



Council of Europe Project to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Baseline Mapping

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Context and Aim

- Analysis of the situation in member states in accordance with:
 - The Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)
 - The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)
 - Selected capabilities identified in the WePROTECT Global Alliance Model National Response (MNR)



Aim of the Exercise

To identify promising practices and highlight common challenges against which member states can examine and strengthen their own policies and practices.



Scope

- All 47 member states
- Additional regional focus on progress in 10 countries:
 - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine



Capacities in Focus (1/2)

- Governance structures and multi-stakeholder co-operation in member states (LC10; WP1)
- Capacities to research, analyse and monitor current threats of OCSEA at national level (LC37; WP2)
- Specific legislative and policy frameworks to criminalise OCSEA, identify perpetrators and uphold the rights of the child-victim (LC18-29; BC9; WP3)
- Law enforcement capacities to investigate cases of OCSEA, including the existence of dedicated law enforcement units (LC30-35; WP4)



Capacities in Focus (2/2)

- Child-friendly procedures for judges and prosecutors to uphold and protect the rights of child-victims of OCSEA during criminal proceedings (LC30-36; WP5)
- Mechanisms to provide end-to-end support to child-victims of OCSEA (LC11-14; WP8)
- Education and awareness-raising initiatives to prevent OCSEA in member states (LC6-8; WP13)
- Child participation in the development of policies and practices to prevent and combat OCSEA (LC9; WP14)



Method

- Desk review of:
 - Open source material
 - Member state responses to Lanzarote Committee questionnaires
 - Contributions to EndOCSEA regional meeting, May 2019
 - Semi-structured follow up interviews





Key Findings - Challenges

- Across member states, challenges are evident in the provision of legislation to combat online grooming that keeps pace with changing trends in OCSEA.
- Few States have established national research and analysis capabilities, management regimes for OCSEA offenders, or support services for offenders and potential offenders that can prevent OCSEA.
- In a number of the focus countries, there appears to be an additional challenge in relation to law enforcement capacity and expertise.



Key Findings – Promising Practices (1/2)

- Engagement in multi-disciplinary and interagency (MDIA) services for child victims is increasing in member states.
- In the focus countries, stakeholders have:
 - assumed global leadership roles in the provision of CSAM reporting and removal ;
 - successfully incentivised the education sector to contribute to awareness raising campaigns;
 - optimised collaboration between hotlines, helplines and Safer Internet Centres.



Key Findings – Promising Practices (2/2)

Member states are:

- working to systematically improve justice professionals' expertise in relation to OCSEA and to make justice more child-friendly;
- using cutting edge application development to deliver assistance to children and families within the technology they use;
- leading the way in youth participation in policy and operational responses.



Assistance is Available

- For law enforcement, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, ICMEC and others can provide specialist training and support.
- For the judiciary, the Council of Europe's HELP programme can help to establish training on child-friendly justice.
- For services for child-victims, the PROMISE project and Marie Collins Foundation can provide advice and guidance.



Concluding Messages

- The challenge of resourcing a comprehensive multi-stakeholder response to OCSEA is a cross-cutting issue that affects all Council of Europe member states.
- While there is still much work to do, there is much about which to be hopeful.



Thank you for your attention

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