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FACTSHEET – SLOVENIA

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

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I. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

II. Legal frameworks

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

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on the legal framework specific to Slovenia

Article 20 of the Convention and CSGSIV

The Committee observes that the legal framework of Slovenia refers explicitly to CSGSIV.[1]

Interplay of the age of criminal responsibility and the age of sexual consent with the criminalisation of conduct related to the production and possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and CSGSIV

The Committee observes that children who are below the age of criminal responsibility, which is the age of 14 cannot be held criminally liable for production and possession of CSGSIV in Slovenia.[2] The Committee highlights that reliance upon the age of criminal responsibility alone to exclude criminal responsibility does not correspond to a situation of full compliance with paragraphs 3-6 of the 2019 Opinion, since older children (those above the age of criminal responsibility) cannot avail themselves of this exemption. The situation is particularly of concern with respect to Parties with a particularly low age of criminal responsibility.[3]

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests Slovenia to ensure in its legal framework[4] 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.[5]

Follow-up actions:

Criminalisation of conduct related to "offering or making available" CSAM and its relationship with the sharing of CSGSIV

It appears that Slovenia did not provide information as to whether children are criminally liable for the distribution or transmission of their own CSGSIV. The Committee observes that Slovenia has rules that lead to the criminalisation of the distribution by children of CSGSIV of *other* children.[6]

Therefore, the Committee requests Slovenia to ensure that:

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

Follow-up actions:

With the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code from 2021 (KZ-1I; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 186/21) a new Paragraph 5 was added to Article 176 of the Criminal Code (criminal offence of »Presentation, manufacture,

[1] Para. 43.
[2] Para. 71.
[3] Para. 72.
[4] The expression "legal framework" is not limited to legislation but should be understood in a broader way, e.g., through prosecutorial guidance or practice.
[5] Recommendation II-6.
[6] Para. 82.
[7] Recommendation II-8.

possession and distribution of pornographic material"), which reads as follows:

»(5) The offence referred to in Paragraph three of this Article in the part which means acquiring, producing, possessing or acquiring access to pornographic or other sexual material by means of information or communication technologies shall not be unlawful if it was committed among minors of comparable age who have agreed to the action, it corresponds to the level of their mental and physical maturity, and it depicts such persons.".

The new paragraph means that a minor may not be prosecuted if it concerns the circumstances you point out.

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

Follow-up actions:

See previous answer.

- Additionally, the Committee invites Slovenia, 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.[9]

<u>Other criminal offences foreseen by the Lanzarote Convention (Articles 22 and 23) that may involve the sharing of CSGSIV</u>

The Committee notes that the conduct involving the "distribution or transmission" of CSGSIV may also come within the scope of other offences covered by the Convention. A person intentionally sending CSGSIV to children not depicted on the images/videos themselves may be considered as having caused the child to witness sexual abuse or sexual activities. This would thereby fall under Article 22 of the Convention ("Corruption of children"). In such case, the recipient child should not be considered to possess or have obtained access to "child pornography" (as made clear by paragraph 6 of the Committee's 2019 Opinion). In this regard, the Committee observes that in Slovenia, Article 176(1) of the Criminal Code makes it an offence for any person to sell, present or publicly exhibit documents, pictures, audio-visual or other materials of a pornographic nature to a child under 15 years old, to enable such a child to get access to that material in any way, or to show them a pornographic or other sexual performance.[10]

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee invites Slovenia to consider criminalising the solicitation of children for sexual purposes ("grooming"), even when it does not lead to a face-to-face meeting or producing CSAM.[11]

<u>On the prosecution of conduct amounting to "sexual extortion of children"</u>

The Committee welcomes the fact that Slovenia is the only State Party that explained that using force or threat as well as deception, exceeding or abusing powers to obtain pornographic or sexual materials from a minor constitutes a distinct criminal offence (Art. 176(2) of the CC). As to practice concerning prosecution of cases of sexual extortion of children involving CSGSIV, Slovenia pointed out that a few cases related to the above-mentioned specific offence based on Article 176(2) of its Criminal Code had been included in its jurisprudence database.[12]

The Committee observes that in cases of "sexual extortion of children" with the objective of obtaining additional sexual images or videos of the child, prosecutions would be brought for offences related to child

[8] Recommendation II-9.
[9] Recommendation II-2.
[10] Para. 83.
[11] Recommendation II-10.
[12] Para. 95.

pornography, the presence of a threat not being taken into account in Slovenia.[13]

In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is to obtain other sexual favours from the child depicted on the images/videos or from another child, the Committee observes that Slovenia would prosecute for offences related to participation in pornographic performances,[14] as well as conduct relating to the possession of the initial child sexual image or video as an offence related to "child pornography" under Article 20.[15]

In cases where the objective of the perpetrator is a financial gain, the Committee notes that the conduct will be qualified under offences related to child pornography.[16]

[13] Para. 99.
[14] Para. 102.
[15] Para. 103.
[16] Para. 106.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on the legal framework

On the legal framework, the Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- acknowledging that the term "child pornography" can be misleading and undermine the gravity of the crimes it refers to, to rather use the term "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"[17] 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.[18]
- to introduce a definition of "CSAM" in its legal framework in line with the "Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse".[19]
- to adopt legislative or other measures which promote as a priority educational and other measures that will aim to support children in safely exploring their sexual development while understanding and avoiding risks deriving from the production and possession of self-generated sexual images and/or videos.[20]
- to take into account the situation where CSGSIV 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.[21]

[17] 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.
[18] Recommendation II-1.
[19] Recommendation II-3.
[20] Recommendation II-7.
[21] Recommendation II-11.

Promising practices:

III. Investigations and prosecution

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

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on Investigations and Prosecution specific to Slovenia

The Committee observes that Slovenia's investigation, prosecution, and court units are already in line with some of its recommendations as Slovenia has:

- specialised units dealing with ICT-facilitated offences against children within law enforcement, with some having more than one specialised unit.[22]
- specialised departments within the five largest state prosecutors' offices that are competent in dealing with sexual offences against children (including ICT-facilitated offences), and with approximately 25 prosecutors in total.[23]
- specialised prosecution services which handle ICT facilitated sexual offences committed by children.[24]
- training modules in place for law enforcement agents related to aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.[25]
- training programmes provided by State authorities in place and external training available for prosecutors on aspects of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.[26]
- relevant training in place for judges.[27]
- victim identification units within law enforcement for cases of ICT facilitated sexual offences against children.[28]
- the Criminal Procedure Act that allows for all covert operations related to sexual offences against children facilitated by ICTs.[29]

- To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requests Slovenia to ensure that training on ICT facilitated sexual offences against children is available for prosecutors and judges who are or will be working on these issues.[30]

Follow-up actions:

The priority in investigating child sexual abuse is the identification and rescue of children who are victims of abuse. In order to effectively carry out this mission, criminal investigators undergo continuous training. Through international cooperation, they also develop new tools that contribute to more effective investigations. For activities in some Western Balkan countries, the police use resources within the EMPACT platform. Through this platform, they are also trained, most frequently through CEPOL and Europol.

We try to incorporate the aspect of new technologies into the training provided for judges and prosecutors.

The Committee also invites Slovenia:

- to provide specific training[31] 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.[32]

[22] Para. 115.
[23] Para. 128.
[24] Para. 138.
[25] Para. 145.
[26] Para. 156, 157.
[27] Para. 167.
[28] Para. 180.
[29] Para. 197.

[30] Recommendations III-16 and III-18.
[31] Such trainings can also be part of broader training programmes.
[32] Recommendation III-14.

- to ensure that training on the challenges raised by CSGSIV and ICT- facilitated coercion or extortion of children[33] is available to prosecutors and judges.[34]
- 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.[35]
- 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.[36]

The Committee also observes that Slovenia makes an active contribution to the INTERPOL's ICSE database through its units specialised in cybercrime or high-tech crimes.[37]

Additionally, the Committee observes that Slovenia stated that the assessment of (potential) victims' ages was a challenging and time-consuming task,[38] and that a key challenge for a successful prosecution phase is to obtain electronic evidence that can be validly used before courts.[39]

[33] Such trainings can also be part of broader training programmes.
[34] Recommendations III-17 and III-19.
[35] Recommendation III-20.
[36] Recommendation III-21.
[37] Para. 186.
[38] Para. 182.
[39] Para. 203.

On the specialisation and training of authorities

- Mindful of the different contexts in the Parties as recalled in para. 235 of the Explanatory Report, the Committee requests those Parties that are not already doing so to ensure that law enforcement and prosecution units, services or persons specialised in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are adequately financed to ensure sufficient resources, including staff, equipment and training.[40]

Follow-up actions:

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- 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.[41]
- 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.[42]
- 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.[43]
- to ensure that units, services or persons within courts responsible for ICT-facilitated sexual offences against children have sufficient specialisation in offences involving CSGSIV.[44]

On measures to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution

- The Committee requires all Parties to ensure that investigations and criminal proceedings in ICT facilitated sexual offences against children are treated as priority and carried out without any unjustified delay.[45]

Follow-up actions:

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- 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.[46]
- 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.[47]
- 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.[48]

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

[40] Recommendations III-3 and III-7.
[41] Recommendation III-4.
[42] Recommendation III-5.
[43] Recommendation III-9.
[44] Recommendation III-10.
[45] Recommendation III-30.
[46] Recommendation III-24.
[47] Recommendations III-25, III-29.
[48] Recommendation III-31.

analysed in a timely manner so that investigations are carried out without any unjustified delay.[49]

[49] Recommendation III-32.

Promising practices:

IV. Jurisdiction rules

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

Observations and recommendations of the Committee on jurisdiction rules specific to Slovenia

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

The Committee notes that Slovenia has established laws clarifying the circumstances in which their national criminal law will apply to a transnational situation following the territoriality principle. In Slovenia, a criminal offence is committed both in the place where the perpetrator was acting as well as in the place where the unlawful consequences of such act occurred (Article 19(1) of the Criminal Code). Therefore, in such cases, jurisdiction is established because the offence is considered as having been committed on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia.[50]

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

The Committee notes that the Convention provides that Parties should take the necessary legislative and other measures to establish jurisdiction over offences committed by persons who have their habitual residence in their territory (Article 25(1)(e)). Slovenia has made reservations to this provision in accordance with Article 25(3), declaring that it will apply this provision in accordance with its national legislation.[51]

- Therefore, the Committee invites Slovenia to consider removing this reservation and establish jurisdiction for offences under the Convention when such offences are committed abroad by persons having their habitual residence in their territory.[52]

Jurisdiction not subordinated to the condition that prosecution can only be initiated following a report from the victim or denunciation from the State where the offence was committed (Article 25(6))

The Committee observes that in Slovenia, in cases where criminal offences are committed "against sexual integrity" or where they include "elements of violence committed against minors", the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to the filing of a report from the victim, or the exercise of a private action do not apply, and the perpetrator is prosecuted *ex officio* (Article 15a of the Criminal Code).[53]

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

The Committee observes that Slovenia would assume jurisdiction over offences involving sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children, irrespective of the laws of the State where the offence was committed, if committed by one of their nationals or by a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory.[54] Additionally, the criminal law of Slovenia has a clause which provides for the possibility of derogating from the general rules on jurisdiction based on international instruments.[55]

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

[50] Para. 214.
[51] Para. 216.
[52] Recommendation IV-3.
[53] Para. 218.
[54] Para. 224.
[55] Para. 227.

As detailed in the Explanatory Report of the Convention, Parties are not obliged, but can endeavour, to establish jurisdiction over an offence committed against one of its nationals or a person having habitual residence in the territory under Article 25(2). The passive personality principle is applied in respect of offences committed against a national.[56] If the act is not punishable under the jurisdiction of the state where it was committed, it can be prosecuted in Slovenia only with the permission of the Ministry of Justice.[57]

The Committee requests Parties that are not already doing so, including Slovenia, 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.[58]

Follow-up actions:

[56] Para. 231.
[57] Para. 232.
[58] Recommendation IV-9.

Promising practice

Article 11 of the Slovenian Criminal Code stipulates that it shall apply to any person who, in a foreign country, commits any criminal offence, which according to the international agreement has to be prosecuted in all signatory states, irrespective of the location where it was committed.

Promising practices:

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V. International cooperation

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

Observations of the Committee on international cooperation specific to Slovenia

The Committee observes that INHOPE,[59] the PROMISE Barnahus Network,[60] WeProtect and EMPACT[61] conduct cooperation projects to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in Slovenia.[62]

The Committee notes that cross-border exchange and competence building is crucial to ensure harmonised practice to implement common legal frameworks that guarantee children's procedural safeguards and protect children from (re-)traumatisation during criminal investigation and judicial proceedings. Child-friendly investigations and judicial proceedings are central to achieving safety, healing and justice for children who have been exposed to online sexual violence. The Committee observes that the Promise Barnahus network and competence centre facilitate cross-border exchange on good practice, develop practical tools (including for example the Barnahus Quality Standards and guidance for child-friendly interviews in Barnahus) and provide training for forensic interviewers from Slovenia.[63]
The Committee also observe that European law enforcement representatives from Slovenia attend the Europol's central training course "Combatting the Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet" (COSEC) and Europol-Interpol-Cepol co-organised training course on victim identification (VID training course) in addition to collaborating with the European Police College (CEPOL).[64] Slovenia also referred to police cooperation with the US-Based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).[65]

Additionally, the Committee observes that in Slovenia, there are no procedural rules that would limit the possibility for a victim to make a complaint. Article 13(3) of the Slovenian criminal code states that it applies to anyone who commits any criminal offence abroad which, under relevant international agreement(s) or general rules recognised by the international community, is subject to prosecution, regardless of the location where it was committed.[66]

[59] www.inhope.org/
[60] https://www.barnahus.eu/en/
[61] https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact
[62] Para. 255.
[63] Para. 266.
[64] Para. 259.
[65] Para. 262.
[66] Para. 268.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on international cooperation

- The Committee requests all Parties, including Slovenia to extend their international cooperation with other Parties to improve the effective implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.[67]

Follow-up actions:

The Slovenian police is very active in the international field when it comes to investigating child sexual abuse. Criminal investigators who deal with child sexual abuse in both physical and virtual environments collaborate with Europol, Interpol, EU member states, and other countries within the EU area, as well as with countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia, and others. They especially cooperate with certain countries in the Western Balkans.

One of the key activities is EMPACT (European Platform for the Fight against International Organized Crime), through which the Slovenian police carry out numerous activities related to the detection and investigation of child sexual abuse. Some of these activities include:

- Participation in a joint operational action for the identification of children, victims of sexual abuse, organized by Europol at its headquarters in The Hague. As part of this operational action, investigators from various countries, including Slovenia, analyze child sexual abuse materials with the aim of identifying and rescuing the victims. The operation has been highly successful.
- Creation of a website for children focusing on child sexual abuse in the virtual environment (currently under development).
- Cooperation with Western Balkan countries in the joint fight against child sexual abuse, led by Slovenia in collaboration with Hungary, Croatia, and Europol. This operational action involves Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Several operations have been carried out under this action, during which numerous house searches have been conducted, a large number of suspects have been identified, and some child victims of sexual abuse have been rescued.
- Slovenian criminal investigators and police officers collaborate with CEPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training), through which investigators are trained for child sexual abuse investigations.
- Investigation of P2P networks and others.

The Slovenian police are connected to Interpol's ICSE database (International Child Sexual Exploitation database), which is an important tool for investigating child sexual abuse, with an emphasis on identifying child victims of abuse.

The Slovenian police cooperate with Europol, through which information, experiences, and tools crucial for investigating child sexual abuse are exchanged. Slovenian criminal investigators participate in more advanced training organized by Europol.

They also collaborate with organizations such as NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), from which they receive a significant number of reports of child sexual abuse detected on social media platforms.

The Slovenian police cooperate with individual EU member states by exchanging information, knowledge, and tools for effective child sexual abuse investigations.

[67] Recommendation V-3.

They also attend consultations and conferences organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations, where they frequently share the Slovenian police's experiences through presentations.

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- 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.[68]
- 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.[69]
- to regularly assess the difficulties that they face when dealing with international cooperation and remedy them.[70]
- 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.[71]
- 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.[72]
- 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.[73]
- 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.[74]

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.[75]

[68] Recommendations V-6, V-11.
[69] Recommendations V-4, V-7, V-12, V-15.
[70] Recommendation V-5.
[71] Recommendations V-8, V-13.
[72] Recommendation V-9.
[73] Recommendation V-10.
[74] Recommendations V-14, V-16.
[75] Recommendation V-19.

Promising practices:

VI. Assistance to victims

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

Observations of the Committee on assistance to victims specific to Slovenia

The Committee observes that in Slovenia, helplines for children are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Slovenia provided data referring to the number of calls received by helplines on this issue without indicating what kind of follow-up was given to these calls.[76]

The Committee also observes that although Slovenia has legislation addressing the problem of child abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies, most of the legislation containing adequate provisions to assist child victims concern the protection of children in general.[77]

[76] Para. 296.
[77] Para. 286, 288.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on assistance to victims

The Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- to promote awareness raising or specialised training for professionals who advise children through telephone or internet helplines on ICT-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse of children –including the risks associated with CSGSIV– and how to provide appropriate support to victims and to those who wish to help them.[78]
- 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.[79]

[78] Recommendation VI-2.
[79] Recommendation VI-4.

Promising practices:

VII. Civil society involvement and cooperation

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

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

The Committee observes that Slovenia supports the development of prevention activities by civil society through financial support and grants.[80] It develops and support different activities, which are aimed at raising the awareness of not only children but also adults such as parents, educators, doctors and social workers about existing risks and dangers of ICTs for children.[81]

The Committee welcomes the fact that Slovenia is among a minority of Parties where programmes developed by civil society are aimed at assisting victims of offences related to CSGSIV.[82]

Among these activities, Slovenia mentioned helplines for violence committed in the digital environment. It is also one of two Parties to have mentioned helplines for victims of online sexual abuse, that include counselling for young people who experience having "private, intimate or humiliating information, pictures or videos shared online".[83]

[80] Para. 310.
[81] Paras. 310, 315.
[82] Para. 327.
[83] Para. 328.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- to expand cooperation with civil society to better prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including when facilitated by ICTs and the challenges raised by the exploitation of CSGSIV.[84]
- to ensure that the forms of cooperation that take place with civil society in the field of prevention and protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse are of a sustainable nature.[85]
- to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in the development and implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives[86] 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.[87]

[84] Recommendation VII-3.
[85] Recommendation VII-4.
[86] Parties are also invited to provide example(s) of how children's views are taken into account in the context of the participation of children.
[87] Recommendations VII-6, VII-7.

Promising practice

In Slovenia helplines/hotlines work directly in cooperation with the Police or a Criminal investigation department, in order to report directly any suspicion of abuse.

Promising practices:

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

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

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

The Committee observes that Slovenia has a decision tree on sextortion[88] that helps children ask the right questions in an unfamiliar situation, enabling them to take the most appropriate action and thus reducing the risk of sextortion.[89]

The Committee also observes that besides monitoring and combating cybercrime (investigation and identification of victims and perpetrators of crimes), the police organise and/or actively assist in conducting awareness sessions in Slovenia. The Police was a partner in Europol's "Say No!" awareness-raising campaign that took place in schools, media etc.[90] The work later continued with the participation of the Police in the Odklikni / Click-off campaign that targeted pupils in primary schools and was focused on raising awareness about violence online and harassment of girls and women. A romantic comedy Gajin svet (Gaja's World)[91] was produced that addressed online safety. In the pre-production of the film, experts for child protection against sexual harassment and violence were included as the script went under expert review, and the filmmakers produced additional video materials that were made available for educational purposes in primary and secondary schools in Slovenia. The film was meant to entertain but also to address relevant topics such as family and online abuses and enable the children to identify themselves with the main characters. It provided the basis to further develop on these topics through workshops for children, parents, teachers, and other school workers.[92] The film and the related events were seen by more than 80,000 people and more that 20,000 pupils attended the workshops that followed.[93]

[88] https://safe.si/gradiva/drevesa-odlocanja/drevo-odlocanja-sextortion (in Slovenian)
[89] Para. 353.
[90] https://www.policija.si/index.php/component/content/article/35-sporocila-za-javnost/88555-slovenska-policija-se-pridruuje-europolovem-projektu-qreci-neq-za-prepreevanje-izsiljevanja-in-spolnih-zlorab-na-spletu
[91] https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7489754/?ref_=ttpl_pl_tt
[92] https://safe.si/video/gajin-svet (video clips), https://safe.si/gradiva/gradiva-za-ucitelje/gajin-svet-ucna-ura-po-ogledu-filma (workshop materials)
[93] https://www.zurnal24.si/slovenija/gajin-svet-je-blazja-oblika-tega-kar-se-dogaja-v-sloveniji-315643

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

The Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- 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.[94]
- 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.[95]
- 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.[96]
- to have available awareness-raising tools, materials, and activities suitable for children with disabilities.[97]
- 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.[98]
- 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.[99]
- to step-up awareness-raising for parents and persons with parental authority about the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse faced by children generating and/or sharing sexual images and/or videos of themselves and about the preventive measures that can be taken.[100]
- 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.[101]

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.[102]

[94] Recommendation VIII-1.
[95] Recommendation VIII-2.
[96] Recommendation VIII-3.
[97] Recommendation VIII-4.
[98] Recommendation VIII-5.
[99] Recommendation VIII-6.
[100] Recommendation VIII-7.
[101] Recommendation VIII-8.
[102] Recommendation VIII-9.

Promising practices:

IX. Education for children

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

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

The Committee observes that in Slovenia, although the national curriculum do not contain explicit reference to CSGSIV, non-formal educational activities target this topic.[103] Such education is provided in primary and secondary education,[104] and it is the teacher who chooses which lesson is devoted to these subjects.[105]

The Committee identifies difficulties to implement the Convention in Slovenia, as although information on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and risks related with the CSGSIV is mentioned as being part of non-formal educational settings, it is not clear whether all children benefit from it. In Slovenia, there are general subject goals where students learn how to use the Internet safely and responsibly, assess the possibilities of using and misusing digital technology and learn how to respect ethical principles and maintain their privacy online, as well as special lectures by external institutions on the safe Internet use. However, only 20 schools have been involved in a seminar called "Holistic and interdisciplinary approach to sexuality and education for schools".[106]

- Therefore, the Committee requires Slovenia 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.[107]

Follow-up actions:

The Republic of Slovenia systematically strengthens content on the safe and responsible use of ICT within the framework of revised curricula in the field of preventing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, where social-emotional competencies (including digital literacy, privacy protection, and ethical principles) are defined as common learning objectives across all subjects.
In addition to formal curricular content, a comprehensive model called VSUO (Safe and Supportive Learning Environment) is being implemented, which introduces a whole-school approach at the national level to promote mental health, prevent violence, and develop safe internet use. Between 2018 and 2025, more than 200 kindergartens, primary, and secondary schools have been included in the training program, aiming to reach all teachers and students. The model also includes training for school teams and principals, as well as cooperation with external experts (police, Safe.si, NGOs).
Slovenia recognizes the importance of equal accessibility of content and will ensure that in the further revision of curricula and the development of the VSUO, all children in primary and secondary schools are systematically informed about the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse enabled by ICT, as well as protection methods.

The Committee also invites Slovenia to address in educational contexts the issue of the risks of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

[103] Para. 384.
[104] Para. 392.
[105] Para. 400.
[106] Para. 387.
[107] Recommendation IX-3.

facilitated by ICTs, including as regards CSGSIV.[108]

[108] Recommendation IX-1.

The Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- to consistently involve children in the development of internet safety awareness programmes.[109]
- to ensure that there is a standing national internet safety resource, with an ongoing programme of activities.[110]
- 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.[111]
- 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.[112]

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.[113]

[109] Recommendation IX-4.
[110] Recommendation IX-5.
[111] Recommendation IX-6.
[112] Recommendation IX-7.
[113] Recommendation IX-8.

Promising practice

In Slovenia, police officers (members of the Expert Council of the Safer Internet Center) and detectives visit elementary schools around the country and speak about safe use of the internet, focusing on the dangers of producing and distributing self-generated sexually explicit content/private information. The target audience consists of children, parents and school staff.

Promising practices:

X. Higher education curriculum and continuous training

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

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

The Committee observes that in Slovenia, a part of the professionals who will or already work with children receive training and/or education on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The teaching also focuses specifically on the risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs.[114]

The Committee notes that the people most likely to receive education and/or training on child sexual exploitation and abuse in Slovenia are those working in educational institutions, such as teachers.[115] The health sector is the second sector to benefit from this education and/or training as, according to the Association Against Sexual Abuse, paediatricians receive courses on the subject of sexual abuse of children, where they also identify problems concerning Internet abuse.[116] These trainings are also followed by persons working in the social protection sector. According to the Association against Sexual Abuse, social workers receive regular 2 days annual courses on the subject of sexual abuse of children, with a focus on abuse facilitated by ICTs.[117] Additionally, Slovenia also mentioned the training of professionals working in NGOs.[118]

To improve the effective implementation of the Convention, the Committee requires Slovenia:

- 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.[119]

Follow-up actions:

- 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.[120]

Follow-up actions:

- to encourage awareness of the protection and rights of children among

[114] Para. 416.
[115] Para. 420.
[116] Para. 421.
[117] Para. 422.
[118] Para. 423.

[119] Recommendation X-4.
[120] Recommendations X-5 and X-6.

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.[121]

Follow-up actions:

[121] Recommendation X-7.

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

The Committee also invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- 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.[122]
- 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.[123]

[122] Recommendation X-2.
[123] Recommendation X-3.

Promising practices:

XI. Research

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

Observations of the Committee on research specific to Slovenia

The Committee observes that Slovenia has provided information on research undertaken on the issues raised by CSGSIV.[124] The research on CSGSIV was conducted within a wider framework, as part of broader research topics, such as children and the media/the internet.[125] [126]

The Committee also observes that Slovenia has participated for at least one year in the EU Kids Online surveys which is a multinational research network, seeking to enhance knowledge of children's online opportunities, risks and safety. Surveys carried out under the framework of EU Kids Online collect data and information on, *inter alia*, children's practice of sending and receiving sexual messages online.[127]

On the other hand, the Committee identifies a difficulty to implement the Convention as according to surveys undertaken in the context of EU Kids Online, information is lacking to determine which body was in charge of supporting and/or carrying out research in Slovenia.[128]

Therefore, the Committee invites Slovenia 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.[129]

[124] Para. 437.

[125] See B., Muha, S. (2011), Internet in the everyday life of Slovenian children and adolescents (Internet v vsakdanjem življenju slovenskih otrok in mladostnikov), Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana: Young people on the net (Mladi na netu): https://safe.si/sites/default/files/mladinanetu_porocilo_0_0.pdf

[126] Para. 438.

[127] Para. 440.

[128] Para. 458.

[129] Recommendation XI-4.

Generic recommendations of the Committee on research

The Committee invites all Parties, including Slovenia:

- to collect data and undertake research at the national and local levels to observe and evaluate the phenomenon of CSGSIV.[130]
- 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.[131]

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.[132]

[130] Recommendation XI-1.
[131] Recommendation XI-2.
[132] Recommendation XI-3.

Promising practice

EU Kids Online is a multinational research network, working to increase knowledge of the opportunities, risks and safeties children face online. A significant number of Parties, including Slovenia, have participated to this research network for one or several years.

Promising practices: