



Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lanzarote Committee – Sweden’s reply to the “Survey of data collection mechanisms regarding data on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”

Questions

1. Who collects data?

- i. **Is there a specific mechanism or focal point responsible for collecting data on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse? If so, please provide details. (Article 10.2b of the Lanzarote Convention and R13 of the first implementation report of first monitoring round)**
- ii. **If not: Do existing general data collection mechanisms collect data on child sexual abuse? Please describe how these mechanisms collect data taking into account all forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation, including online. (Article 10.2b of the Lanzarote Convention and R14 of the first implementation report of first monitoring round)**

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, Brå, is an agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and a knowledge centre for the criminal justice system. Brå is responsible for Swedish official criminal statistics (for example reported and processed CSEA related offences, please see 2.i below) and other statistics, which includes producing, following, analysing, and reporting on criminality and the criminal justice system's responses to crime. Moreover, Brå also

conducts an annual survey on exposure to crime including sexual offences (Swedish Crime Survey, the youngest age group is 16-19 years) and a biennial study on exposure to crime among students in year 9 (aged 15-16) including sexual offences (School Survey on Crime).

In addition to this, The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden has conducted surveys on violence against children every fifth year since 2000, with grants from the Government. The last one was conducted in 2022. The Foundation has also carried out four national studies in the field of young people's sexuality and exposure to sexual abuse and exploitation. The last one was conducted in 2021.

- iii. **Are data on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse collected through a multisectoral mechanism involving more than one sector of public administration? Please list sectors involved and who operates the mechanism.**

The National Board of Health and Welfare publishes statistics in the areas of health and medical care and social services.

## 2. What data is collected?

- i. **Does your State collect data in relation to all of the offences covered by Articles 18-23 of the Convention?**

Article	Data collected yes/no/partially?	Can data on this be easily produced? (less than 3 weeks) Yes/No
Sexual abuse (Article 18)	Yes*	Yes**

Offences concerning child prostitution (Article 19)	Yes*	Yes**
Offences concerning child pornography (Article 20)	Yes*	Yes**
Offences concerning the participation of a child in pornographic performances (Article 21)	Yes*	Yes**
Corruption of children (Article 22)	Yes*	Yes**
Solicitation of children for sexual purposes (Article 23)	Yes*	Yes**

**If you have indicated “no” or “partially” please provide more information:**

\*Official crime statistics include the offences covered by Articles 18-23 but is structured according to the offences according to Swedish law. The Swedish offences are broader than the scope of the articles, which means that available data does not correspond exactly with the articles. Most of the data on the Swedish crimes is disaggregated by age of the victim/concerns children specifically (for example “rape of a child”, which is a specific crime, or “child pornography crime”); however, the data on one of the crimes that covers article 19 a and 19 b (“procurement”) is not disaggregated by age of the victim.

\*\*Data on reported offences is published monthly and is available to the public at Brå’s website. Brå also publishes other type of administrative data on crime, for example processed and prosecuted offences, and persons suspected of crime. This data is structured in the same way as reported offences. As for data on convictions, data is not as detailed. For example, it generally does not

include information on the age of the victim. This means that for the crimes that do not specifically concern children (for example procurement and trafficking in human beings), it is not possible to separate cases that concern children in the data.

**ii. Does your State collect case-based data for child sexual abuse in the circle of trust, including specific aspects mentioned in the table below? (R15 of the first implementation report of the first monitoring round)**

No (Swedish official crime statistics does not include information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator for CSEA related crimes).

	Data collected? Yes/No/partially	Can data on this be easily produced? (less than 3 weeks) Yes/No
a. Number of children (under 18) that were victimized, disaggregated by sex/gender	No	No
b. Number of children (under 18) that were victimized in the context of: i. reports ii. prosecutions iii. convictions	No	No
c. Number of perpetrators under investigation, disaggregated by sex/gender	No	No
d. Number of convicted perpetrators, disaggregated by sex/gender	No	No

e. Number of cases where the person convicted was a minor, disaggregated by sex/gender	No	No
f. Number of cases where the victim and the perpetrator had a prior acquaintance.	No	No
g. Number of cases where the victim and the perpetrator were strangers.	No	No
h. Number of cases committed within the family (including extended family) of the child victim,	No	No
i. Information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator	No	No
j. Information on the environment in which the child sexual abuse was alleged to be committed (home, school, workplace, other)	No	No
k. Information about the age of the child victim and the perpetrator	No	No
<b>l. If you have responded “partially” to any of the questions above please indicate what data is not collected</b>		

**iii. Is data collected by relevant agencies specifically on CSEA?**

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) collects data on all reported offences, including CSEA, based on data from the Swedish Police Authority and other relevant authorities.

**iv. Does your State collect aggregative data on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?**

Yes, please see 2. i.

**v. Does your State use standardised operational definitions and indicators of CSEA to classify data across administrations and sectors at national level?**

Within the framework of the national official crime statistics, two different classification systems are applied when the operational authorities in different parts of the criminal justice chain register a crime (offence); the crime codes and the legal information. The two systems include different levels of detail when it comes to registering sexual offences against children. There is, thus, no single and fully uniform and common classification system for categorizing data on crimes and criminal cases in/across the justice system. The one classification system is, thus, the so-called crime codes, for which Brå is responsible. The system is continuously updated in close consultation with the authorities in the early parts of the criminal justice chain (the processes of reporting, investigating and prosecuting crimes). The crime codes are based on national legislation, but also include additional information that is not included in the Swedish Criminal Code, for example information about the sex and age of the victim. By the use of the crime codes, Brå can report data on sexual offences against children in the statistics on reported and processed offences, as well as persons suspected of offences (including prosecuted persons), see further:

<https://ddei5-0-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fbra.se%2fdownload%2f18.2f6fb2621900fdb71feb02d%2f1719572063899%2f2024%5fKlassificering%2dav%2dbrott%5fv%5f12%5f1.pdf&umid=2D3917BA-21EC-D906-B062->

[32835713D085&auth=b32f7072cb1370b7b119b85843019516260d8fac-e20e9cfc02096e41ffe87f13089567b776c50909](https://www.bra.se/32835713D085&auth=b32f7072cb1370b7b119b85843019516260d8fac-e20e9cfc02096e41ffe87f13089567b776c50909)

The second classification system is Legal Information (Juridisk Information, JIF), which the Swedish Prosecution Authority is responsible for. This is a structuring of the legal texts and does not include any other information than what is stated in law. JIF is currently mainly used by the courts. This means that the statistics on convictions only report sexual offences against children if it is explicitly stated in the law (e.g. the Swedish Criminal Code ch. 6 § 4 - rape against children).

All criminal investigation authorities register both criminal codes and JIF. In regard to prosecutions, JIF constitutes the main information since it is this information that is forwarded to the courts via the summons. Brå does not currently receive information about JIF from the Police Authority, but system development is underway in order to be able to receive that information.

**vi. Does your State use internationally agreed definitions and indicators, such as the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, to gather data related to child sexual exploitation?**

Yes, in the annual reporting of European statistics to Eurostat and of data to UNODC, the reporting is conducted in accordance with ICCS (International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes). In order to do this, Brå has translated the two national classification systems to match ICCS through so-called "Correspondence tables". The operational authorities in the criminal justice chain do not register data according to the ICCS.

- vii. Does your State collect data on the number of persons convicted of any form of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a child committed outside your territory but convicted in your country?**

Official crime statistics on convictions include all convictions in Swedish district courts, including cases in which the crime was committed abroad (a person may be convicted in Sweden for crimes covered by the Lanzarote convention and have been committed abroad, but for certain crimes it is required that the act is also punishable according to the law of the place where it was committed). However, these cases are not specified in the crime statistics.

- viii. Does your State collect data on the number of persons convicted of any form of child sexual exploitation or sexual abuse committed outside your territory and convicted outside your territory? Please specify if this includes your nationals and persons with habitual residence in your country?**

No, please see 2. vii.

- ix. Does your State collect data on the numbers of suspected cases of CSEA which are not substantiated after investigation?**

Official crime statistics include data on the total number of investigated offences that are terminated for reasons other than prosecution initiated, summary sanction order issued, waiver of prosecution issued and investigation-limitation.



- x. **Does your State collect data relating to the identity and genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention? (Article 37 paragraph 1 of the Lanzarote Convention)**

Sweden has designed its regulations for the collection and storage of DNA profiles based on the EU's data protection regulations. The crimes covered by the convention are punishable under Swedish law. Whether DNA samples are taken and registered depends on the circumstances of the individual case and what penalty the perpetrator is sentenced to.

DNA samples may be taken from anyone who is reasonably suspected of a crime for which imprisonment may follow (chapter 28 of the Code of Judicial Procedure). The police's DNA register may contain DNA profiles from samples that have been taken with the support of chapter. 28 of the Code of Judicial Procedure and which refers to persons who have been sentenced to a penalty other than a fine, or who have approved a penalty order that refers to a suspended sentence (chapter 5 § 2 of the Act [2018:1693] on processing of personal data by the police within the scope of the Criminal Data Act). In July 2024, the Swedish government decided on a legal council referral that contains proposals that DNA profiles can be registered in the biometric register of convicts on the condition that the DNA sample was taken with the support of chapter 28. of the Code of Judicial Procedure and the suspect is convicted of a crime with imprisonment on the penalty scale. The referral also contains suggestions that DNA samples shall be taken of those who have been sentenced to prison.

- xi. Is it possible for information about the identity and genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention to be transmitted to the competent authority of another Party? (Article 37 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention)**

Exchange of data regarding DNA profiles can take place within the framework of the so-called Prüm cooperation to the countries that are connected. Regulations on this can be found in the Act (2017:496) on international police cooperation. Transfer of data regarding DNA profiles can also take place within the framework of a request for legal assistance in criminal cases. The EU's data protection regulations are applicable to the transfer of personal data.

- xii. Does your State collect the data referred to above in accordance with relevant provisions on the protection of personal data? (as provided for by Articles 10 paragraph 2 and 37 paragraph 1 of the Lanzarote Convention)**

Brå makes the assessment that its data collection is only covered by Article 10 (not Article 37). The data collection and personal data processing at Brå, regarding the official crime statistics, is regulated in the law and the regulation of Official Statistics of Sweden. The data Brå collects is subject to strict statistical confidentiality in accordance with the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (SFS 2009:400), and data is handled accordingly throughout the processes: from data collection, processing, storage, compilation to statistics and dissemination. (For information on the collection and storage of DNA profiles see 2 xi).

### 3. Use of data collected

- i. **Does your State provide data on CSEA to international organisations such as: Council of Europe, World Health Organisation, EUROSTAT, UN Office of Drugs and Crime and UNICEF?**

Yes, Brå assists various international institutions/organizations with statistical data upon request (to the extent that the data is available).

As appointed other national authority (ONA) within the ESS (European Statistical System) Brå annually reports data on Crime and Criminal Justice to Eurostat, as well as to UNODC's Crime Trend Survey (CTS).

- ii. **Has your State appointed a national or local agency tasked with providing periodic reports on aggregated data or recording information on child sexual abuse committed in the circle of trust? Please specify the agency responsible. (R20 of the first implementation report of first monitoring round).**

The State has not designated a national or local body to provide periodic reports of aggregate data or to record information on child sexual abuse committed in the circle of trust. In contrast, the most recent survey on child sexual abuse conducted by the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden shows the relationship of the child respondents to the perpetrator at the time of the first abuse. See also 1.ii

### 4. Evaluation of data collection mechanisms

- i. How does your State evaluate the effectiveness of the mechanisms or focal points for data collection (for example through audits) as regards the accuracy and reliability of the data collected, including any issues of under-reporting? (R21 of the first implementation report of first monitoring round)**

Brå's production of official statistics is conducted according to standardized processes, which include quality assurance in several different stages, both of data and statistics. Official statistics must maintain high quality, and Brå is obliged to both declare and evaluate the quality annually. Brå also conducts in-depth quality studies when needed in order to analyze, for example, measurement errors or omissions. The target populations in the crime statistics consists of administrative data, and therefore no systematic studies of the dark figure are conducted regarding the crime statistics. However, such studies are occasionally conducted within the scope of Brå's research activities. The statistical operations at Brå do not conduct evaluations or efficiency studies of operational activities, but the statistics produced by Brå can be used by internal and external users for such purposes.

- ii. Is there a system in place to validate the data?**

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention has been tasked by the Government to be responsible for the official statistics within the judicial system. As a government agency responsible for statistics, Brå is responsible for ensuring that the statistics are objective; the statistics are documented; and the statistics are accompanied by a quality declaration. Official statistics must be kept publicly available free of charge on the internet. As referenced above Brå's standardized

processes for production of statistics ensures quality in several different stages, both of data and statistics.