COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Replies to the thematic questionnaire

"Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children"

SPAIN

Replies received by the Secretariat on 26 June 2026

Main relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and previous recommendations

Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with their internal law, to ensure that the conditions to accede to those professions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children ensure that the candidates to these professions have not been convicted of acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children. The Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention indicates that this obligation can be also applied to voluntary activities (see paragraph 57).

In the 2nd implementation report of the 1st monitoring round (2018), the Lanzarote Committee urged those Parties that limited mandatory screening to certain professionals to extend it to the recruitment of all professionals (public or private) in regular contact with children (R19) and invited Parties to encourage continuous screening of all professionals (R20) and volunteers (R21) in regular contact with children.

Article 27 paragraph 3.b of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to deny the perpetrator, temporarily or permanently, the exercise of professional or voluntary activity involving contact with children in the course of which the offence was committed.

Article 37 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the information referred to in paragraph 1 (i.e. data related to the identity and to the genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention) can be transmitted to the competent authority of another Party, in conformity with the conditions established in its internal law and the relevant international instruments.

Whenever the term “screening” is used in this questionnaire, this should be understood as “verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children”.

In all your answers, please provide details to the extent possible and refer to specific laws, policies, programmes, measures, etc.

Please describe the legislation, policy and practice which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the planned date of entry into force).

Please indicate:

a. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted: **Spain**

b. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire: **The response was coordinated by the Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Parliamentary Relations. Contributions were received from the Ministry of Youth and Childhood; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports; the Directorate-General for the Digital Transformation of the Administration of Justice (Dirección General de Transformación Digital de la Administración de Justicia); the Directorate-General for Public Service (Dirección General de Servicio Público); and the competent authorities of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria.**

Persons concerned by screening requirements

1. Pre-condition for access to professions, employment and volunteer positions

Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required as a pre-condition in order to accede to professions, employment or volunteer positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer positions in the following sectors or areas of activities:

Yes. Access to and exercise of any profession, occupation or activity involving regular contact with children requires that the person has not been convicted by a final judgment of an offence against sexual freedom or of trafficking in human beings. This must be demonstrated by a negative certificate from the Central Register of Sex Offenders and Trafficking in Human Beings.

The requirement applies to paid and unpaid activities. It therefore covers public- and private-sector employment, self-employment, traineeships and volunteering whenever the specific duties involve regular contact with children.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Articles 57-59; Royal Decree 1110/2015.

General note for the table: The answers in the table apply where the activity involves regular contact with children, within the meaning of Article 57(2) of Organic Law 8/2021.

Sector / area of activity	Criminal conviction check for employment in public sector?	Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity?	Criminal conviction check for employment in private sector?	Criminal conviction check for self-employed professionals?	Professionals to whom the requirement applies
Education – Pre-school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All staff and collaborators whose duties involve regular contact with children.
Education – Primary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Teaching, auxiliary, support, transport, catering and other staff with regular contact.
Education – Secondary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Teaching, auxiliary and other staff with regular contact, including extracurricular activities.
Education – Tertiary	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Only where the actual duties involve regular contact with persons under 18.
Education – Extracurricular	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Teachers, instructors, monitors and other persons with regular contact.
Childcare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kindergarten, crèche, childminding and related childcare staff.
Institutional or residential care	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Residential-care, foster-home, child-protection and support staff.
Detention	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Staff or collaborators with regular contact with detained children.
Migration facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Staff and collaborators in reception or accommodation facilities with regular contact with children.
Sport	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coaches, instructors, referees, medical/support staff and other persons with regular contact.
Culture and leisure activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Monitors, instructors, educators and activity leaders.
Entertainment sector	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Persons whose actual duties involve regular contact with child performers or participants.
Faith and religion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Clergy, catechists, educators, monitors and other persons with regular contact.
Healthcare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Health, psychological and psychiatric professionals and support staff with regular contact.
Social protection services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Social workers, educators, carers, psychologists and related staff.
Law enforcement	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Officers and other personnel whose duties entail regular contact with children.
Judicial	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Professionals or personnel whose duties entail regular contact with children.

Sector / area of activity	Criminal conviction check for employment in public sector?	Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity?	Criminal conviction check for employment in private sector?	Criminal conviction check for self-employed professionals?	Professionals to whom the requirement applies
Civil society organisations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Employees, volunteers and contractors with regular contact.
Victim services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Barnahus, domestic-violence, child-victim and other specialised services.
Any other sectors	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Where applicable	Any occupation or activity meeting the statutory regular-contact threshold, irrespective of sector.

2. Level and forms of contact

In requiring the verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in order to accede to the positions listed in question 1, does your State: (a) define the level or threshold of contact with children (one-off, regular, etc.) which necessitates such a verification; (b) distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children? If yes, please provide details.

Yes. Spanish law defines regular contact as repeated, direct and regular dealings with children, rather than merely occasional contact. Activities whose main recipients are children are included in all cases.

The legislation does not establish separate legal categories or different regimes for in-person, indirect and online contact. Contact through digital means is covered where, in the circumstances of the activity, it meets the general elements of repetition, direct interaction and regularity, or where children are the activity's main recipients.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 57(2).

3. Adoptive parents, foster parents and legal guardians

Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become: (a) an adoptive parent; (b) a foster parent; (c) a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)? Please provide details.

There is no single State rule imposing the same specific sex-offender certificate in every adoption, foster-care, guardianship or custody procedure.

State civil law requires a prior suitability assessment for adoption, establishes legal conditions for foster care, and bars the judicial appointment as guardian of a person convicted by a final judgment of an offence that gives reasonable grounds to believe that the person would not perform the guardianship properly. Convictions for sexual offences are therefore relevant to these assessments. The specific form of verification is mainly governed by Autonomous Community legislation and administrative procedures. In many territories, adoption or foster-care procedures expressly require a negative certificate or authorize the administration to consult the register. Express provisions concerning guardianship and custody are less common and may also depend on the judicial or child-protection procedure concerned.

Official sources: Spanish Civil Code, Articles 175, 176, 216 and 217; Valencian Community national adoption procedure; Valencian Community foster-care procedure.

4. Household members

Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required for the household members of: (a) persons carrying out professional activity in their home who are in contact with children; (b) persons carrying out volunteering activity in their home who are in contact with children; (c) persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian? Please provide details.

There is no general State obligation applying to every member of the household merely because a professional or voluntary activity involving children is carried out in the home. The statutory requirement applies to the person carrying out the activity and, where relevant, to other persons who participate in it or themselves have repeated, direct and regular contact with the children.

For adoption, foster care, guardianship or custody, some Autonomous Communities expressly extend verification to members of the family or household. The scope and minimum age vary by territory and procedure. Some procedures require the specific sex-offender certificate from the age of 14, while others require a general criminal-record certificate from adult household members. These territorial rules cannot be treated as a uniform national requirement.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 57; Valencian Community national adoption procedure; Castilla-La Mancha Law 7/2023.

5. Children applying for positions and convictions received before the age of 18

Does the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children also apply to: (a) children applying for professional or volunteer positions; (b) adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18? Please provide details.

(a) Yes. The legislation contains no age-based exception for the applicant. Where a child may lawfully enter employment, a traineeship or voluntary activity involving regular contact with other children, the same screening requirement applies.

(b) Yes. The Central Register incorporates information from both the Central Register of Convicted Persons and the Central Register of Judgments on the Criminal Liability of Minors. The check may therefore reflect final decisions concerning acts committed before the age of 18 while the corresponding entry remains in force. Entries arising from juvenile proceedings are subject to their specific cancellation rules.

Official sources: Volunteering Act 45/2015, Article 8; Royal Decree 1110/2015, Articles 5 and 10; Royal Decree 95/2009.

6. Legal change of name

If a person legally changes their name, how does your State ensure that their criminal record remains linked to their new name? Please provide details.

The link is preserved through stable personal identifiers and the continuity of the individual Civil Registry record. The Civil Registry assigns each person a unique and invariable personal code, and administrative registers also use identifiers such as the national identity document (DNI) or foreigner identity number (NIE). A legal change of name is recorded without creating a new legal identity or severing the link with existing records.

Official sources: Civil Registry Act 20/2011.

7. Access to public funds

Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects? Please provide details.

There is no general State rule making every public grant or form of public funding conditional upon prior submission of the certificate by every employee or volunteer involved in a project.

Nevertheless, every funded entity carrying out activities involving regular contact with children must comply with Article 57, irrespective of its source of funding. Grant rules, calls for applications, public-service agreements or contracts may expressly incorporate compliance as a condition and may provide for repayment, loss of funding or other consequences where that condition is breached.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 57; General Subsidies Act 38/2003.

Information included in screening

8. Offences included

Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for the offences listed in Articles 18 to 24 of the Lanzarote Convention, and any other convictions? Please provide details.

Yes. Screening covers final, non-expunged convictions for offences against sexual freedom under Title VIII of the Criminal Code and for trafficking in human beings under Title VII bis.

This encompasses the conduct addressed by Articles 18 to 24 of the Lanzarote Convention: sexual abuse of a child; sexual exploitation and prostitution; acts involving child sexual abuse material; participation of children in pornographic performances; causing a child to witness sexual activities; solicitation of a child for sexual purposes, including online grooming; and aiding, abetting or attempting those offences. The register also covers trafficking in human beings within its statutory scope.

Official sources: Spanish Criminal Code; Royal Decree 1110/2015, Articles 3 and 5.

9. Administrative or disciplinary sanctions and civil decisions

Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to: (a) relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions; (b) other information available to the authorities, such as judicial decisions in civil proceedings? Please provide details.

No. The specific certificate concerns final convictions entered in the relevant criminal registers. It does not include administrative or disciplinary sanctions or, as a general rule, civil-court decisions. Such information may be considered separately in sector-specific suitability, disciplinary or child-protection procedures, but it is not part of the sex-offender certificate.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015; Royal Decree 95/2009.

10. Duration and scope of restrictions

If restrictions on the exercise of the relevant activities apply as a result of a criminal conviction for sexual offences against children, in line with Article 27 paragraph 3.b: (a) are they life-long; (b) if not, what time-limits apply; (c) are they applied only to activities in the public sector? Please provide details.

The restrictions are not necessarily lifelong. Article 192(3) of the Criminal Code requires a special disqualification from any profession, occupation or activity, whether paid or unpaid, involving regular and direct contact with children.

The disqualification lasts longer than the term of imprisonment: between five and twenty years beyond the custodial sentence for a serious offence, and between two and twenty years beyond it for a less serious offence. Because it covers paid and unpaid activities, it applies in both the public and private sectors and to voluntary activities.

Official sources: Spanish Criminal Code, Article 192(3).

11. Expunged or spent convictions

Does the criminal record check verify the existence of an expunged or spent criminal conviction for sexual offences against children for persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3? Please provide details.

No. Expunged entries may not be used to restrict access to or exercise of activities involving children, and the certificate reflects only final convictions that have not been cancelled.

Where the victim was a child and the convicted person was an adult, Royal Decree 1110/2015 establishes a special rule under which the entry is cancelled thirty years after the sentence has been fully extinguished, provided that no further offence of the same nature has been committed during that period. Entries arising from juvenile proceedings follow their specific cancellation regime.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 60; Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 10.

Screening procedure

12. Legal framework

How is the screening procedure set out in your legal framework (in a single piece of legislation, sector-specific legislation, or other)? Please provide details.

The procedure is governed by several complementary instruments. Organic Law 8/2021 establishes the substantive requirement and the consequences for employment and volunteering. Royal Decree 1110/2015 regulates the Central Register of Sex Offenders and Trafficking in Human Beings, while Royal Decree 95/2009 governs the broader system of administrative registers supporting the administration of justice. Sector-specific and Autonomous Community legislation supplements this framework in fields such as education, volunteering, foster care, adoption and child protection.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021; Royal Decree 1110/2015; Royal Decree 95/2009; Volunteering Act 45/2015.

13. Who is required to act

If screening is required, who is required to act: (a) the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority obtains the information directly; (b) the candidate provides proof; or (c) another scenario? Please provide details.

The candidate may provide the negative certificate directly. Alternatively, the candidate may authorise the public administration, employer, professional body or volunteer organisation to obtain the certificate through the channels established by law.

The TeAutorizo service enables companies, associations and other entities to download certificates for persons who have given consent through Mi Carpeta Ciudadana. Public child-protection bodies also have specific consultation powers for child-protection assessments.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 9; Official information on TeAutorizo; Ministry of Justice certificate service.

14. Costs

If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures? Please provide details.

The certificate is free of charge and is not subject to a fee. It may be requested and obtained electronically.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 3; Ministry of Justice certificate service.

15. Monitoring compliance

How does your State monitor that employers, volunteer recruiters or child protection authorities comply with the relevant regulations on screening? Please provide details.

The Spanish system does not assign monitoring to a single authority. The employer, public administration or organisation incorporating the person must carry out the initial check. Where there is an employment relationship, compliance may be inspected by the Labour and Social Security Inspectorate.

In sectors subject to authorisation, accreditation or inspection, compliance may also be checked by the competent sectoral authorities, including education administrations and inspectorates, social services and public child-protection bodies, and health, sport, youth and leisure authorities, within their respective powers.

In education, Organic Law 8/2021 requires education administrations and persons directing or owning educational establishments to supervise safe recruitment and the certificates of teaching, auxiliary, contracted and regular collaborating personnel. Volunteer organisations are responsible for checking the requirement before admitting a volunteer to activities involving regular contact with children. Where grants, public-service agreements or contracts expressly include compliance as a condition, the funding authority may also verify it.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 32; Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 9; Labour and Social Security Inspectorate Act 23/2015.

16. Sanctions for non-compliance

If screening is required, are there sanctions foreseen for failure to comply with it? If yes, what type of sanctions? Please provide details.

Yes. In employment relationships, failure to comply with the prohibition on assigning persons with registered convictions to activities involving regular contact with children is a very serious infringement under Article 8(19) of the Law on Offences and Sanctions in the Social Order.

The applicable fines are EUR 7,501-30,000 at the minimum level, EUR 30,001-120,005 at the medium level and EUR 120,006-225,018 at the maximum level.

Existing convictions prevent initial recruitment. If a relevant conviction arises during employment, the relationship must end immediately or, where possible, the person may be moved to a post not involving regular contact with children. Failure by the worker to report a subsequent change in the register may constitute serious and culpable misconduct for disciplinary purposes. In volunteering, the organisation must end the person's participation or reassign them to an activity without regular contact with children where this is possible.

Autonomous Communities may establish additional administrative sanctions. Some have expressly classified failure to check or provide the certificate and provide for fines and, in certain cases, ancillary measures such as suspension or closure of establishments, withdrawal of authorisations, loss of grants or temporary exclusion from public funding.

Official sources: LISOS, Articles 8(19) and 40; Organic Law 8/2021, Articles 58 and 59; Andalusia Law 4/2021; Madrid Law 4/2023; Basque Country Law 2/2024.

17. Regular screening

Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required for: (a) professionals in contact with children; (b) volunteers in contact with children; (c) foster parents and legal guardians? If regular screening is required, please specify its frequency and provide other details.

There is no general State obligation to consult the register periodically and no common statutory frequency for professionals, volunteers, foster parents or legal guardians.

The requirement must be maintained throughout the activity. Workers must report subsequent changes in their registered status, and organisations must terminate the activity or change the person's post where required. Companies and organisations may carry out further checks, with consent, where necessary for the continuing employment relationship or activity, but State law does not prescribe annual, biennial or other fixed intervals.

For foster care, further checks may occur within Autonomous Community follow-up, review or renewal procedures. There is no uniform State frequency. Nor is there a general periodic check for guardians, without prejudice to checks undertaken when the measure or relevant circumstances are reviewed. As a specific Autonomous Community exception, Valencian Law 4/2025 requires volunteers in entities or programmes involving regular contact with children to provide the negative certificate annually.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Articles 58 and 59; Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 9; Royal Decree 407/2024; Valencian Law 4/2025 on volunteering.

18. Ongoing investigations and communication to employers

Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence? Please provide details.

There is no general or automatic system for informing an employer or volunteer organisation merely that a criminal investigation is under way. The specific certificate concerns final convictions and does not contain information about open investigations.

Information obtained in a criminal investigation is subject to the confidentiality of proceedings, the presumption of innocence and the rules governing personal data processed for law-enforcement purposes. Law-enforcement bodies, the prosecution service and other authorities may not disclose it informally to an employer without a specific legal basis.

A communication may take place where it is necessary to execute a judicial decision or protective measure, or where a specific statutory provision authorises it in connection with the protection of an identified child. The information disclosed must be limited to what is strictly necessary. In public employment, the administration may order provisional suspension where the conditions in Article 98 of the Basic Statute of Public Employees are met, including where a judicial measure makes performance of the post impossible. In private employment and volunteering, the mere existence of an investigation does not automatically entail suspension, dismissal or termination. Where the organisation itself has direct knowledge of relevant facts, it may activate safeguarding protocols and adopt proportionate organisational or disciplinary measures under the applicable law.

Official sources: Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 301 et seq.; Organic Law 7/2021; Basic Statute of Public Employees, Article 98; Royal Decree 1110/2015.

Cross-border screening

19. Previous residence or work in other countries

If the candidate for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 has previously resided or worked in different countries, is it required to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in each of those countries in respect of: (a) professionals; (b) volunteers; (c) persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent or a child's legal guardian? Please provide details.

There is no general obligation to obtain certificates from every country in which a person has previously resided or worked.

For professionals and volunteers, persons of foreign origin or holding another nationality must, in addition to the Spanish certificate, provide a negative certificate issued by the authorities of their country of origin or nationality. Nationals of another EU Member State are not required to provide personally the certificate from their Member State of nationality, because the Spanish Central Register of Convicted Persons obtains that information through ECRIS. Where the country of origin differs from the country of nationality, a certificate from the country of origin may still be required.

This does not automatically extend to every previous country of residence or employment. Additional foreign documentation may be required by a specific sectoral rule or procedure. In adoption, foster-care, guardianship or custody procedures, the foreign documentation required depends on the applicable Autonomous Community or judicial procedure, the person's circumstances and, in international adoption, the requirements of the child's State of origin.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015, Article 9; Organic Law 7/2014; Official ECRIS information.

20. Requesting and providing data outside criminal proceedings

Is there a mechanism to: (a) request data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children from the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings; (b) provide such data to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings? Please provide details.

Yes, particularly within the European Union. The Central Register of Convicted Persons is the Spanish central authority responsible for exchanging criminal-record information with the central authorities of the other EU Member States through ECRIS. It may request information from another Member State where this is required in criminal proceedings or for any other purpose recognised as valid under Spanish law.

For purposes other than criminal proceedings, the consent requirements and transmission limits laid down by EU and Spanish law apply. When a national of another Member State requests a certificate in Spain, the Register consults the Member State or Member States of nationality.

ECRIS-TCN enables the competent authorities to identify which EU Member States hold information on convictions handed down in the Union against third-country nationals or stateless persons. It does not contain the details of the convictions; those details must subsequently be requested from the Member State concerned through ECRIS. ECRIS-TCN does not provide access to convictions held only by a third country.

Outside the European Union there is no equivalent general mechanism. The availability of information depends on applicable treaties and domestic procedures and often on foreign certificates supplied by the person concerned, authenticated and translated where required.

Official sources: Organic Law 7/2014; Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA; Official ECRIS information; Regulation (EU) 2019/816 on ECRIS-TCN.

21. Obligation to provide data

Is there an obligation to provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children at the request of the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings? Please provide details.

Yes, where the request is made by the central authority of another EU Member State and the conditions laid down by EU and Spanish law are met.

The Central Register of Convicted Persons must reply to requests from the central authorities of other Member States. For a purpose other than criminal proceedings, the requesting State must establish the person's consent unless consent would not be required in Spain for an equivalent procedure. The reply covers non-cancelled convictions held in the Spanish register and not reserved exclusively to Spanish judicial authorities.

Where a conviction was transmitted by another Member State subject to a restriction against onward transmission for non-criminal purposes, Spain does not disclose its content and identifies the convicting State so that the requesting authority can approach that State directly. The general time limit is ten working days for a request from another central authority and twenty working days where the request originates from an individual seeking information on their own criminal record.

For non-EU States, there is no general obligation to supply this information for non-criminal purposes. Any transmission depends on the applicable treaty, the purpose of the request and the relevant data-protection safeguards.

Official sources: Organic Law 7/2014; Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA, Articles 4, 5 and 7.

Additional details and reflections

22. Further modalities of screening procedures

Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.

Spain has a specific, centralised, free and non-public register containing final convictions for sexual offences and trafficking in human beings. Certificates may be obtained electronically and verified by means of a secure verification code.

The candidate may provide the certificate directly or authorise its retrieval. TeAutorizo enables companies, associations and other organisations to download certificates for persons who have given digital consent. Direct access to the full content of the register remains restricted to legally authorised authorities.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015; Ministry of Justice certificate service; Official information on TeAutorizo.

23. Practical challenges

What challenges related to screening exist in practice (e.g. administrative costs, delays, cross-border co-operation)? Please provide details.

The principal practical consideration is to ensure consistent coordination between the different authorities and sectors responsible for applying the screening requirement, particularly where implementation falls within the competence of the Autonomous Communities.

Cross-border checks may require additional time where information must be obtained from another State. Within the European Union, information may be exchanged through ECRIS. In relation to non-EU States, the procedure depends on the applicable international arrangements and may require the person concerned to obtain, authenticate and translate a certificate issued by the relevant foreign authority.

Electronic tools such as the online certificate service and TeAutorizo help reduce administrative burdens for public authorities, employers and voluntary organisations.

Official sources: Organic Law 8/2021, Article 57; Official ECRIS information; Official information on TeAutorizo.

24. Promising practices

What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children? Please provide details.

Promising practices include the existence of a centralised, specialised, free and non-public register; electronic issue and secure verification of certificates; TeAutorizo, which reduces administrative burdens through digital consent; the use of ECRIS for cross-border information within the European Union; and the EU legal framework for ECRIS-TCN.

The broad scope of Article 57, which applies to paid and unpaid activities in any sector whenever regular contact with children exists, provides a common national baseline. Electronic access for administrations, companies and organisations facilitates compliance while preserving the statutory safeguards governing criminal-record information.

Official sources: Royal Decree 1110/2015; Royal Decree 407/2024; Official information on TeAutorizo; Official ECRIS information; Regulation (EU) 2019/816 on ECRIS-TCN.