

STOP CHILD ABUSE REPORT

COMPARATIVE REPORT



STOP:

STOP Child Abuse Through Effective Training and
Augmented Reality

Author: Silvoja Stanić, Parents Association Step by Step

STOP CHILD ABUSE – COMPARATIVE REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Although there is no unique definition, child sexual abuse involves a dependent, developmentally immature child or adolescent engaged in sexual activities, which they cannot understand or give mature consent to (Hobbs, Hanks and Wynne, 1999). Child sexual abuse traumatization is complex and is usually caused by more than exposure to a single traumatic event. Child professionals need to understand the connection between the trauma of sexual victimization and the different levels of a child's adjustment to it.

Sexual abuse that occurs during a child's development can have adverse effects on certain developmental processes, such as emotional regulation, cognitive style, and coping mechanisms, and thus entail long-term consequences. The most common effects of sexual abuse in children are symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress and inappropriate sexual behavior.

In order to achieve better protection of children as well as recognition of the problem, the Council of Europe (2010) started the campaign "1 in 5" which is based on available estimates that 1 in 5 children in Europe today experience some form of sexual violence (contact or non-contact), and usually from an adult person they know and trust.

Although significant advances have been made in the last twenty years in the prevention and recognition of child sexual abuse, it is extremely important to continue working to further develop new forms of child protection. Taking all the above into consideration, the Erasmus+ Project STOP – Stop Child Abuse Through Effective Training and Augmented Reality aims to provide an innovative answer to the adverse childhood experiences that affect youth in Europe. **STOP aims at decreasing sexual abuse and exploitation of young people (9-18 years old) by offering an innovative learning methodology to youth workers about sex abuse prevention. The project wants to provide new approaches and tools to youth workers based on AR (augmented reality) game to fight child adverse experience both online and offline. Empower youth workers to teach children how to respond to suspected abuse and will transform them from simple youth workers into child protector from violence and abuse.**

The aim of this report is to analyse and compare the current situation in five European countries, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Croatia and Spain reviewing legal framework, relevant statistics, key stakeholders and good practices dealing with child sexual abuse.

2. Sexual Child Abuse – Comparative Analysis

2.1 Desk Research

2.1.1 Legal Framework

Review of national legal frameworks from Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain and Croatia shows a very comprehensive policy framework of promoting children's rights that is incorporated in great body of legislation, institutional and strategic documents. Most national laws, procedures and strategies are aligned and stem from commitments made through international and European strategic documents.

All the States included in analysis are a signatory of **the Convention on the Rights of the Child** from 1989 and took over the concomitant obligations to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence in the family, institutions and the wider social environment, and to use a child rights-based approach – a human rights and child rights principles to programming in all sectors which means the realization of human rights of all children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child refers to the protection of the child from physical and psychological violence, abuse and neglect (Article 19), all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 34), abduction of and traffic in children (Article 35), all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any other aspect of the child's welfare (Article 36), inhuman and humiliating treatment or punishment (Article 37).

Also, there's significant impact of **The Convention of the Council of Europe for Child Protection from Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of the 25th of October of 2007 (Lanzarote Convention)**, on national legislation. All the states (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain and Croatia) have been ratified the Convention and integrated it into their national legal framework. The first article of that Convention stated that the countries should collaborate in order to foresee and fight child sexual abuse and protect the victims of exploitation also on an international base.

Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 13th of December of 2011 aiming on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA, complementing the national parliamentary legislation and also the regional procedures of an EU state, complying with the main purpose to criminally pursue the responsible for such crimes. The Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (2015/2129(INI)) are complements to the **Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**.

Next to the above, very important legal document is the **European Parliament Resolution of 11 March 2015 on child sexual abuse online (2015/2564(RSP))** that strongly urged those Member States that had not yet done so to transpose Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography and, therefore, to strictly monitor its full and effective implementation, and to report back to Parliament, and its responsible committee, on its findings in a timely manner.

In the **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council assessing the implementation of the measures referred to in Article 25 of Directive 2011/93/EU of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography**¹, the Commission acknowledged the significant efforts made by the Member States in the transposition of Article 25 of the Directive into Member States' legislations.

As mentioned above, by ratifying international conventions, first and foremost the Lanzarote Convention (Convention of the Council of Europe for Child Protection from Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of the 25th of October of 2007), the States have made significant efforts to improve the national legal system that cover offences relating to child sexual abuse.

The main legislation addressing sexual exploitation of children **in Cyprus** is the Law No. 91 (I)/ 2014 on Preventing and Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography. Under this law, punishable crimes include sexual abuse (forcing a child to watch sexually explicit scenes, to participate in sexual activities under and over the age of consent, to participate in sexual activities with a third person); sexual exploitation (force, recruit, persuade a child to take part in pornography, and to financially benefit from such exploitation); solicitation of sexual acts by a child via communication technologies; development and use of child pornography websites. The law also stipulates the impossibility to claim non-awareness of the child's age and the child's consent as a defense statement (CY Law). Additionally, the law adopts a holistic approach to the protection of child victims considering various aspects such as interviews by trained police officers in adapted rooms, video recording statements, protection of privacy and child and family support when required (ibid). In addition to the Law No. 91 (I)/ 2014, other legislations that cover offences relating to child sexual abuse are, the Convention against Crime through the Internet Law of 2004, The Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and Victims Protection Act 2014 and the Protection of Children's Rights Laws 2007 and 2014 [(Laws 74(I)/2007), 44(I)/2014)] which are adopted from the UN Convention on the Rights of Children.

In Italy, the concept of sexual abuse and harassment of children is integrated into the Italian Penal Code: law number 38 – 2/03/2006 (38/2006) - *Dispositions in the field of fight against sexual abuse of children and pornography material through internet*. The latter modified art 600 bis of Italian Penal code about general concept of sexual violence by specifying, "All persons that commit sexual abuse or any other harassment on minors that can cause long- term sufferance, in order to obtain money or any other utility, are strongly punished". The category of offenders here is very wide and inclusive (parents, educators, teachers and tutors or any other person), as well as the category of victims which are minors from 0 to 17 years old. Moreover, this law makes provision of not only reiterated cases of violence but also specific ones like minor prostitution, pornographic material, and exploitation of minors for profit, enslavement of children, corruption of minors and abuse of educational authority and tools². Violence directed towards minors is considered both at physical and at psychological level. In the first case, physical violence includes beating, personal injury and abuse of available tools to cause neurological problems in children. Here are included both overuse of medicines given to children and total negligence towards them. In the second

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0872>

² http://www.bambiniintrappola.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=155&lang=it

case, enslavement, abandonment of minors, sexual violence and mental coercion.³ As regards punishment for offenders, it culminates with imprisonment for 1 to 5 years, as better specified by article 572 of Penal Code that states “Anybody harass a person of a family or a minor that is entrusted to him/her in order to be educated, cared or supported is severely punished with an imprisonment from 1 to 5 years.” Nevertheless, the imprisonment period is enhanced if the minor is not yet 14 years old and can reach up to 12 years of detention.

The Directive 2011/93/EU was transposed into **Croatian legislation** by adopting the Act on Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Act on Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act (Official Gazette 145/13) of the Republic of Croatia, whereby the Republic of Croatia is among the countries that have fully criminalized all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. In Croatia the maximum sentences are up to 15 years in prison for serious crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation of a child, or long-term imprisonment if such a crime causes the death of a child. Title XVII of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Croatia specifically regulates the criminal offences of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. In November 2014 the Protocol on the procedure in case of abuse and neglect of children was adopted in order to exercise the rights of the child to the protection from abuse and neglect by establishing a system for preventive action and a rapid and coordinated procedure “in situations of child abuse and neglect to protect the child from further abuse and neglect, and to provide an appropriate intervention for the recovery and further safe development of the child”. The Protocol on the procedure in case of abuse and neglect of children defines clear steps in the process of child protection and roles of the stakeholders that are included in the process from all sectors and working with children. Furthermore, it defines obligations of the competent authorities in handling child abuse or neglect, specifically the obligations of the Police, social care center, judicial authorities, health care including hospitals and clinics, and educational institutions. In 2015 Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the protocol named “Rules of procedure in cases of sexual violence” and defined the obligations of the competent authorities in their response to victims of sexual violence, clearly defining the special rules for responding to children.

Greek legislation shows long history of combating child abuse and maltreatment, with the first laws adopted in 1988⁴ and 1994⁵ respectively with certain modifications during the years 1999⁶, 2002⁷, 2003⁸, 2004⁹, 2007¹⁰, 2009¹¹, 2013¹² while a specific legal framework concerning sexual child abuse was established through the Law n. 4267/2014¹³. Law n. 4267/2014 on combating sexual abuse, exploitation of children and child pornography adapted national legislation to the European Directive 2011/92/EU. It establishes minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions regarding sexual

³<https://www.savethechildren.it/sites/default/files/files/1%20%20CSP%20Pocket%20guide%20su%20abuso%20co n%20casi%20csp.pdf>

⁴ Law n. 1756/1988.

⁵ Law n. 2225/1994.

⁶ Law n. 2721/1999.

⁷ Law n. 3064/2002.

⁸ Law n. 4194/2003.

⁹ Law n. 3226/2004.

¹⁰ Law n. 3625/2007.

¹¹ Law n. 3811/2009.

¹² Law n. 4194/2013.

¹³ Greek Gazette 2014-06-12, Part A, N. 137, pp. 4377-4384.

abuse and sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and solicitation of children for sexual purposes and aims at strengthening their protection and adopting preventive measures. It introduced the necessary amendments to the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code as well as to all laws related to child abuse and maltreatment that were in action until the publication of the Law n. 4267/2014. The changes the aforementioned law introduced to the Greek legal system concerned the penalization of “child grooming”, in other words, the penalization of the procedure by which an adult is befriending a child with the objective of sexual abuse through the internet. The Law sanctions a person who accesses “in full knowledge” to child pornography elements with at least a one-year sentence and it also sanctions people inciting minors to participate in pornography performances. The last related law introduced in the Greek legal system was the Law n. 4322/2015 filling the gap concerning the phenomenon of “bullying” and penalizing it. Finally, the Greek Penal Code as well as the Greek Code of Criminal Procedure also apply in cases of sexual child abuse as they contain special provisions regarding the punishment of abusers and the procedures that should be followed in front of the competent tribunals.

In Spain, rights of children are protected through Spanish Constitution on the article 39.4 which states “children will enjoy the protection provided for in international agreements that ensure their rights”. This procedure dating back to 1978 was subsequently reinforced with the Organic Law 1/1996, of January 15, on the Legal Protection of Minors, partial modification of the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Law. Before the redaction of the Spanish Constitution, by Royal Decree of September 14, 1882, which approves the Criminal Procedure Act, articles 13, 448, 544 bis and 544 ter ruled the protection of the victim in case of trial for abuses received. Later it has been the Criminal Code to define different penalties for different situations where the minor child has been abused sexually through the articles 182 - 189 of the Organic Law 10/1995, of November 23. Afterwards, many other laws had been notified concerning the rights of the child, always complying with the international legal framework. The most recent and relevant one - since underlines the joint work of the regional autonomous governments - is the Law 26/2015, of July 28, on the modification of the protection system for children and adolescents: on its article 22 ter about the information system on the protection of children and adolescents it had been written that a Unified Registry of Child Abuse is developed as a shared information system valid throughout Spain monitoring specific protection measures for minors among both the Autonomous Communities and the General State Administration.

A review of the national legislation of the countries shows that great steps have been taken and there is a clear intention to protect children from all forms of abuse. **The adoption of international and European conventions encouraged the adoption of specific legislation aimed at preventing all forms of child abuse, which was not the case earlier. A review shows that national laws are now in line with international conventions and European strategic documents, and generally prescribe procedures for dealing with child sexual abuse.** By harmonizing national legislations and practice with the provisions of relevant international conventions, treaties and declarations in the field of protection of children from all forms of sexual abuse, states have clearly demonstrated their commitment to the protection of children from all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse. Starting from these international instruments and the constitutional provisions requiring special protection for children, the states have reached an enviable level in protecting children from all forms of violence, and in particular from sexual abuse.

2.1.2 Relevant Statistics/ Data

The statistical data on the prevalence and trends of child sexual abuse have two sources – the scientific community (scientific research) and the institutions/competent authorities that are legally obliged to participate in the procedures in case of abuse and neglect of children (analysis of documentation of reported child sexual abuse cases). In this comparative analysis we tried to collect both, official statistics and data from the surveys from different countries. Although comparisons are hard to be made as studies differ in their scope, each state uses different methodologies and definitions and official statistics are not recorded in the same way.

Since the problem of child sexual abuse is not well recognized and often underestimated, the Council of Europe launched a 1 in 5 campaign in 2010, indicating the wideness of the problem, namely the fact that one in five children was sexually abused. The estimate figure one in five emerges from the combination of the results from the various studies undertaken by research teams in many European countries, statistics advanced by Unicef, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organisation.

In line with that are also some data collected through this research. In Greece, Forensics Service of Piraeus indicates that one in five children are abused. The results show that most abusers are men, older than 30, and 70-90% of them belong to the children's friendly or family environment. Most victims are girls from 13 to 18 years old but there are also many victims aged from 1 to 6 years old old¹⁴. Concerning cases of sexual abuse, 22% of cases concerned rape.

The report from SOS Telefono Azzurro Onlus - Dossier about sexual abuse and paedophilia- 2019 from Italy states the most frequent case (39.90 %) is the domestic abuse of children that ranks first place, followed by internet and web (33.7%) and by school (19%), while one of the principal offenders of these abuses are friends of parents (20.50%) followed by parents (17.90%). On third and fourth place on the contrary, we can place people that are known by parents (13.70%) and people totally external to family (12%).

Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Centre and a non-governmental organization Brave Phone for Children conducted a research on prevalence of abuse and neglect of children in Croatia in 2006 in the secondary schools which showed the following: 15.9% were exposed to physical, 16.5% were exposed to emotional and 13.7% were exposed to sexual abuse, and when including "inappropriate exposures to children" criterion then 18.1% of the youth experienced sexual abuse during their childhood years. The most important thing that this research has shown is that most of the cases of child sexual abuse are never reported to the competent authorities in Croatia.

The available data show different levels of vulnerability based on gender. Therefore, official statistics from the Hellenic Police investigations and complaints' service shows that 79% of victims are girls and 39% of these victims are between 14 and 17 years old. Similar to that, the report from SOS Telefono Azzurro Onlus from Italy states that most of the victims are girls (75.90%) compared to boys (24.10%).

¹⁴ Mononews. (2019). *Data-Shock: One in five children are victims of sexual abuse in Greece*. NewsRoom, Retrieved February 5, 2020, from: <https://www.mononews.gr/society/stichia-sok-ena-sta-pente-pedia-thima-sexoualikis-kakopiisis-stin-ellada>.

According to a survey of the Department of Health Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from 2019 and presenting the results of a decade (2005-2015), the complaints for child sexual abuse in the Municipality of Thessaloniki as well as in its neighbor municipalities, were more than 229. Most of the victims (49.8%) were between 13 and 18 years old, 36.3% were between 6 and 12 years old, and 13.9% were children younger than 5 years old¹⁵. Furthermore, in 93% of cases, the abuser was a person that the victim knew. In 15.1% of cases the abuser was the father and in 19.1% another sibling. Only few cases concerned the mother (1.5%). In the majority, abusers are men (98%) and in 14.7% of the cases the abuser is a minor¹⁶.

Data concerning the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Croatia proved to be very similar to those in other countries. A study conducted by Vranić, Karlović and Gabelica (2002), showed that 19.7% of the subjects had experienced sexual abuse. Another study shows that 14% of young people report that they have been exposed to sexual abuse (Buljan Flander, 2007; Luca Mrđen, Ćosić and Buljan Flander, 2007). The only research that is conducted on a nationally representative cluster is a Balkan Epidemiological Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (BECAN, 2011), according to which the lifetime prevalence of child sexual abuse is 10.8%. This research has shown that girls experience more non-contact child sexual abuse in the 13 and 16-year old age groups.

Similar data are collected through research from Cyprus indicating that 19.6% of the young adolescents reported having experienced at least one type of sexual abuse with the most frequent types of sexual abuse being speaking in sexual way directly (16.5%) or through internet (19%), showing (9.1%) and/or touching body private parts (8.8%), photo and/or video solicitation (8.3%) and tried to have sexual intercourse without consent (7%). It is noteworthy that from those who had experienced some type of sexual abuse, only the 14% of them asked help from family or other professional. From the professionals' point of view, 38% of them reported coming into contact with sexual abuse cases.

On the other hand, official statistics by the police of Cyprus between the years 2014-2017, indicates 341 incidents of sexual child abuse, with the highest number of incidents (138) have been recorded in 2017, with the ages of the victims ranged between 3-18 years old (Cyprus Police Statistical Data, 2017).

In Spain, from 2014, all Autonomous Communities must register data on child abuse in the Unified Register of Child Abuse (RUMI) where all notifications, both confirmed and unconfirmed, are entered. The RUMI estimates the incidence of risk of child abuse. In addition, the profiles and those variables that can be used as a basis in the design of prevention and child protection programmes. Data of sexual abuse recorded cases in Spain since 2014 in the RUMI shows how the number of notifications received for suspected sexual abuse has increased over the years. The data provided in the different official bulletins of statistical data on child protection measures provided by the Ministry of Health, Consumption and the following: In 2014, 695 notifications were received, in 2015 there were 687 cases, in 2016 it increased to 828, in 2017 the notifications amounted to 993 and, finally, in 2018 there were 1,209 notifications received due to suspicion of sexual abuse. In addition, Spanish National Institute of Statistics (INE)

¹⁵ To Proto Thema. (2018). *Information-Shock from the Smile of the Child for the children-victims of sexual abuse*. Retrieved February 6, 2020, from: <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/840169/stoiheia-sok-apo-to-hamogelo-tou-paidiou-gia-ta-paidia-thumata-sexoualikis-vias/>.

¹⁶ *Idem*.

provides statistics on those convicted of crimes of abuse and sexual assault of minors under 16 years of age. In 2018, a total of 181 persons had been convicted, of whom 178 were men and 3 women, which shows significant increase in comparison with previous year.

By analyzing and comparing the available and collected data, we can first see that there is a disparity between the actual and reported cases in all the countries involved and that part of the prosecuted cases is just the tip of the iceberg. Although some of the data collected is not comparable, it gives us a broad picture and a good overview of the actual situation regarding child sexual abuse.

2.1.3 Key Stakeholders

In the most countries, the system for protecting children from sexual abuse is made up of a wide network of public institutions and private organizations. On the one hand, it emphasizes a system of public protection, such as the police and other internal affairs services, whose primary role is to report cases of sexual abuse, to protect the victim, but also to treat the abusers. In addition, social welfare services, aims to support families, protect children from potential threats and promote their rights.

In some countries, key stakeholders in protecting children from sexual abuse are defined by specific documents. Such is the case in Croatia.

In November 2014 the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the **Protocol on the procedure in case of abuse and neglect of children** with the aim to realize the rights of the child in the area of abuse and neglect, specifically to provide help and protection to children exposed to abuse and neglect. This protocol officially defines key stakeholders dealing with child sexual abuse from all sectors, together with their concomitant roles and official obligations as the competent authorities in handling child abuse or neglect. They are as follows: The Police, social welfare centre, judicial authorities, health-care institutions including hospitals and clinics, and educational institutions. As stated, the aim of this Protocol is to contribute “to the development of the network of multidisciplinary teams for the protection of children in the local community, and to the application of a unified model of all teams on the county level throughout the Republic of Croatia.”¹⁷

Obligations of the **police** include that after the report when contacted “it will urgently, and, in cases of ongoing abuse, immediately and without delay, provide the child with help and protection, establish the elements of a criminal offence or misdemeanour, locate the perpetrator and prevent them from any continued illegal action, gather all the evidence on the offence, and deliver all the collected findings and evidence to the competent justice authorities as soon as possible.”

Obligations of the **social welfare centre** include the prevention of child abuse and neglect and protection of the rights of children that are exposed to the abuse and neglect. The prevention measures include realization of the basic standards of living of the family and to provide appropriate services to the families that are at risk.

¹⁷ Protocol on the procedure in case of abuse and neglect of children, www.dijete.hr

The obligations of the **judicial authorities** include the establishment, a cooperation between competent authorities and other institutions/persons that participate in the process related to the individual case of child abuse and neglect, in accordance with the legal framework of the Republic of Croatia. Important competent authorities included in the protocol steps are Juvenile courts and State Attorney's offices.

Health-care institutions, hospitals and clinics, are obliged to provide the child victim of abuse and/or neglect with overall health care in order to preserve the physical and psychological integrity of the child and to treat any injuries and psychological trauma, following a defined specific medical protocol.

Educational institutions are obliged to take preventive actions in cases of child abuse and neglect. Following the procedures defined by the Protocol, the educational institutions have to ensure that the rights of the child are realized in the cases of all forms of violence (sexual abuse, neglect, educational neglect, negligent behavior, abuse and exploitation). Furthermore, all educational institutions are obliged to implement prevention and intervention programmatic measures and to incorporate them into their institutional framework.

Other relevant key stakeholders include the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb and non-governmental organization providing community-based social services for children and families (according to the Social Welfare Act of the Republic of Croatia).

In Italy, the key role have ministries in charge for the protection of the children. In accordance with the above, **Italian Ministry of Labour and social politics** is one of principal government funding base and promoter of programmes and institutions dedicated to wellbeing of adults and minors. One of the most important creation of the Ministry is the *Osservatorio nazionale per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza (National Observatory for childhood and adolescence)*¹⁸ made with the scope of reuniting regions, associations and institutions, NGOs and experts in the field of children protection. Every two years, the Observatory prepares the National plan of action for minors and children in order to assure a good development of their life and in order to enhance cooperation among institutions, NGOs and experts in the field at a national level. This Observatory works as one of the most important institutions in the Italian nation.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is one of principal government promoter. The Ministry funded a specific department that is dedicated to protection of children's rights, *Public Security Department*¹⁹, thanks to its sections of expertise (Postal Police who is expert in fighting children abuses online). Another important department is the one of *Civil Freedom and migration* whose aim is to analyze cases of abuses among foreign families.

¹⁸ <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/infanzia-e-adolescenza/focus-on/Osservatorio/Pagine/default.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/sicurezza/minori-e-disagio-giovanile/pedofilia-e-abusi-sui-minori>

Similarly, in Greece, the **Hellenic Police** constitutes the principal public authority that deals with cases of child abuse and maltreatment. It is the department where complaints can be lodged by the child, a parent, a friend, a neighbour or any other third person that believes that a child is being sexually abused. In cases of torture, domestic sexual assault against a minor and serious domestic psychical injury against a minor, police can intervene *ex officio*, without the incident being reported. Lodging a complaint is free of charge and there is no time limit for the complaint to be lodged²⁰. In cases of child abuse and maltreatment, according to the Greek Code of Criminal Procedure, the first step of punishing an abuser is to lodge a complaint to the police station. Consequently, every person having suspicions that a child is being sexually abused, should lodge a complaint to the closest police station by explaining all the facts that could help the police discover the incriminated acts of violence. That person can be the child, a parent, a friend or even a neighbour. The Greek legislation has established a new legal provision exonerating the complainant of any legal charges for cases of domestic and child abuse. Furthermore, police has the authority to intervene *ex officio*, without the incident being reported, in cases of domestic sexual assault against a minor. Police has also a duty of confidentiality by not divulging the abused child's name, address or any other information. Otherwise, the policeman/-woman in charge of the case can face a two-year sentence for not respecting the duty of confidentiality. The provisions concerning the child providing a testimony during judicial procedures are also important. One of the main remarks against the Greek legal system is that it obliges the child to give too many testimonies that could be harmful for the child's psychological health. This is the reason why according to the Greek Code, it is essential that an expert and a child psychologist are present during the child's testimony. A child psychologist or a child psychiatrist prepares the child for the testimony with the assistance of social workers and investigators. The child psychologist/psychiatrist conceives the psychological situation of the abused child and writes a report that is essential for the proceedings.

²⁰ LAWSPOT. (2018). *Which are the provision of the legislation for domestic violence*. Retrieved February 5, 2020, from <https://www.lawspot.gr/nomikes-pliροφοries/voithitika-kemena/ti-provlepei-i-nomothesia-gia-tin-antimetopisi-tis>.

The **National Centre of Social Solidarity** is a public entity having as an objective to provide services of social support to people and families that are in need of help. It offers psychological support, a service where complaints about abused children can be lodged, assistance to children facing abuse, temporary accommodation as well as mediation with social services. It cooperates with many centres of social support that are located in Greece and provides psychological support to victims and abused children. Its services specialize in young children and adolescence. It is necessary to point out that it provides two helplines for complaints and any kind of assistance (psychological, legal etc.)²¹. The helplines are the following: Helpline 197 and Helpline 1107 (24/24, 7/7, 365/365). Furthermore, the National Centre for Social Solidarity has created a network that includes a number of social services such as: a) centres of social support (these centres dispose of psychologists, social workers and sociologists providing psychological support to people and families), b) services of direct intervention which provide accommodation and assistance in cases of extreme socio-psychological crisis, c) guest rooms which provide accommodation to abused children and finally, d) services of crisis' management which provide psychological support to victims of great natural disasters²².

Also, the **Institute of Health of the Child** from Greece, founded in 1965 provides policies of prevention concerning public health and develops research and educational activities for child health. It conducts research on child abuse, neglect, domestic violence as well as on the investigation, diagnosis and management of child abuse and neglect cases. They also take measures in order to discover child abuse cases and help children psychologically and physically²³.

Finally, the Council «Φωνή» (“The Voice”) is the main regulating body in Cyprus responsible for the coordination of all the relevant actions and initiatives regarding combating and preventing child sexual abuse and child pornography. The Council is responsible for the implementation of the national strategy mentioned above, with the aim to break the silence and give voice back to the victims of child sexual abuse²⁴.

In addition to government institutions such as those listed above, the importance of **independent institutions** is emphasized, with the institution of different councils and ombudsmen monitoring the fulfillment of obligations arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties related to the protection of the rights and interests of children, but also monitoring the implementation of all regulations concerning the protection of the rights and interests of children.

In Cyprus, the **Commissioner for Children's Rights** is an independent institution which deals exclusively with the rights of the child and it is in line with the Protection of Children's Rights Law 2007 and 2014. The Commissioner is appointed by the Council of Ministers and is responsible to represent children's interests, promote public awareness for children rights and when required represent children in judicial proceedings or other procedures that might affect them.²⁵

²¹ See <http://www.ekka.org.gr/>, see also https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/ekka-national-center-social-solidarity_en.

²² *Idem*.

²³ See <http://www.ich.gr/el/>.

²⁴ <http://www.foni.org.cy/>

²⁵ http://www.childcom.org.cy/ccr/ccr.nsf/index_gr/index_gr?opendocument

The **Greek Ombudsman** is an independent authority founded in 1998 that provides free services, controls acts and omissions of persons in case of a child's rights violation, protects human rights and controls all reports and complaints filed for abused children, including sexually abused children. Third parties having conceived that a child is being abused as well as his/her parents or relatives can file reports about a child's precarious situation. The report should include the description of the situation, the measures that have been implemented in order to help the abused child, their results, proofs and any kind of information that could help the service²⁶.

Children's Council is a body that monitors the implementation of the Convention in Croatia; it is the advisory body and proposes changes in laws and regulations related to children to the Government of the Republic of Croatia. In addition, **the Ombudsperson for Children** is appointed by the Croatian Parliament for a period of eight years, acts independently and autonomously, adhering to the principles of equity and morals, and no-one may instruct or order him or her in his or her work. The scope and means of operation of the Ombudsman for Children is laid down in the Ombudsman for Children Act (Official Gazette 73/2017), in accordance with which the Ombudsman for Children safeguards, monitors and promotes the rights and interests of children in the Republic of Croatia, based on the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, other international documents and the legislation of the Republic of Croatia.²⁷

Similarly, in Spain there's **the Childhood Observatory**, a working group attached to the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality that is based on a centralized and shared information system with the capacity to monitor the well-being and quality of life of the child population and the public policies that affect children in relation to their development, implementation and their effects on said population.

However, based on the data collected, it seems that the first line of protection of the rights and interests of children, as well as protection against all forms of abuse (including sexual abuse), is mostly **non-governmental organizations**. The role of the civil sector in protecting children is becoming more and more important across Europe, both in preventative activities, such as public campaigns, awareness-raising activities on this subject, but also in treatment. Below we bring an overview of the most important organizations and a brief description of their activities as the contribution of child protection.

The "Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center is an international humanitarian and independent institution (NGO) based in Nicosia, Cyprus. The institution works together with national, regional and international advocacy institutions to reform child welfare systems and offer protection and care to the children based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and European Union Law. "Hope for Children" brings together professionals from various backgrounds such as psychologists, mental health workers, lawyers, child cares, etc. to contribute in promoting and protecting the interests of children and youth from various cultural backgrounds.²⁸

²⁶ See <https://www.synigoros.gr/>.

²⁷ <https://dijete.hr/en/homepage-ombudsman-for-children/>

²⁸ <https://www.uncrcpc.org/>

The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family also from Cyprus, is a Non-Governmental Organisation, which aim to provide preventive services of domestic violence through offering information and raising awareness, but also to provide support and guidance to the victims of domestic violence. The association provides shelter and protection to victims of domestic violence, and also a helpline operated by psychologists and other professionals exclusively for children and teenagers (up to the age of 18) to talk anonymously about any subject that concerns them.²⁹

The contribution of the civil sector is also significant in Italy, which highlights the most important non-governmental organizations.

Association Prometeo³⁰ is a non-profit association based in Bergamo, with the principal aim of giving assistance to parents and families. Prometeo supports physical and psychological rehabilitation of children, minors and adults, victims of abuse and of any kind of harassment through sensibilization and education. The association also organizes training courses for tutors and parents in order to be able to help their children to overcome traumatic experiences.

SOS Telefono Azzurro - is a non-profit association whose principal mission is enhancing the respect of children's rights, protecting them from abuses and harassment of any kind. It acts as a first aid for victims that have the possibility to call the association and to benefit from association immediate action. Among principal actions of SOS Telefono Azzurro, we can consider also annual report publication which contains a clear focused view of the status of violence perpetrated in Italy and of the state of art of actions undertaken at national level by NGOs, Ministries, etc.

Cesvi – is a no-profit association that, among its principal aims has also protecting children and their rights, especially those of the children that leave in poverty. Cesvi participates to different programmes funded by ministerial funding through the creation of “Case del Sorriso”³¹, which consist in structured centre of first aid and reception for children and minors that are victim of violence in their family and living in poor life conditions. Case del Sorriso offer them safe place, education, psychological and physical recover from traumatic experiences and food resources.

Specchio Magico - is a non-profit association whose mission is producing pedagogical resources for children, alongside with programmes dedicated to protection of children and minors, victims of sexual abuse and harassment. These programmes are part of the project “Porcospini” which made the association one of the principal contacts on national territory about children's protection. The association cooperates and receives funding also from Italian Ministry of Education and from Italian Ministry of Justice.

²⁹ <https://www.domviolence.org.cy/en/>

³⁰ <http://www.associazioneprometeo.org/corsi-formazione.html>

³¹ <https://www.cesvi.org/il-nostro-lavoro/tutela-dell-infanzia/>

Fondazione “L’albero della vita”- is an NGO with the main aim of protecting children and enhance their rights. The NGO supports families not only of abused children but also of poorer ones in order to give them physical assistance, medical assistance, recovery and support towards rehabilitation in social life. Moreover, this NGO is active in the field of sensibilization against children harassment at both local and international level.

In addition to the influence of non-governmental organizations, the contribution of individuals and professionals in the field of child protection is recognized as important, like **seminars organized by the criminology expert Cinzia Mammoliti**, one of the main experts in the field of domestic violence and abuse in Italy.³²

Greek NGOs are also recognized as key stakeholders in protecting children's rights against abuse. The **ELIZA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**³³, a highly specialized charitable organization, was established in Greece in 2008 in order to protect children who have suffered or are in danger of suffering abuse and neglect. ELIZA aims at preventing the phenomenon of child abuse or neglect before it occurs, at protecting children as well as at providing personalized therapy to children who have experienced abuse or neglect. ELIZA is currently carrying out an important number of projects against sexual child abuse, maltreatment and neglect, such as (among others) the Safe Touch Campaign³⁴ that will be extensively presented below in the present analysis.

The **SOS Children’s Villages**³⁵ is an international organization founded in 1949 that promotes child and family protection. Its main domains of interest are the adoption and hosting children that have been removed from their parents’ custody for reasons of abuse and maltreatment. Its work is very important because a great number of children that are taken away from their families due to the aforementioned reasons are hosted by the SOS Villages. The organization has established child protection houses all over Greece. It also offers children psychological support and it fulfils their needs by trying to create a friendlier and safer environment for them.

The **Smile of the Child**³⁶ is an NGO created in 1995. Children victims of any form of violence, missing children, children with health problems, children living in poverty are supported by the NGO’s network. The Smile of the Child has established one of the most efficient national helplines in Greece, the national helpline 1056. The helpline works for preventive cases for children that face sexual and psychological abuse, maltreatment and bullying. Its social workers and psychologists are available in a PanHellenic level 24/7 and it disposes of emergency vehicles that are available all the time.

In Spain, NGO **Save the Children** is an important pillar for the investigation and implementation of protocols for the prevention, intervention and treatment of victims of child sexual abuse. That is why it had been taken into consideration as a useful stakeholder that has always to share a lot with public bodies involved in the thematic.

³² <https://www.cinziamammoliti.it/chi-sono/>

³³ See <https://eliza.org.gr/en/>.

³⁴ For all Eliza’s projects and campaigns see <https://eliza.org.gr/en/drasis/>.

³⁵ See <https://sos-villages.gr/kentra-stirixis/>.

³⁶ See <https://www.hamogelo.gr/gr/el/paidia-thimata-vias:sos-1056/>.

Also, key role in research, training, knowledge dissemination and good practices is recognized from **Spanish organization FAPMI**, representative of the ECPAT International Network, the largest global network specialized in the prevention of Child and Adolescent Sexual Exploitation (ESIA).

Association of Castilla y León for Childhood and Youth defense, also from Spain, is an NGO formed by professionals and non-professionals who wish to dedicate part of their time and effort to prevent children from being abused. This Association has been declared of Public Utility by the Ministry of Interior in 2003 and it is one of the Spanish stakeholders that share knowledge and practices with the social services, the educational and health system, municipalities, etc.

Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb from the Republic of Croatia, provides effective and systematic support of traumatized children and their families, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect but as well as children at risk of neglect. Alongside diagnostic and forensic assessment, experts from the Centre provide individual and group counselling and support for children and their parents. Within the described array of activities, the Centre also organizes and carries out educations, supervision and professional development for experts that work in institutions that are directly involved in the issue of abuse. The main goal of The Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb is to provide efficient and systematic help to abused and neglected children and their families³⁷.

Few of the most influential of the non-governmental organizations from Croatia providing community-based social services for the abused and neglected children and their families are as follows: Brave Phone, The Women's Room – Centre for Sexual Rights, Centre for Missing and Exploited Children Osijek, Duga Zagreb, Home for Children and Adults – Victims of Family Violence, Children's Home Tić Rijeka, Women's group Karlovac "Korak", Plavi telefon counseling center, Counseling centre Modus, Autonomous Women's House Zagreb, and Parents Association "Step by Step".

Although the protection of children from all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, requires the involvement of key stakeholders at all levels, from the police and judicial authorities, independent institutions, educational institutions and social and health care services, the role of some institutions seems to be poorly recognized or their activity in this area is looking for improvement. Many NGOs offer solutions through the provision of prevention and treatment activities, but coordinated activities and cross-sectoral cooperation are needed to make the child protection system more effective.

³⁷ <https://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/english/about/about-us/>

2.1.4 Case Studies – Good Practices

Numerous examples of good practices in child sexual abuse prevention and protection have been collected. Below, we provide an overview of recognized initiatives and organizations, strategies and approaches intended to impact family, school, community, and societal factors that influence risk and protective factors for violence, placing emphasis on prevention, recognition and protection of the children.

2.1.4.1. Case studies – good practices from Cyprus

CASE STUDY 1 – Children’s House (‘Σπίτι του Παιδιού’)	
Name	Children’s House (‘Σπίτι του Παιδιού’)
Description	It is established within the framework of the National Strategy and the Action Plan for Combating Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Children’s Pornography 2016-2019 and it is based on European standards and the Icelandic model Barnahus (Children’s House). The Children’s House (CH) is a child friendly, safe environment for sexually abused children, bringing together all relevant services under one roof, using a multidisciplinary and interagency approach.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	Provide justice in a child-friendly way, and ensuring the protection, safety and well-being of the child following the best interest of the child, the right of the child to be heard and receive information while avoiding undue delay.
Available Statistics (if available)	N/A
Tools/Resources/ Services	A video presenting the facilities and the services provided by the Children’s House: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFtQPYFLzt8&feature=emb_title
Link/ Website	https://www.uncrcpc.org.cy/programmes/

CASE STUDY 2 – Children/Teenagers Helpline	
Name	116111 Helpline

Description	The helpline for children’s and teenager’s support 116 111 is exclusively for children and teenagers until 18 years of age. The helpline 116 111 is free of charge and provides the opportunity to children/ teenagers to talk anonymously about any subject that concerns them, and runs under the principles of privacy and confidentiality.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) and “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center (HFC).
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention/ Intervention/ Postvention
Impact	Offer free counselling services to children and teenagers to help them deal with any sort of difficulties they might encounter.
Available Statistics (if available)	N/A
Tools/Resources/ Services	Free Counselling Services - Helpline
Link/ Website	http://www.call116111.com/

CASE STUDY 3– Manual for Recognizing and Dealing With Child Sexual Abuse	
Name	Manual for Recognizing and Dealing With Child Sexual Abuse
Description	A manual for educators in schools which aim to provide them with guidelines on how to recognize and deal with child sexual abuse.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Intervention/ Postvention
Impact	Equip teachers with tools and guidelines to fight child sexual abuse.
Available Statistics (if available)	N/A
Tools/Resources/ Services	Manual with guidelines for recognizing and dealing with incidents of child sexual abuse.
Link/ Website	http://enimerosi.moec.gov.cy/archeia/1/ypp6797b

CASE STUDY 4– ‘Kiko and the Hand-The Underwear Rule’	
Name	Workshop ‘Kiko and the Hand-The Underwear Rule’
Description	Workshops in kindergartens about sexual abuse based on the tale ‘Kiko and the Hand-The Underwear Rule’ of the Council of Europe.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center (HFC).
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	Raise awareness about sexual abuse and inappropriate touching and what children can do to safeguard themselves from sexual abuse.
Available Statistics (if available)	N/A
Tools/Resources/ Services	A tale to make children aware and to be used in schools.
Link/ Website	https://rm.coe.int/16806b068b

CASE STUDY 5– ‘Keep me Safe’	
Name	European Project ‘Keep me Safe’
Description	The project aims to harness the best practice, expertise and proven strategies on the prevention of sexual abuse and violence against young people with learning disabilities.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA)
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	European
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	Protect young people with learning disabilities from sexual abuse and violence.
Available Statistics (if available)	N/A
Tools/Resources/ Services	Exchange of best practices and tools between different European Countries in terms of preventing sexual abuse and violence against young people with learning disabilities.
Link/ Website	https://www.ippfen.org/our-approach/programmes/keep-me-safe

2.1.4.2. Case studies – good practices from Italy

CASE STUDY 1/ Progetto Porcospini / Porcospini Project	
Name	Progetto Porcospini: bambini e genitori insieme per prevenire l'abuso sessuale- Porcospini Project: children together with parents to prevent sexual abuse.
Description	<p>The project, addressed to schools and educational institutions, has the principal aim of enhancing protection of children's rights at national and local level. It is based on periodical meeting sessions which bring together schools, educational institutions and families through specific topics related to sexual abuse. The scope is finding new strategies to fight against sexual abuse in schools.</p> <p>The project was financed by the Direction of Justice by the European Community- Daphne III - and from the Italian Ministry of Education.</p>
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Lo specchio Magico Onlus
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Local, regional and national
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	In 2018-2019 the project involved 3000 teachers, 25000 students, 1000 classes.
Available Statistics (if available)	No statistic available
Tools/Resources/ Services	Periodical meetings
Link/ Website	https://www.specchiomagico.org/wp-content/uploads/progetto_porcospini_2015.pdf https://porcospini.org/

CASE STUDY 2/ Osservatorio Nazionale per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza- National Observatory for childhood and adolescence	
Name	Osservatorio Nazionale per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza -National Observatory for childhood and adolescence

Description	It was funded in Italy by the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics together with the Italian Parliament Commission for childhood through law n. 451/1997. The Observatory is composed of 50 members (Regions, Istat members and other educational experts in the field) with the aim of promoting cooperation and new strategies to protect and enhance children's rights. To this extent, The Observatory is in charge of elaborating every two years a National Strategic Plan, diffused at both local and national level in all interested institutions, to support parents and teachers in order to fight against abuse of children.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	The Observatory acts at National level and has become a governmental Institution.
Available Statistics (if available)	No available statistics.
Tools/Resources/ Services	National Strategic Plan of action to promote cooperation all over Italy.
Link/ Website	https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/infanzia-e-adolescenza/focus-on/Osservatorio/Pagine/default.aspx

CASE STUDY 3/ Violenza zero! - Zero Violence!	
Name	Violenza zero! -Zero Violence!
Description	It is a project based on the training and education of Social Operators and Minors Justice Operators in order to provide them with necessary tools, knowledge about how to evaluate abuse cases, knowledge to support children and minors' victims of violence and necessary space to cooperate and share their experience with other social operators. The project is supervised by IPRS- Psycho Analytical Institute for social researches- and financed by Presidency of Italian Ministry Council.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	IPRS- Psycho Analytical Institute for social researches.
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention and intervention

Impact	
Available Statistics (if available)	No available statistics
Tools/Resources/ Services	Training courses, Focus groups, Monitoring tools
Link/ Website	https://www.iprs.it/progetti/violenza-zero/

CASE STUDY 4/ Invisibile agli occhi	
Name	“Invisibile agli occhi”- Invisible to eyes
Description	Social Campaign with the scope of promoting fight against children sexual abuse and harassment and collect funds in order to create new reception centres to help victims of abuse. The social campaign is realized through social media and mobile phones.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	TERRE DES HOMMES
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National and international
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention and intervention
Impact	The social campaign was very well spread all over the national territory and saw also sponsorship of many famous singers and stars of the Italian cinema.
Available Statistics (if available)	Not available
Tools/Resources/ Services	Social campaign through social media and mobile phones.
Link/ Website	https://terredeshommes.it/invisibileagliocchi/

2.1.4.3. Case studies – good practices from Spain

CASE STUDY 1 / Prevention Programme against abuse: the rule of Kiko	
Name	Prevention Programme against abuse: the rule of Kiko
Description	It is a simple guide to help parents and educators to easily explain to children where other people cannot touch them and how to react and who to ask help.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Asociación Rea / FAPMI.
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Regional, throughout Castilla y Leon
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention
Impact	The campaign and the prevention programme have results on a local and regional level mainly, since the work of the REA and FAPMI entities is to spread the information on prevention mostly in schools mostly —and then inside families and through professionals dealing with children. Also the campaign and all the material edited from there take action inside the framework of the “Council of Europe campaign to stop sexual violence against children”.
Available Statistics (if available)	-
Tools/Resources/ Services	5 sessions for students of primary school under 12 and other formative sessions for families and professionals. A campaign “the rule of Kiko” and an action protocol.
Link/ Website	http://www.asociacionrea.org/programa-de-prevencion-del-abuso-sexual-infantil-la-regla-de-kiko/

CASE STUDY 2 / What is happening to your mate?	
Name	What is happening to your mate?
Description	Protection, prevention and training programme for adolescents over 12 through formal and non-formal methodologies on child sexual abuse.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Fundació Vicki Bernadet / Formation and Prevention staff of the foundation

Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Organizational (considering they create action protocols to be applied in other entities internal organization)
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	Both the Municipality and the Deputation of Barcelona participate in this programme, also recognized by the government of Spain. The actions fulfilled by this foundation go from local to national depending on the clients asking for support and prevention programs.
Available Statistics (if available)	-
Tools/Resources/ Services	4 sessions of one hour each where to work with self-esteem, empathy and how to react in abusive situations. This foundation also works with companies and associations that, having to deal with children and adolescents, prefer to edit their own action protocol. Attention service, both psychological and juridical, to victims of sexual abuse and their families.
Link/ Website	https://www.fbernadet.org/es/cursos/que-li-passa-al-meu-collega/

CASE STUDY 3 / Storyteller: <i>Estela Screams Out so Loud!</i>	
Name	Storyteller: <i>Estela Screams Out so Loud!</i>
Description	Children between the ages of 6 and 11 acquire the tools necessary to act on a case of child sexual abuse through the storyteller <i>Estela Screams Out so Loud!</i> The aim of this activity is that they learn not to tolerate risk situations, to be respected, and to ask for help.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Fundación Rana
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Regional
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	In the Balearic Islands it has reached 4,619 children and it counts with 206 professionals trained as storytellers. In addition, it can easily reach other autonomous communities as it is available from large e-marketing companies.

Available Statistics (if available)	-
Tools/Resources/ Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Storyteller <i>Estela Screams Out so Loud!</i> Aimed at children aged 6 to 11. - Activity: Exploring with Nil. Prevention programme aimed at educational and social centres to offer tools to 4 and 5-year-old children to protect themselves against child sexual abuse. - Didactic guide for the program 'Scream Loudly!' Aimed at groups of children who have received the storytelling activity. - Introductory workshop on child sexual abuse: 'Act! to Prevent Child Abuse'. Aimed at the centre's management and teaching staff. - Awareness talk on child sexual abuse. Aimed at fathers, mothers, relatives or carers.
Link/ Website	https://www.fundacionrana.org/es/infancia

CASE STUDY 4 / Programme for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (ECPAT)	
Name	Programme for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (ECPAT)
Description	<p>The programme aim is to create an inclusive and holistic reference framework that guarantees the right of all children to be protected against any way of sexual exploitation. They do it by continuing the activities developed for the development of a state strategy of action against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (ESIA) in Spain which addresses problems in a comprehensive manner involving all sectors and agents.</p> <p>The Programme revolves around the 3rd Action Plan against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents of FAPMI-ECPAT Spain (2017-2020).</p>
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	ECPAT- Spain
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	The latest updated data is from 2018. Figures show that there were 318,459 beneficiaries of the actions offered by the programme.

Available Statistics (if available)	-
Tools/Resources/ Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventive actions among the groups that present situations of vulnerability. - Actions for training professionals that allow a real approach to the problem, the adequate attention to victims, and to concrete application of measures. - Information and awareness-raising actions about the reality aimed at the general population and specific groups with the aim of turning them into active agents of prevention, detection, and reporting problems. - Actions to encourage and promote scientific and documented knowledge - Cooperation actions at national and international level and networking that facilitate the coordination of strategies and optimize responses to the problem.
Link/ Website	http://www.ecpat-spain.org/index.asp

CASE STUDY 5 / Feeling YES, feeling NO	
Name	Feeling YES, feeling NO
Description	Pedagogical material for the prevention of child sexual abuse inspired by the play 'Feeling YES, feeling NO', by Dennis Foon. The aim is to empower children to identify safe and unsafe situations in this area in order to prevent child sexual abuse.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Barcelona's City Hall
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Organizational
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	The program is used by several associations, foundations, and professionals at a national level. The material can be viewed by anyone, from educators, monitors, parents to children due to its easy accessibility.
Available Statistics (if available)	-

<p>Tools/Resources/ Services</p>	<p>- Three chapters in a workshop format made with primary school children, where they work on the pleasant and unpleasant sensations of proximity or intimate physical contact with strangers and people in a close relational environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My body is mine 2. The three questions from the stranger 3. Asking for help <p>- The fourth chapter aims at families, teachers, educators, leisure and sports instructors and adults who in one way or another are responsible for the education of children.</p> <p>- Pedagogical guide to facilitate the implementation of the materials and the sensitization on the subject for adults.</p>
<p>Link/Website</p>	<p>https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/infancia/sites/default/files/guiasentir_ca_acc_2_0.pdf</p> <p>https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/infancia/es/canal/sentir-que-si-sentir-que-no</p>

<p>CASE STUDY 6 / 'Listening to my Gut'</p>	
<p>Name</p>	<p>'Listening to my Gut'</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The programme 'Listening to my Gut' is a didactic proposal for the primary prevention of child sexual abuse in children between the ages of three and six.</p>
<p>Key Stakeholders/ Provider</p>	<p>Pepa Horno Goicoechea</p>
<p>Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)</p>	<p>Organizational</p>
<p>Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)</p>	<p>Prevention</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Children aged 3-6 years are not counted as an "irrigation group" in other studies of the same characteristics. There is a lack of training and few specific materials to prevent sexual abuse, especially with younger children.</p>
<p>Available Statistics (if available)</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Tools/Resources/ Services</p>	<p>3 thematic blocks:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct work with children from 3 to 6 years old. - Working with professionals. - Working with parents.
Link/Website	https://boiraeditorial.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/escuchando_mis_tripas_Pepa_Horno.pdf

2.1.4.4. Case studies – good practices from Greece

CASE STUDY 1/ Breaking the silence together	
Name	Breaking the silence together
Description	Programme of prevention of sexual abuse of minor students that takes place in schools and aims at raising awareness among teachers, parents and students including suggestions and proposed measures for the prevention of child sexual abuse.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	The Institute of Health of the Child
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	Campaigns carried out in many schools all over Greece and abroad.
Available Statistics (if available)	No available statistics.
Tools/Resources/ Services	Raising awareness services.
Link/ Website	http://www.ich-mhsw.gr/el/general-tags/silence

CASE STUDY 2/ Safe Touch	
Name	Safe Touch
Description	The innovative program “Safe Touch” for the prevention of sexual abuse for children from 5 to 9 years old, in cooperation with The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, make children understand the difference between a safe and an unsafe touch and learn how to say no in order to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

Key Stakeholders/ Provider	ELIZA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention
Impact	Until today more than 2.600 children, 5-9 years old have been trained, as well as 1000 teachers and 2000 parents.
Available Statistics (if available)	No available statistics.
Tools/Resources/ Services	Raising awareness services, psychological support and indication to children so that they understand when a touch is not safe.
Link/ Website	https://eliza.org.gr/en/drasis/prolipsi-sexoualikiis-kakopiisis/

CASE STUDY 3/ The House of the Child

Name	The House of the Child
Description	The House of the Child is a Day Centre for the Provision of Customized Mental Health Services to Children and Adolescents, victims of abuse, neglect, domestic violence and victimized minors. It provides free service for timely intervention, diagnosis and therapy, treatment of children victims of abuse, counselling of parents and awareness-raising activities.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	The Smile of the Child
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	Supports and protects children that have been taken from their families or have been victims of any kind of abuse.
Available Statistics (if available)	The 1 st semester of 2019, the House of the Child provided services to 280 children.
Tools/Resources/ Services	Psychological services, social workers, speech therapists, educators, child psychiatrists.
Link/ Website	https://www.hamogelo.gr/gr/en/to-spiti-tou-paidiou/

CASE STUDY 4/ Centre of Support of Child and Family

Name	Centre of Support of Child and Family
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Description	Centres providing free services regarding children and parents' evaluation, counselling, psychological support to children victims as well as to parents, psychiatric intervention.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	Supports and protects children that have been taken from their families or have been victims of any kind of abuse. It also provides counselling to parents.
Available Statistics (if available)	No available statistics.
Tools/Resources/ Services	Psychological services, social workers, speech therapists, educators, child psychiatrists, help with food, educational activities for children.
Link/ Website	https://sos-villages.gr/kentra-stirixis/

2.1.4.5. Case studies – good practices from Croatia

CASE STUDY 1 / Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb	
Name	Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb
Description	Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb was founded in 2002 in order to provide effective and systematic support of traumatized children and their families, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Key Stakeholder and provider of services
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	National health-care institution (A basic health care insurance in Croatia is mandatory and provided by the state)
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	Impact as follows: -facilitating cross cultural collaboration -facilitating NGO and GO co-ordination and co-operation within various regions -developing models of prevention and intervention in cases of child abuse and neglect applicable to respective countries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -facilitating exchange of experience -specific education of experts -implementation of different preventive programs -organizing conferences. <p>Within The Child and Youth Protection Center of Zagreb operates Brave phone – a non-profit NGO established with the aim of prevention of abuse and neglect, as well as prevention of unacceptable behavior of children and youth and providing direct assistance and support to abused and neglected children and their families.</p>
<p>Available Statistics (if available)</p>	<p>Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Centre and the non-governmental organization Brave Phone for Children conducted a research on prevalence of abuse and neglect of children in Croatia in 2006 in the secondary schools. Research findings showed the following: 15.9% were exposed to physical, 16.5% were exposed to emotional and 13.7% were exposed to sexual abuse, and when including “inappropriate exposures to children” criterion then 18.1% of the youth experienced sexual abuse during their childhood years.</p>
<p>Tools/Resources/ Services</p>	<p>Type of activities and services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assessment and treatment of children and families -Education and training of professionals, team work and supervision -Scientific work and research -Raising public awareness -Public policy and children`s advocacy. <p>Team consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -psychologists -psychiatrists -neuropsychiatrist -special educator -nurses -jurist -social workers.
<p>Link/ Website</p>	<p>https://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/</p>

CASE STUDY 2 / PA “Step by Step”, Child Assault Prevention Program	
Name	Parents' Association “Step by Step”, Child Assault Prevention Program
Description	Parents' Association "Step by Step" is a non-governmental and non-profit association whose main objective is to promote value of the community focused on children. The activities of Parents' Association "Step by Step" are grounded in child rights and child protection.
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Key stakeholder and provider of services
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Non-governmental organization, national
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	<p>Activities of the PASBS for the past 20 years have been directed to development of capacities of local communities and their institutions for promotion and protection of the rights of the children. CAP program (Child Assault Prevention Program) is the biggest project of the PA “Step by Step”, whose implementation in Croatia started in the year 2000 when CAP was implemented in 13 schools in various parts of Croatia.</p> <p>Independent evaluation was conducted by the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. The evaluation results indicate high quality of the program since it is being implemented by the trained experts, children’s response is positive: they describe the program as useful and apply its strategies in actual situations. Moreover, children, parents and teachers discuss the issue of child abuse more often than before the workshops.</p> <p>The Program is funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Ministry of social policy and youth and local (regional) governments.</p> <p>“Child sexual abuse prevention” – a contribution to the „One in five campaign“ from 2011 to 2014</p>

Available Statistics (if available)	CAP program is implemented in around 70 schools, 30 kindergartens and 4 educational centres. Four variations of CAP are being implemented in Croatia: Preschool, Elementary, Teen and Special needs CAP. 102.690 children, 69.770 parents and 22.791 kindergarten and education institutions staff participated in CAP program since its launch in 1999 to the year 2019. The Association has developed a network of 450 active CAP facilitators, mainly teachers and other professionals in kindergartens and elementary schools.
Tools/Resources/ Services	Association's activities and services include promotion of children's rights as well as rights of their families to honourable life; cooperation with preschool, school and other institutions which take care of children and families; joint efforts of Association's members before authorities, institutions and local communities; organization of seminars and public lectures; distribution; cooperation with domestic and foreign organizations and encouraging donations and sponsorships.
Link/ Website	https://udrugaroditeljakpk.hr/

CASE STUDY 3 / Brave phone for Children	
Name	Brave phone for Children
Description	<p>Brave phone for Children is a non-governmental organisation aimed at the realization of the rights and protection of children in Croatia. It offers a helpline for children and parents, and supports families through programmes based in schools, communities and online.</p> <p>Brave phone for Children engages in education and training (including collaboration with universities), publication of research, and campaigning to raise public awareness about issues affecting children.</p>

	<p>Activities that volunteers of Brave Phone conduct inside the Centre include helpline for children (116 111) and parent helpline (0800 0800), as well as activities aimed at raising public awareness on issues of abuse, education of experts, scientific research and many projects (individual and group) aimed at prevention and counselling.</p>
Key Stakeholders/ Provider	Key stakeholder and provider of services
Level (Organisational, Regional, Local, National)	Non-governmental organization, national
Type (Prevention, Intervention, Postvention)	Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
Impact	<p>Brave Phone for Children was established in 1997 as a helpline for abused and neglected children. Over the years, Brave Phone for Children has become a source of help for all kinds of problems faced by children. It offers support to children, their parents, and professionals through community programmes. Brave Phone for Children started producing printed resources, and established a counselling service. Brave Phone for Children expanded its role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect by offering psycho-social services to families.</p> <p>Brave Phone for Children raised public awareness of the issues of child abuse and neglect, delivered social support and established child and family protection mechanisms.</p>
Available Statistics (if available)	<p>91% of children in Croatia have heard of Brave Phone. It is the country's second most recognisable organisation.</p> <p>Over 1500 professionals have directly collaborated with children and parents through Brave Phone's programmes.</p> <p>Brave phone for Children distributes 18000 copies of educational material to programme users and child protection professionals every year.</p> <p>Since 1997, Brave phone volunteers answered over 200 000 calls from children, parents, experts and other callers.</p>



Tools/Resources/ Services	Brave phone for Children works to provide psychosocial support that meets the needs of the target groups for the positive development of children, to promote and raise the profile of services in order to better support users, and to ensure the sustainable development of the organisation and build its capacity.
Link/ Website	https://udruga.hrabritelefon.hr/

3. CONCLUSION

A review of the national legislation of the countries (Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Croatia and Spain) shows that great steps have been taken and there is a clear intention to protect children from all forms of abuse. National laws are in line with international conventions and European strategic documents, and generally prescribe procedures for dealing with child sexual abuse. By harmonizing national legislations and practice with the provisions of relevant international conventions, treaties and declarations in the field of protection of children from all forms of sexual abuse, states have clearly demonstrated their commitment to the protection of children of all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse. Starting from these international instruments and the constitutional provision requiring special protection for children, the states has reached an enviable level in protecting children from all forms of violence, and in particular from sexual abuse. By ratifying international conventions, first and foremost the Lanzarote Convention (Convention of the Council of Europe for Child Protection from Exploitation and Sexual Abuse from 25th of October of 2007), the countries have made significant efforts to improve the national legal system that cover offences relating to child sexual abuse.

At the same time, the discrepancy between official statistics on the number of reported cases and epidemiological research indicates that only a small number (around 10%) of child sexual abuse has been detected and reported. There is a greater risk for sexual abuse for girls than for the boys. Approximately 75% of all cases include girls, while in 25% of the cases, victims are the boys³⁸.

The protection of children from all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, requires the involvement of key stakeholders at all levels, police and judicial authorities, independent institutions, educational institutions and social and health care services as well as non-governmental organizations. Many NGOs offer solutions through the provision of prevention and treatment activities, but coordinated activities and cross-sectoral cooperation are needed to make the child protection system more effective. For this reason, it is necessary to continue to work on the prevention and education of children, as well as the education of professionals in order to be able to respond in time and contribute to the protection of children.

A good practices overview shows that many activities are being carried out at several levels. On the one hand, primary prevention programs are in place, which provide basic strategies for self-protection and the identification of potentially dangerous and threatening situations. On the other hand, there are numerous activities aimed at ensuring adequate psychosocial support for victims of sexual abuse. There are also numerous initiatives and campaigns to raise public awareness of the problem of abuse. The impact of the Council of Europe's campaign 1 in 5 to stop sexual violence against children including *Kiko and the hand*, *Underwear rule*, is still visible, though it has been almost 10 years since the campaign was launched.

³⁸ Official statistics from the Hellenic Police investigations and complaints' service shows that 79% of victims are girls and the report from SOS Telefono Azzurro Onlus from Italy states that 75,9% victims are girls

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