



# CBSS EXPERT GROUP ON CHILDREN AT RISK

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY 2023–2024



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The **CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk** consist of senior officials appointed by the ministries responsible for children’s issues in the member countries to the Council of the Baltic Sea States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and Sweden.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the Finnish Presidency, the Expert Group on Children at Risk (EG CAR) worked in close collaboration with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB). The special theme of the work was protecting children from child trafficking and violence, in line with the current Children at Risk Expert group strategic priority to protect children from all forms of violence. The deepened cooperation between these two expert groups was very fruitful. EG CAR decided that this cooperation should continue in some form in the coming years.

The Finnish Presidency hosted three expert group meetings and held an international conference at the end of the presidency. These meetings deepened the understanding about child trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region and the different forms it can take. A report of the best practices for combating trafficking in children and young people in the Baltic Sea countries and for identifying and supporting victims was published.

The Expert Group members also began preliminary discussions on the 2025–2030 Strategy. This is important for two reasons: to ensure that our goals meet the needs of all of our member states and to ensure that the strategy is resourced with a balanced budget. The group expressed the need to continue the dialogue between the member states and the practical cooperation in the form of a few strategic projects.

Participants of the joint Children at Risk Expert Group and TF-THB Expert Group meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland on 30 November 2023.



# FINNISH PRESIDENCY & CHILDREN AT RISK EXPERT GROUP AT A GLANCE

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## Finnish Chair of the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk

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- Ms Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Department for Health and Safety, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

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## CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk Trio

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- Ms Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Department for Health and Safety, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland
- Ms Kadi Lauri, Head of the Child Protection Department, Estonian Social Insurance Board
- Ms Anna Maria Lemcke, Policy Adviser, Children's rights, early prevention, protection of children and youths from sexual violence and exploitation, German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

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## The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk

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The CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk (CAR) consists of 10 Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Norway. Russia was suspended in February 2022 and subsequently withdrew in May 2022.

Authorities in the CBSS member states dealing with children's issues, including Ministries and State Agencies designated to children, have appointed representatives to the Expert Group. The European Commission Coordinator for the Rights of the Child has an open invitation to take part in the meetings and in other expert meetings organised by the Expert Group.

The website of the Expert Group on Children at Risk is: [childrenatrisk.cbss.org](http://childrenatrisk.cbss.org)

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## The Children at Risk Unit at the CBSS Secretariat

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The implementation of the strategy and annual activity plans, approved by the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk, are implemented with the support of the Children at Risk Unit in the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The Children at Risk Unit provides secretarial and professional support to the Expert Group, interfaces with strategic partners, drafts relevant documents and reports, and develops and executes projects.

- Senior Advisor and Head of Unit – Olivia Lind Haldorsson
- Advisor and Promise Network Coordinator – Shawwna von Blixen
- Programme Coordinator- Laura Daoud
- Policy and Research Assistant- Sven Wilson
- Communication Assistant – Natascha Beck Hansen

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

- Head of Media and Communications – Dominik Littfass
- Media and Communications Officer - Ewa Strozniak
- Financial Controller - Mia Skytén

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## Finance

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The Children at Risk Unit operates on a budget which is financed by the member states' contributions. In 2023–24, all Member States contributed to the Children at Risk Unit, and the Children at Risk Unit operating budget was in balance. During the Finnish Presidency, the Children at Risk Unit has been successful in securing funds for specific actions through the European Commission and the EEA Norway Grants. Co-financing, a regular feature of external funding for projects, was covered by the employment costs of the Children at Risk Unit staff.

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## Mandate and Regional Strategy

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The Finnish Presidency took the leadership in implementing the Children at Risk Expert group mandate and strategy, which run until 2025. The mandate sets out the Expert Group's vision, mission, organisational structure, finance, and evaluation mechanisms.

To monitor progress, the expert group adopted an annual activity plan, which formed the basis for bi-annual progress reports.

The first discussions concerning the mandate and strategy for 2025–30 commenced under the Finnish Presidency leadership in early 2024.



# FINNISH PRESIDENCY JULY 2023-JUNE 2024

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

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## **PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

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

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

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### **Priority 1. Regional exchange on children at risk**

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The Finnish Presidency hosted three expert group meetings during its presidency, with a specific focus on combatting child trafficking and counteracting violence against children. During the Finnish Presidency, the expert group worked in close collaboration with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB).

Beyond adopting the annual activity plans, reports from the Secretariat, including financial reports, and the budget for 2024, the experts engaged in dialogue and exchange of good practice, including collection of information from the respective Member States about their country situation and measures to address challenges concerning the protection of children from violence and child trafficking.

At the 30 November–1 December 2023 meeting, the regional exchange focussed on best practices to prevent and identify child trafficking and violence against children with a specific focus on the role of social services and child protection in trafficking cases. The Expert Group members discussed the presentations from the joint workshop with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, highlighting the presentation about runaways from foster care which shed light on new common issues.

At the 13–14 February 2024 meeting, the group focussed on the topic of preventing exploitation of Ukrainian refugee families through successful integration and support services. The Expert Group members discussed the presentations from the joint workshop with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, highlighting a presentation from SOS Children's Villages Finland on their support chat for Ukrainian children.

The Expert Group members also began preliminary discussions on the 2025–2030 Strategy. The members completed a survey and engaged in a roundtable discussion on the core priorities. The Expert Group on Children at Risk agreed that the core priority is to continue the fruitful exchange on specific topics of interest to the members. The Members emphasised that the countries in the region have much in common and face similar challenges, which makes these exchanges very valuable.

At the 13–14 May 2024 meeting, the group focussed on the dynamics of human trafficking in real life and online. The Expert Group members discussed the presentations from the joint workshop with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, highlighting a presentation from a forensic psychologist on the dynamics of control and teenagers' neurological development.

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### **Priority 2. Mapping of national child protection systems and practice for prevention and early intervention in the Baltic Sea Region**

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The Baltic Sea Child Protection Registry<sup>1</sup>, launched on the Children at Risk website during the German Presidency, currently includes over 20 examples of child protection practices from the Baltic Sea Region. The registry is a showcase for how the CBSS members are working individually and together to fulfil the vision of its Expert Group on Children at risk: a region where children enjoy the full range of human rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The registry aims to contribute to a collective understanding of how child protection works in this region of Europe and supports mutual trust among these systems.

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1 <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/practices/>

The current practices in the registry cover themes such as: harmful sexual behaviour, corporal punishment, care/policy/legal reforms and more. The examples are mainly collected through questionnaires at the Expert Group meetings, but also through roundtable discussions in the Expert Group meetings and project discussions. The practice examples are uploaded to the registry after explicit approval from the concerned Member State EG CAR expert.

The Children at Risk Newsletter was distributed for the first time after the Expert Group meeting in May. The newsletter included newly added practices and two interviews with experts exploring a practice from the registry in greater detail. Going forward, the newsletter will be distributed bi-annually following the Expert Group meetings and will feature newly added practices from the Baltic Sea Child Protection Registry.

Building on the results of a mapping of national child protection systems in the Baltic Sea Region<sup>2</sup> conducted in 2022, and the CBSS EG CAR Second Addendum to the Guidelines on Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases<sup>3</sup>, work commenced on the development of a new guidance on transnational child protection cases and a practical tool to implement the guidance. The aim of the guidance and practical tool is to ensure an enabling environment for transnational child protection cases to be dealt with in a way that fulfils the rights of children, by building knowledge, building trust and collaboration, and support processes that can help create a better understanding each other's processes.

This new guidance revisits the CBSS Guidelines on Promoting the Human Rights and Best Interest of the Child in Transnational Child Protection<sup>4</sup> and the Practical Guide for Caseworkers and Case Officers in Transnational Child Protection Cases<sup>5</sup>, but will have a wider scope and include recent law and policy reforms and developments in terms of good practice and transnational mechanisms. The new guidance will serve as a technical resource for both policymakers and practitioners and will cover any case where there is a concern to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation and where more than one country is relevant to decisions on the protection of the child.

The EG CAR is involved in the development of the

new guidance and the practical tool through a consultation process. The first consultation on the guidance was held with EG CAR members and colleagues on 1 March 2024.

This work is carried out in the context of the project Promise Soteria, which aims to promote inclusive and resilient child protection systems, including in times of crisis. The project specifically contributes to strengthening national practice of well-functioning, accessible and resilient child protection systems and their ability to work on transnational cases. The project also aims at enhancing the contribution of Barnahus as one important component of the broader child protection systems.

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## **PROTECTION, SUPPORT AND JUSTICE: PROMOTING MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERAGENCY SERVICES FOR CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF VIOLENCE (BARNAHUS)**

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### **Priority 1. Promoting multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence through path-finding initiatives, coordination of broad partnerships**

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Since 2019, Children at Risk has played a fundamental role in leading and overseeing development of the Promise Barnahus Network, which promotes the Barnahus model. The CBSS has hosted the network and acted as chair of the network steering group, providing opportunities to promote the Baltic Sea Region approach to multidisciplinary and interagency (MDIA) models for child victims and witnesses of violence in the region and beyond. In doing so, Children at Risk has promoted a regional good practice model and benefits from broader regional exchange that informs national practice.

In October 2023, a formal decision was taken by the Promise Barnahus Network General Assembly to register the network as a non-profit association with a public purpose/benefit in Sweden. Following a

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2 "Building Trust and Resilience: Child Protection Systems in the Baltic Sea Region", 9 May 2023, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/building-trust-and-resilience-child-protection-systems-in-the-baltic-sea-region/>

3 "Second Addendum to the Guidelines on Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases", 8 May 2023, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/second-addendum-to-the-cbss-guidelines-on-promoting-the-human-rights-and-the-best-interests-of-the-child-in-transnational-child-protection-cases/>

4 "Guidelines Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases", 2015, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/guidelines-promoting-the-human-rights-and-the-best-interests-of-the-child-in-transnational-child-protection-cases/>

5 "Transnational Child Protection: Practical guide for caseworkers and case officers", 13 January 2015, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/transnational-child-protection-practical-guide-for-caseworkers-and-case-officers/>

written consultation with the EG CAR in January/February 2024, the Expert Group unanimously decided to continue hosting the Barnahus Network within the Children at Risk unit until the current EG CAR strategy ends (June 2025).

Children at Risk also contributed to several initiatives to promote Barnahus by organising training on child forensic interviewing, therapeutic interventions and multidisciplinary teamwork, and facilitating dialogue and exchange between professionals. This includes a study visit, exchange and training in Tallinn involving a high-level delegation from Bulgaria and representatives from Estonia, Norway and Poland, a conference and training in Tarragona, and conferences in Latvia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bulgaria. Children at Risk also organised a Barnahus coordination meeting involving the Council of Europe, EU and UNICEF, participated in Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee/CDENF meetings on Barnahus, and contributed to the EC Victim Support platform, including on child friendly justice, the Barnahus model and child victims of war crimes.

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## **Priority 2. Implementation of flagship projects (Promise) to promote sustainable exchange, competence building training, peer support, networking, practical tools, and interventions.**

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Promise is a CBSS and EU co-funded flagship project that has promoted the Barnahus model since 2015. The Barnahus model has its origins in the Baltic Sea Region, and has spread across Europe, with the support of the Promise projects.

Building on the success of the EU funded PROMISE project (2015–2017), PROMISE II (2017–2019), the PROMISE 3 (2020–2023) which ended during the German presidency, several projects were developed to cover specific aspects of practice in Barnahus:

Promise Journeys (EU co-funded): The project aims to improve access to child-friendly justice, protection and recovery for child victims of violence and their families through the provision of a safe, informed, and participatory pathway through Barnahus from initial report to long-term recovery.

Promise Elpis (EU co-funded): The project aims at adapting Barnahus processes for online sexual violence cases and promoting multidisciplinary and interagency service models for child victims and witnesses of online sexual violence, ensuring their right to child-friendly justice, protection from violence and exploitation, and a safe path to recovery.

Promise TRM (EU co-funded): The purpose of the projects is to address the specific needs of child victims of trafficking and exploitation by developing standards and guiding principles for national and transnational referral mechanisms incorporating a specific focus on child victims, and a child-centred multidisciplinary response.

Bulgaria Barnahus Project (EEA Norway Grants): This project aims to promote the Barnahus model to ensure the rights of child victims of violence to justice, protection and recovery in Bulgaria and EEA Norway target countries, and to achieve excellence in practice, through training and international exchange and study visits.

Impact of the Barnahus model on protecting the rights of children victims of sexual abuse in the criminal justice system (Oak Foundation): The project aims to develop an evidence-based tool to evaluate the impact of the Barnahus model in supporting the rights and the needs of child victims of sexual abuse in the criminal justice system.

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## **PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION: PROMOTING LAW, POLICY AND JOINT STRATEGIES**

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

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

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

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The Expert Group is a member or observer in several international and regional fora, including the Global Partnership to End Violence against children, and the EU Victim Rights Platform. The Expert Group furthermore has an observer status to the Lanzarote Committee, which monitors the implementation of the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and the Council of Europe Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF).

Children at Risk contributed to regional and international exchange of good practice in a series of events, including:

- Council of Europe: Lanzarote Committee, CDENF and consultation group at the Council of Europe on Children of Ukraine meetings.
- EU: Children's Rights Network and the EU Victim Rights Platform meetings.
- International: End Corporal Punishment Reference Group

Other contributions include interventions in webinars and organising training sessions for a wide range of stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region and broader Europe. For more information, please see the list of events at the end of this report.

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

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

### ***Trafficking & Exploitation***

Collaboration with the CBSS Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings to address the specific needs of child victims of trafficking and exploitation, was a core Presidency priority.

During the presidency, the Expert Group on Children at Risk (EG CAR) and CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) cooperated on a joint project “Best practices to prevent child trafficking and violence against children in the CBSS countries”.

The Presidency’s initiatives included three joint expert group workshops with the CBSS Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings on various topics relating to child trafficking, and an international conference where the main results of the joint project were presented and discussed.

The international conference focused on a theme that emerged during the project: Youth criminality and its connection to human trafficking. The conference launched a report<sup>6</sup>, compiled as part of the project, on the best practices for combating trafficking in children and young people in the Baltic Sea countries and for identifying and supporting victims. The report is based on a literature review, online questionnaire for experts, selected expert interviews and outcomes of the first joint workshop held in late 2023. It compiles essential information and is intended to be a practical tool of

best practices for professionals who encounter potential victims of child trafficking in their work.

Collaboration on this topic also continued in the context of the PROMISE TRM project, which aims to significantly strengthen the opportunities and means for coordination between (i) authorities and actors specifically involved in responding to trafficking cases and (ii) authorities and actors involved in responding to violence against children and ensuring child centred justice processes more generally. During the Finnish Presidency, two publications were launched in the context of the Promise TRM project: Handbook for forensic child interviews in presumed cases of trafficking<sup>7</sup> and ISA: Acute Crisis Intervention<sup>8</sup>.

The handbook aims to support professionals in carrying out investigative interviews in presumed cases of trafficking in children. Based on research and experiences of practitioners, it provides case examples and interview excerpts. Drawing on evidence-based interview protocols, it also introduces general core principles and features likely to be particularly relevant when investigating suspected cases of trafficking in children.

The ISA: Acute Crisis Intervention publication introduces an approach for acute crisis support, “ISA”, developed to address the specific needs for crisis support that may arise with child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation, and technology-facilitated sexual abuse, in the first critical days after a disclosure or a child investigative interview.

The Children at Risk Unit has further hosted two webinars in this project on presumed trafficking cases in Barnahus and the reality of orphanage volunteerism and tourism (co-hosted by the OSCE), as well as a workshop/training on the newly published ISA approach.

On 10 June 2024, the end conference was held in Stockholm for the project. The Child Trafficking: Justice, Healing & Protection conference brought together 85 participants to discuss crucial topics to strengthen collective efforts and build more dynamic and resilient systems to ensure justice, healing, and protection for child victims of trafficking.

Speakers included Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs; Benoit van Kiersbilck, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Prof. Siobhán Mullally, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in woman and children; Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; and Dr. Kari Johnstone, OSCE

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6 S. Pihlaja, “Best Practices for Combating Trafficking in Children and Young People and for Identifying and Supporting Victims: Report on countries in the Baltic Sea region”, Publications of the Ministry of Justice, Reports and guidelines 2024:14, Helsinki, Finland. URN: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-400-871-6>

7 J. Korkman, “Handbook for forensic child interviews in presumed cases of trafficking”, Council of the Baltic Sea States, 16 April 2024, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/handbook-for-forensic-child-interviews-in-presumed-cases-of-trafficking/>

8 L. Jonsson & A. Birgersson, “ISA: Acute Crisis Intervention”, Council of the Baltic Sea States, 3 May 2024, <https://childrenatrisk.cbss.org/publications/isa-acute-crisis-intervention/>



Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

Four parallel workshops were held on: the significance of intergovernmental cooperation in combating child trafficking, the need for child-centred procedures to protect and support victims, the nexus between institutionalisation of children and child trafficking, and the involvement of youth, and informing and educating children and youth about child trafficking.

### ***Safe and Secure region***

Children at Risk is a flagship for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The Children at Risk continued its close collaboration with CBSS Secretariat's Civil Security team to explore and strengthen the role of children and youth in promoting a common societal security culture in the BSR and as contributors to building resilient societies.

Both teams are collaborating under the scope of the project Secure Kids, which aims to contribute to sustainable and inclusive mechanisms for child participation in planning, implementation and follow up of national and local measures for building resilient societies.

During the Finnish Presidency, a mapping was conducted to establish the status of existing mechanisms and processes for child and youth participation in disaster risk reduction in the Baltic Sea Region, including surveys to children and stakeholders. The report<sup>9</sup> was published in November 2023.

Drawing on the mapping exercise and existing practices, work on the child participation mechanism and adaptation tool commenced. The mechanism consists of strategic framework and concrete actions with the aim of facilitating the involvement of children and young people in building secure and resilient societies. The adaptation tool aims to guide professionals to easily implement and adapt the mechanism to the specific types of crises, cultures, societies of the Baltic Sea Region. consist of strategic framework and concrete actions. Together, the mechanism and the adaptation tool aim to provide a comprehensive guide for involving children in disaster risk reduction-related activities.

In addition, a strategic guidance for inclusive crisis communication is being developed. The guidance will serve as a practical, easy to adapt tool to make existing crisis communication strategies more inclusive, child

friendly and effective in communication with children.

In May 2024, an international train-the-trainers workshop was held for national actors from seven countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The workshop generated consensus on the participation mechanism and adaptation tool, as well as aided in developing a training package for the national and local training webinars that will be held by the national actors for various relevant stakeholders.

### ***Online Safety***

The CBSS is a partner in Project 2KNOW; developed together with Protect Children and University of Eastern Finland; which aims at improving national and international data collection on violence against children by developing a sustainable and replicable data collection model suited to gathering information about online violence against children.

The project has been gathering data directly from anonymous offenders searching for child sexual abuse material on the dark web and the surface web, to understand more about the patterns, characteristics, and trends of online crimes of sexual violence against children today. In February 2024, a report on the preliminary findings<sup>10</sup> and a language focused report<sup>11</sup> were published.

2KNOW has also produced a model for parental peer-support groups, to provide practical and psychoeducational support for parents, carers and families – in turn providing essential support to child victims to protect them from further abuse. During the Finnish Presidency, the Children at Risk Unit has supported the setting up of two pilots for the parental peer support groups in Sweden (Barnahus Linköping) and Ireland (Barnahus West).

The Children at Risk Unit has also organised the first two of four webinars organised within the scope of the project and started to plan trainings aiming at disseminating findings from the project.

### ***Corporal Punishment***

The CBSS continues to support the promotion of the full implementation of a ban on corporal punishment of children. The Children at Risk Unit participated in the reference group on corporal punishment, which

9 "Existing mechanisms and processes for child and youth participation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden", Council of the Baltic Sea States, 9 November 2023, <https://cbss.org/publications/existing-mechanisms-and-processes-for-child-and-youth-participation-in-disaster-risk-reduction/>

10 T. Insoll, E. Díaz Bethencourt, A. Ovaska, H-M. Lahtinen & N. Vaaranen-Valkonen, "Online Sexual Violence Against Children: Insights from a Survey of Child Sexual Abuse Material Offenders", 2024, 2KNOW Project, <https://www.suojellaanlapsia.fi/en/post/2know-preliminary-findings-report>

11 T. Insoll, E. Díaz Bethencourt, A. Ovaska & N. Vaaranen-Valkonen, "Multilingual Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse Material Offenders: Insights from English, Russian, Portuguese and Spanish-Speaking Offenders", 2024, 2KNOW Project, <https://www.suojellaanlapsia.fi/en/post/2know-languagefocused-report>

has a new hosting arrangement with the WHO, and contributed to the Global Campaign to End Corporal Punishment.

On 30 April 2024, the Children at Risk Unit highlighted End Corporal Punishment Day and updated the Baltic Sea Child Protection Registry with several new practices from the Baltic Sea Region that work towards ending corporal punishment and promoting non-violent childhoods. The unit further launched a three-part interview series focusing on three of the newly added practices and explored the practices further during the month of May together with experts and professionals. These activities were disseminated through social media, and in the newsletter sent out in June.

Children at Risk Expert Group meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland on 1 December 2023.





# SELECTION OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS UNDER THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY

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## September 2023

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**12 September, online:** Coordination meeting for international organisations about their work related to Barnahus (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen)

**26 September, Vienna, Austria:** League's international training on online violence against children (Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**28 September, Middelfart, Denmark:** The Danish Barnahus Network meeting 2023, 10th anniversary of Barnahus in Denmark (Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen)

**28 September, online:** Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee meeting (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

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## October 2023

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**4 October, online:** Consultation group at the Council of Europe on Children of Ukraine (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**10 October, online:** "Children's VOICES in the Barnahus" webinar (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**18 October, online:** Ad hoc meeting of the EU Victims' Rights Platform on child victims (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**31 October–2 November, Prague, Czechia:** Presenting the Barnahus Network at a parliamentary conference in Czechia (Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen)

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## November 2023

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**1 November, online:** Consultation with Journeys Child Advisory Board in Ireland (Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**28 November, Brussels, Belgium:** Third meeting of

the EU Network for children's rights (Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**30 November, Rovaniemi, Finland:** Joint Children at Risk Expert Group and TF-THB Expert Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

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## December 2023

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**1 December, Rovaniemi, Finland:** Children at Risk Expert Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**6 December, Stockholm:** Journeys child log consultation workshop (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**13–14 December, online:** Extraordinary Meetings of the CBSS Expert Group on Children at Risk about its future support to the Barnahus Network (Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawna von Blixen)

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## January 2024

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**18 January, online:** CAR Troika (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Policy Advisor- Children's rights, early prevention, protection of children and youths from sexual violence and exploitation, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth- Germany, Mrs Marjo Malja, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ms Kadi Lauri, Head of the Child Protection Department, Estonian Social Insurance Board)

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## February 2024

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**2 February, online:** Journeys International Expert Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**6–7 February, Stockholm:** Secure Kids project experts meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator

Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**13 February, Helsinki, Finland:** Expert Workshop for TF-THB and CAR (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**13-15 February, Strasbourg, France:** Council of Europe Lanzarote Committee 41st meeting (Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

14 February, Helsinki/Online: Children at Risk Expert Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

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## March 2024

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**1 March, online:** EG CAR consultation on cross-border collaboration in transnational child protection cases (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**11-13 March, Tallinn, Estonia:** Study visit with Bulgarian delegation to Barnahus Estonia (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud)

**26-28 March, Riga, Latvia:** 'Barnahus model- The Best for the child and professionals' conference (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

**27 March, online:** TF-CBT training organised under the EU-funded project Promise Elpis (Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud)

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## April 2024

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**3 April, online:** TF-CBT training organised under the EU-funded project Promise Elpis (Children at Risk Programme Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

**9-10 April, Ljubljana, Slovenia:** Final Conference of the Children's House Project in Slovenia (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

**12 April, online:** Promise Soteria Advisory Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**15 April, online:** Barnahus Network Steering Group meeting (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

**17-18 April, Podgorica, Montenegro:** 'Elevating Excellence: Uniting for Effective Child Protection with

the Barnahus Model', UNICEF and Council of Europe conference (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson)

**22 April, online:** 'New research on offenders of online sexual violence against children: Implications for prevention' webinar for the EU-funded project 2Know (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**25 April, online:** 'Presumed trafficking cases in Barnahus - new tools for adapting services and meeting the Barnahus Quality Standards' webinar for the EU-funded project Promise TRM (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**29 April, online:** 'Acute Crisis Intervention' training for the EU-funded project Promise TRM (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

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## May 2024

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**13-14 May, Helsinki, Finland:** CAR Expert Group meeting and joint International anti-trafficking Conference with TF-THB EG under the Finnish Presidency (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud)

**15 May, Shumen, Bulgaria:** Second national round-table organised under the scope of the EEA-funded project on Promoting multidisciplinary and interagency justice and response for child and witnesses of violence in Bulgaria (Child at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen)

**27-28 May, Stockholm:** Secure Kids Train the Trainers workshop on child participation in DRR mechanism (Senior Adviser for Safe and Secure Region Vineta Polatside, Adviser for Safe & Secure Region Andriy Martynenko, Project Coordinator Franziska Seufert, Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)

**29 May, online:** 'Role of child liaison' webinar for the EU-funded project Journeys (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**29 May, online:** 'Data collection model' webinar for the EU-funded project 2Know (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

**30 May, online:** 'Revealing the Reality of Orphanage



Volunteerism and Tourism' webinar for the EU-funded project Promise TRM (Children at Risk Head of Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Intern Natascha Beck Hansen)

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## June 2024

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**10 June, Stockholm:** Promise TRM project final conference (Head of Children at Risk Unit Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Programme Coordinator Laura Daoud, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson, Children at Risk Communication Assistant Natascha Beck Hansen)

**12-13 June, Tarragona, Spain:** Oak Spain project conference (Children at Risk Adviser Shawwna von Blixen, Children at Risk Research and Policy Assistant Sven Wilson)