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Working document

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LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

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Workplan for 2026-2027

Prepared by the Secretariat

This document is a working document prepared by the Secretariat updated in advance of each meeting.

The Lanzarote Committee is the monitoring mechanism established in line with Article 39 of the Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (“Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”). The functions of the Lanzarote Committee, as set out at Article 41 of the Lanzarote Convention are to:

- Monitor the implementation of the Convention;
- Facilitate the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experience and good practice between States;
- Facilitate the effective use and implementation of the Convention including the identification of any problems and the effects of any declarations or reservations made under the Convention;
- Express an opinion on any question concerning the application of the Convention and facilitate the exchange of information on significant legal, policy or technological developments.

The working methods of the Lanzarote Committee are determined by the [Rules of Procedure](#) and the main tasks of the Lanzarote Committee are set out in the [Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2024-2027](#), as adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

This workplan highlights the main steps in the Lanzarote Committee’s work for the period 2025-2027 to achieve the tasks and deliverables impactfully. It also includes relevant meetings of other Council of Europe bodies where the Lanzarote Committee is represented as well as key events organised by Lanzarote Committee observers and participants.

The immediate outcome for the Lanzarote Committee is that *“States Parties have identified measures to strengthen the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse on the basis of recommendations, monitoring reports and annual capacity building initiatives of the Lanzarote Committee”*.

Achievements 2011-2025:

Since the first meeting of the Lanzarote Committee (20-21 September 2011), the Lanzarote Committee has, among other things:

- Completed multiple thematic monitoring cycles covering the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in all state parties in relation to the circle of trust ([2012-2018](#) and [2023-2025](#)), [CSEA facilitated by ICTs](#) (2017-2022), [data collection mechanisms](#) (2024-2025), and [an urgent monitoring round on protecting children affected by the refugee crisis](#) (2016-2017);
- Facilitated two comparative reviews on [statutes of limitations](#) in respect of sexual offences against children and [approaches to the legal age for sexual activities](#) (2021-2023);
- Facilitated the effective use of the Convention through the adoption of the [interpretative opinion](#) on the applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated by ICTs (2017);
- Expressed the following opinions on: [online solicitation](#) (grooming) (2015), [sexually suggestive or explicit images and /or videos generated, shared and received by children](#) (2019), and [limitation periods](#) (2023); Facilitated exchange on significant legal and technological developments through the adoption of various declarations and statements on: [web addresses advertising child sexual abuse materials](#) (2016), [protecting children in out-of-home care](#) (2019), [protecting migrant and refugee children](#) (2018), [protecting children following the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#) (2023), [emerging technologies](#) (2024);
- Raised awareness that the Lanzarote Convention is open to accession by States globally;
- Raised awareness on the occasion of the annual [18 November Day](#) for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (#EndChildSexualAbuseDay).
- Promoted [capacity building](#) through annual events and workshops;
- Organised thematic hearings and exchanges with relevant stakeholders;
- Invited representatives of civil society organisations to join the Lanzarote Committee as [observers](#), including survivor-led organisations;
- Enhanced co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies, monitoring mechanisms and with other international organisations;
- Launched the HELP course on the [Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse in multiple languages](#);
- Engaged with States globally to strengthen legislation and practices in line with the Lanzarote Convention standards.

Strategic direction and workplan for 2026-2027

Since the entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention all Council of Europe member States have joined along with two non-member States, and one State is currently invited to accede to the Convention. Promoting additional signatures and ratification by States globally of the Lanzarote Convention will remain a priority in 2026 and 2027.

Core functions of the Lanzarote Committee include strengthening the implementation of the Convention through sharing information and practice and identifying recommendations, this is mainly done through thematic monitoring cycles. The new thematic monitoring cycle focuses on screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children. The Committee will also complete its compliance procedure looking at progress made since 2022 in the implementation of its findings on ICT facilitated child sexual abuse.

The capacity building function of the Committee serves to enhance the implementation of the Convention and the Lanzarote Committee recommendations. The Lanzarote Committee organises annual thematic events to explore emerging challenges. Mapping and understanding the impact of emerging technologies will remain crucial to ensure effective protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the evolving digital climate.

The Lanzarote Committee will also continue to consider the impact of emerging trends and evolving norms to ensure the continued relevance of the Lanzarote Convention. The Lanzarote Committee may consider adopting additional guidance or clarification of standards and practice required to effectively protect children.

Child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse remains a complex issue requiring a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach. Raising awareness among relevant stakeholders will remain a priority.

Objectives and actions 2026-2027:

1. Support the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and Lanzarote Committee documents by Parties.

- 1.1. Complete the new monitoring cycle on screening professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children
- 1.2. Complete the compliance procedure on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs
- 1.3. Provide guidance to strengthen the interpretation of the Lanzarote Convention as necessary (through the adoption of opinions, recommendations, declarations, statements as appropriate)
- 1.4. Facilitate the exchange of information, experience and promising practices between Parties to enhance implementation of the Lanzarote Convention
- 1.5. Strengthen capacities through annual conferences, events and awareness raising activities
- 1.6. 18 November Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: actively engage in awareness raising activities on the occasion of the annual EndCSEA Day

2. Enlarge membership of the Lanzarote Convention

- 2.1. Engage in policy dialogue with States that have signed or been invited to accede to the Lanzarote Convention, or that have otherwise signalled their interest in joining
- 2.2. Support accession by States, including actively participating in governmental discussions on accession requests and providing or facilitating technical assistance to help invited countries meet the necessary requirements

3. Ensure continued relevance of the Lanzarote Convention

- 3.1. Identify and document significant legal, policy or technical developments and appropriate responses (particularly when linked to emerging technologies) in relation to the criminalisation of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, victim protection and support, prevention of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, prosecution of sexual offences against children and international co-operation
- 3.2. Co-ordinate with relevant COE bodies and appoint Lanzarote Committee members to participate in the work of relevant committees
- 3.3. Hold thematic exchanges with civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to stay abreast of trends
- 3.4. Promote co-ordination between Parties and ensure representation of the Lanzarote Committee in relevant international meetings on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Appendix

Workplan

2026			
Meeting/Activity	Dates	Focus	Place
47 th meeting	24-26 March 2026	Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New monitoring round on screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children: discussion and possible adoption of draft questionnaire • Compliance procedure on the ICTs implementation report: Second examination and possible adoption of the first thematic report (criminal substantive and procedural law) and first examination of the second thematic report (prevention and victim services) • Exchange on the Lanzarote Convention in light of emerging trends and evolving norms • Adoption of activity report 	Strasbourg
48 th meeting	2-4 June 2026	Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic exchange with T-CY on AI-generated CSAM • Monitoring round on screening of professionals, and volunteers and other persons in contact with children: update • Compliance procedure on the ICTs implementation report: Second examination and possible adoption 	Strasbourg

		<p>of the second thematic report (prevention and victim services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiating reflection on the legal age for sexual activities • 2026 edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: ethical media reporting - update • CSO panel 	
49 th meeting	17-19 November 2026	<p>Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring round on screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children: Examination of responses received • Election of Bureau • Exchange on priorities for action in 2027 	Strasbourg
Day for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	18 November 2026	Annual Day – ethical media reporting	
Lanzarote Committee Chair exchange with Committee of Ministers	9 December 2026	Annual exchange Lanzarote Committee Chair with Committee of Ministers	Strasbourg
2027			
Meeting/Activity	Dates	Focus	Place
50 th meeting	15-19 March 2027 (TBC)	<p>Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring round on screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children – examination and possible adoption of report • Exchange on new questionnaire for next thematic monitoring round 	Strasbourg

51 st meeting and WeProtect Global Summit (TBC)	June 2027 (TBC)	Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee WeProtect Global Alliance summit (2 days)	Strasbourg
52 nd meeting	November 2027 (TBC)	Plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee	Strasbourg
Day for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	18 November 2027	Annual Day	

Other events and participation in meetings on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

Name of the person representing the Committee	Name of the event	Dates	Place
Maria José Castello-Branco	Foundation Il Telefono Azzurro ETS Conference "Knowing to protect: Strengthening protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse"	18 November 2025	Online / Rome
Kristina Stepanova	8 th meeting of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)	1-3 December 2025	Strasbourg
Ekaterina Malareva	Study visit of magistrates	4 December 2025	Strasbourg
Ekaterina Malareva	Conference "Gender-Based Violence in Digital Spaces: From Social Networks to Virtual Worlds"	9 December 2025	Online / Morocco
George Nikolaidis, Marga Stoyanova, Andra Reinomägi, Naomi Trewinnard	European Commission Prevention Network	13 January 2026	Brussels
Ekaterina Malareva	Thematic roundtable on the protection of children from child sexual exploitation and abuse	17 February 2026	Online / Erevan
Naomi Trewinnard	Third Meeting of the Project Steering Committee in Georgia, and Roundtable discussion on the Lanzarote Committee's recommendations for Georgia	19 February 2026	Online / Tbilisi