

# Annual Report Lithuanian Presidency 2020-2021

The CBSS Expert Group  
on Children at Risk



**Children  
at Risk**

collaboration





# **CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk<sup>1</sup>**

Annual Report  
Lithuanian Presidency 2020 – 2021

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<sup>1</sup> The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk consist of senior officials appointed by the ministries responsible for children's issues in the member countries to the Council of the Baltic Sea States; Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.



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## Executive summary

The Lithuanian Presidency took place amid the Covid-19 crisis, which posed unprecedented challenges to countries in our region and around the world.

Under the strong leadership of the Lithuanian Presidency, the Expert Group on Children at Risk, with support of the Children at Risk Unit at the Secretariat, adapted and continued its work towards our vision of a Baltic Sea Region in which every child enjoy the full range human rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The Lithuanian Presidency took leadership in promoting and facilitating dialogue on the emotional wellbeing of children in our region, the impact of Covid-19 on children, in particular vulnerable children, and child trafficking in the digital era. The expert group met twice to exchange and promote good practice stemming from the countries in our region.

Key highlights of the Lithuanian Presidency included the two high-level conferences on the emotional wellbeing of children, and on child trafficking in the digital era. These two events were attended from a wide range of professionals from across the Baltic Sea Region and beyond and included statements from Lithuanian Ministers on both occasions.

In late 2020, the expert group looked at the impact of Covid-19 on children in our region. At the time, we did not yet have access to evidence about the impact of the crisis but took note of concerns across the Member States for children beyond the health crisis. The members shared extensive good practice to address these challenges. The results of the exchange are presented in brief in this report.

During the Lithuanian Presidency, we continued to promote the expansion of the Barnahus model, which has its origins in Iceland, and is present in most countries in the Baltic Sea Region. Through our Promise flagship project and network, we contributed to training, professional exchange, development of tools, including on child participation, contributed to country specific analysis, and developed roadmaps towards the implementation of the Barnahus model. We also played an



active role in coordinating action in Europe to promote the Barnahus model and continued to build strategic partnerships with other international organisations that promote child centred justice and recovery for child victims of violence.

Under the strong leadership of the Lithuanian Presidency, we played an important role as an ally to national, regional and global actors, in a broad range of areas of concern to children at risk, for example sexual violence, online violence trafficking, domestic violence and disasters. A series of contributions were made to regional and international conferences and webinars. Cooperation with other units in the CBSS Secretariat, such as the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, and the Civil Security Team, resulted in concrete projects, conferences and reports.

Importantly, our exchange and collaboration during the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, has shown that regional cooperation is extremely valuable, and that we must continue – and strengthen – our efforts to exchange and promote good practice, to engage in practical projects, and to build mutual trust. With a strong 5-year mandate and strategy behind us, we stand ready to continue our mission to promote children’s rights, to bolster national child protection systems and to promote the wellbeing of children and non-violent childhoods.

Daina Urbonaitienė, Chief Advisor for Children’s Issues, Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Rūta Pabedinskienė, Advisor, Adoption and Guardianship, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Head of Children at Risk Unit, CBSS Secretariat

November 2021





## **Lithuanian Presidency & Children at Risk Expert Group at a glance**

### **Lithuanian Chair of the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk**

Daina Urbonaitienė, Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Rūta Pabedinskienė, State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service

### **Lithuanian vice-chair of the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk**

Unni Nygaard, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs – Bufdir

### **The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk**

The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk (CAR) consists of eleven members from the respective members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The line ministries in the CBSS member states dealing with children's issues, including Ministries and State Agencies designated to children, have appointed representatives to the Expert Group. The European Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child has an open invitation to take part in the meetings and in other expert meetings organised by the Expert Group.

The website of the Expert Group on Children at Risk is: <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/>

### **The Children at Risk Unit at the CBSS Secretariat**

Since 2002, the work as approved by the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk is executed by the Children at Risk Unit within the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The Children at Risk Unit provides secretarial and professional support to the Expert Group, interfaces with strategic partners, drafts relevant documents and reports, and develops and executes projects.



- Senior Advisor and Head of Unit – Olivia Lind Haldorsson
- Programme Coordinator and Promise Network Coordinator – Shawwna von Blixen
- Promise Competence Centre Coordinator – Linda Jonsson
- Project and Team Assistant – Anastasia Edwardson

The work is actively supported by CBSS staff specially assigned to support the Children at Risk Unit:

- Media and Communications Assistant – Silvija Marcinkeviciute
- Financial Controller – Mia Skyten

## Finance

The Children at Risk Unit operates on a budget built on member states' contributions. In 2020–21, all Member States contributed to the Children at Risk Unit, and the Children at Risk Unit operating budget was in balance. The Expert Group has been successful in securing funds for specific actions through the European Commission, the Swedish Institute and the EEA Norway Grants. Co-financing, a regular feature of external funding for projects, has been covered by the employment costs of the Children at Risk Unit staff.

## Mandate and Regional Strategy

The Lithuanian Presidency embarked on the new [mandate](#) and [strategy](#), which were adopted under the Danish Presidency. The mandate sets out the Expert Group's vision, mission, organisational structure, finance, and evaluation mechanisms.

*Our vision* for the Baltic Sea region (BSR) is that of a region where children enjoy the full range human rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Our vision is an integral part of the CBSS overall vision for the Baltic Sea region and forms an important contribution to the achievement of the CBSS long-term priorities.



In our vision, effective national child protection systems offer comprehensive prevention, protection and support, thereby providing equal opportunities for all children to grow, develop and thrive free from all forms of violence as defined in UNCRC article 19. Each child has equal opportunities and is offered meaningful opportunities for participation and active involvement in building a prosperous, safe and secure region for all.

Our mission is to promote children's rights and to bolster national child protection systems, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of violence, through regional dialogue and practical cooperation. The role of the Children at Risk Expert group embraces the two fundamental pillars of CBSS – political dialogue and practical cooperation based on tangible projects.

The strategy, which complements the mandate, sets out three strategic priority areas for the Expert group in the coming five years, including 1) Prevention and Early intervention – Strengthening Child Protection Systems, 2) Protection, Support and Justice – Promoting multidisciplinary and interagency services, and 3) Partnerships for children's rights and child protection – Promoting Law, policy and joint strategies.

To implement the strategy, the expert group acts as a convenor, pathfinder, driver, initiator, coordinator and facilitator in close collaboration with national authorities, civil society, international and regional organisations, professionals, academia and other units at the CBSS Secretariat.

The strategy draws on and contributes to global and regional legal and policy frameworks, ethical and safe data collection and the voices of children and youth. In implementing the strategy, the expert group takes note of relevant global and regional agendas, goals and strategies<sup>i</sup>, to ensure strategic direction, complementarity and added value in achieving global and regional commitments to children.

Child participation is a cross-cutting priority. The expert group will explore concrete methodologies for ethical and meaningful child participation in the context our work, promoting the inclusion of children from a diversity of backgrounds and



situations. The expert group supports awareness-raising to promote positive attitudes, norms and values to safeguard the rights of children, and promotes **integrated strategies**, including sustainable measures that have been demonstrated to contribute to real positive change in the lives of children at risk:

- Prevention, Early Intervention and rapid response at first signs of harm
- Tailor-made Multidisciplinary Response and Support Services
- Encouraging a positive justice, law and policy setting
- Safe environments
- Parent and caregiver support
- Education and life skills, including investment in early childhood education

The Expert Group and the CAR Unit at the CBSS Secretariat is fully committed the mission of keeping children protected and safeguarded from actions that place them at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation, injury and any other harm.

To monitor progress, the expert group adopts annual activity plans, which form the basis for progress reports.

## **Lithuanian Presidency July 2020-June 2021**

The role of the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk embraces the two fundamental pillars of CBSS – political dialogue between States and practical cooperation based on tangible projects. This provides the Member States opportunities to move forward positions in our three priority areas: Strengthening child protection systems, Justice and Recovery for child victims and witnesses of violence and, building partnerships for children’s rights, child protection and non-violent childhoods.

### **Lithuanian Presidency highlights**

#### **Children's emotional well-being**

A key highlight included the Presidency the [high-level conference on children's emotional well-being](#). The conference gathered actors from across the Region to

learn from each other and share knowledge about children's emotional health. Participants included representatives from the Lithuanian Pupil's Union, the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania held a welcome speech stating that concerns related to mental health issues among children and adolescents in Lithuania, especially now during the Covid-19 crisis, is on the rise. The Minister highlighted measures to support parents, including positive parenting programmes; children's participation in decision-making; access to community services and family friendly policies and support systems. He concluded his speech by emphasizing the importance of prioritizing children's emotional welfare at national level and in international cooperation to ensure integrated measures.

### Child trafficking in the digital era

The Lithuanian Presidency also hosted a [high-level conference on child trafficking in the digital era](#). This conference gathered almost 200 participants from across the Baltic Sea Region and the EU. The conference was organised as a joint collaboration between the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk and the CBSS Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings with the purpose of shedding light on how technology facilitates trafficking in children, who the victims are, and what the impact is on children who are trafficked, and to learn more about identification, investigation, safe paths to recovery and justice for children.

Speakers included Ms Agnė Bilotaitė, Lithuanian Minister of Interior, Ms Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ms Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Mr Cathal Delaney, Head of Team Analysis Project Twins at Europol and a series of experienced researchers and practitioners. In an ongoing CBSS effort to involve young people in all aspect of decision-making and problem-solving in the Baltic Sea Region, a youth panel shared their perspectives throughout the conference as well.

Ms Agnė Bilotaitė, the Lithuanian Minister of Interior remarked that “in the context of the recent pandemic, the digital space has become one of the main means of communication for children. It connects children to the world they were previously accustomed to, friends, teachers, entertainment. Unfortunately, they are also exposed to various threats in the digital space. The conference is a response of the Baltic Sea Region to the growing issue of online exploitation of children and traps of human trafficking.”

## **Prevention and Early Intervention: Strengthening National Child Protection Systems**

The core strategic area and priority of the CAR Expert Group is to promote and facilitate regional exchange on key issues of concern to the CAR Expert Group Members with the purpose of identifying and promoting actions to strengthen national child protection systems, in particular measures for prevention and early interventions to protect children at risk.

To implement our role, we act as convenors, facilitating dialogue and exchange with the aim of identifying promising and good practice, building mutual trust and promoting a regional approach and culture on children’s rights and child protection.

### **Priority 1. Regional exchange on children at risk through structured information-sharing frameworks and facilitated expert interventions to identify good/promising practice on prevention and early intervention constitutes the core priority of the CAR Expert Group**

The Lithuanian Presidency hosted two *expert group meetings during its presidency. Both meetings were held online due to Covid-19 restrictions. While the Chair regretted that she could not invite the experts to Lithuania, the online format proved a conducive environment for both exchange and decision-making.*

Beyond adopting the annual activity plans, reports from the Secretariat, including financial reports, and the budget for 2021, the experts engaged in dialogue and exchange of good practice, including systematic collection of information from the respective Member States about their country situation and measures to address challenges in two Presidency priority areas: the emotional wellbeing of children and child trafficking in the digital era.

## Meeting of the Expert Group, Autumn 2020

The Lithuanian Presidency exchange in the Autumn of 2020, focussed on the emotional wellbeing of children in our region, with a focus on identifying good practice, and things we can become better at. A structured questionnaire was circulated among the members, which showed that all of the responding countries had experienced an increase in mental health concerns in children and young people. The members provided a wealth of examples of good practice, which were documented in a report from the exchange, and which will be integrated in the forthcoming Children at Risk registry of good practice.

The Expert group emphasised the following factors and measures that are crucial to ensure emotional wellbeing of children:

- Relationship with parents, friends, and society as a whole: Positive parenting, responsive care, non-violent childhoods.
- Children's participation in decision-making: Measures to hear children's voices.
- Access to community services (social education, health: Ensuring the integrity of the services, poverty reduction and a better quality of life.
- Family-friendly policy: Putting in place a family support system that creates the right conditions for raising children (benefits, parental leave, services, etc.) and a safe and prosperous environment for children and their families.

The autumn exchange also focussed on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Drawing on a questionnaire and presentations made by the respective Member States, the members identified similar patterns and shared good practice. While the members emphasised that it was too early to draw any evidence-based conclusion, the group concluded that children are affected by the pandemic in many different ways, both directly and indirectly. Common observations about the impact included that children's daily routines, including education and extracurricular activities were disrupted, and that there was less contacts with friends and relatives. In severe cases this led isolation. The distant learning showed tendencies of increased stress. The Member States noted signs of significantly increased stress levels in children and families, with some countries reporting an increase in suicide. Online access to information, education, friends, and relatives was seen as very positive but the members also recognised that potential increased exposure to online abuse and in some cases and risks of unhealthy online habits.

Increased vulnerability to violence, poverty, neglect, and marginalisation, especially among children who already are at risk, was a concern of most members. At the same time, access to services were disrupted. The members took note of decreased capacity, closed services, inadequate online services, and a concern about the case backlog after an ease in restrictions and lifted lockdowns. A few countries observed a delayed access to justice, however, some member states pointed to good practice in terms of ensuring online and remote hearings.

A key conclusion from the exchange was that child protection remained high on the agenda during the covid-19 crisis, and that both services, education, support, and assistance to children were adapted to meet pressing needs. Information campaigns, child helplines, training and technical equipment became crucial tools for child protection. Drawing on good practice, the expert group identified considerations to take with us in our efforts to ensure child protection in times of crisis:

- Research the short- and longer-term impact on children of lock-down and other measures during the Covid-19 pandemic. Communicate findings to decision-makers to ensure sustainable measures for children.
- Identify and implement measures to normalize the situation for children as much as possible – schools and child-care centres to remain open to the greatest extent possible. Ensure resources for protection and access to national guidelines on how to prevent and reduce spread of infection.
- Reduce paperwork and bureaucracy during a crisis to ensure access to State financial support and allowances for families and children, especially the most vulnerable and at risk.
- Provide access to information, including child friendly information, through a variety of media on how to stay safe and healthy, including on mental health and reducing stress and safety online.
- Set up national working groups to draft and oversee national strategies to support children and families during lock-down and after.
- Provide children with opportunities for meaningful and ethical participation in planning, evaluation, and decision-making.
- Build back better child protection and health systems that can cope with extraordinary circumstances such as lock-down without a serious disruption of services and assistance – long-term national action plans and strategies.
- Longer-term investment in increasing specialist staff, specialised services.

- Broad partnerships – government, non-governmental at national, regional, and international level

### Meeting of the Expert Group, Spring 2021

In Spring 2021, the Lithuanian Presidency facilitated a joint exchange between the CBSS Children at Risk Expert group and the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. The exchange focussed on the country situation and measures concerning child trafficking, with a specific emphasis on online elements. The following joint take home message was formulated:

The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk and the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings emphasize the pressing need to significantly step-up efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in children in the digital environment and to assist and support the victims. We acknowledge the increasing importance of communication technologies in children's lives, and the opportunities it presents for children's education, communication and access to information and entertainment.

At the same time, we acknowledge the risks of harm that children may be exposed to online, including trafficking and other forms of exploitation and abuse. The Internet has become a mechanism by which children are lured in, recruited for human trafficking, and exploited for various purposes.

Effective, swift, and sensitive identification of child victims and provision of child friendly justice, assistance and safe pathways to recovery require collaborative approaches, which involve relevant players in the public and private sectors as well as anti-trafficking and child protection actors at the local, national and international level. Building resilience of children through addressing particular vulnerabilities and enhancing their knowledge about online harms and risk factors should be prioritised.

### Priority 2. Mapping of national child protection systems and good/promising practice for prevention and early intervention in the Baltic Sea Region to establish a regional registry of good practice and practical solutions to strengthen national child protection systems

The Expert Group embarked on a process to develop a concept and terms of reference for a regional mapping of national child protection systems, including a regional registry of good practice. This led to a joint collaboration between the

Lithuanian Chair and the Norwegian Co-chair (incoming Presidency) to develop a project to systematically map child protection systems in the Baltic Sea Region, with a view to identify good practice and elements that contribute to inclusive and resilient child protection systems, including in times of crisis.

The project will receive funding from the CBSS Project Support Facility and was launched in September 2021, involving Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania and Norway (lead), The research will also cover Denmark (“informal collaboration”), and Russia (in collaboration with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council).

### **Protection, Support and Justice: Promoting multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence (Barnahus)**

This strategic priority area focusses on promoting the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence to be heard, receive information, assistance and support through effective, professional and child friendly and multidisciplinary interventions.

In this area, the Children at Risk Expert groups is a pioneer and pathfinder, drawing on our strong regional identity and expertise in the area of multidisciplinary services for child victims of violence (Barnahus). The Barnahus model is a leading European multi-disciplinary and interagency practice responding to violence against children. The model ensures a child-friendly environment and provides rapid access to justice and quality care for child victims and witnesses of violence. Barnahus have been set up, piloted or are being set up in almost all the countries of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Expert Group supervises and provides advice to Children at Risk initiatives and projects to develop sustainable networks, ground-breaking initiatives and innovative approaches, policy and tools. We develop and nurture strategic partnerships to ensure synergies, trusted partnerships and joint and harmonised action.

**Priority 1. Promoting multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence through path-finding initiatives, coordination of broad partnerships (Promise Barnahus Network, Council of Europe, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (UN SRSG VAC)).**

Children at Risk plays a central role in leading and overseeing development of the Promise Barnahus Network, which promotes the Barnahus model. The CBSS chairs the network steering group, providing opportunities to promote the Baltic Sea Region approach to multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) models for child victims and witnesses of violence in the region and beyond. In doing so, the expert group drives and promotes a regional good practice model and benefits from broader regional exchange that informs national practice.

Children at Risk furthermore convened the first coordination meeting between CoE, EU, WHO, UNICEF, EEA, and other actors that promote the Barnahus model in Europe. This provided an opportunity ensure synergies, avoiding unhelpful overlaps, building mutual trust and promoting a harmonised regional approach and culture on children's rights and child protection.

Children at Risk also contributed to several initiatives to promote Barnahus by conducting legal analysis, supporting country analysis and roadmaps and facilitating professional dialogue. For example, Children at Risk carried out a mapping for the Council of Europe on the impact of Ukraine's legal framework, procedural safeguards and pathways to recovery for child victims of violence.

**Priority 2. Implementation of flagship projects (Promise) with a focus on coordinating sustainable exchange, competence building training, peer support, networking, practical tools, and interventions.**

[Promise is a CBSS and EU Flagship Project](#), which has promoted the Barnahus model, which has its origin in the Baltic Sea Region, since 2015.

Building on the success of the EU funded PROMISE project (2015-2017), PROMISE II (2017-2019), the PROMISE 3 (2020-2022) project commenced in April 2020.

Promise 3 aims to, among other things, deliver university level training in forensic interviewing and relevant therapy necessary for Barnahus in Europe and a case

management tool including a child participation tool. A series of training opportunities were implemented in the period, including on child investigative interviews and therapeutic interventions.

## **Partnerships for children’s rights and child protection: Promoting law, policy and joint strategies**

This priority area focusses on promoting international legal and policy instruments, concepts and guidance adopted by all CBSS Member States for children’s rights and child protection through broad international and regional partnerships and alliances.

During the Lithuanian Presidency, the Expert Group enjoyed strong global partnerships and acted as an ally, observer, and adviser in several regional and international fora. We shared experiences, recommendations, and practical tools from our region to a broader audience and engaged in an exchange information on emerging, developing and ongoing initiatives.

### **Priority 1. Contributing to regional and global strategic events, consultations, workshops and training opportunities to disseminate practical tools and share learning from the BSR region.**

The Expert Group strengthened its relation and position in the international community to prevent and address violence against children, by becoming members of the Global Partnership to End Violence against children. Children at Risk was also accepted as a member of the EU Victim Rights Platform, in its capacity as coordinators of the Promise Barnahus Network. The Expert Group furthermore has an observer status to the Lanzarote Committee, which monitors the implementation of the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and the Council of Europe Committee for the Rights of the Child (“CDEFN”).

Children at Risk contributed to regional and international exchange of good practice in a series of events, for example in the two high-level Lithuanian presidency conferences on the [emotional wellbeing of children](#), and on [child trafficking in the digital era](#). Children at Risk hosted and presented regional good practice at the

[second high-level event on corporal punishment Global Partnership to End Violence Against children.](#)

Children at Risk furthermore played an important role in the [EU Forum on the Rights of the Child](#), which gathered more than 300 experts from all over the world in an online, interactive event under the theme of this 13th edition: 'Delivering for children: towards the European strategy on the rights of the child'. Children at Risk moderated the full workshop on Combating violence against children and was involved in the preparation and follow up to the session.

Other contributions include interventions in a Europol webinar on ensuring exploration of online child sexual abuse elements in criminal investigations on child sexual abuse, the Council of Europe conference on trafficking in human beings, with a focus on multidisciplinary collaboration justice, recovery, and durable solutions for child victims of trafficking, and a conference organised by the Lithuanian National Courts Administration on child friendly justice.

## **Priority 2. Developing and nurturing relations and joint initiatives with allies and partners in a broad range of areas to explore emerging, developing and ongoing trends and risks to children.**

Children at Risk engaged in a series of activities, research, and collaboration to address ongoing and developing trends that put children at risk, with the aim of developing and promoting common, practical solutions to protect and empower children in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. A selection of the activities are introduced below.

### **Trafficking & Exploitation**

Children at Risk commissioned a study into the role of multidisciplinary and interagency services in cases of child trafficking. This report focuses on whether Barnahus, or Barnahus like services, currently do or might play a role both in enhancing the identification, support and assistance provided to children who may have been trafficked and in supporting criminal investigations into cases of child trafficking. The orientations and recommendations for future action arise out of findings from a short study and consultations with key experts in six countries in the Baltic Sea region.

## Safe and Secure

Children at Risk is a flagship for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). During the Lithuanian Presidency, Children at Risk commenced a close collaboration with CBSS Secretariat's Civil Security team (which also coordinates the EUSBSR Policy Area Secure) to explore and strengthen the role of children and youth in promoting a common societal security culture in the BSR and as contributors to building resilient societies. The collaboration takes the form of a regional project, which involves carrying out a study into the role of children and youth in building resilient societies, a common security culture and meaningful, ethical ways of engaging children and youth in prevention, preparedness and response in emergencies in the Baltic Sea Region.

## Online Safety

Children at Risk became partner to the [regional project](#) "Road Safety Online" to promote safe online behaviour, including [awareness-raising and contributions](#) to a campaign to increase children and adults awareness about risks and safe practice online. The objective of is to improve children's capability to protect themselves and their safety in dangerous situations as well as to teach them what is right, what is wrong, what should be avoided and what is acceptable.

Children at Risk carried out a [survey](#) in collaboration with the Council of Europe, into the practice of Barnahus and similar services to investigate and support children in cases of online violence. The survey report provides a brief overview of available statistics of cases in Barnahus dealing with online sexual abuse or have some form of online element, examples of typical case types, covid-19 trends, and specific victim needs as identified by Barnahus including any special protocols and good practices.

## Selection of events and meetings under the Lithuanian Presidency

### July 2020

**2 July, Webinar:** Learnings from the first year of The Lighthouse, the first Barnahus in the UK (moderated by Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

## September 2020

**15-16 September, online:** PROMISE National coordinator training, PROMISE 3 (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**21-25 September, online:** Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee meeting, Committee of the parties to the Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**29 September - 1 October, online:** EU Forum on the rights of the child, an annual meeting organised by the EU with stakeholders to discuss EU priorities on the rights of the child (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

## October 2020

**5-6 October, online:** Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child meeting (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**5-9 October, online:** PROMISE forensic interview training (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**9 October, online:** Conference for Spanish Barnahus, intervention to introduce the PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**9 October, online:** Conference organized by Zagreb Youth and Child Protection Centre, intervention on the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration to prevent and address mental health problems in children (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**14 October, online:** Brighthood Conference, Concrete and innovative solutions to fight child sexual abuse online (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**15 October, online:** European Parliament Intergroup Service Group on Children's Rights: Expert meeting on EU legislation on the fight against child sex abuse online. What is the role of the private sector and technology? (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

## November 2020

**2 November, online:** Children and Young people's participation is not a project, it's a right! (CAR Programme coordinator Shawna von Blixen)

**3 November, online:** UNICEF-Webinar "Children and Climate Change in Africa" Virtual Round Table". (CAR Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**4 November, online:** Steering group meeting of the PROMISE Barnahus Network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**5 November, online:** Children at Risk Expert Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**6 November, online:** Children's emotional health: what achievements the countries can be proud of and what challenges remain unresolved, Lithuanian Presidency Conference (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**6 November, online:** Council of Europe, Draft Law on Barnahus in Slovenia: Taking stock of the results of the public consultation process (Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen)

**9 November, online:** ChYResilience project kick-off meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Project Assistant for CAR Anastasia Edwardson)

**12 November, online:** CoE Webinar on Educational measures to prevent risks associated with child self-generated sexual images/videos (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**16-18 November, online:** 2nd Plenary meeting of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**17 November, online:** Second CSO meeting under the Lithuanian CBSS Presidency, Presentation of Children at Risk Expert Group (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**18 November, online:** Conference for Australian experts on Child-Centred Approaches to Ending Family Violence Conference, intervention to introduce the PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**18 November, online:** Strategic bilateral dialogue with the EU Coordinator on the Rights on the CAR new mandate and strategy, action to promote Barnahus and strategic partnership with the EU (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**23 November, online:** Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee meeting, Committee of the parties to the Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**23 November, online:** PROMISE Barnahus Network member meeting, with supporting words from the EU and UN. (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**24 November, online:** PROMISE Child Participation Working Group (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson and Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**26 November, online:** OSCE meeting on trafficking, AECT meeting (Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen)

**26 November, online:** Book release party for The Journey to the Lighthouse, hosted by the PROMISE network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**30 November, online:** Kick-off meeting of the ChYResilience project (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

## December 2020

**3 December, online:** Nordic Council of Ministers coordination call (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen)

**4 December, online:** National Coordinator meeting for forensic interview (Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**7-11 December, online:** Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee meeting, Committee of the parties to the Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CAR Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**8 & 15 December, online:** Multidisciplinary team training with Greg Flett (Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**17 December, online:** Council of Europe Ukraine Team, legal analysis meeting, where CAR is providing consultation services (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

## January 2021

**7 January, online:** Coordination call with Europol (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**8 January, online:** National Coordinator meeting for forensic interview (Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**11-12 January, online:** Preparation meeting for TF-CBT with course leaders and national coordinators (Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**13 January, online:** Courtesy call PROMISE Network and Family Justice Centre Network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**18 January, online:** PROMISE 3 partner meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**20 January, online:** WHO Webinar on INSPIRE (Law and Policy) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**21 January, online:** Barnahus in Ukraine: Consultation with Experts, Council of Europe Project (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**21 January, online:** Webinar to launch the new CoE Manual on Children's Participation (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**26 January, online:** Promise child participation working group, with external guest Åsa Landberg (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**28 January, online:** PROMISE Barnahus Network steering group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

## February 2021

**2 February, online:** Protecting Children #OnlineSafetyRoad (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**4 February, online:** Scottish Barnahus Research Advisory Group (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**8 February, online:** Barnahus in Ukraine: Consultation with Experts, Council of Europe Project, where CAR unit is providing consultation services (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**23 February, online:** Alyson MacKenzie, Accreditation Program Coordinator for the child advocacy association in the USA (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**24 February, online:** General assembly of the PROMISE Barnahus Network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**25 February, online:** Meeting of the End Violence Corporal punishment reference group, Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

## March 2021

**1 March, online:** Meeting between PROMISE and the Latvian team working on Barnahus, discussing their new project and how the Network can support. (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**3 March, online:** Promise child participation working group, with external guest Kaitlin Lounsbury, Program Evaluation Coordinator at the National Children's Alliance in the US (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**3-5 March, online:** TF-CBT Training, Promise 3 (Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**11 March, online:** Professional exchange on substantiation and individual assessments at Barnahus (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**12 March, online:** CSO Meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**16 March, online:** Child Participation Working Group (Head of Children and Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson & Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**16 & 18 March, online:** Barnahus and Child Trafficking (study) - Focus group consultations with stakeholders from Iceland, Norway and Sweden (first round) and Estonia, Finland and Lithuania (second round)

**17 March, online:** E-protect E PROTECT II: Preventing secondary and repeat victimisation of child victims of crime (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**18 March, online:** One Day Training with Linda Steele - Forensic Interview Training follow-up (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**24 March, online:** Celebration of the adoption of General Comment No.25, which sets out how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child applies in the digital environment (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

## April 2021

**8 April, online:** Barnahus in Ukraine: Presentation of legal analysis to stakeholders in Ukraine, Council of Europe Project, where CAR unit is providing consultation services (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**12 April, online:** A Europe for All Children, presentation of EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and CoE Forthcoming strategy (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**13 April, online:** INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children training series, Response and Support Services (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**14 April, online:** Council of Europe and CBSS coordination meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**14 April, online:** Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team Meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**20 April, online:** Child Participation Working Group (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**26 April, online:** EEA Portugal Barnahus project working meeting on the feasibility study (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**28 April, online:** PROMISE Steering group (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

## May 2021

**3-7 May, online:** Forensic interview training with avatar practice within the PROMISE Barnahus Network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at

Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**4 May, online:** PROMISE lecture: Conjoint therapy – Experiences, benefits (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**5 May, online:** Trafficking in the Digital Era – Joint TF-THB and CAR Tour de Table (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**5-6 May, online:** CAR Expert group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**17-18 May, online:** Base-Child Abuse and Neglect (BASE-CAN) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**18 May, online:** Child Participation Working Group (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**19 May, online:** CBSS Project Support Facility Selection Committee (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**21 May, online:** Coordination meeting with Finland Representative Barents Sea Euro-Arctic Council on the Barents Children and Youth at Risk programme (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**24-28 May, online:** EU CERV week, introducing the new programming period and updating about reporting rules for the closing period. (Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna von Blixen)

**28 May, online:** Policy Presentation: GDPR – CBSS Routines (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson)

**31 May-1 June, online:** Base-Child Abuse and Neglect (BASE-CAN) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawna

von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

## June 2021

**1 June, online:** Lithuanian conference of Criminal Courts Administration, intervention on child friendly proceedings (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**3 June, online:** Promoting Barnahus in Europe – Informal Tour de Table with EU, CoE, EEA Norway Grants, UNICEF (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**4 June, online:** Children at Risk Hosts Second high-level event on corporal punishment in the context of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against children (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**10 June, online:** Uncovering CSE using interviews of children – a multidisciplinary approach, Europol/CEPOL webinar (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**11 June, online:** Indico production meeting for the recording child interviews course. (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

**15 June, online:** Base-Child Abuse and Neglect (BASE-CAN) (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**15 June, online:** PROMISE Lecture: Child Sexual Abuse and Child Physical Abuse in families CPC-CBT (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen, Project Assistant Anastasia Edwardson, Competence Centre Coordinator Linda Jonsson)

**22 June, online:** Child participation working group, Promise Network (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Shawwna von Blixen)

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<sup>i</sup> For example the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region; the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child; the Nordic Council of Ministers cross-sectoral strategy on children and young people and; relevant Council of Europe documents adopted by all CBSS Member States.