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Lanzarote Committee Implementation Report on:

“The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs): addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos (CSGSIV)”

This factsheet was prepared by the Secretariat in March 2023.

It has been updated with information submitted by the Government of Czechia in March 2025 displayed in orange and blue text boxes.

Table of Content

I.	Introduction.....	3
II.	Legal frameworks	4
III.	Investigations and prosecution	7
IV.	Jurisdiction rules.....	11
V.	International cooperation	13
VI.	Assistance to victims.....	17
VII.	Civil society involvement and cooperation	19
VIII.	Promoting awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves	21
IX.	Education for children	23
X.	Higher education curriculum and continuous training	25
XI.	Research	29

I. Introduction

One of the main functions of the Lanzarote Committee (“the Committee”) is to monitor the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention (“the Convention”). The monitoring procedure is divided into rounds, each concerning a specific thematic area and involving all State Parties (“the Parties”) simultaneously. The monitoring rounds start with the launch of a thematic questionnaire, to which the national authorities are asked to respond, and which other relevant stakeholders can comment on. After carrying out its **evaluation procedure**, consisting of the analysis of such replies, the Committee adopts an **implementation report** where it draws conclusions about the different national frameworks, strategies and policies in place, makes recommendations to Parties, and highlights promising practices as well as some challenges. Sometime after the adoption of the implementation report, the Committee conducts a **compliance procedure** with the aim of assessing whether Parties comply with the recommendations made by the Committee as part of the evaluation procedure.

The compliance procedure seeks to assess the follow-up given by Parties to the recommendations made by the Committee in the evaluation procedure. In the [implementation report of its 2nd monitoring round concerning the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos](#), the Committee made **three types of recommendations**:

- **“Require”**: when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to obligations arising from the Convention, as clarified by its explanatory report.
- **“Request”**: when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to obligations arising from the Convention, as clarified by documents adopted by the Committee (such as previous monitoring round findings, opinions or other documents).
- **“Invite”**: when the steps the Committee recommends Parties to take correspond to promising practices or other measures to enhance protection of children against sexual violence even beyond specific requirements of the Convention.

At its 41st meeting (13-15 February 2024), the Lanzarote Committee agreed on a new methodology for the assessment of State Parties’ compliance with the 2nd monitoring round recommendations ([see point 4 of the Appendix to the List of decisions](#)). It entrusted the Secretariat to insert boxes in the 2nd monitoring round country [factsheets](#) to highlight where information on follow-up measures taken or changes occurred may be inserted. It is recalled that these factsheets are a synthesis of the Committee’s implementation report findings with respect to specific Parties. The factsheets are structured along the lines of the implementation report and the footnotes in this document refer to the specific paragraphs of the implementation report.

The orange boxes contain information submitted by the State Party regarding progress made towards the implementation of the recommendation.

The blue boxes contain examples of national promising practices that respond to “invite” recommendations made by the Committee.

II. Legal frameworks

Interpreting the Convention, in conjunction with its [Opinion on child sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos generated, shared and received by children](#) (6 June 2019), the Committee identifies what Parties ought to have in place as well as what they are encouraged to do to better protect children against the exploitation of their self-generated sexual images and/or videos (CSGSIV).

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on the legal framework specific to the Czech Republic

Interplay of the age of criminal responsibility and the age of sexual consent with the criminalisation of conduct related to the production and possession of CSAM and CSGSIV

The Committee observes that in the Czech Republic children who are below the age of criminal responsibility, which is the age of 15, and above the legal age for sexual activities cannot be held criminally liable for production and possession of CSGSIV.¹ However, the Committee notes that relying on the age of sexual consent to exclude criminal responsibility for the scenarios listed in paragraphs 3-6 of the 2019 Opinion, is insufficient as, in such cases, children above the age of criminal responsibility but below the legal age for sexual activities may not be covered by the exemption from criminal responsibility.²

- The Committee **requests** that the Czech Republic ensures in its legal framework³ that a child will not be prosecuted when he/she possesses:
 - their own self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos;
 - self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos of another child with the informed consent of the child depicted on them;
 - the self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos of another child as a result of receiving them passively without actively asking for them.⁴

Follow-up actions:

Regarding the possession of self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos by the child itself:
Prosecution for such conduct is not specifically

excluded in relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, however, such prosecution would be contrary to a basic criminal law principle according to which a person who shall be protected by a specific provision cannot be considered perpetrator of the criminal offence concerned. That principle ensures that such conduct is not prosecuted.

Regarding the possession of self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos by another child with the informed consent of the child depicted:

The possession of such material is punishable. However, where generated solely for their own purposes, application of the corrective of subsidiarity of criminal repression could be appropriate, given the low level of harmfulness of such conduct to society. Where using that corrective, the conduct in question would not be prosecuted although formally meeting the definition of a criminal offence. Also, based on specific circumstances of individual case, condition precluding unlawfulness of the act (i.e. also precluding its punishability) consisting in consent of the aggrieved party could apply (Section 30 of the Criminal Code).

Regarding the possession of self-generated sexually suggestive or explicit images and/or videos of another child as a result of receiving them passively without actively asking for them:

The receipt of such material through no fault of one's own is not a criminal offence (*mens rea* is missing). Nevertheless, the continued

¹ Paras. 71, 73.

² Para. 73.

³ The expression "legal framework" is not limited to legislation

but should be understood in a broader way, e.g., through prosecutorial guidance or practice.

⁴ Recommendation II-6.

intentional possession of material so received is punishable as possession of pornographic material depicting a child or a person appearing to be a child.

The Czech Republic is not currently planning any legislative changes in this matter. The legislative framework will be reconsidered following the foreseen adoption of the EU draft directive revising Directive 2011/93, with regard to its final wording.

Finally, in relation to the Committee's observations, there seems to be an inaccuracy regarding the age limits. The age of sexual maturity, as well as the age of criminal responsibility, is 15 years in the Czech Republic.

- The Committee also **invites** the Czech Republic to introduce explicit references in its legal framework to conduct concerning CSGSIV, identifying the circumstances when children should not be held criminally liable and when they should be prosecuted only as a last resort.⁵

Criminalisation of conduct related to “offering or making available” CSAM and its relationship with the sharing their own or other children’s CSGSIV

The Committee observes that the Czech Republic has rules that lead to the criminalisation of the distribution/transmission by children of their own or other children’s CSGSIV under special circumstances.⁶

The Committee **requests** the Czech Republic to ensure that:

- a child will not be prosecuted for sharing his/her sexual images and/or videos with another child when such sharing is voluntary, consensual, and intended solely for their own private use.⁷

Follow-up actions:

The principle, according to which a person who shall be protected by a specific provision cannot be considered perpetrator of the criminal offence concerned, would apply

similarly as described above also as regards sharing of such material.

- the distribution or transmission by children of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of other children is prosecuted as a last resort when such images and/or videos qualify as “child pornography” in accordance with Article 20(2) Lanzarote Convention.⁸

Follow-up actions:

The distribution or transmission of such material is punishable according to the Criminal Code. However, the application of criminal liability is always the means *ultima ratio* (Section 12 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code), all the more so in the case of children. Moreover, a person who has reached the age of criminal responsibility (over 15 years of age) but is still a child (under 18 years of age) is a juvenile in terms of Czech criminal law, and if they have not reached such intellectual and moral maturity ensuring that they can recognize the illegality of their act or control their actions, they are not criminally responsible (despite reaching the age of criminal responsibility). The measures imposed on juveniles are aimed at disciplining and correcting rather than punishing them. Punitive measures may be imposed only in the most serious cases where the remedial purpose cannot be achieved in any other way (Section 3 paragraph 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act).

On the prosecution of conduct amounting to “sexual extortion of children”

The Committee observes that in cases of “sexual extortion of children” for obtaining additional sexual images or videos of the child, the Czech Republic prosecutes for offences related to “child pornography”, in concurrence with offences where threat is a core element, such as extortion or coercion.⁹ The Czech Republic also referred to the offence of sexual coercion which may be established, in recognition of the constituent elements of coercion/extortion.¹⁰

In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is to

⁵ Recommendation II-2.

⁶ Paras. 78, 82.

⁷ Recommendation II-8.

⁸ Recommendation II-9.

⁹ Para. 98.

¹⁰ Para. 100.

obtain other sexual favours from the child depicted in the images/videos or from another child, the Committee observes that the Czech Republic would prosecute for offences related to participation in pornographic performances and sexual coercion in general (not specifically targeting children).¹¹ The Czech Republic also stated that threat is a constituent element of sexual aggression and rape.¹²

In addition, the Czech Republic would prosecute conduct relating to the possession of the initial child sexual image or video as an offence related to “child pornography” under Article 20.¹³ In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is a financial gain, the Committee observes that in the Czech Republic the conduct will be qualified under offences related to extortion or aggravated extortion, child pornography and human trafficking.¹⁴

Generic recommendations of the Committee on legal frameworks

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to introduce a definition of “child sexual abuse material” (CSAM) for material depicting acts of sexual abuse of children and/or focusing on the genitalia of the child, following the guidance set out in the [“Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse”](#)^{15, 16}
- to rather use the term “child sexual abuse material” in the development of future national, regional and international legal instruments and policies addressing the prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as the Committee acknowledges that using the term “child pornography” can undermine the gravity of the crimes it refers to.¹⁷
- to contemplate appropriate legal responses to conduct involving non-visual self-generated sexual material produced by children in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention.¹⁸
- to adopt legislative or other measures

which promote as a priority educational and other measures that will aim to support children in safely exploring their sexual development while understanding and avoiding risks deriving from the production and possession of self-generated sexual images and/or videos.¹⁹

- to consider criminalising the offence of “grooming” (solicitation of children for sexual purposes), even when it does not lead to a face-to-face meeting or producing child sexual abuse material.²⁰
- to take into account the situation where CSGSIV are used to force, coerce or threaten the child to give additional CSGSIV, other sexual favours, a financial gain or other gain to the offenders by:
 - either creating a specific incrimination to address this situation,
 - or prosecuting both the initial detention of CSGSIV and the act of extortion.²¹
- to ensure that sexual extortion of children involving CSGSIV is investigated and prosecuted.²²

Promising practices:

¹¹ Paras. 102, 104.

¹² Para. 104.

¹³ Para. 103.

¹⁴ Para. 106.

¹⁵ The Terminology Guidelines also refer to the term “child sexual exploitation material”, indicating that this term can be used in a broader sense, see [“Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines”, pages 38-40 in particular.](#)

¹⁶ Recommendation II-1.

¹⁷ Recommendation II-3.

¹⁸ Recommendation II-4.

¹⁹ Recommendation II-7.

²⁰ Recommendation II-10.

²¹ Recommendation II-11.

²² Recommendation II-12.

III. Investigations and prosecution

In its [Interpretative Opinion on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of information and communication technologies](#) (ICTs) (12 May 2017), the Committee called on Parties to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of ICT facilitated sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by providing resources and training to responsible authorities.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on investigations and prosecution specific to the Czech Republic

The Committee observes that the Czech Republic's investigation, prosecution, and legal services are already in line with some of its recommendations as the Czech Republic has:

- specialised units dealing with ICT-facilitated offences against children within law enforcement, with a central unit and regional subdivisions specialised in ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children, which cooperate at different levels.²³
- prosecution offices dedicated to combating cybercrime that manage cases concerning sexual abuse or exploitation of children facilitated by ICTs.²⁴
- training programmes provided by State authorities for law enforcement agents related to aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.²⁵ The content of the training addresses juvenile delinquency.²⁶
- training programmes provided by State authorities on aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse for prosecutors.²⁷ The training content includes online child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material, and specific issues relating to high-tech or cybercrime.²⁸
- relevant training programmes provided by State authorities in place for judges.²⁹
- judges and prosecutors are trained together and/or have the same training options available to them.³⁰ Additionally, seminars on issues surrounding child sexual abuse materials

are regularly held for prosecutors and judges.³¹

- victim identification units within law enforcement for cases of ICT facilitated sexual offences against children,³² and a national database for identification of victims in child abuse materials.³³

The Committee also observes that the Czech Republic makes an active contribution to the INTERPOL's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database.³⁴

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee **invites** the Czech Republic:

- to establish, where appropriate, specialised units, services or persons within the courts in charge of dealing with ICT facilitated sexual offences against children.³⁵
- to provide specific training on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children, including when such offences involve CSGSIV, and ICT facilitated coercion or extortion to law enforcement agents who are likely to come into contact with such cases.³⁶
- to offer joint (or "joined-up") training for professionals, and particularly law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, involved in legal proceedings involving ICT-facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, in order to ensure consistency at all stages.³⁷

²³ Paras. 115, 119.

²⁴ Para. 125.

²⁵ Paras. 145, 146.

²⁶ Para. 152.

²⁷ Paras. 156, 157.

²⁸ Para. 164.

²⁹ Para. 167.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Para. 165.

³² Para. 180.

³³ Para. 183.

³⁴ Para. 186.

³⁵ Recommendation III-8.

³⁶ Recommendation III-14.

³⁷ Recommendation III-20.

- to ensure that training on ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children for law-

enforcement, prosecutors and judges contains a practical element, involving simulated or real cases.³⁸

Generic recommendations of the Committee on investigation and prosecution

On the specialisation and training of authorities

- Mindful of the different contexts in the Parties as recalled in para. 235 of the Explanatory Report, the Committee **requests** those Parties that are not already doing so to ensure that law enforcement and prosecution units, services or persons specialised in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are adequately financed to ensure sufficient resources, including staff, equipment and training.³⁹

Follow-up actions:

There is ensured specialization of law enforcement and public prosecutors in the Czech Republic at all levels of the system. It is ensured that only specialists trained for this purpose are engaged in investigation and prosecution as well. The numbers of these specialists are sufficient at all levels of the system, and they have sufficient space to address this issue. These specialists are also regularly trained. Joint meetings of specialized police officers and public prosecutors are also regularly organized. Educational events are organized for public prosecutors and judges at the Judicial Academy. Sufficient material security is also ensured. All police departments have well-equipped special rooms for questioning minors, including victims. These rooms are equipped with hidden devices for making video and audio recordings.

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to ensure that the capacities of any investigative unit specialised in ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children take into account evolving technologies and online

behaviours and reflect current practices used by perpetrators. Additionally, the Committee invites all Parties to exchange best practices between the relevant investigative units.⁴⁰

- to ensure that law enforcement units, services or persons specialised in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children adequately cover and/or are specialised in offences against children involving CSGSIV.⁴¹
- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have the necessary specialisation in the intersecting areas of children's rights, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, and ICT technical knowledge.⁴²
- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have sufficient specialisation in offences involving CSGSIV.⁴³

On measures to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution

- The Committee **requires** all Parties to ensure that investigations and criminal proceedings in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are treated as priority and carried out without any unjustified delay.⁴⁴

Follow-up actions:

Investigations and criminal proceedings in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are carried out without unjustified delay in the Czech Republic, however, there is a lack of experts for cybercrime and for offences against children who could submit expert opinions, which extends the overall length of criminal proceedings. Another problem is international judicial cooperation, which also leads to delays in criminal proceedings.

³⁸ Recommendation III-21.

³⁹ Recommendations III-3 and III-7.

⁴⁰ Recommendation III-4.

⁴¹ Recommendation III-5.

⁴² Recommendation III-9.

⁴³ Recommendation III-10.

⁴⁴ Recommendation III-30.

The Committee also **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to ensure that measures, services and technology available to those in charge of identifying child victims of ICT-facilitated sexual offences are up to date, reflect current practices across Parties, including establishing and using national child abuse material databases, and that resources are sufficiently allocated.⁴⁵
- to engage in and strengthen inter-Party cooperation for the purpose of identifying child victims and perpetrators of ICT facilitated sexual offences, including, where appropriate, by providing access to each other's databases or

shared databases, including those containing information on such perpetrators.⁴⁶

- to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that preservation of specified stored computer data in connection with a specific criminal investigation or proceedings is made possible, fully upholding the rights of the parties involved.⁴⁷
- to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the investment in human, financial and physical resources is sufficient to have data generated by ICTs analysed in a timely manner so that investigations are carried out without any unjustified delay.⁴⁸

Promising practice

In the Czech Republic, law enforcement agents can benefit from qualification training courses. A time allowance of 20 hours is devoted to the issue of committing crime against children, including in the cyberspace. The issue of cybercrime is given a time allowance of 22 hours.

In the Czech Republic, the Judicial Academy regularly organises or co-organises educational events related to ICT facilitated criminal offences including sexual offences, available to prosecutors, judges, and, depending on the capacity of the courses, legal and judicial trainees, as well as assistants to judges and prosecutors. Among these, two long seminars were organised in 2021 on the theme "Cybercrime – selected issues", focusing, among others, on "threats on social networks, especially against children, cyberbullying, cybergrooming, sexting, cyberstalking, extortion, production and distribution of child pornography". In addition, a three-day seminar "Juveniles and minors" was organised in 2019, focusing on the issue of "children and risks of cyberspace", including on the issues of "crimes committed by children and on children through the cyber environment and the protection of children, cyberbullying, sexting, webcamtrolling, cybergrooming".

Promising practices:

In general, it can be defined that a specialist (in relation to sexual offences against children committed with the help of ICT) is a police officer who has special training in dealing with children and is assigned to a police organisational unit dealing with youth and vice crime. Specialists are obliged to undergo special training in the form of training programmes covering the issue of child offences and crimes against children.

Within the framework of police training courses, police officers are trained in the area of legal regulations, skills for identifying and instructing victims, practical experience in the use of special interrogation rooms, and others that actively contribute to a higher standard of performance of the Police Service of the Czech Republic. These include in particular full-time courses entitled "Child in Criminal Proceedings", "Interrogation of Persons under 18 and Particularly Vulnerable Victims", "Victims of Crime and Domestic Violence - Trainer", "Conducting Police Actions by Video Conferencing". Course "Victims of crime and domestic violence - trainer". This training was expanded in time and content to include tutoring skills and examples of inter-agency cooperation. In the framework of the full-time course "Interviewing persons under 18 and particularly vulnerable

⁴⁵ Recommendation III-24.

⁴⁶ Recommendations III-25, III-29.

⁴⁷ Recommendation III-31.

⁴⁸ Recommendation III-32.

victims", the systematic training of police officers interviewing children is continued, and the course also includes practical training based on real case studies and case law, including introducing participants to other cases that have already been completed.

An e-learning training programme on victims of crime has been developed in cooperation with the Directorate of the Riot Police Service and non-profit organisations. In cooperation with the Department of Police Education and Service Training, cooperation was initiated on the project Interrogation of a Child and a Particularly Vulnerable Victim - Use of Virtual Reality for Police Training.

Specialists meet regularly at Instructional Methodology Workshops, which are regular meetings of police officers to exchange information on current case law, training and new trends in the field. Representatives of prosecutor offices and courts, including forensic experts and representatives of helping organisations, are also invited to these meetings.

The Czech Republic has a methodological website available to all police officers, which contains solutions to different types of crime, which include, but are not limited to, cybercrime, including recommended and verified procedural steps to follow during the investigation and prosecution.

The Judicial Academy regularly organises or co-organises training events for prosecutors and judges, involved in legal proceedings with focus on ICT-facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. All courses include both theoretical and practical element, discussed are simulated or real cases, and best practices. Depending on the capacity of those courses, also judicial candidates, legal trainees, as well as assistants to judges and prosecutors and court staff can participate. In 2024 following courses and training activities that included topics of legal proceedings with ICT-facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children were offered to the Czech judiciary: Violent crime and sexually motivated crime; Sexualized violence from the victim's perspective; Juvenile and Youth Crime; Cybercrime - selected issues; Status and rights of the victim and the victim of crime in criminal proceedings; International Seminar Domestic and Sexualized Violence - Victimological Aspects.

In cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network the Czech Judicial Academy offered to Czech judges and prosecutors international training events: Victim's Rights in the EU in practice: violence against women and sexual abuse of children; Procedural Safeguards in criminal proceedings in the EU in practice: focus on Children's directive; Child protection procedure, especially in case of suspected sexualised violence.

The Czech Judicial Academy also promotes among Czech judges, prosecutors and judicial staff the Council of Europe online courses called the HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) programme. HELP includes free online courses, available in English and other languages. The Czech justice professionals can participate in the HELP course called Children's Rights in digital environment and protection against sexual exploitation/abuse, which includes the theme of ICT-facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The module was developed as a part of the HELP course on Family Law and Human Rights. It includes chapters on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (focusing on the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention) and the rights of the child in the digital environment.

Also in 2025, the Czech Judicial Academy continues offering to the Czech justice practitioners training activities focused on topics such as protection of the rights of the child, the Lanzarote Convention, protection of children against sexual and gender-based abuse, and problems related to images and videos of children with sexual themes created by children themselves and their protection.

IV. Jurisdiction rules

Due to their online component, offences related to conducts involving CSGSIV have an inherently international aspect. As the prosecution of offences related to this material may involve more than one jurisdiction, the report analyses the jurisdictional rules in place in the Parties, enabling the determination of which Party may prosecute a particular case and under what conditions.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on jurisdiction rules specific to the Czech Republic

Jurisdiction in cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs committed on the territory of a Party: the territoriality principle (Article 25(1) (a-c))

The Committee notes that the Czech Republic has established laws clarifying the circumstances in which its national criminal law will apply to a transnational situation following the territoriality principle. Accordingly, the Czech Republic will accept jurisdiction if an offender committed the act in the national territory, either entirely or in part, even where the violation or endangering of an interest protected by criminal law occurred, or was supposed to occur, either entirely or in part, abroad. The same is true of the opposite situation: the offence shall be considered to have been committed in the territory if an offender violated or endangered an interest protected by criminal law, or if such a consequence was supposed to occur, in whole or in part, within the territory, even though the act was committed abroad. Moreover, an offence will be considered as committed in the territory of the Czech Republic if the perpetrator or accomplice to an offence committed abroad acted in whole or in part in the territory.⁴⁹

Jurisdiction based on nationality and residency (Article 25(1)(d), (e))

It appears that the Czech Republic assumes jurisdiction in cases where offences covered by the Convention were committed by its nationals or persons who have their habitual residence on its territory.

Jurisdiction not subordinated to the condition that prosecution can only be initiated following a report from the victim or denunciation from the State where the offence was committed

(Article 25(6))

It appears that the Czech Republic does not apply this condition for prosecution.

Jurisdiction not subordinated to the condition that the acts are criminalised at the place where they were performed (Article 25(4)): the dual criminality principle

The Committee observes that the criminal law of the Czech Republic has a clause which provides for the possibility of derogating from the general rules on jurisdiction based on international instruments. However, it is sometimes unclear which provisions of the Criminal Code can be adapted or excluded, and whether this allows full compliance with Article 25(1)(d), (e) and 25(4) of the Lanzarote Convention.⁵⁰ In the Czech Republic, jurisdiction will be granted for the prosecution of acts committed abroad by a foreigner or a stateless person who has not been granted permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic if the act is criminalised in the territory it was committed, the offender was apprehended in the Czech Republic, extradition and transfer proceedings were held but did not result in extradition or transfer, and the party which requested extradition or transfer of the offender requests criminal prosecution of the offender in the Czech Republic.⁵¹

Therefore, to improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee **invites** the Czech Republic:

- to remove the requirement for dual criminality for offences of sexual abuse (Article 18), offences concerning child prostitution (Article 19), the production of child pornography (Article 20(1)(a)) and offences concerning the participation of a child in

⁴⁹ Para. 214.

⁵⁰ Para. 227.

⁵¹ Para. 230.

pornographic performances (Article 21), when committed by one of their nationals.⁵²

- to remove the requirement for dual criminality for offences of possessing, offering, distributing, transmitting, procuring child pornography, and the fact of knowingly gaining access to child pornography through ICTs, when CSGSIV are involved when committed by one of their nationals.⁵³
- to remove the requirement for dual criminality for offences concerning solicitation of children for sexual purposes (Article 23) when committed by one of their nationals.⁵⁴

Jurisdiction in cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs committed against nationals or habitual residents of a Party: the passive personality principle (Art. 25(2))

As detailed in the Explanatory Report of the Convention, Parties are not obliged, but can endeavour, to establish jurisdiction over an offence committed against one of its nationals or a person having habitual residence in the territory under Article 25(2). The passive personality principle is applied in the Czech Republic only for certain offences punishable by imprisonment of at least 6 years committed against a national or a stateless person granted permanent residence.⁵⁵ The penal code of the Czech Republic also requires dual criminality in

order to apply the passive personality principle.⁵⁶

- The Committee **requests** Parties that are not already doing so, including the Czech Republic, to endeavour to take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over any offence established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention where the offence is committed against one of its nationals or a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.⁵⁷

Follow-up actions:

Criminal liability under the laws of the Czech Republic also applies in cases where a criminal offence is committed abroad against a citizen of the Czech Republic or a stateless person who has been granted permanent residence in the Czech Republic (Section 7 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code), provided that there is dual criminality or that the place of commission falls under no criminal jurisdiction.

The information above on limitation of this principle to offences punishable of imprisonment by at least 6 years is not correct (judging from footnote 55 and 231 of the implementation report, that information relates to Denmark).

Promising practices:

⁵² Recommendation IV-6.

⁵³ Recommendation IV-7.

⁵⁴ Recommendation IV-8.

⁵⁵ Para. 231.

⁵⁶ Para. 232.

⁵⁷ Recommendation IV-9.

V. International cooperation

The implementation report also analyses cooperation practices and examples of coordinated international responses, not only in the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse of children, but also in areas related to the prevention, protection and assistance of child victims and persons related to them.

Observations of the Committee on international cooperation specific to the Czech Republic

The Committee observes that INHOPE,⁵⁸ WeProtect Global Alliance,⁵⁹ and EMPACT cybercrime CSE/CSA⁶⁰ conduct cooperation projects to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the Czech Republic.⁶¹

The Committee also observes that law enforcement representatives from the Czech Republic attend the Europol's central training course "Combatting the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet" (COSEC) and the Europol-Interpol-Cepol co-organised training course on victim identification (VID training course).⁶²

Additionally, the Committee notes that some Parties that are members of the European Union requires their nationals or residents that are victims of a crime committed in another country of the European Union following the transposition of Directive 2012/29 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.⁶³ However the Committee observes that the Czech Republic does not have this limitation.⁶⁴

Generic recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation

- The Committee **requests** all Parties, including the Czech Republic, to extend their international cooperation with other Parties to improve the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.⁶⁵

Follow-up actions:

Within the framework of international judicial cooperation, the public prosecutor's office and courts of the Czech Republic currently cooperate with all states that are signatories to the Lanzarote Convention. For those Council of Europe states that are also member states of the European Union, direct contact between judicial authorities is preferred, which usually leads to faster and more effective cooperation. However, direct

contact between judicial authorities when requesting international judicial cooperation is also gradually being applied in some non-EU Member States with which this form of communication has been successfully negotiated and is mutually accepted (e.g. Moldova, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey). In the case of Iceland and Norway, international judicial cooperation is implemented under the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between EU Member States of 29 May 2000 and the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway on the application of certain provisions of the Convention of 29

⁵⁸ www.inhope.org/

⁵⁹ <https://www.weprotect.org/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact>

⁶¹ Para. 255.

⁶² Para. 259.

⁶³ See, Article 17§2: "Member States shall ensure that victims of a criminal offence committed in Member States other than that where they reside may make a complaint to

the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, if they are unable to do so in the Member State where the criminal offence was committed or, in the event of a serious offence, as determined by national law of that Member State, if they do not wish to do so."

⁶⁴ Para.271.

⁶⁵ Recommendation V-3.

May 2000 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The Czech Republic, like other EU Member States, cooperates with the United Kingdom mainly on the basis of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Even in the context of the current military conflict in Ukraine, cooperation with the Russian Federation is maintained, at least for the most serious types of crime; this is limited exclusively to the agenda of requests for legal assistance. Extradition to the Russian Federation and transfer of criminal proceedings to the Russian Federation is not currently taking place.

The Czech Republic also takes advantage of the contact points of the European Judicial Network. This network has considerable potential to speed up and facilitate judicial cooperation with foreign partners. The cooperation with the contact points of the European Judicial Network in Armenia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, for example, is above standard in this respect.

In some signatory states to the Lanzarote Convention, the cooperation of police liaison officers is used to partially support international judicial cooperation (typically locating persons, transporting evidence, etc.) (e.g. Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, etc.).

The Czech Republic also has representatives within the hotlines (InHOPE) through which there is currently effective cooperation in the field of child sexual abuse, reports from the public about such material in cyberspace are forwarded to each other, and individual hotlines ensure the removal of such material from cyberspace.

The Police of the Czech Republic is also deepening its international cooperation through its new inclusion in the international group "TASK FORCE FBI".

The Police of the Czech Republic is an active member of the ICSE (International Child Sexual Exploitation Database), where it actively enters information and findings, which is part of EUROPOL and INTERPOL. All

INTERPOL countries enter information into this database. It also actively cooperates with the Ukraine, Russia, Côte d'Ivoire and other countries.

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to assess, strengthen and develop international cooperation with other Parties to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and to provide assistance to victims in matters related to CSGSIV.⁶⁶
- to expand international cooperation with countries which are not Parties to the Lanzarote Convention to disseminate the standards of the Lanzarote Convention, including for the purpose of preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, for the purpose of protecting and providing assistance to victims and concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention, in matters related to CSGSIV.⁶⁷
- to regularly assess the difficulties that they face when dealing with international cooperation and remedy them.⁶⁸
- to strengthen cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies and with transnational networks and other international organisations and initiatives due to their capacity to mobilisation, their worldwide scope, and their flexibility to work, for the purpose of preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children as well as for protecting and providing assistance to victims, in matters related to CSGSIV.⁶⁹
- to consider requesting the establishment of cooperation projects managed by the Council of Europe to assist them in their efforts to preventing and combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV.⁷⁰
- to support regional and international capacity building efforts to improve policy and operational measures including the pooling and sharing of successful education and awareness-raising tools for the purpose of preventing and

⁶⁶ Recommendations V-6, V-11.

⁶⁷ Recommendations V-4, V-7, V-12, V-15.

⁶⁸ Recommendation V-5.

⁶⁹ Recommendations V-8, V-13.

⁷⁰ Recommendation V-9.

combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV.⁷¹

- to maintain and develop efforts to strengthen international cooperation with other Parties and non-Parties to the Lanzarote Convention, in investigation and proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the Lanzarote Convention, in particular in the area of police cooperation, namely ensuring that their law-enforcement

agencies can connect and contribute to the Europol and Interpol databases, and develop the areas of data, training, vetting, and selection, in matters related to CSGSIV.⁷²

- to integrate, where appropriate, prevention and the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV, in assistance programmes for development provided for the benefit of third States.⁷³

Promising practices:

In an effort to reduce the risk of secondary victimization and within the framework of cooperation with the non-profit organization PROFEM and also among the organizational units of the police, cooperation on the PolPoint project was expanded, i.e. the possibility of not only crime-reporting by but also interrogating of particularly vulnerable victims via special videoconference tool. There has also been long-standing inter-agency cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the non-profit sector.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has integrated the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children into humanitarian and development programmes (HDP). CSGSIV agenda is difficult to detect by means of HDP, and therefore also difficult to address in the HDP response. The Ministry also already has a well-developed cooperation with UNICEF and CARE.

Beyond the cooperation with the states that are signatories to the Lanzarote Convention, the judicial authorities of the Czech Republic cooperate with a number of other states within the framework of international judicial cooperation, whether on the basis of an international treaty or without a treaty basis, i.e. on the basis of the principle of reciprocity. Among those is the relatively intensive and successful cooperation with the USA (a number of important companies are located in the territory of this state). The Czech Republic also cooperates internationally in the field of justice with other states "outside the Lanzarote Convention" (e.g. Canada, Israel, Vietnam, Australia, South-East Asian countries, Hong Kong, Belarus and Kosovo).

Regarding the issue of regular evaluation of difficulties encountered by the Czech Republic in international (judicial) cooperation and their elimination, it can be mentioned that according to a sub-legal norm, which is binding for all prosecutors of the Czech Republic, the International Department of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Czech Republic collects information on cases where a request for legal assistance (or a European Investigation Order) has not been granted in a foreign state or where a person from a third state has not been extradited to the Czech Republic (or transferred from an EU Member State on the basis of an EAW). In well-defined cases, prosecutors have an information obligation towards the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, which they fulfil on the basis of the general instruction of the Supreme State Prosecutor. The obtained knowledge is regularly evaluated by the International Department of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office and, subsequently, the procedure of prosecutors in requesting/providing international judicial cooperation is adequately methodically guided. This is done through regular consultations with specialists in the field of international judicial cooperation as well as through written methodology. In this regard, it can be mentioned that in 2024 a manual for prosecutors on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters was prepared, consisting of a very detailed methodology, which is available to all prosecutors in the Czech Republic. At the same time, an

⁷¹ Recommendation V-10.

⁷² Recommendations V-14, V-16.

⁷³ Recommendation V-19.

electronic platform is maintained and regularly updated, on which, in order to facilitate international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, templates of submissions, overviews of contact points and authorities for international judicial cooperation, recommendations for solving specific problems, opinions, current case law of Czech and European judicial institutions and other aids are created.

VI. Assistance to victims

This chapter provides a comparative study of national mechanisms and measures for assisting child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly where this results from the CSGSIV.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on assistance to victims specific to the Czech Republic

The Committee observes that in the Czech Republic many helplines are run in collaboration between different bodies, including ministries and NGOs. This can be very effective for victims who benefit from this synergy and broader services.⁷⁴ The law of the Czech Republic specifies the child's right to access help even without parental consent. Such clauses eliminate certain paradoxes that are often left to the discretion of professionals.⁷⁵ Additionally, the government provides moral and financial compensation to victims of crime, including children victims of sexual abuse in the Czech Republic.⁷⁶

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee **requires** the Czech Republic to take the necessary legislative or other measures to encourage and support the establishment of information services, such as telephone or internet helplines, to provide advice to child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs as well as persons wishing to help them, in a confidential manner or with due regard for their anonymity. These information services should be made available as widely as possible. This can be done in several ways: the service is available at extended hours, it is delivered in a language that the caller, and especially the child, can understand, and it is free of charge.⁷⁷

Follow-up actions:

For several years, the Czech Republic has had a number of helplines for those who need immediate help. These helplines are accompanied by leaflets which contain not only the phone numbers of the lines and their focus, but also brief and user-friendly information on how the client can proceed,

such as the possibility of consulting a lawyer, brief information on criminal proceedings, information on special interview rooms with a child-friendly environment, information on financial assistance for victims, and information on the possibility of obtaining an interpreter. The helplines are not obliged to conduct the conversation in a foreign language.

Examples of the helplines:

Helpline for victims of crime and domestic violence – 116 006

Helpline for victims of violence against women – 116 016

Family and School Helpline/Lost Child Helpline – 116 000

Psychological First Aid Line – 116 123

Helpline for children, students and young people – 116 111

Children's Crisis Centre Helpline – 241 484 149

All helplines starting with 116 are free of charge and operate 24/7.

The Children's Crisis Centre Helpline is focused specifically on young callers and the helpline operators are instructed to use language and methods directed particularly towards children and adolescents. Many organisations provide both the option to directly call the hotline and a possibility to chat with someone. The Czech Republic would welcome an increase in funding and thus the possibility of increasing the capacity of the helplines so that every child who calls such a line can reach it. The helplines, run at a professional level, are very trusted in the Czech Republic and are therefore fully occupied.

- The Committee also **invites** the Czech

⁷⁴ Para. 277.

⁷⁵ Para. 291.

⁷⁶ Para. 293.

⁷⁷ Recommendation VI-1.

Republic to promote awareness raising or specialised training for professionals who advise children through telephone or internet helplines on ICT-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse

of children – including the risks associated with CSGSIV – and how to provide appropriate support to victims and to those who wish to help them.⁷⁸

Promising practices:

Czech schools are increasingly implementing a whistleblowing software “Don’t let it go”. The app/online form enables students or pupils to anonymously report any wrongdoings directly to the school counsellor/ prevention methodologist. While the software is owned by a private company, its basic version is free to use for Czech schools.

⁷⁸ Recommendation VI-2.

VII. Civil society involvement and cooperation

Civil society's involvement in protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is crucial and acknowledged by the Convention. Projects and programmes carried out by civil society, as well as cooperation between the competent state authorities and civil society, cover a wide range of issues.

Observations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation specific to the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic emphasised that its support for the development of prevention activities by civil society takes the form of financial support and grants, such as state sponsorship of civil society campaigns.⁷⁹

The Committee observes that, in the Czech Republic, most victim assistance mechanisms are limited to offering a helpline to report illegal material online or offences in these telephonic and electronic helplines usually concern fairly broad issues such as violence against children, including sexual violence.⁸⁰

Generic recommendations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to expand cooperation with civil society to better prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and the challenges raised by the exploitation of CSGSIV.⁸¹
- to ensure that the forms of cooperation that take place with civil society in the field of prevention and protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse are of a sustainable nature.⁸²

- to support civil society to carry out projects and programmes that include the issue of CSGSIV.⁸³

- to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives⁸⁴ and to seek children's views at the stage of drafting new legislation concerning the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and as regards CSGSIV.⁸⁵

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs regularly communicates with regional authorities, authorities for the social and legal protection of children and social services workers who are working directly with children and their parents. Based on the information received from these entities, the Ministry is organizing further steps to increase public awareness. In addition, in November 2024, the Ministry held the first meeting of the participatory group, which aims to strengthen the involvement of children and young people in decision-making processes. The composition of the group was diverse and consisted of participants aged 15-21 with different life experiences and interests. The participation group was established as part of the project "Unifying the approach to children at risk". Another important topic of this meeting was the Children's Ombudsman. For the addressed children and adolescents, cooperation, respect and feedback are especially important. The next meeting was scheduled for early 2025.

⁷⁹ Paras. 310, 314.

⁸⁰ Paras. 328.

⁸¹ Recommendation VII-3.

⁸² Recommendation VII-4.

⁸³ Recommendation VII-5.

⁸⁴ Parties are also invited to provide example(s) of how children's views are taken into account in the context of the participation of children.

⁸⁵ Recommendations VII-6, VII-7.

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, numerous NGOs are conducting their activities, operating as external lecturers in schools. The Ministry also sponsors these organisations through an annual grant. The amount of money accordingly allocated to prevention programmes has recently been doubled. Concerning the participation of children in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes and other initiatives, majority of Czech regional governments have established Youth Parliaments, advisory bodies through which representatives of children and adolescents voice their opinions and raise their problems to the regional politicians. Also, members of The Children and Youth Parliament of the Czech Republic actively cooperate with the national government and its activities are supported by the Ministry of Education.

VIII. Promoting awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves

The Articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Convention establish that States Parties should take the necessary measures to prevent all forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse and to protect children from their effects. Awareness-raising is one type of preventive measure.

Observations of the Committee on promoting awareness of the risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves specific to the Czech Republic

Although it is not necessarily specific to co-ordination of awareness-raising activities concerning the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves, the Committee observes that in the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with other ministries, regularly

prepares the so-called Crime Prevention Strategy and submits it to the Government of the Czech Republic for approval. The upcoming Crime Prevention Strategy for the period 2021-2026 includes a target on the issue of danger in cyberspace, specifically in terms of children's presentation (images) and sharing of such content by children.⁸⁶

Generic recommendations of the Committee on promoting awareness of the risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to ensure that explanations of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves, with or without coercion, are included in the awareness-raising campaigns that they promote or conduct, whatever the target audience.⁸⁷
- to ensure that awareness-raising for children about the risks that they face when generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves takes place early enough, before they reach their teens, and that it is "adapted to their evolving capacity" or, in other words, their age and degree of maturity.⁸⁸
- to use unchanged, wherever possible, the awareness-raising tools, materials and activities mentioned in this report or else to adapt them to their national contexts and their

own languages and, if necessary, develop new ones, concentrating on videos and distribution through social media.⁸⁹

- to have available awareness-raising tools, materials, and activities suitable for children with disabilities.⁹⁰
- to ensure that awareness-raising for children regarding the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse that they face when generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves is led first and foremost by their peers.⁹¹
- to promote themselves and to encourage the information and communication of the technology sector, the media, and other professionals to raise awareness among children, their parents, persons having regular contact with children, and the general public about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about

⁸⁶ Para. 378.

⁸⁷ Recommendation VIII-1.

⁸⁸ Recommendation VIII-2.

⁸⁹ Recommendation VIII-3.

⁹⁰ Recommendation VIII-4.

⁹¹ Recommendation VIII-5.

the preventive measures that can be taken.⁹²

- to step-up awareness-raising for parents and persons with parental authority about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.⁹³
- to promote or conduct awareness-raising campaigns for the general public providing information about the risks of sexual

exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.⁹⁴

- to take the necessary measures to ensure co-ordination between the agencies responsible for raising awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves.⁹⁵

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is intensively addressing the issue of child endangerment in cyberspace with an emphasis on cyberbullying. It cooperates with the National Cyber and Information Security Agency and the Government Commissioner for Human Rights to create a safe internet space for children. Cooperation is focused on information sharing, especially through leaflets and training opportunities for regional authorities and authorities for the social and legal protection of children. The Ministry also cooperates with La Strada, a non-profit organization specialized in preventing trafficking and exploitation, naming its causes and consequences, influencing public policy, and providing social services in this area. As part of the cooperation with La Strada and UNICEF, training sessions for the social and legal protection of children staff were held. Workers of social and legal protection of children authorities from all regions of the Czech Republic were trained, in total about 200 people. The Ministry implements the national subsidy title “Family”. The aim of this programme is to support family services of a preventive and supportive nature. These services aim to strengthen parental competences, improve family relations, support families in caring for and raising children and in reconciling work and family, and assist in preventing and resolving crisis situations in the family, including domestic violence, child abuse and abuse. The aim is to provide comprehensive assistance to the family as a whole (i.e. the wider family including children and grandparents). In total, 279 projects were supported under the national subsidy title “Family” in 2023, with a total allocation of approximately CZK 170 million. One of the supported topics in the projects is child safety and prevention – e.g. how to ensure child safety on the Internet, cyberbullying, the impact of social networks, principles of behaviour towards strangers, sexual abuse, prevention of child injuries, how to choose safe leisure activities for a child, bullying in children, prevention of bullying and aggression in children, etc.

The Ministry of Education published in December 2024 a new methodology instructing school personnel in prevention of unsafe sexual behaviour of students. This updated methodology places high priority on online behaviour of children and adolescents, dangers of sexting, access to pornography and CSGSIV. It also provides a step-by-step guidance and a legislative framework for school personnel in case they discover wrongdoings and legal offences. Czech regional governments’ initiative “Regions for a safe internet” aims to raise awareness of online dangers through various activities (videos, quizzes, e-learning). Multiple NGOs aim to educate both children and their parents in dangers of cyberspace. These organizations are often financially supported by the Ministry of Education.

⁹² Recommendation VIII-6.

⁹³ Recommendation VIII-7.

⁹⁴ Recommendation VIII-8.

⁹⁵ Recommendation VIII-9.

IX. Education for children

While the protection of child victims and the prosecution of offenders are key elements in the fight against the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, preventing them from occurring in the first place is paramount. Informing children about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and how to protect themselves is the cornerstone of prevention.

Observations and recommendation of the Committee on education for children specific to the Czech Republic

Although it cannot be inferred that all the challenges associated with CSGSIV are covered in the national curricula or other non-formal educational contexts, the Committee observes that elements of information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including when facilitated by ICTs, are being taught to children in the Czech Republic as it is one of the areas that is included in compulsory education from pre-school to secondary education throughout the country. In 2021, an amendment to the framework educational program for basic education came into force, with updates for the

educational field of "Informatics", which also includes the safe handling of technologies and mastering skills and habits that lead to the prevention of risky behaviour or of misuse of data and information within cyberbullying.⁹⁶

The Committee observes that the information is also provided within "Health Education" at the 2nd level of primary and secondary schools and at the 1st level of primary schools within "Man and his world" in the thematic area of "Man and Health".⁹⁷

Generic recommendations of the Committee on education for children

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to consistently involve children in the development of internet safety awareness programmes.⁹⁸
- to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activities.⁹⁹
- to provide information to children on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV,

in their national curriculum or other non-formal educational contexts, in a form which is adapted to the evolving capacity of the children and therefore which is appropriate for their age and maturity.¹⁰⁰

- to ensure that parents, caregivers and educators are involved, where appropriate, in the provision of information to children on the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, in particular as regards CSGSIV.¹⁰¹

Promising practices:

Multiple NGOs provide in-school lectures focused on raising awareness of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and the dangers of cyberspace. While the introduction of external lectures in curricula is strictly in the authority of the school director, many of these organisations are directly supported by the Ministry of Education. Some of them are listed below.

"KONSENT" – NGO aimed among other things on improving and broadening the sexual education in classrooms, improving awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation everywhere and guiding children and adolescents to be respectful and tolerant to each other in the social and cultural

⁹⁶ Para. 386.

⁹⁷ Para. 399.

⁹⁸ Recommendation IX-4.

⁹⁹ Recommendation IX-5.

¹⁰⁰ Recommendation IX-6.

¹⁰¹ Recommendation IX-8.

aspects of sexual lives.

“Linkin Sphere” – NGO focused on improving the awareness of elementary school pupils of the risks of cyberspace, including the CSGSIV. Linkin Sphere provides various interactive programmes tailored to the age of pupils throughout the elementary school, including lectures on online dating, online predators and CSGSIV. The earliest lectures on cyber-grooming are intended for pupils in 3rd and 4th year of elementary school, which is approximately 9 to 10 years of age. The organisation emphasizes the role of the Peer Effect and many of its programs are led by Peer-lectors.

X. Higher education curriculum and continuous training

Persons who have regular contact with children in the education, health and social protection sectors and areas related to sport, culture and leisure are at the forefront of the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as they have the most interaction with children under their supervision in these different settings. However, they may not be adequately equipped to inform children about their rights, to detect situations where a child is at risk of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse and to respond appropriately. It is therefore of crucial importance that they are well informed about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, both during their education and continuously during their careers, to enable them to adapt to emerging trends and risks in the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on higher education curriculum and continuous training specific to the Czech Republic

The Committee observes that in the Czech Republic, students of pedagogical lyceums, where they are prepared to continue their studies in the fields of pedagogy, psychology and social work or in fields preparing teachers and educators, are taught about the prevention of risky behaviours of children, domestic violence as well as the consequences of communication in the cyberspace.¹⁰² Additionally, the Committee notes that some of the professionals working in contact with children have been trained and/or received education on how to identify potential situations where a child is a victim of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse.¹⁰³

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee **requires** the Czech Republic:

- to ensure that the persons who have regular contacts with children are equipped to identify any situation of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children:
 - in the education sector
 - in the health sector
 - in the social protection sector.¹⁰⁴

Follow-up actions:

In December 2024, the Ministry of Education published a new methodology instructing school personnel in prevention of unsafe sexual behaviour of students. This updated methodology places high priority on online behaviour of children and

adolescents, dangers of sexting, access to pornography and CSISIV.

In the healthcare sector there are several tools that can be used to identify child sexual abuse. The basic tool is the “Child Abuse Identification Card” (KID Card) including the Methodology for Early Identification and Support of a Child at Risk published on the website (<https://www.nzip.cz/clanek/1539-karta-k-identifikaci-spatneho-zachazeni-s-detmi>).

We also have very detailed and instructive methodologies: Procedure for general practitioners for children and adolescents when a child is suspected of being abused, neglected or mistreated (sy CAN) - the methodology is primarily intended for paediatricians, but it can be used by all healthcare professionals and “Let's Stand on the Side of Children” Recommendations for the Use of Imaging Methods in Suspicion of Child Abuse published on the website of Ministry of Health (<https://mzd.gov.cz/category/agendy-ministerstva/zdravotni-sluzby-agendy-ministerstva/tyrane-zneuzivane-a-zanedbavane-dite-metodiky/>).

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs regularly participates in the training of people who are in direct and regular contact with children. These trainings are implemented directly by the Ministry or in

¹⁰² Para. 419.

¹⁰³ Para. 428.

¹⁰⁴ Recommendation X-5.

cooperation with other organizations, e.g. NGO La Strada, UNICEF, National Cyber and Information Security Agency. The Ministry also regularly publishes the information, leaflets and many other materials on the website „The Right to Childhood“ (<https://www.pravonadetstvi.cz/>). It is also important to mention the cooperation on the „Childhood Without Violence Initiative“ (<https://www.detstvibeznasili.cz/>), as well as the government programme „Safe Childhood: The way to prevent violence in society“.

- to ensure that the persons who have regular contacts with children are informed of the possibility for them to report to the services responsible for child protection any situation where they have “reasonable grounds” for believing that a child is a victim of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children:
 - in the education sector
 - in the health sector
 - in the social protection sector
 - in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities.¹⁰⁵

Follow-up actions:

The new methodology by Ministry of Education also provides a step-by-step guidance and a legislative framework for school personnel in case they discover wrongdoings and legal offences.

In the healthcare sector, this obligation is regulated by legislation, namely in Section 45, paragraph 3, letter F) of Act No. 372/2011 Coll., on health services and conditions for their provision, as amended, where the provider is obliged to ensure compliance with the notification obligation and the communication of data pursuant to the act regulating the social and legal protection of children.

- to encourage awareness of the protection and rights of children among persons who have regular contacts with children in the education, health, social protection, judicial and law-enforcement

sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities.¹⁰⁶

Follow-up actions:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs regularly participates in the training of people who are in direct and regular contact with children. These trainings are implemented directly by the Ministry or in cooperation with other organizations, e.g. NGO La Strada, UNICEF, National Cyber and Information Security Agency. The Ministry also regularly publishes the information, leaflets and many other materials on the website „The Right to Childhood“ (<https://www.pravonadetstvi.cz/>). It is also important to mention the cooperation on the „Childhood Without Violence Initiative“ (<https://www.detstvibeznasili.cz/>), as well as the government programme „Safe Childhood: The way to prevent violence in society“.

Qualification standards / educational programs for non-medical health workers (e.g. nurses, midwives, nutritional therapists, addiction specialist, health social worker, etc.) and specialized education programs (e.g. general nurse - intensive care, general nurse - perioperative care, paediatric nursing care, general nurse - intensive care in paediatrics, paediatric nurse - nursing care in child and adolescent psychiatry, etc.) contain information on the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and the protection of children. In addition, special courses are regularly opened - "Communication with Victims of Domestic and Sexualized Violence" - for both non-medical and medical fields. This course "Communicating with Victims of Domestic and Sexualized Violence" is aimed at social and health workers who may encounter domestic and sexualized violence in their practice. Its goal is to teach program participants not only to better communicate with victims of domestic and sexual violence, but also to recognize such violence, to further deal with some myths

¹⁰⁵ Recommendation X-6.

¹⁰⁶ Recommendation X-7.

associated with domestic and sexualized violence and to navigate the legal framework of the issue. The program represents a unique opportunity for participants to learn about domestic and sexual violence, thanks to the rich experience of the lecturers, who have been working on this issue for a long time as lawyers. The course also includes practical exercises regarding first contact with victims of intimate violence. The lecturer uses acting techniques, and participants will be able to touch, try out and understand many techniques, which is extremely important in practice. Furthermore, this issue is part of the content of the mandatory pre-certification course (in the field of paediatrics) Adolescent Medicine. It is also partly covered by the course within the framework lifelong learning program (LLP) – Non-substance Dependences. However, colleagues in pre-certification preparation primarily become familiar with this issue during the practical part of their training in general practitioner's offices for children and adolescents. Here, in

cooperation with the Society for Primary Paediatric Care (Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkyně - CzMA), we prepare methodological materials for trainers and doctors in training. Currently, this function is held by the recently published textbook Practical Paediatrics. It is also included in the specific educational programs (e.g. EP Knowledge from the field of child and adolescent psychiatry - syndrome of neglected, abused and sexually abused child; EP Sexology - Knowledge - Examination, treatment, medical assessment of perpetrators and victims of sexual offenses; etc.).

- The Committee also **invites** the Czech Republic to ensure that the persons who have regular contacts with children (i.e. in the education, health and social protection, sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities), have an adequate knowledge of the risks associated with CSGSIV, for example through education or continuous training.¹⁰⁷

Generic recommendations of the Committee on higher education curriculum and continuous training

- The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic, to ensure that all the sectors where professionals work in contact with children, including when working

on a voluntary basis, have adequate knowledge of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and with specific reference to the risks associated with CSGSIV.¹⁰⁸

Promising practices

In the Czech Republic, Dismal Radio Children's Ensemble and the Czech Radio Children's Choir, when appointing artistic leaders or, as the case may be, choir masters and other collaborators involved in the work of these bodies, places great emphasis on their knowledge of child sexual abuse and the risks in this area, as well as their ability to identify situations of sexual exploitation or child abuse. Czech Radio also provides continuing education to these persons in the area of protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Promising practices:

For volunteers in healthcare, the Ministry of Health has issued the Methodological Recommendations for Volunteering in Healthcare. This methodology defines the basic parameters of a safe and high-quality volunteering program in health services (PDZS) that need to be set up within a healthcare facility, whether the PDZS is managed by the provider itself or in cooperation

¹⁰⁷ Recommendation X-2.

¹⁰⁸ Recommendation X-3.

with an external volunteer organization (EDO). As part of the update of this methodology, volunteers will also be provided with information on violence, abuse, and exploitation, including sexual abuse of children, as well as information about the KID Card and how a volunteer should proceed in case of suspicion.

XI. Research

Effective prevention mechanisms and responses to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse of children require an understanding of the issues at stake, as well as knowledge of the prevalence and characteristics of the phenomenon. Accurate and precise information may be necessary to develop quality and targeted policies and measures. The gathering of information and understanding of the phenomenon is particularly important in the context of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, in light of their rapid development and increased use.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on research specific to the Czech Republic

The Committee observes that the Czech Republic has participated for at least one year in the EU Kids Online surveys, which is a multinational research network seeking to enhance knowledge of children's online opportunities, risks and safety. Surveys carried out in the framework of EU Kids Online collect data and information on, *inter alia*, children's practice of sending and receiving sexual messages online.¹⁰⁹ It appears from the EU Kids Online 2020 Report that civil society and Masaryk University enabled the survey to be carried out in the Czech Republic.¹¹⁰

On the other hand, the Committee observes a **difficulty in implementing the Convention** as the Czech Republic has affirmed that no research has

been undertaken on issues raised by CSGSIV and/or on the psychological effects on persons who have had such material shared online, except the EU Kids Online surveys.¹¹¹

- Therefore, the Committee **invites** the Czech Republic to take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or designate mechanisms for data collection or focal points at the national or local levels and in collaboration with civil society to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including on the issues arising from CSGSIV, with due respect for the requirements of personal data protection.¹¹²

Generic recommendations of the Committee on research

The Committee **invites** all Parties, including the Czech Republic:

- to collect data and undertake research at the national and local levels to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of CSGSIV.¹¹³
- to ensure that data on the phenomenon of CSGSIV and the risks associated with it is regularly collected and

research on the issue is regularly undertaken.¹¹⁴

- to build on the findings from existing research on CSGSIV, when available, to ensure that policies and measures are best developed and appropriately targeted to tackle the issues raised by CSGSIV.¹¹⁵

Promising practices:

Online system SEPA (system for recording prevention activities) collects data from school personnel. The system is not compulsory, but the number of schools involved is steadily rising. The system is based on an annual online questionnaire concerning, among other things, the prevalence of unsafe behaviour, which kinds of unsafe behaviour are prevalent among which age groups, or which obstacles does the school personnel face in preventing the students from unsafe behaviour.

¹⁰⁹ Para. 440.

¹¹⁰ Para. 455.

¹¹¹ Para. 443.

¹¹² Recommendation XI-4.

¹¹³ Recommendation XI-1.

¹¹⁴ Recommendation XI-2.

¹¹⁵ Recommendation XI-3.