

Child Protection Sub-Working Group
20.10.2022 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Thursday, 20 October 2022 at 09.15-11.00 a.m., via Webex	
Participants:	Special Secretary for the Protection of UAM/ MoMA, MoLSA (UAM Unit, Child and Family Protection Unit), EKKA (Unit on Monitoring the Reports of child abuse cases), RIS, UNHCR FO Thessaloniki, UNICEF, IOM, ARSIS, Metadras, IRC Hellas, NCR, Solidarity Now, DCI Greece, ICSD Ioannina, Elix, TdH Hellas, HRC, Velos Youth, DRC Greece, EPAPSY, The Home Project, Mdm, ELIL, SOS Children's Villages,	
Chair:	UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)	
Agenda	<p>Title: “National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation presented by Ms Elena Rapti, Head of the Action Plan & Member of the Hellenic Parliament – Part 3”</p> <p>Following the WGs held in July and September 2022, October’s CPsWG was devoted to the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Elena Rapti assigned as the Head of the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Member of the Hellenic Parliament shared information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) on the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (awaited to be shared by the State for public consultation) and, b) on the ‘One in Five’ Council of Europe’s pan-European campaign for the promotion of child protection policies against sexual abuse as the National coordinator in Greece. • Mr Georgios Nikolaidis, Scientific Advisor for the National Action Plan and Director of the Mental Health and Social Welfare directorate in the Institute of Child Health (ICH) will answer to any questions related to the National Action Plan. 	
Ms Elena Rapti (Head of the National Action Plan & Member of the Hellenic Parliament) and Mr Georgios Nikolaidis (ICH)	<p>‘One in Five’ Council of Europe’s pan-European campaign</p> <p>Detailed information about the tools and the activities of the Campaign will be found in the following dedicated website: https://enastapente.gr/. Please see also information in the attached Ms Rapti’s presentation and the attached “One in Five” leaflet which includes links to the awareness raising material of the campaign.</p> <p>National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation</p> <p>The <i>Strategic objectives</i> of the five-year National Action Plan are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional readjustments towards more child-friendly procedures. 	Action Points: n/a

- The measurable quantitative reduction of cases by creating a holistic framework, which will emphasize on the prevention and the protection of members of vulnerable social groups.
- The increase in the reporting of cases of child abuse and exploitation to the competent Authorities and services in order to investigate, prosecute the perpetrators and protect the children.

Brief background information

The National Action Plan, as well as the responsibility of monitoring the implementation process, lies with the Minister of the State. For its supervision, a National Coordinating Committee is set up, in which all the competent Ministries are institutionally represented, by General Secretaries, together with distinguished national bodies with competence and certified action in the field of child protection. The National Coordinating Committee consists of the Ministries of:

- Education and Religions
- Citizen Protection
- Justice
- Labor and Social Affairs
- Health
- Interior
- Culture and Sports
- Migration and Asylum
- Development and Investment
- Tourism
- Digital Governance
- Finance

The monitoring and evaluation of the National Action Plan will be carried out by the National Coordinating Committee in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Coordination, which has the relevant horizontal responsibility.

Please find more information on the National Action Plan in the attached presentation of Ms Rapti.

During the Q&A session, Mr Nikolaidis, provided clarifications on the questions raised by the CP actors:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the axes of National Action Plan there is provision for strengthening the services at the level of the Municipalities and the Prefectures to be in position to respond to the reported cases of child’s abuse or even the cases of suspicion. • Regarding the publicity and the role of the Media, Mr Nikolaides mentioned that there is room for further inclusion in the provisions of the Action Plan on the role of the Media and the monitoring of the publicity for such cases. He welcome the CP actors’ feedback on that aspect while UNHCR encouraged the actors to include their comments on that front once the public consultation will be launched. <p>It was mentioned by Mr Nikolaides that despite the monitoring mechanisms included in the national legal framework their effectiveness is disputed. Such monitoring mechanisms seems not to be effective with communication media such as the internet and the social media.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>It is noted also that the European Commission (EC) submitted a proposal for the REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse – please find below relevant links for your kind information:</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A209%3AFIN&qid=1652451192472</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2976</p>	
AOB	The next CPsWG will take place in November 2022. The date and time will be confirmed.	Action Points: n/a