



Building a Europe
for and with children
Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants



VC1841 PS1

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova
Budget	400,000 €
Implementation	Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe
Duration	15 months (15 October 2018 – 14 January 2020)

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Moldova is a Party to the [Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (hereinafter the "Lanzarote Convention") since 2012. The Lanzarote Convention is the most ambitious and comprehensive international legal instrument aimed at preventing and protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as well as prosecuting perpetrators and promoting international cooperation in these areas.

As a result of its first monitoring round on *the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust* (2014-2017), the Lanzarote Committee adopted general recommendations¹ for all monitored State Parties as well as country specific recommendations, including two related to the criminalisation of sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust which are addressed to the Republic of Moldova. A second monitoring round on *the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)* is currently underway.

The Republic of Moldova is committed to combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and to improve preventive and protective measures currently available. The Action Plan for 2016-2020 on the Implementation of the Strategy for Child Protection (2014-2020) includes prevention

¹ In its 1st implementation report [Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: The framework \(2015\)](#), the Lanzarote Committee issued general recommendations addressed to all Parties in four key areas in order to protect children from sexual abuse in the circle of trust: i) criminalisation of sexual abuse of children, ii) collection of data, iii) best interest of the child and child-friendly criminal proceedings, and iv) corporate liability. The 2nd implementation report [Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: The Strategies \(2018\)](#), focused to assess the structures, measures and processes in place to prevent and protect children from sexual abuse in the circle of trust.

and combating violence, neglect and exploitation of children as one of the general objectives. In addition, the Action Plan on the promotion of the Internet safety for children and teenagers (2017-2020) aims at countering online harassment, mooring and distribution of illegal content as well as informing children, parents and tutors about the risks of the online environment and about the possibilities to avoid them.

OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The overall objective of the project is to support the Republic of Moldova by strengthening the State’s response to address child sexual exploitation and sexual through an increased implementation and compliance of policies, legislation and practices with the Council of Europe and other international standards in this area, in particular the Lanzarote Convention, as well as by strengthening the capacities of relevant professionals and raising awareness.

The project’s expected results and activities build on the findings of the Lanzarote Committee and the outcomes of the roundtable jointly organised jointly by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova (February 2018) to discuss ongoing challenges and good practices for an efficient implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.

Project Impact

Children in the Republic of Moldova benefit from an improved response of the child protection system to address risks of, or cases of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, in line with the Council of Europe conventions and other relevant international standards.

<p>Intermediate Outcome 1</p> <p>Enhanced adherence by the Republic of Moldova and implementation of relevant Council of Europe conventions and other relevant international standards to address child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</p>	<p>Immediate Outcome 1.1</p> <p>Increased commitment at a strategic level to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through a multi-agency response</p> <p>Output 1.1.1: Policy makers’ and major stakeholders’ awareness and commitment for a multi-agency response to address child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are increased.</p>
	<p>Immediate outcome 1.2</p> <p>The child protection system’s capacity to design and implement measures and responses in cases of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are strengthened</p> <p>Output 1.2.1: An analysis is carried out on the systemic issues affecting the child protection system’s response to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in order to support the enhancement of appropriate tools and measures and any relevant policy and institutional reforms.</p> <p>Output 1.2.2: Proposals are available to identify risks and address gaps and deficiencies in the policy, institutional and legislative frameworks concerning prevention and fight against child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</p>

<p>Intermediate Outcome 2:</p> <p>Strengthened capacities and skills of authorities, professionals and civil society organisations to design and implement effective responses to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse measures</p>	<p>Immediate Outcome 2.1</p> <p>Competent authorities and professionals in contact with children improve skills and knowledge to respond to cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>Output 2.1.1: Capacities are assessed and adapted to provide appropriate protection, assistance and support to child victims by properly trained professionals throughout the investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse offences and related court procedures.</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Specialised training courses are developed and piloted for non-legal professionals working for or with children at risk, or children victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>Immediate Outcome 2.2</p> <p>Legal professionals and the judiciary have improved their skills and knowledge on implementing child-friendly justice to support children victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: The HELP training course on children’s rights and child-friendly justice is adapted to the legal context of the Republic of Moldova and a platform for on-line training is launched.</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: An on-line pilot training is implemented with judges, prosecutors and lawyers.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 3:</p> <p>Enhanced efforts to increase public awareness of the risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse, targeting in particular children and parents</p>	<p>Immediate Outcome 3.1</p> <p>Public awareness campaigns and other measures which educate parents, children and others responsible for children, including steps that can be taken in such cases, are developed, improved or supported.</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Relevant Council of Europe materials and tools are translated, adapted and available for use by major stakeholders and professionals.</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Targeted actions are implemented for increased digital literacy and information of children, parents and teachers in relation the safe use of the Internet and digital devices, and risks of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Civil society organisations are supported to implement awareness-raising campaigns using the Council of Europe materials.</p>
<p>Key activities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of technical expert advice for legal and policy review, as well as strategy development • Carrying out studies and research, including baseline mapping Identification of training needs, adapting and development of training programmes and modules, carrying out training for targeted groups of legal and non-legal professionals

- Development and adaptation of prevention tools and materials
- Conducting and supporting awareness-raising and sensitisation campaigns, including in co-operation with civil society



IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

This Project is implemented in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova (2017-2020) by the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe and in close cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau. The action is firmly anchored in the Council of Europe [Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) and part of the Council of Europe Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”.

Partners and beneficiaries of the project include: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, General Prosecutor’s Office and National Institute of Justice, National Council for the Protection of Children. Collaboration and partnerships will be sought with relevant international organisations, as well as civil society organisations active in this field.

Synergies will be sought with the Council of Europe project “End child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse@Europe” and, as appropriate, with other projects and initiatives implemented in the Republic of Moldova or in other Council of Europe member States in relevant areas, such as child rights, digital literacy and education, media and cybercrime. Efforts will be made to ensure collaboration with relevant Council of Europe institutions and intergovernmental structures, including notably the [Lanzarote Committee](#) and the [Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child \(CAHENF\)](#).

While the project strategy and activities are defined to address priorities identified at the country level, the objective is also to develop and test efficient methods and strategies of support that could be replicated and shared in other countries or at the pan-European level.

 	<p>This project contributes to the landmark commitment by world leaders to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and abuse of children as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goal 16 in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere • SDG 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
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CONTACT

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