

Strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through evidence-based policy making



PROGRAMME

**Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel
Convention Center, Nistru Hall
Chisinau, 18 November 2025**

Organised by the Children's Rights Division
of the Council of Europe, under the auspices
of the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee
of Ministers on the occasion of the Day for
the Protection of Children against Sexual
Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

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Building a Europe
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PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
NOVEMBER 2025 - MAY 2026
PRÉSIDENCE DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
NOVEMBRE 2025 - MAI 2026



18 November 2025	
09.00-09.30	Registration of participants
09.30-10.00	High level opening* - Daniella Misail-Nichitin, Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Moldova - Natalia Plugaru, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova - Marina Morozova, Deputy President of the Parliamentary Commission for Social Protection, Health and Family - Agnes von Maravić, Head of Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe - Falk Lange, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau
10.00-11.00	Evidence-based policy making Questions for discussion: What does “evidence-based policy making” mean? What sort of data is required? How do States do this in practice? Moderator: Elena Botezatu, President International Centre La Strada Moldova - Daniella Misail-Nichitin, Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Moldova - Leah Buck, International Lead, Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Unit, United Kingdom Home Office - Prof. Conny Rijken, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, the Netherlands (online) - Elena Martellozzo, Director of European Hub, and Inga Vermeulen, Research Fellow, Childlight – Global Child Safety Institute Discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-12.30	Harnessing data from Barnahus and other MDIA services to inform policies and practice Questions for discussion: How can data from Barnahus and other MDIA services be used to better understand the nature and phenomenon of child sexual abuse? How is the data gathered by Barnahus/MDIA services transmitted to national authorities? How governments use this data to inform, update, or design national policies and strategies to combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?

**High level opening open to the press*

	Moderator: Mireya García de Murcia, Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat, Council of Europe - Páll Magnússon, Lanzarote Committee representative, Iceland - Katerina Melissari, Coordinator of Child Protection Department, Hope for Children, Cyprus - Vasile Cușca, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova - Daniela Sîmboteanu, Centrul Național de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii, CNPAC, Republic of Moldova Discussion
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.15	Workshop 1: Enriching evidence-based policy making through engagement with children, including victims and survivors. Room: Nistru Ballroom Moderator: Claire Cody, Safer Young Lives Research Centre - Daniela Sîmboteanu, Centrul Național de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii, CNPAC, Republic of Moldova - Sara Platten Bäckström, Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Sweden - Markus Kaakinen, Associate Professor of Criminal Policy (Tenure Track), Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy, University of Helsinki, Finland Discussion Workshop 2: Enhancing data collection and sharing across different agencies and feeding into international data collection efforts. Room: Loft Lounge Moderator: George Nikolaidis, Psychiatrist Researcher, Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Greece - Case – study: A proposal for a data collection mechanism (Republic of Moldova): Irina Urumova and Mariana Ianachevici, independent consultants for the Council of Europe - Manuela Balliet-Ahogo, Deputy Director, Data to Action, Together for Girls Discussion
15.15-15:45	Coffee break

15:45-16:00	Reporting back from breakout sessions Moderator Agnes von Maravić, Head of Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe - Claire Cody, Safer Young Lives Research Centre - George Nikolaidis, Psychiatrist Researcher, Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Greece
16.00-17.00	Transnational sex offenders: strengthening policies to prevent re-offending abroad Moderator: Naomi Trewinnard, Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat, Council of Europe Questions for discussion: How can data on convicted offenders who travel be used to prevent re-offending and protect children? Are current policies and procedures adequate to prevent convicted offenders from travelling to sexually abuse children in other countries? - Sendrine Constant, Director of Programmes, ECPAT International (online) - Mark Beavan, Head Crimes Against Children, INTERPOL (online) - Anton Toni Klančnik, O3 European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3) Specialist in AP Twins, EUROPOL Discussion
17.00-17.30	Closing remarks - Maria José Castello Branco, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee

***At 18:30 participants are invited to a reception dinner at the *Republic of Moldova Palace (16, Maria Cebotari street, Chisinau)*. For access, please remember to bring your nominal conference badge to the venue.**

Reception kindly offered by the Moldovan Authorities and the International Centre La Strada Moldova.