

TRAINING MODULE

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM CSE AND RECRUITMENT IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING ONLINE



Protecting children from CSE and recruitment in human trafficking online Training Module

Saint Petersburg, Riga, Helsinki
2020

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The training module can serve as a guidance for trainers and organizers of other awareness-raising events focusing on the protection of children from online child sexual exploitation and recruitment in human trafficking via the Internet. The module has been prepared as part of the project ‘Strengthening the Prevention of Child Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation Related to Information and Communication Technologies in the Baltic Sea Region’, in cooperation between Regional Public Organization of Social Projects in Sphere of Population’s Well-Being “Stellit” (Saint Petersburg, Russia), Suojellaan Lapsia/Protect Children (Helsinki, Finland), and Biedrība Patvērums “Drošā māja” (Society «Shelter “Safe House”») (Riga, Latvia).

Supported by



Project Support Facility

This publication is sponsored by the Project Support Fund of the Council of Baltic Sea States. The Council of Baltic Sea States does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information herein. The opinions, findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council.

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Introduction

Who is this module for?

This training module is designed for all specialists working with children and implementing projects and programs to prevent involvement of children into sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. It will also be useful in trainings and awareness-raising exercises on online safety for children.

How to use this module?

This training module has been developed as a manual for trainers who train specialists. It accompanies the report “Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking” assuming that the reader would address the report and make use of its content. The report offers basic information on the forms of online CSE and recruitment of children in human trafficking, and preventive strategies and respective resources; this training module refers to the report whenever relevant.

This module is a flexible instrument that can be customized to the needs of your organization or target group; it can also be enhanced and further improved. Please use it to hold online and offline trainings, feel free to add or remove some of the sections.

The objective of the training is to raise the awareness of specialists regarding the online CSE and recruitment of children into human trafficking via Internet, and to suggest resources to prevent it.

Structure of the training:

The module consists of eight sessions, a feedback form, and an awareness assessment form to be filled in before and after the training. Each session includes a presentation of the core content, and a discussion or practical assignment to be fulfilled in groups.

Assessing the efficiency of the training:

To assess the efficiency of the training, we recommend to check the participants’ awareness before and after the training (please see the awareness assessment form in Appendix 2).

Training time: 12 hours (two work-days or 3-4 online sessions)

Opening the training



Time: 20 minutes

At the beginning, please introduce the trainers and participants. Participants can be asked to introduce themselves and explain where they work, what their key target audiences are. The principal trainer can also encourage the participants to share their expectations from the training.

After the introduction, ask the participants to fill the awareness assessment form. Tell the participants that all the information will be processed anonymously, and will be used to further improve the training.

Session 1. Introducing the problem



Time: 30 minutes

The first core session of the training is to provide information on the scale of the online CSE and recruitment of children into human trafficking, along with the key trends and dynamics. You can use the introduction to the report “Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking” as an example of how to present the statistics and key trends.

With the development and further penetration of the Internet technologies, new trends will emerge, and crime statistics will evolve, thus this section will need to be continuously updated. The following documents can be used as a source of relevant information:

1. Annual Europol’s reports [Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment \(IOCTA\)](#), with a specific section on CSE
2. Materials of the United Nations Children’s Fund, such as [Protecting Children Online](#)
3. [Annual reports of INHOPE](#), international network of hotlines
4. ECPAT reports, e.g. [Trends in online child sexual abuse material](#)
5. Insights from the [hotline of the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
6. [Annual reports of the Internet Watch Foundation](#)
7. Reports and other publications of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Investigative Committee, NGOs and research centres active in the prevention of CSE and human trafficking.

Discussion:

After the introduction, ask the participants:

1. whether they have had an experience of working with children who were subjected to online CSE or human trafficking;
2. what particular features of these crimes, and what key risk groups they observe in their city / region / country.

Key messages:



- Both girls and boys can become victims of online CSE, but girls account for a higher share of identified cases.
- Children of any age can become victims of online CSE and human trafficking.

Session 2. Forms of online CSE and signs of recruitment of children into human trafficking in the Internet



Time: 2 hours

Online CSE includes any sexual exploitation that at any stage is connected to the Internet. CSE can be 'translated' online, e.g. by producing child abuse images or videos offline and then posting them in the Internet.


Human trafficking is defined in Article 3 of a Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime — the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Internet can be used at any stage of children trafficking: recruitment, transportation and exploitation (e.g. to 'advertise' the victim's services)

Forms of online CSE are:

1. Online grooming and sexting (where performed without the child's consent. It includes sexualized communication, sending of sexually explicit images or video).
2. The production, distribution, promotion, importing, exporting, offering, selling, possession of, or knowingly obtaining access to child sexual exploitation materials online.
3. Live streaming of child sexual abuse.
4. Production and distribution of self-generated explicit materials by children.
5. Online sexual coercion and extortion of children.

The definitions and basic information regarding various forms of online CSE and recruitment in human trafficking online are outlined in Section 2 of the report “Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking”.

Key messages:

- 
- Online CSE is not a separate type of child sexual exploitation, Internet is only a means of exploitation.
 - Online CSE and recruitment of children in human trafficking can take place by means of coercion (e.g. blackmailing or threatening a child), or grooming when the offender is seeking to build trust and make the communication look like a friendly or romantic relationship.
 - In many cases, materials showing child sexual abuse, and self-generated sexualized content are produced without any physical coercion — instead, manipulation and extortion techniques are employed to involve a child into CSE.

Session 3. Legal frameworks for countering online CSE



Time: 1 hour

The key international instrument regulating the protection of children from CSE is the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). The following articles of the Convention are directly applicable to the prevention of online CSE:

1. **Article 6. Education for children** suggests that all children during primary and secondary education should receive information on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, with special attention paid “to situations of risk, especially those involving the use of new information and communication technologies”.
2. **Article 9. Participation of children, the private sector, the media and civil society** calls to encourage IT and telecom companies to contribute to the development and implementation of the policies concerning the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

3. **Article 20. Offences concerning child pornography**¹ calls for the participating states to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure the criminalization of the following: producing, offering or making available, distributing or transmitting, procuring for oneself or for another person, possessing or knowingly obtaining access to materials featuring child sexual abuse.
4. **Article 23. Solicitation of children for sexual purposes** recommends the participating states to take the necessary legislative or other measures to criminalise any intentional proposal, through information and communication technologies, of an adult to meet a child who has not reached the age of consent, for the purpose of committing sexual abuse or exploitation, where this proposal has been followed by material acts leading to such a meeting.

The Convention defines CSAM material as “any material that visually depicts a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit conduct or any depiction of a child’s sexual organs for primarily sexual purposes”.

Following that, please describe the milestone national laws regulating the protection of children from CSE and human trafficking. In Russia the key laws in this respect are as follows:

1. **Criminal Code of the Russian Federation:**

- **Article 133.** Compulsion to Perform Sexual Actions
 - **Article 135. Indecent assault** (this includes actions in the absence of direct physical contact with the victim’s body, and actions committed via the Internet or other telecom channels)
 - **Article 137.** Illegal collection or spreading of information about private life
 - **Article 242.** Illegal production and distribution of pornographic materials or goods
 - Article 242.1. Production and distribution of materials or goods containing sexually explicit images of children
 - Article 242.2. Exploitation of a minor for the purpose of producing pornographic materials or goods
2. If the crime has already been committed, the ‘Right to be Forgotten’ laws become essential (i.e. On amendments into the Federal Law “On Information, IT and Protection of Information” and Articles 29 and 402 of the Civil Procedural Code of Russia). This law suggests the right of individuals to request a search engine

¹ ‘Pornography’ is no longer a recommended term. More ethically correct is the term ‘child sexual abuse material’ (CSAM). The use of the term ‘pornography’ is limited to sexually explicit materials featuring adults.

operator to remove any information about the person, that is in violation of the Russian law. This right to erasure makes it possible to remove materials featuring child sexual abuse, and sexually explicit photos taken by the child themselves.

Key messages:



- All the activities related to the recruitment of children into CSE or human trafficking are criminalized, be them offline and in a direct physical contact, or online.
- Abuse and exploitation are not limited to the production and distribution of CSAM — possession of, and intentional access to such material is also a crime.

Session 4. The role of online technology in CSE and recruitment of children into human trafficking



Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Discussion: before presenting the content of the session, please ask the participants to discuss the following:

1. What technical means / resources make it easier for offenders to recruit children into CSE and human trafficking?
2. In your opinion, which social media, messengers or other platforms are the most frequently used to recruit children into online CSE and human trafficking?

This section is to focus on the structure of the worldwide web, and technical means that can be misused for online CSE or recruitment of children into human trafficking. Parts or layers of the web, as well as technical means that help the offenders remain anonymous and hide traces of their crime, are described in Section 3 of the report “Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking”. The examples of such means are Tor browser, peer-to-peer chats, encryption, VPN, BitTorrent, etc.

Key messages:



- Children can get involved in online CSE and human trafficking both in the Dark Web, and via the commonly used social media, messengers, dating sites, job search sites, etc.
- Such instruments as Tor, peer-to-peer chats, etc. help users remain anonymous for a longer time, and make identification of offenders and victim children more difficult; still, none of these means guarantee complete anonymity.

Session 5. Providing help to victim children



Time: 1 hour

Professionals working with children may be the first to learn about the child's involvement into online CSE or human trafficking. The objective of this session is to provide these professionals with a concise guidance as to the first steps to be taken to support a child and help the investigation.

1. First of all, comfort the child. Explain to the child that what has happened to them is a crime, and the person that has been in correspondence with the child is an offender.
2. Discuss the next steps with the child. Explain to the child that it is important to tell his or her parents or legal representatives about what has happened.
3. Find out how far it has gone. Some offenders attempt to arrange an offline meeting with the child, and if this meeting has already taken place, contact sexual abuse could have been committed. In this case, the first step is to take care of the child's health, i.e. either call an ambulance or bring the child into a hospital for examination.
4. Parents and children would often destroy the correspondence with the offender, and all the materials and the child's account that was used for such correspondence. This must not be done. This way crucial evidence that can help find the offender will be destroyed; at the same time the offender will still have all the materials and can renew the blackmailing.
5. Have screenshots taken of all the correspondence with the offender in all social media and messengers, as well as screenshots of the account used by the offender and featuring the offender's ID or phone number. Please make sure the date and time of the communication are visible on the screenshots. This needs to be done without delay as in some messengers (e.g. Telegram), messages can be removed without leaving any trail.
6. Make it clear to the child and parent, that one must contact the relevant authorities in order to punish the offender, stop the circulation of the materials featuring the child, prevent similar crimes in the future, find other victims and help them.
7. Help the child and parent inform the relevant authorities about the crime.
8. In any case and regardless of the parent's consent, the specialist should inform law-enforcement agencies of the established or alleged sexual exploitation of the child.
9. It is important to provide the law-enforcement agencies with maximum details, including the e-mail, account details, name (real name, or account name), phone

number, other login details of the suspected offender, and details of the correspondence.

10. Provide the parents with contacts of organizations in their area of residence that can help a child victim of abuse and exploitation.

Key messages:



- It is important NOT to destroy the correspondence between the child and the offender until the information has been passed over to the law-enforcement. Make screenshots of all the correspondence, and document as much information about the offender as possible.
- Should any activities be identified related to the recruitment of a child into online CSE or human trafficking, support must be provided to the child, and information must be passed to the law enforcement agencies.

Session 6. Approaches to CSE prevention



Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

This session is to discuss key preventive approaches:

- primary, secondary and tertiary prevention
- universal, selective and indicated prevention

Target groups for the prevention work are:

- children
- parents or legal representatives
- professionals
- potential offenders

The criminological routine activity approach with a 'crime triangle' model.

Theoretical basis for the prevention of online CSE and recruitment of children into online trafficking is presented in Section 4 of the report "Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking".

Key messages:



- Preventive programs can be implemented and measures can be taken by both professionals and parents and children (the latter constitute peer-to-peer efforts).
- There are several approaches to the classification of prevention efforts: primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; or universal, selective and indicated prevention. Understanding of these approaches is important to inform ourselves about the variety of objectives, forms and target groups in any prevention effort.
- The objectives of prevention work shall not be limited to a reduction of child's vulnerability, but also address potential offenders and settings or circumstances conducive to the crime.

Group work:

Ask the participants to make a matrix of prevention strategies: select one type of online CSE and formulate the prevention objectives at three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary, for every side of the 'crime triangle', i.e. children, potential offenders and circumstances. An example of such matrix is offered in Section 4 of the report "Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking" (see Table 1 of the report).

Session 7. Resources for the prevention of online CSE and recruitment of children into the human trafficking in the Internet



Time: 2 hours

Group discussion: to open the session, ask the participants to name the tools for the prevention of online CSE and recruitment into human trafficking that they use in their daily work with children.

Section 5 of the report "Preventing recruitment of children into online sexual exploitation and human trafficking" contains an overview of efficient practices for working with children and parents, and tools to target potential offenders.

In this section, we recommend to demonstrate several videos and ask the participants to comment on them. Examples of such videos are:

1. Facebook Safety Centre's video on how to withstand sexual blackmail and extortion at <https://www.facebook.com/safety/StopSextortion>

2. Video produced as part of the Europol's Say No campaign at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YO4kEc14pd8>
3. BBC Stories: 'Online child sexual abuse: I couldn't stop looking' at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKP6NX25_C0&t=1s

On top of the awareness-raising resources for different target groups, this session should also provide practical advice to children, parents and professionals dealing with the protection of children from online CSE and recruitment into human trafficking, and discuss how to use the parental control software, and adjust the settings in various applications and social media to help protect a child online, e.g.:

1. Parental control software, e.g. Google Family Link, Kaspersky Safe Kids, Norton Family parental control, Kidlox
2. Smartphone software to monitor children's activity online, e.g. Mobisteath, Our Pact, Qustodio
3. Security settings in operating systems of smartphones and tablets: «Family access» for iOS and «Digital balance» feature for Android
4. Parental control settings in TikTok («Family Pairing») and Likee («Parental control»)
5. Children's applications: YouTube Kids, Messenger Kids (by Facebook)



Key messages:

- A variety of interactive methods can be used in the preventive work with children, in order to protect them from recruitment into online CSE and human trafficking; the child's age should be taken into account when selecting the work method.
- Child online activity control software (e.g. parental control settings and applications) should not be the only means of prevention, but should be accompanied by awareness-raising among children and parents about the online risks and safety rules in the Internet.
- Trust between the child and parents is a key protection factor that helps prevent online CSE and recruitment into human trafficking: when coming across a risky situation a child should be able to freely ask parents for help.
- One of the key objectives of most prevention resources and instruments is to alert children, parents and professionals to the potential risks, and let them know that they should seek help in cases of blackmail, extortion, manipulation or other similar online activities that can be signs of CSE or human trafficking.

Session 8. Work in groups



Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

1. In the final session of the training, ask the participants to fulfil one of the below assignments working in groups:
 - Formulate recommendations and an action-plan to improve the efficiency of the prevention of online CSE and recruitment into human trafficking, and to better identify child victims answering the following questions:
 - What risk groups should be targeted by the prevention / identification efforts?
 - Which organizations and public institutions should be involved in the improvement of preventive activities?
 - On what Internet resources should information be published in order to find victims and children at risk?
 - How can governmental organizations and NGOs use Internet technologies to help identify victims and children at risk?
2. Develop and present a project aiming at the creation of a preventive tool for one of the target groups (children, parents, or potential offenders). Please indicate the project objective, target group, and key activities.

Wrapping up the training








Time: 40 minutes






After the final session, ask the participant to fill in the awareness assessment form once again. Summarize the results of the training and invite the participants to share their feedback regarding the training experience.

Appendix 1. Feedback Form

1. Please rate the following aspects of the training:

Parameters	5	4	3	2	1
	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
					
Relevance of the topic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Novelty of the information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usefulness of the information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Readiness to apply the new information in your work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helpfulness of the prevention recommendations and resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please assess the general organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Please rate the training overall:

5	4	3	2	1
Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				

3. What did you like the most?

4. What needs to be improved?



5. What other information about the prevention of online CSE and recruitment of children into human trafficking via the Internet would you like to obtain?

6. What information was new for you?



7. What information was the most important for you? How will you use it in your work?

Appendix 2. Assessment of awareness (to be filled in before and after the training)



1. In a majority of detected cases of online CSE the victims are girls.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2. It is only girls who can become victims of online CSE.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. Materials featuring child sexual abuse are always produced via direct physical coercion of the child.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



4. For online grooming purposes, an offender does not necessarily pose as a peer — sometimes the offender can give their true age.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



5. Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse recommends the participating countries to criminalize only the production and distribution of child sexual abuse materials.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



6. Most online CSE and recruitment into human trafficking crimes take place in the Dark Web.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. To prevent online CSE and recruitment of children into the human trafficking in the Internet, the only addressable target groups are children and parents.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



8. The purpose of tertiary prevention efforts is to prevent a repeated engagement of a child in online CSE or human trafficking.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Parental control programs cannot fully protect a child from all risks of online CSE and recruitment into the human trafficking.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Where an online CSE case has been identified, all the correspondence between the child and the offender should be destroyed including photos of the child.

True	False
	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

