

Sini Stolt

18.08.2023

Ulkoministeriö, Ihmisoikeustuomioistuin- ja -sopimusasioiden yksikkö
Helinä Heikkinen
Satu Sistonen

Viite: Lasten suojelemista seksuaalista riistoa ja seksuaalista hyväksikäyttöä vastaan tehdyn yleissopimuksen (SopS 87 ja 88/2011) täytäntöönpanoa valvovan sopijapuolten komitean (Lanzarote-komitean) kolmannen valvontakierroksen kysely/Ulkoministeriö VN/19561/2023 VN/19561/2023-UM-2

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse Questionnaire “Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks”

The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) expresses its gratitude for the opportunity to provide an opinion on the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, in the context of Protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks. We have responded in particular to questions concerning our scope of action and responsibilities. The answers to individual questions are indicated in brackets. As requested, we have included here our responses to the CDEF questionnaire on the implementation and development of Barnahus-type services in Council of Europe member states. Responses to the survey were provided in late 2022 and can be found in Annex 1.

Q1.-3. A new legislation on sexual offences came into effect in Finland on 1 January 2023 (Criminal Code, Chapter 20). Compared to earlier legislation, the amended legislation classifies sexual offences against children as more serious offences, and the punishments are more severe when children are involved. Sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 16 is now a rape of a child, whereas previously it was an abuse offence. Further, if a person who has sexual intercourse with a child who has reached the age of 16 years but not the age of 18 years shall also be sentenced for rape of a child if the perpetrator is the child's parent or in a position comparable to that of a parent. It is a crime for a person taking advantage of his or her position of authority or supervision in a school, an institution, an employment relationship, free time activities or similar. The protection of children over 16 but under 18 years of age has further improved through the new legislation.

Q3. The Barnahus project has published a handbook on child-friendly preliminary investigation 2022¹. The manual has been disseminated to police officers, prosecutors, forensic psychologists and Barnahus project staff investigating child offences.

Q6. THL has many tasks related to the national violence prevention work. A competence cluster for violence prevention work at THL is responsible for national support for the development of anti-violence activities assigned to the regional and municipal level and for supporting the implementation of international obligations to combat violence. THL also gives recommendations, guidelines, tools, and training on violence prevention to operators in the field. THL has coordinated the national Barnahus project since 2019. The Barnahus project aims to improve the processes for

¹ Lehtinen M & Rossi M (eds) *Handbook for the investigation of violence and sexual offences against children*
<https://poliisi.fi/documents/25235045/33939256/K%C3%A4sikirja-lapsiin-kohdistuvien-v%C3%A4kivalta-ja-seksuaalirikosten-tutkintaan-web.pdf/01b971f6-8ebb-eb54-dd97-6c1663d616b3/K%C3%A4sikirja-lapsiin-kohdistuvien-v%C3%A4kivalta-ja-seksuaalirikosten-tutkintaan-web.pdf?t=1642679496880>

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investigating allegations of violence against children and providing support and care for children who have experienced violence. The project will run until the end of 2025². In 2022, we responded to the Council of Europe mapping questionnaire regarding the Barnahus-model, the answers to which are presented in Annex 1.

Q7. In Barnahus, the police, prosecution, social services, and health care work together in a multidisciplinary way. To ensure continuity and to clarify multidisciplinary cooperation, Finland needs to reform its law governing the organization of the Barnahus-units³. In 2021 a study (Heikkilä, M & Rantaeskola S. 2022) was carried out on the current state of child welfare in Finland in criminal and child protection cases. Further, the study analyzed what kind of legislative changes are needed in practice to implement child guardianship. These needs were formulated into legislative proposals to start a debate on how to develop the regulation in a way that ensures the rights of the child. The results also showed need of development of national quality criteria for the supervision of children in criminal and child protection cases, as well as guidelines on good practice in the field of child protection to ensure that the best interests of the child are considered. The analysis of the material in the report showed that the rights of the child are currently not sufficiently implemented in the guardianship of children in criminal and child protection cases, as the child's own guardians cannot, for various reasons, ensure the implementation of the child's rights in the matter concerning the child⁴.

Child protection act §29: The social worker or other child welfare worker is entitled to see the child where necessary, even without the consent of the custodian, if this is considered to be in the child's interests in view of the child's age or development, or the child's circumstances in some other respect. The reasons for seeing the child against the wishes of the custodian must be entered in the documents concerning the child. The custodian must be notified of this access to the child, unless this would clearly not be in the child's interests.

Q8-9. The law does not provide for the removal of parental rights, either as a temporary protective measure or permanently on the basis of a conviction of a parent, even if the offence was committed against the child. In the case of a child in care, the child protection authorities have the right to decide on the child's whereabouts, care, education, supervision and other care, and, under the conditions laid down by law, to restrict contact between the child and the parent. During custody, custody and access to the child may otherwise be agreed between the parents, or the court may decide on custody and access to the child. There are no different provisions in the legislation depending on the nature of the offence committed against the child. If the guardian is considered to be unable to represent the child, a guardian may be appointed to represent the child in the matter concerning the person of the guardian. For example, the incapacity arises if the guardian is suspected of having committed an offence against the child.

² www.barnahus.fi

³ Law governing the organization of the Barnahus-units <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2021/20210612>

⁴ This report is available at: <https://barnahus.fi/esitutkinta/suunnitelma-lapsen-edunvalvonnan-kehittamisesta-valtakunnallisesti-rikosasioissa-ja-lastensuojeluasioissa/>

Child Protection Act: <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2007/20070417>

Law on Preliminary Investigations: <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2011/20110805>

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Child Welfare Act, Section 49⁵: Substitute care of a child means arranging the care and upbringing outside the home of a child who has been taken into care, placed urgently or placed under a temporary order as referred to in Section 83 of the Act. Child Welfare Act, Section 45(1) and (2): When a child is taken into care, the welfare area has the right to decide on the child's whereabouts, care, education, supervision and other care and the education and health care necessary to achieve the purpose of taking the child into care (8.7.2022/610) [HE 56/2021] [HE 18/2022].

The official designated under section 13(2) and (3) or the social worker referred to in section 13(1) or the director of the institution shall decide on the restriction of contact between the child in care and his or her parents and other persons close to the child as provided for in sections 62 and 63. (12.2.2010/88) [HE 225/2009]. Child Protection Act Section 83(1)(1): When a case concerning the taking into custody or foster care of a child is pending before an administrative court or the Supreme Administrative Court, the court hearing the case may, on its own motion or at the request of the child or his or her parents or guardian, issue a temporary order as to the whereabouts of the child and how the care and upbringing of the child is to be organised during the court proceedings. The order may be made without the parties being heard if the case cannot be delayed.

Child Welfare Act, Section 46(1)(1): During custody, the parents may agree on the custody and visiting rights of the child. The confirmation of the agreement is provided for in the Act on Custody and Access to Children. During custody, the general court may decide on the custody and right of access or guardianship of the child in accordance with the provisions of the said Act or the Act on Guardianship. (8.2.2019/200) [HE 88/2018]

Act on Custody and Right of Access to a Child, Section⁶ 5c(1)(1): A guardian may be appointed to represent the child instead of the guardian in matters concerning the child's person if: 1) the guardian is prevented from representing the child due to incapacity, illness or any other reason; and 2) the appointment of a guardian is necessary to clarify the matter or otherwise safeguard the child's best interests.

Act on Custody and Right of Access to a Child § 5b: A guardian may not represent a child in a case against him or her, someone he or she represents or another guardian of the child. Nor may a guardian represent a child if the interests of the guardian and the child might otherwise be in conflict.

Q12. The Barnahus project has trained professionals in psychosocial support methods to help children and young people who have experienced potentially traumatic events. The BH project has trained 110 professionals in TF-KKT method 5 counsellors and 2 trainers are starting their training and 20 professionals in the CFTSI method. In addition, the Barnahus project has produced material and online training on the different themes for public access a website⁷. The site has a dedicated section for those close to the child or young person. Child Protection Act §4: When assessing the interests of the child, consideration must be given to the extent to which the alternative measures and solutions safeguard the following for the child: 1) balanced development and wellbeing, and close and continuing human relationships; 2) the opportunity to be given understanding and affection, as well as supervision and care that accord with the child's age and level of development; 3) an education consistent with the child's abilities and wishes; 4) a safe environment in which to grow up, and physical and emotional freedom; 5) a sense of responsibility in becoming independent and

⁵ Child Welfare Act <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2007/20070417#>

⁶ Act on Custody and Right of Access to a Child <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2019/20190190>

⁷ <https://barnahus.fi/psykkinen-tuki/>

growing up; 6) the opportunity to become involved in matters affecting the child and to influence them; and 7) the need to take account of the child's linguistic, cultural and religious background.

Child Protection Act §4: When assessing the interests of the child, consideration must be given to the extent to which the alternative measures and solutions safeguard the following for the child: 1) balanced development and wellbeing, and close and continuing human relationships; 2) the opportunity to be given understanding and affection, as well as supervision and care that accord with the child's age and level of development; 3) an education consistent with the child's abilities and wishes; 4) a safe environment in which to grow up, and physical and emotional freedom; 5) a sense of responsibility in becoming independent and growing up; 6) the opportunity to become involved in matters affecting the child and to influence them; and 7) the need to take account of the child's linguistic, cultural and religious background.

Q15. Article 1a of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the appointment of a legal adviser for children in cases of sexual offences, offences of intimate violence and offences against health or freedom. This means, for example, that a lawyer can be appointed as a legal adviser and his or her office will be remunerated from state funds. The defendant is obliged to pay the fee back to the state if convicted⁸. In the summer and autumn of 2021, a study was carried out (Heikkilä, M & Rantaeskola S. 2022) on the current state of child guardianship in criminal and child protection cases in Finland. Further, the study analyzed what kind of legislative changes are needed in practice to implement child guardianship. These needs were formulated into legislative proposals to start a debate on how to develop the regulation in a way that ensures the rights of the child. The study also resulted in the development of national quality criteria for the supervision of children in criminal and child protection cases, as well as guidelines on good practice in the field of child protection to ensure that the best interests of the child are considered. The analysis of the material in the report showed that the rights of the child are currently not sufficiently implemented in the guardianship of children in criminal and child protection cases, as the child's own guardians cannot, for various reasons, ensure the implementation of the child's rights in the matter concerning the child⁹.

Q17. Police officers specialising in child crime investigations have their own specialised training. In Child and Adolescent forensic psychology and forensic psychiatry units (Barnahus-type units) , interviews with children and young people are carried out at the request of the police. The purpose of the interviews is to help children to report their experiences as independently and accurately as possible. The interviews are prepared by adapting a research-based interview framework (NICHD) on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual needs of the child and the pre-case information. The interviews with the child will explore the suspicion of violence against the child in a broad context and may be conducted in one or more interviews. The aim is to minimize the number of interviews needed. The interview of children and young people is part of both the preliminary investigation and the trial, as children under 15 and in some situations under 18 do not testify in court in Finland, but their testimony is heard in the form of a recording of the interview at the trial. Interviewing children and young people in legal proceedings requires that they have sufficient language skills. The child's individual capacities are assessed by a multi-professional team before and during the interview. During interviews with children, the services also assess the child's need for support and care. Where necessary, interpreters are used during the interview and the use of specialised legal interpreters is recommended. The Barnahus project has trained registered court

⁸ Act on Criminal Procedure <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/1997/19970689>

⁹ This report is available at: <https://barnahus.fi/esitutkinta/suunnitelma-lapsen-edunvalvonnan-kehittamisesta-valtakunnallisesti-rikosasioissa-ja-lastensuojeluasioissa/>

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interpreters for criminal cases involving children, in cooperation with the Police Board. This specialised training has been completed by 62 registered court interpreters. Child Protection Act §26: Once proceedings are initiated in a child welfare case, the social worker or other child welfare worker must assess immediately the child's possible urgent need for child welfare.

Q18. Please see annex 1.

Q19a. The place of the interview is not strictly regulated, but it has to be suitable for interviewing children and there has to be adequate video-recording equipment (Police Guidance, 2019)¹⁰. The most vulnerable victims are interviewed within Barnahus-type units, and the rest by the police, although not always in the police station (occasionally family centers, schools or kindergarten premises are used, with portable video-recording equipment). A recent report by Lilja and Hiilloskivi (2022)¹¹ points out that even though many police stations have premises designed for interviewing children, in practice not every police station is well suited for children.

Q19b. Special one-year training (with case supervision) in investigating crimes against children is a permanent part of the continuing education offering of the Police University College. The Criminal Investigation Act¹² (Chapter 4, Section 7) states that: 'To the extent possible, investigation actions directed at persons under the age of 18 years shall be assigned to investigators particularly trained in this function'. Although no precise numbers exist, the vast majority of interviews of children and young people are conducted by police officers with this special training. Similarly, according to the Barnahus quality standards (Barnahus Quality Standards, 2017¹³), which Finland is committed to implementing, the interview of a child should be conducted by a specially trained professional using an evidence-based interview method. Thus, all Barnahus-type units in Finland utilize psychologist who have experience in forensic and developmental psychology. In addition, new psychologists entering the Barnahus-type unit work force complete the above mentioned training offered by the Police University College.

Q19c. National legal framework currently does not explicitly state this, although in practice the training of the interviewers emphasizes these aspects (e.g. short interviews for younger children, only minimum necessary number of interviews shall be conducted). From 1.10.2023 onwards, the law governing the pretrial investigations and court processes in criminal cases will change, in order to improve the position of child victims in criminal proceedings. An urgent preliminary investigation must be carried out if the victim is under 18 and the suspected offence is a sexual offence or a crime against the victim's life, health, freedom, privacy, or honour. The decision to prosecute must also be taken as a matter of urgency. The main hearing before the court must begin within 30 days of the case being brought.

Q19e. National legal framework does not stipulate this, but Finland implements the The Victim Directive (Articles 23 and 24) which stipulates that all interviews should be conducted by the same persons.

Q19f. As stated in Hannonen (2023)¹⁴: "the prerequisite for using recorded interviews as evidence is that the suspect is given a chance to ask questions from the victim (OK 17:24). The suspect's right to

¹⁰ Poliisihallituksen ohje 2019: *Lapsi poliisitoiminnassa ja esitutkinnassa*. POL-2019-34669

¹¹ <https://www.edilex.fi/oikeus/1000550007>

¹² *The Criminal Investigation act* **Esitutkintalaki tark viitteet**

¹³ <https://www.barnahus.eu/en/the-barnahus-quality-standards/>

¹⁴ Hannonen (2023) https://www.kicj.re.kr/board.es?mid=a20205010400&bid=0034&act=view&list_no=13507&nPage=

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cross-examination is further stipulated in the Criminal Investigation Act¹⁵ (ETL 9:4). According to the Police Handbook¹⁶ (2022, p. 87), the suspect should be provided with a lawyer to properly comprehend the meaning of cross-examination and counter possible claims for infringements of the suspect's procedural rights.”

Q20. Please look answer Q17.

Pääjohtaja

Markku Tervahauta

Johtaja

Anneli Pouta

¹⁵ *Criminal Investigation Act* lisää tähän viite

¹⁶ Police handbook Lisää tähän viite

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Annex 1



Building a Europe
for and with children
Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants

PRESIDENCY
OF ICELAND
Council of Europe
11/2022 – 05/2023



PRÉSIDENCE
DE L'ISLANDE
Conseil de l'Europe
11/2022 – 05/2023

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 28 November 2022

Implementation and development of Barnahus model in Europe: Mapping study

Questionnaire

Council of Europe
Children's Rights Division

children@coe.int

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Implementation and development of Barnahus model in Europe: Mapping study

Background

Between September 2022 and May 2023, the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division is conducting a mapping study on the implementation and development of the Barnahus model in different national contexts across Europe. Barnahus (Children's House) is a leading European model first developed in Iceland as a child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response to sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

The aim of this study is to consolidate the knowledge on the use of the Barnahus model or "Barnahus-type services" in different countries, to have an overview of the availability of such structures across Council of Europe member States and better understand their functioning, success factors as well as obstacles in their implementation. The study also ultimately aims at strengthening and developing further action at pan-European level to promote the Barnahus model across Europe, notably by facilitating relevant international exchanges as well as contributing to the definition and dissemination of the highest standards regarding this promising practice of child-friendly justice.

This initiative falls under **Priority 4 of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), "Child-friendly justice for all children"**, under which the Barnahus model "will continue to be promoted, upon the request of member States, in partnership with other organisations, including through co-operation projects, to ensure that the best interests of the child are upheld in investigations and criminal proceedings, and to provide support for child victims and witnesses of sexual and other forms of violence in a child-friendly and safe environment".

The **mapping study builds on international and Council of Europe standards**, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5, 1950), and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention, CETS No. 201, 2007). The Lanzarote Convention is the most ambitious and comprehensive legal instrument on the protection of children against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation to date. The emphasis on child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration is a common theme throughout the Convention, including those covering coordination (Article 10); investigation (Articles 30; 31; 34); interviews with the child (Article 35); protected measures and assistance to victims (Articles 11; 14; 31).

There is **growing international recognition of the paramount importance of child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) services** being made available for child victims and witnesses of violence. In its 2015 implementation report, the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention identified the Icelandic Barnahus model as a good practice example for a child-friendly MDIA response. The EU Directives on Victim's Rights (2012/29/EU) and Child Sexual Abuse (2011/93/EU) set out comparable standards for the member States of the European Union.

In addition to legally binding standards, the mapping study is guided by policy instruments adopted by the Committee of Ministers, notably

- Council of Europe Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence (Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10)
- Committee of Ministers Guidelines on child-friendly justice (2010)
- Recommendation Rec(2011)12 on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families
- Committee of Ministers Guidelines on child-friendly health care (2011)

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- Recommendation Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18.

In view of these developments, the attention to the rights of the child and procedural safeguards in criminal investigations and proceedings involving child victims and witnesses of crime is growing. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) is making reference in its case law to Council of Europe standards, including legally binding Conventions and other policy instruments. On several occasions, the Court has held member States accountable to their framework duties and investigative duties in accordance with these standards.¹⁷

The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), at its 6th plenary meeting, has been invited to take note of the study and to support it to the greatest extent possible by providing any relevant information about national policies and practice in this area in response to this survey. All CDENF delegations will also benefit of receiving the final report in order to get an overview of the use of the Barnahus model across Europe and access information on relevant structures in other countries.

Key terms and definitions

The questionnaire uses the following key terms:

- a. “*Child*” refers to any person under 18 years of age, in accordance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1.
- b. “*Violence*” against children refers to all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, in accordance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19.
- c. “*Barnahus*” refers to a public institution or entity where multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence collaborate in the same safe and child-friendly premises to coordinate parallel criminal and child protection investigations. Barnahus provides a coordinated and effective response to the child, preventing secondary victimisation and re-traumatisation during investigations and proceedings, while ensuring full respect of principles of due process. The central aim is to gather evidence of high probative value through forensic interviewing and examination of the child. The child also receives support and assistance, including medical and therapeutic evaluation and treatment, or is referred to appropriate follow-up support and assistance.¹⁸
- d. “*Barnahus-type services*” refers to a diversity of multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of crime that combine some, but not all, of the typical features and services of Barnahus. Barnahus-type services may be public, private or based on public-private cooperation. At a minimum, they provide a safe and child-friendly environment for forensic interviewing of children and aim at coordinating parallel criminal and child protection investigations. Barnahus-type services may not ensure respect for principles of due process during the forensic interview of the child, requiring the child to repeat his or her statement in court. Barnahus-type services may not provide the full range of services offered by Barnahus, in relation to child protection, criminal investigation, medical and therapeutic evaluation and treatment.

¹⁷ See for instance: X. and others v. Bulgaria, Application No. 22457/16, 2 February 2021; R.B. v. Estonia, Application No. 22597/16, 22 June 2021.

¹⁸ Council of Europe, *Protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, Child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response inspired by the Barnahus model*, Building a Europe for and with Children, undated, p. 2.

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- e. “*MDIA services*” refers to multidisciplinary and interagency services. Multidisciplinary refers to different professional disciplines such as child protection, social services, medical and health care services, child psychology, law enforcement, the judiciary, specialists in forensic interviewing, and other professions relevant to the case. Interagency refers to various state agencies or public entities. State agencies may collaborate with individual experts and private service providers, as appropriate in the local context and the circumstances of the case. MDIA services are typically regulated by national or sub-national legislation, a cooperation agreement or protocol, or a memorandum of understanding, which set out the roles and responsibilities of each actor, how they will work together and with the child and the child’s family.

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QUESTIONNAIRE: MAPPING STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BARNAHUS MODEL ACROSS EUROPE

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this survey, which will support the work of the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division. You are kindly invited to return the completed questionnaire **by 19 of December 2022** to the following address: children@coe.int.

CONTACTS

Please indicate the contact person for this questionnaire:

Country	Finland
Institution/Organisation	National Institute of Health and Welfare
Name and Surname	Taina Laajasalo
Title	Chief Specialist
Email	taina.laajasalo@helsinki.fi
Telephone	+ 358 029 524 7777

If any other institution contributed to preparing this document, please list them below:

Five Barnahus-units plus one satellite located under the University Central Hospitals of Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu and Kuopio.

HOW TO FILL IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Barnahus and Barnahus-type services or other MDIA services:

Please note that Part 1 of the questionnaire is directed at member States having Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in place, whereas Part 2 is for member States where such services are currently not in place. We would ask you to make a self-assessment of the services in place in your country, based on the definitions proposed above. If this self-assessment leads you to conclude that

- Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are in place in your country, kindly proceed to complete Part 1 of the survey.
- Other MDIA services are in place in your country, kindly proceed to complete Part 2 of the survey.
- If Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are being developed in your country, please complete Part 1 if the new service is already operational, and Part 2 if it is not yet operational. Please feel free to share further information on the development process by e-mail.

Tips for completing the survey:

- Most questions provide you with a choice of answers to click on.
- You can add comments to some questions; this is optional, i.e. you can use the comment line without feeling obliged to do so.
- Please feel free to complement your responses to the questionnaire by sharing further information, as well as any relevant reports and supporting documents, by email (children@coe.int).

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DECLARATION OF CONSENT

In my capacity as the contact person for replies provided to the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division, I understand that any data, information or assessment, including personal data or confidential information, that I supply to the above survey will be exclusively used by the Council of Europe in the framework of the mapping study on the implementation and development of the Barnahus model across Europe. I agree to this use being made of any information provided. I understand that, after the analysis of responses by the Council of Europe Secretariat (Children's Rights Division/DGII) and any mandated expert, the original replies provided, containing the above personal data, would be deleted by the same Secretariat by 31 July 2024 at the latest.

By ticking the box below, I formally consent to the use of my personal data and any other information I supply as described above. If I submit personal data or confidential information of another person, I confirm that I have obtained the authorisation from that person to do so.

x I agree

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Survey

1. Are Barnahus or Barnahus-type services available in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- a. Yes, Barnahus services are available
- b. Yes, Barnahus-type services are available
- c. No, Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are not available but are in the process of being set up
- d. No, Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are not available but the government is interested in setting them up
- e. No, Barnahus services or Barnahus-type services have been available but have been discontinued / closed
- f. No, Barnahus services are not available
- g. No information

Comments: We have five Barnahus-units (in Finland these are called, at the moment, Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry/Psychology units). In addition, we have one satellite proper, and are building new satellite services.

If you select 1.a. or 1.b., please kindly proceed with Part 1 (page 8 to 21), otherwise kindly proceed to Part 2 (page 22 to 32).

Part 1: Barnahus and Barnahus-type services

Information on Barnahus or Barnahus-type services

1.1. When was Barnahus or Barnahus-type service first set up in your country?

Year: 2001

No information

Comments: First Barnahus-type unit was launched in Tampere in 2001.

How many Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are currently operating in your country?

If your country has both Barnahus and Barnahus-type services, please provide the number for both options.

Number of Barnahus: 5

Number of Barnahus-type services: 1 satellite proper (Vaasa)

No information

Comments:

1.2. How many Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are in the process of being set up in your country?

If your country is setting up both Barnahus and Barnahus-type services, please provide the number for both options.

Number of Barnahus: -

Number of Barnahus-type services: Satellite type services being built up in 5 regions, these are in various stages

Not applicable

No information

Comments:

1.3. Are Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present throughout the country?

Single response possible

Yes, they serve children throughout the national territory

No, they serve children only in some regions or cities

No, they serve children only in some regions or cities but are in the process of being expanded to serve children throughout the national territory

No, they used to serve children throughout the national territory but have been reduced to some regions or cities

No information

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Comments:

Legal and policy framework**1.4. Please provide information about the law and policy framework relevant for the setting up and operation of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country.***Multiple responses possible*

The establishment and operation of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services is regulated by

- national law (so called "organizational act")
- national policy
- regional or local law
- regional or local policy
- memorandum of understanding or cooperation protocol (Investigation of child sexual abuse. Working group report. Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. 2009).
- other, please specify:
- No information

Please kindly provide the references for above indicated laws, policy documents or agreements, which are available in the public domain: <https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2008/20081009> (unfortunately not available in English)

Comments: Please also see <https://rm.coe.int/barnahus-finland-legal-analysis-report-eng/1680a8b5a5>. This recent legal review explains the national regulatory framework with its pros and cons

1.5. Does the law and policy framework indicated above make reference to international or Council of Europe standards? If so, kindly indicate which ones:*Multiple responses possible*

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5, 1950)
- Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), CETS No. 201, 2007
- Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Guidelines on child-friendly justice (2010)
- Council of Europe Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence (Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10)
- Recommendation Rec(2011)12 on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families
- Committee of Ministers Guidelines on child-friendly health care (2011)
- Recommendation Rec(2012)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18
- Case law of the European Court on Human Rights, please specify:
- Other, please specify:
- No information

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Comments: The current law does make reference to international standards. Working Group report makes a reference to both Lanzarote Convention and CRC (<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/71828/URN%3ANBN%3Afi-fe201504224723.pdf?sequence=1>)

Institutional framework

1.6. Please provide information about the institution(s) that have the lead role in operating Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country.

Multiple responses possible

- Ministry of Interior
- Law enforcement services (police, prosecution services)
- Ministry of Justice
- Judiciary (courts of law)
- Ministry of Health (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland)
- Health care sector (university hospital, clinic, medical centre)
- Ministry of Social Affairs / Family / Children
- Child protection agency at the national, regional or local level
- Regional authority (regional ministry or other)
- Local authority (municipality or other)
- Independent state entity or human rights institution
- Private sector (private service provider, for-profit-organisation, company or other)
- Non-governmental organisation or other civil society actors
- Other, please specify:
- Not applicable
- No information

Comments: Main practical responsibility of lies on University Hospitals. However, a child can only be referred to the units by the police. Also, the direction from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is essential.

Professionals working at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services

1.7. How many professionals are working at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- Number of law enforcement officers: 0
- Number of medical staff: 12
- Number of social workers: 23
- Number of child psychologists: 31
- Number of forensic interviewers (other than professions above):
- Number of management staff: 3
- Number of administrative staff: 7
- Number of other professionals, please specify: 3
- No information

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Comments: Occasionally, law enforcement officers do short rounds (e.g. five weeks) in the Units, but they are not organizationally employed by the units. However, collaboration with the law enforcement officers happens on a daily basis.

1.8. Are the staff employed directly by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services?

Single response possible

- Yes, they are employed by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services
- No, they are employed by their own agency or organisation but are deployed to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services (full-time / part-time)
- No, they are employed by their own agency or organisation but are deployed to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services on an as-needed basis
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

Target group and scope of service provision

1.9. Please describe the target group(s) of Barnahus or Barnahus-type service.

Multiple responses possible

- Child victims of any form of neglect
- Child victims of any form of violence
- Child victims of any criminal offences
- Child victims of sexual offences
- Child victims of trafficking
- Children who are suspected to have experienced violence or criminal offences
- Child witnesses of criminal offences
- Migrant, asylum seeking and refugee children
- Parents of children assisted by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services (non-offending)
- Family members of children assisted by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services, such as siblings, grandparents or others (non-offending)
- Children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings
- Children who display harmful sexual behaviour (without being suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings)
- Children who have committed, or are suspected to have committed, an act of violence who are under the age of criminal responsibility
- Children in the context of parental separation or divorce
- Others, please specify:
- The target group is not specifically defined
- No information

Comments: Nearly all children referred to the units are suspected victims of physical and sexual abuse. All forms of neglect are applicable as well if the neglect is severe enough to warrant a criminal investigation. Occasionally, children who have witnessed severe violence are referred as

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are children who are suspects, but this is rare. A large majority of the children are met in the context of parental separation or divorce, but this also happens in the context of suspected abuse against the child. Migrant, asylum seeking and refugee children are also entitled to services, if they are victims or suspected victims of abuse.

1.10. If two or more Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are operating in your country, do they serve the same target group?

Single response possible

Yes

No, the target groups differ

No information

Comments:

1.11. Please describe the reach of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country: which children are referred to the service?

Multiple responses possible

All children in the target group are guaranteed a referral to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in my country

All children in the target group are guaranteed a referral in my country, on the condition that criminal investigations or proceedings are initiated

All children in the target group are referred if they live in the area of reach of the Barnahus or Barnahus-type service

Deciding upon a child's referral to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services rests within the discretion of specific officials or agencies, please specify: The police investigating the suspected crime

Barnahus or Barnahus-type services includes mobile services that can travel around my country for better reach

The referral of children to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services is regulated at the decentralised level and may differ from place to place

The referral of children to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services is not specifically regulated

No information

Comments:

1.12. Which services are provided at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?

Multiple responses possible

Interview of the child as part of child protection case assessment (including exploratory interview)

Forensic interview or hearing of the child as part of administrative or judicial proceedings

Medical examination(s) of the child (for instance paediatric, gynaecologist, psychiatrist, dentist, others), please specify: In some Barnahus-type services there are offered on the premises, in others the medical examination may be done e.g. in Children's Hospital

Forensic medical examination aimed at securing evidence for administrative or judicial proceedings: In some Barnahus-type services there are offered on the premises

Interagency and multi-disciplinary case conference

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- Assistance services for the child: crisis intervention
- Assistance services for the child: short-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for the child: longer-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: crisis intervention
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: short-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: longer-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Referral to relevant services, please specify: referral to e.g. child psychiatry, family clinics etc
- Prevention services, please specify:
- Short-term accommodation for the child and non-offending family member or support person for the duration of the examinations carried out at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services
- Shelter for the child and non-offending family member or support person (for the duration of examinations carried out at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services and beyond)
- Others, please specify:
- No information

Please specify if these services are provided to all children referred to Barnahus or Barnahus type services, or whether they are offered only under specific circumstances: Services that are offered vary depending on the case. Especially therapeutic services are not offered to all children.

1.13. Do all Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country provide the same set of services?

Single response possible

- Yes, all provide the same set of services
- No, the type of services provided differ between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

Comments: There are minor differences in the availability of therapeutic services and medical examinations (whether these can be provided at the premises or not)

1.14. Is it possible for the child to choose the gender of the professionals conducting the interview, medical or other examinations, as applicable?

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, the child can choose the gender of the person conducting the interview
- No, the child cannot choose the gender of the person carrying out the interview
- Yes, the child can choose the gender of other professionals carrying out medical or therapeutic evaluation or treatment (if applicable)
- No, the child cannot choose the gender of other professionals carrying out medical or therapeutic evaluation or treatment (if applicable)
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country

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Other, please specify: If the child has wishes regarding the gender of the professional, services will try to accommodate, if possible (this is not possible in every instance). Our experience is that the gender of the professional is quite rarely a problem.

No information

Comments:

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1.15. In addition to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services, are other multidisciplinary and interagency services for children in place in your country?

Please select as appropriate and kindly provide information in the comments line.

- Yes, multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in family law proceedings (parental separation and divorce), please specify:
- Yes, multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in care proceedings, please specify:
- Yes, multidisciplinary and interagency services for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, please specify:
- Yes, multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in asylum or immigration proceedings, please specify:
- Other, please specify:
- No other multidisciplinary and interagency services for children are not in place
- No information

Comments: In all the instances described above, multidisciplinary collaboration is a norm, but the collaboration is not as extensive or systematic as in the Barnahus-type services

Child interview**1.16. Which professionals are conducting interviews of children in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?**

Please note that this question refers to the professional sitting in the same room as the child and speaking directly to the child during the interview.

Multiple responses possible

- Professional forensic interviewers employed exclusively for conducting interviews
- Child psychologist
- Social or child protection worker
- Police officer
- Prosecutor
- Judge
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments: Professional forensic interviewers in our Barnahus-type services are forensic psychologists, specialized in child interviewing.

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1.17. Do the professional(s) identified above require a specific training to carry out the interview in a child-friendly manner?*Single response possible*

- Yes, in all cases
- Yes, for certain interviews, please specify:
- No, they are trained as part of general academic or vocational training
- No specific training required
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments: Interviewers have a one-year training

1.18. Do the professionals conducting interviews of children in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country use an evidence-based interviewing protocol? If so, kindly specify which one.*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, the NICHD Protocol is used in every case
- Yes, the NCAC Protocol is used in every case
- Yes, another protocol is used in every case, please specify:
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- The use of an interviewing protocol is not specifically regulated
- No information

Comments:

1.19. Regarding children participating in judicial proceedings as victims or witnesses of criminal offences, at what stage of proceedings are children interviewed at Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?*Multiple responses possible*

- In the case assessment or investigation phase
- In the pre-trial phase
- During court proceedings
- The practice differs from place to place
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

1.20. When is the interview of a child conducted in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country video-recorded?*Multiple responses possible*

- The interview is video-recorded in all cases

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- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of civil proceedings (for instance, child protection cases)
- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of administrative proceedings (for instance, asylum or migration cases)
- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of criminal proceedings
- The interview is never video-recorded
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

1.21. Are video-recorded interviews conducted in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country admitted as evidence in administrative or judicial proceedings?*Multiple responses possible*

- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in civil proceedings
- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in administrative proceedings
- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in criminal proceedings
- The video-recording is not admitted as evidence in administrative or judicial proceedings
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:.

1.22. Are any professionals observing the child interview conducted in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?

Please note that “observing” refers to persons present in another room watching the interview in real time, either from behind a dual mirror or through closed-circuit video-transmission.

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, all interviews are attended by observers (irrespective of whether administrative or judicial proceedings have been initiated or not)
- Yes, interviews are attended by observers in cases of civil proceedings
- Yes, interviews are attended by observers in cases of administrative proceedings
- Yes, interviews are attended by observers in cases of criminal proceedings
- There are no observers of the interview
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

1.23. How are the professionals referred to above observing the interview?*Multiple responses possible*

- From behind a dual mirror

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- Through closed-circuit video-transmission
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

1.24. Which professionals are present to observe the interview?*Multiple responses possible*

- Law enforcement officer
- Prosecutor
- Judge
- Social or child protection worker
- Lawyer of the child
- Guardian of the child (if applicable)
- Parent (non-offending)
- Support person of the child
- Defendant (person suspected or accused in the case)
- Defence lawyer
- Other, please specify:
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

Comments: Above listed (with x) are people, who have a right to be present, but most commonly the observers are Barnahus-unit staff and the police. Presence of prosecutor and CPS worker varies. Others are present seldom.

1.25. Which professionals observing the interview have the possibility to pose questions to the child, through the professional conducting the interview?*Multiple responses possible*

- Law enforcement officer
- Prosecutor
- Judge
- Social or child protection worker
- Lawyer of the child
- Guardian of the child (if applicable)
- Parent (non-offending)
- Support person of the child
- Defendant (person suspected or accused in the case)
- Defence lawyer
- Other, please specify:
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

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Comments: It is decided jointly, with the lead of the law enforcement official, whether the question should or can be presented to the child.

1.26. Are child interviews in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services conducted in full respect of principles of due process, i.e. the judge, prosecutor, defence lawyer and the child's lawyer are present and can pose questions during the interview?

Single response possible

- Yes
- No
- Only in some situations, please specify:
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

Comments: All these people have the right to be present. The defence lawyer (and the defendant) usually watch the video tape after the interview and pose their questions afterwards. The child is then interviewed one more time in the Barnahus-unit by the forensic interviewer and these questions are posed then, and modified if necessary (to respect the rights of all parties).

Coordination of criminal proceedings and child protection

1.27. Does the child interview conducted in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services inform social welfare and child protection measures for the child and family?

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, this is automatically guaranteed in all cases
- Yes, in some situations, please specify:
- No, this is not part of the mandate
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

If yes, please provide some information on how this is done: Relevant information is delivered to CPS workers by the unit (at the same time respecting the requirements of the pre-trial process)

Comments:

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1.28. If during an interview conducted in Barnahus or Barnahus-type services a child discloses violence, neglect or exploitation by a parent or other holder of parental responsibility, are care proceedings automatically initiated?

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, this is automatically guaranteed in all cases
- Yes, in some situations, please specify:
- No, this is not part of the mandate
- This differs between different Barnahus or Barnahus-type services present in the country
- No information

If yes, please provide some information on how this is done:

Comments: The nature of actions that will be taken depend on what the child has disclosed. Also, the credibility of the statement is also assessed (in some instances it must be considered whether the disclosure is a true positive)

Data and statistics

1.29. How many children have Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country assisted over the past years, as applicable?

2019:

- Total number of children assisted: 1156
- Number of boys:
- Number of girls:
- Number of non-binary children:
- Data not available

Comments:

2020:

- Total number of children assisted: 956
- Number of boys:
- Number of girls:
- Number of non-binary children:
- Data not available

Comments:

2021:

- Total number of children assisted: 1220
- Number of boys:

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- Number of girls:
- Number of non-binary children:
- Data not available

Comments:

2022:

- Total number of children assisted: data not available yet
- Number of boys:
- Number of girls:
- Number of non-binary children:
- Data not available

Comments: We were not available to gather collated data on the gender of the children within this timeframe, but the number of girls and boys is roughly equal. In the last few years some non-binary children have been referred and the number seems to be increasing.

1.30. Are data on children assisted by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country disaggregated by age?

Single response possible

- Yes, age-disaggregated data are available
- No, age-disaggregated data are not available

We kindly ask you to send available data for the years 2019-2022 to children@coe.int.

Comments:

1.31. Are data on children assisted by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country disaggregated by forms of violence that children have experienced?

Multiple response possible

- Yes, data are disaggregated according to different forms of violence
- Yes, data are disaggregated according to criminal offences investigated or prosecuted
- Data are disaggregated according to other relevant indicators, please specify:
- No, data disaggregated by forms of violence or criminal offences are not available

We kindly ask you to send available data for the years 2019-2022 to children@coe.int.

Comments: The data is disaggregated by physical/sexual abuse and is indicated below: In the year 2021, 839 suspected physical abuse cases, suspected 381 child sexual abuse cases. In the years 2019, 872 suspected physical abuse cases, 284 suspected CSA cases

1.32. Are data available regarding convictions in cases assisted by Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?

Single response possible

- Yes, data on convictions are available

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x No, data on convictions are not available

We kindly ask you to send available data for the years 2019-2022 to children@coe.int.

Comments:

1.33. Can you indicate the average duration of criminal proceedings carried out with support of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services (from referral to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services to the conviction of the perpetrator (first instance))?

Average duration of proceedings:

Comments: Unfortunately we do not have this data on cases referred to the Barnahus specifically. What we do know, however, is that the delays are long in our country in general, more than two years for a CSA case from reporting to the sentencing. This is pervasive problem.

Budget

1.34. What is the overall budget of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services operating in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- Budget of Barnahus services per year:
 Budget of Barnahus-type services per year: **7 208 678 euros in 2021 (five units plus one satellite in Vaasa)**
 No information

Comments: The figure above does not include the budget for the national Barnahus-project, which aims to develop the services. The budget for the project was 2,8 million in 2021.

Research and evaluation

1.35. Has any of the Barnahus or Barnahus-type services operating in your country been evaluated?

Multiple responses possible

- x Yes
 An evaluation is currently underway
 An evaluation is planned for the year:
 No evaluation done thus far
 No information

Please kindly provide the reference to any evaluation reports available in the public domain or provide such reports via e-mail (children@coe.int). Should those resources not be available in English or French, please kindly provide an English or French translation or summary: Julin, E. 2018. Health services' investigations of violent crimes against children. Report on activities of forensic child psychiatry units in Finland Reports and Memorandums of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 32/2018 Link: <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161021>

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Comments: We recognize the need for further evaluation and national co-ordination and this is one of the important areas to develop in the coming years.

1.36. Has research been conducted on Barnahus or Barnahus-type services operating in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, research by the academia
- Yes, research by an independent institution
- Yes, research by ministries or other state agencies
- Yes, research by civil society organisations or NGOs
- Research is currently underway
- Research is planned for the year:
- No research carried out thus far
- No information

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Please kindly provide the reference to any research reports available in the public domain or provide such reports via e-mail (children@coe.int). Should those resources not be available in English or French, please kindly provide an English or French translation or summary:

Two publications in English 1) https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-58388-4_7
2) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/24732850.2018.1449496>

Comments: In addition to English language publications listed available there are Finnish publications which unfortunately are not available in public domain.

1.37. **Have children been consulted in your country regarding their experiences with Barnahus or Barnahus-type services?**

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, children have been consulted
- Consultations of children are currently underway
- Consultations with children are planned for the year: upcoming years
- No consultations carried out thus far
- No information

Please kindly provide the reference to any consultation reports available in the public domain or provide such reports via e-mail (children@coe.int). Should those resources not be available in English or French, please kindly provide an English or French translation or summary:

Comments:

Challenges and success factors, innovation and learning

1.38. **What were the main difficulties in setting up Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?**

Multiple responses possible

- Organising multidisciplinary and interagency cooperation (MDIA)
- Sharing personal data of the child in the MDIA service
- Understanding the concept of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services
- Law reform to set up the service
- Procedural requirements in criminal proceedings
- Mobilising political support
- Securing budget
- Guaranteeing sustainability of the service
- Finding suitable premises
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

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1.39. Are there any specific challenges that Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country are currently struggling with?

Please kindly provide any examples and information you would like to share in the comment line below or send relevant reports and materials via e-mail (children@coe.int).

Comments: Laws regarding the multiprofessional information exchange need to be clarified to reflect the developing and changing service system. Also, the role of the Barnahus-units in coordinating and delivering crisis interventions and brief therapeutic interventions needs to be clarified.

1.40. Are there any outstanding success factors, innovative aspects or projects in relation to Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country that you would like to bring to the attention of the Barnahus mapping study?

Please kindly provide any examples and information you would like to share in the comment line below or send relevant reports and materials via e-mail (children@coe.int).

Comments: Interview training, which in our experience, this must be intensive, cover multiple topics other than just the NICHD-interview, and must contain supervision and feedback. Also, we have benefited tremendously from the close relationship between the academia and the Barnahus-units.

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Part 2: Other MDIA services for child victims and witnesses of crime in member States

Section to be kindly completed by member States where Barnahus or Barnahus-type services are currently not in place.

Past experiences and future plans regarding Barnahus or Barnahus-type services

2.1. Has a Barnahus or Barnahus-type service been operating in your country, which subsequently was closed or discontinued? If yes, please share the main reasons for it.

Single response possible

- Yes, Barnahus or Barnahus-type services had been set up but were subsequently closed or discontinued
- No, Barnahus or Barnahus-type services have not yet been set up
- No information

Main reasons for closing Barnahus or Barnahus-type services:

Years of operation of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services (from-to):

Comments:

2.2. Are there state or non-state actors advocating for the development of a Barnahus or Barnahus-type service in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- Yes, state actors are advocating for it
- Yes, civil society actors are advocating for it
- Yes, there is a public or political debate on it
- No, there is no advocacy or debate on it
- No information

Comments:

2.3. What would you consider the main incentives for setting up Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?

Multiple responses possible

- More effective prosecution in criminal proceedings involving children as victims and/or witnesses of crime
- More effective implementation of international and Council of Europe standards
- Implementation of EU law (where relevant)
- More effective protection of child victims of violence / criminal offences
- Prevention of violence against children
- A social investment in the best interests of children and society
- Other, please specify:
- No information

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Comments:

2.4. What would you consider the main difficulties or obstacles in developing Barnahus or Barnahus-type services in your country?*Multiple responses possible*

- Organising multidisciplinary and interagency cooperation (MDIA)
- Sharing personal data of the child in the MDIA service
- Understanding the concept of Barnahus or Barnahus-type services
- Law reform to set up the service
- Procedural requirements in criminal proceedings
- Mobilising political support
- Securing sufficient budget
- Guaranteeing sustainability of the service
- Finding suitable premises
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

Child interview**2.5. Which professionals are conducting interviews of child victims or witnesses of violence or criminal offences in your country?**

Please note that this question refers to the professional sitting in the same room as the child and speaking directly to the child.

Multiple responses possible

- Professional forensic interviewers
- Child psychologists
- Social or child protection workers
- Police officers
- Prosecutors
- Judges
- Other, please specify:
- The practice differs from place to place
- No information

Comments:

2.6. Do professionals require a specific training to interview children who are victims or witnesses of violence or criminal offences?*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, in all cases
- Yes, for certain interviews, please specify:
- No, they are trained as part of general academic or vocational training

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- No specific training required
- This differs from place to place
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

2.7. Are child-friendly rooms available for the interview of a child victim or witness?*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, in police stations
- Yes, in courts
- Yes, in the premises of social service providers
- Other, please specify:
- No, specific child-friendly places for conducting interviews of children are not available
- No information

Comments:

2.8. If child-friendly interviewing rooms exist, are they available throughout the country?*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, child-friendly interviewing rooms are available throughout the country
- No, child-friendly interviewing rooms are available only in some cities or regions
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

2.9. Do the professionals conducting interviews of child victims or witnesses in your country use an evidence-based interviewing protocol? If so, kindly specify which one.*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, the NICHD Protocol is used in every case
- Yes, the NCAC Protocol is used in every case
- Yes, another protocol is used in every case, please specify:
- It differs from place to place
- The use of an interviewing protocol is not specifically regulated
- No information

Comments:

2.10. Are interviews of child victims or witnesses of violence or criminal offences video-recorded?*Multiple responses possible*

- The interview is video-recorded in all cases
- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of civil proceedings (for instance, in child protection cases)

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- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of administrative proceedings (for instance, asylum or migration cases)
- The interview is video-recorded if conducted as part of criminal proceedings
- The interview is never video-recorded
- This differs from place to place
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

2.11. Are video-recorded interviews of child victims or witnesses admitted as evidence in administrative or judicial proceedings?*Multiple responses possible*

- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in civil proceedings
- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in administrative proceedings
- The video-recording is admitted as evidence in criminal proceedings
- The video-recording is not admitted as evidence in administrative or judicial proceedings
- This differs from place to place
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

2.12. Regarding children participating in judicial proceedings as victims or witnesses of criminal offences, at what stage of proceedings are children interviewed or heard?*Multiple responses possible*

- In the case assessment or investigation phase
- In the pre-trial phase
- During court proceedings
- The practice differs from place to place
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

Sini Stolt

18.08.2023

2.13. Are any measures in place to reduce the number of interviews of child victims or witnesses of violence or criminal offences?*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, measures have been taken, please specify:
- No, no specific measures have been taken
- This differs from place to place
- No information

Comments:

2.14. Are any measures in place to ensure that children can choose the gender of the person interviewing them?*Multiple responses possible*

- Yes, measures have been taken, please specify:
- No, no specific measures have been taken
- This differs from place to place
- No information

Comments:

Multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) services for child victims and witnesses of crime

2.15. What forms of multidisciplinary and interagency services for children are in place in your country?*Please select as appropriate and kindly provide information in the comments line.*

- Multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses, please specify:
- Multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in family law proceedings (parental separation and divorce), please specify:
- Multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in care proceedings, please specify:
- Multidisciplinary and interagency services for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings), please specify:
- Multidisciplinary and interagency services for children involved in asylum or immigration proceedings, please specify:
- Other, please specify:
- No information

Comments:

Sini Stolt

18.08.2023

Target group and scope of MDIA services

2.16. Please describe the target group(s) of MDIA services in your country

Multiple responses possible

- Child victims of any form of neglect
- Child victims of any form of violence
- Child victims of any criminal offences
- Child victims of sexual offences
- Child victims of trafficking
- Children who are suspected to have experienced violence or criminal offences
- Child witnesses of criminal offences
- Migrant, asylum seeking and refugee children
- Parents of children assisted by MDIA services (non-offending)
- Family members of children assisted by MDIA services, such as siblings, grandparents or others (non-offending)
- Children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings
- Children who display harmful sexual behaviour (without being suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings)
- Children who have committed, or are suspected to have committed, an act of violence who are under the age of criminal responsibility
- Children in the context of parental separation or divorce
- Others, please specify:
- The target group is not specifically defined
- No information

Comments:

2.17. Please describe the reach of MDIA services in your country: which children are referred to the service?

Single response possible

- All children in the target group are guaranteed a referral to the MDIA service in my country
- All children in the target group are guaranteed a referral to the MDIA service in my country, on the condition that criminal investigations or proceedings are initiated
- All children in the target group are referred who live in the area of reach of the MDIA service
- Deciding upon a child's referral to an MDIA service rests within the discretion of specific officials or agencies, please specify:
- MDIA services includes mobile services that can travel around my country for better reach
- The referral of children to an MDIA service is regulated at the decentralised level and may differ from place to place
- The referral of children to MDIA services is not specifically regulated
- No information

Sini Stolt

18.08.2023

Comments:

2.18. Which specific services do MDIA services provide in your country?*Multiple responses possible*

- Interview of the child as part of child protection case assessment (including exploratory interview)
- Forensic interview or hearing of the child as part of administrative or judicial proceedings
- Medical examination(s) of the child (for instance paediatric, gynaecologist, psychiatrist, dentist, others), please specify:
- Forensic medical examination aimed at securing evidence for administrative or judicial proceedings
- Interagency and multi-disciplinary case conference
- Assistance services for the child: crisis intervention
- Assistance services for the child: short-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for the child: longer-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: crisis intervention
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: short-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Assistance services for (non-offending) family members: longer-term psychological support and therapeutic services
- Referral to relevant services, please specify:
- Prevention services, please specify:
- Short-term accommodation for the child and non-offending family member or support person for the duration of the examinations carried out at the MDIA services
- Shelter for the child and non-offending family member or support person (for the duration of examinations carried out at MDIA services and beyond)
- Others, please specify:
- No information

Please specify if these services are provided to all children referred to Barnahus or Barnahus type services, or whether they are offered only under specific circumstances:

SIGNATURES**ALLEKIRJOITUKSET****UNDERSKRIFTER****SIGNATURER****UNDERSKRIFTER**

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Detta dokument innehåller 38 sidor före denna sida

Dokumentet inneholder 38 sider før denne siden

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ställningsfullmakt

autoritet til å signere

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representative

nimenkirjoitusoikeus

firmitteckningsrätt

representant

repræsentant

custodial

huoltaja/edunvalvoja

förvaltare

foresatte/verge

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