



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

Co-funded  
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## **Roundtable to present reports**

### **Barnahus in Ireland**

**Joint EU-Council of Europe project**

**“Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland”**

**6 November 2024**

**Town Hall, Miesian Plaza**

**50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, Ireland**

## 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 2015**, 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

<b>Agenda</b>	
9:30-10:00	<b>Arrival tea and coffee</b>
10:00-10:15	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lara Haynes, Assistant Secretary, DCEDIY</i></li> <li>• <i>Des Delaney, Chief Social Worker, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i></li> <li>• <i>Johannes Boermann, Head of Sector at DG REFORM, European Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of Cooperation Projects Unit, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul>
10:15-10:35	<b>Presentation of the Strategy to scale up Barnahus services in Ireland</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Irina Urumova, Council of Europe international expert</i></li> </ul>
10:35-11:00	<b>Discussion Q&amp;A</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Julie O'Donnell, Tusla</i>
11:00-11:25	<b>Presentation of the Communication Strategy for Barnahus and visual identity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Emma Harewood, Council of Europe international expert</i></li> <li>• <i>Mark Murphy, Juvo, Council of Europe national expert</i></li> <li>• <i>Carmel Ward, Early Childhood Ireland, Council of Europe national expert</i></li> </ul>
11:25-12:00	<b>Discussion Q&amp;A</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ciara Doyle, Social Work Specialist/Assistant Principal Officer, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i>
12:00-13:15	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:15-13:35	<b>Presentation of the process of draft update of Good Practices Guidelines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Siobhan Barron, Department of Justice</i></li> <li>• <i>Ian Lackey, Detective Superintendent, An Garda Síochána</i></li> </ul>
13:35-14:00	<b>Discussion Q&amp;A</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ian Lackey, Detective Superintendent, An Garda Síochána</i>
14:00-14:20	<b>Presentation of draft Record of Processing Activities (RoPA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dolores Martyn, XpertDPO Council of Europe national expert</i></li> </ul>
14:20-14.50	<b>Discussion Q&amp;A</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Aisling Keane, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCEDIY</i>
14:50-15:15	<b>Next steps and concluding remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Teresa Gil Ricol, Project Officer, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul>