



FACTSHEET – LITHUANIA

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 Lithuania in March 2025 displayed in orange and blue text boxes.

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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 frameworks specific to Lithuania

General remarks

The Committee observes that Lithuania does not have a legislative definition to describe "child sexual abuse material" (CSAM) in its legislative framework and relies upon prosecutorial practice or case law.¹

Therefore, the Committee invites Lithuania:

- While acknowledging that using the term "child pornography" can undermine the gravity of the crimes it refers to, to rather use the term CSAM 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.²
- to introduce a definition of 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"](#).^{3 4}

The interplay of the age of criminal responsibility and the age of sexual consent

The Committee understands from the information submitted that there are special circumstances under which the production and possession of CSGSIV by children, although established as crimes in fact and in law, are not prosecuted/punishable under national law, because in light of the child's age, it may be considered that there is no gross fault and no public interest reason for conviction.⁵

Lithuania pointed at the age of criminal responsibility below which children cannot be held criminally liable for acts they commit to demonstrate compatibility with the exclusion of criminal liability for the production and possession of CSGSIV, which is 16 years old.⁶

Lithuania also noted that production and possession of self-generated material were not criminalised when the child(ren) in question have reached the legal age for sexual activities. However, the Committee underlines that relying on the age of sexual consent alone, to exclude criminal responsibility for the scenarios listed in paragraphs 3-6 of the 2019 Opinion, is insufficient as, in such case, younger children may not be covered from the exemption of criminal responsibility.⁷

- The Committee requests that Lithuania ensures that a child will not be prosecuted when he/she possesses their own CSGSIV; CSGSIV of another child with the informed consent of the child depicted on them; or CSGSIV as a result of receiving them passively without actively asking for them.⁸

Follow-up actions:

Although this type of offence does not currently—for minors sharing sexually explicit visual material involving themselves (private use) with each other by mutual consent—lead to criminal liability in practice, please note that, once the recast Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material (which replaces Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA) is implemented into national

¹ Para. 50.

² Recommendations II-1.

³ 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](#).

⁴ Recommendation II-3.

⁵ Para. 70.

⁶ Para. 71.

⁷ Para. 73.

⁸ Recommendation II-6.

law, there will be explicit rules regarding the release of criminal liability for such children. These rules will clarify the legal framework on this issue.

On the “sexual extortion of children”:

The Committee observes that Lithuania could not provide data or details about cases of sexual extortion of children involving CSGSIV.⁹

In Lithuania, in cases where the sexual extortion is intended to procure additional sexual images or videos, prosecutions would only be brought for offences related to child pornography, the presence of a threat not being taken into account.¹⁰

When it is intended to procure other sexual favours from the child depicted on the images/videos or from another children, Lithuania reported that it would prosecute for offences related to child participation in pornographic performances and solicitation of children for sexual purposes.¹¹ The Committee notes that as Lithuania would only prosecute conduct relating to Article 21 (offences concerning the participation of a child in pornographic performances), it appears that it would not to cover the original possession and certainly not the obtainment of the CSGSIV.¹²

In the case where it is intended to procure a financial gain, or other property from the child, Lithuania indicated that the conduct will be qualified as participation in pornographic performances.¹³ The Committee notes that Lithuania did not refer to extortion or any similar offences; or did not submit information in this respect.¹⁴

Finally, when it is intended to procure any other gain (e.g. contacts of peers for their sexual solicitation), Lithuania did not submit information in this respect.

- When dealing with sexual extortion cases involving children, the Committee invites

Lithuania to ensure that sexual extortion of children involving CSGSIV is investigated and prosecuted¹⁵ and 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.¹⁶

⁹ Para. 95.

¹⁰ Para. 99.

¹¹ Para. 102.

¹² Para. 104.

¹³ Para. 106.

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ Recommendation II-12.

¹⁶ Recommendation II-11.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on the legal frameworks

On the legal frameworks, the Committee invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- to introduce explicit references in its respective legal frameworks 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.¹⁷
- to contemplate appropriate legal responses to conduct involving non-visual CSGSIV produced by children in the context of offences covered by the 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 CSGSIV.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 CSAM.²⁰

The Committee also requests Parties, including Lithuania, to ensure that:

- a child will not be prosecuted for sharing his/her CSGSIV with another child when such sharing is voluntary, consensual, and intended solely for their own private use.²¹

Follow-up actions:

As mentioned before, although this type of offence does not currently—for minors sharing sexually explicit visual material involving themselves (private use) with each other by mutual consent—lead to criminal liability in practice, please note that, once the recast Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material (which replaces

Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA) is implemented into national law, there will be explicit rules regarding the release of criminal liability for such children. These rules will clarify the legal framework on this issue.

- the distribution or transmission by children of CSGSIV 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) of the Convention.²²

Follow-up actions:

As mentioned before, although this type of offence does not currently—for minors sharing sexually explicit visual material involving themselves (private use) with each other by mutual consent—lead to criminal liability in practice, please note that, once the recast Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material (which replaces Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA) is implemented into national law, there will be explicit rules regarding the release of criminal liability for such children. These rules will clarify the legal framework on this issue.

¹⁷ Recommendation II-2.

¹⁸ Recommendation II-4.

¹⁹ Recommendation II-7.

²⁰ Recommendation II-10.

²¹ Recommendation II-8.

²² Recommendation II-9.

Promising practices:

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 Lithuania

The Committee observes that Lithuania's investigation and prosecution services are already in line with some of its recommendations as it has a specialised unit dealing with ICT-facilitated offences against children within law enforcement.²³

However, it appears that Lithuania does not have specialised units within prosecution services.

- Therefore, the Committee invites Lithuania to set up specialised units, services or persons in charge of the prosecution of sexual offences against children facilitated by ICTs.²⁴

Lithuania indicated that training modules are in place for law enforcement agents related to aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, using its own training programme.²⁵ The Committee notes that training is provided for law enforcement agents by the Lithuanian State, as well as by external organisations.²⁶

Regarding the training of prosecutors and judges, the Committee notes that Lithuania has training in place for prosecutors on aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and carries out such training with its own training programmes.²⁷

- Nonetheless, the Committee requests Lithuania to ensure that training on ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children is available for prosecutors and judges who are or will be working on these issues.²⁸

Follow-up actions:

In the recent years Lithuania implemented several activities to train prosecutors and judges on topics related to sexual abuse against children. Few of them are mentioned further.

Between 2020 and 2025, Lithuania implemented several training initiatives for prosecutors and judges on child sexual abuse, both nationally and through international cooperation. The Prosecutor General's Office, together with the NGO "Paramos vaikams centras" (Children Support Center), led the EU-funded project "*Together We Can Protect and Help*", which delivered 18 multidisciplinary training sessions to approximately 400 participants, including prosecutors and court representatives. These 3-day sessions focused on supporting child victims of violence, including sexual abuse, and improving interinstitutional cooperation. In 2021, two major international conferences were held under this project, discussing legal and psychological support mechanisms for children affected by abuse. In 2023, the Vilnius City District Court organized a national seminar on child-friendly interviews in criminal proceedings, gathering judges, prosecutors, police officers, and child protection specialists. Lithuanian judges and prosecutors also participated in trainings organized by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), particularly on victims' rights and gender-

²³ Para. 115.

²⁴ Recommendation III-6.

²⁵ Paras. 145, 146.

²⁶ Para. 148.

²⁷ Paras. 156, 157, 167.

²⁸ Recommendations III-16 and III-18.

based and sexual violence.

Additionally, Lithuanian representatives took part in Europol's regular training programs on online child sexual exploitation and participated in events coordinated by Eurojust and the Council of Europe on international cooperation in investigating such crimes. E.g., Lithuanian law enforcement representatives attend Europol's "COSEC" training (Combatting the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet), which builds capacity to handle ICT-facilitated child sexual abuse. Lithuania participates to share best practices and strengthen international cooperation.

While not all trainings were regular, Lithuania has demonstrated consistent engagement in capacity-building efforts on child sexual abuse, particularly through cross-sectoral and international initiatives.

On the identification of victims, the Committee notes that Lithuania has victim identification units within law enforcement for cases of ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children.²⁹ Lithuania also indicated that it has access to the NCMEC database³⁰ (designed to assist investigators in the automated categorisation of media-evidence files and within victim identification process).³¹ Furthermore, the Committee notes that Lithuania makes an active contribution to the INTERPOL's ICSE database.³²

- To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests Lithuania to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with the fundamental principles of its internal law, to ensure an effective investigation and

prosecution of ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children, allowing, where appropriate, for the possibility of covert operations.³³

Follow-up actions:

The offences provided for in Article 309(2) and 309(3) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania are classified as minor offences. Investigating this kind of criminal offences, the legislation in force in Lithuania allows for the application of procedural coercive measures, including the actions of non-identifying pre-trial investigation officers, as provided for in Article 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania. A criminal intelligence investigation may also be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Criminal Intelligence.

In carrying out and conducting criminal investigations of this kind, cooperation with foreign states shall take place in accordance with the procedure provided for by law for the freezing of data, including data from Facebook and Google.

Memos on the request for electronic data in studies from different platforms have also been compiled.

Lithuania indicated that a key challenge for a successful prosecution phase is to obtain electronic evidence that can be validly used before courts.³⁴

²⁹ Para. 180.

³⁰ National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. See further <http://www.missingkids.org/home>.

³¹ Para. 183.

³² Para. 186.

³³ Recommendation III-28.

³⁴ Para. 203.

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.³⁵

Follow-up actions:

Offences related to the illegal possession of pornographic content depicting a child are investigated in specialised units of the Criminal Police. Police units, services and/or persons specialising in sexual offences against minors shall be financed from general budget appropriations allocated to police activities. It shall be ensured that investigation officers in specialised units are provided with proportionate remuneration and a standard of work equipment for these units is established.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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.³⁶
- 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.³⁷
- 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.³⁸

- To ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have sufficient specialisation in offences involving CSGSIV.³⁹
- To have units, sections or persons specialised in ICT-facilitated sexual offences committed by children against other children for authorities responsible for investigation and for authorities responsible for prosecution.⁴⁰
- 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.^{41 42}
- To ensure that training on the challenges raised by CSGSIV and ICT-facilitated coercion or extortion of children is available to prosecutors and to judges⁴³ 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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵

On measures to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution:

- The Committee requires all Parties to

³⁵ Recommendations III-3 and III-7.

³⁶ Recommendation III-4.

³⁷ Recommendation III-5.

³⁸ Recommendation III-9.

³⁹ Recommendation III-10.

⁴⁰ Recommendation III-11.

⁴¹ Such trainings can also be part of broader training programmes.

⁴² Recommendation III-14.

⁴³ Recommendations III-17 and III-19.

⁴⁴ Recommendation III-20.

⁴⁵ Recommendation III-21.

ensure that investigations and criminal proceedings in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are treated as priority and carried out without any unjustified delay.⁴⁶

Follow-up actions:

Please be informed that Article 176(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania stipulates that the pre-trial investigation shall be prioritised in cases where the suspects are arrested, as well as in cases where the suspects or the victim are minors (children).

It also invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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.⁴⁷
- 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.⁴⁸
- 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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Recommendation III-30.

⁴⁷ Recommendation III-24.

⁴⁸ Recommendations III-25, III-29.

⁴⁹ Recommendation III-31.

⁵⁰ Recommendation III-32.

Promising practices:

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 Lithuania

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 Lithuania has not established laws clarifying the circumstances in which its national criminal law will apply to a transnational situation following the territoriality principle, or has not communicated so to the Committee.⁵¹

- Therefore, the Committee requests Lithuania to take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over transnational cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs, when one of the constituent elements of the offence has taken place in Lithuania.⁵²

Follow-up actions:

Please be informed that Article 4(3) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania clearly stipulates that when the same criminal offence is committed both in the territory of the State of Lithuania and abroad, it shall be deemed to have been committed in the territory of the State of Lithuania, if the offence has been commenced, completed, or terminated in the territory of that State. In this respect, if at least one of the criminal acts committed abroad is manifested in the Lithuanian territory, we have the right to prosecute.

Jurisdiction based on nationality and residency

⁵¹ Para. 214.

⁵² Recommendation IV-1.

(Article 25(1)(d), (e))

It appears that Lithuania has jurisdiction over offences covered by the Convention committed by one of its nationals or by a person who has its habitual residence in 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))

Lithuania did not provide information as to whether it applies this condition for prosecution.

- The Committee requires Lithuania, to improve the effective implementation of the Convention, to remove the requirement that prosecution can only be initiated following a report from the victim or a denunciation from the State of the place where the offence was committed for offences of sexual abuse, offences concerning child prostitution, the production of “child pornography” and offences concerning the participation of a child in pornographic performances, when committed by one of its nationals or by a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.⁵³

Follow-up actions:

Please note that for offences of sexual abuse, offences concerning child prostitution, the production of “child pornography” and offences concerning the participation of a child in pornographic performances Lithuania legal acts do not require that prosecution can

⁵³ Recommendation IV-5.

only be initiated after a complaint has been lodged by the victim. For all the above-mentioned offences relating to sexual exploitation of minors, pornography, etc., pre-trial investigations shall be initiated in accordance with the general procedure upon receipt of information about the possible commission of a criminal offence.

Lithuania, or on board vessels or aircraft flying the flag or insignia of the State of Lithuania, shall be held liable under the criminal law. This includes both citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and other permanent or non-permanent residents.

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

Lithuania reported that it would assume jurisdiction over offences involving sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children, irrespective of the laws of the State where the offence was committed, if committed by one of its nationals or by a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.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))

Lithuania did not provide information as to whether it assumes jurisdiction in such cases.

- The Committee requests Parties that are not already doing so, including Lithuania, to endeavour to take the necessary legislative or other measures to establish jurisdiction over any offence established under the Convention where the offence is committed against one of its nationals or a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.⁵⁵

Follow-up actions:

Please be informed that Article 4(1) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania clearly stipulates that all persons who commit criminal acts on the territory of the State of

⁵⁴ Para. 224.

⁵⁵ Recommendation IV-9.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on the Jurisdiction rules

- The Committee invites Lithuania to remove the requirement for dual criminality when committed by one of their nationals, 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,⁵⁶
 - solicitation of children for sexual purposes.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Recommendation IV-7.

⁵⁷ Recommendation IV-8.

Promising practices:

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 and recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation specific to Lithuania

The Committee observes that INHOPE,⁵⁸ the PROMISE Barnahus Network,⁵⁹ WeProtect Global Alliance,⁶⁰ and EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) cybercrime CSE/CSA⁶¹ conduct cooperation projects to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in Lithuania.⁶²

Furthermore, the Committee notes that European law enforcement representatives from Lithuania attend the Europol's central training course "Combatting the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet" (COSEC). They also attend the Europol-Interpol-Cepol co-organised training course on victim identification (VID training course).⁶³

Lithuania did not provide information as to whether it allows children who fall victims when they are in the territory of a Party other than the one where they reside may make a complaint before the competent authorities of their State of residence.

- To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Committee requires Lithuania to ensure that the victims of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse in matters related to CSGSIV in the territory of Parties to the Convention which are not members of the European Union other than the one where they reside, may make a complaint before the competent authorities of the State of their

residence.⁶⁴

Follow-up actions:

When a person submits a report to the law enforcement institutions of the Republic of Lithuania, it must be examined in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts. Order No. I-110 of 11 August 2008 of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Lithuania, *"Recommendations on the Opening of Pre-Trial Investigations and the Procedure for Registering Them"*, prohibits refusing to accept a declaration of a criminal offence on the grounds that the offence was committed in another state, if the victim's place of residence is in Lithuania.

⁵⁸ www.inhope.org/

⁵⁹ <https://www.barnahus.eu/en/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.weprotect.org/>

⁶¹ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact>

⁶² Para. 255.

⁶³ Para. 259.

⁶⁴ Recommendation V-18.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation

- On international cooperation, the Committee requests all Parties, including Lithuania to extend their international cooperation with other Parties to improve the effective implementation of the Convention.⁶⁵

Follow-up actions:

The Lithuanian police cooperate with foreign law enforcement agencies in various formats, exchanging information on practices, identified trends and issues. On EU level, cooperation is ensured in the context of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT). Lithuania is also actively involved in the Lanzarote Committee. Lithuania's State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour became a member of the Barnahus Network in 2024.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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 Convention to disseminate the standards of the 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 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 combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in matters related to CSGSIV⁷¹ to maintain and develop efforts to strengthen international cooperation with other Parties and non-Parties to the Convention, in investigation and proceedings concerning the offences established in accordance with the 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

⁶⁵ Recommendation V-3.

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.

⁷¹ Recommendation V-10.

⁷² Recommendations V-14, V-16.

⁷³ Recommendation V-19.

Promising practices:

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 Lithuania

The Committee notes that all Parties, including Lithuania, have reporting mechanisms in place to assist child victims of criminal offences, including when related to sexual exploitation and abuse.⁷⁴

- On this point, the Committee requires Lithuania 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. Furthermore, 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, especially the child, can understand, and it is free of charge.⁷⁵

Follow-up actions:

A toll-free Child Rights Line was established in October 2022. Both children and adults can use this service to seek advice on any questions or concerns related to the implementation and protection of children's rights (including anonymously), as well as to report possible violations of children's rights, including incidents of all forms of violence. The Child Rights Line also provides possibility of online reporting via email or live chat, increasing accessibility for children and young people. The specialists working at the Line can provide consultations not only in Lithuanian, but also in English and Russian, which increases its accessibility for children as well — for example, children in migration or those from minority groups. The Line working hours

are Monday-Saturday, from 8 am to 8 pm (the Line does not work on Sunday and national holidays).

According to the national law, state institutions, professionals working with children and families, and all members of society (so all natural and juridical persons, without exceptions) are obliged to report suspected violence against a child, or any concerns that a child may be at risk of abuse, to the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service and/or the police. Members of the public may also submit such reports anonymously. Such reports can be submitted and are acted upon 24/7, including weekends and national holidays, without exception. Child rights protection specialists are required to respond to reports of possible violence against a child with particular urgency.

The Committee observes that Lithuania has legislation containing adequate provisions to assist child victims which focuses on assistance to child victims of sexual violence.⁷⁶

- To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Committee requires Lithuania to take the necessary legislative or other measures to assist child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, in the short and long term, in their physical and psycho-social recovery, taking due account of the child's views, needs and concerns.⁷⁷

Follow-up actions:

To strengthen the quality of assistance provided to children who may have been victims of sexual abuse, the Barnahus model

⁷⁴ Para. 275.

⁷⁵ Recommendation VI-1.

⁷⁶ Paras. 286, 287.

⁷⁷ Recommendation VI-3.

has been applied in Lithuania since 2016. In that year, the *Centre for Assistance to Children Victims of Sexual Abuse* was established and operated under the children's care home *Užuovėja*. As of 1 November 2024, this Centre has been integrated into the structure of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Within the Service, a *Specialised Support Division for Children and Families* has been established, which continues to ensure the application of the Barnahus model in Lithuania. Lithuania also plans to further develop the Barnahus model in Lithuania (through European Social Fund Plus funds in relation to implementation of European Child Guarantee). For example, there is a plan to use these funds to establish an additional location for Barnahus services, which are currently available in person only in Vilnius. Also, within this measure more focus will be put on preventive actions as well, aiming at teaching children proper skills to recognize violence, know where to ask for help etc. In addition, some services have already begun to be delivered in a mobile format – meaning that, instead of children who have been sexually abused travelling to Vilnius to receive services, specialists travel to the child's municipality of residence to provide the services there. This approach ensures the child's safety, enhances their sense of comfort, and reduces stress.

After integrating the Barnahus model into the structure of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, specialized support for children who are or might be victims of sexual abuse has been established and defined in the Law on the Fundamentals of the Protection of the Rights of the Child. In addition, a secondary legal act was adopted – the Order of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania on the Description of the Need for and Provision of Specialized Support to Children Who Are or Might Be Victims of Sexual Abuse (No. A1-732 of 31 October 2024). This legislation sets out the measures of specialized support for children who are or might be victims of sexual abuse, the conditions and procedures for assessing

the need for such support, and other important aspects. Together, these provisions ensure higher quality and more consistent delivery of assistance.

NGOs are also funded to provide certain services to children and their families in relation to violence against children. For example, various NGO-led projects are funded to provide services for children who are victims of violence and their families (these covers all forms of violence not only sexual violence). These projects are financed from the State budget, with approximately 10 NGOs receiving support each year. The total budget allocated for this measure is around EUR 200,000 annually.

Cooperation Agreement between the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania, the Police Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Lithuania was updated in 2024. Under this agreement, the mentioned Parties undertake, within the scope of their competence and insofar as this is not contrary to the provisions of the legal acts regulating their functions and activities, to promote closer cooperation between the Prosecutor's Office, police authorities, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights, in order to ensure more effective protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the child and to represent the child's best interests.

These specifically cover cases of sexual abuse – the amendments set out how different institutions work and cooperate, how they share information, and how they coordinate their actions during the pre-trial investigation to ensure that the child is properly protected, receives the necessary support, and is

impacted as little as possible by the actions of the institutions.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on assistance to victims

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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

⁷⁸ Recommendation VI-2.

Promising practices:

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 and recommendations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation specific to Lithuania

The Committee observes that civil society encompasses very different actors. While NGOs are the most involved counterparts in the field of prevention and assistance to child victims, in Lithuania, schools and other educational institutions are also frequent actors.⁷⁹

In terms of forms of cooperation between State authorities and civil society in prevention and assistance to child victims, Lithuania mentioned the training opportunities it offers to civil society actors concerning the online environment and related risks but also the opportunities it presents for children's rights.⁸⁰

The Committee recognises Lithuania's efforts to develop and support different activities aimed at raising the awareness of not only children but also adults, such as parents, educators, doctors and social workers, about the existing risks and dangers of ICTs for children.⁸¹

- To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests Lithuania to encourage the financing of projects and programmes carried out by civil society aiming to prevent and protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.⁸²

Follow-up actions:

NGOs are funded to provide certain services to children and their families in relation to violence against children. For example, various NGO-led projects are funded to provide services for children who are victims of violence and their families (these covers all forms of violence not only sexual violence).

These projects are financed from the State budget, with approximately 10 NGOs receiving support each year. The total budget allocated for this measure is around EUR 200,000 annually.

NGOs are also actively involved in policy work. For example, in Lithuania there is the Interinstitutional Child Welfare Council under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania – a collegial body that analyses the child rights situation, proposes new legislation, and promotes cooperation between state and municipal authorities and non-governmental organisations. This council includes representatives from various NGOs working with and for children, as well as representatives of children themselves.

Lithuania indicated that the interaction with civil society includes preventive and awareness-raising activities to minimise the risk of abuse that children face online.⁸³

⁷⁹ Para. 308.

⁸⁰ Para. 311.

⁸¹ Para. 315.

⁸² Recommendation VII-2.

⁸³ Para. 320.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation

The Committee invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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.⁸⁴
- 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.⁸⁵
- To support civil society to carry out projects

Promising practices:

and programmes that include the issue of CSGSIV.⁸⁶

- to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives⁸⁷ 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.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ Recommendation VII-3.

⁸⁵ Recommendation VII-4.

⁸⁶ Recommendation VII-5.

⁸⁷ 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.

⁸⁸ Recommendations VII-6, VII-7.

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.

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 Lithuania:

- 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.⁸⁹
- 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.⁹⁰
- 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.⁹¹
- to have available awareness-raising tools, materials, and activities suitable for children with disabilities.⁹²
- 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.⁹³
- 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 the preventive measures that can be taken.⁹⁴
- 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.⁹⁵
- 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.⁹⁶
- 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.⁹⁷

⁸⁹ Recommendation VIII-1.

⁹⁰ Recommendation VIII-2.

⁹¹ Recommendation VIII-3.

⁹² Recommendation VIII-4.

⁹³ Recommendation VIII-5.

⁹⁴ Recommendation VIII-6.

⁹⁵ Recommendation VIII-7.

⁹⁶ Recommendation VIII-8.

⁹⁷ Recommendation VIII-9.

Promising practices:

There are some recent amendments made to the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, to strengthen mechanisms to ensure that individuals convicted of any form of sexual violence against children or adults, as well as those guilty of serious and very serious crimes, are prohibited from working with children.

A new feature available from November 1st 2024 is a QR code that individuals can obtain for free through electronic services system. This code is mandatory for anyone seeking employment or to be involved in any other kind of activities, in roles involving direct and regular contact with children (and in institutions, organizations and agencies that provide child protection, social services, health care, educational, sport services to children – in all cases, does not matter if a person will have a direct ad constant contact with children or not). These requirements apply not only to employees but also to volunteers, service providers, interns, and others engaged in any other kind of relevant activities. Parents also have the right to request the QR code when hiring individuals, such as tutors or personal trainers, for their children.

Furthermore, organization heads and employers are required to verify the backgrounds of all individuals they hire or engage with at the start of their employment and regularly thereafter, at least every six months. We have increased penalties for non-compliance—from €300 to €1,000 for failing to conduct checks, and from €3,000 to €6,000 if an individual with a relevant conviction is found working in child-related roles. There are also few institutions that monitor compliance with these obligations. We have also developed some IT solutions for employers to conduct checks in a more easy way.

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 of the Committee on education for children specific to Lithuania

The Committee observes that in Lithuania, elements of information on the prevention against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including when facilitated by ICTs are being taught to children as the topics "safe use of the Internet" and "online psychological manipulation" are addressed in the national curriculum, and an emphasis is placed on the "moral responsibility of dissemination in the public space".⁹⁸

Although Lithuania did not provide information as to whether information on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is provided to children in an age-appropriate manner, as required by the Convention, it specified that it is delivered in both primary and secondary education.⁹⁹

The Committee observes that Lithuania is one of the few Parties that have sexuality education courses, where it informs children on risks associated with CSGSIV.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Para. 386.

⁹⁹ Para. 392.

¹⁰⁰ Para. 397.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on education for children

- The Committee requires all Parties, including Lithuania to ensure that all children at primary and secondary level receive information about the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs. Organising lectures and/or activities on this topic should not be left to the discretion of schools or teachers.¹⁰¹

Follow-up actions:

The calendar for the general prevention activities implemented by Lithuanian police officers in 2024 (approved by Order No. 5-V-1012 of the Commissioner General of the Lithuanian Police of 22 December 2023) established a list of general prevention activities in educational and scientific institutions. It also provided for and organised meetings dedicated to the prevention of youth trafficking in human beings. These meetings focused on educating young people on how to avoid becoming victims of sexual exploitation and on informing them about ways to prevent becoming victims of trafficking in human beings.

In 2024, approximately 600 meetings were held, attended by around 21,000 participants. Currently, there is no preventive training programme specifically addressing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies. However, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is currently in the process of developing several new measures under the Child Guarantee. Plans are underway to expand certain services for children, which will be implemented with the support of European Social Fund+ resources. One of the measures presently under consideration focuses on assessing the possibilities for expanding activities aimed at enhancing children's safety on social networks and in the online environment, in particular through the education of children, their parents, other caregivers. At this stage, it is not yet possible to provide more specific or detailed information, as the content has not been

finalised or formally approved. However, it is anticipated that the activities will be agreed upon in the second half or towards the end of this autumn.

Some recent changes in the Education Law state that schools must ensure that pupils have the opportunity to participate in prevention programmes that meet the quality criteria established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport, aimed at developing social and emotional competences and addressing issues such as all forms of violence, bullying, the use of psychoactive substances, and other prevention areas.

The new General Programme for Life Skills was approved on 14 August 2023 and came into effect in September 2023, replacing the previous Health, Sexuality Education and Preparation for Family Life programme. Since 2024, it has been integrated into the educational process for all grades. This programme covers topics related to violence, including specifically sexual violence (such as how to protect oneself, how to recognise it, where to seek help, etc.).

The Safer Internet Centre in Lithuania, more widely known as "Draugiškas internetas" ("Friendly Internet"), is coordinated by the Lithuanian National Agency for Education (LINEŠA) together with its partners – the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania, the association "Langas į ateitį" ("Window to the Future"), and the public institution "Vaikų linija" ("Child Line"). The programme is partially funded by the European Union.

The programme is implemented in many European Union Member States as well as in cooperating countries, where national Safer Internet Centres have been established. These centres currently operate in 28 countries and are united by the INSAFE, INHOPE, and European Schoolnet networks. In addition, all European Safer Internet Centres collaborate

¹⁰¹ Recommendation IX-3.

via the Better Internet for Kids platform. The project aims to make the internet a safe and trustworthy environment and to engage children and young people in creating a safer online space. The objective of the Safer Internet Centre is to expand the system of safer internet services in Lithuania by providing three key services to the public: (1) awareness-raising, (2) helpline, and (3) hotline.

As mentioned earlier, further preventive and educational activities targeting children will be developed as part of the planned project to strengthen the Barnahus model in Lithuania.

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.¹⁰⁷

The Committee invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- to address in educational contexts the issue of the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV.¹⁰²
- to ensure that information on the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV, is provided to children during both primary and secondary education (whether as part of the national curricula or in the context of non-formal education for children at these levels).¹⁰³
- to consistently involve children in the development of internet safety awareness programmes.¹⁰⁴
- to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activities.¹⁰⁵
- 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.¹⁰⁶
- to ensure that parents, caregivers, and educators are involved, where appropriate,

¹⁰² Recommendation IX-1.

¹⁰³ Recommendation IX-2.

¹⁰⁴ Recommendation IX-4.

¹⁰⁵ Recommendation IX-5.

¹⁰⁶ Recommendation IX-6.

¹⁰⁷ Recommendation IX-8.

Promising practices:

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 Lithuania

The Committee notices a lack of action from Lithuania regarding higher education curriculum and continuous training.

Therefore, the Committee requires Lithuania:

- to ensure that teaching or training on the rights of children and their protection for 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) is not optional.¹⁰⁸

Follow-up actions:

There have been no significant developments in this area.

- to ensure that the persons who have regular contact with children are equipped to identify any situation of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and 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.¹⁰⁹

Follow-up actions:

According to the national law, state

institutions, professionals working with children and families, and all members of society (so all natural and juridical persons, without exceptions) are obliged to report suspected violence against a child, or any concerns that a child may be at risk of abuse, to the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service and/or the police. Members of the public may also submit such reports anonymously. Such reports can be submitted and are acted upon 24/7, including weekends and national holidays, without exception. Child rights protection specialists are required to respond to reports of possible violence against a child with particular urgency. Such provision are established in the Law on Fundamentals of the Rights of the Child. Professionals are widely informed about this duty.

Several trainings on identifying sexual abuse against a child and recognizing a child who might be a victim of sexual abuse are organized and conducted annually by the Lithuanian Barnahus (for specialists such as teachers, social workers, social pedagogues, etc.). The Lithuanian Barnahus has also developed methodological materials for teachers to use in preventive work with children, aimed at protecting them from sexual abuse.

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

¹⁰⁸ Recommendation X-4.

¹⁰⁹ Recommendations X-5, X-6.

protection, judicial and law-enforcement sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture, and leisure activities.¹¹⁰

Follow-up actions:

Trainings conducted for Lithuanian police officers:

" Police officers working with minors at the scene";

"Tactical aspects of the questioning of minors with the participation of a psychologist" (addressed to police officers of operational units of police bodies conducting pre-trial investigations);

"Specific features of procedural actions and coercive measures against minors" (intended for officers performing decision-making functions, operational team functions and pre-trial investigation).

- The Committee also requests Lithuania to ensure that the persons who have regular contact with children have adequate knowledge of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs, for example through education or continuous training.¹¹¹

Follow-up actions:

Every year, Lithuanian police officers receive training in the areas of development of special competences, including training provided by other stakeholders. Officials shall also be sent to training organised by the European Union Agency for the Training of Officials (CEPOL) on this subject.

¹¹⁰ Recommendation X-7.

¹¹¹ Recommendation X-1.

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

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Lithuania:

- 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.¹¹²
- 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.¹¹³

¹¹² Recommendation X-2.

¹¹³ Recommendation X-3.

Promising practices:

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 Lithuania

The Committee identifies a difficulty to implement the Convention in Lithuania as it did not provide any information on research undertaken on issues raised by CSGSIV and/or on the psychological effects on persons who have had such material shared online. However, the Committee notes that since Lithuania has participated in the EU Kids Online surveys for at least one year, it can be inferred that some data was collected within the context of these surveys on the practice of sending and receiving sexual messages, including CSGSIV.¹¹⁴ Moreover, the Committee notes that in the context of the EU Kids Online surveys, according to EU Kids Online 2020 Report,¹¹⁵ the Lithuanian national authorities supported the research and enabled the surveys to be carried.¹¹⁶

- 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.¹²⁰

Lithuania not being isolated in this respect, the Committee invites all Parties:

- to collect data and undertake research at the national and local levels to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of CSGSIV.¹¹⁷
- 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.¹¹⁸
- 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.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁴ Para. 443.

¹¹⁵ See EU Kids Online Report 2020: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/assets/documents/research/eu-kids-online/reports/EU-Kids-Online-2020-10Feb2020.pdf>.

¹¹⁶ Para. 454.

¹¹⁷ Recommendation XI-1.

¹¹⁸ Recommendation XI-2.

¹¹⁹ Recommendation XI-3.

¹²⁰ Recommendation XI-4.

Promising practice

EU Kids Online is a multinational research network, working to increase knowledge of the opportunities, risks and safeties children face online. Lithuania has participated to this research network for at least one year by taking part in the EU Kids Online surveys.

Promising practices:

There have been no significant developments in this area.