



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

T-ES(2017)ICT

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Replies to the thematic questionnaire

NGO “La Strada” (Moldova)

2nd thematic monitoring round

“The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)”

Replies registered by the Secretariat on 25 October 2017

“La Strada” Moldova Brief

The International Center “La Strada” Moldova is a non-government organization established by advocates for women rights in 2001. Started solely with an anti-trafficking project focusing on developing relevant national laws and strategies, developing direct services for survivors of trafficking and unfolding national awareness campaigns and monitoring and research, “La Strada” Moldova became a leading stakeholder in the national anti-trafficking community. Throughout the years, by continuously observing trafficking trends and deepening the anti-trafficking services, it became clear that the issue of child trafficking should be approached specifically. As of 2009 after assisting a high-profile case of trafficking in children facilitated by ICTs involving foreigners as perpetrators, addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children including online became a separate activity of “La Strada” Moldova. We applied a systemic approach, starting from the grass root level, to the issue through prevention and early intervention; protection, safety and justice; capacity building; public policies and data and research. Thus, apart from awareness campaigns, we advocated for changes in the national law enabling children to enjoy special protection during criminal investigations and court proceedings, a special law in this regard was enacted in 2012. A specialized team of lawyers and forensic psychologists was put together to work hand-in-hand with specialized anti-trafficking and cyber-crime police and prosecutors to protect children who have suffered from sexual exploitation and abuse including online. Further, “La Strada” launched the portal www.siguronline.md that to date serves as the only national information and education (digital) resource center for young Internet users and their careers about safety online issues while a group of trained young volunteers act as peer-to-peer educators delivering online safety seminars throughout schools national-wide. “La Strada” experts are co-authors of the National Action Plan to Promote Child Safety Online Action Plan and the co-authors of the draft Law to amend national legal framework aimed at streamlining investigations about child online sexual abuse and exploitation. As part of the partnership agreements with the Government, “La Strada” is running national Child Help Line and special interviewing room for children victims/witnesses.

La Strada Moldova is one the founder and a member of the International La “Strada” Association – a European network of NGOs against trafficking in human beings; we are associate member of ECPAT - End Child Prostitution and Trafficking Network and member of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. On the national level, we are also members of national high-profile thematic committees and councils such as National Child Rights Protection Council, National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Inter-ministerial Council to fight domestic violence and sexual violence against children as well as members of the National Alliance of NGOs on social protection of family and child.

Prevention

Question 1.

- 1.1. *Are there awareness-raising or educational activities/tools/materials/measures addressed to children, about the risks they face when they produce and/or share:*
 - a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
 - b. *Self-generated sexual content*

State institutions do not have/provide educational activities/tools/materials/measures **addressed to children** about the risks they face when they produce and/or share self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or self-generated sexual content.

The safety-online subject is not included in the school curricula. While the Ministry of Education reports that selected topics about safety online are part of the ICT school-course and/or civic education school-course, staying safe from sexual abuse online is not addressed, nor is the issue about risky behaviours such as self-generated sexually explicit images. The issue of interest is also missing from the informal / extra curricula education.

The only state institution that raises the issue of child safety online is the General Police Inspectorate via its specialized agency – Center to Combat Cybercrime. Thus, in summer 2017, the GPI joined the Europol Campaign „Say No” focused on the risks of sextortion and blackmailing online, where the sexual information and images are used to extort sexual material, sexual favours or money¹. In this sense, the campaign message was translated into Romanian language and is referring the viewers of the campaign video to specialized authorities and namely the CCCC as well as to www.siguronline.md (child safety online portal educational incorporating reporting system for cases of online sexual abuse and exploitation which is managed by the “La Strada” Moldova NGO). The campaign video was circulated via one social network. Awareness around the risks of self-generated sexually explicit images is also raised by police every time they publish press communiqué or participates in TV programs dedicated to a special investigated/discovered case (particularly raised in summer 2017). Although such efforts are also necessary, they are of a general awareness nature and do not deliver an educational message particularly for children.

In addition, in their public/press communications related to fighting internet related crimes against children, the public authorities promote the webpage www.internetsigur.md. Yet, this webpage is not addressed to children/adolescents. It lists articles of the RM Criminal Code related to sex crimes (against children but not exclusively), provides general info about rights of internet users and general contact data of selected ministries to report a violation. It also incorporates promo materials (posters, flyers and video-spot) about “general risks online”. It does not include awareness-raising or educational activities/tools/materials/measures addressed to children, about the risks they face when they produce and/or share self-generated sexually explicit images. The concept of the campaign promoted by this page, including its visual products, is questionable in terms of final target group and the message it promotes. According to the national law on the protection of children against the harm of publicity/media, the national audio-visual Council strongly recommended promotion of the campaign video after 22.00 hours in order not to harm children (thus it cannot be seen as a info sores addressed to children).

1.2. Are there awareness-raising or educational activities/tools/materials/measures specifically targeting children as bystanders/observers of other children producing and/or sharing:

- a. Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. Self-generated sexual content*

The state authorities did not unfold any awareness-raising or educational activities/tools/materials/measures specifically **targeting children as bystanders/observers** of other children producing and/or sharing self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or content.

¹ <http://politia.md/ro/content/campanie-de-informare-si-prevenire-spune-nu>

1.3. *Are there awareness-raising activities/tools/materials/measures addressed to parents and persons who have regular contact with children (teachers, psychologists, health care professionals, etc.) about the risks children face when they produce and/or share:*

- a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. *Self-generated sexual content*

The state authorities did not conducted specific awareness-raising activities/tools/materials/measures addressed to parents about the issue of interest. As of September 2017, NGO sector in cooperation with an ICT stakeholder launched a series of seminars for parents dedicated to child safety online but these do not specifically refer to the risks of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or content by children.

In summer 2017, the police was the only state agency, that generally raised the issue, encouraging **parents** to keep their children safe online, as part of their public communications related to fighting internet related crimes against children. In their message, the public authorities refer the parents/child careers to the webpage www.internetsigur.md. Yet, the webpage does not include awareness-raising activities/tools/materials/measures about the risks children face when they produce and/or share self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos and self-generated sexual content.

At the same time, the state authorities did not undertake any activities addressed to persons who have regular contact with children (teachers, psychologists, health care professionals, etc.) about the risks children face when they produce and/or share self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos or content.

Question 2. Civil society involvement

2.1. *How do State authorities encourage the implementation of prevention projects and programmes carried out by civil society with regard to:*

- a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. *Self-generated sexual content*

There are not clear means by which the state authorities encourage the implementation of prevention projects/programmes in the area of interest. To date, the state encouragement is expressed in form of thematic cooperation agreement(s) signed between a state institution and an NGO (which at the same time has no legal status and no state financial support) and by specifying an NGO as possible implementation partners in state related policy documents (i.e. National Action Plan to Promote safer Internet for Children). "La Strada" Moldova has a cooperation agreement signed with the GPI covering the area of child safety online. The cooperation agreement between the "La Strada" and the Ministry of Education is on the waiting list for extension and is necessary for "La Strada" for conducting awareness raising activities in schools.

2.2. *Please provide information on prevention activities (including awareness-raising and educational activities, research etc.) implemented by civil society (including those carried out by civil society at their own initiative) with regard to:*

- a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. *Self-generated sexual content*

“La Strada” Moldova has been delivering seminars about safety online for young Internet users in schools and summer camps nation-wide since 2013. The module refers to key risky behaviour of children online including self-generated sexually explicit images/videos (in response to or not to a request from a “online friend”) and means of prevention/protection. These seminars are conducted as part of the cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Education; yet, all human, technical and financial resources are covered by “La Strada”. These seminars are delivered by young volunteers specially trained as peer-to-peer educators. These educational activities are adapted to child’s views and necessities.

“La Strada” also launched and operates the only national info/educational resource (center) about safety online addressed to children and parents (soon to be extended to address educators/teachers) www.siguronline.md primarily focusing on the risks of sexual abuse and/or exploitation. Besides information and education materials, the portal integrates a hotline - an online individual counselling service and a reporting option in cases of child online sexual exploitation or sexual abuse. The portal is operational since 2013. Specific articles/info titles related to self-generated sexually explicit images/content have been developed and promoted via the portal and reports for assistance from individuals have been received as well. All costs associated with the development, maintenance and promotion of the portal are totally covered by “La Strada”.

“La Strada” has recently launched a national research about child risky behaviour online, one chapter of which is dedicated to the issue of interest. The research report will be made public on the occasion of SID 2018.

All of the above are the initiatives of “La Strada” and are self-sustained.

Question 3. National curriculum

Does national curriculum (primary and secondary schools and vocation education) include awareness-raising about the risks of:

- a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. *Self-generated sexual content*

The primary school curricula does not provide for any information related to online safety/safe use of internet/risks of sexual abuse online/risks of self-generated sexually explicit images, videos, content. The informatics curriculum for the secondary school (5th – 6th class) includes general aspects related to the communication online and security rules online. However, the risks associated to using ICTs technologies are not covered by this curriculum nor are the risks of sexual abuse online and/or risks of self-generated sexual explicit images, video, content covered by the curricula. At the same time, there is a still lack of systematic approach to sexual education, child safety online and resilience to child online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse subjects in national curriculums for children.

Question 4. Higher education curriculum and continuous training

Do higher education curriculum and continuous training for those who will or already work with children include the issues raised by:

- a. *Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. *Self-generated sexual content*

There is a lack of systematic approach about risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in higher education curriculum and continuous training of relevant professional groups in the education, health, social protection, judicial and law-enforcement sectors and in the areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities. Some efforts of integrating subjects related to prevention and

intervention in cases of violence, abuses, exploitation and trafficking against children were realized with the support of the civil society for some professionals (from education, social protection, law enforcement sectors) – members of multidisciplinary groups. Moreover, these activities are not sustainable in the long-term and do not have a specific approach for the issues raised by self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos and self-generated sexual content.

There is lack of support/info/methodological materials for teachers regarding child safety online and prevention of online child sexual abuse including prevention of risks of self-generated sexual explicit images, video, content. Similarly, schools/teachers have no materials about child safety online that they could distribute/deliver to children and adolescents. The National Action Plan to promote Safer Internet for Children 2017-2019 provides that the Ministry of Education shall develop support materials for teachers and train teachers enabling them to deliver the course for children and adolescents.

Question 5. Research

5.1. Have public authorities or other bodies initiated/supported research on the issues raised by:

- a. self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. self-generated sexual content*

5.2. Have public authorities or other bodies conducted or supported research in particular on the psychological effects on those persons whose:

- a. self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos as children have been shared online*
- b. self-generated sexual content as children has been shared online*

Please specify whether the public authorities or other bodies having initiated/supported the research above (question 5.1 and 5.2) are aware of their outcomes.

The public authorities have never conducted neither supported research related to child safety online issue in general nor in particular related to self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos and self-generated sexual content. Moreover, there are not researches on the psychological effects on those persons whose self-generated sexually explicit images and/or video as children or sexual content have been shared.

Protection

Question 7. Cooperation with civil society

Please describe cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organisations and other representatives of civil society engaged in assistance to victims of the offences covered by the present questionnaire (see questions 9-11) through e.g. child helplines, victim support organisations.

The protection of victims of the offences covered by the present questionnaire is mainly assured with the support of non-governmental organizations. “La Strada” only runs the online counselling platform www.siguronline.md that extends services for victims and their families, it manages specially equipped unreviewing room and a specialized intervention team created from lawyers and forensic psychologists who assist children victims during investigation and court proceedings working hand-in-hand with the law enforcement representatives. The National Child Helpline is managed by the Ministry of Social Protection and implemented by “La Strada” and extends its

services to children and their families also who have suffered from online sexual abuse and exploitation including consequences of self-generated sexual explicit images/video. The biggest challenge is the long-term psychological support for victims and their families. Although there are some private-public collaboration, these are limited to Chisinau area and/or to limited time period. A major problem continues to be the financial support of these activities necessary for ensuring their uninterrupted functioning and the quality of these services, because of the professional flow and questionable preparation of all professionals to work with victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online.

Prosecution

Question 8. Legislation

8.1. Does national law contain any reference to:

a. self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention (art. 18-23)?

The national law contains no reference to self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention.

b. self-generated sexual content in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention (art. 18-23)?

The national law contains no reference to the self-generated sexual content in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention.

c. non-pictorial self-generates sexual content produced by children (e.g. sound, text) in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention (art. 18-23)?

The national law contains no reference to the non-pictorial self-generates sexual content produced by children (e.g. sound, text) in the context of offences covered by the Lanzarote Convention.

8.2. Does national law tackle the involvement of more than one child (i.e. consensual posing) in generating the:

a. self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos?

The national law does not tackle the issue of involvement of more than one child in generating the self-generated sexually explicit images, video. The national law remains unclear about cases when a child of age 16 produces by himself pornographic content or images and by himself distributes them in Internet.

b. self-generated sexual content?

Similarly as the answer to question 8.2 a).

8.3. Are there specificities related to the fact that more children appear on the:

a. self-generates sexually explicit images and/or videos when these children accept that their image and/or video are produces or shared through ICTs?

There are no any specificities.

b. self-generated sexual content when these children accept that their image and/or video are produced and shared through ICTs?

There are no any specificities.

Question 9. Criminalisation

9.1. Does national law criminalise cases when adults (if the replies of Parties to the General Overview Questionnaire as regards the implementation of Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention (see replies to question 16) are still valid, please refer to them. Otherwise, please up-date such replies in the context of this question):

a. possess child self-generates sexually explicit images and/or videos?

Possessing of sexually explicit images, videos depicting a child is criminalized under the art. 208/1 of the Criminal Code of Moldova. There is no any specification to whether these images, videos which are possessed by the adult are child self-generated or not.

b. distribute or transmit child self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos to other adults?

The act of distribution is also criminalized under art. 208/1 of the national law. The law does not make any specifications to whether these distributed images, videos are child-self generated or not.

c. distribute or transmit child self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos to other children than those depicted on such images and/or videos?

The act of distribution is criminalized irrespective of the ultimate receiver (i.e. children depicted or not in the actual images, videos). The distribution of sexually explicit images and/or videos depicting a child to other children will be considered as corruption of children (under the Convention's provisions) or as perverted actions (under national provisions - art. 175 Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova - exposure, indecision, obscene or cynical conversation with the victim regarding sexual intercourse, determination of the victim to attend or assist to pornographic performances, the provision of pornographic material to the victim, as well as other sexual acts).

9.2. Are there special circumstances (including alternative interventions) under which the above cases (9.1. a-c), although established in fact and in law, are not prosecuted and/or do not lead to conviction?

There are no special circumstances that will allow avoiding the prosecution for adults in cases 9.1. a-c. Though, the law is uncertain regarding the children of age 14 who under the current criminal law can be convicted if self-generating and distributing/posting/sending sexually explicit images, videos to other children. Even if a child of age 14 may be convicted as being subject of pervert actions (art. 175 of Criminal Code of Republic of Moldova), in case they self-produced sexual images or contents and distributed them to other children, there are not any specifications in the law regarding the intention of committing the crime. Therefore, "La Strada" recommends that the national law be supplemented in order to specify the intention of distributing or possessing those images.

9.3. What are the legal consequences of the above behaviours (9.1. a-c)?

For behaviour described in 9.1. a), b), the national law provides for 1 to 3 years imprisonment or a fine or deprivation from exercising a certain activity/position. For behaviour described in 9.1. c), the law provides for 3 to 7 years imprisonment.

9.4. Does national law criminalise cases when adults (If the replies of Parties to the General Overview Questionnaire as regards the implementation of Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention (see replies to question 16) are still valid, please refer to them. Otherwise, please up-date such replies in the context of this question):

a. possess child self-generated sexual content?

b. distribute or transmit child self-generated sexual content to other adults?

c. distribute or transmit child self-generated sexual content to other children than those depicted such sexual content?

The action of intentionally obtaining access through information and communication technology, to child pornography was introduced in law. Currently, the provisions of article 208/1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova criminalize the production, distributing, offering or making available, importing, exporting, offering, selling, purchasing, changing, using or holding images or other representations of one or more children involved in explicit, real or simulated sexual activities or images or other representations of organs sexual intercourse of a child, represented in a lascivious or obscene manner, including in electronic form.

9.5. Are there special circumstances (including alternative interventions) under which the above cases (9.4. a-c), although established in fact and in law, are not prosecuted and/or do not lead to conviction?

The national law does not provide special circumstances under which the above cases (9.4. a-c) are not prosecuted or do not lead to conviction.

9.6. What are the legal consequences of the above behaviours (9.4.a-c)?

For the behaviour described in 9.4. a-b, the national law provides for 1 to 3 years imprisonment and a fine imposed to legal entities with deprivation from exercising a certain activity/position. For behaviour described in 9.4.c., the law provides for 3 to 7 years imprisonment.

9.7. Does national law criminalise cases when children (this question does not in any way suggest that these behaviours should be criminalized):

a. produce self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos?

According to current national law, when a child of age 16 to 18 produces self-generated sexually explicit images, this behaviour is subject to punishment (committing the crime of child pornography). There is no any specification in the Criminal Law about the special subject for child pornography that will provide that child of age 16 to 18 cannot be punished for self-generated content. Thus, "La Strada" recommends that the national criminal law is supplemented to make clarity in this sense.

b. possess self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos?

Possession by a child of age 16 to 18 of self-generated sexually explicit images and or/videos is criminalized according to national law (committing the crime of child pornography).

c. distribute or transmit self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of themselves to peers?

According to national criminal law, a child of age 14 who distributes or transmits self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of themselves to a child up to 16 years old may be convicted

for committing the crime of pervert actions (corruption of children - art. 22 of the Lanzarote Convention). The problem is that the law does not contain clear provision about the intention of sending that images and content.

d. distribute or transmit self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of themselves to adults?

According to national law a child of age 16 who distributes or transmits self-generated sexually explicit images, videos (of themselves) may be convicted (for committing the crime of child pornography). The current law is not specific about the person to whom the images, videos are distributed/transmitted. However, the child could be a victim in this situation as he/she could distribute/transmit these images, videos upon request/demand of the adult. Referring to these cases, the law criminalizes all situations when the adult demand/request self-generated sexually explicit images, videos of children (for committing the crime of grooming, pervert actions or other offenses of sexually exploitation or sexual abuse of children).

e. distribute or transmit self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of other children to peers?

If self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos (the law does not make any specifications regarding whether the image, video depicts him/herself or another child) is distributed or transmitted by a child who turned 14 to a child up to 16 years old, this behaviour is criminalized by national law as pervert actions (art. 175 Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova).

f. distribute or transmit self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos of other children to adults?

As in case of behaviour 9.7.d – the child will not be convicted, but if the adult demanded the sexually explicit images and/or videos of other children, he may be subject of one of the crimes under national law.

9.8. Are there special circumstances (including alternative interventions) under which the above cases (9.7. a-f), although established in fact and in law, are not prosecuted and/or do not lead to conviction?

There are no special circumstances.

9.9. What are the legal consequences of the above behaviours (9.7 a-f)?

For behaviour described in 9.7. a-f, the national law provides for 1 to 3 years imprisonment (in case of child pornography – art. 208/1 CC of RM) or 3 to 7 years imprisonment (in case of pervert actions – art. 175 CC of RM).

9.10. Does national law criminalise cases when children (this question does not in any way suggest that these behaviours should be criminalized):

- a. produce self-generated sexual content*
- b. possess self-generated sexual content*
- c. distribute or transmit self-generated sexual content to peers*
- d. distribute or transmit self-generated sexual content to adults*
- e. distribute or transmit self-generated sexual content of other children to peers*
- f. distribute or transmit self-generated sexual content of other children to adults*

The national law lacks clear legal provisions regarding images, videos and other materials depicting a child in a sexual suggestive way (to provoke arousal) as it provided by the Lanzarote Convention. Thus, the national law is uncertain about the sexual content, as the article criminalizing child pornography refers only to images, videos, movies, photos, drawings or others depicting a child involved in explicit, real or simulated sexual activities or pictures or other images of genital organs of a child represented in a lustful or indecent manner.

9.11. Are there special circumstances or alternative interventions under which the above cases (9.10 a-f), although established in fact and in law, are not prosecuted and/or do not lead to conviction?

As there are no provisions in the national law about self-generated sexual content that depicts a child in a suggestive way without being sexually explicit, the behaviours described in 9.10 a-f are not criminalized and thus the question 9.11. is not applicable.

9.12. What are the legal consequences of the above behaviours (9.10.a-f)?

As there are no provisions in the national law about self-generated sexual content that depicts a child in a suggestive way without being sexually explicit, the behaviours described in 9.10 a-f are not criminalized and thus the question 9.11. is not applicable.

Question 10. Production and possession of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos by children for their own private use

10.2. For Parties that have not made a reservation in accordance with Article 20(3) indent 2

Does national law criminalise the production and/or possession of self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos when it involves children who have reached the age set in application of Article 18(2) where these images and/or videos are produced and possessed by them with their consent and solely for their own private use?

The national law is unclear with regard to this situation and it should be applied by the analogy. For example a person cannot be punished for committing suicide or for self-harming. This situation is similar to the situation when images are self-produced by the person (child) for own private use. Therefore, it is considered that that the person (child) cannot be prosecuted. Yet, the national law is not precise with regard to this situation and does not exactly provide for the described situation.

Question 11. Reference in law to ICT facilitated sexual coercion and/or extortion

How does national law address ICT facilitated sexual coercion and/or extortion of children and/or other persons related to the child depicted on the:

- a. Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos?*
- b. Self-generated sexual content?*

The national law criminalize the actions of blackmailing (the request/demand to transfer the property of the owner or holder, or to carry out other actions of patrimonial nature, threatening with violence the person, his relatives, spreading defamatory news about them, threatening with the destruction of that property, kidnapping of the owner, of the holder of the property, his/their relatives).

The national law does not specifically address ICT facilitated sexual coercion and/or extortion of children related to the child depicted on the self-generated sexually explicit images, videos, content. In practice, such kind of situations may be identified as blackmailing, in case of financial demand for sexually explicit images and/or videos or content. The subject for related crime may be the person aged 16 years old.

Question 14. Challenges in the prosecution phase

What challenges do law enforcement, prosecution and courts face during the prosecution of ICT facilitated sexual offences against children involving the sharing of:

- a. Self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos*
- b. Self-generated sexual content.*

The challenge faced during investigation phase relates to the intention of producing, possessing, and distributing self-generated sexual explicit images depicting children. The national law is ambiguous and unclear with regard to the intention of such actions. Consequently, a child of age 16 (in some cases a child of age 14) can be prosecuted for these kinds of behaviour.

Another challenge faced in the prosecution phase relates to classifying the content that is not sexually explicit. As the Lanzarote Committee is very specific in defining differences between sexually explicit images/videos and sexual content, on the national level, there is no content classification (including online).

One of the main challenge remain to be the capacities of professionals in investigating and prosecuting ICT facilitated child sexual abuse online and sexual exploitation online, as there is a lack of specialized trainings on the subject for law enforcement, prosecution and courts.

Question 15. Training of professionals

Are the offences referred to in this questionnaire (questions 9-11) addressed in training for professionals such as:

- a. Law enforcement agents (in particular for front desk officers)?*
- b. Prosecutors?*
- c. Judges?*

If so, please share the details of the training offered, specifying whether the training is mandatory.

The trainings currently available for the prosecutors, judges and law enforcement agents (as part of initial and continuous training programs) do not address the offenses referred to in this questionnaire. Generally, the training currently available with the judiciary and law enforcement system stakeholders as part of their formal curricula addresses very imitatively the issue of child online sexual exploitation and abuse.