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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration  
and Digital Transformation

Building a Europe  
for and with children



# **Round Table to present the project's first deliverables: the legal and policy assessment report and the training gap analysis**

**8 October 2024**

**Hotel Sheraton Zagreb,  
Big hall, section B**

*Ul. kneza Borne 2, 10000 Zagreb*

## **Joint EU-Council of Europe project “Implementing the Barnahus Model in Croatia” 23HR02**

The project is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission, Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

## Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project “[Implementing the Barnahus Model in Croatia](#)” aims to improve the access and quality of the justice system for child victims of violence in Croatia, to ensure that undue delays in the treatment of such cases is diminished, and that all children who are victims of sexual violence benefit from a child-friendly access to justice.

Building on the work already carried out by Croatia, the project aims to support the Croatian authorities in its first steps towards the establishment of a Barnahus in the country. The Barnahus Model is a child-friendly response model for the coordination of criminal and child welfare investigations of child abuse cases and providing support services for child victims and their families under one roof. The Barnahus model was recognised as a promising practice by the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) in 2015. The model has been replicated in Finland, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division in close co-operation with the Croatian Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation and DG Reform, European Commission from 1 September 2023 to 28 February 2026.

**The project is divided into three components, leading to the following outcomes:**

1. Legal, policy and institutional framework is established for the sustainable operation of Barnahus model in Croatia
2. Enhanced knowledge and capacities of professionals working with and for children to respond to child sexual abuse
3. Awareness of professionals and the wider public on the situation of child sexual abuse in Croatia is enhanced

## State of play of the Project

During the inception phase, which preceded the implementation of the project outputs and activities, consultations were held in Zagreb from 24 to 26 October as part of a fact-finding mission. The results of these consultations and research are included in the [project's inception report](#), which was presented at the [launch conference](#) on 30 January 2024.

Following the launch conference, the project entered into a more analytical phase with the preparation of two reports:

- an assessment of the current legal, policy and institutional framework in view of the implementation of the Barnahus model in Croatia and
  - a training gap analysis for professionals working with and for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Both reports were prepared by teams of national consultants selected through the official call for national expertise launched in early 2024 and were endorsed by the Project Advisory Group at its meeting on 10 September 2024. The objective of the Round Table is to present the challenges, gaps, and recommendations identified in both reports, to initiate a dialogue between the drafting teams and the participants and to ensure ownership of the recommended measures by key stakeholders including NGOs, Academia and civil society.

The Round Table will also be the occasion to present the visibility materials on Barnahus adapted to the Croatian context in order to raise awareness and visibility of the Barnahus model for its successful implementation in Croatia.

## Agenda

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30-9:30   | <b>Registration of participants</b><br><i>Welcome coffee</i>   |
| 9:30-9:45   | <b>Welcoming remarks</b>   |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana Kordej, Acting Director, Directorate for Criminal Law, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation</li> <li>Rima Joujou, Resident Country Coordinator, DG REFORM, European Commission</li> <li>Zara Gasparyan, Head of Cooperation and Capacity Building Unit, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe <i>[recorded message]</i></li> </ul>   |
| 9:45-9:50   | <b>Official presentation of the video on Barnahus created by the Council of Europe with the financial support of the Icelandic government - adapted into Croatian.</b>   |
| 9:50-11:15  | <b>Panel I: Analysis of the legislative, policy and institutional framework regarding protection of children and procedures for cases on violence against children, including sexual violence in Croatia</b>   |
|             | <p><i>Moderator: Associate Prof Aleksandar Maršavelski, Member of the Project Advisory Group, Department of Criminal Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb</i></p> <p><b>Presentation of the methodology, the results and the recommendations by the drafting team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ivana Celio Cega, Coordinator, Legal Advisor and Human Rights independent expert</li> <li>Lana Petö Kujundžić, Judge, High Criminal Court of Croatia</li> <li>Kristina Knežević Červar, President of the Criminal Department and judge, Municipal court, Pula</li> <li>Helenca Pirnat Dragicevic, Ombudsperson for children of Croatia</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A session</b></p>  |
| 11:15-11:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| 11:30-12:45 | <b>Panel II: Training gap analysis for professionals working for and with children victims and witnesses of violence, including sexual violence in Croatia</b>   |
|             | <p><i>Moderator: prof. Ph.D. Anita Lauri Korajlija, Member of the Project Advisory Group, Department of Psychology Faculty of Philosophy of Zagreb</i></p> <p><b>Presentation of the methodology, the results and the recommendations by the drafting team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana Babic, Coordinator, Professor of pedagogy and advisor to the Ombudsperson for Children</li> <li>Helenca Pirnat Dragicevic, Ombudsperson for children of Croatia</li> <li>Ivana Pavic Simetin, MD, PhD, school medicine specialist and Deputy Director General of the School medicine, Mental Health and Drug Dependence Service, Head Croatian Institute of Public Health</li> <li>Ella Selak Bagaric, Clinical psychologist, Head of Youth Health Center</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A session</b></p> |
| 12:45-13:00 | <b>Closing Remarks</b>   |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana Kordej, Acting Director, Directorate for Criminal Law, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation</li> <li>Rima Joujou, Resident Country Coordinator, DG REFORM, European Commission</li> <li>Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior project officer, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</li> </ul>  |
| 13:00-14:00 | <i>Lunch</i>   |