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Action grants to support transnational projects to enhance the rights of victims of crime

JUSTICE PROGRAMME

GA No. 878593

Enhancing PROfessionals' capacity to dEal with Child - vicTims E-PROTECT II

WP2: Capacity Building - on spot

D2.9 - 4 Twinning Visits: Albania, Portugal, Hungary and Sweden

WP2 Leader: Defence for Children International Italy





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I. Introduction

Following the achievements of its predecessor, E-PROTECT II promotes the practical implementation of the Methodology for a rights-based individual assessment of the needs of child victims of crime, in order to make existing national systems more compliant with Directive 29/2012/EU. Furthermore, it is aimed at strengthening the capacity building & better cooperation between competent authorities, legal practitioners and social service providers, thus bettering the quality of provided services to child victims. Among the activities foreseen by the project, a Twinning Visit in other EU countries is foreseen.

Twinning Visits between the partner countries of E-PROTECT II and other European countries have the main objective to promote the child-centred approach and guiding principles of the methodology developed during the first project phase and encourage its application in countries other than the ones involved in the current project. Thus, the organisation of such visits actively contributes to the European added value of the project.

In particular, the specific objectives of the Twinning Visits are to:

- Provide opportunities to present in detail the Individual Assessment Methodology (IAM) developed in the first phase of the project E-PROTECT;
- Exchange with state officials, professionals and practitioners working on the themes of the IAM and identify promising practices in each of the countries involved;
- Understand how the contents and principles of the IAM are applied in other countries and in different settings, and
- Inspire new practices aimed at reinforcing the implementation of Directive 29/2012/EU.

When it comes to the selection of the exact location of the Twinning Visit to-be organised, **Law and Internet Foundation** (**LIF**) has chosen to support a country which is still setting up the mechanisms for the performance of individual assessment of children victims as well as in providing adequate and holistic support to them. Another major argument in favour of selecting Albania was that it had to be a country, which is closer to Bulgaria in terms of context and raising issues based on national mentality, geographical perceptions and traditional values. Therefore, the starting point was the entire Balkan region. Then, the selection has been refined based on the well-established partnership with a relevant organisation from these countries.

On the 14th and 15th of September 2021 the team of Law and Internet Foundation carried out the first Twinning Visit under the E-PROTECT II project in Tirana, Albania. The event took place at Hotel Comfort recommended by the host organisation (Institute for Activism and Social Change (IASC)). The overall arrangements and logistics of the visit were supported by the Executive Director) of IASC Mrs Erinda Bllaca. The LIF core team was accompanied by a representative from the Bulgarian Ombudsman Office. The first day of the visit was aimed at presenting the project itself and, particularly, the Individual Needs Assessment Methodology (IAM) to relevant national and local stakeholders. The Ombudsman's representative had a dedicated session as well. LIF presented the participants the E-PROTECT IAM as a





framework that they can use and implement at national level in order to better support child victims of crime. In order to facilitate the process, the E-PROTECT IAM was translated to Albanian language prior to the visit. Furthermore, a consecutive interpretation during the day was provided in order to ensure smooth and productive flow of information and exchange of opinions. Discussion on certain topics was carried out. The second day was dedicated to bilateral meetings between LIF team and the team of the National Agency on Child Rights (including the Chairperson) as well as with the Ombudsman of Albania (Avokat i Popullit). LIF has managed to obtain insights (with regard to the legal framework, practice and implementation) about the current state of play in Albania in terms of protection of child victims of crime and what are the major obstacles. Once the main gaps have been identified, the opportunities for practical implementation of the IAM were pinned point. Moreover, during the bilateral meeting the participants discussed potential opportunities for future cooperation in the field by outlining cross-cutting priorities and issues. Namely, the fragmented nature of the social and support services available and provided to child victims of crime across the countries. It is valid for both Albania and Bulgaria. Another common issue is the misinterpretation and misunderstanding regarding the used terminology. For instance, when child victims of crime are discussed, the conversation/narrative is often shifted to 'child in conflict with law' as comparison or even sometimes as mutually replacing one another when addressing children's needs. These present two different cases, which should be considered each on its own rather than together based on the common denominator - children themselves. Another aspect, which can be put at a foreground is the need of a dedicated and continuous training for magistrates when it comes to handling cases related to child victims.

Defence for Children Italia, in connection with <u>CESIS - Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social</u> organised a Twinning Visit in **Lisbon, Portugal on October 27th and 28th, 2021**.

The Twinning Visit included a first day dedicated to field visits. During this day, the Italian Delegation had the opportunity to visit and engage in discussions with several local public and private relevant actors, namely APPASSI - Portuguese Association for the International Social Service, the Judiciary Police Department for Prevention of Sexual Abuse, APAV - The Portuguese Association for Victim Support and the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ).

The second day was dedicated to the transnational exchange, which included the participation of several public authorities and national institutions, as well as private sector and regional organisations. This meeting took place in the Zenit Hotel thorough a round table which promoted the engagement of all participants in the exchange in a continuous and fruitful manner,

As far as **SEERC** is concerned, the twinning visit took place on **November 30 – December 1, 2021 in Budapest, Hungary.**

The selection of **Hungary** was not random; a set of parameters described in the respective guidelines was combined with the identification of commonalities among the Hungarian and the Greek situation in the field of child protection, particularly with regard to the operation of the Barnahus-like structures founded in Budapest and Thessaloniki, respectively. To yield insights on the domestic framework and facilitate access to public stakeholders, the cooperation of a national host organisation – in this case, Terre des





Hommes Hungary – was sought. Despite a small delay due to the COVID-19 travelling restrictions, the visit ultimately took place in the physical presence of the majority of participants in November-December 2021, with participants from both Hungary and Greece.

The visit on behalf of **CRPE Romania**, was held between May 10th and May 12th, 2022 and took place in Stockholm, Sweden in different locations throughout the city. It was attended by Mr Ruxandra Popescu – as project manager within the E-PROTECT II project, and Mr Mirela Franciug – as policy expert representative and social worker within the National Authority for the Protection of Children in Romania. As each meeting focused on a specific aspect regarding the interaction with child victims of crime, either from the public authority perspective or the training opportunities for professionals and children, the main outcome of the twinning visit was the set of good practices that was gathered from the interaction with different key actors and stakeholders in Sweden in the field of child protection.





1. Twinning Visit in Tirana, Albania

1.1. Date and location(s)

14th & 15th Sept 2021, Tirana, Albania. The dates were chosen upon the suggestion of the local partner IASC considering the spread of COVID-19, the summer holiday period and the political developments in Albania. The locations of the events were selected on the basis of the IASC as well.

1.2. Preparatory phase

During the preparatory phase of the Twinning Visit, the support from the local partner in terms of getting in touch and inviting the main relevant stakeholders was essential. Moreover, the local partner provided us with key support in terms of logistics of the visit (venue, translation and interpretation services, travel across the city of Tirana, catering, arrangement for the bilateral meetings during the second day and the overall set up of the visit). An essential aspect was a discussion with the local partner regarding the cultural features and how do such events usually go in terms of structuring the agenda in a proper and effective manner. For instance, whether people tend to leave after lunch or not, should you ensure regular coffee breaks and whether an interpretation is necessary. Another part of the preparation was to familiarise ourselves with the audience composition in order to be aware of the level of details into which the presentations need go into as well as the level of complexity. We have requested from our local partner some background about the country's current state of play in terms of legal framework and social system handling the protection of child victims of crime (e.g. referral/coordination mechanism in place, existing support services for children). We have tried to engage multidisciplinary audience in order to bring stakeholders from different institutions together and encourage them to share with us and one another their particular issues when dealing with child victims of crime. This approach usually helps in identifying the 'breaking point' in the multidisciplinary cooperation and the reasons why it is not working in an effective manner and how it can be, actually, improved and enhanced.

The IASC initiated the bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders during the second day of the visit. The E-RPOTECT Individual Needs Assessment Methodology for Child Victims of Crime was translated to Albanian due to the specificity of the language as well as the low level of advanced English=speaking professionals (upon an advice of our local partner). We have aimed to reach more people and also to provide them with a useful information in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner. We had prepared USB sticks with the IAM in both English and Albanian language in an electronic format, and we brought with us sufficient number of printed copies in Albanian as well. The translated booklet has been very much appreciated by national stakeholders. During the first day of the visit, we had a consecutive interpretation rather than simultaneous one. The main reason was that the former one is cheaper, and the other aspect was that it is not cost-efficient for roughly 20-25 persons to go for the simultaneous one. The interpretation was also considered as inevitable and facilitating the discussions. However, it is important to note that this type of interpretation takes a lot of time. We had a moderator to keep the meeting on track in terms of time and content-wise.





The networking part was a bit limited due to the language barrier. Though, the interpreters did their best to assist us and participants during the breaks.

1.2.1. Country of the visit and host organization

Albania was chosen due to the fact that it is currently in the midst of setting up its child protection system, thus the outcomes from E-PROTECT and E-PROTECT II implementation could be easily integrated. The local partner has been chosen based on successful previous cooperation as well as the relevance of the Institute with regard to the topic of the project. In addition, the Executive Director of the IASC is very well positioned at national and regional level, so she was of crucial importance in identifying and inviting the most relevant stakeholders to attend the visit. Furthermore, LIF team firmly believes in the EU efforts in supporting the neighbouring countries within the Balkan region.

1.2.2. National delegation composition

The national delegation was comprised of two members from LIF team (Denitsa Kozhuharova and Snezhana Krumova) along with a representative from the Bulgarian Ombudsman Office, particularly the Directorate for the Rights of the Child (Kristiana Kuneva).

1.2.3. Key actors invited from Twinning Visit country

A preliminary invitation list was drafted by our host organisation and respectively consulted and agreed with us. Representatives from the following institutions were approached:

- ✓ Ministry of Justice
- ✓ Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- ✓ Agency of Child Protection
- ✓ Tirana Municipality, Cultural Centre
- ✓ Tirana Community Centre
- ✓ Tirana Social Shelter
- ✓ Tirana Municipality, Child Protection Service
- ✓ Tirana Community Centre no.2
- ✓ Tirana Multidisciplinary Center
- ✓ Shelter for Women And girls
- ✓ Child Right Center Albania CRCA
- ✓ Tirana Legal Aid TLAS
- ✓ Centre FOKUS on child health
- ✓ General Directorate of Prisons
- ✓ General Police Directorate (Particularly, the Directorate of Domestic Violence and Child Protection)

The profile of participants was broad and multidisciplinary, including lawyers, legal counsellors, psychologists, social workers, heads of relevant units and sections, officer from prison services.





1.3. Programme

1.3.1 Agenda





E-PROTECT II Twinning visit

Venue (Hotel Comfort), Tirana, Albania Date (14-15th Sept)

Draft Agenda

Day 1, 14th Sept 2021

09:30 - 10:00	Welcome coffee & registration (including housekeeping rules and the agenda)		
10:00 - 10:20	Presenting the participants (ice breaker)		
10:20 - 10:40	Presentation of the project "Enhancing PROfessionals' capaciTy to dEal with Child vicTims" (E-PROTECT II)		
10:40 – 11:10	Presentation from relevant national stakeholder or someone from your organisation regarding the current state of play in Albania in terms of the national approach towards child victims of crime		
11:10 - 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:15	Presentation from a representative from the Ombudsman Office from Bulgaria Q&A		
12:15 – 13:15	Present a case study in order to demonstrate how you deal with it from your national perspective and legal framework Group work		
13:15 - 14:15	Networking lunch		



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14:15 – 15:15	Presenting the Individual needs assessment methodology, elaborated during the first phase of the project (including background info, goals, approach and various chapters).
15:15 - 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Q & A session Open discussion
16:00 - 16:15	Feedback
16:15 – 16:30	Final remarks

Day 2, 15th Sept 2021

10:00	Bilateral meeting with Ministry of Justice
11:30	Bilateral meeting with the Chairperson of the National Agency on Child Rights, Mrs. Alma Lleshi Tandilli.
12:30	Bilateral meeting with Ministry of Health and Social Protection
TBC	Other bilateral meeting



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E-PROTECT-II- TWINNING VISIT

Hotel Comfort, Rruga Fortuzi, Tirana – 14 shtator, 2021

PROGRAMI

Dita e parë, 14 shtator 2021

09:30 - 10:00	Kafe e mirëseardhjes & regjistrimi	
10:00 - 10:20	Tour-de-table (prezantimi i pjesëmarrëssve)	
10:20 - 10:40	Prezantimi i programit "Fuqizimi i kapaciteteve të profesionistëve për të punuar me fëmijët viktima" (E-PROTECT II)	
10:40 - 11:10	Prezantim i situatës aktuale në Shqipëri në lidhje me qasjet në mbrojtje të fëmijëve si viktima të krimit $-$ zj. Alma Lleshi Tandilli, kryetare e Agjencisë Shtetërore për të Drejtat dhe Mbrojtjen e Fëmijës	
11:10 - 11:30	Pushim kafe	
11:30 – 12:15	Prezantim nga perfaqesues te zyres se Ombudsmanit Bullgar P&P	
12:15 – 13:15	Diskutim praktik i rasteve studimore për prezantimin e kontekstit së ndërhyrjeve në nivel kombëtar dhe legjislacioni Punë në grupe	
13:15 – 14:15	Pushim dreke	



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14:15 – 15:15	Prezantim i metodologjisë së vlerësimit të nevojave individuale të fëmijëve, finalizuar gjatë fazës së parë të programit (objektivat, qasja e identifikuar dhe kapituj e ndryshëm).
15:15 - 15:30	Pushim kafe
15:30 – 16:00	Sesion diskutimesh Pjesëmarrësit ftohen t'u referohen rasteve individuale.
16:00 - 16:15	Feedback
16:15 – 16:30	Konkluzionet

Dita e 2, 15 shtator 2021

10.00	Takim me zj. Alma Tandilli, kryetare e Agjencisë Shtetërore për të Drejtat dhe Mbrojtjen e Fëmijës
11.30	Takim me zj. Andoneta Njehrrena, drejtore e Drejtorisë së Programimit, Standatizimit dhe Harmonizimit te Kuadrit Rregullator, Minsitria e Shëndetësisë dhe Mbrojtjes Sociale
12.30	Takim me zj. Blerta Doçi, Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Burgjeve, Ministria e Drejtësisë



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1.3.2 Summary of local field visits

Bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders were held on the second day of the visit as already mentioned above. Though they are not really considered as field visits *per se*. The meetings were with main national policy makers. The main goal was to map out possible ways of putting the IAM into practice. Prior to that of course, the IAM needs to be adopted as a protocol or guide which should be followed by professionals dealing with child victims of crime. It was highlighted that the E-PROTECT IAM itself does not pretend to be an exhaustive and prescriptive document. However, it serves more as a framework, which should be adapted in accordance with the particular child's needs and the national context of each country (in terms of legislation, social service providers, judicial system, society's perceptions etc).

With regard to that, the current state of play in Albania in terms of legislative reforms and what is applicable in practice when dealing with child victims of crime (e.g. in terms of protection) has been presented and discussed.

1.4 Participants

The number of participants during the first day of the visit was 28. As it was outlined above, they represented multidisciplinary fields — social workers from local and national public authorities, psychologists, lawyers, police officers, and even prison staff. While the second day was only for bilateral meetings between the LIF team, Executive Director of IASC (our local partner) and relevant national authorities (i.e. Director of the State Agency for Child Protection, representative from the Albanian Ombudsman Office).

1.5. Outcomes of Twinning Visit

Main themes presented were related to the importance of individual needs assessment and the possibility for its practical implementation.

Key conclusions and observations that emerged from the meeting(s)

- ✓ Child protection system in Albania is regulated by the Law 18/2017 'On the Rights and Protection of the Child' that provides for advisory and institutional coordination mechanisms and structures for the rights and protection of the child, at central and local level.
- ✓ Advisory and institutional coordination mechanisms involve the following:
 - The National Council on Children's Rights and Protection (NCCRP) at the central level;
 - cross-sectoral technical group at the municipal level or administrative unit at the local level.
- ✓ In Albania there is a coordination referral mechanism regarding domestic violence (sometimes used for cases referring to child victims of crime).





- ✓ Ministry of Health and Social Protection responsible for coordinating, monitoring the progress, implementation of relevant policies, measures for enforcement of the laws, national strategies, action plans for children, and international obligations.
- ✓ State Agency on the Right of the Child (2011) an institution subordinated to the ministry responsible for coordinating the work on children's rights and protection issues. SACRP is responsible for coordination of an integrated child protection system pursuant to national policies.
- ✓ New Juvenile Justice Criminal Code has been introduced, recently (defining criminal liability at 14 years old; it includes specific steps for dealing with children at different age; dealing with children in conflict with the law; not applicable to witness and victims). However, lack of preparation and appropriate training for the respective professionals is reported. A lot of time will be necessary to put it in practice.
- ✓ The structures for the rights and protection of the child at the central level are:
 - the minister who coordinates the work on issues of rights and protection of the child;
 - State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child;
 - any responsible minister, according to the field he covers, in relation to the rights of the child and their protection.
- ✓ Child protection structures at the national level are:
 - the municipality;
 - Child Protection Units in municipality;
 - the child protection employee at administrative unit level
- ✓ Clear steps are necessary and procedure to appoint a case-manager should be set up. Such a figure is essential and his/her work is critical for the case and the wellbeing of the child. The background of a case-manager has been discussed (social service officer, but with deep understanding of the legal framework, judicial system and other relevant services- health ones).
- ✓ In Albania the focus is still on the process rather than on the child as a subject. Child is not involved much. This approach should be rethought.
- ✓ The issue: the differences between the socials system and judicial system are still at the foreground. Further and more proactive actions are necessary.
- ✓ Need of quality control has been identified.
- ✓ Distinction between child victim of crime and child in conflict with the law: for the time being, these two groups are often considered together rather than separately. They have different needs and the circumstances related to their cases vary a lot.
- ✓ Lack of professional figure has been highlighted (namely case manager).





- ✓ The system in Albania is way too punitive, not much attention on the restorative justice.
- ✓ Over 240 child protection units at municipality level. So, it seems that the system and overall approach are fragmented.
- ✓ Lack of specific structure and methodology in terms of dealing with child victims of crime.
- ✓ Albania still lacks specialised (long term) rehabilitation services for severely abused children (sexual abuse, drug addiction).
- ✓ UNICEF has a project regarding juvenile justice which is under implementation in Albania.
- ✓ There is school for magistrates regarding the child-friendly justice approach, which is a good start.
- ✓ No specific social services exist, which are dedicated to child victims. Though such are highly recommended as the way professionals work with children is completely different from the one regarding adults. This encompasses various aspects such as: language used; the amount of relevant and necessary information to be provided to the victim; how to express empathy; consider child's comprehension level and others.

The overall conclusion is that in terms of legislation and policies Albania has done a lot, recently, when it comes to protection of children's rights. However, there is still a lot to be done in terms of application of these laws and practices. It refers to training professionals, providing the necessary infrastructure for provision of the available services in a child friendly manner, enhancing cooperation among the professionals from different disciplines to ensure efficient support while setting up/establishing a protocol to be followed and responsibilities to be clearly distributed.

Expression of interest to follow-up

- ✓ Consideration of the possibility to run a pilot there regarding the implementation of the IAM within the national context. The idea is to kick-off it at municipality level to check its feasibility.
- ✓ Potential benefit of funding opportunities (EuropeAid; EIPA; European Economic Area Grants; JUST and CERV Programmes of the European Commission) which allow funding in both Albania and Bulgaria.
- ✓ Possibility to draft action plan/strategy.
- ✓ Considering the design and delivery of target training aimed at case managers regarding their profile, what kind of information should be given to the child and how, what should be omitted, mechanisms for case handling, etc.
- ✓ Considering the design and delivery of child-friendly justice training for judges and prosecutors.
 - ✓ Development of standard operating procedures.









2. Twinning Visit in Lisbon, Portugal

2.1.Date and location(s)

The Twinning Visit took place in Lisbon, Portugal, more specifically on the 27th and 28th October 2021.

2.2. Preparatory phase

2.2.1 Country of the visit and host organisation

The national host in the Twinning Visit country was CESIS - Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social, a local NGO operating in Portugal since 1992. CESIS operates in the human rights field, with a focus on social intervention. In particular, promoting training activities to improve the capacity for social intervention at various levels, promoting the dissemination of studies and/or innovative experiences in the field of social promotion and encouraging the participation of citizens in their development and social promotion processes. CESIS and DCI Italy have worked together in various EU funded projects, such as THEAM, ELFO and Supports. The project THEAM - Training healthcare multidisciplinary teams on children's rights and on child-friendly justice, had the general objective of training key professionals involved in the work with vulnerable children and integrating training on children's rights and childfriendly justice into regular national training and education curricula for professionals. ELFO -"Empowering guardians, Legal representatives and FOster families of children deprived of parental care against violence" through child rights aimed at improving the level and quality of protection of child victims or potential victims of violence by empowering guardians, legal representatives and foster parents of children deprived of parental care within an integrated child protection framework. Lastly, Supports -Supporting young people in residential care in the delicate transition phase between adolescence and adulthood, aimed at developing a training and pedagogical programme that strengthens the capacities of juvenile facilities to support the development of young people's life projects during their time in care until they leave care.

Moreover, during the first phase of the project E-PROTECT - 'Enhancing PROtection of Children – vicTims of crime' – aimed to reinforce the application of the Victims' Directive, particularly in the cases of child victims of crime, WP3 was dedicated to research and data collection. In this framework, the D3.6 pan-European Best Practices Report on Victims' Directive transposition analised the national transposition of the Victims' Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU) in five Member States (MS) beyond the E-PROTECT partner countries – Finland, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and the UK (England and Wales) – with a particular focus on the rights granted to child victims of crime. The report related with Spain and Portugal was developed by Ana Isabel Guerreiro, an independent child rights expert from Portugal, identified the efforts and main gaps of the implementation of the Directive 2012/29/EU, while the consultations carried out during the development of the report, highlighted the necessity of importing inspiring practices into the territory. Ana Isabel Guerreiro, on behalf of DCI Italy, was also the author, together with Vanessa Sedlezky, of the E-protect IAM. Therefore, after some exchanges with her, it was decided to carry out the Twinning Visit in Portugal.

Lisbon, and in particular CESIS were targeted for several reasons:





- Longstanding and successful partnership between DCI Italy and CESIS;
- CESIS strong connection with the territory, including national authorities, practitioners and organisations from the private sector;
- Prior study developed in the framework of the first phase of the project, which indicated a necessity to improve the practices of implementation of the Directive 29/2012/EU in the host country.

2.2.2 National delegation composition

The National Delegation was composed of 6 people. Gabriella Gallizia, project coordinator and general coordinator of DCI Italy, Daja Wenke, Child Rights expert and DCI Italy's consultant on Child Rights and Caterina Parodi, Child Safeguarding and Project Officer composed the team of DCI Italia. Moreover, Claudia de Luca, from the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Juvenile Court of Naples, Italy, Claudia Chianese a Law Student from the University of Law in Naples were present and part of the Italian national delegation also considering the current work that DCI Italy is undertaking in Naples in order to build up a territorial protocol of cooperation in the framework of E-PROTECT 2 project. Emanuela Fumagalli a juvenile lawyer from the Juvenile Chamber of Milan was also invited as representative of the National Chamber of Juvenile Lawyers.

2.2.3 Key actors invited from Twinning Visit country

As mentioned previously, CESIS has a strong and well established connection with several local and national authorities, practitioners and non-governmental organisations, institutions, service providers, etc.

There were several actors present, such as the National Commission for the Promotion of Rigths and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ), CIG - Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, IAC - Children Support Institute, APAV - Victim Support Association, APF - Association for Family Planning, Municipal Council of Cascais.

Several relevant local actors participated as speakers, namely: Rosario Farmhouse, president of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ), Marta Silva, representative of CIG - Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, Vanessa Branco from the APF - Association for Family Planning, Jéssika Aguiar and Filipa Tirano, project officers from APAV - Victim Support Association and Fátima Silva from the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ). Several other actors participated as listeners, but had the opportunity to engage in the several moments of discussion and exchange knwledge and experience throughout the day. In particular, Paulo Pelixo from the APF - Association for Family Planning Ricardo Carvalho from the Portuguese Ombudsperson Office, Esmeralda Ferreira and Sofia Pereira from the Municipal Council of Cascais, Fernanda Alves, Juvenile Public Prosecutor, Ana Isabel de Barros Miguez, from the Portuguese Association of Women Lawyers and specialised in Children's Rights, Alexandra Dourado, From UMAR - Union of Women for Alternatives and Answers and Inês Carvalho Sá, juvenile lawyer from the European Criminal Bar Association.





Some of the actors present in the transnational exchange were identified in the above mentioned report, "pan-European Best Practices Report on Victims' Directive transposition", thus it was important to include them in the meeting. In general all actors were very enthusiastic to participate in the meeting and to contribute with their presentations.





2.3 Programme

2.3.1 Agenda 27.10.2021





27/Outubro/2021 Twinning Visit Lisbon

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APPASSI - Associação Portuguesa para o Serviço Social Internacional

Av. Almirante Reis, n.º 133 6Esq. 1150-015 Lisboa - Portugal

 $\frac{https://www.google.com/maps/dir/38.7331725.-9.1469069/Av.+Alm.+Reis.+Lisboa/@38.7321588.-9.1460116,16z/data=13m1!4b1!}{4m10!4m9!1m1!4e1!1m5!1m1!1s0xd1933976269cb6d:0x75b849d135da1019!2m2!1d-9.1344077!2d38.7311222!3e0}$

-> 15 min dell'albergo a piedi

10h30

Polícia Judiciária - Departamento de Prevenção de Abusos Sexuais da Polícia Judiciária

Rua Gomes Freire, 174

Há um edifício preto e branco, não é esse. Continuar e depois é um edifício com portões azuis.

Inspector José Matos

https://www.google.com/maps/dir/38.7223665.-9.1566962/Rua+Gomes+Freire+174.+Lisbona/@38.7264851,-9.1560357,16z/data=! 3m1!4b1!4m9!4m8!1m1!4e1!1m5!1m1!1s0xd19339c258f305b:0x42189e1adcfbfede!2m2!1d-9.1421994!2d38.7282639

APPASSI -> 16 min a piedi / 8 min. in macchina

12h

APAV - Associação de Apoio à Vítima

R. José Estêvão 135 A, 1150-201 Lisboa

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PJ -> 10min a piedi / 5 min. in macchina

15h30

CNPDPCJ - COMISSÃO NACIONAL DE PROMOÇÃO DOS DIREITOS E PROTEÇÃO DAS CRIANÇAS E JOVENS

Praça de Londres n.º 2, piso 2, Lisboa

Dra. Sónia Lourenço Rosa

 $\label{lem:https://www.google.com/maps/dir/38.7331725.-9.1469069/Praça+de+Londres+2,+1049-056+Lisboa/@38.7377917.-9.1485038.16z/data=13m1!4b1!4m18l1m7l3m6l1s0xd193380f40eec47:0xcb553c1c315cff04l2sPraça+de+Londres+2,+1049-056+Lisboal3b1l8m2l3d38.7415736!4d-9.1380417!4m9l1m1!4e1l1m5!1m1l1s0xd193380f40eec47:0xcb553c1c315cff04l2m2!1d-9.1380417!2d38.7415736i3e0$

APAV -> 17 min a piedi / 10 min in macchina





2.3.2 Agenda 28.10.2021







Agenda

09.15 - 09.30	Welcome coffee and registration of participants
	Welcome by Ana Cardoso CESIS
09.30 - 10.00	Welcome by Isabella Mastropasqua – Director Office II Department of Juvenile and Community Justice of the Ministry of Justice in Italy - via Zoom
	Introduction of participants
10.00 - 10.10	Introduction of the E-Protect Project
10.00 - 10.10	Gabriella Gallizia, Defence for Children Italy
10.10 - 10.20	Presentation of Victim's Rights Directive 29/2012/EU and brief overview of its implementation
10.10 - 10.20	Caterina Parodi, Defence for Children Italy
	State of the art of the Victim's Rights Directive 29/2012/EU in Portugal
10.20 - 10.40	Maria Rosário Farmhouse, National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People
	Marta Silva, CIG - Comissão para a Cidadania e a Igualdade de Género
11.00 - 11.15	Discussion
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break
	State of the art of the Victim's Rights Directive 29/2012/EU in Italy
11.30 – 12.00	Claudia De Luca, Juvenile Public Prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court of Naples, Italy
	The protection of children victims
12.00 - 12.30	Filipa Tirano & Jéssika Aguiar, APAV - Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima
12.00 - 12.30	Alexandra Dourado, UMAR - União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta
	Vanessa Branco, APF – Associação para o Planeameto da Família
12.30 - 13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
	Presentation of the E-PROTECT methodology and its child-centred approach
14.00 - 14.30	Daja Wenke, Defence for Children Italy
	Examples of practice, with presentations from different stakeholders
14.30 - 15.30	Fátima Silva Projeto 12 - Justice for Children
	Emanuela Fumagalli, Juvenile Chamber of Milan, Italy
15.30 - 16.00	Discussion and conclusions
16.00	Closure of the meeting
	,



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2.3.3 Summary of local field visits

During the preparatory phase, the team of DCI Italia dedicated its efforts in contacting local organisations, entities and relevant local actors in order to organise field visits to exchange with relevant stakeholders located in the host country. As demonstrated in the agenda (please see annex 3.7 Agenda of the field visits - 27.10.2021), the Italian delegation had the opportunity to visit prominent entities, both public authorities and private sector organisations (please see annex 3.3 Pictures)

The day started with a visit to **APPASSI** - Portuguese Association for the International Social Service where the Italian Delegation met with Madalena Abrantes, social worker of APPASSI and Maria João Malho president of the board of APPASSI. The meeting was dedicated to present the activities of APPASSI and its main cases from the International Social Service. Madalena Abrantes was invited to join the transnational workshop.

After that, the Italian Delegation met with Ana Cardoso from CESIS and Célia Chamiça from the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ) and was welcomed by José Matos, coordinator of criminal investigation of the Judiciary Police Department for Prevention of Sexual Abuse. The coordinator presented the main activities of this Department, including the investigation of cases of sexual abuse and the interview of the victims, in particular children. Chief coordinator José Matos also highlighted the main gaps in the protection of victims of crime, in particular child victims of sexual abuse and initiatives of the Department to try to tackle such phenomenon. After this exchange of useful insights, the delegation had the opportunity to visit the Espaço Vítima - Apoio às Vítimas de Crimes Violentos - Victim Space - Support to victims of violent crimes. The space, co-funded by the European Union in the framework of the Internal Security Fund, is inspired by the Barnahus model and aims to be a safe and adapted space to host victims of violence during the interviews. There are two separate spaces with a control room in the middle, used to record the interviews and where professionals and prosecutors / judges and lawyers can be present. The first interview room is dedicated to children victims of crime and is adapted to children's needs. It is a modular room with natural light which can be adapted to the age and maturity of the child, removing or adding the modules and objects. The second interview room is a very simple room but it has a lot of natural light and light colors. The main objective is for victims of violence to feel at ease, avoiding the pressure of being in the Judiciary Police Headquarters. Both rooms are connected with the control room through telecommunication devices. All professionals apart from the interviewer are present in the control room and can see the interview through a half-silvered mirror. The professionals present in this room can suggest questions to the professional present in the interview room without having to interrupt the interview or entering the interview room.

At 12:00 the Italian Delegation was welcomed by Carmen Rasquete and Jéssika Tirano, respectively president and project officer of **APAV**. The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) is a private charitable organisation, recognised by law with statutory objective to inform, protect and support citizens who have been victims of crime. It is a non-profit organisation assisted by volunteers, which supports victims of crime, in a personal, sensitive and professional way, through the provision of free and confidential services. Founded on 1990, it has offices nationwide, with headquarters in Lisbon. Carmen presented the main activities of APAV, its projects and the helpline, which is a central part of the work of APAV in Portugal. Afterwards, the Italian Delegation had the opportunity of visiting the several interview





rooms for victim of crime located in APAV. The adults interview rooms are organised by color, as according to APAV this gives the victims a better feeling, than being placed in interview rooms organised by numbers. The interview room dedicated to children victims of crime is colorful, playful, and is connected to another room by a half-silvered mirror, where the parents of the victim and other professionals can be while the child is being interviewed.

After the lunch break, the Italian Delegation visited the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ) where it was received by its president, Maria Rosário Farmhouse, Sónia Lourenço Rosa, External Relations and Célia Chamiça, Project Officer. The president Maria Rosário Farmhouse presented the main activities of the National Commission, explained its functioning and organisation throughout the Portuguese territory, highlighting the work of the National Commission in what regards children victims of crime. The mission of t the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People (CNPDPCJ) is to plan the intervention of the State and the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the action of public bodies - including the regional Commissions for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People - and the community in the protection of children and young people at risk. The regional Commissions for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People are official non-judicial institutions with functional autonomy that aim to promote the rights of children and young people and prevent or put an end to situations that may affect their safety, health, training, education or integral development.

2.4 Participants

Public authorities	Name	Email
Public Prosecutor - specialised on children ang young people	Fernanda Alves	maria.f.alves@mpublico.org.pt
Public Prosecutor - specialised on children and young people	Mario Sequeira	mario.j.sequeira@mpublico.org.pt
CNPDPCJ - National Commission for the Promotion of Rigths and Protection of Children and Young People	Maria Rosário Farmhouse	Rosario.Farmhouse@cnpdpcj.pt
CNPDPCJ - National Commission for the Promotion of Rigths and Protection of Children and Young People	Sónia Lourenço Rosa	sonia.M.Rosa@cnpdpcj.pt
CNPDPCJ - National Commission for the Promotion of Rigths and Protection of Children and Young People	Fátima Silva	Fatima.Conduta.Silva@cnpdpcj.pt





CNPDPCJ - National Commission for the Promotion of Rigths and Protection of Children and Young People	Célia Chamiça	Celia.M.Chamica@cnpdpcj.pt
Family, Children and Youth Office of the General Prosecutor's Office	Helena Gonçalves	helena.goncalves@pgr.pt
Portuguese Bar Association	Sofia Galvão	sofia.galvao@crl.oa.pt
Portuguese Association of Women Lawyers	Ana Isabel de Barros Miguez	anadebarrosmiguez@gmail.com
Ombudsman	Ricardo Carvalho	ricardo.carvalho@provedor-jus.pt
CIG - Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality	Marta Silva	marta.silva@cig.gov.pt
Municipal Council of Cascais	Esmeralda Ferreira	esmeralda.ferreira@cm-cascais.pt
Municipal Council of Cascais	Sofia Pereira	sofia.cristina@scml.pt
GNR Guarda Nacional Republicana /National Republican Guard	Pedro Ares	
PSP Policia de Seguranaç Pulbica / Public Security Policy	Fábio Carreto	
G	N	T
Services providors	Name	Email
IAC – Instituto de Apoio à Criança (Projeto Rua)	Paula Paçó	paula.paco@iacrianca.pt; iac-prua@iacrianca.pt
APAV - Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima	Filipa Tirano	filipatirano@apav.pt
APAV - Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima	Jéssika Aguiar	jessikaaguiar@apav.pt
CooperActiva – Cooperativa de Desenvolvimento Social Crl Espaço V	Mário Jorge Silva	espacov.cascais@gmail.com
APF	Paulo Pelixo	apfsede@apf.pt
APF	Vanessa Branco	apfsede@apf.pt
UMAR - Almada	Alexandra Dourado	umar.almada@sapo.pt
Advogada ECBA - European Criminal Bar Association	Inês Carvalho Sá	inescarvalhosa@carlospintodeabreu. com





APPASSI – ISS Portugal (psycchologist)	Madalena Abrantes	madalenaa@appassi.org.pt
APPASSI – ISS Portugal	to be confirmed	geral@appassi.org.pt
CESIS	Ana Cardoso	
CESIS	Sandra Soares	
Italian Delegation	Name	Email
DCI Italy	Gabriella Gallizia	
DCI Italy	Caterina Parodi	
DCI Italy	Daja Wenke	
Public Prosecutor Office - Juvenile Court Naples	Claudia De Luca	
Juvenile Chamber Milan	Emanuela Fumagalli	
Juvenile Prosecutor from Naples	Claudia Chianese	

2.5. Outcomes of Twinning Visit

The day started at 9.15 with a welcome coffee and the registration of participants. Ana Cardoso from the host organisation, CESIS, welcomed the participants to the exchange of knowledge and experience. At 10.00 Gabriella Gallizia, E-Protect II project coordinator presented the agenda and the objectives of the meeting and introduced the E-Protect II Project. Caterina Parodi from Defence for Children Italy presented the Directive 29/2012/EU and an overview of its implementation at the EU level. The work of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People was then presented by its president, Maria Rosário Farmhouse and an open discussion followed. After a brief coffee break, Claudia de Luca, Juvenile Public Prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court of Naples, Italy presented the state of the art of the Victim's Rights Directive 29/2012/EU in Italy, while doing a brief assessment on its implementation in practice. After that, Filipa Tirano and Jéssika Aguiar, project officers of APAV presented the work of the Victim Support Portuguese Association in the protection of children victims and the participants engaged in a discussion. This exchange regarded mainly the implementation of the Victim's Rights Directive in Italy and Portual and in particular the gaps and points of connection between the two experiences. Lunch took place in the restaurant of the hotel and the round table was reassumed at 14.00.

The afternoon started with the presentation of the E-PROTECT methodology and its child-centred approach by Daja Wenke, Child Rights Expert from Defence for Children Italy. The second panel of the





afternoon was dedicated to the presentations of examples of practice with presentations from different stakeholders. In particular, Fátima Silva, project officer of the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People presented "project 12, Justice for Children" aiming at improving procedures regarding the participation and hearing of children in the processes that concern them, ensuring the effective best interest of the child and all of their other rights, including the rights to dignity, freedom and equal treatment. Emanuela Fumagalli, lawyer of the juvenile chamber of Milan, presented the role of the special curator of children victims of violence. Before the closure of the meeting by the moderators, Ana Cardoso and Daja Wenke, the participants engaged in an enthusiastic discussion, where they shared their views on the practical implementation of the Directive in both countries. The work of the regional Commissions for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People were highlighted as a good practice in the hosting country, as they are spread out throughout the territory, engage multidisciplinary professionals and are closer to the citizens. The 2015 "status of the victim and the status of especially vulnerable victim, including for the crime of domestic violence" was also highlighted as a good practice. This law - created to facilitate the transposition of the Directive 29/2012/EU applies to natural persons who have suffered harm, particularly physical or psychological injury, emotional or moral suffering or damage to their property, directly caused by a crime, or members of their family who have died as a direct consequence of a crime and have suffered harm as a result of that death, granting them a set of rights to information, assistance, protection and active participation in criminal proceedings.

The IAM was very well received by the participants and its importance in ensuring the rights of children victims of crime was highlighted during the discussion. In particular, the Municipal Council of Cascais, showed interest in a follow-up, maybe through an experimental protocol of application of the Methodology in the are of Cascais.

It was a very rich and fruitful exchange. All the actors engaged in the discussions and there was a general feeling of satisfaction for the opportunity to discuss such important themes in in a constructive and nurturing environment.

After the visit, we received messages from APAV and CIG expressing their interest in continuing our collaboration on these themes.

Moreover, we are exploring also the possibility to sustain the Municipality in Cascais in the implementation of the IAM in their area. With CESIS, we will soon organise a Zoom meeting in order to understand better their context and possibility for cooperation.



3. Twinning Visit in Budapest, Hungary

3.1. Logistics

The initial work of action envisaged the implementation of twinning visits during the first semester of 2021. Nevertheless, the travelling restrictions imposed due to the pandemic forcefully led any planning for face-to-face meetings, particularly across borders, to a halt. Therefore, the twinning visit in Budapest finally took place on November 30 – December 1, 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. The first day was dedicated in meeting with Terre des Hommes Hungary in their Budapest Offices, while the second day was spent in the premises of the newly founded Child Hearing and Therapy Methodological Center. The discussion in the second day was facilitated by an interpreter. No PowerPoint presentations were used; instead, to provide a useful tool and familiarise participants with the E-PROTECT II work, the IAM methodology, as well as the proceedings of the first international workshop, were distributed in hard copy to everyone who took part in the visit.

3.2. Preparatory phase

Hungary was promptly identified as an ideal case for carrying out the twinning visit for a number of reasons. At normative level, Hungary had been strongly encouraged by international and EU agencies to amend its existing legislation in order to enhance the protection of children who have been victims of criminal behaviour. Specifically regarding the transposition of the Victims' Rights Directive in the Hungarian legal framework, it was depicted by the European Commission as flawed and incomplete. Unlike the single-act practice followed by several Member States³, Hungary incorporated the articles of the Directive into several legal acts, contributing to a fragmented framework regarding its transposition. In May 2020, Hungary was still among the 16 Member States against which the Commission continued to carry out infringement proceedings for failing to fully transpose the Victims' Rights Directive. Against this backdrop, a dire need for an improved understanding of the Directive's purpose and potential in the protection of child victims' rights emerged.

At implementation level, the pathologies of the Hungarian child protection system bore similarities to the ones detected within the Greek environment. Extensive and repetitive cross-examination procedures, need

⁴ European Commission, Report From The Commission To The European Parliament And The Council on the implementation of 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, 11 May 2020, COM(2020) 188 final.



¹ Indicatively, see Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Hungary*,3 March 2020, CRC/C/HUN/CO/6; ECPAT International and Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation, ECPAT Country Overview: Hungary (ECPAT International Bangkok, 2021).

² European Parliament Research Service, *The Victims' Rights Directive 2012/29/EU: European Implementation Assessment*, December 2017, available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/611022/EPRS_STU(2017)611022_EN.pdf (accessed 10 June 2022).

³ The Member States that transposed the Directive into one single act were: Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Ireland.



for regular, specialised and adequate training of professionals, the lack of a monitoring system for data collection or a strong network of coordinating victim support services were only some of the identified risks to secondary victimisation. Additionally, the operation of Barnahus-like structures was still in an embryonic stage in both countries, offering room for mutual improvement through the exchange of good practices and shared concerns.

Having defined Hungary as the twinning visit destination, efforts were concentrated in exploring options for a collaboration with a local organisation. Drawing on the network developed in the context of the E-PROTECT projects, Terre des Hommes Hungary which has a long experience in child victim protection in the country, was approached. The organisation welcomed the opportunity to collaborate for this purpose and facilitated contact with national stakeholders, including the Child Hearing and Therapy Center in Budapest.

During the preparatory phase, it also became evident that including national stakeholders in the delegation would be beneficial both for the E-PROTECT team and for the reinforcement of the supranational child protection network, the furtherance of which has been a key objective of the project.

Thus, the composition of the national delegation was informed by the main focus of the twinning visit, which was to get acquainted with the child victim protection system in Hungary and particularly the individual needs assessment procedures, and to exchange experience on the operation of the new, Barnahus-modelled structures in Budapest and Thessaloniki.

Thus, the national delegation consisted in 6 members:

- 1) Faye Ververidou, Lawyer, SEERC Research Associate
- 2) Dr Stella Karapa, Forensic Psychologist/Child Psychologist
- 3) Evi Manola, Psychologist, Children's House Thessaloniki, Greece
- 4) Fotis Tegos, Social Worker, Children's House Thessaloniki, Greece
- 5) Marianna Kolovou, Social Worker, Head of 'House of ARSIS' for children at risk
- 6) Panagiota Kanellopoulou, Project Coordinator at Terre des Hommes Greece

Unfortunately, Marianna Kolovou was unable to travel to Budapest and physically attend the visit, due to an identified COVID-19 case in her family environment the day before departure. Instead, her participation was facilitated through the ZOOM platform.

3.3. Programme





The twinning visit was carried out in accordance with the following agenda:

Day 1: Terre des Hommes meeting

14.00 – 14.15: Introduction, objectives and expectations from the meeting

14.15 – 15.15: Child protection issues in Hungary and the contribution of the PROMISE project

15.15 – 16.00: Individual needs assessment of child victims of crime: commonalities and discrepancies among different EU countries

16.00 – 17.00: Children at state care and other settings for accommodation outside the family environment

Day 2: Visit to the Child Hearing and Therapy Methodological Center of the National Child Protection Service

9.00 – 10.00: Child Hearing Center: Legislative and structural framework: protocol for the hearing and therapeutic services

10.00 – 11.00: Child protection system in Greece: normative framework and operational steps, from reporting to the forensic interview of the child

11.00 – 12.00: Implementing the Barnahus model in Greece: institutional challenges and current operation - comparative thoughts on the two countries

12.00 – 13.00: Visiting the hearing room

3.4. Participants

The participants' profile was informed by the purpose and thematic focus of the twinning visit, which was defined at the designing phase. The first day of the visit aimed at getting acquainted with child protection and child victim access to justice in Hungary and beyond, as well as to examine the individual needs assessment and the state care system both in Hungary and in Greece. The second day of the visit focused on the operation of the Child Hearing and Therapy Methodological Center in Budapest and compare current practices and challenges with the Children's House in Thessaloniki, as well as to present the individual needs assessment methodology of the project and the normative and practical framework of access to justice for child victims of crime in Greece.





Thus, the composition of the participant list both within the national delegation and the twinning visit country featured mainly service providers both from the state and the private sector, including social workers and psychologists; academics, including researchers and postgraduate students in local universities; and civil society actors, primarily NGO policymakers. Despite constraints due to social distancing measures, as well as COVID-19 cases preventing the physical presence of certain invitees, the twinning visit attracted a total of 24 participants.

3.5. Outcomes of twinning visit

The two-day agenda served a two-fold purpose: to present the Greek child victim protection system and the project's methodology on the individual needs assessment, and to learn about the situation of child victims of crime in Hungary and their access to support mechanisms.

During the first day, Terre des Hommes Hungary shed light on the protection of child victims of crime in Hungary. Acknowledging the risks of systemic victimisation of the child, the PROMISE project strives to set up safeguards the child's best interests by placing the four main services under one roof: the forensic interview, the medical intervention, the mental wellbeing and the protection of the child. However, convincing children to participate in the development process has proved challenging, as there is general scepticism regarding the purpose and a lack of personal motivation to contribute. The need for engaging public officers in more trainings was highlighted.

Added input from the FOCUS project further showcased that, for access to child-friendly justice to become a reality, it needs to be inclusive, participatory, child-Centerd, continuous and timely, multidisciplinary and collaborative and, perhaps most importantly, draw attention to the individual needs assessment and the need to develop a common understanding towards that end. These findings were in tune with the IAM methodology developed in the context of the E-PROTECT project and thoroughly presented during the meeting.

Turning focus on child victims who have been withdrawn from the family environment, the two representatives of NGOs (ARSIS and SOS Children's Villages) addressed the challenges of accommodation settings for children. As ARSIS remarked, the lack of temporary accommodation facilities in case of an urgent removal leads to children's protracted placement in hospitals, which has a detrimental impact on their wellbeing. Beyond this, institutional care remains the main type of state care for these cases in Greece, a practice highly criticised by non-state actors and other independent authorities, such as the Ombusdman for the Child.

As an alternative to institutions, SOS Children's Villages suggested the foster care and family support programme implemented at national level, but also in other States where the organisation operates. Despite the success of the programme, the following alarming observations were made:

- Most organisations on the field in Hungary are either public or church-based, allowing little room for the contribution of private entities.
- Withdrawal from the family environment transpires mainly for merely financial reasons, without the prerequisite of criminal offence reports (such as abuse or neglect).





- A significant amount of sexual abuse cases against children placed in foster families go unreported because the government shows reluctance to prosecute foster parents as alleged perpetrators.
- Lack of follow-up on child victim cases, especially after the departure from accommodation settings. As a result, a disturbingly large number of young adults end up homeless and without state support.

During the second day of the visit, the legislative and structural framework of the Child Hearing and Therapy Methodological Center, which launched its operation in March 2021, was thoroughly explained. The following remarks are of particular importance:

- While discussions on the establishment of the Center were initiated in 2017, it was not until 2019 that the relevant legislation entered into force, following a series of amendments necessary to harmonise the existing legislation with the new law. At normative level, the recent healthcare legislation has also hindered the medical examination of alleged child victims within the Center.
- Inspired by the CAC model developed in the US and bearing great resemblance to the Barnahus, the design of the Center was premised upon the development of a child-friendly space, technologically equipped to record the forensic interviews of the children. Similar to Greece, the forensic interviews of child victims of crime were previously conducted in designated rooms in police stations specifically adjusted for this purpose.
- The police authorities continue to hold a leading role in child hearings. While the child hearing room has been adapted in order to allow police officers to address the questions only via the child psychologist present in the room, with the use of a hearing set, in reality the procedure is still conducted directly by the assigned police officer.
- As no specialised training is required to conduct this procedure and despite the availability of trainings, there are police officers who assume the role without any prior experience or preparation. The police has recognised this deficiency and has requested the provision of more regular trainings towards this end.
- In this environment, the expert advisors of the Center (who are social workers) are, to date, limited to preparing the child prior to the interview. Case details are not discussed during this preparatory stage in order to avoid any intervention in the investigation.
- Carrying out the forensic interview of the child in the Center remains discretionary, as referral by the police authorities is not mandatory.
- The services are so far reserved for child victims, although there have been thoughts of expanding their operation to accommodate child offender cases.
- There is no regard on the provision of therapy or assistance following the forensic interview of the child or their participation in judicial proceedings.





- It is still not guaranteed that the audio-visual recording of the forensic interview will substitute the child's physical presence in court. In several cases, child victims are requested to attend and testify during the hearing procedure.
- An advisory board of special advisors has a regional mandate to work with children in problematic environments, which issues assessments on the psychological and physical state of children to decided upon the need of withdrawal from the family environment, and deals with adoption and foster care cases.

Finally, the procedure of a child victim's encounter with the criminal justice system in Greece was described in detail. Having outlined the general framework in both countries, representatives of the Children's House in Thessaloniki shared the challenging prospects of their operation and elaborated on the way towards a more comprehensive system of child protection in the country.

All institutions involved in the twinning visit manifested an interest in maintaining contact and seeking collaboration opportunities in the future, both within the framework of E-PROTECT II and beyond. Towards this end, SEERC held a meeting with Terre des Hommes Greece to discuss the possibility of further cooperation in more concrete terms, at local and national level. In March 2022, Terre des Hommes Hungary welcomed our invitation to present the Barnahus experience and the organisation's contribution to the promotion of the Barnahus model throughout Europe during the third international workshop of the project. Looking through the sustainability lens, these actions are conducive to the consolidation of the project and the partner's ties with an international, leading actor in the field of child protection, but also more broadly as a reinforcement of the child victim protection network, an aim to which the E-PROTECT II partners have invested valuable concerted efforts during the course of the project.



4. Twinning visit in Sweden

4.1 Date and locations

The twinning visit was held between May 10th and May 12th, 2022 and took place in Stockholm, Sweden in different locations throughout the city.

4.2 Preparatory phase

As CRPE, together with the consortium partners started brainstorming ideas and potential locations for the twinning visits to be organized within the project, the approach and main goal for the visit was taken into consideration in deciding the location. The CRPE's approach for the visit was to organize a series of consecutive meetings with key representatives in the field from Sweden – this country was chosen for being one of the best pioneers in the field when in comes to best practices, tools and instruments for child protection and social justice. From the beginning of the process of organizing the twinning visit, the National Authority for the Protection of Children in Romania was actively involved and consultated in terms of the approach, location and main outcomes to be obtained and disseminated locally in Romania. After the location has been decided and CRPE has started to prepare the visit, a key representative from the Authority was appointed to attend the twinning visit on behalf of the institution. Soon after this, CRPE launched a total of 7 invitations for meetings to different key and relevant actors in the field of child protection in Sweden. Out of the 7 invitations sent, 3 face to face meetings were successfully scheduled and held during the visit in Stockholm of the Romanian delegation and 2 online follow-ups were established that resulted in online informal discussions.

4.3 Programme

The twinning visit organized in Sweden had the overall purpose of facilitating the exchanging of ideas and experiences in the field of child protection and social justice. To this end, Sweden was chosen as it has provided for years a best practice in terms of how the child protection services should efficiently work and how different activities/projects/instruments have been successfully implemented and used by several relevant public authorities and organizations in the field. Each of the organizations and institutions that were selected by CRPE during the preparatory phase, were chosen specifically to provide a best practice for a specific area, such as the overal policy approach for the social protection system at national level, the organization and implementation of the Barnahus concept and the training needs of professionals and children. At such, the first meeting was scheduled with representatives from the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat and focused on the national and international approach of the children protection system, the second meeting focused on the training vast experience of the Kidpower International organization – a strong regional partner in this field in Sweden and lastly, the third meeting was focused on the activity of the social protection department of Stockholm and the overall coordination of a Barnahus house. The specific schedule of the visit was the following:





- (1) First meeting May 10th Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat attended by Mrs Olivia Lind Halrdosson, Senior Adviser & Head of Children at Risk Unit and Mrs Shawna von Blixen, Adviser, Children at Risk Unit, Work environment representative;
- (2) Second meeting May 11th Kidpower Teenpower Fullpower International attended by Mr Amanda Golert, Senior Instructor/Senior Program Leader/Curriculum and Training Consultant;
- (3) Third meeting May 12th The Social Administration Barnahus Stockholm, Department of Urban Social Issues Competence Center for Children and Young People attended by Mrs Catrine Ahlman.

4.4 Participants

The participants that attended the twinning visit on behalf of the hosting country come from different types of organizations, mainly the non-profit field but also from public institutions, such as the Stockholm social department.

4.5 Outcomes of twinning visit

One of the main outcomes of the twinning visit was to ensure the obtaining and dissemination of best practices – the experience of Sweden – in the field of child protection and social justice. As a result, the national key representative from the National Authority for the Protection of Children in Romania that attended the delegation in Sweden organized a follow-up meeting within her institution with the purpose of presenting the main points and practices gathered during the twinning visit. Some of the main topics of discussion during the twinning visit, depending on the institution/organization with whom the meeting took place, where: social protection of children in Sweden, Barnahus model and implementation, good practices found in the social protection department in Sweden, policy and legislative framework in Sweden in the field of child protection, challenges in the field, trainings. Each meeting that resulted from the organization of the twinning visit was considered to bring added value to the exchange of good practices and tools that were discussed and presented between the different professionals.

5. Invitation letters

5.1. Albania







.../...

To whom it may concern Title Name Institution Address, City, post code Country

INVITATION LETTER

Dear Madam/Sir,

Law and Internet Foundation is delighted to invite a representative from your organisation as a participant in the upcoming Twinning Visit, dedicated to the presentation of <u>'Enhancing PROfessionals' capacity</u> to <u>dEal with Child victims' E-PROTECT II</u> project and the E-PROTECT Methodology for a rights-based individual assessment of the needs of child victims of crime elaborated during the first phase of the project. The event will take place on ... at...

The project is implemented by five organisations from Bulgaria, Italy, Greece and Romania under the coordination of Law and Internet Foundation. E-PROTECT II focuses on ensuring the practical implementation of the previously elaborated Individual Needs' Assessment Methodology to support the compliance of national social and judicial stakeholders with child victims 'rights approach. Furthermore, it is aimed at strengthening the capacity sulding & better cooperation between competent authorities, legal practitioners and social service providers, thus bettering the quality of provided services to child victims. The project also recognises the need for such cooperation to exist in other jurisdictions- to this end, it has planned appropriately such project activities that target this need, namely four twinning visits & two international workshops to bring the -E-PROTECT Methodology to other countries in the form of capacity building events. The current invitation is related to exactly one of those Twinning Visits.

As a participant you will have the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the E-PROTECT II project and the abovementioned methodology first-hand. Moreover, some of the best practices identified during the implementation of the first phase of the project will be presented as well as working legislative solutions to overcome obstacles recognised across the EU in terms of child protection. Thus, participants will be able to reflect upon what might work in their national context and what might not. In addition, they will obtain insights why and how to enhance the multidisciplinary cooperation at regional and national level.

1303 Soha, Bulgaria 54 Balgarska Morava Str., fl. 7 Phone: +359 2 44 606 44 Fax: +359 2 44 606 46 E-mail: office@netlaw.bg www.netlaw.bg E-PROTECT Invite

We would be happy if your representatives join us. As the main purpose of the E-PROTECT II project is to go beyond the partner countries and the EU in terms of encouraging the performance of individual needs assessment of child victims of crime in accordance with the criteria set in the Directive 2012/29/EU, particularly Art.22. We believe that working closely together will strengthen further the cooperation between the various experts working with child victims of crime in order to ensure the full exercise of their rights.

Law and Internet Foundation is a Bulgarian NGO & Research centre which supports and performs applied studies, scientific research, programmes and projects, and provides consultancy and deliver trainings in the field of legal, technological, and social issues related to the use of information and communication technologies both in public and private sectors. In recent years, our organisation has established itself as a leading research center, whose contribution to the development of legislative policies and in promoting the implementation of good European practices has not gone unnoticed, which is why the Foundation's projects and activities are supported by various prestigious donor and funding organisations such as the European Commission, the World Bank, NATO and others.

For more information or in case of any questions related to the project and the event, you can contact Mrs Snezhana Krumova, coordinator of the E-PROTECT II project. Tel: +359 887 889 842, E-mail: e-protect@netlaw.bg

Yours sincere.

SNEZHANA KRUMOVA COORDINATION OF E-PROTECT II PROJECT LAW AND INTERNET FOUNDATION

LAW AND INTERNET FOUNDATION





5.2. Portugal

CESIS

De: CESIS <cesis.geral@cesis.org>

Enviado: segunda-feira, 11 de outubro de 2021 20:43

Para: 'sofia.galvao@crl.oa.pt'

Assunto: Correção data - Convite para participação em reunião bilateral Itália e Portugal

Exma. Senhora Dra. Sofia Galvão,

Por lapso no email anterior, referimos uma data incorreta, a data correta do evento é 28 de Outubro.

Com os melhores cumprimentos.

Exma. Senhora Dra. Sofia Galvão,

O CESIS – Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social tem o prazer de a convidar para uma reunião bilateral entre profissionais de Itália e Portugal na qual se pretende refletir sobre a implementação da Directiva 29/2012/EU em ambos os países, a partir de uma perspetiva centrada nos direitos da criança.

Esta reunião tem lugar no âmbito do projeto europeu E-PROTECT II, promovido pela Defence for Children International – Itália. Para além de uma troca de experiências, pretende-se divulgar uma Metodologia de Avaliação Individual, concebida no contexto do projeto, que tem por base as necessidades e direitos de crianças vítimas de crimes.

A equipa da DCI far-se-á acompanhar por uma especialista em direitos das crianças, de modo a proporcionar o debate ainda mais estimulante, e por um representante do Ministério da Justiça o que contribuirá, certamente, para uma mais fácil e profícua troca de experiências e práticas.

A reunião terá lugar no Hotel Zenit – Avenida 5 de Outubro 11, 1050-047 Lisboa – no próximo dia <u>28 de Outubro</u>, entre as 09.30 e as 16.30. Todas as pessoas participantes estão convidadas para almoço.

De notar que os necessários cuidados de segurança serão acionados, pelo que pedimos, desde já, o uso de máscara durante a reunião. Na sessão será utilizado o inglês como língua principal podendo, em caso de necessidade, recorrer-se ao apoio de uma pessoa para interpretação de/para inglês - português.

Contamos com a sua valiosa participação que em muito contribuirá para a uma maior e mais sólida aprendizagem e, como tal, para a qualidade desta sessão de trabalho que reputamos de grande interesse.

Ficamos, pois, a aguardar a confirmação da sua presença até ao próximo dia 18 de outubro, para o seguinte endereço de email: cesis.geral@cesis.org

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5.3. Hungary

Dear Sir/Madam,

The South-East European Research Center (SEERC) is the research Center of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus, situated in Thessaloniki, Greece and has been actively involved in several activities regarding innovation, research and education in the area of South-East Europe. As an implementing partner of the projects E-PROTECT I and E-PROTECT II funded by the EU Justice Programme, SEERC's mission is to contribute, through research, capacity building and networking activities, to the reinforcement of the protection of child victims of crime at national and EU level. The project investigated the transposition of the Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime in a wide number of Member States, developed an individual needs assessment procedure for child victims and focuses on strengthening multiagency and interdisciplinary cooperation of competent authorities in child protection beyond national borders. You may find more information about the project at our website, www.childprotect.eu.

In this framework, every partner is planning twinning visits in other EU States with the objective to exchange ideas and identify promising practices and challenges with state and non-state actors; to discuss the individual needs assessment and how it applies in different settings; to learn from the implementation of the Barnahus model in other EU Member States; and to strengthen cross-border collaboration in the field of child-friendly justice.

As SEERC, we are planning a 2-day twinning visit in Hungary on November 29-30, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes Hungary. Our team consists of six members with different professional backgrounds (social workers, psychologists, lawyers), two of whom are working on the newly founded Barnahus in Greece, in order to provide a holistic view of the situation in Greece and to engage in a fruitful dialogue in the visiting country.

Thus, we would like to kindly request your permission to visit the premises of the Hearing and Therapy Methodological Center of the National Child Protection Service on November 30 and discuss about the operation of the hearing center and generally about child protection in Hungary.

We firmly believe that this would be a mutually beneficial experience and serve as a starting point for a stronger cooperation between twinning authorities and other child protection actors in Hungary and Greece.

5.4. Sweden

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Romanian Center for European Policies, as one of the partners of the E-PROTECT project, regarding the possibility of scheduling a face-to-face meeting during the following period: 4^{th} of May -6^{th} of May at a location of your choice.

The E-PROTECT project is implemented by four organisations from four EU Member States – Bulgaria, Italy, Greece and Romania, since 2018. The partnership was brought together to build the perfect profile,





tailored to answer the need to research and compare the level of protection provided to child victims of crime, as well as to elaborate a child victims of crime individual needs assessment methodology on the basis of European best practices and effectively working methods. E-PROTECT has been also dedicated until now to raise the overall awareness on child rights, granted by Directive 2012/29/EU and to inspire a cooperation among the large variety of professionals which deal with child victims of crime and often are their first point of contact.

From 2020 to 2022, the E-PROTECT partners are rolling out a series of events at national, bilateral and European levels to promote a child rights-based approach to the individual assessment of child victims of crime. In a partnership learning exercise, this series of webinars and meetings engage officials and professionals providing services for child victims of crime in law enforcement and the judiciary, social welfare and child protection, health care and education services and other relevant fields.

One of the activities of the project for partners is to organize a twinning visit in one of the EU countries with the purpose of exchanging ideas and experiences in the field of child protection. To this end, we have chosen Sweden as it will provide a best practice in terms of how the child protection services work in this country and how different activities/projects/instruments have been successfully implemented and used by different NGOs and public authorities. As mentioned at the beginning of the email, I have organized a trip in Stockholm during the period $4^{th} - 6^{th}$ of May, with the idea of scheduling as many meetings we can with relevant stakeholders in the field. I am attending this trip, as project manager of the E-PROTECT project, together with one representative from the National Authority for the Protection of Children in Romania.

At such, we would kindly appreciate scheduling together a short meeting (for an hour or two) in one of the days mentioned beforehand (at any hour), during which we could share more about our E-PROTECT project (including two of our main deliverables – The Individual Assessment Methodology and the gamification) and you could also share with us the work you have done in last years in this field. The national representatives from Romania will also kindly present the work that our national authority does in this field.

I hope your agenda will allow you schedule a face-to-face meeting with us, and I remain at your disposal for any other details you might need regarding the meeting.

Kind regards,

6. List of participants (signed) or online platform report of participants

6.1. Albania





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Twinning Visit under E-PROTECT II List of participants

14th September 2021, Tirana, Albania

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Twinning Visit under E-PROTECT II List of participants

14th September 2021, Tirana, Albania

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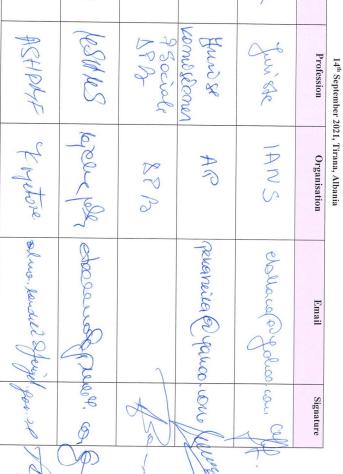
Name

Surname

List of participants

Twinning Visit under E-PROTECT II

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Twinning Visit under E-PROTECT II List of participants

14th September 2021, Tirana, Albania

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6.2. Portugal















TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE

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27 October 2021

27 October 2021	
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27 October 2021

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GABRIAU GALLI	PIASO ITALIA	Molly
CATERINA PARODI	DCI ITALIA	(P.
GHANUERA TUMAGAO	bulous	

Carmen Rasquete T,+3512135E7505 E,+351218E7635

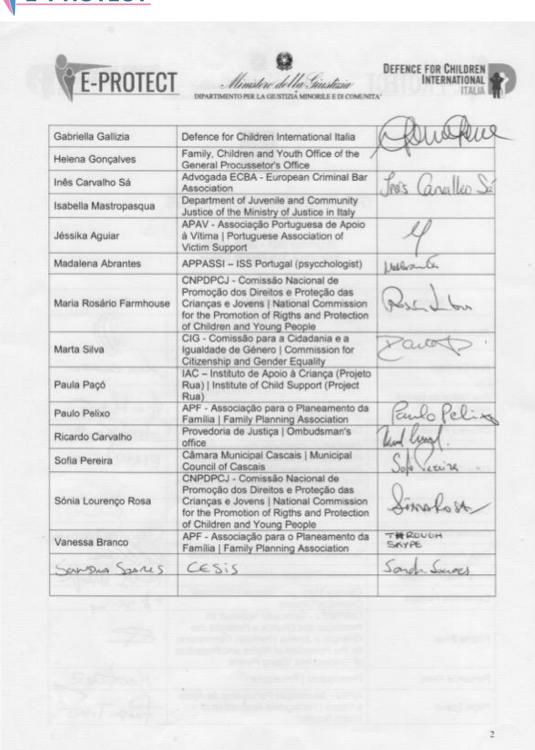
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6.3. Hungary

Day 1

Országos	Gyermekvédelmi Szakszolgálat	
Meghalloat	ó és Terápias Szolgálatfeilesztési Os	

Meghallgató és Terápiás Szolgálatfejlesztési Osztál

1121 Budapest Kalóz út 6. E-mail: meghallgato@ogysz.hu honlap: www.ogysz.hu

Jelenléti ív /Attendance sheet

Gyermekbántalmazás, gyermekkereskedelem – kerekasztal beszélgetés Child abuse, child trafficking – roundtable discussion

2021. 11. 29. /29.11.2021

Név/Name	Intézmény/Institution	Aláírás/Signature
1. Weneth-Almasi Judi	Terre des homes	Went Den hr
2. Deanne van Rensburg	tite	Å .
3. Ana Bozarica 4. Sefaleskin	ELTE	Afrioric
5. Marcos de Barros	LIC I	SHE '
6. Panagera Kanellapulou	Terre des hommes Hellas	John skilling and
Moundly Eu	House of and-GR	
8. Fotis Tegos	//	910
9. Alkete Shislar 10. Mah Katalin	Terre des homenes	Thuy
11. MATTAS MAIRTON	0647 - Fdvalrasi Teggos	Jahren
12. FARKAS EITTER	06487	Timatin
13. LEHEL BALOTS	TERME MES HOTIFUS (TOH)	6 halla lin
14. Stella Karapa	South-East European Resease	de Certre Thorn
15. Fave Ververidou 16. raphecus NK+00in	South-Fast Furopean Deseard	
17. KLANICZAY ANNA	007h	Sebap in I
18.	(toluma's - interpreter)	lest
19.		

Day 2





Name	Job/Affiliation	Way of attendance
Balazs Lehel	Head of Regional Terre des Hommes office	Physical presence
Alketa Lasku	Regional child protection advisor	Physical presence
Mariama Diallo	Access to Justice Programme, Regional	Online presence
Marcos de Barros	Justice project manager	Physical presence
Judith Nemeth-Almasi	Deputy Head of Regional Terre des Hommes	Physical presence
Lili Olah	SOS Children Villages	Physical presence
Marta Bene	Child protection project manager	Online presence
	FOCUS Regional Project Coordinator, Access	
Orinda GJONI	to Justice	Online presence
Faye Ververidou	Research associate/Lawyer	Physical presence
Stella Karapa	Forensic Psychologist/Child Psychologist	Physical presence
Evi Manola	Psychologist, Children's House	Physical presence
Fotis Tegos	Social worker, Children's House	Physical presence
Marianna Kolovou	Manager of 'House of ARSIS'	Online presence
	Terre des Hommes Hungary, Access to	
Zsuzsanna Vegh	Justice project manager	Online presence

6.4. Sweden





E-PROTECT II TWINNING VISIT SWEDEN 10-12th of May, 2022

No	NAME	INSTITUTION/POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
		11TH (DF MAY	
	AMANDA GOLERT	KIDPOWER SWEDEN/KIDPOWER INTERNATIONAL	AMANDA@KIDPOWER.ORG	4-5-M
	MIRELA FRANCIUC	HUTORITATES NOTIONALLY PEN HOUTERTH DRESTLANGUE COMMU	Ten . mirrela francisco gaupaca ro	Def.
		4, 200,70		





7. PowerPoint presentations

7.1. Portugal

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f0uyRW7wzSrzuiTVsqOFdrTcgT6NcGUV?usp=sharing

7.2. Albania

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ysn8ldEzFJTO_u2aJp414Gq0QUOagXpV?usp=sharing

7.3. Sweden

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZBBPSUUCpxRyZJ6y-NhZnEnxD9PCJoYq/view

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Elp_YzeP_KMUT2L_vvpmNbkLgQlSeKmQ/edit#slide=id.p1

7.4. Hungary

Not applicable as no PPTs have been used.



8. Pictures

Here under some pictures from the Twinning visits in Albania, Portugal and Sweden. The pictures taken in Hungary cannot be shown because they are confidential.

8.1. Albania























8.2. Portugal

3.3.Pictures

27 October 2021 - Field Visits



Visit to APASSI - Portuguese Association for the International Social Service



Visit to the Judiciary Police Headquarters



Adult Interview Room - Judiciary Police



Room to record the interview with children - Judiciary Police



Child-Friendly Interview Room - Judiciary Police



Child-Friendly Interview Room - Judiciary Police







Visit to APAV - Portuguese Victim Support Association



Adult victims blue interview room in APAV



Adult victims yellow interview room in APAV



Child Victims Interview Room in APAV



Visit to the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and Protection of Children and Young People



Italian Delegation





28 October 2021 - Transnational Exchange and Round Table



Registration of participants



View of the Room in Hotel Zenit



Introduction of the meeting



Overview of the room



Marta Silva - Comission for Equality and Citizenship



Ana Cardoso and Daja Wenke - moderators of the roundtable





8.3. Sweden



8.4. Hungary

Not avaiable as the local partners did not consent photos to be taken and shared later on.



9. Translated IAM

9.1. Portugal

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J9eVMZt3WoJ28WsqsH3zb5MBI6dD6eGl/view?usp=sharing

9.2. Albania

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4nbehSt PNkZ31kF22FALX3NeKMwuau/view

9.3. Hungary

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x4WtEj3lFhFCwzM4G8vi4eqbsxZeJkNC/view?usp=sharing

9.4. Sweden

Not applicable as the majority of the persons are fluent in English language and it was not deemed necessary.

10. Any other documentation as applicable

10.1. Albania

Photo consent form in Albanian language was provided to participants.









Scan me!

The feedback form was an online form. The QR code to be scanned is available above.

10.2. Portugal

Link to the evaluation form: https://forms.gle/oBPBntJ3jjarsLLP7