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FACTSHEET – SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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 Slovak Republic 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.

2. Legal frameworks

However, the Committee invites the Slovak Republic:

- acknowledging that the term “child pornography” can be misleading and undermine the gravity of the crimes it refers to, to rather use the term “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”[1] 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 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.[3]
- 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".[4] [5]

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Justice of Slovak Republic said that the European Commission had presented a new directive on combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and the Council had presented a general guideline on the proposal. It can be reasonably assumed, that this directive will change the definition of child pornography and that Slovak republic will of course change its definition in line with this new directive.
In its Programme Statement for 2023-2027, the Government of the Slovak Republic has committed itself in the area of criminal policy to promote changes that will lead to improved protection of women and children from domestic violence, effective prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators of violence against children, perpetrators of sexual exploitation and harassment, including the sanctioning of acts in the online space.
According to the Government's Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks, the Government plans to submit a recodification of the Criminal Codes in the first quarter of 2026, in which some of these changes may appear.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Computer Crime Department of the National Special Crime Headquarters of the Police Presidium (hereinafter referred to as "OPK NCODK P PZ").
The Cybercrime Department notes that the concept of child pornography is mainly based on the transposition of Directive 93/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and until the

[1] 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.
[2] Recommendation II-1.
[3] Recommendation II-2.
[4] 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.
[5] Recommendation II-3.

legislative act in question is revised we consider the current legislative framework to be legally acceptable. However, with regard to the Department's application practice, we note that we positively perceive the need to change the term "child pornography" and the need to replace it with the term "Child Sexual Abuse Material" (CSAM), and its use is being introduced in the application practice in the field of education, methodological guidance and awareness-raising of the crime in question.

The Committee requests that the Slovak Republic ensures in its legal framework[6] 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.[7]

Follow-up actions:

At present, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic cannot comment on specific legislative changes, see above information on the Programme Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Therefore, the Committee requests that the Slovak Republic ensures 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.[8]
- the distribution or transmission by children of sexual 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.

Follow-up actions:

At present, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic cannot comment on specific legislative changes, see above information on the Programme Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on the legal framework

On the legal framework, the Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak Republic:

- 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.
- 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

[6] The expression “legal framework” is not limited to legislation but should be understood in a broader way, e.g., through prosecutorial guidance or practice.
[7] Recommendation II-6.
[8] Recommendation II-8.

understanding and avoiding risks deriving from the production and possession of self-generated sexual images and/or videos.

- 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 self-generated sexual images and/or videos.
- to take into account the situation where self-generated sexual images and/or videos are used to force, coerce or threaten the child to give additional self-generated sexual images and/or videos, 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.
- to ensure that sexual extortion of children involving self-generated sexual images and/or videos is investigated and prosecuted.

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic stated:
-on the third point: Grooming in the intentions of the Slovac republic is already completed by the proposal made to the child (attempt) and the perpetrator is thus criminally responsible even if there is no encounter or creation of child pornography.
§ Section 201a of the Criminal Code
Whoever, using an electronic communication service, proposes a personal meeting to a child below fifteen years of age with the intention to commit a criminal offence of sexual abuse or a criminal offence of production of child pornography against them and is not a child themselves, shall be punished by a prison sentence of six months to three years.
-On the fifth point: The conduct in question is punishable under the Criminal Code by the offences of extortion under section 187, duress under section 190 and coercion under section 192 of the Criminal Code.

The National Coordination Centre for resolving the issue of violence against children (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic), as a coordinator for the protection of children from violence (also in the digital space), has prepared a non-legislative material - National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Space and also related Action Plans, which also contain the above mentioned facts; cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior on the above-mentioned topics (promotion of education in relation to self-generated sexual content; criminalization of such materials in the case of children).

The National Coordination Centre for resolving the issue of violence against children (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic), as the coordinator of the policy for the protection of children from violence in Slovakia, also submitted National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence "Childhood without Violence for All Children" (2023-2029) and the Action Plan based on the National Strategy (2023-2026) to the Government in 2023. The Government of the Slovak Republic approved these documents by Government Resolution No. 594 of 13 November 2023.
The National Strategy and the Action Plan were created on the basis of the need to maintain continuity and improve the functioning of the set processes, as well as the creation and development of tasks in the field of protection of children from violence. The material also continues to develop the system of coordination in the field of protection of children from violence at the national and regional level. For the first time ever, children have been involved in the development of strategic material concerning them in a participatory way. The decision made when drafting this document was that if we want to do something for children, we must do it with

them, which is why, for the first time ever, children have been actively involved directly in the drafting of strategic material relating to them. They were involved in a participatory way, which is also a horizontal principle of the document.
The National Strategy is characterised by the following basic pillars: promoting the protection of children from violence, children as part of society, preventing all forms of institutional violence, the rights of children at risk and their strengthening, and promoting education and research in the field of the protection of children from violence, which are reflected in the Action Plan as strategic objectives. The horizontal principles of participation, awareness-raising, prevention and multidisciplinary cooperation and are also defined in the material.

3. Investigations and prosecution

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests the Slovak Republic:

• to ensure that training on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children is available for prosecutors who are or will be working on these issues.

Follow-up actions:

General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic: once a year, prosecutors of the Slovak Republic have nationwide meetings of specialists - prosecutors, at which they exchange current knowledge on the given topic, unify the application of legal practice and are systematically trained on the given issue.

Opinion for the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the particular Police Force department:

The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Cybercrime Department of the National Special Crime Headquarters of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "OPK NCODK P PZ") and the Office of the Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "UHCP P PZ") through the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration (hereinafter referred to as "NJBPNM").
In 2022-2024, the Computer Crime Unit has repeatedly made several presentations to the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic, specifically to the informal network of prosecutors in the field of computer crime. The training sessions focused on providing information on application practice in relation to online child sexual abuse offences, modus operandi, application challenges and good practice.

• to ensure that training on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children is available for judges who are or will be working on these issues.

Follow-up actions:

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic: the Judicial Academy provides educational events through its staff and teaching staff according to the approved annual study plan (academic plan). At its 3rd meeting on 28 November 2024, the Council of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic approved the Academy's study plan for 2025 on the issue of violence against children, which included the following events:

-Particularly Vulnerable Victims, Specifics of Investigation and Prosecution of Crimes against Particularly Vulnerable Victims: Specifics of the approach of law enforcement authorities and courts to individual categories of particularly vulnerable victims - first interrogation, instruction under the Criminal Procedure Code, re-interrogation, presence at interrogation, expert evidence. Special emphasis on:- children as victims of violent and sexually motivated crimes,- victims of domestic violence,- victims of sexual violence,- elderly,- victims of trafficking in human beings,- victims of hate crimes due to group affiliation. Recent case law of the European Court of Human Rights on particularly vulnerable victims and the obligations arising therefrom.

-Sexual victimisation of children: myths and prejudices versus scientific knowledge. The range of misconceptions about the issue of sexual abuse (about the incidence and nature of abuse, the frequency of false accusations, about perpetrators, about victims' reactions, about victims' memory performance during forensic interviewing, about how to interview child suspected

victims, about how to diagnose sexual abuse) and their confrontation with scientifically-validated knowledge. Intuitive expectations regarding the survival and behaviour of victims. The spectrum of counterintuitive reactions of victims and their causes. The risk of misinterpretation of collected evidence due to professionals' biases and cognitive distortions.
-Grooming as part of the strategy of perpetrators of sexual offences against children: Definition and types (classification) of grooming in the scientific literature. The range of manipulative techniques targeting (not only primary) victims. Consequences of grooming on the survival and behaviour of victims. The importance of considering grooming in the clarification and assessment of child sexual abuse cases.

• to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with the fundamental principles of their 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.

Follow-up actions:

Slovak Prosecutor General's Office: the prosecutors of the Slovak Republic act in accordance with the basic principles of our internal law and in order to investigate every criminal case in a high-quality manner, we use the means of operative-search activities or information-technical or all tools for the purpose of lawful acquisition of evidence, which are allowed by the Criminal Procedure Code.

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic: on 14 May 2024, the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) on combating violence against women and domestic violence was adopted under No. 2024/1385. Implementation and transposition measures are currently being adopted and Member States (including the Slovak Republic) must bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 14 June 2027. Legislation to be adopted as part of the transposition process of this Directive is likely to have an impact on the definition of a number of ICT offences, including in relation to the prosecution of sexual offences against children.
However, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic is currently not in a position to comment on specific legislative changes; in this context, see also the information above on the Programme Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
During the reporting period, the Cybercrime Department was intensively involved in the possibilities of using covert operations in cases of investigation and prosecution of sexual offences against children through ICT. It has taken concrete measures in application practice to make it possible to use covert operations for these cases if necessary.
The NJBPNM ÚHCP P PZ, within the scope of its competences and activities, investigates (sexual offences) in connection with trafficking in human beings against children where ICT could be used in sexual exploitation. However, in investigating such a case, we would approach and cooperate with the Computer Crime Department of the National Headquarters of Special Crimes of the P PZ (hereafter referred to as the Computer Crime Department of the NCODK P PZ), as the NJBPNM of the IHCP P PZ does have investigators, but it does not have the technology or the ICT experts at its disposal. This would ensure effective investigation and prosecution.

The Committee also invites the Slovak Republic:

- 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.
- 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.
- to ensure that training on the challenges raised by CSGSIV and ICT- facilitated coercion or extortion of children is available to prosecutors and judges.
- 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.
- 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.

Opinion for the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
In February 2022, a specialised unit was created within the Cybercrime Department of the National Special Crime Headquarters of the Presidency of the Police Force, which from that date became the executive unit in relation to the investigation of online child sexual abuse offences. Since that time, the Unit has conducted a number of successful investigations into online child sexual abuse offences committed by the most serious offenders. The Unit has also provided training to police departments within the Slovak Republic conducting investigations into child sexual abuse. It passes on its good practice not only at national level but also to partner services abroad. At the same time, it carries out adequate activities in the field of prevention, where it cooperates closely both with NGOs and with other ministries dealing with the issue of child abuse through ICT. The cooperation with other entities was mainly under the auspices of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Space and the Action Plan to the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Space for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.
With regard to the use of the Interpol-ICSE database, the Cybercrime Department notes that it uses the tool in question adequately within the limits of its staffing capacity. It is aware of the need to make greater use of the tool and is looking for ways to start working more effectively with the database in relation to all child sexual abuse investigations in the Slovak Republic.
Traffickers use the online space mainly to recruit and advertise sexual services to victims. For example, in 2024, the NJBPNM recorded 2 cases for sexual exploitation and 1 case of labour exploitation where there was an element of the internet. The NJBPNM investigator found out such fact only after interviewing the victim-witness. In such cases, the NJBPNM investigator cooperates with the Computer Crime Unit of the NCODK P PZ to obtain further necessary evidence. In 2024, the NJBPNM contacted the Computer Crime Department of the NCODK P PZ 6 times in connection with human trafficking. Some operational officers of the NJBPNM carry out operational screening on social networks within their capabilities; however, the NJBPNM does not have special software for the online space.
NJBPNM officers as well as officers from other ČS EU participate in the EMPACT THB Hackathon activity in the Netherlands, which is aimed at monitoring the online space with a focus on sexual and labour exploitation. As part of the action, various platforms, persons, usernames and phone numbers are screened. Experts from the participating ČS EU (sexual exploitation experts, OSINT and labour inspectors) try to identify victims and perpetrators of trafficking in the online space.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on investigation and prosecution

- 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.

Follow-up actions:

General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic: prosecutors have been specialising in the subject since 2008, and the specialisation on the subject is also regulated by the internal regulations of the Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic.
The most recent internal regulation on the establishment of the specialisation is entitled: Instruction of the Prosecutor General of the Slovak Republic Lt. No. 1/2013 of 18.01.2013 on the establishment of the specialization of prosecutors on juvenile and minors' crime, crimes committed against children and violence in families.

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic: see the activities of the Judicial Academy above.
In order to ensure the speeding up of court proceedings and the specialisation of judges in all types of cases, a new so-called Judicial Map is being implemented as of 1 June 2023. Based on the Judicial Map, the courts' dockets have been divided as well as their levies have been expanded. In each district there are more judges who can specialize in a particular agenda, namely civil, commercial, criminal, family.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
In February 2022, a specialised department was created within the Computer Crime Division of the National Special Crime Headquarters of the Police Presidium, which became the executive unit in relation to the investigation of online child sexual abuse crimes from that date.

The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have sufficient specialisation in offences involving CSGSIV.

Promising practices:

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:

The Computer Crime Unit notes that all investigative units with jurisdiction over sexual offences against children through ICT cooperate with each other and share best practices in combating sexual offences against children. Training activities are organised every year where these units not only exchange best practices but also improve their technical knowledge, taking into account the evolution of technology and current practices used by offenders.
NJBPNM ÚHCP P PZ does not have technology or ICT experts within its competencies and activities. Therefore, while investigating a case involving ICT, they would approach and collaborate with the Computer Crime Department of NCODK P PZ to provide the ICT domain.
In spite of the above and in order to improve the above situation, in the future we are planning professional training in the field of ICT for officers of the NJBPNM ÚHCP P PZ, where the trainers would be officers of the Computer Crime Department of the P PZ.
In the area of trafficking in human beings, the NJBPNM is represented at regular meetings of the international EMPACT (Multidisciplinary Platform against Organised Crime) working group with a priority on trafficking in human beings (THB). An officer of the NJBPNM also regularly participates in the operational activity entitled: "Internet as enabler of THB".

• 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.

General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic: Investigation and prosecution of sexual offences against children, through ICT, is considered a priority and is carried out without any undue delay.
Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
All crimes detected or conducted at the NJBPNM are investigated without delay and cases committed against children are given special attention. Among the measures we mention the following:
- Pursuant to the instruction of the Director of the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the ÚHCP P PZ (hereinafter referred to as "NJBPNM") no. PPZ-HCP-BPNM1-2022/022025 of 2022, which issues methodological guidance on ensuring the reporting of child victims of trafficking in human beings to the authorities of social protection of children and social guardianship, the investigator of the NJBPNM is obliged to send information about the child acting in criminal proceedings as a witness - victim in investigated cases of trafficking in human beings under Art. 2 of the Criminal Code to the locally competent Department of Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship according to the place of permanent residence of the child. At the same time, the NJBPNM investigator also sends the above information to the NJBPNM Coordination Department, which is subsequently shared with the designated employee of the Central Office of Social and Family Affairs.
- If the child is in the care of the suspected parents, the ex-officio curator must arrange for the child to be transferred to alternative care (such as centres for children and families). If there are suspicious parents, there is a conflict of interests with the child and then the NJBPNM investigator files a petition under Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the appointment of a guardian with the court. The investigator initiates the appointment of a guardian.
- Regular meetings of the Expert Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which was also attended by representatives of the NJBPNM as members of the Expert Group, were held to address current issues related to trafficking in human beings, including children. Furthermore, representatives of the NJBPNM regularly participate in the meetings of the Working Group as needed to ensure effective cooperation in providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings included in the Programme, where current issues related to children were also addressed.

When necessary, the NJBPNM officers meet with representatives of the Office of Child Victims' Affairs to discuss current issues regarding child victims.

It also invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The Cybercrime Department notes that steps have been taken to establish an overall national database of child sexual abuse material, stating that it already has such a database in place in relation to NCMEC reports and is making use of it. At the same time, the role of the child abuse database is also partially fulfilled by the ICSE database into which the Department enters investigations relating to offences of production of child pornography and sexual abuse that have been investigated by the Department.
The Department has taken steps to maintain computerized data related to specific criminal investigations or proceedings.
In their activities, the officers of the NJBPNM actively cooperate with State as well as non-governmental organisations, in particular with the aim of strengthening the identification of possible victims of trafficking in human beings, including children, as well as the detection of possible perpetrators. As an example, we can mention the cooperation with the officers of the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in providing information to victims of trafficking in human beings who have expressed an interest in joining the programme for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings or participation in expert groups focusing on the fight against trafficking in human beings.

4. Jurisdiction rules

• Therefore, the Committee requires the Slovak Republic 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 (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 pornographic performances (Article 21), when committed by one of their nationals or by a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.

Follow- up actions:

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic: It is not necessary for the victim or another state to report the crime in order to prosecute these offences, but law enforcement authorities may initiate and conduct criminal proceedings on their own. Even the victim's consent to prosecution under Section 211 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not required:

§ 211

(1) Criminal prosecution for the offence of bodily harm under Sections 157 and 158, threatening with venereal disease under Section 167, failure to provide assistance under Sections 177 and 178, violation of home freedom under Section 194, protection of privasy in dwellings under Section 194a, violation of confidentiality of transported messages in under Sections 196 and 197, theft under Section 212, embezzlement under Section 213, unauthorized use of another's property under Section 215, unauthorised use of a foreign motor vehicle pursuant to sections 216 and 217, unauthorised interference with the right to a house, flat or non-residential premises pursuant to section 218, unauthorised manufacture and use of a means of payment pursuant to section 219, fraud pursuant to section 221, usury pursuant to section 235, concealment of a thing pursuant to section 236, breach of duty in the management of foreign property pursuant to sections 237 and 238, defamation of a creditor under § 239, favoritism of a creditor under § 240, defamation of another's property under §§ 245 and 246, defacement and misuse of a recording on a medium of information under § 247, copyright infringement under § 283, false accusation under § 345, dangerous pursuit under § 360a, slander under § 373, defamation of another's rights under § 375 of the Criminal Law Against, who, in relation to the injured party, is a person against whom the injured party as a witness would have the right to withhold testimony, as well as for the offence of insobriety under Section 363 of the Crimi Code, if it otherwise has the elements of the offence of any of these offences, a prosecution may be initiated and continued only with the consent of the injured party. If there are several victims of one act, the consent of only one of them shall be sufficient.

§ Section 4 of the Criminal Code:

Under this Act, the criminality of an act committed outside the territory of the Slovak Republic by a citizen of the Slovak Republic or a foreigner who has permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic shall also be assessed.

The Committee requests Parties that are not already doing so, including the Slovak 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.

Follow-up actions:

At present, the Ministry of Justice cannot comment on specific legislative changes, see above information on the Programme Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Framework Plan of Legislative Tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on the jurisdiction rules

The Committee also invites the Slovak Republic 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,
- solicitation of children for sexual purposes.

Promising practices:
-

5. International cooperation

Generic recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation

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

Follow-up actions:

The National Helpline for Children at Risk MORE THAN NI(c)K (hereafter referred to as the National Helpline) has become a member of the Safe Internet Centre with its partners the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the issues of Violence against Children (Ministry of labour, social affairs and family), DigiQ, Protect Me. After successfully obtaining a grant in the Safer Internet SK project, a Safe Internet Consultant was recruited to represent the National Hotline abroad. It is extremely important for Slovakia to be represented by a representative of the National Helpline, as the National Helpline is an integral part of the system of Safer Internet Centres and at the same time such a meeting at European level provides a unique opportunity for networking, learning about new methods of working with clients and improving the quality of the helpline's work.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Office of International Police Cooperation of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "UMPS P PZ"), the Cybercrime Department of the National Headquarters of Special Types of Crime of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "OPK NCODK P PZ") and the Office of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "UHCP P PZ") through the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration (hereinafter referred to as the "NJBPNM").
As a specialised national unit, the Cybercrime Department continuously cooperates with the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention. Cooperation with neighbouring countries can be considered as the most significant cooperation. Where the V4 format can be pointed out. At the end of 2022, a V4 meeting entitled "Best practices and modus operandi in CSE/CSA cases in V4 countries" was held, organized by the Slovak Republic as the presiding country, the meeting can be described as highly beneficial for further cooperation. We would also like to highlight the cooperation with the Czech Republic, where specialised units dealing with child sexual abuse exchange important information, practical experience and procedures in the field of combating sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and also cooperate intensively in the investigation and detection of crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
Within its mandate, the Europol National Unit of the PPZ (hereinafter referred to as 'NUE') actively cooperates with Europol, the Member States, third parties and the units of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as 'PZ') competent for the prevention and combating of the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. Cooperation through the NUE may only take place with EU Member States and third parties with which Europol has concluded an agreement on operational and strategic cooperation. In case a department needs to conduct international police cooperation with other States and entities, it must use another relevant channel for international police cooperation for this purpose.
As part of the international criminal police organisation Interpol, the National Interpol Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as 'NUI') continues to be involved in the exchange of information within its scope of competence, communicating with all member countries. At the same time, all information or invitations to conferences/trainings are directly forwarded to the

National Headquarters for Special Types of Crime of the P PZ and the Criminal Police Department of the P PZ.
The NUI has provided direct access of authorised officers of the Police of the Slovak Republic to the INTERPOL database - ICSE - INTERNATIONAL CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION DATABASE (hereinafter referred to as "ICSE"). The database offers investigators and officers specialising in this type of crime effective access to data and tools for the analysis of child sexual exploitation material, while reducing the risk of duplicative and repetitive investigations. Every year, the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon organises training courses for the specialised units in this crime area, with the aim of improving and streamlining the work and use of the ICSE database in their own activities. In 2025, the training will take place from 11-13.03.2025 in Lyon.
The NJBPNM is open to any international cooperation in order to screen, document and detect cases falling within its competence, among them trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation.

The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.
- to regularly assess the difficulties that they face when dealing with international cooperation and remedy them.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 CSGSIV.
- 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.
- 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.

Promising practices:

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The Cybercrime Department notes that it has been actively cooperating on an ongoing basis with the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention as well as with non-Parties to the Convention. The cooperation is based on the actual needs and cases being dealt with in that area. It will continue to do everything in its power to develop this cooperation, to support all positive initiatives in this area, and to take steps to strengthen preventive activities in this area.
The NUE provides all necessary support and cooperation in ensuring the connection of Slovak law enforcement authorities to Europol databases by linking our selected databases to Europol databases. Lustrations in the Europol databases are to be carried out through Europol's Quest and Quest+ lustration tools with a "hit, no hit" result. Currently, a project is being carried out at the Police Information Systems Management Department of the Police Presidium for the purpose of the above-mentioned database interconnection.
The NJBPNM is represented in the field of trafficking in human beings within the framework of international cooperation in various forums and meetings with members of various organisations. As an example :
- Regular meetings of the International EMPACT (Multidisciplinary Platform against Organized Crime) Working Group also with a priority on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). The EMPACT working group meetings are organised at EUROPOL headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, or take place in one of the participating countries. Some of the EMPACT activities take place online, but also in a hybrid form. For example, in 2024, the NJBPNM expert on trafficking in human beings participated 9 times in expert meetings in person or online with a focus on the following topics: "Internet as a tool for trafficking in human beings", "Trafficking in human beings with regard to the Vietnamese community", "Southeastern Partnerships with a focus on Ukraine and potential victims", " Pre-meeting for the Joint Action Days - Operation GLOBAL CHAIN focusing on trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, forced begging and forced criminality, with special attention to potential child victims", "Joint Action Days on labour exploitation", "Preventive activities on trafficking in human beings", "Illegal surrogacy and sale of newborns". Within the framework of the above themes (EUROPOL priorities), specific tasks are set annually and their implementation is evaluated in the framework of the EMPACT THB Working Group meetings.
NJBPNM officers participate annually in specialised trainings, conferences and workshops on trafficking in human beings organised by police organisations such as CEPOL, ILEA, through which they increase their specialisation and which enable them to exchange experiences and practices with law enforcement authorities as well as with experts and specialists in the field of combating trafficking in human beings from other Member States and third countries.
- NJBPNM officers also participate in working meetings and conferences organised by GRETA, OSCE, IOM, FRONTEX, UN, etc.
In detecting and documenting the crime of trafficking in human beings, the officers of the NJBPNM cooperate through the Office of International Police Cooperation of the Police Presidium with the international institutions EUROPOL and INTERPOL, as well as through police attachés sent to perform state service abroad, and with liaison officers of foreign states responsible for cooperation with the Slovak police.
The NJBPNM cooperates with partner authorities abroad in the field of operational police cooperation within the meaning of bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.
During the last 2 years, Slovakia has become a member of the INHOPE and Insafe networks through representatives from the non-profit (INHOPE) and mixed sector (Inhope, cooperation between NGOs and state institutions - National coordination centre for resolving the issues of violence againts children, Ministry of labour, social affairs and family). Within both networks, Slovakia actively participates in international coordination and educational activities and also develops bilateral cooperation with European partners.

Assistance to victims

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requires the Slovak 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. 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.

Follow-up actions:

The Slovak Republic is the only EU country to have a national helpline for children and young adults: National Helpline for Children at Risk MORE THAN NI(c)K (hereinafter referred to as the "National Helpline"). The Central Office of Social and Family Affairs implements the National Project on Supporting the Protection of Children from Violence, under which the establishment of the National Helpline is a separate project activity. The establishment and operation of the National Line is also one of the tasks of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The helpline provides crisis intervention, counselling and prevention online in a remote form for children at risk of violence. The helpline provides assistance free of charge, anonymously, by chat and e-mail, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
The National Helpline contributes to extending help to children at risk of violence in an online environment. The staff of the National Helpline (consultants) have a second degree in humanities. Once they are hired, they undergo comprehensive training that includes the principles and conditions of working with child victims.

Ministry of justice of Slovak republiv: Under Act No. 302/2016 Coll. on the provision of subsidies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, as amended, subsidies are paid from the state budget, from the budget chapter of the Ministry for the relevant budget year, for the promotion, support and protection of human rights and freedoms and for the prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance.
In previous years, a number of entities operating telephone or internet helplines have been supported under the grant scheme in question, which have also provided counselling to child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
The total amount of funds foreseen to be available for this call for proposals in 2025 is EUR 769.500,-.
The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic also ensures accreditation of entities providing assistance to victims in accordance with Act No 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crimes and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts. Accredited entities may choose in the accreditation process the form of providing professional assistance - general professional assistance or specialized professional assistance to a particularly vulnerable victim. In the case of the provision of specialised vocational assistance, individual bodies also focus on providing specific vocational assistance to selected groups of particularly vulnerable victims, including children.
In the framework of the forthcoming revision of the Victims Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU), the creation of specialised centres for child victims, the so-called Barnahus model, is foreseen, which should be available at least for child victims of sexual violence.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter competence of the specific police department_

The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "OPK MV SR"), the Police Academy and the Office of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "UHCP P PZ") through the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration (hereinafter referred to as "NJBPNM").
The National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings has been operating in the Slovak Republic since 2008. It is the most convenient anonymous way to talk to experts about a potential problem, to think about your situation and, if you wish, to ask for help. The operation of the national helpline is provided by the Slovak Catholic Charity on the basis of a contract for the provision of services for victims with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, i.e. by experts directly on the issue of trafficking in human beings. These services are financially covered by the budget of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. The operation of the National Helpline is technically supported by Slovak Telekom, a.s. Within the Slovak Republic, the National Line is a free telephone line operated on weekdays during twelve hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Outside working hours, there is continuous monitoring of incoming calls via an answering machine. Any call recorded on the national helpline is returned by the provider's staff. The national helpline is also available from abroad, if the local operator allows it, as +421 800 800 818. When the national helpline is not in operation, the caller can leave his/her telephone number or question and the helpline operators will contact him/her back. The main task of the National Helpline is to provide assistance and information primarily to persons who may be at risk of trafficking in human beings. In identifying and assisting in such cases, the National Hotline provides contact with victim support organisations. Promotion of the National Hotline is carried out at all prevention and training activities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, as well as activities of cooperating entities, including printed material and preventive items.
The Information Offices of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic provide services (counselling on victims' rights, etc.) for victims of crime (including victims of trafficking in human beings, youth victims, victims of foreign citizens, etc.) , located at contact points in each regional city.
IOM Slovakia provides preventive information to help protect against trafficking in human beings by calling 0907 787 374.

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic is preparing to launch the National Mental Health Helpline.
The National Mental Health Helpline (hereinafter referred to as "NLPDZ") will be established by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic within the framework of the implementation of the National Project "Prevention and elimination of violence and social exclusion through national helplines".
Objectives of the NLPDZ
The NLPDZ will provide anonymous and distance counselling in the field of mental health to the general public, focusing on:
- Psychological counselling and crisis intervention: offering a safe space to talk about insecurities, fears or mental health problems.
- Support for health professionals: Health professionals who are facing excessive stress and are at increased risk of developing stress-related mental disorders will find help and support here.
- Help with acute stress and post-traumatic stress reactions: The NLPDZ provides counselling and support in coping with acute stress reactions and developing post-traumatic stress reactions. This service is available to both health professionals and the general public.
The NLPDZ is free of charge and operates Mon-Sun: 10.00 - 22.00.
From 2025, the NLPDZ will be expanded:
- Counselling on issues of problematic sexuality and unwanted sexual behaviour or experiences: Provision of counselling for problematic experience of one's own sexuality or problematic sexuality of close persons.

The National coordination centre for ressolving the issues of violence againts children was involved in the development of standards for helplines (as providers of distance counselling) and the unification of procedures, the setting of crisis procedures but also the elimination of unwanted or even harmful practices in the provision of crisis intervention in cooperation with non-governmental and state operators of helplines (National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence, League for Mental Health, Children's Safety Line, League Against Cancer, Lienka - Society of Friends of Children, Blue Angel, IPčko, More than a Nick, Chut' žiť, Association of Helplines). The Standards for Distance Counselling were approved and implemented in 2024 by the Government Mental Health Council and the Children and Young People's Committee.

- to assist child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, in the short and long term, in their physical and psycho-social recovery, these measures must take due account of the child's views, needs and concerns.

Follow-up actions:

In the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, four Centres for Children and Families (hereinafter referred to as "CDR") (Žilina, Nitra, Poprad, Sečovce) carry out a specialised programme to prevent the emergence, deepening and recurrence of crisis situations of a child who is a victim of the crime of trafficking in human beings, a child who has been abused or sexually abused or for the implementation of measures to verify the degree of threat to the child from abuse, sexual abuse or other acts threatening his or her life, health, favourable psychological development, physical development or social development.
The CDR may carry out this programme on the basis of a court order, an agreement with the parent, or also at the request of the child. The measures shall be carried out in accordance with a plan drawn up in cooperation with the child, if this is possible in view of the age and intellectual maturity of the child. Social work, psychological assistance and care, special-educational care, diagnostics and other professional activities corresponding to the professional methods of work in the specialised programme of the CDR are carried out in the CDR which carries out the specialised programme, and conditions are created, e.g. for interest, cultural, recreational activities, etc.

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic with effect from 1 February 2023, in order to strengthen the protection, support and assistance to victims of crime, has legislatively anchored the network of information offices as part of the organisational structure of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. The intention of the legislative anchoring of the information offices was to create a minimum network of victim support services to be provided and delivered by the State and at the same time to complement the existing system of victim assistance in the Slovak Republic by also taking into account victims of antisocial activities. The legislative anchoring of the information offices under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic also fulfilled the provision of Article 8(4) of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of 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 (OJ 2012, p. 1) and of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (OJ 2012, p. 1). OJ L 315/57, 14.11.2012), which states that: 'victim support services and any specialised support services may be set up as public or non-governmental organisations and may be organised on a professional or voluntary basis'. Information offices, within the meaning of the provisions of Section 7a of Act No 583/2008 Coll. on the Prevention of Crime and Other Anti-Social Activities, provide victims of crime and other anti-social activities with information within the scope of the right to information provided for by a special regulation, which also includes information on victims' rights, including the right to compensation for the victim of a violent crime, as well as mediation of

professional assistance (including assistance with contacting the relevant service) in the event of identified needs (in particular legal, psychological or social). With regard to the period under review, a total of 14 child clients contacted the Information Offices for assistance as a result of sexual offences (including trafficking in human beings).
The OPK of the Ministry of the Interior also deals specifically with the issue of sexual exploitation of children within the definition of trafficking in human beings through the workplace of the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Prevention of Crime ("IC OSĽ)". As a support tool for providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, Ministry has been providing a specialised programme for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings since 2007. The internal regulation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic regulating the implementation of the programme of support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings also contains specific provisions dealing with child victims of trafficking in human beings. This provision was added in connection with the transposition of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims of trafficking, which replaces Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA. The host of the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings is the IC, which annually summarises data on trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic and publishes it in the form of a Situation Report on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Slovak Republic (see the Slovak Republic Situation Report on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings) (see the Slovak Republic Situation Report on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings). According to the available data, in 2019, child victims accounted for one-sixth of all identified victims, in 2020 it was already one-quarter, and in 2021 it was almost one-third of all identified victims. In 2022, the SR returned in the number of identified child victims of trafficking to the 2019 data, where almost one in six identified victims of trafficking was a child (i.e. 10 children out of 58 identified victims). In 2023, the situation has changed dramatically, and as many as 21 of the total number of victims (44) were children, almost half of the total number of victims. The 2023 trend increased slightly in 2024, when up to 23 of the total number of identified victims (43) were children (53.5%) at the time of recruitment. This is the first time we have seen a higher number of child victims than adult victims. The age of victims is statistically recorded when the offence is committed (i.e. at the time of recruitment), therefore the age of child victims in the year when they come to the attention of the relevant authorities and enter the statistics for that year may be different and some child victims may have reached the age of majority in the meantime. A proportion of the total number of identified victims will express an interest in joining the above-mentioned programme for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings.
The NJBPNM does not directly assist victims, but cooperates in various prevention activities with different organisations that request assistance. At the same time, the officers of the Coordination Department of the NJBPNM actively cooperate in particular with the officers of the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in providing and providing information to victims of trafficking in human beings who have expressed an interest in joining the programme for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings.

- Additionally, the Committee invites the Slovak Republic to ensure that the assistance measures are available to child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs, including of offences due to the production, possession, distribution or transmission of CSGSIV.

Promising practices:
Opinion for the Police Force, according to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings 0800 800 818 is a proven means of obtaining information of a preventive nature with a focus on the issue of trafficking in human beings (including with regard to its form of sexual exploitation), or information that will direct the caller to

options for assistance. Calls to the helpline are free of charge from the territory of the Slovak Republic and the caller can consult the helpline from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on working days. An answering machine is available during out-of-hours and the operators of the helpline respond to all recorded calls. The telephone helpline is operated by the Slovak Catholic Charity.
Pursuant to the instruction of the Director of the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the ÚHCP P PZ (hereinafter referred to as "NJBPNM") no. PPZ-HCP-BPNM1-2022/022025 of 2022, which issues methodological guidance on ensuring the reporting of child victims of trafficking in human beings to the authorities of Central Office of Social and Family Affairs, the NJBPNM investigator is obliged to send information about a child acting in criminal proceedings as a witness - victim in investigated cases of trafficking in human beings under Art. 2 of the Criminal Code to the locally competent department for social protection of children and social curatorship according to the place of permanent residence of the child.
At the same time, the NJBPNM investigator also sends the above information to the NJBPNM Coordination Department, which is subsequently shared with the designated employee of the Central Office of Social and Family Affairs.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on assistance to victims

- The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.

Promising practices:

Newly recruited employees of the National Helpline for Children at Risk MORE THAN NI(c)K are provided with comprehensive training, focused on the basics of counselling and crisis intervention. We use a systemic approach to counselling (solution-focused counselling) when working with clients. The training focuses on the basics of counselling conversation in e-mail and chat distance communication, basic techniques for coping with difficult situations and client's experiences, crisis intervention, accompanying and delegating the client.

In accordance with Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on the Support of Youth Work and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in accordance with Directive No. 48/2021 on subsidies in the field of youth work as well as the currently valid national and international documents in the field of youth policy and youth work, announces a call for grants for applicants registered in the list of eligible applicants (hereinafter also referred to as "registration") within the framework of the Grant scheme for the support and development of youth work in the thematic area of Helplines.

In 2023, they have been awarded grants totalling EUR 127 833.35. Due to the increase in mental health problems among young people, the Ministry of Education increased the subsidy by EUR 220,000 at the end of the year. Thus, in total this year, the helplines were supported with a total of EUR 347 833.35. In 2024, they were allocated a subsidy of EUR 149 996.81 and at the end of the year the Ministry increased the subsidy by EUR 100 000.

Ministry of interior stated, that during the period under review, the Police Force Academy in Bratislava provided training in the course "Special interrogation rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime". The course was aimed at acquiring new theoretical knowledge and practical skills in interrogating and working with child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime, using special interrogation rooms set up for this purpose. The training also addresses selected specificities in relation to the offence of child sexual abuse. The course

included training of a model situation with real recording and subsequent analysis of the recording, at the same time the graduates gain knowledge regarding the work with the method of "demonstration puppets" (lecturers: Lt. Col. doc. PhDr. Andrea PASTUCHOVÁ-NEUMANNOVÁ, PhD., mjr. Mgr. Ivana CIPRO, PhD.)

The Ministry of Health has established a Working Group on Sexology, Sexological Protective Treatments and Problematic Sexuality, one of the aims of which is to link, through inter-ministerial and cross-border cooperation, experiences and services in order to improve access to health care and the provision of crisis intervention for persons with unusual sexual preferences as a means of increasing their well-being and preventing the commission of sexual offences by adopting best practices from abroad. The work of this working group is funded by the Recovery and Resilience Plan in line with the reform intentions contained therein, in line with the background to the reform of psychiatric care in Slovakia.

6. Civil society involvement and cooperation

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

- to involve civil society bodies in the implementation of preventive measures in the field of sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Follow-up actions:

Pursuant to Act No. 302/2016 Coll. on the Provision of Subsidies under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, as amended, grants are paid from the state budget, from the budget chapter of the Ministry for the respective budget year, for the following
a) promotion, support and protection of human rights and freedoms and prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance,
(b) the provision of specialist assistance to victims of crime.
Both grant schemes include support for bodies active in prevention not only in the field of sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
Grants for the promotion, support and protection of human rights and freedoms and for the prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance may be awarded to a range of applicants defined by law, which also includes the following entities:
- a civil association established in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- a foundation with its registered office in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- an interest association of legal persons established in the territory of the Slovak Republic, which is a legal person,
- a non-profit organisation providing services of general benefit established in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- an international organisation registered in the territory of the Slovak Republic.
A grant for the promotion of human rights may be provided for:
- strengthening the effectiveness of the enforcement of human rights and freedoms,
- the promotion of an active civil society,
- promoting the application of the principle of equal treatment
- support for the education and training of children and young people,
- support for education and training,
- raising public awareness and educating professional groups,
- counselling, monitoring and free legal aid,
- analytical, expert and editorial activities,
- promoting cooperation and partnership between organisations and institutions active in the field of human rights and freedoms,
- the acquisition of publications, teaching materials and teaching aids in the field of human rights and freedoms,
- expenditure by non-profit organisations and institutions active in the field of human rights and freedoms and the prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance,
- the promotion of cultural activities and social science activities in the field of human rights and freedoms and the prevention of all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other manifestations of intolerance,
- improving the quality of life of disadvantaged groups of the population.

The Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic defines the priority focus of a particular call, taking into account a number of factors, including the current situation in society.
A subsidy for the provision of professional assistance to victims of crime may be granted to an applicant that is an accredited entity within the meaning of Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts.

The Computer Crime Department of the Police Force, as the national specialised unit for combating online sexual abuse of children, notes that it continuously carries out educational activities in relation to raising awareness of the public, and in particular those working with children, about the existing risks and dangers of ICT for children. In this area, it cooperates with the non-governmental sector (IPčko, Protect Me, DigiQ...) and other government departments (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education).

- to encourage the financing of projects and programmes carried out by civil society aiming at preventing and protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Follow-up actions:

The Slovak Republic perceives and supports civil society as an important partner in the field of prevention and assistance to child victims of sexual abuse. On behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the State finances and supports two non-state institutions, the Centre for Children and Families Náruč Žilina and the Centre for Children and Families Slniečko Nitra, where a specialised programme is carried out. These facilities are accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic , which authorises them to carry out measures, methods, techniques and procedures to prevent the emergence, deepening and recurrence of crisis situations of a child who is a victim of the crime of trafficking in human beings, a child who has been abused or sexually abused, or to carry out measures to verify the degree of danger to the child of abuse, sexual abuse or other acts threatening his or her life, health, favourable psychological development, physical development or social development.

The financing of non-state accredited centres for children and families is provided from the state budget, while the financing of residential measures is carried out on the basis of a contract on the provision of a financial contribution on the basis of Act No 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, which is concluded between the Central Office of Social and Family Affairs as the provider of the financial contribution and the centre for children and families as the recipient of the financial contribution. The State reflects the specificity, difficulty and expertise of work with this clientele, and thus the financial contribution provided under the contract is increased by 40 % in accordance with Section 89c of Act No 305/2005 Coll. on Social Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts. Both of the above-mentioned centres for children and families also carry out outpatient and outreach measures on the basis of the accreditation granted by the Ministry of labour, social affairs and family of the Slovak Republic. Financing of the implementation of outpatient and outreach measures is based on a contract on the provision of a financial contribution pursuant to Section 89d of Act No 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts.

Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts regulates the rights, protection and support of victims of crime, relations between the state and entities providing assistance to victims, and financial compensation for victims of violent crimes.

The call for applications for subsidies for 2025 for the provision of specialist assistance to victims of crime by accredited bodies has set the estimated amount of funding for 2025 at EUR 450 000.
A second, separate call for proposals was addressed to accredited entities providing specialised professional assistance to victims of domestic violence with the designation "intervention centre". On the basis of this call for proposals, the estimated amount of funding for 2025 was set at EUR 1 600 000.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on civil society involvement and cooperation

The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.
- to support civil society to carry out projects and programmes that include the issue of CSGSIV.
- to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives 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.

Promising practices:

The National Coordination Centre at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, as a coordinator of child protection policy in the digital space, cooperates with the NGO digiQ and Protect Me as part of the Safe Internet Centre Slovakia. DigiQ is also an important partner in areas related to raising awareness of the issue of child protection in the digital space. It also supports children's participation in the development and implementation of state policies through participatory drafting of state policy documents, concepts and strategies.

7. 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 Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- to have available awareness-raising tools, materials, and activities suitable for children with disabilities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.
- 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.
- 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.

Promising practices:

Opinion on behalf of the Police Force, according to the subject matter jurisdiction of the specific Police Force department:
The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Department of Communication and Prevention of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter referred to as "OKaP P PZ") and the Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "OPK MV SR")

The Police force as one of the subjects of prevention carries out preventive activities to raise awareness and legal consciousness of children in the field of safe use of information and communication technologies .
Prevention activities are carried out by police officers assigned to the prevention departments of the district directorates of the Police Force, regional directorates of the Police Force and the Prevention and Information Department of the Department of Communication and Prevention of the Police Force Presidium (hereinafter referred to as "prevention officers").
The aim of prevention activities is to contribute to the elimination of the risk of a child becoming a victim of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. In order to reduce the risk of victimisation of children and young people, police officers shall draw attention to the appropriate level of responsibility for one's own behaviour when using the Internet in order to prevent a child from becoming a victim of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. They inform about the negative phenomena that children may encounter, pointing out their inappropriate behaviour on social networks. As part of their prevention activities, prevention officers explain and warn of the risks involved if children produce or share sexually explicit photographs, videos and information with such content, and if they communicate with people they only know from online communication. Every year, as part of *Safer Internet Day*, prevention activities and media coverage are stepped up throughout the week.
This socio-pathological phenomenon is also addressed in the framework of another topic lectured by the preventionists, which is *human trafficking*.
Preventive activities are carried out mainly in primary and secondary schools, but also in special primary schools, in medical-educational sanatoria, in centres for children and families and also in re-education institutions.
In the framework of the implementation of the above activities, the Police also focuses on raising the awareness of parents, teachers and persons in regular contact with children.
The issue of safe use of the Internet is also addressed by prevention officers within the framework of the nationwide preventive project *Children's Police Academy* under the theme No 2 "Safe on the Internet". The project is aimed at pupils in the second cycle of primary schools (grades 5-7).
The project of the non-profit organisation eSlovensko o. z. www.ovce.sk (DVD with fairy tales, 2 books - some of the prevention officers participated in the preparation of the first book) is used for children of pre-school and younger school age within the framework of preventive activities. The aim of this project is to spread awareness about the risks of the Internet, mobile phones and new technologies. The stories are intended for children aged 5-11 years.

As part of prevention activities at the second level of primary and secondary schools, prevention officers use the prevention video Say No! The video responds to the growing phenomenon of sexual extortion of children and adolescents on the Internet.
As part of the prevention activities, children's attention is drawn to healthy lifestyles and positive values in life.
The issue is publicised by the Police Force through the social networks of the police. At the same time, relevant recommendations and advice on the issue are always published by the Police.
With a link to sexual exploitation (without specification to children), the services of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in 2022 joined the campaign aimed at combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the creator of which was the General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime of the Ministry of the Interior of Bulgaria with the support of the EMPACT platform, belonging to EUROPOL. The aim of the campaign was to draw the attention of the public and vulnerable groups to the ways of engaging in trafficking in human beings, the identification and support of victims as well as the client side.
The promotion and support of information and communication to the technology sector, media and other professionals in terms of the required topic also includes the regular publication and dissemination of information through the communication channels and social networks of the OPC of the Ministry of the Interior (FB Prevention of crime and Instagram prevention_crime, YouTube Prevention of crime), on the website of the Ministry of the Interior (www.minv.sk) in the section of

current information of the OPC of the Ministry of the Interior or on the front page of the Ministry. In the period under review, a total of 23 posts published on social networks also addressed the issue of sexual exploitation (not only with regard to children).
The Ministry of the Interior, through the OPK of the Ministry of the Interior of the SR, within the framework of the implementation of activities facilitating awareness-raising activities for the protection of victims of crime, also carries out educational preventive activities focusing also on topics related to the issue of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, also with regard to the risks of sharing intimate content on the Internet, in particular through the themes "Prevention of trafficking in human beings", "Internet safety of children and young people" and "Cyberbullying". These activities are carried out in direct contact with groups at risk as well as with first contact persons from schools and community centres. In the period under review, a total of 2 415 activities were carried out on the above topics for 55 054 child participants and 2 935 participants from first contact persons or other adults.
For the area of combating trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopts and approves strategic documents, which also contain action plans aimed at addressing recommendations of international and European organisations, as well as addressing problematic areas of application practice. With regard to the period under review, the fifth and sixth strategic documents for this area are relevant. The fifth was the National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019-2023, which was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic by Resolution No. 495/2018. The Action Plan also included tasks aimed at children, or activities were carried out with the target group of children on the basis of the tasks contained in the Action Plan. As an example of good practice of activities for the target group of children, it is possible to mention the cooperation of the IC with the Labour, Social Affairs and Family Centre, the Centres for Children and Families and the Presidium of the Police Force. In 2022, a nationwide awareness-raising activity was implemented throughout Slovakia. The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic held 60 discussions during one week with the participation of nearly 900 children and young adults aged 16 and over. The talks were preceded by training of staff of centres for children and families across Slovakia with the participation of 2,773 graduates. An overview of the evaluation of the implementation of the tasks of the National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019-2023 with a description of activities was submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic for information on 24 April 2024 for the entire programme period 2019-
2023(https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29475/1) .
The sixth strategy in the sequence for combating trafficking in human beings is the National Programme for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2024 - 2028 approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 522/2023. The material also includes examples of good practice divided by areas (prevention, cooperation, assistance and investigation). The action plan of the current strategy also includes measures aimed at child victims of trafficking in human beings, with the aim of improving cooperation and coordination between all entities involved in the protection of child victims of trafficking in human beings (measure No. 2), or improving the skills of Police officers assigned to a specialised police unit focused on the detection and investigation of the crime of trafficking in human beings (see also the Action Plan for the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, No. 2). National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the Border and Foreign Police Office of the Presidium of the Police Force), in the online environment in order to actively search for possible victims of trafficking in the online space (measure No. 9), or a measure aimed at creating a platform of cooperating private sector entities for the search of possible solutions for encouraging the moral responsibility of private companies operating online communication space in detecting indicators of trafficking in human beings in the online environment with the subsequent setting up of a system for reporting the results (measure No. 15).
When approached for training on trafficking in human beings, the NJBPNM also conducts annual trainings for schools as well as various organisations.

In order to raise awareness about the presence of children in the online space, the National Coordination Centre for Ressolving the Issues of Violence againts Children at the Ministry of Labour,

Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic has been organising for the third year the so-called evening schools, i.e. webinars organised on a monthly basis through the MS Teams platform. The topics of the evening schools vary from excessive use of the Internet, dangerous behaviour, cyberbullying and other pathological behaviour to the use of AI in the learning process. Awareness-raising also takes place through other activities, e.g. participation of representatives in multidisciplinary working meetings in the regions of Slovakia or through events such as conferences or workshops.

8. Education for children

• Therefore, Committee requires the Slovak Republic 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.

Follow-up actions:

The National Helpline for Children at Risk MORE THAN NI(c)K presented its services in primary and secondary schools in 2023 for 320 children and in 2024 for 650 children.
On 11-12 July 2024, the Central Office of Social and Family Affairs, in cooperation with the Forum of Child and Family Centres Staff, organised a professional conference in Liptovský Ján for children and young adults from Child and Family Centres on the following topics: human trafficking, the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including through ICT, the risks of pornography and unplanned pregnancy. The conference was attended by 28 young people aged between 14 and 22.

In 2023, a new national education programme was approved. This is compulsory for all primary schools in the Slovak Republic. Section 6, paragraph 6, letter a) of Act 245/2008 Coll. states that "for a given level of education or for a given field of education, the state educational programme is binding for the development of the school educational programme. According to § 7 (1) "The school educational programme is the basic document of the school, according to which education and training in schools is carried out according to this Act." and also according to Section 7(3) "The school curriculum shall be developed in accordance with the principles and objectives of education and training and the relevant national curriculum."

Opinion for the Police Force:
Despite the fact that the officers of the NJBPNM ÚHCP P PZ do not give priority to prevention in case they are approached for assistance or training they cover this activity as well. For example, during the year 2024 the officers of NJBPNM ÚHCP P PZ conducted the following training educational activities for secondary school students on human trafficking i.e. sexual exploitation:
- training at the high school in Rajec (80 students + 4 teaching staff),
training at the Secondary Medical School in Košice (104 students + 2 teaching staff)
Preventative activities at the second level of primary and secondary schools use the Say No! The video responds to the growing phenomenon of sexual extortion of children and adolescents on the Internet.

Additionally, the Committee invites the Slovak Republic:

• 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).

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has stated that the measures required by the Lanzarote Committee are fulfilled in the 2023 curriculum in the educational area of Human and Society "Civic Component/Civic Education" and "Ethical-Personal Component"(https://www.minedu.sk/data/files/11816_clovek-a-spolocnost.pdf).

In the "Civic Component/Civic Education" mainly in the themes 3. Equality and Justice (pp. 41-42) and 5. A critical approach to media content (p. 43).

In the "Ethics/Personality Component," in topics 4. Practicing Assertiveness (p. 45), 5. Practicing Discussing Ethical Issues and Resolving Moral Dilemmas (pp. 46-47), and 6. Family, Intimacy, Sexuality, and Parenting (p. 47).

Generic recommendations of the Committee on education for children

The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak Republic:

- to consistently involve children in the development of internet safety awareness programmes.
- to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activities.
- 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.
- to provide information to children on the risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs, including CSGSIV, within a more general context of sexuality education.
- 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.

Promising practices:

The National Coordination Centre for addressing violence against children at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (often in cooperation with the National Helpline for Children at Risk) organises preventive and awareness-raising activities focused on the presence of children in the online space in primary and secondary schools. These activities are often linked to the participation of schools in the annual Safe Internet Day call with partners. Sexual abuse prevention activities on the theme "So this is sexual abuse?"
-visiting schools and prevention activities on this topic, work and dissemination of a brochure

9. Higher education curriculum and continuous training

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

- 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.

Follow-up actions:

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic stated that within selected study programmes (medical, teaching, special education, social work, etc..) students receive information on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and on the risks associated with CSGSIV within subjects such as (pathopsychology and child psychology from compulsory and from non-compulsory, for example, education for marriage and parenthood, and others) in accordance with the content of the specific study programme, which is defined autonomously by the universities. In the case of graduates in the field of social work, Annex 1 to Decree 244/2019 on the system of fields of study defines the obligation that the graduate 'be able to provide information and counselling services and carry out professional activities in the field of social protection of children".

Ministry of health of Slovak republic: Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (Education Act) and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts , the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic issues state educational programmes for health care fields of study that prepare pupils for the exercise of health care professions at secondary health care schools in the Slovak Republic. The State educational programmes within the framework of vocational education and training include thematic units focused on sexual education, reproductive and sexual health and education for marriage and parenthood. Throughout their studies, pupils are also introduced to the use of contraception, the risks of pregnancy at a young age and sexually transmitted diseases as part of cross-curricular relationships in a number of vocational subjects. Also the curricula and syllabuses of undergraduate health studies in universities and colleges include reproductive and sexual health topics and issues. In the framework of continuing education of health professionals, the Ministry of Health sets minimum standards for specialisation study programmes, minimum standards for certification study programmes and minimum standards for continuing education study programmes. The scope of theoretical knowledge in the minimum standards for the relevant fields of study includes specific knowledge related to sexual issues in the health care worker-patient relationship in the context of health care provision, the most relevant of which is covered by the minimum standard for the specialisation study programme in the specialisation field of sexology for the medical profession. As of 15 December 2022, the Decree of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic of 1 December 2022 No S20737-2022-OL, which amends the Decree of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic of 17 September 2010 No 12422/2010-OL, which establishes minimum standards for specialisation study programmes, minimum standards for certification study programmes and minimum standards for continuing education study programmes and their structure, as amended, entered into force. Within the framework of the material, an updated Minimum Standard for a specialisation study programme in the specialisation field of Community Nursing Care, which is intended for health professionals in the health profession of nursing, was also approved. Among other things, the subject areas dealing with the specifics of providing nursing care to persons from marginalised Roma communities have been incorporated into the minimum standard in question.

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic is in close communication with both the WHO National Office in Slovakia and the WHO Regional Office in Europe and is involved in projects related to training, e.g. https://www. health.gov.sk/Clanok?skolenie-dusevne-zdravie - Slovakia is the first country to train its mental health professionals as part of the QualityRights initiative to support reform efforts to improve the quality of mental health care for patients.
Building on the National Mental Health Programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Action Plan of the National Mental Health Programme for 2024-2030, the 10-12 September 2024, the first WHO QualityRights training was held in Slovakia, focusing on alternatives to restraints used in health care settings. Twenty-seven experts from 12 mental health facilities attended the training, which represents another essential step in the ongoing reform of mental health care.

Healthy Regions, a budget organization of the Ministry of Health, implemented 585,396 interventions in more than 245 sites in 2023 under the Healthy Communities 2B project, employing more than 340 human resources - health promotion assistants and health promotion assistant coordinators in 11 hospitals, where health promotion assistants were working in the hospital settings. The role of health promotion assistants in hospitals is to work with patients coming from marginalised Roma communities during their stay in hospital facilities.

The National coordination centre for ressolving the issues of violence againts children at the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family implemented a training course on violence entitled "Working with minors who commit violence" - designed for employees of organisations coming into contact not only with victims but also with those who commit violence, including minors or children who, although not yet of the age of criminal responsibility, require professional interventions to deal with their behaviour. The participants are mainly male and female experts from centres for children and families, departments of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, re-education centres, prevention and counselling centres and crisis centres, as well as special educational institutions. The training also focuses on a particularly latent form of violence against children, namely child sexual abuse (CSA). It introduces the motivational patterns and characteristics of perpetrators of CSA, as well as the grooming (manipulation) strategies they use to gain the trust of the victims and the social environment and to prevent the detection of CSA. Trainees will gain a thorough understanding of CSA identification options and intervention methods. The implemented training presents not only a theoretical analysis of the issue, but above all brings scientifically based and practical impulses for the development of social and therapeutic work with perpetrators and victims of sexual abuse in the conditions of Slovakia.
-In 2024, the training was implemented for the sixth time.
-In 2023, the publication "Minors committing child sexual abuse" was published.

• 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.

Follow-up actions:

Opinion for the Police Force:
The above-mentioned issue is within the competence of the Police Force Academy (hereinafter referred to as "APZ") and the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "OPK MV SR").
The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, within the framework of awareness-raising activities carried out for the protection of victims of crime (including child victims), focuses on strengthening the awareness of first contact persons (especially pedagogical and professional staff of schools, employees of community centres in marginalised Roma communities, etc.), who are able, due to their regular contact with the group at risk, to identify their threat and initiate steps to protect them from further victimisation. In this context, the OPK MV SR, in cooperation with representatives of competent child protection authorities, including the police, child protection coordinators and others, has, since 2023, been conducting information meetings at regional levels focusing on the issue of fulfilling the reporting obligation in the case of identified threats specifically with regard to the school environment. The meetings are intended for school officials and staff and are organised in such a way that they are not only an overview of the legislatively anchored obligations, but also provide a space for discussion and guidance in reporting and dealing with specific problems and threats to children bordering on unlawful activity or reaching the intensity of criminal activity.
In order to strengthen the formal identification of victims of crime (including children at risk of sexual exploitation), the OPK MV SR, in cooperation with the Criminal Police Department of the Presidium of the Police Force and the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, has developed an information brochure on the topic "Responsibility for failure to report a crime", which is available in Slovak at the following link: https://www.minv.sk/?brozury-a-letaky&subor=460943 and is also distributed in print form to the participants of the mentioned professional seminars.
In the context of the requirement in question, the scientific and pedagogical staff of the Department of Public Law Sciences of the Academy of Police Force in Bratislava provide teaching of the subject Protection of Human Rights (which students of both study programmes, studying both full-time and part-time, can choose) and the subject Police and Human Rights (within the framework of specialisation police studies), thus contributing to the task of promoting awareness of the protection and rights of children among those working in the field of law enforcement. One of the lectures is specifically devoted to the topic of the protection of children's rights, in which students are introduced to the treaty and institutional system of protection in the field created at the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, as well as at the national level, noting that sexual exploitation and sexual abuse have a devastating impact on the health and psychosocial development of children, taking into account also the ever-increasing use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by both children and perpetrators.
By analysing selected provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the revised European Social Charter, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, not excluding the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation, as well as other relevant human rights instruments adopted in the framework of the universal, regional - European and national systems for the protection of children's rights, which are given special attention in the course with regard to the obligations arising therefrom, the pedagogical process of the Department systematically promotes awareness of the protection and rights of children among law enforcement authorities, not forgetting also the human rights background on the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. Students are duly familiarized with the contents of the related General Comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the

Child as well (General Comment No. 13 - issued on Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, not excluding).
The LEED training platform, which is operated by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), is also available to police officers. The Agency organises both face-to-face and online training (webinars), which are equally relevant to the assessed area.

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic has revised in cooperation with the Chief Expert of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic for Emergency Medicine the Expert Guideline of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic on the symptoms and diagnosis of neglect, abuse or maltreatment of a minor and on the procedure of health care providers in reporting suspected neglect, abuse or maltreatment of a minor published in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic No.: 07566 - 2012 - OZS on 13.12.2012 and in Art. 578/2004 Coll. on health care providers, health professionals, professional organisations in health care and on amendment and supplementation of certain acts, as amended by later regulations, by adding the text "and the labour, social affairs and family office as the authority for social protection of children and social guardianship according to a special regulation, in whose district the minor resides". An updated version of the expert guideline in question was submitted on 16.12.2022 to the legislative process. The updated document was published in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, No. 7-11 of 2 March 2023, Volume 71.
On the basis of the cooperation between the MoH and UNICEF in the programme: ' Strengthening and expanding early child hood development services in Slovakia, including for Ukrainian refugee children' (Strengthening and expanding early childhood development services in Slovakia, including for Ukrainian refugee children), which was implemented from April 2023 to December 2024, a "Policy on Prevention Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) " and a reporting and feedback mechanism for receiving allegations of child sexual exploitation and abuse was established. Safe and accessible reporting channels are needed to enable and encourage complainants to come forward and report allegations and suspicions of child sexual exploitation and abuse in confidence, without fear of reprisal or stigma. The administrative design will give all complainants equal access to reporting and overcomes cultural, social and physical barriers. Complaints can be reported through the communication channel and the PSEA Policy Coordinator. The coordinator can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Contact details are not only available to the public on the website https://www.zdraviedietata.sk/vyvinove-dotazniky, but are also displayed on posters outside the surgery and in the outpatient clinic. Complaints can also be reported anonymously. The coordinator reports allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse "immediately and confidentially, in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved," arising from our partnership agreement with UNICEF. The Coordinator may submit their concerns or suspicions to the PSEA Country Focal Point, the UNICEF Country Office Chief or the UNICEF Director, Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI), via the integrity1@unicef. org email hotline. The coordinator informs UNICEF (through the head of the country office concerned) of reported cases by sharing regular updates on the findings of the case, the investigation process and outcome, and recommendations for victims and others. The programme has contracted 2 external trained investigators. The first investigator is the founder of the civil association PROTECT ME, a former police investigator with a specialisation in vice crimes, in particular child pornography, paedophilia, online child abuse and domestic violence offences. The second investigator is a professional guarantor, analyst, lawyer with a focus on human rights, especially women's human rights, and the main manager of the Coordination and Methodology Centre for Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, which is established within the Institute for Labour and Family Research.

- 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.

Follow-up actions:

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic stated that the above mentioned is actively pursued by the Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VUDPaP), which is directly managed by the Ministry of Education, and organizes a number of initiatives (workshops, research, podcasts, etc.) on these issues.

National coordination centre for resolving the issues of violence againts children at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (NKS) organizes twice a year a training course Child Safety in Digital Space. It is a training programme consisting of 7 modules, designed for professionals working with children (employees of schools, centres for children and family, labour, social affairs and family offices, etc.).
The NKS has also produced a Methodological Manual: "SAFEGUARDING - A Strategy for the Protection of Children from Abuse, Exploitation and Maltreatment". The publication is primarily intended for persons holding managerial positions in institutions and organisations working with children, who are responsible for taking measures to effectively protect children from sexual abuse; all male and female employees as well as volunteers working in institutions and organisations working with children, parents whose children attend institutions or organisations providing educational, recreational, social or other services and activities for children, other persons who are actively interested in the issue of prevention of sexual abuse of children.

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

The Committee also invites all Parties, including the Slovak 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.
- 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.

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic stated that the coordinators for the protection of children from violence, who number 46 in total and operate in districts throughout the country, conduct multidisciplinary working meetings with representatives of entities participating in the protection of children from violence (schools and educational institutions, social and legal protection of children and social guardianship authorities, counselling and prevention centres, health care providers, municipalities, CDRs, police forces, prosecutor's offices, courts, NGOs, civic associations), which also focus on topics related to the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through ICT and addressing the challenges posed by images and videos with sexual content created by children. The aim of these meetings is to inform each other about the competences, rights and obligations of the different actors involved and to set up effective multidisciplinary cooperation.

The Child Protection from Violence Coordinators also provide training for the representatives of the participating entities on topics related to CSGSIV, such as Identifying Sexual Abuse; How to Identify Signs in Sexual Harassment; How to Communicate with a Child Victim - a Victim of Violence/Sexual Abuse; Risks and threats of the Internet and social networking sites; How to effectively prevent cyberbullying and cyber extortion; Cyberbullying; Working with a child who has been sexually abused and methods of educating and working with a child who has been a victim of, or witnessed, sexual abuse.
The coordinators of the Child Protection from Violence Coordination also address the topic related to CSGSIV in the framework of prevention and awareness-raising activities by co-organising various events for children and the professional public, such as:
- a lecture combined with a discussion and screening of a short film on Criminal responsibility in the context of bullying, cyberbullying and sexual abuse via the Internet
- a lecture combined with a discussion on bullying, cyberbullying and online sexual abuse
- discussion on cyberbullying and sexual predators on the Internet and human trafficking
- education of kindergarten teachers on the topic of child sexual abuse and presentation of the Kiko and the Hand prevention programme designed to prevent sexual abuse
- Say NO project on cyberbullying and online sexual harassment
- online webinar on Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- the conference "Childhood without Violence" with an expert presentation on Sexual Harassment

The Methodological and Pedagogical Centre has now merged with other organisations and for more effective support of modern education they have joined to form the institution NIVaM (National Institute of Education and Youth). The Methodological and Pedagogical Centre used to offer an educational programme aimed at the elimination of socio-pathological phenomena; this programme is still offered, except that the NIVaM is the intermediary. Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VÚDPaP) also implements a number of initiatives, for example, the manual of the beginning social pedagogue in school is interesting, where in subchapter 7.6 it deals with the topic : socio-legal protection of the children.

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, through its directly managed organization Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VÚDPaP), has cooperated and will continue to cooperate in the training of child protection coordinators against violence, which takes place in two blocks in the spring (Q1 of the year) and autumn (Q3 of the year) of each year (the training is provided by the NCS, the lecturers are provided by partner institutions such as VÚDPaP). In the educational module, we address the topic of digital parenting, the proper grasp of which is crucial in preventing socio-pathological phenomena associated with children's use of digital technologies.

As part of the activities aimed at raising public awareness and at the same time networking experts, the conference Children's Safety in the Digital Space is held. Its aim is to bring together experts and academics. In 2025, the third edition of the conference took place, and for the first time it included in-depth workshops focusing on some specific phenomena related to the presence of children in the online space.

10. Research

The Committee invites all Parties, including the Slovak Republic:

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

Promising practices:

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, through its directly managed organization Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VÚDPaP), cooperates with the EUKO research team from the Catholic University in the methodological preparation of the new data collection planned for 2025.

The Slovak Republic, through the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, has joined the Bridge project - 101084355 - ISF-2021-TF1-AG-CYBER in 2023 and 2024 (24 months). The Bridge project was funded by the European Commission. It was planned and executed in collaboration with an international consortium of researchers represented in Sweden, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Finland. With the Bridge project we offer our professional services to individuals who are concerned about their thoughts or behaviour concerning children (use of CSAM - Child Sexual Abuse Material) and who ask themselves if they want to make a change. We meet them where they are online (both on clearnet and darknet) and guide them to take the next steps towards treatment. This is done by supporting and encouraging their motivation to change by providing psychoeducation, resources and motivational interviewing to help them move forward in the treatment process. Participants looking for material about child sexual abuse on the Darknet and Clearnet will find a link to ReDirection Chat. If they are interested in getting help with thoughts or behaviors that involve children, they will first go through an automatically generated self-assessment that asks about inclusion criteria, current mental health status, and the frequency and current impact of their thoughts or behaviors. The project also involved collaboration with various social media platforms such as Facebook. By reducing the number of users, the demand for CSAM materials decreases and therefore the abuse of the child population for this purpose also decreases.

The National coordination centre for resolving the issues of violence againts children as an organizational component of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic has carried out several researches:
- Emotional experiences andbehaviour of children and youth in Slovakia in 2022.
The areas studied were: children's and adolescents' leisure time, internet use, sleeping habits, negative online experiences, unsafe online content, internet safety, bullying and cyberbullying,

sexual content and sexting, excessive use of the internet and social media, substance use, children and the war in Ukraine.
- Selected forms of risky behaviour among children and young people in Slovakia in 2023
Areas studied: general negative experience, unsafe content on the internet, internet safety, bullying and cyberbullying, sexual content and sexting, sexual harassment, abuse and violence, excessive use of the internet, substance use, hate speech and discrimination.
- Research 2024 on the topics:
- Children from marginalised Roma communities and cyberbullying
- Research in marginalised Roma communities on sexual abuse and aggression
In 2025, a joint Czech-Slovak research will also take place within the tasks of the Safe Internet Centre, focusing on children in the online space, including current European topics (DSA).