



Roadmap towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA PRAVOSODJE

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Roadmap towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia

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Cover and lay-out: Documents and Publications Production Department (SDPD), Council of Europe

This publication has not been copy-edited by the SDPD Editorial Unit to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

@ Council of Europe, January 2019

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Executive summary

This publication contains a Roadmap which outlines the key elements required towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia, including relevant action, deliverables and timing. It aims at supporting the Slovenian authorities and professionals in setting up Barnahus in line with the international and domestic legal and policy commitments of the Republic of Slovenia and which will assist the authorities in meeting international obligations preventing and protecting child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The overall purpose of the Roadmap is to propose action that supports progress towards operating a Barnahus in Slovenia that practises according to the key criteria of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, on the model of the Icelandic Barnahus and the Barnahus Quality Standards. It supports the effective implementation of the *National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia*, which contain the organisational and operational framework proposed for Barnahus in Slovenia.

Even though there are no legal and policy obstacles for the establishment of Barnahus in Slovenia, there remain gaps in some areas of law, policy and practice. The roadmap sets out a time-bound plan, including short-, mid- and long-term recommendations to address gaps and to establish the necessary foundations in policy, procedure and law for the successful operation of Barnahus.

The Roadmap puts forward recommendations for:

- Legislative review, including in particular in areas relevant to forensic interviews, data protection, training certification, health and mental health services;
- Development of policy and procedures with emphasis on measures ensuring efficient interagency collaboration and coordination, the best interest of the child, preventing undue delay and promotion of child participation;
- Carrying out awareness raising and sensitisation of the public and professionals as well as training of the latter;
- Specific requirements for the venue and equipment of the Barnahus;
- Ensuring adequate financial resources;
- Evaluation of the Barnahus.

The roadmap was developed in the context of the joint European Union-Council of Europe project “Barnahus/Children’s House” in Slovenia, implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in Slovenia (2018).

Abbreviations

Barnahus Quality Standards	Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence
CoE	Council of Europe
CRC	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
EU	European Union
EU Directive on Child Sexual Abuse (2011/92/EU) or EU Sexual Abuse Directive	EU Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA
EU Directive on Victims' Rights (2012/29/EU) or EU Victims' Rights Directive	EU Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
EU SRSS	European Union Structural Reform Support Services
IWP	Interdisciplinary Working Party
Lanzarote Committee	The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
Lanzarote Convention	The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
MDIA services	Multidisciplinary interagency services
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
National Guidelines	National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
Roadmap	Roadmap towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia

Introduction

In 2017 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Decision¹ to establish Barnahus/Children's House in line with its international legal and policy commitments, notably the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse². An Interdisciplinary Working Party was set up to support this process on the same year³.

The *Roadmap towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia*, hereinafter referred to as the "Roadmap", aims at supporting the efforts of the Slovenian authorities and professionals to further strengthen the state response to child sexual exploitation and abuse through the establishment of a first Barnahus in Slovenia.

As a first step, the Roadmap aims to support the efficient implementation of *National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia*, hereinafter referred to as the "National Guidelines". It equally contains recommendations for more far-reaching measures for future action for the prevention and protection of children against sexual and other forms of violence. In doing so, the Roadmap sets out a time-bound plan, including short-, mid- and long-term recommendations to address gaps and establish the necessary foundations in policy, procedure and law for the successful operation of Barnahus in Slovenia.

As confirmed during consultations with key stakeholders and review of the National Guidelines⁴, a sufficient legal and policy environment is in place to set up Barnahus in Slovenia. However, gaps still remain in terms of enabling the Barnahus to operate in a sustainable manner and according to the key criteria of Barnahus and Barnahus Quality Standards, presented in Section I. Legal and policy gaps were identified in particular in the areas of forensic interviews, medical examination and therapy. An explanatory memorandum attached to the National Guidelines explores the legal and policy base in more detail.

The overall purpose of the Roadmap is to propose action that supports progress towards the objective of establishing and operating a Barnahus in Slovenia that practises according to the key criteria of Barnahus and the Barnahus Quality Standards. Section one of the Roadmap reviews these criteria and standards defining the organisational and operational framework for Barnahus in Slovenia. Section two sets out key recommendations for future action in the area of law, policy and procedures, awareness and competence, venue and equipment, as well as budget and allocation of financial resources. Annex 1 summarises the recommended measures and action in a time-bound Gantt chart. Annex 2 gives an overview of the legal obligations of the Government of Slovenia under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Lanzarote Convention and the EU Directives on Child Sexual Abuse (2011/92/EU) and on

¹ Government of Slovenia, Decision No. 70000-2/2017/3 (8 June 2017).

² The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse was ratified by Slovenia in 2013 and entered into force in Slovenia in 2014.

³ The Interdisciplinary Working Party established in June 2017 includes representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Health, Association of Centres for Social Work, Ombudsman, General Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Counselling Centre for children, teenagers and parents in Ljubljana, SOS telephone (non-governmental organisation that works to combat violence against children and women).

⁴ Between April and August 2018, the research and consultation included: Review of the preparatory research and dialogue in the Slovenian Interdisciplinary Working Party; Desk and field research on international and national legal and policy frameworks that enable or hinder the set-up and operation of Barnahus in Slovenia carried out by the Interdisciplinary Working Party, a national researcher (Ms Maja Zadel) and an international researcher (Ms Olivia Lind Haldorsson); Expertise of international experts associated with Barnahus in Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands; extensive review of drafts of the Guidelines and its explanatory memorandum by members of the Interdisciplinary Working Party, the Supreme Court and the legal department of the Ministry of Justice.

Victims' Rights (2012/29/EU) as relevant to the operational and organisational framework proposed for the first Barnahus in Slovenia.

The Roadmap, the National Guidelines and their explanatory memorandum were developed in the framework of the joint project of the European Union Structural Reform Support Services and the Council of Europe "Barnahus/Children's House" implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia in 2018. The project contributed towards improving the quality and effectiveness of the justice system to support institutional and administrative reforms for responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse in Slovenia.

Section I

Organisational and Operational Framework for the Barnahus Model in Slovenia

1.1. The Barnahus Model

Barnahus (Icelandic for "a house for children") is a leading model in Europe for child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response to child victims and witnesses of violence.

The Barnahus offers a one-stop-shop approach in one child-friendly premise, which hosts an interagency team of relevant authorities and agencies such as police, social services, child protection, physical and mental health services and prosecutor. The core purpose of Barnahus is to avoid repeated interviews with the child by many agencies in different locations by ensuring collaboration between relevant judicial, social and medical actors in one child-friendly premise.

Key common criteria of Barnahus⁵

- (1) Forensic interviews are carried out according to an evidence-based protocol;
- (2) The evidentiary validity of the child's statement is ensured by appropriate arrangements in line with the principles of "due process";
- (3) Medical evaluation for forensic investigative purposes, as well as to ensure the child's physical well-being and recovery, is available;
- (4) Psychological support and short- and long-term therapeutic services for trauma to the child and non-offending family members and caretakers are available;
- (5) Assessment of the protection needs of the victim and potential siblings in the family is made.

1.2. The National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia

The National Guidelines propose a Barnahus model, which promotes the coordination and teamwork that is required to ensure a timely, comprehensive, coordinated and child-friendly State response to child sexual abuse in Slovenia. The National Guidelines set out a framework for the organisation and operational procedures of Barnahus and define:

- Barnahus implementing partners;
- Content and purpose of the guidelines;
- Purpose and objectives of Barnahus;

⁵ The PROMISE Vision, The Child at the Centre: Implementing Barnahus Quality Standards in Europe, <http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/vision/>

- Target group of Barnahus;
- Organisation of Barnahus, including structure, tasks and responsibilities of the permanent Barnahus staff as well as Barnahus Steering and Working Groups;
- Tasks and commitments of the implementing parties;
- Forensic interview process of suspected child victims or sexual abuse;
- Finance, budget and cost sharing of Barnahus;
- Venue of the Barnahus;
- Documentation management, data protection and privacy;
- Competence, training, supervision;
- Evaluation.

In doing so, the National Guidelines draw on Slovenia's international and European legal obligations, key criteria of the Barnahus Model and the *Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*⁶, discussed below and summarised in Annex 2.

1.3 Legal Framework

The National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia are based on Slovenia's obligations set out in European and international law, including notably the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, also known as the Lanzarote Convention, as well as the EU Directives 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on Combating the child sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (2011/93/EU) and Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (2012/29/EU). The table in Annex 2 illustrates the relationship between legal provisions in these instruments and the different elements of the organisational and operational framework proposed for establishing and operating the first Barnahus in Slovenia. These instruments also serve as a basis for the recommendations made in this Roadmap.

Where relevant, Section II includes also selected references to general recommendations adopted by the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention, also known as the Lanzarote Committee, during the 1st monitoring round dedicated to the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust (2014-2017). As a result of the monitoring round, the Committee adopted two implementation reports for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the circle of trust.⁷ In its first implementation report on the framework (2015), the Committee referred to the Icelandic Barnahus model as an example of a promising practice. The first report focused on substantive criminal law, collection of data and the best interest of the child in criminal proceedings. The second report on the strategies (2018) examined structures, measures and processes in place to prevent and protect children from sexual abuse in the circle of trust. Even though Slovenia did not participate in the 1st monitoring round, the general recommendations adopted by the Lanzarote

⁶ Lind Haldorsson, Olivia, *Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence*, Council of the Baltic Sea States and Child Circle (2017).

⁷ For the full text of the Lanzarote Committee implementation reports, please see: Lanzarote Committee, Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, 1st implementation report on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, the Framework, adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 4 December 2015, <https://rm.coe.int/1st-implementation-report-protection-of-children-against-sexual-abuse-/16808ae53f> ; and 2nd implementation report on the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust, the Strategies, adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 31 January 2018, <https://rm.coe.int/2nd-implementation-report-protection-of-children-against-sexual-abuse-/16808d9c85> .

Committee provide essential guidance to ensure the Convention’s effective implementation in Slovenia.

1.4 The Barnahus Quality Standards

The Barnahus Quality Standards embody a framework for the organisation and practice of Barnahus in the form of a series of quality goals based on good practice across Europe. They draw on key international and European legal framework discussed above. The key purpose of the standards is to provide guidance for a common operational and organisational framework that promotes practice which prevents re-traumatisation, while securing valid testimonies for Court, and complies with children’s rights to protection, assistance and child-friendly justice.

The standards are a collection of cross-cutting principles and activities, core functions and institutional arrangements that enable child-friendly, effective and coordinated interventions, summarised in table 1 below. In most cases, standards consist of several related elements of the overall standard. For example, standard 3 includes two elements: “an inclusive and broad definition of the target group” and “non-discrimination”.

Table 1. The Barnahus Quality Standards

Standard 1.1 Best interest of the child	The best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions and decisions concerning the child and the non-offending family/caregivers/support persons.
Standard 1.2 Child participation	Children’s rights to express their views and to receive information are respected and fulfilled. Children and family/care-givers receive adequate information regarding available and necessary treatment and can influence the timing, location and set-up of interventions.
Standard 1.3 Preventing undue delay	Measures are taken to avoid undue delay, ensuring that forensic interviews, child protection assessments and mental health and medical examinations take place within a stipulated time period and that children benefit from timely information.
Standard 2 Multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Formal status: Barnahus is formally embedded in the national or local social or child protection services, law enforcement/judicial system or national health system. Barnahus can operate as an independent service if it enjoys a statutory role, recognised by the national or local authorities. •Structured and transparent MDIA collaboration: There are clearly established roles, mandates, coordination mechanisms, budget, measures for monitoring and evaluation. MDIA collaboration begins at the initial report of suspected child abuse and continues throughout the case management.
Standard 3 Non-discrimination	The target group includes all children who are victims and/or witnesses of crime involving all forms of violence. Non-offending family/care-givers are included as a secondary target group.
Standard 4 Child-friendly environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Place and accessibility: The Barnahus premises are preferably situated in a detached building located in an environment familiar to children and accessible by public transport and for children with special needs. •Interior environment: Furnishing and material are child and family-friendly and age-appropriate. The premises are physically safe for children at all ages and developmental stages. Separate, soundproof and private areas are available. •Preventing contact with the suspected perpetrator: The premises are set up so that contact between victim and alleged offender is avoided at all times. •Interview room: Live observation of interviews is made possible for the interagency team in a room other than the interview room.

<p>Standard 5 Interagency planning and case management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Formal procedures and regular routines: Interagency case review and planning is formalised by mutually agreed upon procedures and routines which are evaluated on a regular basis. Continuous documentation and access to relevant case information to the interagency team members is ensured. •Support person: A designated, trained individual/member of the Barnahus team monitors the MDIA response to ensure continuous support and follow-up with the child and non-offending family/care-givers.
<p>Standard 6 Forensic interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence-based practice and protocols by specialised staff: Forensic interviews are carried out by specialised staff according to evidence-based practice and protocols to ensure the quality and quantity of the evidence. •Location and recording: Forensic interviews are conducted in the Barnahus premises. Interviews are audio-visually recorded in order to avoid repeated interviewing. •MDIA presence: The forensic interview is carried out by a single professional. All relevant members of the MDIA team are able to observe the forensic interview; either live in an adjacent room, or recorded. There is a system of interaction between the interviewer and the observers. •Adapted to child: The interview is adapted to the child's age, development and cultural background and takes into account special needs. The number of interviews is limited to the minimum necessary for the criminal investigation. The same professional conducts the interview if multiple interviews are necessary.
<p>Standard 7 Medical evaluation and treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluation and treatment: Medical evaluations and/or forensic medical evaluations are routinely carried out by specialised staff in the Barnahus premises, unless hospital setting is required in special cases. •Case review and planning: Medical staff is present in case review and planning meetings as appropriate.
<p>Standard 8 Mental health examination and treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assessment and treatment: Assessment and treatment is routinely made available for child victims and witnesses who are referred to the Barnahus by professionals with specialised training and expertise. •Crisis intervention: There is a clear organisational structure and permanent staff in place to routinely offer crisis support for the child and non-offending family members/care-givers, if needed.
<p>Standard 9 Training, supervision and guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training of professionals: The members of the Barnahus team and involved agencies are provided regular training in their specific areas of expertise and are offered joint training in cross-cutting issues. •Guidance, supervision, counselling: The members of the Barnahus team have access to regular guidance, supervision, counselling and peer review.
<p>Standard 10 Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data collection, information sharing and awareness raising: Aggregated and disaggregated data/statistics are collected and shared with relevant stakeholders to create awareness, facilitate research and support evidence-based legislation, policy and procedures. •External competence building: Competence and knowledge are increased among professionals working for and with children through study visits, information meetings, lectures and producing written material.

Section II

Findings and recommendations for measures and future action

2.1 Law

Currently no specific legal basis exists for Barnahus in Slovenia. It should be noted that many other European countries, such as Iceland and Sweden, have implemented the Barnahus model without establishing formal regulations and laws, whereas others, such as Denmark, have adopted a law making it mandatory to set up and use Barnahus on a national level before its establishment.⁸

Review of existing legal provisions in Slovenia revealed areas where there is either a lack of a legal basis or lack of provisions that could be interpreted as restrictions to operate the Barnahus in line with the key criteria for Barnahus and the Barnahus Quality Standards. In some areas, further research is needed to establish the relevant domestic legal basis and/or explore potential needs for law reform.

It is therefore recommended that there is further analysis of the impact of the national legal framework on the practical operation of Barnahus against the Barnahus criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards. Key focus areas for further review are listed below under *Specific recommendations*. Focus should be on identifying potential law reform that enables effective Barnahus operation, interagency collaboration and exchange of information and more broadly to fulfil international and European legal obligations on child victims' procedural rights and right to assistance and support. This may include proposing specific Barnahus legislation. The current priority to revise the Criminal Procedure Act⁹ may also provide important opportunities, in particular in relation to the procedures for forensic interviews (see below).

Action & Deliverables

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Carry out legal analysis to inform law reform as per specific recommendations	September 2018-January 2019	Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	MoJ Interagency Working Party (IWP) Legal experts

Specific recommendations

❖ Forensic Interviews

The Barnahus' key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards include far-reaching and detailed provisions to regulate forensic interviews with children in Barnahus. These are in line with the general recommendations adopted by the Lanzarote Committee for ensuring the best interest of the child in investigations and criminal proceedings as well as a protective approach towards child victims of sexual abuse.¹⁰

The National Guidelines include a number of provisions that are coherent with the good practice set out in the Barnahus criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards, including for example that the forensic interview is carried out by one trained professional, that evidence based protocols are used, that interviews are recorded and that the interview is adapted to the child.

⁸ Ibid footnote 6, p. 46.

⁹ Criminal Procedure Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS] No 32/12).

¹⁰ Ibid, footnote 7. See in particular recommendations 26, 38, 39, 41 and 44 of the 1st implementation report (2015).

However, during legal review it was noted that there is no clear legal basis for allowing the members of the multidisciplinary team in Barnahus to observe the interview. This requires further analysis and clarification to ensure a set-up that is consistent with the Barnahus key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards.

Excluding members, including the service coordinator, therapists, medical staff and social workers, from watching the interview contradicts the important principle of Barnahus to prevent (re)-traumatisation caused by multiple interviews. It can potentially also undermine the multidisciplinary collaboration and response since it prevents the members from drawing up a comprehensive and multidisciplinary plan for the child on the basis of the information that was accessed during the interview. It can also prevent the individual members of the team from carrying out appropriate and well-informed child protection assessment or therapy.

It is therefore highly recommended that the presence in the observation room during forensic interviews is addressed in the context of the forthcoming review of the Criminal Procedure Act. The review of the act should be fully informed by the National Guidelines, the Barnahus criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards relating to forensic interviews, including the roles and responsibilities of the respective agencies present in Barnahus.

❖ Data Protection

Coordination and collaboration of different actors in investigation and criminal proceedings is repeatedly encouraged by the Lanzarote Committee in its recommendations.¹¹ A key role of the Barnahus is to ensure that there is a child-friendly, multidisciplinary, effective, timely response to each child. This includes convening an inter-agency meeting to discuss specific cases, prepare for the interview and to follow up interviews by developing a comprehensive interagency plan for the individual child. There is currently no clear-cut legal basis for Barnahus to play a convening role with all professionals involved.

Interagency information sharing, documentation and information management is shaped by and to a certain extent constrained by Slovenian law. Personal data may be processed exceptionally in the public sector when necessary for the exercise of the legal powers, duties or obligations of the public sector, provided that such processing does not interfere with the legitimate interest of the individual to whom personal data relate.¹²

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act may provide a legal basis for exchange of information in cases of domestic sexual violence. It is recommended that legal analysis determines to which extent this legal basis is applicable to the work in Barnahus and whether there is a need to establish a separate legal basis for sexual violence not falling under this act. The review of the Criminal Procedure Act may also provide opportunities to enable exchange of information between agencies in Barnahus in the context of forensic interviews. It may also be relevant to explore whether a national data protection protocol, such as the one that was developed in the Netherlands enabling exchange of information in Barnahus, is a suitable solution in Slovenia.¹³

¹¹ Ibid footnote 7. See in particular recommendation 24 of the 1st implementation report (2015).

¹² Personal Data Protection Act in Article 9 states:

1) Personal data in the public sector may be processed if the processing of personal data and personal data being processed is determined by law. The law may stipulate that certain personal data are processed solely on the basis of the personal consent of the individual.

4) Notwithstanding the first paragraph of this article, personal data may be processed exceptionally in the public sector which are necessary for the exercise of the legal powers, duties or obligations of the public sector, provided that such processing does not interfere with the legitimate interest of the individual to whom personal data relate.

¹³ Ibid footnote 6, pp. 71-72.

The Lanzarote Committee invites Parties to establish a comprehensive system for reporting of cases and allow for sharing of personal data, as appropriate, while stressing the importance of preventing the child victim's rights relating to privacy from being violated.¹⁴ The Barnahus Quality Standards envisage a role for Barnahus to collect and store data of cases, for the purposes of informing research, policy and law development. The Barnahus can also be tasked with taking minutes from interagency meetings and to store case specific data. There is currently no clear legal basis for a potential Barnahus in Slovenia to take on either of these roles.

It is recommended that legal experts explore whether it is necessary to establish a specific legal basis for Barnahus to carry out these roles or whether one of the implementing agencies can take on this role. In terms of exchange of information and storing of data, it is proposed that legal experts examine how the impact of the Personal Data Protection Act, and in particular how Article 9 can be applied in the context of information exchange in Barnahus. It will also be necessary to look at the implications of the EU General Data Protection Rights Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force in May 2018.

❖ Training & certification

The Barnahus' key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards place high demands on training and certification to ensure highly qualified interventions. Specialised training and ensuring allocation of adequate financial resources for it is also strongly recommended by the Lanzarote Committee.¹⁵

The consultations with professionals in Slovenia revealed that there is a great need for training of staff across disciplines in Slovenia. However, the research and consultation concluded that there isn't a clear-cut legal basis applicable to training and certification of Barnahus staff. It is therefore recommended that legal experts examine potential applicability of existing law, for example of current training requirements as set out in, for example, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and/or whether law reform is required. The certification of forensic interviewers and medical forensic doctors should be given special attention. The legal review in the context of implementing the EU Victims' Rights Directive also provides opportunities to strengthen the legal basis for training of professionals.

❖ Health and mental health services

The Barnahus' key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards envisage a multidisciplinary team comprising medical and mental health services, including forensic medical examinations, in the Barnahus premises.

In order to ensure that Barnahus in Slovenia can practise according to the Barnahus criteria and Barnahus Quality Standards it is recommended that legal experts explore whether the current legal basis can be applied or new law is required allowing both medical examination and treatment, including forensic medical examination, in Barnahus in Slovenia.¹⁶ It is of particular interest to explore the idea that a team of forensic medical doctors, specifically trained and certified in child-friendly forensic medical examinations, would be set up in Slovenia. These doctors would be called in to Barnahus to perform forensic medical examinations according to national accredited rules and

¹⁴ Ibid footnote 7. See notably recommendations 18 and 49 of the 1st implementation report (2015).

¹⁵ Ibid footnote 7. See notably recommendations 14 and 15 of the 2nd implementation report (2018).

¹⁶ It should be underlined that the desk research and consultations feeding into the formulation of the National Guidelines did not provide an in-depth analysis of the legal and policy basis for medical examination and treatment and therapeutic interventions in Barnahus. Even though during consultations there was a consensus that both medical and therapeutic interventions are possible in Barnahus without legal reform, the legal review later concluded that there was no specific legal basis for medical examination and treatment in Barnahus (Field Research meetings organised in the premises of the MoJ in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Therapeutic assistance (16 May 2018), Medical examination (17 May 2018) and De-briefing and initial validation workshop of the field research (18 May)).

procedures. The analysis should, for example look at potential restrictions in carrying out medical examinations, including forensic medical examinations, at a location other than in a hospital/clinic.

It is also recommended that review examines the potential role of Barnahus in the context of carrying out therapy, including issues surrounding the competence of staff and the location in which the therapy is carried out. In the long-term, it should also be explored if there could be a mandate and adequate resources to ensure that staff from the Barnahus can carry out mid- to long-term therapy either in Barnahus or in a location close to the child’s place of residence, should no specialised competence exist locally.

2.2 Policy and Procedures

2.2.1 Formal Interagency Agreements and Protocols

The Barnahus key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards promote effective, timely, highly competent and well managed interagency collaboration in Barnahus.

Experience in Barnahus across Europe show that the interagency collaboration is made in a more effective and timely manner if it is structured with the help of policies, tools, procedures and checklists. It is therefore recommended that a series of documents, described in further detail below are developed to support the daily work of a potential Barnahus.

The National Guidelines include several paragraphs that seek to ensure that multidisciplinary services for child victims of violence are coherent with the Barnahus key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards on effective interagency collaboration.

Action & Deliverables

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Establish which evidence-based protocol(s) for interviews will be used	January-June 2019	MoJ	MoJ IWP International experts
Develop tools, procedures and checklists to facilitate interagency cooperation, case management, including consideration of the best interests of child participation and child safeguarding (for details, please see recommendations below)	April 2019 – June 2020	MoJ	MoJ IWP International experts

Specific recommendations

❖ Best interests of the child

In order to ensure that the best interests of the child constitute a primary consideration in each individual case throughout the process in Barnahus, it is recommended to develop a clear procedure and checklist for engaging the multidisciplinary and interagency team in assessing and determining the best interests of the individual child throughout the process in Barnahus. Staff should receive training on how to apply procedures and checklists. The procedure should draw on potential existing Slovenian procedures and the CRC General comment No. 14¹⁷.

¹⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), General comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1), 29 May 2013, CRC /C/GC/14, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html>

❖ Child Participation

The Lanzarote Committee that considers “that information and advice should be provided to child victims in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand and which is gender and cultural sensitive.”¹⁸ It is thus recommended that clear procedures for ensuring regular and child-friendly information are developed before the start of the Barnahus to enable children to exercise their right to participation and to be heard. Staff should receive training in applying the procedure and on how to communicate, listen and share information with children, adapted to their age and development. Child-friendly information about the Barnahus should be developed, for example, in the form of a leaflet, audio and/or online materials.

❖ Safeguarding children

In line with the recommendations of the Lanzarote Committee¹⁹, it is strongly recommended that a mandatory safeguarding children policy and procedure, including a reporting mechanism, a code of conduct and a system for vetting staff is developed before the start of the Barnahus. Staff should receive training and sign a written commitment to the policy and procedure before practising in Barnahus. It is furthermore recommended that the Barnahus appoints a child safeguarding coordinator who oversees the implementation of the policy, receives and addresses potential reports and builds competence with colleagues in Barnahus.

❖ Undue Delay

It is strongly recommended that a tool/mechanism to monitor and evaluate delay in Barnahus is developed before the start of Barnahus. The findings should feed into reform of procedures and interagency case management to reduce delay as much as possible. The monitoring and evaluation tool can for example include the following indicators:

- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and the initiation of the child protection assessment;
- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and the first interagency planning meeting;
- Time passed between the interagency planning meeting and the forensic interview;
- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and forensic interview;
- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and mental health assessment;
- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and medical examination;
- Time passed between disclosure or reported suspicion and medical/mental health intervention for the child and the non-offending family/care-givers/support persons;
- Time passed between initiation of the preliminary criminal investigation and the decision to prosecute;
- Time passed between initiation of the preliminary criminal investigation and trial.

❖ Information sharing and case management protocol

(also see long-term recommendation on Barnahus law below)

It is highly recommended to develop a protocol that enables agencies that collaborate in Barnahus to exchange information in the best interests of the child. Interagency information exchange and joint case management are often shaped by restrictions in national law and professional codes (data protection, confidentiality). This may hinder effective case management and crucial exchange of information in the best interests of the child in Slovenia. In some countries there is law that enables Barnahus to share some case specific information. In the Netherlands, where such law does not exist,

¹⁸ Ibid, footnote 7, recommendation 23 of the 1st implementation report (2015).

¹⁹ Ibid, footnote 7, notably recommendations 19, 20 and 21 of the 2nd implementation report (2018).

steps have been taken to develop a protocol which enables the collaborating agencies to share information.²⁰

❖ Template Agenda for Interagency meetings

It is recommended that a standing agenda is developed for interagency meetings. Having a clear and structured agenda for interagency meetings helps making meetings shorter and more effective, while preventing important issues to fall off the agenda. It also helps prevent that one single issue or sector dominates the agenda and discussions.²¹

❖ Procedure for staff reviews, guidance, supervision, counselling and disciplinary action

In order to ensure high professional conduct, high quality interventions and to protect staff from burn-out, it is recommended to develop a clear framework and procedure for ensuring regular guidance, supervision, counselling, staff review and disciplinary action.

❖ Building Specifications

The requirements of the interior and exterior environment in Barnahus extend beyond child-friendliness and accessibility for all children. Safety, including for example fire safety and protection from contact with the perpetrator, are central to the lay-out and structure of the building. It is therefore recommended that specific building specifications are developed based on the experience of Barnahus. The building specifications should preferably be developed ahead of the establishment of a Barnahus in Slovenia but can also be developed at a later stage as a result of a first evaluation of a potential Barnahus venue.

2.2.2 Target Group

Determining the scope of the target group is an important policy decision.

The National Guidelines currently include only victims and witnesses of sexual violence as the primary Barnahus target group. International experts from Barnahus in Iceland, Norway and Sweden have confirmed that it is helpful to take a step-by-step approach in fulfilling this standard in Slovenia, if resources are limited so that the Barnahus can pursue a stable development towards a broader target group. This approach has been implemented by other Barnahus in Europe, including for example Barnahus Iceland.

The Barnahus Quality Standard³²² promotes an inclusive and broad target group, which includes all children who are victims and/or witnesses of crime involving all forms of violence. In the longer term, it may be envisaged that the target group could be expanded to children of 0-18 years, who are suspected victims and/or witnesses of all forms of violence that constitute criminal offences according to the Criminal Code, with a view to adopt Barnahus Quality Standard 3.

The target group may also expand to include children under the age of criminal responsibility who are suspected perpetrators of all forms of violence set out in the Criminal Code. Including young suspects is a growing practice in Barnahus, which ensures that suspected or accused children are heard in a

²⁰ Examples of both law and the Dutch protocol can be found in Lind Haldorsson, Olivia, Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for multidisciplinary and interagency response to child victims and witnesses of violence (2017) in the chapter on standard 5. Ibid footnote 6.

²¹ An example of a standing agenda can be found in Lind Haldorsson, Olivia, Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for multidisciplinary and interagency response to child victims and witnesses of violence (2017) in the chapter on standard 5. Ibid footnote 6.

²² "3.1 The Barnahus target group includes all children who are victims and/or witnesses of crime involving all forms of violence. [...] 3.2 Special effort is made to reach all child victims and witnesses regardless of form of violence." (Lind Haldorsson, Olivia, Barnahus Quality Standards: Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence (2017)).

child-friendly manner and offered adequate assistance according to their individual and developmental needs. The Barnahus can potentially play a role in implementing obligations under the EU Directive on children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings²³, which obliges Member States to adopt procedural safeguards to protect children in criminal proceedings. This includes interventions by trained professionals, protecting the best interests of the child, an individual assessment, a medical examination, right to information and preventing undue delay. It is also in line with international guidance, including Guidelines of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice²⁴. It is also coherent with the Act Amending the Police Tasks and Powers Article 18, paragraph 2, which states: “in procedures involving children and minors, police officers must take into account their age, physical and mental development, sensitivity and possible other characteristics that can be observed.”²⁵

It is recommended that ongoing evaluation of the scope of the target group is carried out and that a plan is developed to take a realistic step-by-step approach towards expanding the target group of Barnahus in Slovenia.

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Explore expansion of target group	2021	MoJ	MoJ IWP

2.3 Awareness and Competence

2.3.1 Sensitisation and awareness-raising with the public and professionals

Sensitisation and awareness-raising is a crucial precondition for recognising and taking action to prevent and address violence against children. Research also shows that it can increase willingness to support and work in a coordinated and effective manner, including through the Barnahus model.²⁶ In the context of child sexual abuse in the circle of trust, the Lanzarote Committee underlined the importance of informing the public, targeting children and the implementation of continuous and systematic actions.²⁷

It is therefore recommended that there are regular public awareness raising campaigns, for example on the prevalence and impact of violence, and on how to react to suspicion of violence to enable the public and professionals to detect and report violence.

Experience shows that the opening of a Barnahus can encourage increased reporting and generate an increased number of cases subject to criminal investigation and trial. It can also provide further opportunities to build awareness and support among the general population and professionals and help break the silence around sexual violence against children.

²³ Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/800/oj>

²⁴ Guidelines of the Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice, adopted on 17th November 2010, <https://rm.coe.int/16804b2cf3>

²⁵ Act Amending the Police Tasks and Powers (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 10/17, 18.3).

²⁶ Wenke, Daja and Heiberg, Turid, Enabling Child-Sensitive Justice: The Success Story of the Barnahus Model and its Expansion in Europe, PROMISE Project Series, Council of the Baltic sea States (2017), p. 10 www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise

²⁷ Ibid footnote 7. See notably recommendations 6-9 and 18 of the 2nd implementation report (2018).

The National Guidelines envisage a role for a potential Barnahus in Slovenia to act as a competence centre responsible for continuous awareness-raising and competence building of professionals who are in regular contact with children in their work (Paragraph 11.4).

Action & Deliverables

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Regular public awareness campaigns to enable public and professionals to detect and report violence against children	Regular	MoJ	MoJ Outsourced
Public awareness-raising on the role of a Barnahus, for example through information video	April 2019 – September 2020, then periodic	MoJ	MoJ Outsourced

2.3.2 Awareness-raising about Barnahus in implementing partner organisations

The establishment of a potential Barnahus in Slovenia would introduce a substantial change in the way professionals work together in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, including the process through which the child is heard and the way agencies work together.

In order to facilitate the process towards establishing Barnahus in Slovenia, it is recommended that relevant staff within the social work system, the police, the judicial system, and the health system, including mental health, are sensitised at an early stage about the Barnahus criteria, the Barnahus Quality standards and the implications an introduction of the Barnahus model would have on their work.

This demands a comprehensive and targeted action to equip, mandate and commit staff in each of these systems about their role, responsibility, the new procedures and the interagency work in Barnahus.

Action & Deliverables

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Production and dissemination of official communication about the Barnahus and other relevant information material	January 2019 – March 2020	MoJ	MoJ Implementing parties
Interagency Information meetings for relevant staff	January 2019 - December 2021	MoJ	MoJ Implementing parties

2.3.3 Training and certification of Barnahus staff

The Barnahus' key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards place extensive demands on interventions of highly competent and specifically trained staff. Training and certification should therefore constitute key requirements for a potential Barnahus in Slovenia.

It is strongly recommended that a procedure and criteria for certification of forensic interviewers, therapists and forensic medical doctors is put in place so that relevant staff are certified by authorities before operating in a Barnahus. Vetting, training and personal skills are essential components in certification.

Training requirements that are applicable to Barnahus in Slovenia are set out in numerous paragraphs in the National Guidelines and involve a broad set of competences, including under Article 5, 6, 7 and

11. The National Guidelines furthermore recommend that forensic interviewers are certified to carry out their work, which is also compliant with the Barnahus criteria and Barnahus Quality Standards.

Action & Deliverables

Recommended Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Develop, resource and implement plan for essential training of Barnahus staff that needs to take place before the opening of Barnahus, including on forensic interviews, crisis support, therapy, interagency collaboration and case management, best interests of the child, child participation, child safeguarding, data protection and confidentiality, including storage of data, technical operation and maintenance of devices for transmission and recording of forensic interviews	January 2019 – March 2020	MoJ	MoJ IWP Implementing parties International experts
Carry out 3-day interagency training on collaboration in Barnahus with staff from all agencies involved	October 2019 – March 2020	MoJ	MoJ IWP Implementing parties International experts
Study visits of relevant staff from the agencies involved in Barnahus	April–September 2019	MoJ	MoJ IWP International experts
Develop and resource plan for ongoing training of Barnahus staff	July 2019– March 2020	MoJ	MoJ IWP Implementing Parties International experts
Put in place certification procedure(s) and criteria for forensic interviewers, therapists and medical forensic doctors	January - June 2020	MoJ Ministry of Health (MoH)	MoJ & IWP (Forensic Interviewers) MoH (Forensic medical doctors)

2.4 Venue & equipment

2.4.1 Acquisition and refurbishing of house

Paragraph 9 of the National Guidelines sets out key requirements for the venue in terms of location, exterior and interior environment. These provisions should inform the choice and refurbishment of the venue. Acquisition of a venue for the Barnahus should be done well in time before the opening of Barnahus in order to allow for necessary refurbishment and instalment of equipment.

Action & Deliverables

Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Exploring purchasing of a building	August 2018– March 2019	MoJ	MoJ
Exploring available options according to provisions in National Guidelines – Decision on the house	June 2018–March 2019	MoJ	MoJ+IWP
Refurbishment of the house according to provisions in National Guidelines and instalment of equipment	January – September 2020	MoJ	Outsourced

2.4.2 Furniture, material, consumables

Article 9 of the National Guidelines sets out key requirements for the interior environment of the venue. These provisions should inform the choice of furniture, equipment, material as well as how the venue is refurbished.

Action & Deliverables

Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Developing list of necessary furniture and equipment	June 2018-September 2019	MoJ	MoJ IWP
Exploring donations	June 2018 – September 2020	MoJ	MoJ IWG
Purchase and instalment of furniture and equipment	October 2019 – September 2020	MoJ	Outsourced

2.4.3 Consultation with children and their families on Barnahus environment

The National Guidelines place emphasis on children’s right to participation (paragraph 3.4.2), including hearing their views on the Barnahus premises (paragraph 9.2.7). Experience in other countries show that children’s views can provide invaluable insights on the environment, process, and interventions in Barnahus, ensuring that the Barnahus operates and is set up in a way that is child-friendly and appropriate to children’s needs.

Action & Deliverables

Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Consultation with children on the environment, process, and interventions in Barnahus	October 2019-March 2020, then regularly	MoJ	Barnahus
Reform of procedures and environment to the greatest extent possible on the basis of children’s and their parents’/caregivers’ views	July-September 2020	MoJ	Barnahus MoJ Implementing parties International experts

Specific recommendations

❖ Before opening of Barnahus: Consultation with children

It is recommended that a group of children of different ages and their parents/caregivers are invited to express their views on the accessibility, process, environment, furniture and material in Barnahus before the Barnahus opens, so that the house and its contents fully meet the requirements of children at different ages.

❖ Mid- to long-term: Ongoing consultation with children

Once the Barnahus opens, it is recommended that children who visit the Barnahus are given opportunities to provide feedback on their experience at Barnahus for reform purposes. The consultations should be voluntary, child-friendly and in the best interests of the child.

2.5 Budget and allocation of financial resources

Adequate resources and well-established responsibilities in terms of allocating funds is a prerequisite for the establishment and successful operation of Barnahus.

The National Guidelines set out the key principles for the allocation of financial resources, based on the main principle that the Barnahus should be financed through Government funds, with potential co-financing from private, corporate and international donors.

The principles for resource allocation and budgeting set out in the National Guidelines are applicable to the establishment and operation of Barnahus according to key criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards.

Action & Deliverables

Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Budget decision and allocation of funds	Annual	MoJ	MoJ
Exploring funding opportunities from international donors	Annual	MoJ	MoJ
Exploring donations of further funds and/or furniture, material, consumables	Annual	MoJ	MoJ

2.6 Evaluation

The National Guidelines envisage an external evaluation of the Barnahus after two years of operation. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation should form the basis for potential reform or development of the guidance, protocols, procedures and law and inform a plan for introducing and expanding a model which is coherent with the Barnahus criteria and Barnahus Quality Standards in Slovenia.

This will provide an important opportunity to make the guidelines coherent with the Barnahus criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards, which can then serve as an organisational and operational framework for a Slovenian Barnahus.

Action & Deliverables

Action/Deliverable	Time	Lead	People
Development of evaluation tool, drawing on the guidance, international law and guidance and the European Barnahus Quality Standards	January-March 2021	MoJ Steering Group	External evaluator
External evaluation of Barnahus including short-, medium- and long-term recommendations for potential reform	April – September 2021	MoJ Steering Group	External evaluator
Conclusions and recommendations regarding further establishment of Barnahus, including a Roadmap	July-September 2021	MoJ Steering Group	External evaluator

Specific recommendations: Developing a research/evaluation framework

It is recommended that the evaluation framework takes into account the findings of the recommended legal analysis and that it identifies obstacles and opportunities that prevent or allow effective operation and collaboration in line with the Barnahus criteria and Barnahus Quality Standards. Some of the key issues that need to be analysed include, but are not limited to:

- **The National Guidelines:** Did the guidelines include the necessary elements to enable interagency collaboration? Have the guidelines committed the agencies formally to the interagency collaboration? If not, why and what needs to change?
- **Working methods:** What works and what does not work in practice? What are the specific practical challenges that Barnahus staff and their collaborators are confronted with in their daily work? What would the Barnahus need to become more effective?
- **Resources:** Are resources sustainable? Is the budgeting realistic? Is the model cost effective in relation to its impact and in comparison with other solutions to ensure the rights of child victims of violence? Are staff resources and resources for training and competence building adequate?
- **Challenges and opportunities:** Are there barriers, obstacles, gaps or opportunities in law, policy and procedures that have had a substantial impact on the possibility to operate Barnahus in line with the National Guidelines and implementing the Barnahus Quality Standards? Do the National Guidelines, for example in terms of defining the target group, pose important challenges, obstacles or opportunities to the Barnahus?
- **Professional standards:** Have staff been able to practice in line with the National Guidelines and the Barnahus Quality Standards? If not, why?
- **Children and caregivers:** What do children and caregivers think about the Barnahus? What are the short and mid-term outcomes for children who have benefited from the Barnahus?
- **Establishment and Expansion of Barnahus:** How can the findings inform a potential establishment and expansion of Barnahus in Slovenia that practises according to the Barnahus criteria and Barnahus quality standards?

Conclusions and final recommendations

The Roadmap introduces several concrete steps towards **creating an enabling environment for the establishment and operation of Barnahus**. This involves putting in place a firm legal and policy base, ensuring continued political commitment and resources, generating an aware and supportive population and securing a highly competent workforce.

In October 2018, an historic political commitment to establishing Barnahus in Slovenia was signed by all relevant parties involved in the establishment and operation of Barnahus. This represents an important opportunity to realise institutional and administrative reforms to improve the quality and effectiveness of the justice system for child victims of sexual violence.

In order to realise this commitment, it is imperative to embark on the Roadmap without delay and to secure adequate human and financial resources to drive the process forward. **It is recommended that the Ministry of Justice immediately appoints a lead staff member and team with a clear mandate to coordinate the implementation the Roadmap.**

The interagency commitment represents a crucial display of willingness to work together across sectors. **The Ministry of Justice should therefore take immediate steps to set up the Barnahus Steering Group, foreseen in the National Guidelines Article 5.2.** It is recommended that the Interagency Working Party continues its involvement in the process until the Barnahus Steering Group has been set up.

At this historic cross-road, the key foundation for the realisation of the interagency commitment to Barnahus in Slovenia is to put in place a firm legal basis that enables the effective operation of Barnahus. **As a first step, it is therefore recommended that concerted efforts are made to ensure the necessary legal reform.** It is recommended that the legal basis makes the use of Barnahus mandatory in cases of sexual violence against children. The legal reform must specifically address the issues discussed in chapter 2.1, with an emphasis on clear rules for interagency collaboration, including presence and collaboration before, during and after the forensic interview, interagency case management and review, exchange of information in the best interests of the child, recording and storage of the interview and other personal data. The law should also stipulate the maximum delay between initial report and the forensic interview.

Current initiatives for legal reform to improve victims' rights can provide important opportunities, however, the most effective way forward is likely to involve **the adoption of a comprehensive Barnahus law**, which encompasses all the elements discussed above.

Annex 1: Gantt chart of recommendations for measures and proposed action

Action/Deliverable	Who	6/	7/	8/	9/	10/	11/	12/	1/	2/	3/	4/	5/	6/	7/	8/	9/	10/	11/	12/	Q1/	Q2/	Q3/	Q4/	Q1/	Q2/	Q3/	Q4/	
		18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21
VENUE & EQUIPMENT																													
House: Explore purchase of a building																													
House: Exploring available options according to provisions in National Guidelines – Decision on the house																													
House: Refurbishment of the house according to provisions in National Guidelines and instalment of equipment																													
Furniture & Equipment: Developing list of necessary furniture and equipment																													
Furniture & Equipment: Exploring donations																													
Furniture & Equipment: Purchase and instalment of furniture and equipment																													
Consultation: Consultation with children on the environment, process, and interventions in Barnahus																													
Consultation: Reform of procedures and environment to the greatest extent possible on the basis of children's and their parents'/caregivers' views																													

Action/Deliverable	Who	6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/19	7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	Q1/20	Q2/20	Q3/20	Q4/20	Q1/21	Q2/21	Q3/21	Q4/21			
LAW																															
Legal Analysis and Reform: Carry out legal analysis to inform law reform																															
POLICY & PROCEDURES																															
Interview Protocols: Establish evidence-based protocol(s) for interviews																															
Policy & Protocols: Develop tools, procedures and checklist to facilitate interagency cooperation, case management, including consideration of the best interests of child participation and child safeguarding																															
Target Group: Explore Expansion of target group																															
Action/Deliverable	Who	6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/19	7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	Q1/20	Q2/20	Q3/20	Q4/20	Q1/21	Q2/21	Q3/21	Q4/21			

AWARENESS & COMPETENCE																												
CONTINUOUS/REGULAR																												
Public & Professionals: Regular public awareness campaigns to enable public and professionals to detect and report violence against children																												
Public & Professionals: Public awareness-raising on the role of a Barnahus, for example through information video(s)																												
Implementing Partners: Production and dissemination of official communication about the Barnahus and other relevant information material																												
Implementing Partners: Inter-agency information meetings for relevant staff																												
Barnahus Staff: Develop, resource and implement plan for essential training of Barnahus staff that needs to take place before the opening of Barnahus on a wide range of topics																												
Action/Deliverable	Who	6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/19	7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20	03/20	04/20	01/21	02/21	03/21	04/21

AWARENESS & COMPETENCE CONT.																														
<p>Barnahus Staff: Carry out 3-day interagency training on collaboration in Barnahus with staff from all involved agencies</p> <p>Barnahus Staff: Study visits of relevant staff from the agencies involved in Barnahus</p> <p>Barnahus Staff: Develop and resource plan for ongoing training of Barnahus staff</p> <p>Barnahus Staff: Put in place certification procedure(s) and criteria for forensic interviewers, therapists and medical forensic doctors</p>																														
BUDGET & ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES																														
Budget decision and allocation of funds																														
Explore funding opportunities from international donors, including EEA and the EU																														
Explore donations for furniture, material, consumables & other funds																														
Action/Deliverable	Who	6/ 18	7/ 18	8/ 18	9/ 18	10/ 18	11/ 18	12/ 18	1/ 19	2/ 19	3/ 19	4/ 19	5/ 19	6/ 19	7/ 19	8/ 19	9/ 19	10/ 19	11/ 19	12/ 19	Q1/ 20	Q2/ 20	Q3/ 20	Q4/ 20	Q1/ 21	Q2/ 21	Q3/ 21	Q4/ 21		

		IMPLEMENTATION																												
		6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/19	7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	Q1/20	Q2/20	Q3/20	Q4/20	Q1/21	Q2/21	Q3/21	Q4/21		
Official opening of Barnahus																														
Case work																														
Steering Group meetings																														
Working Group meetings																														
Activity and financial reports for Steering Group																														
Data Collection																														
Ongoing training and mentoring																														
Information-sharing, awareness raising and competence building with relevant external actors																														
Ongoing evaluation against Barnahus Quality Standards																														
Transition to independent juridical person																														
Action/Deliverable	Who																													

EVALUATION																		
Development of evaluation tool, drawing on the National Guidelines, international law and the Barnahus Quality Standards																		
External evaluation of Barnahus including short, mid- and longer term recommendations for potential reform																		
Conclusions and recommendations regarding further establishment of Barnahus, including a Roadmap																		

Annex 2: Legal framework

OPERATIONAL/ ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK	RELEVANT LEGAL OBLIGATION	<u>LEGAL INSTRUMENT:</u> (UN CRC, CoE Lanzarote Convention, EU Victims' Rights Directive (2011/92/EU), EU Sexual Abuse Directive(2011/92/EU))
Best interest of the child	Ensuring the best interests is a primary consideration	UN CRC : Article 3 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.3. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 30.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 14, Article 1.2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recitals 2, 6, 30, Article 18.1
Right to be heard and receive information	Taking due account of the views of the child	UN CRC : Article 12.1. UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 14.1, 31.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 14, 42, Articles 1.2, 10.1 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 19.3
	Provision of information	UN CRC : Article 13 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.d) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.1 a, b, 31.2, 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 21, 26, 30, 31, Articles 1.1, 3, 4, 6
	Right to interpretation and translation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 34, 36, Articles 5.2-3, 7.1-7.8
	Possibility to order that the child victim be heard through the use of appropriate communication technologies	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 35.2, 36.2 b EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.3 (a)- (b) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.5 (b)
Preventing undue delay	No unjustified delay between the reporting of the facts and interviews take place	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.g) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 30.3, 35.1.a. EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 20 (a) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (a)
	Individual assessment of each child's circumstances and non-offending family members' needs	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) and c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 14.1, 11 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 22.1
	Provision of information	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.b) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31. 2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 4.1, 6.1
	Provision of assistance and support	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.g) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 14.1 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Articles 18.2-3

Multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration in Barnahus	Multi-disciplinarity/ coordination/cooperation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 10.1, 10.3, 11.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 38, 62, Article 26.1
Target group	Non-discrimination	UN CRC : Article 2 CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 9, 10, 15, 19, 66, Articles 1, 22.3
	Provisions concerning identifying victims, including specific provisions identifying children as a victim of crime, such as age assessment provision, family members	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 3 a, 11.2, 14.4, 34.2, 35.3 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 19, Articles 1, 2.1, 17, 24.2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Articles 18.2-3, 19.5
Child-friendly environment	Interviews take place in premises designed or adapted for this purpose	UN CRC : Article 39 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1.b EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 9.1, 9.3, 18, 22.1, 22.4, 2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (b)
	Right to avoid contact between victim and offender	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 31.1.g, 14.3 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 19.1-2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30
Interagency case management	Ensuring the best interests is a primary consideration	UN CRC : Article 3 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.3. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 30.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 1.2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Articles 18.1
	Individual assessment of each child's circumstances and non-offending family members' needs	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) and c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 14.1, 11 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 9, 55, 56, 58, Articles 22.1-7 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: 19.3
	Multi-disciplinarity/ coordination/ Cooperation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 10.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 62, Article 26.1
Forensic interviews	Provision of information	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.b) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.1 a.b, 31.2, 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 21, 26, 30, 31, Articles 1.1, 3.1-3, 4.1-2, 6

Right to interpretation & translation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 22.1, 22.4
Adapted procedures in investigations and judicial proceedings involving children	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1 a) and c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 30.1-4, 31.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 58, 59, Articles 1.1, 18, 23.1
Interviews take place, where necessary in premises designed or adapted for this purpose	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1 (b) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.2 (a) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (b)
Interviews are carried out by or through professionals trained for this purpose	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1 (c) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.2 (b) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (c)
The same persons, if possible and were appropriate, conduct all interviews with children	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1 (d) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.2 (c) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (d)
Interviews of victims of sexual violence, gender-based violence or violence in close relationships being carried out by persons of the same sex	EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.2 (d)
The number of interviews is as limited as possible and interviews are carried out only where strictly necessary and for the purpose of the investigations and proceedings	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1 (e) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 20 (b) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (e)
All interviews with a child victim or where appropriate a child witness, may be audio-visually recorded and that such recordings may be used as evidence in criminal court proceedings	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 24. 1 (a) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.4
Possibility to order that the child victim be heard through the use of appropriate communication technologies	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 36.2 b EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 58, Article 23.3 (a) (b) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.5 (b)
Right to avoid contact between victim and offender	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 31.1.g, 14.3 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 58, Article 19.1-2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30
Training and tools	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 5.1, 5.2, 34.1, 35.1 (c), 36.1 EU Victim's Rights Directive: Recital 61, 63, Article 25 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30

	Multi-disciplinarity/coordination/cooperation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 10.1. EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 38, 62, Article 26.1
Medical examination	Taking due account of the views of the child	UN CRC : Article 12 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 14.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 1.2, 10.1-2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 19.3
	Provision of information	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.b) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 31.1, 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 1.1, 3, 4, 6
	Right to interpretation & translation	CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 5.2-3, 7.1-7.8
	Provision of assistance and support	UN CRC : Article 39 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.d) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 14.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 38, Articles 8.1-5, 9.1-3, 25.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 31, Article 18.1
	Individual assessment of each child's circumstances and non-offending family members' needs	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) and c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 11, 14.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 9, 55, 56, Article 22.1, 22.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 19.3
	Involvement of trained professionals in psychosocial assessment, forensic interview and physical examinations/ Training and Tools	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 5.1, 5.2, 35.1 (c) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 25.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 36
	Criminal investigation: (Forensic) medical examinations are kept to a minimum	EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 20 (c) (d)
Therapeutic services/mental health	Taking due account of the views of the child	UN CRC : Article 12 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 14.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 1.2, 10.1-2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 19.3
	Provision of information	UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.b) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.1, 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 1.1, 3, 4, 6

	Right to interpretation and translation	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.d) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.6 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 5.2-3; 7.1-7.8</p>
	Provision of assistance and support	<p>UN CRC : Article 39 UN CRC OPSC : Article 9.3. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 11.1, 14.1, 14.4, 30.2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Articles 1.1, 8.1-5, 9, 17, 25.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 31, Articles 18.2-3, 19.1-5</p>
	Individual assessment of each child's circumstances and non-offending family members' needs	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.a) and c) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 14.1, 11 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recitals 9, 55, 56, 56, Article 22.1, 22.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 19.3</p>
	Involvement of trained professionals in psychosocial assessment, forensic interview and physical examinations/ Training and Tools	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 5.1, 5.2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 66, Article 25.4 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30, 36</p>
Capacity building	Interviews are carried out by or through professionals trained for this purpose	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 35.1 (c) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 23.2 (b) EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.3 (c)</p>
	Provision of assistance and support	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 5.1, 5.2 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 66, Articles 8.1-5, 9.1.-3, 25.4</p>
	Involvement of trained professionals in psychosocial assessment, forensic interview and physical examinations/ Training and tools	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 5.1, 5.2, 35.1 (c), 36.1 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 61, 62, 66, Article 25 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30, 36, Article 20.3 (c)</p>
Prevention: Information sharing and external competence building	Necessary measures to protect the privacy, identity and image of child victims and to prevent the public dissemination of any information that could lead to their identification	<p>UN CRC : Article 16 UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.1.e) CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 31.1 (e) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 21.1-2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Article 20.6</p>

Training and tools	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 8.4. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 5.1, 5.2, 35.1 (c), 36.1, 38 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 61, 62, Articles 25, 26.1 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 30, 36, Article 23.1, 23.3</p>
Data and monitoring	<p>CoE Lanzarote Convention: Article 10.2 (b) EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 62, 64 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 44</p>
Awareness raising	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 9.2. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 5, 6, 8 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Recital 62, Article 26.2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 34, 45, Article 23.1-3</p>
Prevention	<p>UN CRC OPSC : Article 9.1. CoE Lanzarote Convention: Articles 4, 5.3, 7, 15, 16, 17, 38 EU Victims' Rights Directive: Article 26.2 EU Sexual Abuse Directive: Recital 34, 37, 45, Articles 22, 23.1-3</p>

Barnahus (Children's House) is a leading model in Europe for a coordinated child-friendly, interagency and multi-disciplinary state response towards child sexual abuse. The purpose of Barnahus is to coordinate and facilitate parallel criminal and child welfare investigations and to provide support services for child victims and witnesses of sexual abuse.

This publication sets out a time-bound plan and proposes recommendations to address gaps to establish the necessary foundations in policy, procedure and law for the successful operation of Barnahus in line with international standards and best practices.

The Roadmap was developed in the framework of the joint European Union-Council of Europe project "Barnahus/Children's House" (2018) implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in Slovenia.

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PREMS 105218

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

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