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Strasbourg, 10 May 2019



Multi-sectorial co-operation to prevent and combat Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse International Conference

**Rooms 8 and 9, Palais Building, Council of Europe
Strasbourg, 16-17 May, 2019**

Documents prepared by the Children's Rights Division
Directorate of Anti-discrimination
Directorate General II Democracy

BACKGROUND

While the exact number of victims of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) is unknown, reports show that tens of thousands of children of all ages fall victim to OCSEA each year.¹ More than 79% of reported victims depicted in OCSEA are children aged between 4 and 13 years old.² This crime is often transnational in nature and ever evolving, recent trends include live streaming of child sex abuse images, increases in streaming of self-generated sexually explicit images and increases in online sexual coercion and extortion.³ Children of all ages are being groomed and coerced or threatened to produce images.⁴ Many of the images that are found to contain criminal content show sexual abuse including rape and sexual torture of children of all ages.⁵ This reality requires urgent action to prevent and combat this form of violence against children.

The [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) furthermore requires States to take all appropriate measure to protect the child from all forms of violence, including protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. The [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#) outlines the substantive criminal law and child-friendly procedures necessary to effectively respond to OCSEA. World leaders have reiterated their commitment to end all forms of violence and abuse of children by 2030, as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 16.2 (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children).

The [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) identifies priority areas for action including a life free from violence for all children and the rights of the child in the digital environment, including the need to address OCSEA through effective implementation of its particularly pertinent legal instruments.

The Council of Europe [Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (Lanzarote Convention) and the Council of Europe [Convention on Cybercrime \(Budapest Convention\)](#) provide comprehensive benchmarks to prevent and combat OCSEA. To assist member states to effectively uphold the rights of the child in the digital environment, including effective protection from OCSEA, the [Council of Europe CM/Rec\(2018\)7 Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment](#) also provides practical guidelines for victim-focused policing, public-private partnerships, awareness-raising activities, prevention strategies and provision of effective remedies for violations of the rights of the child.

Upholding the rights of the child in the digital environment is therefore a shared responsibility that requires a combination of public and private, legal and voluntary measures as well as the participation of children in the development, implementation and evaluation of measures.⁶ As such, multi-sectorial co-ordination and co-operation at national or local level is an absolute necessity to ensure end-to-end support for child-victims.⁷

¹ Internet Watch Foundation, *Annual Report 2017* (2018), available at: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/2017-annual-report>

² INHOPE, *Annual Report 2017* (2018), available at:

http://www.inhope.org/Libraries/Annual_reports/INHOPE_Annual_Report_2017.sflb.ashx?download=true

³ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL), *Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2018* (2018), available at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/iocta2018.pdf>

⁴ NETCLEAN, *Report 2018* (2018) available at: <https://www.netclean.com/the-netclean-report/>

⁵ International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), *Child Sexual Abuse Material: Model Legislation & Global Review 9th Edition 2018*, (2018), available at: <https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CSAM-Model-Law-9th-Ed-FINAL-12-3-18.pdf>

⁶ The [Council of Europe Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment CM rec \(2018\)7](#), Paragraph 51.

⁷ Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CETS 201), Article 10. See Also WePROTECT Global Alliance, *Model National Response* (2016) capability 8, Available at: <https://www.weprotect.org/the-model-national-response>

In this context, the Council of Europe Project to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe (EndOCSEA@Europe) supports all Council of Europe member States to prevent and combat OCSEA, with a focus on strengthening responses in: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. The Council of Europe gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for this programme by the Fund to End Violence Against Children.

EndOCSEA@Europe will support member states to prevent and combat OCSEA through technical support to: strengthen multi-sectorial co-operation at national and regional level, strengthen legislative and procedural responses to OCSEA, build capacities among law enforcement agencies, judges and prosecutors and raising awareness at all levels of society. A baseline mapping of Council of Europe member states will be completed by November 2019. Three pilot countries have been selected to develop in-depth gap analysis of national responses and training materials with a view to scaling up these tools in other member states. Support to raise awareness across all sectors will be provided throughout the project, including through child participation.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

With a view to operationalising the UN and Council of Europe legal instruments to end OCSEA, this regional conference aims to raise awareness about OCSEA and to strengthen effective responses to prevent and combat OCSEA by enhancing understanding on multi-sectorial co-operation to uphold the rights of the child and protect children in the digital environment. Participants are invited to:

- take stock and review the preliminary findings of the baseline mapping of focus countries;
- exchange views on policies, strategies and procedures to prevent and combat OCSEA;
- identify specific priority areas for action to enhance multi-sectorial co-operation at national and local level to protect the rights of child-victims of OCSEA.

PARTICIPANTS

This conference is by invitation only. The Project will cover the cost of delegations of up to five representatives from each focus country of the project EndOCSEA@Europe in line with Council of Europe rules on expert travel and subsistence. Delegations should include representatives with responsibilities to prevent and combat OCSEA in several of the following sectors:

Law enforcement agencies (specialised unit)

Ministry of Justice

Specialist judges and/or prosecutors

Child protection agencies

Ministry of Education

In addition, representatives of ombudspersons for children, civil society organisations and other relevant actors may also be invited to participate in the conference.

Thursday 16 May 2019	
09.00	Registration
09.15 – 09.30	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of the Directorate of Anti-Discrimination of the Council of Europe</p>
09.30 – 11.00	<p>Evolving trends in OCSEA: identifying the risks and adequate responses?</p> <p>The digital environment is rapidly evolving, providing new opportunities for children to exercise their rights but also exposing them to increased risks of falling victim to sexual exploitation and abuse. The risks and trends in online abuse evolve as rapidly as the environment itself which in turn increases the challenges faced by member states to effectively prevent and combat OCSEA.</p> <p>During this session trends in OCSEA will be identified, taking into account local environmental and societal factors and challenges to victim support. Responses provided by the Lanzarote Convention and other international frameworks, will also be considered.</p> <p>Moderator Regína Jensdóttir, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the Rights of the Child</p> <p>Speakers Iain Drennan, Head of International Team, Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit, United Kingdom Home Office</p> <p>Laura Smith, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Crimes against Children Unit, INTERPOL</p> <p>Tour de table: One representative from each focus country is invited to present emerging trends observed in their country.</p> <p>Questions for discussion: <i>What trends in OCSEA have or are being observed in your country? (you can refer to any public cases, media articles, institutional data or research)</i> <i>Is there a formal monitoring mechanism? (National threat assessment on CSEA, national research centre, for example)</i> <i>How are national institutions/authorities dealing with these emerging trends?</i> <i>Is information on OCSEA trends shared with other stakeholders?</i></p>
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.30-12.30	<p>Multi-sectorial co-ordination and co-operation: why is it so important?</p> <p>The consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse are multi-faceted and long-lasting. A child-victim of sexual exploitation or abuse, whether online or offline, may have suffered physical injury, psychological trauma and social or familial breakdown as a result, all the more so where the abuser is in the circle of trust of the child-victim.</p> <p>A child-victim of sexual exploitation and abuse, whether online or offline, needs appropriate support and care from a wide range of actors including education, health and social services. As a victim and witness of this crime, the child will also interact with law enforcement and judicial authorities in the course of investigations and criminal proceedings.</p> <p>Co-operation and co-ordination among these authorities and bodies, together with the judiciary and law enforcement, is therefore absolutely</p>

central to prevent the child being re-victimised and to encourage victim recovery whilst supporting effective investigations and prosecutions.

Moderator

Ms Regína Jensdóttir, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for the Rights of the Child

Speakers

Katlijn Declercq, Focal point on European Institutions, ECPAT International

Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Co-founding Director Child Circle

John Carr, Council of Europe Expert, Children’s Rights in the Online Environment

Questions for discussion:

How do institutions/bodies/authorities co-operate in practice to protect and support child-victims of OCSEA?

Which institutions/bodies/authorities actively partner or co-operate with private entities to tackle OCSEA?

Is your country participating in any international mechanisms to prevent or combat OCSEA? Does this mechanism deal with removal of OCSEA content, victim support and identification, apprehension of perpetrators?

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30

Taking stock of Policy and Governance responses to OCSEA

Member states face common challenges to protect children from OCSEA despite the wide range of national contexts present across the Council of Europe. International standards, including the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions, provide benchmarks to guide member states in their responses to OCSEA. During this session participants are invited to consider promising practices identified, provide further examples and information on multi-sectorial co-operation. An open floor discussion will focus on multi-sectorial co-operation to ensure effective legislative and policy frameworks as well as law enforcement capacities to investigate cases of OCSEA, including through effective research and monitoring.

Moderator and opening remarks

Alexander Seger, Head of the Council of Europe Cybercrime Division

Speakers

Gioia Scappucci, Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee

Jacqueline Hazzan, International Programs Liaison, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

Ana Ivanishvili, Chief Specialist of the Department of Public International Law, Ministry of Justice, Georgia

Questions for discussion:

How are international standards (Lanzarote Convention and Budapest Convention, WePROTECT model national response) being implemented in practice in your country?

Is there a referral mechanism or inter-institutional co-operation mechanism specifically dealing with child-victims of sexual exploitation and abuse?

What policies and co-operation mechanisms are in place to deal with the publication or distribution of OCSEA?

Is there a government organisation of multi-stakeholder group in charge of

	<i>these policies and mechanisms?</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	<p>Prevention and Protection of victims of OCSEA</p> <p>Children must be empowered to participate in the procedures affecting them, such participation can only be achieved through the provision of effective end-to-end victim support. In this context, children must be aware of the risks of OCSEA with a view to avoiding victimisation as well as how to report instances of OCSEA and access support services if they fall victim to this crime.</p> <p>The preliminary findings of the baseline mapping regarding victim-focused criminal justice, support and assistance for victims and awareness raising initiatives will be considered during this session. Participants are invited to participate in open floor discussions to share promising examples of protective measures and assistance to victims provided throughout investigations and criminal proceedings as well as preventive measures to empower children to stay safe online. Child participation in policy development will also be discussed.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Virgil Spiridon, Head of Operations, Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest (C-PROC)</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Victoria Baines, Council of Europe Expert, Visiting Fellow, Bournemouth University</p> <p>David Wright, Director, UK Safer Internet Centre, South West Grid for Learning</p> <p>Amela Efendic, Expert Advisor/EURC CEO, IFS-EMMAUS, INHOPE member Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Artur Degteariov, Child protection section, Center for Combating Cyber Crime, Republic of Moldova; Ms Ludmila Oleinic, Department for Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Policies, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <p><i>What reporting mechanisms are in place and who is involved in running these? Are they part of an international network?</i></p> <p><i>Are any awareness raising programmes or projects being implemented in schools?</i></p> <p><i>Are any awareness raising programmes or projects being implemented among parents or carers?</i></p> <p><i>Do judges and prosecutors receive any specific training on OCSEA?</i></p> <p><i>Do you have any examples of child participation or consultation in policy development?</i></p>
17.30	Close Day 1

<p>8.45 – 09.00</p> <p>09.00 – 10.30</p>	<p>Registration</p> <p>Room 8</p> <p>Session 1: Strengthening investigation and prosecution of OCSEA</p> <p>This workshop will explore considerations for effective reporting, evidence gathering and referrals where reports are received. The production and preservation of e-evidence including international co-operation to transfer evidence to investigating authorities will also be explored. Participants will be invited to identify strategic priorities to strengthen multi-sectorial co-operation for effective investigations and prosecutions of OCSEA.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <p>Virgil Spiridon, Head of Operations, Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest (C-PROC)</p> <p>Michael Lynch, Detective Inspector, An Garda Síochana, Ireland</p> <p>Questions for discussion: <i>Is there a specialist law enforcement unit in your country for OCSEA?</i> <i>Do law enforcement officers receive specific training on OCSEA?</i> <i>How does law enforcement co-operate with other actors to obtain and exchange e-evidence?</i></p>	<p>Room 9</p> <p>Session 2: Raising awareness to sensitise all actors involved in the multi-sectorial response</p> <p>This workshop will focus on awareness raising and capacity building to prevent OCSEA at all levels of society. Participants will be invited to identify priority actions to sensitise professionals involved at each stage of the multi-sectorial response, including: education, health and social sectors, law enforcement authorities, judges and prosecutors.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <p>David Wright, Director, UK Safer Internet Centre, South West Grid for Learning</p> <p>Iain Drennan, Head of International Team, Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit, United Kingdom Home Office.</p> <p>Questions for discussion: <i>Which institutions/bodies/authorities receive information and sensitisation OCSEA?</i> <i>Which institutions/bodies/authorities are involved in awareness raising campaigns on OCSEA among the general public?</i> <i>How can these be strengthened in practice?</i> <i>How do we systematically build resilience in children?</i> <i>What are the digital skills children have and what do they lack to protect themselves and their communities?</i> <i>What are the obstacles to effective information gathering and assessment on OCSEA? How can these be overcome?</i></p>
<p>10.30-11.00</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>	

11.00-12.30	<p>Room 8 Session 3: Identifying child-victims and reporting OCSEA This workshop will focus on victim-identification including strengthening the understanding of reporting mechanisms in this process. Participants will also discuss the necessity to recognise children as victims and to co-operate for victim referral and support during investigations. Participants will be invited to identify strategic priorities to improve law enforcement capacities to lead, support and coordinate OCSEA investigations, whilst avoiding criminalisation of children.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Michael Lynch, Detective Inspector, An Garda Síochana, Ireland</p> <p>Questions for discussion: <i>How are cases involving self-produced materials dealt with? Are there any mechanisms to avoid criminalising children? How does law enforcement, acting alone and/or co-operating with other actors, follow-up on reports received to identify and support child-victims as well as apprehend perpetrators? Is there an agreed process for removing CSAM/OCSEA material to prevent ongoing victimisation?</i></p>	<p>Room 9 Session 4: Upholding the rights of child-victims: before, during and after proceedings This workshop will focus on victim-centred procedures throughout the investigation, prosecution and criminal proceedings. Participants are invited to identify strategic priorities to enhance end-to-end victim support through multi-sectorial co-operation. Participants are also invited to discuss child participation in the development of such policies and procedures.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <p>Victoria Baines, Visiting Fellow, Bournemouth University</p> <p>John Carr, Council of Europe Expert, Children’s Rights in the Online Environment</p> <p>Questions for discussion: <i>Is there specialist support for victims of OCSEA in your country? What policies or mechanisms are in place to ensure effective referral of child-victims of OCSEA to relevant support services? What procedures are in place to ensure victim support during criminal proceedings?</i></p>
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 15.30	<p>Strategic priorities to strengthen multi-sectorial co-operation Discussion on strategic priorities identified in each Workshop for multi-sectorial co-operation and reporting on discussion from each workshop. Rapporteurs will be invited to summarise workshop findings and key priorities identified. Participants will be informed of the ways in which the conference outcomes will be implemented through the project EndOCSEA@Europe.</p> <p>Moderator Naomi Trewinnard, Senior Project Officer End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @Europe</p>	
15.30 -16.00	Coffee Break	
16.00 -17.00	<p>The way forward The Council of Europe is committed to supporting member states to end violence against children through various initiatives, campaigns and activities. To this end a number of grants have been identified to develop and support awareness raising activities in member states. Participants are invited to take note of the results of the grant award, to consider activities and actions at national level that could contribute to activities at</p>	

	international level.
	<p>Moderator Naomi Trewinnard, Senior Project Officer End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @Europe</p> <p>Speakers Livia Stoica, Secretary to the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child Mikaël Poutiers, Administrator to the Lanzarote Committee Katerina Toura, Programme Manager, Council of Europe Education Policy Division</p>
17.00	Close of Conference

Reference Documents

Council of Europe Conventions and standards and policy tools

- [Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(Lanzarote Convention\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime \(Cybercrime Convention\)](#)
- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)07 to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment](#)
- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2012\)2 of the Committee of Ministers on participation of children and young people under the age of 18](#)
- [Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 November 2010](#)

Reports and documents of the Lanzarote Committee

- [1st implementation report on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse \(2015\)](#)
- [2nd implementation report protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust, the strategies \(2018\)](#)
- [Interpretative Opinion on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of ICTs](#)
- [Guidelines for Implementation of Child Participation in the 2nd thematic monitoring round of the Lanzarote Convention on “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies \(ICTs\)”](#)

Useful guidance, tools and publications

- [WePROTECT Model National Response](#)
- [WePROTECT Global Threat Assessment 2018](#)
- [European Day against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: tools and Materials](#)
- [Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse: Child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response inspired by the Barnahus model \(2018\)](#)
- [How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: a handbook for frontline professionals \(2018\)](#)
- [It's our world: children's views on how to protect their rights in the digital environment \(2017\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Internet Literacy handbook \(2017\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool \(2016\)](#)

Council of Europe projects

- [End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @Europe](#)
- [Responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse in Georgia, phase I](#)
- [Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova](#)