



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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by the Council of Europe

Webinar

To present the final Inception Report

Joint EU-Council of Europe project

Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland

27 April 2023

9:30 – 11:30 (Dublin time)

Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project “**Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland**” aims to strengthen the country’s response mechanism to child sexual abuse, to ensure that undue delays in the treatment of such cases is diminished, and that all children who are victims of sexual violence benefit from a child-friendly access to justice.

In 2017, Ireland successfully implemented the **Children First Act**, which introduced mandatory reporting for suspected cases of child abuse. It was followed by the development of a **pilot Barnahus project in Galway in 2019, which began receiving referrals in November 2020**. The goal of the European Union-Council of Europe project is to address the challenges encountered during the pilot project and to facilitate the opening of two additional centres: **Barnahus South in Cork and Barnahus East in Dublin**.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division in close co-operation with the Irish Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) from 12 August 2022 to 11 February 2025.

The project is divided into **two main components**:

1. The three Barnahus sites are initiated. The design and operations are set up, well-coordinated and standardised to respond to and manage child sexual abuse cases in a child-friendly manner and in line with promising European practices
2. The model is integrated into practice and staff is confident in its use and in applying interagency processes

Agenda

9:30-9:45	Welcoming remarks • <i>Kate Gillen, Social Work Specialist, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit at DCEDIY</i> • <i>Sébastien Renaud, Deputy Head of Unit for Governance and Public Administration at DG REFORM, European Commission</i> • <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of Unit at the Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe</i>
9:45-10:05	Presentation of the final Inception report • <i>Teresa Gil Ricol, Junior Project Officer at the Council of Europe</i>
10:05-10:15	Presentation of the foreseen action on legal and policy analysis of Irish system • <i>Kate Gillen, Social Work Specialist, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit at DCEDIY</i>
10:15-10:45	Discussion and Q&A • Moderator: <i>Allayne Cassidy, Administrative Officer, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit at DCEDIY</i>
10:45-11:00	Presentation of the training gap analysis for professionals working in the context of Barnahus in Ireland • <i>Rosaleen Mc Elvaney, Principal Psychotherapist, St Clare’s Unit, Children’s Health Unit</i>
11:00-11:20	Discussion and Q&A • <i>Des Delaney, Chief Social Worker, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i>
11:20-11:30	Closing remarks • <i>Allayne Cassidy, Administrative Officer, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit at DCEDIY</i> • <i>Sébastien Renaud, Deputy Head of Unit for Governance and Public Administration at DG REFORM, European Commission</i> • <i>Teresa Gil Ricol, Junior Project Officer at the Council of Europe</i>