the overall efficiency and impact of its activities. These approaches not only optimised the use of available resources but also contributed to more sustainable and scalable responses to OCSEA across Council of Europe member states.
- ✓ Despite facing significant disruptions - including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, political instability, and institutional limitations - the EndOCSEA@Europe project successfully adapted through **strategic flexibility, local partnerships, and targeted interventions**.
- ✓ While an **inclusive and participatory approach** was fostered and key stakeholders were engaged throughout the process, some stakeholders expressed a desire for more regular updates. Additionally, other agencies working in the same field would have preferred greater involvement to avoid **missed synergies and strengthen knowledge sharing**.

5.4 Sustainability

- ✓ The **sustainability** of the project's interventions - particularly in the areas of legislative reform and capacity building - **varies across countries** and is influenced by several interrelated factors. These include the level of political commitment, alignment with national policy priorities, the existence of national training institutions capable of integrating project content, and the degree of sustained ownership by stakeholders engaged from the outset.
- ✓ While the project has made encouraging progress toward ensuring sustainability, several **challenges** continue to impact the long-term embedding of outcomes. These include shifting

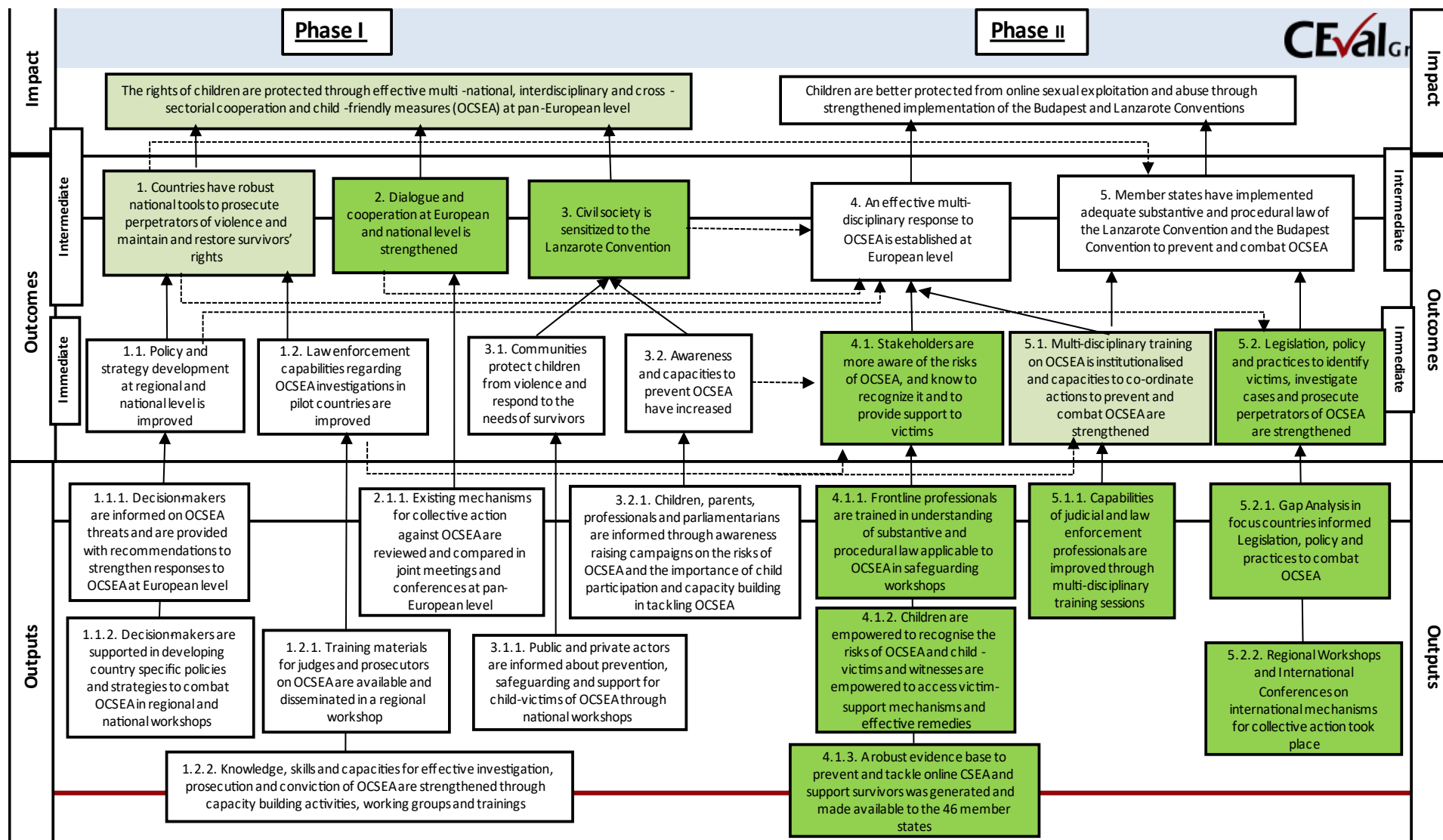
political contexts, limited financial and human resources, and high staff turnover within key institutions.

- ✓ **Sustaining the gains achieved** remains a significant challenge, if fragmented coordination, inadequate funding, underdeveloped data and reporting systems, and the rapidly evolving digital environment all continue to undermine prevention and prosecution efforts.
- ✓ The **long-term impact** of the project will depend on the successful institutionalisation of reforms, the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and the promotion of systematic, cross-sector collaboration. Continued investment in capacity-building and digital infrastructure will be essential to ensure that the progress made is both scalable and sustainable.

5.5 Summary of Achievements and Contribution Analysis

The evaluation focused on the **intermediate outcomes** and **impact** from **Phase I**, alongside the **activities, outputs and immediate outcomes** of **Phase II** (see green-highlighted boxes in Figure 18). Elements marked in dark green indicate outcomes/outputs that were fully achieved, while light green represents those partly achieved.

Figure 21: Updated Theory of Change indicating achievement status



Phase I: Building Foundations and Strengthening Capacities

The intermediate outcomes of Phase I—strong national policies, enhanced cooperation, and greater public awareness—lay the foundation for Phase II and support more effective protection of children’s rights through coordinated pan-European efforts to combat OCSEA. These outcomes were achieved where authorities committed to capacity-building, civil society actively participated, and social service providers prioritised survivor support.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME	Activities and Results	Contribution	Status	Strength of evidence
1 – ROBUST NATIONAL TOOLS FOR EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION	Legal training modules developed and piloted; gap analyses conducted; policy recommendations formulated.	Legal and procedural responses improved, but implementation remains uneven due to limited resources, fragmented coordination and data systems and shifting political contexts.	Partly achieved	• Empirical evidence available that legal training modules exist and shared among members states • Document analysis and stakeholder interviews provided information on improved legal and policy frameworks • Primary and secondary data provided limited information on translating legal reforms into effective implementation • Feedback from children, professionals and parents indicated that children were aware of where to report cases and that they felt more confident to do so • Evidence on approved standards for hearing rooms under special conditions for children in the Republic of Moldova, the introduction of the Barnahus model in Montenegro, and Human Rights National Action Plan for 2024-2026 in Georgia, for ensuring violence- free spaces Overall data quality for this assessment: good
2 – Strengthened cooperation at	National Advisory Boards and joint activities enhanced	Regional dialogue has improved but	Partly achieved	• Documents on SC meetings, conferences and regional workshops provided

national and European level	inter-agency coordination, while regional structures like the Steering Committee strengthened cooperation at European level.	direct operational cooperation remains limited		detailed information about participants and shared content Additional information about strengthened cooperation were gathered through interviews and the online survey Overall data quality for this assessment: good
3 – civil society sensitised to Lanzarote convention	Awareness campaigns, engagement of NGOs in national and regional events, promotion of Lanzarote standards.	Civil society awareness and engagement increased around OCSEA and Lanzarote principles.	Achieved	- Project reports and NGO documents provided detailed information on awareness-raising activities, trainings and workshops conducted - Training participants, parents and children were interviewed Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
IMPACT – Protecting Children's Rights through Pan-European OCSEA Cooperation	Improved child protection in focus countries through stronger cooperation and child-friendly measures; however, progress is uneven across Europe.	Significant impact nationally; continued efforts needed to scale across Europe.	Partly achieved	- Document analysis and stakeholder interviews provided information on improved legal and policy frameworks - Limited evidence on the effective implementation of legal reforms Overall data quality for this assessment: good

Phase II: Scaling Up and Sustaining Efforts to Combat OCSEA

Phase II built on Phase I by enhancing legal and policy frameworks, strengthening multi-disciplinary responses, and expanding awareness and capacity-building efforts.

Output/ Outcome	Activities and Results	Contribution	Status	Strength of evidence
4.1.1 – Training frontline professionals	Safeguarding workshops, training modules, ToTs, and factsheets developed and delivered.	Strengthened frontline capacity to detect and respond to OCSEA; training materials institutionalised in some countries.	Achieved	- Pre- and post-questionnaires from safeguarding training available for all trainings - Additional empirical data collected via virtual and

				face-to-face interviews supported positive results Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
4.1.2 – Empowering children through awareness	Grants awarded, workshops conducted, and child-friendly materials (Kiko, Manymes) promoted.	Increased children’s awareness of OCSEA risks and how to seek support; supported national efforts.	Achieved	• Project reports and documentation from NGOs included comprehensive details on child-focused awareness-raising activities. • Feedback from children was gathered through workshop questionnaires and surveys completed by youth participants. Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
4.1.3 – Establishing an evidence base	Best practices and lessons learned documented and shared across member states.	Strengthened knowledge transfer, guided Phase II design, and supported collective learning.	Achieved	• Baseline mapping available and made accessible • Training materials available and shared among members states • Primary data available from participants through Pre and post training questionnaires, online survey and interviews Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
5.1.1 – Improving legal and law enforcement capacities	Training modules updated, new modules developed, pilot trainings conducted, ToT institutionalised.	Built law enforcement and judicial capacity, including interagency coordination skills.	Achieved	• Progress reports contain detailed information about changes and adaptations. • Findings from document analysis could be confirmed by interview data. Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
5.2.1 – Gap analysis and policy recommendations	Analysis conducted in three countries with recommendations delivered.	Informed legal and policy reform and supported country-specific OCSEA response planning.	Achieved	• All relevant documents are available • Additional empirical data for validation could be collected by means of virtual and face-to-face interviews

				Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
5.2.2 – Regional workshops and conferences	Events with broad stakeholder participation were held.	Strengthened mutual learning, and political momentum for joint action.	Achieved	- Documents on regional workshop, conference and steering committee meetings available - Interviews were conducted with SC members confirming improved collaboration Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
4.1 – Increased awareness and support for victims	Stakeholders showed improved awareness and ability to support victims.	Trainings and awareness efforts improved individual competencies.	Achieved	- Participants feedback from Pre and post training questionnaires available from Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Montenegro - Results from online survey across all six pilot countries confirmed positive results - Findings from document analysis could be confirmed by interview data. Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
5.1 – Institutionalised multidisciplinary training	Capacities to co-ordinate actions to prevent and combat OCSEA are strengthened and training institutionalised in several contexts.	ToTs and national partnerships supported long-term training integration, but institutionalisation varies by country and depends on financial and human resources.	Partly achieved	- Results from training questionnaires, online survey and interviews confirm improved capacities of safeguarding and legal professionals. - Primary data collection provided information on the institutionalisation of trainings in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, but only limited data for other countries. Overall data quality for this assessment: good
5.2 – Strengthened legal/policy	Legal frameworks improved	Gap analyses and regional collaboration informed reform.	Achieved	Baseline mapping, gap analyses, and progress reports provided detailed information on project changes and adaptations.

frameworks and practices				Findings from the document analysis were validated through supporting data from interviews. Overall data quality for this assessment: strong
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6. Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

This chapter presents the key lessons learned from the implementation and evaluation of the EndOCSEA project. These insights reflect both the successes and challenges encountered and aim to inform future programming and policy efforts addressing OCSEA within the Council of Europe member states. By capturing practical experiences and recommendations, this chapter supports the continuous improvement, sustainability, and potential replication of effective interventions in this critical area.

Flexible and Resilient Implementation: The COVID-19 pandemic and other unforeseen disruptions underscored the importance of hybrid and adaptive delivery models. Combining in-person and virtual formats allowed for timely adaptations, ensured continuity, and maintained strong stakeholder engagement.

- ✓ Training modules were effectively converted into virtual formats, demonstrating flexibility and expanding participation even during challenging circumstances.

Embedding Training for Sustainability: Training efforts proved most effective when integrated into national systems such as police academies and judicial training institutes. This approach ensured institutional ownership and supports long-term sustainability.

- ✓ In countries like the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, the successful incorporation of OCSEA curricula into formal training structures secured ongoing education beyond the project lifecycle and strengthened system-wide impact.

Cross-border and Multi-agency Collaboration: Cross-border cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement were central to the project's success, enhancing alignment with European standards, strengthening transnational coordination, and bringing together key actors from diverse sectors. Regional events and partnerships with treaty bodies such as the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions fostered international collaboration and policy coherence, while at the national level, trainings fostered communication and cooperation between different agencies and sectors.

- ✓ The creation of cross-sectoral working groups, such as the National Advisory Boards and the Steering Committee, improved interagency coordination, built trust among stakeholders, and helped develop a shared understanding of OCSEA threats and responses across countries.
- ✓ Safeguarding and legal trainings brought together previously unconnected stakeholders working in different sectors and facilitated peer learning and networking.

Sub-Grants Fostering Local Initiatives: Providing sub-grants to local civil society organizations significantly expanded grassroots outreach and ensured a needs-tailored approach, particularly in awareness-raising and prevention efforts. This funding model promoted innovation and was crucial for effective community-level prevention.

- ✓ Local NGOs in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro used these funds to implement awareness campaigns and to develop outreach strategies specifically adapted to their beneficiaries' needs.
- ✓ The grant scheme supported the creation and widespread dissemination of age-appropriate, accessible resources for children, parents, and professionals, strengthening prevention efforts at the community level.

Data and Evidence-Driven Planning: Early diagnostics are essential for designing relevant and effective interventions tailored to each country's unique context. Conducting baseline assessments helped identify specific gaps and needs, ensuring that project activities address the most critical issues and align with local priorities.

- ✓ The project's baseline mapping and gap analyses enabled precise, need-based interventions and country-specific recommendations, creating a strong foundation for tailored actions; this evidence-driven approach improved resource allocation, increased stakeholder engagement, and provided recommendations for adapting policy frameworks, while early investment in diagnostics ensured that legal, policy, and capacity-building activities were targeted and effective.

Stakeholder Engagement and Trust Building are Foundational: Early and continuous engagement with frontline professionals, civil society, and private sector partners fosters trust and facilitates acceptance of sensitive issues like OCSEA. Effective programming must start with stakeholder sensitisation and trust-building, while assessing cultural readiness and stigma early to tailor communication strategies appropriately.

- ✓ The project focused on operational-level work, building trust with frontline professionals before engaging politically.
- ✓ Tailored awareness-raising and practical recommendations were used to gradually open space for dialogue and results from the gap analyses were treated confidentially.
- ✓ Key stakeholders were engaged from the outset, throughout the design and implementation of project activities.

Recommendations

Area	Conclusion (Best Practice)	Recommendation (Scaling Up)
Training	- Training sessions enhanced law enforcement, judicial response, and interagency coordination. - Hybrid delivery ensured continuity during disruptions.	- Training should be further embedded in national institutions, such as police/judicial academies. - Continue to build on hybrid and participatory training formats. - Expand stakeholder inclusion for trainings.
Evidence-Driven Planning + Monitoring	Country-specific assessments and stakeholder feedback built a strong evidence base enabling targeted interventions and alignment with the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions.	Institutionalise monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive planning systems, with regular follow-up surveys and needs assessments to ensure project activities remain relevant, adaptable, and responsive to participants' needs.
NGO Grant Scheme	Sub-grants to local NGOs improved grassroots outreach and prevention, tailored to community needs.	Continue the grant scheme to support local civil society organisations in delivering community-based, needs-focused awareness and prevention initiatives that strengthen local capacities.
Multilateral Cooperation	- Early operational-level stakeholder engagement built trust and strengthened cross-border dialogue. - Partnerships with the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions supported policy coherence and European alignment.	- Continue adapting tools to national contexts and sharing resources via regional platforms (e.g., Lanzarote Committee). - Further promote peer learning and exchange. - Ensure stakeholder engagement throughout all project stages.
Challenges & Sustainability	Despite progress, sustainability varies due to shifting political contexts, limited resources, and high turnover.	Continue adapting project activities through close monitoring and flexible approaches tailored to each context, in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders.

Directed at Trainers and Training Institutions

- ✓ **Ongoing adaptation of training content and delivery through regularly scheduled sessions:** Given the rapidly evolving nature of OCSEA, the project team should encourage trainers and training institutions to provide regular follow-up and refresher trainings for professionals to reinforce knowledge, assess retention among training participants, and ensure content remains up to date. This includes systematically reviewing and updating training materials, tools, and guidance to reflect technological, legal, and policy developments, such as emerging online exploitation tactics, changes in relevant legislation, or new digital investigation tools used by law enforcement and child protection professionals. This would not only support continued professional development but also provide insight into how well training content is embedded in practice.
- ✓ **Build on existing interactive training methods to deepen engagement and learning:** While participant satisfaction with the training has been consistently high and was valued for its practical relevance, the project team should encourage trainers to incorporate more real-life scenarios, group discussion and interactive exercises, such as roleplays or simulations. This is especially important for safeguarding training, where group size and time allow, as such methods can further enhance engagement and learning outcomes. These methods foster active participation, open discussion, and deeper understanding, especially for professionals like teachers, psychologists, and social workers who need practical tools for everyday use. Including examples of positive outcomes can also help reinforce key messages and boost practitioner confidence.

Directed at Project Teams

- ✓ **Enhance interagency coordination through joint multidisciplinary training:** The project actively promoted interagency collaboration by engaging professionals from law enforcement, the judiciary, education, social work, and civil society in targeted legal and safeguarding trainings. This multi-stakeholder approach was highly valued by participants, as it fostered a shared understanding and coordinated response framework while strengthening communication channels and building trust—essential elements for effective collaboration in complex cases. To further enhance these efforts, while continuing the existing separate trainings, it is recommended that the project team organises an integrated joint session bringing together frontline, legal, and law enforcement professionals. Such multidisciplinary training would strengthen coordination across agencies, foster mutual understanding of roles, identify common challenges, and bridge institutional gaps for more cohesive and effective responses.
- ✓ **Strengthen and institutionalise monitoring, evaluation, and feedback systems:** Particularly in relation to capacity-building efforts to combat OCSEA, existing monitoring tools—such as pre- and post-training questionnaires, interviews, and online surveys—have already provided valuable insights into gaps and progress in awareness, knowledge, and capabilities. In order to ensure the long-term relevance and impact of project activities the project team should continue to use these tools. In addition, establishing a continuous, interactive feedback loop for training participants will promote bottom-up engagement and support ongoing refinement of tools and resources. This will help ensure that training content remains relevant, adaptable, and responsive to participants' needs. Regular follow-up surveys (e.g., every six months) and periodic needs assessments should also be conducted to track the application of training content and monitor the uptake of project recommendations across member states. Together, these efforts will ensure that project activities remain evidence-based, participatory, and aligned with evolving technological, legal, and policy environments.

Directed at local NGOs

- ✓ **Strengthen MEL through Comprehensive GEDSI Data Collection:** To enhance the organization's MEL approach, it is recommended to systematically collect and track data disaggregated by gender, age, disability, socio-economic background, and other relevant social factors for all project activities. While some gender, and location-based data are currently collected, information on age and other inclusion dimensions is limited or inconsistent across NGOs. Collecting such data, particularly during workshops with children and activities involving parents and professionals, will help ensure that project activities are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of participants. Institutionalising this practice will improve evidence-based decision-making, support targeted interventions, and strengthen the organisation's ability to demonstrate GEDSI outcomes.
- ✓ **Continue providing sub-grants to support locally led initiatives:** As part of the project, sub-grants were provided to local NGOs in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro to implement awareness-raising initiatives for children and adolescents, as well as for parents and professionals working with children. Available data indicate that these activities effectively increased knowledge and encouraged dialogue, critical thinking, and proactive behaviour regarding OCSEA. The grant scheme allowed NGOs to tailor outreach strategies to local contexts, develop accessible, age-appropriate resources, and strengthen community-level prevention efforts. This funding model not only expanded grassroots engagement but also fostered innovation in addressing online safety. To build on this success, the project team should continue to provide sub-grants to local civil society organisations to support locally grounded, needs-based awareness and prevention initiatives that leverage existing community networks.
- ✓ **Continue Early and Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement:** Early operational-level involvement has proven effective in building trust and strengthening cross-border, multi-agency collaboration to combat OCSEA. To sustain and build on the project's successes, the project team should continue to ensure stakeholder engagement at all stages of implementation, alongside ongoing alignment with regional frameworks, such as the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions, to maintain policy coherence. Tools should be regularly adapted to national contexts, and the project team should further promote knowledge-sharing through regional platforms (e.g., the Lanzarote Committee), as well as peer learning and exchange to enhance regional cooperation and capacity.

Directed at National Ministries and Institutions Nominating Participants

- ✓ **Expand Inclusion of Stakeholder Groups in Training Activities:** While the project's safeguarding and legal trainings have successfully engaged a broad range of professionals, the project team should promote the broader inclusion of stakeholder groups in training activities. Expanding the target audience could help address time constraints among participants and increase the overall reach and impact of the training efforts. In the legal sector, for example legal assistants could be included, who are more readily available than judges, lawyers, or prosecutors, yet remain closely involved in legal processes. Their inclusion could improve participation rates and strengthen the effectiveness of legal trainings. Similarly, safeguarding trainings should be extended beyond school-based professionals, social workers, psychologists, medical staff, to also include professionals working in youth homes and dormitories. These care settings, often overlooked, play a vital role in prevention, particularly for children from rural or underserved areas. Integrating these institutions more fully into the project's outreach strategy will enhance training effectiveness and promote more equitable coverage across child protection systems.

Directed at Donors

Promote Innovative Approaches to Maximise Impact: Innovative methods, such as cross-sectoral collaboration, training-of-trainers models, engagement of the private sector, and hybrid training formats, have proven effective in extending the reach and impact of project activities. Integrating innovation into project design also enhances scalability, sustainability, and contextual relevance, thereby strengthening responses to OCSEA. To ensure the long-term viability of such approaches, the Children's Rights Division and other relevant Council of Europe services should encourage donor and partner organisations to continue providing targeted funding and strategic support for projects that adopt and advance these innovative practices.

7. Annex

7.1 Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria and Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Instruments	Analysis Methods
1. Effectiveness of the intervention				
a) How effective have the awareness raising and prevention activities been in fostering a culture of vigilance and resilience against OCSEA, especially among children, parents and educators?	✓ Degree of confirmation by involved stakeholders and target groups	✓ Project documents & progress reports of Phase I & II ✓ Participants of activities (e.g., children, parents, educators, social workers) ✓ Pre- and post-training questionnaires ✓ List of activities (awareness raising tools) ✓ Deliverables, training modules, and guidance documents ✓ Council of Europe staff ✓ Project staff involved in respective activities ✓ Trainers	✓ Document review ✓ KIIs/FGDs with children, parents, educators, social workers, healthcare professionals ✓ Survey (if participants are accessible)	✓ Qualitative content analysis ✓ Descriptive quantitative analysis
b) What measurable improvements have been made in law enforcement and judicial systems in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting OCSEA cases? (For Phase 2, only improvement in capacities will be measurable)	✓ Anecdotal evidence, e.g., about revised national legislation & policies, improved law enforcement ✓ Reported capacity improvement by participating authorities	✓ Gap analyses on the legal and policy framework governing OCSEA ✓ Baseline mapping ✓ Further policy papers ✓ Authorities' and CSO representatives ✓ Legal training documents of Phase I & II	✓ Document review ✓ KIIs	✓ Qualitative content analysis

Evaluation Criteria and Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Instruments	Analysis Methods
		✓ Pre- and post- training questionnaire of attendees at legal training of Phase II ✓ Council of Europe staff ✓ Project staff involved in respective activities ✓ Trainers		
c) Are there any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) that have emerged as a result of the project? (more relevant for Phase 1)	✓ <i>To be inductively developed, based on evidence about unintended outcomes</i>	✓ Project documents & progress reports ✓ Council of Europe staff ✓ Project partner staff involved in respective activities ✓ Experts in relevant fields	✓ Document review ✓ KIIs	✓ Qualitative content analysis
d) To what extent the Council of Europe's gender mainstreaming and human rights approach contributed to the success of the Project? (Phases 1&2)	✓ Assessment of applicability and benefit of GM & HRA approach in the project by project and partner staff	✓ Project & partner staff ✓ Steering Committee Group ✓ NAB members ✓ Participants lists (disaggregated by gender)	✓ KIIs/FGDs ✓ Document review (information disaggregated by gender where possible)	✓ Qualitative content analysis ✓ Descriptive quantitative analysis
2. Impact of the intervention				
a) What impact has the Phase 1 of the project had on the protection of children from OCSEA in the focus countries?	✓ Anecdotal evidence, e.g., about revised national legislation & policies, improved law enforcement	✓ Gap analyses on the legal and policy framework governing OCSEA ✓ Further policy papers ✓ Authorities' and CSO representatives ✓ Statistical data on CSEA (?)	✓ Document review ✓ Online research ✓ KIIs	✓ Qualitative content analysis
b) How have the legislative reforms and policy recommendations supported by the project influenced national legal frameworks and policies related to OCSEA?				✓ Descriptive quantitative analysis, e.g., time series, trend analysis

Evaluation Criteria and Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Instruments	Analysis Methods
c) How has the project contributed to improving cross border co-operation and co-ordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA?	✓ Anecdotal evidence about inter-governmental/institutional cooperation and coordination in combatting OCSEA ✓ Degree of confirmation by stakeholders that the project made a significant contribution to improved collaboration	✓ Representatives of government agencies, law enforcement agencies ✓ CSOs, international bodies etc. ✓ Conference agendas and minutes, ✓ Workshop documents ✓ European Day webinar: concept note and participants list	✓ KIIs/FGDs ✓ Online survey with project partners ✓ Document review	✓ Qualitative content analysis
3. Efficiency of the intervention				
a) Have there been any innovative approaches or ways of working (including partnerships with other organisations and multi stakeholder collaborations) that enhanced efficiency? (Phases 1&2)	✓ <i>To be inductively developed, based on evidence about applied approaches during project implementation</i> ✓ <i>Evidence about cost savings and/or increased outputs due to the application of such approaches</i>	✓ Project documents & progress reports of Phase I & II ✓ Budget documents ✓ Grant agreements with CSOs ✓ Policy experts in implementing countries ✓ Council of Europe staff	✓ Document review ✓ KIIs	✓ Qualitative content analysis
b) What challenges (e.g. health crisis, political instability, limited resources, sensitivity of discussions) have been encountered during the	✓ <i>To be inductively developed, based on evidence about challenges & their</i>	✓ Project documents & progress reports ✓ Budget documents ✓ Council of Europe staff	✓ Document review ✓ KIIs ✓ Online survey	✓ Descriptive quantitative analysis

Evaluation Criteria and Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Instruments	Analysis Methods
project's implementation and how have these affected progress toward project goals? How were the challenges mitigated, and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences for future programming?	<i>influence on project goal achievement as well as on mitigation measures</i>	✓ Safe Online staff ✓ Project partners		✓ Qualitative content analysis
4. Sustainability of the intervention				
a) To what extent are the project's interventions likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion? Are the legislative reforms and capacity building efforts embedded within national systems for long term impact? (traditional sustainability for Phase 1, ex ante sustainability for Phase 2)	✓ Degree of confirmation by project partners to be able to continue with their activities ✓ Feedback of government authority and CSO partners concerning the embedment of reforms and capacity building efforts with national systems	✓ Council of Europe and Safe Online staff ✓ Project partners ✓ Representatives of government agencies, CSOs, international bodies etc. ✓ Policy experts in implementing countries	✓ KIIs/FGDs ✓ Online survey	✓ Qualitative content analysis
b) How can the successful approaches and lessons learned from this project be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states facing similar challenges with online CSEA? (Phases 1&2)	✓ <i>To be inductively developed on the basis of the evaluation findings</i>	✓ Findings and conclusions of the evaluation	✓ Evaluation report	✓ Qualitative content analysis

7.2 Results of the Training Assessment Questionnaire

7.2.1 Pre- and Post-Training Knowledge Scores of Safeguarding Training participants

Republic of Moldova

How do you evaluate your knowledge about...	Pre- Training Score	Post- Training Score	Knowledge Increase %
The Lanzarote Convention	1,55	4,28	177%
Handling and responding to OCSEA reports	2,05	4,25	108%
Emerging technologies	2,27	4,28	88%
Victim interviewing	2,27	4,28	88%
Impact of OCSEA on child victims	2,59	4,31	66%
Safety policies	2,73	4,39	61%
Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)	2,86	4,44	55%
Protection/assistance to victims/survivors	2,95	4,42	49%
Accountability mechanisms	2,95	4,42	49%
Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	3,14	4,44	42%
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	3,14	4,39	40%
Children's Online Safety	3,23	4,47	39%
Interagency Co-operation and referral mechanisms	3,18	4,39	38%
Child safeguarding mechanisms	3,27	4,50	38%

Georgia

How do you evaluate your knowledge about...	Pre- Training Score	Post- Training Score	Knowledge Increase %
Handling and responding to OCSEA reports	1,52	3,63	139%
The Lanzarote Convention	1,87	3,74	100%
Impact of OCSEA on child victims	2,09	3,74	79%
Protection/assistance to victims/survivors	2,22	3,68	66%
Accountability mechanisms	2,26	3,68	63%
Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	2,48	3,89	57%
Safety policies	2,43	3,74	53%
Victim interviewing	2,35	3,47	48%
Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)	2,74	4,00	46%
Interagency Co-operation and referral mechanisms	2,74	4,00	46%
Child safeguarding mechanisms	2,91	4,00	37%
Children's Online Safety	3,13	4,05	29%
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	3,13	3,89	24%
Emerging technologies	3,09	3,79	23%

Montenegro

How do you evaluate your knowledge about...	Pre- Training Score	Post- Training Score	Knowledge Increase %
Handling and responding to OCSEA reports	1,62	3,58	121%
The Lanzarote Convention	1,82	3,81	109%
Safety policies	2,03	3,77	86%
Impact of OCSEA on child victims	2,21	4,00	81%
Accountability mechanisms	2,29	4,04	76%
Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	2,29	3,96	73%
Victim interviewing	2,35	3,96	68%
Interagency Co-operation and referral mechanisms	2,29	3,85	68%
Child safeguarding mechanisms	2,53	3,96	57%
Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)	2,47	3,81	54%
Protection/assistance to victims/survivors	2,50	3,85	54%
Emerging technologies	2,62	3,81	45%
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	2,71	3,92	45%
Children's Online Safety	3,00	3,81	27%

7.2.2 Pre- and Post-Training Knowledge Scores of Legal Training participants

Republic of Moldova

How do you evaluate your knowledge about...	Pre- Training Score	Post- Training Score	Knowledge Increase %
Proactive Investigation methods against OCSEA	2,22	4,17	88%
Reactive Investigation methods against OCSEA	2,22	4,08	84%
Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)	2,44	4,33	77%
The Lanzarote Convention	2,44	4,17	70%
Prevention of OCSEA	2,56	4,33	70%
Children's Online Safety	2,67	4,33	63%
The Budapest Convention	2,56	4,08	60%
Mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation to fight OCSEA	2,67	4,08	53%
Protection/assistance to victims/survivors	2,89	4,42	53%
Interagency Co-operation and Referral Mechanisms	2,89	4,25	47%
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	3,33	4,42	33%
Substantive and procedural criminal law governing OCSEA	3,22	4,25	32%

Montenegro

How do you evaluate your knowledge about...	Pre- Training Score	Post- Training Score	Knowledge Increase %
Proactive Investigation methods against OCSEA	2	4,0625	103%
Mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation to fight OCSEA	2,08	4,125	98%
Reactive Investigation methods against OCSEA	2,2	4,25	93%
Prevention of OCSEA	2,2	4,25	93%
Interagency Co-operation and Referral Mechanisms	2,28	4,125	81%
Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)	2,32	4,1875	80%
The Budapest Convention	2,32	4,1875	80%
Children's Online Safety	2,36	4,125	75%
The Lanzarote Convention	2,4	4,1875	74%
Protection/assistance to victims/survivors	2,8	4,25	52%
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	2,72	4,125	52%
Substantive and procedural criminal law governing OCSEA	2,84	4,125	45%

7.2.3 Post-training satisfaction with content and delivery

Please rate the training on...	Montenegro	Georgia	Moldova
Balance: theory vs. practical skills	4,04	4,11	4,53
Comfortable with session duration	4,58	4,32	4,56
Training met objectives	4,23	4,37	4,72
Balance: trainer presentations vs. participant activities	4,27	4,37	4,64
Visual aids supported content	4,46	4,37	4,53
Appropriate amount of material covered	4,42	4,42	4,61
Session content useful and relevant	4,38	4,58	4,78
Instructors knowledgeable and effective	4,62	4,58	4,67

7.3 List of documents reviewed

Phase I: EndOCSEA@Europe (completed)

- **Activities**
- 1.1.1 Baseline mapping
 - ✓ 2021 – Baseline_Mapping-Web (1).pdf
 - ✓ 191120 – Baseline_Mapping-Web version(3) (3).pdf
- 1.1.2 Regional launching conference
 - ✓ List of Participants VC1840_EndOCSEA@Europe International Conference 16-17 May
 - ✓ VC1840 First International Conference 16-17 may Strasbourg Meeting Report_final-ls
 - ✓ VC1840_EndOCSEA@Europe Regional Conference 16-17 May Draft agenda V2_with speakers
- 1.1.3 Steering Committee meetings
 - ✓ Annex 1 LOP_5thSteeringComEndOCSEA@Europe 18June2021
 - ✓ Annex I - ListofParticipantsEndOcseaSteeringGroupMeeting27May2020_v7
 - ✓ Annex iii - Agenda - EndOCSEA@Europe Steering Group meeting May 27 (online)_v4
 - ✓ EndOCSEA Fourth Steering Group_meeting report
 - ✓ EndOCSEA Second Steering Group 19_11_2019 Draft Agenda and TOR_v3
 - ✓ EndOCSEA@Europe Fifth Steering Group_meeting report
 - ✓ EndOCSEA@Europe Second Steering Group 19 November 2019
 - ✓ EndOCSEAThirdSteeringGroup_meeeting report 27 may 2020 final
 - ✓ List of Participants VC1840 End Ocsea Steering Group Meeting 19 Nov 2019 Strasbourg France v2
 - ✓ ListofParticipantsEndOcseaSteeringGroupMeeting_5FEB21_v3
 - ✓ VC1840 EndOCSEA@Europe draft agenda Remote SC_05.02.2021_Grant
- 1.1.4 Gap analysis
 - Armenia
 - ✓ EndOCSEA@Europe Gap Analysis Report Armenia (Translated)
 - ✓ Final Version_EndOCSEA Gap Analysis final report Armenia_VOMv4 (1)
 - Azerbaijan
 - ✓ 2020-01-15 Gap Analysis Report Azerbaijan MC v1.1
 - Ukraine
 - ✓ EndOCSEA Gap Analysis Report Ukraine clean (1)
 - ✓ VC1840 EndOCSEA Gap Analysis Report Ukraine (translated)
- 1.3.1 Comparative review mechanisms collective action
 - ✓ 191120.Comparative Reviews - Web version (1) (1)
- 2.1.1 Review LEA Training Strategy
 - ✓ COfE Training Review Project Methodology – Final
 - ✓ Council of Europe Training Review Information Capture
 - ✓ Law Enforcement Training Review_OCSEA_Armenia_DRAFT DT and AB_120220_ed AS_V6Arm_ed
 - ✓ Law Enforcement Training Review_OCSEA_Armenia_DRAFT DTandAB_120220_ed AS_V6
 - ✓ LEA_Training_Review_OCSEA_Azerbaijan_v3 ASERI
 - ✓ Training review Ukraine- Ed AS_V3- clean
- 2.1.5 Technical support - capacity building visits
- 2.2.2 Review training for judges and prosecutors
 - ✓ Law Enforcement Training Review_OCSEA_Armenia_DRAFT DTandAB_120220
- 2.2.3 Development training modules
- Deliverables
 - ✓ Chapter 1 Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law
 - ✓ Chapter 2 Proactive OCSEA Investigation
 - ✓ Chapter 3 Reactive OCSEA Investigation
 - ✓ Chapter 4 - Protecting the child victim or witness throughout criminal proceedings

- ✓ Lesson Plans
- ✓ Training Modules for Law Enforcement, Judges and Prosecutors to tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Moldova 11 Feb 2021

- ✓ 62-INJ
- ✓ List of participants_11.02.2021
- ✓ PPT_B.Talpa 11.02.2021_En
- ✓ răspuns la solicitarea INJ din 03.02.2021
- ✓ Webinar OCSEA Moldova11 Feb 2021_final

Moldova 25-26 May 2021

- ✓ draft agenda Moldova training may_v12

Ukraine 5 October 2020

- ✓ List of participants
- ✓ Webinar OCSEA Ukraine 5 Oct 2020_v7-2_revised 29 sep

Ukraine 8-11 December 2020

- ✓ Draft agenda OCSEA training UKRAINE DECEMBER20 _ENG
- ✓ KUDO 9.12
- ✓ KUDO 10.12
- ✓ KUDO 11.12
- 3.1.1 Awareness raising tools
 - ✓ Table summary of activities Grantees
- 3.2.1 Civil society sensitisation and capacity building
 - ✓ International capacity building conference for civil society 8-9 April
 - ✓ International NGO conference_8-9April 2019 Strasbourg France final Agenda
 - ✓ List of participants_e-mails_VG
 - ✓ Report_International NGO conference_8-9April 2019 Strasbourg FINAL
 - ✓ SurveyAns
- European Day Webinar 12 11 2020
 - ✓ Concept Note - Webinar EN_V4
 - ✓ European_Day_Webinar__771115036483_participants_list
- Final conference
 - ✓ Draft Concept and Agenda Closing Conference 17 June_EndOCSEA@Europe
- **Budget documents**
 - ✓ BH8576_Revised budget proposal OCSEA EVAC (VC 1840)
 - ✓ Budget End Online VaC (VC 1840)
 - ✓ BUDGET REVISION BH 8576 PMM 1840 (ext June 20) final
 - ✓ Budget_WeProtect_Council of Europe_290917_FINAL
 - ✓ EVAC budget form Council of Europe annual financial report
 - ✓ PMM 1840 - donor version
- **General project documents**
 - ✓ 20241209-VC-1840-Activities reporting – Full list.docx
 - ✓ 20241209-VC-1840-Project proposal Description of activities.docx
 - ✓ 20241209-VC-1840-Project stakeholders listing.docx
 - ✓ Annex 1 Reprogramming Form EndOCSEA_FINAL
 - ✓ Annex 2 Project Revision Form_Cost Extension EndOCSEA_FINAL
 - ✓ Monitoring_and_evaluation_framework_Council of Europe_revfinal (1)
 - ✓ PMM_Activities_Workplan_(Gantt_chart)_for_COVID-19 (2)
 - ✓ Submission31
 - ✓ VC1840 Annex ii - Revised workplan cost extension (2020-2021)
 - ✓ VC1840_Logical framework_Steering Group (2)
- **Interim and final reports**
 - ✓ Final financial report EndOCSEA (VC 1840)

- ✓ Final narrative report EndOCSEA (VC 1840)
- ✓ Financial progress report OCSEA (VC 1840)
- ✓ Interim financial report End OCSEA (VC 1840)
- ✓ Interim financial report End online child sexual exploitation and abuse@Europe (VC 1840)
- ✓ Interim narrative report End OCSEA (VC 1840)
- ✓ Interim narrative report End online child sexual exploitation and abuse@Europe (VC 1840)
- ✓ Narrative progress report OCSEA (VC 1840)
- ✓ Progress report End OSCEA (January-June 2019) (VC 1840)
- ✓ Progress report End OSCEA (July-December 2019) (VC 1840)
- ✓ VC1840 Progress report 30.01.2019 final
- **EndOCSEA@Europe Mailing List**
- Phase II: EndOCSEA@Europe+ (ongoing)¹⁷**
- **Activities**
- 1.1.1 Gap analyses
 - ✓ FINAL Republic of Moldova Gap Analysis OCSEA 29082024 (4)
 - ✓ Gap_analysis_OCSEA_Moldova_RO_FINAL (1)
 - ✓ Montenegro Gap Analysis Final 02082024 (2)
 - ✓ Montenegro Gap Analysis OCSEA trad MNE (1)
- 1.2.1 Regional workshop Strasbourg 25 June 2024
 - ✓ Regional workshop - final agenda 18062024
- 1.2.2 Mid-term Conference and 2nd Steering Committee meeting, Vienna, 4 November 2024
 - ✓ Draft programme Capacity building event Emerging technologies_en (1)
 - ✓ EndOCSEA+ First SC - Meeting report
 - ✓ EndOCSEA@Europe+ Second SC - Meeting report
 - ✓ Mid-term conference - draft agenda (5)
 - ✓ Mission report Vienna 4-5 November 2024 EndOCSEA@Europe+ Zaruhi Maria Apolline (1)
 - ✓ Participant's list EndOCSEA@Europe+ Mid Term Conference 4 Nov 2024 _ signed
 - ✓ Second Steering Committee meeting - draft agenda (2)
- 2.1.1 Update and complete legal training modules
 - ✓ Chapter 1 Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law
 - ✓ Chapter 2 Proactive OCSEA Investigation
 - ✓ Chapter 3 Reactive OCSEA Investigation
 - ✓ Chapter 4 - Protecting the child victim or witness throughout criminal proceedings
 - ✓ Chapter 5 Interagency cooperation
 - ✓ Lesson Plans
 - ✓ Training Modules on OCSEA consolidated_clean (Modules 1-5) September 2024
- 2.1.2 Pilot Legal Training
 - Moldova 10-11 Oct 2024
 - ✓ Agenda_OCSEA training_Chisinau 10-11 October 2024 (7)
 - ✓ Attendance List - Legal Training Chisinau 10-11 October 2024
 - ✓ Disaggregated data participants LT Moldova
 - ✓ Email addresses participants
 - ✓ LT-MOL_POST_ Chestionar post-formare _ Post-training questionnaire_ENGLISH
 - ✓ LT-MOL_POST_ Chestionar post-formare _ Post-training questionnaire_ROMANIAN
 - ✓ LT-MOL_PRE_ Chestionar pre-formare _ Pre-training questionnaire _ ENGLISH
 - ✓ LT-MOL_PRE_ Chestionar pre-formare _ Pre-training questionnaire_ROMANIAN
 - ✓ Mission report Chisinau 10-11 October 2024 Legal training (1)
 - Montenegro 17-19 Dec 2024
 - ✓ Agenda_OCSEA training_Podgorica 17-19 December 2024 (15)

¹⁷ Given that Phase II of the project is currently ongoing, additional documents may be added to this list as the project progresses.

- ✓ Disaggregated data participants LT MNE (1)
- ✓ Email addresses participants LT MNE Dec 2024
- ✓ List of Participants signed LT Montenegro (1)
- ✓ LT-MNE_POST_ Post-training questionnaire _ EN
- ✓ LT-MNE_PRE_ Pre-training questionnaire _ EN
- ✓ LT-MNE_PRE_ Pripremni upitnik _ MNE
- ✓ Mission report Podgorica 17-19 December 2024 Legal training
- 3.1.1 Training module frontline professionals
 - English
 - ✓ Presentation_Safeguarding training OCSEA (6)
 - ✓ Training safeguarding children OCSEA frontline professionals EN.pdf
 - Romanian
 - ✓ Mecanisme sectoriale si intersectoriale_S107 (1) (1).pptx
 - ✓ Presentation_Safeguarding training OCSEA_RO (6)
 - ✓ Training safeguarding children OCSEA frontline professionals RO.pdf
- 3.1.2 ToT frontline professionals
 - Georgia - 19-20 November 2024
 - ✓ Agenda_OCSEA safeguarding training Tbilisi 19-20 November 2024 (copy) (6)
 - ✓ Disaggregated data participants ST Georgia
 - ✓ email addresses participants ST GEO
 - ✓ ENGLISH ST-GEO_POST Post-training questionnaire replies (1)
 - ✓ Mission report MAV Tbilisi 19-20 November 2024 Safeguarding training (ToT) - EndOCSEA@Europe+ project
 - ✓ Participants list signed day 1 & day 2 _ ST Georgia
 - ✓ ST-GEO_Pre-training questionnaire replies EN (1)
 - Moldova - 22-23 October 2024
 - ✓ Agenda_OCSEA safeguarding training_Chisinau 22-23 October 2024 (10)
 - ✓ Disaggregated data participants ST Moldova
 - ✓ email addresses participants ST MOL
 - ✓ Mission report Chisinau 22-23 October 2024 Safeguarding training (ToT) - EndOCSEA@Europe+ project _ Apolline Bonfils
 - ✓ Participants lists signed day 1 and day 2
 - ✓ ST-MOL_POST_ Chestionar post-formare _ Post-training questionnaire (réponses)
 - ✓ ST-MOL_POST_ Chestionar post-formare _ Post-training questionnaire EN translated
 - ✓ ST-MOL_PRE_ Chestionar pre-formare _ Pre-training questionnaire (réponses)
 - Factsheets for frontline professionals
 - ✓ Factsheet_healthcare professionals – RO
 - ✓ DOC_126 Factsheet_social workers – RO
 - ✓ DOC_127 Factsheet_teachers – RO
 - ✓ DOC_128 Safeguarding Training handbook - RO
- 3.2.1 Grants for awareness raising
 - Georgia - Partnership for Human Rights (through individual contracts)
 - ✓ AE.Oo.DA. Lela Gogoladse. Awareness raising OCSEA Georgia (2)
 - ✓ AE.Oo.DA. Tamar Gabodse. Awareness raising OCSEA Georgia (3)
 - ✓ Order Form - Anna Arganashvili - Awareness raising OCSEA Georgia (4)
 - Deliverables
 - ✓ Information cards for children
 - ✓ Presentation for children
 - ✓ Presentation for teachers
 - ✓ Guidance document on digital safety for children – GEO
 - ✓ Guidance document on digital safety for professionals - GEO (1)
 - ✓ project report T.Gabodse

Moldova – CRIC

- ✓ Amended budget_G17.2D ENG ANNEX II ESTIMATED BUDGET_CRIC 28.02.25- amended 2758-9811-0986.2
- ✓ Final financial report - Excel
- ✓ Final financial report - signed
- ✓ Final narrative report
- ✓ Final Narrative report_CRIC&CoE_2024-2025
- ✓ G17.2A ENG Grant Agreement for BO or VC_CRIC Signed 24.07 (1)
- ✓ G17.2A ENG Grant Agreement for BO or VC_CRIC Signed 24.07 2764-5267-8410.1
- ✓ Request for realignment of funds_28.02 2768-0418-2796.1
- Deliverables
- ✓ Online campaign OCSEA CRIC Moldova RO (8 documents)

Montenegro – Juventas

- ✓ G17.2A ENG Grant Agreement for BO or VC - Juventas - signed (1)
- ✓ G17.2A ENG Grant Agreement for BO or VC - Juventas - signed 2780-6579-0986.2
- ✓ Final financial report signed
- ✓ Final narrative report
- Workshop feedback (English & Montenegrin)
- ✓ Feedback from parents- Workshop
- ✓ Feedback from students- Workshop
- ✓ Feedback from professionals- Workshop
- Deliverables
- ✓ Brochures- web Savjet za roditelje 2788-6909-0572.1
- ✓ Brochures- web Online sigurnost djece 2788-3553-6140.1
- Digital partnerships
 - ✓ PPT Digital workshop Council of Europe standards children in the digital environment (1)
 - ✓ Digital Partnership Workshop 21-22 May 2024 REPORTS (1)
 - ✓ Digital partnership workshops OCSEA – Concept note (1)
 - ✓ Digital Partnership Workshop 21-22 May 2024 PARTICIPANTS
- Legal ToT training 14-15 May 2025
 - ✓ Disaggregated data participants Legal ToT MNE 2775-0505-6014.1
 - ✓ 214 Draft Agenda ToT_Legal training Podgorica 14-15 May 2025 EndOCSEA@Europe+
 - ✓ Mission report Podgorica 14-15 May 2025 ToT Legal training
 - ✓ LToT-MNE_PRE_Pre-training questionnaire_EN 2758-1807-3357.1
 - ✓ Mission report Podgorica 14-15 May 2025 ToT Legal training
 - ✓ Signed participants list ToT Montenegro May 2025 2762-1609-1662.1
- **Budget documents**
 - ✓ 20221220-VC-2558-Summary budget for donor consultation (1)
 - ✓ BH 9178 - VC2558Revised_budget_no cost extension 25.11.2024
 - ✓ VC 2558 Budget proposal EUR569 668 Council of Europe version
- **General project documents**
 - ✓ 20221221-VC-2558-EBR Form (Extra-budgetary request form Concept note)_updated Dec 2022_v2
 - ✓ Appendix 2.1 Reprogramming and NCE Request Form (4)
 - ✓ Appendix 2.2 Budget Revision Request Form 2758-6719-1049.1 (4)
 - ✓ Concept note
 - ✓ Description of activities
 - ✓ PMM_Activities_Workplan_(Gantt_chart)_for_COVID-19 (4)

- ✓ PMM_project_logframe (1)
- ✓ Project Summary ENDOCSEA PLUS (2)
- ✓ Results framework and monitoring plan revised Final (1)
- ✓ RF + MP reviewed January 2025 (1)
- ✓ Risks review
- ✓ Stakeholders listing
- ✓ VC-2558_New Investment Application Form CoE proposal_revised 19042024 (2)
- ✓ VC-2558_New Investment Application Form CoE proposal_validated by DPC prog (2)
- **Progress reports**
 - ✓ Interim financial report EndOCSEA+ (VC 2558) (2)
 - ✓ Interim narrative report EndOCSEA+ (VC 2558) (1)
 - ✓ Interim Financial Report 2024 BH9178 VC2558 - IFR 2789-5021-8508.1
 - ✓ 2024 Interim narrative report EndOCSEA+ -VC-2558
- **EndOCSEA@Europe+ Mailing list (2) (2)**

7.4 List of interview partners

Stakeholder Group	Armenia	France	International	Republic of Moldova	Montenegro	Total
Beneficiaries of awareness raising activities					3	3
Council of Europe & Safe Online		5	2	1	1	9
Grantee				1	1	2
International consultant/ trainer			5			5
Legal training participants					3	3
NAB Member				1	2	3
National consultant	1			1	1	3
Participants Launching Conference	2					2
Partner organisation/ Equivalent actor				3	1	4
Project stakeholder (Government)				4	3	7
Safeguarding training participants				2	5	7
SC Member					1	1
Total	3	5	7	13	21	49

7.5 Data collection instruments

7.5.1 Interview Guidelines

Responsible staff at Council of Europe & Safe Online

With interviewer instructions highlighted in italic.

1. Background and context

- *Introduce yourself first, inform about evaluation purpose as necessary, duration of interview, and inform about data privacy provisions (documentation, anonymisation etc.).*
- Please describe your role and responsibilities in the EndOCSEA@Europe project and your involvement in its management.
- Can you briefly outline how the project came into being and how it was developed? Who was involved in its development and how?
- Please provide a brief description of the project's objectives and of its main target groups. How were they reached?

2. Effectiveness

- *During discussion of Effectiveness and Impact keep track of results model. If necessary, show it to the interviewee to focus on particular impact pathways.*
- Can you briefly describe the key project activities performed in phase 1 and 2? *[Differentiate between the phases as necessary also in the following.]*
- To what extent and how were the project activities adapted to local contexts in the focus countries? How did the respective (political, societal, cultural and economic) framework conditions affect project implementation and effectiveness? *[Ask for concrete examples where possible.]*
- In what regard did the activities contribute to knowledge, attitude and behavioral change among the participants/target groups? Do you have any examples, best practices (e.g., particular workshop results, use/dissemination of training/information material)?
- With whom did the activities work out best? Which group was most challenging to work with and why? How did you deal with these challenges?
- Did/do you recognise differences in the success of the project among the focus countries/implementing partners? If so, what are the main reasons for these differences from your perspective?
- Do you have any anecdotal evidence about concrete improvements in law enforcement and judicial systems regarding the identification, investigation and prosecution of OCSEA cases in the focus countries? What observable changes can be attributed to the project? *[Refer to Immediate and Intermediate Outcomes where applicable.]*
- Can you please explain how the gender mainstreaming and human rights approach is included in the project design? How and to what extent does it contribute to its success?
- Can you think of any unintended effects of the project, no matter if positive or negative?

3. Impact

- *Refer to anecdotal evidence discussed before.*
- In what regard and to what extent did the protection of children from OCSEA in the focus countries improve during the project period? Can you give any concrete examples for improvements (e.g., adapted legislation, policies)?
- What were most important milestones in that regard?
- To what extent and how did the project contribute to these observable improvements or why can these improvements be plausibly attributed to the project (activities)? *[Try to validate results hypotheses, establish causality where/if possible.]*
 - How can they be linked to the Lanzarote Convention and in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?

- Would you say that the project has contributed to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
- How did cross border cooperation and coordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA change during the project period?
- To what extent and how did the project contribute to changed cooperation and coordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA?

4. Efficiency

Funds

- Do you consider that the funds allocated to the activities as adequate or were there any activities that could not or only partly be implemented as planned? If so, what were the main reasons therefore in your opinion?
- Have there been any activities that required more (e.g., financial, human) resources than planned? If so, why?
- Can you think of any other activities which could have been useful to achieve the project objective? If so, can you describe briefly and elaborate, why they were not included in the project design/budget?
- Do you see any other room for improvement? This is, do you have any suggestions to make either an activity/process run better?

Collaboration

- How do you rate the collaboration with Council of Europe/Safe Online/the funding/implementing partners [*choose as appropriate*] in the focus countries? What were/are the strengths and weaknesses, e.g., in terms of task division, communication, availability?
- Have there been any innovative approaches or ways of working (including partnerships with other organisations and multi-stakeholder collaborations) that enhanced efficiency?
- Are other relevant stakeholders involved in the designing/reviewing the overall content of activities carried out which are aimed at the target groups?

Challenges

- What challenges (e.g. health crisis, political instability, limited resources, sensitivity of discussions) have been encountered during the project's implementation and how have these affected progress toward project goals?
- Did the project start on time and with the initially foreseen activities and the initially agreed financial, human and technical resources? If not, what caused the delay?
- Have there been any relevant changes in the planned activities either before or on the run that needed to be addressed? If yes, which ones?
- How were these challenges mitigated, and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences for future programming?

5. Sustainability

- To what extent are the project's results/innovations/successes likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion?
- Are there (political, financial, institutional etc.) aspects/risks that could jeopardise the further implementation of the project in the focus countries and/or its results?
- To what extent do you consider the legislative reforms and capacity-building efforts being embedded within national systems for long-term impact?
- How can the successful approaches and lessons learned from this project be scaled or replicated in other Council of Europe member states facing similar challenges with OCSEA?
- Do you consider any further comments or suggestions relevant for the evaluation team?

Government representatives and participants in capacity-building activities

With interviewer instructions highlighted in italic.

1. Background and context

- *Introduce yourself first, inform about evaluation purpose as necessary, duration of interview, and inform about data privacy provisions (documentation, anonymisation etc.).*
- Please introduce yourself and describe your role and responsibilities in the EndOCSEA@Europe project, specifically your type of involvement in activities (e.g. trainings, workshops, etc.)

2. Effectiveness

- *During discussion of Effectiveness and Impact keep track of results model. If necessary, show it to the interviewee to focus on particular impact pathways.*
- Could you briefly describe the activities (e.g. trainings, workshops) you took part in and when? (Phase I or II?) *[Differentiate between the phases as necessary also in the following.]*
- Who implemented the activity and what was the target audience?
- How was it conducted (in person, online, etc.)? Do you consider that there are other channels for potential outreach that could work better?
- Did you receive any training/information material?
- Do you consider that the training/workshop content and material were responding to your needs and cover sufficient topics in an adequate allocated time or is there anything that could be improved?
- How would you rate your overall experience from workshop/training and to what extent did you gain knowledge and skills?
- Have you perceived any challenges or needs during your participation in the training/workshop (e.g., tools, didactics) that were not addressed?
- Was/ Is there room for exchange of experiences between trainers/moderators and trainees/participants?
- What aspects of the training/workshop were most helpful or impactful? Why?
- Were there any specific challenges in applying the knowledge or practices introduced by the project?
- How well did the project activities integrate with existing policies or strategies in your agency or department?
- Do you know if any regional/local educational authorities were involved in the planning and designing of the training/workshop material? Was material reviewed by other relevant stakeholders?
- Can you provide information on the gap analyses that was conducted? If yes:
 - Were you part of the process?
 - How and to what extent are its recommendations being used at national level?

3. Impact

- *Refer to anecdotal evidence discussed before.*
- Have you observed any positive outcomes or changes as a result of your participation in the project's training/workshop? *[Try to validate results hypotheses, establish causality where/if possible.]*
 - Did it contribute to any changes in collaboration or communication between different agencies, or with civil society organisations?
 - Have you noticed any shifts in the behavior or practices for yourself or other colleagues since participating in the project/training? If yes, can you describe them?
- Can you share any specific examples where the training/workshop had a direct impact on your daily work or operations?
- Did the training/workshop align with the identified needs in your country or agency?
- Are there any success stories or examples that illustrate the project's impact on individual cases or larger investigations?
- Are you familiar with the Lanzarote Convention? If yes:

- Would you say that the project has contributed to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
- Have there been any changes in national legislation, identification, prosecution, prevention, or victim support regarding OCSEA? If yes:
 - Can they be linked to the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
 - How and to what extent?

4. Efficiency

- Do you feel that the project was implemented efficiently in terms of resource allocation (time, personnel)?
- Were there any areas where you felt resources were underutilised or over-extended?
- How efficient were the logistical aspects of the project, including the coordination of training/workshop, or other activities?
- Were there any issues with timelines delivery that affected the outcomes?
- How would you evaluate the coordination between yourself/ your agency and other stakeholders involved in the activity (other governments, NGOs, international organisations)?
- Were there any communication or coordination challenges during your participation in the project?

5. Sustainability

- Have you been able to apply/ institutionalise any of the practices, tools, or strategies gained through the training/ workshop within your organisation or agency? If not, why?
- What steps are being taken to ensure that the knowledge and skills acquired through the training/workshop remain part of your ongoing operations?
- To what extent are the project's interventions likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion?
- Are there aspects/risks (political, financial, institutional, environmental) that could jeopardise the sustainability of the project's results in the country?
- Do you have any comments or suggestions that you consider are relevant for the evaluation team?

Implementing partners (Trainers, local NGOs conducting workshops/activities)

With interviewer instructions highlighted in italic.

1. Background and context

- *Introduce yourself first, inform about evaluation purpose as necessary, duration of interview, and inform about data privacy provisions (documentation, anonymisation etc.).*
- Please introduce yourself and describe your role and responsibilities in the EndOCSEA@Europe project, specifically your type of involvement in activities (e.g. trainings, workshops, etc.)

2. Effectiveness

- Could you briefly describe the activities (e.g., trainings, workshops) you/ your organisation conducted and when? (Phase I or II?) *[Differentiate between the phases as necessary also in the following.]*
- Who implemented the activity and what was the target audience?
- Only for NGOs:
 - How did your organisation contribute to the design, content, or delivery of these activities?
 - Were the goals of the project clearly defined, and were they aligned with your organisation's mission or objectives?
 - How well did the activities integrate with existing programs, policies, or initiatives in your area of work?

- To what extent and how were the project activities adapted to local contexts in the focus countries? How did the respective (political, societal, cultural and economic) framework conditions affect project implementation and effectiveness? *[Ask for concrete examples where possible.]*
- How was it conducted (in person, online, etc.)? Do you consider that there are other channels for potential outreach that could work better?
- Did you provide any training/information material? Who developed them?
- Do you know if any regional/local educational authorities were involved in the planning and designing of the training/workshop material? Was material reviewed by other relevant stakeholders?
- Do you consider that the training/workshop content and material were responding to the participants' needs and cover sufficient topics in an adequate allocated time or is there anything that could be improved?
- Have you perceived any challenges while conducting the training/workshop (e.g., tools, didactics) that were not addressed?
- Was/ Is there room for exchange of experiences between trainers/moderators and trainees/participants?
- What aspects of the training/workshop do you consider most helpful or impactful? Why?
- How well did the project activities integrate with existing policies or strategies in your agency or department?
- Where you part of the gap analysis that was conducted? If yes:
 - Can you provide information on the gap analyses that was conducted?
 - To what extent are its recommendations being used at national level?

3. Impact

- *Refer to anecdotal evidence discussed before.*
- In what regard did the activities contribute to knowledge, attitude and behavioral change among the participants/target groups? Do you have any examples, best practices (e.g., particular workshop results, use/dissemination of training/information material)?
- With whom did the activities work out best? Which group was most challenging to work with and why? How did you deal with these challenges?
- Only for international trainers
 - Did/do you recognise differences in the success of the project among the focus countries/implementing partners? If so, what are the main reasons for these differences from your perspective?
- Are there any success stories or examples that illustrate the project's impact on individual cases or larger investigations?
- Are you familiar with the Lanzarote Convention? If yes:
 - Would you say that the project has contributed to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
- Have there been any changes in national legislation, identification, prosecution, prevention, or victim support regarding OCSEA? If yes:
 - Can they be linked to the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
 - How and to what extent?

4. Efficiency

- Do you consider that the funds allocated to the activities as adequate or were there any activities that could not or only partly be implemented as planned? If so, what were the main reasons therefore in your opinion?
- Have there been any activities that required more (e.g., financial, human) resources than planned? If so, why?

- Do you feel that the training was implemented efficiently in terms of resource allocation (time, funding, personnel)?
- Were there any areas where you felt resources were underutilised or over-extended?
- How efficient were the logistical aspects of the project, including the coordination of training?
- Were there any issues with timelines delivery that affected the outcomes?
- How would you evaluate the coordination between yourself/ your agency and other stakeholders involved in the activity (other governments, NGOs, international organisations)?
- Were there any communication or coordination challenges during your participation in the project?

5. Sustainability

- What steps are being taken to ensure that the knowledge and skills acquired through the training/workshop remain part of your ongoing operations?
- To what extent are the project's interventions likely to be sustained beyond the project's completion?
- Are there aspects/risks (political, financial, institutional, environmental) that could jeopardise the sustainability of the project's results in the country?
- Do you have any comments or suggestions that you consider are relevant for the evaluation team?

Experts in the field and external stakeholders (e.g. other NGOs, not involved in project activities)

With interviewer instructions highlighted in italic.

Background and context

- *Introduce yourself first, inform about evaluation purpose as necessary, duration of interview, and inform about data privacy provisions (documentation, anonymisation etc.).*
- Please introduce yourself and describe your involvement/partnership with the EndOCSEA@Europe project. I
- Have you been involved in any activities of the project, if yes in which and to what extent?

Effectiveness

- From your perspective, what are the key legal and policy gaps that need to be addressed to enhance OCSEA prevention and prosecution?
- How well do current legal and law enforcement frameworks prioritise child victims' rights and protection?
- Projects like EndOCSEA@Europe work on training legal professionals.
- How efficiently are legal, policy, and training efforts addressing OCSEA in Europe?
- What are the essential elements that make such training effective?

Impact

- Are you familiar with the Lanzarote Convention? If yes:
- Would you say that the project has contributed to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
- Have you observed any notable successes in the prosecution, prevention, or victim support of OCSEA cases that could serve as best practices for initiatives like EndOCSEA@Europe? If yes:
- Can they be linked to the Lanzarote Convention? If so, in what regard (refer to particular Chapters and Articles if possible)?
- How and to what extent?
- How can we better assess the impact of legal and policy interventions on reducing OCSEA?
- What are the biggest challenges in tackling OCSEA?

Efficiency

- EndOCSEA@Europe seeks to improve international cooperation and multiagency coordination and response mechanisms.
- What do you see as the key enablers and barriers to effective coordination between law enforcement, judiciary, child protection agencies, and NGOs?
- What are the main strengths and weaknesses of current cross-border collaboration efforts?
- How can regional and international initiatives (like EndOCSEA@Europe) be more effectively aligned with national-level responses?
- Are existing resource allocations (funding, personnel, technology) sufficient for tackling OCSEA? If not, where are the most critical gaps?

Sustainability

- What strategies do you think are necessary to ensure that OCSEA response efforts remain sustainable beyond short-term projects and funding cycles?
- How can laws and policies be continuously updated to remain effective?
- What strategies would ensure that children's voices and participation are consistently included in shaping OCSEA prevention and response measures?
- Do you have any other points you would like to mention, that were not covered?

7.5.2 Online survey

(Target group: Representatives from ministries, public institutions, or agencies/ individuals involved in child protection, justice, education, or digital safety, training participants)

General Information

- **What is your country of employment?**
 - ☐ Armenia
 - ☐ Azerbaijan
 - ☐ Georgia
 - ☐ Republic of Moldova
 - ☐ Montenegro
 - ☐ Ukraine
 - ☐ Other: _____
- **In which institution or department do you work?**
(Open-ended)
- **Please indicate your profession, position, or job title.**
(Open-ended)
- **Please describe your role in the project (current or past).**
(Multiple selection possible).
 - ☐ Steering Committee Member
 - ☐ National Advisory Board Member
 - ☐ Participant in a Conference/Workshop
 - ☐ Consultant
 - ☐ Partner Organisation
 - ☐ Participant Training session
 - ☐ NGO receiving a grant
 - ☐ Ombudsperson

- ☐ Council of Europe Staff member
☐ Other: _____

Effectiveness

- **In your opinion, to what extent did the project activities contribute to strengthening national capacities to respond to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)?**
o Not at all / o Slightly / o Moderately / o Significantly / o Very significantly / o I don't know
- **Were the objectives of the project clearly communicated (e.g., during presentations of the project, communication about capacity-building activities, etc.)?**
o No / o Somewhat / o Yes / o I don't know
(If somewhat: What was lacking in the communication of the objectives?): _____
(If no: In what regard were the objectives not clearly communicated?): _____
- **Were the objectives aligned with national priorities?**
o No / o Somewhat / o Yes / o I don't know
(If somewhat: What was lacking in aligning the objectives with national priorities?): _____
(If no: In which regard were the objectives not in line with the national priorities?): _____
- **Which activities of the project were most useful to your institution? (Check all that apply)**
 - ☐ Legal and/or policy recommendations
 - ☐ Capacity-building activities (Training)
 - ☐ Awareness raising activities and materials
 - ☐ Coordination and networking
 - ☐ Other: _____

Efficiency

- **How would you rate the coordination from the Council of Europe team?**
o Very Poor / o Poor / o Satisfactory / o Good / o Excellent
- **How would you rate the communication from the Council of Europe team?**
o Very Poor / o Poor / o Satisfactory / o Good / o Excellent
- **To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The project resources (time, expertise, tools) were used in an efficient and timely manner?**
o Strongly disagree / o Disagree / o Neutral / o Agree / o Strongly agree / o No information

Impact

- **From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges in tackling OCSEA (e.g., key legal and policy gaps)?**
(Open-ended)
- **How can these challenges be addressed/mitigated to enhance OCSEA prevention and prosecution? (Open-ended)**
- **Can you name any exemplary institutional or policy changes that occurred as a result of the project?**
o No / Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____

- **Have you observed any notable successes in the prosecution, prevention, or victim support of OCSEA cases that could serve as best practices for initiatives like EndOCSEA@Europe?**
o No / Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____
- **To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The project contributed to improved multi-stakeholder collaboration at national level?**
o Strongly disagree / o Disagree / o Neutral / o Agree / o Strongly agree
- **To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The project contributed to improved cross-border cooperation and coordination among the Council of Europe member states in combatting OCSEA?**
o Strongly disagree / o Disagree / o Neutral / o Agree / o Strongly agree

Sustainability

- **Are any of the project tools, resources or trainings currently being used or adapted within your institution?**
o No / o Planning to / o Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____
- **What are the main factors that would help sustain or scale the project outcomes nationally?**
(Open-ended)
- **Did you participate in a training as part of the project?**
o Yes (continue with next questions)
o No (finish here)

For those who participated in training:

- **Which training did you participate in?**
o Legal training (Training for Law Enforcement, Judges, and Prosecutors)
o Safeguarding training – Training of trainers for frontline professionals (teachers, social workers, doctors)

Effectiveness

- **To what extent has the training improved your knowledge of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)?**
o Not at all / o Slightly / o Moderately / o Significantly / o Very significantly
- **Do you feel more confident in identifying or responding to OCSEA cases as a result of the training?**
o No / o Somewhat / o Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____
- **Which topics or tools from the training did you find most useful?**
(Open-ended)

Efficiency

- **To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The training content was clear, well-structured, and relevant to your work?**
o Strongly disagree / o Disagree / o Neutral / o Agree / o Strongly agree
- **Were the trainers/facilitators knowledgeable and effective?**
o Very Poor / o Poor / o Satisfactory / o Good / o Excellent
- **Were the logistics (materials, platform, time management) handled effectively?**
o Very Poor / o Poor / o Satisfactory / o Good / o Excellent
- **How was the training delivered?**
☐ In-person training
☐ Online training
- **Do you see any areas where the training could be improved?**
o No / Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____

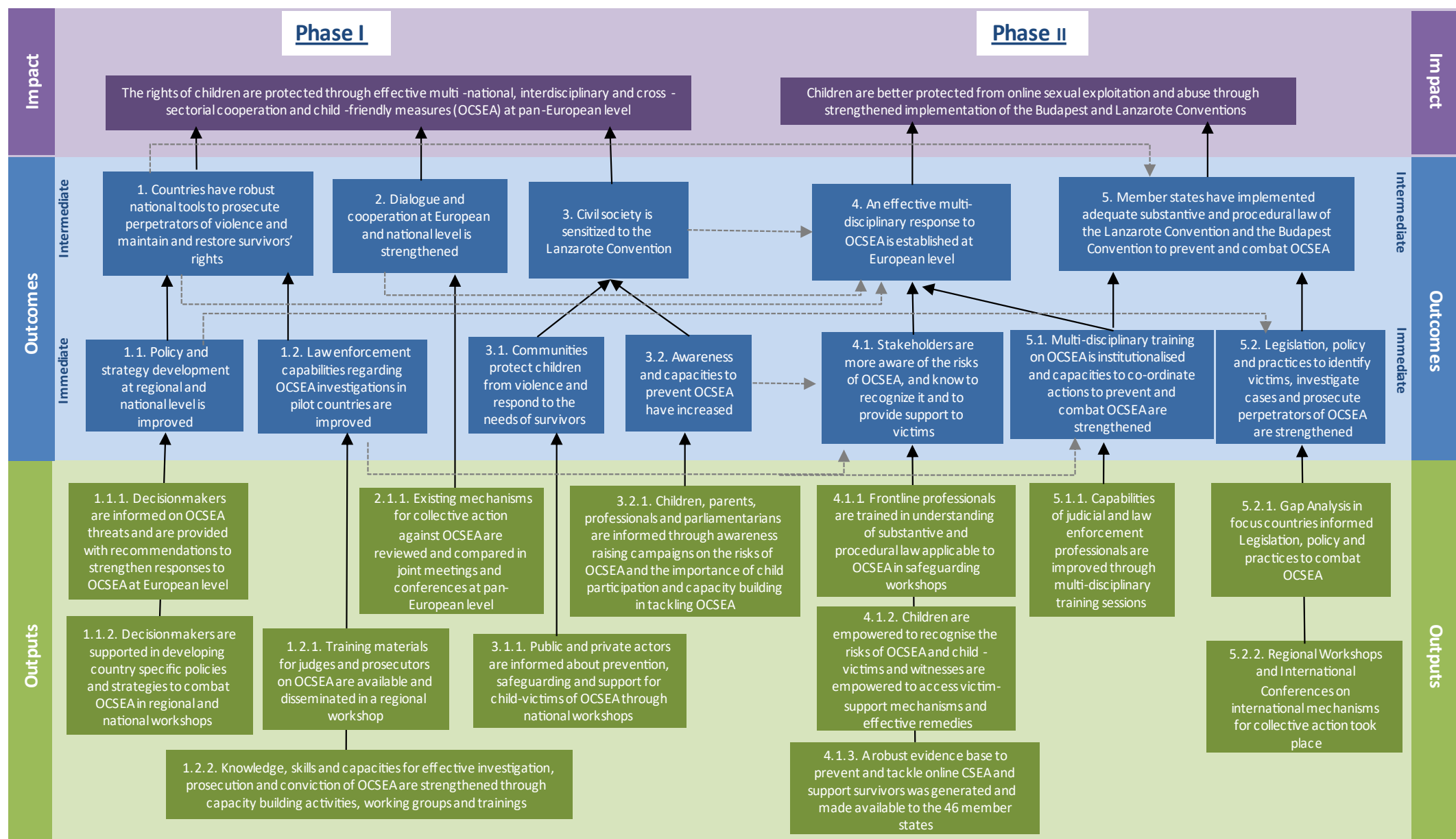
Impact

- **Have you applied any of the knowledge or tools from the training in your work since participating?**
o No/ o Not yet, but I plan to / o Yes
(If yes, please describe): _____
- **Have you shared the knowledge with colleagues or others in your professional environment?**
o No / Yes

Sustainability

- **Would you be interested in follow-up training or advanced workshops?**
o No / o Maybe / o Yes
- **What support would help you apply what you've learned long-term (e.g., manuals, policy support, peer network)? (Open-ended)**

7.6 Theory of Change



Theory of Change

The Theory of Change outlines the results logic of **both phases** of the EndOCSEA@Europe project. Based on the information provided in the ToR, the results model was collaboratively revised by the evaluation team and Council of Europe project team, leading to differences at the output and outcome levels compared to the original logframe. This updated ToC, also referred to as the “results model”, clearly visualises the relationships between outputs, outcomes and impacts derived from project activities, which are mentioned in the text but not included in the results model.

As outlined above, the EndOCSEA@Europe project aims to prevent and combat OCSEA by enhancing cross-national collaboration, strengthening legal and policy frameworks, and empowering communities and children across Europe. Implemented in two phases, **Phase I** establishes the groundwork through baseline mapping, capacity building, and regional co-operation, while **Phase II** builds on these outcomes by institutionalising practices, enhancing legal frameworks, and ensuring long-term sustainability through training and evidence-based approaches. Together, these phases are geared to create a robust framework to protect children and combat OCSEA effectively.

Phase I: Building Foundations and Strengthening Capacities

In the first phase of the project, the primary focus is on laying the foundation for effective protection against OCSEA through policy development, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

At the **Output level** the project focused on **seven key outputs**:

Output 1.1.1 focused on **informing decision-makers across Europe about the threats posed by OCSEA**. This was intended to be achieved through a baseline mapping of OCSEA trends, promising practices, and challenges in Council of Europe member states, providing actionable recommendations to address these issues at European level. A regional launching conference and regular Steering Group meetings were conducted to disseminate findings and facilitated stakeholder engagement. Technical support was offered to assess national legislation, evaluate policies and strategies, and pilot a national risk assessment methodology.

Output 1.1.2 focused on **supporting the development of country-specific policies and strategies**. National workshops in pilot countries should leverage baseline assessment findings to develop roadmaps and enhance multi-stakeholder protocols, action plans, and strategies. A regional validation workshop was conducted to further refine these outputs, ensuring their alignment with international standards. Enforcement of these strategies was promoted through collaborative protocols among decision-makers.

Output 1.2.1 focused on **developing and disseminating training materials for judges and prosecutors**. These materials included a comprehensive module combining the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions, child-friendly justice, victim-centered approaches, and investigations based on electronic evidence. The module was tested in pilot settings and refined for broader application. Regional workshops should provide a platform to share these resources and promote judicial capacity-building.

Output 1.2.2 focused on **strengthening knowledge, skills and capacities for effective investigation, prosecution and conviction of OCSEA through capacity building activities, working groups, trainings and regional workshops**. The trainings covered the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions and emphasised child-friendly justice, victim-centered approaches, and the use of electronic evidence in investigations. Through participation in relevant international events cross-border collaboration should be enhanced.

Output 2.1.1 focused on **reviewing and enhancing mechanisms for collective action against OCSEA at the pan-European level**. This was intended to be achieved through a comparative review of existing mechanisms, mainstreaming OCSEA prevention and prosecution into Council of Europe agendas, and joint activities with regional and international organisations. A closing conference aimed to consolidate insights and strengthen commitments to co-ordinated action, fostering a unified and effective response.

Output 3.1.1 focused on **sensitising public and private actors to safeguarding, prevention, and survivor support**. National workshops were implemented to emphasise these themes while creating or strengthening

multi-stakeholder bodies. Promising practices were shared regionally to enhance collective efforts. These activities informed and mobilised key stakeholders to protect children from OCSEA.

Output 3.2.1 focused on **raising awareness among children, parents, professionals, and parliamentarians**. Campaigns used materials and interventions to highlight OCSEA risks and promote child participation in prevention measures.

At the **Outcome level** the project focused on **four immediate outcomes**, which again should lead to **three intermediate outcomes**:

As a result of *Output 1.1.1 and Output 1.1.2* it is assumed that **policy and strategy development at regional and national level for combating OCSEA will improve (Immediate Outcome 1.1)**, provided decision-makers are equipped with knowledge and tools to craft effective, country-specific policies and strategies, and actively support the revision of policies, strategies, action plans, and legislation.

As a result of *Output 1.2.1 and Output 1.2.2* it is assumed that **law enforcement agencies' capabilities to address OCSEA will improve (Immediate Outcome 1.2)**, if legal professionals and agencies in pilot countries receive tailored training and resources on effective investigation, prosecution and conviction of OCSEA cases, and if they apply the enhanced knowledge and skills gained.

It is assumed that *Immediate Outcome 1.1 and Immediate Outcome 1.2* will collectively lead to **countries having robust national tools to prosecute perpetrators of violence and uphold and restore survivors' rights (Intermediate Outcome 1)**.

As a result of *Output 2.1.1*, it is assumed that **dialogue and co-operation at European and national levels will strengthen (Intermediate Outcome 2)**, if key stakeholders at the pan-European level are brought together in joint meetings and conferences to review mechanisms, and explore cohesive actions and alignment of strategies against OCSEA.

As a result of *Output 3.1.1*, it is assumed that **communities will become more proactive in protecting children from violence and addressing survivors' needs (Immediate Outcome 3.1)**, if public and private actors are informed about safeguarding and prevention measures, and if they are sensitised on support for child-victims of OCSEA.

As a result of *Output 3.2.1*, it is assumed that **societal awareness and preventive capacities will increase (Immediate Outcome 3.2)**, if awareness-raising campaigns educate children, parents, professionals, and parliamentarians on the risks of OCSEA and the importance of child participation and capacity building in tackling OCSEA. It is assumed that *Immediate Outcome 3.1 and Immediate Outcome 3.2* are expected to lead to the sensitisation of civil society to the Lanzarote Convention (**Intermediate Outcome 3**).

The intermediate outcomes are expected to occur, under the condition that responsible authorities are committed to capacity-building, civil society is engaged in the process, and social service providers are dedicated to improving support for survivors.

The *Intermediate Outcomes of Phase I* – robust national policies and enforcement capabilities, strengthened co-operation, and increased public awareness – are assumed to collectively contribute to **protecting children's rights through effective multinational, interdisciplinary, and cross-sectoral co-operation to combat OCSEA at the pan-European level (Impact)** and to serve as building blocks for Phase II.

Phase II: Scaling Up and Sustaining Efforts to Combat OCSEA

Phase II builds on the **achievements of Phase I** by further enhancing legal and policy frameworks, strengthening multi-disciplinary responses, and scaling up public awareness and capacity-building efforts. Furthermore, it focuses on institutionalising the work initiated in Phase I and on expanding it to a broader set of countries and stakeholders.

At the **Output level** the project focuses on **six key outputs**:

Output 4.1.1 focuses on **training frontline professionals**, such as teachers, social workers and healthcare professionals, on OCSEA laws through safeguarding workshops. Activities include developing a training module on safeguarding children, conducting Training of Trainers workshops to equip professionals with the knowledge to better protect children from OCSEA and developing practical factsheets for professionals. It is also assumed that all participants will undergo pre- and post-event evaluations to assess changes in knowledge and attitudes.

Output 4.1.2 focuses on **empowering children to recognise OCSEA risks and access support mechanisms**. This should be achieved by providing grants to organise awareness-raising workshops and, more specifically, to promote localised versions of the “Kiko” and “Manymes” awareness-raising materials, enhancing children’s understanding and protection.

Output 4.1.3 focuses on **establishing a robust evidence base**, through producing and disseminating reports with best practices and lessons learned. Amongst others, this includes the evaluation process of the EndOCSEA@Europe Phase I and II, which is integral to identifying key insights and providing recommendations. By making all project outputs available to the 46 member states, this knowledge will enhance collective responses and guide future interventions.

Output 5.1.1 focuses on **improving the capabilities of judicial and law enforcement professionals** through multi-disciplinary training. This should be achieved by updating existing training modules for legal professionals during Phase I and developing a new training module on interagency co-operation, conducting pilot trainings in the three focus countries, and institutionalising these efforts through a Training of Trainers (ToT) program.

Output 5.2.1 focuses on **informing legislation, policy, and practices to combat OCSEA through a gap analysis** in three focus countries. This should be achieved by identifying gaps and providing recommendations for strengthening national responses to OCSEA.

Output 5.2.2 focuses on organising **regional workshops and international conferences** on collective action against OCSEA. This should be achieved through a workshop on co-operation with international prosecuting institutions (e.g., INHOPE, WPGA and Protect Children) and international conferences to enhance collaboration.

At **Outcome level** the project focuses on **three immediate outcomes** that should contribute to **two intermediate outcomes**:

As a result of *Output 4.1.1*, *Output 4.1.2*, and *Output 4.1.3*, along with *Immediate Outcome 1.2* and *Immediate Outcome 3.2 of Phase I*, it is assumed that **stakeholders will become more aware of the risks of OCSEA, better equipped to recognise it, and prepared to provide effective support to victims (Immediate Outcome 4.1).**

As a result of *Output 5.1.1* and the *Immediate Outcome 1.2 of Phase I*, it is assumed that **multi-disciplinary training on OCSEA will be institutionalised, strengthening the capacity to co-ordinate actions to prevent and combat OCSEA (Immediate Outcome 5.1)**. It is assumed that *Immediate Outcome 4.1* and *Immediate Outcome 5.1*, along with *Intermediate Outcome 1*, *Intermediate Outcome 2*, and *Intermediate Outcome 3 of Phase I*, will lead to the establishment of an **effective multi-disciplinary response to OCSEA at the European level (Intermediate Outcome 4)**.

As a result of **Output 5.2.1** and **Output 5.2.2**, legislation, policy, and practices to identify victims, investigate cases, and prosecute perpetrators of OCSEA are strengthened (**Immediate Outcome 5.2**), under the assumption that the revision of policies, strategies, action plans, and legislation will be supported by decision-makers. It requires that government stakeholders will be interested in engaging in these activities in line with Article 5 of the Lanzarote Convention.

It is assumed that *Immediate Outcome 5.1* and *Immediate Outcome 5.2*, along with *Intermediate Outcome 1 of Phase I*, will lead to **member states implementing adequate substantive and procedural laws in accordance with the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions to prevent and combat OCSEA (Intermediate Outcome 5)**.

By the end of Phase II, the **implementation of laws aligned with the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions**, combined with a strengthened multi-disciplinary response, enhanced European-level co-operation and a sensitised civil society established during Phase I, is expected to result in **better protection for children from online sexual exploitation and abuse, strengthening the enforcement of these conventions**, intending to create lasting change **(Impact)**.

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Convention in the member states.