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## Final Conference

“Towards Barnahus Spain Phase II”

European Union - Council of Europe Joint Project

“Strengthening child friendly justice through effective cooperation and coordination among different Barnahus-type services in the regions of Spain”

**25 October 2024**

**10:00 (CET time)**

**Streaming link:**

**<https://youtube.com/live/DjSWAhpe8T4?feature=share>**

**Premises of the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030**

18-20 Paseo del Prado, 28014, Madrid, Spain

“Ernest Lluch” Assembly Room

## Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project [“Strengthening child friendly justice through effective cooperation and coordination among different Barnahus-type services in the regions of Spain”](#) is implemented by the Council of Europe in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Childhood during the period of 06/07/2022-31/10/2024. It is co-financed by the EU Structural Support Reform Programme. Barnahus is a leading European model for a child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The project is divided into two main components:

- Improving the legislative and policy framework to introduce the Barnahus model in Spanish regions;
- Strengthening capacities of relevant professionals.

In November 2023, an assessment of the existing legal and policy framework at national and regional level (“[mapping study](#)”) was published, with the aim to define existing practices and identify current challenges in Spain. As a result, a report containing recommendations on how to introduce the Barnahus model in Spain and its regions was published and disseminated among key stakeholders.

Besides, a [training needs analysis](#) was developed in the three pilot regions (Extremadura, Cantabria and Comunidad Foral de Navarra) to ensure that the capacities of professionals working with and for children can be strengthened in line with the Barnahus model’s standards. A training for 90 frontline professionals working for and with children on “how to manage the suspicion of violence that comes from the testimonies of children” was launched on 17 October. In addition, the HELP course on child-friendly justice has been adapted for justice operators and forensic staff and has trained more than 70 professionals.

The project is currently developing a national and regional Roadmaps to implement Barnahus in Spain and its autonomies and a Communication Guide to enhance communication amongst national and regional authorities regarding the Barnahus model, as well as communication with children, children’s access to child-friendly information, and roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in providing such information. A child consultation process took place in September 2024 with the National Council for Child Participation (CEPIA) to incorporate children’s views into these two key deliverables and an illustrator has drawn a concept map with children’s views. [Child-friendly materials](#) have been designed to this end. Children from the CEPIA will participate in the Conference.

The event will be an excellent opportunity to present these two key deliverables, to celebrate the achievements of the project and to present its concrete results along with the next steps for their implementation, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Childhood, the European Union, Council of Europe, regional high-level representatives, other national stakeholders, members of the academia, as well as national and international experts. It will also create the necessary momentum to reconfirm the commitment of the country and the project partners to continue implementing the results through project Phase II.

<b>Agenda</b>	
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sira Rego, Minister of Youth and Childhood</i></li> <li>• <i>Nathalie Berger, Director for Support to Member States' Reforms, DG REFORM, European Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Roberto Olla, Head of Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Sandra de Garmendia, Director General of Childhood and Adolescence Rights, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i></p> <p>Promotional Barnahus video (EU-CoE) to be displayed</p>
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Keynote speech</b></p> <p><i>George Nikolaidis, Ex-Chair of the Lanzarote Committee, Center for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Greece)</i></p>
11:00-11.30	<p><b>Overview, results &amp; Barnahus in Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barnahus: a European journey</b> <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of the Cooperation Projects Unit at the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe</i></li> <li>• <b>Results and key achievements at national level</b> <i>Sandra de Garmendia, Director General of Childhood and Adolescence Rights, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i> <i>Mireya García de Murcia, Project Manager at the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe</i></li> </ul>
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-12:45	<p><b>Child participation</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Itziar Abad Andújar, Deputy Director, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion with the National Council of Child Participation (CEPIA)</b> <i>Irene Iglesias Valuja, child from CEPIA</i> <i>Uxía Fernández Fernández, child from CEPIA</i></li> </ul> <p>Live Visual Thinking session illustrated by Eva Palomar Gomez.</p>
12:45-14:00	<p><b>Panel I. Improved policies and tools to introduce the Barnahus model in Spain and its regions</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Itziar Abad Andújar, Deputy Director, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mapping study and Roadmaps to implement the Barnahus model in Spain and its regions</b> <i>Emilie Rivas, Save the Children, Council of Europe independent expert</i> <i>Rafael Sainz de Rozas, University of the Basque Country, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> </ul>

	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
14:00-15:15	Lunch break
15:15-16:00	<p><b>Panel II. Strengthened capacity of relevant professionals to support the introduction of the Barnahus model</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Mireya García de Murcia, Project Manager at the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communication Guide</b> <i>Lourdes Collado, Plataforma de Infancia, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> <li>• <b>Basic training on how to manage the suspicion of violence that comes from the testimonies of children</b> <i>Fernando Álvarez Ramos, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> <li>• <b>HELP course on child-friendly justice</b> <i>Marta Grijalba, Council of Europe independent expert</i></li> </ul>
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Panel III. Regional experiences</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Sandra de Garmendia, Director General of Childhood and Adolescence Rights, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i></p>
	<p><b>Comunidad Foral de Navarra</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Maite Arenaza Sarasola, Director General of Justice (online)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Región de Murcia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Noelia Laso Fuentes, Head of the Child Protection Service of the Directorate General for Families, Childhood and Conciliation</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Cataluña</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Joan Mayoral Simon, Barnahus Coordinator</i></li> </ul> <p><b>País Vasco</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fernando Álvarez Ramos, Coordinator of the Psychosocial judicial team, Department of Justice and Human Rights</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
17:00-17:15	<p><b>Concluding remarks and main take aways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fabiana Di Caprio, Project Manager, DGREFORM, European Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Zaruhi Gasparyan, Head of the Cooperation Projects Unit at the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe</i></li> <li>• <i>Sandra de Garmendia, Director General of Childhood and Adolescence Rights, Spanish Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i></li> </ul>