

At a Glance: Promise Elpis resources on online child sexual abuse for professionals

**Promoting specialised tools and adapting
multidisciplinary and interagency interventions
to meet the specific needs and requirements
arising in cases of online child sexual abuse**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Disclaimer

Promise Elpis is committed to upholding the highest standards in child protection and ethical communication. The Luxembourg Guidelines (2016) promote the use of consistent, accurate, and sensitive language – particularly in the context of child protection – that avoids confusion, stigma and harm, and avoids contributing to further victimization or misunderstanding. The guidelines are intended to be applied broadly within the field, including the creation of policies, legal documents, reports, and public communication.

To best achieve these aims, our work follows the Luxembourg Guidelines and any updates to it. Further, we adapt as terminology evolves by developing internal guidance that aligns with these principles. When citing external sources, we retain the original language to preserve the intended meaning and context, ensuring the accuracy and authenticity of the cited content.

Promise Elpis
Consortium:





Co-funded by
the European Union

ABOUT PROMISE ELPIS

Online child sexual abuse is affecting a fast-growing number of children of all ages, in all situations, with the potential for very severe and lasting consequences.

The key objectives of the PROMISE Elpis project are to ensure early identification, adequate assistance, protection and access to child-friendly justice for children involved in these cases.

What does PROMISE Elpis do?

In Greek mythology, Elpis is the name of the spirit of hope. PROMISE Elpis aims to help children who have suffered online child sexual abuse by:

- **Building knowledge and sharing recommendations:** learning about the experience of children and professionals and developing bibliographies of international resources on online child sexual abuse; sharing recommendations on regional policy and practice development in light of ongoing EU law and policy recasts.
- **Promoting comprehensive child-centred case management:** contributing to a competent and committed multidisciplinary team, equipped to provide a holistic and balanced intervention.
- **Innovating and promoting specialised tools for practitioners:** supporting specialised professional interventions and operational capacity, adapted to the specific requirements and needs that may arise in cases of online child sexual abuse.



Co-funded by
the European Union

NAVIGATING PROMISE ELPIS RESOURCES

About the Promise Elpis resources

The needs and rights of children who have suffered online child sexual abuse must be treated comprehensively, with the same urgency and through multidisciplinary, inter-agency collaboration, as other forms of child sexual abuse.

The PROMISE Elpis partners produced a wide range of resources focusing on online child sexual abuse for different professionals, including law enforcement, health professionals, child protection services and therapists. These include consultation findings, guidance, practice tools and training resources.

How these resources might help your work

For each resource, you will find:

- A brief description of its key elements
- The target group for which it was developed
- Key points of interest to inspire you to use this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country



All the resources presented in this booklet are protected by **copyright**. If you are interested in developing a similar product in your country and/or to translate the PROMISE Elpis ones into your local language, please get in touch with the partner who authored the resource.



Co-funded by
the European Union

OVERVIEW OF PROMISE ELPIS RESOURCES

Building knowledge and sharing recommendations

- What we learned from children (Children First, Scotland)
- Policy brief (HEUNI & Children First)
- What we learned from professionals (CBSS)
- Bibliographies of resources on online child sexual violence to support research (NCAC)
- Looking ahead paper: sharing experience, learnings and recommendations from PROMISE Elpis with regional stakeholders (Child Circle)

Promoting comprehensive child-centred case management

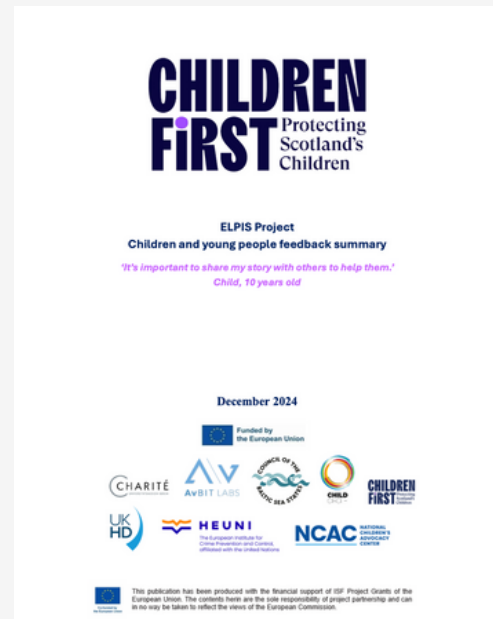
- Guidance and Training on Multidisciplinary Interagency Case Management (CBSS)

Innovating and promoting specialised tools for practitioners

- Protocol & Training for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus (Charité)
- Medical Support Protocol & Training (Charité)
- Recommendations and Questionnaire to Foster Child Inclusion in the Barnahus Processes (Charité)
- Guidance on Adapted Therapeutic Treatment & Training (CBSS)
- Crisis Intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS)
- Investigative Interview Protocol & Training (HEUNI)
- Victims Support Guidance & Training (UKHD)
- Practical Police Training Curriculum & Training (UKHD)
- Avatar Training Tool (AvBIT)



What we learned from children (Children First)_{1/2}



To consult with children on what they thought should happen for child victims of online sexual abuse, a creative activity book was developed by Children First in Scotland using questions on two case studies. Key messages from the consultation are contained in a report.

Children with lived experiences of online harm worked with Children First and produced a series of animations to explain to professionals how they should respond if a child is harmed online.

A Briefing Paper containing recommendations and a checklist for professionals for including children in investigations of online sexual abuse was developed by HEUNI, based on what these children have said.



What we learned from children (Children First) 2/2

Key target groups

The animation series created by the children with lived experiences of online harm explicitly address teachers, social workers and police. However, policy makers, professionals, NGOs and all adults who have a role in a child's life are called to learn about the experiences, perspectives and messages of children in relation to online child sexual abuse.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The key learnings that come from the voices of children in PROMISE Elpis can be summarised with these main points:

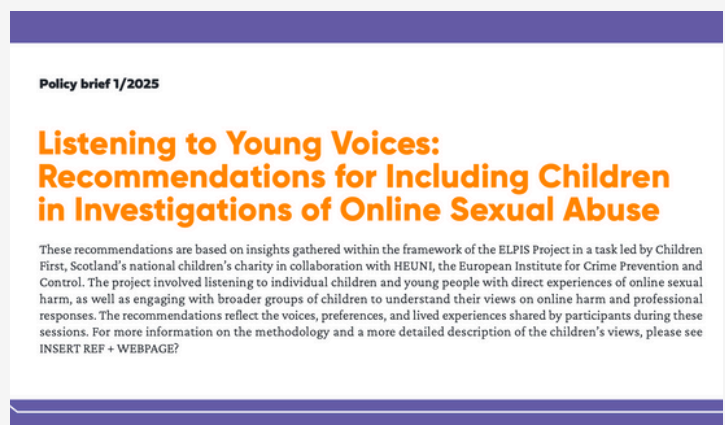
- Professionals - and adults in general - must be prepared to listen and hear what children and young people say about their experiences of online harm and abuse.
- Professionals - and adults in general - must respond to online child sexual abuse from the perspective of child protection and so respond to all the child's needs.
- Children and young people's views must be considered and respected whilst action to protect is taken.
- Children and young people must have the right advocacy and therapeutic support, at the right time, by the right people.

You might be inspired by the methodology used by Children First to use the tools that are appropriate to the group of children you work with: using activity books, animations, feedback forms and other creative tools, developed in collaboration with children and young people. These can be greatly effective to raise awareness and consult about matters than concern them.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Policy Brief Listening to Young Voices: Recommendations for Including Children in Investigations of Online Sexual Abuse (HEUNI) 1/2



Messages from the children consulted in Scotland - with and without known experience of online sexual abuse - were gathered in the policy brief “Listening to Young Voices: Recommendations for Including Children in Investigations of Online Sexual Abuse” developed in collaboration with and published by HEUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, and based on the research data and recommendations from Children First Scotland.

HEUNI developed five recommendations and a checklist for professionals investigating cases of online child sexual abuse, focusing on how to encounter victims in a child-friendly and sensitive way. Each of the five recommendations is operationalised into concrete guidance for practitioners. For example, Recommendation 3 on the “Importance of feeling heard” outlines, among other things, “Maintain eye contact, sit attentively, and use body language to convey understanding”.



Policy Brief

Listening to Young Voices: Recommendations for Including Children in Investigations of Online Sexual Abuse (HEUNI) 2/2

Key target group

The checklist and recommendations are addressed to professionals investigating online child sexual abuse. This is a helpful resource for anyone working with child victims of online abuse and a strong example of how to build child-friendly, trauma-aware investigations that respect and empower young people.

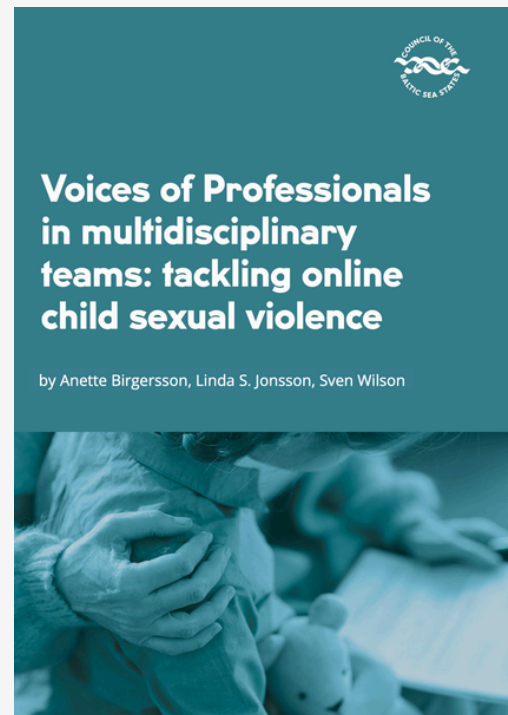
Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The Policy Brief “Listening to Young Voices” offers practical guidance for making sure children’s views are genuinely heard and taken seriously in investigations of online child sexual abuse. It shows how professionals can better involve children throughout the process and it can be used to:

- Let children lead: The guidance encourages professionals to put children in control of how and when they share their experiences.
- Involve them in decisions: Children should help decide who knows what, where and how interviews happen, and be kept in the loop about what’s going on.
- Create a safe space: Professionals are encouraged to use child-friendly language, avoid intimidating settings, and to make sure the child feels supported.
- Make professionals better listeners: The guidance promotes open-ended questions, active listening and real engagement.



What we learned from professionals (CBSS) ^{1/2}



The report “Voices of Professionals in Multidisciplinary Teams: Tackling Online Child Sexual Violence” by CBSS explores how professionals working in multidisciplinary settings – like Barnahus – handle cases involving online child sexual abuse. It draws on three sources:

- An online survey with professionals from Barnahus across seven countries.
- 22 interviews with Swedish practitioners.
- A desk review of current literature and practices in this area.

The goal was to better understand how those on the front lines experience and manage these sensitive cases, and what they need - in terms of training and practice tools - to offer stronger support to children who are victims of online sexual abuse.



What we learned from professionals (CBSS) 2/2

Key target group

This report was created for professionals, policy makers, service coordinators and researchers involved in protecting children from sexual abuse. During the PROMISE Elpis project, these audiences were engaged through direct participation in the research (surveys and interviews) and the findings will be shared in networks that work with Barnahus and similar models.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The key messages from the research concern challenges and needs professionals identified. The report is useful to:

- Highlight central challenges professionals face, such as the lack of reliable data, which makes it difficult to design effective support tools for online cases.
- Call for explicit inclusion of child victims of online sexual abuse in Barnahus and specialised police support, to ensure equal treatment for all victims.
- Point out that online and offline sexual abuse cases often overlap, and stresses that how a case is classified should not affect the level of care a child receives.
- Underline the urgent need for better guidelines, tools and resources tailored to online child sexual abuse cases within the Barnahus framework.

This resource can serve as a starting point for developing or improving similar approaches in different countries, asking professionals what they need, to improve their work with children and ensure that all child victims – online or offline – receive comprehensive and multidisciplinary care.



Research resources on online child sexual violence (NCAC) 1/2



A comprehensive set of bibliographies has been developed using the rich research resources of the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) in the United States. These bibliographies provide an overview of research and practice-based insights on the following topics:

- Disclosure and Services for Child Victims of Online Sexual Victimization
- Internet Facilitated Child Sexual Abuse Materials
- Internet Facilitated Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors
- Online Child Sexual Abuse, Perpetrators, and Investigation
- The Online Manipulation (Grooming) of Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Victims of Online Sexual Abuse
- Forensic Interviews and Experiences with the Legal Systems



Research resources on online child sexual violence (NCAC) 2/2

Key target group

This collection was developed to support a wide range of professionals including throughout the PROMISE Elpis project, particularly in the context of strengthening knowledge exchange, training and practical guidance across sectors.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

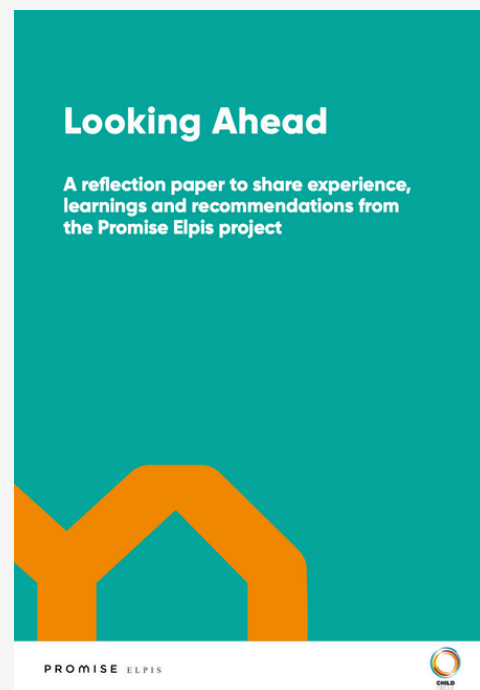
The bibliographies help professionals explore materials to:

- Better understand and respond to victims' needs, including how children experience and disclose abuse.
- Gain insights into offenders' behaviours, including patterns of online grooming and exploitation.
- Apply trauma-informed, child-centred approaches when supporting victims.
- Strengthen investigative techniques, especially through multi-agency collaboration.
- Improve digital literacy and prevention strategies, ensuring professionals can keep pace with evolving risks.

These tools offer a strong foundation for those seeking to enhance national capacity to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse. They also provide a model for developing similar evidence-based resources in other countries - ensuring professionals are equipped with up-to-date knowledge, skills and sensitivity to protect children in digital environments.



Looking Ahead Paper: sharing experience, learnings and recommendations (Child Circle) ^{1/2}



This Paper connects the experience and learning in PROMISE Elpis with EU legal and policy developments. It shares recommendations for EU and national policy makers to help them take targeted measures for child victims of online sexual abuse. It also assists stakeholders and practitioners in connecting their work with the developing EU legal and policy framework.

Key recommendations include:

- Ensure child victims of online sexual abuse have their needs and rights met, in the same way as child victims of physical sexual abuse.
- Improve early identification and prevention of online child sexual abuse.
- Strengthen collaboration, specialisation and support for children in transnational cases of online child sexual abuse.
- Leverage regional resources and ensure a dynamic approach to address current and future challenges.
- Actively consult with children on how to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse.



Looking Ahead Paper: sharing experience, learnings and recommendations (Child Circle) 2/2

Key target group

The Paper mostly targets European and national policymakers, regional stakeholders and decision making professionals working in the field of online child sexual abuse.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Paper can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online child sexual abuse. It can be used to:

- Promote a child-centred approach in all justice proceedings involving children, to ensure that child victims of online sexual abuse have their needs and rights met in the same way as child victims of physical sexual abuse.
- Strengthen multidisciplinary interagency collaboration and promotes the development of specialised tools and training, to equip professionals with the skills and resources needed to respond effectively to the specific challenges of online child sexual abuse.
- Encourage national authorities, stakeholders and practitioners to mobilise the full array of EU and international measures to prevent and respond to online sexual abuse.
- Align national efforts with EU strategies and policies, helping countries adopt coherent, rights-based approaches that reflect the latest legal developments.
- Highlight the importance of consulting children to include their perspectives in shaping prevention strategies, improving services and building systems that truly reflect their lived experiences.



Multidisciplinary Interagency Case Management Guidance & Training (CBSS) 1/2



The Guidance and Toolkit for Interagency Case Management developed by CBSS, is designed to help professionals implement Standard 5 of the Barnahus Quality Standards, which focuses on coordinated, interagency case management for child victims of violence.

It has been developed in close consultation with Barnahus professionals and provides practical tools, case examples and clear frameworks for improving interagency collaboration, reducing (re)traumatisation and promoting more effective support for child victims.

The toolkit is an interactive PDF which facilitates an easy way of linking to related sections of the document. It should be read in conjunction with the Barnahus Quality Standards - Standard 5: Interagency case management.



Multidisciplinary Interagency Case Management Guidance & Training (CBSS) 2/2

Key target group

This resource is aimed at Barnahus teams and professionals working in interagency settings across Europe. It draws on the real-world experiences of Barnahus services in several countries, ensuring that the tools and examples reflect existing practices and challenges in the field.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

This toolkit is a valuable resource for strengthening multidisciplinary interagency coordination, one of the most critical aspects of effective child protection. It can serve as a model for:

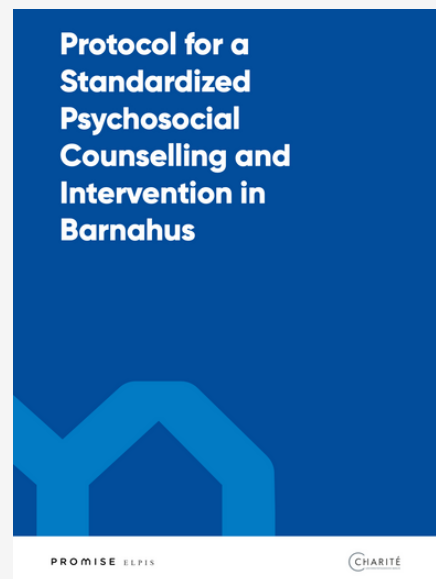
- Developing or refining national protocols for interagency collaboration.
- Training multidisciplinary teams.
- Aligning services with international best practices, such as the Barnahus Quality Standards.

While it was created specifically for those working within Barnahus, it allows flexibility for each country to adapt the guidance to the local context and to Barnahus-like multidisciplinary child protection teams, taking into account:

- The lead agency responsible for case management;
- The composition of the multidisciplinary team;
- The range of services available at the national or local Barnahus.



Protocol for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus, & Training (Charité) ^{1/2}



This Protocol was developed by Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin to provide structured, standardised guidance for psychosocial counselling and intervention in cases of online child sexual abuse within Barnahus settings. It complements the medical support protocol (see below) and together forms a holistic approach to supporting children affected by online child sexual abuse.

This Protocol combines scientific background, guiding principles and practical case-based applications to ensure trauma-sensitive, child-centred and multidisciplinary care. It promotes consistency, transparent documentation and multiagency cooperation in psychosocial work.



Protocol for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus, & Training (Charité) 2/2

Key target group

This Protocol is aimed at Barnahus multidisciplinary teams, including psychosocial professionals, social workers, psychologists and health staff, as well as those collaborating across child protection, health, education and legal systems. Through PROMISE Elpis, the Protocol was developed in collaboration with these target groups and promoted via expert consultations and training, to ensure its practical value and adoption across different country contexts.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this protocol can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, while being adapted to the specific context. It can be used to:

- Fill a critical gap by providing clear, trauma-sensitive guidance for supporting children affected by online sexual abuse.
- Offer a holistic and multidisciplinary framework for psychosocial interventions.
- Promote the active involvement of children, emphasising their safety, well-being and voice throughout care.
- Include practical case examples and principles adaptable to other country contexts, making it a strong model for those developing similar protocols.
- Encourage ongoing training and interagency collaboration as essential elements of a sustainable, effective response to online child sexual abuse.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Medical Support Protocol & Training (Charité) ^{1/2}



This Protocol offers structured, multidisciplinary guidance for the medical examination and care of children and adolescents affected by online child sexual abuse.

Developed over two years by a research group at Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the Protocol addresses the growing urgency of responding to the complex medical and psychological impacts of online child sexual abuse. It presents evidence-based procedures, case examples and clear steps to promote standardised, trauma-informed medical intervention within Barnahus and similar settings. The Protocol is closely linked to the document on standardised psychosocial care (see above), reflecting a holistic approach to child health and protection.



Medical Support Protocol & Training (Charité) 2/2

Key target group

The primary audience for this Protocol includes multidisciplinary teams working in Barnahus institutions, such as paediatricians, forensic specialists, psychologists, social workers and legal professionals. Within PROMISE Elpis, the Protocol was developed and disseminated through cross-sectoral collaboration and experts' engagement, reaching national and European stakeholders who are building or improving child protection services in the context of online abuse.

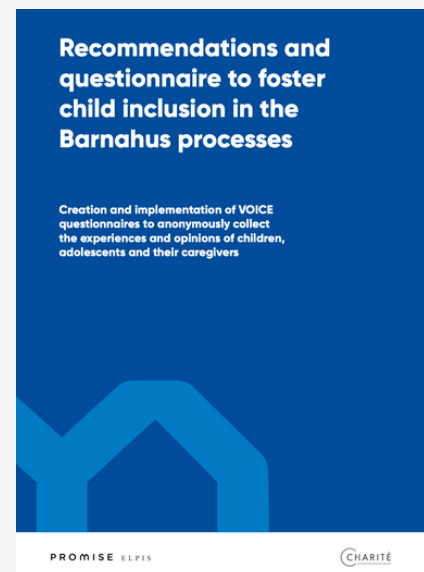
Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Protocol can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, while being adapted to the specific context. It can be used to:

- Respond to a critical gap by providing one of the first comprehensive medical care protocols specifically for children affected by online sexual abuse.
- Promote standardisation and legal clarity in medical interventions, while ensuring trauma-sensitive, child-focused care.
- Encourage integrated cooperation among medical and psychosocial teams to support a holistic response to online child sexual abuse within Barnahus or similar models.
- Offer practical case examples and step-by-step procedures, making it adaptable for countries seeking to develop or refine protocols for medical care in cases of online abuse.



Recommendations and Questionnaire to Foster Child Inclusion in the Barnahus Processes (Charité) ^{1/2}



Children's voices and experiences gathered by Children First, Scotland were also at the core of the update of a child participation tool used as an evaluation tool for Barnahus. The original tool was modified and piloted between January 2024 and February 2025 at two locations in Germany (Berlin and Schwerin).

A shorter child participation tool for Barnahus was developed by Charité, based on the Child First Scotland research data and recommendations. This tool will monitor the satisfaction of (younger) children, adolescents and their caregivers.

Together with the updated questionnaire, a Protocol was developed, to guide the implementation of anonymised questionnaires to capture the experiences and opinions of children, adolescents and their caregivers within the Barnahus context.

The Protocol offers practical and theoretical guidance and includes insights into the steps to take to build such evaluation tools and processes, through translation, testing, adaptation and deployment. It encourages the creation of similar tools in other national contexts to ensure that children's voices are heard and integrated into service development and evaluation.



Recommendations and Questionnaire to Foster Child Inclusion in the Barnahus Processes (Charité) 2/2

Key target group

The child participation tool updated by Charité is aimed at Barnahus professionals to monitor the satisfaction of (younger) children, adolescents and their caregivers.

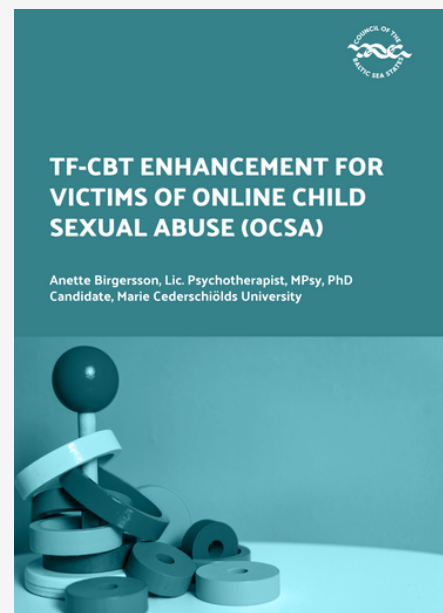
Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Protocol and Questionnaire can be adapted to a specific context, used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse. They can be used to:

- Listen to the voices of children and adolescents, by providing them with safe, structured ways to express their experiences and views throughout their involvement with child protection services.
- Support child-centered service improvement, through the anonymised collection of feedback that helps professionals understand how children perceive support systems and what they need most.
- Provide practical tools and guidance, with step-by-step instructions for implementing and adapting the questionnaire in different contexts, including in different languages and accessible formats.
- Encourage inclusive participation, by recognising the importance of language support, accessibility and follow-up methods (e.g., interviews or re-contacting participants) to ensure diverse voices are heard and valued.



Guidance on Adapted Therapeutic Treatment & Training (CBSS) ^{1/2}



This Guidance provides an enhancement of the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT) model, specifically adapted for children and adolescents affected by online child sexual abuse.

Developed by CBSS, it outlines how certified TF-CBT clinicians can tailor the core components of TF-CBT to better meet the unique clinical needs of online child sexual abuse victims. These include addressing shame, guilt, fear of exposure and altered self-image, which are commonly intensified in online abuse contexts. The document also emphasises the importance of building trust early, using trauma-informed psychoeducation and validating the child's experience throughout assessment and treatment.



Guidance on Adapted Therapeutic Treatment & Training (CBSS) 2/2

Key target group

This Guidance is designed for certified TF-CBT clinicians, with foundational knowledge of the standard model. As part of PROMISE Elpis, this resource was introduced to and disseminated among professional TF-CBT practitioners working with Barnahus services, to support better therapeutic outcomes for children affected by online abuse.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Guidance can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, also in view of the fact that the next step for this enhancement is to be tested and evaluated by clinicians. It can be used to:

- Offer practical, detailed adaptation of TF-CBT components specifically for the digital and psychosocial dimensions of online child sexual abuse.
- Encourage early, tailored psychoeducation and trust-building, empowering children to disclose in a safe and supported environment.
- Respond to a growing need for specialised treatment approaches in the digital age, providing a model that therapists can adapt and integrate into national mental health systems or trauma-care practices in their own country.
- Inspire professionals to evaluate and enhance existing therapeutic models for emerging forms of violence, ensuring that mental health responses keep pace with forms of online abuse.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Crisis Intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS) ^{1/2}



Crisis intervention Guidelines and Protocol were developed by CBSS to complement the Stockholm Barnahus crisis support model, offering a tailored Protocol for crisis interventions in cases of online child sexual abuse.

This tool addresses the specific psychological, emotional and practical needs that arise in such cases, especially during the first critical days after disclosure. It offers professionals a trauma-sensitive, victim-centred framework, practical strategies for initial support and guidance on navigating the enduring nature of digital abuse, including the long-term presence of harmful materials online.



Crisis Intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS) 2/2

Key target group

These Guidelines are intended for a broad spectrum of professionals: social workers, police officers, psychologists, Barnahus staff, medical personnel and child protection professionals. Within PROMISE Elpis, the Guidelines were promoted to multidisciplinary teams working with children affected by online child sexual abuse, especially in Barnahus settings.

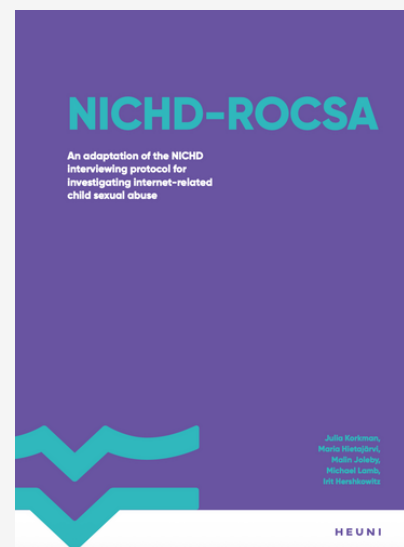
Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which these Guidelines can be adapted and used, inspiring improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse. They can be used to:

- Emphasise child-centred and trauma-sensitive crisis responses, including validation of the child's experience and meaningful participation.
- Support both victims and caregivers, providing concrete tools such as materials on trauma-centred approach and on key concepts like validation, psychoeducation and motivational interviewing.
- Encourage development of specialised assessment frameworks and multidisciplinary collaboration to address the unique needs in online child sexual abuse cases.
- Advocate for policy changes, including the formal recognition of online abuse victims within Barnahus service structures and the improvement of data systems and unified case classifications.
- Strengthen early-stage interventions in online child sexual abuse cases.



Investigative Interview Protocol & Training (HEUNI) ^{1/2}



This Protocol is an adaptation of the NICHD Revised Protocol for investigative interviews with child victims, tailored specifically for online child sexual abuse cases where technical or digital evidence is available - such as explicit images, chat logs, or online exchanges. It maintains a child-sensitive and non-suggestive approach, while offering structured guidance on how to ethically and transparently refer to existing evidence during interviews.

This tool aims to empower forensic interviewers to handle confidently online abuse cases by adjusting their strategies to accommodate new types of digital evidence without compromising child welfare or procedural integrity.



Investigative Interview Protocol & Training (HEUNI) 2/2

Key target group

This resource is aimed at trained professionals who are engaged in interviewing children, who are already familiar with the NICHD Revised Protocol. Within PROMISE Elpis, the Protocol supported capacity building for law enforcement and child protection professionals dealing with online child sexual abuse investigations.

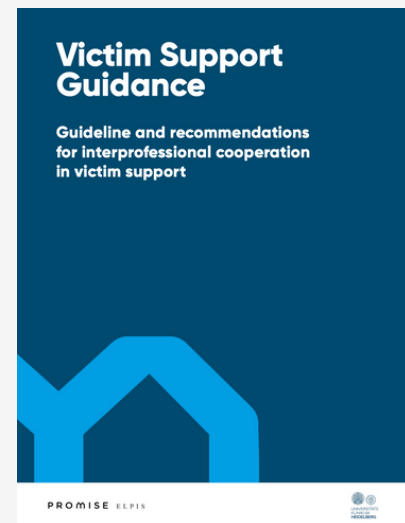
Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Protocol can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse. It can be used to:

- Offer a clear framework for integrating digital evidence (e.g., online chats, images) into interviews without leading or alarming the child, especially in early stages.
- Emphasise free recall questioning, while adapting it to the existing evidence and familiarising interviewers with the platforms, apps and digital contexts the child may have used.
- Encourage interviewers to explore alternative hypotheses (e.g., account misuse, mistaken identity) and investigate technical dimensions of the case before questioning.
- Support countries in updating interview practices for online child sexual abuse, and it can be used as a reference for building national interviewing standards or enhancing training curricula.



Victim Support Guidance & Training (UKHD) ^{1/2}



The “Guideline and Recommendations for Interprofessional Cooperation in Victim Protection” were developed by UKHD in Germany as a practical framework to strengthen collaboration between Barnahus-type services and regional victim support counselling centres. This Guidance aims to harmonise procedures, clarify responsibilities and promote a more coordinated response to child victims, particularly in cases involving online sexual abuse.

A strong emphasis is placed on victim-sensitive approaches, recognising the unique challenges of online abuse investigations, which often are initiated before any disclosure from the victim and can lead to complex psychological responses. Drawing on the results of a nationwide survey and a model collaboration between Childhood-Haus and Weisser Ring e.V., the guidelines are accompanied by an online training course - developed and piloted during the PROMISE Elpis project - to support practical implementation and build professional capacity.



Victims Support Guidance & Training (UKHD) 2/2

Key target group

This Guidance was developed for Barnahus professionals, victim support counsellors and interagency coordinators.

It was then shared and tested through the PROMISE Elpis project, including through the development and evaluation of an online training course to support uptake and application of the guidance more widely.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

This product offers a transferable blueprint that can inspire similar frameworks in other countries, aiming to improve interagency victim support and coordination.

There are several ways in which this guidance can in fact be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse. It can be used to:

- Offer a replicable model for strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation between child protection services and victim support agencies.
- Provide a flexible framework that can be adapted to regional or national contexts with different structures and resources.
- Emphasise the need for training and coordination, suggesting and offering an online training format as an effective method for implementation.
- Serve as a template for developing national guidelines, enhancing victim care and ensuring cohesive, victim-centred service delivery.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Practical Police Training Curriculum & Training (UKHD) ^{1/2}

A Training Curriculum was developed by UKHD to strengthen the capacity of police officers and investigators to conduct developmentally appropriate, legally sound video interviews with children and adolescents who are victims and witnesses, particularly in cases of online sexual abuse.

Delivered as a three-day specialised seminar at the Baden-Württemberg Police University and incorporated in the police academy curriculum in Baden-Württemberg, the course combines theoretical instruction with hands-on exercises, covering key topics such as the legal framework, technical requirements and child-sensitive interview techniques. The training is grounded in current research and real-life challenges, ensuring participants can apply their learning directly in practice.



Practical police training curriculum and Training (UKHD) 2/2

Key target group

The Curriculum is aimed at criminal investigators and police officers in Baden-Württemberg who are already involved in interviewing underage victims and wish to deepen their expertise.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which a curriculum like this can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse. It can be used to:

- Offer a model for police training in child-sensitive interviewing, combining theory, legal insight and practical exercises.
- Emphasise the importance of adapting interview techniques to age, developmental stage and the digital context of violence.
- Support evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches that improve both victim protection and the quality of evidence gathered.



Avatar Training Tool (AvBIT) ^{1/2}



The AvBIT Labs Avatar based interview training gives those developing new skills/protocols a possibility to safely put into practice what was learned. The system can be used for any kind of interview training.

Trainees work in pairs, one with a role of the interviewer and the other of the interviewee, the avatar child. The trainee with the role of the child controls the avatar's behaviour, reactions and expression of feelings. When the avatar speaks it uses the trainee voice modified by the system to sound childlike. It is for the interviewer and the person who controls the avatar to choose what kind of setting they would like for the interview.

The training with Avatars avoids re-traumatisation of children when those in training are still getting familiar with the techniques. The model also provides the possibility of creating better understanding of the child's situation and feelings on the part of the trainees, when they are in the child/avatar role.



Avatar Training Tool (AvBIT) 2/2

Key target group

The Avatar training tool targets professionals from different areas and backgrounds, involved in the response and treatment of cases of online child sexual abuse.

In the PROMISE Elpis Project, trainings on child-friendly forensic interviews, medical and psychosocial support were carried out to professionals of the respective areas working with the Barnahus and similar models and dealing with online child sexual abuse cases.

The trainees were able to learn new techniques and protocols and practise them with the avatars. Their Avatar sessions were recorded and reviewed in order to optimise their learned skills.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use these resources or consider the development of similar resources in your country

During the PROMISE Elpis Project, the appearance of the avatars and the system as a whole were improved. The 12 new avatars in the image above are the latest version and are totally AI-generated. They have a broad range of age and ethnicities, which opens up for other wide range of institutions to use the system for different kind of interview training.

The Avatar training tool is available from Avbit. Its use does not require downloading any software, but rather logging into a web platform. You just need a computer, webcam, headset and network connection. The training can be recorded for reviewing afterwards.

Implementing the Barnahus Quality Standards throughout Europe

PROMISE is supporting Europe to adopt the Barnahus model as a standard practice for providing child victims and witnesses of violence rapid access to justice and care. We undertake this work to fulfil the PROMISE vision: a Europe where all children enjoy their right to be protected from violence.

Barnahus provides multi-disciplinary and interagency collaboration to ensure that child victims and witnesses of violence benefit from a child-friendly, professional and effective response in a safe environment which prevents (re)traumatization. With the formal support from national authorities, PROMISE provides opportunities to translate national commitment into action and engage internationally in the process. In addition, regular networking and strategic communications continually activate our growing network of professionals and stakeholders who are committed to introducing and expanding Barnahus services nationally.

The first PROMISE project (2015-2017) set European standards and engaged a broad network of professionals. The second PROMISE project (2017-2019) promoted national level progress towards meeting the standards and formalized the PROMISE Barnahus Network. The third project (2020-2022) expanded these activities to include University training, case management tools, with a view to establishing a European Competence Centre for Barnahus and laying the groundwork for an accreditation system for Barnahus. The current project: PROMISE ELPIS (2023-2025) is managed by Charité-University Medicine, Berlin, and promotes multidisciplinary and interagency models for child victims and witnesses of sexual violence, with a specific focus on specialised interventions and excellence in practice in cases where there is a presumed online element of the sexual violence.

Access the PROMISE tools and learn more at: www.barnahus.eu



This publication has been produced with the financial support of ISF project grants of the European Union. The contents herein are the sole responsibility of project partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.