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The Lanzarote Convention: Monitoring as a Tool to Combat Child Sexual Abuse



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Introduction

- ✓ *Progress made* - the Work of Council of Europe in the Context of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child –
- ✓ *Challenges Ahead* - the Lanzarote Convention: What does it entail?
- ✓ *Positive Actions* - Monitoring the Lanzarote Convention: desired actions



Few Remarks on the UN CRC

- ✓ Not only *quantitatively* but also *qualitatively* different from earlier international agreement
- ✓ The twofold nature of the UN CRC
 - ✓ *The Descriptive*
 - ✓ *The Normative (dynamic)*
- ✓ *Culturally sensitive* and thus flexible within the limits of the basic principle of the “best interest of the child”



CoE Achievements: Standard Setting for Enhancing the Rights of Children

- ✓ Translating/Operationalizing the Rights into the different context in the life of children such as:
 - ✓ Institutions, Rec (2005)5
 - ✓ Family environment; Rec (2006)19
 - ✓ Judicial system; the Guidelines 2010
 - ✓ Social services; Rec (2011)12
 - ✓ Health Care; Guidelines 2011
 - ✓ Participation in Society; Rec (2012)2



The Lanzarote Convention

- ✓ Unique among International Agreements
- ✓ Basic characteristics:
 - ✓ Child-friendly
 - ✓ Comprehensive
 - ✓ In terms of scope
 - ✓ In terms of content
 - ✓ Interdisciplinary/Multiagency
 - ✓ Proactive



Child-friendly

The goal is to identify child-friendly strategies and practices to ensure:

- ✓ The „best interests of the child“

without compromising the human right principle:

- ✓ The “due process” (fair trial)



Comprehensive

- ✓ In terms of definition as it addresses child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in all it's forms including:
 - ✓ child prostitution, trafficking, pornography, solicitation, corruption as well as sexual abuse within or outside of the family
- ✓ In terms of coverage:
 - ✓ Prevention, Protection, Prosecution



Interdisciplinary; Multi-agency

- ✓ Proposes a holistic and non-fragmented approach by inter-sectoral coordination, agency cooperation and diversified professional collaboration in terms of:
 - ✓ Prevention
 - ✓ Protection by effective response, assessment and appropriate intervention
 - ✓ Investigation, Prosecution and Judgement



Proactive

- ✓ Identifies the infrastructure and legal provisions to ensure appropriate social protection from child sexual abuse and exploitation

As well as:

- ✓ Proposes principles that reflect dynamic implementation by articulated standard setting and strategies



The Lanzarote Committee

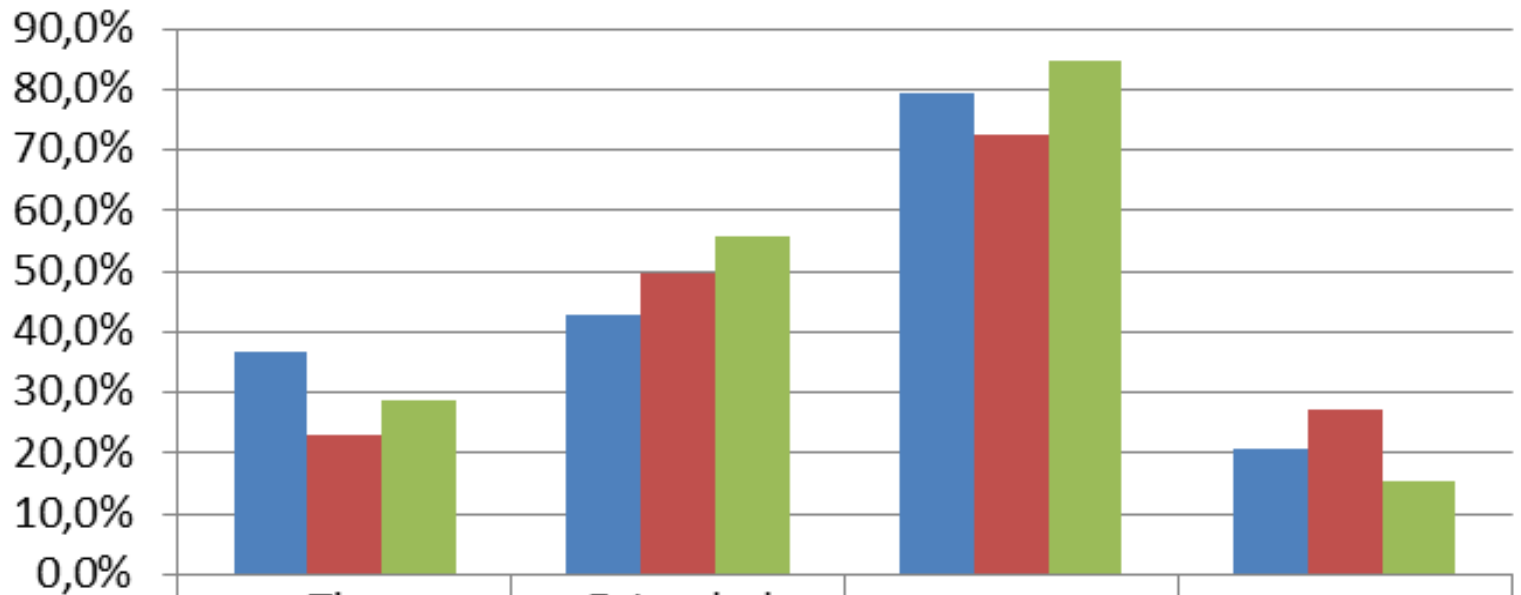
- ✓ The dual role of the Committee of Parties
- ✓ Monitoring
 - ✓ Facilitate the effective use of the different provisions of the Convention, identification of any problems and express an opinion on the application
- ✓ Observatory
 - ✓ Facilitate the collection, analysis and exchange of information on legal, policy and technological development
 - ✓ General comments, proposals and opinions



Strategies of Monitoring

- ✓ **General overview:**
 - ✓ With regard to general legal and institutional framework and policies
- ✓ **Thematic Monitoring**
 - ✓ Procedure is divided by rounds, each round addresses a particular “theme”
- ✓ The first theme: **“Sexual Abuse in the Circle of Trust”**

Iceland: Victim v.s. Offender Relations



	The immediate family	Extended family, care-takers, friends	"Circle of trust"	Strangers
2011 (136)	36,8%	42,6%	79,4%	20,6%
2012 (117)	23,1%	49,6%	72,6%	27,4%
2013 (163)	28,8%	55,8%	84,7%	15,3%



Implementation of the monitoring

- ✓ All parties to the Convention should undergo monitoring within 3 months from the adoption of the Questionnaire
- ✓ The Questionnaire is also submitted to rep. of civil society, NGO or other relevant bodies
- ✓ Transparency of the procedure by making the reply's public
- ✓ Ad hoc working groups, independent experts, visits for the purpose of clarification



Implementation Reports

- ✓ “Thematic Reports; based on the parties replies containing:
 - ✓ General description
 - ✓ Identification of problems
 - ✓ Recommendations for improvements
- ✓ Special Reports
 - ✓ Response to reliable information pertaining to serious violation of the Convention



Monitoring Outcomes – positive actions

- ✓ Enhancing knowledge and awareness among Governments and societies at large
- ✓ Strengthening Prevention and Early detection
- ✓ Creating Child-friendly Response System
 - ✓ Preventing re-victimisation
- ✓ Ensuring appropriate therapeutic services for child victims and their families
- ✓ Sex offender intervention, criminal and therapeutic