

T-ES(2026)06_en final

26 March 2026

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

.....

Thematic questionnaire

**“Screening of professionals, volunteers and other
persons in contact with children”**

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 26 March 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. Your name and position
- b. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted
- c. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire

Persons concerned by screening requirements

1. 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 (additional details to be inserted below the table):

	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?	Please specify the professionals to whom this requirement applies
Education – Pre-school					
Education – Primary					
Education – Secondary					
Education – Tertiary					
Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)					
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)					

Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)					
Detention					
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)					
Sport					
Culture and leisure activities					
Entertainment sector					
Faith and religion					
Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)					
Social protection services					
Law enforcement					
Judicial					
Civil society organisations					
Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)					
Any other sectors (please specify)					

Here you can insert additional details or specify any exceptions.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

Information included in screening

8. Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:
- a. sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - b. sexual exploitation of a child (“child prostitution” Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - c. acts involving child sexual abuse material (“child pornography” Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - d. offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - e. corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - f. solicitation of a child for sexual purposes (“grooming”), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - g. aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention)
 - h. any other convictions (please specify)?

Please provide details.

9. Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 above extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to:
- a. relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions
 - b. other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?

Please provide details.

10. 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 they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable
 - c. are they applied only to activities in the public sector?

Please provide details.

11. 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.

Screening procedure

12. 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.

13. If screening is required, who is required to act?

- a. the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority is expected to obtain the necessary information directly from the authorities
- b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions
- c. another scenario. Please specify

Please provide details.

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

Please provide details.

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

Please provide details.

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

Please provide details.

17. 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.

18. 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.

Cross-border screening

19. 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.

20. 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 proceedings¹ (please specify)
- b. provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings (please specify)?

Please provide details.

21. 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.

Additional details and reflections

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

Please provide details.

23. What challenges related to the screening for criminal convictions for sexual offences against children of professionals, volunteers and persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or a child's legal guardian exist in your State in practice (e.g. administrative costs, delays, cross-border co-operation)?

Please provide details.

24. 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.

¹ For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.