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

Building a Europe  
for and with children



# **Study visit to Finland**

## **Exchange of experience on the Barnahus model**

### **Programme**

**5-6 November 2024**

**Helsinki, Finland**

### **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

The inception phase was carried out prior to the implementation of the project outputs and activities. Following the kick-off meeting held on 7 September 2023, the Council of Europe, with the support of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of Croatia, organised a series of bilateral consultations with the project stakeholders to take stock of the project's starting point. These consultations took place 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 a more analytical phase with the preparation of the legal, policy and institutional assessment of the current Croatian framework and the training gap analysis for professionals working with and for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Both reports are being prepared by a team of national consultants selected through the call for tender for national expertise launched in early 2024. The findings of these two reports will be presented in Zagreb on 8 October 2024.

In parallel, a study visit will be organised with the support of the Finnish authorities to exchange information with Croatian professionals working with and for children. The visit will provide an opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities encountered in the implementation of the Barnahus model in Finland and to strengthen international relations between Council of Europe member states.

**After the study visit, a lessons-learned report will be prepared by the Croatian participants under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation. Each participant will inform relevant colleagues in their institution about the lessons learned from the study visit.**

## Programme

### 4 November 2024

17:40	<p><b>Arrival of the Croatian Delegation and the Council of Europe Project officer to Helsinki</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ana Kordej, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation (Head of the Croatian delegation)</li> <li>• Lana Peto Kujundžić, Judge at the High Criminal Court</li> <li>• Renata Pražetina Kaleb, Judge at the Criminal Department of the First Instance, President of the Juvenile Department</li> <li>• Tamara Mušnjak-Špišić, Croatian Bar Association</li> <li>• Anita Lazarin, Judicial Academy</li> <li>• Kristina Filipović, Ministry of Interior</li> <li>• Alma Bernat, Ministry of Labour, Pension system, Family and Social Policies</li> <li>• Daška Leppee Pažanin, Office of the Ombudsperson for Children of Croatia</li> </ul> <p>• Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe</p> <p><i>Transfer to Hotel Helka, Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 23, Etu-Töölö, 00100 Helsinki</i></p>
19:30	<p><i>Dinner (table booked at Lappi Ravintola, Annankatu 22, 00100 Helsinki)</i></p>

### 5 November 2024

8:30	<p><i>Transfer from Hotel Helka to the Barnahus Unit, Tallberginkatu 2A, 6th floor, Helsinki</i></p>
9:00-10:45	<p><b>Meeting with the Barnahus Helsinki Unit and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</li> <li>• Liisa Järvillehto, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychology Unit (HUS)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. History and overview of Barnahus establishment, development and functioning in Finland, including the on-going relevant research; video on Barnahus Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</li> <li>• Liisa Järvillehto, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychology Unit (HUS)</li> <li>• Taina Laajasalo, Chief Researcher at the National Institute of Health and Welfare; Forensic Psychologist (PhD)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Short presentation of the current situation in Croatia and the state of play of the EU/CoE project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ana Kordej, Head of the Croatian delegation</li> <li>• Frederique Privat de Fortunie, CoE Senior Project Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian Delegation</i></p>

10:45-11:00	<i>Short break</i>
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Legal background for Barnahus in Finland and the new bill in preparation</b>
	<p>Presentation of the legal background and the new bill in preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian Delegation</i></p>
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch (table pre-booked at Kasi Ravintola, Itämerenkatu 25, Helsinki (tbc))</i>
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>Visit and explanation of the work done at the Barnahus Unit</b>
	<p>Visit of the premises of the Finnish Barnahus Unit with Liisa Järvilehto, Katri Helminen and Tom Pakkanen</p> <p>Explanations of typical pathways the child's process can go from the moment a case is received until it is closed.</p> <p>Consultative work done at the unit.</p> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian Delegation</i></p>
14:30-14:45	<i>Short break</i>
<b>14:45-16:00</b>	<b>Meeting with a judge involved in Barnahus model at the Barnahus Unit</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks by the Finnish judge and short presentation on how the process works from the point of view of the judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Inga-Liisa Paavola, District judge</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Short presentation of the current situation in Croatia by the visiting Croatian judges.</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian Delegation</i></p>
16:00	<i>Transfer to Hotel Helka (free evening)</i>

## 6 November 2024

8:30	<i>Transfer from Hotel Helka to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Mannerheimintie 166, Helsinki</i>
<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL)</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks and presentation of the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare and its role in the establishment and functioning of the Barnahus in Finland, as well as the future plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sini Stolt, Leading expert, Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Short presentation of the current situation in Croatia and the state of play of the EU/CoE project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ana Kordej, Head of the Croatian delegation</li> <li>• Frederique Privat de Fortunie, CoE Senior Project Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian delegation</i></p>
11:00-12:00	<i>Lunch break at THL with Sini Stolt</i>
<b>12:00-14:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the Police and the prosecutor's Office representatives at THL</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks and presentation of the respective roles of the police and the prosecutor's office representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saara Asdmundela, Superintendent, Police Specialist, Barnahus Project, Poice operation Unit, Crime Combating</li> <li>• Pia Mäenpää, Senior Specialised Prosecutor, Deputy Chief District Prosecutor, National Prosecution Authority, Prosecution District of Eastern Finland</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Short presentation of the current situation in Croatia by the prosecutor and police representative of the Croatian delegation</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian delegation</i></p>
14:00-14:30	<i>Transfer to the Child protective service, Vernissakatu 8 C, Vantaa</i>
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	<b>Meeting with the Child protective service in Vantaa and visit of the premises</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming remarks and presentation of the Child protective service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanna Holmberg-Soto, Senior social worker</li> <li>• Jenny Koljonen, Social worker</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion with the Croatian Delegation</i> <i>Visit of the premises of the Child protective service</i></p>
16:00	<i>Transfer to Hotel Helka</i>
19:00	<i>Dinner (table booked at Olivia central station, Kaivokatu 1 00100 Helsinki)</i>

## 7 November 2024

<p>Departure of the minibus from Hotel Helka at 4:30 am</p> <p>Departure of the flights between 6:50 am and 7 am</p>	<p><b>Departure of the Croatian Delegation and the Council of Europe Project Officer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ana Kordej, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation (Head of the Croatian delegation)</i></li><li>• <i>Lana Peto Kujundžić, Judge at the High Criminal Court</i></li><li>• <i>Renata Pražetina Kaleb, Judge at the Criminal Department of the First Instance, President of the Juvenile Department</i></li><li>• <i>Tamara Mušnjak-Špišić, Croatian Bar Association</i></li><li>• <i>Anita Lazarin, Judicial Academy</i></li><li>• <i>Kristina Filipović, Ministry of Interior</i></li><li>• <i>Alma Bernat, Ministry of Labour, Pension system, Family and Social Policies</i></li><li>• <i>Daška Leppee Pažanin, Office of the Ombudsman for Children of Croatia</i></li> <li>• <i>Frederique Privat de Fortunie, Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe</i></li></ul>
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