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rights of victims of crime

**JUSTICE PROGRAMME**

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Enhancing PROfessionals' capaciTy to  
dEal with Child – vicTims  
**E-PROTECT II**

**WP2: Capacity building-on spot**

**D2.10 International Capacity Building  
Workshop in Italy**

**WP2 Leader: DCI - Italy**



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## Table of Contents

<b>PART 1: International Workshop, 24 February 2022</b>	- 5 -
<b>Introduction</b>	- 5 -
<b>1. Preparation</b>	- 6 -
1.1 Date and medium	- 6 -
1.2 Interpretation	- 6 -
1.3 Agenda and speakers	- 6 -
1.4 Dissemination	- 7 -
<b>2. Implementation</b>	- 8 -
2.1 Summary of the workshop	- 8 -
2.2. Aftermath	- 11 -
<b>3. Concluding remarks</b>	- 14 -
<b>Annex I – Communication material</b>	- 15 -
<b>Annex II – Online dissemination campaign</b>	- 21 -
<b>Annex III – Screenshots from the International Workshop</b>	- 29 -



<b>PART 2: International Workshop, 14 June 2022.....</b>	<b>- 35 -</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>- 35 -</b>
<b>1. Preparation.....</b>	<b>- 35 -</b>
1.1 Date and medium .....	- 35 -
1.2 Interpretation.....	- 36 -
1.3 Agenda and speakers.....	- 36 -
1.4 Dissemination .....	- 37 -
<b>2. Implementation .....</b>	<b>- 39 -</b>
2.1 Summary of the workshop .....	- 39 -
2.2 Aftermath .....	- 41 -
<b>3. Concluding remarks .....</b>	<b>- 42 -</b>
<b>4. Speeches and presentations.....</b>	<b>- 43 -</b>
<b>Annex I – Communication material .....</b>	<b>- 67 -</b>
<b>Annex II – Online dissemination campaign.....</b>	<b>- 76 -</b>
<b>Annex III – Screenshots from the International Workshop .....</b>	<b>- 83 -</b>



## **PART 1: International Workshop, 24 February 2022**

### **Introduction**

The initial objective of the 2nd international workshop was to focus on the individual assessment of child victims of crime as a method and formal procedure. DCI Italy has been seeking to identify speakers who could present good practice examples, methodologies, and other examples of practice, as well as relevant research, from other European countries (than the partner ones), specifically on the individual assessment. Despite an extensive search online and through the professional network, we have not been able to identify meaningful examples of the individual assessment of child victims of crime, which could be used to create a comprehensive agenda for the second international workshop. Therefore, it has become necessary to adapt the original proposal and slightly shift the focus.

In the context of E-PROTECT II, the work with national and international partners has, thus far, revealed that social services often have a rather limited capacity, knowledge and access to relevant working methods and tools for conducting the assessments required to inform the individual assessment of child victims of crime in accordance with EU Victims' Rights Directive EU/2012/29.<sup>1</sup> In addition, interagency and multi-disciplinary cooperation during the assessment and in the follow-up to the assessment remains a challenge. Such an action is required to ensure that the findings, which emerge during the individual assessment will subsequently also inform measures and services to actually prevent secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation of child victims in the context of criminal investigations, proceedings and beyond.

In continuity with these findings and with the 1st international workshop, which addressed specific working methods and service models, such as multi-stakeholder risk assessment and interagency / multidisciplinary cooperation models, DCI Italy proposed to dedicate the 2nd international workshop to address the additional service methods and cooperation models that have a potential to strengthen the capacity of social and child protection services in partner countries and beyond. The main rationale behind that approach is to encourage work with child victims and their families to prevent secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation with more continuity before, during and after investigations and proceedings.

This report consists of two main parts: the preparatory stage of the workshop, where the objectives, logistics and dissemination activities are discussed, and the implementation of the workshop, including a summary of the event, the participant engagement and the main highlights. All materials used for the purposes of the workshop are embedded in the Annexes to the current deliverable.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive [2012/29/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.



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## 1. Preparation

### 1.1 Date and medium

The second International Workshop of E-PROTECT II was originally planned to take place in January 2022 in Rome, Italy. However, considering the prolongation of the COVID-19 emergency and the difficulty in organising a seminar with around 30 participants from all over Europe, the online format has been considered more appropriate. It has also to be highlighted that the first seminar that was held online (due to the same reason) gathered a huge number of participants, thus promoting the project's outcomes on a larger scale than foreseen.

Therefore, it was unanimously decided by the consortium that the workshop would take place online, acknowledging both the strengths and weaknesses of this format. The shift into an online format required some adjustments in the duration, structure, and technical aspects of the event. As during the first international event, the ZOOM platform was identified as the most suitable medium. The meeting was scheduled for about 3 hours and took place on 24 February 2022, at 13.45 - 17.00 GMT+01.

### 1.2 Interpretation

Considering the positive experience of the first seminar, in order to encourage professionals across Europe to take part in the workshop, we decided to provide simultaneous interpretation in the four national languages of the partner countries, namely Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian, from and to English – which was the official working language of the workshop. Along with a solid and user-friendly environment, the ZOOM platform also offers the option to enable language interpretation in live events. This tool proved to be valuable in more than one way, because some speakers who did not feel confident in sharing their thoughts in English, also benefited from this alternative. Moreover, participants could pose their questions or comments in any of the languages mentioned above, thus removing the linguistic barrier and any hesitance or reluctance to engage in the discussion arising from that.

### 1.3 Agenda and speakers

DCI Italia suggested the agenda's topics, asking partners to identify relevant speakers from their own networks, also taking into consideration the twinning visits. These visits gave the possibility to get in touch with some good European experiences and practices as well as some different perspectives. After a welcome speech, an initial main contribution related with the PROMISE standards gave shape to the following interventions. The idea was to introduce the multi-stakeholder cooperation for case assessment and decision making, answering the following questions:

- What is it and how does it work?
- What are the main challenges and possible solutions?
- What is the added value it offers for children and for service providers?



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- How is it relevant to the individual assessment of child victims of crime?
- How can it help to reduce secondary and repeated victimisation of child victims of crime in the context of criminal investigations and proceedings?

Afterwards some European experiences that aim to meet these standards were presented. The role of moderator of the event was assumed by DCI Italy's Director.

The event hosted **11 speakers** from 6 EU Member States and beyond. The speakers were contacted by the respective partners which discussed the topic of their contribution in advance. Upon confirmation of their willingness to participate in the workshop, all speakers were contacted by DCI Italy in order to undertake a quick technical test. The list of speakers is as follows:

- **Mr Pippo Costella**, Director of DCI Italy and moderator
- **Shawna von Blixen**, Barnabus Network Coordinator of the PROMISE PROJECT – Council of the Baltic Sea States (Sweden)
- **Rosario Farmhouse**, President of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People, Portugal
- **Paulo Pelixo** Executive Director in APF (the Portuguese Association for Family Planning) and Coordinator of the Project 4Children in Portugal
- **José Matos** the coordinator of the Investigation of Sexual Crimes Section of the Lisbon Directorate of the Judiciary Police, Portugal
- **Lazar Atmadzhov**, social worker, Bulgaria, trained for carrying out interviews with children in blue rooms in Bulgaria
- **Claudia de Luca**, Juvenile Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office for Minors in Naples, Italy
- **Isabella Mastropasqua**, Director of Office II of Juvenile and Community Justice Department, Ministry of Justice, Member of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), Italy
- **Mariama Diallo**, Regional Manager for the Access to Justice Programme of Terre des hommes in Europe, Hungary
- **Snezhana Krumova**, coordinator of E-PROTECT II project Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria
- **Alma Lleshi**, Chairwoman at State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albania.

## 1.4 Dissemination

The Dissemination and Communication Strategy developed in the context of E-PROTECT II sets out an array of dissemination tools, both offline (such as posters) and online (such as social media posts), available to partners for the promotion of the project's activities.



Considering the online format and international character of the workshop, the objective of the dissemination strategy was to engage a large number of professionals across the European Union and beyond. Towards this end, the event was launched and promoted via the [project's platform](#) and social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)), as well as via the communication channels of the partners (links to all dissemination activities can be found in Annex II). The DCI Italy team designed the materials used for dissemination: social media posts, website post, newsletter. They contained a link to the registration form integrated in the ZOOM platform. The registered participants were **238** (including partners and interpreters), the number of final participants was 157 (including partners and interpreters); coming from the different countries in Europe but also worldwide (see Figure 8).

DCI Italy disseminated the event through:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Newsletter both national (3000 contacts) and international (800 contacts)
- Dedicated letter to DCI members and ISS members

See the extracts from the social media in the Annex.

LIF disseminated the event through:

- [Its own website](#)
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Dedicated invitation via email to LIF's relevant network (around 350 contacts)

CRPE also disseminated the event through their website and social media account Facebook. A dedicated email has been sent to their national contacts that have been collected through the years.

SEERC disseminated the event through:

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)

Dedicated invitation via email to SEERC's network on relevant projects

## 2. Implementation

### 2.1 Summary of the workshop

The workshop was opened by DCI Italy Director, Pippo Costella, who warmly thanked the speakers, the partners and the audience for their participation, made a short introduction to the mission and contribution of the E-PROTECT II project. He also added some words of concern regarding the



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development of the situation in Ukraine while dedicating a thought to the children and their families who are facing this very difficult moment. Pippo Costella asked Daja Wenke of DCI Italy to take note of the questions and requests that participants made on the chat in order to address them at the end of each panel session.

Conceived as a keynote speech that could inspire the ensuing interventions, the first contribution was of longer duration, lasting around 20 minutes. Shawwna von Blixen, the Barnahus Network Coordinator of the [PROMISE Project](#) of the Council of the Baltic Sea States extensively showed the PROMISE standards in order to introduce the multi-stakeholder cooperation for case assessment and decision making and to inspire towards the adoption and adaptation of the Barnahus model in countries other than the Nordic European countries. The second panel, in fact, presented the adaptation of these standards in Portugal through the [4Children project](#). Ms Rosario Farmhouse, Head of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People Portugal, introduced the Portuguese experience, which is going on in collaboration with APF, the Judiciary Police, the Centre for Judiciary Studies, the National Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Barnaheill. Paulo Pelixo, the Executive Director of APF, explained in detail the 4Children Project which aims at promoting bilateral partnerships for the implementation of the Barnahus model in order to contribute to the protection of children and young victims, to the promotion of a more child-friendly justice and to the development of specialised intervention in sexual abuse. They have already undertaken a feasibility study on the introduction of the Barnahus model in Portugal and are now proceeding towards a Roadmap for implementation. To conclude the focus on Portugal, Mr. José Matos the Coordinator of the Section for the Investigation of Sexual Crimes of the Lisbon Department of the Judiciary Police, explained the interview rooms created to facilitate the emotional stabilisation of the victims, by ensuring their comfort and safety, as well as their privacy and the confidentiality of the content of their statements. These rooms allow the recording of sound and image so that these statements, if necessary, can be visualised by the judicial authorities. A similar structure in Bulgaria, as presented by the social worker Lazar Atmadzhov, is the “Blue Room”, a specialised facility for interviewing/hearing of a child. The preparation of the child for the forthcoming proceedings is done by professionals, specifically trained for the purpose. The work with the child is performed following a specialised methodology for age-appropriate preparation of children. Before the coffee break, the floor was given to Lourença Lopes Moreno Tavares, President of ACRIDES - Associação Crianças Desfavorecidas, member of ISS network Capo Verde. She informed DCI Italy that she had invited the Ministry of Justice of Capo Verde to join the seminar because they are setting up child-friendly interview rooms for children who are victims of violence.

After the break, Pippo Costella introduced the following panel, with the contributions from Isabella Mastropasqua, Director of Office II of Juvenile and Community Justice Department, Ministry of



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Justice, and Claudia de Luca, Juvenile Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office for Minors in Naples, Italy. Ms Mastropasqua briefly summarised the participation of the DJCJ at the E-PROTECT II project, highlighting the commitment of the Ministry of Justice to guarantee the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive in practice. She explained that the E-PROTECT II has been an occasion to initiate a process aimed at reinforcing the cooperation among key private and public stakeholders and agencies in the city of Naples. This action is going on with the support of the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office in Naples as well as the Juvenile Justice regional services of the Ministry of Justice as extensively explained by Ms Claudia De Luca, whose speech summarised also the status quo of the implementation of the Directive in Italy, including achievements and shortcomings.

Subsequently, a quick poll was disseminated among participants in order to keep their attention high, with the following questions:

1. Is there a Barnahus, blue room or comparable interagency and multidisciplinary cooperation mechanism for child victims of crime in the city or region where you work? 34 "no", 25 "yes".
2. If no, would you like to see such a cooperation model becoming active in the city or region where you work? 54 "yes", 1 "no".
3. If yes, are you largely satisfied with the way it works? 12 "no", 13 "yes".

After the shared Italian experience, Mariama Diallo, Regional Manager for the Access to Justice Programme of Terre des hommes in Europe takes the floor in order to show how child participation can improve the multi-disciplinary cooperation. She explained the Lundy Model applied in the Barnahus experience in its four rooms: Child Protection; Criminal Justice; Physical Wellbeing; Mental Wellbeing. After this interesting perspective, Snezhana Krumova, coordinator of E-PROTECT II project from Law and Internet Foundation, briefly talked about the E-PROTECT II Gamification Platform. This platform has been created with the purpose of enhancing experts' capacity in working with child victims of crime. In particular, by providing the relevant professionals with a more practice-oriented approach in terms of implementation/application of the Individual Needs Assessment Methodology for child victims of crime, elaborated under the first phase of the project. The game provides 3 training scenarios - Online Grooming, Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, and Domestic Violence. During her speech, the [link to the platform](#) was shared through the chat so all participants could connect and surf through the platform.

The last contribution to the seminar was of Alma Lleshi, Chairwoman at State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child in Albania of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. She illustrated the state of play regarding the protection of children who are victims of crime in terms of legislative reforms and practical implementation. Pippo Costella thanked her for her participation highlighting the connections between Italy and Albania and the numerous unaccompanied children coming from Albania that are inserted in the Italian reception system. After having managed to hear and respond to



a few questions from the participants, which were presented in the chat, the event closed with Pippo Costella's conclusions, final remarks and the invitation to follow the E-PROTECT project.

All presentations provided by speakers are available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KG8j8r4MQynVkc9DAizBf42C5NBhmOZO?usp=sharing>

Video recording of the event is available here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18mX6rcIau8eJxauIc4Aigw4W5BmKpUkp/view?usp=sharing>

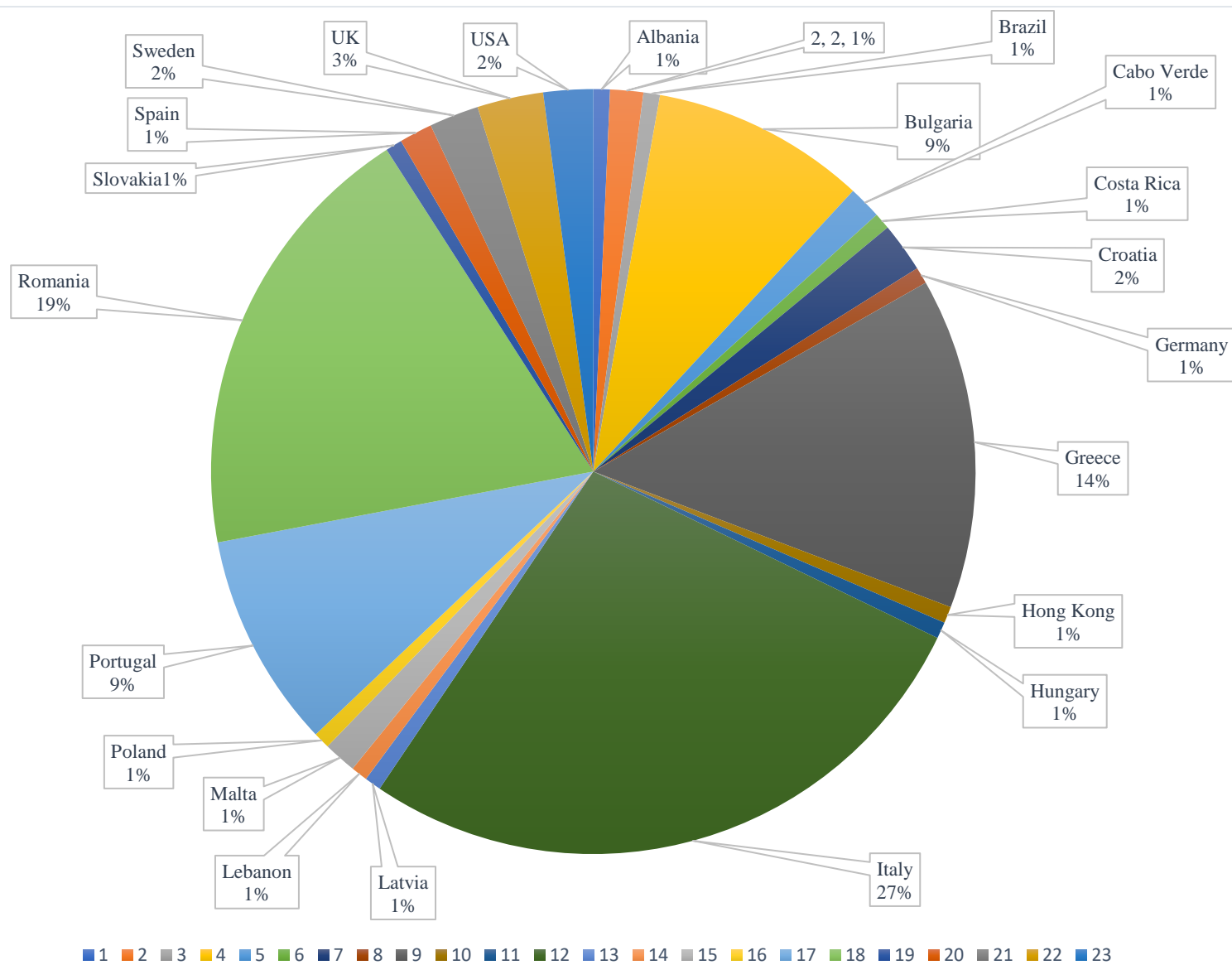
Screenshots of all speeches can be found in Annex III of this report.

## 2.2. Aftermath

There were **157 participants** involved in the seminar. The participants covered a wide range of professions related to the rights of the child, service provision for children and child protection, such as psychologists/therapists, social workers, teachers and academics, lawyers and legal advisors, judicial and law enforcement authorities and other child protection experts (See Figure 9).

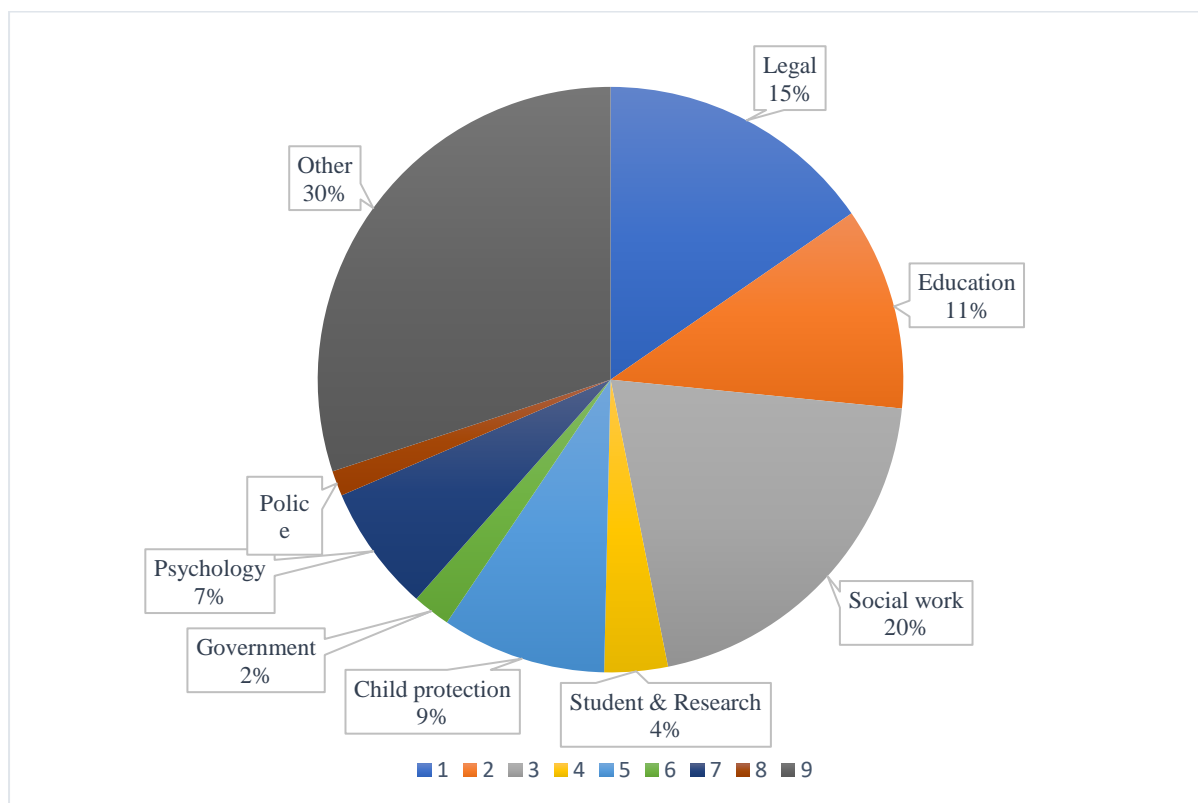
From a territorial scope, the workshop accomplished to engage participants from 15 EU Member States and an additional 8 countries from Europe and worldwide, attesting to the international scope of this event (Figure 8).





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**Figure 9**



After the end of the workshop, certificates of attendance were sent to participants upon request (see annex I). The presentations were shared with participants together with the evaluation form of the workshop to be filled out.



### **3. Concluding remarks**

In line with the previous international seminars, this was a successful event gathering together a high number of professionals and officials. The online modality gave the possibility to reach people from all over Europe and beyond, allowing to create connections with different experiences and models responding to the need of establishing coherent child protection network at national and supranational level. Moreover, the Zoom platform is certainly very easy to use, accessible and provides tools for participants to be actively engaged, for instance, through polls.

The Barnahus model has been taken as a primary reference also in its different adaptation under circumstances and environments outside the Nordic countries, as the different experiences presented during the seminar suggested. The Portuguese experience is tentatively relevant for the continued work in this field in the E-PROTECT II consortium and partner countries.



## Annex I – Communication material

### Agenda



**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU VICTIMS RIGHTS DIRECTIVE  
EXAMPLES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION MODELS TO  
IMPROVE THE SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN VICTIMS OF CRIME**

**24 FEBRUARY 2022  
14:00 - 17:00 CET**

In continuity with the 1st international event, the 2nd international workshop will present and discuss additional service methods and cooperation models that have a potential to strengthen the capacity of social and child protection services in partner countries and beyond to work with child victims and their families. The reflection will focus on how to prevent secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation with more continuity before, during and after investigations and proceedings.



The event will be held in English and organised on a zoom platform with simultaneous translation in the languages of the project partners (Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian).

**[Click here to register.](#)**



Event organized in the framework of the European project E-PROTECT II co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union. The content of this poster represents the sole point of view of the organizers. The European Commission assumes no responsibility for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU VICTIMS RIGHTS DIRECTIVE

### EXAMPLES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION MODELS TO IMPROVE THE SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN VICTIMS OF CRIME

#### 13:45 OPENING OF THE VIDEOCONFERENCE PLATFORM (ZOOM)

#### 14:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Pippo Costella**, Defence for Children Italy

#### 14:10 INTRODUCTION TO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION FOR CASE ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING: THE PROMISE STANDARDS

**Shawna von Blixen**, Council of the Baltic Sea States

#### 14:40 TOWARDS BARNAHUS IN PORTUGAL: THE 4CHILDREN PROJECT AND OTHER MULTIDISCIPLINARY SERVICES AND APPROACHES

**Rosário Farmhouse**, National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People in Portugal

**Paulo Pelixo**, APF - Association for Family Planning, Lisbon

**José Matos**, Coordinator of Criminal Investigation of the Judiciary Police, Lisbon

#### 15:10 THE BLUE ROOMS IN BULGARIA

**Lazar Atmadzhov**, Social Worker, Bulgaria

#### 15:25 Q&A

#### 15:30 BREAK

#### 15:40 STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN ITALY: TOWARDS A PROTOCOL FOR COOPERATION IN NAPLES

**Isabella Mastropasqua**, Department of Juvenile and Community Justice - Ministry of Justice, Italy

**Claudia De Luca**, Juvenile Prosecutor Office - Juvenile Court of Naples, Italy

#### 16:00 HOW CAN CHILD PARTICIPATION SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION MODELS?

**Mariama Diallo**, Regional Office of Terre des hommes for Europe, Hungary

#### 16:15 E-PROTECT "GAMIFICATION"

**Snezhana Krumova**, Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria

#### 16:25 STATE OF PLAY IN ALBANIA IN TERMS OF LEGISLATIVE REFORMS AND WHAT IS APPLICABLE IN PRACTICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME

**Alma Lleshi**, State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, Albania

#### 16:40 Q&A

#### 17:00 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

**Pippo Costella**, Defence for Children International Italy



LAW AND INTERNET  
FOUNDATION  
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR LAW AND  
TECHNOLOGY



CENTRUL ROMÂN  
DE POLITICĂ EUROPEANĂ  
**CRPE**  
SIGURANȚA EUROPEI, PROTECȚIA EXPERTISE



SOUTH-EAST  
EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH  
CENTRE

*Ministero della Giustizia*  
DIPARTIMENTO PER LA GIUSTIZIA MINORILE E DI COMUNITÀ

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN  
INTERNATIONAL  
ITALY



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## **To participants**

### ***1. Welcome page in Zoom***



#### **Meeting Registration**



Topic	E-PROTECT International Workshop - Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive
Description	<p>The seminar "Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive - examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime" will take place on 24 February 2022 from 14:00 to 17:00 CET.</p> <p>In continuity with the 1st international workshop, the 2nd international workshop will present and discuss additional service methods and cooperation models that have a potential to strengthen the capacity of social and child protection services in partner countries and beyond to work with child victims and their families, prevent secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation with more continuity before, during and after investigations and proceedings.</p> <p>The meeting will be held in English but you can listen to Italian, Greek, Romanian and Bulgarian simultaneous translation. To listen to the translation, ensure you have the latest version of Zoom downloaded here: <a href="https://zoom.us/download">https://zoom.us/download</a></p> <p>For any questions or doubts, please write to: <a href="mailto:info@defenceforchildren.it">info@defenceforchildren.it</a></p> <p>The event will be recorded for internal purposes and to aid the report writing process. By registering for this event, you consent to be recorded.</p> <p>Data collected in the registration process will only be used to grant you access to the meeting and for statistical purposes by the organiser.</p> <p>This project was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020) under Grant Agreement 878593. All the project's products represent the views of the author only. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for the use that may be made of the information that any of these products contain.</p>
Time	Feb 24, 2022 02:00 PM in <a href="#">Amsterdam</a> , <a href="#">Berlin</a> , <a href="#">Rome</a> , <a href="#">Stockholm</a> , <a href="#">Vienna</a>

### ***2. Email to participants for evaluation form***

Dear all,

We would like to thank you for your participation on 24 February 2022 to the international Workshop Implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive: Examples of multidisciplinary cooperation



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models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime organized by DCI Italy in the context of the E-PROTECT II project.

At the following link you can download the presentations shared during the event:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KG8j8r4MQynVkc9DAizBf42C5NBhmOZ0?usp=sharing>

We would be very grateful if you quickly fill in the evaluation questionnaire available here:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflZz2-n50hms6IWt90jS\\_ELZrIhIGFODn81nMds-Ar4pZ0KA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflZz2-n50hms6IWt90jS_ELZrIhIGFODn81nMds-Ar4pZ0KA/viewform)

We remain at your disposal for any information you may need and hopefully we will be in touch for collaborations in the future.

Best regards,

## **Email for speakers**

### ***1. Invitation to speakers***

Dear....

I am writing to you in relation to an online transnational seminar that we are organising in the framework of the E-PROTECT II project, co-financed by the European Commission. Besides promoting a methodology for the individual assessment of child victims for the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive, this project is also looking for innovative solutions within the multidisciplinary cooperation for the possible establishment of future bilateral collaborations. Please find a project fact sheet attached fyi.

We propose to dedicate this international workshop to present and discuss additional service methods and cooperation models that have a potential to strengthen the capacity of social and child protection services in partner countries and beyond to work with child victims and their families, prevent secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation with more continuity before, during and after investigations and proceedings.

The title of this seminar is "Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive - examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime". It will take place the next 24 February 2022 from 14:00 to 17:00 CET.

Given your experience in this field (to be adapted), we would like to invite you to participate as a speaker in this international seminar. For the participants, it would be particularly interesting to learn about (to be adapted). Of course, we would gladly welcome your advice in this regard!

The seminar will be organised the zoom platform, in English, probably with live streaming and in with translations into Italian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Greek. In the project countries and throughout Europe, we have noted a strong interest in learning about multi-stakeholder cooperation so that we expect the event to attract a wide participation of speakers and participants from across the EU.

I would like to thank you very much in advance for considering our invitation and would be delighted to explore the details together with you!

Best regards,



### ***1. Email to speakers***

Dear Ms/Mr

It is a particular pleasure for us to welcome you to the International Workshop Implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive: Examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime.

The workshop is hosted by Defence for Children International Italy and takes place on 24 February 2022 at 2 p.m. CET in the context of the E-PROTECT II project. Thank you very much for accepting our invitation to speak at this event!

Please find attached the final agenda of the workshop.

If you have not already done so, we would like to ask you to kindly register your participation at the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693> to be able to access the meeting. Moreover, we require the informed consent of all speakers and participants to enable the video-recording of the event.

The event offers simultaneous interpretation in the languages of the four project partner countries (Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Romanian). To facilitate the work of the interpreters, please speak at a normal speed during your presentation, use headphones/headset with a microphone, and to kindly share with us your PowerPoint presentation, if you use one, or any other written material – including written speeches - that you may wish to use during your intervention as early as possible and ideally by Monday 21 February

In addition, we would also like to ask you to kindly send us a short biography (2/3 lines) to facilitate your introduction during the panel.

Benjamin, in copy, will support us in solving the technical issues. If you have not already had your quick Zoom test with him, please check your email and/or SPAM folder.

Thank you very much in advance for your understanding and collaboration.....

### ***2. Follow-up email to speakers***

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your interesting contributions.

We would like to stay in touch for possible collaborations in the field of child protection.

Please feel free to get back to us for any further information or exchange.

Have a nice evening!

Best wishes from all our DCI Italy team



## Certificate of attendance template



SOUTH-EAST  
EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH  
CENTRE



LAW AND INTERNET  
FOUNDATION  
ACADEMIC CENTER FOR LAW AND  
TECHNOLOGY



It is hereby certified that

participated in the International Workshop of the E-PROTECT project:

**"Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive:  
examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime"**

which was implemented within the framework of the EU Justice Programme  
and took place on 24 February 2022 from 14.00 to 17.00 CET.

Pippo Costella



Director, Defence for Children International Italy



Funded by the European  
Union's Justice Programme



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## Annex II – Online dissemination campaign

### Event poster



The poster features a stylized background with geometric shapes in orange and purple. On the right, there is a circular inset image of a person with blonde hair looking at a document. The E-PROTECT logo is in the top left corner. The main text is centered and reads: **E-PROTECT II INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**, followed by **Implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive**, **Examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime**, **24 FEBRUARY 2022**, and **14:00-17:00 CET**. At the bottom left is the logo for **DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL ITALIA** with a small icon of two people. At the bottom right, text states: **The E-PROTECT II project is co-funded by the Justice Program of the European Union**, next to the European Union flag.

**E-PROTECT**

**E-PROTECT II INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

Implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive  
**Examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime**

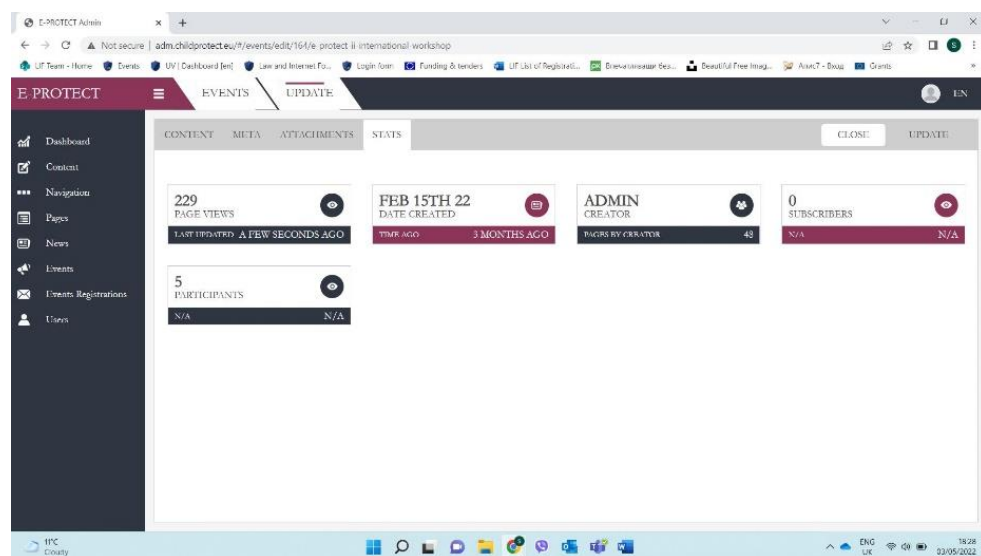
**24 FEBRUARY 2022**  
**14:00-17:00 CET**

**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL ITALIA**

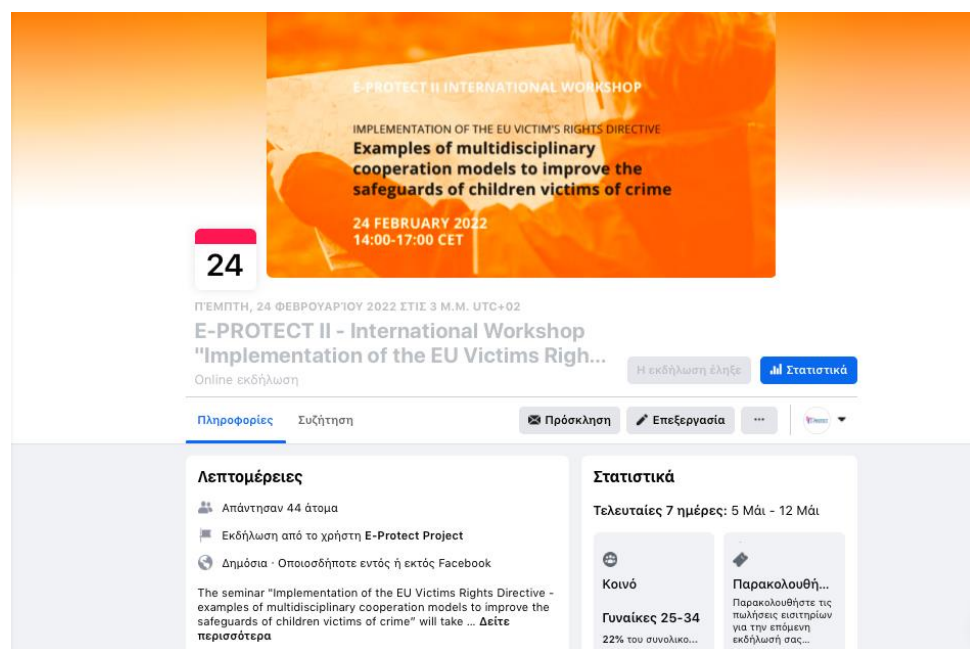
The E-PROTECT II project is co-funded by the Justice Program of the European Union



## Project's website and social media accounts



## Facebook



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ΠΕΜ, 24 ΦΕΒ · 3:00 μ.μ.

**E-PROTECT II - International Workshop "Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive"**

Online εκδήλωση

## Απόδοση εκδήλωσης

Τελευταίες 7 ημέρες: 5 Μάι - 12 Μάι



Απήχηση

**5.878**

+0 τελευταίες 7 ημέρες



Απαντήσεις

**44**

+0 τελευταίες 7 ημέρες



Παρακολουθήστε τις πωλή...

Παρακολουθήστε τις πωλήσεις εισιτηρίων για την επόμενη εκδήλωσή σας προσθέτοντας ένα σύνδεσμο εισιτηρίων



Συγκρίνετε την απόδοση για όλες τις εκδηλώσεις της Σελίδας ICBA project.

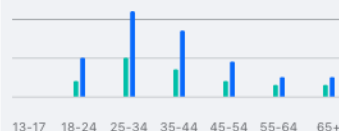
[Προβολή στατιστικών εκδηλώσεων](#)

## Κοινό

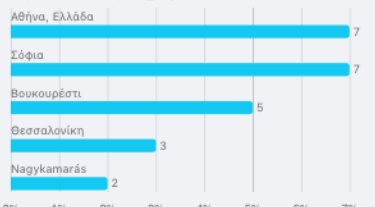
Απήχηση

### Ηλικία και φύλο Τις τελευταίες 7 ημέρες

0% Men 0% Women



### Τοποθεσία Τις τελευταίες 7 ημέρες



## Twitter



**E-PROTECT Project** @eprotecteu · Feb 16

🌟 **SAVE THE DATE**

The workshop will take place on 24 February 2022 from 14:00 to 17:00 CET. The event will be held in English through zoom platform with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian & Romanian

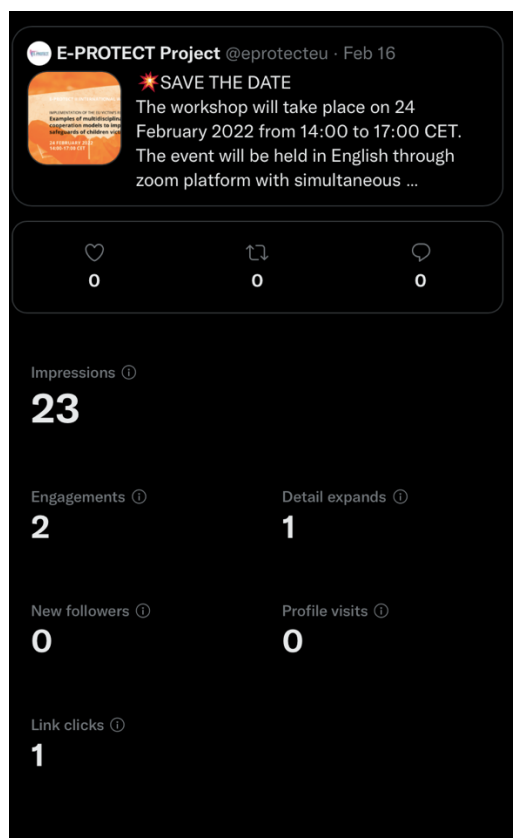
Register [bit.ly/34MNIGL](https://bit.ly/34MNIGL)

Agenda [bit.ly/3uVJreS](https://bit.ly/3uVJreS)

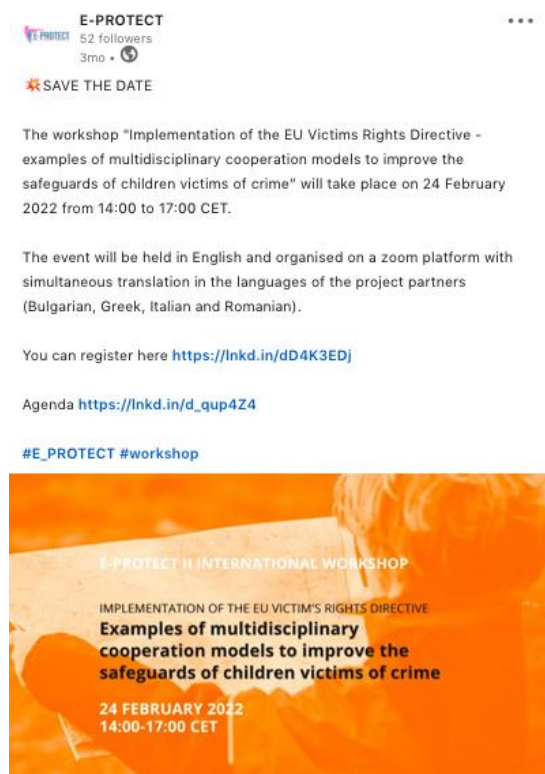


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## LinkedIn



**E-PROTECT**  
52 followers  
3mo •

**SAVE THE DATE**


The workshop "Implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive - examples of multidisciplinary cooperation models to improve the safeguards of children victims of crime" will take place on 24 February 2022 from 14:00 to 17:00 CET.

The event will be held in English and organised on a zoom platform with simultaneous translation in the languages of the project partners (Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian).

You can register here <https://lnkd.in/dD4K3EDj>

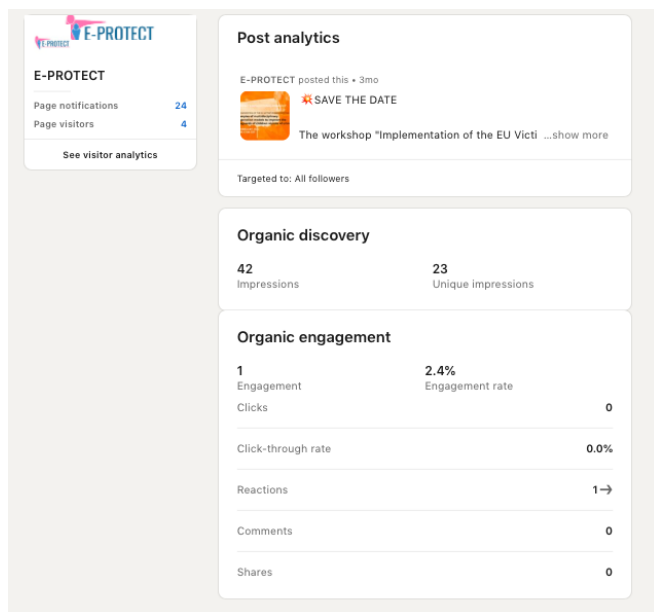
Agenda [https://lnkd.in/d\\_qup4Z4](https://lnkd.in/d_qup4Z4)

#E\_PROTECT #workshop




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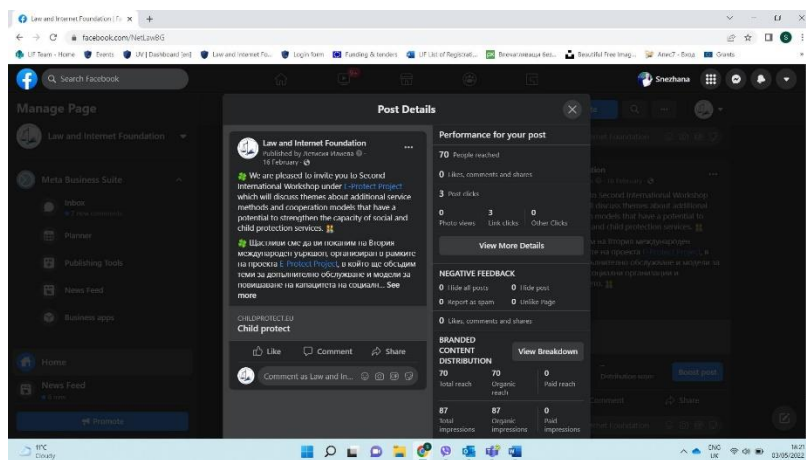




## Partners' communication channels

### LIF

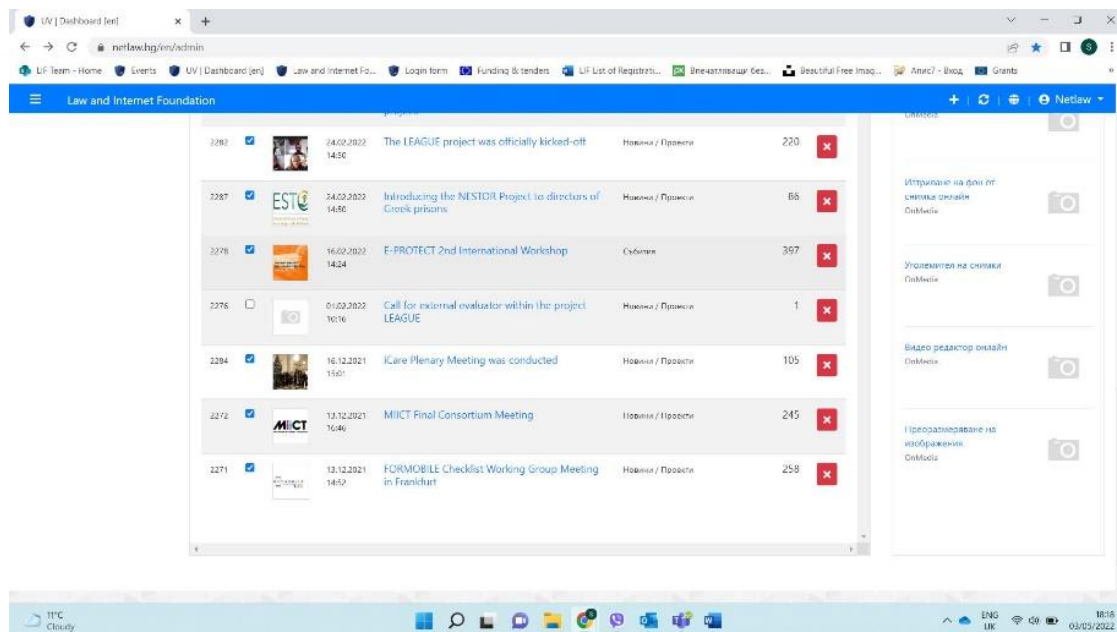
#### Facebook:



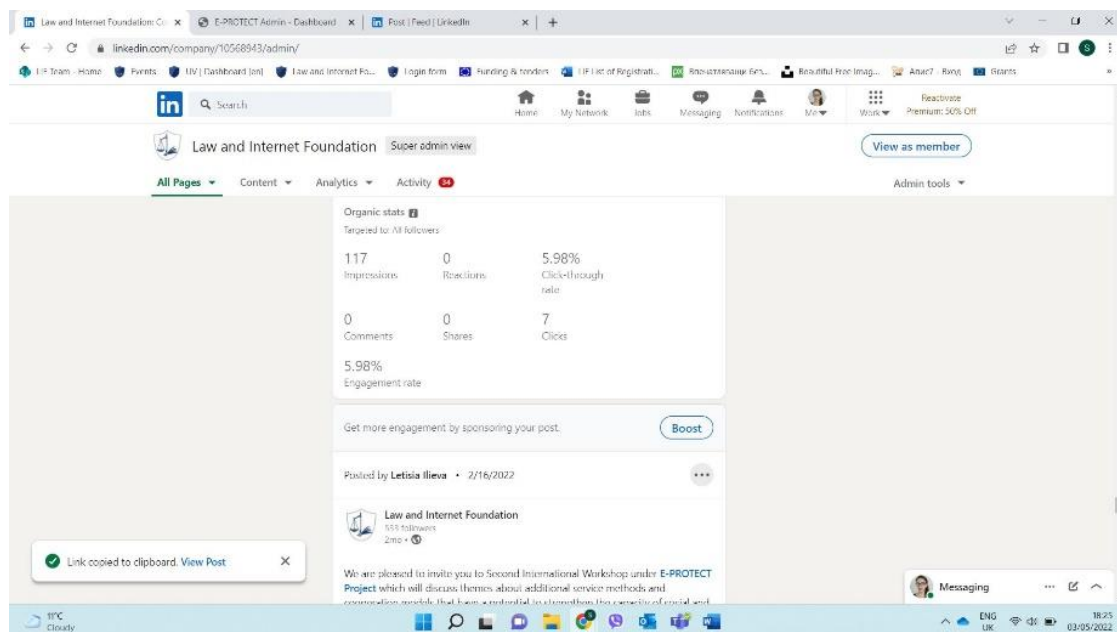
#### Website:



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## LinkedIn:



## DCI- Italy

## Facebook:

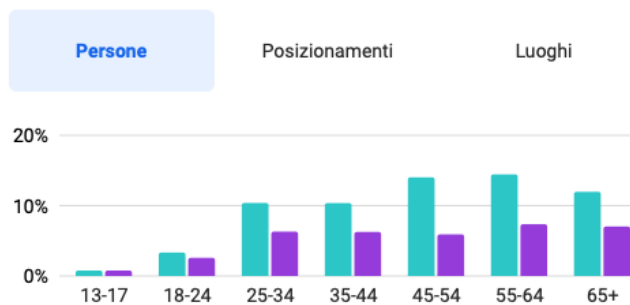


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Questa inserzione ha raggiunto **8646** persone del tuo pubblico.



Questa inserzione ha raggiunto **8646** persone del tuo pubblico.



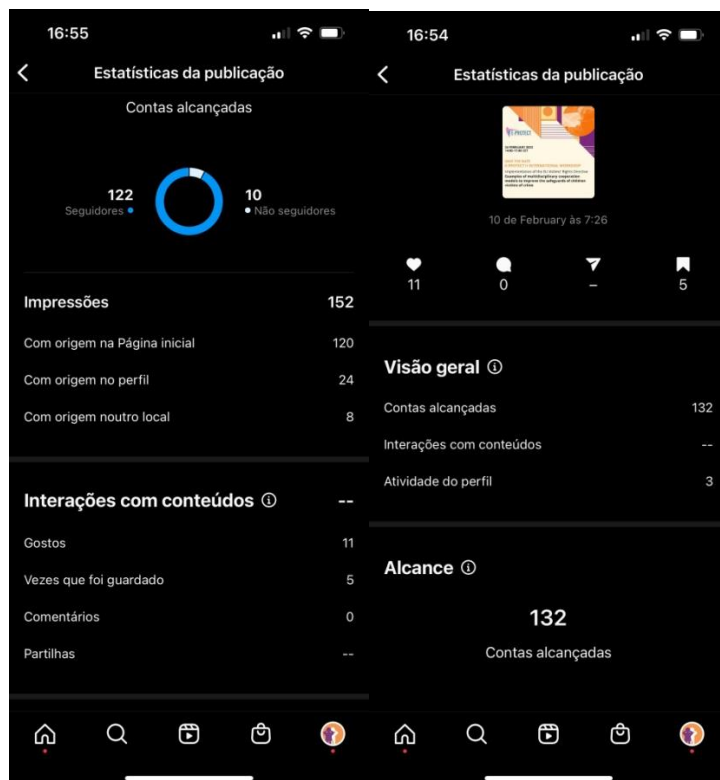
Questa inserzione ha raggiunto **8646** persone del tuo pubblico.



## Instagram:



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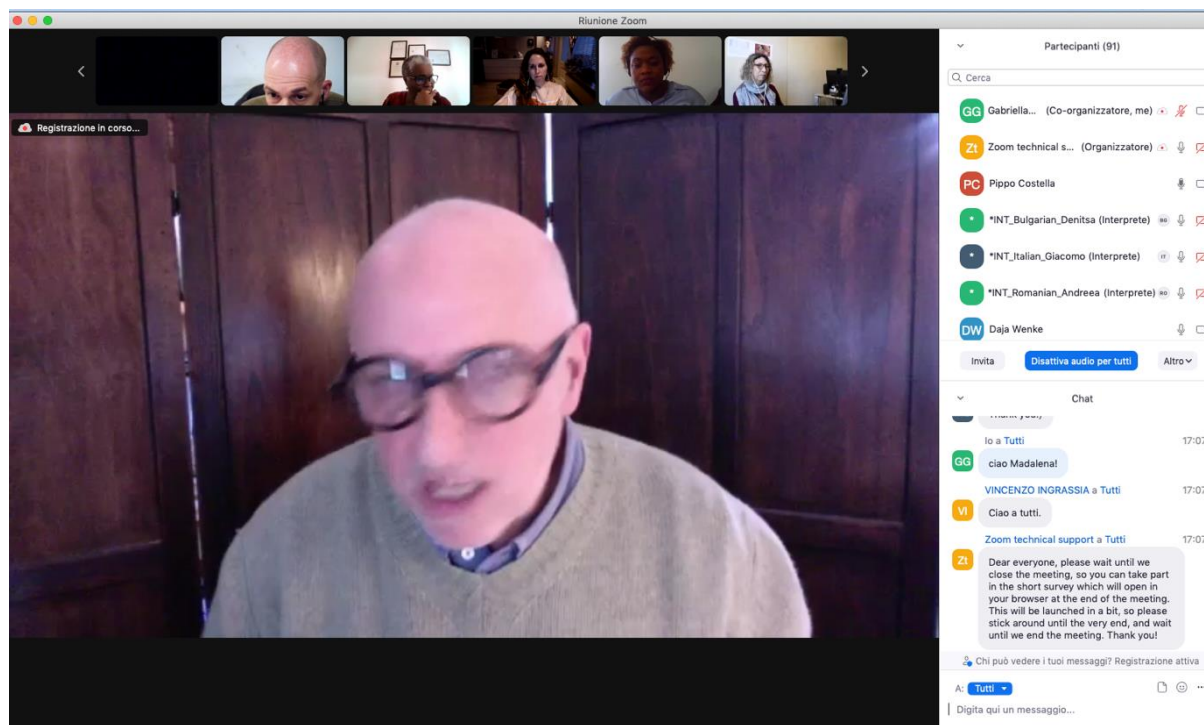
## Linkedin:



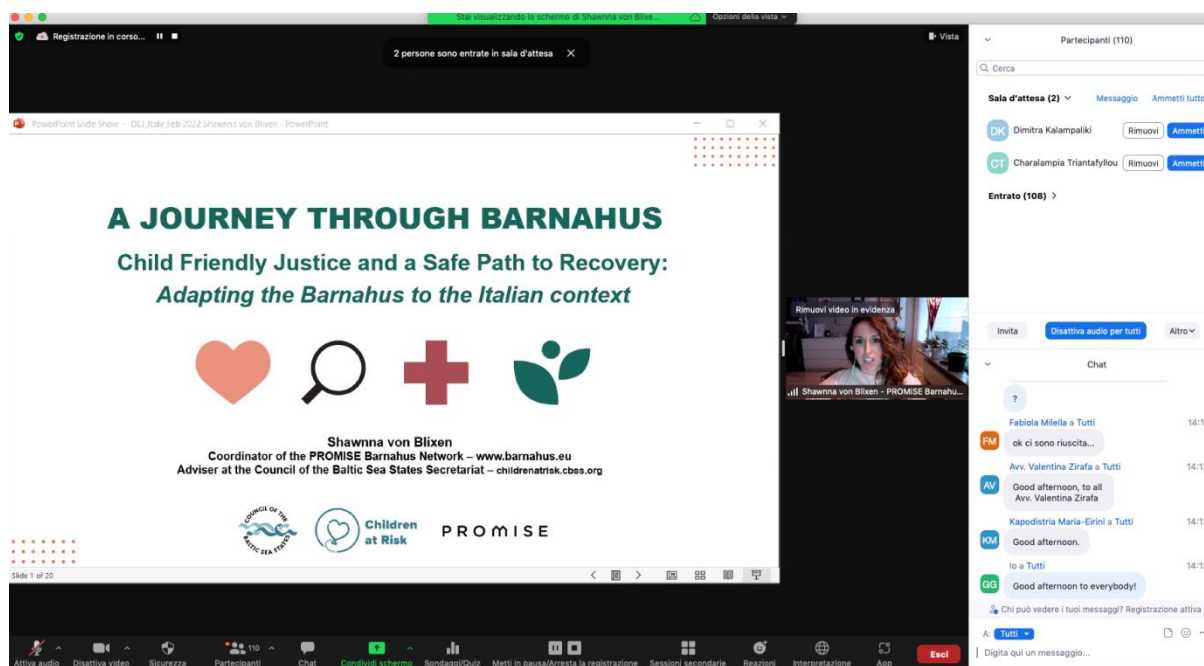
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## Annex III – Screenshots from the International Workshop

Mr Pippo Costella, Director of DCI Italy and moderator



Shawnna von Blixen



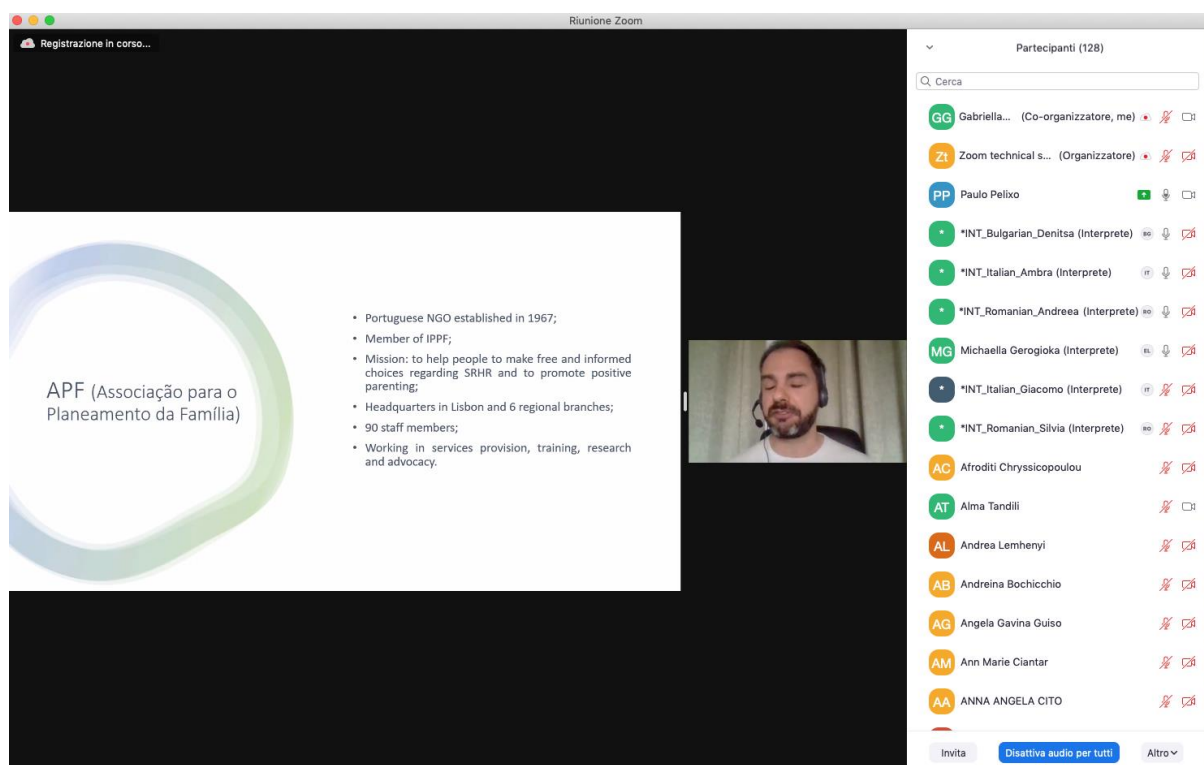
Rosario Farmhouse



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**Paulo Pelixo**



Registrazione in corso...

Reunione Zoom

Partecipanti (128)

Cerca

- GG Gabriella... (Co-organizzatore, me)
- Zt Zoom technical s... (Organizzatore)
- PP Paulo Pelixo
- \*INT\_Bulgarian\_Denitsa (Interprete)
- \*INT\_Italian\_Ambra (Interprete)
- \*INT\_Romanian\_Andrea (Interprete)
- MG Michaela Gerogioka (Interprete)
- \*INT\_Italian\_Giacomo (Interprete)
- \*INT\_Romanian\_Silvia (Interprete)
- AC Afroditi Chrysicopoulou
- AT Alma Tandili
- AL Andrea Lemhenyi
- AB Andreina Bochicchio
- AG Angela Gavina Guiso
- AM Ann Marie Ciantar
- AA ANNA ANGELA CITO

Invita Disattiva audio per tutti Altro

APF (Associação para o Planeamento da Família)

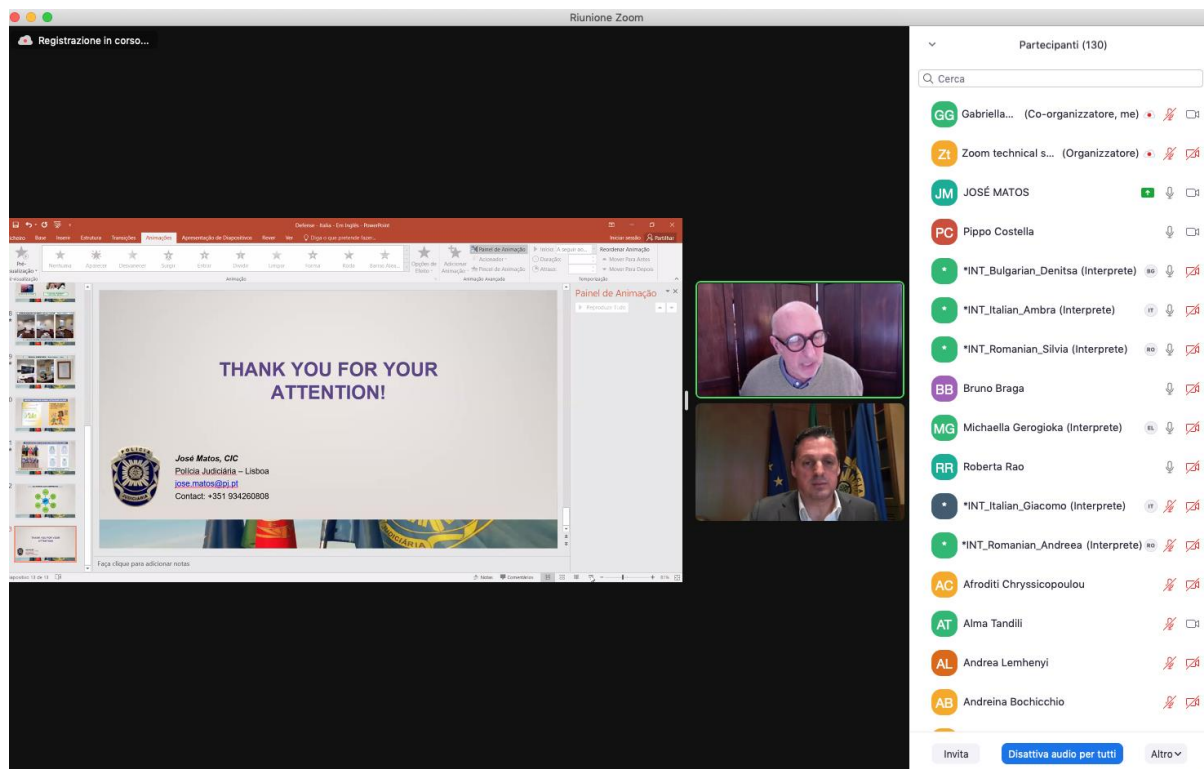
- Portuguese NGO established in 1967;
- Member of IPPF;
- Mission: to help people to make free and informed choices regarding SRHR and to promote positive parenting;
- Headquarters in Lisbon and 6 regional branches;
- 90 staff members;
- Working in services provision, training, research and advocacy.

**José Matos**

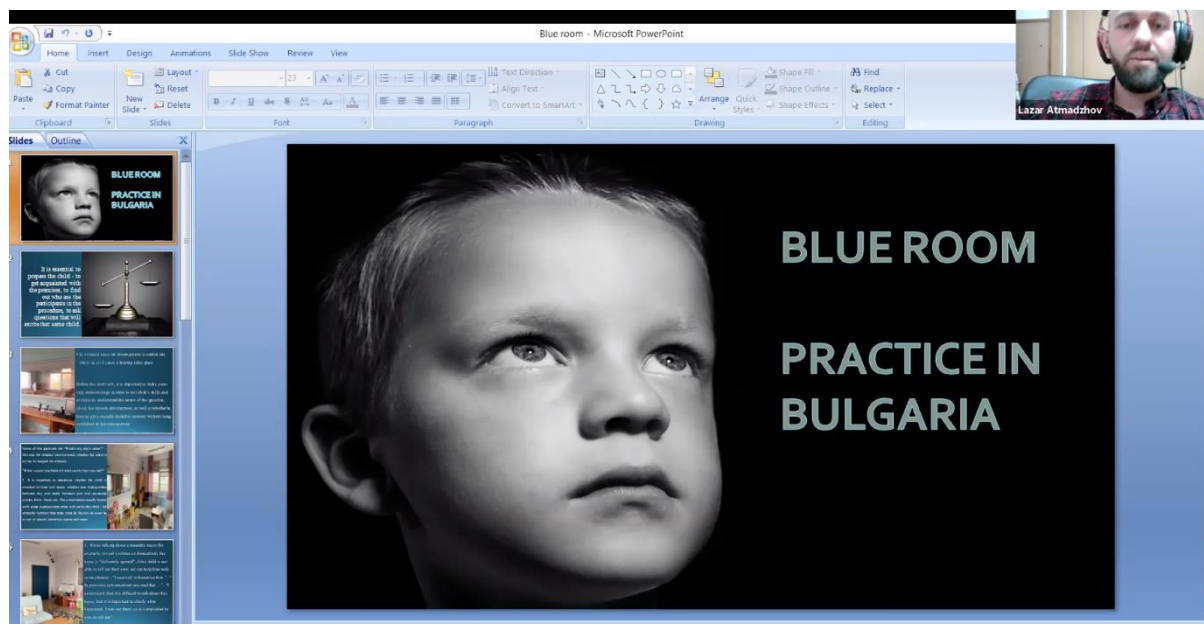


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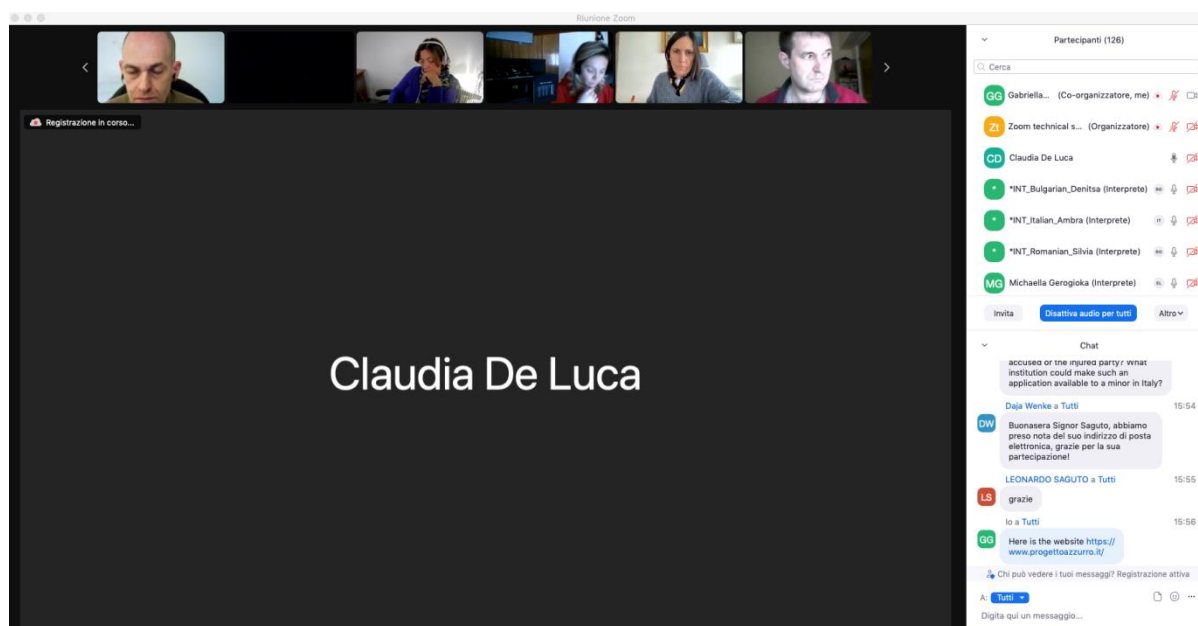


## Lazar Atmadzhov



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## Claudia de Luca



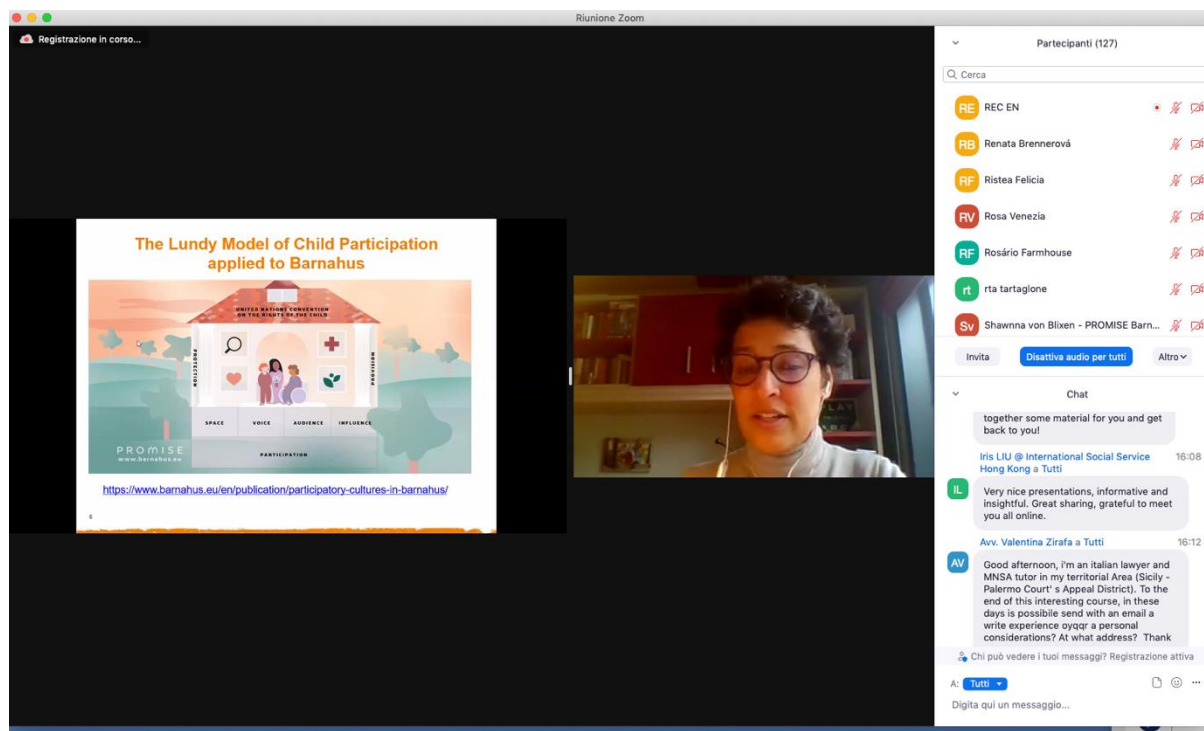
## Ms. Isabella Mastropasqua



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## Mariama Diallo



**The Lundy Model of Child Participation applied to Barnahus**

RESISTANCE SPACE VOICE AUDIENCE INFLUENCE PROTECTION

PROMISE [www.barnahus.eu](https://www.barnahus.eu/en/publication/participatory-cultures-in-barnahus/)

Participants (127)

Chat

together some material for you and get back to you!

Iris LIU @ International Social Service Hong Kong a Tutti 16:08

Very nice presentations, informative and insightful. Great sharing, grateful to meet you all online.

Avv. Valentina Zirafa a Tutti 16:12

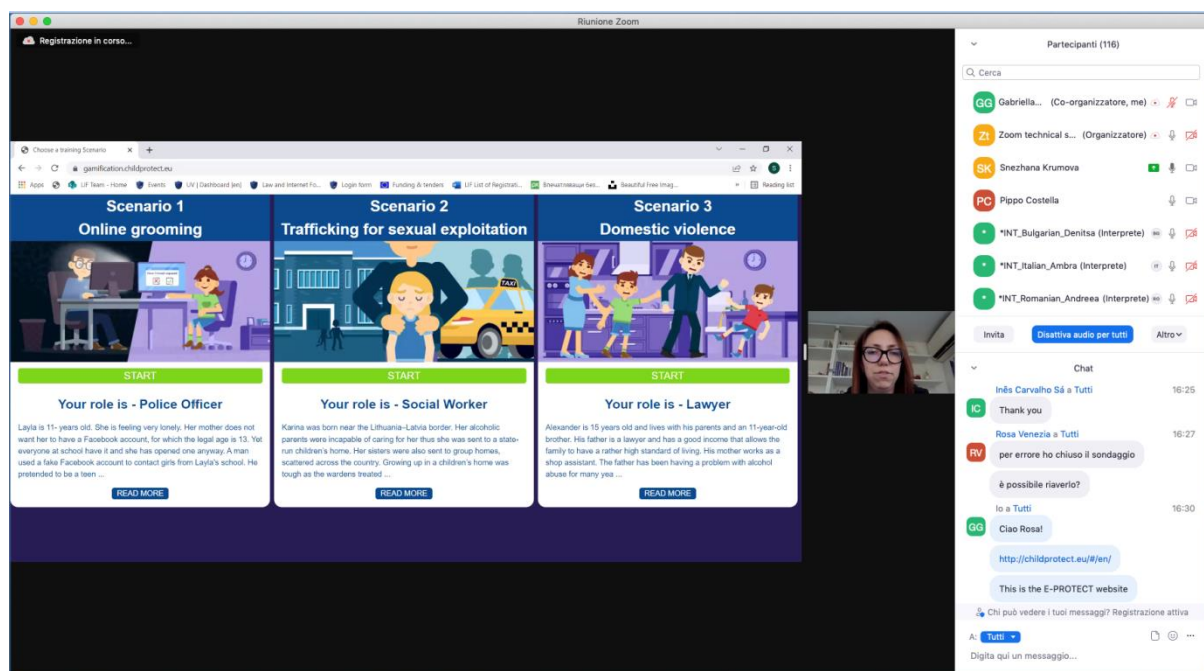
Good afternoon, I'm an Italian lawyer and MNSA tutor in my territorial Area (Sicily - Palermo Court's Appeal District). To the end of this interesting course, in these days is possible send with an email a write experience ovqqq a personal considerations? At what address? Thank

Chi può vedere i tuoi messaggi? Registrazione attiva

Tutti

Digita qui un messaggio...

## Snezhana Krumova



**Scenari 1 Online grooming**

**Scenari 2 Trafficking for sexual exploitation**

**Scenari 3 Domestic violence**

**START**

**Your role is - Police Officer**

Layla is 11-years old. She is feeling very lonely. Her mother does not want her to have a Facebook account, for which the legal age is 13. Yet everyone at school have it and she has opened one anyway. A man used a fake Facebook account to contact girls from Layla's school. He pretended to be a teen ...

**START**

**Your role is - Social Worker**

Karina was born near the Lithuania-Latvia border. Her alcoholic parents were incapable of caring for her thus she was sent to a state-run children's home. Her sisters were also sent to group homes, scattered across the country. Growing up in a children's home was tough as the wardens treated ...

**START**

**Your role is - Lawyer**

Alexander is 15 years old and lives with his parents and an 11-year-old brother. His father is a lawyer and has a good income that allows the family to have a rather high standard of living. His mother works as a shop assistant. The father has been having a problem with alcohol abuse for many years ...

Participants (116)

Chat

Inês Carvalho Sá a Tutti 16:25

Thank you

Rosa Venezia a Tutti 16:27

per errore ho chiuso il sondaggio

è possibile riaverlo?

Io a Tutti 16:30

Ciao Rosa!

<http://childprotect.eu/en/>

This is the E-PROTECT website

Chi può vedere i tuoi messaggi? Registrazione attiva

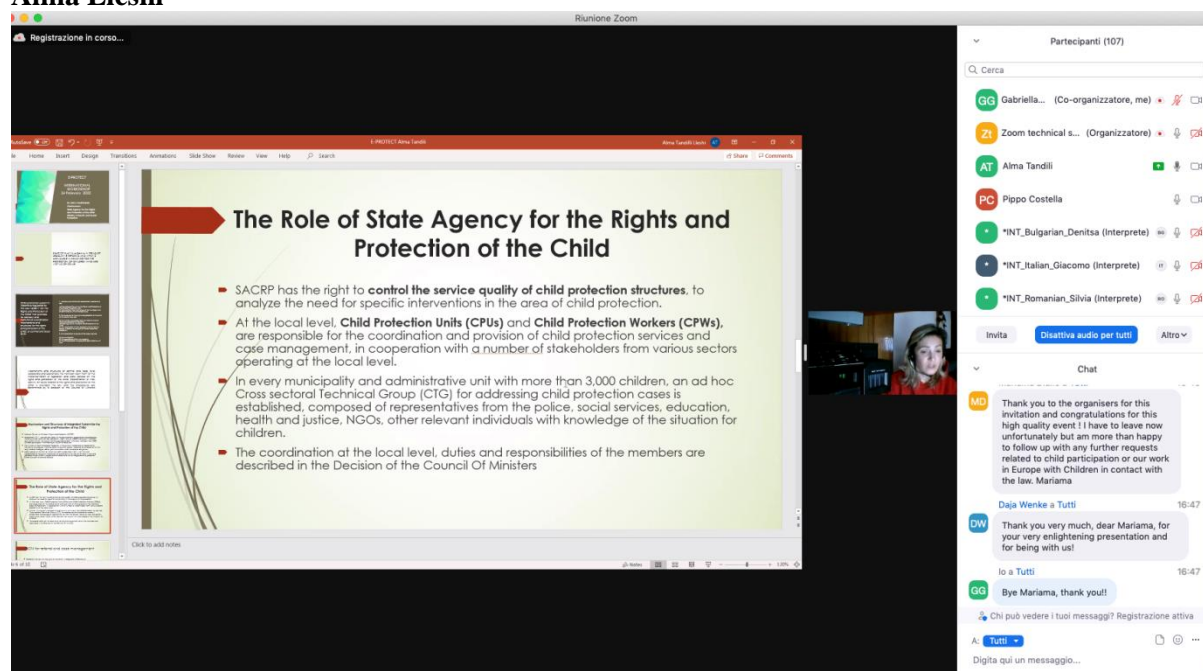
Tutti

Digita qui un messaggio...



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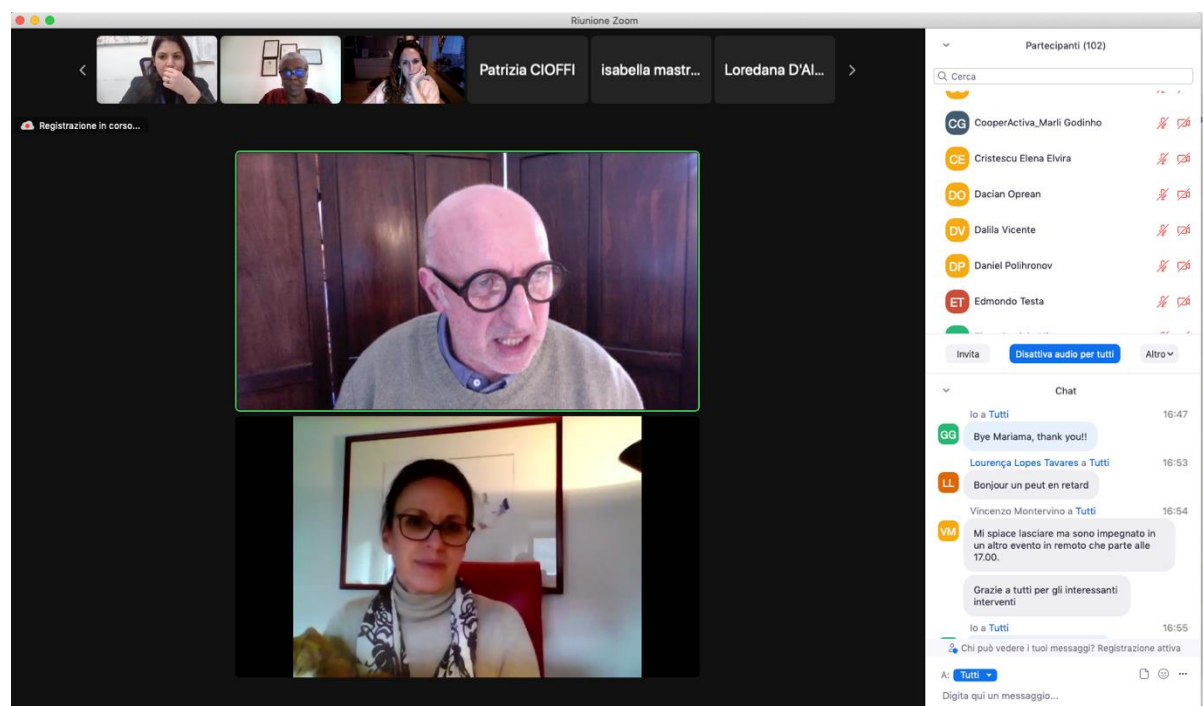
## Alma Lleshi



**The Role of State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child**

- SACRP has the right to **control the service quality of child protection structures**, to analyze the need for specific interventions in the area of child protection.
- At the local level, **Child Protection Units (CPUs)** and **Child Protection Workers (CPWs)**, are responsible for the coordination and provision of child protection services and case management, in cooperation with a number of stakeholders from various sectors operating at the local level.
- In every municipality and administrative unit with more than 3,000 children, an ad hoc Cross sectoral Technical Group (CTG) for addressing child protection cases is established, composed of representatives from the police, social services, education, health and justice, NGOs, other relevant individuals with knowledge of the situation for children.
- The coordination at the local level, duties and responsibilities of the members are described in the Decision of the Council Of Ministers

## Daja Wenke




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## **PART 2: International Workshop, 14 June 2022**

### **Introduction**

The 2nd international workshop was organised in two separate events, the first took place on **24 February 2022** and the second on **14 June 2022**.

The first event focussed on experiences of interagency and multi-disciplinary cooperation in the project partner countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Romania) and other European countries. It highlighted examples of practice, challenges and opportunities, as well as lessons learned in processes of change towards establishing Barnahus and comparable cooperation models, which were identified in the course of the project activities, including the twinning visits.

The second part of the event was conceived as a high-level seminar drawing attention on the strong legal framework in place for child victims of crime at European level and the correlated legal obligations for Member States to safeguard child victims of crime.

This report consists of two main parts: the preparatory stage of the workshop, where the objectives, logistics and dissemination activities are discussed, and the implementation of the workshop, including a summary of the event, the participant engagement and the main highlights. All materials used for the purposes of the workshop are embedded in the Annexes to the current deliverable.

### **1. Preparation**

#### **1.1 Date and medium**

The second and final International Workshop of E-PROTECT II was organised as an online high-level seminar targeting a large number of participants from throughout Europe. The zoom platform was identified as the most suitable videoconferencing medium, and previous experiences with zoom had been very positive. The service of a platform organiser was hired to ensure the competent, professional management of all technical questions and relevant preparations with the speakers and interpreters to ensure high-quality of sound.

Considering the high level of the speakers, the online format was the most appropriate as it would enable high-level speakers to participate with a minimum investment of their time, and reach, at the same time, a large audience throughout Europe, thus promoting the project's outcomes and key messages and learning from the project implementation on a particular large scale.



The meeting was planned to be centred around the key-note speech of Judge Robert Spano, President of the European Court of Human Rights, followed by two additional high-level speakers commenting on the keynote address from two different perspectives. The seminar was therefore scheduled for just over 2 hours.

Initially, 1 June 2022 was identified as a suitable date. Upon the request of the President of the European Court of Human Rights, considering that he was unavailable on that date, the seminar was re-scheduled still during the planning phase to 14 June 2022, from 14.30 to 16.45 GMT+01.

## 1.2 Interpretation

Considering the positive experience of the first and second international workshops and in order to encourage professionals in the countries of the project consortium to take part in the workshop, we decided to provide simultaneous interpretation in the four national languages of the partner countries, namely Bulgarian, Greek and Italian, from and to English – which was the official working language of the workshop. The Romanian partner decided not to provide interpretation for this workshop, as participants were expected to be sufficiently fluent in English to follow the event, and for budgetary constraints.

Along with a solid and user-friendly environment, the zoom platform also offers the option to enable language interpretation in live events. This tool proved to be valuable also to enable the representative of the Italian Ministry of Justice, Department for Juvenile and Community Justice, to open the event with a welcoming address in Italian. This was handled through relay interpretation, i.e. the Italian interpreters provided interpretation to English and the Greek and Bulgarian interpreters translated to their languages respectively.

For the discussion, it was decided to admit questions in the chat function of the zoom platform. Any questions posed in the chat were presented by a staff member of Defence for Children International – Italy to the speakers. This appeared to be the most appropriate modality considering the high number of participants and the high-level of the speakers, as well as the interpretation service. The staff of the partner countries were also available to respond to any comments in the chat in their respective languages and to translate, wherever relevant, requests, comments and questions to English.

## 1.3 Agenda and speakers

DCI Italy proposed an agenda of three main speakers, which was discussed and refined in cooperation with the project consortium.

DCI Italy proceeded first to invite Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson, founder of the Barnahus model in Iceland and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and sought his views regarding the focus theme of the seminar centred around the ECtHR case law regarding the rights of child victims of crime



and what it means for the monitoring role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the promotion of Barnahus. After his very positive feedback to this proposal, Defence for Children International – Italy proceeded to invite a representative of the ECtHR. At the occasion of the high-level conference launching the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, Rome, 7-8 April 2022, DCI Italy has the opportunity to meet with President Spano of the ECtHR and, subsequently, President Spano accepted the invitation. On this basis, the agenda for the seminar was composed with the following speakers:

- **Mr Pippo Costella**, Director of DCI Italy and moderator
- **Ms Isabella Mastropasqua**, Director of Office II of Juvenile and Community Justice Department, Ministry of Justice, Member of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), Italy
- **Judge Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- **Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson**, founder of the Barnahus model in Iceland and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- **Ms Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence Against Children
- **Ms Snezhana Krumova**, coordinator of E-PROTECT II project Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria

#### 1.4 Dissemination

The Dissemination and Communication Strategy developed in the context of E-PROTECT II sets out an array of dissemination tools, both offline (such as posters) and online (such as social media posts), available to partners for the promotion of the project's activities.

Considering the online format and international character of the workshop, the objective of the dissemination strategy was to engage a large number of professionals across the European Union and beyond. Towards this end, the event was launched and promoted via the [project's platform](#) and social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)), as well as via the communication channels of the partners (links to all dissemination activities can be found in Annex II).

The DCI Italy team designed the materials used for dissemination: social media posts, website post, newsletter. They contained a link to the registration form integrated in the ZOOM platform.

Registrations were received from **333 persons** (including partners and interpreters), the number of final participants was 157 (including partners and interpreters); coming from the different countries in Europe but also worldwide (see Figure 8).

DCI Italy disseminated the event through:

- Facebook



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- Instagram
- Newsletter both national (over 3000 contacts) and international (over 1000 contacts)
- Dedicated letter to DCI members and ISS members
- Child-friendly Justice Network

See the extracts from the social media in the Annex.

LIF disseminated the event through:

- Its own [website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- Dedicated invitation via email to LIF's relevant network (around 350 contacts)

CRPE also disseminated the event through their website and social media account Facebook. A dedicated email has been sent to their national contacts that have been collected through the years.

SEERC disseminated the event through:

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- Dedicated invitation via email to SEERC's network on relevant projects





## 2. Implementation

### 2.1 Summary of the workshop

The workshop was opened by DCI Italy Director, Pippo Costella, who warmly thanked the distinguished speakers, the partners and the audience for their participation, and made a short introduction to the theme of the event. Pippo Costella asked Daja Wenke of DCI Italy to take note of any questions and comments that participants make on the chat in order to address them at the end of each panel session.

On behalf of the Italian Ministry of Justice, **Ms Isabella Mastropasqua**, Director of Office II of Juvenile and Community Justice Department, Ministry of Justice, Member of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), welcomed the speakers and participants. She provided a brief overview of the current situation regarding the rights of child victims of crime and the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive EU/2012/29 in Italy. Ms Mastropasqua underlined the special interest of the Department to safeguard the rights of child victims of crime and the special commitment to ensure that the national laws, as well as applicable EU standards, are implemented effectively. Ms Mastropasqua pointed out that there are still challenges in ensuring the appropriate hearing of child victims of crime in the context of criminal investigations and proceedings and that the procedures and practice differ from region to region. The collaboration of different state and non-state actors is essential for the continued efforts to strengthen the practice.

**Judge Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights, delivered the keynote speech at this event. He described how, over the past decades, the Court's case-law has developed towards a more child-centred and a more humane approach to human rights, strongly recognising children as rights holders. The Court has developed a rich and extensive body of case-law concerning the rights of the child, which shows how the existing standards, first and foremost the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) continue being interpreted in light of new legal standards and policy instruments and the evolving society. President Spano's presentation addressed four main themes: the duty of the State to put in place an effective regulatory framework; the duty to conduct an effective investigation of criminal offences; how the Court relies on other international instruments in its reasoning within the context of a case on trafficking in human beings; and challenges related to the use of new technologies.



**Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson**, founder of the Barnahus model in Iceland and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child responded to the speech of President Spano by explaining the impact of the ECtHR case law on the monitoring role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. His presentation elaborated on four main themes: the shortcomings of traditional approaches to violence and criminal offences against children, including sexual violence specifically; a brief introduction of the Barnahus model, balancing the human rights principles of “fair trial” and the “best interests of the child”; and how the UNCRC and European law are impacting the monitoring work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In concluding, Mr Guðbrandsson presented some case examples to explain how the case law of the ECtHR is impacting the jurisprudence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, referring primarily to concluding observations issued in response to State Party report over the past years. The presentation showed a line of progress in how the UN CRC, the introduction and dissemination of the Barnahus model, the development of new legal standards and policy instruments at the European level (EU and Council of Europe) continue influencing national law and the judicial practice at the national and European levels.

**Ms Najat Maalla M’jid**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence Against Children, complemented the first two speeches by sharing experience from the interaction with state and civil society actors in the context of her global mandate. Ms M’jid underlined the importance of strengthening the social workforce with a view to supporting children and families who are in contact with the justice system as victims of crime during proceedings and in the longer term in their process of recovery, rehabilitation and (re-)integration, as well as strengthening the preventive work. In particular, she underlined the importance of complementing efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system while also considering the importance of strengthening access to civil justice, administrative justice and social justice. She shared key recommendations based on the mandate’s experience, underlining in particular the need to strengthen interagency and multi-disciplinary cooperation, including through cooperation protocols, and joint training, as well as cross-border cooperation to prevent crimes against children, to investigate and prosecute them, and to protect child victims.

**Ms Snezhana Krumova**, coordinator of E-PROTECT II project Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria, shared an overview of the project activities implemented by the project consortium, including in particular the series of national MeetUps, bi-lateral Twinning Visits, and international workshops, which aimed at disseminating the methodology for the individual assessment of child victims of crime elaborated under the first project phase, and fostering multi-stakeholder discussions and debate in this field, within partner countries and across borders. Ms Krumova presented also the Gamification that was developed and which is now online and ready to be used by practitioners from different backgrounds to learn more and test their knowledge in regard to the rights of child victims of crime and the individual assessment.



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Between the speeches, the participants used the opportunity to share questions and comments in the chat and the speakers responded to the issues raised. The flow of speeches and question and answer sessions was carried out in a timely manner, so that the DCI Italy Director, Pippo Costella, was able to close the meeting in time.

Mr Costella thanked the distinguished participants for their precious contributions, the audience online for their active participation, as well as the technical expert and the interpreters for their work. Mr Costella shared a few concluding remarks and closed the event in time, noting that the video-recording and a written report will be available from the DCI website and the project website.

The video recording of the event is currently being edited and formatted and will be uploaded on the website of Defence for Children International – Italy and the project website to be accessible in the public domain.

Screenshots of all speeches can be found in Annex III of this report.

## 2.2 Aftermath

There were **157 participants** involved in the seminar. The participants covered a wide range of professions related to the rights of the child, social workers, child protection workers and other service providers for children, psychologists/therapists, child rights advocates, lawyers and legal advisors, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement authorities and other child protection experts, teachers and academics, researchers.

After the end of the workshop, certificates of attendance were sent to participants upon request (see Annex I).



### **3. Concluding remarks**

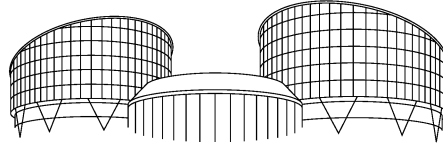
In line with the previous international seminars, also this final event was successful gathering together a high number of professionals and officials. The online modality gave the possibility to reach people from all over Europe and beyond, allowing to create connections with different experiences and models responding to the need of establishing coherent child protection network and a child-sensitive justice system at national and supranational level. Moreover, the Zoom platform enabled a professional organisation of the event and facilitated the smooth flow of speeches and presentations, simultaneous interpretation, and the interaction of participants through the chat.

The case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the monitoring role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations shared by the UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children provided important information and analysis that DCI and partners in the E-PROTECT II consortium, as well as national and local partners in the participating countries, will continue to reflect on to ensure these aspects continue informing our work in this field.



## 4. Speeches and presentations

**Judge Robert Spano, President of the European Court of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>**



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

#7330813

### **High-level international seminar: Safeguarding child victims of crime: the case law of the ECHR as an inspiration and call to action**

#### **“The rights of child victims of crime in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights”**

Speech by Robert Spano

*14 June 2022*

It is my great pleasure, as President of the European Court of Human Rights, to participate remotely in the High-level international seminar on safeguarding child victims of crime.

I myself have recently spoken at two events dedicated specifically to the rights of children. In October 2021 I had the pleasure of participating in an exchange of views with the Council of Europe’s Committee on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, known as the Lanzarote Committee; and in April of this year, during the High-Level Launching Conference of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, I gave a presentation on the Role of the ECHR in strengthening the rights of children.

The jurisprudence of the Court has developed significantly since the European Convention was drafted roughly 70 years ago. Indeed, it is surprising to learn that the Convention itself contains only two explicit references to children (in Article 5 of Protocol No. 7 on “Equality between Spouses”). Over the last decades, however, the Court’s case-law has developed to take into

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<sup>2</sup> The speech of President Spano is available from the website of the European Court for Human Rights at [https://echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=court/president&c=](https://echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=court/president&c=;); [https://echr.coe.int/Documents/Speech\\_20220614\\_Spano\\_High-level\\_seminar\\_Rights\\_child\\_ENG.pdf](https://echr.coe.int/Documents/Speech_20220614_Spano_High-level_seminar_Rights_child_ENG.pdf)



account a more child-centred, more humane, approach to human rights. It is no longer in doubt that children are holders of rights, rather than simply objects of protection. Indeed, the Court has developed a rich and extensive body of case-law concerning the rights of the child.

This case-law covers family-centred issues such as custody and access rights as well as child adoption. It also covers domestic violence, sexual exploitation and fair trial guarantees. As I mentioned then, it is a sad reality that cases involving criminal acts against children are nothing new. They have been lodged and dealt with by the Court since its early beginnings, where the Court found that children and other vulnerable individuals are entitled to effective protection by the State. Complaints involving violence against children have therefore arisen before the Court in a variety of settings such as within the family<sup>3</sup>; in care homes<sup>4</sup>; at school<sup>5</sup>; or in churches<sup>6</sup>.

Many such cases are examined under Articles 3 (prohibition against inhuman and degrading treatment and torture) and 8 (right to private and family life) of the Convention. Both these Articles entail an obligation on the State to safeguard the physical and psychological integrity of a person. However, in recent years the Court has outlined Contracting States' responsibilities towards victims of child trafficking: such cases are examined under Article 4 of the Convention.

Under the Court's jurisprudence, States' obligations towards child-victims of crime are threefold. Firstly, they must put in place a legislative and regulatory framework of protection; secondly, in certain well-defined circumstances, there is an obligation to take operational measures to protect specific individuals against a risk of treatment contrary to the Convention; and thirdly, states authorities must carry out an effective investigation into arguable claims of inhumane treatment.

However, the Court's case-law makes it clear that the positive obligation of protection assumes particular importance in the context of the provision of an important public service, such as primary education, where state authorities are obliged to protect the health and well-being of young children who are especially vulnerable. Moreover, the duties owed under the Convention will be construed in light of international instruments such as the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (known as the "Lanzarote Convention") and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

My presentation today will be structured into four parts:

Firstly I will elaborate on the duty to put in place an effective regulatory framework; secondly I will look at the duty to conduct an effective investigation; thirdly I will look at how the Court

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<sup>3</sup> *D.P. and J.C. v. the United Kingdom*, no. 38719/97, 10 October 2002

<sup>4</sup> *X and Y v. the Netherlands*, 26 March 1985, Series A no. 91

<sup>5</sup> *O'Keeffe v. Ireland* [GC], no. 35810/09, ECHR 2014 (extracts)

<sup>6</sup> *J.C. and Others v. Belgium* (no. 11625/17)



relies on other international instruments in its reasoning within the context of a case on trafficking in human beings, and finally I will look at the challenge of new technologies.

## **I. The Framework Duty**

The framework duty entails an obligation on States to establish a legislative and regulatory framework to shield individuals adequately from breaches of their physical and psychological integrity, particularly, in the most serious cases, through the enactment of criminal-law provisions and their effective application in practice. In the context of child sexual abuse, particularly in cases where the potential abuser is in a position of authority over the child, the existence of useful detection and reporting mechanisms are fundamental to the effective implementation of the relevant criminal laws.

The importance of such mechanisms were illustrated in the case of *O’Keeffe v. Ireland*<sup>7</sup>. In that case it had been undisputed that during the first 6 months of 1973, the applicant had suffered twenty sexual assaults at the hands of a school teacher in a state-funded National School owned and managed by the Catholic Church. The Court found that, by 1973, the Irish authorities had been aware of the level of sexual crime by adults against minors: a number of reports from the 1930s to the 1970s gave detailed statistical evidence on the prosecution rates in Ireland for sexual offences against children. Therefore, when relinquishing control of the education of the vast majority of young children to non-State actors, in this case the Catholic Church, the State should also have been aware of potential risks to their safety if there was no appropriate framework of protection.

However, none of the measures the government had put in place during the relevant period provided effective mechanisms for the detection and reporting of any ill-treatment. Indeed, the national rules and guidance for Church-run schools did not refer to any obligation on a State authority to monitor a teacher’s treatment of children or provide a procedure for prompting children or parents to complain about ill-treatment directly to the State. Before the Court, the government referred to a system of school inspectors. However, this system placed no obligation on the inspectors to inquire into or monitor a teacher’s treatment of children; rather their task was principally to supervise and report on the quality of teaching and academic performance. The legal framework in place had allowed over 400 incidents of abuse to occur over a substantial period of time; in these circumstances, the Court concluded that the mechanism for detection and reporting had been ineffective and found a violation of the substantive aspect of Article 3 of the Convention.

## **II. The Investigative Duty**

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<sup>7</sup> Idem.



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The investigative duty requires States, on receipt of arguable complaints of ill-treatment and other criminal acts, to conduct an effective official investigation to establish the facts of the case and identify and, if appropriate, punish those responsible.

This investigation must fulfil a number of criteria: it must be sufficiently thorough; the authorities must take reasonable measures available to them to obtain evidence relating to the offence in question; a serious attempt must be made to find out what happened and authorities should not rely on hasty or ill-founded conclusions to close their investigation. Any deficiency in the investigation which undermines its ability to establish the facts or the identity of the persons responsible will risk falling foul of the Convention. Finally, a requirement of promptness and reasonable expedition is also implicit in the obligation to carry out an investigation.

To illustrate how this duty applies in practice, I shall refer to the facts of two cases.

Firstly, I shall refer to the case of *X and Others v. Bulgaria* [GC], no. 22457/16, § ..., 2 February 2021<sup>8</sup>. The circumstances of this case, as in so many cases of this nature, are harrowing. The applicants, who were three siblings, were born and raised in an orphanage in Bulgaria. Subsequently, they were adopted by an Italian couple. Whilst resident in Italy, however, they revealed to their adoptive parents allegations of severe sexual abuse at the hands of orphanage workers during their time in Bulgaria. With the help of an NGO, the parents lodged complaints to the Italian authorities who subsequently transferred the allegations to their Bulgarian counterparts.

On finding a violation of the procedural limb under Article 3, the Court identified a number of flaws in the investigation. In view of the nature and seriousness of the alleged abuse, the Court took the view that proportionate and necessary investigative measures of a more covert nature such as surveillance should have been considered.

In view of these shortcomings, the Court held that the investigating authorities had not taken all reasonable measures to shed light on the facts of the case. Such omissions appeared sufficiently serious for the Court to conclude that the investigation carried out was not effective for the purposes of Article 3 of the Convention.

Findings of procedural shortcomings were also made in the case of *N.Ç. v. Turkey*<sup>9</sup>. This time, however, the Court focused on the failure to protect the applicant's personal integrity in the course of the criminal proceedings opened against the perpetrators.

The case concerned a 12 year old child who had been forced to work as a prostitute by two women. She lodged criminal complaints against both the women and the men with whom she had sexual relations.

The Court found that the proceedings had been flawed in numerous respects:

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<sup>8</sup> *X and Others v. Bulgaria* [GC], no. 22457/16, 2 February 2021

<sup>9</sup> *N.Ç. v. Turkey*, no. 40591/11, 9 February 2021



- For eighteen months after her complaint had been lodged the applicant was at no point supported by a welfare assistant, a psychologist or any kind of expert, either before the police or the prosecutor, or during the hearings before the assize court. This was in spite of the fact that various international instruments on the protection of victims of physical outlined the kind of assistance that should be provided to child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation;
- During the criminal hearings, she had been placed opposite the defendants and was obliged to recount in detail the assaults, threats and rapes of which she had been victim, creating an extremely intimidating environment for her.
- The applicant had also been subjected to countless court-ordered medical examinations, which had been excessive and therefore, according to the Court, constituted an unacceptable interference with the applicant's physical and psychological integrity.
- At the close of the hearings the applicant had also been required to confront the aggressive attitude of the defendants' relatives, to the extent that on one occasion a police escort had been necessary to enable her to leave the town.

As a result, the national authorities' conduct had not been compatible with the obligation to protect a child who had been the victim of sexual exploitation and abuse. Accordingly, there had been a violation of Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention.

### **III. The Court having recourse to international instruments in defining the scope of States' duties**

Here I would like to give the example of trafficking in human beings.

It is now well established that both national and transnational trafficking in human beings, irrespective of whether or not it is connected with organised crime, falls within the scope of Article 4 of the Convention. Article 4 may, in certain circumstances, require a State to take operational measures to protect victims of trafficking where State authorities are aware, or ought to have been aware, of circumstances giving rise to a credible suspicion that an identified individual had been trafficked within the meaning of Article 3(a) of the Palermo Protocol and Article 4(a) of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, known as the "Anti-Trafficking Convention".

The case of *V.C.L. and A.N. v. the United Kingdom*<sup>10</sup> as an example of how such treaties have been used by this Court to identify the content States' duties under Article 4.

In this case the applicants were Vietnamese minors who had been charged by the UK authorities with being concerned in the production of a controlled drug. However, there were numerous indications that they had been trafficked: both had been found in cannabis factories in circumstances which themselves had given rise to a credible suspicion of trafficking; concerns had been raised both by an NGO and social services that they were potential victims of trafficking; indeed, the prosecution's own guidance identified Vietnamese minors as a

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<sup>10</sup> *V.C.L. and A.N. v. the United Kingdom*, nos. 77587/12 and 74603/12, 16 February 2021



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category particularly vulnerable to that crime. Despite these circumstances, however, neither applicants had been referred immediately to the competent authority for a trafficking assessment, but had been instead charged with criminal offences to which they had later pleaded guilty. The CPS had also failed to give sufficient reasoning which was consistent with the definition of trafficking contained in the Palermo Protocol and the Anti-Trafficking Convention for prosecuting the applicants.

This case is particularly noteworthy for being the first occasion in which the Court had been called upon to consider if and when a prosecution of potential child victims of trafficking may raise an issue under Article 4 of the Convention. The Court held that no general prohibition on the prosecution of victims of trafficking can be construed from the Anti-Trafficking Convention or any other international instrument. However, any decision on whether or not to prosecute a potential victim of trafficking should – insofar as possible – only be taken once a trafficking assessment has been made by a qualified person.

That assessment should be based on the criteria identified in the Palermo Protocol and the Anti-Trafficking Convention: i.e. the investigation should establish whether the person was subject to the act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, by means of threat of force or other form of coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. Given their inherent vulnerability, the threat of force and or coercion is not required where the alleged victim is a child.

In the circumstances of the case at issue, the Court held that the United Kingdom had not fulfilled its duty under Article 4 to take operational measures to protect the applicants as potential victims of trafficking.

#### **IV. Access to safe use of technologies for all children**

Allow me then to turn a field which is becoming ever more important for the health and welfare of children, their safety in cyberspace. We all know that digital safety is of the utmost importance especially to children.

Already as early as in 2008 the Court dealt with the theme of protecting children from being targeted by paedophiles on the internet. The landmark judgment of the Court, and often discussed, is of course the case of *K.U. v. Finland*.<sup>11</sup> The applicant, a minor aged 12 years old at the time, was the subject of an advertisement of a sexual nature on an Internet dating site. The identity of the person who had placed the advertisement could not, however, be obtained from the Internet service provider due to the legislation in place at the time. The Court noted that “that sexual abuse is unquestionably an abhorrent type of wrongdoing, with debilitating effects on its victims. Children and other vulnerable individuals are entitled to State protection, in the form of effective deterrence, from such grave types of interference with essential aspects of their private lives”.

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<sup>11</sup> *K.U. v. Finland*, no. 2872/02, ECHR 2008



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A more recent case, *Trabajo Rueda v. Spain* of 2017, dealt with online pornography of children but from the perspective of a man whose computer was seized on the grounds of the material contained therein.<sup>12</sup>

The Court has not yet had an opportunity to deal with cyberbullying in respect of children. However, it is noteworthy to mention that in *Buturugă v. Romania*<sup>13</sup> from 2020, the Court found that the Romanian authorities had failed to respond to a woman's complaints of domestic violence and cyberbullying by her former husband. On that occasion the Court pointed out that cyberbullying was recognized as an aspect of violence against women and girls and that it could take on a variety of form, including cyberbreaches of privacy, intrusion into the victim's computer and the capture, sharing and manipulation of data and images, including private data.

## **Conclusion**

Looking at the trajectory of the Court's jurisprudence over the last years, one can see that the Court now treats children as independent beneficiaries of the rights guaranteed by the Convention and has clarified the scope of States' duties towards child victims in a variety contexts, from publicly-run institutions to acts committed in the home by private actors.

Moreover, the Court's jurisprudence in this sphere is constantly developing in light of new challenges as I have just shown.

I have no doubt that the European Convention, as a living instrument, remains well-equipped to respond to these new challenges.

Thank you.

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<sup>12</sup> *Trabajo Rueda v. Spain*, no. 32600/12, 30 May 2017

<sup>13</sup> *Buturugă v. Romania*, no. 56867/15, 11 February 2020



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## The ECtCH case law and the (potential) impact on the UN CRC monitoring role

E-Protect International Seminar 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Bragi Guðbrandsson

Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

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Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - [bragi@unhcr.is](mailto:bragi@unhcr.is)

### Abstract

- ✓ Few remarks on the shortcomings of traditional approaches to Child (Sexual) Abuse in the European Justice system
- ✓ Barnahus: balancing the human rights principles of “fair trial” and the “best interest of the child”
- ✓ The UN CRC and European law: the monitoring work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- ✓ Recent judgements of the ECtHR and potential impact on the jurisprudence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

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## Child Abuse and Adult Justice

- ✓ Traditionally the real object of the justice system is to determine on a **guilt or innocence** and
- ✓ If the accused is determined guilty, to **punish the perpetrator**
- ✓ Distinct justice systems, including role of judges and procedure of exposing evidence in court - the **“inquisitorial”** and the **“adversary”**
- ✓ Both justice systems are commitment to the principle of the **“due process”** or a **“fair trial”** - but not necessarily the best interest of the child

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### “The Fair Trial”



- Basic principles:
  - A) “Evidentiary immediacy”
  - and
  - B) “Equality of arms”





A Child victim  
needs to give  
his/her testimony  
and be subjected to  
cross-examination -  
even to face the  
accused in the  
court setting



## Adversities for children in the justice system

- ✓ **Multiple interviews** in different locations and the corresponding re-traumatization of the child-victim
  - ✓ Adds to the **traumatic experience** of the child victim
  - ✓ Contaminates and **reduces the evidentiary validity** of the child's narrative
- ✓ **Waiting for trials**, with one or even more appeals, puts the life of the child victim at halt and constant distress due to paradoxical messages over a long duration of time, even years
- ✓ **Hostile cross-examination**, intimidating, degrading and traumatic to the child-witness, often in a language incomprehensible to the child

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## Barnahus

### Addressing the judicial adversities for children

- ✓ Harmonize the **principles embodied in the UN CRC** on the one hand and the human rights principle of a **“fair trial”** on the other
- ✓ A child friendly arrangement for eliciting the child narrative at the **pre-trial stage**, enhancing the evidentiary validity of the child's testimony by **avoiding undue delay** and applying evidence-based interview protocol by **trained interviewer**
- ✓ By **audio-visual recording** the child's testimony with the aim of avoiding repeated questioning during court hearings
- ✓ Under conditions required to ensure fair trial, i.e. by representation of the **defence and allowing for cross-examination**

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## The UN Convention – guiding principles

- ✓ Art 3.1
  - ✓ “In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, **the best interest of the child** shall be a primary consideration”
- ✓ Art 12.2
  - ✓ “..the child shall be provided ...the opportunity **to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings** affecting the child .. in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law”

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## The Convention – positive obligation of states

- ✓ **States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to...**
  - ✓ **Art 19**
    - ✓ protect the child from all forms of **physical or mental violence, injury or abuse**, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, **including sexual abuse**
  - ✓ **Art 34**
    - ✓ protect the child from all forms of **sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**
- ✓ **General Comment 13 on the right to freedom from all forms of violence**
  - ✓ **Investigation** ... must be undertaken by qualified professionals who have received ...comprehensive training and require a **child rights-based and child-sensitive approach**...child-sensitive investigation procedures will help to ensure that violence is correctly identified and **help provide evidence for administrative, civil, child-protection and criminal proceedings**. Extreme care must be taken to **avoid subjecting the child to further harm** through the process of the investigation

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## Other UN Standards

- ✓ **UN Guidelines in Justice in Matters involving Child Victim and Witnesses of Crime (2009)**
  - ✓ By way of **videotaped examination of the child witness prior to the hearing**, in which case the **counsel for the accused** shall attend the examination and be given the opportunity to examine the child witness or victim (Art 28e)
- ✓ **ECOSOC Resolution in Matters involving Child Victim and Witnesses of Crime (2005)**
  - ✓ Use child-sensitive procedures, including interview rooms designed for children, **interdisciplinary services for child victims integrated in the same location** (Art 30d)

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## Indirect impact of the European children's rights law

- ✓ **The Committee does not incorporate regional instruments and case laws into it's jurisprudence overtly**
- ✓ **European laws:**
  - ✓ **Treaties, Conventions, Directives** introduced by the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU)
  - ✓ **Key policy documents**, guidelines, recommendations or other “**soft law**” of the CoE and EU
  - ✓ Case law of the **ECtHR and CJEU**

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## The Lanzarote Convention (2010)

- ✓ Operationalisation of the UN CRC with emphasis on **multi-agency, comprehensive, child-friendly** interventions
- ✓ Art 35 - Interviews with the Child
  - ✓ Each Party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that all interviews with the victim or.... may be videotaped and that these **videotaped interviews may be accepted as evidence during the court proceedings**, according to the rules provided by its internal law
  - ✓ Guidance on conducting interviews including avoiding **multiple interviews and ensuring child-friendly facilities, trained interviewers** etc

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## The CoE Guidelines on Child-friendly justice (2010)

- ✓ Cases involving children should be dealt with **in non-intimidating and child-sensitive settings**
- ✓ Interview methods, such as **video or audio-recording or pre-trial hearings** in camera, should be used
- ✓ The existence of **less strict rules on giving evidence** such as absence of the requirement for oath or other similar declarations, or other child-friendly procedural measures, should not in itself diminish the value given to a child's testimony or evidence
- ✓ Rec. Ch. 5 j.
  - ✓ set up **child-friendly, multi-agency and interdisciplinary centres for child victims and witnesses** where children could be interviewed and medically examined for forensic purposes, comprehensively assessed and receive all relevant therapeutic services from appropriate professionals

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## Impact of earlier case law of the ECtHR and CJEU

### ✓ CoE and EU standard setting and the proliferation of Barnahus

- ✓ **ECtHR, S.N. v. Sweden**, No. 34209/96, 2 July 2002
  - Video-recording of the child statement accepted as evidence, cross-examination, ruling upheld
- ✓ **CJEU, C-105/03**, Criminal proceedings against Maria Pupino [GC], 16 June 2005
  - National court must allow child victims to testify in a way that guarantees their protection, for example outside the trial and before it takes place
- ✓ **ECtHR, A S v. Finland** No. 40156/07, 28.9 2010 and **Kovač v. Croatia**, No. 503/05, 12. 7 2007
  - Rights of the defendant violated

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is

## ECtHR

### Recent landmark judgements

- ✓ **X AND OTHERS v. BULGARIA** from February 2021
- ✓ **R.B. V. ESTONIA** from June 2021
- ✓ Explicit application of international law
  - ✓ in interpreting the State's obligations, the Court will have regard to the relevant rules and principles of international law, such as the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and the **Lanzarote Convention** as well as non-binding instruments such the CoE Guidelines of Child friendly justice
- ✓ These judgements have already impacted the jurisprudence of the C'mte on the Rights of the Child

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is



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## ECtHR

### Less strict procedural rules for children's testimony

- ✓ States are required under Articles 3 and 8 to enact provisions criminalizing the sexual abuse of children and to apply them in practice through **effective investigation and prosecution**, bearing in mind the particular **vulnerability of children, their dignity and their rights as children and as victims**
- ✓ The authorities must pay particular attention to the child's right to dignity and psychological integrity to **avoid further victimization**
- ✓ **States should put in place procedural rules that safeguard the testimony of children during both the preliminary investigation and the trial**

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is

### Jurisprudence of C'mte – developments in recent years

- ✓ Intersectoral/multiagency/interdisciplinary intervention
- ✓ Child-friendly investigation/forensic interviews
- ✓ Child-friendly facilities/environment
- ✓ Avoiding secondary victimization/re-traumatisation e.g. by repetitive interviews
- ✓ Appropriate/trauma focussed therapy, social support and effective remedies for child victims
- ✓ **Explicit recommendation on Barnahus as a feasible model to respond to child sexual abuse and exploitation**

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is



## New developments 90th session of the C'mte: Concluding observations Cyprus June 2022

### • Para 24

- ✓ (d) Ensure that all cases of violence against children are promptly investigated, applying a child-friendly and multisectoral approach in **the Children's House and ensure that children's testimony are audio-visually recorded without delay and allowed as evidence-in-chief during court proceedings including child sensitive cross examination**
- ✓ (i) Reinforce the **legal basis** for the operation of the Children's House with the aim of defining its services **including in pre-trial judicial procedures**, collaboration of the partner agencies, and monitoring of the activities

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is

## New developments 90th session: Concluding Observations Croatia June 2022

- ✓ Para 27
- ✓ (f) Ensure that all cases of abuse of children, including sexual abuse, bullying and online violence, are promptly reported and investigated, applying a **child-friendly and multisectoral approach** with the aim of **avoiding the revictimization of the child**; that perpetrators are prosecuted and duly sanctioned and that reparations are provided to victims, as appropriate;
- ✓ (g) Strengthen child-friendly and comprehensive support, including trauma focused therapy, to children who are victims of all forms of violence irrespective of where they live;
- ✓ (h) **Consider as a standard procedure the acceptance of audio-visual recordings of the child's testimony as the main evidence followed by cross-examination without delay in child friendly facilities;**

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - bragi@uncrc.is



## New developments 90th session: Concluding observations Canada June 2022

- ✓ Para 28
- ✓ (a) Provide sufficient support and funding to ensure that all child victims of sexual abuse have access to the **multiagency and child-friendly Child and Youth Advocacy Centres**;
- ✓ (b) **Consider as a standard procedure the acceptance of audio-visual recordings of the child's testimony as evidence-in-chief followed by cross-examination without delay in child friendly facilities**

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - [bragi@uncrc.is](mailto:bragi@uncrc.is)

## New developments 90th session Concluding observations Chile June 2022

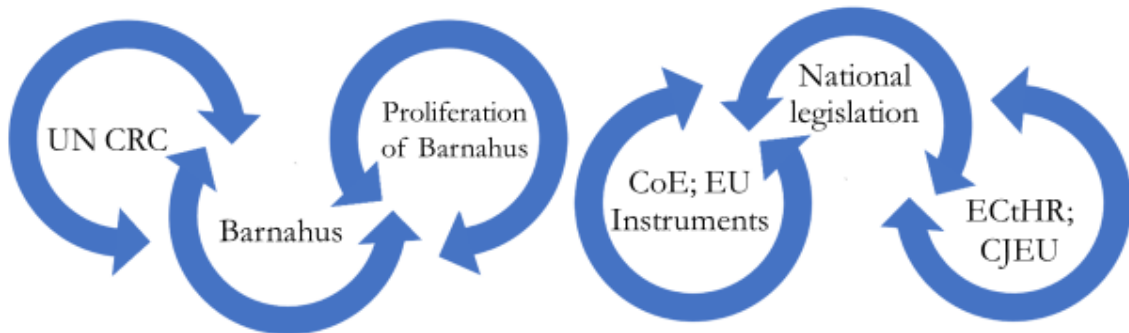
- ✓ Para 20
- ✓ (e) Ensure that child sexual abuse is promptly reported, investigated and prosecuted, including sexual abuse in the circle of trust, applying a **child-friendly and multi-sectoral approach to avoid the re-traumatization** of the child victim;
- ✓ (f) **Consider as a standard procedure the acceptance of audio-visual recordings of the child's testimony as the main evidence followed by cross-examination without delay in child friendly facilities**

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - [bragi@uncrc.is](mailto:bragi@uncrc.is)





## Progress in child-friendly justice



Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - [bragi@uncrc.is](mailto:bragi@uncrc.is)

Thank you for your attention!

Bragi Guðbrandsson - Member of the UN CRC - [bragi@uncrc.is](mailto:bragi@uncrc.is)



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**Ms Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children**



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

**High-level seminar on the rights of child victims of crime and ECtHR case law**

**Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of  
Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**

**Statement**

**By Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children**

**Dr. Najat Maalla, M'jid**

**Strengthening the cooperation between child protection, law enforcement and the  
judiciary for safeguarding child victims of crime: reflections and recommendations for  
safeguarding child victims of crime**

**14 June 2022, 14:30 - 16:45 CEST**

Dear distinguished participants, Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's a pleasure to participate in this event together with the distinguished participants.

The contribution of the European Court of human Rights, through its extensive case law, to the enhanced protection of the rights of the child, including child victims of crimes, has been essential over the years.

My contribution to today's discussion will focus on strengthening the cooperation between child and social protection, law enforcement and the judiciary for safeguarding child victims of crime.

Let me start by saying that a life free from violence and an effective access to justice are two basic dimensions of children's rights and two key components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The vision of Agenda 2030 cannot be realized, unless all children have equal access to justice without discrimination, and justice in its broadest sense, embracing not only criminal, civil, or administrative, but also social and environmental justice, meets the rights and needs of children, as enshrined in international human rights standards.



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Justice systems play a pivotal role in preventing, protecting, empowering and providing redress to children who are victims of crimes while holding the perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

However, we all know the decisions and actions of justice professionals, from police to prosecutors, judges to lawyers may also have a direct impact on the safety of a child. They may also cause unnecessary stress and trauma leading to a secondary victimization of a child.

As we know, children who are victims of crimes face long-term physical and mental health problems. They often face stigmatization within their communities, or fear reprisals against them or their families.

While confronted with the justice system, they have to go through the lengthy and complex proceedings. They may be interviewed by different professionals and at different stages of the process, often several times. While already traumatized, they may have to face their perpetrator leading to a secondary victimization of a child. They are often left without support of trusted adults or professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure a child sensitive environment within which children can be safeguarded at all times. A comprehensive approach to safeguarding child victims of crimes, therefore, demands justice institutions and bodies to conduct child and gender sensitive criminal investigations and proceedings. This includes the right to be treated with inherent dignity and respect, be protected from hardships and be provided with the opportunity for effective and meaningful participation in the proceedings.

This is even more relevant in highly sensitive cases such as cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse or child trafficking or with respect to victims who may be in more vulnerable situations due to their gender, disability, sexual orientation, belonging to ethnic minorities, among others.

This requires the engagement and cooperation of justice actors with child protection agencies, health/mental health and education professionals and other social and community services to assess the specific needs and vulnerabilities of child victims of crimes.

That's why we need to define *justice systems* more broadly referring not only to judicial organizations and processes, but also to professionals and services whose interventions are related to those of the law enforcement and courts.

This includes a wide array of services, such as victim support, advocacy, economic assistance, counselling, hotlines and helpline, safe sheltering, education, health, and legal and social services, and professionals including not only judges/magistrates, prosecutors, police, or lawyers /paralegals but also psychologists, social workers, forensic and medical staff, among others. Such services need to be provided in an integrated, and coordinated manner, reflecting indivisibility and interdependence of children's rights.

Despite the progress made in many countries there are number of challenges that needs to be addressed. Let me share some reflections in this regard:

- The **important role played by social workforce professionals** as well as the need for effective cooperation between the child protection agencies, law enforcement and the judiciary **need to be recognized in law and practice.**
- There is a need to invest in social workforce, increase the number of trained and skilled social workers and psychologists and provide them with necessary means and working conditions to perform their duties.



- A meaningful multi-stakeholder approach requires justice sector actors – from judges to police to legal aid providers – to work together and with key actors of child protection and social systems. We know considerable benefits can be gained where agencies and professionals establish close working relationships, and share information, which is not always a case.
- In this regard, the **adoption of protocols** for different stages of the justice process among entities that provide services to child victims of crimes, as well as **interdisciplinary joint trainings** and capacity building can help develop a culture of meaningful cooperation.
- Investments need to be made in across-sectoral services for the care, support and recovery of child victims of crimes and their families, including psycho-social rehabilitation services and remedies which remain a challenge in many countries.
- Cooperation between professionals has to be secured not only at local and national, but also transnational level. Many forms of crimes against children are facilitated by transnational organized crime and evolving technology. Safeguarding child victims requires, therefore, **enhanced cross border cooperation, including** information sharing, mutual legal assistance and cross-border partnerships among professionals including ICT sector.
- Legal empowerment of children and their families is critical to ensuring access to justice and redress, leaving no one behind.

All efforts to strengthen cooperation between professionals must be informed by children's experiences. Children must be consulted and heard to *ensure that justice systems interacting with child victims of crimes are truly child and gender sensitive.*

There are many good initiatives for strengthening multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach and provision of integrated services where police, prosecutor, medical staff, psychologists and social workers and are working in the same location under one roof as documented by DCI. And such initiatives need to be scaled up by the governments and sustained in the long run.

And here I come back to the role of the European Court of Human Rights and express hope that it will continue providing guidance through its case law regarding the assistance that should be provided to child victims of crimes, as it has done on several occasions and in its most recent case law. Thank you!



**Snezhana Krumova, Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria**

## **Enhancing PROfessionals' capaciTy to dEal with Child vicTims**

### **(E-PROTECT II)**

Hello, everyone! It is a pleasure for me to be part of the final public event under E-PROTECT II project.

E-PROTECT II has been designed to build upon the results achieved by the E-PROTECT project with the overarching aim to bring more light in terms of how Directive 2012/29/EU should be implemented in practice.

Following the achievements of its predecessor, E-PROTECT II focuses on ensuring the practical implementation of the Individual Needs Assessment Methodology (developed during the first project) to contribute to making existing national systems more compliant with child victims' rights and needs.

#### **Partners:**

- ✓ Law and Internet Foundation (LIF), BG
- ✓ Ministry of Justice, IT
- ✓ Defence for Children International (DCI-IT), IT
- ✓ South-East European Research Centre (SEERC), EL
- ✓ Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE), RO

#### **Outputs/Results achieved during the project implementation:**

- ✓ 16 MeetUps in all 4 partner countries during which specialists working with child victims of crime have been engaged in fruitful discussions (BG -**122** participants; IT-**193** participants; EL-**331** participants; RO-**72** participants;) – Total **718**
- ✓ 4 Twinning visits (Albania (**28**), Portugal (**33**), Sweden (**7** participants), Hungary (**20** participants)) – Total **88**
- ✓ 2 international workshops with over 350 participants (1<sup>st</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> day **340**; 2<sup>nd</sup> day **265**) 2<sup>nd</sup> (**157**)) – Total **762**
- ✓ 5 virtual events (welcomed more **160** participants)

Through this intensive consultation series at the national, bilateral and international levels, the project has succeeded to strengthen existing partnerships and networks and foster new ones, within the partner countries and across borders.

- ✓ Constant and ongoing update of the child protect platform
- ✓ Simulation game

I am happy to share with you our gamification platform which is up and running since October 2021. It is the most prominent output under the umbrella of E-PROTECT II project. The entire consortium is really proud of this accomplishment as it was a challenging and time-consuming task.

The **E-PROTECT II Gamification Platform** has been created with the purpose of enhancing experts' capacity in working with child victims of crime. In particular, by providing the relevant professionals with a more practice-oriented approach in terms of implementation/application of the Individual Needs Assessment Methodology for child victims of crime, elaborated under the first phase of the project.



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You can give it a go, here: <https://gamification.childprotect.eu/>

Since the rationale behind the project has been recognised by all engaged professionals and partners for more than 4 years now and they have been positive when it comes to conducted activities, we have been further encouraged to keep working on the topic related to ensuring children's rights and towards improving professionals' capacity in the field all along with your help and support.



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## Annex I – Communication material

### Agenda



The poster features a stylized graphic at the top with orange and purple geometric shapes, including a sun, a staircase, and a circular inset showing a person reading. The E-PROTECT logo is in the top left corner.

**14 JUNE 2022**  
**14:30 - 16:45 CET**

**SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME**  
**THE CASE LAW OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**AS INSPIRATION AND CALL TO ACTION**

This high-level seminar offers a forum for introducing, exploring and discussing the case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of child victims of crime, with the participation of **Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights, **Bragi Gudbrandsson**, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children **Najat Maalla M'jid**.

The ECtHR jurisprudence underlines the importance of ensuring criminal investigations and proceedings involving child victims of crime are carried out with due respect for the rights and needs of the child. It represents an inspiration and a call to action for state and civil society actors in the fields of child protection, law enforcement and the judiciary throughout Europe.

Defence for Children International – Italy and the Italian Ministry of Justice, together with the E-PROTECT consortium, are organising this high-level seminar as the third and final international event in the context of the EU co-funded project E-PROTECT II.

 The event will be held in English and organised on a zoom platform with simultaneous translation in the languages of the project partners (Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian).

**[Click here to register.](#)**

 Event organized in the framework of the European project E-PROTECT II co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union. The content of this poster represents the sole point of view of the organizers. The European Commission assumes no responsibility for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



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## SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME THE CASE LAW OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS INSPIRATION AND CALL TO ACTION

**14:15 OPENING OF THE VIDEOCONFERENCE PLATFORM (ZOOM)**

**14:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**Pippo Costella**, Defence for Children Italy

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Isabella Mastropasqua**, Director Office II, Juvenile and Community Justice Department, Italian Ministry of Justice (in Italian)

**14:50 THE RIGHTS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE CASE LAW OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**President Robert Spano**, European Court of Human Rights

**15:20 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**15:30 THE ECTHR CASE LAW AND THE (POTENTIAL) IMPACT ON THE UN CRC MONITORING ROLE**

**Bragi Gudbrandsson**, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

**15:55 STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN CHILD PROTECTION, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE JUDICIARY: REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME**

**Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence Against Children

**16:20 DISCUSSION**

**16:30 CLOSURE OF SEMINAR**

**Pippo Costella**, Defence for Children Italy

**Snezhana Krumova**, Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria



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## **Registration forms**

### **Safeguarding the Rights of Child Victims of Crime: The case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**

E-PROTECT II International seminar

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

14.30 – 16.30 (CET)

The event will be held in English with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian.

About the seminar

This high-level seminar offers a forum for introducing, exploring and discussing the case law of law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of child victims of crime. Defence for Children International – Italy and the Italian Ministry of Justice, together with the E-PROTECT consortium, are organising this high-level seminar as the third and final international event in the context of the EU co-funded project E-PROTECT II.

About the project

E-PROTECT II encompasses Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Romania. The project consortium involves the Law and Internet Foundation in Bulgaria; the South East European Research Centre in Greece; Defence for Children International – Italy in collaboration with the Department for Juvenile and Community Justice of the Ministry of Justice, Italy; and the Romanian Centre for European Policies.

## **Registration**

To participate in the event, please register by completing the following form. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation by e-mail and the link to join the event. Thank you for your collaboration!

- Name
- Position
- Institution/Organisation
- Country
- Contact (e-mail)
- I would like to use simultaneous translation from and to English in the following language:
  - Bulgarian
  - Greek
  - Italian
  - Romanian
- The meeting will be video-recorded by the organiser Defence for Children International – Italy and will subsequently be available publicly through the website of the E-PROTECT II



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project and partners. By registering and participating in the meeting, I give my informed consent to the video-recording.

Thank you for your collaboration!

## ***2. Email to participants for evaluation form***

Dear participant,

Defence for Children International - Italy and partners in the E-PROTECT II consortium would like to thank you for your participation in the international seminar we held on 14 June 2022.

We would ask you to take a few minutes and complete the feedback form for the event. Your answers are anonymous and will be used to improve future events. Your feedback is important to us!

[Please click here to access the feedback form.](#)

Kind regards,

DCI Italy



## **Invitation of speakers**

### ***2. Invitation to speakers***

Sample invitation letter to Judge Robert Spano



**Esteemed  
Judge Robert Spano  
President of the European Court of Human Rights  
attn. Mr Patrick Titium  
Head of the Private Office of the President  
Strasbourg  
France**

Per e-mail: [patrick.titium@echr.coe.int](mailto:patrick.titium@echr.coe.int)

Genoa, 15 April 2022

**Keynote speech at a high-level international seminar**

**"Safeguarding child victims of crime: the case law of the ECtHR as an inspiration and call to action"**

Esteemed President Spano,

It was an immense pleasure to meet you at the launch of the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child in Rome on 8 April 2022, and I would like to thank you for the inspiring exchange with the young delegates at this occasion. Defence for Children International – Italy has been coordinating the consultations with children, which informed the drafting process of the Strategy, as well as their participation in this conference.

As anticipated in Rome, we are preparing, together with the Italian Ministry of Justice, Department for Juvenile and Community Justice, a high-level international seminar on the rights of child victims of crime in the context of criminal investigations and proceedings, and I would like to kindly invite you to consider joining us with a keynote address on the Court's case law in this field.

It is my pleasure to inform you that Bragi Gudbrandsson, founder of the Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as Regina Jensdóttir, Head of the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe, have confirmed their participation in the high level panel.

The event will be organised online with approximately 90 minutes duration. We have tentatively identified the afternoon of 1 June as a suitable date. Conscious of your busy schedule, we could consider a break after your keynote address to not request too much of your time, and we might also consider another date at your convenience around mid June as an alternative.

The seminar will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation in Bulgarian, Italian, Greek and Romanian, to cover the partner countries of the project, whereas the audience will be from all over Europe.



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With the project consortium, we are closely collaborating with judges (and their national and international associations), prosecution services, ministerial staff, lawyers, academics and service providers, as well as national and international organisations, who have a strong commitment to promoting change in this field. Considering the experience with previous international seminars with over 300 participants from throughout Europe, we would expect a significant interest in the event and an extensive reach.

It would be a particular pleasure and a privilege for us to welcome you as keynote speaker to this international seminar, and I would like to thank you in advance for your kind consideration! We welcome your suggestions and preferences regarding the focus of your speech.

The seminar is part of the EU co-funded project E-PROTECT II, promoting the implementation of the EU Victims Rights Directive specifically for child victims of crime. A project fact sheet is attached for your kind information.

It would be my pleasure to provide you with any further information you may wish to receive.

Sincerely,



Pippo Costella  
Director – DCI Italy



## **2. Follow-up email to speakers**

Sample thank-you-letter to Judge Robert Spano



Esteemed  
Judge Robert Spano  
President of the European Court of Human Rights  
attn. Ms Terry Journiac  
President's Assistant – Registry of the ECtHR  
European Court of Human Rights  
Strasbourg  
France

Per e-mail: [terry.journiac@echr.coe.int](mailto:terry.journiac@echr.coe.int)

Genoa, 16 June 2022

**Keynote speech at the high-level international seminar**  
**"Safeguarding child victims of crime: the case law of the ECtHR as an inspiration and call to action"**

Esteemed President Spano,

It was an honour and a pleasure for Defence for Children Italy to welcome you as a key-note speaker to the International Seminar "Safeguarding child victims of crime: the case law of the ECtHR as an inspiration and call to action". I would like to warmly thank you for the rich and most inspiring speech and for the time you kindly dedicated to this theme and event!

From the feedback we have received, and which was overwhelmingly positive, we can say that your speech and your presence had an immense impact on informing, educating and motivating the participants, among whom there were judges and prosecutors, lawyers, social service providers, and child rights advocates, as well as representatives of national human rights institutions, international and national organisations and the academia, from countries throughout the broad European region and beyond. Many more expressed an interest to read the meeting report or access the video-recording of the event so that we expect this impact to last and grow over time.

With our team and colleagues in Defence for Children and the International Social Service in Italy, and throughout the organisations' networks, we will continue to reflect on the information and analysis you shared and ensure it informs our work today and in the future.

Let me take this opportunity and thank you also for the excellent collaboration and support we received from your office in preparing this event and your participation!



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Since we consider it important to publish a report on the meeting, I would like to ask if you agree to your speech being included alongside the speech of Mr Guðbrandsson and Ms M'jid, together with a short introductory note. If this was acceptable, I would send you the draft document for your consideration and authorisation prior to any dissemination.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Pippo Costella

Director – DCI Italy



## Certificate of attendance template

				
<p>It is hereby certified that</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">NAME</p> <p>participated in the International Workshop of the E-PROTECT II project:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action"</b></p> <p>which was implemented within the framework of the EU Justice Programme and took place on 14 June 2022 from 14.30 to 16.45 CET.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pippo Costella</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Director, Defence for Children International Italy</p>				
		<p>Funded by the European Union's Justice Programme</p> 		



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## Annex II – Online dissemination campaign

### Event poster and “save the date”



The poster features a stylized background with orange and purple geometric shapes, including a sun, a staircase, and a circular inset showing a person looking at a map. The E-PROTECT logo is in the top left corner.

**E-PROTECT**  
**14 JUNE 2022**  
**14:30 - 16:45 CET**

**HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ECTHR CASE LAW**

**Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**

With the participation of:  
**Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights  
**Bragi Gudbrandsson**, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the UN CRC Committee  
**Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

 The event will be held in English and organised on a zoom platform with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian.  
**[Click here to register.](#)**

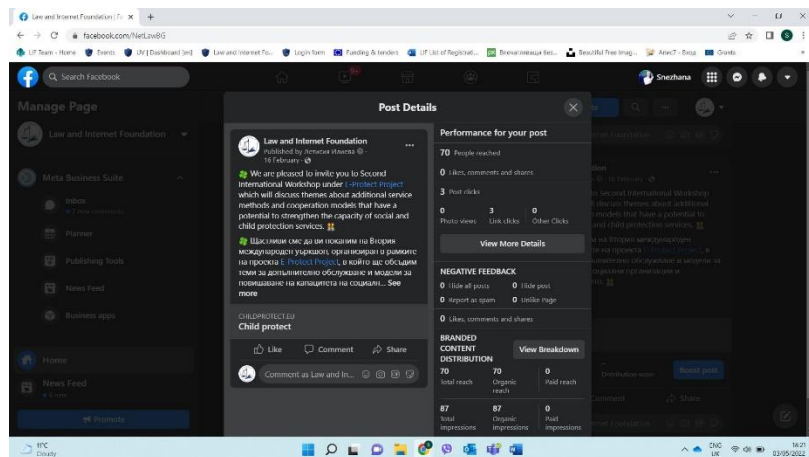
**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL ITALIA**  The E-PROTECT II project is co-funded by the Justice Program of the European Union 



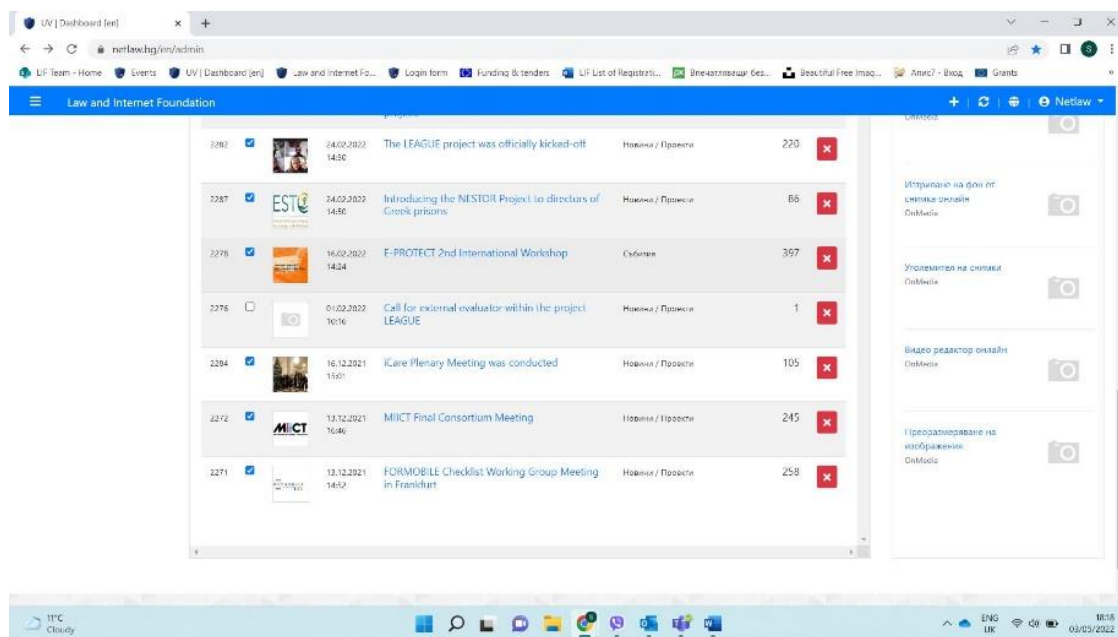
## Partners' communication channels

### LIF

#### Facebook:



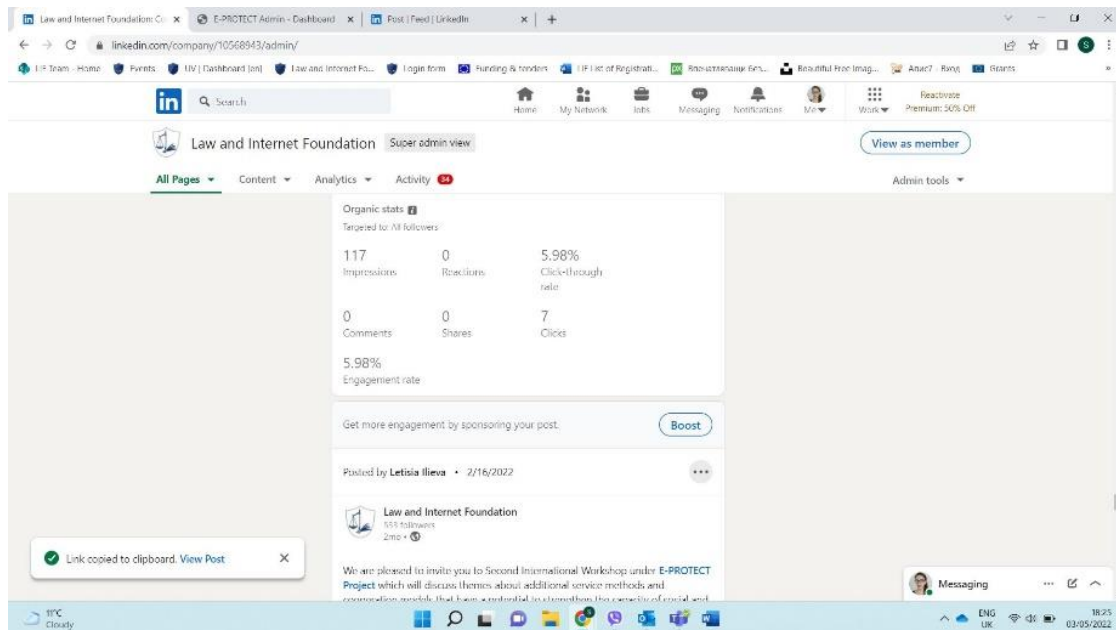
#### Website:



#### LinkedIn:



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## Defence for Children International – Italy<sup>14</sup>




### Website:

<https://www.defenceforchildren.it/it/news-324/high-level-seminar-on-the-rights-of>

<sup>14</sup> For respective links and engagement rates please see the available dissemination log.

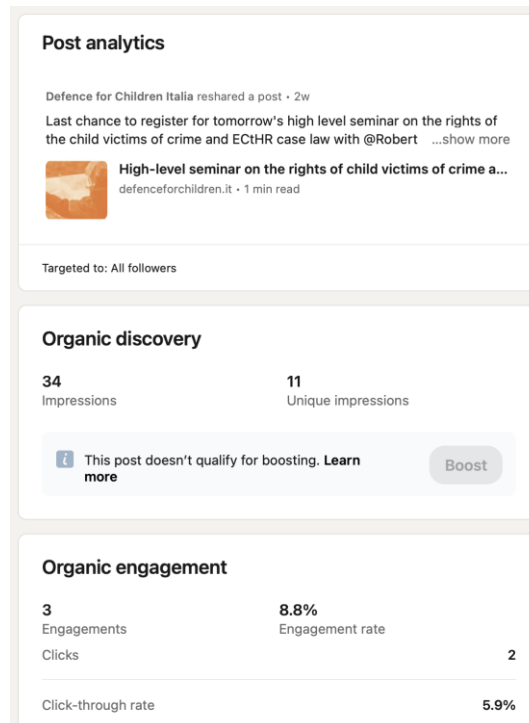
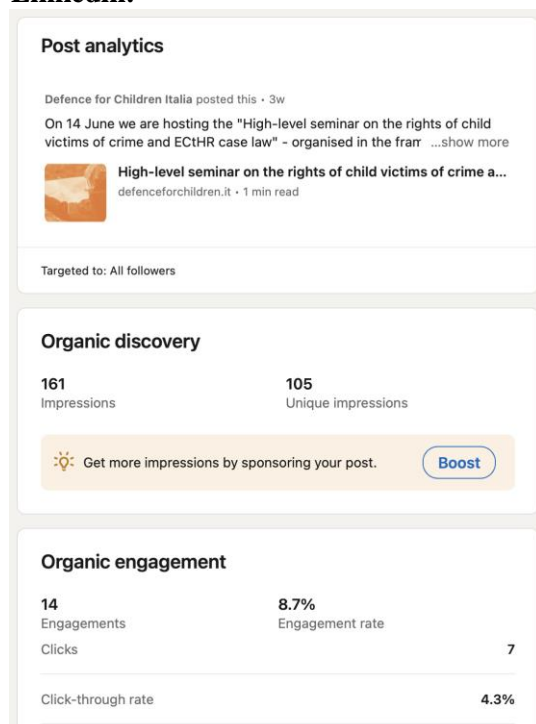


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[View this email in your browser](#)



**14 June 2022, 14:30 - 16:45 CEST**

## High-level seminar on the rights of child victims of crime and ECtHR case law

**Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**



This high-level seminar - organised in the framework of the E-Protect II EU funded project - offers a forum for introducing, exploring and discussing the case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of child victims of crime.

With the participation of **Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights, **Bragi Gudbrandsson**, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and **Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.

The event will be held in English and organised on a zoom platform with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian.

[Consult the agenda and find more information here!](#)

[Click here to register](#)



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## IL MOVIMENTO GLOBALE PER I DIRITTI DEI BAMBINI

**Seminario sui diritti delle persone minorenne vittime di reato e la giurisprudenza della Corte Europea dei Diritti Umani**

**Tutelare i diritti dei minorenne vittime di reato: la giurisprudenza della Corte Europea dei Diritti Umani come ispirazione e invito all'azione**

**14 Giugno 2022, 14:30 - 16:45 CEST**

Questo seminario - organizzato nell'ambito del progetto europeo E-Protect II - offre un forum per introdurre, esplorare e discutere la giurisprudenza della Corte Europea dei Diritti Umani relativa ai diritti delle persone minorenne vittime di reato.

Con la partecipazione di **Robert Spano**, presidente della Corte Europea dei Diritti Umani, **Bragi Gudbrandsson**, fondatore di Barnahus in Islanda e membro del Comitato ONU per i Diritti dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza e **Najat Maalla M'jid**, Rappresentante Speciale del Segretario Generale delle Nazioni Unite sulla violenza contro i minorenne.

L'evento sarà tenuto in inglese e organizzato sulla piattaforma zoom con traduzione simultanea in bulgaro, greco, italiano e rumeno.

[>> Consulta l'agenda completa dell'evento cliccando qui](#)

[>> Registrazione al evento qui](#)



**Rafforzare la PROtezione dei minorenne vittime di reato**



Il progetto è co-finanziato dal Programma Giustizia Penale dell'Unione Europea

*Il contenuto di questa newsletter rappresenta il solo punto di vista di Defence for Children Italia. La Commissione Europea non si assume alcuna responsabilità per l'uso che può essere fatto delle informazioni in essa contenute.*

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14 GIUGNO 2022



**14 JUNE 2022**  
**14:30 - 16:45 CET**

**HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ECTHR CASE LAW**

**Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**

With the participation of:  
**Robert Spano**, President of the European Court of Human Rights  
**Bragi Gudbrandsson**, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the UN CRC Committee  
**Najat Maalla M'jid**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL ITALIA

The E-PROTECT project is co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union

**Safeguarding the rights of child victims of crime: the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action**

This high-level seminar offers a forum for introducing, exploring and discussing the case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of child victims of crime, with the participation of President Robert Spano of the European Court of Human Rights and Bragi Gudbrandsson, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.

**Programme**

**14.15 Opening of the videoconference**

**14.30 Welcome and Opening remarks**

Pippo Costella, Director, Defence for Children International - Italy

**14.50 The rights of child victims of crime in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights**

President Robert Spano, European Court of Human Rights

**15.20 Questions and answers**

**15.30 The opportunities offered by the ECTHR case law for the monitoring role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

Bragi Gudbrandsson, Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

**15.55 Strengthening the cooperation between child protection, law enforcement and the judiciary: reflections and recommendations for safeguarding child**

**CRPE:**

The dissemination of the event took place mainly through emails that were sent to the organisation's database of over 400 hundred professionals.

**SEERC:**

Dear Sir/Madam,

*We are pleased to announce the third and final international seminar in the framework of the E-PROTECT II project, titled 'Safeguarding the Rights of Child Victims of Crime: The case law of the European Court of Human Rights as inspiration and call to action', which will take place on 14 June 2022, at 14.30-16.45 (CET), via the ZOOM platform. Please note that this is 15.30-17.45 EEST - Athens time zone.*

*This high-level seminar, organised by Defence for Children International-Italy and the Italian Ministry of Justice, together with the E-PROTECT II consortium, offers a forum for introducing, exploring and discussing the case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of child victims of crime, with the participation of:*

**Robert Spano - President of the European Court of Human Rights**

**Bragi Gudbrandsson - Founder of Barnahus in Iceland and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and**



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**Najat Maalla M'jid - Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.**

*The event will be held in English with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian and Romanian.*

*If you are interested in participating, please register [in this form](#).*

*More information on the project and the agenda of the seminar is available [here](#).*

*We are looking forward to seeing you soon!*

*Kind regards,  
E-PROTECT Team*

## **Dissemination through website & social media**

Website

<https://www.seerc.org/new/component/entities/?view=event&layout=details&id=432>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SOUTHEASTEUROPEANRESEARCHCENTRE.SEERC/posts/pfbid0344mQgnQWGwrJFYyZQieyrM6qfj6j6Mch1A8ibdgYopoG5MNAiNFkhX4CJczYxyEfl>

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6939932891443290113>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/seercorg>



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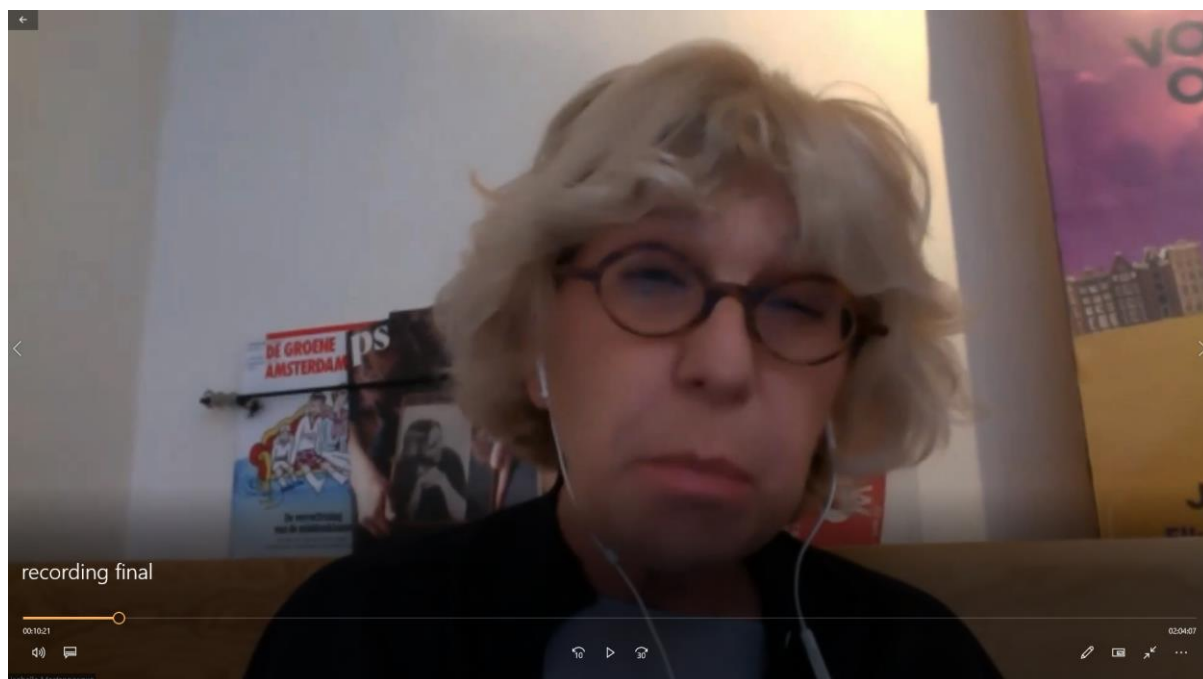


## **Annex III – Screenshots from the International Workshop**

**Mr Pippo Costella**, Director of DCI Italy and moderator



**Ms Isabella MASTROPASQUA**, Ministry of Justice Italy, Department for Juvenile and Community Justice



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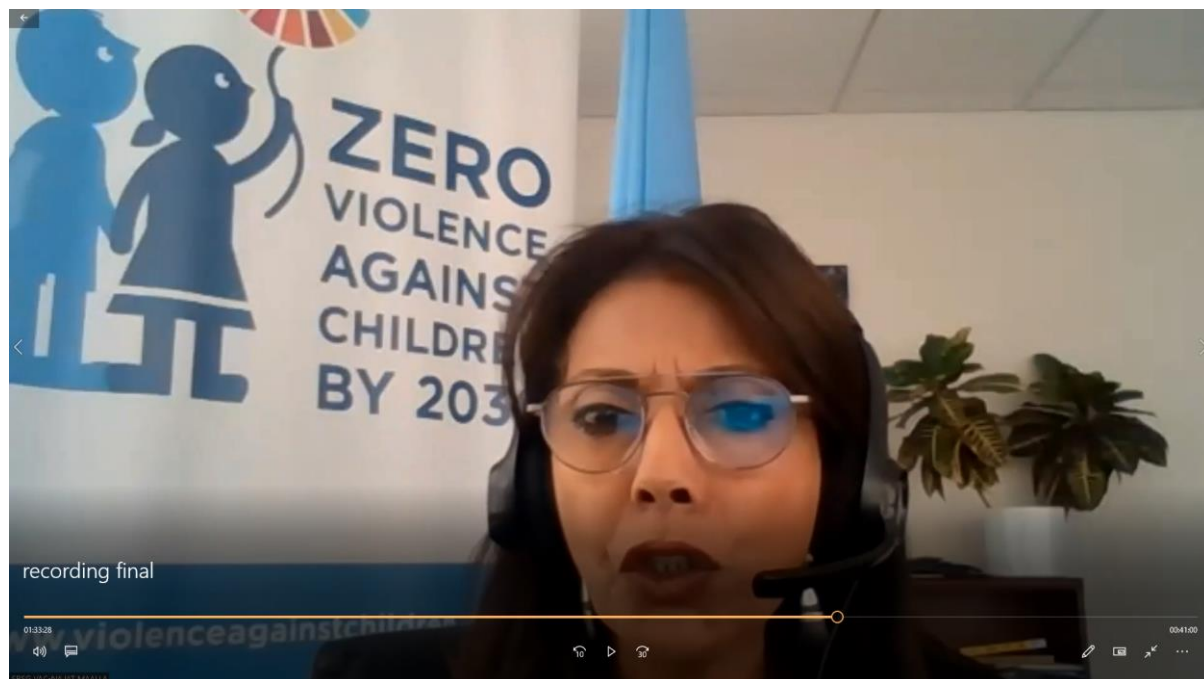
**Judge Robert Spano, President of the European Court of Human Rights**



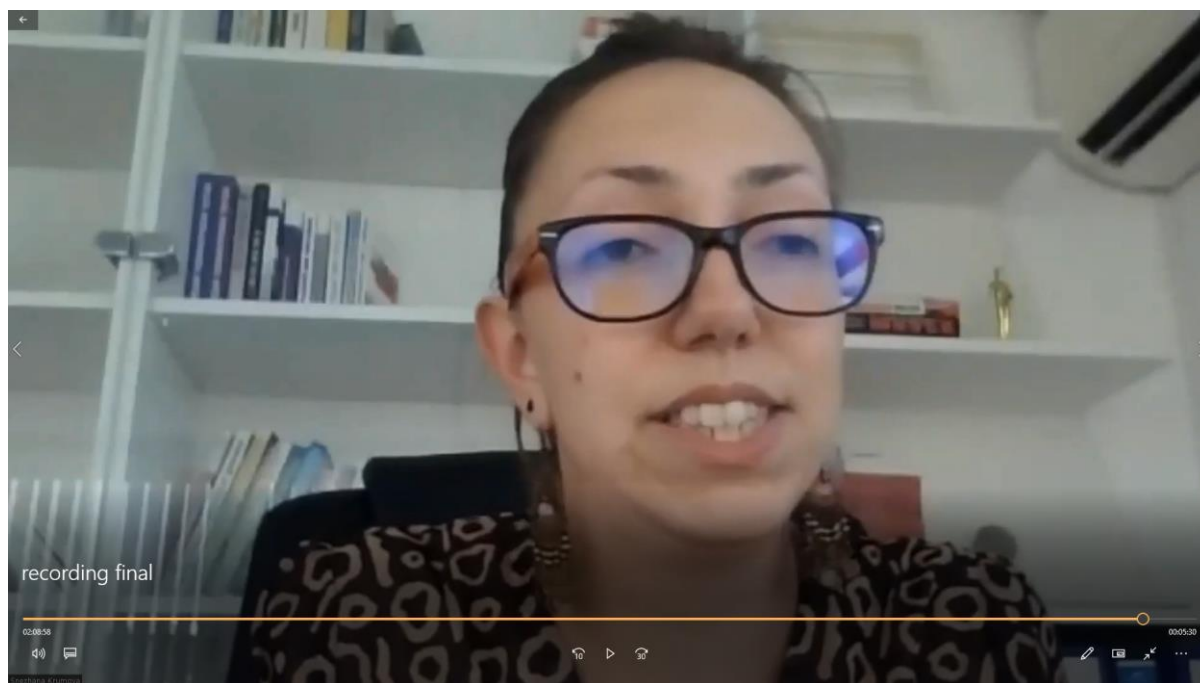
**Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**



**Ms Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children**



**Snezhana Krumova, Law and Internet Foundation, Bulgaria**



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